

PLANNING BOARD

In 2009, the Planning Board held 23 regular meetings, 7 Technical Review Committee meetings and 1 public hearing to discuss changes to the Zoning Ordinances.

Frank Gibbs was re-elected to a 3 year term in March. Fred Gundersen was also elected; sadly he passed away shortly after the elections. The Board appointed Kim Vaillant to serve in Fred's place. Ann Miles and James Doggett were voted in as Chairperson and Vice Chairman respectively. The Board appointed Chuck Whitman and Rick Milner as alternates and they have been valued contributors at meetings and other events throughout the year. The Board welcomed a new Circuit Rider Planner, Brian Groth of the Rockingham Planning Commission in October.

On March 10th, voters approved several changes to the Zoning Ordinances including a change to allow more flexibility in determining the buffers around light industrial zones and a change to allow live-in caretakers in elderly housing developments. An ordinance regulating small wind energy systems was also added.

Over the course of the year the following applications were approved:

Date	Name	Location	Application Type	Map/Block/Lot
3/24/2009	125 Development Corp.	2 Puzzle Lane	Non-Residential Site Plan	14/1/27-1, Phase II
4/28/2009	Father & Son Realty Trust	73 Pond Street	8-Lot Subdivision	4/5/13
9/8/2009	Bearce	6 & 8 Merrimac Street	Lot Line Adjustment	12/6,3-2,10,11,14-1
10/13/2009	Brown	16 & 20 Thornell Road	Lot Line Adjustment	12/2/22 & 22-1
12/8/2009	McKillop-Araki	9 Sarah's Way	4-Lot Subdivision	10/2/10-7

In addition, the Planning Board recommended Patriot Drive, Kenwood Drive and Storey Lane for acceptance by the Board of Selectmen, enrolled Newton in the National Flood Insurance Program and reduced applications fees for home based businesses, accessory apartments and lot-line adjustments.

In February, the Planning Board submitted a proposal to Plan NH for design assistance. Newton was one of three communities selected. A large number of residents and town officials worked with the Plan NH design team to identify village centers and determine how the town can grow and develop while remaining true to its rural character. The Planning Board also received a Targeted Block Grant from the Rockingham Planning Commission to begin implementing some of the recommendations of the Plan NH professionals. The Board anticipates working extensively on this project throughout 2010 and will continue to seek public input and participation.

The Planning Board holds public hearings on the 2nd Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00 pm; Technical Review meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month beginning at 3:30 pm; and work sessions on the 4th Tuesday of each month beginning at 7:00 pm. These meetings are open to the public and attendance is encouraged.

To contact the Planning Board office, call (603) 382-3419 or e-mail NewtonPlanningNH@comcast.net.

The Planning Board is: Ann Miles, Chairperson; James Doggett, Vice Chairman; members: Frank Gibbs, Kimberly Vaillant, Kimberly Pettit, and Barbara White; alternates: Mary Allen, Chuck Whitman, Rick Milner and Mary Sousa and Selectmen Ray Thayer, Ex-Officio.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann Miles, Chairperson