

II. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Chapter II

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Introduction

The purpose of the Goals and Objectives chapter is to make a general statement about the vision that the citizens of Warner have for the future of their community. This section is also the foundation for subsequent chapters of the Master Plan. As used in this Master Plan, goals are broad policy recommendations of a desired future, and objectives are more precise recommendations of how the goals will be accomplished. In the following chapters of the Master Plan, each set of objectives is further defined by a set of action statements, which indicate how the objectives should be implemented.

The following statements of goals and objectives reflect the general opinions and desires of the citizens of Warner as expressed in the 1997 Master Plan Survey. The results of this survey can be found in Appendix A. The survey results, as well as input received from the public and from various Town Boards and Departments, are used extensively throughout the Master Plan as the basis for the recommendations.

Statement of Goals and Objectives

Goal 1 - Conserve and Protect the Natural Resources of the Town.

Objectives

- 1) Increase the amount of sensitive/priority areas in the Town that are protected through easements, covenants, or Town ownership.
- 2) The Conservation Commission should continue to carry out watershed studies, such as the Willow Brook Watershed Study, to help the Town establish specific areas to be protected.
- 3) Use the proceeds from the Current Use Tax penalty to develop an open space plan.
- 4) Continue to promote the agricultural use of lands through the Current Use Tax.
- 5) Encourage the use of sound land management practices for forest and land to promote diverse wildlife habitat.
- 6) Investigate the use of stronger controls and protection of floodplain areas.
- 7) Protect scenic ridgelines and hilltops, and encourage the responsible use of Mt. Kearsarge.

- 8) Investigate alternative zoning practices to protect forestry and agricultural activities.
- 9) Protect important aquifers.

Goal 2 - Provide For the Orderly Growth and Development of the Town.

Objectives

- 1) Complete and maintain an updated Master Plan and other plans as needed.
- 2) Annually review and update, as necessary, all land use regulations.
- 3) Avoid the premature subdivision of lands.
- 4) Provide for a balance between the use and the development of land and the preservation of open space

Goal 3 - Encourage growth and diversity in commercial development, while protecting the residential and rural character of the Town.

Objectives

- 1) Review the current zoning ordinances after the Master Plan is adopted to ensure that proper and adequate areas for commercial and industrial expansion are available and that regulations to protect the environment are in place.
- 2) Provide for adequate separation and/or buffers between commercial/industrial uses and other sensitive uses.
- 3) Expand water and sewer services, as the need arises.
- 4) Encourage the location of more professional businesses in Town, such as business offices.
- 5) Promote the village center as the commercial core of the community.
- 6) Encourage sound land management practices for forestry and agriculture to promote a more diverse economy.

Goal 4 - Conserve and protect the historical and cultural resources of the Town.

Objectives

- 1) Identify and conserve the historical features in the Town, such as historic buildings, covered bridges, stone walls, foundations, scenic views and ridgelines. Conserve such land and preserve these landmarks.

- 2) Encourage the preservation, enhancement and rehabilitation of buildings of architectural and historical significance.
- 3) Establish a committee to explore historic, scenic and cultural roads and pursue state designation of such roads.
- 4) Publicize the history and culture of the Town.
- 5) Facilitate local interest in, and the preservation of, historic neighborhoods.
- 6) Encourage activities and events which facilitate community involvement, such as the Fall Foliage Festival, the 4th of July celebration and other Holiday activities.

Goal 5 - Maintain and enhance Town services, such as schools, fire & police protection, roads and recreation, as the needs of the Town expand and change.

Objectives

- 1) Investigate potential sites for a new police station.
- 2) Expand sewer and water service areas, where possible, to provide for improved public health.
- 3) Review the capital improvements program to plan for the future service needs of the Town. Plan for and assign responsibilities for the effect of long-range growth impact service costs on the Town.
- 4) Explore opportunities for the development of a multipurpose community facility.
- 5) Establish a committee to review the status of roads in the Town.

Goal 6 - Provide long-range planning to meet current and future housing needs.

Objectives

- 1) Review current housing location/density/economic/quality factors, as they relate to current and future housing needs.
- 2) Provide for high quality housing to meet the future demographic needs.
- 3) Maintain a balance of land zoned for a wide variety of housing types.