



TOWN OF DURHAM

2015-16 Council Goals

Adopted May 18, 2015

Standards of Performance

- Embrace openness in the conduct 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.
- Encourage all town boards, committees, and commissions to align their efforts with the Council goals and to collaborate and communicate more frequently with each other and with the community at large.
- Ensure that the town staff and resources secured by the town provide exemplary expertise, guidance and support to town boards, commissions and committees.

Key Objectives

- Pursue long-term economic and environmental sustainability and resiliency, anticipating the community's and the region's future needs through a framework that formally integrates the consideration of multiple elements including society, ecology, economics, transportation, agriculture, recreation, food and drinking water, climate, and energy resources.
- Improve current and explore new collaborative efforts with UNH to enhance mutual intellectual, cultural, environmental, social, and economic benefits associated with hosting New Hampshire's state university. Negotiate equitable agreements for the delivery of services and infrastructure used by both the Town and UNH and develop long-term policies that reduce the burden on the town and clarify town-gown land ownership.
- Having expanded the tax base through student housing construction, now focus on revitalizing Durham's commercial core to enhance the sense of community and to better provide for the needs of our residents, while maintaining our small town character, rural pastoral gateways, and cultural history.
- Regain and enhance the integrity of Durham's traditional family neighborhoods.
- Identify definitive sites and develop a plan for key public facilities to meet the present and future needs of the community.
- Complete the update to the first ten chapters of the 2000 Master Plan by fall 2015, and the Future Land Use Chapter by fall 2016.
- Strengthen the community and enhance its social capital by supporting an array of recreational, artistic, and educational opportunities, and by celebrating and sustaining Durham's history and natural setting and initiatives that promote public transportation options, including safe walking and biking.
- Task the administrator with developing an operating budget that holds the municipal tax rate at \$8.48 given the assumptions there is no change in the downtown TIF allocations and the anticipated 2016 tax valuation is \$986 million. Preliminary budgets submitted to the administrator by department heads should reflect this Town Council goal. For the medium and long-term, the Town will make an effort to control its spending and explore innovative ways to reduce the municipal tax rate.
- Identify and address the needs of our citizens to ensure they are well-served by the Town.
- Endeavor to make living in Durham less complex and less burdensome for our residents.