

# Draft Vision Statement

In 2030, our community will be healthy, safe, and well-balanced. It will be a community that preserves its historic integrity, protects its natural resources, enhances its economic vitality, and maintains its unique small town character. Our tree-shaded streets, scenic vistas, unspoiled coastline, classic architecture, and beautiful landscapes will continue to inspire visitors and residents alike.

**Community Character** - We will be a friendly, welcoming and inclusive town with a strong sense of community. Involved citizens will be key to the community's long-term success as a leader in resiliency, sustainability, and responding to climate change. We will continue to be rich in cultural and recreational opportunities. There will be space for everyone to feel at home.

**Economic Opportunities** - Our land use regulations will support and encourage small-scale entrepreneurial activity that is initiated by local residents and that observe our good neighbor policies. Locally-owned establishments in the hospitality industry will retain their status as treasured community assets.

**Housing** - We will host a range of housing types that offer options for everyone. There will be workforce housing to support the needs of local businesses, ample opportunities for downsizing and aging in place, senior housing in walking distance to amenities and public spaces, assisted living facilities to allow those in need of such assistance to stay in town, plentiful starter homes for young families, and year-round rental units in sufficient numbers to meet the needs of Kennebunkport citizens. Gentrification will be slowed. Our public health professionals will continue to provide a superb level of home based services that help residents (who are in need of assistance) to age comfortably in their own homes. New homes will meet the highest standards of energy efficiency. Use of renewable energy for residential heat and electricity will substantially increase, replacing our dependency on fossil fuels. Most building materials will be sourced from Maine's vast reserve of renewable resources, primarily wood.

**Fresh & Local** - Ours will be a community where everyday necessities are affordable, accessible, and available from local merchants and service providers, most of whom will be situated in close proximity to our neighborhoods. The emphasis will be on fresh and local. Creativity and connectivity will be celebrated. Small scale agriculture will be encouraged at appropriate locations.

**Infrastructure** - Public and private infrastructure will be efficient, well-maintained, innovative, technologically advanced, and resilient to the threats posed by sea level rise, groundwater rise, and severe weather events. Electrical generation will be decentralized, reliable, and fueled by renewable resources. Fast chargers (a 25-minute charge) for electric vehicles will be ubiquitous, serving the needs of residents and visitors alike. Solar arrays will be commonplace, albeit sited discretely so as to minimize the visual impact.

**Climate Resilience** - We aspire to be a community that chooses a resilient and sustainable path for the foreseeable future. We will reduce our collective carbon footprint, take the lead in recycling and energy efficiency, and strive to be a net zero community, all of this sooner rather than later. We will be responsive to the challenges posed by a changing climate. We will be prepared. And we will adapt. We will be playing a supportive role in helping our fellow Mainers to implement the state's bold new climate action plan.

**Streets and Public Ways** - Our streets and public ways will be designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, so that pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transportation users of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across the streets. Bicycle and pedestrian paths will crisscross the town, and will be hugely popular among local residents.

**Internet** - Competition will be encouraged in the broadband industry so as to assure the delivery of the best service at competitive prices. Broadband is key to enabling much of the community's professional workforce to forgo commutes to distant workplaces, and helpful in providing the flexibility young families often require in order to balance the dual demands of career and childcare.

**Commercial Fishing** - Our commercial fishing industry dates to the earliest era of European settlement in Maine. The industry is a critically important component of our heritage, our economy, and our community's unique character. Accordingly, we will continue to support the industry to help ensure that it doesn't just survive, but rather thrives. Our working waterfront will persevere. Water-dependent uses will not be dislodged by competing land uses or real estate speculators.

**Tourism** - There will be transformative shift in emphasis from conventional tourism to eco-tourism. The latter generates less noise, consumes fewer resources, and leaves a lighter footprint on the community. Eco-tourism will rely on Kennebunkport's outstanding natural resources and the wildlife that frequent the preserved lands in KCT's inventory, along with those of the Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge. Eco-tourists will utilize quiet, electrically powered shuttle vans and trolleys, and electric bicycles to access distant parts of town. These visitors will flock to bicycle tours, and walking tours featuring Kennebunkport's abundant historic sites, our remarkable diversity of well documented shade trees, beautiful gardens, and exemplary natural communities. This transformative change in the tourist industry will help to alleviate traffic congestion in Dock Square, along with its demand for parking.

**Short Term Rentals** - With regard to short term rentals, we will strike a balance between competing interests so as to retain the industry's economic benefits for those local families who rely on this revenue stream, while working to curtail the industry's occasional nuisances and increase its community-wide benefits.

**Education** - The Consolidated School will continue to provide a high quality educational environment where young scholars thrive and learn to love learning. The school will continue to serve as an important community institution and a vital social hub.

**Municipal Staff, Services, Facilities & Finances** - We will continue to recruit and retain high caliber professionals to manage our municipal departments, and will provide them with the resources that are necessary to deliver top notch services. The delivery of emergency services will continue to be efficient and cost effective. Ours will be a safe community. The crime rate will remain low. The municipal debt will also be low so as to enable the flexibility to respond to unanticipated challenges. The Town's fleet of small vehicles will be powered by electricity. Well-designed new venues will accommodate community events.

**Waterfront Access** - Local residents will enjoy ample opportunities to access Kennebunkport's waterfront. Goose Rocks Beach will have a public restroom. Public shuttles will alleviate the need for more parking at the beach.

**Regional Cooperation** - Our exceptional record in cooperating with nearby communities will continue unabated. Regional cooperation offers many advantages, not least of which is the opportunity to address regional challenges in a cost effective manner. Climate change, resiliency, and emergency response are but three areas where a regional approach is beneficial.

**Dark Skies** - Kennebunkport has one of the oldest municipal Dark Sky policies in the United States. That policy will help to ensure that our night skies remain dark. The policy will be rigorously enforced.

**Environmental Protection** - Our drinking water will be pollution-free. Leaky septic systems will be replaced with functioning systems or connections to municipal sewer. The extent of impervious surfaces will be reduced. The use of herbicides and pesticides will be substantially reduced, and strictly regulated. Our pollinators will do their job efficiently and in great numbers. Wildlife, particularly birds, will thrive. All of Kennebunkport's shellfish beds will be open to recreational harvesting. Our plover population will expand to such an extent that they will be delisted as a threatened/endangered species.

**Open Space Preservation** - The expansion of Kennebunkport's inventory of preserved open spaces will continue apace, an endeavor that will be led by the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust. Land development will be more compact and less intrusive than in times past. We will have weaned ourselves from the sprawl inducing provisions of Euclidean zoning. Strict measures will be in place to protect marshes, wetlands, ponds, streams, vernal pools, and aquifers.

**Scenic Vistas** - Our community enjoys a remarkable wealth and diversity of scenic views. They will be preserved, to be enjoyed by all, in perpetuity. Vistas cited by local residents as particularly worthy of preservation include the following:

- Ocean Avenue, from Parson's Way around to Walker's Point
- Cape Porpoise, including the Pier, the Harbor and the islands
- Goose Rocks Beach
- The view across the mouth of the Batson River from Goosefare Farm on Route 9
- The Kennebunk Riverfront, including the Monastery grounds across the river

- Colony Beach
- Turbat's Creek
- Mast Cove
- South Congregational Church
- Grist Mill Area
- James Woods (Land Trust)
- Locke Street
- Nott House
- Baptist Church
- St Anne's Church
- Graves Library
- Arundel Golf Course
- Clock Farm
- Goat Island
- Every Kennebunkport Conservation Trust property.