



SOMERSWORTH MASTER PLAN 2026 Updates

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SOMERSWORTH MASTER PLAN Vision

Mark Davie, AICP

Vision Chapter Themes

Theme 1 – Strengthening Our Identity

- Community character is in flux
- The “Two Somersworths”
- People are interested in neighborhood identity

Theme 2 – Sights & Assets

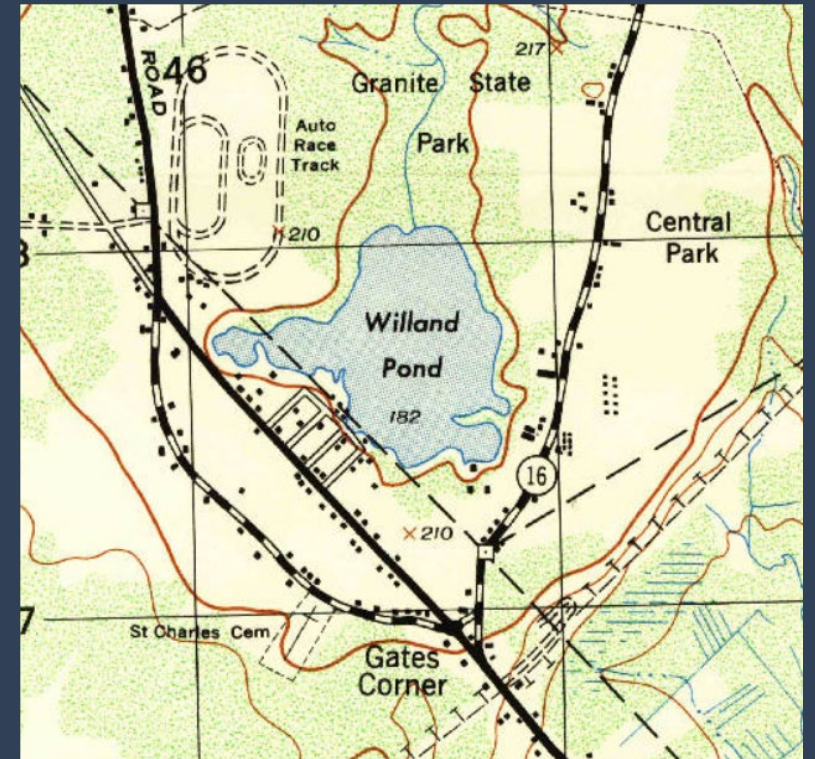
- Surrounding communities have “day-trip” destinations. How can Somersworth enhance the ones we have?



Vision Chapter Themes

Theme 3 – Somersworth & the Greater Seacoast

- Berwick has seen a surge in development. The community is interested in responding through collaboration, rather than reacting.
- The Route 108 Corridor is seen as unsafe and lacking in character while playing a regional role in the services and businesses found there.



Vision Goals & Actions

Goal 1

Define Somersworth's identity for 2030 and beyond.

Highlights:

- Evaluate the City's current branding.
- Strategize wayfinding and signage.
- Diversify the public engagement process.

Goal 2

Expand Somersworth's green corridors and trail network to improve neighborhood access to parks, regional trails, and water-based recreation.

Highlights:

- Identify a clear vision for the Riverwalk area.
- Create links between business and outdoor recreation.

Goal 3

Identify and utilize regional collaboration opportunities.

Highlights:

- Identify a need for collaborative small-area planning that would benefit from input from neighboring communities, such as the Weeks Crossing area.
- Review regional housing goals.



SOMERSWORTH MASTER PLAN Historic & Cultural Resources

Kerrie Diers, AICP

Historic & Cultural Resources

Chapter Themes

Theme 1 - Celebrate Somersworth's Rich History and Community Culture

- Historic New England mill village with rich cultural diversity
- Community events that bring people closer together

Theme 2 – Understanding the Historic Districts

- Protect Somersworth's historical significance
- Develop in a way to honor the past but look forward to the future

Historic & Cultural Resources Goals and Actions

Goal 1 – Maintain and Celebrate Somersworth's Historic And Cultural Resources

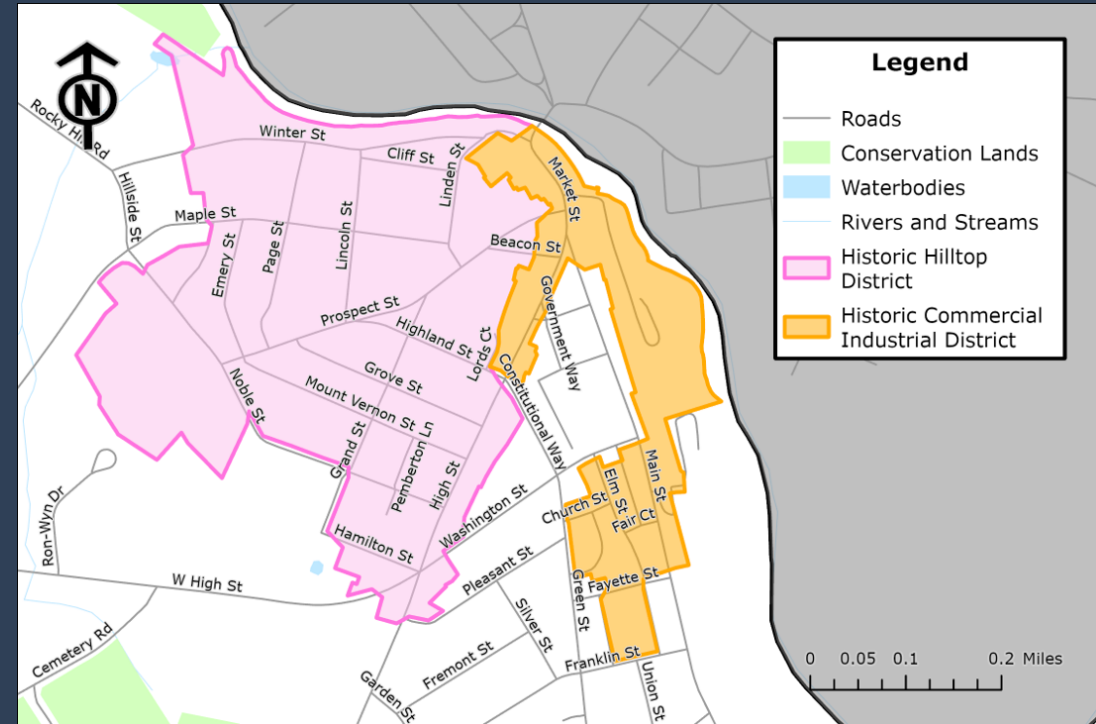
- Promote Somersworth's historic resources
- Create a historic resources guide for Somersworth.
- Clean up and improve Horne Cemetery
- Expand and modernize the Historical Museum.
- Expand opportunities for food trucks and vendors
- Use digital platforms to promote historic & cultural resources
- Celebrate Somersworth's 300th Anniversary and collaborate with Rollinsford to highlight shared history.



Historic & Cultural Resources Goals and Actions

Goal 2 – Review Somersworth's Historic Districts

- Promote adaptive reuse of historic buildings
- Build on form-based codes
- Explore eliminating use-based zoning.
- Develop regular communication and education by the Historic District Commission
- Review and amend the Historic District Boundaries, Regulations and Design Guidelines as needed





SOMERSWORTH MASTER PLAN Transportation

Colin Lentz

Transportation

Chapter Themes

Theme 1 - Safety is Priority One

- Focus on eliminating crashes that injure and kill people
- Use infrastructure to manage vehicle speed

Theme 2 – Design a Walkable, Bikeable Somersworth

- Walkability defines small-town feel
- Extend sidewalk network to local destinations
- Trail enhancement and connection

Transportation

Chapter Themes

Theme 3 - Build Transportation Connections

- Region has the richest mix of modes in New Hampshire
- Public transit demand
- Shared economic development with Berwick

Theme 4 – Downtown and Somersworth's Identity

- Replicate success of downtown streetscape
- Potential of the Mill District

Transportation Goals and Actions

Goal 1 – Enhance Somersworth’s Connection to Neighboring Municipalities and the Region

- Collaborate with Dover and Rollinsford on regional rail improvements.
- Enhance regional public transportation.
- Somersworth + Berwick = ❤️

Goal 2 – Enhance the Transportation Network for Multimodal Travel

- Complete Streets considers all users and context.
- Develop a local wayfinding plan.
- Local “Intelligent Transportation Systems”.
- Walkability for local business access.



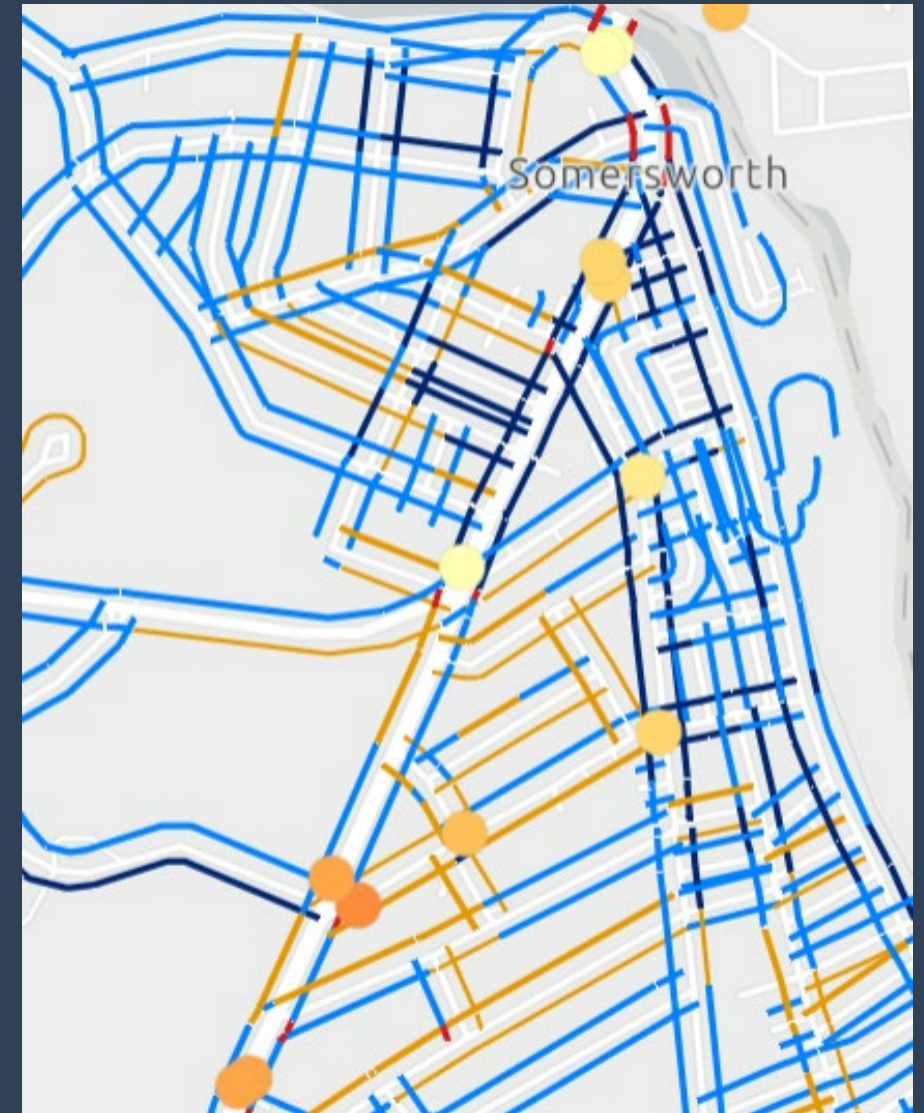
Transportation Goals and Actions

Goal 3 – Eliminate Fatal And Serious Injury Crashes in Somersworth

- Complete a road network safety screening.
- Use physical infrastructure to reduce vehicle speeds.
- Develop a local street design guide.

Goal 4 – Improve Access to Essential Services For Residents Who Can't Drive

- Connections between neighborhoods and important local destinations.
- Strive for major destinations being fully accessible.
- Develop local ADA transition plan.
- Increase demand-response transportation options.



Transportation Goals and Actions

Goal 5 – Revitalize Underdeveloped Sections of the City With New Streetscapes

- Streetscape consistency.
- Increase locations and businesses for young families.
- “Green space” in streetscape design.
- Improve pedestrian facilities in conjunction with housing and commercial development.
- Improve streetside dining opportunities for restaurant businesses.
- Implement actions outlined in the 2025 parking study.





SOMERSWORTH MASTER PLAN Economic Development

Michael Polizzotti
Senior Economic
Development Planner

Economic Development

Chapter Themes

Theme 1 – A Thriving and Distinct Downtown Economy

- Tools to support economic development and local investment
- Placemaking and increasing foot traffic

Theme 2 – Supported Local Businesses and Workforce

- Support for existing businesses and entrepreneurs
- Additional support for business development, expansion, and navigation in the city.
- Needs surrounding workforce and talent development.

Economic Development

Chapter Themes

Theme 3 – Growth and Vibrancy Beyond Downtown

- Support for, and additional connectivity to, commercial corridors
- Leveraging ERZ's

Theme 4 – Strong Identity and Regional Partnerships

- Community identity and promotion
- Strengthening collaboration with neighboring communities

Economic Development Goals & Actions

Goal 1

Strengthen downtown Somersworth as a vibrant center for local businesses, arts, dining, and everyday services that cater to the needs of residents and visitors.

Goal 2

Retain and help strengthen existing local businesses and attract new businesses to the community.

Goal 3

Strengthen and retain the existing workforce, and promote workforce attraction.

Goal 4

Encourage continued development and investments along key corridors in the City, such as NH 108, High Street (NH 9), and industrial areas.

Goal 5

Establish an economic identity for Somersworth.

Goal 6

Identify shared opportunities and goals with neighboring communities, particularly downtown Berwick, Maine, to promote shared growth and community vitality.

25 Action Items

Thank You!



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