

Sandwich Central School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)

The main purpose of the PTO is to enrich our school community through its many organized community events and fund-raising activities. Its volunteer members include parents, teachers, and staff of the school, and it meets on a monthly basis. The more significant contributions it has made to our school include: providing funds to build the school playground, sending the whole school on a field trip to the Boston Museum of Science, purchasing extra books for each classroom, funding the sixth grade trip to Camp Merrowvista each year, organizing the Artist-in-Residence program, and supporting after-school programs and theater productions. The PTO also provides an important link between the teachers, the parents, and the community of Sandwich.

-- Cathy Crockford

Squam Lakes Association Trails

The Squam Lakes Association (SLA) maintains the following trails in Sandwich:

Rattlesnakes

Col Trail	1.2 miles	(part in Holderness)
Ridge Trail	1.0 miles	(part in Holderness)
East Rattlesnake Trail	0.7 miles	
Five Finger Point Trail	1.5 miles	
Butterworth Trail	0.7 miles	

Red Hill

Eagle Cliff Trail	2.5 miles	(part in Moultonborough)
Teedie Trail	0.6 miles	

Squam Range

Crawford Ridgpole Trail	11.9 miles	(part in Campton and Holderness)
Doublehead Trail	2.4 miles	

Sandwich Range

Wentworth Trail	2.1 miles
Mead Trail	1.7 miles
Black Mountain Pond Trail	3.5 miles
Algonquin Trail	4.5 miles

The Squam Lakes Association maintains over 50 miles of hiking trails in the Squam Lakes Region. Many of the trails are on private land, while some are in the White Mountain National Forest. The 5th edition of the Squam Trail Guide and Squam Trail Map were published in May of 2001. The map was generated with GPS and GIS technology, so the trail locations are very accurate.

SLA hires a trail crew of Student Conservation Association (SCA) Resource Assistants and a trail crew leader to perform trail construction. The trail crew builds stairs, waterbars, erosion barriers and bridges to minimize erosion on the trails. The trail crew currently works for 12 weeks in the fall and use Mead Base Camp for housing and tool storage. SLA is pursuing a Special Use Permit with the US Forest Service to establish the Mead Base Conservation Center for trail maintenance activities.

The trails are cleared of vegetation and blowdowns in the spring and early summer by SLA Caretakers and by Volunteer Trail Adopters. Waterbars are raked to remove sediment and leaves, which allows for adequate drainage. Signs are replaced and the trails are re-blazed as needed. Volunteer and SLA staff complete a trail report form after performing maintenance to compile hours worked and future work needed.

Eric Morse, SLA Natural Areas Manager, manages the SLA Trail maintenance program in 2001, SLA Trail Crews worked 2,500 hours, volunteer Trail Adopters worked 254 hours and the Student Conservation Association worked 592 hours during their Work Skills program. The SLA Trail maintenance program has increased significantly in recent years to meet the recreational demands on the trails.

The SLA conducts an annual Volunteer Trail Day to teach people how to maintain trails and to perform maintenance projects on heavily used trails.

"Hike for the Trails" is an annual hike-a-thon fundraiser to support SLA trail maintenance. SLA also applies for grant funding to support trail maintenance activities, which currently cost \$12,000 per year.

-- Eric Morse

Library Trust Funds

The Samuel H. Wentworth Library has an endowment that had a market value of approximately \$745,000 on April 30, 2003 . The income from the endowment funds is used for general operating expenses of the library which includes funds for the purchase of books, videos, tapes, magazines, etc. Book collection purchases are augmented by gifts from the Friends of the Samuel H. Wentworth Library. The Town of Sandwich in calendar 2002 provided \$29,156 -- \$20,156 for the Operating Budget and Insurance, \$7,000 for Trust Fund Management, and \$2,000 for the Library Expendable Trust (which is used for major building improvements.)

In addition, the Samuel H. Wentworth Library during each year receives Donations and Memorial Gifts.

-- Richard A. Allen

The Smallest Masonic Lodge in New Hampshire

Several Masons petitioned the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire in 1859 for permission to form a Masonic Lodge in Sandwich, NH which would be known as Red Mountain Lodge No. 68, F & A.M. Permission was granted and the first meeting of the new lodge was held in the Odd Fellows Hall on August 24, 1859. The first four petitions for membership were C C. Fellows, William A. Heard, M.H. Marston, and Enoch Q. Fellows. This was the nucleus from which the Lodge grew and prospered.

The first mention of meeting in the present building was on September 24, 1860 when the second floor was rented from Daniel Folsom. In 1868, the Lodge purchased the building from Mr. Folsom for \$275.00. For several years, C. C. Fellows served as both Master of the Lodge and as Secretary. His leadership continued until his death in 1888. It was during this time that the Lodge grew to a membership of 72. Today, the membership is only 40 and many of that number are no longer able to be active members due to

failing health, advanced age, or having relocated. A few new members are joining, but the average age of the members grows always older. It is a constant struggle to keep a steady course of service in the community as well as to provide moral and spiritual leadership. We constantly challenge ourselves to maintain our presence in the community in a neat and attractive manner. Paint does not stand up and petitions to side the building have been denied.

The Red Mountain Lodge #68 hopes to remain a valuable asset to the community and continue its service work, but only time will dictate the results.

-- Ernest Beattie
Samuel H. Wentworth Library

While the Samuel H. Wentworth Library building has undergone no major structural changes in the past ten years, some improvements have taken place. Handicapped access to the main portion of the library (upstairs) has been improved and the restroom facility made wheelchair accessible. Recently, a heating and cooling system has been installed which should make for more comfort in the summer and more efficient fuel oil use in the winter. The upper parking lot has been enlarged. A landscaping project has been initiated in order to make the library more attractive and more accessible. This program will be carried out largely by volunteer help and with the aid of contributions.

The hours of operation are as follows: Monday to Thursday 12-6 PM, Friday 10AM – 6PM, Saturday 10AM – 1:00PM. Total operating hours are thirty-six, which is an increase of ten hours from 2001. Paid staffing includes the Director and two assistants as well as appropriate custodial and cleaning personnel. In addition, the Library is blessed to have numerous dedicated volunteers.

A major change in the library is the introduction of computers. Books are now checked out by an optical scanner and the card catalogue is replaced by a computer database. Three Apple I-Mac desktop computers serve the public with access to the Internet. With the expected useful life of computer hardware and software at 3-5 years, maintaining and upgrading this system will be of continuing concern.

Another feature that has developed over the past ten years is the popularity of video tape recordings which now account for a substantial circulation. It is expected that this trend, plus the circulation of compact discs, will continue.

Despite continued culling of unwanted books, unused shelf space is almost non-existent, due to continued additions to our collection, paid for in large part by generous contributions from the Friends of the Library. A study of the use of the space in the library is desirable to optimize our use of the available room. It may also be that creative use of the Internet and the inter-library loan system will ease the need for having a particular book on our shelves, if it is one of limited demand.

Circulation figures are shown in the following Table. Notable are the large interest in videos and the decline in juvenile circulation; the latter is of particular concern and will be addressed by a stepped-up children's program as well as additional attention to the children's book collection.

Wentworth Library Circulation

	1994	9996	1998	2000	2001
Adult fiction	5,240	4,703	5,013	6,941	4,305
Adult Non-fict.	2,526	2,290	2,083	2,815	2,422
Juvenile fiction	6,156	5,053	2,374	2,896	1,897
Juvenile Easy Reader					1,446
Magazines	2,353	2,128	2,246	1,402	1,269
Ill Requested*	111	112	75	68	246
Ill Supplied*	118	267	226	242	232
Recordings	986	1,330	1,680	1,328	1,025
Videos	5,232	5,962	5,978	5,259	5,720
Total	22,722	21,845	19,615	21,186	18,562
Collection Total	19,744	20,407	17,897	21,265	21,135

*Inter-Library Loan

-- Susan C. Mitchel

Sandwich Parks and Recreation Department

The Parks and Recreation Department receives support from different areas within the Town of Sandwich. The Quimby Trustees provide financial support -- the Town, administrative and budgetary support. The Sandwich Parks and Recreation Committee advises and works with the Director to provide everything from programming ideas, activity presentation to budget help. The residents volunteer to help put on activities, set up activities and offer ideas that help the programs run smoother. There is a complete list of all that the Department offers included in the Town of Sandwich Annual Report.

The Department offers the following activities throughout the year: Youth sports, which include basketball, baseball, softball, cross-country and downhill skiing, hockey, tennis, soccer, cross-country running, golf, swimming, and track and field events. A tot, pre-school movement activity program was offered with great success. Adult activities include golf, basketball, volleyball, tennis, walking, and adult fitness. There is a skating rink next to the Town Hall, cross-country ski trails are groomed on Quimby Field and the Fairgrounds property; trails are also maintained which lead to the Notch from the Center.

In perhaps the busiest week of the year, the Department coordinates the annual Old Home Week Celebration activities, which just concluded the 104th year. The Recreation Committee lends a very important hand in presenting the activities of this week. During this week, the Town also shares a complete day of activities with Camp Hale, which has been going on for at least 73 years and has created many lasting friendships. The Department offers swimming lessons at the beach and a tennis program at Quimby Field, both of these activities have been offered for going on 50 years or so. The Department is active in promoting activities that are offered by other groups one of which is the Five Days in Sandwich program, which has been well-received the last few years. Other non-sport-related activities are supported in one way or another; the Committee and Director are pleased to see these activities increase.

There have been many improvements to the Town's Parks and facilities in the last few years, which have included the following. The re-location of Squam Lake Road and improvements of the Town's Beach Area at Squam

Lake and the addition of a boat-launch facility restricted to the use of Sandwich residents and guests. The re-conditioning of Quimby Field, the reconstruction of tennis court one and the re-location and addition of courts two and three. Remick Park in North Sandwich has been cleaned up and playground equipment added. Both the Pot Hole and Bearcamp swim areas have been cleaned up as well. An office has been added to the small field house at Quimby Field. The department has been blessed with excellent grooming equipment, which includes a groomer-track setter, roller and snow machine. The Quimby Trustees have been very generous in supporting these endeavors financially and all involved say a special thanks to them. The Lena Nelson Trust was also responsible for some of these improvements.

What will the future bring? There have been ongoing discussions at various times to consider whether the Town could provide recreation facilities in the North Sandwich-Whiteface area. The raft, at the beach at Squam, will undergo some much-needed repairs. The Committee and Director are open to receiving new ideas for programs and activities which residents would enjoy.

-- Jere Burrows, Director

Sandwich Fire and Rescue Department

Equipment: In 2001 the SF-RD has four pumper-engines ranging in age from 21 years old to seven years old. The rescue truck, purchased in 1985, was replaced this year; the old rescue truck has been retained as a utility truck. A military surplus pickup truck, approximately 25 years old, serves as a forestry unit. A 12' boat and motor, about 11 years old, and a six wheel ATV and trailer, purchased through donations this year, round out the current equipment.

The engines and the rescue truck are included in the Town's Capital Equipment Replacement Plan, which has been modified over the years. Once Engine 2 is replaced in 2004, the engines will be on a thirty-year replacement schedule. The rescue truck is scheduled to be replaced in about 15 years.

No increase in the number of engines, other than regular replacement, is foreseen in the next five years. A new, more reliable forestry engine, more suited to off-road and remote fires will be needed in the next few years.

Buildings: Central Station, built in 1971, is scheduled to receive an addition in 2001-2002. This will help with the problems we now have with lack of general storage and office space for EMS personnel. At the completion of the construction next year, there will be a need to repave the aprons and parking areas at the Station.

Whiteface Station, built in 1972, continues to serve the northern area of Sandwich. With proper maintenance, this building should continue to serve for a number of years.

The Town owns land for a station in East Sandwich. Route 25, which runs through this area of Town, is a major east-west highway in NH. As a large percentage of the SF-RDs's calls and a number of personnel live in this area, in the next few years the Town should start to set aside money for a station in this area of Town.

Personnel: The **most** pressing need for the SF-RD in the next five years is for additional and younger personnel to join the Department. For many years, we have had a deficit in younger, active members to respond to calls, and now it is reaching a crisis. Within the next five years, the Town will be faced with the real possibility of having to hire, at least some, full-time personnel to be available during the daytime hours. This is not a problem unique to Sandwich, but because the Town has made a conscious decision to have restrictive zoning regulations, the pool of available potential members grows smaller and smaller.

The many hours required for initial and on-going fire and EMS training and the time required for emergency responses as well as upkeep of the stations and equipment prevent many people from joining the Department. Members receive a very small stipend from the Town each year, but this does not cover anything near the time involved. Being a member of the Department is truly an act of love and concern for our fellow townspeople

Today, the case could be made for a full-time administrator to deal with the paperwork, inspections, and record keeping of the Department. This administrator would also be available to respond during the day to

emergency calls. As the membership ages, further additional daytime response personnel will be needed.

One thing that can be done is to look at the Town's zoning regulations to see where affordable housing for younger middle-income families fit into the Town's Master Plan. The lack of this type of housing is one major problem in finding younger members for the Department.

Soon, within ten years certainly, without any changes in the Town's philosophy, we will be in a situation faced by many resort towns out west and as near as Waterville Valley; a Town where people who work here can't afford to live in, and a Town where men and women to staff the Fire, Police and Highway Departments cannot find affordable housing.

-- James Mykland

Sandwich Fire and Rescue Association

This is a not-for-profit volunteer organization comprised primarily of the firefighter and emergency medical personnel who are members of the Sandwich Volunteer Fire Department. However, it is open to any townspeople who is interested in joining. Its primary function is to handle money acquired through fund-raisers and donations, and disperse these funds for various programs and projects for the members and townspeople. The organization has a federal tax exemption and is chartered to expend funds as the membership sees fit.

Among its ongoing programs are sponsoring of a youth soccer team, an Easter egg hunt, chicken BBQs and purchase of medical and rescue supplies. Several special projects the members have supported include donating to the Town two automatic defibrillator machines, a six-wheel ATV, and over \$16,000 toward the new rescue vehicle purchased by Sandwich in 2001.

-- Robert C. Miner

Sandwich Sirens

This is an open-membership organization tied to the Sandwich Fire Department. They use monies raised or donated to provide support for the fire department and townspeople. Primarily they provide food and assistance during emergencies such as fires and weather-related disasters.

-- Robert C. Miner

Planning Board

The Planning Board is made up of seven members and up to five alternates all of whom are appointed by the Selectmen. The Board is responsible for preparing the Master Plan for the Town and updating it on a regular basis with input from residents of the Town. The Master Plan aids the Planning Board in performance of its duties and guides the development of the Community.

The Planning Board prepares a Capital Improvements Program which identifies capital improvements needed by the Community such as safety and maintenance vehicles, and major expenditures related to Town buildings. A sub-committee recommends funding reserve funds for this program. The program is a part of the Town budget, which is reviewed at Town Meeting each year, providing some long-term financial planning for the Town.

Zoning Ordinances are drafted and proposed to the Townspeople for approval at the Town Meeting. Zoning Ordinances are the primary tool that the Planning Board uses to regulate and manage land use in the Community. The Planning Board is also responsible for review and approval/disapproval of subdivision applications and site plan review applications.

The Planning Board meets on the first Thursday of the month. The meetings are open to the public.

-- Sue Bowden

Sandwich Caregivers

Sandwich Caregivers continues to assist and enable the elderly and disabled of Sandwich to remain in their own homes as long as possible. These services include transportation to medical, dental appointments, to social meetings, to voting, town, church services to markets and to hairdressers. Occasionally we're involved in household chores such as leaf raking, snow shoveling, removing storm windows, and occasionally preparing meals. Some of our Caregivers make weekly calls either in person or by phone.

Since last year, our volunteers have put in approximately 594 hours and driven 11,200 miles. Our non-profit organization relies on several sources for funding. About 70% of our support relies upon the generous contributions of individuals in our town. The Federated Church, the Women's Club, the several trusts of the Sandwich area, and a warrant at Town Meeting have also contributed to Caregiver's budget.

Elizabeth Wilcox Jacobson serves a Telephone Coordinator with skill and sensitivity. Those who would like to avail themselves of Caregiver Services and any that would like to volunteer are urged to call Elizabeth Wilcox Jacobson at 284-6313. The current Officers and Directors of Sandwich Caregivers are:

David Eaton, President	Carolie Martin, Vice President
Bob Larkin, Treasurer	Dave Engels
Mary Fleischmann	Joan Merriman
Betsy O'Brien	Pam Pruitt
Pat Russell	Susan Speers
Paula Tracy	

-- David Eaton

The Sandwich Singers

The Sandwich Singers, now in their 20th year, grew out of two earlier groups, The Tamworth Chorale and the Sandwich Madrigal Society, brought together in one glorious sound of Christmas music by the late Bob Bates, who was celebrated as the community's "music man." Bates served as accompanist and director until 1999. He died at age 92 in 2000, and has been succeeded by an old friend, one of his lead singers, Peggy Johnson.

Johnson describes choral singing as one of the most remarkable – and difficult – things in the world, to produce your own sound, act with autonomy while working in harness, in perfect concert, with a room full of others. This year 25 Sandwich residents and 13 from surrounding towns will sing their annual Christmas program. Seldom, or never before, have we found such a need of, and value in, the bonds of community.

A direct off-shoot of the Singers is the Yeoman's Chorus which performed the *Requiem* of John Rutter in March 2001, incorporating the Sandwich Singers and more, totaling 51, with orchestra and two sold-out performances at the Federated Church. And the singers want more singing. They are all volunteer singers with wildly busy lives, even the retired ones, but they prove the value of participation by the concerts produced by their showing up regularly for rehearsals.

Anyone with a singing voice is welcome to join.

-- Shirley Lyons and Peggy Johnson

Sandwich Fair Association

The Sandwich Fair Association, Inc. is a New Hampshire non-profit corporation which exists to promote agriculture by comparing farm products raised under similar conditions and to provide for an annual exhibition. The annual Sandwich Fair takes place each fall on the three-day Columbus Day weekend.

“All registered voters or taxpayers in the Town of Sandwich, New Hampshire shall, and such other interested persons upon the written recommendation of a majority of the Executive Committee may, be eligible for election to membership in this Association by vote of the majority of those present at any meeting of the Association.” (Association by-laws)

The Sandwich Fair started in the early 1900’s and is still very active today. Promoting 4-H, livestock, local produce and entertainment, it attracts some 30,000 persons from both near and far to the Fair each year.

-- Marilyn Sayers

Athena Investors

Athena Investors was formed in 1997 to provide an opportunity for local women to learn something about investing in the stock market. Athena’s fifteen members are members of the National Association of Investment Clubs and use NAIC methods to assess stocks and to select companies in which to invest. Athena members meet the third Thursday of the month to report on portfolio contents, to consider new possibilities for purchase and to consider selling any stock which is not performing well. Athena also purchases the Value Line Investment Library for the use of the public at the Library. Mary Simmons is currently Moderator, Tish O’Neil is alternate moderator, Millie Kopperl serves as Treasurer, and Paula Kuehn is Secretary.

-- Mary Simmons

Sandwich Home Nursing and Health Association

Our organization continues to provide assistance with health care needs, services, and education to residents of the Sandwich community.

The Health Resource Center collection, located at the Wentworth Library, continues to be a focus of our efforts to make accessible quality, current,

health information. This year, we purchased an additional computer to compliment our current resources. This will provide, on a priority basis, health care information including a subscription to wellconnected.com (a highly regarded, online source of continually revised medical reviews covering concerns and conditions). Other acquisitions include references on over-the-counter/herbal medication, and new books on arthritis, diabetes, skin disorders, Alzheimer, and depression.

We continue to expand our work through **community groups and active services** to provide ongoing support to Sandwich residents with health-related problems including:

- **A fund for emergency health care** specifically intended to cover a needed medical intervention, administered by Mark Henderson of the Federated Church.
- **A fund for VNA Hospice of Southern Carroll County** for short-term nursing or home care, not covered by Medicare or other funding streams.
- **Scholarships at the Winnepesaukee Wellness Center** for Sandwich residents.
- **A Sandwich Caregivers mileage fund** to help subsidize long-distant transportation costs for volunteers assisting that program.

The Board of the Association meets quarterly. The annual meeting is held in the fall at the Library and all residents are welcome to attend!

The Board consists of seven to nine members serving staggered three-year terms. Board members are elected as a function of the annual meeting of the Association.

-- Janet M. Robinson

Sandwich Democratic Committee

The Sandwich Democratic Committee exists to keep Sandwich residents informed about political candidates and political issues. Candidates' meetings have been held prior to elections with opportunity for citizens to question candidates. Lists of Democratic candidates have regularly been

mailed to registered voters with a reminder to vote. Currently, Jan and Leo Goldman serve as Chairmen, Mary Simmons is Secretary, and Fred Lavigne is Treasurer.

-- Mary Simmons

4-H in Sandwich 2001

4-H is the Youth Development Program of the UNH Cooperative Extension. The 4-H program began 100 years ago in a small town in Ohio. Across the United States, 4-Hers and their families will be celebrating the 100th birthday throughout the year 2002. 4-H is the largest informal youth educational program in the world. There are clubs in every county in the United States, and in other countries across the world. In Carroll County, there are thirteen organizational clubs and 9 family clubs at the present time. Club Sandwich is the largest with over 75 members at the current time.

4-H is a club program for youth ranging in age from 5 to 18. Five, six, and seven year olds are in a special program called Cloverbuds where they explore a wide range of projects but don't compete or specialize in any one project. After they turn 8, the members participate in special project clubs where they pursue some of the interests that they explored as Cloverbuds.

4-H depends on volunteer leaders in the community to make the program available to its children. Club Sandwich began in 1986 with Cloudy Quinn as the leader. Following Cloudy, Carissa Hull was the leader for several years. Diane Johnson took over the leadership about 8 years ago. The members of Club Sandwich have been involved in a wide variety of projects over the years. Most recently, members have been involved in horse projects, dog agility, sewing, variety, and a Cloverbud program. Diane is currently looking for project leaders to help in the areas of sewing, woodworking, electricity, astronomy, rocketry, and small engines, among others. Call Diane Johnson or Dotty Burrows for more information.

-- Dotty Burrows

Zoning Board of Adjustment

The Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) consists of five members appointed by the Selectmen. The ZBA is the judicial branch of the Town's land use regulatory process and is responsible for hearing and deciding appeals from administrative decisions as well as decisions by the Planning Board and the Historic District Commission.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment does not have the authority to enforce the Zoning Ordinance. However, the ZBA does have the authority to hear administrative appeals if it is alleged that an error was made in any order, requirement, decision or determination by an official. Appeals are heard in four different forms, as outlined in NH RSA 674:33:

1. Appeal from an administrative decision.
2. Variance from the terms of the Zoning Ordinance.
3. Special exceptions as allowed by the Ordinance.
4. Equitable waiver of dimensional requirement.

The ZBA meets as needed or at least once per year for organizational purposes.

-- Jim Hambrook

Sandwich Players

The function of the Sandwich Players is to produce plays and other events, and to raise funds to support these activities. The Players were established in the early 1970's, having grown out of a longstanding tradition of putting on Gilbert & Sullivan operettas in the Town Hall during Old Home Week. Typically, the Players put on two plays each year. They also involve themselves with other events, including an annual Halloween-eve street party in the Center village, dances, and other entertainments of various descriptions.

The Players are governed by a six-member board of directors. The general membership of the group has varied from 20 to 45 members. They hold monthly meetings, and have an annual meeting in August. Anyone interested is invited to participate.

-- Fred Bickford

The Doris Benz Trusts

The Doris Benz Trust was set up by her will in 1984 and accepted by Town Meeting on March 13, 1985. Funds are appropriated at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen for the general purposes of the Town. Recent uses of Benz Trust funds include the purchase of Automatic External Defibrillators, the protection of the new tennis court from storm damage, the relocation of Squam Lake Road, boat ramp and dock at Squam Beach, "Welcome to Sandwich" signs, and repairs at Elliott Spring in North Sandwich.

The will of Miss Benz also provides for a trust to underwrite scholarships yearly for worthy students from Sandwich and Carroll County. Those eligible include undergraduates attending an accredited two or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school, and graduating high school seniors. Selection criteria are based on both merit and financial need, with first preference given to Sandwich residents graduating from InterLakes High School. Applications are due in late May and may be obtained from the New Hampshire Charitable Fund, 1 South Street, PO Box 1335, Concord, NH 03301.

Summary of recent awards to Sandwich Residents

<u>Year</u>	<u># of Awards</u>	<u>Total \$ Amount</u>
1993	23	\$32,268
1994	20	27,450
1995	13	19,250
1996	12	21,000
1997	17	27,800
1998	18	30,850
1999	18	32,000
2000	23	54,475
2001	23	116,926

-- Rick Crockford

Where do we Want to go?

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Where do we go from here?

Three times in the past seven years, the feelings of the people of Sandwich about our direction have been measured – twice by survey and once by the Town-wide event known as “*Sandwich 2002*.” In all, those feelings express the strong wish to, as one respondent put it, “Keep the Town the way it is – a special and unique place.” The challenges to accomplish that end are many and, in the last analysis, impossible to attain but it is the purpose of this Master Plan to consolidate those wishes as expressed in those events, and to set some goals for our near future.

The most frequently mentioned concerns of the Town are:

The preservation of Scenic Vistas, including the hillsides and mountain tops – the so-called “skyline,” – forests and fields, as well as the quality of the air around us, especially at night.

The maintenance of habitats for wildlife – beasts, birds and fish.

The quality of the water for consumption, recreation, and beauty.

Shoreland protection – on our lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams.

The careful control of the growth of the Town – in numbers of dwelling units created and in our Commercial Zone.

Trying to assure that housing, affordable to all, is available in adequate quantities.

Forest preservation

Employment

These matters, and others of concern, are discussed in the following pages.

Scenic Vistas:

High on the list of concerns that the people of Sandwich expressed in the two surveys that have been made in the last five years, and in the Town-wide colloquium called "Sandwich 2002," is "Scenic Vistas." There are many facets to this concern ranging from the appearance of the waterfronts of the many bodies of water in the Town, to keeping as many of the fields open and unfettered by development as possible, to the skyline views of the hills and mountains among which we live, as well as air pollution of several types.

A number of years ago, the State of New Hampshire established a program called the Land and Community Investment Program (LCIP). Under this program, the State arranged to make grants of money to communities to purchase lands, or easements on land, for conservation and preservation purposes. The program was built around the concept that the recipient Town would match the State's grant either in cash or protection of property of comparable value in Town. Sandwich was a leading Town in the State, receiving three grants totaling several hundred thousand dollars. This remarkable showing for such a small town reflected the active interest of our residents and visitors in preserving scenic vistas and other important properties.

When the Land Conservation and Investment Program (LCIP) was first announced, the Land Trust Committee (now extinct) of the Town asked the people of the Town what lands they felt were the most important to save. Almost unanimously they voted first for the preservation of the views from the top of Wentworth Hill and, subsequently, the State gave a grant to the Town which enabled it to purchase a conservation easement on the land, thanks very much to the generosity of Denley Emerson who owned it. This spectacular view can be preserved forever because, in addition to the fact that no development can ever take place on the land, the Town has the right, although not the obligation, to mow the fields to keep the view open.

There are other sites that were protected including the Mount Israel Intervale, several thousand feet of shorefront on Squam, the McCrillis Trail and significant others -- now protected from development forever, thanks to that program and the generosity of other individuals.

The State has now created another similar conservation program called Land and Community Heritage Investment Program. (LCHIP). This program is up and funded and the Town should be identifying and prioritizing those areas it might seek to protect. A number of important fields as well as some strategic mountainsides, e.g., the whole slopes of the Squam Mountain Range, and mountaintops, need to be preserved and the sources for the necessary funding may well include LCHIP.

Some Townspeople are troubled by the fact that land which was previously taxed has been taken off the tax roles, causing the rest of the town's real estate taxpayers to pick up the load caused by the reduction. It has been shown that much of that land was in "Current Use Assessment" so the amount of "tax loss" was relatively small. There have also been numerous studies done by various independent bodies as well as conservation entities that show that Towns which have the most open spaces have among the lowest local property taxes.

The threats to the beauty of the lands around us include the construction of "Personal Wireless Service Facilities," so-called "cell phone towers," and their location. Such towers are unsightly additions to the landscape in a good many of the areas in the State and would be impediments to many of the unfettered views and vistas currently prevalent in Town, especially the skyline views. Federal law insures that Towns cannot keep such towers from being constructed, but a recently enacted addition to our zoning ordinance should have the effect of giving the Planning Board the ability to limit their location, height, and construction

Concern about these towers is not just limited to the beauty of the scenery around us, however. The American Bird Conservancy estimates that birds from 230 species – more than 50 of these currently rare or endangered – have crashed into towers or guy wires in the past 50 years, often at night when they are drawn by tower lights. "A single poorly placed tower can account for up to 10,000 bird deaths, the study says." (*The Boston Globe* 7/7/2000)

We are blessed by living in a community where we can go outside at night and enjoy wonderful views of the stars, planets and, in season, the *aurora borealis*. In part, this is because we have no massive lighted parking areas or other commercial developments in Town. A casual glance in the direction of the center of Moultonborough gives one an idea of what light pollution could do to the evening sights. For these and other reasons, the

Townpeople made it clear in the most recent survey that they do not want shopping malls, “big box stores,” automobile dealerships, hotels or motels, or any other type of commercial use in our commercial zone that would bring inordinate amounts of lighting into our community. While the Town “voted” (in the most recent survey) to say that professional offices and banks were acceptable uses, and light industry (by a much narrower margin) was also to be permitted, the Planning Board needs to create proposals for changing our zoning ordinance to enable the Town to protect itself from unwanted developments.

It’s interesting to note that the Town of Henniker has an ordinance that requires that site plans “be harmonious with the environment.” Officials of that Town recently rejected Rite-Aid based on this ordinance.

Wildlife Habitats

The landscape and “waterscape” of Sandwich provide excellent habitats for animals, birds and fish. One needs only to drive about the Town a good deal to see the occasional bear, deer, coyote, fisher, moose, raccoon, turkey, and other wild creatures. We seem to have ample cover for their protection and prosperity. There are significant indications that this will not always hold true. The land that is being converted every year from forest or field to home sites is substantial. Informed animal biologists state that if the present trend were to continue for a lengthy period, it’s likely that the amount of wildlife would diminish. The National Audubon Society maintains a “waitlist” of threatened and endangered species. One of the primary causes of species decline in North America is the fragmentation, degradation and ultimately the loss of habitat. Water quality, which will be addressed later in this report, is important for many creatures and that is also under potential threat from the careless use of water and its disposal, as well as land erosion and pesticide uses.

If the town is going to attempt to secure the future for these creatures, it will need to strive for the permanent preservation of some large areas in Town. The land from Red Hill Pond to Little Pond is one area that LCIP made it possible to preserve. The presence of the White Mountain National Forest probably adds to the potential for the permanent protection of other areas as well.

In addition, however, is the need to protect wildlife corridors between these larger holdings. Many of the animals we seek to protect need to be able to get from one area to another for food and winter habitat. Because of its concern about wildlife habitat, the Town needs to do what it can to see to it that corridors exist here, and that they are protected from development.

Water Quality

One only has to read the newspapers, or listen to the radio, to know that the quality of our water is threatened by exogenous threats -- acid rain and mercury in the water are but a few. As a Town, there is little we can do to eliminate those threats but we can try to assure that we aren't part of the problem.

The Town has been the exception in the Lakes Region. We have asked the Highway Department and the Department of Transportation to use less salt when sanding our roads in winter because a number of private wells were being polluted by the quantities which were being used. If you drive from Center Sandwich to Center Harbor you can see the differences in the snow cover as you progress from our Town to the others.

Further, Sandwich has enacted ordinances which require greater setbacks of dwellings and septic systems from lakes, ponds, and streams than other Towns in this area and that the State requires. Here, if one wants to subdivide shorefront lands, he/she is required to have longer frontage than any of the surrounding Towns and, when building a dwelling, one is prohibited from cutting all the growth between the dwelling and the water.

A specific area of concern is the quality of the water in Upper Squaw Cove on Squam Lake. There, the ongoing eutrophication of the water indicates that the water life is threatened and may reach the point where it can't support fish, frogs and the like. One of the results of this is that the sound of loons and the presence of other water birds would be missing from that part of Town. The large piece of undeveloped land on the shore of the Cove needs to be protected by acquisition of either a conservation easement on the land or the purchase of the land itself by conservation interests. Otherwise, the Planning Board will need more authority than it now has to limit and control the amount of development which could take place there.

The Town has, perhaps, done all it can do except consider the permanent protection of some of the aquifers in Town, but when one is cautioned to limit the number of fish he should eat because of the amount of mercury in them, it's clear that much needs to be done at the national level.

It would be a tragedy if we were advised not to swim in the waters around us because they were too polluted, or if our groundwater, on which most of us depend for our household supply, were to become unpotable because of atmospheric or geographic influences.

There are no plans at this time for the ultimate replacement of our private water supplies by a municipal, or smaller, system. Should that ever be desired, it could be necessary to rely on whatever aquifers have been identified and protected by acquisition or limited development. Perhaps the Conservation Commission should evaluate this matter and recommend appropriate action.

Shorelands

Another aspect of "scenic vistas," covered elsewhere in this report, is the matter of views from our water bodies, and from the shorefronts of those bodies. In addition to the portion of Squam Lake that is in Sandwich, and a few ponds in the White Mountain National Forest, Sandwich has eight so-called "Great Ponds"* and numerous beaver ponds, rivers and streams. There is strong interest in the Town for the appearance of the lands which front these bodies of water.

A common practice in many areas of the state and, to a lesser degree, in our Town is for someone to purchase a small summer camp (as we once knew them), tear it down, and build what has become known colloquially as a "trophy house" in its stead – a large, expensive, mostly-seasonal dwelling.

*A great pond is defined as one which is greater than ten acres in size. Under the provisions of State law, such ponds are deemed to be owned by the State and the State is empowered to make possible access to a great pond for the general public.

The present set-back requirements in Sandwich, which are more extensive than in all the surrounding communities, and the fact that the land-owner is prohibited from cutting more than fifty percent of the trees between the dwelling and the body of water, mean that the view of these dwellings from the bodies of water will be somewhat occluded.

Further, Sandwich requires of a person subdividing shorelands that there be more frontage on the water – 320 feet per dwelling – than either the State or any of the surrounding towns require.

These provisions will mean, one hopes, that a crowded series of buildings on small shore front lots will never appear here, and that limits are placed on what has become known as “funnel development,” whereby a developer subdivides backland and includes in the sale of one of those lots to a purchaser in this development a minimal piece of shore front for access to the body of water.

Save for a few sizable pieces of shorelands, it would seem that the Town has done about all it can to protect the shorelands from misuse or desecration. Those big pieces of shorefront present another preservation challenge for our Town. As pointed out earlier, this is especially true on the shores of Upper Squaw Cove on Squam where the waters are of the worst quality in the entire lake. The Town needs more powerful controls to limit what happens in that area.

There is considerable danger that the Town’s real estate taxes, including the state school tax, will make it difficult, if not impossible, for some people to keep their shorefront lands and/or dwellings and that will increase the pressure for as much subdivision as possible. We need to be alert to the dangers of this on all our bodies of water.

One sad aspect of the trend toward trophy houses, and the burden of higher taxes, is that the average citizen who once could enjoy a modest summer camp or cottage winds up having to sell it to someone who can afford the higher taxes and build a trophy house. This means that we’ll have a continuing trend toward an elite summer community which may eventually make some of the water bodies either inaccessible (as many are now), or irrelevant to the average year-round resident..

Population Growth

Many factors either brought us to this Town or kept us here as young adults. One of them is the lack of major development in the Town and the lower population density; another is the fact that no major highways bring people through the Town so they don't know it exists. Possibly nothing would change the ambiance of the Town, or its quiet life, more than large condominium or subdivision developments. We have some protection against the former, limiting a multi-family dwelling on a single lot to four units, but nothing to protect against a landowner of a large piece of land from subdividing it and building a four-dwelling unit on each lot. It's also possible under our zoning ordinances to own a hundred-acre lot and divide it into thirty or forty house lots.

All of this notwithstanding, it should be noted that in the 90's Carroll County was the fastest growing county in the State and Sandwich was among the fastest growing Towns in Carroll County – growing at the rate of about 20%. In view of the desire of the Townspeople to limit our growth, the Planning Board and the Town need to pursue this subject to see if limits to the rate of growth can be imposed. If rapid development sort of “sneaks up on us” over time instead of arriving in one or two large blobs, maybe it wouldn't be as objectionable.

Affordable Housing

The people who responded to the questionnaires, or who attended the workshop *Sandwich 2002*, uniformly felt that there was an inadequate supply of housing for the younger people who are getting started in life or those whose incomes place them below the median for the Town. As economic conditions throughout New Hampshire, New England and the country continue to prosper, the prices of the real estate in our Town, and in the immediate area, keep increasing, to the point where it is difficult for lower income people to buy, build, or rent suitable housing. The recently-

imposed State school tax has added another burden to the challenge of trying to maintain ownership of our homes.

The presence of Spokesfield Common helps to relieve the situation of those elderly people whom one might classify as "upper middle class." The subsidized housing, which is part of the complex, assists those elderly people who are at or below the poverty level but that leaves many folks who aren't in either category struggling to answer their housing needs in the face of increasing pressures against them.

There are provisions in our zoning ordinances which could help to alleviate some of the problem. Cluster housing, as opposed to subdivision, could help to share the cost of land and still keep some open space around the homes. It is also possible to build four-unit housing in the rural residential areas.

Perhaps the most realistic answer for some is to combine retail space with apartment living. There is at least one building in the Center which contains both and it is a prototype for others which might be built in the Center if our zoning ordinances were changed to make more such buildings available in Town.

This is a vexing problem of many years' standing and the Town needs to be flexible enough to accept a good solution if one comes along.

Forest Preservation

Another of the "preservation" issues of concern to the Townspeople is that of preserving our forests. Many citizens of the Town depend on our forest products industry for their employment, either in direct work with timbering or in some other aspect of the industry. The respondents to our surveys expressed their interest in the subject for many reasons: economic opportunities, good forest management practices, wildlife preservation, scenic vistas, water quality, and the preservation of the ambiance of the Town. Most of these subjects have been dealt with elsewhere in this Plan but a few remain.

The term “good forest management practices” covers a number of matters. One is managing the forests for continuous, so-called sustainable, yields -- not clear cutting and stripping the land but taking only some of the mature trees leaving the smaller ones for further growth and harvest in the relatively near future. Clear cutting, on the other hand, means that there will be no further timber cuts for several generations at least. In the meantime, depending on the size of a clear cut, the lack of good cover for wildlife causes a diminution in the variety of animals that use the land for habitats. An ancillary factor in many clear cuts is that soil erosion is often greatly increased, washing the small layer of soil off the land, making regeneration of the forest more difficult and slower, and usually resulting in the pollution of rivers and streams which seriously affects the aquatic life in those bodies of water.

Recently, some firms in the timbering industry, particularly some from out of state, have been approaching by direct mail the major landowners in our Town and surrounding towns offering to buy these lands. On purchase, the logging firms strip the land of anything that has any kind of market and then offers the “destroyed” land for sale to developers, and others. In many cases, the cut logs are shipped out of state, further denying the local forest products industry of the use of the raw materials in business in this area. The net result to the Town is a modest timber tax for our coffers, and whatever funds the sale of the land brought to the former landowner, as well as loss of one of the important facets of the ambiance of our Town.

We’ve all had the experience, particularly within the past year or two, of seeing evidence of clear cutting or stripping. Wintertime snow cover makes them particularly evident, standing out against the forest around them. With the Town’s considerable concern for scenic vistas, it would be helpful if landowners refrained from seeking the maximum current monetary return.

Economic Opportunities

Another of the many concerns which the Sandwich residents have is that of trying to be sure the Town is doing what it can to foster economic opportunities for its citizens, especially the younger ones. A corollary to this concern is that there be enough affordable housing so that they can live here -- covered in another section of this Plan.

The recent advances in electronic communication make it easier for those whose work can be performed on the Internet to do so from their home in Town. Others are employed in area businesses, colleges, schools, etc. but there is a paucity of businesses in Town which employ significant numbers of our citizens and the major question is how do we deal with that situation.

One answer would appear to be to loosen somewhat the definition of the kinds of business enterprises which can be carried on in our Rural-Residential areas, perhaps by allowing businesses to be carried on in buildings in which the proprietors don't happen to live.

Another possibility is to change somewhat the kinds of buildings which can be built, and businesses which can be operated therein in the Town's villages. A question was asked in the most recent survey on whether the limits of Center Sandwich could/should be enlarged, and to allow businesses to be operated in buildings which might well have an apartment in them but in which the owner probably didn't live. The people of the Town turned this idea down but it's thought that that was because the idea wasn't explained well in the survey. Perhaps this question could be revisited again with more and better information disseminated before an opinion or vote was made.

A study commissioned by the Squam Lakes Association, and done by an organization from Vermont, indicated that the most viable kinds of business for the Squam Watershed Area was what it called eco-tourism. For that activity to continue to be feasible, the areas need to be sure that the features, which attract people to the area – pure water, quiet lakes, good fishing, lovely views, etc., continue to be first rate. Sandwich has done its part in this regard but we still need to balance this need with adequate economic opportunities for the people who live here, and continue to protect the characteristics of our Town that make it desirable to us and to others.

Village Districts

If a developer were to set out today to replicate in this Town the villages of Whiteface, North Sandwich, Sandwich Lower Corner, or Center Sandwich, he couldn't do it; the zoning ordinances wouldn't allow the densities to be as they are, the set-backs of most of the buildings that exist are too close to the streets, and too close to the lot lines. Yet all four villages have a great deal

of charm and we wouldn't want to change them in any way. As a matter of fact, if a whole new village just like them could be plunked down somewhere else in Town, we'd all likely applaud the effort.

If it were acceptable to the Townspeople, it would seem that a very limited expansion of the villages could be undertaken without significant adverse affect. It would seem reasonable to allow new buildings which were in keeping with the style of those there now and which had setbacks that were no closer to the roads or lotlines than the present buildings. Further, it was thought to be desirable by those presenting the idea, to allow for limited business use of existing or new buildings in keeping with the expressed feelings of the respondents to the questionnaire – bed and breakfasts, craft shops, coffee shops, small inns and professional offices. Other acceptable uses might be small retail establishments.

Another aspect of the idea was that it would be possible to combine some of those uses with apartments which would not be at the highest rents and might solve some of the affordable housing need in Town. The proponents of the idea decided to keep it simple and suggest it only for Center Sandwich. Unexpectedly, it thus became an issue for contention and perceived exclusion and the idea failed to capture significant support.

Could it fly if people understood it? Perhaps the time will come when it might be floated again to see. It does have the potential of easing the housing crunch somewhat.

Development

Despite the wish on the part of many to preserve the Town just the way it is, it's unrealistic to believe that more and more dwelling units won't be built as the years march on. It's also likely that commercial development will take place in one of the commercial zones in Town. The only questions are whether this growth can be controlled in matters of location, density and design.

The Selectmen are doing a good job of being sure that new construction is appropriately located on the land around it and refer the wishes of people who want to build something apart from the norms to the Planning Board, the Historic District Commission, or the Zoning Board of Adjustment

These Boards have limited ability to deal with the exceptional problems, and can't do much about the density of proposed development. Where appropriate, developers should be encouraged to consider seriously operating under the "cluster development" provisions of our ordinances, thus keeping as much open land as possible around those units.

Further, those Boards should have more ability than they do now to control the design of proposed building. A barn need not look like a tin storage warehouse when a few windows would ameliorate the appearance of it, and a four-unit development doesn't have to look like a school building which was built in the Depression. People should be allowed to express their own tastes when constructing their own buildings, but where the impact of unusual designs would be on us all, some limits of taste might be appropriate. Our commercial zones, located along Route 25, at present are controlled not by type or size but by such things as setbacks, landscaping and parking lots. It's clear that the Town wants serious limits on what kind of buildings can be built in these zones, and design is but one of the aspects of these concerns, as well as what type of businesses are acceptable in the eyes of the Townspeople.

Miscellaneous

The recreation programs carried on in this Town brought high praise and expressed satisfaction from the respondents to the surveys. However, a few items remain on their "wish list."

It would be wonderful, so the argument goes, if some wealthy family decided to offer the Town a building enclosing an athletic complex – a swimming pool, covered tennis court, and skating rink are some of the more popular suggestions. It doesn't seem likely that the Town will ever vote to erect such a complex from tax revenues so this item may well be on the wish list of the next several Master Plan updates.

Another expressed wish was for a bicycle path to be constructed from the Center to the Town Beach. A Committee was appointed to study the feasibility of such a path but no plans or suggestions have been forthcoming. Could the Selectmen appoint another Committee to try again to formulate a viable plan?

Finally, several concerns were expressed that the Town should have a pub, a coffee shop for adults, and a teen center for after-school use by the younger people. We now have the first two on this list and it appears that they are both successful. What can the Town do to provide the other?

How do we get there?

I. The following outline of the goals, objectives, and strategies of this Master Plan are set forth to be an action plan for the Planning Board and other bodies and committees in Sandwich. It is intended to be the prescription for action to continue to accomplish the wishes of the townspeople as they are expressed from time to time in further updates and surveys. It follows the primary goal of our citizens and visitors to “keep the feeling of Sandwich just the way it is.”

II. The protection of scenic vistas, open spaces, view sites, and wildlife habitats requires that they first be identified and then listed in their relative importance. How they can be protected will vary from land parcel to land parcel but the initial work needs to be undertaken by the Conservation Commission for the opinion and approval of the town.

Similarly, the protection of water quality requires, among other things, the identification of aquifers that need to be protected from development and the acquisition of those that can be acquired. Also, obviously, the goal relates to shorelands on lakes ponds, and streams and making any changes that are deemed appropriate. Various studies commissioned by the Squam Lakes Association indicate that Upper, or Inner, Squaw Cove on Squam Lake has the poorest water quality of any area of the lake, as measured by water clarity, chlorophyll content and total phosphorous concentration of any other area of the lake. In view of the land parcel of undeveloped and undivided land on the shore of the Cove, special attention should be given to ways in which any future development might be limited to prevent further deterioration of the quality of the water in that cove.

Here again there is a initial role to be played by the Conservation Commission in identified the more important areas.

IV. The matter of forest preservation, adequately discussed in the previous section of this report, once again relates to the identification of the important forestlands in the town that ought to be saved for wildlife protection, recreational use, and forest management. The Conservation Commission has work to do in this area as well.

V. This is a town of active people and access to recreational opportunities ranks high on the list of priorities. It is important for the Recreation Commission and the Conservation Commission to identify, and secure access to, as many hiking trails and trailheads and recreational areas as possible, especially the Bear Camp River Trail, the Sandwich Notch Sixty Dogsled Trail, Ski Trails, and Snowmobile Trails. Funding for these purposes might be available from any number of foundations or state bodies.

VI. The issue of affordable housing will continue to present vexing conflicts of need and town wishes. There is a strong feeling that the people who work in the town ought to have the opportunity to live here and a solution needs to be found to the present paucity of affordable opportunities to do so. On the other hand, no one in town has any wish to see a large development of affordable housing appear anywhere in town. The Planning Board needs to continue to explore the ways in which these conflicting goals might be solved and controlled.

VII. The current economic environment certainly places the subject of employment, and how the town might foster it, in a different context than did the recent prior years. The Planning Board continues to need to work on this question as it is affected by the Zoning Ordinance. The definition of allowable businesses and the definition of where and how their suitable locations might be defined will continue to be a prime subject for the consideration and the deliberation of the Board. Few of the future pressures on the town will be as important to it as this one.

VIII. Land Use. The Planning Board, and other involved town boards, need to encourage cluster housing to reduce the amount of future “sprawl.” Our Ordinance places modest pressure on having the housing of the town spread out in two-and-a-half-acre lots but that approach can be inconsistent with the wishes to preserve forests, wildlife habitats, and scenic views. We have the necessary provisions in our Zoning Ordinance but the use of the cluster housing approach needs increased more encouragement.

IX. Talk to almost any citizen in town, or read the various surveys made and you will find a vast majority of the people are opposed to any form of so-called “Big Box Establishments.” This opposition stems from all the obvious issues of traffic and the character of the town as well as a real concern about the effect on water quality from the paving of vast parking lots and unrestrained lighting of them. The present Ordinance makes the development of these establishments, and others such as automobile dealerships, theoretically possible and it needs to be strengthened to prevent them.

X. The lighting question is broader than just the intensive development of commercial enterprises and an addition to our Ordinance needs to be made to require that all outdoor lighting on poles or similar devices, whether commercial or private, be shielded to direct all light downward and not visible beyond lot lines, to prevent the dissipation of the light upwards into the immediate atmosphere.

XI. Finally, an expressed need for the Town’s recreational use was for a “sledding hill” – a bare hill which would be available for all people in town who might want to so a bit of sledding in winter. This is a thought which all of us should bear in mind so as to act if such a hill became available or was otherwise identified.