

## **2017-2018 Council Goals\***

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

**Adopted 5-15-17.**

### **PROGRESS REPORT AS OF 9/30/17**

#### **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.
  - Inform Councilors of Right to Know Law rules regarding email use and electronic communications shortly following March election. COMPLETE
  - Hold orientation for incoming Councilors after 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in March. COMPLETE
  - Hold orientation for new board chairs/officers/interested members on RSA 91-A and good board practices. COMPLETE
  - Hold orientation session for public on Right to Know Law annually. COMPLETE
  - Production of weekly “Friday Updates” & use of various forms of social media (Facebook/Twitter) to communicate effectively with public.
  - Maintain Durham web site in fresh/current form that is easily accessible and useful for the public. COMPLETE
  - Air public meetings on DCAT as widely as possible. COMPLETE
  - Share Council goals with all boards and commissions, the public via the “Friday Updates,” and post in Council chamber. COMPLETE
  - Councilors assigned to boards provide update at each Council/board meeting as needs require.
- 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.
  - ❖ We are active participants with the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership’s (PREP) Management Committee as PREP poises to issue the 2017 State of the Estuaries Report concerning the health of the Great Bay.
  - ❖ DPW/UNH remain active in engaging with the EPA in evaluating

the best path forward toward compliance with new MS-4 and WWTP requirements.

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.
  - ❖ Durham/UNH continue to actively communicate with respect to the redevelopment of 66 Main St.
  - ❖ Durham/UNH continue to actively work toward developing economic activity off campus that is tied to the research taking place on campus for our collective benefit.
  - ❖ Durham/Unh continue to evaluate the feasibility of the Water Works Road site for a possible future Fire Department.
  - ❖ Durham/UNH have participated jointly in a Kaizen effort looking at how to mitigate student impacts off campus within neighborhoods off campus on Thursday-Saturday evenings.
  
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.
  - ❖ The Jackson's Landing Agreement has been updated. Durham/UNH continue to work toward a successor agreement to our General Services Agreement (or Omnibus) pertaining to roadways, signals, and policing services. The existing Agreement expires 12/31/18.
  
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.
  - ❖ Much work has been devoted to providing suggestions to the Colonial Durham development team concerning how to redevelop the Mill Plaza in a manner that is value added for the entire community.
  - ❖ Town officials have met several times with the G4 Group concerning possible redevelopment of properties along Main Street – Hayden Sports/Laundry Center, Young's, DHop, Mariner Realty buildings and the owners of these properties.
  - ❖ A great deal of time has been devoted to supporting downtown businesses through the efforts of the Economic Development Office – Celebrate Durham.

5. Strive to maintain Durham’s small town character, rural pastoral gateways, and cultural history.
  - ❖ The Future Land Use Subcommittee of the Planning Boards has held a forum in the spring and multiple outreach sessions this summer to help develop a new Master Plan chapter by this name.
6. Strengthen the community and enhance its social capital by:
  - a. Supporting an array of recreational, artistic, and educational opportunities;
    - The Parks and Recreation Committee has done some marvelous work providing a robust array of programming that meets the varied needs of the community.
  - 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.
    - Focus has continued to be devoted this year to clearly marking bike lanes within the downtown central core.
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.
  - ❖ This is an area where we have had mixed results. Much public input in Durham revolves land use concerns necessitating new regulations, now fewer rules, which places additional burdens on residents.
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.

  - ❖ Ongoing. The budget is under development at this time.

***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
    - Ongoing. We have made efforts in each of these areas.

2. Protect and enhance the integrity of Durham's traditional family neighborhoods.
  - ❖ Ongoing. We continue to strive to make strides in this area. On a positive note, arrest data shows fewer arrests when compared to the last several years.
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.
  - ❖ Little activity to date.
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.
  - ❖ UNH has been assessing the viability of structured parking in C-Lot/Campus Crossing Lot. Awaiting findings.
  - ❖ 66 Main St. project has not moved forward as yet.
  - ❖ Nothing concrete to act upon at this time.
5. Explore the viability of locating potential technology spin-off ventures developed at UNH within taxable parcels located off campus in Durham.
  - ❖ Ongoing with promising potential. This will be a long-range issue.
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. Ongoing.
  - ❖ Ongoing.
7. Construct approved \$1.96 million renovations and addition at the Durham Police Department facility.
  - ❖ Project has begun. On time and on budget to date.
8. In conjunction with UNH, finalize design and begin pre-planning for a new fire station at the Water Works Road location.
  - ❖ Ongoing. Site appears feasible. Presentation to the Council took place in Sept. 2017. Awaiting wetland delineation data.
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.

- ❖ Six months of time and around \$6,000 in town funds was expended on Town-architectural services (Architect Patricia Sherman) to enable the Town to provide meaningful feedback to Colonial Durham. The result was a substantial redesign that incorporated many Durham suggestions/goals into the Mill Plaza development plans.
10. Represent the interests of the Town concerning the Seacoast Reliability Project as part of the NH Site Evaluation Process.
- ❖ The Town has expended around \$90,000 to date on this effort to vet Eversource data by the Town's independent, 3<sup>rd</sup> party experts. The matter is now on hold before the NH Site Evaluation Committee while the NHDES looks at the application.
11. Support the Planning Board in its update of the Future Land Use Chapter of the Master Plan.
- ❖ The Future Land Use Subcommittee of the Planning Board has been meeting regularly, has held a public forum, conducted community outreach in myriad ways, and we are on target to have draft chapter to Planning Board for review by end of year – Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> is targeted at this time.
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.
    - DPW has been working with our NHDES and UNH partners on the development and refinement of plan. More info. along with public display was available at Durham Day this fall.
  - b. Develop a plan for the Mill Pond area/Oyster River Dam that is cost-effective and environmentally sustainable.
    - Our working group consisting of Mike Lynch, April Talon, Alan Bennett, Allan Howland, Jim Lawson, and Kenny Rotner has discussed this matter several times. DPW brought forward a scope of engineering services for further review by the Council, which was approved by the board in late-October 2017.
  - c. Evaluate the potential merits of integrated versus stand-alone wastewater/stormwater permits through the US EPA.
    - Discussions are still ongoing between the Town and EPA. DPW has contracted with engineering firm to evaluate financial implications of one approach versus the other.
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.

- ❖ Land Stewardship Coordinator Ellen Snyder is in place and has been undertaking various initiatives since the early part of 2017. Her work has proven invaluable. Thompson Forest and Oyster River Forest have been areas of focus.

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.

- ❖ Land Stewardship Coordinator Ellen Snyder has been working on a variety of initiatives in conjunction with the Land Stewardship Subcommittee of the DCC. Durham Parks & Rec., DPW, and many volunteers have also been active in these efforts.

15. Work with the Energy Committee to evaluate whether the power needs of the Wastewater Treatment Plant can be met through renewable resources.

- ❖ Still under review. Considering the viability of a smaller solar array on the concrete pad area at the WWTP. Will likely extend Constellation contract by 12 months for “Green Energy” rather than traditional power.

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.

- ❖ Other than an active line of communication between the Town and the ORCSD, there has been no activity in this area to date.
- ❖ Have made Council room available in October and November for ORCSD diversity training.

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.

- ❖ Analysis has been part and parcel of various development projects on the horizon to include 66 Main St., the Mill Plaza redevelopment, structured parking, the G4 downtown group along Main Street, etc.
- ❖ Possibilities for Jenkins Court are also being evaluated, as well as future site of Farmers’ Market downtown.

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.
  - ❖ Ongoing. Will need to be taken up by the Planning Board.
  - ❖ Support HDC/Heritage Commission in historical sign initiative and maintenance/care for grounds.
  
19. Evaluate how to market the historical nature of the community and endeavor to make Durham a tourist destination.
  - ❖ Ongoing. Councilors Sally Tobias and Al Howland have been taking a run at this. Celebrate Durham has been kicked off by downtown business owners. Discussions are under way to find opportunities for Celebrate Durham group and Durham Business Assn. to collaborate.
  
20. Work in support of UNH concerning the development of a performing arts center in the vicinity of the downtown area.
  - ❖ UNH is seeking funding for this initiative. Durham stands ready to assist.
  
21. Work to promote additional housing options for Durham's aging population as opportunities become available.
  - ❖ Riverwoods is currently before the Planning Board for a proposed Stone Quarry Drive facility in Durham. This would be a significant project that will require significant construction oversight by Town departments. We'll have to temporarily ramp up to manage this workload as we did a few years ago for the recent downtown building boom. NOTE: Significant focus in coming weeks will be on negotiating a PILOT program with Riverwoods.
  
22. Identify and pursue strategies to make Durham more business friendly.
  - ❖ Mary Ellen Humphrey and the ECD have been working to address this where feasible. Durham is very demanding in terms of what we require for new development approvals in response to community engagement and aspirations, which makes for a very deliberate process and takes time and resources.
  
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.
  - ❖ Discussions with Newmarket have taken place concerning possible shared coverage for the Building Department.
  - ❖ Discussions have also been taking place between Durham, UNH,

NHDES, and Lee concerning the possible extension of the D-UNH Water System to service the Lee Traffic Circle.

24. Complete Comcast Franchise Renewal Process.

- ❖ Ongoing. Working through several items but anticipate we will have a recommendation for contract extension for another 7 years by the first quarter of 2018.

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