

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION AND COMMUNITY VISION

PURPOSE OF A MASTER PLAN

The purpose of a municipal Master Plan, as stated in the New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated (RSA) 674:2, is to describe the “Planning Board’s recommendations for the desirable development” of the Town. The information compiled for the Master Plan should include sections on a general statement of the intentions of the Master Plan, land use, housing, transportation, utilities, community facilities, recreation, conservation and preservation, and construction materials. The public is invited by the Planning Board to participate in the process. A Master Plan is typically updated every five to seven years. The Town’s Master Plan is the basis upon which the Zoning Ordinance, Site Plan Review Regulations, and Subdivision Regulations are written and revised.

MASTER PLAN

The Planning Board contracted with the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC) to begin work on the Master Plan project in 2005 with the development of the community survey. A Steering Committee led by the Planning Board was formed to guide the entire process. This Master Plan process began with the development of the Community Survey. A Community Visioning Session was held in October 2005. The next step in the process was to work with Town Boards, Organizations and interested citizens to develop each of the Chapters . As Chapters were completed, they were reviewed and revised by the Steering Committee.

After months of Subcommittee and Steering Committee work, the Chapters of this Master Plan, the **INTRODUCTION AND COMMUNITY VISION, GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES, POPULATION AND ECONOMICS, HOUSING, COMMUNITY AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, NATURAL RESOURCES, EXISTING AND FUTURE LAND USE and TRANSPORTATION CHAPTERS**, along with the **IMPLEMENTATION**, and **APPENDIX CHAPTERS** were adopted by the Planning Board.

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

After several months of developing questions specific to each Chapter of the Master Plan, the Steering Committee produced a Community Survey. The survey contained an extraordinary number of opinion questions that were objectively designed to assess the views of Salisbury residents and landowners.

The survey was distributed in 2005 to 411 households. A total of 25% (102) of the surveys were returned. The results were thoroughly tallied and are found in respective chapters of this Master Plan.

In general, the recurring theme from the survey included the preservation of the rural character. The rural character theme was integrated into the 2007 Master Plan as it was being developed and also helped to form the 2007 **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**.

The 2005 Community Survey, all calculated results, and extensive citizen comments are found in the **APPENDIX CHAPTER**.

MASTER PLAN CREATION PROCESS

This Master Plan fulfills two purposes. The first purpose is to paint a broad picture of what Salisbury is, what it has to offer, what it looks like, and who the people are who live here. This perspective, this "inventory" of the Town, allows townspeople to then create the second purpose, a series of goals, objectives, and recommendations for the Town to accomplish. These recommendations have been based on the data collected, including from the Community Survey, through the Community Visioning process, on statistical data, and on existing conditions found within Salisbury. The goals and objectives for Salisbury are discussed in the **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES CHAPTER**. The recommendations, or action items, are listed at the beginning of each Chapter. An Implementation Chapter summarizes each of the Recommendations and proposes strategies to guide the process of fulfilling those Recommendations.

Beginning in 2005, the Master Plan Steering Committee members chaired Subcommittees which worked to document existing conditions within the Town and to prepare a series of recommendations on all aspects of Salisbury. The result is a series of Chapters, also referred to as "elements", which categorize the findings into tangible sections:

For the preparation of this Plan, many information sources were used. Information from the NH Office of State Planning, NH Department of Employment Security, previous Master Plans, past Census and current 2000 Census data, Town records and maps, and from Town staff and volunteers, in addition to the sources previously mentioned, comprises the bulk of the Plan. Additional data from various sources is also included and is appropriately cited.

BASE MAP