

Goshen Planning Board

Notice of Opening for Alternate Members of the Board

The Goshen Planning Board is seeking qualified applicants to fill openings as alternate members on the Planning Board. Responsibilities of the Planning Board are set forth in New Hampshire state laws, which give the Planning Board the power to:

- Prepare and update the Town's Master Plan, which serves as a guide to orderly growth in the Town and provides the rational basis for zoning and land use regulation
- Prepare and update a Capital Improvements Plan for the Town, which aids the Select Board and Budget Committee in their consideration of the annual budget
- Make recommendations to Town officials on programs that support the goals of the Master Plan as well as on issues relating to the growth and development of the Town
- Draft amendments to the Town's Zoning Ordinance and Building Ordinance and present these amendments to Town voters for enactment
- Develop and update Subdivision Regulations and Site Plan Review Regulations
- Review, hold public hearings, and rule on applications for subdivisions and site plans
- Develop and update local Excavation Regulations for commercial earth excavations
- Regulate commercial earth excavations, which includes holding public hearings and ruling on applications for permits, as well as overseeing the operation of permitted excavation sites
- Develop and update Driveway Regulations for access to Town roads
- Rule on Special Use permits

Alternate Planning Board members are designated to serve in place of elected members who are absent. Therefore, qualified candidates should be prepared to:

- Attend regular Planning Board meetings on the first and last Tuesday evening of each month and attend special meetings, public hearings, and site visits concerning matters that come before the board
- Read and thoroughly understand the Goshen Master Plan and all provisions of all Ordinances and Regulations adopted by the Town
- Read and thoroughly understand the details of local and state laws that regulate land use
- Abide by the Planning Board's Rules of Procedure
- Attend State-sponsored training sessions to keep current on the latest developments in laws pertaining to land use
- Exercise good judgment in developing local land use regulations
- Act judiciously in administering State laws and the Town's land use regulations
- Listen to and consider all points of view, and accept that while not all decisions that you make may be popular, they must always follow state and local regulations and must be in the best interest of the town

The Planning Board can have up to five alternate members. The Planning Board has the authority to appoint its own alternates.

Application forms are available at the Town Office and online at www.Goshennh.org. You can submit your completed application form at the Town Office during regular business hours, or submit it by email to PlanningBoard@Goshennh.org. If you prefer to meet with the Planning Board directly to discuss your qualifications (rather than filling out an application form), contact the Planning Board Chairperson at PlanningBoard@Goshennh.org. The Chairperson will arrange an appointment for you to meet with the Board.

Highlights of Planning Board Basics

The Goshen Planning Board

In Goshen, the Planning Board is a five-member elected body, with elected members serving terms of three years. Vacancies on the Board are filled by Board appointments until the next March election. The Planning Board may appoint up to five Alternate members who serve for terms of three years. An alternate member is designated to serve in place of an elected member who is unable to serve on a particular matter.

Legal Responsibilities of Board Members

A Planning Board member has the responsibility to fairly apply New Hampshire State law and Town of Goshen Regulations to all matters that are brought before the Board for decision. In order to successfully perform the responsibilities of a Planning Board member, it is essential for a member to know something about the relevant law. It is not necessary that a Board member be a lawyer, but a working knowledge of general principles is essential to fulfill Board duties.

Master Plan

The preparation and amendment of the Town's Master Plan is the first duty of the Planning Board. The Master Plan serves as the basic planning document for Town development. The Master Plan document draws upon citizen input to establish priorities that allow for smart growth while protecting or expanding the Town's tax base.

Capital Improvements Program

The Planning Board is authorized by the Town to prepare and amend a recommended program of municipal capital improvement projects projected over a period of at least six years. The program classifies projects according to urgency and may also contain the estimated cost of each project. In preparing the program, the Planning Board confers with the Select Board, the Budget Committee, and all Town departments.

Zoning and Building Ordinances

By state law, every zoning ordinance shall be made with consideration to the character of the area involved and its peculiar suitability for particular uses, as well as with a view to conserving the value of buildings and encouraging the most appropriate use of land throughout the Town. Particular provisions of the ordinances should also be designed to fulfill the goals set forth in the Town's Master Plan.

Subdivision and Site Plan Review Regulations

Subdivision and Site Plan regulations are designed to prevent scattered or premature subdivision or development of land as would strain the Town's capacity to provide the necessary safety and support for proposed growth. Like zoning ordinances, these regulations should be designed to fulfill goals set forth in the Town's Master plan.

Regulation of Commercial Earth Excavations

Commercial earth excavation is the only industry that the State of New Hampshire requires local municipalities to regulate. This regulatory responsibility is given to the Planning Board. In fulfilling its obligation, the Planning Board must follow the dictates of RSA 155-E, and may also develop local Excavation Regulations that supplement RSA 155-E and that are in keeping with the goals of the Town's Master Plan. Goshen's Planning Board has adopted local Excavation Regulations, which supplement state statute 155-E.