

Plan Summary

Overview

A Comprehensive Plan collects, analyzes and presents detailed information to support goals and strategies that are recommendations to the Town to take action. This combination of data and strategic proposals can be overwhelming and we offer a brief summary here to help explain key information.

A Comprehensive Plan

A Comprehensive Plan is a planning document intended to be a guide for communities when making policy and land use decisions over a 10 to 15 year period. The whole planning process is an opportunity for the community to come together, look at where they are, and plan for where they would like to be. It prepares the ground for future growth that would still maintain the rural atmosphere that its citizens and many visitors have come to appreciate and cherish. The Comprehensive Plan is an important planning document because it guides policy decisions, land use decisions, and municipal investments.

Why does the State need to approve the Plan and agree that it is consistent with the State Growth Management Act? A plan that is approved by the State makes that municipality eligible for the grants and loans, and allows the municipality to legally impose land use, impact fee, rate of growth and shoreland zoning ordinances that can stand up in a court of law. The top priorities for the Town are represented by groups of individual goals stated within each of the inventory chapters - some of which are requirements of the State Growth Management Act of 2008.

The Benefits of a Comprehensive Plan

A Comprehensive Plan **benefits** a community like Bristol because it allows the Town:

- *guide* To ~~control~~ what happens in its community;
- To establish a blueprint for growth for the next ten years;

Bristol believes that ^aclimate change is of grave concern, and that future Town practices and policies should be developed to help mitigate its effects.

In order to achieve the community's vision for Bristol, **we must act together** to put these recommendations into action.

Priorities

The **Priorities** were developed from the Vision Statement: they form the core of the Plan and guided the goals and suggested strategies. Adopting them is the first step to defining the actions that are needed to implement the Plan.

In order to preserve Bristol, we ^{should}~~must~~:

- Protect the Town's rural character;
~~a maintain an affordable property tax rate.~~
- Protect and maintain our natural and marine resources;
~~Research ways to improve~~
- ~~Provide~~ access to affordable housing;
- Understand the impacts of climate change on the Town;
- Use the Comprehensive Plan as a roadmap for the future.

The priorities are the basis for the goals and strategies that accompany each of the eleven chapters in the second section of the plan. They consist of a simple set of instructions to make the priorities work for everyone. They assign responsibilities and a timeline.

Future Land Use Plan

Bristol's land is one of its most valuable resources. The Future Land Use Plan is the most important proposal in the plan and is drawn from the Vision Statement and Priorities.

A Future Land Use Plan is essential to maintaining Bristol's rural character and its small town feel. In order to develop this Plan, four proposals were examined including growth in and around the villages, along the major roads, allowing development all over the town but keeping a quiet rural feel and emphasizing conservation and natural resources. A second proposal which combined growth in the villages with the conservation of natural resources received approval.

Based on the research, including data collection and public feedback, the Comprehensive Plan Committee recommends a Future Land Use Plan that accomplishes the vision of Bristol as a rural, intergenerational community that values its natural resources and preserves its small town village structure. The extensive corridor of “Critical Rural Areas” ensures the protection of the natural resources that are critical to the vision and the future of the Town.

The **Future Land Use Plan** is a summary of what we want Bristol to look like in the next 10 years. It proposes a road map for how we will get there, and is a call for the Town to make an **Action Plan**. An Action Plan is imperative. Without it, the Town’s vision will not become a reality. This Comprehensive Plan proposes goals, policies, and specific implementation strategies that will embody the characteristics of the Future Land Use Plan and address issues identified in the Inventory Chapters.

Conclusion

Bristol’s Comprehensive Plan is ambitious and assertive; it suggests ways for the Town to ~~change and~~ develop over the next ten years that match the Committee’s research and the opinions of the residents. The dialogue that began with the surveys and the Future Land Use Workshop should be the first of many conversations about the Town. This is the most important thing that we learned - that the Town wants to make the changes necessary to protect the things we love about Bristol, and that many people want to be involved in the process. Only through the future determination and efforts of many will Bristol continue to embody the values of its residents.

restaurants, almost all seasonal. Route 130 serves as the primary route in and out of Town, and leads to the regional service center of Damariscotta, which has an historic main street, as well as a hospital, health care providers, pharmacies, other professional resources, and grocery and hardware stores.

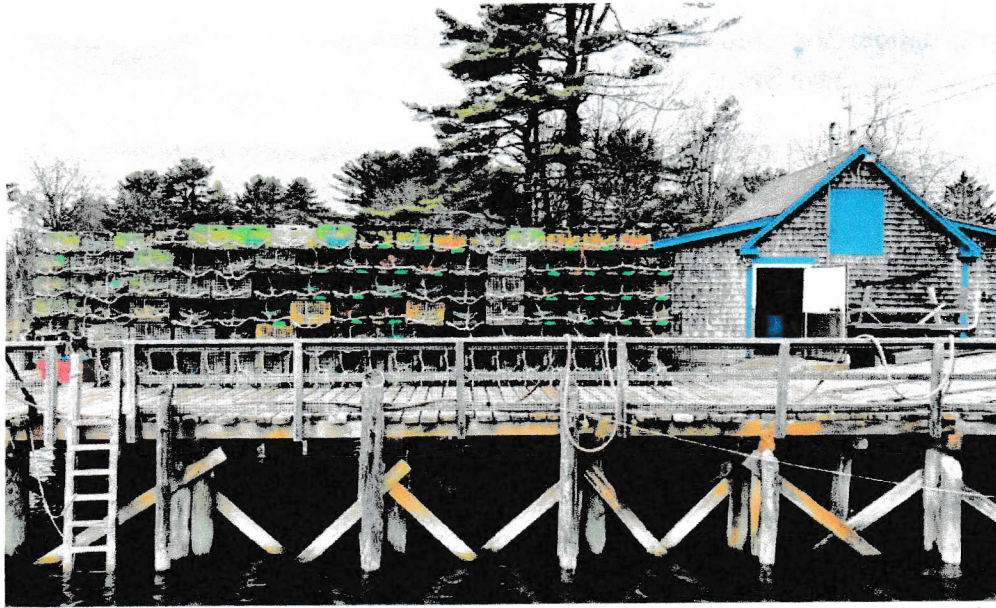
Bristol is in the enviable position of having the lowest tax rate in the State for a town of its size due, in part, to the high valuations of many of its coastal properties and to the Select Board's careful management of its revenues and resources. The voters are keen for this to continue, but a majority of ^{those surveyed} residents are willing to accept a higher rate ^{IN} in exchange for ~~agreed improvements in services.~~ ^{A some increase in property taxes}
~~A changes resulting from Comprehensive Plan Implementation~~

Bristol is, however, currently facing challenges that are reflected in trends across the state, including tensions between seasonal and local residents, lack of affordable housing options, population increases due to the pandemic, threats from sea level rise and our changing climate, and an aging population. The Comprehensive Plan, at the behest of the residents, strives to address these issues.

- Covid-19 accelerated changes in remote work, early retirement, and internal migration patterns. On a local level, Maine became an attractive place during the pandemic, offering a low population and ample outdoor space, and Bristol saw an influx of new residents and a demand for building permits. There was an average 14% percent increase in the number of permits issued from 2016 to 2021 and an average 32% increase in the number of building permits for new homes in the same period. While it is difficult to predict if this trend will continue, it is important to plan for changing trends.
- Bristol's current housing stock is almost entirely single-family homes with an average occupancy of just over two persons. However, 30% of the total households in Bristol consist of individuals living alone. National and statewide trends indicate that this number will increase over the next decade. This suggests that Bristol's housing stock does not meet current or future demands. Difficulties in finding affordable housing negatively impact the local economy; younger people, seasonal workers, and those looking to age in place have minimal affordable housing options and often cannot afford the median housing price.
- Bristol's residents are concerned with the impacts of sea level rise and climate change, and expressed concern about issues such as saltwater

intrusion and wells running dry, rising water temperature impacting the lobster and fishing industries, invasive species, and an increase in ticks and tick-borne illnesses.

- An aging population poses unique challenges for rural towns, which need to facilitate access to affordable housing, adequate healthcare and medical facilities and services, public transportation, and social opportunities. ~~The supports necessary to ensure intergenerational equity are currently lacking in the Town.~~ ? "intergenerational equity"?
- The reliability and availability of potable water is concerning to Bristol's residents and has implications for future growth and infrastructure needs. One in seven survey respondents or (91 of 641 responses) reported that their private wells ran dry at least once in the past 10 years (Source: July, 2023 Vision Survey Results).



Round Pond by Kate Burch

Residents want to ensure, as emphasized throughout the Committee's work and feedback sessions, that Bristol maintains a stable population with a slow, steady growth rate while preserving its small-town character. Encouraging limited development in rural areas and preserving critical habitats, while fostering growth near village centers will help the Town thrive while staying true to its roots.

Plan Purpose

Bristol's needs and desires drove the creation of a Comprehensive Plan that is both in alignment with the Townspeople's values and priorities and consistent with the goals and guidelines of Maine's Growth Management Act (Appendix D). There are legal and financial benefits to having the State's "finding of consistency" for the plan, including legitimacy for enacting zoning, impact fees, and rate of growth ordinances, qualification for many state and local competitive grant programs, and benefits for growth areas.

In general, a Comprehensive Plan is a long-range planning document that provides guidance for future public decision-making based on a shared community vision. It provides the factual basis and policy framework for future planning, regulatory, and decision-making in the public and private sectors over a span of 10-15 years. The Plan can also serve as a valuable tool for guiding local elected officials, community leaders, local organizations, and Town staff in their implementation of strategies to manage the future growth and development of Bristol. Lastly, the comprehensive planning process is an opportunity for residents, leaders, and other community stakeholders to come together and take inventory of current trends and plan for future needs, challenges, and opportunities.

Bristol's previous Comprehensive Plan was approved by the Town in 2002; however, it was not approved by the State, primarily due to underdeveloped sections pertaining to Town history, affording housing, natural resources, and land use. In 2021, the Town decided that a new Comprehensive Plan, with goals and strategies, was needed to guide Bristol forward during a time of rapid change. At the Annual Town Meeting, voters authorized the Select Board to appoint a Comprehensive Plan Committee which was tasked with:

- Conducting a review of the 2002 Comp Plan and delivering a report on the progress made and objectives of the 2002 Plan;
- Participating in the inventory and analysis of existing Town conditions;
- Developing, in collaboration with the public, a Town vision, goals, and strategies.

~~However, in 2021, faced with significant, and possibly irrevocable changes, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, voters directed the Select Board~~

In 2021 the voters approved at Town Meeting
approved an article to ~~establish~~ appoint
20
(Covid-19 was not the impetus
for forming the Comp Plan
Committee.

No mention
of maintaining
low taxes

Priority Goals, Policies, and Strategies

Throughout its efforts to develop goals and strategies for the Comprehensive Plan, the Bristol Comprehensive Plan Committee identified a number of common themes. These themes embody the essence of not only the research and knowledge of the Committee members, but also the essence of the Townspeople's opinions as reflected in the two outreach surveys, the Plan's Vision Statement, and the well-attended Future Land Use Workshop. As such, the Committee selected a set of Top Five Priorities to help the Town set its course for the next ten years. We hope that these Priorities not only capture the intent of the Comprehensive Plan, but the concerns and desires of Bristol's citizens particularly in the areas of **natural resources and conservation, housing, and maintenance of the Town's character.**

Bristol's Priorities

In order to preserve Bristol, we ^{should} ~~must~~:

- Protect the Town's rural character;
- ~~Maintain a low~~ ^{maintain a reasonable property tax rate}
- Protect and maintain our natural and marine resources;
- Provide access to affordable housing;
- Understand the impacts of climate change on the Town;
- Use the Comprehensive Plan as a roadmap for the future.



Wetland by Tamar Francis

Plan Implementation

The success of a plan is measured by how well it is implemented. The Comprehensive Plan is meant to be a living document and tool for community decision-makers to establish policies, target investments, and develop programs that reflect the values and priorities of the Bristol community. Further planning studies, and future changes to the Town's zoning, land use, and policies will be required to carry out the vision for Bristol.

Subsequent to its approval by the Town, the Comprehensive Plan Committee recommends that the Select Board form a Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee to take action on Plan recommendations and track progress. ~~The Implementation Committee should include at least two members from the CPC for continuity~~ ^{two community members} ~~as well as representation from relevant Boards and Committees, including the Select Board.~~ ^{should have}

The Implementation Matrix provided in Appendix C offers the goals, policies, and strategies categorized by topic, an estimated timeframe, and identification of the responsible party. This matrix should be used as the framework for action steps for Town staff and other stakeholders to carry out the Comprehensive Plan. It is also an important tool to track progress as the goals, policies, and strategies are implemented over the next decade.



Photo by Keeton

Performance Measures

The Implementation Committee should be responsible for reviewing the action items in the plan and evaluating the financial and property tax impacts in order to make informed decisions and reporting on an annual basis.

Ongoing monitoring and evaluation of key metrics are important to keep the Town on track toward its goals and to identify course corrections along the way. The performance measures should track the Town's top priorities and be considered as suggestions for the Plan's Implementation Committee.

Baseline performance measures for evaluation at least every 5 years:

- A. The degree to which future land use plan strategies have been implemented;
- B. Percent of municipal growth-related capital investments in growth areas;
- C. Location and amount of new development in relation to community's designated growth areas and rural areas.
- D. Amount of critical natural resource, critical rural, and critical waterfront areas protected through acquisition, easements, or other measures.

Future Comprehensive Plan Updates

It is recommended that the Plan be updated in 3-5 years by the Implementation Committee, in order to refresh the information in the Inventory Chapters and the Top Five Priorities.

These targeted tune-ups to the Plan will be manageable and responsive, and present to the Town opportunities to have follow-up conversations with the community regarding the evolution of the Town's vision and priorities.

Conclusion

No comprehensive plan is complete, since such a project is too complex and detailed to fully capture every detail about a Town. However, this Plan strives to capture Bristol's current moment in order to establish the foundation for changes in the years to come. Part of it is retrospective and looks at how the Town has changed in the last twenty years. The Town is changing more quickly now, and our hopes and wishes will be modified as the decade unfolds.

The research and outreach associated with Bristol's Comprehensive Plan have led to one simple conclusion: that action to manage the change is essential and urgent.

The Comprehensive Plan is ambitious and assertive; it offers goals and strategies that will allow Bristol to grow in the way that the residents' desire. All of the proposed strategies are important. Admittedly, some may be accomplished more quickly than others, and not everyone will agree with all of them. They all deserve, however, more thought and discussion.

The dialogue that began with the surveys and the Future Land Use Workshop should be the first of many conversations about the Town. This is the most important thing that we learned - that the Town wants to make the changes necessary to protect the things we love about Bristol, and that many people want to be involved in the process. Only through the future determination and efforts of many will Bristol continue to embody the values of its residents.

- All new committees should be listed as (proposed)
- Where existing standing committees are shown the appropriate elected committee or commission has been added

Appendix C: Goals, Strategies, & Policies Implementation Matrix

1. History and Archeology

1.1 Promote historic preservation as a key economic, sustainable, and community development strategy.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
1.1.1 Engage local property owners and stakeholders to pursue a listing for possible Historic Districts (such as Bristol Mills or Round Pond Villages).	Bristol Mills Improvement Society Old Bristol Historical Society	Mid Term
1.1.2 Encourage support for the Old Bristol Historical Society.	Select board Implementation Committee (to be developed)	Ongoing
1.1.3 Encourage the preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic properties, including those owned by the Town.	Select board Implementation Committee (to be developed) Planning Board Old Bristol Historical Society	Ongoing
1.1.4 Provide information about grant programs for historic homeowners for maintenance or modernization of historic homes.	Select board Town Administrator	Ongoing
1.1.5 Explore ways to denote the historical significance of private properties and public historical sites.	Select board Implementation Committee (to be developed) Planning Board	Ongoing

1.2 Preserve and protect the Town's overlooked historic and archaeological resources.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
1.2.1 Encourage thoughtful rehabilitation of historic homes and new construction compatible with the character of the historic neighborhoods.	<p>Planning Board Code Enforcement Officer</p> <p>Implementation Committee (to be developed)</p> <p>Planning Board</p>	Ongoing
1.2.2 Provide information to landowners of historic and archaeological sites on the importance of protecting these resources.	<p>Planning Board Implementation Committee (to be developed)</p>	Ongoing

1.3 Ensure inclusivity and promote respect for diversity in Town related historical publications.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
1.3.1 Continue and expand efforts at historical sites/school/town documents to include the story of the original/native inhabitants of the Pemaquid Peninsula	<p>Select board Old Bristol Historical Society Planning board Parks Commission</p> <p>School Committee</p>	Ongoing

	Town Administrator	
1.3.2 Acknowledge the presence of slavery in Bristol's history in Town related publications as appropriate	Select board Old Bristol Historical Society Planning Board Parks Commission School Committee	Ongoing

2. Water Resources

2.1 Maintain the quality of fresh, marine, and estuary waters to allow for sustainable public and private uses.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
2.1.1 Continue to collaborate with state and community partners (like Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust) to monitor water quality at various public use sites such as Pemaquid Beach, Swimming Hole at the Bristol Dam, etc.	Shellfish Committee Parks Director Commission	Ongoing
2.1.2 Provide educational materials at appropriate locations, including rental agencies, regarding the importance of maintaining sustainable water usage	Planning Board Town Conservation Committee (to be developed)	Ongoing
2.1.3 Study the effects of geothermal wells on traditional water sources	Planning Board Town Conservation Committee (to be developed)	Ongoing

	Planning Board	
2.1.4 Study the impacts of various road treatments on water quality (private wells, etc.)	Select board Road Commissioner	Early Term
2.1.5 Include in the Town annual report the various road treatments utilized in the winter months	Select board Road Commissioner Town Administrator	Annual and Ongoing
2.1.6 Include in the Town annual report the properties with overboard discharge and/or failed septic systems, as well as the number of properties whose systems have been remediated	Planning Board Code Enforcement Officer	Annual and Ongoing
2.1.7 Encourage property owners to eliminate point source pollution	Planning Board Code Enforcement Officer Town Conservation Committee (to be developed)	Ongoing

2.2 Restore the quality of fresh, marine, and estuarine waters to allow for sustainable public and private usage.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline

Create a

Consider creation of a 3.1.2 Create a Town Conservation Committee to protect and maintain our valuable natural resources assist. town elected boards with ideas to protect and maintain our valuable natural resources	Select Board	Early Term April 2024 (contingent upon Plan approval)
3.1.3 Pursue private funding, as well as state funding, to support conservation initiatives	Select board Town Conservation Committee (to be developed) Park Commission Planning Board	Early Term
3.1.4 Create and maintain an inventory of unique natural areas in the Town that should be protected	Town Conservation Committee (to be developed)	Early Term
3.1.5 Encourage landowners to protect and preserve critical natural and scenic resources by taking advantage of conservation programs to preserve undeveloped land	Select board Town Conservation Committee (to be developed) Planning Board Parks Commission	Ongoing
3.1.6 Create and maintain an inventory of scenic views of importance in the Town	Parks Commission Town Conservation Committee (to be developed) Planning Board Select board	Early Term
3.1.7 Review and revise, if needed, the Town's Land Use Standards Ordinance, Subdivision Ordinance, Shoreland Zoning Ordinance and other related ordinances to assure that submission requirements include identification of state and locally important resources including wetlands, scenic vistas, vernal pools, floodplains, wildlife habitats (deer wintering areas, bird nesting sites, etc.) and other unique natural and scenic features or areas.	Select board Planning Board Code Enforcement Officer	Early Term
3.1.8 Educate the public in regards to strategies for invasive plant and pest removal, and protecting native species of plants, insects and animals.	Planning Board Town Conservation Committee (to be developed) Parks Commission	Ongoing

3.2 Minimize light and noise pollution.

2.2.1 Continue current strategies (acute water sampling and DNA testing) utilized to restore shellfish harvesting to Upper Pemaquid River, Schoolhouse Cove, Eastern Branch	Select board Shellfish Committee Park Commission	Ongoing
2.2.2 Study and consider amending the Shoreland Zoning Ordinance to protect water resources such as creeks, ponds, and streams	Planning Board	Early Term
2.2.3 Continue to pursue grant money to support water testing at identified locations throughout the Town	Select board Shellfish Committee Parks Director	Ongoing
2.2.4 Continue to work with the Department of Marine Resources regarding impacts on water quality resulting from existing and potential pollution sources.	Select board Shellfish Committee	Ongoing

3. Natural Resources

3.1 Protect and maintain our valuable natural resources including scenic areas/views, open spaces, preserves, habitats, wetlands, and shorefronts.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
3.1.1 Create an ordinance for open space and/or natural resource protection in order to preserve the rural character of the Town Encourage landowners to apply for conservation easements	Planning Board Town Conservation Committee (to be developed)	Early Term

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
3.2.1 Study the impact of noise pollution on local wildlife and educate the public	Planning Board Town Conservation Committee (to be developed) Select board	Mid Term
Study 3.2.2 Reduce the impact of light pollution on habitats and landscapes by studying and possibly adopting a lighting ordinance in accordance with the Dark Skies Initiative	Planning Board Select board Town Conservation Committee (to be developed)	Mid Term

3.3 Prioritize Town initiated land conservation measures.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
Consider 3.3.1 Create and grow a "Land for Bristol's Future" fund for potential land acquisition for habitat protection, scenic view protection, shorefront access and/or recreation.	Select Board	Early Term
3.2.3 Pursue private funding, as well as state funding, to support land purchases for the purpose of public use and access	Select board Town Conservation Committee (to be developed) Parks and Recreation	Ongoing

3.4 Protect Bristol from the effects of climate change.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
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3.4.1 Ensure that Bristol is eligible and applies for Community Resilience grant funding through the State for projects like energy efficiency and climate resilience (ex: flooding, drought, extreme weather, public health, etc.) – https://www.maine.gov/future/climate/community-resilience-partnership/grants	Select Board Town Administrator	Early Term
3.4.2 Collaborate with state and community partners to study the effects of climate change on the Town	Select board Town Conservation Committee (to be developed) Planning board	Ongoing
3.4.3 Consider the impacts of climate change when developing and revising Town policies and ordinances.	Planning Board Select Board	Ongoing

4. Agriculture and Forestry

4.1 Ensure the protection of agricultural and forested land in Bristol.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
Review 4.1.1 Amend Subdivision Ordinance and include in the Land Use Standards Ordinance language to requiring commercial or subdivision developments to consider maintaining areas with prime farmland soils as unencumbered for future agricultural use, to the greatest extent possible. Include similar language for retaining large stands of timber.	Planning Board Select Board	Mid Term
4.1.2 Support the pursuit of grant funding, as well as state funding, to support land purchases or conservation easements for the purpose of preserving	Select Board	Ongoing

farmland and working land (such as lands with prime farmland or soils of statewide importance).	Town Conservation Committee (to be developed)	
Consider 4.1.3 Create solar siting ordinances which include agricultural standards. (https://www.maine-farmland-trust.org/farm-network/farmland-and-solar-development/)	Planning Board Select Board	Mid Term
4.1.4 Work with state agencies to review and revise as needed the Town's land use regulations to prevent clear cutting of large areas that would result in erosion of the thin soil cover.	Planning Board	Mid Term
4.1.5 Increase awareness among local farmland owners about options to protect their land through agricultural conservation easements.	Select board Town Conservation Committee (to be developed)	Ongoing

4.2 Help promote the economic viability of farms and forestry operations in Bristol.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
4.2.1 Continue to encourage the purchase of locally grown food for local schools and institutions.	Bristol School Food Service Manager School Committee	Ongoing
4.2.2 Consider enrolling the Town in the Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program in order to support reimbursement of property taxes on farmland and	Select Board	Mid Term

farm buildings in exchange for 20-year conservation easements		
<p>Review</p> <p>4.2.3 Improve local farmland access and seek consider ways to attract new farmers through programs such as Maine FarmLink.</p>	Town Conservation Committee (to be developed)	Ongoing

5. Marine Resources

5.1 Promote and protect water-dependent activities.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
5.1.1 Encourage people to take advantage of State and Federal programs that preserve the working waterfront through grants and other funding sources.	<p>Select board</p> <p>Fish Committee</p> <p>Harbor Committee</p> <p>Shellfish Committee</p>	Ongoing
5.1.2 Identify future public access needs for commercial fishermen and related maritime activities and identify regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to meet those needs.	<p>Select board</p> <p>Fish Committee</p> <p>Harbor Committee</p> <p>Shellfish Committee</p>	Ongoing

5.2 Ensure adequate future public access to shoreline areas.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
5.2.1 Identify needs for additional recreational and commercial access (which includes parking, boat launches, docking space, fish piers, and swimming access).	Select board Harbor Committee Parks Commission	Early Term
5.2.2 Continue to make appropriate improvements to public landings as needed	Select board Harbor Committee	Ongoing

5.3 Support implementation of local and regional harbor-management plans.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
5.3.1 Maintain mooring plans for our mooring field areas to increase the efficiency of mooring areas and to comply with Federal, State, local mooring regulations.	Select board Harbor Committee	Early Term
5.3.2 Develop an improvement plan for Town landings to help continue to maintain functionality and safe conditions, increase float and dinghy space, and improve parking.	Select board Harbor Committee	Mid Term
5.3.3 Annually review mooring fees and adjust as operational expenses and capital improvement needs change.	Select board Harbor Committee	Annual and ongoing
5.3.4 Evaluate the logistics of hiring and funding a full time harbormaster.	Select Board Harbor Committee	Early Term

5.3.5 Investigate the feasibility of dredging Town harbors.	Select board Harbor Committee	Early Term
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5.4 Maintain, and where necessary, restore the quality of coastal waters, marine fisheries, and wildlife.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
5.4.1 Monitor the future development of any proposed aquaculture operations.	Select board Fish Committee Planning board Shellfish Committee	Ongoing
5.4.2 Continue to work with the Department of Marine Resources and Department of Environmental Protection regarding impacts on water quality resulting from existing and potential pollution sources.	Select board Shellfish Committee	Ongoing
5.4.3 Continue to collaborate with Coastal Rivers to monitor water quality in the Pemaquid River, coastal waters, and harbors of Bristol to protect marine life, recreation, and commerce.	Parks Commission Parks Director Shellfish Committee	Ongoing

5.5 Develop the public's understanding of coastal management and resource utilization.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
5.5.1 Seek ways to encourage owners of marine businesses and industries to participate in clean marina/boatyard programs.	Select board Harbor Committee	Ongoing

5.6 Protect and promote marine-based industries.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
5.6.1 Continue to maintain an accessible inventory of working waterfront property in the Town.	Harbor Committee Select Board Planning Board Code Enforcement Officer Town Administrator	Ongoing
5.6.2 Continue to encourage marine based industries through the use of the Working Waterfront Program.	Select board Harbor Committee	Ongoing

6. Population and Demographics

6.1 Encourage and support the ability of seniors on fixed incomes to age-in-place by innovative approaches and support to address fuel, housing and repair costs, as well as addressing issues such as transportation and social isolation.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
6.1.1 Consider joining the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities.	Select board Implementation Committee (to be developed)	Early Term
6.1.2 Develop <i>Consider developing</i> a Senior Services Committee to coordinate resources and otherwise support the needs of senior community members	Select Board	Early Term April 2024 (contingent upon Plan approval)
6.1.3 Connect older residents to known community organizations/groups designed to support their needs.	Select board Implementation Committee (to be developed) Senior Services Committee (to be developed)	Ongoing

6.2 Explore ways to enable young people and families to stay in the Town, or to relocate to the Town.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
6.2.1 Continue to support the growing needs of Bristol's school-age population by prioritizing, and investing resources in, Bristol Consolidated School.	School Committee Select Board	Ongoing

6.2.2 Continue to collaborate with the School to develop and maintain partnerships with regional organizations designed to support family child care needs.	School Committee Select Board	Ongoing
6.2.3 Explore mechanisms to ensure living in the Town is affordable.	Implementation Committee (to be developed)	Early Term

6.3 Strive to be a diverse and vital community that is home to people of varying ages and genders from a range of economic, social, and cultural backgrounds.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
6.3.1 Consider the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion when developing Town policies and practices	Town Administrator	Early Term
6.3.2 Explore, and possibly implement, diversity, equity, and inclusion training for Town staff	Town Administrator	Early Term

6.4 Monitor population trends and use that information to plan for community needs.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
6.4.1 Monitor demographic changes, especially changes in the senior population and the family-age population	Select Board	Ongoing

	Senior Services Committee (to be developed) Town Administrator	
6.4.2 Adapt and revise municipal services to respond to demographic changes	Select Board	Ongoing

7. Economy

7.1 Support existing commercial activities in Bristol and encourage the development and expansion of light impact businesses.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
7.1.1 Make available at the Town Office information on existing Federal, State, and regional programs designed to assist business development and expansion.	Town Administrator	Early Term and Ongoing
7.1.2 Take advantage of Federal, State or other funding programs to support the development of light impact businesses.	Select Board Town Administrator	Ongoing
7.2.2 Encourage participation in the regional economic development efforts of organizations which seek to expand job opportunities and appropriate training in the region.	Implementation Committee (to be developed)	Ongoing

7.2 Allow home businesses that do not detract from residential neighborhoods or the rural character of Bristol.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
7.2.1 Continue to permit home businesses that do not cause a distraction (e.g. noise, excess traffic, smells) from the rural character in all areas of the Town	Code Enforcement Officer Selectboard	Ongoing

7.3 Continue to develop and improve the Town's telecommunication resources.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
7.3.1 Develop Consider a Connectivity Committee to assess the Town's needs in the areas of internet, cell service, and wide area networks	Select Board	April 2024 Early Term (contingent upon Plan approval)
7.3.2 Study the functionality of existing cell towers	Connectivity Committee (to be developed) Select board	Early Term
7.3.3 Ensure the Town's broadband network is adequate enough to meet commercial needs	Connectivity Committee (to be developed) Select Board	Ongoing

8. Housing

8.1 Ensure that local land use ordinances support the creation of quality affordable housing and create incentives for affordable housing options.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
<p><i>Consider establishing</i></p> <p>8.1.1 Establish a Housing Committee to support the exploration of quality affordable housing in the Town</p>	Select Board	<p><i>Early Term</i></p> <p>April 2024</p> <p>(contingent upon Plan approval)</p>
<p>8.1.2 Examine and propose regulations associated with current state legislation pertaining to accessory dwelling units (e.g. LD 2003).</p>	<p>Planning Board</p> <p>Select Board</p>	<p>Early Term</p> <p><i>ON going</i></p>
<p><i>Explore</i></p> <p>8.1.3 Develop local affordable housing options, <i>so for</i> individuals and families can stay within their community</p>	<p>Housing Committee (to be developed)</p>	<p><i>Early Term</i></p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>8.1.4 Identify areas of existing low income housing and support their access to available resources.</p>	<p><i>Select board</i></p> <p>Housing Committee (to be developed)</p>	<p>Early Term and Ongoing</p>
<p>8.1.5 Review or amend the Land Use Standards Ordinance to ensure small business owners continue to be able to provide low-cost housing for seasonal workers using accessory dwelling units and other strategies.</p>	Planning Board	Early Term
<p>8.1.6 Consider establishing a level of affordable housing stock in accordance with the May 2023 Lincoln County Housing Needs Assessment.</p>	<p><i>Planning Board</i></p> <p>Housing Committee (to be developed)</p>	Early Term

8.2 Support the maintenance of available year round housing stock in the Town by investigating limitations on short term rentals.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
8.2.1 Explore strategies designed to incentivize preventing homes from becoming short term rentals.	Planning Board Housing Committee (to be developed)	Early Term

9. Recreation

9.1 Ensure, and possibly expand, access to important recreational sites in the Town.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
9.1.1 Seek to, when possible, acquire Town ownership of Pemaquid Lighthouse Tower from the Coast Guard.	Parks Commission Select Board	Long Term
9.1.2 Work with community partners to explore ways to ensure and expand, as appropriate, access to various freshwater bodies in Bristol (e.g. Boyd's Pond, Biscay Pond, etc.)	Select Board Parks Commission Town Conservation Committee (to be developed)	Ongoing
9.1.3 Support safe access to recreational sites by ensuring adequate parking at those locations currently lacking this resource.	Parks Commission Community Partners (such as Coastal Rivers) Select Board	Ongoing

	Parks Commission		
9.1.4 Utilize visitor data from Parks and Trails to inform further development of Town Recreational infrastructure	Community Partners (such as Coastal Rivers) Parks Commission	Ongoing	
9.1.5 Continue to acquire property from willing landowners or seek gifts of land or perpetual use agreements to provide the assurance of recreational opportunities.	Community Partners (such as Coastal Rivers) Select Board Parks Commission	Ongoing	

9.2 Expand recreational programs available in the Town.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline	
9.2.1 Continue and expand youth stewardship opportunities.	Parks Commission School Committee Community Partners (such as Coastal Rivers)	Ongoing	

9.2.2 Continue and expand youth recreational programs.	Community Partners (such as CLC YMCA) Parks Commission School Committee	Ongoing	
9.2.3 Continue and expand senior programs.	Parks Commission Senior Services Committee (to be developed)	Ongoing	
9.2.4 Facilitate access to community spaces at the Bristol Consolidated School by ensuring use parameters are reasonable.	Implementation Committee (to be developed) Parks Commission School Committee	Early Term	

9.3 Build community by encouraging community events.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline	

9.3.1 Encourage public and private entities to schedule community events.	Community Partners Parks Commission Senior Services Committee (to be developed)	Ongoing	
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10. Transportation

10.1 To prioritize community and regional needs associated with safe, efficient, and optimal use of transportation systems.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline	
10.1.1 Propose or actively Consider participate in regional and state transportation initiatives as per the Town's land use management plan	Select Board	Ongoing	

10.2 To safely and efficiently preserve or improve the transportation system.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline	
10.2.1 Develop and maintain a prioritized and comprehensive improvement, maintenance, and repair plan for Bristol's transportation network (roads, bridges, and landings.)	Select board Road Commissioner	Early Term and Ongoing	

	Maine Department of Transportation Select Board	
10.2.2 Enhance safety for all users of Bristol's transportation network (signage, public awareness, calming strategies, enforcement, etc).	Maine Department of Transportation Road Commissioner Select Board	Early Term and Ongoing
10.2.3 Identify, assess and mitigate risk to key roads, bridges, and landings from floods and storms.	Maine Department of Transportation Select board Road Commissioner	Early Term and Ongoing
10.2.4 Investigate the viability of installing electric vehicle chargers in various locations throughout the Town.	Select board Implementation Committee (to be developed) Parks Commission	Early Term

10.3 To promote public health, protect natural and cultural resources, and enhance livability by managing land use in ways that maximize the efficiency of the transportation system and minimize increases in vehicle miles traveled.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
10.3.1 Maintain, enact or amend ordinance standards for subdivisions and for public and private roads to foster safe and efficient development patterns (including possible future street connections).	Select Board Planning Board	Early Term

11. Public Facilities

11.1 Consider updating, renovating, and expanding Bristol School facilities.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
11.1.1 Develop and maintain a 10 year facilities plan for the Bristol School consistent with the Town's capital improvement plan.	AOS 93 (i.e. district entity) School Committee	Ongoing

11.2 Consider updating, renovating, and/or expanding Town municipal facilities.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
11.2.1 Continue to purchase the majority of the power for Town facilities from sustainable energy sources (e.g. solar) and strive to reach 100% sustainable power sources.	Select Board Town Conservation	Ongoing

	Committee (to be developed)	
11.2.2 Research strategies to increase the energy efficiency of existing Town facilities in order to enhance cost savings.	Select board Town Conservation Committee (to be developed) Parks Commission	Early Term
11.2.3 Assess the public's desire to build a new Town Office and/or a Central Fire Station.	Implementation Committee (to be developed)	Long Term

11.3 Consider exploring various options and alternatives for the Town's governmental structure.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
11.3.1 Consider establishing a committee of Town citizens to study the following question: Should the Town adopt the Maine Town Manager Plan?	Implementation Committee (to be developed) Select Board	Early Term Mid Term
11.3.2 Investigate if the Town should elect a Charter Commission to write a Charter to address Town governance.	Implementation Committee (to be developed) Select Board	Early Term Mid Term

11.4 Review the administrative structure of Town Departments.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
11.4.1 Review the current administrative and fiscal structures of the Town Departments and consider incorporating external Departments into the Town's administrative structure.	Implementation Committee (to be developed)	Mid Term

11.5 Support and encourage community-based and Town-initiated efforts to ensure the Town remains a clean and healthy environment for citizens and visitors alike.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
11.5.1 Encourage and expand roadside clean up efforts, such as the annual Elmer Tarr Roadside Clean Up, by ensuring Town-based support for volunteers.	<p>Select board</p> <p>Highway Department</p> <p>Parks Commission</p> <p>Road Commissioner</p>	Ongoing
11.5.2 Consider adopting "Leave No Trace" policies on Town properties.	<p>Implementation Committee (to be developed)</p> <p>Parks Commission</p>	Ongoing

11.5.3 Engage with nonprofit organizations to support shoreline cleanup efforts.	Select board Town Conservation Committee (to be developed)	Ongoing
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12. Fiscal Capacity and Public Investment Plan

12.1 Maintain the Town's established record of fiscal responsibility as evidenced, in part, by a stable mill rate.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
12.1.1 Seek state bonds, federal grants, low interest loans, and reserve funds to finance capital expenditures and/or reserves.	Implementation Committee (to be developed) Select Board Parks Commission	Ongoing

12.2 Maximize the Town's net assets and liquidity in order to continue to provide and, if necessary, expand effective Town services.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
12.2.1 Continue to utilize effective tax collection methods.	Select Board Town Treasurer	Ongoing

12.3 Continue to support, through the Town's budgetary process, non-profit organizations that provide social services.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
12.3.1 Continue to encourage the Town to financially support non-government social services and regional organizations as have been identified in the Town's Annual Report	Select Board Senior Services Committee (proposed)	Ongoing

13. Land Use

13.1 Prioritize conservation and protect undeveloped land by adopting more protections for farmland, forests, and scenic views.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
13.1.1 Research land types and soil types in order to explore the feasibility of creating rural farmland corridors.	Planning Board Town Conservation Commission (to be developed)	Long Term
13.1.2 Encourage landowners to enroll in Maine's Farmland Property Tax Program, Tree Growth Program, and/or Open Space Program.	Select Board	Ongoing
13.1.3 Create, and Ask the voters to consider, a commercial solar facility moratorium until studies can be conducted on impacts to environment, farmland, open space, and scenic views.	Planning Board	Mid Term

13.1.4 Explore various frontage, setback, and driveway spacing limitations/curb-cuts to reduce potential for high density and continuous development along main state and town roads.	Select board Implementation Committee (to be developed) Planning Board	Early Term
13.1.5 Maintain, enact or amend local ordinances as appropriate to clearly define the desired scale, intensity, and location of future development.	Select board Implementation Committee (to be developed) Planning Board	Early Term

13.2 Encourage new development in preferred growth areas.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
13.2.1 Define and establish ^{consider} preferred growth areas as well as critical rural areas as per any local ordinances.	Implementation Committee (to be developed) Planning Board	Early Term
13.2.2 Discourage development in areas lacking the resources (e.g. water availability and septage) to support additional growth.	Select board Implementation Committee (to be developed) Planning Board	Ongoing

<p>Consider</p> <p>13.2.3 Create a higher density residential zone that reduces the minimum lot size and allows multi-family or mixed-use development in accordance with LD 2003.</p>	<p>Implementation Committee (to be developed)</p> <p>Planning Board</p> <p>Select Board</p>	<p>April 2024 (contingent upon Plan approval)</p>
<p>13.2.4 Ensure that all public open spaces that are intended to be permanent are zoned Open Space as per the Future Land Use Plan</p>	<p>Select board Implementation Committee (to be developed)</p> <p>Planning Board Parks Commission</p>	<p>Early Term</p>

13.3 Expand the Town's ability to support decision-making regarding development.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
13.3.1 Provide the Town's Code Enforcement operations with appropriate staffing levels, tools, training, and support necessary to enforce land use regulations.	Select Board	Early Term and Ongoing
13.3.2 Create a Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee to support and monitor the execution of the Comprehensive Plan.	Select Board	Early Term April 2024 (contingent upon Plan approval)

13.3.3 Direct the Planning Board to collaborate with the Comprehensive Plan's Implementation Committee to evaluate, recommend, and implement land use ordinances.	Select Board	April 2024 (contingent upon Plan approval) Early Term
13.3.4 Develop and maintain data collection, storage, and access mechanisms to support larger awareness of development activity and impacts in the Town.	Code Enforcement Officer Planning Board	Early Term
13.3.5 Consider employing, or collaborating with surrounding Towns to employ, a part-time Town Planner to monitor and evaluate the development of the Town.	Planning Board Implementation Committee (to be developed) Select Board	Mid Term

13.4 Protect the small-town character of Bristol.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
13.4.1 Create ^{Consider} ordinances that enact commercial and/or other non-residential building type and size limitations for various areas of the Town.	Planning Board	Early Term
13.4.2 Encourage the preservation of the Town's historic architecture.	Planning Board Implementation Committee (to be developed)	Ongoing

	Planning Board	
13.4.3 Maintain and enforce the ordinance to regulate digital and internally lit signs.	Select Board Planning Board	Ongoing
13.4.4 Design, and ask the voters to Consider, a lighting ordinance to reduce light pollution in the Town.	Planning Board	Early Term
13.4.5 Research the impact of various sources of sound pollution in the Town.	Planning Board Town Conservation Committee (to be developed)	Mid Term

13.5 Ensure all future development allows for equitable access to potable groundwater.

Strategy	Who is Responsible?	Timeline
13.5.1 Research funding sources to enable the Town to conduct a Town-wide hydrogeological study.	Planning Board Implementation Committee (to be developed) Town Conservation Committee (to be developed)	Early Term Mid Term
Create ^{Consider} an ordinance that is consistent with the most recent knowledge of local water supplies to ensure future development does not negatively affect the water quantity and quality of surrounding properties. <i>(when hydrogeological study results are known)</i>	Planning Board	Mid Term Late

<p>13.5.3 Continue to limit conversion of seasonal housing to year round housing based on a location's available water supply and septage. Continue to enforce existing land use and shoreland zoning regulations and ordinances.</p>	<p>Code Enforcement Officer</p> <p>Planning Board</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>13.5.4 Create, and ask the voters to Consider, an ordinance to require proof of adequate water supply and septage prior to granting building permits.</p>	<p>Planning Board</p> <p>Select Board</p>	<p>Early Term</p>