

Town of Chichester



2004 Master Plan

Adopted by the Chichester Planning Board
June 3, 2004

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INTRODUCTION

RSA 674 requires local planning boards to prepare and amend a master plan to guide local development. Revisions to existing master plans are recommended every five to ten years.

The purpose of a master plan is to state clearly and as practically as possible, the best and most appropriate future development for a town, to aid the planning board in designing ordinances that result in preserving and enhancing New Hampshire's unique quality of life and culture, and to guide the planning board in achieving the principles of smart growth, sound planning, and wise resource protection.

Chichester's first Master Plan was published in 1986. Based on 290 survey responses and other inputs, the 1986 Master Plan recommended that Chichester: (1) maintain its rural character; (2) continue zoning regulations based on soil survey and on-site examination; (3) recognize that growth has come and that clustered housing and apartments may be an integral part of that growth; (4) maintain and improve highways and rural thoroughfares to carry increased traffic that comes with growth; (5) provide a plan for more community facilities and develop better access to public waterways; and (6) appoint a standing committee to coordinate building and construction needs.

Chichester's next Master Plan was published in 1997. The 1997 Master Plan updated the 1986 Master Plan, using a 1993 Town survey consisting of 128 responses. The 1997 Master Plan made seven recommendations: (1) establish a Chichester Economic Development Committee; (2) prepare and adopt a Capital Improvement Program for all town services; (3) use Conservation Commission guidance to develop land use management goals and objectives; (4) review and completely update Zoning Ordinances, Subdivision Regulations, Site Plan Review Regulations, and Building Regulations; (5) Develop a traffic management plan for local and through traffic; (6) consider recommendations for conservation, preservation and use of Chichester's man-made and natural resources; and (7) develop regulations for sand and gravel operations.

As of 2003, five of the seven recommendations have been met, with no action being taken on an economic development committee and no regulations in effect for sand and gravel operations.

The 2003 Master Plan Committee met from June 2003 through February 2004. After seeking input from the School Board, Department Heads, Town Committees and the Selectmen, the Committee developed a comprehensive survey, which was sent to approximately 2000 Chichester landowners and voters. Based on 450 responses, the Master Plan Committee produced the 2003 Master Plan using the vision created by the survey respondents.

Following a brief vision section, the Master Plan provides a condensed history of Chichester to orient the readers with their community. Next, the Master Plan provides a summary of Chichester's current status in the areas of land use, conservation, business, and Town services. Finally, the Master Plan provides and summarizes the comprehensive citizen inputs, and provides recommendations based on those inputs.

Master Plan Committee

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VISION

The Master Plan Committee recognized that citizen inputs are essential to an effective master plan in order to create a vision that guides the future growth of the town. The following vision was created not by the Master Plan Committee, but rather from comprehensive inputs to the community survey.

Chichester citizens resoundingly want to preserve Chichester's rural character and small town image. Citizens are amenable to using comprehensive zoning to limit and shape Chichester's growth and to keep growth in consonance with surrounding towns and the region as a whole. Citizens also show strong support for protecting and increasing agricultural resources and for protecting a variety of natural resources. Citizens are satisfied with Town services and facilities.

Chichester should continue to use comprehensive zoning controls to stay the course of limited well-planned growth and to ensure that whatever growth does occur has a negligible impact on the rural character. Chichester should also continue to seek methods of preserving historical and natural resources in order to ensure future generations enjoy the rural character we enjoy today. Finally, as the surrounding region grows and regional services expand, Chichester should constantly re-examine the efficiency of the delivery of services.

Following the guidelines above, it is quite likely that future Chichester citizens will enjoy the rural, quiet Town we all enjoy today.

CHAPTER I HISTORY OF CHICHESTER

The original grant of Chichester, dated May 20, 1727, gave the proprietors three years to build sixty dwelling houses and settle that number of families. In the years following the grant, Chichester was surveyed and divided and roads were built. The original Chichester was much larger than today, but in 1782 the General Court allowed the northern part of Chichester to become the Town of Pittsfield, due to a dispute over where to locate the center of Town.

Chichester remained relatively isolated until transportation improvements began affecting its growth. In the late 1700's the Great Road from Concord to Portsmouth was completed allowing products such as lumber, granite, hay, grain, flax and wool, to move by horse and oxen to the seacoast. In 1803, the Middlesex Canal was completed, allowing products to move between Concord and Boston by water in four to five days.

Although small, Chichester generously contributed to the Civil War effort. Ninety-four men enlisted in response to President Lincoln's call, of which fifty played active roles in the battles of Fredericksburg, Vicksburg, the Wilderness and Spotsylvania. Chichester also supplied grain, beef cattle and other supplies by ox cart to Hampton for the Continental Army, and gave thirty pounds (approximately \$150) and twenty heifers to every soldier returning to Chichester after the War. Chichester's generosity resulted in a large debt of \$36,600; a debt not paid off until 1897.

The Town Library was established by the Legislature in 1798 as "The Social Library in Chichester." Most likely, after its inception, the main library was located in a private home, as it is known that several branch libraries were located in private residences.

In 1869, the Suncook Valley Railroad was completed, after being delayed by the Civil War. The Railroad followed the Suncook River and served Chichester for about eighty years. Although the railroad sounded the death knell for the canals, it helped Chichester and the surrounding towns prosper, as mills and factories sprung up throughout the Suncook Valley, and wherever water power would turn a waterwheel. Along with the many new mills and factories, Chichester had at least four boarding houses for summer visitors, with an average room and board rate of \$5.00 per week.

In the mid to late 1800's Webster's Mills Road had two saw mills, a grist mill, a blacksmith shop, a brick kiln, a wheelwright's shop and a smelter for the silver ore that was mined nearby. On the River along Depot Road and Pittsfield Road were a grist mill, a saw mill, a blacksmith shop, and a carriage and sleigh builder's business large enough to occupy five buildings. Both Gilmanton Brook and Lynxfield Brook contained shingle mills. In 1872 at least ten people worked manufacturing boots and shoes with shoe stock sent to Chichester from Haverhill and Lynn, Massachusetts to be "bottomed." Twenty thousand pairs of shoes were bottomed in Chichester, valued at \$21,000 and providing Chichester with an annual payroll of approximately \$4,000.

Around the turn of the century, Chichester's population decreased dramatically, as transportation improved and many citizens left to seek their fortunes elsewhere. Some followed the railroads into the developing west; some moved to larger cities. Many farms were abandoned and eventually sold for taxes. This was characteristic of so many communities in the State that in 1899, Governor Frank Rollins, instituted Old Home Week in an effort to draw former residents back to visit. Chichester joined the effort in 1901 and still celebrates Old Home Day annually in the third week of August. The focal point is the eagerly anticipated serving of Bean-Hole-Beans, which the Marden family has been preparing for Chichester for three generations.

The Depot Road Bridge, known locally as "Thunder Bridge," was built in 1887 to replace other lower bridges that continually washed out. This bridge is a rare example of overhead truss construction. In 1912, Chichester recorded its first automobiles, as two automobiles were recorded with a combined value of \$1050. In the following year, six were recorded, with a combined value of \$2600.

In 1899, the Library was moved to the second floor of the Old Town Hall, which was formerly used by Chichester's regiment of the New Hampshire Militia. In the last 104 years, the Library has expanded from a small room in the meeting house to now occupying the entire building.

Chichester's population continued to decrease through the early part of the 1900's, with only 15 men called to serve in World War I. In 1929, the population reached its lowest point since the Revolution – 509 people.

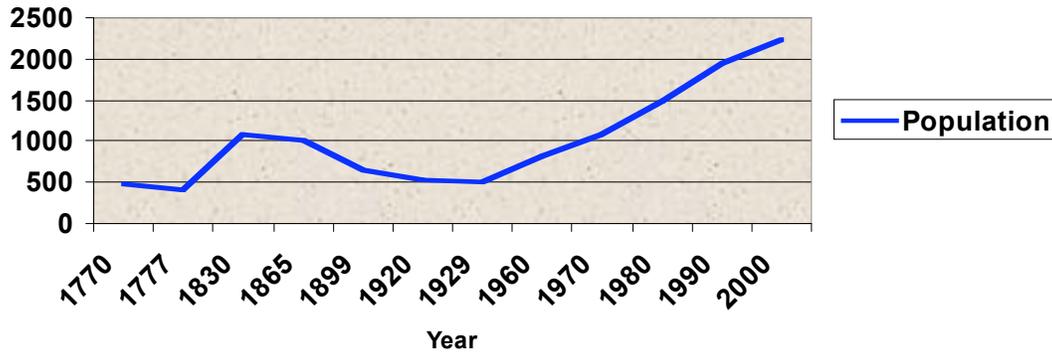
In 1927, electricity arrived in Chichester. Each family that wanted electricity paid \$100 either in money, materials or labor, which included setting poles and installing electric lines. Roads continued to improve and automobiles brought the employment and shopping opportunities of Concord and the surrounding towns ever closer.

Organized in 1936 with 33 charter members, the Chichester Fire Department remains a volunteer force today. The Department's original vehicle was a second-hand Chevrolet truck chassis to which was added a fire truck body, tank and pump. The first fire station was a former stone shed used for making monuments. Due to crowded conditions, a new fire station was proposed in 1952, and in 1953 a new fire station was built on Main Street, costing the Town only \$2,400 due to a large volunteer effort. In 1970, the station was increased in size to accommodate two additional trucks.

Forty-two men from Chichester served in World War II. After the war, Chichester's population began to increase, several service stations opened and a number of new houses were built. In 1949, a new four-classroom central school was built on a 14-acre site on Main Street, replacing the old one-room district schools. Over the years, the school has expanded to meet capacity, including additions in 1961, 1965, 1967, 1988, 1997, and 2002.

A dial telephone system was installed in 1954 and a modern state-of-the-art phone switch put into service in 1989. Zoning was enacted in 1964. In the last fifty years, as roads have been improved and enlarged, Chichester's population has continued to increase as shown in the following graph.

Chichester Population



In 1980, the Grange Hall was deeded to the Town of Chichester. Nine years later, the Town offices were moved from the Chichester Library (which had been the Town Hall for nearly 150 years) to the basement of the Grange Hall. Subsequently, the Grange Hall has become the Town meeting place and voting area for smaller meetings (with larger meetings being held at the Central School's Multi-purpose room).

For a much more comprehensive history, "A History of Chichester" may be purchased from the Historical Society for a \$10.00 fee, or may be viewed at the Chichester Library.

**CHAPTER II
CHICHESTER IN 2003**

I. LAND USE

Chichester has no municipal water or sewer system, therefore building lots must be capable of providing a water supply and a sewage disposal system without affecting or being affected by those of neighbors. Because soils and soil conditions are critical considerations for private systems, Chichester's zoning continues to be based on the Merrimack County Soil Survey published by the U. S. Natural Resources Conservation Service. Resident surveys completed in 1986, 1993 and 2003 indicate general satisfaction with Chichester's zoning based on soil type, including limiting lot size based on natural limitations of soil type, slope and drainage.

Chichester contains 13,628 acres with a variety of land cover as illustrated in the following table¹.

Class	Chichester (acres)	Chichester (%)
Residential, commercial, or industrial	228.4	1.7
Transportation	739.4	5.4
“Developed” subtotal	967.8	7.1
Row crops	32.3	.2
Hay/rotation/permanent pasture	1,288.1	9.5
Fruit orchards	0	0
“Agriculture” subtotal	1,320.4	9.7
Beech/oak	3,551.7	26.1
Paper birch/aspen	79.5	.6
Other hardwoods	773.9	5.7
White/red pine	2,119.4	15.6
Spruce/fir	260.1	1.9
Hemlock	297.2	2.2
Pitch pine	0	0
Mixed forest	3,166.2	23.3
Forested wetlands	20.7	.2
“Forested” subtotal	10,268.7	75.5
Open water	206.1	1.5
Non-forested wetlands	253.9	1.9
“Wetlands” subtotal	460.0	3.4
Disturbed	20.9	.2
Bedrock/vegetated	0	0
Cleared/other open	592.1	4.4
“Other” subtotal	612.9	4.5
TOTAL	13,608.9	100.0

¹ Number of acres and Table taken from Natural Resources Inventory, September 2003.

(1) General topography of Chichester

The northern two thirds of Chichester, including Pleasant Street, Bear Hill Road, Canterbury Road, and Dover Road, is characterized by smooth hills separated by valleys containing poorly drained and marshy soils. Parts of this area include deep well-drained soils and some areas where the soil mantle is shallow to bedrock, but more typical is the hard-pan or cemented layer generally found at a depth of two to three feet. Most of the flat areas are poorly drained or are covered by swamps and marshes.

The southern third of Chichester from the Pembroke line to the area of Lane, Towle, and King Roads, is made up of rolling uplands and scattered swamps. Soils here include deep, well-drained glacial tills, areas which are shallow to bedrock, seasonally wet soils which have water within 1 1/2 to 2 feet of the surface late in the spring and in wet seasons, and poorly drained soils where water is at or near the surface most of the year. Slopes range from moderate to steep, except for the wet areas.

The Suncook flood plain and associated stream terrace area make up the third broad division in Chichester's topography. In this section soils are still being formed by periodic flooding of the Suncook River, or are the result of terraces formed when the river was at a higher elevation than now. The stream terrace soils associated with the flood plain include most of the areas adjacent to Route 28.

(2) Soils and Zoning

Chichester's Zoning Regulations provide the following five zoning districts, all of which are determined by soil type as identified in the Merrimack County Soil Survey.

Conservation-Open Space-Wetlands District: This district, consisting of 2,991 acres, restricts development in order to protect wetland resources. This district is made up of the poorly-drained soils and marsh or swamp areas, where water is at or near the surface most of the year. No residential development is allowed in this district, although agriculture, forestry, recreation, and wildlife management are allowed.

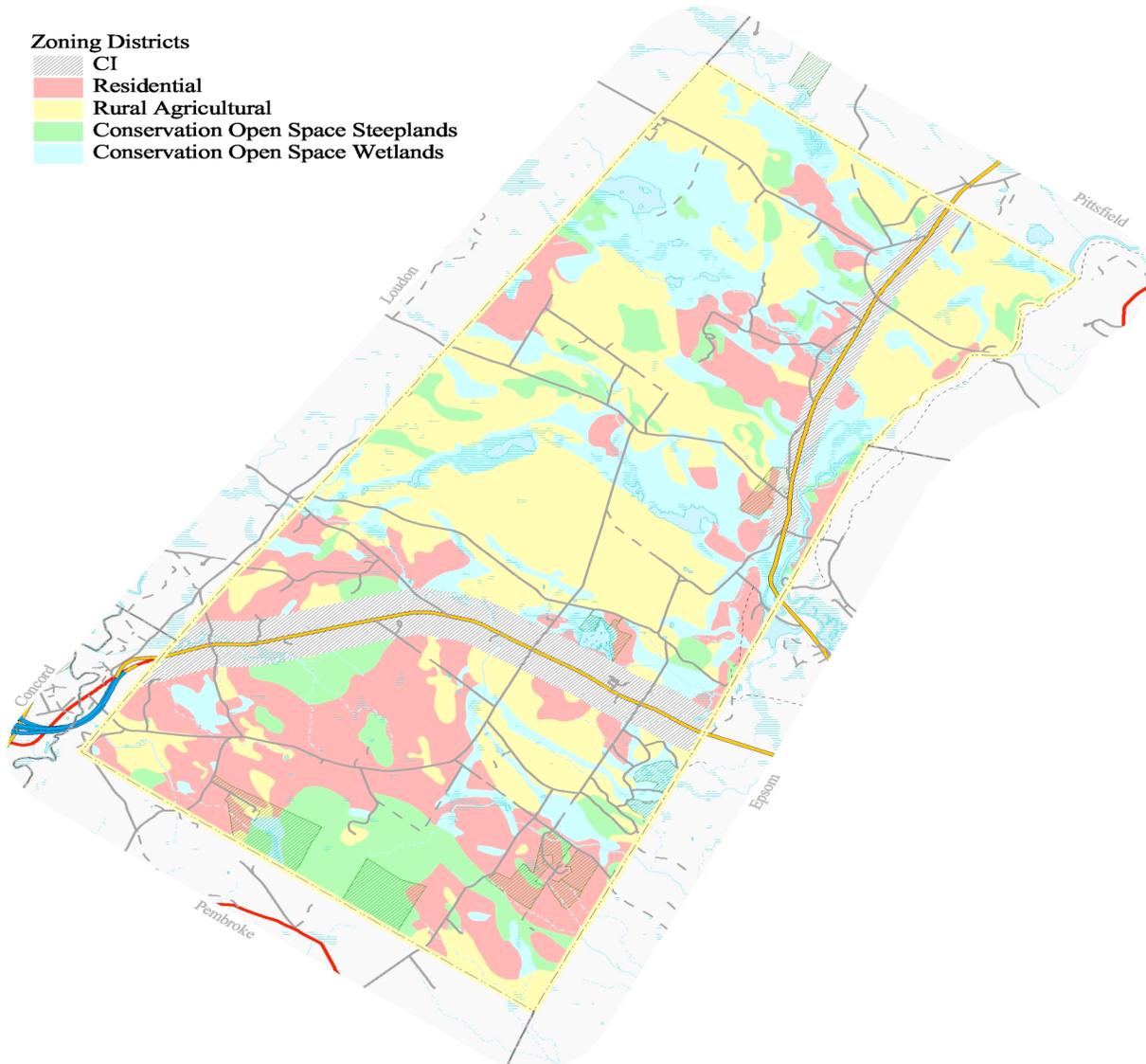
Conservation-Open Space-Steeplands District: This district, consisting of 1,592 acres, limits development on steep shallow soils with grades over 15%. This district is made up of rocky or stony soils, often shallow to bedrock, and can be subject to severe erosion. Due to steep grades, higher construction and maintenance costs can be expected for roads and septic systems. Residential development is allowed on less-steep slopes with a five-acre minimum lot size.

Rural Agricultural District: This district, consisting of 4,475 acres, limits development by requiring larger lot sizes because of soil limitations, including moderate drainage due to a hard-pan layer, wet seasonal soils, or shallow soils on top of bedrock. The hard-pan soils in this area are classed as prime agricultural land where slope is not a limiting factor, and most of the other soils in the area have a potential for agricultural use. Residential development is allowed with a minimum lot size of five acres.

Residential District: This district, consisting of 3,222 acres, is ideal for residential development due to deep soils with gentle to moderate slopes. Minimum lot size is two acres.

Commercial-Industrial District: This district, consisting of 1,274 acres, includes the areas along Routes 4/9/202 and 28. This district is designed to encourage business development to increase Chichester’s tax base, while concentrating growth along the major transportation corridors.

Zoning District	Abbreviation	Acreage	% of Chichester
Commercial / Industrial	CI	1,274	9.4
Residential	R	3,222	23.8
Rural / Agricultural	RA	4,475	33.0
Open Space – Steep	OSS	1,592	11.7
Open Space – Wetland	OSW	2,991	22.1



II. POPULATION AND HOUSING

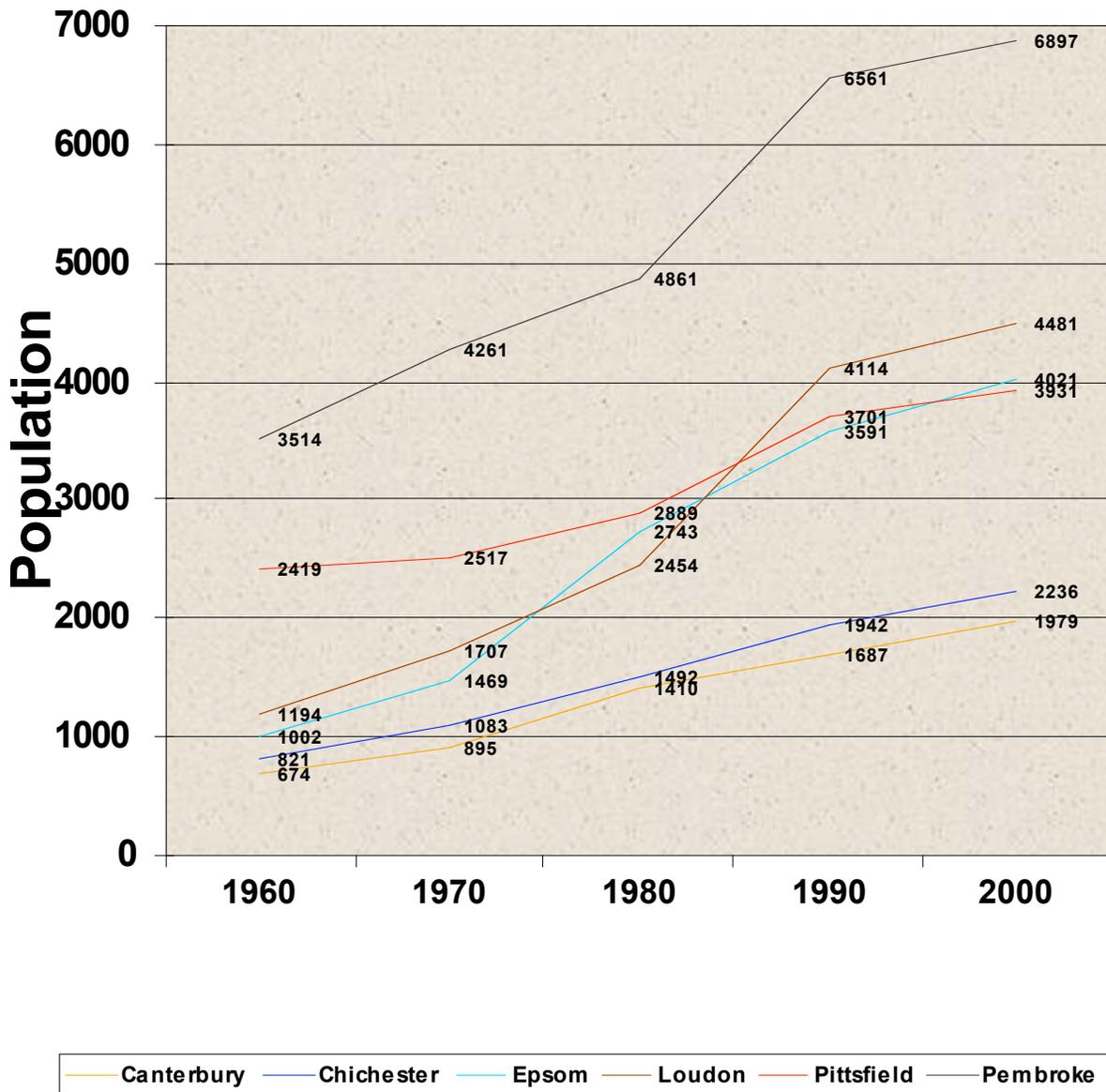
Chichester's residents uniformly feel that Chichester is a desirable place to live due to its rural, quiet, small-town atmosphere, and its convenient location near cities, shopping, and services with easy access to mountains, lakes and the seashore. Due to its desirability, the New Hampshire Office of State Planning forecasts continued population increases, primarily through the construction of new single family dwellings.

The number of potential home sites on Town-maintained roads is relatively limited; therefore future development is likely to occur on large tracts of land with little or no road frontage. Such development will necessitate the construction of new roads by developers. Current zoning dictates that multiple family dwellings in excess of two-family can only be built in the commercial zone, while two-family dwellings are permitted in the general residential zone. Construction of two-family dwellings has been very limited, and most apartment living is confined to older farmhouses.

(1) Population Trends

As seen in the Population Comparison chart below, the populations of Chichester and the surrounding towns have increased substantially in the last twenty years, although recent zoning growth controls seem to have slowed runaway growth. From 1980 to 1990, the average area population increased 36 percent while Chichester's population increased 50 percent. From 1990 to 2000, the average area population increases had slowed to 9 percent while Chichester's population increased by 15 percent to 2,236 people. Although Chichester's growth rate has substantially exceeded the average over the last twenty years and continued increases are projected, the recent enactment of a growth ordinance has temporarily slowed Chichester's growth to that of the surrounding towns. Looking to the future, the Office of State Planning, projects Chichester's population at 2600 people in 2010 and 2920 people in 2020.

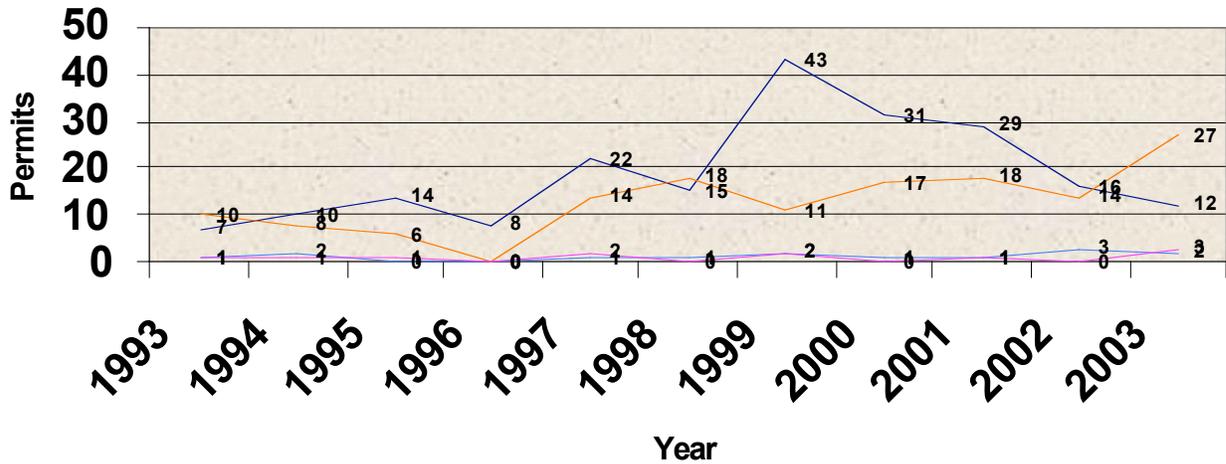
Population Comparison



(2) Housing

Planning for population increases is critical, because those area towns that have not developed a growth plan have seen uncontrolled growth that severely taxes town services. As part of maintaining orderly growth, Chichester instituted a growth ordinance in 2000. The growth ordinance is reviewed annually, and currently limits growth of single-family housing units to 1.39%, currently allowing 12 building permits per year. Chichester building permit applications for recent years are listed below.

Chichester Building Permits



Recent large developments in Chichester include Woodland Crossing and Malachy Glen.

Woodland Crossing is located adjacent to King Road and to date 32 single-family homes have been built. Two lots remain undeveloped and one road leading to two additional buildable lots has not been constructed.

Malachy Glen is located on Connemara Drive, off Horsecorner Road. Phase One consists of 22 houses. A Phase Two is in the planning process and is expected to consist of an additional 16 to 18 house lots.

Chichester currently has 860 total residential housing units, consisting of 761 single family houses, 77 manufactured houses, and 22 multifamily houses.

III. NATURAL AND MAN-MADE RESOURCES

(1) Natural Resources

In 2003, the Chichester Conservation Commission, in conjunction with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, completed a Natural Resource Inventory for Chichester. Among other things, this study identifies large tracts of unfragmented lands, wildlife habitats, water resources, scenic resources, protected open space, Town-owned land and historic and cultural features. Although not all inclusive, the study is the most comprehensive natural

resource study of Chichester to date, and identifies four high-concentration natural resource areas; (1) along the Suncook floodplain, (2) Perry Brook Pond, (3) Lynxfield Pond, and (4) Plausawa Highlands.

As illustrated in the first table in this chapter, approximately 85 percent of Chichester is either forested or used for agriculture. However, out of Chichester's 13,628 acres, only 349 private acres (2.5%) are protected by conservation easements or deed restrictions. In addition, the Town of Chichester owns 207.2 acres of open land that is not currently developed.

For a detailed analysis of Chichester's natural resources, contact the Chichester Conservation Commission to obtain a copy of Chichester's Natural Resource Inventory.

(2) Man-made and Historical Resources

Chichester has a rich cultural history, with its 200+ year old houses, mills, one-room schools, taverns, tourist homes, and more. In addition to analyzing Chichester's natural resources, the Natural Resource Inventory also provides a relatively comprehensive list of many of Chichester's more significant cultural and historical features.

The following Town-owned historical structures have been maintained and preserved throughout the years.

Grange Hall - Currently used for Town offices, Town meetings, Grange meetings, and other functions.

Town Library - Former Town Hall and former militia drill site.

Old Iron Bridge a.k.a. "Thunder Bridge"– Unique architecture, located on Depot Road is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Old Fire Station – Preserved to be used by the Chichester Historical Society on the first floor, with the upstairs meeting room reserved for public functions.

IV. BUSINESS

Chichester is home to many small to mid-size businesses, with most of the businesses located in the Commercial-Industrial zone along Routes 4/9/202 and 28. Businesses in Chichester can be categorized into four groups: manufacturing, retail outlets, professional offices and home-type businesses. A sampling of manufacturing businesses includes soil recycling, a saw mill, a granite company, truck body repair, printing, sign manufacturing, building contractors, plant nursery, and agricultural operations. A sampling of retail outlets includes shoe sales, furniture sales, woodstove sales, automobile repairs and sales, recreational vehicle sales, construction equipment sales, farm store sales and restaurants. A sampling of professional services/offices includes law offices, accountant offices, insurance offices, a multi-purpose office building, and a veterinarian. A sampling of home occupations includes kennels,

accounting, greenhouse, cake sales, upholstering, preschool/kindergarten, horse boarding, and small engine repair.

Commercial growth has continued to increase in Chichester, although the types of present and future commercial growth are likely limited, due to lack of Town services. Future industrial development also is probably limited to smaller operations that can operate with on-site water and sewage systems.

V. TOWN SERVICES AND FACILITIES

(1) General Services

Waste Disposal. Chichester is a member of a multi-town (Barnstead, Chichester, Epsom, Pittsfield) solid waste disposal facility located in Pittsfield (“Waste Facility”). As such, Chichester citizens enjoy unlimited use of the Waste Facility on a no-cost basis for recyclable and other household waste and a cost basis for other certain items. The Waste Facility is open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Municipal Water and Sewer. As previously mentioned, Chichester does not have a municipal water system or sewage disposal system. These services are not anticipated in the near future, because of dispersed development and no sizable concentration of buildings.

Toxic Waste. Although Chichester does not have a toxic waste disposal facility, hazardous household waste may be disposed of at the Waste Facility. Items such as motor oil and antifreeze may be disposed of during regular business hour. The facility also hosts household hazardous waste days. For more information call 435-6237 or visit the B.C.E.P. website www.bcepsolidwaste.com. Chichester’s zoning prohibits hazardous waste dumps and facilities without a Town referendum vote.

Water Supply for Fire Protection. Because Chichester has no municipal water system, private water supplies are critical for fire protection so that water can be shuttled by tank trucks in the event of a fire. Although Chichester is inundated with both large and small water sources, there is only one operable dry hydrant in Town, guaranteeing year-round accessibility.

(2) Education

The Chichester School District is part of School Administrative Unit #53, which includes Chichester, Epsom, Allenstown, Pembroke and Deerfield. Chichester students attend Chichester Central School while in grades kindergarten through eight and attend Pembroke Academy while in grades nine through twelve. Bus service is provided for all grades.

Chichester is party to a contract with Pembroke Academy to educate Chichester’s high school students. Although the current contract has no expiration date and Chichester could discontinue its participation at any time, Chichester has bond payment obligations to Pembroke Academy that continue until 2015.

Recent improvements to Chichester Central School include a kindergarten addition in 1997 and a new 2002 addition providing more classrooms, office areas, a music room, and a computer lab. A new water treatment system installed in 2002 eliminated the ongoing concern about well-water contamination. Outdoor recreational facilities at the School include a new playground and a baseball/soccer field. In total, the School consists of sixteen classrooms, a large multi-purpose room used primarily for a lunch room, athletic events and large meetings, a kitchen, a library, a computer lab, and a music room, with complete wiring for new computer technology.

As shown below, student enrollment at Chichester Central School show that the student population has actually decreased in the last two years, and that the current student population is only ten students larger than in 1992-3. Whether this trend will continue is uncertain, considering the development trends in Chichester. The following enrollment statistics do not include home-schooled students (12 students in grades 1-8) or private school enrollment.

Chichester Central School Enrollment History (as of October of each year)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Students</u>
92/93	263
95/96	237
96/97	257
98/99	268
01/02	291
02/03	277
03/04	273

Current Enrollment by Grade

<u>K</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
25	21	27	31	26	34	37	32	40

At the 2003 School District meeting, Chichester citizens voted to accept a generous donation from Barbara J. Frangione, consisting of forty-one acres adjacent to Chichester Central School. Currently, a Facilities and Grounds Development Task Force is attempting to determine potential uses of the property and the future needs of the School. An interim committee report suggests that the committee will recommend that the land be used for outdoor classrooms, and community and athletic trails, with most of the property being preserved.

(3) Police Department

Prior to 1995, the Chichester Police Department consisted of a part-time chief and several part-time officers. In 1995, the citizens voted to hire a full-time officer on the condition that federal matching funds were approved. Currently, the Department consists of a full-time chief, one full-time officer and several part-time officers, with coverage from the New Hampshire State Police during those times that Town officers cannot provide coverage.

Due to space constraints, the Police Department moved from the Town Hall to the Safety Building on Main Street in 1997. Due to continued growth and because the Safety Building was not designed with police needs in mind, the Police Department is proposing that the Safety Building be renovated and/or expanded to improve safety and efficiency.

(4) Fire Department

In 1995, the citizens appropriated \$250,000 to build a new fire station. The current fire station was completed in 1996 using a general contractor along with generous local business discounts and a substantial amount of volunteer labor. The first floor of the old fire station is home to the Chichester Historical Society and the second floor serves as a small community meeting place.

Currently, the Fire Department organization consists of one chief, two deputy chiefs, 27 emergency-response members and 16 support members who do not respond to calls. Firefighters are paid an annual stipend depending on their number of training drills and number of calls responded to. The Department currently has two pumpers (1989 and 1999), one 1989 tanker, one 1990 heavy rescue vehicle, one 1984 forest fire truck, two ambulances (1990 and 1999), and one 1985 Blazer. The Department will be seeking to replace the 1989 tanker in 2005.

The Loudon-Chichester ambulance service covers emergencies Monday to Friday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Chichester and Loudon personnel each cover 26 weeks throughout the year.

(5) Town Hall

The Chichester Grange Hall was deeded to the Town of Chichester in 1980. After a new foundation was installed, the Hall began being used for meetings, with the first Town Meeting held in the Hall in 1986. After installing a water supply and modern plumbing, the Town Offices were moved to the Hall in 1989. In 1997, the parking lot was paved. By agreement, the Grange continues to meet regularly in the upstairs Lodge Room, for which it is responsible. The downstairs hall contains a stage and is for Town meetings and as a voting area in Town, State and Federal elections. It is also used by community organizations and can be rented for private functions.

(6) Town Offices

The Town offices are located in the Town Hall and have expanded into the extra space that became available in 1997, when the Police Department moved to the Safety Building.

In 1998, the Town connected to the Internet and a Town webpage was launched in 1999. The Town webpage, www.chichesternh.org contains valuable information about Chichester, including department head contact information, Chichester's history, calendars for public meetings, grange hall use and community building use, public notices, Selectmen's minutes, Planning Board minutes, and Conservation Commission minutes. In addition to Chichester's website, demographic and other information on Chichester can also be found at www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/htmlprofiles/pdfs/chichester.pdf.

(7) Outdoor Recreational Facilities

Chichester offers many opportunities to the outdoor enthusiast, including hunting, fishing, hiking, canoeing, bird-watching, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, etc. Pond fishing is possible in Lynxfield, Deer Meadow and Marsh/Great Meadow Ponds, although at present only Deer Meadow has a public access and boat launching area. Marsh Pond is accessible through the Safety Building parking lot on Main Street. The Suncook River and its tributaries offer good stream fishing as well as interesting canoeing areas. Access to the Suncook River, including limited parking, is currently available at the Depot Road Bridge and the town right-of-way across Route 28 from Carpenter Memorial Park.

Carpenter Memorial Park at the junction of Route 28 and Bear Hill Road has become the primary recreation facility for Town sports and for group outings such as Old Home Day. The Chichester Youth Association uses the town-maintained soccer and baseball fields and provide volunteers to man the snack bar. Electricity and water are available and a portable toilet is available during scheduled activities. Recent improvements include a basketball court, an enlarged parking area, a new upper baseball field with a backstop, and new dugouts in the lower baseball field. New dugouts are planned for the upper field in the near future. In 2001, a new 1,250 square foot pavilion was built and made possible by a donation in memory of Pauline Cote-Losey, a Chichester resident and volunteer.

The Town-owned 100-acre forest is located between Garvin Hill and the Pembroke Town line and offers challenging hiking and climbing in a rough, steep, undeveloped area with plenty of solitude.

Numerous snowmobile and cross-country trails traverse Chichester, and are either privately maintained or maintained by local clubs.

Most large tracts of land in Chichester are open to hunting, and many game species abound, including game birds, deer, moose, wild turkey, black bear, fox, and coyotes.

(8) Highway Department Facilities

The Highway Department facilities are located on Bear Hill Road and include a new salt/sand building and an equipment garage with a new addition. The new addition includes an office, bathroom, lunchroom, and parts storage space. Equipment consists of a backhoe obtained by lease-purchase in 1999, a chipper purchased in 2000, and a grader purchased in 2002.

(9) Roads and Highways

Based on Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission statistics, Chichester contains 54.4 miles of roadways, as outlined below.

Class I Highways: 7.4 miles, consisting of Routes 202-4-9 and Route 28. Class I highways are primary State highways and are maintained by the State.

Class II Highways: 3.7 miles, consisting of Main Street from Route 4 to Route 28, a portion of Horse Corner Road from Route 4 to Towle Road, and a portion of Canterbury Road. Class II highways are secondary State highways and are maintained by the State.

Class V Highways: 35.3 miles, consisting of 15.08 miles of unpaved roads and 18.8 miles of paved roads. Class V highways are maintained by Chichester.

Class VI Highways: 6.3 miles, consisting of all roads which have been closed subject to gates and bars by vote of the citizens, or have not been maintained by Chichester for more than five years.

Private Roads: 1.7 miles, consisting of roads that have not been accepted by Chichester.

Planned road improvements in the next several years include upgrading and/or paving Hutchinson Road, Bailey Road, Cross Road and Center Road.

In 2003, the Chichester Planning Board successfully won grant monies from the New Hampshire Department of Transportation ("DOT") to study the traffic situation along the Route 4 corridor from Concord to the Epsom town line. The committee that performed the study consisted of members from the DOT, Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission, VHB Consultants, Planning Board, Police and Fire Departments, interested business owners, and local townspeople. The study focused on several areas of concern, including traffic volume and patterns, future growth, possible zoning changes, and managing access.

The DOT delayed planned improvements along Route 4 in order to take advantage of the study results. Although the final report was not yet published when this Master Plan was printed, the preliminary recommendations include the creation of a "village district" in an attempt to slow traffic through the Horse Corner/Main Street and Route 4 intersection, performance zoning in the Commercial District including shared entrances and/or parking lots, and a memorandum of understanding for access management between Chichester and the DOT.

(10) Bridges and Culverts

The three major bridges in Chichester were rebuilt between ten and twenty years ago and may require maintenance in the near future. The Depot Road Bridge and the Webster Mills Road Bridge over the Suncook River were rebuilt in 1983. The Kelly Corner Road Bridge over Sanborn Brook was rebuilt in 1990 with \$170,000 appropriated at Town meeting.

Smaller bridges throughout Chichester also require periodic maintenance and/or reconstruction. The Swiggey Brook Road Bridge over Perry Brook was recently repaired, while the Webster Mills Road Bridge over Sanborn Brook is in poor condition according to a State highway bridge inspection. It is estimated that the Webster Mills Road Bridge will cost \$270,000 to rebuild, with a percentage of the cost shared by the State. Currently, approximately

\$98,000 has been accumulated in the Capital Reserve Fund to repair the Webster Mills Road Bridge.

Upgrading and repair of older culverts and/or old stone bridges is necessary on an ongoing basis.

(11) Library

The library continues to be managed by a three member Board of Trustees, and has a salaried librarian and an extensive roster of volunteer assistants. The Library houses approximately 12,000 volumes and the collection is continually managed to keep it current and to maintain its present level. Also offered are three computers, an inter-library loan system, a large collection of magazines, several newspaper subscriptions, electronic access to several electronic databases, family passes to local attractions including the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium, the NH Historical Museum, the Mt. Washington Observatory, the Indian Museum, and the Currier Gallery of Art, a large collection.

(12) Historical Society

The Chichester Historical Society was formed in 1970. For the last thirty-three years, the organization has remained active and preserved some of Chichester's history not otherwise recorded. In 1977, the Historical Society compiled a book on Chichester's history, and printed 500 copies, many of which were sold at the Town's 250th anniversary celebration.

In 1996, the Town voted to allow the Historical Society to store accumulated artifacts in the first floor of the old fire station on Main Street. The Historical Society currently holds its meeting in the building and continues to maintain and expand its collection of historical artifacts.

The Historical Society is currently attempting to raise funds for maintenance of Old Iron Bridge a.k.a. "Thunder Bridge" on Depot Road. In March 2004, Old Iron Bridge was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

(13) Cemeteries

There are nineteen cemeteries in Chichester, of which three are Town owned and maintained. Of the remaining 16 privately-owned cemeteries, seven are Town maintained because no relatives remain to assist in maintenance. As families move and/or dwindle, the number of cemeteries requiring Town-maintenance will likely increase. The following cemeteries are maintained by Chichester:

Edgerly-Knowlton Cemetery - located at an intersection of Horse Corner and Lane Roads, approximately one-half mile southwest of Dover Road. The Chichester Union Cemetery Association purchased this private cemetery on or about 1800.

Locke Cemetery – located on Dover Road near Concord and is identified by granite posts.

Morrill Cemetery – located on Staniels Road, just off Horse Corner Road. Chichester's first settler, Paul Morrill and his family, are buried in Morrill Cemetery.

Pineground Cemetery – located on Route 28 just north of the intersection of Main Street and Route 28. Pineground Cemetery was Chichester's first cemetery, and has recently been expanded to provide over 73 additional lots. Pineground Cemetery is one of two Chichester cemeteries currently being used for burials.

Brown Cemetery – located on Ring Road. Dr. Amasa Kelley and his family are buried in Brown Cemetery. Dr. Amasa Kelley was Chichester's first physician.

Kaime Cemetery – located on Kaime Road in the northern part of town.

Edmunds Cemetery – located on Main Street and divided into two sections, one of which Chichester maintains. A small section of Edmunds Cemetery is a private family cemetery where Reverend Josiah Carpenter and his family, original owners of the adjacent farm, are buried.

Hook Cemetery – located at the intersection of Dover Road and Robinson Road.

Leavitt Cemetery – located on Canterbury Road a short distance west of the Methodist Church, on a small knoll. Chichester recently added to the original seven acres, although the additional land will not be immediately used. Leavitt Cemetery is one of two Chichester cemeteries currently being used for burials.

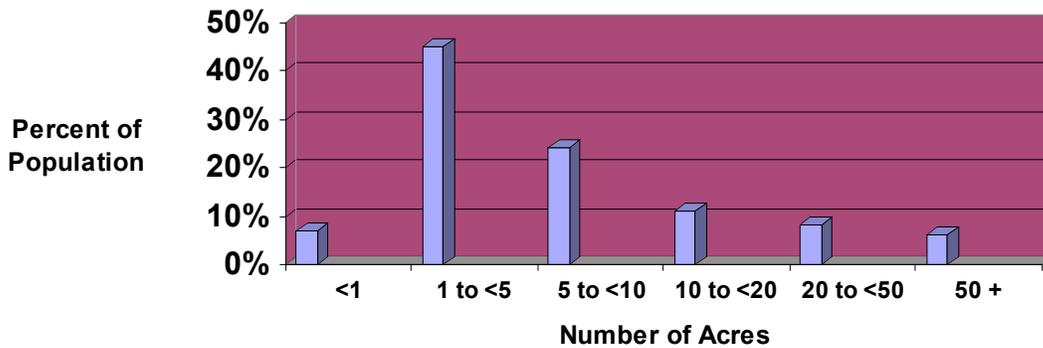
**CHAPTER III
CITIZEN GUIDANCE AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Master Plan Committee developed a comprehensive survey, which was sent to approximately 2000 Chichester taxpayers and voters. The 450 survey responses are the largest citizen input ever received in Chichester. As a valid representation of the citizens' wishes, the survey results should be used as a guideline for those acting in an official capacity.

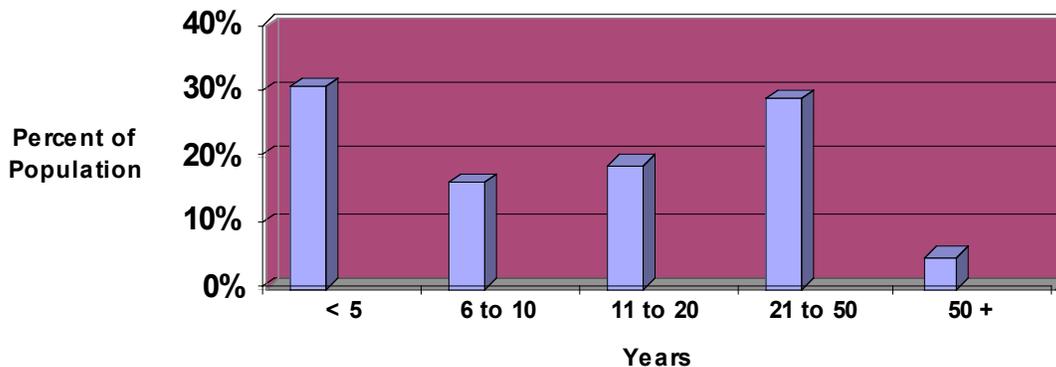
I. 2003 CHICHESTER SURVEY

92 percent of survey respondents are year-round Chichester residents and 82 percent own houses in Chichester. The following two charts illustrate survey results showing the majority of Chichester residents own less than five acres, and the two largest population groups in Chichester are long-term residents (21-50 years) and short-term residents (less than 5 years).

Acres Owned



Years Lived In Chichester



An immense amount of information can be gleaned from the survey results, which have been reproduced on Chichester's web page. The statistically significant results that are pertinent to the Master Plan and that will help guide Chichester's growth are summarized in the Master Plan Committee's recommendations below.

II. MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

(1) Land Use

Chichester citizens are satisfied with Chichester's basic zoning structure, including determining zone and lot size based on soil type, slope and drainage. As such, Chichester should maintain its basic zoning structure with periodic changes to adjust to changing conditions. By a 7% margin, Chichester citizens are opposed to hiring a compliance officer to enforce zoning regulations.

Specific recommendations for the Residential Zone are:

1. Modify the Zoning Ordinance to allow the Planning Board to relax certain frontage and lot size requirements in new developments, without increasing the number of houses, in return for the developers permanently conserving portions of open space. This incentive should be used at the Planning Board's discretion, only when larger parcels of open space can be preserved, and when preserving the open space in that particular development would be in the Town's best interest.
2. Modify the Zoning Ordinance to require developers to maintain a buffer zone between new development and Town roads.
3. Density and setback regulations should remain unchanged.

Specific recommendations for the Commercial Industrial - Multi-Family ("CI-MF") Zone are:

1. The Ordinance should be modified to provide for further restrictions on lighting in the CI-MF Zone.
2. The CI-MF zone should not be expanded to other areas of Chichester.
3. Provisions for access to CI-MF zone lots should remain unchanged (ie., no access through other zones.)
4. Multi-family uses should remain in the CI-MF zone and should not be expanded to other zones.
5. New mobile home parks should not be allowed and existing mobile home parks should not be expanded.

(2) Population and Housing

Chichester citizens want to continue to limit growth and to maintain Chichester's small town image and rural character. As such, the growth ordinance currently in place should be reviewed and adjusted annually to ensure that Chichester's growth does not exceed the annual growth of surrounding towns.

Chichester citizens want residential growth to center around single-family homes (89%) and elderly housing complexes (40%). Although the current Ordinance comprehensively addresses single-family homes, it does not adequately address elderly housing complexes. Recognizing that elderly housing may have a positive impact on the overall tax base, the Planning Board should change the Ordinance to encourage elderly housing, incorporating a plan of review that takes into consideration any impact on life services.

Specific recommendations regarding population and housing:

1. Modify the Zoning Ordinance to allow elderly housing complexes in the zones that can support such development. Recognizing the citizens' desires for this type of development and its potential for a positive impact on the overall tax base, the Planning Board should encourage this type of development, incorporating a plan of review that takes into consideration any impact on life services.

(3) Natural and Man-made Resources

Chichester citizens strongly support maintaining Chichester's rural character by restricting excessive noise, light pollution and telecommunications towers, and by preserving and expanding the network of public trails and preserving undeveloped land and valuable water resources. Chichester citizens are nearly equally divided on whether tax dollars should be used to protect valuable water resource areas and preserve tracts of undeveloped land. The town and Conservation Commission should continue to pursue all reasonable means, including grants and donations, to preserve desirable open lands, and to seek town appropriations of funds for this purpose where necessary.

(4) Town Services and Facilities

(a) General Services

Waste Disposal. Currently, 64 percent of Chichester households use the BCEP Waste Facility, while 36 percent use a private service. Considering that Chichester's 2004 projected budget for the Facility is \$92,215, and that 64 percent of Chichester's households equals 550 households, the estimated cost per household for use of the Facility is only \$168.00 per year. As such, the BCEP Waste Facility contract is extremely cost effective and Chichester should continue participating as a member of the Facility.

Water and Sewer. Based on Chichester's dispersed development and no sizable concentration of buildings, Chichester should not pursue municipal water and sewer in the near future.

Water Supply for Fire Protection. As year-round accessibility to water is critical to ensure safety and quick response times, the Planning Board should ensure that developers provide water sources for all new developments. Also, the Town should take advantage of every opportunity to install water supply lines underneath Route 4 and Route 28.

(b) Education

Due to Chichester's bond payment obligations to Pembroke Academy through 2015, Chichester high school students should remain at Pembroke Academy until that time. Prior to 2010, Chichester should form a committee to study high school education options and to prepare a long-term plan for grammar school facility needs.

Citizens seem amenable to using Chichester Central School as a disaster/emergency gathering place, and are amenable to purchasing a generator for this purpose, if needed.

Citizens are opposed to using public funds to purchase the land adjacent to Chichester Central School in order to expand the parking facility.

(c) Police Department

Chichester citizens are satisfied with the Police Department in all areas, including the police facility (62%), therefore citizens do not seem to support an immediate facility expansion as proposed in the Capital Improvements Program.

(d) Fire Department

Chichester citizens are satisfied with the Fire Department in all areas, including budgeting, therefore citizens do not seem to support any material changes in the immediate future. However, based on Fire Department input, the Master Plan Committee recognizes that there may be response and/or manning problems in the future. As such, Chichester should form a committee to study town-wide and regional-wide life-service options.

(e) Town Hall / Town Offices

Chichester citizens are satisfied with the Town offices in all areas, therefore citizens do not seem to support any material changes in the immediate future.

(f) Outdoor Recreational Facilities

By a three-to-one margin, Chichester citizens are opposed to paying additional tax dollars to fund new recreational facilities. Also, by a 2 to1 margin they feel that additional recreational facilities and/or programs are not needed. As such, Chichester should minimize expansion of current facilities and should continue to look for alternate funding sources to fund any proposed improvements. In addition, Chichester should encourage participation by the one-third of survey respondents that indicated their willingness to volunteer their time.

(g) Roads and Highways

By an eight percent margin, Chichester citizens oppose paving dirt roads; therefore emphasis should be on proper maintenance of dirt roads and not necessarily paving.

Due to the short-term fluctuations in both elected and appointed officials, the Master Plan Committee recommends that Chichester form a committee to study the roads, bridges and culverts throughout Chichester and to propose a five-year and ten-year maintenance and replacement schedule. The committee should be made up of the Highway Department Head, one Selectman, and three citizens.

(h) Bridges and Culverts

Due to the poor condition of the Webster Mills Road Bridge over Sanborn Brook, Chichester should repair that bridge as necessary, using the funds in the Capital Reserve Fund.

III. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Modify the Zoning Ordinance to introduce Open Space Conservation zoning that allows the Planning Board to relax certain frontage and lot size requirements, without increasing the number of houses, in return for developers permanently conserving open space. This incentive should be used at the Planning Board's discretion, only when larger parcels of open space can be preserved, and when preserving the open space in that particular development would be in the Town's best interest.
2. Modify the Zoning Ordinance to require developers to maintain a buffer zone between new development and Town roads.
3. Modify the Zoning Ordinance to further restrict lighting intensity and use in the CI-MF Zone.
4. Modify the Zoning Ordinance to allow elderly housing complexes in the zones that can support such development. Recognizing the citizens' desires for this type of development and its potential for a positive impact on the overall tax base, the Planning Board should encourage this type of development, incorporating a plan of review that takes into consideration any impact on life services.
5. Modify the Zoning Ordinance or the plan of review so that the Planning Board ensures that developers provide water sources for fire protection for all new developments.
6. Evaluate opportunities to install water supply lines for fire protection underneath Routes 4 and 28.
7. Remain a participant in BCEP Solid Waste Transfer Station.

8. Repair the Webster Mills Road Bridge over Sanborn Brook as necessary, using the funds in the Capital Reserve Fund.
9. If necessary, purchase a generator to enhance Chichester Central School's viability as a disaster/emergency gathering place.
10. Since the town is not in favor of using tax dollars to expand recreational facilities, the Recreation Commission should investigate alternate funding sources to fund any proposed recreational improvements.
11. Do not use public funds to purchase the land adjacent to Chichester Central School in order to expand the parking facility.
12. Form a committee to study the roads, bridges and culverts throughout Chichester and propose a five-year and ten-year maintenance and replacement schedule. The committee should be made up of the Highway Department Head, one Selectman and three citizens.
13. Do not modify density or setback regulations other than for subdivision conservation of open space.
14. Do not expand the CI-MF Zone to other areas of Chichester.
15. Do not expand access to the CI-MF Zone by allowing access through other zones.
16. Do not expand multi-family uses beyond the CI-MF Zone.
17. Do not change the Zoning Ordinance to allow the creation of new mobile home parks or the expansion of existing mobile home parks.
18. Form a committee to study town-wide and region-wide life-service options, focusing on a long-term plan for the Fire Department. The Committee should be made up of at a minimum, one Fire Department representative, one Selectmen, and at least three citizens.
19. Prior to 2010, form a committee to study high school education options and to prepare a long-term plan for grammar school facility needs.
20. Form a committee to update the Master Plan in 2008, for update completion in 2009.
21. Encourage the investigation of grants and other programs that may help maintain Chichester's rural character, including programs regarding public trails, and the preservation of valuable water resources and undeveloped land.

CHICHESTER COMMUNITY SURVEY

LAND & DEMOGRAPHIC

1. **(441)** Resident Status
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| a. Year-round resident | 92% |
| b. Part-time resident | 1% |
| c. Non-resident land/property owner | 6% |
| d. Business owner | 1% |
2. **(429)** If you are a land or property owner in Chichester, approximately how many acres do you own?
- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| a. Less than one acre | 7% |
| b. 1 to less than 5 acres | 45% |
| c. 5 to less than 10 acres | 24% |
| d. 10 to less than 20 acres | 11% |
| e. 20 to less than 50 acres | 8% |
| f. 50 or more acres | 6% |
3. **(447)** What kind(s) of land do you own in Chichester?
- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----|----------------|-----|
| a. House lot | 82% | e. Commercial | 6% |
| b. Timber lot | 5% | f. Current use | 10% |
| c. Active farm | 2% | g. Other _____ | 1% |
| d. Pasture or fields | 6% | | |
4. **(430)** What kind of housing do you live in within Chichester?
- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| a. Single family house | 93% |
| b. Two family house | 1% |
| c. Three or more family house | 0% |
| d. Condominium/Townhouse | 0% |
| e. Mobile home | 3% |
| f. Other: _____ | 2% |
5. **(406)** Do you own or rent the building in Chichester in which you live?
- | | |
|---------|-----|
| a. Rent | 2% |
| b. Own | 98% |
6. **(422)** How long have you lived in Chichester?
- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----------------------|-----|
| a. 5 years or less | 31% | d. 21-50 years | 29% |
| b. 6-10 years | 16% | e. More than 50 years | 5% |
| c. 11-20 years | 19% | | |

ZONING & REGULATION

Residential

7. **(437)** Chichester's present density regulation is 1 building per 2 acres with 200 ft. of frontage for residential soils and 1 building per 5 acres with 300 ft. of frontage for rural/agricultural soils. Should this be modified?
- | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|----|-----|------------|----|
| Yes | 21% | No | 72% | No Opinion | 7% |
|-----|-----|----|-----|------------|----|
- If Yes, do you feel the density per acre should be Higher **47%** or Lower **53%**?
8. In the current residential zone, new buildings may be built 15 ft. from property *side and rear boundaries* and 30 ft. from the *front boundary*. Should these restrictions be modified?
- | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|-----|------------|-----|
| <i>Side and rear boundaries</i> (436) | Yes | 31% | No | 59% | No Opinion | 10% |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|-----|------------|-----|
- If Yes, do you feel these setbacks should be: **(130)** Wider **98%** or Narrower **2%**?
- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|----|-----|------------|-----|
| <i>Front boundary</i> (337) | Yes | 32% | No | 52% | No Opinion | 16% |
|-----------------------------|-----|-----|----|-----|------------|-----|
- If Yes, do you feel this setback should be: **(103)** Wider **95%** or Narrower **5%**?

9. (431) Currently, developers in Chichester are not required to conserve open space (woods, fields, etc.). Would you be in favor of allowing the planning board to relax certain frontage and lot size requirements, without increasing the number of houses, in order to require developers to permanently conserve open space?

Yes **58%** No **34%** No Opinion **8%**

10. (426) The current Residential Zone and the Rural-Agricultural Zone regulations do not provide for a buffer between town roads and new development. Do you feel that zoning should be changed to require a buffer zone between new development and town roads?

Yes **59%** No **25%** No Opinion **16%**

Commercial

11. (426) The Commercial-Industrial/Multi-family (CI-MF) Zone extends 1000 feet from each side of Route 4/202/9 and 500 feet from each side of Route 28. Are you in favor of extending the CI-MF Zone to other areas in Chichester?

Yes **9%** No **73%** No Opinion **18%**

If Yes, which area(s)? _____ **rte 4 & rte 28**

12. (428) In the CI-MF Zone, the driveways for all commercial and industrial uses must enter the road in the CI-MF Zone. Are you in favor of allowing commercial-industrial businesses to have driveway access on roads outside of the CI-MF Zone?

Yes **20%** No **68%** No Opinion **12%**

13. (424) Currently, multi-family uses such as apartments and condominiums are restricted to the CI-MF Zone. Are you in favor of allowing multi-family uses in other zones?

Yes **21%** No **72%** No Opinion **7%**

If Yes, in which zones (79) residential **77%** rural/agricultural **23%**

14. (425) Current regulations do not allow mobile home parks to be created or expanded. Should this restriction be changed?

Created	Yes 10%	No 84%	No Opinion 6%
Expanded	Yes 16%	No 78%	No Opinion 6%

15. (416) Existing strip zoning along routes 4 and 28 could be abandoned and replaced with business parks or industrial parks. These parks would have higher density development but would allow for fewer entrances to the highways. Do you believe that the current CI/MF zone should be abandoned and replaced with business/industrial parks?

Yes **37%** No **47%** No Opinion **17%**

General

16. Chichester currently has some restrictions on lighting in commercial zones. The following types of lighting are not addressed. Should there be restrictions on these types of lighting?

Intensity (412)	Yes 69%	No 19%	No Opinion 11%
Neon (408)	Yes 66%	No 23%	No Opinion 12%
Moving signs (407)	Yes 72%	No 17%	No Opinion 11%
Flashing/blinking (410)	Yes 73%	No 16%	No Opinion 11%
Other _____			

17. (417) Should there be a curfew on lighting?

Yes **46%** No **37%** No Opinion **17%**

18.(428) Presently there are no restrictions on lighting in residential zones. Do you feel some restrictions are needed?

Yes **30%** No **56%** No Opinion **15%**

If Yes, what types of lighting should be restricted? **Street, intensity, direction, neon**

19.(430) Do you believe that the town zoning codes are being adequately enforced by the Board of Selectmen?

Yes **30%** No **30%** No Opinion **40%**

20.(429) Would you be in favor of the town having a compliance officer to enforce the town zoning codes?

Yes **36%** No **43%** No Opinion **21%**

FACILITIES & SERVICES

21. In your opinion, what is the general condition of the roads in Chichester?

22. Please identify any road(s) or specific segment(s) of road(s) which you feel are particularly dangerous and should be improved.

23.(420) Are you in favor of paving dirt roads?

Yes **40%** No **48%** No Opinion **12%**

(386) Do you live on a paved **70%** or dirt road **30%**?

24.(429) Are you in favor of using tax dollars to purchase a generator for Chichester Central School for use in the event of a natural disaster or other emergency situation?

Yes **61%** No **32%** No Opinion **7%**

25.(427) Are you in favor of using tax dollars to purchase the house and land adjacent to Chichester Central School to be used to expand the parking facility?

Yes **38%** No **46%** No Opinion **16%**

26.(399) Please check the box that best depicts your evaluation of the following aspects of the Chichester Police Department:

	Too much	Appropriate	Too little	No Opinion
a. Budgeting	8%	46%	6%	40%
b. 911 response time	2%	51%	3%	44%
c. Full-time officer staffing	6%	49%	11%	34%
d. Part-time officer staffing	4%	53%	7%	36%
e. Administrative/support staffing	4%	45%	5%	46%
f. Professionalism	3%	68%	5%	25%
g. Equipment	5%	57%	4%	34%
h. Facility (building)	3%	61%	8%	28%
i. Other: _____				

Please comment: _____

27.(394) Please check the box that best depicts your evaluation of the following aspects of the Chichester Fire Department:

	Too much	Appropriate	Too little	No Opinion
a. Budgeting	16%	44%	3%	36%
b. 911 response time	2%	54%	2%	42%
c. Staffing	4%	49%	9%	39%
d. Administrative/support staffing	4%	48%	4%	44%
e. Professionalism	2%	65%	3%	30%
f. Equipment	15%	54%	1%	30%
g. Facility (building)	12%	61%	1%	26%
h. Other:	5%	24%	0%	70%

Please comment:

28.(426) Please check the box that best depicts your evaluation of the following:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No Opinion
a. Well water quality	17%	34%	22%	7%	17%
b. Road maintenance – winter	24%	48%	20%	2%	24%
c. Road maintenance –summer	12%	50%	26%	2%	12%
d. Library - hours	9%	34%	15%	9%	33%
facility	11%	32%	20%	5%	32%
selection	9%	29%	18%	8%	36%
e. Cemetery maintenance	7%	26%	21%	9%	38%
f. Selectmen - # of selectmen	10%	32%	20%	4%	34%
hours	7%	28%	23%	5%	37%
accessibility	7%	26%	23%	6%	38%
g. Health Services	2%	13%	15%	4%	67%
h. Welfare Services	2%	13%	13%	1%	71%

Please comment:

29.(417) Please check the box that best depicts your evaluation of the following aspects of the Chichester Town Office:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	No Opinion
a. Budgeting	6%	35%	24%	2%	32%
b. Town clerk/tax collector					
hours of operation	13%	46%	21%	14%	6%
customer service	36%	43%	13%	1%	7%
c. Selectmen's office staff					
hours of operation	8%	31%	23%	7%	31%
customer service	14%	30%	20%	3%	34%
d. Administrative/support staffing	11%	36%	18%	1%	33%
e. Equipment	6%	36%	23%	1%	35%
f. Facility (building)	10%	46%	24%	3%	17%
g. Other:	()	()	()	()	()

Please comment:

30.(429) Do you use the B.C.E.P. Solid Waste Transfer Station?

Yes **64%** No **36%**

If Yes, how do you use the Transfer station.?(275)

- a. Primary trash disposal **80%**
- b. Large items **68%**
- c. Hazardous materials **14%**
- d. Other: _____
- e. Average # of times per month used: _____

31.(422) Do you use a private trash pickup service?

Yes **40%** No **60%**

If Yes, why do you use this service (170)

- a. Convenience **89%**
- b. Transfer station hours **7%**
- c. Other: _____
- d. Annual cost of service: \$_____

32. Regarding recreational facilities and/or programs in Chichester:

a. What recreational facilities and/or programs, if any, do you use? Please list.

b. Are additional recreational facilities and/or programs needed? (378)

Yes **20%** No **37%** No Opinion **43%**

If yes, what additional recreational facilities and/or programs would you like to see? Please list.

c. Are you willing to pay increased taxes to fund additional recreational facilities and/or programs? (403)

Yes **21%** No **63%** No Opinion **16%**

d. Are you willing to volunteer your time? (369)

Yes **36%** No **64%**

The Future of Chichester

33.(331) Why do you feel Chichester is a desirable place to live?

Rural/small/quiet	70%
Location	42%
People/community spirit	12%
Good school	7%
Controlled growth	5%
Town services/management	4%
Reasonable taxes	4%
High taxes	3%
Beautiful	3%
Safe	2%
All other responses	<1%

34. How do you see these factors as affecting Chichester's character? Please tell us whether you see these factors as a positive or a negative by rating each within the applicable column. Please feel free to add others that concern you.

	<i>most negative</i>			<i>to</i>			<i>most positive</i>			
a. Residential development	16%	5%	14%	12%	21%	11%	7%	11%	2%	3%
b. Commercial development	16%	6%	10%	11%	17%	7%	10%	10%	5%	8%
c. Industrial development	20%	7%	13%	8%	17%	7%	7%	7%	5%	9%
d. Telecommunication tower development	25%	7%	10%	9%	17%	9%	8%	6%	2%	6%
e. Loss of wildlife species	41%	9%	11%	8%	17%	4%	3%	3%	1%	3%
f. Water contamination	50%	8%	7%	5%	16%	6%	1%	2%	1%	4%
g. Forestry practices	8%	4%	9%	10%	32%	11%	7%	6%	2%	10%
h. Regional development	15%	5%	11%	12%	30%	11%	5%	5%	2%	5%
i. Waste disposal	18%	4%	11%	8%	26%	11%	5%	7%	3%	7%
j. Strip malls	35%	10%	13%	8%	14%	6%	4%	3%	3%	4%
k. Curb cuts entrances/driveways	14%	5%	7%	14%	35%	11%	7%	4%	1%	2%
l. Traffic lights	14%	4%	7%	9%	29%	13%	7%	8%	3%	5%
m. Street lighting	17%	6%	6%	9%	29%	12%	5%	8%	2%	6%
n. Sidewalks	21%	8%	8%	7%	25%	10%	4%	7%	3%	6%
o. Traffic	31%	11%	18%	12%	18%	5%	1%	1%	2%	2%
p. _____										

35. What is your opinion of the condition of the following? Please tell us whether you see these as positive or negative by rating each within the applicable column. Please feel free to add others that concern you.

	<i>most negative</i>			<i>to</i>			<i>most positive</i>			
a. Population density	9%	4%	8%	11%	22%	12%	8%	11%	5%	10%
b. Peace and quiet	3%	1%	3%	4%	10%	5%	9%	18%	15%	34%
c. Scenery	1%	0%	1%	2%	8%	4%	9%	26%	17%	32%
d. Regional services	3%	1%	4%	6%	29%	18%	13%	13%	7%	7%
e. Community spirit	3%	2%	2%	3%	19%	12%	13%	19%	10%	19%
f. Housing	4%	3%	4%	7%	26%	14%	17%	13%	5%	7%
j. Job opportunities	13%	9%	16%	11%	28%	8%	6%	5%	1%	4%
h. Land values	6%	1%	4%	4%	24%	14%	14%	17%	7%	10%
i. Schools	3%	1%	3%	6%	15%	12%	14%	21%	10%	15%
j. Taxes	20%	5%	10%	10%	22%	13%	7%	6%	2%	5%
k. _____										

36. Please rate your feelings toward the following types of growth for the next 10 years in Chichester:

	I favor More	I favor Less	Present rate is effective	I favor No growth	No Opinion
a. Residential	5%	27%	55%	11%	1%
b. Home occupation	16%	9%	58%	10%	7%
c. Commercial/Industrial	28%	23%	35%	12%	1%
d. Agricultural or rural	47%	3%	42%	4%	4%
e. Resort industry	13%	14%	31%	28%	14%
f. Other: _____					

Please comment:

37.

If you feel additional commercial and /or business is desirable for Chichester, what type of enterprises would you like to see established? (Check all that apply)		In what location would you like to see business established in?
a. Small home-based business	()	
b. Small retail shops	()	
c. Motels	()	
d. Restaurants	()	
e. Shopping center(s)	()	
f. Service stations	()	
g. Light industry	()	
h. Heavy industry	()	
i. Office and research	()	
j. Recreation/ amusement	()	
k. Inns/ hotels	()	
l. Other:	()	

38. Please rate your support of the following for Chichester's future:

	Strong Support	Moderate Support	No Support	No Opinion	Support with additional tax dollars
a. Preserve Chichester's small town image	82%	16%	1%	1%	Yes 40% No 60%
b. Preserve Chichester's rural character	82%	16%	2%	1%	Yes 43% No 57%
c. Protect residents from:					
Excessive noise	48%	25%	20%	7%	Yes 27% No 73%
Light pollution	70%	19%	7%	4%	Yes 24% No 76%
Additional telecommunication towers	42%	26%	24%	9%	Yes 16% No 84%
Commercial strip development	48%	23%	23%	6%	Yes 18% No 82%
Other: _____					
d. Preserve and expand network of public trails	43%	29%	16%	12%	Yes 35% No 65%
e. Protect valuable water resource areas	74%	18%	5%	3%	Yes 52% No 48%
f. Preserve and protect historic and cultural properties and sites	59%	31%	7%	4%	Yes 36% No 64%
g. Preserve tracts of undeveloped land	59%	27%	9%	5%	Yes 47% No 53%
h. Enhance quality and variety of recreational activities for all age groups and abilities	37%	33%	19%	11%	Yes 33% No 67%
i. Protect agricultural resources	59%	31%	6%	4%	Yes 38% No 62%
j. Bus service	14%	26%	43%	17%	Yes 45% No 55%
k. Other:					Yes () No ()

39.(397) The Chichester Conservation Commission will shortly finish the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) for the town. The NRI provides detailed information on natural resources including scenic, cultural, agricultural, historic, water and wildlife. Please choose one preference for land protection efforts in town.

- a. Protect the most visible open space along town roads **3%**
- b. Protect the areas with the most natural resources on them as identified in the NRI even if they are located on remote woodlots (backland) **12%**
- c. Protect a reasonable combination of both of the above **82%**
- d. Do not protect any land **4%**

40. **(450)** Indicate which of the following types of housing you envision for Chichester: (Please check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|------------|
| a. Single family homes | 89% |
| b. Apartments | 11% |
| c. Mobile homes | 10% |
| d. Elderly housing developments | 40% |
| e. Condominiums/Townhouses | 15% |
| f. Subsidized housing | 5% |
| h. Other: duplexes, cluster developments, in-law apts. | |

41. **(406)** In order to plan for printing the proper number of copies of the master plan, would you like to

- | | |
|--|------------|
| a. Receive a hard copy of the master plan | 39% |
| b. Access the master plan through the Internet | 48% |
| c. Not interested in receiving a copy of the master plan | 13% |

42. **(122)** Additional comments:

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| control spending/ fiscal responsibility/ taxes too high | 22% |
| commend work of the committee | 18% |
| control growth/ smart development | 16% |
| traffic control/ improvement | 9% |
| keep town as is | 6% |
| plan for high school | 3% |
| BCEP problems | 2% |
| Decrease impact fee | 2% |
| Cluster housing | 2% |
| All others | < 1% |