

Preface

This plan reflects the dedicated efforts of the Windham Comprehensive Master Planning Steering Committee to seek and understand what Windham citizens want the town to be like in the future. Clearly, the top priority is to retain Windham's rural character, and this is the keystone of the Windham Vision Statement. We then had to go into enough detail in all areas to write a plan which will deliver Windham's Vision - what needs to be preserved and what needs to change.

The Committee, composed of individuals with diverse view points, used a consensus decision-making process and succeeded in reaching consensus on absolutely everything in this plan. We point this out because we believe that our effort to reach consensus is the real strength of a plan that will serve Windham well.

Goals and objectives capture what needs to be done to deliver this vision, but they may be modified if there are significant changes in Windham's situation.

The strategies, also referred to as implementation actions, comprise a partial list of ways to achieve the objectives which will deliver the vision. We expect some of these strategies to be fully carried out, others to fall away, and new ones to be added as Windham's elected officials, boards, committees and departments implement this plan.

There are no suggested tactics in this plan. Tactics are the myriad day-to-day actions which are needed to execute each strategy. These are all left to the individuals who are doing the work, for they best understand the implications of their decisions in the field.

The Vision should not be altered during the life of the plan and the purpose of all other components is to follow that vision. It is a statement of guidance to be referred to when one is unsure of how to proceed in serving the Town of Windham.

Most importantly, we wish to thank the following groups and individuals:

- The people of Windham for freely sharing your ideas and concerns. This is your plan.
- The Town Council for chartering this effort and selecting such a diverse and talented team.
- Jimmy Hicks and Michael Casino, consultants with RKG Associates, and Windham's own Marc Larochelle, a consultant with OEST Associates, whose wisdom we relied on in preparing this plan.
- Members of the Town's boards and committees for sharing your knowledge and insights.
- Town staff for your expertise and assistance.
- Owners of large parcels of land for helping us understand what needs to be done to preserve open space.
- The Windham Economic Development Corporation and the Natural Resources Committee for sharing your work and ideas with us.
- The South Windham/Little Falls Village Improvement Committee for providing a regional plan for the Village.
- The State Planning Office for guidance and encouragement.
- Community Development Director Rogers Timmons, who attended almost every meeting, for helping us write a plan which can be successfully implemented and Mabel Darby, the Planning Department Secretary, for keeping us organized and always finding a place for the Committee to meet.

People of Windham, this is your plan. While we expect that every citizen can find specific items with which they disagree, we ask that you embrace and support this entire plan as "something you can live with." Town-wide consensus for this plan will make Windham a better place for everyone who lives, work or visits here.

People of Windham, we did our best for you and for the love of our town. Thank you for giving us this opportunity to serve.

Members

Windham Comprehensive Master Plan Steering Committee

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William S. Plumley,
Vice Chair

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