

| <b>Natural Resources</b>   |   |                                       |                 |               |
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| <b>State Goal:</b> <i>To protect the State's other critical natural resources, including without limitation, wetlands, wildlife and fisheries habitat, sand dunes, shorelands, scenic vistas and unique natural areas.</i> |   |                                       |                 |               |
| <b>Town Goal:</b>  |   |                                       |                 |               |
| <b>Policy</b>  | <b>Strategy</b>   | <b>Responsible Parties</b>            | <b>Timeline</b> | <b>Budget</b> |
| <b>Regional Approaches</b>   |   |                                       |                 |               |
| <b><i>It is the policy of the town to cooperate with neighboring communities and regional/local advocacy groups to protect water resources, and shared critical natural resources.</i></b>                                 | Provide local contact information at the municipal office for water quality best management practices from resources such as the Natural Resource Conservation Service, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Soil and Water Conservation District, Maine Forest Service, and/or Small Woodlot Association of Maine. ★ | Conservation Commission, Staff        | Immediate       | \$            |
|  | Distribute through the town newsletter & assessing office information s about current use tax programs and applicable local, state, or federal regulations. ★   | Conservation Commission, Town Council | Short Term      | \$            |
|  | Continue to participate in interlocal and/or regional planning, management, and/or regulatory efforts around shared critical and important resources such as the York River Partnership, the Mt. Agamenticus Conservation Steering Committee, Eastern Trail, and the Salmon Falls Watershed. ★                              | Town Council, Conservation Commission | Ongoing         | N/A           |
|  | Participate in local and regional efforts to monitor, protect and, where warranted, improve water quality. ★  | Town Council, Conservation Commission | Ongoing         | N/A           |

| <b>Conservation</b>   |  |   |            |             |
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| <b><i>It is the policy of the town to participate in, incentivize, and plan for the conservation of land for the protection of water resources, critical natural resources, and agricultural lands.</i></b> | Develop a Conservation Checklist which the Planning Board is required to incorporate into development review proposals. Checklist will include the review of best known mapping datasets and ensure decision-makers are aware of project impacts to known natural resources in the area.             | Conservation Commission, Planning Board | Short Term | \$          |
|   | Update the South Berwick Open Space Plan and implement recommendations to prioritize lands for future town acquisition and conservation. Consult regionally completed plans to incorporate best known information. Use the plan as a reference for development review and potential adverse impacts. | Town Council, Conservation Commission   | Short Term | \$\$        |
|   | Establish conservation corridors between existing conservation lands, and work with bordering communities to create contiguous conserved lands.  | Town Council, Conservation Commission   | Long Term  | \$\$        |
|   | Work to develop incentives for private landowner conservation and recreational easements, including the state Open Space Taxation program.   | Town Council, Planning Board            | Long Term  | N/A or \$\$ |
|   | Create a municipal fund or trust which reserves resources for the purchase of land for conservation and protection. Could be funded through impact fees, annual appropriations, or tree growth and open space withdrawal penalties.  | Town Council                            | Short Term | \$\$        |
|   | Maintain existing relationship with Great Works Regional Land Trust and explore ways the town could better support the organization or advance similar goals at the municipal level.   | Town Council, Conservation Commission   | Short Term | N/A or \$\$ |

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|   | Improve communications and process to ensure the Conservation Commission is notified of all project proposals to the Planning Board and receives materials and invitations to site walks on the same timeline as the Planning Board.   | Staff, Planning Board                 | Immediate  | N/A  |
|   | Review Conservation Commission responsibilities and the additional tasks outlined in these recommendations and adjust the committee’s annual budget as necessary.  | Town Council                          | Immediate  | \$\$ |
| <b>Water Resources</b>  |  |                                       |            |      |
| <b><i>It is the policy of the town to maintain water quality information from best known sources and expand municipal testing as necessary.</i></b>                         | Work with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection to understand the best sources of water quality and pollution monitoring. Annually review for any major water quality issues of concern for the community.  | Town Council, Conservation Commission | Immediate  | N/A  |
|   | Access any available state resources to better understand the threat of PFAS contamination in South Berwick waterbodies, including testing, new information or legislation.  | Town Council, Conservation Commission | Short Term | N/A  |
| <b><i>It is the policy of the town to protect significant surface water resources and drinking water sources from pollution and improve water quality where needed.</i></b> | Adopt or amend local land use ordinances as applicable to incorporate stormwater runoff performance standards consistent with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Maine Stormwater Management Law and Maine Stormwater regulations (Title 38 M.R.S.A. §420-D and 06-096 CMR 500 and 502).</li> <li>b. Maine Department of Environmental Protection's allocations for allowable levels of phosphorus in lake/pond watersheds.</li> <li>c. Maine Pollution Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Program ★</li> </ul> | Planning Board, Town Council          | Short Term | N/A  |

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|  | Review local land use ordinances, as applicable, to incorporate low impact development standards. ★   | Planning Board,<br>Town Council | Immediate  | \$  |
|  | Maintain, enact, or amend public wellhead and aquifer recharge area protection mechanisms, as necessary. ★  | Planning Board,<br>Town Council | Short Term | \$  |
|  | Adopt water quality protection practices and standards for construction and maintenance of public and private roads and public properties and require their implementation by contractors, owners, and community officials and employees. ★ | Planning Board,<br>Town Council | Short Term | N/A |
|  | Provide educational materials at appropriate locations regarding aquatic invasive species. ★  | Conservation<br>Commission      | Immediate  | N/A |
| <b><i>It is the policy of the town to protect water resources in growth areas where development is most intense and upgrade existing public sewer and wastewater facilities to minimize pollution discharge.</i></b> | Identify areas of stormwater infrastructure that are out of date or over capacity and plan for future upgrades and improvements pursuant to the town’s MS4 designation.   | Town Council,<br>DPW, Staff     | Short Term | N/A |
|  | Consider streamlining on-going oversight of stormwater management plans by the creation of databases and/or GIS that can be utilized by appropriate Town staff.   | Town Council,<br>DPW, Staff     | Short Term | \$  |
| <b>Critical Natural Resources and Wildlife Habitat</b>   |   |                                 |            |     |
| <b><i>It is the policy of the town to prioritize the protection of undeveloped blocks, biodiversity, and critical wildlife habitat.</i></b>  | Ensure that land use ordinances are consistent with applicable state law regarding critical natural resources. ★  | Planning Board,<br>Town Council | Short Term | \$  |
|  | Continue to require subdivision or non-residential property developers to look for and identify critical natural resources that may be on site and to take  | Planning Board,<br>Town Council | Short Term | N/A |

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|  | appropriate measures to protect those resources, including but not limited to, modification of the proposed site design, construction timing, and/or extent of excavation. ★   |   |            |        |
|  | Require the Planning Board to include as part of the review process, consideration of pertinent maps and information regarding critical natural resources from the updated Open Space Plan and other state resources . ★ | Planning Board,<br>Town Council             | Short Term | N/A    |
|  | Pursue public/private partnerships to protect critical and important natural resources such as through purchase of land or easements from willing sellers. ★   | Town Council,<br>Conservation<br>Commission | Ongoing    | \$\$\$ |
|  | Review the current ordinances which allow the filling of wetlands and amend to minimize allowed filling and reduce impacts to wetlands and vernal pools.   | Planning Board,<br>Town Council             | Short Term | N/A    |
|  | As part of Subdivision review, encourage retention of natural cover and vegetation to the maximum extent possible.   | Planning Board,<br>Town Council             | Ongoing    | N/A    |
|  | Include spatial data of wetlands delineation on GIS tools. Refer to current established wetland mapping criteria as developed by the National Wetlands Inventory to update town maps to determine total wetland size.    | Town Council,<br>Staff                      | Short Term | \$     |
|  | Consider amending ordinances to require a wetland values and functions assessment for certain new developments, to better understand the full impact of a project.   | Planning Board,<br>Town Council             | Short Term | \$     |

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|  | Incorporate wildlife conscious design in updates to all stream crossings identified as inadequate by the US Fish and Wildlife Service for better stream continuity and future increased flows.  | Town Council, DPW, Staff     | Ongoing    | \$\$   |
|  | Recognize the value of vernal pools in the Greater Mount Agamenticus area as significant breeding habitat that supports other forms of wildlife and afford appropriate protection, such as shoreland zoning.  | Planning Board, Town Council | Short Term | \$     |
| <b><i>It is the policy of the town to consider the future impacts of climate change on the health and wellbeing of residents and the operations of town programs and services.</i></b> | Enroll in available regional and state partnerships to to access grants resources and guidance around climate change planning, such as the Community Resilience Partnership.  | Town Council                 | Immediate  | N/A    |
|  | Apply for grants from state programs to conduct a climate change study, consider the community’s greenhouse gas emissions or take action on climate change mitigation strategies.   | Town Council                 | Short Term | \$\$   |
|  | Conduct a Climate Action Plan which addresses specific actions the community can pursue to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase sustainability and resilience to climate impacts. Could be funded through state grant programs.             | Town Council                 | Long Term  | \$\$   |
|  | Identify and inventory flooding impacts due to sea level rise and inland flooding areas from stormwater overflow and increased rain volumes. Implement infrastructure improvements or adaptation to reduce impacts to public facilities and safety. | Town Council                 | Long Term  | \$\$\$ |
| <b>Agriculture and Forest Resources</b>  |   |                              |            |        |
| <b><i>It is the policy of the town to safeguard lands identified as prime</i></b>  | Form an Agriculture and Food Security Commission and provide an annual funding allocation for outreach and engagement.  | Town Council                 | Short Term | \$     |

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| <b><i>farmland or capable of supporting commercial forestry.</i></b>   | Consult with the Maine Forest Service district forester when developing any land use regulations pertaining to forest management practices as required by 12 M.R.S.A. §8869. ★                       | Planning Board                       | Ongoing    | N/A  |
|  | Consult with Soil and Water Conservation District staff when developing any land use regulations pertaining to agricultural management practices. ★  | Planning Board                       | Ongoing    | N/A  |
|  | Amend land use ordinances to require commercial or subdivision developments in suitable rural areas maintain areas with prime farmland soils as open space to the greatest extent practicable. ★     | Planning Board, Town Council         | Short Term | \$   |
|  | Include spatial data of priority farmland forest land on GIS mapping tools and tax maps. Data should include soil analysis and other factors.  | Town Council, Staff                  | Short Term | \$   |
| <b><i>It is the policy of the town to support farming and forestry and encourage their economic viability.</i></b> | Amend zoning to allow farming in all zones with the exception of livestock operations.   | Planning Board, Town Council         | Short Term | N/A  |
|  | Limit non-residential development in the most rural zones to natural resource-based businesses and services, nature tourism/outdoor recreation businesses, farmers’ markets, and home occupations. ★ | Planning Board                       | Ongoing    | N/A  |
|  | Encourage owners of productive farm and forest land to enroll in the current use taxation programs. ★  | Town Council, Staff                  | Ongoing    | N/A  |
|  | Consider creating a Municipal Farm Support Program to create farmland easements, as well as other tax incentives to encourage farm enterprises.  | Town Council, Agriculture Commission | Long Term  | \$\$ |

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|  | Permit land use activities that support productive agriculture and forestry operations, such as roadside stands, greenhouses, firewood operations, sawmills, log buying yards, and pick-your-own operations. ★ | Planning Board      | Ongoing    | N/A |
|  | Include agriculture, commercial forestry operations, and land conservation that supports them in local or regional economic development plans. ★   | Town Council, Staff | Ongoing    | N/A |
|  | Review ordinances and remove any regulations which are not consistent with Maine’s Right to Farm law.  | Planning Board      | Short Term | N/A |

★ Denotes a state recommended strategy from the Comprehensive Plan Review Criteria Rule (07 105 Chapter 208)

**Timeline Key**

Immediate = 2-3 years

Short Term = 5-8 years

Long Term = 10-15 years

Ongoing = Begin as possible, maintain ongoing

**Budget Key**

N/A = Does not necessarily have a cost component

\$ = One budget cycle, maybe mid-cycle allocation

\$\$ = One budget cycle, budgeted ahead of time

\$\$\$ = Two to three budget cycles

\$\$\$\$ = three or more budget cycles, maybe a reserve account