

Planning Board Report

2008 was a relatively quiet year for the Planning Board. We had three small sub-divisions and a couple of land boundary changes. We took the low activity to review our master plan and zoning regulations and concluded that we are in pretty good shape to maintain a low growth rate and attend to environmental issues addressed in the master plan. We noted a lot of concern from external groups relating to shorefront, riverfront and watershed issues. The Town took progressive actions on these issues years ago. Existing slope and soil regulations assists in that regard. We asked the voters (and they agreed) to extend similar shoreline protection to the Pemi-River and that addressed concerns in that area. The result of this planning has been a very low growth rate relative to other towns while addressing existing and future concerns.

In other planning items, the Selectman along with police, fire, EMS, highway and planning, completed comprehensive hazard mitigation planning which also supports the emergency operation plan. These are documents required to be in place so the town continues to be eligible for FEMA and other state and federal grants in addition to emergency planning. The flood maps and 911 maps were also updated during 2008.

For the most part, Bridgewater is in pretty good shape regarding planning.

Kathy Lovett, Chair.