



Vision Statement

With breathtaking coastlines, lighthouses, farms, forests, and leafy neighborhoods – all in proximity to Portland – Cape Elizabeth will continue to be a desirable place to live. We honor our heritage and history. We strive to encourage citizen engagement; support excellence in our schools; diversify housing choices; create a vibrant town center; preserve our open space, farming and natural resources; and connect neighborhoods through a safe pedestrian network. By embracing these ideals, our vision is for Cape Elizabeth to remain a highly desirable and welcoming community.



One-Town Concept

The "One Town Concept" was first developed in the late 1970s. The elected officials at that time sought to find creative ways for the school department and the town government to work closer together to enhance services and to save tax dollars.



Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan was the product of more than two years of work by the Comprehensive Plan 2019 Committee appointed by the Town Council. It includes extensive information about demographics, statistical information, inventories, and specific recommendations to manage expected growth. [A digital copy can be found here.](#)

Town Strategic Map

Strategic Pillars

Infrastructure

- Maintain current infrastructure while building toward the future.
- Expand communication coverage and reduce impact of power outages.
- Create climate action goals.
- Provide reliable public and emergency services.

Education and Continuous Learning

- Support programming and services for citizens.
- Demonstrate value for education of our youth.
- Ensure citizens have access and opportunity for feedback and engagement.

Fiscal Responsibility & Economic Opportunity

- Create visibility and transparency for all financial decisions.
- Ensure financial data and information is easy to access and understand.
- Ensure elected officials have the data they need to make informed decisions.

Healthy & Diverse Community

- Ensure diverse housing opportunities.
- Provide public and community services for all ages.
- Promote spaces and connections for diverse physical activities.
- Leverage knowledge of town staff to discover hidden needs of citizens.

Natural & Cultural Resources

- Support farming and locally grown food.
- Value and protect community character and open spaces.
- Preserve and protect natural resources.
- Recognize the history of our town.
- Expand waterfront access.

Resources

Involved Citizens

Effective Leadership

Equipped Workforce

Regional Collaboration

Informed Fiscal Management

2021 Goals & Objectives

Infrastructure

Maintain current infrastructure while building toward the future.

- Incorporate new technologies where possible as current infrastructure needs are addressed
- Stay current with capital improvement projects
- Define problem areas and potential solutions and quick wins for cellular coverage in town
- Address traffic and parking challenges

Create climate action goals.

- Research and create climate goals for the town and develop a climate action plan with aggressive greenhouse gas reduction goals
- Reduce energy dependence and consumption and greenhouse gas emissions
- Complete solar project at the Recycling Facility, LED street lamp installation, and EV charging stations
- Promote opportunities for alternative transportation and fuels

Provide reliable public and emergency services.

- Determine the long term needs and costs for fire/rescue services and establish a 5-10 year strategy

Education and Continuous Learning

Support programming and services for citizens.

- Encourage library programming for a variety of interests and ages
- Seek learning and experience opportunities for all citizens through community services

Ensure citizens have access and opportunity for feedback and engagement.

- Assess the need and ability to implement virtual meetings and online forums as part of meeting options
- Assess how other towns engage citizens
- Survey residents



2021 Goals & Objectives

Fiscal Responsibility & Economic Opportunity

Maintain fiscal responsibility, balancing town priorities with economic realities.

- Ensure financial decisions consider current and future impacts to the town's tax base
- Identify new revenue sources
- Pursue cooperative purchasing and resource sharing with neighboring communities
- Maintain municipal bond ratings to ensure capital needs can be met on favorable terms for when borrowing is required

Promote the businesses in town.

- List businesses on town website
- Create awareness of the diversity of businesses in town

Healthy & Diverse Community

Meet the diverse needs of our community.

- Develop and preserve affordable housing opportunities locally and regionally
- Evaluate assistance needs among senior residents
- Leverage knowledge of town staff to discover opportunities to support the undiscovered needs of residents, including social and emotional well being

Promote safe and healthy homes and neighborhoods.

- Address food insecurity and access to healthy food and meal options for all citizens
- Revise short-term rental ordinances and monitor results

2021 Goals & Objectives

Natural & Cultural Resources

Protect access to town resources and assets.

- Complete the Fort Williams Master Plan
- Come to resolution with paper streets
- Establish a new boat access area at Crescent Beach

Preserve the natural resources of Cape Elizabeth.

- Replace Willowbrook culvert
- MSW management (ex. Kettle Cove drainage project)

Natural resource protection.

- Consider a pesticide/herbicide ordinance
- Promote clean and litter-free streets and other public places
- Develop a “Don’t Trash Cape” campaign to rid the streets, paths and open spaces of litter

Recognize the history of our town.

- Explore the potential for historic preservation designations for landmarks

Ongoing Initiatives

Equip employees with the training and resources they need to deliver high-quality services to the town.

- Continuously evaluate organizational structure, succession planning, staff utilization, and process improvements
- Encourage professional and personal growth opportunities for all employees
- Offer Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training

Collaborate with regional partners.

- Identify opportunities to share services and resources with other communities
- Participate in solving regional social/economic issues

Leverage the work and recommendations of town committees.

- Review and incorporate committee recommendations in council direction and decision making (e.g., Fort Williams, Civil Rights, Energy)
- Revisit goals and strategic map every 6 months