

# Chapter I. Vision

(Updated May 2015)

The Master Plan vision statement is guided by results from public opinion surveys and input from the Planning Board and the public. It consists of a set of the guiding principles; lists of action items by which the principles can be implemented are contained in the appropriate sections of the Master Plan.

- **Safeguard the rural quality of the Town of Bristol.**

The Newfound Lake area is a region of small towns and villages, surrounded by agricultural lands, forests and wild lands. As the population grows in Bristol, maintaining the rural character outside the village center is one of the major challenges facing the community. Growth is inevitable, but should be directed in such a way that the rural character which attracts both visitors and new residents to our community is maintained and enhanced.

- **Preserve historic assets.**

Historic buildings and sites are irreplaceable assets. Bristol has numerous examples of historically important, well-preserved buildings that contribute to the town's distinct identity, including a Central Square that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and which forms the core of the town's Historic District. The town should work hard to safeguard and preserve these and other historic assets.

- **Build to create enduring value and beauty.**

The quality and visual appeal of individual projects – residences, businesses, and public buildings – affect private property values throughout the community. Well-designed, well-sited structures enhance a town's beauty and increase the value of neighboring properties and the community as a whole. Public and private investors should be encouraged to build structures that will add enduring value and beauty to the community.

- **Enhance Bristol's economic vitality through ongoing reinvestment in infrastructure and business development.**

Bristol has long been the hub of commercial activity in the Newfound region. Ongoing public and private investment is critical to maintaining and enhancing Bristol's economic vitality. Small or large, public and private investments build a community's economic strength and contribute to the economic vitality of the region and state.

- **Anticipate and address the housing needs of all community residents.**

The growing appeal of New Hampshire's Lakes Region as a place to live and do business has drawn new residents and wealth to the region; property values, average personal income and the cost of living have risen in most Newfound Area communities. At the same time, economic growth throughout the region has created demand for workers at all age levels. As Bristol's economy continues to grow, the community needs to anticipate and address the housing needs of all residents to ensure that employees of local businesses have convenient access to housing they can afford, and that long-standing local residents – particularly senior citizens – can remain in their communities.

- **Conserve and showcase our natural assets.**

The Newfound Area is blessed with lovely natural features that define and enrich daily existence: Newfound Lake, rivers, old trees, wetlands, meadows, forests, hills, peaks and sweeping vistas. Conserving and showcasing these assets one of the best investments Bristol can make, and should also be a goal for communities throughout the region and the state.

- **Maintain the economic viability of Bristol’s agricultural lands and forests.**

Bristol’s agricultural lands and forests are essential elements in creating the rural character it seeks to preserve. If agriculture and forestry are to be retained, concerted efforts must be made to support their economic viability.

- **Maintain the health of the natural systems that support life in Bristol.**

The region’s natural resources are more than just a beautiful backdrop for communities. The air, forests, lakes, rivers, streams, meadows, agricultural lands and marshes are the life support system for the area, and maintaining the health of these is essential to the sustainability of natural resources and to the economic stability of the region.

- **Maintain and improve community assets supporting public safety, recreation, transportation and the general welfare.**

A primary responsibility of government at all levels is providing the infrastructure which helps to make the state, region, and town a safe, pleasant, and desirable place to live. The Master Plan seeks to assure that this infrastructure at the local level is continuously updated and upgraded to meet the current and future needs of the community.