

Bar Harbor Town Council

Vision

The Bar Harbor Town Council is resolute in its commitment to promoting a sustainable and resilient community. Efficient use of public funds, good governance in accordance with the Town Charter and citizen involvement will ensure ample access to goods, services, housing and education and afford our diverse residents and visitors an outstanding quality of life.

2017 Five Year Goals and Strategies

~ FY17 through FY22 ~

A. **Keep the rate of Property Tax Increases low and Enhance User-based Revenues**

1. Work with the manager to draft a Municipal Budget that will keep property tax increases to a minimum, while still considering services that are necessary and appropriate. *Current proposed tax increase is at 2.1% increase.*
2. Work to identify opportunities to match potential revenues to incurred expenses to minimize impact on property tax and rate-payers. Continue to encourage payments in lieu of property taxes while recognizing the varied public benefits provided by non-profit organizations. - *Police: Training and equipment costs for 3 part time Police Officers, seasonal charter bus downtown drop off coverage and part time Police Officer wages are new items in the PD budget, all are funded by transfers from the Cruise Ship budget. Town meeting vote on meters and kiosks, which would raise revenue from parking meters, kiosks and permits.*
3. Work with the Finance Director and Assessor to understand possible variances/inequities in property assessment to determine the need for and timing of a revaluation of all properties. *Funding was increased in the CIP to start this project in FY 2020.*

B. **Protect the local environment on which much of our economy is based**

1. Explore opportunities to significantly reduce reliance on fossil fuels by the town, local businesses and residents. - *Energy efficient lights were installed at the Fire Station and Police Station, and the town received a \$5,029 rebate from Efficiency Maine.*

C. **Create effective plans for a Sustainable Future**

1. Work with the town's planner to lay out a process to update the town comprehensive plan by (year) and develop a more workable, enforceable Land Use Ordinance to support that plan. - *Staff is currently exploring the cost of housing studies that could meet the criteria in the state's comp plan review. The pending updates of the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Ordinance both will require current and diverse information and analysis of housing within the Town and the region. Comprehensive Planning requires specific information as called out in Chapter 208: Comprehensive Plan Review Criteria Rule which requires information on the count, affordability, type and condition of housing. The Planning Board needs the same type of information to make informed decisions on changes to the Land Use Ordinance. The activities of the Cottage Street Streetscape Project are also in support of the Comprehensive Plan Update as it will establish both a design and a capital budget for this important streetscape upgrade.*
2. Work with the Jackson Lab, The League of Towns and other partners and stakeholders to determine what steps the town can take to encourage additional Workforce Housing.
3. Gather objective data that will allow the Town Council to determine the potential benefits and impacts of exceeding the cruise ship cap set by the Council. - *Staff has worked with the Cruise Ship Committee to start to develop the list of factors that will be reviewed in 2018 during the demonstration project of four days that exceed the summer cruise ship cap. This will continue and a report will be developed to make certain that we are prepared to gather the desired information next summer.*
4. Assess Municipal Street Lighting for possible improvements in efficiency, reduction in annual cost and compliance with the town's night sky ordinance, and determine priorities for replacement of existing street lights with LED or other lighting. - *The PD is exploring potential for collaborations with COA and its students. One concept being discussed is GIS mapping of streetlights which may be useful toward this goal.*
Also, Emera has filed a rate request to the Maine PUC for LED streetlights.
5. Integrate recommendations for improved streetscape and sidewalk design coming from various task forces and town committees (Parking Solutions Task Force, Aging in Place Task Force, Cottage Street Streetscape Project) that will improve safety and access for pedestrians, cyclists and those with handicaps and create an overall street/sidewalk plan that lays out priorities and timing for municipal investment through the Capital Improvement Program. - *The Planner and LARK have met with the public, Parking and Traffic, Design Review Board and stakeholders on the Cottage Street Project.*

D. Improve the Effectiveness and Delivery of Municipal Services

1. Promote and support effectiveness and efficiency of public safety services and other municipal services, including current and new collaborations with other towns. -

Fire/EMS Department:

- *Working with staff researching, and preparing bid specs for the purchase of a ladder truck.*
- *Captain John Sander, and Firefighter/Medic Jon Zumwalt have taken Fire Officer I & II training. The training will help assist in the management of the fire*

department. The class focuses on budget preparation, community relations, and other aspects of managing fire and EMS services

- *We continue to assess and work to improve our EMS services. Staff continue to train to keep up with the latest treatment and technology in an effort to improve the quality of patient care we provide*
- *The fire department will begin using Image Trend to do our fire reports. Image Trend is a free web based reporting system that the State of Maine Fire Marshal's Office is providing to all of the State's Fire Departments.*
- *I continue to work with the Island Fire Departments developing alarm responses for mutual aid. Keeping in mind of collaboration, there will be no duplicate districts on the Island. For instance Bar Harbor will have districts 1 & 2, Mount Desert districts 3 & 4, and etc. We have starting working with the PD's to finalize the program. By using alarm response, it will lessen the burden on the first arriving IC as mutual aid departments and resources have been pre-designated. It will lessen the burden on dispatch, and cut down on radio communication between fire units and dispatch.*
- *The Island Chief's continue to work on the Island Training Fire Dept. Training Facility.*
- *For our scheduled live burn, we have invited all of the Island and Trenton Fire Departments. For the live burn we will continue to focus on transitional fire attack. The benefit of transitional attack is, applying water quickly from a safe location.*

E. Improve Local Infrastructure

1. Continue to actively engage MDOT and our State and Federal delegations to ensure Route 3 reconstruction is completed. - *Construction is underway.*
2. Work with partners and stakeholders to insure that land at the former ferry terminal remains zoned for marine uses, assuring that Bar Harbor retains its status as a Class A port of entry. - *In negotiations with the DOT to purchase the property by June 2018. The Planning Board has worked extensively on this question and has developed an amendment that clearly seeks to accomplish this goal. The Maritimes Shoreland District LUO change will be voted on at June Town Meeting, as well as the citizens petition to restrict the site to tendering and docking of ships less than 300 feet in length.*
3. Sustain and grow cruise ship visitation, within limits set by the Town Council on a yearly basis, to ensure that the income stream from cruise visitation continues to make public acquisition of the ferry terminal viable. - *The Council voted to exceed the limit on 1 day in 2018, the Cruise Ship Committee will study the impacts.*
4. Seek solutions to on-going parking problems in the summer season, coordinating where mutually beneficial with Acadia National Park as it completes its transportation plan. - *There is no town participation in the Park's transportation plan process.*
5. Adopt a master plan for the transfer station. - *Bond issue going to the voters June 2017.*
6. Rebuild Grant Park according to plans adopted by the town. - *Project is out to bid.*

7. Evaluate opportunities for improved broadband service within downtown and areas of the town not currently served. - *Half funding in the FY 2018 CIP budget.*
8. Study future space needs and options for public safety functions within Bar Harbor, as exploration of collaboration with other towns proceeds. - *Renewed the Police chief sharing agreement with the Town of Mt. Desert for 2 years.*
9. Study and create a priority list of in-town roads, noting both short-term needs for resurfacing and long-term needs for reconstruction, with appropriate planning, engineering and funding mechanisms. - *Included in FY 18 Budget.*
10. Explore potential for and promote construction of additional bike lanes and other amenities for cyclists in the downtown area, and along roadways/routes leading into town, especially when roads are reconstructed, and when collaboration is possible with Acadia National Park and Maine Department of Transportation. - *Town Council approved funding for a survey of the Crooked Road, the first step to eventually building bike paths.*

F. Improve the Effectiveness and Efficiency of our Town Governance and encourage citizen involvement

1. Improve communications with tax-payers and residents, so that council members better understand the needs and hopes of residents, and residents better understand the roles and responsibilities of the council. - *Nina St. Germain and Ron Beard have organized 2 forums and are working on a civility code.*
The town manager provides Council meeting updates on Facebook.
2. Determine ways in which Council meetings can be structured to improve civility and increase satisfaction among both Council members and citizens in our ability to work together on opportunities and solve problems. Consider techniques employed by other towns, including:
 - hosting a community-wide workshop designed to elicit suggestions for improving civility and increasing citizen participation in and satisfaction with town government. - *Forums are being held for the ferry terminal, budget and parking, prior to Town Meeting.*
 - eliminating the single public comment period and replacing it with reasonable opportunity for citizens to comment or ask questions during discussion of specific agenda items
 - offering a simple explanation at the beginning of each council meeting, reinforced on the town's website, about the best ways for citizens to participate in town government and to bring matters to the attention and possible action by the council. - *Upgrading the Town website to include mobility function.*
 - determining and publishing "best practice" suggestions for the conduct of meetings of town boards, committees and task forces. - *A workshop was held to begin the work on a civility code, to be prepared by Nina St. Germain and Ron Beard.*

Council Goals and Strategies

Adopted by Council 11/15/16

- determining when and where the use of a neutral facilitator would aid in the work of boards, committees and task forces. - *Ron Beard facilitates the work of the Parking Solutions Task Force.*

HISTORY

10-27-16 Results of Goal Setting Workshop
11-15-16 Adoption of Goals
04-18-17 Quarterly update