

MASTER PLANNING COMMITTEE

Kenneth Swanton, Chairman.....	2006
Bradley Reed.....	2006
Michelle Simpson.....	2006
Mark Sullivan.....	2006
Betsy Taylor-Kennedy.....	2006
Christopher Slade, Non-voting member.....	2006

In 2006, the Master Planning Committee completed a final draft of the town's first Master Plan since 1971. The Committee sent previous drafts to various town boards and committees and received comments from the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Historical Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, and Conservation Commission. The committee integrated many of these suggestions to improve the Master Plan. The committee also mailed a flyer to every household and business in town to publicize the draft and received comments from the public on its contents.

The Plan offers suggested strategies for the town to undertake to achieve certain goals listed in its vision statement and goals in Chapter 2. The plan is organized in a manner to meet the necessary criteria for a master plan under Mass. General Law Chapter 41, Section 81D. Existing conditions within the town are outlined in Chapter 3 (Recent Growth) and Chapter 4 (Land Use Maps). The Plan touches on important topics affecting the town's future: Housing, Open Space and Recreation, Business Development, Natural and Historic Resources, Land Use, Public Facilities and Services, and Transportation. The Plan concludes with an Implementation Plan to help guide actions of town boards and committees.

The Plan's key findings include:

- To meet the State's affordable housing requirements, developers should be encouraged to build 40B projects with an increased percentage of affordable units, rather than just the 25% minimum requirement.
- Businesses compatible with Bolton's character should be encouraged. Agriculture should be fostered by initiating a Bolton Agricultural Commission and Right-to-Farm bylaw.
- Bolton's historic resources should be protected by establishing a local historic district along Main Street in Bolton Center.

The Plan is not intended to be written in stone. In fact, the Plan should be adapted to address changing conditions within the town at least once every five years. The Plan can be downloaded from the town's internet site at: [http://www.townofbolton.com/Pages/BoltonMA_Planning/Master Plan](http://www.townofbolton.com/Pages/BoltonMA_Planning/Master_Plan)

The Committee would like to thank Margaret Campbell, Stephen Garner, Dick Heaton, and Russ Karlstad for their hard work and service on the Committee;

Ken Troup for his dedicated assistance with the Plan, and Betsy Taylor-Kennedy for editing multiple drafts of the Plan.

Financial Statement
July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006

Appropriated (STM November, 2004 - Article 4)	\$45,000.00
Expended	<u>\$37,932.16</u>
Unexpended balance	\$ 7,067.84