



TOWN OF DURHAM  
8 Newmarket Road  
Durham, NH 03824-2898  
603.868.5571  
[www.ci.durham.nh.us](http://www.ci.durham.nh.us)

## ***2020-2021 Council Goals\**** ***Adopted April 20, 2020***

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

### ***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***

**Take steps as needed locally to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic**, including a multitude of potential impacts to include as public health, social economic, budgetary, personnel, and more.

### **Continue to Update Durham's Emergency Management Plan (EMP) and the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)**

**Pursue long-term economic and environmental sustainability and resiliency**, anticipating the community's and the region's future needs by considering multiple elements including society, ecology, economics, transportation, agriculture, food and drinking water, and energy resources, specifically taking into account existing and predicted impacts of climate change.

- Evaluate how to market the historical, agricultural, and academic nature of the community to encourage Durham as a destination.
- Find a pathway to provide Celebrate Durham's long-term sustainability as a community promotional entity. How can we best ensure the values Celebrate Durham has worked for can stay alive and relevant going forward?
- Support the new Work Force Housing subcommittee to investigate opportunities, challenges and options for affordable quality housing in Durham.
- Take steps as appropriate to promote the long-term health of Great Bay.

- Monitor construction of the Eversource Seacoast Reliability Project to ensure local infrastructure, environmental, scenic, cultural, and historic resources are protected consistent with appropriate conditions of approval from the NH Site Evaluation Committee and relevant agreements with the Town of Durham.
- Review zoning for West-end Research Park initiative, the downtown core, and other areas of the community, as appropriate, and consider modifications as deemed necessary.
- The realization that within our community we have a significant amount of town-owned lands and other lands held in conservation and easement with nonprofit organizations; and with the recognition that these lands need to be managed in ways that preserve and protect their environmental well-being while at the same time improving public access and use of those lands, we should continue current land stewardship activities.

**Review, discuss, and develop a more sustainable solid waste and recycling management program for the community.**

- Develop a long-range plan for improvements to the Transfer Station to address effective and efficient handling of waste and recyclable materials.
- Improve communications with residents, landlords, and students regarding additional waste reduction and current recycling to optimize the value of recyclables and reduce fees for solid waste. (In addition to Celebrate Durham, Friday Updates, Town website.)
- Support combined efforts of IWMAC, DPW, the Agriculture Commission, and ORCSD Sustainability committee in the development of a curbside composting initiative to reduce MSW landfill use.
- Evaluate interest by the Town Council on whether IWMAC should continue to consider PAYT.

**Strengthen the community by supporting the needs of residents, families, and other stakeholders** by offering a wide array of active and passive recreational opportunities, celebrating Durham's history, and encouraging community walkability and bikeability.

- Take steps to act on structural assessment/analysis of the old Town Hall/Courthouse and Wagon Hill farmhouse and develop long-range plan and budget for use of the farmhouse, ell, and barn.

**Continue cooperative and collaborative efforts with UNH** to enhance mutual intellectual, cultural, environmental, social, and economic benefits associated with hosting New Hampshire's flagship state university, including redevelopment of 66 Main St., Hetzel/Alexander Halls, and the creation of a West Edge Innovation District.

- Review zoning for West-end Research Park initiative and consider modifications as needed.
- Collaboration with faculty, staff, and students on mutually beneficial initiatives as needed/appropriate.

**Continue revitalizing Durham’s commercial core and neighborhoods** in ways that enhance our sense of community; better provide for the needs of our residents and businesses, strengthen the fiscal health of the Town and University, and align with the Master Plan.

- Continue the process of formulating a comprehensive evaluation of our Central Business District with the goal of further enhancement of this corridor in a manner that realizes the expectations of Durham residents while also respecting the needs of property owners and businesses.
- Continue to pursue and reevaluate the development/redevelopment needs of the CBD and align our zoning to meet the requirements as needed.
- Continue to investigate the needs of the downtown business owners and the challenges they have to be successful in town and to develop strategies to help Durham be more business friendly.
- Continue to pursue a relationship with the downtown property owners that provides open and informed communication.
- Continue to investigate the parking needs of businesses and what the town can realistically do to help alleviate some of the challenges that downtown customers and employees face in finding parking.
- Explore possible partnerships, whether private or with UNH and utilizing various funding sources at the Town’s disposal, that will result in the construction of parking garage with sufficient spaces controlled by the Town of Durham.

**Task the administrator with meeting the following budget goals for 2021.** Hold the municipal tax rate at the 2021 level or less. For the medium and long-term, the Town will continue to make an effort to control its spending and explore innovative ways to reduce the municipal tax rate.

**Encourage residents to explore joining one of the Town's boards, committees or commissions.**

**Encourage all Town boards, committees, and commissions to align their efforts with the Council goals** and the Master Plan, actively collaborate and communicate with each other, and communicate with the community at large.

**Refine plans for new or existing public facilities/infrastructure**, including, among others, downtown structured parking, a replacement building for the Fire Department, and public safety radio communication improvements, to meet the present and future needs of the community.

**Staff and Legal Counsel conduct a review of the Town Charter** and bring forward recommendations, as needed, for alignment with current state laws and adjustments to address identified deficiencies over time.

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