

2017-2018 Council Goals*

Note: These goals are intended to convey a 1-3 year time horizon.

Adopted 5-15-17

Core Values

- 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.
- Honesty and integrity.
- Excellence in all endeavors.

Standards of Performance

1. Pursue long-term economic and environmental sustainability and resiliency, anticipating the community's and the region's future needs considering multiple elements including society, ecology, economics, transportation, agriculture, recreation, food and drinking water, climate, and energy resources.
2. 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.
3. Negotiate equitable agreements for the delivery of services and provision of infrastructure used by both the Town and UNH. Develop long-term policies that reduce the financial burden on the Town while maximizing synergies that exist for both entities to maximize scarce resources.
4. Continue revitalizing Durham's commercial core in ways that enhance the sense of community and better provide for the needs of our residents and align with the new Master Plan.
5. Strive to maintain Durham's small town character, rural pastoral gateways, and cultural history.
6. Strengthen the community and enhance its social capital by:
 - a. Supporting an array of recreational, artistic, and educational opportunities;
 - b. Celebrating and sustaining Durham's history and natural setting;
and
 - c. Developing initiatives that promote public transportation options and ensure safe walking and biking.
7. 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 and businesses.

8. Task the administrator with meeting the following budget goals for 2018:
The budget goal is to hold the municipal tax rate at the 2015, 2016, and 2017 level of \$8.48 or less. 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.

Key Objectives and Goals:

1. Encourage all Town boards, committees, and commissions to:
 - a. Align their efforts with the Council goals and approved Master Plan chapters;
 - b. Collaborate and communicate frequently with each other; and
 - c. Communicate with the community at large
2. Protect and enhance the integrity of Durham's traditional family neighborhoods.
3. Consider zoning changes and other public policy levers (i.e., RSA 79-E, TIF, etc.) and collaboration with UNH to achieve the 2015 Master Plan vision of the Downtown and Commercial Core Chapter within the Central Business District.
4. Move forward with a plan for the development of a structured parking solution, potentially in conjunction with UNH, to addressing downtown parking needs within the Central Business District, helping to foster a Park-Once-and-Walk system.
5. Explore the viability of locating potential technology spin-off ventures developed at UNH within taxable parcels located off campus in Durham.
6. Continued collaboration with UNH working toward the redevelopment of the 66 Main Street parcel within the downtown core to potentially include hotel, office, and retail.
7. Construct approved \$1.96 million renovations and addition at the Durham Police Department facility.
8. In conjunction with UNH, finalize design and begin pre-planning for a new fire station at the Water Works Road location.
9. Engage with Mill Plaza property owner concerning the redevelopment of the Mill Plaza parcel to encourage a plan that is consistent with Durham's Master Plan and legal settlement agreement and results in a high quality and attractive redevelopment.
10. Represent the interests of the Town concerning the Seacoast Reliability Project as part of the NH Site Evaluation Process.
11. Support the Planning Board in its update of the Future Land Use Chapter of the Master Plan.
12. Further refine plans for new or existing public facilities to meet the present and future needs of the community to include, among others:
 - a. Finalize and implement shoreline stabilization and trail plans for Wagon Hill Farm that reflect the stewardship plan for the property.

- b. Develop a plan for the Mill Pond area/Oyster River Dam that is cost-effective and environmentally sustainable.
 - c. Evaluate the potential merits of integrated versus stand-alone wastewater/stormwater permits through the US EPA.
13. Manage (mindfully) the Town lands Durham controls. Monitor newly-initiated stewardship efforts regarding Durham lands/easements and evaluate possible actions needed as additional information becomes available.
 14. Support the work of the Land Stewardship Subcommittee, the Conservation Commission, the Agricultural Commission and the Parks and Recreation Committee in their endeavors to increase the utilization of Durham Town lands by residents and visitors in a substantial and sustainable manner.
 15. Work with the Energy Committee to evaluate whether the power needs of the Wastewater Treatment Plant can be met through renewable resources.
 16. Engage the Oyster River Cooperative School District in an effort to support educational excellence and explore potential ways to further collaborate in the provision of services, and to thoughtfully coordinate the timing of capital needs for each entity.
 17. Evaluate the potential merits of additional green space and/or public space or facilities as such opportunities become available, which could be utilized for public events, activities, or programming such as exhibitions, musical events, a Farmer's Market, or a community center, in order to further enhance the lives of Durham residents.
 18. Work with the Agricultural Commission to evaluate whether it makes sense for Durham to adopt locally the state definition of agriculture as outlined in the Master Plan.
 19. Evaluate how to market the historical nature of the community and endeavor to make Durham a tourist destination.
 20. Work in support of UNH concerning the development of a performing arts center in the vicinity of the downtown area.
 21. Work to promote additional housing options for Durham's aging population as opportunities become available.
 22. Identify and pursue strategies to make Durham more business friendly.
 23. Gently explore whether there are potential areas of cooperation/synergy between the towns of Durham, Lee, and Madbury that might result in shared savings and increased service delivery efficiencies.
 24. Complete Comcast Franchise Renewal Process.

* **Note that the Standards of Performance and Key Objectives are listed by order of priority.**