

Sandwich 2011 Master Plan

Executive Summary



Sandwich, New Hampshire

February 17, 2011

The Master Plan Update

A Community Process

The Planning Process

In New Hampshire, one of the major responsibilities of the Planning Board is to prepare and update Master Plans (RSA 674:1-4). It is recommended that these plans be updated every 5-10 years. The Sandwich Planning Board initiated this Master Plan process in the spring of 2008 with the selection of the Master Plan Update Committee. The Committee members represent a broad range of the Sandwich Community. Since the Master Plan had not been fully updated since 1981, the Committee felt a significant effort would be required to produce a credible and useful document. To assist in this effort the Committee selected Mettee Planning Consultants. The Committee then set out an ambitious program to develop a full Master Plan. This effort included a community survey, three public forums, numerous drafts of various sections of the Plan and dozens of meetings over the past two years. The result is a completed Master Plan that is in three parts:

- *An Executive Summary* that provides an overview of the Master Plan Update and identifies areas for future action.
- *An Implementation Guide* that consolidates a list of all the Master Plan recommendations including a priority rating for each and the entity responsible for resolving the action.

- *A Complete Master Plan* that includes an inventory and assessment of community issues along with an Action Plan for each plan element, such as natural resources and housing.

The Community Has Spoken

The Committee was keen to solicit as much input from the community as possible in an effort to reflect these views in the Master Plan process. One step in this process was to undertake a community-wide survey. Additionally, three community forums were conducted and delved deeper into some of the opportunities and issues that were highlighted in the survey. As a result of the public outreach process, several themes emerged. These included:

- Appreciation of the community services provided;
- Protection of natural and scenic resources;
- Need for digital mapping and information system;
- Need for diversified housing with preference for single family housing and accessory apartments;
- Need for a good, well-maintained transportation system, including pedestrian and bicycle facilities-trails;

- Encouraging small businesses, both as home occupations and retail and professional offices in the village areas;
- Maintaining rural, small-town character;
- Retaining high levels of social connectivity/volunteerism;
- Addressing energy conservation; encouraging a green economy;
- Protecting and enhancing opportunities for agriculture and forestry; and
- Improving Internet access.

Carroll Bewley, Chairman
 Janet Brown
 Joan Cook
 Gerry Gingras
 Linda Marshall
 Susan Mitchel
 Adam Peaslee
 Roger Plimmer
 Boone Porter

Many People Assisted on this Plan Update

Foremost among the groups that assisted with the preparation of this plan was the Master Plan Update Committee. Over a period of almost 3 years this group met, selected a consultant and worked diligently with the consultant for 18-months to develop the final plan. This committee included:

Town Hall staff were also particularly helpful in providing information to the Consultant Team and answering the many questions the Team had about Sandwich. Assisting the Committee and the Consultant Team were the Conservation Commission and in particular Rick Van de Poll who provided much input into the Natural Resources Chapter of the Plan. Ronald Lawler provided data on timber harvesting and suggestions on the Housing Chapter. The Historic District Commission provided helpful insights and suggestions on the Village Center Chapter, while the Sandwich Historical Society and staff were very helpful in providing resources for the Historic District Chapter, in particular Joan Cook and Tom Shevenell. Town Department Heads were also instrumental in providing information about the various community facilities and services.

A Vision for Sandwich

The following vision statement reflects Sandwich’s common values and defines the future of the town—a community that will be prepared to accommodate modest growth and change while preserving its existing rural and village character. It also offers the guiding principles and priorities upon which this Master Plan is based. While the vision does not have the force of law, local officials and the public should consider the Vision Statement in all local plans, actions and decisions.

THE VISION

Sandwich Should:

Remain a highly desirable place to live and work by retaining its rural, quiet, small-town character through protection of its valuable natural resources, preservation of its cultural and architectural heritage and scenic beauty;

Be vibrant and diverse by promoting social, cultural, housing, and recreational opportunities for all age groups;

Maintain its high quality of community facilities and services in a cost effective manner; and

Provide opportunities for employment and small-scale businesses consistent with our rural character.

Vision Goals

To maintain these qualities for our community now and in the future, Sandwich will strive to:

1. *Allow for modest growth of residential development of a size, design and quality that is compatible with Sandwich’s small town, rural character and recognizes Sandwich’s evolving demographics.*
2. *Provide reasonable opportunity for housing choice so that greater age and income diversity can be achieved.*
3. *Protect historic resources, natural environment, scenic beauty, open space, clean water, and wildlife through well-managed growth and careful planning.*
4. *Support and encourage protection and management of high value conservation and open space lands that are linked by trails and/or wildlife and natural resource corridors.*

5. *Preserve the town's rural, small town character and the traditional New England style of its villages.*
6. *Provide opportunity for limited village business activity (e.g., general store/professional offices) that is consistent with the architectural qualities that the town values.*
7. *Encourage home occupations that are compatible with and supportive of the town's rural character.*
8. *Provide a balanced transportation system with well-maintained public roadways lined with stone walls, open fields and trees; and encourage opportunities and facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists and recreational users.*
9. *Encourage a sustainable community, one that meets our present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs*
10. *Provide, in a cost effective manner, the quality and level of municipal services and facilities that are enjoyed in Sandwich today.*
11. *Encourage modern communication facilities, systems and services to meet the needs and diversity of Sandwich's residents and businesses, now and in the years to come.*
12. *Encourage and foster high levels of citizen volunteerism in both public and non-profit activities to promote social capital and keep the cost of municipal services at a reasonable level.*

In the following section each of the Master Plan Chapters will be summarized and the relevant Vision Goal(s) above will be associated with the appropriate chapter. For each Vision Goal there will be a summary of the more significant recommended actions. A complete list is shown in the separate 2011 Master Plan – Action Plan, and action items are more fully elaborated in the consolidated Master Plan itself. Persons selected to work action items should review the Master Plan document to obtain amplifying information.

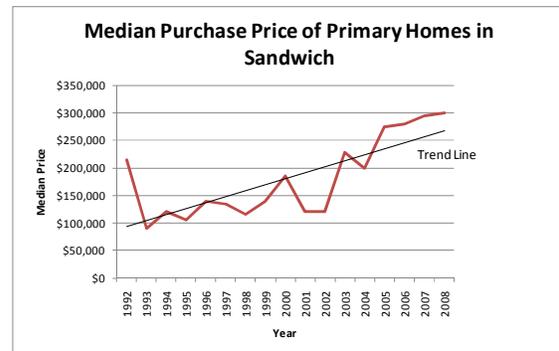
POPULATION AND HOUSING

- *Residents are better educated, but generally older than the region or state.*
- *While the number of homes has increased, cost has risen dramatically.*

The population of Sandwich has more than doubled since 1970 – from 666 to 1,366 in 2007, and is projected to reach about 1,800 by 2030. Sandwich has a higher median age than that of the region and state, at 47.2 years, reflecting a relatively large number of retired individuals. There is also a higher percentage of children under 19 years of age, suggesting that younger families are beginning to reside in Sandwich. On average Sandwich residents do not move as much as residents elsewhere in the county or state.

Sandwich residents are considerably better educated than those in either the county or state – having a higher percentage of both high school and college graduates. Sandwich also has a higher percentage of married couples than the state. Median family income has risen faster in Sandwich than the county or state, but it remains just below the state average. Sandwich has a smaller percentage of families below the poverty level than the county or state.

The total number of housing units has increased by 24% since 1990 and 80% of the homes are owner occupied. Sandwich has a considerably smaller percentage of multi-family housing units than the county or state. Compared to the state, Sandwich has a higher percentage of homes built before 1940, indicating that housing construction since then has been slower than county or state averages. The price of housing has increased dramatically since 1993—threefold in 15-years. Based on the new state law definition of an “affordable”



home, 26% of the homes in Sandwich meet that standard.

Issues and Challenges

Sandwich continues to see new housing construction, but the supply of multi-family and rental housing is not keeping pace with county and state averages, limiting housing choice. And the cost of housing continues to rise.

Summary of Actions

Vision Goals

#1: *Allow for modest growth of residential development that is of a size, design and quality that is compatible with Sandwich's small town, rural character and recognizes Sandwich's changing demographics.*

#2: *Provide reasonable opportunity for housing choice so that greater age and income diversity can be achieved.*

To achieve these goals:

- Review and, where appropriate, update land use regulations to encourage a variety of housing types.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Sandwich is Rich in Natural and Scenic Resources

- 52,000 acres of forested land, about 85% of its total land area.
- 24,623 acres of soils that are classified as good to excellent agricultural soils.
- 2,366 acres of surface waters.
- 96 miles of rivers and streams.
- Over 6,000 acres of wetland resources.

The desirability of visiting and living in Sandwich is related to this abundance of natural resources. Eighty (80) % of the respondents to the community survey indicated the town was doing enough to protect these resources.

Close to 40% of Sandwich is in Protected Open Space or Conservation Lands

In total, 22,986 acres or 38.2% of Sandwich has been set aside for conservation and open space. The White Mountain National Forest comprises over 17,000 acres while another 3,240 acres of land are held for conservation by private entities or non-profit organizations such as the Squam Lakes Conservation Trust. Sandwich has been very diligent in setting aside valuable land for conservation and open space and currently owns or has easements on 2,430 acres.

Current Regulations Indicate Commitment to Resource Protection

Sandwich is committed to protect water quality for recreation, aesthetics, aquatic life, flood control drinking water, fish and wildlife. This commitment is expressed in the Sandwich Zoning Ordinance that includes sections on wetlands protection, steep slope protection and cluster

development that protects open space areas. The Shoreland District also provides for stricter use regulations and certain activities within the district.

Sandwich has Scenic Beauty

In the first Master Plan public forum in May, 2008 the participants identified several strengths of Sandwich that relate to its scenic quality. Examples of scenic resources include: Wentworth Hill, Top of the World Road, Beede Falls, Whiteface Intervale Road, and Durgin Bridge over the Cold River. The natural and cultural landscape of Sandwich provides many residents with a real sense of pride and community,



distinguishing it from many other New Hampshire communities.

Among regulatory policies for protecting the town's scenic quality is the designation of a Skyline Zoning District that limits uses to agriculture, forestry and recreation. There is also a Steep Slope Protection provision in the Zoning Ordinance that limits activity on slopes greater than 15%.

Issues and Challenges

The residents of Sandwich strongly identify with the town's natural and scenic

resources. It is important to maintain current policies and regulations to protect these resources as well as to consider additional policies and programs to ensure the long-term scenic quality of the town.

Some of the challenges that Sandwich may face in the future include:

- Maintaining the quality and quantity of its forests and agricultural resources;
- Providing a high level of water quality through shoreland and wetlands protections;



- Potential for increased land development and associated stormwater runoff;
- Maintaining the scenic quality of Sandwich; and
- Introduction of invasive species, e...g. milfoil, into its ponds and lakes.

Summary of Actions

Vision Goals

#3: *Protect historic resources, natural environment, scenic beauty, open space, clean water, and wildlife through well-managed growth and careful planning.*

#4: *Support and encourage acquisition and management of high value conservation and open space lands that are linked by trails and/or wildlife and natural resource corridors.*

To achieve these goals:

- Consider ordinance changes to better protect prime wetlands, aquifers, shorelands and lower order streams and enhance floodplain management.
- Expand current water quality monitoring to include all watersheds.
- Identify and develop strategies to protect high-value natural and visual resources.
- Encourage educational and outreach programs related to the protection and long-term stewardship of Sandwich's natural resources.

LAND USE

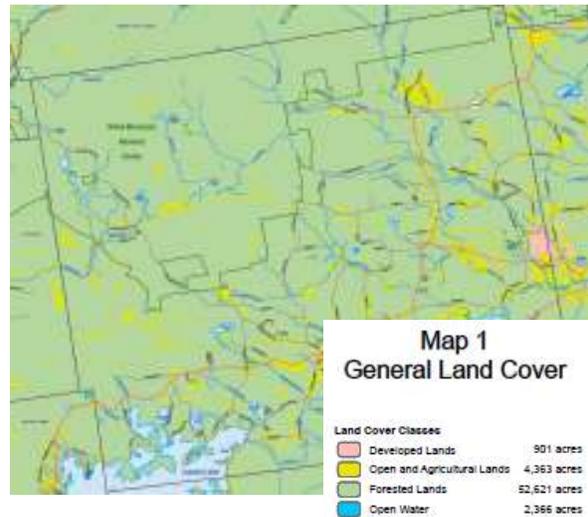
Sandwich—Geographically Large with Limited Development

With over 60,000 acres or approximately 94 square miles, Sandwich is one of the largest communities in the state. About 17,000 of these acres, or about 29% of the town, are within the White Mountain National Forest. Over 90% is undeveloped, the remainder being devoted to single family homes. Most of the undeveloped land is forested (85%). Agriculture and open land comprises about 8% of Sandwich. These figures reveal the fact that Sandwich is inextricably linked to its natural resource base of forests and open lands. **See Map 1, General Land Use/Land Cover.**

When asked what Sandwich should look like 20 years from now the highest response by far was: *rural, quiet, much like today.* There were also responses ranging from favoring no growth to having: *slow reasonable growth.*

Issues and Challenges

Since much of Sandwich is undeveloped, it will be important for the town to manage the remaining lands in a manner that protects its rural and village character. Encouraging environmentally sound forest management and agricultural activity is critical to maintaining this character. Sandwich has developed a set of land use regulations that are aimed at protecting and conserving its natural and scenic resources. With continued growth, the town will need to review and update these regulations to ensure its' rural and village character is protected and maintained.



Summary of Actions

Vision Goal

#1. *Allow for modest growth of residential development of a size, design and quality that is compatible with Sandwich's small town, rural character and recognizes Sandwich's changing demographics.*

To achieve this goal:

- Protect Sandwich's valuable forest and agricultural resource base by maintaining and enhancing existing unfragmented lands and active farming and forestry activities.
- Implement a digital information system that will link both spatial and factual community information into an integrated data base.
- Implement land use regulations that enable growth to be managed in a manner that will maintain Sandwich's rural and village character.

HISTORIC RESOURCES

A Key Component to the Image of Sandwich

Based on the community survey and public forums, the citizens of Sandwich identified protection of its historic resources as a high priority. The historic landscape is a reflection of the town's agricultural past, including both the rural areas as well as the village areas where agricultural products were processed and sold; supportive businesses and civic institutions thrived. The Town's historic resources—buildings, cemeteries, stonewalls, and views—are essential components of the charm which residents and visitors alike find so compelling. The preservation of historical resources is important not only to maintaining the image of the town, but also to providing a source of economic activity.

Sandwich began as a community of farmsteads, churches and schools. Soon clusters of homes, mills, and businesses grew up around small villages like Center Sandwich. While many of the early buildings no longer exist, there were enough in Center Sandwich and Lower Corner for those areas to be listed as districts on the National Register of Historic Places. Today there are approximately 85 historic cemeteries, numerous historic



homes and churches and a number of former schools most of which now have different uses.

Both the Sandwich Historical Society and the Historic District Commission are local organizations that work to protect and preserve the town's historic resources through specific projects or regulating building changes in Center Sandwich.

Issues and Challenges

While the community has done much to protect its historic resources, such as through the designation of Center Sandwich as a local Historic District, there will be further challenges as the community grows and changes. The key challenge will be to preserve the town's historic rural and small town character while managing change and growth.

Summary of Actions

Vision Goal

#3. Protect Sandwich's historical resources, natural environment, scenic beauty, open space, clean water, and wildlife through well-managed growth and careful planning.

To achieve this goal:

- Protect and preserve historic and cultural resources.
- Preserve and enhance the scenic and historic quality of the rural landscape and roadways.
- Maintain historic educational programs that enhance citizen awareness of our history.

VILLAGE CENTERS

Village Centers have Historic Roots & Serve as Community Focal Points.

Sandwich has several places that have been called villages at various times in the town's history including: Center Sandwich, North Sandwich, Sandwich Lower Corner, and Whiteface.

While most of these locations may have been population centers in the past, not all can be considered viable centers today. A viable village needs to have a concentration of buildings, contain a mix of land uses and most importantly serve as a focal point for the community. In that context, Center and North Sandwich fit those standards, although to differing degrees.

North Sandwich has a Post Office, concentration of buildings, a park and a general store, but is smaller than Center Sandwich. Center Sandwich is generally



regarded as the activity center of the entire community owing to its greater number and concentration of buildings and its mix of residential, retail, government and institutional uses. This activity is reinforced by the areas historic character that is

recognized through its listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the local Historic District designation.

Issues and Challenges

Sandwich places a high value on its villages. Participants in the community survey expressed strong support for the historic architecture in the village, the fact that it is well maintained and that its setting is enhanced by the surrounding open space and the views that it offers. The challenge for Sandwich will be how to maintain this village character as the town grows in the future. There are several issues that need to be considered including permitted uses, land use standards, Historic District design standards and infrastructure

Summary of Actions

Vision Goal

#5. Preserve the town's rural, small town character and the traditional New England style of its villages.

To achieve this goal:

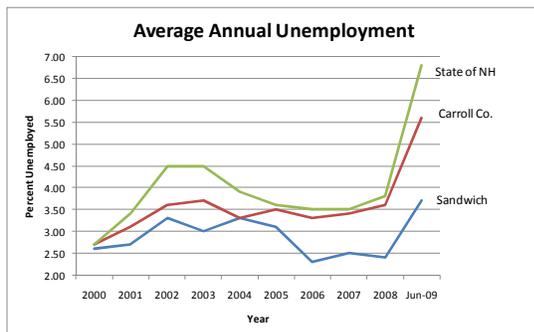
- Maintain the ambiance and character of the existing village centers – Center Sandwich and North Sandwich.
- Adopt design standards for the Historic District and for any future village districts that are consistent with the traditional New England village.
- Provide infrastructure to support future needs within the villages.

ECONOMIC BASE

A Community of Small Businesses

The citizens of Sandwich have regularly expressed their desire to remain a rural, small town and not seek to become a community with large scale commercial or industrial development. The results of the recent community survey and public forums highlighted the desire for home-based and small, limited business activity such as retail and professional services.

The town has continued to have slow, but steady, growth in employment over the past 20 years and a consistently lower unemployment rate compared to the county and state, even in the recent recession. Employment in Sandwich is characterized



by high levels of self-employment and a dominance of small businesses employing fewer than 10 people. Other characteristics that define the town's current economic condition:

- Sandwich has a small number of small businesses that provide relatively stable employment.
- More than half of the occupations of town residents are found in construction, education, health care, social services, arts/entertainment, and accommodations/food services.

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- 26% of workers are self-employed, compared to only 8% for the state.
- More than 88% of the assessed value of the town is in single family homes.

Issues and Challenges

The challenge for Sandwich will be to maintain its small town character and still offer the businesses, services and jobs that residents are seeking. Although only 4% of the town's workers earn their living in agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, there is a strong link between these vocations and the significance that Sandwich residents place on protecting the town's rural character.

Summary of Actions

Vision Goals

#6. Provide opportunity for limited village business activity that is consistent with the architectural qualities that the town values.

#7. Encourage home occupations that are compatible with, and supportive of, the town's rural character.

To achieve these goals:

- Promote a limited mix of residential, retail and office uses compatible with the existing visual character of the village and rural character of the town.
- Encourage home occupations that are compatible with the rural character of Sandwich.
- Encourage businesses that maintain and enhance the value and sustainability of the town, including its forests, fields and other natural resources.

TRANSPORTATION & CIRCULATION

Roadway System—a mix of gravel country roads and two-lane paved highways.

Sandwich's roadway system ranges from rural gravel country roads that have changed little over the past 20-30 years to a two-lane arterial state highway that passes through the eastern portion of the town. Associated with the roadway system are much more limited facilities for bicycles and pedestrians, mostly in Center Sandwich. A recently started mini-bus service is available to Sandwich residents and Concord Trailways can be picked up in adjacent towns.

Within Sandwich there are several regional transportation routes that carry the majority of long distance travel both within and to and from the town. These include NH Routes 25, 109, 113, 113A, Squam Lakes Road and Little Pond Road. All of these roads are maintained by NH DOT. There are approximately 65 miles of locally maintained paved and gravel roadways. The NH DOT and the Town Department of Public Works are responsible for bridge maintenance and construction. There are 27 bridges in Sandwich—11 under the



jurisdiction of DOT and 16 under the jurisdiction of the town. Bridges are

inspected every 2 years and 3 bridges are in need of repair, the Durgin, Young Mountain and Quaker Whiteface. The town has commissioned an engineering study to assess the locally-owned bridges and prepare a long term work program and cost estimates for upgrading them.

Sandwich has a relatively large network of roadways for a population of 1,300 people. In 2009 this cost of roadway upkeep and maintenance was approximately \$500,000 or the equivalent of \$7,600 per mile annually. At the 2010 Town Meeting \$648,000 was voted for roadway projects and funding.

Traffic Volume Change is Modest

Over the past 10 years the volume of traffic has increased only modestly. There are no heavily travelled roadways within Sandwich and there is little to no congestion. There does not appear to be a significant trend in the number of accidents, ranging from 28 in 1995 to 42 in 2008, in spite of population increase.

Issues and Challenges

Sandwich has a significant local roadway network. Although the increase in vehicular traffic should be modest over the next 5-10 years, the town will still face regular maintenance and upkeep of this system. This activity will continue to be a significant portion of the town's budget. The town may also want to provide more facilities for biking, walking, etc.

Summary of Actions

Vision Goal

#8. Pursue a balanced transportation system with well-maintained public roadways lined with stone walls, open fields and trees; and encourage opportunities and facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists and recreational users.

To achieve this goal:

- Maintain and improve the current roadway system to provide efficient traffic flow along the major roadway corridors while maintaining a safe environment for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Encourage, develop and maintain a range of non-automotive transportation alternatives that are easily available to the residents of Sandwich including walking trails, sidewalks and bike paths and trails.
- Promote transportation policies and improvements that are consistent with the town's policies for protection of natural and historic resources and minimize the impact on residential neighborhoods.
- Participate in the coordination of state and local transportation planning that addresses both local and regional needs.

ENERGY

Energy Committee Established

As a result of increasingly heavy United States reliance on foreign oil and concerns about climate change, many public entities are making efforts to better understand and manage energy consumption and the use of non-renewable energy in the U.S. With the exception of a handful of homes that use renewable energy sources in Sandwich, nearly all of the town's energy is imported. Statewide 24% of the petroleum products come from outside the U.S. It has been estimated that Sandwich residents use the energy equivalent of 2.8 million gallons of gasoline per year.

At the 2007 Town Meeting, the voters established the Sandwich Energy Committee *to promote energy conservation and the use of renewable resources for municipal, business and home use for the townspeople of Sandwich.* The Energy Committee has already spearheaded several efforts to document and reduce energy consumption in town buildings and inform the community about energy conservation opportunities.

Issues and Challenges

Sandwich has many opportunities to both reduce the amount of energy that is consumed and switch to local and renewable sources. Approximately one-quarter of the homes in Sandwich are heated with wood and more than 10% have begun to use more advanced renewable energy sources such as solar and geothermal. With an estimated 35,000 acres of non-federal land in Sandwich that is

forested, it would take less than 7,000 acres to heat all of the buildings in town with wood – on a sustainable yield basis. A new state statute (RSA 53-F) *Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Districts* enables municipalities to finance energy conservation and clean energy improvements to private properties that are paid off through the resulting energy savings to individual utility bills.

Summary of Actions

Vision Goals

#9. *Encourage a sustainable community, one that meets our present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs.*

Two other Vision Goals also have important connections to the “sustainable community” goal. Vision Goal #10 seeks to provide municipal services in a cost effective manner – that includes serious exploration of energy efficiency efforts that can improve services and/or reduce overall costs. Vision Goal #8 refers to provision of a balanced transportation system, including facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.

To achieve these goals:

- Undertake Energy Efficiency Improvements in all areas of town government, including buildings, vehicles and operations.
- Seek ways to reduce the amount of energy that is used for transportation throughout Sandwich.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & SERVICES

Sandwich Supports a Range of Community Facilities and Services

One of the primary responsibilities of local governments in New Hampshire is to provide an adequate level of community facilities and services including maintaining roads, maintaining law and order, fire protection, emergency medical response, educational opportunities, solid waste management, recreation and open space opportunities, and library services.

Police—The department is housed in a single building. A storage shed was constructed on the site in July 2010. The department has two vehicles—a 2010 Ford Expedition and a 2008 Ford Expedition. In 2009 annual department expenditures were \$191,818. The department building lacks ADA accessibility, adequate interview or storage space.

Fire and Medical—There are two fire stations—the Central Station in Center Sandwich and the Whiteface Station on Whiteface Road. A third building—the Old Fire Station—is used only for storage. The fire department has six vehicles—four devoted to fire fighting, one to rescue, and a command vehicle. The newest piece of equipment is a 2004 KME engine. The major issues for the department are the need for adequate space at the Central Station and the availability of qualified volunteers.

Highway/Public Works—The department has one major building and several smaller buildings located in North Sandwich. The highway department has five dump trucks

that also serve as plow trucks; a grader, pick-up truck, backhoe, bucket loader and chipper. The main building is in fair to poor condition and the roof needs to be replaced eventually.

Town Hall—located in Center Sandwich; constructed in 1915. It houses the offices for town administration and town clerk functions. The 2006 *Sandwich Building Assessment Report* and 2008 Town Hall Building Committee Report recommended increased energy efficiency through heating, ventilating, lighting and window upgrades; enlarged/modernized workspaces and meeting room, more storage space and ADA accessibility to the second floor.



Solid Waste—the transfer station is located off NH Route 113 and handles both trash and recyclable materials. It has a trash compactor for household waste and a container for single-stream recycled materials. The facility has several issues, including a constricted traffic flow and limited storage areas.

Sewer System—The 28-year-old system, located in Center Sandwich, serves 74 properties and comprises two pumping

stations, nearly 8,000 linear feet of pipe , settling tanks and four leach fields. The system is a user funded system and managed by the Sewer Commissioners. It is currently at or near capacity and has ongoing system infiltration issues which need to be resolved.

Samuel H. Wentworth Library—The Library is located in Center Sandwich and was dedicated in 1915. In 1971 a two-story 3,000 square foot addition was constructed to the rear of the original building. The main level of the original building houses most of the library’s collection. The library has increased its broadband availability and is planning to make devices such as electronic readers and mp3 players



available for loan to patrons. Circulation continues to grow, reaching 21,555 in 2009. Over the next 5-10 years the library expects to need: Web-based circulation software, electrical system upgrade, hardware for loan to patrons such as portable DVD players, mp3 players, electronic readers, restoration of original historic vaulted ceiling and ADA compliance.

Sandwich Central School—Built in 1950, the school was operated by the Sandwich School District until 1963 when it was annexed by the Inter-Lakes School District. The auditorium/cafeteria addition was completed in 1990. The present configuration includes 7 classrooms, 1 resource room, 1 cafeteria/auditorium/gymnasium, a library and

central office. Since 1993-4 enrollment tapered off to a low of 62 in the '07-'08 school year. Total enrollment has increased in the '09-'10 year to 79. Students are merged in grades k-1, 2-3 and 4-5. Grade 6 is a stand-alone class. Because of the school’s small size in relation to the rest of the Inter-Lakes facilities, the town needs to continue its advocacy for the viability of the school.

Parks and Recreation—The Parks and Recreation Department is housed in the basement of the Post Office Building, and has a nearby storage shed that is being renovated. There are 17 recreational facilities within Sandwich including parks, swimming areas, and conservation land. Compared to national standards the town is well served with recreation facilities. Needs include: renovation of Quimby Field and Sunshine Park, and new programs to serve adult populations.

Communications Infrastructure –

Townpeople place great importance on the availability of quality internet, cell phone and television services. In the past, people were reliant on slow dial-up procedures for internet access but today, many rely on faster wireless and satellite facilities, although service is not community-wide. Townpeople can access the internet at no cost at the Wentworth Library. Recently, high speed internet lines have become available in certain areas, including Center Sandwich, and it is anticipated that these will eventually reach most parts of town.

Volunteerism—Sandwich has many volunteer groups and relies heavily on the high rate of volunteerism in the community. In the first community forum for the Master Plan, the second highest ranked attribute of Sandwich was “active, caring, open community”. In

addition to town citizen boards and commissions, there are almost twenty volunteer groups.

Summary of Actions

Vision Goals

#10. Provide, in a cost effective manner, the quality and level of municipal services and facilities that are enjoyed in Sandwich today.

#11. Encourage modern communication facilities, systems and services to meet the needs and diversity of Sandwich's residents and businesses now and in the years to come.

#12. Encourage and foster high levels of citizen volunteerism in both public and non-profit activities to promote social capital and keep the cost of municipal services at a reasonable level.

To achieve these goals:

- Update the Capital Improvement Plan annually. As part of this process work with town department heads to justify short and long-term capital needs.
- Encourage high levels of citizen volunteerism in both public and non-profit activities to promote social capital and keep the cost of municipal services at a reasonable level. (Vision Goal 10).
- Facilitate a range of options to provide full television, telephone and high speed internet service to the entire community.