

## Appendix C. COMMUNITY VISION STATEMENT

The Community Vision Statement summarizes Machiasport's desired future community character in terms of economic development, natural and cultural resource conservation, transportation systems, land use patterns and its role in the region.

### ***Machiasport Today***

*Machiasport is the kind of community where neighbors know each other and family friendships often go back generations. Its history & natural beauty, access to the sea, a richness of marine and natural resources all contribute to the quality of life in Machiasport today.*

*The sea is an important resource in Machiasport's economic and social life. Fisheries and seafood processing are valued part of our heritage and continue to be the economic mainstay of our community. At the same time, newcomers and longtime residents alike increasingly find work in nearby communities.*

*Machiasport is home to an increasing number of new residents. Newcomers and longtime residents enjoy the natural beauty along Machiasport's many miles of varied coastline which include coastal islands, extensive tidal flats, salt marsh, sand bars and rocky headlands.*

### **A. Special Places**

*Machiasport is a rural community with strong ties to the water and the land. Among the places that Machiasport residents hold most dear are places where people get down to the water for work, recreation and to enjoy scenic coastal views. These include working waterfronts (such as at Bucks Harbor), places of traditional access to the shore (such as clam flats at Point of Flats and elsewhere), and places of scenic beauty (including the Jasper Beach, the Point of Main, Libby Island Light and scenic islands of Machias Bay).*

*Machiasport's long and rich history is also reflected in the community's cherished places. The first naval battle of the American Revolution was fought in waters just off Machiasport. Historic sites including Fort O'Brien, Liberty Hall and Libby Island Light bear witness to Machiasport's history. They include rural churches, historic cemeteries, and the many small farms that contribute to Machiasport's agricultural heritage.*



*Long before Europeans arrived, the People of the Dawn etched images – known as petroglyphs – in Machiasport’s brittle coastal shale. These petroglyphs sites are truly unique and sacred places. Petroglyph sites in Machiasport include scenes from daily life, local fauna and abstract designs. Images of early European sailing vessels are among the only artifacts in the world that record early contacts between Europeans and North Americans from a Native American point of view.*

*While long time residents of Machiasport are aware of the many special places in town, due to a variety of factors many of Machiasport’s special places are under-appreciated or misused. Some public and historic buildings – such as Liberty Hall – have fallen into disrepair. In other case, long-standing traditions of permissive use and access to special places that exist on private property is disappearing due to changing land-ownership patterns and/or abuse by a small number of individuals. Lack of proper facilities (e.g. trails, parking) limits public access to other places where public access is allowed. And in the case of yet other places—such as petroglyphs and shell middens – even occasional visitation can lead to irreparable damage.*

## **B. The Vision: Machiasport in 2030**

*The Town of Machiasport wishes to retain its marine and natural resource-based industries, its scenic and natural beauty and its small-town way of life. At the same time, Machiasport in 2030 should remain affordable to a diversity of people, young and old, fishermen and office workers, newcomers and long time residents.*

*We envision that in 2030, fishing and seafood process will continue to be an important source of employment for Machiasport residents. Growth in seafood processing will primarily occur near existing marine infrastructure in and around Bucks Harbor. Infrastructure improvements including an alternate truck route around the Village, pedestrian, dredging of Bucks Harbor, a small marina and appropriate development of wind power will make Machiasport a more pleasant place to live and do business. New retail businesses including both those that cater to local residents and to tourism will be attracted to town – providing additional opportunities for year-round employment.*

*In 2030, Machiasport’s scenic coastal resources and quality of life will also continue to attract new residents and seasonal visitors. Many Machiasport residents will continue to find employment in nearby communities. A restored Liberty Hall will be a point of community pride and place where both newcomers and long-time residents will come together for community events. Trails and other recreational facilities developed at a new Town Park (located near the Town Office) will provide enhanced outdoor recreation opportunities for all residents.*

*The public will enjoy continued access to Machiasport’s special places for a diversity of residents and purposes. Through on-going voluntary partnerships with landowners and other efforts, working waterfront access will be available to those who make their living on the sea. And through a mix of public and private efforts, recreational access will be enhanced for kayaking, beachcombing and the enjoyment of scenic vistas.*

### **Machiasport's Villages and Hamlets**

*Overall, Machiasport in 2030 will look much as it does today. Each of Machiasport's village areas and neighborhoods will maintain its own unique character.*

***Bucks Harbor** should continue to function as working waterfront. The harbor will continue to be used by a variety of marine uses, including traditional fisheries, recreational boating and aquaculture. Bucks Harbor Public Pier will continue to be a valued community resource. Bucks Harbor will continue to be a center of employment in Machiasport and local residents will continue to find year-round employment in seafood processing and marine businesses. Some new businesses – such as small retail stores and restaurants – may add to the mix of economic activity. These may include tourism related businesses, such as a small restaurant, artist's galleries or bed-and-breakfast attracted by the picturesque working harbor. The concentration of business and employment may also make possible the development of workforce housing, affordable to young families and consistent with the historic pattern of development in this quintessential down east fishing village.*

*In **The Village** (also known as '**Machiasport**') a restored Liberty Hall will be a center for community activity. A small marina will meet the needs of recreational boaters and kayakers and may provide space for a small retail business such as a restaurant or gift shop. Other small retail business – possibly including galleries and a general store – will cater to seasonal tourism and offer new amenities for local residents. Sidewalks and an alternate truck route that diverts heavy traffic away from the historic village will improve walkability within the Village, allowing residents and visitors to better enjoy the area's historic character. It will also allow for on-street parking to accommodate activities at Liberty Hall and the marina.*

***Starboard** will continue to be a small year round community augmented by seasonal residents. Artists will continue to be attracted by the area's striking natural beauty and unique cultural landscape. A small summer artists' community will support tourism related businesses such as rental cottages or a bed-and-breakfast. If water and sewerage issues can be address, the Air Force base site may be redeveloped to include mix-income residential housing. Other opportunities for redevelopment include a municipal park with recreational facilities to complement existing facilities at Jasper Beach.*

***Larabee**, with a strong year-round community as well as the Post Office, Fire Department and Town Office, will continue to be a center of civic life in town. A new Town Park and other improvements (perhaps including improved access to the Heath & secured public access to the water) will improve opportunities for outdoor recreation.*

*In 2030 the **East Side** and **other coastal and inland areas** of Machiasport will stay pretty much the same as they are now. Single- and small-lot subdivision, particularly along the coast will contribute some additional housing stock. Residential uses will be rounded out with traditional rural land uses, including woodlots, small agricultural operations, and outdoor recreation. Machias Bay with its rich waters and scenic headlands and coastal islands will continue to provide a livelihood for many and inspiration for all.*

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The Comprehensive Plan Committee hosted a community visioning meeting on January 21, 2009 at the Fort O'Brien School. Participants identified their favorite or most special places in Machiasport. The large group also provided answers in an open forum to several questions about their vision for Machiasport. These are reproduced here and a list of participants at the community Vision meeting is provided at the end of this section.

**Special Places in Machiasport:**

- Liberty Hall
- Gates House
- "Historic District"
- Machiasport Congregational Church
- Point of Main
- Fort O'Brien
- Petroglyphs
- Shell middens
- Larabee Baptist Church
- The Heath
- Trails
- East Side Cemetery
- Clam flats
- Fishings areas
- Town Office complex
- The Yurt Foundation
- Mill Pond
- Jasper Beach
- Bucks Harbor
- Town Pier
- Libby Island Light
- Gray's Beach
- Finn's Beach
- Seal haul-out (Shag Ledge and Hog Is)
- Public islands & kayaking
- Starboard School (former)
- The Town is a peninsula

**Sign In List**

Jim Miner  
Betty Grant  
Rose Arseneau  
Barbara Maloy  
Rhiannon Hampson-Jovin  
Jim Hannedy