

X. IMPLEMENTATION & ACTION PLAN

This Implementation & Action Plan presents recommendations prioritized according to the following time periods:

- Year One: Actions recommended to be taken from now through FY 2005-06
- Year Two: Actions recommended for FY 2006-07
- Year Three: Actions recommended for FY 2007-08
- Future Years: Actions recommended for future unspecified years
- All Years: Actions calling for ongoing attention throughout all fiscal years of the Master Plan

Within each time period, each recommendation is presented in a general prioritized order identified by number.

The principal responsible parties are shown for each action. These are not exclusive, i.e., inputs on each item would likely be appropriate from other groups, boards, commissions, or departments. In all cases, it is implied that inputs from Grantham citizens are both solicited and welcomed.

FOR ACTION IN YEAR ONE

Year One-1: Develop an integrated six year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) under RSA 674:5-8, covering all facilities and functions of the Town of Grantham and the Grantham Village School, and utilize a system of new development impact fees recommended below to partially support the CIP.

Responsible parties: Planning Board, Board of Selectmen, Grantham School Board

Year One-2: For developments exceeding a specified size, revise the Subdivision Regulations to provide strengthened control and review procedures, plus requirements for formal impact studies.

Responsible party: Planning Board

Year One-3: Develop a system for requiring impact fees from developers. (See RSA 674:21. This recommendation may be fully implemented only in conjunction with a Capital Improvements Program, as proposed above.)

Responsible parties: Planning Board, Board of Selectmen

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Year One-4: Recognize that recent growth and development in town have been quite rapid, and under the provisions of RSA 674:22 and RSA 674:23 which govern Interim Growth Management Ordinances, carefully examine the suitability, possible benefits, and potential drawbacks of temporary growth control measures, such as a) a temporary moratorium on the future subdivision of land until codes, regulations, and ordinances can be updated, and b) a temporary annual limitation on building permits for primary residential structures at a reduced level compared to the annual average number of such permits for the past three years. (These recommendations may be implemented only in conjunction with a Capital Improvements Program, as proposed above.)

Responsible parties: Planning Board, Board of Selectmen, Town Counsel, Town Meeting

Year One-5: Create and apply appropriate new zoning categories for areas judged not desirable for development because they are hilltops and ridges, steep slopes, remote areas, or large unbroken tracts of wildlife habitat. The distinguishing characteristic of such new zoning districts would be a quite substantial minimum lot size with no provision for residential use.

Responsible parties: Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Town Meeting

Year One-6: Establish new rural residential districts, to be applied to selected undeveloped portions of the town. This action would designate these areas for substantially less development potential by rezoning with significantly larger lot sizes, increased frontage and setback requirements, fewer permitted uses, and added use restrictions.

Responsible parties: Planning Board, Town Meeting

Year One-7: Consider the creation of a part-time planning and zoning administrator position to handle public inquiries regarding development, manage development application matters, and provide staff support to the planning and zoning boards.

Responsible party: Board of Selectmen

Year One-8: Revise the Subdivision Regulations to guide development in any new rural residential districts by establishing stronger and attractive incentives for open space development, planned residential development, or other creative development approaches.

Responsible party: Planning Board

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Year One-9: Continue strong support of the Grantham Conservation Commission to a) acquire, conserve, protect, and manage important open space areas and natural resources, and b) work cooperatively with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF), the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (ASLPT), and similar groups to conserve additional conservation and open space lands where appropriate.

Responsible parties: Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission

Year One-10: Sustain and increase the Grantham Conservation Fund or other dedicated capital reserve accounts for public acquisition of land, development rights, or easements to benefit conservation, wildlife habitat, agriculture, forestry, and recreation (e.g., by line item budgeting, bonding, 100% rather than 50% of the penalty proceeds from land withdrawal under the Current Use Tax Program, etc.).

Responsible parties: Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission

Year One-11: To control, restrict, or prohibit adverse impacts on natural resources and on historic resources, work to strengthen, coordinate, and add where absent any appropriate powers to the Planning Board, Zoning Board, Board of Selectmen, Code Administrator, and any other relevant board or official as they consider development proposals.

Responsible parties: Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Grantham Historical Society

Year One-12: Actively engage the NHDOT to construct the planned Park & Ride facility at Exit 13, I-89 to provide for commuter parking and to include accommodations for pickup and discharge of passengers by buses, taxis, and vans.

Responsible parties: Board of Selectmen, NHDOT

Year One-13: Complete provision of a second access to the Grantham Village School, most likely from NH Route 10, and consider one-way traffic circulation through the GVS site.

Responsible parties: Board of Selectmen, Grantham School Board, Road Department

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Year One-14: Implement the planned uses for the present Town Office Building (Town Archives, Grantham Historical Society) when the building is vacated after completion of the new Grantham Municipal Complex.

Responsible parties: Board of Selectmen, Grantham Historical Society, Grantham Citizens

Year One-15: Consider twenty-four-hour police staffing once the new police facilities are available at the Grantham Municipal Complex.

Responsible parties: Police Department, Board of Selectmen

Year One-16: Review the need for introducing traffic lights, preferring partial service lights over full-service lights, at identifiable hazardous areas of Grantham.

Responsible parties: Police Department, Board of Selectmen, NHDOT

Year One-17: Budget and provide for a dedicated member of the Fire Department to document training and equipment testing, and provide additional space for administrative duties at the fire station.

Responsible parties: Fire Department, Board of Selectmen

Year One-18: Develop plans to provide a large capacity water supply near Grantham's village center to improve fire fighting capabilities, and lay out a program to improve the Fire Department's ISO/PPC insurance rating from 9 to 8.

Responsible parties: Fire Department, Board of Selectmen

Year One-19: Amend the subdivision and site plan review regulations to require developers to provide an adequate water supply for fire fighting purposes in conjunction with new subdivision or site plan proposals.

Responsible parties: Planning Board, Fire Department

Year One-20: Evaluate modifying of the subdivision regulations to encourage new subdivisions to consider incorporating new small community water systems, rather than relying on individual wells to supply potable water to dwellings.

Responsible party: Planning Board

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Year One-21: Explore in depth the interest, needs, and ways to meet demands for providing a variety of recreational and cultural activities, including playing fields.

Responsible parties: Board of Selectmen, Recreation Department

FOR ACTION IN YEAR TWO

Year Two-1: Initiate discussions with the NH Department of Transportation (NHDOT) to retain NH Route 10 through the central village area as a two-lane, low-speed-limit main street, providing traffic calming measures as needed, and avoiding any conventional measures (widening, turning lanes, etc.) that would increase vehicle or traffic capacity, all for the purpose of avoiding destruction of the central village's character.

Responsible parties: Board of Selectmen, Grantham's Representatives to the General Court, Grantham Historical Society, NHDOT

Year Two-2: Consider the provision of sidewalks and crosswalks in the central village area, to link the Dunbar Free Library, the new Grantham Municipal Complex, the Grantham Village School, the Post Office, the Fire Station, and Sawyer Brook Plaza.

Responsible parties: Board of Selectmen, NHDOT

Year Two-3: Consider the provision of bike paths located to provide alternatives to portions of the the road system.

Responsible party: Board of Selectmen

Year Two-4: Revise the Subdivision Regulations to provide that all new subdivision roads and future town roads meet town road design standards, including design standards for public school bus access such as secure pickup and discharge points and suitable school bus turnaround areas.

Responsible parties: Planning Board, Board of Selectmen, Road Department

Year Two-5: Consider adding requirements to the Building Code that all new construction be provided with electricity, telephone, and cable service by means of buried lines between the road and the building, and consider adding requirements to the Subdivision Regulations that all new subdivisions provide electricity, telephone, and

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cable service by means of buried lines along any new roads as well as between roads and buildings.

Responsible parties: Planning Board, Board of Selectmen

Year Two-6: Provide an additional police vehicle (preferably four-wheel-drive) to follow the change to twenty-four-hour police staffing.

Responsible parties: Police Department, Board of Selectmen

Year Two-7: Prepare a local wetlands inventory and evaluation, and consider designation of prime wetlands, using the wetlands map provided by the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission (UVLSRPC) and / or by following the NH Wetlands Bureau Code of Administrative Rules, Chapter Wt 700.

Responsible parties: Conservation Commission, Planning Board

Year Two-8: Improve protection of Grantham's surface water by increasing the setbacks between surface water and both structures and septic systems, consistent with standards recommended by UVLSRPC and the NH Office of Energy and Planning (OEP), and formalizing adherence to the principles of the NH Shoreland Protection Act.

Responsible parties: Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Town Meeting

Year Two-9: Develop and preserve a permanent and changing display of historical resources available to the public for research and cultural education in the Grantham (Dunbar Hill) School Building, which is soon to become the "Old Town Office."

Responsible parties: Grantham Historical Society, Board of Selectmen

FOR ACTION IN YEAR THREE

Year Three-1: Develop a Central Village District to conserve Grantham's central village character and its historic value, employing appropriate setback requirements and modest design or architectural standards for future buildings.

Responsible parties: Planning Board, Grantham Historical Society, Board of Selectmen, Town Meeting

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Year Three-2: Initiate discussion of options for meeting the future expansion requirements of the Dunbar Free Library, to accommodate growth and increasing demands for library services.

Responsible parties: Library Staff, Library Trustees, Board of Selectmen

Year Three-3: Identify the needs for additional land to provide locations for future commercial and retail services, beyond what the presently zoned business districts can provide.

Responsible parties: Planning Board, Board of Selectmen, Town Meeting

Year Three-4: Establish a full-time Communications Center in the Grantham Municipal Complex for dispatching Grantham police, fire and EMS services, and establish an ultrahigh frequency (UHF) and very-high frequency (VHF) repeater tower facility to allow reliable communications throughout the town.

Responsible parties: Police Department, Fire Department, Board of Selectmen

Year Three-5: Investigate the feasibility of creating recreational bicycle paths, hiking trails, and cross-country ski trails, not associated with roadways.

Responsible parties: Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Town Meeting

FOR ACTION IN FUTURE YEARS

Future Years-1: Strictly enforce a steep slopes and erosion/sedimentation control ordinance designed to prevent negative impacts from improper land use development and/or practices.

Responsible parties: Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission

Future Years-2: Acquire an off-road fire fighting vehicle to replace the former forest-fire vehicle provided by the state.

Responsible parties: Fire Department, Board of Selectmen

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Future Years-3: Work diligently to qualify and retain FAST Squad personnel, and to qualify FAST Squad equipment to become a “transporting ambulance” service.

Responsible parties: Fire Department, Board of Selectmen

FOR ACTION THROUGHOUT ALL YEARS

All Years-1: Encourage the private use of deed restrictions and conservation easements as a method for protecting important open space areas and natural resources.

Responsible parties: Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission

All Years-2: Maintain intervening open spaces and green space links between the several current neighborhoods and built environments of town, with emphasis on maintaining and conserving large, interconnected, unfragmented areas.

Responsible parties: Planning Board, Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission

All Years-3: Support limiting the horsepower of power boats and restricting jet skis on all Grantham's ponds, and encourage local property-owner participation in pond associations to assure continued water quality.

Responsible parties: Board of Selectmen, Conservation Commission, NH Department of Environmental Services

All Years-4: Support activities to protect groundwater quality: a) underground oil and gasoline tank removal, b) groundwater quality monitoring at the discontinued town landfill site, c) road salt use reduction, and d) prohibiting activities creating greater quantities of hazardous waste than normally associated with residential activities.

Responsible parties: Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission

All Years-5: Carefully assess the town's position relative to any possible relocation of the US Post Office from the village center to north of the NH Route 10/I-89 intersection, weighing the benefits of reducing traffic in the village center resulting from boxholders' daily visits against the loss of an important civic resource in the central village.

Responsible party: Board of Selectmen

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All Years-6: Encourage bus companies to establish a pickup and discharge point in Grantham at the planned Park & Ride facility on NH Route 10.

Responsible party: Board of Selectmen

All Years-7: Work with NHDOT to identify town needs vis-à-vis the accepted state road design standards for state road repairs, reconstruction, and upgrades.

Responsible parties: Police Department, Fire Department, Board of Selectmen, NHDOT

All Years-8: Require that all proposed land developments for residential and commercial uses which access town or state roads provide adequate and safe vehicle lanes and line-of-sight transitions to public roads.

Responsible parties: Planning Board, Police Department, Fire Department, Road Department, Board of Selectmen

All Years-9: Proceed slowly with paving plans for town (public) roads, providing strong justification for each paving project.

Responsible party: Board of Selectmen, Road Department

All Years-10: Increase dialog with Public Service of New Hampshire, New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, Verizon, and Adelphia about ways in which each of these utilities can reduce the frequency and duration of service interruptions in Grantham.

Responsible party: Board of Selectmen

All Years-11: Plan for future solid waste transport and disposal procedures in the event operations cease at the Wheelabrator incinerator facility in Claremont.

Responsible party: Board of Selectmen

All Years-12: Conduct periodic joint training sessions and mock drills with the town's Emergency Management Director and the Eastman Emergency Management staff.

Responsible parties: Police Department, Fire Department, Board of Selectmen

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All Years-13: Provide ample public space and media notices for publicizing cultural events in Grantham and the broader area.

Responsible parties: Board of Selectmen, Grantham Historical Society

All Years-14: Actively encourage participation in the Grantham Historical Society, and work to update the written history of Grantham.

Responsible party: Grantham Historical Society

All Years-15: Actively promote the identification and conservation of Grantham's historic resources, and continue the collection and cataloging of historical artifacts and events.

Responsible party: Grantham Historical Society

All Years-16: Seek nomination of the Dunbar Free Library, United Methodist Church, and Dunbar Hill Grantham School building to the New Hampshire and National Registers of Historic Places.

Responsible party: Grantham Historical Society

All Years-17: Promote Grantham's historical and natural resources via a display at the northbound I-89 Rest Area in Springfield.

Responsible party: Grantham Historical Society