

Town of Madbury, New Hampshire

Master Plan: Toward the Year 2010

Appendix

(Consolidation of All Chapters)

Prepared by

Town of Madbury Planning Board

And

Strafford Regional Planning Commission

Appendix

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1. Introduction

New Hampshire law (RSA 674:2) describes the purpose and structure of a Master Plan as follows:

The purpose of the Master Plan is to:

- *Set down as clearly and practically as possible the best and most appropriate future development of the area under the jurisdiction of the Planning Board, to*
- *Aid the Board in designing ordinances that result in preserving and enhancing the unique quality of life and culture of New Hampshire, and to*
- *Guide the Board in the performance of its other duties in a manner that achieves the principles of smart growth, sound planning and wise resource protection.*

The Master Plan shall be a set of statements and land use and development principles for the municipality with such accompanying maps, diagrams, charts and descriptions as to give legal standing to the implementation ordinances and other measures of the planning board.

Each section of the Master Plan shall be consistent with the others in its implementation of the vision section.

The Master Plan shall be a public record subject to the provisions of RSA 91-A (i.e. pertaining to access to public records and meetings.)

The Master Plan shall include, at a minimum, the following sections:

- (a) A vision section that serves to direct the other sections of the plan. This section shall contain a set of statements which articulate the desires of the citizens affected by the Master Plan, not only for their locality but for the region and the whole state. It shall contain a set of guiding principles and priorities to implement that vision.*
- (b) A land use section upon which all the following sections shall be based. This section shall translate the vision statements into physical terms. Based on a study of population, economic activity, and natural, historic, and cultural resources, it shall show existing conditions and the proposed location, extent, and intensity of future land use.*

The Master Plan may also include the following sections: transportation, community facilities, economic development, natural resources, natural hazards, recreation, utility and public services, cultural and historic resources, regional concerns, neighborhood plans, community design, housing and implementation. (See RSA 674:2III.)

Thus, a Master Plan is a long range, comprehensive, general description of what a town wants to be and how it will achieve it. It is a commitment to do something. It is adopted so it reflects public policy. It is used to make decisions about community development and preservation issues. The issues may range from water resource protection, residential development, and transportation improvements to town facilities and services. The Master Plan is the basis for land use and development regulations, zoning and subdivision ordinances, capital improvement programming, town center development and beautification, open space or land conservation, and other programs and projects to improve the quality of life in a community.

The Town of Madbury has an adopted Master Plan that is periodically updated.

The following is the status of the Master Plan sections and action by the Town Planning Board.

Demographics	Approved 2001
Water Resources	Approved 2001
Historic Resources	Approved 2001
Natural Resources	Approved 2002
Community Development/Vision	Approved September 2001/June 4, 2003
Land Use	Approved June 4, 2003
Housing	Approved June 4, 2003
Town Facilities and Services	Approved June 4, 2003
Transportation	Approved June 4, 2003