

What do you like about the vision?

I'm very excited about the village area, and dedication to keeping the small town feel
Character/history, attractive village area, good place to raise a family
Keeping the quality of our resources as a top priority
Encouraging- I just hope that the town government, select board, planning board etc. will allow for modifications for situations that are directly reflected in our vision statement. Our MOTO is open for business, however there
It encompasses everyone local and out of town.
The small town character part.
The desire for Poland to be clean.
Home town feel
Accurate to the needs of our community
the part of keeping poland a small town
I like bullets 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10
I like the downtown village
Quality of life emphasis
small town feel; village area
I am glad for the time and effort being spent to create the vision statement, but it can all be implemented.
The overall concept is nice.
supporting our historic place and tourism
like small town character with clean water and open scenic trails.
The careful stewardship of open spaces and scenic views. Senior and family friendly environments and
I love the vision.
Preserving the small town feel while inviting new businesses
It's clear
Small town village. No big box stores
That we want to be a place to stop not a place to drive thru
Modernizing Poland and making it more attractive while keeping a small town feel
Diversifying the tax base, so to not rely on residential taxes.
It encompasses all the necessary points to grow the town without ruining the best things about it.
I like the focus on having definable village area and making Poland clean and attractive. I also like the effort to
I like the thought of welcoming new businesses and serving as a good place to raise a family.
We need to invite more business to the area regardless of box stores or small business to assist with the tax base or the young families who want all the extras of daycare after school care and low taxes will never happen.
The feel of being a village and remaining so
keeping our natural resources clean, limited growth but seeking small businesses.
I like that the small town character should and will remain. Keeping the lakes clean is very important and a high priority. I also like the idea that we should try to have more of a village feeling as there was for many years here.
Covers all important points.
I like it all!
The "village" feel is an important factor. Having someplace for our younger generation to gather can make a big
Community oriented, village center, concentrated effort for independent businesses while realizing that National
Caring for the recreational areas.
The village area with shops!
Small town preservation
Healthy longevity
Itâ€™s sounds fine and looks normal for any town that wants better for their community
Need to see a clearer plan
Nicely balanced
The village aspect and supporting families who need extra assistance.
I like the careful development while maintaining our small town image and feel.
nothing

What do you like about the vision?

senior housing
I think this sums up how I would like to see Poland develop.
Village area
Developing a "village area" and community gathering spaces. Right now it feels like the town has no central
I've lived here most of my 56 years and have seen much change and wish to keep it the small town community
Lake quality a top priority
I like the "village area" and local business orientated idea.
There is a desire to bring in business.
Focus on Poland's natural resources. Effort to maintain small town, village appearance.
Most are continued visions from 2008.
I absolutely love the "Village area" vision and finding ways to make it a better place to raise children. Lack of quality childcare is a huge issue in this area. The sewer coming all the way down to down town is critical to
Seems to hit on all the key areas that are currently, and likely will be important to Poland and it's residents.
Keeping the small town feel of the town. Too many towns in Cumberland County have become over run with subdivisions and have lost a lot of the charm. I also like the focus on affordable housing, ensuring Poland is a
Attractive and Safe... Maybe clean up of residential yard littered with old cars leaking oil and gas into ground
Nothing
Nice town appearance.
Seems like a good overview
That we are trying to keep the town feel to it.
Community vision
Locally oriented, maintaining history.
That the small town character will remain, and we will have, and need more businesses
desire for definable village area consisting of some retail and residential mix, not strictly a municiple complex.
Village
Everything if you follow through
I like the small town feel concept
The focus on environmental responsibility and preservation of land and water
It doesn't involve training laser equipped sharks
I like the first bullet point. Our forest are more important then housing communities and town maintained sewer

What do you not like about the vision?

Nothing - it all sounds fantastic

It would be ok to have some tasteful franchises, mixed with small local businesses.

It does not have much for the younger generations. I know that the community area behind the library will be established but I would like to see something like Casco with a building for use of colder days or bringing in stem workshops or something similar. Growing not just our sports part of the rec department but giving other kids other options as well.

It's a constant battle, more residents bring more businesses which bring more residents.

There is no timeline to achieve, too many goals and it doesn't match reality. Poland is a high property tax town that is VERY dirty. Look at the trash on the sides of the roads! Business has been limited to fast food and dollar stores.

I have a well. I don't like where sewer and water projects may lead us.

Not clear about type of businesses we want to attract

clean up residential on rt 11 and 26 of all junk cars and front yard trash.

bullet 3 is vague since it states "consistent with town desires. The "vision" defines town desires. I am also concerned that several areas on Route 26 look like strip development. Additional water and sewer will just further enable strip development of Rt 26. It is a catch 22. I am sure some people think that the sewer will help protect the lake, when, in reality, stormwater runoff from developed land has the greatest adverse impact on Maine lakes.

I miss the Poland corner store.

Poland needs as much economic development as possible, e.g., expanded industry, manufacturing, perhaps an Amazon distribution facility? Replacement facility for the outdated UPS distribution site in Lewiston as Poland is close enough to make this economically viable for such a lucrative development.

You speak of the village area which is nice, however having a boat storage on our Maine Street isn't a good fit for our community. People traveling through would like to see a place to shop.

NA

I do not see the cohesion between many of the vision statements. To attain, and maintain, several of them will require compromising others - that is the reality. Statements formulated from information gathered from different sectors of our community will result in opposing goals for several of those sectors. I am not saying that anyone of them is wrong - they simply have different goals that do not complement each another. From my past experiences, those with the loudest voice, and largest financial investment, get the most attention. One reason we relocated to Poland was because of the current vision statements. In re-reading them, and comparing them to the new suggestions, it appears the small town character that is mentioned in the first new vision statement will be in jeopardy. I don't know what the reason is for the rewording of several of the original statements. Maybe I am reading too much into these changes. It indicates to me that more development, over a wider area of the town, is on the horizon. I know that this is not a legally binding document, but rather it is a "feel good" document, attempting to bring as many people into the conversation. I just hope that it is not paving the way to having the town become another Windham.

Some of the specifics don't seem realistic for how our town is set up.

nothing

none

The vision sounds good... attractive might mean hiring some people to pick up all the garbage purposefully thrown along our roads.

Some aspects need to be actively addressed in order to maintain the vision and are likely costly endeavors. For example: cut through streets from one major route to another are traveled at high rates of speeds through residential areas. Due to the large area it would be difficult to regularly patrol the streets in order to address this.

I like the vision

Will it lead to action or just words on paper ?

What do you not like about the vision?

Nothing. I'd like town officials to be more aggressive in supporting the cleanliness of Poland. Certain businesses (Sam's on Route 26) and residences show a lack of pride of ownership that brings down values of the area

The village area is vague.

There's not much I don't like here- I'd like to see something that encourages homeowners to take better care of their own property and be more invested in curb appeal. We all need to work together to make Poland beautiful.

N/A

Poland needs to progress and grow and the small town CHARM of the town needs to be a low priority. STOP living in the past, create employment opps for people here in the town. Those of us who work 6-6 out of town can't even use our own Town Office without taking time off from work.

Agree with it all

no mention of working toward carbon neutrality.

I didn't read anything that I didn't agree with in the vision.

Some are contradictory: maintaining small town feel/history while encouraging economic growth. Implies local start up or home grown. Need to encourage this kind of growth through tax credit or grants.

With so many residential properties that are waterfront I don't see us being able to state with confidence that the tax base will not be dependent upon residents.

The business atmosphere Poland "creates" must be led by someone who knows. Not a local good 'ole boy.

Affordable housing?

Seems ok

Love it what is t there to like

Well we all want our children to want to stay and grow in their home town to raise children and start a family of their own more jobs and homes is what the town needs more of

Too much gray area to decide if I like it or not.

Like everything. Seems well covered for all.

I'm curious about the senior housing as it relates to town support. Tax credit?

Not so interested in affordable housing. I don't want trailer parks or apartments.

no open space plan

lack of a roadside shade tree planting program

Nothing

I like the consideration of focusing on how we can help working parents. I think we need to focus more a bit on development of youth gathering spaces like a community playground with a splash pad, walking trails and basketball courts. That would naturally attract people to gather and support children bonding. The school playground is not very welcoming as it is tucked behind the school.

Of course we need to grow, but sometimes its not necessarily in the best interest of the town, just how a small group want it to be. Over past 20 years too many houses built which takes away the feel of a rural town. If I wanted to live in a place like Auburn, I would have.

Does not have an element to review zoning to allow for more housing

Route 26 should have residential space limited.

It should not necessarily discriminate against big business. Sometimes these stores are anchors for the small, local shops.

Affordable housing can often be interpreted as group and/or block style housing. This should potentially be avoided in Poland.

It doesn't involve training laser equipped sharks

We will continue to add sewer and water services in more areas of the community that serve businesses and residents.

What do you not like about the vision?

I disagree with the village area concept. Supporting all businesses regardless if they are a "box store" or not should be a top priority to fulfill the mission of assuring the tax base is not overly dependent on residential properties. We do not have a true "village" or downtown and we should stay true to what we ARE, not be jealous of what other towns may have. Most towns with a village, struggle to fill store fronts and maintain businesses in those store fronts... Also, Senior friendly housing options is to the benefit of one developer and not necessarily a broad town vision...

I love it all

Bullet #2 seems to indicate we are looking for small businesses only. Not sure what constitutes a "small business", but surely do not want to exclude any business that wants to locate in Poland that brings good well paying jobs, has a similar vision to Poland residents, environmentally supportive and increases the overall tax base of Poland. Would hate to think that companies like Poland Spring Water would not be welcome in the future. We should make it clear that all businesses are welcome that further the vision of the town, not just small businesses, that is just being short sighted and revolves around a false assumption that small businesses are always better than larger ones. Bullet #9 addresses home affordability for young families, but does not address the increasing issue of seniors being unable to hold onto their homes due to limited fixed income and rising cost of home ownership. Assuming this is an oversight and not an exclusion of our seniors.

I wish there was something in here about making Poland more walkable/bikeable.

A Plan of attack

Everything

Need more local business. Coffee shop . General Store

Narrow vision. Private roads that wish to be public should be considered. Need on sidewalks or walking area on shoulder of Rt 11. You cannot ride a bike or run/walk without fearing for your life. Minimal locally owned businesses on main roads. We don't need another Dunkin or Sub shop.

Vision is vague and can be interpreted in many ways to fit the needs and wants of those that designed it.

Creating more tourist attractions.

The only thing mentioned about schools is before and after care. What about the education offered? Or the employment opportunities offered within the schools?

It's all ok as long as Poland does not get too overcrowded

Contrary to some others opinions, there is not enough emphasis put on planned residential development of single family homes. The town has one major manufacturer with supporting services providers, and a few others of much smaller size (MB, Jolly F, Pike). There likely won't be others flocking here in the near term future and, a likely downsizing of those that are here. The seasonal residential areas have been transitioning to full time more and more as people become more mobile and there are more retirees. More people will create the need for more retail and commercial development. More residents with school age children are needed to maintain the RSU population as the currently contracting number of students make it more difficult to attract teaching talent, provide a more collaborative learning environment, and additional learning options. Besides an always increasing tax burden, the local RSU basically is too small with too much overhead at its current attendance.. Auburn has stated the city wants to pursue adding 2000 more residences in the coming years and is pursuing the zoning changes needed to promote infill and redevelopment of existing outdated and unoccupied areas, I was in a meeting with the mayor a few weeks ago and this is a high priority with Auburn Economic Commission, Commissioners, and Mayor since their studies show they need a new base of residents to support attracting development and education advancements.

There is no oversight on, for instance the mess on the end of North Raymond Road. Trash, junk vehicles, appliances etc.

We know Poland Maine is not a business-friendly town that would have to change and it takes time

If we are going to have the major routes be kept safe you need more patrol on the areas on route 26 where the speed drops from 50 to 35 people travel way to fast thru there

Nothing

How do you want Poland to look in 10 years?

Thriving small town with a strong village or Main Street. But still small enough to feel safe, be clean, and healthy for the

Small restaurants, shopping (Trader Joes), community recreation center (pool, basketball courts, etc.)

Hope to see the "Village area" feel is added upon, possibly more sidewalks, shops, restaurants...similar to other area towns

Grown, desirable, workable relationships between local residents and town government

Hopefully this makes sense as I cannot read what I wrote or get back to where I typed to reread it. I would like it to be able to withhold the growing community, especially as towns like Westbrook and then Gray become over populated and people are looking to move more north. These cities/large towns will be over capacity in less than 10 years and we will have to be able to keep ahead of that.

Quiet and peaceful, not North Windham's 302.

Less crowded, less franchises, more businesses that support the community (butcher shop, local produce, Maine made products)

Rural

More small businesses, local artisan shops, a fitness center and a clearly defined town center perhaps with a gazebo and field for events.

a mini mall that has a bakery outside farmers market a gym local quality crafts supported and published by the town

Clusters of development around Poland Center/5 Corners (Rt 11) and a smaller cluster around intersection of 26 and 122. Open spaces along Rt 26 in other places. A few cluster housing developments that have open space along with recreational trails on the preserved open land. I am not sure that the planned Housing Authority development has any recreational amenities.

I wish it would be a quaint flourishing downtown. Coffee shop, store bakery etc..

Economically viable. Everything else stems from making that happen.

More businesses to help our tax base.

small town; municipal complex sewer to down town

We hope Poland will look much like it does today. With all the change that is going on, and planned, in surrounding communities, I truly believe that we will be more attractive than ever - as a "bedroom" community rather than a bustling community (one that is quickly moving forward, with no regard to the residents).

Similar to how we are now. Focused on being a rural community with some shops and restaurants.

like the taxes to remain stable

continue down the same consistent path with ability to amend if necessary.

Very much like it does now....but with more emphasis on the attractive by having garage along our roads picked up.

I would love to see the village area grow and some of the properties to be restored/cleaned up.

Clean up village area, few small businesses, install sewer and water in village district, create light manufacturing zone, make better use of sewer, gas, and three phase electric lines on Lewiston Jct are and Empire Rd,

I like to see more of a down town area

Similar with more downtown little business.

A town with character not a town that continues to approve everything on the table - my kids can't believe three pot houses approved in town and still sit on the road empty buildings with no real businesses

Cleaner, more modern, and more input from citizens along with more development.

Fiscally responsible, grow a business friendly corridor without stalemating Rt. 26.

I want Poland to have a defining downtown village-like area with small shops etc. so the town doesn't look like a pass through place. I'd like to see the sewage/water systems expanded especially around the pond areas - we have significant radon/uranium issues!!

A small-town, friendly and welcoming community.

How do you want Poland to look in 10 years?

I would love Poland to have a vibrant downtown village area with local restaurants and shops. I'd love to see a focus on landscaping in public areas- maybe pretty trees and lamp posts along 26 and landscaping in the median instead of green paint. Maybe trying to keep industrial, constructions based companies out of the downtown and encourage them to set up shop off some side streets. No more broken down buildings with trash in the yard (anywhere) but especially on the main roads. I'd just love for it to look like a quaint, lakeside village. Poland IS a great place to live, we just need to help it be the best that it can be.

More businesses/places to eat to be added and continue to provide quality education to students and offer great recreation programming to families

Like its not 1800. The CLUC in this town are oppressive especailly with architecture limitations. Tourists dont stop in our down town because there is no reason to stop there.

A small village with a center filled with shops we residents would patronize not just people from away passing through

about the same, still with good schools. Our rec dept is a credit to our town .

I want the Town of Poland to continue to have a small town feeling. An intimate feeling that the residents feel they are a part of the whole. I don't want to see it become overly commercialized and to have some thought as to where businesses will be located. Rather than here there and everywhere. To make sure we have a plan in place and follow the plan. Through the years there has been too much after thought on different things. We should have done this or we should have done that. It is important to make sure that we keep up on the plan once it is in place and to keep reviewing as things change.

Similar to today with more local business.

I want a charming and historical thriving small town.

Supportive community with community events being held periodically

More pavement - dirt roads make a small town seem smaller and not "keeping up with the times"

Get rid of the accepted drug mentality, treat woman with respect, create full time, livable wage earning jobs. AND make land and housing affordable for residents, not outsiders!!

Like a quaint New England town with character

Small town feel with controlled growth

I like the coinage not too big yet growing enough to make way for change

Hoping they put in more side walks or a community park

Quiet, peaceful, family oriented, community oriented,

A nice place to call home. Would see more community get together spots such as the improvement for the downtown area.area.

A welcoming community for all.

No more storage businesses, I think we have enough. Maybe a pizza place, gym to work out, and a place for the older kids to hang out.

forested land protected from logging

I would like to see more businesses in the village area. Don't want anymore marijuana or gun shop businesses.

Clean, affordable and well maintained

My dream would be to have the Poland Spring Resort to be revived and also turned into some sort of country club. It would attract more people, give families options of a place to gather, activities for kids and would attract people from local towns to Poland. It's such a great location with incredible location, just super dated.

Because our town is rural, I want to ensure there's restrictions and limits on cannabis production, growing and selling of the product.

a community with mixed use business and expanded residential

There needs to be ordinances in place so houses and yards look respectable.

More ATV access and food choices.

As a major thruway to mountains and casino and hotels, possible opportunity to become a destination stop in between other excursions. Increased effort to create natural resource access.

How do you want Poland to look in 10 years?

I decided to move to Poland due to it being a great place to raise a family. I want to see a strong rec department, schools and safe community to assure this happens.

I would like to see Poland have restaurants, shops, and attractions/events for community members. A place to listen to music, something to do indoors as well as outdoors in the winter. I would also love access to Thompson Lake... that's probably a pipe dream.

Would hope that it remains a vibrant and growing community and one of the most desirable communities to live in the Greater Lewiston/Auburn area. A tall order to accomplish.

I would like Poland to still maintain a lot of its natural beauty while still developing and being attractive to businesses (especially small, Maine owned businesses). I would love a great park, playground, bike path, etc for my family to use. I would love the town to grow with the times while also make sure we don't price Mainers out of living here.

A town center... less municipal buildings and storage units on the main roads. More family friendly and less industrial.

An outdoor recreation center, tons of hiking, biking boating fishing hunting places

Quaint village

I'd like to have a "downtown" that is more vibrant. Less McDonald's and corporate owned businesses, more private/small business. Walking areas on roads.

Focus more on our children. Getting them involved more in the community in hopes that they will want to stay here and keep this their home.

Small owned businesses and more programming for our youth.

Clean, safe, welcoming, and not covered in marijuana plants and dispensaries.

To still be a small town, and good place to raise a family, and good businesses in town

Poland is full of many older, unmaintained, delapidated, and blighted properties where owners are cash poor but land rich. Would really like to see incentives for redevelopment and to clean up and improve these people's way of life via a mix of zoning changes and government incentives. Otherwise, other than some solar power fields, I don't see much changing. In addition to the current planned senior housing, the area really could use a rehabilitation and skilled nursing facility as there really isn't one within a 10 mile radius and even those closest have dated facilities.

Need lighted fields for recreation. That said, fields. Outdoor skating rink with zamboni and lights. Groomed cross county ski trail, cinder base bike path. A beach not on a 55 mph road. Pavilions for rent for family gatherings. A pier on a lake with ability to have music festivals. Maple sugar woods with sugar house. Skate board park. Ski club with lessons and transportation. Disc golf park. A village, safe, quaint and strictly zoned to look 100 plus years old yet modern. The main street will be closed to vehicle traffic, so ample parking.

Would love to see small business on all major roads I would like to see a Level Playing Field for everyone

That it's a small town feel. I would love a local dog park in the village area

A strong small business mecca

Not a one restaurant, 53 storage facility town...

With some preserved forest land. No more sewer and water. Residents have wells that work just fine.