



Town of Merrimack  
New Hampshire

2017 Goal Setting Report  
May 25, 2017



Promoting Excellence in the Public Sector

## Purpose and Intended Result of the Session

The intent of the May 25 session with the Town Council and Senior Administrative staff was to review the progress the Town of Merrimack made over the year on any of the outstanding goals, and to look forward to the upcoming year. Primex<sup>3</sup> was pleased to be a part of this process to assist the Town in this important endeavor.

## Participants

### Town Council

**Nancy Harrington**, Chairman

**Finlay Rothhaus** Vice-Chairman

**Peter Albert**, Councilor

**William Boyd**, Councilor

**Dan Dwyer**, Councilor

**Jackie Flood**, Councilor

**Thomas Koenig**, Councilor

### Town Management

**Eileen Cabanel**, Town Manager

**Paul Micali**, Finance Director / Assistant Town Manager

The exercise was facilitated by:

**Rick Alpers**, Member Services Consultant, Primex<sup>3</sup>

## PFOA

- Board Chair delivered an update on a new water filtration system being engineered and installed.
- Town staff will continue to monitor the PFOA situation.
- The town will continue to act as a information conduit between Merrimack Village District and the public.

## Fund Balance

- The Council will determine in September how they will use this years fund balance.
- Some immediate ideas for the use of fund balance is to reduce taxes and potentially offset the new expense of additional staffing for the fire department.

## Assessing

- The Council discussed organizational structure and potential future plans.
- Research will also be completed as to what the cost would be for new assessing software.

## Infrastructure

- Watson Park will see increased up keep this summer. There will also be further research completed to see what further beautification will cost.

## Building Capital Expenses

- Each Department is asked to craft a report for Council that gives a snap shot for what their buildings and grounds capital expense needs are going to be over the next 3-5 years.
- There was discussion about potentially forming a capital reserve fund to help fund these expected expenses.

## Highway Building Project

- The Town Manager gave an update on the Highway Garage building project.

## Public Safety Buildings

- Conversation ensued around the current state of the South Fire Station.
- It was decided that the topic of building an actual public safety building for the police and fire departments will be a discussion on next years agenda for the council retreat.
- Potential funding in the 2019-20 budget

## Town Parks

- A detailed memo was provided by the Parks and Recreation Director on the state of the parks and the departments programs.

## Roads and Bridges

- The Public Works Director will be asked to attend a future council meeting to discuss the current road paving schedule along with the philosophy that goes along with determining the schedule.

## Library

- A new building for the library is currently on hold
- There is ongoing maintenance being done to the building to keep it in good shape.

## Storm Water MS-4

- There is ongoing work being completed

## Sidewalks

- Town Hall sidewalk project is set to begin in June and be completed sometime in July.

## Transportation Alternative Program Grant

- The town did receive a Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) grant this year from the State of New Hampshire. The recommendation from the Town Manager is to deny acceptance of the grant, due the restrictions tied to the grant that dramatically increase the cost of project. It will be less expensive for the town to complete the project itself.
- The project will be divided into two. One for sidewalk repair on the bridge and the other for trail development.

## Quality of Life Concerns

### Voting

- The three new polling stations will remain for all elections.
- There is a need for new voting machines at all poll locations.

### Merrimack River Boat Launch

- There is \$67,000 budgeted for this project.
- Council will see a proposal for the project this summer.

### ATV use on Conservation Property

- Current rules are to stay in place.
- Town staff will meet with the conservation commission to discuss maintenance of their lands.

### Skate Park, Ice Rink, Basketball Courts

- It will cost \$15,000 to remove these courts and parks from O'Gara Drive.
- Ice Rink to be moved to Watson Park.
- It will be researched whether the skateboard park and the basketball courts could be located next to the Merrimack Youth Association building on Daniel Webster Highway.

### Comcast Contract

- Current contract expires on 1/1/19
- Renewal negotiations will commence in 2018

### Future Needs

- Department Heads and Town Manager are to provide council with a 5 year look **ahead** of their staffing needs, space needs, technology needs and their current inefficiencies.

### Town Committees

- Town staff will meet with Economic Development Citizens Advisory Committee (EDCAC) to discuss their current charge and direction.

## Economic Development

- Community Development Director will be providing a zoning amendment to council regarding cell towers.

## Other

## Veterans Tax Credit

- Council will discuss and decide at a future meeting whether or not to expand the current tax credit.
- The council is also open to crafting a ballot question for the people decide.

## Excess Town Owned Land

- Town staff will provide an update a future council meeting.

## Town Wide Noise Ordinance

- No action at this time.



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A d v a n c e m e n t



Bow Brook PLace  
46 Donovan Street  
Concord, NH 03301

603-225-2841  
800-698-2364

[www.nhprimex.org](http://www.nhprimex.org)

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