

A VISION AND GOALS FOR KITTERY'S FUTURE

Kittery Comprehensive Plan Update Committee

6/6/2016

A vision confirms a community's commitment to a set of values to be

CREATING OUR FUTURE
TOGETHER



KITTERY 2015-2025
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

used as a lens through which to view information and make future decisions. Having a vision helps to frame subsequent discussions regarding how to achieve a desired future and helps to keep these discussions focused.

The Vision and Goals presented here are based on the input from 150 Kittery residents who participated in a public forum on March 12, 2016, the written comments of dozens of Kittery residents on Comment Boards placed in Town Hall and the Community Center as well as input given on-line.

This Vision and Goals will be further refined, and will form the basis upon which the Comprehensive Plan will be built.

GOALS

- To protect the town's character by preserving and protecting **HISTORIC FEATURES** and promoting an awareness of the Town's unique history.
- To protect Kittery's **NATURAL RESOURCES** including water, agricultural and forest resources, open space and recreation.
- To support desirable **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**, reduce dependence on Portsmouth Navy Shipyard, and increase the Town's tax base while also providing local jobs.
- To provide a range of **HOUSING** types to meet the needs of individuals throughout the lifecycle and to support residents with a diversity of incomes.
- To improve safety and ease of **GETTING AROUND TOWN** and better connect the "pieces" of Kittery. Also provide safe and pleasant alternatives to automobile travel with safe and pleasant bike and walking paths.
- To protect the Town's **COASTLINE**, the working waterfront, and increase access and enjoyment of the water while protecting it from environmental impacts.
- To improve **TOWN GOVERNANCE** and provide adequate **MUNICIPAL FACILITIES and SERVICES**

What makes Kittery unique?

Natural setting

conservation lands

working waterfront

Coastline

location

diverse land uses

Water views

highway access

parks

Walkability

Gourmet Alley restaurants

Fort Foster

arts

historic charm

access to Portsmouth

rural aspects

Foreside

diverse population

Historic buildings

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard

Fort McClary

community cohesion

The people

We aren't Portsmouth and don't want to be!

Beaches

gorgeous shoreline

our Community Center

Boat launches

rural plus urban aspects

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IMAGINE... a Kittery whose character is protected by the preservation and adaptive reuse of its **historic buildings**, the control of the scale of redevelopment so that it is in keeping with the historic charm of the Town and a promotion of the Town's history.

IMAGINE... a **Foreside district** that is a thriving, historic neighborhood that includes one of Maine's earliest working waterfront. A Foreside that maintains the historic, working –class character and scale and preserves its building stock by adopting a preference for creative or **adaptive reuse** of existing buildings. **Workforce housing** is integrated in the district. Walking and biking is safe and pleasant and there are more green spaces to enjoy as well as the **working waterfront**.

IMAGINE ... a Kittery where its beautiful and treasured **natural features** are preserved and protected and where enjoyment is enhanced through increased access to these for both passive and active **recreation**. Recreational activities are managed so as to prevent negative impacts on the environment, the season at Fort Foster is extended and programming at the Kittery Community Center is even more developed. Enjoyment of the water is enhanced by increasing **public access to the water**, cleaning up Spruce Creek, and providing shuttle service to Portsmouth from the Town Pier at Foreside.

IMAGINE... a Kittery that plans for the future of its **environment** by implementing **sustainability** measures and leading by example so that all town-owned buildings use renewable sources of energy, and the Town provides incentives for the use of renewable energy sources. A Kittery that **prepares for the expected rise in sea level** due to climate change.

IMAGINE... a Kittery that preserves its **sense of community**, the sense of peace and quiet, but also the **diversity of places** that make up the Town. It feels more unified and less separated as multiple **ways of getting around Town** are more available. **Traffic** congestion is lessened and **walking** and **biking** is made safe and pleasant. A **town shuttle** helps to better connect people as do the additional places to gather and run into one another.

IMAGINE ... a Kittery that while improving and growing is able to retain a **diverse socio-economic** mix of residents by providing **affordable, workforce housing** and by creating **jobs** with adequate wages and salaries, resulting in a **sustainable** community.

IMAGINE... the **economy** of Kittery more **diversified** as it retains existing and supports additional local businesses, where the existing businesses are redeveloped into more pedestrian-oriented mixed-use developments that incorporate more natural features and that are able to be more economically viable, **sustainable**, and in keeping with evolving expectations of shoppers.

IMAGINE... a Kittery that has a continuing **relationship with the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard**, and traffic, noise and light impacts created by activity in the shipyard are reduced as a result of working together to mitigate these.

IMAGINE... a re-imagined, twenty-first century **library** and a **school system** where students are consistently recognized for their success in the community and nationwide because these institutions provide top quality education, opportunities for life long learning, and enrichment programs.

IMAGINE... that all these improvements are made in a systematic way with significant **community engagement** in the decision-making process led by a **town government** that is respectful, transparent and civil in its discourse. A **shared vision** and **ordinances** that support the goals embodied in the vision are clear and easy to enforce.