



TOWN OF DURHAM
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2021-2022 Council Goals*
Adopted - DRAFT #2 - April 19, 2021

Note: These goals are intended to convey a 1-3 year time horizon.

Core Values

- Embrace openness in the transaction of public business while conducting Town affairs in a manner that is just and best demonstrates a genuine respect for different ideas, opinions, and perspectives.
- Honesty and integrity.
- Excellence in all endeavors.

Standards of Performance

Continue taking steps as needed locally to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, including a multitude of potential impacts to include public health, social economic, budgetary, personnel, and more.

Finalize the Update of Durham's Emergency Management Plan (EMP) and the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)

Pursue long-term economic and environmental sustainability and resiliency, anticipating the community's and the region's future needs by considering multiple elements including society, ecology, economics, transportation, agriculture, food and drinking water, and energy resources, specifically taking into account existing and predicted impacts of climate change.

- Evaluate how to market Durham as a destination.
- Take steps as appropriate to promote the long-term health of Great Bay.
- Continue to support the Town's efforts and investments around MS-4 stormwater program implementation to support water resources in collaboration with UNH
- Finalize process of closing out construction of the Eversource Seacoast Reliability Project to ensure local infrastructure, environmental, scenic, cultural, and historic resources are protected consistent with appropriate conditions of approval from the NH Site Evaluation Committee and relevant agreements with the Town of Durham.
- ~~The realization that within our community we have a significant number of town-owned lands and other lands held in conservation and easement with nonprofit organizations; and with the recognition that these lands need to be managed in ways that preserve and protect their environmental well-being~~

~~while at the same time improving public access and use of those lands, we should continue current land stewardship activities. This will involve the seamless transition of duties of the Land Stewardship Coordinator position in spring 2021.~~

- **NEW PROPOSED (from Councilor Hotchkiss): Enable continuation of current land stewardship activities through a seamless transition of duties of the Land Stewardship Coordinator position in spring 2021. This will preserve and protect the environmental well-being of town-owned lands and other lands held in conservation and easement with nonprofit organizations while improving public access and use of those lands.**
- Work toward a final determination concerning the future of the Mill Pond Dam on the Oyster River and initiate engineering/design in 2021 with construction in 2022 dependent upon permit/funding availability.
- Take proactive steps as a new member of Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy initiative.
- Work toward redesign of Madbury Road corridor as part of a complete streets framework in 2021/22 with construction planned for 2023.
- Examine/act upon potential reconfiguration of roadways around Oyster River Middle School as part of new middle school construction project process.

Review, discuss, and develop a more sustainable solid waste and recycling management program for the community.

- Develop a long-range plan for improvements to the Transfer Station to address effective and efficient handling of waste and recyclable materials.
- Support combined efforts of IWMAC, DPW, the Agriculture Commission, and ORCSD Sustainability committee in the development of a curbside composting initiative to reduce MSW landfill use.

Strengthen the community by supporting the needs of residents, families, and other stakeholders by offering a wide array of active and passive recreational opportunities, programming and events celebrating Durham's history, and encouraging community walkability and bikeability.

- Develop scope of work, firm pricing, and a funding plan for the rehabilitation of both the Old Town Hall/Courthouse and the Wagon Hill Farmhouse (Captain John Bickford House), taking into consideration the anticipated use of the Wagon Hill Farm barn and ell will be for recreational purposes, educational programming, and special events; and use of the Captain John Bickford House will be for small public meetings, permitted gatherings and events, exhibits (historical, environmental, and art), and a Resident Caretaker's apartment.

- Assess and document interior environmental conditions and exterior fabric of the Smith Memorial Chapel. Take action as needed to plan for, and address, deficiencies found.

Continue cooperative and collaborative efforts with UNH to enhance mutual intellectual, cultural, environmental, social, and economic benefits associated with hosting New Hampshire’s flagship state university, including redevelopment of 66 Main St., Hetzel/Alexander Halls, and the creation of a West Edge Innovation District.

- Review zoning for West-end Research Park initiative and consider modifications as needed in conjunction with our UNH partners.

Continue revitalizing Durham’s commercial core and neighborhoods in ways that enhance our sense of community; better provide for the needs of our residents and businesses, strengthen the fiscal health of the Town and University, and align with the Master Plan.

- Continue to pursue and reevaluate the development/redevelopment needs of the CBD and align our zoning to meet the requirements as needed.
- Continue to investigate the needs of the downtown business owners and the post pandemic challenges they have to be successful in town and to develop strategies to help Durham be more business friendly.
- Continue to pursue a relationship with the downtown property owners that provides open and informed communication, including working with the Durham Business Association and Celebrate Durham.
- Continue to work toward addressing downtown parking challenges for both today and the future, and explore potential partnerships, funding sources, and opportunities that will result in either enhanced surface or new structured parking controlled by the Town.
- Support the new Work Force Housing Subcommittee to investigate opportunities, challenges, and options for affordable quality housing in Durham.

Task the administrator with meeting the following budget goals for 2022. Hold the municipal tax rate at the 2021 level or less. For the medium and long-term, the Town will continue to make an effort to control its spending, broaden the tax base, and explore innovative ways to stabilize or reduce the municipal tax rate.

Pursue opportunities to broaden the tax base that are consistent with Council goals and be mindful of the economic impact they may have on the Town’s operational and long-term fiscal health. (Dinny Waters)

Encourage residents to explore joining one of the Town’s boards, committees or commissions. As part of scheduled 4-year cycle, pursue successful reaccreditation for the Durham Police Department with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

Encourage all Town boards, committees, commissions, and Durham’s legislative delegation to align their efforts with the Council goals and the Master Plan, actively collaborate and communicate with each other, and communicate with the community at large.

Refine plans for new or existing public facilities/infrastructure, including, among others, downtown surface or structured parking, a replacement building for the Fire Department, and public safety radio communication improvements, to meet the present and future needs of the community.

** Note that the order of the goals does not imply priority.*