



Jenness Pond Road (Liz Durfee)

A VISION FOR NORTHWOOD

This vision statement describes what the community aspires to look and feel like in 2032. The goals and recommendations identified in the Master Plan are designed to help the community reach this vision.

A VISION FOR 2032

Northwood is a welcoming community. The town's diverse housing options meet the needs of individuals and families of all sizes and income levels and in all stages of life. The physical design and amenities of the community provide indoor and outdoor places to gather, recreate, and connect with others. Communication and interaction among residents, municipal staff and officials, and businesses fosters a greater sense of community and engagement. More citizens are involved with their local government and bring capacity, ideas, and skills to Town programs, planning, projects, and events.

Historic structures dot the landscape and add to the unique ambiance of the town. Residents and visitors can travel safely by all modes of transportation. The local and regional trail network has grown. Increased connectivity of roadways has improved traffic flow, reduced travel time and associated emissions, and improved access to local amenities. The community has planned and prepared for future changes in precipitation, temperature, and extreme weather events as well as the need to reduce local emissions. The town's infrastructure and regulations reflect evolving energy sources.

The community of Northwood protects and preserves its treasured natural resources. Aquifers are replenished and groundwater is a viable source of drinking water. Surface water quality has been maintained and supports a variety of aquatic species. Lakes and ponds are accessible to the community. High quality land and ecosystems are permanently conserved. The community is sensitive to the habitat of wildlife. The use and enjoyment of forests, lakes, ponds, and fields by residents and visitors does not degrade the quality or threaten the long term viability of these resources. People and wildlife benefit from dark skies due to a lack of light pollution. Rural vistas and viewsheds, farms, and forests contribute to the sense of place in Northwood.

Economic activity helps maintain a stable tax rate for residents of Northwood. Non-residential land use in Northwood is characterized by concentrated and limited clusters of businesses and services. This development is located in areas where commercial development exists (in 2022) along Route 4. Village-center like development situated in appropriate locations off Route 4 provide places for residents to gather and socialize and strengthen community bonds. These village-like clusters improve access to services and amenities. Home businesses and farmstands are present throughout the community. Northwood's centuries-old agricultural heritage is cherished and protected. Safety is prioritized through thoughtful planning and design. Commercial development does not compromise natural resources or the rural atmosphere of the community.

PRINCIPLES

Guiding principles that will be explored during the Master Plan include:

1. Maintain Northwood's rural and historic character.
2. Develop a deeper sense of community, geographically and otherwise.
3. Protect and preserve Northwood's natural resources and provide citizens of all ages with recreational opportunities to enjoy these resources.
4. Create diverse housing options.
5. Foster safety and embrace the unique buildings, businesses, and opportunities along Route 4.
6. Ensure that residential development, economic development, and protection of natural resources complement each other.

The minute a municipal official begins to see the vacant land in [their] community not as something to be filled up, but as a natural resource to be husbanded, parceled out grudgingly, cleverly used to produce economic benefits, and conserved, [they have] made a remarkable discovery. [They have] found a focus for decision-making, and the instrument by which [they] can, at once, produce a more desirable physical environment AND a greater degree of fiscal health.

-Charles, Little, from The Challenge of the Land, referenced in Northwood's 1979 and 2004 Master Plans