

SRPC NEWS

March 2005

SRPC Adopts Regional Vision for Year 2020

SRPC Commissioners adopted the Vision 2020 statement on November 23, 2004, after several community meetings. This Vision will set the overall context of the Regional Master Plan to guide local communities in preparing and implementing Master Plans for development and conservation. Regional policy goals now are being drafted. Upon their adoption by the Commissioners this spring, specific principles and standards will be developed.

“A New England regional community committed to responsible growth and cooperative actions to improve our quality of life.

- Regional community means working together to consider regional and local needs and meet them fairly and equitably.
- Responsible growth means economic and residential development that is sustainable and balanced with environmental and natural resource protection.
- An improved quality of life means a better living environment achieved by continually raising and meeting higher standards for individual and community physical, social, and economic well being.

We celebrate and enhance our enterprising spirit; our historic buildings and evolving patterns of development; our scenic landscape of rivers, lakes, forests, and farmlands; and our cultural values for the benefit of future generations.”

Barrington Citizens OK Conservation Funds & New Zoning Ordinance

Residents approved \$800,000 for the acquisition of conservation easements and open lands. Additionally, the voters approved the Town's new Zoning Ordinance. Congratulations to the Town Boards in Barrington – they undertook much effort to develop a funding mechanism for conservation and to rewrite their Zoning Ordinance as an implementation tool for their Master Plan. Watch for the development of Barrington's village district along Routes 125 and 9 - a planning concept several years in the making.

Northwood Residents Approve Growth Management and Zoning Warrant Articles

Voters approved all 12 articles proposed by the Planning Board. The majority of the articles dealt with managing growth by implementing Master Plan goals and policies. Amendments established lot sizes, road frontage, and setbacks for homes.

Eric Reitter, Chair of the Planning Board, is pleased that the residents of Northwood approved the Growth Management Ordinance. The ordinance is intended to regulate development by placing yearly limits on building permits in accordance to the objectives of the Master Plan. This coming year the Planning Board will be preparing an Impact Fee Ordinance and in concert with other Town Boards, a comprehensive Capital Improvements Program.

SRPC Invites Citizen Participation

Your ideas and perceptions are important to us in developing the Regional Master Plan. Workshops are listed below and take place at the Frisbie Community Education and Conference Center in Rochester at 7PM:

- April 21, 2005 – Public Hearing on Amendments
- May 26, 2005 – Annual Meeting/ Public Hearing

SRPC Adopts Growth Management Policies

SRPC Commissioners became the first in the State to adopt regional growth management policies endorsed by the Office of Energy & Planning. The policies promote:

- Livable and walkable communities with a sense of place, a mixture of uses, clustered development and traditional New Hampshire style architecture.
- Transportation less dependent on the car.
- Open spaces and environmental protection.

The policies were adopted after several public workshops and are included in the Strafford Regional Master Plan. Visit www.strafford.org.

Access Management Policies & Strategies

SRPC Commissioners adopted policies to improve vehicular movement and reduce highway improvement costs. Access management balances two conflicting interests: the need to keep traffic flowing smoothly and safely, and the need to provide reasonable access to individual properties. When done well, it provides for land development and preserves the flow of traffic in terms of safety, capacity, and speed. This creates a more efficient, safer roadway for the benefit of everyone. The policies and implementation strategies are included in the Regional Master Plan Transportation section. Please see www.strafford.org.

Regional Survey Spotlights Top Concerns

Traffic congestion, public transportation, growth, loss of natural areas, water quantity and quality are the top regional and local planning concerns according to a survey issued by the Strafford Regional Planning Commission. The survey, mailed in late fall 2004 to Planning Board members and citizens, also asked them to prioritize their concerns regarding local planning administrative issues. The administrative issues included the need to update ordinances, lack of communication between boards, lack of staff and volunteers, and a need for training for community leaders. SRPC is working with municipalities to address these planning and administrative issues through outreach activities and services.

Wakefield Stays with SB2 and Approves Interim Growth Management Ordinance

In response to a frightening increase in our growth rate (50 % in the last 6 years or so), Wakefield voters just approved a one-year moratorium on major subdivisions in order to give the Planning Board a chance to get land use ordinances and regulations current and to otherwise prepare for the inevitable growth. During that year we will:

- Revise our Master Plan and our Capital Improvement Plan, as well as our Subdivision and Site Plan Regulations, and make recommendations for changes to our Zoning Ordinance.
- Consider other land use policies such as Impact Fees, Annual Building Permit Caps, and other innovative policies.
- Review our Base Zoning Districts and consider changes and/or overlays.
- Work with NROC to address natural resources issues and to fold those considerations into the above work.

If we actually achieve all of the above, I intend to nominate the Board Members and Alternates, several very active citizens, and our SRPC consultants for sanctification.

Joe Fluet, Wakefield Planning Board Chairman

SRPCNEWS

Strafford



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Planning & Action For Sustainable Development & An Improved Quality Of Life.

New Durham Adopts Master Plan Policies and Strategies – SRPC Assists

The Planning Board of New Durham adopted Master Plan Policies & Implementation Strategies to protect natural resources, promote better transportation, and provide for housing and public facilities in October 2004. SRPC has been working with the Board and citizens for over three years to achieve adoption. The new Policy Goals, Principles, and Standards as well as implementation strategies will guide future conservation and development. The new sections are in New Durham's Master Plan and can be viewed at www.strafford.org.

Future of Rollinsford Town Planners Recognized by Town and SRPC

Town Officials and SRPC recognized future Town Planners from the third and sixth grade classes at Rollinsford Grade School for outstanding planning and improvement projects. The students received their awards at a ceremony held on October 21, 2004 at the Rollinsford Town Hall. Board of Selectmen Chair Ed Jansen praised students for recognizing the rural and historic character of the town. Future of Rollinsford Committee Education Chair Frank Kuhlmann hoped the project would inspire both children and parents to plan and act now to preserve and protect open lands and historic resources.

The first place prizes went to third grader Zackary Vaughan for his proposed town library in the mill-building project, and sixth grader Andrew Lepage for his proposed sidewalks on South Street project. All participants received an Honorary Town Planner Certificate.



SRPC assisted in the development and implementation of the project in conjunction with Jay Roy, the school's Principal. The Future of Rollinsford Committee is a Joint Committee of the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Historic Resource Committees.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day Coming in April for 9 Communities

The City of Rochester has scheduled a HHW Collection on Saturday, April 23, 2005 at the Turnkey Landfill from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm in Rochester. Participating communities are: Barrington, Farmington, Middleton, Milton, New Durham, Northwood, Rochester, Strafford, and Wakefield, Please bring your household waste to the event for it to be properly disposed. Additional information can be found on the Rochester website at www.rochesternh.net or the SRPC website under "What's New." Please call Rochester Public Works at 332-4096 if you have further questions.

Next Issue: Quality Centers are Coming to the Strafford Region!

Milton Adopts Natural Resources Strategies – SRPC Assists

The Milton Planning Board adopted policies and implementation strategies to protect water, wetland, and other natural resources for the future. The policies were the result of the Conservation Commission's research and analysis of valuable natural resources in the Town. With SRPC assistance, Master Plan Policies and Implementation Strategies were prepared for citizen and Planning Board consideration. According to Planning Board Chair Anne Cobb and Conservation Committee Chair Cynthia Wyatt, the process demonstrated how the community could move from concern to planning and action to protect the environment.

Interim Growth Management Ordinance Approved in New Durham

At Town Meeting in March, New Durham voters overwhelmingly approved an Interim Growth Management Ordinance (IGMO) for the purposes of allowing time for the planning board to study and amend the town's existing Master Plan, Capital Improvement Plan, Zoning Ordinances, Subdivision and Site Plan Review Regulations to adequately reflect the community's expectations for logical, orderly and appropriate management of growth within the town. The Planning Board will be focusing on completing the overhaul of the Master Plan over the next few months, with emphasis on the Land Use section. By year's end, modifications to the Zoning Ordinance should be proposed to reflect the concepts outlined in the revised Master Plan, including provisions for open space conservation subdivision design.

Ron Gehl, New Durham Planning Board Chairman

Strafford Voters Approve Interim Growth Management Ordinance

Like voters in other communities, an interim growth management ordinance was approved in Strafford at a snow-delayed Town Meeting. According to Ted Huckins, Chair of the Planning Board, the Town will still be processing minor subdivisions and boundary adjustments, but the focus of the Board's efforts will be on revamping the zoning ordinance and regulations to implement the goals of the Master Plan adopted in 2002. The Board will be working with SRPC and the Managed Growth Committee, established through the 2004 NROC program. The Managed Growth Committee, in a short timeframe, prepared a survey for voters at Town Meeting. The intent of the community survey was to gauge support for land use actions, and will guide the Board as they develop a plan to propose changes to lot sizes and a revised zoning map.

Nottingham Okays Ordinance for Interim Growth Management & Sets Agenda

After approval of the Interim Growth Management Ordinance by Nottingham voters, Planning Board Chair Dave Smith indicated that the Planning Board will use the time to complete revisions to the Master Plan. Working with SRPC, the Board will be writing new zoning provisions that reflect the Master Plan, revisions to subdivision and site plan regulations and procedures, and provisions for better open space regulations.