

Vision for Sullivan's Future -- DRAFT

Every Master Plan is required to have “a vision section that serves to direct the other sections of the plan. This section shall contain a set of statements which articulate the desires of the citizens affected by the master plan, not only for their locality but for the region and the whole state. It shall contain a set of guiding principles and priorities to implement that vision” (RSA 674:2).

Toward this end, in 2023, Sullivan initiated a process to update the 2015 Vision Chapter. ~~The Sullivan Housing Task Force and the Planning Board hosted numerous community engagement events that led to the drafting of this updated Vision Statement.~~ As in every planning survey of the town, the residents of Sullivan have affirmed their commitment to the rural character of this town of fewer than 700 people. This Vision is intended to provide a clear guiding statement of how residents want to see the town of Sullivan evolve over the coming decade, while encouraging efforts to strengthen community and financial sustainability.

Over the next 10 years, Sullivan will work toward:

- A town that balances incremental residential growth with preservation of Sullivan's rural-residential character, by encouraging patterns of development that preserve open space and natural resources.
- A town whose revenue base securely supports essential infrastructure and services that benefit the community to include childhood education, well-maintained roads and town buildings, and emergency response. In addition to revenue generated by the Town's property valuation, the Town should seek as much outside financial help as possible by applying for grants and sharing services with other towns.
- A town whose revenue base supports paid staff to help run the Town alongside volunteer and nominally paid officials, preserving institutional knowledge to improve efficiency and compliance.
- A town where communications by town government is kept as up-to-date as possible.
- A strong community where people share a sense of place fostered by Sullivan's shared values, its history, and the character of the land.
- A community where people collaborate with each other for the good of the town as a whole.
- A community that encourages and appreciates good governance and leadership, and has an entrepreneurial spirit.
- A town whose cultural amenities (public library, church, nature trails, Jewett Park, the Winch Forest, etc.) bring people together. This should also include encouragement of events that provide opportunities for fun, learning, and outdoor recreation.
- A town that ~~supports~~ prioritizes the hiring of a qualified building inspector and/or a code enforcement officer.

- A town whose ordinances allow for a range of ~~safe, sanitary~~ housing options beyond ~~large~~ single-family detached houses, resulting in a housing stock that meets the needs of all its residents.
- A community committed to the importance of undeveloped lands for human enjoyment and wild animal sustenance.

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