

**Comprehensive Master Plan
for the**

Town of

**Sandwich
New Hampshire
2003**

COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN
SANDWICH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

2003

Prepared by the

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Planning for vision

Planning has been an important part of the Town of Sandwich for a good many years. The original Zoning Ordinance began over twenty-five years ago and is among the strongest in this area, and the first Master Plan was created in 1981. Almost every year additions or other changes have been voted by the town at its annual Town Meeting and several surveys and a weekend retreat have served to indicate the directions in which the Town wants to go.

The geographical location of the town probably affects the character of the Town in many ways. No Interstate Highways come near it and the only other main route travels through the edge of it. One pretty much has to want to go to Sandwich because there are no major routes that will take one through its villages by chance.

That said, except for limited changes, the character of the town is just the way its residents and annual visitors want it. Our citizens clearly do not want to see shopping centers or “big box” retailers, extensive paved areas, or large well-lighted parking lots locate in this Town, nor do they want to see housing developments being created here.

From surveys and the retreat, it’s clear that any future growth is most acceptable if it doesn’t further limit the open recreational areas, or those providing the proper environment for wildlife.

The case for these facets of life in Town as well as the exposition of its vision was stated many years ago in the introduction to the Zoning Ordinance. It’s as valid today as it was when it was first stated:

“It is the purpose of this ordinance... to regulate and control the timing of development at an orderly and reasonable rate. The Ordinance reflects the wishes of the citizenry as expressed through the ballot and through the comprehensive Master Plan. A principle ingredient of this Ordinance is the effort to preserve the scenic beauty and healthfulness of the town through particular attention to land use in the vicinity of lakes, ponds, streams, wetlands and steep slopes, to preserve the natural beauty of the land within view of the lakes and ponds, and to preserve for recreation and wildlife habitats forests, wetlands and wild lands. Because of the uniqueness of some wetland,

and the importance of water sources and quality to the well-being of the town, the minimum distances specified in this Ordinance may exceed the minimum distances specified in State statutes.”

As was expressed in one of the surveys, “Sandwich is a very special place” and it is the intent and wishes of its citizens to keep it that way.

It will be apparent to any thoughtful reader of this Master Plan that our citizens are active participants in the life of the Town. Most of the boards, clubs and organizations are open to new members and all residents are encouraged to volunteer and join with them. Our fellow citizens, participate in the life of the town, and help to shape its future. The percentage of our people who come out to vote at state and national elections is among the highest in the state and this reflects the lively interest and concerns which also comprise the vision of the community and its vitality. Join with us.

Sandwich Planning Board
Center Sandwich, New Hampshire 03227

INTRODUCTION

In 1981, the Sandwich Planning Board approved and published its first Master Plan in accordance with RSA 36:13. Since that time there have been three surveys of the Townspeople published by the Planning Board and a Town-wide, two-day “Retreat” called Sandwich 2002 was held from which a fourth report was published. The information from those reports has kept the Master Plan reasonably current but it was felt by the Planning Board that a new “re-statement” of the Master Plan was in order. This is that restatement completed under the authority of RSA 674:1-4.

This Plan is written in four parts. The first, “How Did We Get Here,” is a series of Tables which reflect some of the changes that have been taking place in the Town over the last twenty years. We have compared Sandwich with its contiguous Towns plus a few others that give a flavor of the significant growth taking place in the Lakes Region. Sandwich has grown by 20.6 percent in the past ten years. If it keeps that rate up, the population will double in the next 30+ years. The charge to “keep Sandwich just the way it is,” from the surveys and retreat, is a major dynamic in the planning which the Town and the Planning Board must be continuously aware of.

The second portion of the Plan, “Where Are We Now,” is a description of the various elements which are intrinsic to the make up of the character of the Town – the so-called “Social Capital” of the Town. A glance at that section, beginning on page 14 will show the reader that a number of people have contributed their brief descriptions of these elements and we are grateful for their help.

The third portion of the Plan, “Where Do We Want To Go,” (page 52) is a description of some of the objectives which the surveys and retreat set forth for the Town. It is the goal of the Planning Board to try to implement those goals with the help and input of the citizens of the Town. As you will see, the folks who participated in these surveys consistently reflected the wishes of those who contributed to the first Master Plan in that maintaining the character of the Town, the preservation of the lands of the Town, the concern for adequate wildlife habitat, and the high quality of its bodies of

water are still high on the list of the most important concerns our residents have.

The fourth part, "How Do We Get There," (page 67) is a list of specific goals and objectives for the Town's consideration in the very near future.

This Board is always open to hearing any suggestions, comments, or changes which you, the Townspeople, have in mind. We will need a good deal of help to accomplish these goals and hope that you will give us all the thoughts you have with respect to these goals.

Finally, the membership of this Board is an evolving one and thoughtful new blood is always a need. If any resident of Town wishes to be considered for membership on the Planning Board, please give your name to the Selectmen.

Carl McNall, Chair
Sandwich Planning Board

How Did We Get Here?

Population

New Hampshire is the fastest growing state in the Northeastern part of the United States. Its 11.4% growth rate, 1990 – 2000, exceeded that of all the other New England States, New York State and New Jersey (which was second at 8.8%). The Lakes Region of New Hampshire has been affected by this trend and the following tables bear out this fact. As stated earlier in this report, the 20.6% growth rate for Sandwich from 1990 to 2000 portends that our Town will continue to grow at a rapid pace and put increasing pressures on the Town to fulfil its commitment to try to preserve the ambiance of the Town and its special geographical characteristics.

Table 1 shows the population growth and rate of growth for the entire Lakes Region area. Table 2 shows that the Sandwich rate of growth places it in about the middle of the Towns shown in the following Tables. The days of growth are here and all the forecasts are that it will continue.

Table 1 - Lakes Region Population Trends: 1960 - 2000

Year	Population	Per Cent Change
1960	51,821	2.5%
1970	59,041	13.9%
1980	78,511	33.0%
1990	92,418	17.7%
2000	107,032	15.8%

Our neighbor to the immediate South of us (Moultonborough) is the clear leader in population increase while the other “fastest growing towns” (see Table 3) tend to be a bit farther South. There are numerous reasons for this, not the least being the presence of Lake Winnepesaukee and the lower travel time from the Southern Tier of New Hampshire and from the Boston area.

Table 2 - Population Change In the Lakes Region 1980 – 2000

Municipality	1980	1990	2000	% change '80 – '90	% change '90 – '00
Center Harbor	808	996	996	23.3	0.0
Holderness	1,586	1,694	1,930	6.8	13.9
Meredith	4,646	4,837	5,943	4.1	22.9
Moultonborough	2,206	2,956	4,484	34.0	51.7
Sandwich	905	1,066	1,286	17.8	20.6
Tamworth	1,692	2,165	2,510	29.5	15.9
Tuftonboro	1,500	1,842	2,148	22.8	16.6
Wolfeboro	3,968	4,807	6,083	21.1	26.5

Table 3 – Municipalities with the Largest Population Increases in the Lakes Region 1900 - 2000

Municipality	Increase in Population 1980 – 1990	Municipality	Increase in Population 1990 - 2000
1 Belmont	1,770	1. Moultonborough	1,528
2 Northfield	1,212	2. Wolfeboro	1,276
3. Gilford	1,026	3. Alton	1,216
4. Alton	846	4. Meredith	1,106
5. Ossipee	844	5. Gilford	936
6. Wolfeboro	839	6. Belmont	920
7. Barnstead	808	7. Ossipee	902
8. Moultonborough	750	8. Barnstead	786
9. Gilmanton	668	9. Laconia	668
10. Tamworth	493	10. Bristol	296

Housing

Tables 4 and 5, the second being simply a restatement of the first, show that Moultonborough has experienced almost explosive growth in housing over the 20-year period, though its percentage of seasonal housing has decreased. Holderness, Tuftonboro by a significant percentage, and Wolfeboro all have increased the percent of seasonal housing while the others have reduced it. Sandwich was tied for 2nd in 1980 and was 4th in 2000

**Table 4 - Number of All Housing Units and Seasonal Housing Units:
1980 - 2000**

Municipality	All Units			Seasonal Units		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
Center Harbor	501	649	653	89	239	208
Holderness	968	1,136	1,208	263	417	404
Meredith	3,184	3,720	4,191	1,322	1,603	1,611
Moultonborough	2,853	3,850	4,523	1,878	2,526	2,519
Sandwich	722	864	965	314	352	360
Tamworth	1,136	1,523	1,662	379	524	526
Tuftonboro	1,273	2,207	2,019	545	1,236	1,043
Wolfeboro	2,686	3,631	3,903	793	1,345	1,194

Table 5 – Changes in Per Cent of Seasonal Housing 1980 and 2000

Municipality	1980			2000		
	All units	Seasonal	%	All units	Seasonal	%
Center Harbor	501	89	18%	653	208	32%
Holderness	968	263	27%	1,208	404	33%
Meredith	3,184	1,322	42%	4,191	1,611	38%
Moultonborough	2,853	1,878	66%	4,523	2,519	56%
Sandwich	722	314	43%	965	360	37%
Tamworth	1,136	379	33%	1,662	526	32%
Tuftonboro	1,273	545	43%	2,019	1,043	53%
Wolfeboro	2,686	793	30%	3,903	1,194	31%

Table 6 -- Number and Tenure of Housing Units – 1990 – 2000

	1990		2000	
	Occupied Housing			
	Owner	Renter	Owner	Renter
Center Harbor	318	59	353	61
Holderness	507	149	602	166
Meredith	1,408	528	1,891	556
Moultonborough	942	222	1,636	248
Sandwich	386	70	451	113
Tamworth	677	198	791	283
Tuftonboro	596	114	808	118
Wolfeboro	1,482	535	1,987	587

Table 7 -- Renters as a Per Cent of Total Occupied Housing

Municipality	1990		2000	
	Occupied Housing			
	Total Units	Per Cent Renter Occupied	Total Units	Per Cent Renter Occupied
Center Harbor	377	16%	414	15%
Holderness	656	23%	768	22%
Meredith	1,936	27%	2,447	23%
Moultonborough	1,164	19%	1,884	13%
Sandwich	456	15%	564	20%
Tamworth	876	23%	1,074	26%
Tuftonboro	710	16%	926	13%
Wolfeboro	2,017	27%	2,574	23%

When examining Tables 6 and 7, it's apparent that in terms of occupied housing Sandwich is not at the top of the list. It ranked 7th in total population in each of the prior decades (Table 2) and it ranked 7th in both owner-occupied and renter housing in 1990 and in 2000. While its position hasn't changed, it's interesting to note that in per cent of Total Occupied

Housing, Table 7, Sandwich has moved up to 5th from 8th in the number of renter-occupied housing units. When looking at Seasonal Housing, Table 8, Sandwich is higher on the list compared with the other Towns. It's one of four, of the eight, that showed a positive increase in the percentage of Seasonal Units in the decade, 1990 – 2000, and was the leader in that period. While that dynamic was taking place, Sandwich also went from 2nd to 3rd to 4th in percent of seasonal housing in 1980, 1990, and 2000.

**Table 8 -- Per Cent Seasonal Housing Units and Per Cent Change:
1990 - 2000**

Municipality	Per Cent Seasonal			Per Cent Change 1990 – 2000	
	1980	1990	2000	All Units	Seasonal Units
Center Harbor	17.8%	36.8%	31.9%	8.5%	-33.1%
Holderness	27.2%	36.7%	33.4%	6.3%	-3.1%
Meredith	41.5%	43.1%	38.4%	12.7%	0.5%
Moultonborough	65.8%	65.6%	55.7%	17.5%	0.3%
Sandwich	43.5%	40.7%	37.3%	11.7%	2.3%
Tamworth	33.4%	34.4%	31.6%	9.1%	0.4%
Tuftonboro	42.8%	61.0%	51.7%	-0.4%	-15.6%
Wolfeboro	29.5%	37.0%	30.6%	7.5%	-11.2%

Not surprisingly, the activity in the housing area has kept pace with the population growth of Sandwich. **Table 9** shows that our Town falls just below the middle in Single Family lots created but well down on the list of Single Family Permits issued in the year 2000. As well, Sandwich is below the middle of the list of Total Residential Permits issued in the decade 1990 – 2000 but significantly higher in the rate of development.

Table 9 - Residential Subdivisions and Permits by Housing Type

Subdivisions and Revocations – Year 2000				
Municipality	Single family lots created	Single Family Acres Subdivided	Multi-Family Lots Created	Multi-Family Acres Subdivided
Center Harbor	9	110	N/A	N/A
Holderness	12	N/A	0	0
Meredith	4	8	0	0
Moultonborough	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sandwich	5	N/A	0	0
Tamworth	6	41	0	0
Tuftonboro	9	343	4	0
Wolfeboro	3	N/A	0	0

Permits Issued – Year 2000			
Municipality	Single Family Permits	Multi-Family Permits	Manufactured Housing Permits
Center Harbor	3	0	2
Holderness	21	0	2
Meredith	59	0	0
Moultonborough	94	0	0
Sandwich	10	0	0
Tamworth	6	2	0
Tuftonboro	19	0	6
Wolfeboro	55	0	0

Municipality	Number of Housing Units 1990	Total Residential Permits 1990 - 2000	Rate of Residential Development 1990-2000
Center Harbor	649	75	11.56%
Holderness	1,136	122	10.74%
Meredith	3,720	448	12.04%
Moultonborough	3,850	753	19.56%
Sandwich	864	100	11.57%
Tamworth	1,523	110	7.22%
Tuftonboro	2,207	196	9.67%
Wolfeboro	3,631	509	14.02%

Demographics

When it comes to the people of Sandwich, we have more folks over ages 62 and 65 than Carroll County as a whole but are otherwise comparable to the County figures. Younger people have been moving into Town for the past year or so and it would be interesting to see if the same dynamics still hold true.

Table 10 -- Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

	Town of Sandwich		Carroll County	
	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cent
Total Pop.	1,286	100.0%	43,666	100.0%
Sex and Age				
Male	601	46.7%	21,455	49.1%
Female	685	53.3%	22,211	50.9%
Under 5 years	52	4.0%	2,096	4.8%
5 to 9 years	73	5.7%	2,711	6.2%
10 to 14 years	93	7.2%	3,220	7.4%
15 to 19 years	85	6.6%	2,721	6.2%
20 to 24 years	22	1.7%	1,454	3.3%
25 to 34 years	75	5.8%	4,467	10.2%
35 to 44 years	185	14.4%	7,107	16.3%
45 to 54 years	249	19.4%	7,028	16.1%
55 to 59 years	69	5.4%	2,748	6.3%
60 to 64 years	75	5.8%	2,325	5.3%
65 to 74 years	166	12.9%	4,336	9.9%
75 to 84 years	109	8.5%	2,608	6.0%
85 yrs. & over	33	2.6%	845	1.9%
Median age	47.2	(X)	42.5	(X)
18 yrs. & over	1,003	78.0%	33,784	77.4%
Male	467	36.3%	16,388	37.5%
Female	536	41.7%	17,396	39.8%
21 yrs. & over	979	76.1%	32,648	74.8%
62 yrs. & over	356	27.7%	9,197	21.1%
65 yrs. & over	308	24.0%	7,789	17.8%

Table 11 shows us that Sandwich has a higher percentage of folks over age 65 than all our comparing Towns except for Wolfeboro, a fact which will not surprise anyone who lives here. Sandwich had the highest percent in 1980 and has been second only to Wolfeboro in the two Censuses since then. **Table 12**, on the other hand, shows that we are growing older at a slower rate than all of the Towns except for Tamworth and Wolfeboro.

**Table 11 -- Number and Percentage of Persons 65 Years and Older:
1980 - 2000**

Municipality	1980		1990		2000	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Center Harbor	111	13.7%	156	15.7%	173	17.4%
Holderness	185	11.7%	173	10.2%	248	12.8%
Meredith	692	14.9%	776	16.0%	999	16.8%
Moultonborough	395	17.9%	471	15.9%	891	19.9%
Sandwich	205	22.7%	234	22.0%	308	24.0%
Tamworth	261	15.6%	327	15.1%	394	15.7%
Tuftonboro	326	21.7%	354	19.2%	475	22.1%
Wolfeboro	739	18.6%	1,094	22.8%	1,495	24.6%

Table 12 -- Median Age and Per Cent Change: 1980 -2000

Municipality	Median Age			% Change	% Change
	1980	1990	2000	'80-'90	'90 - '00
Center Harbor	31.7	37.5	44.6	18.3%	18.9%
Holderness	30.8	35.2	42.1	14.3%	19.6%
Meredith	33.6	36.2	42.5	7.7%	17.4%
Moultonborough	39.4	37.8	46.6	-4.1%	23.3%
Sandwich	43.1	41.3	47.2	-4.2%	14.3%
Tamworth	34.3	36.3	40.6	5.8%	11.8%
Tuftonboro	42.0	38.8	47.7	-7.6%	22.9%
Wolfeboro	38.2	41.0	45.3	7.3%	10.5%

Finally, **Table 13** shows us that while our citizens have relatively higher incomes than most of our comparing Towns, we are not at the head of the list. This Table, like all of the Tables in this section, is based on the data coming from the 2000 Census through the Lakes Region Planning Commission.

Table 13 – Median Family Income

Municipality	Median Family Income
Center Harbor	\$55,938
Holderness	\$55,526
Meredith	\$54,764.
Moultonborough	\$51,729
Sandwich	\$55, 417
Tamworth	\$41,121
Tuftonboro	\$51,875
Wolfeboro	\$53,269

Where Are We Now?

Social Capital

Since the most recent update of our Master Plan, a new expression has crept into the lexicon – “social capital.” It has been defined in many ways and it’s been said by those who have a perspective on such things that Sandwich has more of it than any of the surrounding towns. The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation has defined social capital as

“The glue that holds a community together. It’s the connectedness we feel with one another. It’s the trust we have for each other. When social capital decreases, we vote less, participate in public meetings less, and volunteer less....”

(As quoted in Shirley Elder’s article in *The Boston Sunday Globe* of 2/25/01)

It is, perhaps, this richness in social capital that is responsible for the fact that a higher percentage of voters in this Town turn out for elections than in the vast majority of towns in the State.

Another article in the *Boston Globe* of March 4, 2001 has the following opening paragraph:

“In his 1995 treatise “Bowling Alone,” Harvard sociologist Robert D. Putnam argued that civil society was breaking down in America because people were disconnected from their families, neighbors, and communities. Whereas in earlier generations people belonged to bowling leagues, bridge clubs, PTAs, and the volunteer fire department, today they are “bowling alone” – Putnam’s metaphor for the isolation that is hollowing out the American experience.”

As one looks around the social landscape of Sandwich, that hardly seems true for our lives. Many of the elements of the level of social capital in Sandwich are described in this section of this report. There are nearly fifty of them and they add up to a busy, active, inclusive and varied menu for our daily lives. If you’re not already involved in some of them, jump in. You will be welcome.

The Federated Church of Sandwich

This ecumenical congregation of approximately 175 members was formed by the merger of the Free Baptist Church of Sandwich (American Baptist) and the United Methodist Church of Sandwich but continues an affiliation with both denominations. The membership reflects a wide diversity of Christian faiths and worship services are traditional Protestant. All are welcome to attend worship services in either of the two historic church buildings that are used in rotation. Worship services are held in the Methodist Meeting House at 11 AM from mid-October through Easter Sunday and at 10 AM in the Baptist Meeting House from the Sunday after Easter through Columbus Day weekend. Sunday School is held at 9:30 AM in the Baptist Meeting House from September through May. In addition, many other programs, open to the community at large, are held in these buildings such as musical concerts, piano recitals, and study groups. Space in the Baptist Meeting House has been used, from time to time, by other community organizations such as the Sandwich Children's Center and the Sandwich Caregivers. The programs, activities and responsibilities are planned and carried out by members and other church attendees who are elected to serve on various boards and committees. The Board of Deacons, along with the Pastor, is responsible for promoting the spiritual welfare of the congregation and providing for meaningful worship service. The Board of Outreach is responsible for supporting mission activities in the community, nation and world. This includes sponsorship of an annual CROP Walk and supporting a local food pantry in Tamworth. The Board of Education is responsible for Christian Education for all age groups.

-- Walter C. Johnson

The Ladies Aid of the Federated Church

The Ladies Aid of The Federated Church is an organization of approximately 40 members and usually meets eight times a year. Its purpose is to work for and support the church, to grow in Christian faith and to support local, national and overseas missions as much as possible. In addition to a governing Executive Board, standing committees include Work Committees, Publicity and Nominating. A special committee was appointed recently to recommend how a generous bequest from Annette Ransom was to be used. A lift in the Methodist Meeting House was installed for

handicapped access to the lower level, new pew cushions were purchased, and books were purchased for the Wentworth Library. The organization is open to any interested women in the community, church members or not.

-- Donna S. Johnson

North Sandwich Meeting of Friends

For the first several generations of the Quaker movement there was no such thing as formal membership. Persons were known as Quakers if they participated in gathered meetings and were prepared to witness in public to their beliefs. Over the years since then, Friends have developed a variety of standards for membership in different yearly meetings, but these standards have all begun with the understanding that membership is founded on the experience of God's presence in our daily lives.

Friends have always recognized that the reading of devotional literature, above all the study of the Bible, can help develop a fuller spiritual life.

Most of all, however, a potential Friend discovers the testimonies of Friends and their meaning for the twentieth (now twenty-first) century by participating in the life of the monthly meeting. Because membership in a meeting means membership in a community, one of the tests of membership is compatibility with that community. Applicants need to feel in harmony with the community they are joining. They should be able to accept the diversity of Friends, both locally and at the national and world levels.

Prospective members should have attended meeting for some time and have developed an appreciation for Friends' forms of worship and business. The appropriate time to apply for membership will vary from person to person. Applicants are not expected to state their religious beliefs in any prescribed fashion, but may assume that their search for an understanding of the Truth will be valued by other seekers and humble learners in the school of Jesus. We welcome all who would like to attend Meeting for Worship.

-- John L. Webb, Clerk

The Doris L. Benz Community Center

The Benz Center is governed by the board of twenty-one directors of the Sandwich Senior Resources, Inc. The dual purposes of "Senior Resources" are "to provide housing in Sandwich, NH for senior citizens and to provide facilities for community activities and services for senior residents of Sandwich." The Benz Community Center is used for congregate meals each Wednesday, International Nights and other programs open to the public, meetings, parties, classes, dinners and fundraisers. Use of the Center is without charge although donations are encouraged. There is one paid staff member. (See "Spokesfield Common, etc. below)

Mailing address:

P.O. Box 52, Center Sandwich, NH 03227

Contact Person

David Blackshear

-- David Blackshear

Spokesfield Common and the Doris Benz Community Center

The Concept originated in 1980 when a group of Sandwich Residents began discussing the need for Senior Housing. The Sandwich Senior Housing Committee, Inc. was formed as a nonprofit organization and tax-free status was obtained from the IRS. A Three-part objective was defined with the first part being subsidized apartments for low-income seniors; the second being condominium-type houses which could be purchased by Seniors; the third being a community center available to all Town residents.

Early in the program, an option to purchase 32 acres of land near the Center of Town was granted on favorable terms by one of the families in the Town. A generous donation by a local private fund made it possible to retain lawyers and architects and consultants as needed. After several false starts, financing for the subsidized units was obtained from HUD and construction of ten units was begun in April of 1987 and completed in December of that year. Since May of 1988, the units have been filled and the program has been an unqualified success.

A plan for 14 condominium-type houses for outright purchase by Seniors was developed in 1990. The concept was changed by agreement with the Taylor Home of Laconia who wished to take over the project, build 14 homes similar to their Laconia facility known as "The Ledges," and operate the Spokesfield Homes under their same assisted-living concept, which has been so successful in Laconia.

The third part of the overall program, a Community Center, was designed and a site plan approved by the Sandwich Planning Board. After lengthy examination and revisions of the plans and specifications, a building contract was awarded in July of 1992 with a completion date scheduled for March of 1993. The building is located on land granted by the Taylor Home and construction costs were defrayed by a trust fund established under the will of the late Doris I. Benz, a long-time resident of Sandwich, as well as gifts from private individuals. Since its completion in 1993, the Benz Center has become a significant asset to the Town, providing a meeting place for residents of the town and surrounding areas. There is an average of 285 events held at the Center each year. There is no charge for the use of the Center but donations are welcome.

(See "Benz Center" above)

-- Walter (Buzz) Robinson

Sandwich Children's Center

The Sandwich Children's Center is a not-for-profit community resource serving the educational, social, physical and emotional needs for children and their families. The Center is committed to providing a consistent and nurturing environment that is welcoming and safe, and affordable for the people of Sandwich and the surrounding communities.

The Center serves about 60 children and is open Monday through Friday. It provides childcare for infants age 6 weeks through 5 years, a preschool program, and before and after school care for school-age children. Other programs offered are vacation programs for school-age children. During the summer the children in the Explorers and Pathfinder groups have opportunities to visit local museums, a children's theater in Meredith and

weekly all-day field trips. The Center works with the Interlakes School District and with the Early Intervention program. It offers parent support and has run courses on parenting.

-- Alex Adriance

Alfred Quimby Fund

Alfred Quimby, born in Sandwich in 1833, established the Alfred Quimby Fund in his will in 1918. The essence of the will directs the trustees of the fund "... to manage and improve (the assets of the fund)... and to expend the net income and profits... in such a way (that) will best serve to advance the interest and contribute to the permanent upbuilding and well-being of said Town of Sandwich, and its inhabitants and institutions..."

The current trustees are Arthur Heard, Susan Wiley and Derek Marshall. Fund activities are approximately one-third devoted to recreation, one-third to educational scholarships and one-third to general Town improvements by contributions to many of the Town organizations. Recent contributions include conservation projects such as those around Kusumpe Pond, improvements to the Town beach and tennis courts, the Benz Center and the Wentworth Library, among others.

-- Derek Marshall

Conservation Commission

The Conservation Commission, which consists of seven members, all appointed by the Selectmen, carries out several functions.

First, the Conservation Commission implements the State Wetlands Protection Act at the Town level. While all final decisions on wetlands activities are made in Concord, the Commission performs local review based on the State DES Wetlands rules.

Second, the Commission is the body empowered by state law to hold, maintain, and monitor those conservation easements held by the town.

There are currently nine such easements and the Conservation Commission is allowed to accept gifts of additional easements, or lands, with approval of the Selectmen – no action of the Town Meeting is required.

Third, the Commission assists in the maintenance of several recreational trails in Town (see the section on Town trails).

Lastly, the Commission and its members are occasionally called upon by the Selectmen to consult on conservation issues or serve on temporary committee.

The Commission meets on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall.

-- Chip Kimball

Historic District Commission

The Historic District was created by a vote of the Town on March 11, 1982. The Historic District Commission, which is made up of seven members appointed by the Board of Selectmen, was created to regulate the construction, exterior alterations, moving and demolition of structures in the District.

The last few years have seen an average of eight or nine meetings per year. Most of the meetings dealt with small projects such as change of color, new windows, change of roof composition, satellite dishes and signs. There have been three major projects in the past few years – the Post Office, Child Care Center and Burrows Store have or are now experiencing major renovations.

Public participation in the meetings of the District Commission has been almost non-existent which leaves the Commission to do what it perceives as right. This in turn creates problems after the fact.

-- Roger B. Merriman, III

Bearcamp Valley Garden Club

The Garden Club consists of approximately 125 members. Its purpose is to promote an interest in all phases of gardening and horticulture, to further the

wisest use of natural resources through good conservation practices, and to foster those activities that ensure a more attractive community. Standing committees include Birds, Conservation, Good Cheer, Horticulture, Membership, Nominating, Program, Publicity, Telephone, Town Planting, Ways and Means and Yearbook. The Club holds two plant sales annually and conducts educational programs and garden tours monthly. It sponsors a Town beautification fund which maintains Town plantings primarily in Sandwich and Tamworth. The Club donates prizes at the Sandwich Fair, cheers shut-ins, sponsors area students at summer conservation programs and has funded a grant to a student (graduate or undergraduate) at the University of New Hampshire who is majoring in horticulture, forestry, or environmental conservation. The grant is awarded annually. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month, seven times a year. The annual meeting is held in May.

-- Patricia L. Carega

Sandwich Notch 60

The Sandwich Notch 60 is a dogsled race co-sponsored by the Sandwich Sidehillers Winter Trail Club and the Yankee Siberian Husky. The race is held on the third Saturday in February. There are 60 mile and 30 mile dogsled races, and a 15 mile ski-jour (skier pulled by one or two dogs). The race course runs along the Sandwich Range including Sandwich Notch, Young Mountain, Whiteface Intervale, Great Pond in Tamworth, and Wonalancet Intervale; largely on multiple use winter trails. The Town of Sandwich also assists with race preparation; additional assistance is provided by various groups and individuals. Culinary highlights are the Friday night spaghetti supper put on by the Sandwich Central School PTO, the lunch stand on Bennett St. by the Sidehillers, and the Sunday morning awards breakfast, produced by the Corner House. The SN60 is a great mid-winter festive occasion.

-- Chip Kimball

Sandwich Woman's Club

The Sandwich Woman's Club, founded in 1928, is an organization of about 75 women who meet quarterly for lunch and a program. New members are most welcome: contact any member or call the president.

The purposes of the Club are: scholarships for Sandwich residents pursuing post-secondary education, a community Christmas tree and party for Sandwich children from infants through third grade, and planting and maintaining the window boxes at the fire station.

These activities are funded by two bridge tournaments a year, a snack bar and food sale at the art show on the green during Old Home Week, and a raffle of a donated painting or other art work, also during Old Home Week.

-- Jane Beckman

Sandwich Historical Society

The Sandwich Historical Society, in operation since 1917, has an annual budget of approximately \$100,000 and an active membership of about 475 members. The society operates the Elisha Marston House as a museum, library, exhibit area and offices. Other facilities include the Quimby Barn, the Grange Hall and the Lower Corner Schoolhouse. Current paid part-time senior positions include the Director, Curator, and senior staff. The support staff includes an administrative office manager and three paid staff. In season, there are a number of volunteers. The officers and trustees serve without compensation. The trustees meet monthly throughout the year.

The acquisitions focus on Sandwich material, and include an important collection of Albert Gallatin Hoit paintings. The Marston House is furnished with furniture, china, fabrics and early tools owned by Sandwich families. A new major exhibit is produced each year, last year's was of Albert Gallatin Hoit. A Past Perfect computer cataloging system is in use, available on three workstations. Volunteers at the society produce an annual 75 page publication (bulletin) with original research articles. They also published a book on the history of Sandwich in 1995, a collection of Sandwich-related Cornelius Weygandt essays in 1997, and an index of all bulletin articles since the annual bulletin's inception.

Priority museum activities for the future include development of interpretive materials, cataloging and increased accessibility of the society's extensive genealogical and photographic materials, grant applications, publicity, a membership drive and an outreach program to attract volunteers.

The museum, open five days per week from mid-June through October 1, receives approximately 800 visitors annually. The museum office and research vault is also open two days per week during the off-season. There is a nominal requested donation for non-member visitors to the Marston House.

Membership categories are as follows:

Category	Annual Fee	Benefits
Regular	\$20	Newsletter, Excursion Bulletin picked up at the Marston House and single admissions
Family	\$35	Newsletter, Excursion Bulletin picked up at the Marston House and family admissions
Sustaining	\$75	Newsletter, Excursion Bulletin mailed & family admissions
Patron	\$125	Sustaining benefits plus admissions for house guests
Life	\$500	Available if over age 55; Newsletter, Excursion Bulletin picked up at the Marston House & Family Admissions

-- Rick Fabian, Director

Leonard Boyd Chapman Wildbird Sanctuary

The Leonard Boyd Chapman Wildbird Sanctuary consists of 150 acres, "more or less", of conservation land supported by a small private trust. The fine example of Cape style architecture built by Josiah Prescott in 1818 is the residence of the Director. Originally a working farmstead for the early settlers of Sandwich, the property was acquired by Leonard Boyd Chapman in 1920. He raised and trained bird dogs and sled dogs for wealthy sportsmen. These same wealthy patrons created the LBC Wildbird Sanctuary upon "Chappie's" death. The once clear fields have grown over as woodland now.

The property is open to the public year round for low impact recreation. There are walking trails with self-guided wildflower and tree tours, perennial flower gardens designed to attract insects and

butterflies as well as provide food for many bird species and picnic tables are available. In the winter these same trails are groomed for x-c skiing and snow shoeing. The pond, named Teacup Lake, is also cleared for ice skating as long as the weather permits. This property abuts the White Mountain National Forest on the west and north. It provides extensive wildlife habitat and moose, deer, grouse, bobcat, fisher, bear, beaver and coyote are all active here.

This is a non-profit facility which relies on the generosity of private patrons and many volunteers for maintenance, continued activity and expansion. Wildflower tours each Spring and bird watching year round are just two of the many ways to enjoy the L.B. Chapman Wildbird Sanctuary. We ask that all visitors sign in at the sign in board and take a map before going out on the trails. Our "head count" helps us to verify public usage.

Sarah W. Zuccarelli, Director

Sandwich Investment Club

The Sandwich Investment Club was formed in October 1995 to “Invest the assets of the partnerships in stocks, bonds, other securities and cash to provide a forum for investment education for the benefit of the partners.”

The Sandwich Investment Club, which is limited to twenty-five members, meets on the first Wednesday of each month, usually at the Samuel H. Wentworth Library.

-- Richard A. Allen

Cemetery Trustees

The Cemetery Trustees bear the responsibility of administering the funds voted by the town as an annual appropriation and those funds set aside as perpetual care funds held by the town Trustees of Trust Funds. These moneys are for the maintenance and general upkeep of the town cemeteries. The Cemetery Trustees are voted into office as elected town officials for a three-year term of service. Cemetery Trustees oversee on-site burials in the town cemeteries and take action as needed to ensure that the town

cemeteries are in no way disturbed or defaced. There is often some confusion concerning which cemeteries are actually town cemeteries and which are overseen by private cemetery associations. The town cemeteries which are currently open for plot purchases are Elm Hill cemetery and North Sandwich cemetery.

Sarah W. Zuccarelli
Sandwich Cemetery Trustee

Over the Hill Hikers

Twenty-two years ago, 1979. Twelve retired Sandwich friends went for several walks together. One of those walkers suggested that they call themselves the Over the Hill group. The group, now called the Over the Hill Hikers, has grown to about 100 active participants today.

The purpose of the group is to provide recreation, which includes hiking, walking, skiing (cross country and downhill), and snowshoeing for those who like to do these things with companions. It has been particularly great for those who live alone or whose families, for whatever reason, do not enjoy hiking with a group.

All activities are led by volunteers. There are three mountain climbs each Tuesday from April through October, one walk on Fridays, an occasional canoe trip, and skiing and snowshoeing on Tuesdays and Fridays in the winter. Also, the Club has branched out and enjoyed longer trips to Maine, Vermont and New York. In 1996, the Hikers went on their first of several overseas trips to Switzerland. These trips were led by a professional, Penny Pitou.

The Hikers are very informal, do not take a group position on political issues, and do not donate money to other organizations such as the Wonalancet Outdoor Club, the Squam Lakes Association or the Lakes Region Conservation Trust. Most of the members support such organizations as individuals and are very active in conservation and in Town affairs. The Over the Hill Hikers have adopted one trail, the Great Rock Cave Trail in Wonalancet, which they clear, and they have done a great deal of the work of laying out, cutting, and keeping up the Bearcamp River trail.

Membership is open to any Sandwich person who would like to take part in the activities. There is no age limit to participation. All of the activities are on weekdays, which means that most of the members are retired seniors. Guests are often included on the hikes, especially children, grandchildren and even great grandchildren of hikers.

-- Lib Bates

Friends of the Sandwich Range

In response to the U.S. Forest Service's proposed Algonquin Timber Sale in historic Sandwich Notch, a local citizen's group formed in 1998 to oppose the sale. Calling themselves the Friends of the Sandwich Range, (FSR), they enlisted the support of many others in their communities and saw their efforts rewarded when, during the Forest Service's road-building moratorium, the Algonquin sale was back-burnered indefinitely.

FSR then expanded its goals. It researched, inventoried and mapped eight distinct extensions to the Sandwich Range Wilderness: Black Mountain, Jennings Peak, Lost Pass, Scar Ridge, Square Ledge, Mt. Paugus, Wonalancet and Flat Mountain.

The Black Mountain and Flat Mountain extensions are located in the Town of Sandwich. Sandwich has about 18,000 acres of National Forest Lands within its boundaries. These two extensions would add about 5,158 acres of Designated Wilderness.

The eight proposed extensions to the Sandwich Range Wilderness would improve its boundary. The current Wilderness Area is pinched in like a wasp's waist, while the ideal shape to protect interior forest habitat is a circle. In addition, the current Wilderness Area does not yet protect some of the historical and recreational resources most valued by local residents. Adding the proposed extension lands to the Wilderness system would round out the area and protect those areas from commercial logging, motorized recreation, habitat fragmentation, and unforeseen uses that could harm the wild character of the Sandwich Range.

FSR also seeks a changed management area designation for Sandwich Notch that would remove it from the timber base and provide increased protection from heavy recreational uses. Designating Sandwich Notch a Historic Area would ensure future interpretation and enjoyment of historic sites such as cellar holes and barn foundations, mill sites, remains of logging railroads and camps, and other remnants of a community that at its peak in the middle 1840s comprised more than 40 homes.

In the near term, FSR intends to participate in all steps of the White Mountain National Forest Management Plan revision process. It seeks to change the management area designation for each of the proposed extensions and for Sandwich Notch.

FSR is committed to the stewardship of Sandwich Notch and the Sandwich Range. The group has adopted the Algonquin Trail and volunteers many hours caring for this trail and Sandwich Notch. In cooperation with the Saco District of the White Mountain National Forest, the Wonalancet Out Door Club, the Squam Lakes Association and interested citizens, FSR is promoting the use of Mead Base in Sandwich as a Conservation Center to house and train volunteers and paid staff to perform the much-needed maintenance on the trails and in the back country.

FSR is working towards gaining grassroots support for its proposal by leading hikes into the proposed extension areas, doing slide show presentations, distributing printed material as well as a CD Rom, and lobbying the New Hampshire delegation in Washington and here in New Hampshire.

FSR's long-term goal is to extend the boundaries of the Sandwich Range Wilderness as part of a New Hampshire Wilderness Bill, hopefully within 2 or 3 years. We are also working on determining boundaries for the Sandwich Notch Historic Area and updating the existing management plan for the Sandwich Range Wilderness Area as part of the Forest Plan revision process.

Last, but not least, we are having fun, while being engaged in this democratic process of helping shape a better future for our public lands.

-- Evelyn MacKinnon

Town Forest Committee

The purpose of the Town Forest Committee is to oversee the management of the parcels of property owned by the Town of Sandwich. The Committee is in the process of inventorying parcels in order to recommend to the Selectmen which parcels to retain and which should be returned to the tax rolls. Some survey work will have to be accomplished on those tracts prior to their sale.

During 2001, we employed the services of Forest Land Improvement, a forestry consulting firm located in Tamworth, N.H. to conduct a timber sale on the Town Dump Lot. This 70 acre parcel was in need of a timber sale. This selection harvest generated significant cords of pulpwood and firewood as well as sawtimber. Approximately 21 loads of firewood representing 16 cords were sold to Sandwich taxpayers at the bargain price of \$400 per load. This represented a significant saving to those who ordered a load. The sale was completed in 2001. Approximately \$15,000 has been generated and was added to the Town Forest Fund to finance future natural resource related projects in the Town.

Another project which we helped fund was the creation of approximately 30 nature trail signs that have been erected on the two-mile long nature trail that traverses both the Leonard Boyd Chapman Wildlife Sanctuary and the Town Forest Property located off Mount Israel Road. The signs cover such topics as forest management, land use history, tree identification, wildlife, wetlands, best management practices and other natural resource topics. This project is designed to inform the general public on these important topics.

In order to encourage the Sandwich Elementary School to utilize this facility for outdoor field trips, a syllabus has been created and shared with the teaching staff. Thus the Town property is helping to serve both an educational and recreational role in addition to the periodic income generating projects that offsets the loss of annual property tax revenue from these properties.

The Town Forest Committee welcomes requests for financial assistance to help fund a forestry-related project in the community.

-- Peter Pohl

Sewer Commission:

The Sewer Commission is comprised of three elected citizens of the Town of Sandwich.

The central sewer system is comprised at present of 71 users.

The Commission's responsibilities are to oversee the operation and maintenance of the system, establish a yearly budget and pay bills as submitted. The daily operation of the system is overseen by a qualified licensed operator who submits his daily hours per month and is paid on that basis.

Once a year the commissioners read all meters in the district to measure water flow into the system and upon which a user fee is established and bills are issued by the Tax Collector.

The commission also contributes a pre-determined amount from the budget approved at Town Meeting into a Capital Reserve Fund which was established for the sole purpose of future reconstruction of the leach fields.

The commission meets on the third Thursday of each month at 4:00 PM.

-- Pat Merriman

Sandwich Sidehillers

The purpose of the Sandwich Sidehillers is to advance the interest in, enjoyment of, and safety of winter sports, and to establish and maintain multiple use trails in Sandwich.

The Sidehillers maintain and groom the 25 miles of trails for the Sandwich Notch 60 Dog Sled Races in February. Also the Sidehillers' trails provide a direct link from the Ossipee-Conway corridor to the Lakes Region-Route 93 corridor.

Work details are held regularly as well as a winter cookout and the annual meeting includes a potluck dinner and awards at the Benz Center.

Monthly meetings are held at the North Sandwich Store at 7:00 P.M. on the last Thursday of the month.

President	Chip Kimball
Vice President	Dick Breed
Secretary	Leo Greene
Treasurer	Tony Leiper

-- Leo Greene

Town Trails

The Town has developed several trails that are maintained by the Conservation Commission. The longest is the Bearcamp River Trail, which generally follows the Bearcamp River from Beede Falls to South Tamworth. This trail was created in connection with the Land Conservation Investment Program in the late 1980's and runs over private lands, generally without easements. A descriptive trail guide is available in the Town Hall. The other formal trail is the Red Hill Pond Trail which runs one half mile to Red Hill Pond from Route 113, the starting point is opposite the Sandwich Child Care Center. One Saturday each spring, a trailwork day is held to maintain the trails. Several sections have informal "adopters" who watch the trail year round. In addition, the recreation department maintains ski trails in the vicinity of the Fairgrounds.

-- Chip Kimball

The Friends of the Samuel H. Wentworth Library

The Friends of the Samuel H. Wentworth Library was formed in 1984 and its purpose "Shall be to support and coordinate activities of the Library and thus enrich the cultural opportunities available to the citizens of Sandwich."

All interested individuals shall be eligible for membership after paying the annual dues.

The Friends of the Samuel H. Wentworth Library sponsor many activities including:

- A book sale, usually held during Old Home Week
- “Books Sandwich In” – four or five book reviews held at the Library early in each year.
- Providing funds to supplement the book collection at the Library.
- Special events -- lectures, films, etc.
- An Annual Meeting normally held in the early summer.

-- Richard A. Allen

Lakes Region Planning Commission

Mission Statement:

The Lakes Region Planning Commission is a nonprofit association serving the people of the Lakes Region. Our mission is to provide a quality environment to increase economic opportunity and to encourage cultural development by supporting local efforts with education, technical assistance, information advocacy and responsive representation.

The Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) is a voluntary association of local governments dedicated to providing a multiple number of services that enhance the overall living conditions and environment of the Region. Authorized under NHRSA 36:45, the LRPC’s basic purpose is to prepare a coordinated plan for the development of the Region. In addition to its well-known role in regional planning, the agency is responsive to the changing conditions and demands of its members and the general public. According to RSA 36:45, “a regional planning commission’s powers are advisory, and generally pertain to the development of the Region within its jurisdiction, as a whole.”

The statute further states “a regional planning commission may assist the planning board of any municipality within the region to carry out plans developed by the commissions.” We also provide assistance to City Councils, Selectmen, Conservation Commissions, and local boards or groups. The Lakes Region Planning Commission represents 31 Area towns in the Lakes Region. Selectmen from each participating town appoint two (2) members to the Lakes Region Planning Commission.

The Lakes Region Planning Commission provides:

- Information, Education and Guidance
- Land-use Planning
- Economic Development and Analysis
- Transportation Planning
- Environmental Planning
- Geographic Information System (GIS)
- Assistance with Federal and State Grant Programs.

-- Toby Eaton

Bearcamp Pond Association

The Bearcamp Pond Association is concerned with the preservation of the natural beauty of Bearcamp Pond and vicinity. The association monitors the water quality of the pond, aids in the maintenance of the dam, and monitors the beach and adjoining woodlands – given to the Town by the White-Sylvania Trust. The association consists of volunteers and an executive committee, membership is open to all interested persons. The annual meeting is the Sunday after July 4th at 3PM in the East Sandwich Chapel.

-- Chip Kimball

Sandwich Central School

The Sandwich Central School offers a warm embrace to all who enter her doors, especially her children. As an integral part of the community,

Sandwich Central School encourages, nurtures, and empowers her children to experience the joy of lifelong learning and strive for Personal Excellence.

The Sandwich Central School is a part of the Inter-Lakes School District which has as its Mission Statement: “The Mission of the Inter-Lakes School District, as the Educational Leader of our communities, is to demand high expectations and personal excellence and to prepare productive, responsible citizens who can compete successfully in a diverse, global community.”

The operation and management of the Inter-Lakes School District is overseen by an elected School Board with representatives from the three communities which form the District. There are also “School Councils” which assist in the process. Sandwich Central School’s School Council is a group that helps to manage the school and make decisions that affect our students. The Inter-Lakes School District has four School Councils to represent its varied populations. Membership includes parents, staff and administration. Elections are conducted in the spring for the following school year. All meetings are open to the public and parents are encouraged to attend.

The quality of education at Sandwich Central School is fostered by the strong support and active involvement of our entire community. If you live in Sandwich, your children typically attend the Sandwich Central School. Meredith and Center Harbor children attend Inter-Lakes Elementary School. And all seventh through twelfth graders attend either Inter-Lakes Junior or Senior High School.

“Open Enrollment” within the District allows children within the three communities to attend either elementary school. Attending an elementary school outside of a family’s bus route or local area is allowed if there is room and if the parents are willing to provide transportation.

Sandwich Central School has approximately 95 students, grades kindergarten through six.

-- Diane Booty