

I. INTRODUCTION

This Master Plan update was prepared by the Raymond Planning Board in accordance with New Hampshire state law (RSA 674:2 and 674:3).

The adoption and maintenance of a sound master plan is an essential step in the realization of Raymond's community visions and goals. Without a master plan, there can be no zoning ordinances. Furthermore, a master plan is required, along with a Capital Improvements Plan, to regulate the timing of development in order to manage growth and collect impact fees.

According to RSA 674:2, I the purpose of the master plan is to: (1) set down as clearly and practically as possible the best and most appropriate future development of the area under the jurisdiction of the planning board, (2) aid the board in designing ordinances that result in preserving and enhancing the unique quality of life and culture of the Town of Raymond, and (3) guide the Planning Board in the performance of its other duties in a manner that achieves the principles of smart growth, sound planning, and wise resource protection.

RSA 674:2, II also states that the master plan shall be a set of statements and land use and development principles for the municipality with accompanying maps, diagrams, charts and descriptions to give legal standing to the implementation ordinances and other measures of the planning board.

In addition, the master plan shall include, at a minimum, the following required sections:

- (a) A vision section that serves to direct the other sections of the plan...this section shall contain a set of statements which articulate the desires of the citizens affected by the master plan, not only for their locality but for the region and the whole state. It shall contain a set of guiding principles and priorities to implement the vision.
- (b) A land use section upon which all the following sections shall be based. This section shall translate the vision statements into physical terms...based on a study of population, economic activity, and natural, historic, and cultural resources...and it shall show existing conditions and the proposed location, extent, and intensity of future land use.

The following vision statement, goals and objectives contain the guiding principles upon which this master plan is based.

Also included within Volume I are the implementation strategies, recommended actions and priorities for carrying out the master plan vision and goals.