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General Statement

A master plan is a document which serves several needs within the community. According to the New Hampshire state statutes that address the requirements and guidelines for preparing such a document, the master plan's primary purpose is to serve as a tool of the Planning Board as a framework to guide development within the town. In order to fulfill the role as a planning tool, the master plan should be based on the collection and analysis of a wide range of social, economic, environmental and land use information. The master plan however, is not a static document. It should evolve over time to reflect the changing needs and circumstances of the town. That is why Goffstown has periodically updated its plan with the last one having been completed in 1987.

However, a master plan should be more than just an objective litany of facts and figures. A master plan should also highlight the wishes, desires and aspirations of the members of the community about growth and development. In essence, the master plan should provide a sense of direction for the future. In order to provide this more lofty aspect of the document, state statute¹ requires that the plan must contain as one of its chapters, a General Statement. While contents of the General Statement are determined by the local planning board, state statute notes that "...it shall include such topics as the objectives, principles, assumptions, policies and standards upon which the constituent proposals for the physical and socio-economic development of the municipality are based."²



In preparing the General Statement for this master plan, efforts were made to obtain input from a broad range of Goffstown residents. The goal statements that follow in this chapter have been forged by the community as part of a process that has taken almost two years to complete in a true "grass roots" effort. In June of 1995, the master plan steering committee began the process of preparing an updated plan for the town. Based on this committee's review of the 1987 master plan's goals and achievements, as well as a survey of other

¹ Refer to New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) 674:2, 1996-97

² RSA 674:2, I

municipalities, the most appropriate approach for developing the 1997 plan for the town was established. It was decided that residents *of* the community should prepare a plan *for* the community. Towards this end, the steering committee solicited the services of volunteers from the town which brought a response from approximately 60 citizens. In March of 1996, these volunteers were organized into eight work groups and charged with the task of obtaining background information for their respective chapters, as well as formulating goals, objectives and action plans based on that information. Over an eight month period, these groups worked to assess the current and future needs of the town based on real-world information and input provided from a number of public information meetings.

The results of this community participation are reflected in the chapters of this master plan, particularly in their respective conclusions, recommendations and proposed action plans. The goals presented here represent a synthesis of the public participation process and should be used to establish the direction in which the community proceeds with its planning activities.

Housing

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE - The Town of Goffstown shall encourage a range of adequate and affordable housing options for all segments of the population, which do not exceed the capacity of the community's infrastructure and services. New housing development should contribute positively to existing neighborhoods or create safe and desirable new neighborhoods, consistent with the overall goals and character of the town.

GOAL 1 - Encourage housing that preserves the character of each of the distinct neighborhoods in Goffstown.

GOAL 2 - Encourage housing which provides greater benefits to the community than it requires in services.

GOAL 3 - Encourage property owners to maintain and/or improve existing housing.

GOAL 4 - Provide an adequate amount of housing for the elderly and a fair share of the regional housing supply to help meet the needs of low and moderate income residents.

Economic Development

GOAL 1 - Increase the non-residential portion of the town's tax base to 20% of the total valuation within five years.

The current 11% commercial and industrial valuation in Goffstown's tax base is far below comparable communities, and places extreme pressure on resi-

dential taxpayers. Business property typically contributes more in taxes than residential property, without directly increasing demand on the school budget, which accounts for two-thirds of the appropriated property tax dollars. Goffstown must mitigate the rise of residential taxes by creating a climate which encourages the development of non-residential property.

GOAL 2 - Support existing businesses through appropriate action and policies.

While attracting new businesses to broaden the tax base, Goffstown must do what it can through its zoning, permitting, and regulatory policies to retain and enhance existing business activity.

GOAL 3 - Take full advantage of existing economic resources.

Goffstown must pursue and coordinate all available public and private economic support from local, state, county and federal governments, universities, community organizations, corporations, and other private entities. The town should seek educational, technological, market research, or organizational information, as well as grants, sponsorships, and other resources to strengthen the local economy.

GOAL 4 - Enhance local employment opportunities for Goffstown residents.

As Goffstown's population grows, the town must create an economic climate which provides employment opportunities for more of its residents, thereby keeping more dollars within the community and lessening dependence on the economies of other cities and towns.

GOAL 5 - Educate residents about the benefits of promoting and planning for economic development.

It is important that all residents recognize that the local economy is a community asset which must be developed, nurtured, and maintained, just like our schools, roads, and bridges. The town, the business community, and residents must work together to eliminate false fears and stereotypes, address legitimate concerns, and promote economic health as an important component in our quality of life.

Transportation

General Issues

GOAL A1- Ensure that there is adequate funding for public services and public facilities despite increasing development.

GOAL A2 - Improvements to roadway corridors should address deficiencies in the entire transportation network and the impact of proposed changes on the surrounding environment. Any improvements should reflect the vision of Goffstown residents for the transportation system as a whole.

Urban Roads

GOAL B1- Urban roads should provide for safe vehicular and pedestrian travel within the R1 and R2 zones.

GOAL B2.1- Lighting should be required in new residential developments.

GOAL B2.2 - Lighting should be improved in established neighborhoods.

GOAL B3.1 - Established urban roads should have improved drainage.

GOAL B3.2 - Newly constructed urban roads should have closed drainage.

GOAL B4 - Older urban road intersections should be improved.

GOAL B5 - On-street parking should not compromise safety.

GOAL B6 - Set speed limits appropriate to road conditions.

Rural Roads

GOAL C1 - Rural roads should have structural improvements.

GOAL C2 - Rural roads should have adequate lighting.

GOAL C3 - Rural roads should have improved drainage.

Minor Arterial Roads

GOAL D1 - Mitigate the congestion and improve the flow of traffic along minor arterial roadways.

GOAL D2 - To have safe uninterrupted flow of traffic without delays and congestion.

GOAL D3 - Improve those roads that were considered urban or rural as traffic volume increases on these roads.

Intersections

GOAL E1.1 - Identify problem intersections.

GOAL E1.2 - Improve problem intersections.

GOAL E2 - Problem intersections should not be further strained.

GOAL E3 - There should be an established system for studying intersection improvements and their effect on surrounding intersections.

Pedestrian Travel

GOAL F1 - There should be a connecting network of well-maintained, safe, handicapped accessible, sidewalks and crosswalks in the Village, Grasmere and Pinardville.

GOAL F2 - Crosswalks should be provided at all locations where demand is high.

GOAL F3 - Provide visible crosswalks that are properly marked and long lasting.

Bicycle Travel

GOAL G1 - Provide a safe accessible area for bike/pedestrian travel.

Public Transit

GOAL H1 - Public transit service should be available if the demand and need arise.

GOAL H2 - Public transportation should be provided for those in need.

Parking

GOAL I1 - A parking plan for the corridors should be established.

GOAL I2 - Sufficient parking should be provided at Goffstown area schools.

Environmental and Aesthetic Quality

GOAL J1 - Preserve and enhance Goffstown's rural atmosphere.

GOAL J2 - Traffic delays along the corridors should be reduced.

GOAL J3 - Preserve and enhance water quality.

GOAL J4 - Noise pollution caused by increasing air traffic should not increase.

Community Facilities and Utilities

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE - Identify the facilities needed within the next five years, that will assure the continued provision of a healthy and safe quality of life for Goffstown residents, while taking into account the unique qualities of the town's natural setting and the preciousness of its natural resources.

Fire Protection and Emergency Services

GOAL A1 - Support the Goffstown Fire Department's vehicle replacement program as planned over the next twenty years.

GOAL A2 - Examine the adequacy of the town's existing municipal water supply. It should be expanded to meet current and future needs.

GOAL A3 - Require developers to install water mains, or other suitable types of water supplies to meet fire protection needs, as a condition of subdivision approval.

GOAL A4 - If fire calls continue to increase, evaluate the Department's potential need regarding the creation of a central fire station.

Police and Communication Departments

GOAL B1 - Juvenile Specialist Officers should receive advanced training in delinquency prevention and control, abuse and neglect issues, sexual assault investigation and DARE instructor certification.

GOAL B2 - In order to help alleviate juvenile problems the following actions are recommended.

- Use of the school facilities more fully at night and on the weekends and during the summer months for youth programs
- Invite all civil, non-profit and church groups in town to get together three times per year and coordinate more activities
- Continue to work on youth forums
- Support library events and programs
- Continue the YMCA youth "teen nights"
- Support the Parks and Recreation Department programs

GOAL B3 - Install permanent crosswalk markings.

Parks and Recreation

GOAL C1 - Use the Mountain View Middle School for summer programs, in addition to programs offered at Barnard and Roy Parks, for residents in the eastern portion of Goffstown.

GOAL C2 - Purchase and install updated playground equipment for both Roy and Barnard Parks.

GOAL C3 - Explore the possibilities of expanding the Parks and Recreation facility due to the extensive use of this building. Relocation of this facility from its Mast Road location to a more centrally located site should also be considered in order to better accommodate residents and to eliminate the driveway safety issues.

GOAL C4 - Explore the possibility of expanding the park system to include the land across from Glen Lake located on Elm Street (Assessors Map 5, Lot 14).

Library Services

GOAL D1 - Explore and promote the library's electronic capabilities to centralize town data and extend accessibility for all citizens to the Local Area Network (LAN).

GOAL D2 - Explore the possibility of public access to the resources of the four school libraries after school hours or during the summer.

GOAL D3 - Establish a permanent branch library with adequate staffing and funding to better accommodate the patrons of the Pinardville area. Library Trustees and the Board of Selectmen are encouraged to use whatever resources available, (e.g. tax incentives) in order to secure a permanent Pinardville Library facility.

Public Works Department

GOAL E1 - If the Main Street bridge needs to be reconstructed it should be done so with an historic style, covered bridge, which could adequately accommodate all vehicular traffic. It is felt this type of bridge would help to attract tourism to the Village area.

GOAL E2 - A walking bridge should be constructed at the site of the old covered railroad bridge to coincide with the rails to trails program.

GOAL E3 - Strong consideration should be given to relocating the Department of Public Works facility to the site of the town's transfer station.

GOAL E4 - The building of new sidewalks should be in accordance with the recommendations contained in the Transportation chapter of this plan.

GOAL E5 - The town should purchase, or accept as gifts, any available lands that may abut existing cemetery land for future use.

GOAL E6 - The important historical aspects of the cemeteries should be maintained.

Sewer System

GOAL F1 - The 1990 Sewerage Facilities Plan needs to be updated as soon as possible based on revised population data and other more current information.

GOAL F2 - Future residential developments in Goffstown should be responsible for making provisions for sanitary sewer needs.

GOAL F3 - At Town Meeting in 1996, the town rejected the \$5,000 per household fee that was needed for the Knollcrest sewer project because of financial concerns voiced by area residents. Similar occurrences are expected for a majority of the sewer system expansion planned over the next five years in

neighborhoods such as Knollcrest. Therefore, it is recommended that the Sewer Commission also pursue the installation of new sewer lines into potentially developable industrial and commercial zones. This would serve to attract new businesses to the town thereby helping to offset residential sewer costs, as well as property taxes. Furthermore, the expansion of the existing sewer systems into new developments should be funded by the developers.

GOAL F4 - The Sewer Commission should work with the City of Manchester to coordinate an extension of the city's sewer line to the town's industrial park located on the Goffstown Back Road. This would help to promote commercial/industrial development on land already zoned for such uses.

Electricity, Natural Gas, Communications

GOAL G1 - The Board of Selectmen should update the contract to allow Media One to offer new programming to Goffstown viewers.

Education

GOAL 1 - Provide and maintain adequate school facilities in order to ensure that Goffstown's children are receiving the most comprehensive education possible.

GOAL 2 - Ensure that each school facility has adequate land area to support the on-going and future activities associated with these facilities.

GOAL 3 - Expand the town's non-residential tax base in order to provide adequate funding for the provision of quality education in Goffstown.

GOAL 4 - Consider all alternatives for providing a cost-effective educational system in Goffstown, including out-sourcing, privatization of services and impact fees.

GOAL 5 - Evaluate and update the District's existing standards and specifications in order to establish comprehensive parameters for the delivery of educational services in Goffstown.

GOAL 6 - Promote a spirit of cooperation between all school facilities in order to provide the most effective approach for educating Goffstown's students.

Health and Human Services

GOAL 1 - Every resident of Goffstown with a health and human services need or concern should have information, counseling and access to available resources.

GOAL 2 - Provide better service to Goffstown residents who have health and human service needs through a fully coordinated volunteer system.

GOAL 3 - Goffstown's young people should have access to early intervention and prevention services to discourage juvenile crime, drug and alcohol use and adolescent pregnancy.

Recreation, Conservation and Preservation

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE - The Town of Goffstown shall preserve the historic character and improve and protect the town's existing recreational, natural, and cultural resources in order to meet the needs of present and future residents, and shall locate any additional recreational facilities in those areas of town where needs exist, followed by those with the greatest anticipated population growth.

General Issues

GOAL G1 - Provide better coordination between all administrative resources involved in the management of Goffstown's recreation, conservation and historic preservation.

GOAL G2 - Promote responsible use of parks, trails, recreational facilities, historic landmarks and open spaces.

Parks and Recreation

GOAL P1 - Provide equal access to recreation and natural areas for residents of all age groups within realistic economic parameters.

GOAL P2 - The town should be prepared to meet the recreational needs created by new development in the rapidly expanding northeast and northcentral portions of Goffstown.

GOAL P3 - All areas of Goffstown should be served by a network of small neighborhood parks or provided with landscaped islands within developed areas.

GOAL P4 - Evaluate the town's growth trends in order to identify demographic changes and the demand for future recreation facilities.

GOAL P5 - Improve accessibility between areas of town for pedestrian and other non-motorized means of transportation.

GOAL P6 - Provide additional recreational opportunities in Goffstown for walking, bicycling and rollerblading, and other similar types of activities.

Conservation

GOAL C1 - Use zoning as a means for protecting Goffstown's natural resources.

GOAL C2 - Make adequate use of all local, state, and private programs which are available to the town for protecting its natural resources.

GOAL C3 - Support and encourage the protection of natural resources through private efforts.

GOAL C4 - Develop a Water Resource Management and Protection Plan, as specified in RSA 4-C:22.

GOAL C5 - Manage and protect the Piscataquog River, its tributaries and environs, within the Town of Goffstown.

GOAL C6 - Identify and monitor groundwater sources outside of existing water precinct areas for protection as future water supplies.

Historic Preservation

GOAL H1 - Maintain and protect Goffstown's historic landmarks and conduct a town wide survey to identify any unidentified resources.

Land Use

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE - The goal of land use planning in Goffstown is to establish a town wide land use pattern, based on an ethic of responsible, long-term stewardship, which will enhance the quality of life. To fulfill this responsibility, the following goals have been developed to help shape the town's response to development proposals, from either the private or public sectors. These goals are formed in part, on the basis of the extensive development which has occurred in town since 1981.

GOAL 1 - Preserve the historic and rural character of the town, including historic places, farms, forests, and scenic views.

GOAL 2 - Develop a land use pattern which will guide orderly development, including a balance of residential, commercial, industrial, conservation, and public uses.

GOAL 3 - Continue to protect the sensitive areas of town which cannot support development, including floodplains, wetlands, poorly drained soils, areas of steep slope and drinking water supplies.

GOAL 4 - Plan for expanded infrastructure in concert with population growth.

GOAL 5 - Provide land for recreational use, including park land and playing fields.

GOAL 6 - Allow flexibility within the town's development regulations for approving innovative land use ideas.