

Signs

FINAL

Adopted December 27, 2011

2. The Town needs to continue to seek assistance from the Regional Planning Commission to ascertain what regulations other communities in the area use to protect their water resources and to develop and implement common protection mechanisms with neighboring communities.
3. There is a need for public education with regard to best management practices for forestry and agriculture, septic system maintenance, risks to water quality from on-water uses, proper disposal of household toxic wastes, preferred driveway surfacing techniques, and the causes, effects and methods to manage soil erosion.
4. Coordination with neighboring communities is needed to protect water resources.
5. A septic system maintenance and inspection program could be instituted. Proper maintenance of septic tanks can go a long way to protect water resources. This program would involve a major commitment by local officials to sell the idea and importance to the community. In addition, the Town needs to encourage the replacement of old septic systems before they fail and pollute water resources and ensure proper location for new and replacement septic systems. The town needs to promote efforts to educate the public about these issues. The Town should initiate development of a database of new installed septic systems.
6. Household hazardous waste collections have two primary benefits. The first is that the public becomes aware of household hazardous wastes and of the proper methods of disposal. The second is the proper disposal of hazardous wastes.
7. Non-fee (easement) or land acquisition programs could be used to protect the shores of water bodies and watercourses and to protect aquifer areas. The Town should identify its preferred water supplies before entering into an aggressive easement protection program. However, the Town should continue to welcome gifts of conservation easements. Whether or not used as water supplies, it is important to protect the water quality of the lakes and streams in Town.
8. Excessive use of salt for winter road maintenance can adversely affect water quality. The Town uses a sand/salt mixture on Town roads. The Town has worked with the NHDOT to designate a section of Route 103A along Herrick Cove and Little Sunapee Road as environmentally sensitive and they receive less salt for winter maintenance. The Town should continue to work with the NHDOT to designate additional environmentally sensitive areas along other State roads that should receive less salt. Motorists could be informed of these areas by posting signs.
9. To lessen negative impacts on water quality, the Public Works Director should continue to coordinate with the NHDOT to improve implementation of stormwater management techniques.
10. All stormwater structures and stream crossings in each watershed need to be mapped. This information can be used to develop a stormwater management plan.
11. Stormwater management structures such as check dams and stone filters need to be installed to reduce the velocity of the runoff and thus the erosive forces of stormwater runoff.

more of the following uses:

- professional business offices – 81.2%;
- medical offices – 80.4%;
- restaurants – 71.1%;
- professional services (barbers, laundries, hairdressers, etc.) – 57.9%;
- inns and bed & breakfasts – 67.1%; and
- retail sales – 53.2%.

These uses should continue to be supported by the Town.

17. Fiber Optic System: Continue to encourage the development of a fiber optic system to serve all areas of New London, and, at the appropriate time, have the Town of New London invest in the fiber optic system.
18. Regional vs. Local Commercial Growth: When combined the responses to Questions # 2 and # 5 do not provide a clear consensus on a preferred future commercial growth option:
- Local commercial development;
 - Regional commercial development; and
 - Limit/Do not promote further commercial development.

The survey responses are fairly evenly split between these three categories leaving no clear direction from the survey responses. These land use issues are considered in developing alternatives for the Future Land Use Plan in the Land Use Chapter.

19. New Commercial Areas: The survey responses to Question # 6 about where people would support adding areas for commercial use are fairly evenly split between:
- I-89 – 31.9%;
 - Areas served by water & sewer – 30.2%; and
 - Nowhere/No Further Commercial Development – 27.8%

The survey does not provide a consensus and leaves no clear direction. This land use issue is considered in developing alternatives for the Future Land Use Plan in the Land Use Chapter.

20. Improve Village Business Signage for Business Loop off I-89: The signage directing travelers on I-89 to the businesses in the New London village needs to be improved.
21. Support Local Agriculture: The Town should support and promote continuation and further development of working farms, farm families and agricultural enterprises.
22. Reuse of Former Middle School and/or Site: The School District and the Town should continue to work cooperatively together to find an alternative use or uses for the former Middle School. Some ideas in addition to the Community Center include:
- Business incubator site;
 - Senior housing; or
 - Private or charter school.

Commission to develop materials and conduct public education programs with regard to the “watershed approach” to managing water quality, best management practices for forestry and agriculture, septic system maintenance, risks to water quality from on-water uses, proper disposal of household toxic wastes, preferred driveway surfacing techniques, and the causes, effects and methods to manage soil erosion.

4. Coordination with adjacent communities, as mentioned above, could help provide more complete protection of important water resources. Meetings could be held to discuss local interests and an acceptable protection strategy. This approach would necessitate the involvement of local officials, but is low-cost in terms of cash outlay until the protection strategy is implemented.
5. A septic system maintenance and inspection program should be instituted either on a voluntary or mandatory basis. The Town should encourage the replacement of old septic systems before they fail and pollute water resources and ensure proper location for new and replacement septic systems. The town should promote efforts to educate the public about these important issues.
6. The Town should continue to support and participate in household hazardous waste collections and establish more frequent waste collections.
7. The Town should continue to use easement or land acquisition programs to protect the shores of water bodies and watercourses and to protect aquifer areas. The Town should identify its preferred water supplies before entering into an aggressive easement or land acquisition protection program. However, the Town should continue to welcome gifts of conservation easements.
8. The Town Public Works Department and the NHDOT should continue to use best management practices for the use of road salt for winter road maintenance. The Town and the NHDOT should continue to work cooperatively to identify additional low salt areas on Town and State roads and inform motorists of these areas by posting signs.
9. The Public Works Director should continue to work cooperatively with the NHDOT to improve implementation of stormwater management techniques to mitigate negative impacts of water quality.
10. The Town Public Works Department should work cooperatively with the lake protective associations to identify and map all stormwater structures and stream crossings in each watershed and use this inventory to develop a stormwater management plan.
11. The Town Public Works Department should continue to install stormwater management structures such as check dams and stone filters, where needed, to reduce the velocity of the runoff and thus the erosive forces of stormwater runoff.
12. The Town should develop a financing program for cases of economic hardship which enables residents to repair or replace failing septic systems.
13. The Town should participate with the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Regional Planning Commission and lake protective associations to collect and analyze information such as location,

- preserves an area which reflects cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history;
- conserving property values;
- fostering civic beauty, strengthening the local economy; and
- promoting the use of the district for the education, pleasure and welfare of community citizens.

The most comprehensive preservation tool available to local governments under state law is the creation and administration of a local historic district. As authorized by RSA 674:45, an historic district commission may be designated by local town meeting to prepare a suitable ordinance which establishes a framework for the commission's decisions and administration.

An historic district is characterized by a grouping of structures and/or sites which physically and spatially comprise a specific environment. Buildings may represent a cross section of ages and styles but should be unified by past events or by plan or physical development. One of the most difficult aspects of creating an historic district is delineating its boundaries. Boundaries must not be arbitrary or capricious.

After preparation and approval of an appropriate ordinance, the commission is given authority to consider the appropriateness of any proposed construction, exterior changes or demolition of any structure within the district. In addition to the buildings, streetscape features, above ground utility structures and signs are often also regulated. Each individual ordinance must outline precisely permitted and prohibited actions and regulated activities. Permitted activities might include routine maintenance, painting, and replacement of exterior features with similar features, rehabilitation and routine landscaping. Prohibited uses might include artificial siding, lighted signs, mercury vapor lighting, etc.

It is important to emphasize that historic district commissions control noncontributing structures, as well as new construction, within a district. Alterations and additions within a district are individually reviewed in respect to their mass, scale and detailing in relation to surrounding structures. In communities with a zoning ordinance, the historic district is usually, but not always, an overlaying district to an underlying zoning district.

For additional information on local historic districts, refer to: [Historic Districts in New Hampshire: A Handbook for the Establishment and Administration of Historic Districts](#), and [A Guide to Delineating Edges of Historic Districts](#). These and other pertinent publications are available at the NH Division of Historical Resources.

Heritage Commissions

New Hampshire now allows communities to establish heritage commissions. Heritage commissions give local governments in New Hampshire new abilities to recognize and protect historical and cultural resources. Unlike historic district commissions, whose responsibilities are limited to specific parts of a community, heritage commissions are intended to have a town-wide scope, and a range of activities that is determined by each individual community. Heritage commissions do for cultural resources what conservation commissions do for natural resources. Functionally, heritage commissions are somewhere between historical societies and historic district commissions, with their precise role determined locally. And while their primary duties are to advise and assist local boards and commissions, including the planning board, heritage commissions are also empowered to accept and expend funds for a non-lapsing heritage fund, and to acquire and manage property rights. Some communities may have heritage

driving short distances around town. The announced Elkins renovation, which received a lot of community input during its design, will also improve the walkability and safety of the Elkins Village District. Clearly, New London's citizens want to make the option of not driving around town—or to regional transportation hubs—an easier and safer alternative to using their petroleum-fueled cars.

What is New London Doing About It?

New London has continuously examined how to improve the productivity of its municipal operations, and how to reduce the operating costs of its buildings and equipment. Recently, as fuel and energy costs have escalated, after a period of relatively cheap energy, and as New London's understanding of the potential harm combustion can have on both our health and our environment, its attention toward its energy consumption has heightened. New London's citizens have also been active, often volunteering and organizing on their own to identify opportunities to conserve energy, invest in energy efficiency and educate fellow citizens of the benefits of reduced energy consumption and sustainable energy generation. As previously mentioned, a Local Energy Committee was formed in 2007. The following list of recent activity further demonstrates the towns growing interest and commitment to energy issues:

- Construction of energy efficient garage for Department of Public Works (2004)
- Lighting retrofit of Tracy Memorial Library (2005)
- Town diesel fleet converted to bio-diesel (2006)
- Reduction and retrofit of street lighting (2007)
- Heating system retrofit for Tracy Memorial Library (2007)
- Evaluation of micro-hydro power generation, Pleasant Lake (2007)
- Energy audit of Tracy Memorial Library (2008)
- Kill-a-Watt Energy Meters and Energy Reference Material Available at Library (2008, ongoing)
- Evaluation of wind turbine with Colby-Sawyer College (2008/9, ongoing)
- No Idling Policy established; signs erected around town (2008/9)
- "Lights Out" New London (evening without using electric lights, 2008/9)
- "Energy Matters" series of articles published by NLEC in local paper (2008/9, ongoing)
- Installation of Bicycle Racks around town (2008/9)
- Attic insulation improvement for Tracy Memorial Library (2009)
- Adoption of Small Wind Power Ordinance (2009)
- Expanded Park-and-Ride Lot at I-89 Exit 12 (2009)
- Constructed efficient roundabout to address traffic delays and safety concerns (2009)
- League of Women Voters Lecture Series (2009, 8 Speakers on EE and RE)
- Hosting the Inaugural "Button-Up New Hampshire" Work Shop (2009)
- Lighting audit of all municipal buildings (2009)
- Master Plan Energy Chapter (2009/10, currently being drafted)
- Participation in the NH Municipal Energy Assistance Program (2009/10)
- Measuring and Benchmarking Total Municipal Energy Consumption (2010)
- Auditing the Least Energy-Efficient Municipal Building for Remediation (2010)
- Building shell and window improvements for Tracy Memorial Library (Planned, 2010)
- Over the last several years, a number of town representatives have attended training and informational workshops to build local capability in the areas of EE and RE