

**Minutes
Webster Planning Board
Master Plan Meeting
May 23, 2018**

The Master Plan meeting started at 6:35 p.m. Attendees included Planning Board Chair Susan Rauth and members Paul King and Kathy Bacon. Volunteers and staff members in attendance included Chief Steve Adams, Roger Becker, Dee Blake, Linda Clark, Michelle Derby, Sandy Estep, Bruce Johnson, Therese Larson, Leslie Palmer, Pete Swislosky, MJ Turcotte, Chris Schadler and Nanci Schofield.

Susan Rauth outlined the benefits of an updated Master Plan. It provides the support for the Town Zoning Ordinance, Subdivision and Site Plan regulations, as well as the Capital Improvement Program. The update provides a forum for everyone to participate in the discussion about Webster's future. It tracks land use, population and housing trends. It provides recommendations for future development of the Town in a compatible, consistent manner.

The group then discussed the regional trends in population, housing, transportation and other areas. Webster's population is projected to continue at a slower rate of growth. NH's population is growing older and day-to-day living is more of a concern. Many retirees are remaining in rural areas which impacts their housing, public transportation and recreation needs. The average household size in Webster continues to decrease and the number of elementary school aged children trends downward. There is a demand for smaller houses for downsizing families, seniors and young adults.

The results of the 2017 community survey were reviewed. The survey results are posted on the Town website. Susan Rauth confirmed that the profile of the residents who completed the survey is consistent with the population of the region as well as the U.S. Census data for Webster and the region and the state.

The survey shows the majority of residents who completed the survey want to preserve open land and the scenic, rural nature of Webster. They especially want to protect agricultural land and water quality. They also want to increase the tax base and about a third of the respondents were in favor of light commercial development. The respondents support energy efficiency and conservation and the need to plan for extreme weather events. Survey respondents felt that the residential rate of growth is acceptable and want to keep the five-acre lot size. Single family housing is favored; however, there is encouragement for senior housing, independent/assisted living, accessory dwelling units and cluster/open space development. The need to foster a sense of community and cooperative spirit was a frequent comment in the survey results.

Other suggestions by the meeting participants include attracting suitable businesses to town; developing a Webster Highway Department ;and a long-range plan for waste management in the event there is a disruption in transfer station services.

The progress on the Master Plan update was reviewed. For the Natural Resources chapter, Chris Schadler and the Webster Conservation Commission members worked many hours on the revision. For the Community Facilities and Services chapter, Bruce Johnson and Dee Blake revised the Education section. Chief Steve Adams is revising the Police Services. Leslie Palmer is providing assistance in the sections that relate to Town Hall and other services, as well as Hazardous Mitigation planning. Sandy Estep and MJ Turcotte will be reviewing sections of the report related to Pillsbury Lake Management. Kathy Bacon and Susan Rauth are revising the current land use and housing chapters, with support from Therese Larson. Chairman Rauth thanked everyone for their participation.

For those volunteers not in attendance, it was noted that Brenda Silver provided an update for the Cemeteries section. Nancy Picthall-French and the Library Trustees worked to update the Library section with a Ten-Year Plan. Emmett Bean will be overseeing the review of the Roads section and the Fire services section. Gary French will provide an update for the Pillsbury Lake Water District. Jere Buckley is updating the Historic and Cultural Resources chapter, with a Scenic Byways section. Jere will also work with Marty Bender and others of the Energy Committee to develop a section for Energy Planning. The CNHRPC staff provided updates for the Population and Economics and the Transportation Chapters.

The volunteers agreed to meet again in mid-June, the deadline for completed drafts. The next meeting will discuss the Vision and the Future Land Use sections of the report. All Webster residents are invited to participate!

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Susan Rauth