

An aerial photograph of a town nestled in a lush, green forest. A river flows through the town, with a bridge crossing it. The town features several buildings, parking lots, and a road. The surrounding area is densely wooded with tall trees. The overall scene is peaceful and scenic.

Update of the Comprehensive Plan for 2034

Highlights of updates and new sections

What is this thing?

- A documentation of community assets and goals.
 - **What do we have? Where do we want to go?**
 - **"Stay right here" is a decision and takes action**
 - **"Manage Change, rather than Be Changed"**
- Created by the citizens of Bowdoinham
- Updated every 10 years
- Does not create rules, but charts a direction
- Divided into chapters (economy, agriculture, housing etc.)



How was the 2034 plan updated?

- Present or former committee members include plumbers, farmers, doctors, electricians, developers, engineers, lawyers, and more
- Built off of 2014 plan
- 44 committee meetings
- Public surveys
- 7 Public Forums
- Collaboration with BCDI
- Workshops with the Planning Board
- Workshops with the Select Board
- Interactive tables at Celebrate Bowdoinham



An aerial photograph of a rural landscape in Maine. The scene is dominated by dense, lush green forests. A winding road or path cuts through the woods. In the lower portion of the image, a bridge crosses a river. To the right of the bridge, there are several buildings, including what appears to be a commercial or industrial site with a parking lot. The overall atmosphere is quiet and rural.

Vision Statement:

"In 2034, Bowdoinham is a quiet rural Maine community defined visually by agricultural landscapes, abundant woods and wetlands, a commercial village center and historic buildings."

What's new in the plan?

- **Building in the same direction from 2014!**
 - Leaning into the ideas of "rural feel" , small town, outdoor recreation.
 - Calls for more engagement with new committees and plans
 - Conservation Commission, Historic Preservation Plan, Public Health Committee etc. Get involved!
- **New concepts**
 - Remote work, solar energy, climate change, E-mobility
- **New Sections**
 - Age Friendly
 - Public Health
 - Land Acknowledgement
- **Removed Things that got done!**



What's new in the plan?

- **Updated inventory and data**

- Progress on work from original plan
 - Signage in town
 - Sidewalks
 - Town events
 - Waterfront redevelopment
 - Age Friendly Committee and increased services
- Greater population
- More older residents and more young families
- More development (here and in neighboring communities)
- New experiences with pandemic, solar energy, e-mobility, extreme weather



Economy

- Same
 - Balance economic development and keeping rural character
 - Support local businesses
 - Implement Walkable Village Plan, waterfront redevelopment, Merrymeeting trail
- New
 - Capitalize on remote work
 - Plan for energy infrastructure to meet higher electricity demands for transportation and heating/cooling



Agriculture

- Same
 - Continue support of local agriculture for economic, ecologic and social benefits
- New
 - Recognize increased development pressure
 - Create an Agricultural Conservation Plan



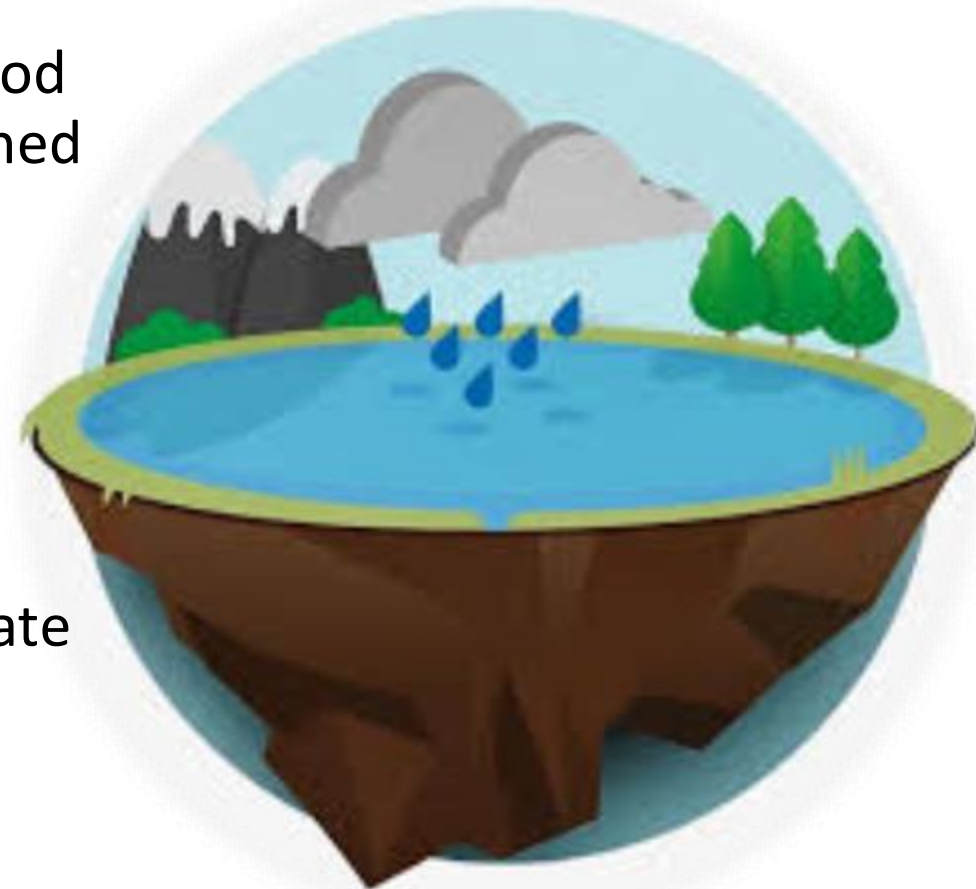
Forest Resources

- Same
 - Promote sustainable forest management
- New
 - Educate forest owners about new invasive pests
 - (emerald ash borer and woolly adelgid and brown tail moth, oh my!)
 - Recognize the role forests play in climate change
 - Encourage development of new forest resources through the town and school



Natural Resources & Water Resources

- Same
 - Protect critical natural resources and promote good stewardship of Merrymeeting Bay and its watershed
- New
 - Recognize the role that natural resources play in climate change and extreme weather events
 - Recommendation to create a Conservation Commission with an Open Space Plan and a Climate Action Plan



Historic & Archaeological Resources

- Same
 - Promote maintenance and restoration of historic sites (buildings, cemeteries)
- New
 - Create and implement a Historic Preservation Plan
 - Preserve and enhance the historic character of the village



Recreation

- Same
 - Promote & protect outdoor recreational opportunities
 - Develop recreational opportunities for all ages
- New
 - Support new recreational opportunities at the Waterfront Park
 - Enhance existing recreation areas (eg. Lights at the rec fields)



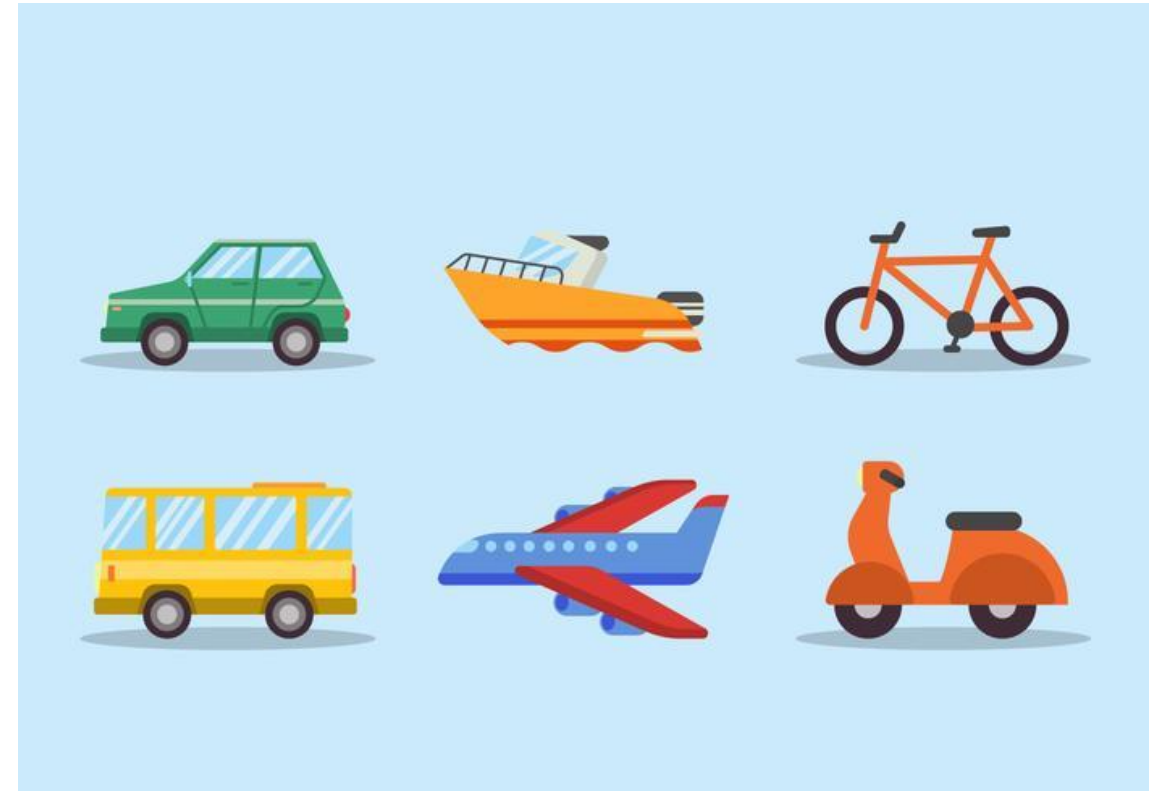
Housing

- Same
 - Encourage safe and affordable housing opportunities consistent with the rest of the Comprehensive Plan
- New
 - Direct development to the village areas with public water
 - Create a new land use district served by Richmond Utilities (sewer and water)
 - Support the work of the new Housing Sub Committee



Transportation

- Same
 - Plan for and develop an efficient transportation system
 - Cars, bikes, walking
- New
 - Plan for E-Mobility infrastructure
 - (charging stations)
 - Investigate traffic calming measures



Public Facilities and Services

- Same
 - Plan for and develop efficient public facilities and services
- New
 - Improve accessibility to public facilities
 - Resolve cell phone dead zones



Fiscal Capacity and Capital Investment Plan

- Same
 - Plan for an efficient system of public services to get the most bang for a buck
- New
 - Plan for an efficient system of public services to get the most bang for a buck



Land Use

- Same
 - Encouraging development in appropriate areas while preserving the rural character.
- New
 - Direct growth to areas served by public utilities
 - Encourage alternative and cooperative wastewater treatment systems
 - Preserve open space and farmland better



Sea Level Rise & Climate Change

- Same
 - Plan for changes in our environment
- New
 - Shift emphasis from sea level rise to climate change and extreme weather events
 - Develop Climate Action Plan
 - Enroll in Community Resiliency Partnership (provides municipal assistance)



NEW Section: Age Friendly

- The vision of Age Friendly Bowdoinham is to foster changes in the physical and social environment to make Bowdoinham a better place to live for people of all ages and abilities.
 - Improve Transportation options
 - "Rides in Neighbors Cars"
 - Improve Access to Healthcare Resources
 - Improve Walkability / Accessibility
 - Support Aging in Place
 - Reduce Social Isolation
 - Support the Age Friendly Bowdoinham committee



NEW Section: Public Health

- Plan for public health threats like:
 - Pandemics
 - Toxic Spills
 - Extreme weather events
 - (heat, cold, flooding, fire)
- Meet Emergency Service Needs
- Create a Public Health Committee



Next Steps

- 2-13 – 3/12: Solicitation for public comment
 - Email planning@bowdoinham.com
- 3/12: CPC meeting to incorporate public input into draft Plan
- 3/26: Presentation of Plan to the Selectboard
 - If approved, submit article for the warrant
 - If not, make edits at 4/9 CPC meeting and present again on 4/23
- 5/22: If moved to warrant, Educational Presentation held
- 6/1: Town Meeting votes on the Plan

Thank you!

Questions & Discussion

