

**PLANNING BOARD  
ANNUAL REPORT 1995-1996**

The Planning Board saw much growth during the 1995-96 year. Varied types of land use activity made for busy Planning Board meeting agendas.

The Planning Board held many regular plan review meetings. But the Planning Board also spent time working in the area of long range planning.

"To guide the development of the municipality" is the duty of the Hudson Planning Board. NH RSA 674 describes the duties of Planning Boards and the programs to accomplish those responsibilities. In its efforts to guide the future development of the Town of Hudson, the Planning Board also protects and promotes the health, safety and general welfare of this community.

The development of Hudson's future must be built on a good foundation which is the Master Plan. The Master Plan should reflect a "vision" shared by the people of Hudson, their elected and appointed officials, and employed staff. Key programs that rely on the Master Plan include: the Capital Improvement Program and Impact Fee process, the Zoning ordinances and regulations, the Town's official map and review of site plans and subdivision plans.

During the first half of 1996, the Planning Board, assisted by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission, completed the major update to the Master Plan, which was approved on July 31, 1996. This document contains significant data to aid Town officials and departments in making informed decisions regarding the future of Hudson.

Through the process of finalizing the "Update to the Master Plan", the Planning Board recognized that this document evolved with limited current input from Hudson citizens. The Planning Board established a Visioning Organization Committee charged with preparation for the Community Visioning Project. The goal of the Project is to create a "Civic Profile", which is an assessment of how a community functions, makes decisions, resolves conflicts, and utilizes resources. The project should gather participants representing a cross section of citizens and interests, including older high school students, who would have the opportunity to shape the future of their community. Assisted by trained facilitators, a "strategic plan" is devised for preparation of the next update to the Master Plan.