

## **Report of the Planning Board**

### **ROLE OF THE PLANNING BOARD**

The Planning Board has three primary roles:

1. Regulatory
  - a. Drafting new and amending existing Ordinances and Regulations.
  - b. Review applications for Excavations and Excavation permit renewals, Subdivisions, Lot Line Adjustments, Site Plans and Amended Site Plans submitted to the Town.
2. Non-Regulatory
  - a. Develop and maintain a Master Plan  
A Master Plan is a planning document that serves to guide the overall character, physical form, growth, and development of a community. It describes how, why, where, and when to build or rebuild a city or town. It provides guidance to local officials making decisions on budgets, ordinances, capital improvements, zoning and subdivision matters, and other growth related issues.
  - b. Develop and maintain a Capital Improvement Program (CIP)  
The capital improvement program (CIP), links local infrastructure investments with master plan goals, land use ordinances, and economic development. A Capital Improvement Program bridges the gap between planning and spending, between the visions of the Master Plan and the fiscal realities of improving and expanding community facilities. It provides an outline of anticipated expenditures for capital projects projected over a period of at least 6 years.
3. Working with other Boards and Organizations  
Board of Selectmen, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Conservation Commission, Energy Commission & Rockingham Planning Commission as well as State agencies such as the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) and the Local Government Center (LGC).

### **PLANNING BOARD BUDGET**

In 2012 the Town allocated \$41,871 to Planning and Zoning. In addition to funding the operation of the Land Use department, budget funds provide for external services such as the part time support of Rockingham Planning Commission Circuit Rider who provides essential professional support to the Planning Board.

The Town with the support of the Rockingham Planning Commission receives grant monies annually to perform valuable planning related projects. In recent years the Town has successfully secured funding through the following programs:

1. I-93 Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP)  
CTAP has provided three rounds of funding to communities impacted by the proposed I-93 improvements. The Town has successfully secured CTAP funding for a number of projects including a final round 3 grant for \$3,500 in 2011 to perform an audit of the Master Plan.
2. New Hampshire Office of Energy & Planning (OEP)  
The OEP offered a Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBGP) to communities in the form of a 50/50 matching program, in the range of \$1,000 - \$3,000 per community. Annually, the board has budgeted \$3,000 to ensure CDBGP funds can be accessed to perform valuable services.  
In 2012 OEP terminated this program and the Town did not spend the budgeted \$3,000.

In 2012 the NH Citizen Planner Collaborative initiated NH Community Planning Grant Program (CPGP) to provide matching grants for communities to create local regulations that foster sustainable community development. The Town unsuccessfully applied for a grant to conduct a regulatory review of the Town's Regulations and Ordinances in the context of New Hampshire's livability principles.

At year end \$32,593 was spent with \$9,278 remaining unspent. Generally, this surplus is a result of lower than average expenses due to the slow economy.

## **PLANNING BOARD ACTIVITIES**

During 2012 the Planning Board performed the following activities:

### **Regulatory**

A number of amendments associated with Site Plan Review, Subdivision, Driveway and Excavation Regulations and Zoning Ordinances have been discussed and are in various stages of enactment. The following changes will be presented to voters in 2013:

Zoning Ordinance Amendments	2
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In addition, the Planning Board completed the following work in 2012:

Excavation Renewal Permit(s) and Excavation Site Visit(s)	4
Excavation Permit Amendment	1
Site Plan Review	3
Site Plan Amendment	1
Subdivision Review	1

## **Non Regulatory**

The Town secured CDBGP grants for updating of the Vision Chapter of the Master plan and for updating the Capital Improvement Program which are currently in progress and will be completed in early 2013.

## **PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS**

Your current Planning Board Members are:

Roger Barham	Chairman	John (Jack) Downing	Member
John (Jack) Karcz	Vice-Chairman	Andrew Kohlhofer	Alternate
Brett Hunter	Selectman	Christopher Silk	Alternate

Don Marshall continues as the Planning Board representative as a Commissioner to the Rockingham Planning Commission.

The Board is extremely grateful to Meredith Bolduc, our Land Use Administrative Assistant, whose hard work and dedication ensures the smooth functioning of the office.

Our gratitude is expressed to the Members who continue to volunteer their time and efforts to serve on the Town of Fremont Planning Board.

Please visit the Planning Board page on the Fremont Town website for ongoing updates and information relative to the Zoning Ordinance, maps, regulations, decisions, minutes and agendas.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions for the Planning Board, or if you would like to participate by filling one of the available positions, please contact Meredith in the Land Use Office at 895-3200 x 17.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Barham  
Chairman

"May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view.  
May your mountains rise into and above the clouds."

~ Edward Abbey