

Chapter 1

Vision



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A Vision for the Town of Bridgewater

Bridgewater is a small community located in the Lakes Region of central New Hampshire. Its residents and property owners value the rural qualities of the town and the region. They like the small town atmosphere. It is safe and friendly, and is a good place to raise a family or to retire. They value the forests, pastoral open spaces, and water bodies as locations for outdoor recreation, and for the scenic beauty they provide.

People are concerned about future development pressures on Bridgewater. They understand that this may alter the character of the community, and place a burden on Town government and tax payers if growth and land use changes are not approached in a sustainable manner. They hope that this issue can be dealt with, and that the low tax rate will continue well into the future.

The vision for the future of Bridgewater is to preserve the range of assets that the community has, including that friendly, small town feeling, and the beauty and richness of its natural surroundings by working to strengthen its land use regulations.

In the future, communications and the delivery of Town services will be enhanced by the use of technology. Cluster housing and other innovative development options will provide opportunities for housing solutions while preserving open space. Consolidated access to adjoining lots and roadways, and providing infrastructure for a range of transportation modes, will reduce traffic hazards and provide safe transportation options for residents and visitors. A compact village atmosphere will begin to take shape in a suitable area as defined in the Land Use chapter, and this location will provide an area for small businesses to grow.

In essence, Bridgewater is open to change, to having more business development and economic opportunity, but it is cautious that those things not disrupt the character and the quality of the things that are already working well in the community. It is seeking a balance of those elements as it moves forward.