

CITY OF CLAREMONT

MASTER PLAN

April 2011



Prepared by the Claremont Planning Board
with Technical Assistance Provided by
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee
Regional Planning Commission



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ADOPTION OF MASTER PLAN

CLAREMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

The Planning Board of the City of Claremont, New Hampshire, in accordance with the provisions and procedures of RSA Chapter 675:6, including conducting a public hearing on April ??, 2011, does hereby adopt the City of Claremont Master Plan of 2011. The goals and recommendations contained in this Plan are designed to aid the Planning Board and other town boards in the performance of their respective duties for the purpose of guiding and accomplishing the coordinated and harmonious development of the City of Claremont, New Hampshire.

Date Adopted:

Claremont Planning Board:

Peter Guillette (Chairperson)

Lori Richardson

Amanda Silvers

Richard Wahrlich

Deborah Cutts, Ex-officio

Erwin Caplan

Adam Burke, Ex-officio

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

1 INTRODUCTION

This Master Plan is the result of the Master Plan Advisory Committee and Planning Board expending considerable effort gathering public input in order to prepare a plan which reflects the city's collective vision for the future of our community. The overall vision for the future development of our community expressed by the people of Claremont through this Master Planning process is:

Claremont should be a livable community and regional center that recognizes its historical agricultural and industrial roots, properly manages its natural and aesthetic resources, encourages a diversity of housing and mix of land uses, provides opportunity for business development, supports a program of educational opportunities for all ages and provides a multiple modal transportation system that connects the City's neighborhoods. Claremont should strive to be a healthy community by supporting cultural and recreational opportunities through the support of facilities, programs and events as well as to encourage an interconnection of trails, bikeways, sidewalks and river walks connecting all parts of the City. Achieving this vision will allow Claremont to remain a keystone community in the Upper Valley.

1.1 PURPOSE OF MASTER PLAN

The process of developing a Master Plan is an opportunity to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of our community's needs and desires as they pertain to the anticipated growth of the city. A Master Plan provides guidelines for the future growth and development of the community. It is a guide for future growth and a tool for public officials and private citizens in decision-making and in the administration of the City's Ordinances. The following Master Plan is based on input supplied by Planning Board members, other officials and agencies, and on responses and comments developed by questionnaires. An attempt has been made to reflect the consensus viewpoints from these sources concerning the city's past, present and desired future. The goal of this master planning process is to proactively chart a course identifying the desired future of our community. Without a comprehensive planning process, in a relatively short time, Claremont could find it has lost many of the features the community finds valuable.

1.2 PROCESS TO UPDATE THE MASTER PLAN

Under New Hampshire law (RSA 674:2, 3 & 4), the preparation and adoption of the Master Plan is under the purview of the Planning Board. Claremont's last full Master Plan was completed in 1991. The Land Use Chapter of this plan was completed and adopted in 2006. Since 1991 there has been much change in the City and it is currently undergoing development and redevelopment that is indicative of the opportunities that Claremont provides. Such current activities include:

- Redevelopment of the Monadnock, Wainshal and Woven Labels Mills,
- Relocation of Red River Computer Company,
- Several infrastructure improvements including the Sugar River pedestrian bridge, and
- Ongoing business and development interest in the community.

In recognition of these changes and the potential for future change, the Claremont Planning Board appointed a Master Plan Advisory Committee (Committee) to guide a Master Plan Update. In its first discussion about the Master Plan, the Committee considered how to bring the citizens of the City into the

master plan process. After discussions with the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Service, the Committee decided to hold two public forums. On March 29, 2007 the City held its first public forum at which over 130 residents turned out. The larger group was broken up into seven (7) subgroups, which addressed such topic areas as housing, land use, transportation and economic development. Out of each group came citizen comments on the City's strengths and challenges in each of these areas. Based on the forum discussions there were several themes that emerged, a number of which cut across several topic areas. Several groups pointed out the need for greater support for improved educational facilities as well as the need for housing diversity and mixed-use developments. Other groups pointed out the need for revitalization of Claremont's historic downtown. It is these themes that provide the basis for Claremont's Vision.

- Revitalization of the downtown through infill, cultural attractions and greater retail opportunities.
 - Educational opportunities for all of Claremont's citizens.
 - Housing to meet a diverse population with a variety of housing for all income levels.
 - Assuring that Claremont is a healthy community by offering a range of health care services and opportunities for a healthy lifestyle-including recreational/cultural programs and facilities, walking paths and bike/river trails.
 - Providing adequate transportation facilities and services.
 - Managing growth by encouraging a balance of uses-residential, business and institutional.
 - Providing employment opportunities for Claremont's citizens.
- Enhancing opportunities for Claremont's youth.

1.3 GOALS

This Vision is reinforced by a number of broad community goals. These goals reflect Claremont's values and will provide the basic "blueprint" for City's future. Claremont should be a City that:

- Understands that it is poised for the future by properly managing growth that is consistent with the City's vision and provides for a balance of residential, business, industrial and institutional activities.
- Offers a livable, walkable, vibrant downtown with great cultural attractions and events as well as an opportunity for a variety of retail shopping.
- Preserves and protects its rural, agricultural character in balance with economic, business and employment opportunities for its citizens.
- Encourages educational opportunities of all types and for all age groups.
- Provides a balance of housing opportunities to accommodate its diverse citizenry while respecting the City's natural and cultural heritage.
- Act as a beacon for community health that encourages a variety of indoor and outdoor recreational and cultural activities.
- Offers multiple modes of transportation facilities and services that provide connections to neighborhoods, businesses and services.
- Encourages a spectrum of activities and opportunities for youth.

Recognizes the role of water resources for drinking water, recreational opportunities and providing an aesthetic quality to the community.

1.4 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Planning Board wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the constructive assistance and input of the following, whose past and present contributions were invaluable in developing the Master Plan and the updates:

- The City Council
- Questionnaire Respondents
- City Officials
- Community Forum Participants
- Master Plan Advisory Committee and Subcommittees
- Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

The Claremont Master Plan is based on the views of the city's citizens and local officials. The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission facilitated the master planning process for the Planning Board in the update of the Master Plan to prepare a document that reflects the goals and desires of the City of Claremont and its citizens.