

GOSHEN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Special Meeting Monday, June 2, 2025 6:00 P.M.

This meeting will be held in-person at the Town Hall as well as via Zoom.

Join Zoom meeting at the conference link provided below:

Join Zoom Meeting <http://us02web.zoom.us/j/86594169099>

Meeting ID: Dial number 865 9416 9099

Option 2: Dial-in number 1-929-205-6099

AGENDA

1. Call meeting to order
2. Attendance
3. Seat Alternate (Member)
4. Discussion:
 1. 2016 Town of Goshen Plan of Conservation and Development dated 8/23/2016 Pages 21-22, Economic Development for the Board commissioners to review as requested by Spencer Musselman email of May 8, 2025 and give a report on recommendations or changes.
5. Motion to Adjourn.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING, June 23, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.

Received May 21, 2025 @ 3:36 P.M.

Attest Brian S. Burr
Goshen Town Clerk

3. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

GOAL: *TO PROVIDE FOR BUSINESSES SERVING LOCAL AND REGIONAL NEEDS, BOTH EXISTING AND FUTURE, IN A MANNER THAT PROTECTS PROPERTY VALUES AND IS COMPATIBLE IN SIZE, SCALE, AND APPEARANCE WITH THE TOWN'S RURAL CHARACTER. WE MUST MAINTAIN RURAL CHARACTER WHILE ALSO SUPPORTING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY.*

ISSUES:

1. *Support the rural landscape.*
Create an economic climate that enhances the viability of our working land and conserves natural land.
2. *Help existing places thrive.*
Take care of assets and investments such as our Village Center, existing infrastructure, and places that the community values.
3. *Create great new places.*
Build a vibrant, enduring community that supports the needs of both the aging and young people alike.
4. *Support Home-Based Businesses and Small Business Opportunities.*
Goshen is a rural town with an unusual number of local home-based and small businesses. As of November 2015, property records show 112 businesses in Goshen and according to data from the American Community Survey (2014), 18.3% of Goshen's workers are self-employed; this is higher than the 10% of workers who are self-employed statewide and nationwide.

These businesses provide important services and employment opportunities. They also provide a pool of local volunteers for firefighting services and other organizations that rely on volunteers who are available for daytime service. Land use policies must continue to permit local businesses to start up and be sustained.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The following general guidelines are recommended for use by the Planning and Zoning Commission to develop business-related revisions to the Zoning Regulations and Zoning Map.

1. *Promote Agriculture & Tourism*
Agriculture and tourism are keys to Goshen's economy that should be promoted and supported. Activities such as the Annual Goshen Open Farm Tour and the Goshen Farm Market promote Goshen's farms and educate citizens on healthy eating. The Goshen Agricultural Society – Goshen Fairgrounds and Action Wildlife Foundation along with Town lakes and recreation areas bring tourists to Goshen. Agri-tourism farms such as Miranda Vineyard, Sunset Meadow Vineyard, Old Barn Farm, and Thorncrest Farm & Milk House Chocolates should be encouraged as they bring visitors to Goshen, preserve open space, and help promote healthy living. The Planning & Zoning Commission should provide proactive support for farm viability and be supportive of farmland protection. The Board of Selectmen should continue to allow the Agricultural Commission to provide farmer input into Town Policies that impact local agriculture.

2. *Home-Based Business Uses*

Business uses located entirely within principal residential buildings that do not change the character of the building or neighborhood and do not generate large volumes of traffic are permitted and should continue to be permitted in residential zones. More intense home occupations will continue to require Special Permit review and approval.

3. *Center Business Zone*

The purpose of the Center Business Zone is to provide a central, safe, and convenient location for local business and service needs in a manner that is compatible in size, scale, and appearance with the Town Center area of Goshen. Creating a more pedestrian-friendly Town Center area should be a goal for the Town.

The Planning and Zoning Commission should encourage mixed use opportunities for businesses appropriate for a village center area. The Commission should examine the current boundaries of the Center Business Zone to determine if they should be expanded further in the Town Rotary area and North towards Town Hall on North Street.

4. *Encourage the Current Goshen Business Group to Remain Active.*

Goshen's business community is encouraged to work together to promote the business community and provide advice to the Planning & Zoning Commission and Board of Selectmen.

