

How much do you support the following potential strategies for **Bowdoinham's** Open Space Plan?
1=could support, 2=unsure/have questions, 3=not in favor

REGIONAL PARTNERS & AGENCIES

- Cooperate with neighboring towns in the development and implementation of programs to protect resources of regional importance.
- Provide opportunities for the ~~Holden Land Trust~~ local land trusts to comment on how open space that occurs on large tracts of land or on land with a high natural resource value in proposed subdivisions can best be structured to preserve the natural resource value.
- Have TPL provide a public presentation on the final Greenprint Report and mapping, and continue to stay involved with any regional open space planning efforts/follow-up.
- Host or recommend an annual regional conservation commission gathering (formal or social) to talk about regional opportunities, ideas, and needs.
- Invite County S&WCD and regional RC&D (Time & Tide) staff to a Conservation Commission meeting to discuss Holden's initiatives, agency resources and programs, and potential opportunities.

PROMOTION & OUTREACH

- Provide outreach to inform the public of the value of each of the Town's natural resources. In addition, educate and inform specific landowners about the natural resources located on their property.
- Through existing Town committee (Conservation Commission), collaborate with other local groups (Land Trust, snowmobile club, recreation committee, etc.) and/or regional entities on conservation and natural resource related outreach.
- Offer multiple ways to distribute news/information: informational meetings, website, town office, newsletters, etc.
- Consider workshop/presentation series, informational meetings on issues, state/federal programs, resources for landowners.
- Continue to hold activities to promote open space, conservation and outdoor recreation, including nature walks, woodlot management, winter trek, fishing/canoeing, etc.
- Explore opportunities for outreach in local schools

TRAILS

- ~~Opportunities for~~ Collaborate with the snowmobile club.
- Promote trail corridor opportunities using associated rail and power lines.
- Continue to promote the Community Nature Learning Trails: provide educational information and new activities.
- Promote Open Space Current Use Property Tax Program and the increased benefits of allowing public access.
- Encourage (require?) more trail development with new subdivisions: require trail connectivity/access whenever a new development abuts an existing trail (as trail system builds).
- Look for opportunities to extend trails from neighboring towns into Holden (e.g. Brewer).

PARKS & RECREATION

- Continue to support the Holbrook Regional Recreational Program.
- Continue to rely on school facilities to meet some of the recreational needs of the citizens of Holden.
- Continue to rely on recreational opportunities and facilities that are available in other communities throughout the surrounding region.
- Include provisions in the Town's Zoning, Subdivision and Site Plan Review ordinances to require parks, open spaces and/or walking, hiking or bicycle trails in new developments.
- Develop a Trail Network Master Plan that would include an inventory of existing trails, areas where residents wish to have trails, and desirable areas of connectivity and destination points.
- In accordance with the Trail Network Master Plan, extend trails throughout the community and provide regional connections. Plan for trail systems that complement the planned 1-395 connector.
- Consider the need for and impact of one or more public access and/or recreation areas on MMB. ~~at least one of Holden's water bodies.~~
- Establish a list of criteria for potential land acquisition for public parks.

AGRICULTURE

- Consider options for protecting prime agricultural soils such as cluster development.
- Increase community efforts on promoting agriculture and local ~~regional~~ farms.
- Make prime agricultural soils and active farm land use a priority for conservation and protection as a community resource.
- Establish a committee or working group to identify the needs, threats, and potential actions/initiatives to promote and protect farming
- Incorporate agricultural business development and opportunities into local economic development planning.
- Promote use of the Farmland Current Use Property Tax Program.
- Review local regulations to ensure they are "farm friendly".
- Explore opportunities for permanent farmland conservation projects. ~~in town.~~
- Ensure future conservation easements on farmland adequately accommodate agricultural uses and activities.

WORKING FORESTS

- Provide educational opportunities for owners of forest lands to actively manage these lands in order to keep them healthy, productive, and contributing to the rural character of the Town.
- Provide information about the tree growth tax program. Encourage landowners to work with licensed foresters and trained loggers to accomplish their goals in a responsible way.
- Continue to regulate timber harvesting through the Town's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance.
- Encourage cluster development when large, contiguous tracts of forest land are proposed for development.
- Explore options for establishing forested buffers in appropriate areas.

- Encourage the use of the Tree Growth Current Use Property Tax Program.

WILDLIFE & HABITAT

- Encourage the regular mapping and analysis of the town's wildlife habitat by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and/or by consultants.
- Request development review assistance from the Maine IF&W when development proposals would impact resources identified by the Department, including deer yards and waterfowl and wading bird habitat. As the Town develops and revises ordinances, consider consulting with the Beginning with Habitat Program, the Natural Areas Program and similar programs.
- Strive to maintain undeveloped blocks greater than 250-acres in Holden by considering partnering with local land trusts ~~the Holden Land Trust or other similar organizations~~ to acquire development rights, obtain conservation easements or fee ownership on large blocks of land, or protect these blocks through other means.
- Work with neighboring towns and cities to conserve undeveloped blocks of land greater than 5,000 acres.
- Provide educational opportunities for landowners with high value habitat to enroll in either the Farm and Open Space Program or the Tree Growth Tax Program.
- Encourage protection and preservation of wildlife travel corridors between large blocks of land.
- Opportunities to conduct an annual invasive species removal on town properties, or demonstration property?
- Make wildlife diversity and conserving large blocks of habitat a priority for conservation and protection as a community resource.
- Continue to hold free workshops/talks/walks on local wildlife.
- Promote USDA/NRCS programs such as EOIP, CRP and CSP that provide financial incentives for private landowners to maintain wildlife habitat.
- Implement Comprehensive Plan recommendations on wildlife habitat & natural resources.

WATER RESOURCES

- Inform all property owners of the importance of protecting water quality. Focus on practical steps the property owner can take such as limiting or avoiding lawn fertilizers, maintaining septic systems, correcting erosion, and leaving as much of the shorefront as possible in its natural condition. Use the local print media and web sites, as well as other means, to reach people.
- Continue to support and encourage volunteer efforts to work with the Department of Environmental Protection to monitor the quality of the lakes and streams and reduce non-point source pollution. Support efforts to control/eliminate invasive aquatic plants in all Holden's lakes, streams and tributaries.
- Continue strict administration and enforcement of the shoreland zoning provisions of the Town's Land Use Ordinance.
- Continue to work with the Department of Environmental Protection in the enforcement of the Town's phosphorus control standards so as to maintain or improve water quality on a long term basis.

SCENIC VIEWS

- Encourage the preservation of scenic areas and vistas and other significant natural resources during the development review process.

- Adopt a scenic view protection policy or plan, designating/defining high priority scenic views and a rating system for scenic views:
 - Maintain the view point: keep structures and vegetation from blocking visual access to the view.
 - Maintain the viewshed: limit tree clearing for new developments to reduce the visibility of buildings in viewshed areas (such as ridges and high points).
- Outline triggers (mapping, criteria) for visual impact assessments, adopt clear performance standards for new developments, and outline accepted mitigation for scenic impact.
- Adopt a scenic road corridors map establishing high priority scenic routes, for purposes of conservation prioritization and performance standards for new development.
- Encourage landowner to maintain scenic views by keeping vegetation pruned/thinned.
- Proactively seek opportunities for public or land trust held easements to protect significant scenic views.
- Consider fee-in-lieu-of-TDR program for protecting scenic views.
- Establish a policy on scenic views with regards to communications towers, wind turbines, and other high structures.

LAND CONSERVATION/PROTECTION

- Consider options for acquisition of property or easements important to the Town for its natural resource value.
- Amend the Subdivision Ordinance to require that all subdivisions in all zones be open space subdivisions. In rural areas, at least 50% of the developable land should be preserved as open space.
- Consider incentives that would allow public access to open space areas [created by open space subdivisions].
- Coordinate town priorities for land protection with land trust priorities and other related organizations.
- Possible use of term easements/conservation leases as non-permanent (fixed period) conservation.
- Consider acquiring right-of-first-refusal for parcels with high importance for conservation.
- Review all tax-acquired properties for conservation/recreation value; consider acquired parcels not having conservation/recreation value for land swap or sale to benefit land conservation/ recreation.
- Consider "green development" options, where a parcel could have limited/partial development to help fund conservation.
- Ensure future conservation easements on working lands (woodlots and farmland) adequately accommodate those uses and activities.
- Develop a policy or an approach for maintenance planning for publicly held open space properties.

REGULATORY/ LAND USE

- Continue to protect identified significant natural resources through land use as set forth in the Town's Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances.
- Continue to require that applicants for approval of major subdivisions and non-residential developments submit environmental impact assessments to the Planning Board.
- Establish an open space impact fee or density transfer fee (a.k.a. fee-in-lieu-of-TDR) to help offset new development with land protection.
- Cluster/open space subdivisions: provide clear guidance on priorities for establishing open space (e.g.

trail connections, habitat blocks, special resources, etc.).

- Consider the use of overlay districts to protect priority resources.

FUNDING FOR OPEN SPACE

- As part of the Capital Improvement Plan, consider periodically adding funds to an account to be used for acquisition of conservation easements or fee ownerships on land that is important to the Town for its natural resource value.
- Consider developing a fee-in-lieu of land dedication, impact fee, or other device for smaller subdivisions where land set aside is not appropriate.
- Begin building a dedicated town fund/account for fees and other appropriations are maintained for the use of land acquisition or conservation easements; use funds to match land trust funding and/or state and federal grants whenever possible.
- Dedicate penalty fees from withdrawal from current use property tax programs to use for open space conservation.