

VISION CHAPTER



Vision:

Bristol is a very special part of central New Hampshire with a community made up of year-round residents, seasonal residents, and businesses supporting the community at large and Bristol as a desired vacation destination. Our residents and businesses recognize and support Bristol's need to preserve our small town feel and protect our tremendous natural, and historic resources while continuing to enhance our economic landscape. Bristol has many natural resources in Newfound

Lake, Newfound River, Bristol Falls, and Profile Falls that are areas we look to preserve and protect, just to name a few.

From a planning perspective, our residents expect appropriate planning supporting change and measured growth all the while looking for ways to reduce the burden to the taxpayer. Investment in our infrastructure so that the community continues to thrive as a *choice for working families*, vacation destination, retirement community, and *prosperous location for small business growth* for Bristol. Expansion of opportunities for distance learning and remote work will *enhance the desirability of Bristol as a location for younger people and families*.

The guiding principles below were derived from four community surveys conducted by the Planning Board over the last 20 years, most recently in 2018, and build on the Vision developed in the 2015 plan update. They offer a summary of what you will see in the sections that follow:

- **Safeguard Bristol's small-town feel**
Bristol is a town of village centers and less densely populated areas of forests, farmland, and wild lands. Maintaining that rural character should guide the choices made in responding to future housing needs, expansion of economic opportunities, and development of community facilities.
- **Conserve and showcase Bristol's natural assets**
The lovely natural features of the Newfound region define and enrich daily life in Bristol. Conserving and showcasing these assets – Newfound Lake, the Newfound and Pemigewasset rivers, old trees, wetlands, meadows, forests, hills, peaks, and sweeping vistas – is one of the best investments Bristol can make in its future.
- **Preserve Bristol's historic assets**
Bristol's historic resources contribute greatly to its character and appearance as well as to its cultural life and economic vitality. Central Square, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, forms the core of its Historic District, and anchors the town's distinct identity. Preservation of the town's historic assets and sites should be considered in all aspects of land use planning.
- **Encourage a variety of housing types and anticipate needs of community residents**
As Bristol's economy continues to evolve, the appeal of living in the Lakes Region continues to attract new residents and businesses. The housing needs of residents should be considered to ensure that employees of local businesses have convenient access to housing they can afford, and long-standing local residents – particularly senior citizens – can remain in their community.
- **Build to create enduring value and beauty**
The quality and visual appeal of individual projects – residences, businesses, public buildings, and public spaces – affect private property values throughout the community. Well-designed, well-sited structures enhance the town's beauty and increase the value of neighboring properties and the community as a whole. Public and private investors should be encouraged to build structures that will add enduring value and beauty to the community.

- **Enhance Bristol's economic vitality through business development and ongoing investment in technology infrastructure**

Bristol has long been the hub of commercial activity in the Newfound region. As we look forward, Bristol will strive to be a vibrant town with 21st century conveniences, while maintaining our small-town feel. Achieving these goals by balancing complimentary business activity with strong Internet communications capability. This balance allows both public and private investments in building the community's economic possibilities. A strong communications network allows people to reside and work with the quality-of-life Bristol has to offer.

- **Maintain the economic viability of Bristol's agricultural lands and forests**

Forests and agricultural lands are essential elements in creating the rural character Bristol seeks to preserve. If agriculture and forestry are to be retained, concerted efforts must be made to support their economic viability.

- **Maintain and improve community assets supporting public safety, recreation, transportation, and the general welfare**

A primary responsibility of government at all levels is providing the infrastructure which helps to make the state, region, and town a safe, pleasant, and desirable place to live. The Master Plan seeks to assure that this infrastructure at the local level is continuously updated and upgraded to meet the current and future needs of the community.

- **Plan for a safe and effective transportation system**

The maintenance and improvement of our roads and bridges, as well as bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, is vital to Bristol's quality of life and economic vitality.

- **Recognize, Protect, and enhance Bristol's unique public park and beach resources**

Bristol was fortunate to have Town leaders and benefactors with the foresight to protect open space for public use. Cummings Beach and Avery-Crouse Beach on Newfound Lake, the Multi-use recreation path and Millstream Park along the Newfound River, and Kelley Park and the Mica Building Park in Downtown are all vital to the quality of life in Bristol. The impact of development in and around these areas should be carefully considered in planning decisions.