



TOWN OF NORTHWOOD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

2012 Master Plan Update - Community Survey

The Master Plan is a guiding document for land use decisions/planning in Northwood. This questionnaire is one method of several for the planning board to determine our community's vision and direction for the update of the current master plan. Please take the time to complete this survey so we have your input included in the process. Thank you!

Please **X** or \checkmark the space beside your answer:

1. Are you a resident of Northwood? ____ Yes ____ No

If **Yes**, please check whether you are: _____ Year-round or _____ Seasonal

2. How long have you lived in Northwood?

____ less than one year ____ 1-5 years ____ 5-10 years ____ 11-20 years ____ 20+ years

3. Do you own or operate a business in Northwood? ____ Yes ____ No

4. Do you believe that Northwood is a desirable place to live?

a. ____ Yes ____ No

b. If **Yes**, please rank your top five (5) reasons with one (1) being **highest**:

____ Small town/ rural atmosphere

____ Convenient location

____ People/community spirit

____ Employment opportunities

____ Natural setting (lakes, etc.)

____ Recreational opportunities

____ Historic character

____ Affordable housing

____ Educational opportunities

____ Other: Please specify: _____

5. What one business/service **not currently available** would benefit the residents of Northwood? _____

Northwood NH 2012 Master Plan Update – Community Survey

6. a. Previous Master Plan Updates for Northwood have included the objective to preserve Northwood’s rural and historic character. Do you think this should continue to be a goal for our community? _____ Yes _____ No

b. If **Yes**, which of the following approaches do you support to implement this goal? Please mark all that apply:

- _____ Establish a Historic District Commission (RSA 674:46)
- _____ Support architectural design standards in Site Plan Regulations
- _____ Enact performance zoning standards so that new development is consistent and complementary to historic resources.
- _____ Promote scenic highway designation for some of Northwood’s town roads; specify which ones: _____
- _____ Preserve open space lands
- _____ Protect natural resources
- _____ Encourage local agriculture
- _____ Other: Please specify: _____

7. Given the current economic climate, residential and business growth have been slow in Northwood. Do you think that something could be done at the local level to help improve this situation? _____ Yes _____ No

If **Yes**, what should be done? _____

8. Since its adoption in 1999, the Northwood Development Ordinance has regulated land use in the community with a form of performance zoning (site based, i.e., can a site meet the stated requirements for that use?). This provides a form of protection for natural features (such as wetlands, conservation areas, steep slopes, wellhead protection, and prime agricultural soils). Non-residential uses are reviewed on a lot-by-lot basis via the Site Plan Review Regulations.

This is different from many communities which have zoning districts where certain parts of town are designated, for example, as “residential-only,” “commercial,” “retail,” “industrial,” or other districts. Going forward, which method would you like to see Northwood follow? (Please mark **one**):

- _____ Stay with current performance zoning overlay districts
- _____ Increase the current performance restrictions
- _____ Reduce the current performance zoning restrictions
- _____ Move toward traditional zoning districts
- _____ No preference
- _____ Other: _____

Northwood NH 2012 Master Plan Update – Community Survey

9. Which of the following types of residential development would you like to see more of in Northwood? (Mark all that apply.)

- Single family homes
- Two family homes (duplexes)
- Manufactured housing
- More rental opportunities
- Conversion of large homes to apartments
- Multi-family residences (5 or more dwelling units)
- Cluster housing with single family homes on reduced lot size & open space

10. What pattern of commercial development would you prefer to see in Northwood?

- Spread throughout town
- Focused within certain sections of town (such as: _____)
- Strip commercial development anyplace along Route 4
- Restrict strip commercial development to some sections of Route 4
- Keep it in existing developed areas to preserve outlying natural areas
- Allow commercial development to happen anywhere randomly
- No further commercial development
- Clustered/multiple commercial services available from one parking area

11. Which of the following natural resources should Northwood work to protect? Please rank your top five (5) choices with one (1) being the **highest**:

- Sources of drinking water
- Water resources for recreational purposes (i.e. lakes and ponds)
- Wildlife habitats
- Fields/Open Space lands
- Scenic views
- Other: please specify _____

12. What are the most important transportation concerns in Northwood? (mark all that apply)

a. Route 4

- Amount of **overall** traffic on Route 4
- Amount of **truck** traffic on Route 4
- Actual speed on Route 4

b. Town roads

- Actual speed on town roads
- Condition of town roads (specific location(s): _____)

Northwood NH 2012 Master Plan Update – Community Survey

c. General transportation concerns (check all that apply)

_____ Lack of sidewalks (specific location(s): _____)

_____ Lack of public transportation

_____ Pedestrian/bicycle safety

_____ Dangerous intersections (specific location(s): _____)

_____ Other: _____

13. What changes or improvements would make Northwood a better place to live?

14. In your opinion, what would you prefer Northwood to be like in ten years?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Robert Strobel, Planning Board Chairman

Please drop off the completed survey at Town Hall Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm; or at the drop box at Chesley Memorial Library or Northwood Post Office; or mail to: Northwood Town Hall, 818 First NH Turnpike, Northwood, NH 03261; or **bring to a visioning session-see below**. Your response by Tuesday, May 22, 2012 is greatly appreciated!

UPCOMING VISIONING SESSIONS

Two visioning sessions are being held by the planning board to gather public input on your priorities for Northwood: Thursday, May 10 at 7PM and Saturday, May 12 at 10AM, both at the Community Center on the corner of Main St and School St (Rt 107 North). Please attend and make your opinion count!

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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