

# **2016-2017 Council Goals\***

*Adopted 5-23-16*

## **Standards of Performance**

- 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.
- Encourage all Town boards, committees, and commissions to align their efforts with the Council goals and to collaborate and communicate 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.
- Continue cooperative and 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 provision of 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, focus on revitalizing Durham's commercial core in ways that enhance the sense of community and 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.
- Finalize police station expansion design and project approval by Town Council or by referendum, as appropriate.
- Select site and finalize design for a new fire station.
- Develop a plan and assess the merits of pursuing initiatives for new or existing public facilities to meet the present and future needs of the community to include, among others:
  - 1) Shoreline stabilization and trail plans for Wagon Hill Farm that consider the Stewardship Plan for the property.
  - 2) Dam/culvert deficiencies and water quality at the Littlehale Pond.
  - 3) Restoration of the Mill Pond.
  - 4) Integrated or stand-alone wastewater/stormwater permits through the US EPA.
  - 5) Additional green space and/or public space or facilities that could be

utilized for public events, activities, or programming such as art exhibitions, musical events, a Farmers' Market, or a community center in order to further enhance the lives of Durham residents. With this in mind, efforts will begin in order to realize unique opportunities if and when they appear.

- Provide the resources so the Planning Board may complete the Future Land Use Chapter of the Master Plan by the end of calendar year 2018.
- Strengthen the community and enhance its social capital by supporting an array of recreational, artistic, and educational opportunities; celebrating and sustaining Durham's history and natural setting; and developing initiatives that promote public transportation options and ensure safe walking and biking.
- Task the administrator with developing a budget for 2017 that holds General Fund expenses at current levels except for contractual increases *including wages and benefits and a cost of living adjustment for non-unionized personnel*. Develop a Capital Fund budget using increases in revenue projected and any increase in the tax rate if necessary. *Specific itemized expenses for initiatives or projects that exceed this budgetary threshold but are deemed by the Administrator to increase efficiencies over time, are consistent with other Council goals, or are important for the general welfare of the community as part of the proposed budget shall be highlighted and include itemized rationale, as well as offsetting revenue as appropriate, for the Council's discussion and consideration as part of the annual budget process.*
- Identify and address the needs of our citizens to ensure they are well-served by the Town.
- When developing new regulations or assessing the benefits of existing codes that could be simplified or eliminated altogether, endeavor to make living in Durham less complex and less burdensome for our residents.

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