

Synopsis of key points in Master Plan revision

NH RSA 674:2 charges that town Planning Boards create a Master Plan to “set down as clearly and practically as possible the best and most appropriate future development of the [town] . . . to guide the board in [achieving] the principles of smart growth, sound planning and wise resource protection.” The Master Plan is meant to be the backbone of zoning ordinances and to provide guidance as to other regulations, and to decisions made by boards, committees and bodies of the town.

Input from many town groups, forums and committees shows a clear preference by townspeople for both maintaining traditional views and using progressive approaches to town planning. Ideas generated from these have been pulled into a vision for Harrisville which can be categorized and considered in four critical segments, all of which lead to concrete objectives and implementation recommendations. These components are suggested to guide the preservation of elements in Harrisville’s character that residents enjoy and value in 2014. They also shape Harrisville’s ability to absorb and succeed with inevitable shifts in technology, climate and demographics. The future leaders of Harrisville will need to consider these critical segments as they make plans and decisions for our community.

I. Conservation/Preservation

- Preserve natural resources: water, land, forests
- Preserve historic locations and buildings
- Preserve scenic natural beauty and open spaces
- Protect wildlife habitat
- Control air, noise and light pollution
- Plan sensible land use and development to prevent sprawl and encourage more housing density in central areas

II. Viability

- Expand the community so that people can afford to live and work here
- Enable economic development that is consistent with the town’s historic and natural resources
- Plan for solid, reliable infrastructure: reliable power and energy supply, cell phone reception, high speed internet connection
- Diversify transportation options: public transportation, non-motorized local travel

III. Vitality & Health, Quality of Life

- Maintain social capital, citizenship, community involvement, governance
- Seek diverse demographic mix
- Create opportunities for interaction and communication, physical spaces for community events
- Strengthen existing village of Harrisville, store, post office, pedestrian safety, parking, and create or enhance other concentrated sections of town.
- Expand recreational opportunities
- Locations to be physically active: healthy, walkable community, sports & exercise facilities
- Support strong, cost-effective public education
- Continue arts & culture events that draw people and make us a dynamic place

IV. Sustainability

- Support local food production, local farms and forestry
- Develop local energy production
- Preserve natural resources (see conservation/preservation)
- Conserve energy with incentives for renewable energy and energy-efficient building, energy efficient building codes, recycling

On-going work of coordination between government, businesses, and cultural and non-profit organizations is recommended to keep the town's vision and implementations of it current.

The Master Plan also recommends that Harrisville encourage regional cooperation in shared services, personnel or equipment.

The full text of the draft Master Plan is available on the town website <http://www.harrisvillenh.org/>. Copies are also available at the Town Offices and at the Town Library.