

Council Goals

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.

2016 Five Year Goals

~ FY16 through FY21 ~

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.
2. Work to identify opportunities to match potential revenues to incurred expenses to minimize impact on property tax and rate-payers, including payments in lieu of property taxes.
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.

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

1. Work with other towns in the region to study in support of solutions to the long-term issue of solid waste management and disposal.
2. Explore opportunities to significantly reduce reliance on fossil fuels by the town, local businesses and residents through a town or regional “solarize” program that coordinates education, purchasing, installation and financing options.

C. Create effective plans for a Sustainable Future

1. Work toward a simplified, enforceable Land Use Ordinance.
2. Explore, with the HUB of Bar Harbor and the Chamber of Commerce, creation of a downtown development district or tax increment financing to enhance self-financed planning and economic development within the downtown area, including seeing currently vacant commercial lots fully utilized.

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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.
2. Work through the League of Towns to design professional development opportunities, including encouraging municipal employees to cross-train for appropriate functions and collaborate where appropriate through formal and informal arrangements.

E. Improve Local Infrastructure

1. Continue to actively engage MDOT and our State and Federal delegations to ensure Route 3 reconstruction is completed
2. Encourage and assist the Maine Port Authority to acquire the ferry terminal.
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 Maine Port Authority acquisition of the ferry terminal viable
4. Seek solutions to on-going parking problems in the summer season.
5. Adopt a master plan for the transfer station.
6. Design, fund and rebuild Grant Park.
7. Explore options for rebuilding Harborview Park.
8. Respond to opportunities for improved broadband service within downtown and areas of the town not currently served.
9. Study future space needs and options for public safety functions within Bar Harbor, as exploration of collaboration with other towns proceeds
10. 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.
11. 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.

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

1. Study appropriate electronic voting technology to improve efficiency and accuracy of tabulating votes at annual open Town Meeting.
2. Improve communications with tax-payers and residents, in part, through periodic council meetings held in the various villages of the town, preceded by opportunities for “conversations”, facilitated by a neutral moderator, that will help council members better understand the needs and hopes of residents and residents to understand the roles and responsibilities of the council.
3. Work with town boards and committees to design workshops to increase citizen participation in town government.

HISTORY

10-28-14 Results of Goal Setting workshop
11-18-14 Goals adopted by Council
12-2-14 Council amended E.7. to include Grant Park
3-17-15 Staff's update status
7-21-15 Staff's update status
10-29-15 Results of Goal Seeting workshop
12-01-15 Goals adopted by Council, amended E. title, deleted #8