

## **13. FUTURE LAND USE**

### **FUTURE LAND USE SUBCOMMITTEE STATUS**

The Newton Master Plan Future Land Use Subcommittee is continuing its work on the Future Land Use section of the Master Plan. To date the subcommittee has formulated a detailed approach to the Future Land Use section, including criteria which can be used to define which land is suitable for future development, methods for identifying which areas and aspects of the town should be preserved, and methods for evaluating the impact of specific future developments . The subcommittee has also explored a variety of potential future land use plans for the town, including a village oriented town center combining public buildings, such as the library, with small scale commercial development, and rural and agricultural preservation districts to preserve Newton's natural resources and rural character. In addition, the subcommittee has identified an extensive list of issues that should be addressed as a part of the Town's planning process including correction of incompatible zoning uses, aquifer and prime wetlands protection, mapping of street lines, and the development of trails and paths for pedestrians, bicyclists and horseback riding as well as many others .

The Future Land Use section, and its recommendations, forms a roadmap for the future of Newton. As such, it must encompass a broad variety of issues, from the preservation of wetlands to the impact of commercial development on traffic and the road system.

Much of the specific detail of the Future Land Use section, and its recommendations incorporate the findings of the other sections of the Master Plan. The Future Land Use subcommittee must carefully review the results of the other Master Plan subcommittees and include the factual data, needs and goals that they have identified into the Future Land Use section. For this reason, and the need for the Future Land Use section to represent a consensus of the community, our subcommittee's work necessarily follows the other sections of the Master Plan.

We plan to complete our work in January of 1999, and assuming that the required Future Land Use maps are completed by the Rockingham County Planning Commission, we will be ready to present the Future Land Use section of the Master Plan to the Planning Board at the end of January 1999.