

Chapter F: Public Facilities

1. Purpose

A town's future growth can be constrained or catalyzed by the public facilities and services available. This chapter provides a thorough analysis and understanding of current conditions for Gouldsboro and potential future needs and issues. Specifically, this chapter:

- a) identifies and describe Gouldsboro's public facilities and services, and
- b) assesses the adequacy of these services to handle current and projected demands.

2. Key Findings & Issues

The Town of Gouldsboro has struggled over the past three to five years with staff turnover and continues to plan to develop efficient systems for finance, efficient systems of public facilities and services to accommodate anticipated growth of economic development. There is enough community concern for Gouldsboro to look into ways to meet the diverse transportation needs of the community and visitors by providing a safe, efficient and adequate transportation network for all types of users including motor vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists. Some of Gouldsboro's buildings need to be identified for repairs and updating.

Department heads need to continue to create and act on their five-year plan and long-term plans foTown departments are a critical necessity and should be continued to be reviewed each year along with long-term goals. This review should include estimated costs, identification of potential funding sources, and a timeline of implementation. Solid waste management and recycling, while previously addressed in the 2005 Plan, has reemerged as an issue due to recent market changes and regional issues. Gouldsboro is not alone in facing solid waste and recycling challenges. The non-profit Coastal Recycling program was forced to close its doors in 2019 due to accelerating costs and decreasing returns on collecting recycling material. The Town's refuse collection contractor was able to return to the collection of cardboard for residents.

Educational enrollment has dropped slightly but remains stable at Peninsula Elementary, even with the opening of the Charles M. Sumner Leaning Campus in late fall of 2022. However, because of decreasing birth rates and families moving out of town, enrollment may decline. As noted in the Housing chapter, housing affordability issues may also lead to staffing issues at the school. RSU 24 educational enrollment has remained relatively stable with gains in high school enrollment being balanced out by decreases in elementary/middle school enrollment. The 2023 RSU 24's financial sharing model resulted in the town's share of funding being increased by 16% (\$479,554.91). This sharp increase will have an impact on the town's meager resources and will funnel money away from other projects. The Town also has a significant number of roads to maintain considering its population. None of the town-maintained roads could be considered to be in excellent shape and most need some type of maintenance. The nature of Maine's winters makes maintaining the roads a constant battle. This is further compounded by the

steep rise in the cost of materials and labor to keep roads usable. The 2,400-square-foot town office building also houses fire station #1 and the town’s EMS (ambulances).

The fire house was built in 1993. The interior of the spaces are in good condition, but the town manager's office and assessors spaces are too small. The fire department continues to face a shortage of volunteers. The EMS services have had to be creative in order to retain EMT’s.

3. Key Findings & Issues from the 2005 Plan

The current constable facilities are overcrowded. Given the other demands on the municipal building the town may have to consider an expansion of this building or a separate police facility. If the latter alternative is considered, the town may want to explore a joint facility with Winter Harbor, which also is facing an overcrowded police facility. (*Note: As of 2022, a separate facility was constructed using local resources that now accommodates the constable staff and equipment in fire station #3.)

The fire department is facing a shortage of volunteers and the loss of assistance from the Navy. Here again, greater cooperation with Winter Harbor needs to be considered. Studies are currently underway on the future of the schools in both towns. It is thus premature to determine how much sharing of facilities is practical. (Note: The fire department is still facing a shortage of volunteers. Gouldsboro and Winter Harbor have entered into a mutual cooperation model in providing emergency medical services.

4. 2022 Public Opinion Survey Results

76.42% of respondents believe that they are getting a good value for their tax dollars in Gouldsboro while 23.58 percent believe they are not getting a good value. Town services were rated as follows as seen in Table F-1:

Table F-1: 2022 Public Opinion Survey Results

Service	Excellent	Good
Bicycling safety/Safety on roads	3.35%	13.81%
Condition of town roads	4.6%	42.68%
Elected/Appointed Officials	23.07%	40.17%
Emergency Medical Services	33.05%	34.31%
Fire Protection	50.42%	35.29%
Library Services (not town owned)	52.50%	30.42%
Police Protection	46.44%	40.17%
Recreation Facilities	5.13%	28.21%

Snow Removal (contracted)	30.77%	43.16%
Stormwater Management	10.17%	30.08%
Town Office Customer Service	56.72%	25.29%
Trash Recycling (contracted)	24.27%	32.64%
Parks & Recreation	22.27%	44.12%

5. Town Government

Current Conditions:

Gouldsboro has a town meeting form of government with a governing body of five elected select board members. Gouldsboro employs a town manager, a code enforcement officer that also acts as the superintendent of infrastructure, three deputy town clerks, all serving as full-time employees, a treasurer who is part-time, as well as a part-time assessor's assistant. Other town employees include police department, fire department and EMS staff.

Current & Future Adequacy:

Gouldsboro has experienced a population decline of -13.45% since 2000; but could experience future development in housing and industry which may result in population increase. This would help with our tax base but could place increased strains on town staff. Any increased regulation, whether state or local, would also place a greater burden on code enforcement and other town officials. Regional sharing or multi-town cooperation, for example in broadband development, might be both financially and logistically beneficial to Gouldsboro in the future.

The town provides its community with a website where services are listed as well as departments, boards, committees, meeting dates and minutes as well as other community information about Gouldsboro. Other services include notary services, motor vehicle, ATV, boat and snowmobile and trailer registrations, fishing and hunting licenses. Other aspects of town government include:

- Assessor
- Animal Control
- Board of Appeals
- Board of Selectmen
- Budget Committee
- Civil Emergency Preparedness Director
- Community Intervention Officer
- Comprehensive Plan Committee
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- Fire Department
- Harbor Committee
- Harbor Master
- Health Officer
- Planning Board
- Plumbing Inspector
- Police Department
- Recreation Committee
- Registrar of Voters
- Road Commissioner
- Schoodic Byway Committee
- Schoodic Peninsula Broadband Committee
- Shellfish Warden
- Solid Waste Committee
- Superintendent of Town Infrastructure
- Veterans Affairs Committee
- E911 Coordinator

Map F-XX Town of Gouldsboro Infrastructure Map



source; state of Maine

6. Solid Waste Disposal & Recycling

Current Conditions:

Gouldsboro provides a weekly curbside solid waste collection service. Town residents purchase \$1.25 trash bags stickers which are affixed to each bag/can being picked up. The town waste contractor transports the town's waste to the Penobscot Energy Recovery Company (PERC). PERC is a waste-to-energy facility located in Orrington, Maine. The facility accepts approximately 175,000 tons of municipal solid waste (MSW) for combustion to produce electricity for sale on the grid. [See Table;XX](#) for yearly tonnage. Through the combustion process, PERC reduces the volume requiring landfill disposal by approximately 90%, thereby preserving precious landfill space. The town also operates a

transfer station that receives and temporarily stores demolition and bulky waste. Statewide, municipal solid waste recycling reached 36.7% in 2016, far short of Maine DEP’s goal of 50%. Few Maine towns in the Downeast area have had municipal recycling programs since the 2019 closure of Coastal Recycling in Hancock and the 2020 closure of the innovative and experimental Fiberright facility in Hampden. As of 2022, the town’s household solid waste collection contractor has provided a free curbside cardboard collection service. The town operated transfer station recycles scrap metal, appliances, and rubber tires. Plastics represent the greatest volume of potentially recyclable materials entering the general solid waste-stream. Waste disposal in landfills and incinerators could be greatly lessened if recycling services were available, and it is probable that Gouldsboro community members would respond favorably to this opportunity. Any successful recycling program would have to be implemented as a regional effort.

Table XX: Gouldsboro’s Waste Tonnage per year

YEAR	TS Tons	PERC Tons
2017	415	451
2018	399	441
2019	429	442
2020	436	447
2021	384	460
2022	280	477

source: Gouldsboro Solid Waste Committee

Town septic systems are all privately owned, and property owners are responsible for pumping and the disposition of septic solid wastes. The septic service companies are responsible for properly disposing of any solid waste that is removed from the septic systems.

Current & Future Adequacy:

It is anticipated that Gouldsboro will face increasing costs associated with solid waste management. Currently, the closest household solid waste recycling option is in Portland (i.e. “Ecomaine,” which uses a traditional and proven single-sort technology), but transportation costs to that facility is prohibitive. In a rural town like Gouldsboro, backyard composting is one-way where residents can divert some of their waste from the municipal waste stream. The Gouldsboro transfer station accepts yard waste that is burned off. One company, Maine Organics in Ellsworth, composts industrial level shellfish wastes or other bulk compostables (including mouse bedding from the Jackson Lab facility). This service is provided on a contract basis and is not available to Gouldsboro residents.

Solid waste disposal costs could also be lessened by local actions and regulations. These include lessening dependence on plastics, diverting household compostables through a community composting organization, and through regional approaches to cost sharing the transportation of recyclable materials.

7. Fire Protection

Current Conditions:

The Gouldsboro Volunteer Fire Department (GVFD) serves Gouldsboro, and mutual aid agreements with surrounding communities. The average response time to a fire is 11 minutes, with the furthest reaches of town being almost 20 minutes away. The department is dispatched by the Hancock County Regional Communications Center.

Facilities: Presently, there are three fire stations in Gouldsboro.

Station #1, located attached to the town office at 59 Main Street, Prospect Harbor, ME. The building was built in 1993 and has 4,154 square feet (sq ft).

Station #2, located at 4 Williams Brook Road, Gouldsboro. The building was built in 1991 and has 7,200 square feet and includes a 10 KW generator and currently houses the police department.

Figure XX, Fire Station #2 and Police Department

Station #3, located at 6 Walters Road. The building was built in 1991 and has 2,070 sq ft and includes a 10 KW Generator.

Figure XX, Fire Station #3

Currently the three facilities adequately house all of Gouldsboro's current fire-fighting equipment.

Staffing: Gouldsboro has an all-volunteer fire department with 14 members. Some officers receive a modest stipend from the town. In 2022 the town budget allocated \$86,426.76 for personnel costs for the Fire Department. Operating an all-volunteer company is increasingly difficult because of complex regulations that govern fire departments. Firefighting training and other matters demand considerable time that many volunteers do not have. As of 2019, there were 14 volunteers in the department; 7 of these are available to respond to calls during the day; 6 members are qualified to perform interior attack. Sustaining enough volunteers is an issue of critical importance. The town may need to consider a paid force that is a shared resource between multiple towns.

Response: The Fire Department responds to a variety of types of calls each year, including, but not limited to structure fires, chimney fires, forest fires, grass fires, vehicular accidents, ambulance calls, miscellaneous rescue calls, and fire alarms. Calls for service are shown on Table F-2 The average response time is 7-10 minutes. In addition to fighting fires and the other types of services, the

department sponsors fire prevention programs at the Peninsula Elementary School. Fire permits for town residents are now issued by the Fire Chief, the Town Clerk, and online from the State.

Table F-2: Gouldsboro Fire Department Calls for Service in Recent Years / 20
Gouldsboro Fire/EMS Department Activity

Activity	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Ambulance Transports	197	103	119	151	155	212	300
Non-ambulance Transports	58	72	64	56	61	62	65
Motor Vehicle Incidents	11	7	13	15	11	11	15
Structure Fire Incidents	2	5	4	9	6	2	4
Fire Alarm Incidents	27	19	12	33	8	34	21
Wildfire Incidents	3	1	4	3	3	5	4
Rescues	1	1	1	3	3	2	2
Other/Smoke Investigations	9	11	4	5	6	10	6
Mutual Aid incidents	8	3	14	14	16	9	12
Service Calls	24	22	24	7	9	7	4
Totals	340	259	259	296	278	354	433

Equipment: The current inventory of vehicles is shown in Table F-3. The department's current equipment is adequate for the present time. With limited life span of capital equipment and the significant cost to replace the equipment the town will continually face the need for significant amounts of money when equipment needs to be replaced. The cost of replacement and repair costs are also challenging for the town's budget. Furthermore, some manufacturers no longer provide parts, and sourcing required parts for repairs can be challenging for a department with an aging fleet.

Table F-3: Fire Department Vehicles, 2022

<i>Gouldsboro Fire/EMS Equipment Inventories</i>	
Year/Condition/Make/Type	Years Left of Service
1988/Fair/Ford F250 Truck	<i>2</i>
1991/Fair/Ford Louisville Fire Truck	<i>2</i>
1992/Fair/Ford 800 Ferrara Pumper	<i>1</i>
1995/Fair/Ford E350 Rescue Type III	<i>5</i>
1999/Fair/International 4900	<i>5</i>
2004/Fair/Freightliner M2106 Fire Truck	<i>5</i>
2009/Fair/Navistar Fire Truck	<i>10</i>
2010/Fair/Chevy Ambulance	<i>2</i>
2014/Fair/Chevrolet Ambulance	<i>2</i>
2018/Prime/Chevrolet 1500271 4WD LT DBL	<i>3</i>

Source: Gouldsboro Fire Chief, August 2023

Current and Future Adequacy:

The current department services are deemed adequate. The department indicates that water supplies throughout town are generally adequate for fire-fighting, however required subdivision fire ponds are becoming overgrown. Subdivisions need to be held accountable and pond access must be maintained. While no emergency vehicle access problems have been reported on town roads, the department does periodically experience poorly marked houses and overly narrow private driveways. This is a problem with both summer and year-round dwellings. There is a need for paid clerical assistance to effectively deal with increased paperwork and regulatory compliance. This clerical activity is not easily assumed by the volunteer members of the fire department. A paid, part-time position would address this need. Another challenge is the cost of replacement equipment. Currently the department needs to add SCOTT Air-PAK self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). The cost of SCBA bottles average between \$1000-\$1500 per bottle. The currently held SCBAs and their related compressor will need updating in the next ten years. The estimated cost for that is \$156,000. The biggest anticipated cost for the town within the next 5 years will be the purchase of a new tanker/ pumper at \$225,000-300,00 (today's prices).

8. Law Enforcement

Current Conditions:

The Gouldsboro Police Department started as a volunteer community watch in the 1970s. It has evolved to its current state of being a full-time service police department for the Town of Gouldsboro comprising two full time and one part time patrol officers. Full-time officers must meet the same training requirements as all other municipal and county police departments in the State of Maine. The Town of Gouldsboro has a population of approximately 1,703 as of the 2020 census. The Town’s population swells in the summer and fall. The Town of Gouldsboro is an estimated 45 square miles of land and 50 square miles of water. Emergency services contract with the Hancock County Regional Communications Center for dispatch of the Gouldsboro Police and Fire Departments, EMS and Schoodic Ambulance Service. In 2019 the Gouldsboro Police Department handled over 1,000 calls for service and made over 630 traffic stops. Officers are outfitted with in-car cruiser video camera systems and body cameras. The police department is housed at Gouldsboro Fire Station #2. Gouldsboro’s police department is served by the Hancock County Regional Communication Center, which is the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) for emergency dispatch services (911).

Table F-4: Police Calls for Service by year

Gouldsboro Police Calls for Service	
Year	Total Number of Calls
2018	927
2019	1055
2020	879
2021	681
2022	

Source: Gouldsboro Police Dept Records

Troop J of the Maine State Police is responsible for providing professional, full-service law enforcement services to Hancock and Washington Counties through two resource-sharing agreements that promote cooperation and maximize the effectiveness of limited law enforcement resources in rural areas. Their main office is located in Ellsworth. There is a field office in Jonesboro. Among their specialty services are defense tactics instruction, accident reconstruction, evidence collection, and firearm instruction. Among their members are two canine units. The Town also relies on mutual aid support from the Town of Winter Harbor and from the Hancock County Sheriff’s Department.

Current & Future Adequacy:

The current department services are deemed to be acceptable, though at minimal levels. Maintaining a small police force in a rural setting is challenging. Training is a constant challenge as well as identifying the most optimum schedule for two and a half full-time elements. Enforcement of moving vehicle laws, such as speed limits and hands-free regulations, continues to be an issue. Partnering with regional, state and federal law enforcement partners for educational opportunities continues to be an avenue that results in low department impact. The department is synchronized with the Hancock County Emergency Management Agency for the identification of upcoming training venues.

9. Emergency Medical Services

Current Conditions:

Gouldsboro maintains the emergency medical service (EMS) organization serving Gouldsboro and Winter Harbor. Currently the department has 14 personnel, 9 drivers, 4 Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT's), and one paramedic . The department utilizes a 6am to 6pm (day shift) with personnel at the station from 8am to 4pm at the station and is paid hourly as well as a 4pm to 6am night shift with the personnel being on call from home. The night shift is paid flat rate based on position. There are two people on each shift. The chief EMS works 60 hours a week full time and the department also has one EMT position that is 48 hours per week full time. The department attempts to fill all the shifts according to the availability of the team members. If necessary, the chief will cover a shift as needed. Many of the team members are employed in other professions in order to make a living wage. As of January 2023, the department has three personnel in EMT basic school and two in EMT Advanced classes. EMS and ambulance service is provided out of Fire Station #1. EMS conducts advance support service (ALS) back up for the other ambulance companies. This is starting to increase in frequency due to neighboring ambulance providers being out of service, usually because of lack of personnel. Gouldsboro EMS has gone as far as Ellsworth to cover Northern Light, Cherryfield, Jonesport, and Milbridge. As of early 2023, the Milbridge Ambulance service is reported to be in the process of discontinuing service.

The Town also can utilize LifeFlight of Maine. LifeFlight of Maine (whose parent organizations are Central Maine Healthcare and Northern Light Health and its aviation operator Seven Bar Aviation) provides critical care air transport throughout Maine. Most of their transport routes (85%) are from small hospitals in rural areas to large hospitals.

Current & Future Adequacy:

The current department services are deemed to be acceptable, though at minimal levels. Gouldsboro EMS operates two Type III ambulances, a 2010 and 2014, both with over 150,000 miles. Type III ambulances are cutaway vans with an integrated modular ambulance body. As of 2022, their service life is expected to be another three years or less. Replacement cost of one ambulance is estimated to be over \$300,000. As of 2023, there is currently an 18 month wait time before a new unit could be delivered. EMS has two cardiac monitors with one being a LIFE PAC 12, which was loaned to us by Sorrento Fire Department. The Lifepak 12 is a 2006 model and should be replaced by 2024. The Gouldsboro owned unit is a Lifepak 15. This unit needs periodic updates that cost approximately \$10,000.00 .

10. Education

Current Conditions:

Gouldsboro’s school age educational requirements are met by RSU 24. RSU 24 serves nine communities along the Downeast coast of Maine. The district encompasses picturesque coastal communities along Frenchman Bay, Flanders Bay and the Schoodic Peninsula as well as inland communities surrounding many ponds and lakes. Specific communities served are: Eastbrook, Franklin, Gouldsboro, Mariaville, Steuben, Sorrento, Sullivan, Waltham and Winter Harbor.

Table F-4: Peninsula School Enrollment

Peninsula School Enrollment Trends *includes students from Winter Harbor

Year	Enrolled	Year	Enrolled	Year	Enrolled
2009	197	2014	194	2019	149
2010	201	2015	193	2020	142
2011	210	2016	195	2021	136
2012	208	2017	155	2022	84
2013	211	2018	147	2023	83

Elementary Education

The elementary school serving Gouldsboro is the Peninsula School located at 71 Main Street, Prospect Harbor ME. Peninsula School has 13 classrooms and six intervention spaces. 2022 enrollment was 84 students in grades Pre-K through 5th grade. Peninsula School's student population has decreased over the past four years. 142 students were enrolled in the 2019-2020 school year. The school lost several students to home instruction during the pandemic and student enrollment in 2020-2021 was 136 students. In 2021-2022 many students returned from home instruction and several new families moved to the area. Student population rose to 154 students in 2021. 2022 saw the middle school students attending the new Sumner Learning Campus. The highest enrollment on record is 195 K-8 students in the 2015-2016 school year. The square footage of the Peninsula School is 37,791. It has a 5,632 square foot gymnasium that has an occupancy rating of 981. The gym is used for assemblies, holiday concerts, PE classes, basketball games, ceremonies and has also hosted town meetings.

Middle and High School:

The Charles M. Sumner Learning Campus is a combined middle and high school campus, serving more than 500 students in grades 6-12. The campus consists of a 103,000 square foot building that replaced a 1950s-era Sumner Memorial High School. The campus is located in the town of Sullivan on US Route 1. The campus features air-source heat pumps, energy recovery ventilation, and Variable Refrigerant Flow

HVAC systems units, allowing the new building to perform with an anticipated Energy Use Intensity (EUI) of 32, which is significantly below the national EUI median score of 48.5. The school provides a state-of-the-art learning campus with shared 21st century learning environments, including a new Learning Commons, Maker Spaces, and Materials Labs. Collaboration spaces adjoin most classrooms, allowing for breakout, self-directed learning, and project-based programs.

The shared campus provides several advantages to the community which include:

- Access to higher level courses within the shared facility (Geometry, English 9, etc.)
- Access to full cohorts of learners who are interested in similar learning experiences (rather than being one student learning online), and have access to a real teacher
- Authentic learning experiences in learning spaces designed for the specific instruction (science labs, art rooms, collaboration spaces, maker spaces, etc.)
- Access to enrichment courses such as World Language, Industrial Arts, Band, Chorus, Show Choir and Health
- Development of a “Pathways” program for middle-level students. Research and data show that it is this time in a learner’s academic career when they become disengaged and disenfranchised - a Pathways program at this level could be life-changing.
- Access to a state-of-the-art Learning Commons (library) that offers a rich student-centered atmosphere and offers a variety of learning materials
- Access to a large fitness center not only as part of physical education courses, but also as part of after-school programming and for healthy lifestyle choices
- Access to safe and appropriate learning spaces both indoors and outdoors rather than in the current classrooms, spaces, and fields which often have been retrofitted to address facility needs. Due to combined numbers and being in a centrally-located facility, middle-level students will have the ability to participate in a variety of athletics, offering not only health benefits but opportunities for collaboration, time-management, leadership and the establishment of a strong high school feeder program co-curricular activities such as robotics, civil rights team, art club, and more, which offer opportunities for collaboration, problem solving, and development of leadership skills and to work with community partners on a more frequent basis (job shadowing, career explorations, etc.)

Current & Future Adequacy:

The physical plants of the elementary school and of the middle/High School are in superior condition and will serve the needs of the community for decades to come. However, population fluctuations and regionalization of services will impact school operations significantly in the future years. In addition, many rural schools face staffing shortages and a problem retaining qualified educators and staff. This leads to increased teaching staff turnover that affects quality of instruction and impacts school culture. As fewer people choose education as a career choice, schools, including Gouldsboro, will face issues of staffing and operations. Staffing and operation issues are also affected by the higher-than-county-average housing costs in Gouldsboro and the relatively low wages paid to public school educators in Maine.

Other Educational Organizations/Groups:

RSU 24 Adult Education (RSU24 AE) serves the communities of Eastbrook, Franklin, Gouldsboro, Mariaville, Sorrento, Steuben, Sullivan, Waltham, and Winter Harbor. RSU 24 AE provides a spectrum of courses for residents past the normal school age. Courses include:

- Business & Skills Training
- College Transitions
- Computers & Technology
- High School Completion
- Literacy
- Personal Enrichment

Of particular benefit to Gouldsboro residents are the Certified Nursing Assistant and Certified Residential Medication Aide certification courses.

The Gouldsboro community is also served by the Healthy Acadia organization. Healthy Acadia is a 501c3 nonprofit organization that works on a broad range of community health initiatives that help Hancock and Washington counties to thrive. Since 2001, Healthy Acadia has worked to identify priority health needs and to address root causes. They convene and facilitate numerous collaborative community efforts with shared leadership from many sectors to develop plans and take action to improve health and wellbeing, and to rapidly respond to critical and emergent health needs in local communities. Healthy Acadia's educational focus is supplemented by a complete approach to health management. The entire scope of Healthy Acadia encompasses six areas of focus:

- Strong Beginnings to support healthy development and resilience from birth to adulthood;
- Healthy Food for All to ensure that all people have access to nutritious, affordable food, and to make the healthy choice, the easy choice;
- Active and Healthy Environments to ensure that our indoor and outdoor spaces are safe, healthy and promote physical activity and wellness;
- Healthy Aging to ensure that all of us can age well — with strength, dignity, comfort, and grace;
- Substance Prevention and Recovery to support people of all ages to live lives free of substance misuse and substance use disorder and to support individual throughout their recovery journey; and
- Health Promotion and Management to improve community support across a wide range of health needs, from cancer patient navigation and stress reduction to barrier removal for health challenges and chronic disease and pain self-management.

Gouldsboro, as well as the rest of the Schoodic Region, is supported by the Schoodic Institute. Schoodic Institute (SI) is located in the homeland of the Wabanaki, People of the Dawn on the Schoodic Peninsula. SI is Acadia National Park's primary partner in science and education. Portions of the park are included within the boundaries of the town. Together, SI manages the largest of 18 National Park Service Research Learning Centers in the United States. SI supports scientific research of importance to the Park, provides professional development for teachers, and trains a new generation of stewards who will help conserve our natural and cultural heritage. Education and communication are integrated with their research programs through citizen science, public programs and events, and information sharing.

SI's nonprofit structure allows them the flexibility to support Acadia National Park, and surrounding communities, in creating innovative partnerships such as Second Century Stewardship and the Citizen Science Association.

Schoodic Arts for All (SAFA) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization with its headquarters located in Winter Harbor, and maintains facilities in both Winter Harbor and Gouldsboro. Its initial emphasis was an arts festival to bring some traffic through Winter Harbor. More than 20 years later, SAFA has grown to offer year-round workshops and performances, After School Art Club for area schools and homeschool groups, Summer Art Camp, and hosts several art-related community groups. Other programs and community groups included the hosting of many community groups in the musical arts (Singing Circle, Variable Winds Recorder Group, Ukulele Club), visual arts (Painting Group, Connect and Create), as well as museum trips, both in person and virtually. Schoodic Arts for All inhabits three historic buildings, two in Winter Harbor and one in Gouldsboro, that would likely be razed or empty were it not for their occupancy. The Gouldsboro facility is a two-story art studio that has been fully equipped with pottery wheels and kilns. The building began its life as an ice cream shop. Now known as the Combs Studio after Doris Combs, one of their first supporters and former owner of the building, it is located on Main Street in Prospect Harbor across from the elementary school. It is used for After School Art Club, as well as for workshops during the art festival and year-round. In 2018, Schoodic Arts for All was named the Best Community Organization in the inaugural Maine Arts Awards. The awards were given by the Maine Arts Commission in partnership with ArtsEngageME at the Maine International Conference on the Arts on September 28, 2018 in Portland.

11. Public Works

Current Conditions:

The management of road maintenance and other public works duties are the responsibility of the Superintendent of Town Infrastructure. All support to town roads is provided by contractors. The Town currently has a 6,500 square foot salt/sand storage shed, as well as two additional buildings that were previously owned and operated by MaineDOT. One of the buildings is currently leased to the Schoodic Food Pantry, which is a non-profit food pantry serving the disadvantaged in the Schoodic Region.

The State of Maine Department of Transportation (MaineDOT) manages several state routes in Gouldsboro including Route 1, route 186, and route 195. In a 2022, MaineDOT efforts included:

- 52 miles of Shoulder Miles of Mowing
- 3,155.80 Ton(s) of Hot Mix Paving
- 7 Emergency Event Responses
- 1.4 Miles of Striping Applied
- 70.1 Shoulder Miles of Sweeping
- Drainage Structures Cleaned
- Drainage Structures Repaired
- 1,467.5 Linear Feet of Brush Removed
- 1.8 Ton(s) of Cold Patch Applied

- 725 Linear Feet of Backhoe Ditching
- 12,261.3 Linear Feet of Shoulder Rebuilt
- 96 Minor Sign(s) Installed or Maintained
- 2 Drainage Structures Installed or Replaced
- 12 Shoulder Miles of Litter and Debris Removal
- 237 Linear Feet of Guardrail or Fence Maintained
- 293.1 Center Lane Mile(s) Patrolling and Inspecting

The town does not maintain a public water or sewer system. Each individual lot owner is responsible for obtaining their own potable water source as well as providing sewage disposal systems in accordance with county and state requirements. Currently all storm waters are directed via ditching and or culverts to streams that drain directly into the ocean or other bodies of water located within the town's boundaries.

Figure XX, Location of town facilities

Map F-XX Town of Gouldsboro Infrastructure Map

source; state of Maine

Current & Future Adequacy:

Road salt and sand costs often fluctuate seasonally in the northeast. Additionally, the cost of repaving has increased significantly in recent years. This, combined with the fact that most of the town's roads are in fair to poor condition, present a significant future cost to the town which has limited resources. In the past, road repairs consisted for the most part of hot topping over existing roads. This does not address narrowness, limited shoulders, sharp curves, exposed hazards, pavement drop-offs, steep slopes and limited clear zones along roadsides. Town roads need major overhauls, and the town does not have the resources to accomplish them.

With no municipal water or sewage treatment system the Town is restricted in its ability to support future residential or industrial growth. Development of multiple residential housing options is particularly restricted. This impacts its ability to support low-income housing options or to invite in acceptable industrial developments. Also the town needs to ensure that adequate building lot sizes are maintained in order to support individual septic or sewer systems in order to not have an impact on groundwater resources.

12. Town Office

Current Conditions:

The current town office, within the public service building, was constructed in 1950 and consists of 2,000 square feet. Major rooms include 560 square feet of office space for the Select Board, Secretaries, and Code Enforcement Officer, a 730 square foot meeting room and voting area, and 300 square feet of offices for the Town Clerk and Treasurer, respectively. Other rooms include the vault, bathrooms, kitchen, and general egress areas.

Current & Future Adequacy:

The current town office space meets current minimum needs. The town’s meeting room is a small space that can only seat approximately 30 people. The room is not conducive to supporting any type of communication technology such as video conferencing. The town office is further constrained by a significant lack of parking. Currently between the town office and the adjacent Prospect Harbor Women’s Club (PHWC) facility, deeded to the town, there are only 18 parking spots. This is barely acceptable for normal town selectmen or committee meetings. These 18 spots do not even come close to supporting any type of event that generates significant public interest. For example, the town recently hosted a forum/presentation on affordable housing. Over 40 people attended. All the parking resources of the town office, PHWC, and the neighboring Methodist church were full. Some attendees had to park along the main street, which is dangerous, especially during the winter when snow banks hinder full off street parking.

Figure-XX; Gouldsboro Town Office, Fire Station #1



Library

Current Conditions:

The Dorcas Library, the main library that serves the town of Gouldsboro, is not operated by the town. The Dorcas Library was started informally by the Dorcas Society of Prospect Harbor in 1932. They constructed the cottage which houses the library today. In 1932, the library started with two rooms, one where the members of the Dorcas Society did their quilting and the other where the library was located. The library was started when the members decided to donate their own books and let people in the community come borrow them. In 1956 a children's room was added and in 1978 a large, new Harbor View room was added to the back of the building. The library subsists off of donations, which the town has historically donated money to assist in library operations. The Dorcas Library Association officially incorporated and is a non-profit [501c3] organization. The Dorcas Library Association has an all-volunteer Board of Trustees. Library board members served as officers and library directors of the organization until 2015, when the first paid library director was hired. In 2018, the library hired an additional librarian. Currently, the Dorcas Library is attempting to raise funds in order to provide stable revenues allowing them to maintain current operations and with the hope of expanding open hours, services, and collections.

Current & Future Adequacy:

The library meets most standards and guidelines from the Maine State Library Association and no future upgrades or changes are required at this time.

13. Community Centers

Current Conditions:

In 1983 the Town built the Gouldsboro Recreation Center, a 6448 square foot building adjacent to the grammar school, which has since been closed. The building is an open structure that hosts many of the town's government and recreational events. It features 44 parking spots that can handle most minor events. Events such as the town's annual meeting significantly stress the parking capabilities. Gouldsboro Recreation Center is further discussed and described in Chapter F (Recreation & Health).

The town also has the Prospect Harbor's Women's Club building located at 61 Main Street in Prospect Harbor. The building serves as a seasonal meeting place. It has a 2400 square foot common room and has an attached kitchen. The building is not used during the winter months.

Figure-XX; Prospect Harbor Women's Club

Broadband Connectivity

Current Conditions:

Current broadband access is dependent on location and what service providers are available to service that location. This could include cable providers, over the air providers, or even satellite internet access.

Broadband access is critical for economic development, education and healthcare. Gouldsboro has partnered with Winter Harbor to create the Schoodic Peninsula Broadband Committee and have been actively working towards building a fiber-based broadband internet network for the peninsula.

Current & Future Adequacy:

In order to bring some sanity to the communities' ability to access broadband resources, the Town of Gouldsboro has partnered with the Town of Winter Harbor to address both towns' current patchwork capabilities. The Schoodic Peninsula Broadband Committee was formed in 2022 with the goal to expand or build Internet access in the towns of Gouldsboro and Winter Harbor so that every household and business will have access to at least a 100 Mbps upload and download Internet connection. That work will continue in 2023 and beyond with development of a high-level network design and community engagement on the project with the help of the Maine Connectivity Authority. In 2022 the Schoodic Peninsula Broadband Committee was awarded a "Get Ready Connect" grant from Maine Connectivity Authority to continue with planning for building (or expanding) a network to ensure 100 Mbps symmetrical internet connections to pretty much every customer in all of Gouldsboro and Winter Harbor. The committee's next steps are to review requests for information (RFI) results from existing providers. The committee is also entering into discussions on the development of a high-level network design for these communities.

Community Medical/Health Facilities:

Northern Light Health operates the Eleanor Widener Dixon Memorial Clinic in Gouldsboro. The clinic supports family and geriatric medicine. There is also a physical therapy practice at the clinic. Northern Light Health is the most expensive integrated health care system in Maine. It provides care to people from Portland to Presque Isle and from Blue Hill to Greenville. It comprises ten member hospitals, including the Maine Coast Memorial Hospital, a small facility located in Ellsworth. It is the closest full-service hospital to Gouldsboro. Major hospitals are located 60 miles away in Bangor.

Limitations on Development:

Current Conditions:

Gouldsboro is a small rural town with little public transportation opportunities. There is virtually no public transportation. Downeast Transportation, Hancock County's public transit provider, offers a five-day-a-week commuter bus service between Milbridge and the Jackson Laboratory located on Mount Desert Island. Services such as taxis or ride share services, such as UBER or LYFT, are not available. There is no Park and Ride facility within the town boundaries. The town has no centralized sewer or potable water systems. This lack of facilities serves as a limitation on some aspects of development, particularly multi-unit housing options. Lack of multi-unit housing also serves as a restriction on affordable housing options.

- **Summary of Forecast Capital Expenditures**

Currently there are no capital investment planned though \$20,000 is planned to be used to re-roof Fire Station #1. Salt Shed ?? Other???

Table F-5: Historic Mill Rates 10- Years

<i>Year</i>	<i>Historic Mill Rate/\$1,000</i>
<i>2022/2023</i>	<i>\$13.92</i>
<i>2021/2022</i>	<i>\$12.25</i>
<i>2020/2021</i>	<i>\$10.45</i>
<i>2019/2020</i>	<i>\$10.15</i>
<i>2018/2019</i>	<i>\$9.20</i>
<i>2017/2018</i>	<i>\$8.90</i>
<i>2016/2017</i>	<i>\$8.74</i>
<i>2015/2016</i>	<i>\$8.45</i>
<i>2014/2015</i>	<i>\$8.30</i>
<i>2013/2014</i>	<i>\$7.95</i>

14. Goals & Objectives

GOAL: Advance the health, safety, and welfare of Gouldsboro by ensuring the provision of government services in a fiscally responsible manner.			
Objective	Strategy	Responsible Party(ies)	Timeline
Ensure the town can expand parking to meet the needs of the public and municipal employees and officials.	Expand the parking and access to town facilities to accommodate increased programming and functions.	Select Board	10 years
Continue to explore opportunities for--and feasibility of – inter-municipal provision of services such as fire and police protection and other services.	Communicate, coordinate, and fund cooperative opportunities with neighboring municipalities. Select Board, their designees, HCPC	Select Board, their designees, HCPC	On-going
Mitigate the amount of waste entering the solid waste stream and reduce municipal costs for garbage disposal.	Increase inter-town cooperation to explore alternative options and methods for solid waste disposal.	Select Board, their designees, HCPC	On-going
Ensure that plant and equipment required for road maintenance keep pace with evolving needs for road maintenance, repairs, and regulations.	Research alternative materials and methods and adjust as needed. Establish partnerships with local municipalities to investigate the creation of “buying pools” to utilize the concept of buying in bulk, resulting in a lower per unit price. For example, creating joint paving projects with neighboring towns. Monitor and maintain current equipment for longevity.	Select Board or designees	On-Going

<p>Ensure fire protection is available and adequate for all residents of Gouldsboro while not becoming an overly burdensome tax expense.</p>	<p>The fire department will work with the town to communicate all needs, facilities, equipment, or training, and ensure that these needs are included in capital improvement plans</p>	<p>Gouldsboro Volunteer Fire Department, Select Board</p>	<p>On-going</p>
	<p>Recognize that maintaining adequate fire protection will entail additional investment in plant and equipment and addressing the difficulty of basing fire protection solely on volunteers.</p>	<p>Gouldsboro Volunteer Fire Department, Select Board</p>	<p>On-going</p>
<p>Ensure efficient ways to communicate with the Gouldsboro Community including ensuring the Town website continues to be an important resource</p>	<p>Study options for upgrading the website for ease of use and maintenance as well as broader capabilities</p>	<p>Select Board/webmaster</p>	<p>Immediate & ongoing</p>
	<p>Utilize the Town facebook page for meeting info/community news etc.</p>	<p>Town Manager</p>	<p>Immediate & Ongoing</p>

