

2025-26 Bar Harbor Town Council Goals

2035 Bar Harbor Comprehensive Plan Vision *(adopted June 2025)*

Bar Harbor's vibrancy stems from the mix of people and the dramatic natural and cultural beauty of our place. Together, we build upon our diverse economic strengths and, through partnerships, we create solutions that meet year-round and seasonal needs. Our resilient and sustainable community includes sufficient equitable housing, robust infrastructure, and efficient transportation. We work through our differences to strengthen our collective sense of community. We take care of each other, and we take care of our place.

Tax Stabilization

- 1. Gather data and advocate at the state level to support local options tax efforts to achieve**
 - Equitable state revenue sharing (generating vs receiving)
 - Collaborative approach with the State to understand the big picture of the cost associated with hosting tourism to align town and state efforts in sustainable tourism work.
- 2. Where appropriate, adjust municipal fee structures to a consumption-based system (i.e.: user fees and licenses, utility fees, impact fees, connection and capacity fees, parking fees) to achieve:**
 - Equitable distribution of town costs to taxpayers through a fee structure (use more, pay more)
- 3. Continue to look for ways to add revenue or reduce costs to offset town costs to taxpayers.**
- 4. Review and revise (as needed) the budget process to for analysis, projections, process, debit analysis, and long-term planning to achieve:**
 - Communication tools with the public
 - Understanding of debt/ timing / analysis of impact

Housing

Within the existing goals of the Comprehensive Plan, the Housing Policy Framework and the work under the current moratorium work:

- 1. Learn, engage the public, analyze and implement different ways that the Town can incentivize the creation of diverse housing solutions to support a vibrant year-round community.**
- 2. Conduct holistic review and revision of zoning and LUO to:**
 - Define a vision for certain uses in Bar Harbor (commercial vs residential)
 - Identify areas of conflicting uses (vacation rentals/ lodging vs residential)
 - Simplify/ adjust the LUO to make way for more year-round housing
- 3. Coordinate and communicate with island communities and regional partners on housing challenges, prevent unintended consequences, leverage professional expertise and consider models and strategies that align with community goals and values.**

Sustainable Tourism

- 1. Support and align the work of the Council, the Sustainable Tourism Task Force, and other boards and committees including better engagement with the public to support the creation of a management plan that brings the community together for the work ahead.**
- 2. Understand, communicate and manage any impacts of tourism on the environment, housing and property taxes.**
- 3. Create a vision for a healthy relationship between tourism and the local economy that brings the community together.**
- 4. Use regenerative principles to set tourism and economic goals that restore and improve natural systems, community well-being, and local prosperity.**

Town Government

- 1. Review and adjust boards and committee structure to:**
 - Efficiently and productively engage the broader community in the work of the town
 - Align staff work with council goals, comprehensive plan and other policy frameworks
 - Ensure legally sound and best practices for public processes
- 2. Continuously review and adjust internal policy to:**
 - Be efficient and productive
 - Maintain open communication with the community
 - Align goals with established public policies
 - Meet challenges and complexity of the community
- 3. Coordinate with other towns and regional partners to achieve Bar Harbor's goals and objectives.**
- 4. Establish clear communications to build engagement and trust for local solutions.**

Infrastructure

- 1. While also addressing overall infrastructure needs, prioritize infrastructure projects which improve local, resident quality of life including:**
 - Comprehensive approach to cars, congestion and parking
 - Improving residential neighborhoods
 - Improving parks and public spaces
 - Increasing access to the ocean
- 2. Coordinate with other towns and regional partners to achieve Bar Harbor's infrastructure goals and objectives.**

Environment and Climate

- 1. Keep environmental preservation and livability goals at the front of our decision making.**

Adopted October 21, 2025 by Council Resolve 2025-10-01.