

INTRODUCTION

Newton's most basic resource is its land. The use of such land determines the character and the quality of life within our community. The State Legislature has granted to the local planning board under RSA 674:1, 674:2 and 674:3 the responsibility of the preparation and administration of the Master Plan to help guide our community in the rate, location and type of growth, the protection of its unique features, and its need for public services and facilities.



Newton's first comprehensive Master Plan was adopted in 1968 and prepared by Thomas Associates. In 1986, the Master Plan Committee revised the Master Plan with the assistance of the Rockingham Planning Commission, town department heads, selectmen, and town boards. In 1998, a group of citizens came together to form a

new Master Plan committee, with the goal of presenting a revised Master Plan to the Planning Board.

In 2021, the Planning Board established a Master Plan Steering Committee to update the Master Plan. The Rockingham Planning Commission was retained to conduct a new town survey.



Photo courtesy of Marie Sapienza

Two chapters were updated between 1999 and 2021: the Vision Chapter in 2006 and the Land Use Chapter in 2008. Both these chapters are state-mandated for a Master Plan.

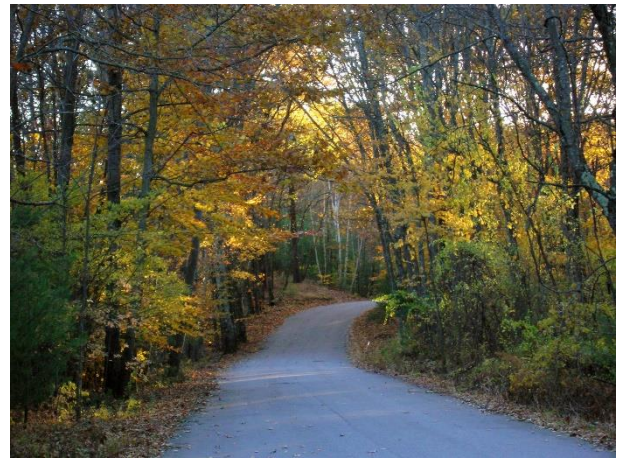
Newton's Master Plan is a compilation of data and information relative to the existing conditions and probable future growth of the municipality and its environs. It contains relevant maps, charts, and supporting text, and offers guidelines for community decision-making.



Photo courtesy of Erin Stevens

The Master Plan helps our community change responsibly, guiding growth in an orderly and constructive manner. It promotes the health, safety, order, convenience, prosperity, and the general welfare of its residents in throughout the process of development. Traffic, safety from fire and other dangers, adequate provisions for light and air, the promotion of good civic design and arrangement, wise and efficient expenditure of public funds, and the adequate provision of public utilities and other public requirements are part of planning for the future.

As Newton continues to grow, zoning and other land use regulations remain critical in directing and guiding growth. These controls will determine the future character of the town.



The periodic review of Newton's Master Plan is needed to make certain that the basis for zoning and planning and use of public monies accurately reflects the wishes of the current residents.