



TOWN OF DURHAM 2011-2012 Council Goals

Approved May 2, 2011

1. **Pursue long-term economic and environmental sustainability** by embracing the concept of sustainability in its broadest terms, including regional concerns, implementation of continuous improvement “Kaizen” principles, encouraging thoughtful development and redevelopment, diversifying and expanding the tax base, preserving and protecting Durham’s limited natural resources, exploring the possibility of an Agriculture Commission, ensuring the long-term viability of financial strategies, and implementing “new urbanism” principles where appropriate.
2. **Revitalize the Central Business District and downtown commercial core** while maintaining our small Town character and sense of history through the encouragement of thoughtful new development or reinvestment that serves the year-round population, better integrates the presence of the University, and is potentially inclusive of workforce housing opportunities, all intended to foster residential, commercial, and retail activity to revitalize Durham’s downtown.
3. **Maintain the integrity of Durham neighborhoods** through vigilant enforcement of zoning regulations, the exploration and thoughtful evaluation of potential new regulatory strategies, the development of new desirable opportunities for undergraduate, graduate, and junior faculty housing in appropriately zoned locations to relieve pressure on traditional single family neighborhoods, and through continued collaborative relationships with the University of New Hampshire, the Durham Landlords Association, the Rental Housing Commission, and neighborhood residents.
4. **Identify definitive sites and develop a plan for key public facilities** to meet the present and future needs of the community.
5. **Revisit long-term vision for Durham** through the update of the 2000 Master Plan with emphasis in 2011 on integrating six chapters to include Downtown and Community Core Chapter, Professional Office Chapter, Environmental and Cultural Resources Chapter, Tax Stabilization Chapter, Land Development Regulations Chapter, and Energy Chapter.
6. **Continue to explore cooperative efforts with UNH** to enhance the intellectual, cultural, and potential future economic benefits of being a university town.
7. **Strengthen the community by supporting the needs of residents and families** through a wide array of active and passive recreational opportunities, the celebration of Durham’s history, and by encouraging community walk-ability, bike-ability, and public transportation in order to provide safe and pleasing alternatives to using automobiles within the Town.
8. **Leverage town committees and subcommittees to develop tactical plans** to align with the broader goals of the Council, and encourage them to collaborate with each other more frequently and with the community at large.
9. **Engage the Oyster River Cooperative School District** to be open and transparent in communication in all matters, including budgeting and planning, and to strive toward economic and environmental sustainability.
10. Evaluate and, if appropriate, move forward with the development of comprehensive architectural and **design standards or guidelines for the downtown core.**