

MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

In 2006 the Master Plan Committee neared completion of Stow's comprehensive master plan. The membership consists of representatives from the Board of Selectmen, Board of Health, Finance Committee, Conservation Committee, Planning Board and four members at large.

Our primary concern has been housing because housing policy has a major effect on almost every major issue confronting Stow. We want Stow to be a multigenerational community with a variety of housing options that does not exclude either younger or older populations. We would prefer a Stow where young people can afford to live and start a family and older residents can afford to stay instead of moving away because they can no longer bear the high real estate tax burden on a fixed income.

We want to protect open space in Stow, but we acknowledge that our current zoning rules encourage sprawl. We believe that village development (i.e. zoning changes that would permit smaller lots and provide for mixed use zoning) is suitable for the Lower Village and Gleasondale. Village development and housing partnerships working together can promote a multigenerational community and help mitigate further sprawl.

We cherish the rural flavor of Stow but we recognize that the state's laws require Stow to accept further growth and development. We feel that it is critical that Stow should find an equitable way to share both the benefits and burdens of development.

The Master Plan Committee continues to solicit input from the citizens of Stow. The update of the plan is really an ongoing process and all interested citizens are encouraged to become informed and educated about Master Plans, what they entail, and their purpose. We meet at the Stow Town Building twice a month, usually the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. Schedules do change, however, due to commitments of committee members. The meetings are posted on the bulletin board by the entrance to the Town Building. The meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernie Dodd
John Halpern
Ron Ham
Greg Jones
Karen Kelleher

Charles Kern
Becky Mattison
Roy Miller
Marcia Rising, Chair
Janet Wheeler