

Conservation Commission Feedback

Overall, the Commission has the following observation: These strategies in general are admirable and reflect the community's and the Commission's interest in protecting and conserving the natural environment. However, on a practical basis, many would require a significant degree of resources – both human and financial – to successfully complete, even over the 10-year planning period. While Comprehensive Plans can certainly be considered aspirational, we have concerns with including such a large number of tasks that a reasonable level of success is not attainable. In addition, several of these tasks are not appropriate for an individual town as small as Kennebunkport to attempt on their own. Toward that end, we have made suggestions in terms of considering regional approaches, adding partners, and prioritizing strategies that would make the most difference in terms of conservation of natural resources. An asterisk is placed on the strategies that we would consider priority.

		Town Goals, Policies, Strategies – Natural Resources, Forest Resources, and Agricultural Resources		<i>Commission notes:</i>
1	GOAL	PROTECT CRITICAL NATURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING WETLANDS, TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC HABITAT, SAND DUNES, BEACHES, SCENIC VISTAS, AND UNIQUE NATURAL AREAS.	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	
2	Policy	Conserve and protect Kennebunkport's critical natural resources through conservation and education.		
3	Strategy	Support the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust to protect critical and important natural resources through purchase of land or easements from willing sellers.	KCT & CC	*Develop joint written agreement/plan with Kennebunkport Conservation Trust to outline mutual support and responsibilities to protect critical and important natural resources through purchase of land or easements from willing sellers and mutual education and conservation projects.
4	Strategy	Prioritize conservation and allocation of resources toward conservation, maintenance, and monitoring activities in areas with greatest co-occurrence of water features, important natural communities, listed animal and plant species, and undeveloped land.	CC & PD	Conduct a natural resources inventory in order to prioritize conservation and allocation of resources toward conservation, maintenance, and monitoring activities in areas with greatest co-occurrence of water features, important natural communities, listed animal and plant species, and undeveloped land
5	Strategy	Conduct a natural resources inventory.	CC & PD	(Combined with #4 since cannot complete #4 without an inventory.
6	Strategy	Collaborate with conservation partners to create and compile a publicly accessible database of educational resources and information about critical habitat (including salt marshes), vulnerable species, and the impacts of development and human activity on natural resources.	CC, FWS & PD	*Collaborate with conservation partners to identify and make public a regional database of educational resources and information about critical habitat (including salt marshes), vulnerable species, and the impacts of development and human activity on natural resources.

7	Policy	Minimize the impacts of development and human activity on natural resources.		*Create a process for general oversight of development activities in order to successfully prioritize natural resources conservation as described in Strategy 4 above.
11	Strategy	Conduct monitoring to evaluate the impact of pesticides and herbicides on natural resources and water resources and identify strategies to minimize impacts such as through alternative weed and pest controls and regulations, as needed.	CC, PD & BAC	Unrealistic to monitor at the town level - national and state data as available should be used. Revise to say: Identify strategies to minimize impacts of pesticides and herbicides through alternative weed and pest controls and regulations, as needed.
12	GOAL	PROTECT RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES.		
13	Policy	Educate the public about rare and endangered species.		
14	Strategy	Collaborate with conservation partners to develop an education and outreach program to inform the public about the presence of endangered, rare, and significant species and how to avoid impacting these species.	CC, FWS & PD	*Collaborate with regional conservation partners to develop an education and outreach program to inform the public about the presence of endangered, rare, and significant species and how to avoid impacting these species.
24	GOAL	PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES WHILE MANAGING FOR LOW IMPACT PUBLIC USE.		
25	Policy	Maintain and enhance open space recreational assets.		
26	Strategy	Coordinate with the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust to interconnect public and private conservation lands and trail systems.	CC & KCT	Re 26 and 30. KCT does an excellent job of all this already, unclear where town can/should be involved as we have no trails. Any needed collaboration can be spelled out in proposed KCT/KCC agreement.
27	Strategy	Review use of Town-owned conservation lands to ensure that activities that do not damage or deplete natural resources.	CC & PD	
28	Strategy	Periodically review the use of the Town Forest and seek input from residents on permanent protection of Town Forest properties.	CC & BoS	*Review the use of the Town Forest and seek input from residents on permanent protection of Town Forest properties
29	Policy	Provide access to conservation land.		
30	Strategy	Coordinate with the Kennebunkport Conservation Trust to inventory, and improve, as needed, parking, access, and trails at conservation land that is open to the public. Enhance accessibility of public trails by improving ADA compliance. Make trails readily accessible to a range of users, physical abilities, and activities (walking, cross country skiing, etc.).	CC & KCT	This is unclear. Are we talking Town-owned land, the land being inventoried by PD? After which CC will ultimately create recommendations for it - both for deed-restricted and not. This should be clearly stated - and KCT would not be involved Also, KCC believes that most trails should be left as wild as possible, with only certain trails designated as accessible
31	Strategy	Form a committee to investigate opportunities to pair protection and enjoyment of natural resources with tourism and recreation opportunities.	CC, KCT & CoC	*Form a regional committee to investigate opportunities to pair protection and enjoyment of natural resources with tourism and recreation opportunities.

				*Increase available locations for small boat access to coastal waters for recreational purposes
35	Goal	ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE.		
36	Policy	Enhance the resiliency of habitats and species.		
37	Strategy	Conduct a study to identify opportunities to accommodate marsh migration inland to protect this critically important resource from sea level rise.	PB, CC & PD	
38	Strategy	Encourage conservation of low-lying undeveloped uplands where coastal marshes, beaches, and other intertidal natural communities can migrate inland with sea level rise (partners: Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge, Kennebunkport Conservation Trust, Trust for Maine’s Future).	PB, CC & PD	
39	Strategy	Identify locations to enhance wildlife corridors to help create places for species to migrate and shift north as temperature increases and protect these areas. The Nature Conservancy’s Resilient Lands mapping tool is a good resource for identifying resilient and connected networks.	PB, CC & PD	
40	Strategy	Continue invasive species management and prepare to manage new invasive species.	CC & PD	*Create and implement a town invasive species management policy and prepare to manage new invasive species.
41	Strategy	Educate property owners about impacts of climate change, such as extreme heat, drought, and changes in precipitation on habitats and species. Provide information to new homeowners.	CC & PD	
42	Policy	Increase community resilience.		
44	Strategy	Engage in efforts to protect and restore protective natural features, such as floodplains, wetlands, marshes, dunes, and dune grass.	CC	
		Town Goals, Policies, Strategies – Water Resources		
1	GOAL	PROTECT THE QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF WATER RESOURCES.	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	We are happy to provide support for water resources but do not think CC should be lead.
2	Policy	Protect drinking water sources.		
3	Strategy	Collaborate with the City of Biddeford to ensure cross boundary protection of groundwater resources. Create an aquifer protection overlay district.	PB & CC	

4	Strategy	Coordinate with the Kennebunk, Kennebunkport & Wells Water District (KKWWD) and area towns to protect regional drinking water resources.	CC	
17	GOAL	INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS ABOUT WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION.		
18	Policy	Educate the public about water resource protection.		
19	Strategy	Include a one-page summary of resources and links to information on water quality best management practices and pollutants (including invasive species, fertilizer, pesticide, herbicide use, septic failure, sedimentation, and hazardous substances) in town-wide mailings and post this information on the Town’s website.	CC	*Include resources and links to information on water quality best management practices and pollutants (including invasive species, fertilizer, pesticide, herbicide use, septic failure, sedimentation, and hazardous substances) in town-wide mailings and post this information on the Town’s website.
20	Strategy	Distribute educational material to property owners about the impacts of development, impervious surfaces, and disturbance of banks and riparian habitat on water bodies.	CC	
21	Strategy	Develop material on natural resource and water quality protection measures for owners of property including rental properties to make available to short term and seasonal renters.	CC	
23	Policy	Manage water resources at a regional and watershed scale.		
24	Strategy	Collaborate with Kennebunk, Biddeford, Arundel, the York County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Kennebunk River Committee, and land trusts in neighboring communities to protect water resources.	BoS, CC & KCT	
Town Goals, Policies, Strategies – Marine Resources				
1	GOAL	ENSURE ACCESS TO COASTAL WATERS NECESSARY FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING, COMMERCIAL MOORING, DOCKINGS, AND RELATED FACILITIES.	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	
11	Policy	Protect and support the marine resources industry.		
14	Strategy	Monitor and protect eel grass from pollutants, particularly nitrogen.	CC & PD	Monitoring is outside CC purview. Eel grass is protected by DEP and ACOE, yes? Not sure what kind of town action this would require or need.
15	Strategy	Reduce the flow of nitrates into nearshore waters by expanding the Town’s sewer service area and regulating the use of fertilizers.	CC, PW & PD	CC should NOT be lead on this. Suggest adding educating so as to decrease potential for Comp Plan opposition

27	GOAL	PROTECT THE WATER QUALITY OF TIDALRIVERS, STREAMS, MARSHES, AND COASTAL BEACHES		
34	Policy	Educate the public about the value of and need for protected salt marsh.		
35	Strategy	Maintain cooperative agreements with the Rachel Carson Refuge staff to develop a program for management and education.	CC & FWS	Maintain agreements? Does they exist? Should be develop?
				*Continue support and funding for Water Quality testing as part of Maine Healthy Beaches program
				y *Create educational materials and assess need for regulation to promote regular maintenance on private septic systems, especially within river watersheds