

Town of Madbury, New Hampshire

Master Plan: Toward the Year 2010

2.1 The Vision for Madbury

Prepared for

Town of Madbury Planning Board
Madbury, New Hampshire

by

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The Vision for Madbury

Introduction

The Master Plan's Vision for Madbury describes what kind of town citizens of Madbury want. The Vision describes the overall character in terms of its natural, social and built environment.

The Vision for Madbury

The Vision for Madbury is to be a quality residential community that preserves and maintains the Town's historic and rural character.

Public opinion in Madbury, as discerned from community expressions including public hearings, conversations among residents, and a Planning Board survey, clearly favors this vision. Since the Town does not offer suitable locations for significant retail or industrial development, no significant commercial center is anticipated. The scenic vistas of farms and open meadows, forests and wetlands, stonewalls and historic architecture, are what give Madbury its unique character and citizens want to preserve these.

To achieve this vision, ten policies listed in order of priority on the following pages were adopted by the Planning Board and represent the official position of the Town of Madbury. Further detail and support for these policies are found in Master Plan chapters as well as specific recommendations to implement these policies.

Policy One

Protect water resources in Madbury from contamination, depletion and disfigurement using watershed management principles. Act as stewards for municipal and regional water supplies located within the Oyster River, Bellamy River, and Little Bay watersheds.

The protection and use of water resources are critical concerns to the Town of Madbury. With virtually all residents dependent upon private wells for domestic use, the quantity and quality of available groundwater must be protected from contamination and depletion. Other Town water resources, such as swamps, ponds, streams and wetlands are important as they are hydrologically related to groundwater, and they provide ecological, scenic, and recreational value to residents.

In general there is a direct relationship between land use and water quality. It is the responsibility of the Town to take reasonable and prudent precautions to protect all water resources from incompatible land uses, thus protecting the health and general welfare of the community.

Madbury provides a substantial volume of water to other municipalities in the region. The Town must take appropriate steps to insure that sufficient water supplies exist for use by Madbury residents, as well as the native wildlife and plant communities. The Town needs to examine and address the issues of water supply, watershed management (aquifers, surface), pollution, and potential aquifers/gravel areas.

Policy Two

Preserve Madbury's rural atmosphere and landscape. Protect and manage open space, wetlands, forests, fields, agricultural resources, scenic vistas, and historic resources for the benefit of present and future generations.

The protection and sustainable management of the Town's natural and historic resources is central to this Master Plan. This focus will work to preserve the Town's rural sense of place. This policy reflects a strong desire among town residents to preserve the Town's open space and rural atmosphere as expressed during the June 2000 Master Plan survey of residents

Policy Three

Acquire additional interests in land for conservation, water supply, open space, public recreation, and Town facilities.

Effective methods to ensure the preservation of environmentally and historically significant properties are the acquisition of easements and purchase of land by the Town, and donations of easements and land to the Town. Through the acquisition of easements and land, develop a greenbelt linking Town facilities, schools, trails, open space, and wildlife corridors.

Policy Four

Insure a safe and secure community.

The health and safety of local residents should be protected by volunteers and personnel capable of responding to all types of emergencies, and through the provision of municipal services.

Policy Five

Keep the property tax stable.

Property taxes are substantial. Increases in the tax rate can have a significant effect on Town residents. Municipal expenditures and the local tax base must be closely monitored for their effects on residents.

Policy Six

Accommodate the service and infrastructure needs of residents without placing an undue burden on taxpayers.

Volunteers provide the backbone of most Town services. Town population and the technical and legal complexity of Town affairs continue to increase. The Town needs to take steps to maintain the quality of services by the continued use of volunteers, employees, and contractual services.

Policy Seven

Insure future economic development that does not harm the environment or abutting properties.

Economic development should be accomplished in a manner that has a minimal impact on the natural resources, residents, local road network, and other Town services. The Town will take steps to insure economic development is an overall improvement to the community as a whole.

Policy Eight

Plan and implement a safe, attractive and efficient transportation network.

The transportation network consists of roads, trails, and paths for motorized vehicles, pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians. This system serves the needs of not only Madbury residents, but residents of other communities. The primary purpose of the transportation network is to provide internal links within the community for the residents, but must recognize that traffic flows through the town between the surrounding towns and should be accommodated in a safe and efficient manner.

While working towards a local road network that is both safe and efficient, every effort should be made to preserve the historic and scenic atmosphere of the town's roadways using techniques appropriate for rural traffic.

Policy Nine

Focus Madbury's civic and social activities within the present civic district.

The area around the Town Hall serves as the civic and social center of the Town of Madbury. Concerted effort should be made to retain the traditional character of the town center, provide a sense of place, and enhance community identity.

Policy Ten

Allow a diversity of housing so that people of all ages and income may live in Madbury.

Recognizing the difficulties many people face in finding adequate, safe, and affordable housing, the Town should promote strategies for the provision of fair and equitable housing opportunities.

Conclusion / Next Steps/ Implementation

The policies serve as principles to achieve a quality residential community. Achieving them will require implementation (i.e. action to achieve results.) These actions are described in the Master Plan.

In part this means setting and meeting current or new principles and standards for development. For if "quality" is defined as conformance to a standard, then continually improving quality means continually setting and achieving higher standards for excellence in planning, design, development, service and operations.

Citizens drive the standards: their aspirations, expectations, goals and principles.

Setting standards and monitoring progress will enable the Town to:

- Retain and improve the quality of life.
- Promote economic opportunity.
- Promote health and safety.
- Promote educational opportunity.
- Promote environmental protection.

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- Enable sustainable development.

The Master Plan will describe these standards. Some exist in current ordinances and regulations. Others need to be prepared and adopted over time. Achieving them will result in achieving the vision of a quality residential community.