

# **Purpose and Overview of The Master Plan**

## **Purpose and Nature of a Master Plan**

By influencing decision-making, the master plan serves as a tool for the town planning board to help guide growth and development within the town. It serves as the foundation for good land use planning and land use regulations to achieve this end. To best serve as a planning guide, the plan should contain sufficient detail as to substantiate the various recommendations.

Although not mandated, a master plan does reflect the wishes of the community, and as such, should be implemented. Indeed, without implementation, the plan has no value.

A master plan is not an inflexible blueprint, or a static document, but rather should be modified where and when necessary to reflect changing attitudes and circumstances in the community. It is the policy of Pittsfield's Planning Board to maintain an on-going planning process so that this Master Plan may be of continuing value in guiding community growth and development.

## **An Overview of the Master Plan Process**

The preparation of a master plan is the major responsibility of the planning board in the performance of its duties (RSA 674:1).

The Planning Board generally solicits the input and involvement of citizens in the planning process, including obtaining and analyzing data and writing goals, objectives, and recommendations for each of the chapters in the plan. Various experts are consulted as the need arises, such as members of the Central NH Regional Planning Commission, appropriate state departments and local government agencies.

After appropriate public hearings, the master plan is adopted by a majority vote of the Planning Board (RSA 674:4). Copies of the adopted master plan are then filed with the Town Clerk.

to maximize its usefulness, it is recommended that this master plan be revisited and revised as necessary every five years.