

WELCOME TO



AMHERST, *NEW HAMPSHIRE*

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Strategic Planning Vision Dashboard

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5 STRATEGIC GOALS

- ✘ Goal 1: Amherst will encourage development that maintains open space and rural landscapes.
- ✘ Goal 2: Amherst will continue to allow for a variety of housing options and be a leader in the State (and region) in maintaining and managing its Historic District and resources.
- ✘ Goal 3: Amherst will be known as a business-friendly community, with clearly established regulations and processes for land development.
- ✘ Goal 4: Amherst will maintain safe drinking water standards and protect water resources.
- ✘ Goal 5: Amherst will have a reputation for ensuring quality construction, and fair and equal enforcement of the regulations.

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INPUTS NEEDED TO REACH GOALS

- ✘ **Goal 1:** Encourage development that maintains open space and rural landscapes.
 - + Inputs: Revised Regulations and Ordinances; work with Conservation Commission and Land Trust
- ✘ **Goal 2:** Allow for a variety of housing options and be a leader in maintaining and managing Historic District and resources.
 - + Inputs: Extension of utilities; support to HDC and Heritage Commission; education and communication; master plan update

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INPUTS NEEDED TO REACH GOALS

- ✘ **Goal 3:** Amherst will be known as a business-friendly community, with clearly established regulations and processes for land development.
 - + Inputs: Economic Development vision; NRSP Regulations; expanded utility infrastructure; multi-modal transportation options
- ✘ **Goal 4:** Amherst will maintain safe drinking water standards and protect water resources.
 - + Inputs: Proactive enforcement of water protection ordinances

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INPUTS NEEDED TO REACH GOALS

- ✘ **Goal 5:** Amherst will have a reputation for ensuring quality construction, and fair and equal enforcement of the regulations.
 - + Inputs: Digitized data files; paper file management system; public internet access to OCD permits, files & data; timely processing of applications; staffing to support code compliance

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FY 2015-2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✘ Workforce Housing Ordinance adopted at 2015 Town Meeting
- ✘ Integrated Innovative Housing Ordinance adopted at 2015 Town Meeting
- ✘ Ongoing development of architectural design guidelines and revised landscaping standards for commercial development
- ✘ Ongoing development of revised road design standards
- ✘ Continue to streamline permit application and review process
- ✘ 2016 Town Meeting approved funds for a Sewer Feasibility Study
- ✘ 2016 Town Meeting approved the creation of a Planner I position

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PROPOSED 2018 INITIATIVES

✕ Initiatives in support of Goal #1:

- + Work with the Conservation Commission and the Land Trust to incorporate their visions, goals and initiatives for open space and natural resource preservation into the Town's Ordinances and Regulations.
- + Complete a Sidewalk, Bike & Trails Master Plan (\$20,000)

✕ Initiatives in support of Goal #2:

- + Revise Subdivision and NRSP regulations to encourage extension of utilities to new development
- + Support the Historic District through improved education and outreach, proactive enforcement of the Historic District, and provide staff review and guidance on applications submitted for HDC approval. Create design guideline document.
- + Support the Heritage Commission through assistance with improved education and outreach, preparation of grant applications, and administrative support

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PROPOSED 2018 INITIATIVES

✕ Initiatives in support of Goal #3

- + Work with an Economic Development Committee to define and implement a work plan and communications strategy for Economic Development in partnership with the Community Development Office (\$20,000)
- + Revise the Non-Residential Site Plan Regulations, the Subdivision Regulations and the Sign Ordinance to align with the 2013 Regulatory Review suggestions regarding commercial/industrial development.
- + Follow-on to the Sanitary Sewer Feasibility Study, providing additional detail on potential phasing options and funding alternatives to be in a position to initiate a phase I project in FY2019 (\$10,000)

✕ Initiatives in support of Goal #4:

- + Provide proactive enforcement for local water resource related ordinances including Wetlands, Watershed, Aquifer, Groundwater/Well-head, Floodplain, and Water Pollution Control Regulations

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PROPOSED 2018 INITIATIVES

- ✕ Initiatives in support of Goal #5:
 - + Provide Staff time and resources for proactive enforcement.
 - + Create a community GIS database to serve as the principal repository for town records related to land use and regulation

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FY 2019 & BEYOND

- Invest in and install a paper file management system which will accommodate all archives and foreseeable future documentation, in an organized, safe and efficient manner.
- Provide public internet access to permits, data and files by adding customer portal into current Community Development software system.
- Continue compliance, record keeping and reporting system as required by the MS-4 Permit
- Implement a Phase I Sanitary Sewer system project, with funding strategy approved by Town Meeting in 2018.

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CONCLUSION

- ✘ The three themes are translated into five strategic goals detailing a work plan for the Community Development Office to strive towards over the next five years and beyond.
- ✘ Ultimately the Community Development Office is tasked with assisting the community to find and maintain an acceptable balance between its quality of life, quality of resources and economic development in the hopes of achieving the community's long-term vision and reducing the tax burden on residential property owners.