

Town of Bowdoinham

2034 Vision Statement

(for 2024 Comp Plan)

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. Culturally, there is strong pride in the community backed up by a spirit of volunteerism and support for all things made and grown locally.

Bowdoinham is a place where people love the outdoors. The amount of land preserved for recreational access is increased, as are the miles of trails available for people-powered recreation such as walking, skiing, and biking. More waterfront acreage is preserved today for both recreation and wildlife habitat than in the past. To ensure protections, outdoor and undeveloped spaces are protected by land use regulations and other means, and are valued by the community. Abundant opportunities exist for outdoor recreation that contribute to our economy and quality of life.

Bowdoinham is a place where small businesses thrive. Farmers, artisans, and local entrepreneurs feel welcome and supported here. Environmentally friendly practices are especially welcome. In Bowdoinham, rugged individualism is not at odds with a strong sense of community.

Bowdoinham has an impressive diversity of people, with differing incomes, occupations, and heritage. As a community we are intentional about welcoming them all. People here help each other out. Housing that is affordable is available.

The village is not significantly different in size or character from the past. It has improved sidewalks and looks more attractive. The historic assets are better protected. The waterfront has even more amenities and is more highly used. People drive slowly and safely, and people on foot enjoy the walkability.

The special places and events that define and unite our community remain steadfast and highly valued: the Library, Merrymeeting Hall, Bowdoinham Community School, Celebrate Bowdoinham, the Waterfront, Town Hall, and Farmers Markets, to name a few.

The town government works well and municipal buildings are updated and well maintained. Municipal services are effective and cost efficient, including recycling and other services for residents.

The community is knowledgeable about local climate change issues and aware of what we can do locally to mitigate risks and be resilient to climate change. It has made strides to protect human health, natural resources, and infrastructure. Renewable energy technologies are embraced and we have adopted more sustainable land use practices. There's an awareness that what we do here as a community affects ourselves, our state, and ultimately the world in which we live.