

Durham Town Council Goals
2008-09
(Approved by Town Council on June 2, 2008)

I. Create a vision for the town that includes the following:

- An action plan to achieve economic development to help make Durham more affordable and to maintain Durham's character.
- An action plan for the downtown area to become more vibrant, varied, accessible, and attractive to potential new businesses and the community

II. Support Economic Development Initiatives

- Create an action plan for development to include outlying areas and UNH
- Formulate a policy for extending infrastructure, including associated costs
- Identify and possibly implement incentives for new development in the downtown area
- Encourage and support the Durham Energy Committee in the formulation of recommendations for 'green' development and potential incentives for the use of green technologies
- Consider a PUD ordinance
- Continue discussions on the viability of affordable housing
- Complete the Stone Quarry Drive TIF and Durham Business Park projects

III. Provide clear direction on budget goals and review the budget process

- Hold a budget workshop in June
- Provide early and specific direction to town staff
- Examine the budget process to identify potential efficiencies
- Consider possible cuts in operating costs
- Work to align annual budget and long-term budget planning more closely with TC priorities
- Continue discussion on the role of the Council and the structure of the ORCSD

IV. Continue to explore cooperative efforts with UNH

- Complete policing cost negotiation
- Investigate ways to mitigate the impact that University enterprises have on downtown businesses
- Reconsider what constitutes the appropriate balance of on-campus vs. off-campus student housing
- Negotiate continued use by Town of Store 24 Lot
- Continue collaborative efforts to address joint infrastructure issues
- Explore the viability of potential technology spin-off ventures developed at UNH to taxable parcels located off campus in Durham

V. Continue to support the efforts of the Library Board of Trustees in the development of a new library

- Work in support of the Library Board of Trustees' efforts to address issues relating to site selection, space requirements, cost issues, and site-specific negotiations associated with the establishment of a new Durham library facility at the Mill Plaza or at potential alternate locations as determined appropriate

VI. Determine the future of the Town Hall

- Pursue selling Town Hall property and if sold, select a new site
- If no new Town Hall, then determine costs associated with necessary improvements to existing building
- Consider public/private partnership on existing Town Hall land
- Reach a community consensus regarding a combined Town Hall/library facility

VII. Review management and organizational structures

- Review the town committee structure
- Develop a strategy to increase citizen involvement
- Consider ways to strengthen communication and collaboration between committees
- Encourage town administrator and town staff to increase efficiencies in process/organization

VIII. Expand recreational opportunities

- Work toward increasing and/or defining opportunities in recreation to include walking trails, playing fields, programs, facilities, and additional regional offerings
- Continue to explore cooperative efforts