



TOWN OF DURHAM

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Durham Housing Task Force Charge

Adopted by the Durham Town Council on November 6, 2023

Mission. The mission of the Durham Housing Task Force is to analyze the New Hampshire Seacoast regional housing inventory and to advocate for a balanced housing mix within the Durham community, providing a variety of choices that meet the economic, environmental, social, and physical needs of the community's current and future residents, including those of varying financial resources.

Membership. Members of the committee include:

- One Planning Board member (ex-officio)
- One Town Councilor (ex-officio)
- Eight other members from relevant stakeholder populations, to include a mix of ages, occupations, and interests in Durham's housing future (to the extent possible)

Members of the Housing Task Force (other than the ex-officio Planning Board member) shall be appointed by the Durham Town Council. Members shall be residents of the town of Durham.

Members shall serve continuously until such time as the Task Force is sunsetted by the Durham Town Council or three years, whichever is sooner.

In addition to the ten voting members, the Task Force shall engage regional housing advocates as non-voting participants from organizations such as Strafford Regional Planning Commission, the Seacoast Workforce Housing Coalition, regional real estate market data analysts, developers, and other subject matter experts as the Task Force sees fit.

Meetings of the Housing Task Force shall be attended by the Town Planner. Meetings of the Housing Task Force may be televised.

Duties. The duties of the Housing Task Force shall be to:

- Assess the type, availability and cost of existing housing in Durham and in the Seacoast region;
- Assess and advise on whether the Town of Durham is in compliance with NH state statutes in providing a requisite number of workforce housing units and how potential or adopted legislation impacts housing in Durham;
- Assess available buildable lots in Durham under different Zoning scenarios;

- Track new housing starts including type and number of units;
- Analyze community demographics and trends;
- Assess the environmental, economic, and tax impacts of recommended zoning changes impacting housing;
- Understand the predicted impacts of climate change, including those outlined in the Climate Action Chapter of the Master Plan, in order to identify areas where housing development would be ill-advised;
- Conduct a housing needs assessment, including price point, type, and supply;
- Develop long-term strategies regarding housing;
 - Advocate for housing that is consistent with our existing commitment to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy – “evaluate zoning changes that allow for a broader variety of modestly sized, affordably priced energy efficient housing.”
 - Advocate for housing to accommodate households at all stages of the life cycle.
 - Advocate for housing designed to accommodate underserved households including identifying and incorporating state and federal incentives that enable its development.
- Identify state and federal incentives that enable appropriate development;
- Contribute to the update of the housing chapter of the Master Plan;
- Advise Town boards and committees regarding available housing and potential future housing needs for the Town of Durham;
- Inform relevant Town boards and committees on housing issues in the community;
- Review regional housing patterns in comparison to Durham and assess the contributions of Durham and other communities to regional housing needs over the past 15 years;
- Communicate with members of the community about housing in Durham;
- Focus on changes that serve to retain and enhance the semi-rural character, ethos, and vibe of Durham as a small quintessentially New England academic community that places a high value on:
 - education,
 - the environment,
 - history,
 - agricultural roots,
 - closeness to nature,
 - the principles of smart growth, and
 - diversity and equity
- Publish an annual report on the state of housing in Durham to be included in the Town Report