

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION AND GOALS

A. INTRODUCTION

Preparing a community master plan is one of the most important responsibilities of a Planning Board and is the basis for the ordinances, regulations and policies that guide development and growth in the Town. New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated 674:1-4 give the Planning Board the authority to prepare a master plan and describe the chapters, adapted to the needs of each community, that such a plan must contain. This Master Plan contains discussion and analysis of: 1) Goals; 2) Population and Housing; 3) Natural Resources; 4) Economic Development; 5) Transportation; 6) Existing Land Uses; 7) Historic Resources; 8) Community Facilities; 9) Future Land Uses.

The 2006 Master Plan is an update of the 1995 Master Plan. This plan update was developed by the Planning Board over the course of a three-year time period with the assistance of the Town staff, the Nashua Regional Planning Commission, other consultants, experts and professionals from various fields. The Planning Board met monthly from June 2002 through January 2006. All of the information provided in the Master Plan was distributed to the Planning Board and the text reflects the discussion, recommendations and conclusions from each of their meetings.

The result of the work of the Planning Board is a Master Plan that considers the Town's short and long-term housing, transportation, natural resource, economic, land use, historic, and community facility needs. The plan is intended to address short-term needs while also providing guidance as to how Hudson will function and look as it approaches buildout. A significant amount of time is devoted to the remaining resources in the Town and strategies that can be used to ensure their protection for the benefit of Hudson's residents.

B. GOALS

1. Population and Housing

- Provide for an acceptable rate of growth in relation to the regional rate of growth and in keeping with the ability of the town to provide essential facilities and services.
- Incorporate available demographic and population data into evaluations of municipal services to meet the needs of current and future residents of Hudson.
- Provide reasonable opportunities for the development of housing affordable to families and individuals of all income levels.
- Maintain the existing balance between single-family, two-family and multi-family housing units.
- Encourage the use of open space developments to provide attractive, cohesive neighborhoods with adequate parks and open space, that are designed with sensitivity to the landscape.

2. Economic Development

- Encourage growth in employment, particularly of high quality, higher-wage professional, managerial and manufacturing jobs, to reduce unemployment and increase economic opportunities for Hudson residents.
 - i. Provide for the growth of commercial and light industrial uses in limited areas with adequate utility services and direct access to the State designated highway system.

- ii. Restrict the development of commercial and other non-industrial uses in industrial districts to reserve land for industrial development.
- iii. Conserve existing sewer capacity for future commercial and industrial development.
- iv. Develop a strategy for developing appropriate portions of the Merrimack River to attract shops, restaurants and other commercial enterprises that make use of the riverfront, while retaining and promoting its beauty.

3. Natural Resources

- Discourage the development of wetlands, steep slopes, floodplains, prime and important farmland soils, ridgelines and other sensitive lands.
- Encourage the appropriate use, conservation and development of the Merrimack Riverfront.
- Protect existing and potential public drinking water supplies and on-site wells, groundwater, and recharge areas from harmful developments, land use practices, and roadway contamination.
- Develop watershed-based planning techniques that include intermunicipal coordination of land uses in each watershed that spans town boundaries, such as the Musquash Brook Watershed, to ensure effective management and protection of the water resource.
- Designate and provide extra protection to the Town's prime wetlands and wetlands of importance based on their location and the benefits they provide.
- Encourage land use boards to keep up to date on the status of the state instream flow rules.
- Protect surface water resources in areas of existing or anticipated increased density from additional pollutant loads and increased flow associated with development.
- Adopt a shoreline protection ordinance consistent with the state model to permit Hudson to continue to regulate shoreline development at the local level.
- Develop an inventory and monitoring system of prime habitats and areas of significant flora and fauna for future conservation.
- Protect existing Town-owned land that is not currently protected as conservation land and take appropriate action to ensure that these parcels are permanently protected from future development or any adverse activities on the parcels.

4. Community Facilities

- Provide cost effective, conveniently located community facilities including schools, recreation, public safety, library, solid waste disposal, public water and public sewer facilities based upon community need and the ability of the town to pay.
- Plan for the expansion of existing community facilities to meet the existing and future needs of Town residents.
- Ensure that new development pays for its proportional share of capital facility costs.
- Encourage the preparation of an active, well publicized Capital Improvements Program (CIP).

5. Transportation

- Provide for a safe and efficient transportation system based on a hierarchy of arterial, collector and local roadways.
 - i. Promote the recommendations of the *Hudson-Litchfield Townwide Traffic Study, 2002*.

- ii. Advocate for development of the proposed Nashua/Hudson Circumferential highway while pursuing alternatives to highway construction in the event that the project fails to be implemented.
- iii. Revisit zoning standards and subdivision and site plan regulations to incorporate access management techniques to reduce the impact of new development and redevelopment on the circulation system.
- Encourage alternative transportation systems including provisions for bicycles, pedestrians and public transit.

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