

# *The Master Plan Update*

*Town of Washington, New Hampshire*

*May 1, 2014*



## ***WHAT is The Master Plan?***

The Master Plan is a statement of the community's vision for the town and recommendations for guiding its growth for the future. The Plan also discusses Washington's population, economic activity, community facilities and its natural, historical and cultural resources. The Plan is based upon input from all property owners, analysis of the existing conditions in town, and the knowledge of town departments, boards, committees and officials. The town's Land Use Ordinances, Capital Improvement Program and Subdivision Regulations are guided by the recommendations in the Master Plan.

## ***WHY is it Being Updated?***

Per RSA 674:1, it is the duty of the Planning Board to prepare and *update* the Master Plan periodically to guide the growth of our community. RSA 674:3 recommends revising the Master Plan every 5 to 10 years. The last community survey was done in 2003 and the last update was completed in 2006. The plan needs to recognize changing public opinion in relation to the use of land, water and facilities for both residential and commercial growth.

## ***WHO Updates the Master Plan?***

The Planning Board is responsible for updating the Master Plan through a process that involves community members, town departments, boards, and committees. This involvement is essential to the success of the Master Plan. The Planning Board has sanctioned a Master Plan Update Committee that is comprised of several members of the Planning Board and volunteers from the community to accomplish this update effort. Committee members are: Annie Bissonnette, Carolyn Bullock, Jim Crandall, Lolly Gilbert, Jean Kluk, Nan Schwartz, Steve Terani and Bob Williams.

## ***WHEN and HOW LONG is the Update Process?***

The Planning Board initiated the process in June 2013. The process is essentially two major phases: community input phase and the revising/drafting phase. The first phase began summer of 2013 and is targeted for completion by fall of 2014. The goal of this phase is to solicit community input on the future direction of our town's growth and priorities. The target date for the second phase will be determined upon completion of the first phase. When drafting of the plan is completed, a public hearing will be held for additional community feedback.