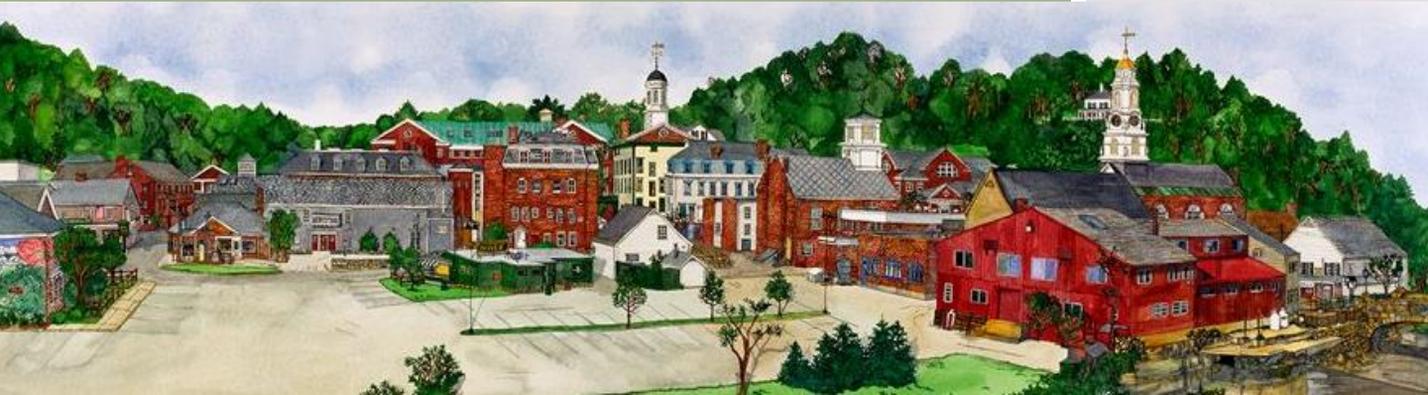
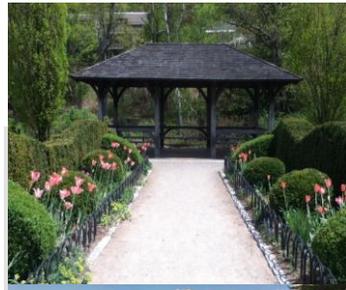


TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH MASTER PLAN SUMMARY

A PROGRESS REPORT
APPROVED BY
MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE
APRIL 15, 2019



VISION STATEMENT

The Town of Peterborough is a forward-thinking social, cultural, intellectual and economic center of the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire.

We value our rich history and heritage, leading in innovation and environmental protection, while being responsive to the needs of our changing community.

GOALS

- ❖ Maintaining our small-town atmosphere while providing a professional level of support, information, and services for the growth of both existing and new businesses
- ❖ Being an open, friendly, and inclusive community, creating a welcoming environment for visitors and residents
- ❖ Sustaining an attractive and vibrant village center that meets the contemporary needs of community members, businesses and visitors
- ❖ Nurturing a dynamic arts and cultural scene for all, especially young adults who want a closer connection to nature and community as an alternative to urban living
- ❖ Providing quality services for a diversity of families, and a range of excellent educational and recreational opportunities for all community members
- ❖ Developing a range of quality housing options designed to meet evolving community demographics
- ❖ Protecting and enhancing our natural habitats with a particular emphasis on our water resources
- ❖ Engaging a broad range of opinions and citizen participants in community governance and decision-making
- ❖ Working with other towns in mutually-beneficial cooperative endeavors that support the larger goals of our region

They selected [a] beautiful spot ... near the banks of the “Great River” and between two sheltering hills, with a pleasant valley widening southward into a broad, level plain ... A gushing spring of pure water ... was close at hand.

— History of Peterborough, New Hampshire (1954)

ECONOMIC VITALITY

GOALS

Retain and grow existing businesses.

Attract, retain, and develop workforce at all levels of employment.

Attract and support new ventures and small businesses that have the potential to be the town's future economic drivers.

Support the enhancement and development of an infrastructure that is necessary for a vital economy.

Provide a financially-healthy, pedestrian-friendly, core commercial center

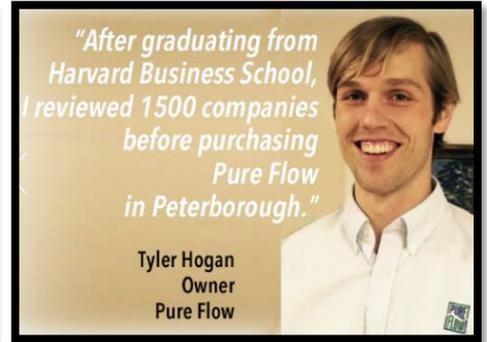
Economic activity must respect Peterborough's natural, cultural, and historic heritage

PETERBOROUGH'S WORKFORCE:

40.1 % Work in town

52.9 % Commute to another NH town

7.0 % Commute out-of-state



PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Business Retention

Strategized with businesses to prepare for major infrastructure projects. Pioneered an innovative process in which businesses can interact and report their needs and concerns to the Economic Development Authority [EDA].

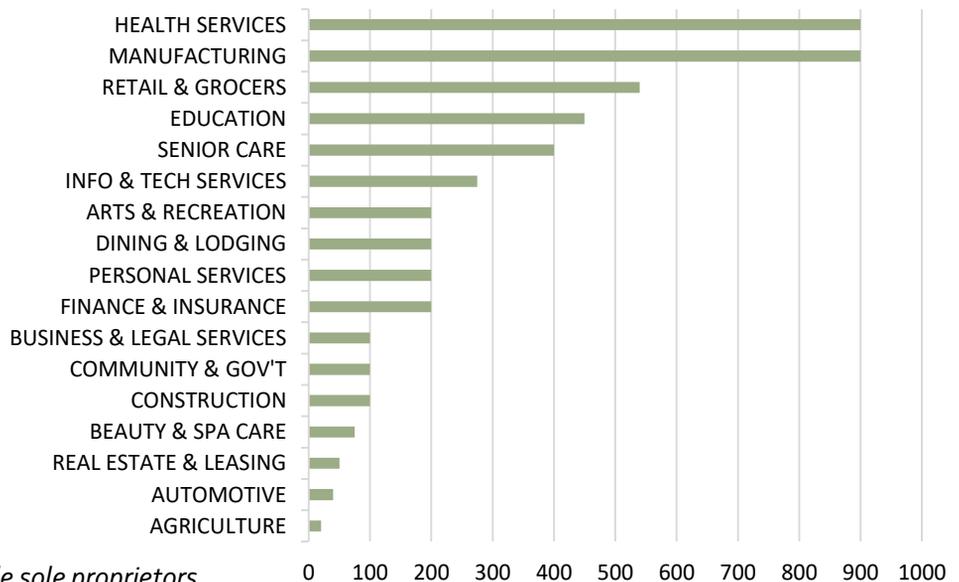
Workforce Development

Identified incentives and benefits to retain current and recruit potential employees. Integrated workforce preparation into school curriculum and encouraged internship programs.

Town Branding & Image

Conducted promotional outreach using strategies of town branding, the dedicated EDA website, and social media.

EMPLOYMENT SECTOR COMPARISON



These estimated numbers include sole proprietors

OPEN SPACE

GOALS

Preserve the rural character along the main entrance roads and in the outlying areas of town

Protect environmentally sensitive areas of town including wetlands, aquifers, the 100-year floodplain, and steep slopes

Enact zoning changes to protect priority open space parcels while encouraging development in targeted village areas

Secure the donation of conservation easements from landowners

Selectively purchase priority parcels based on the Open Space Plan



PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

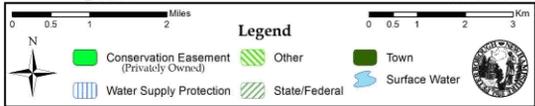
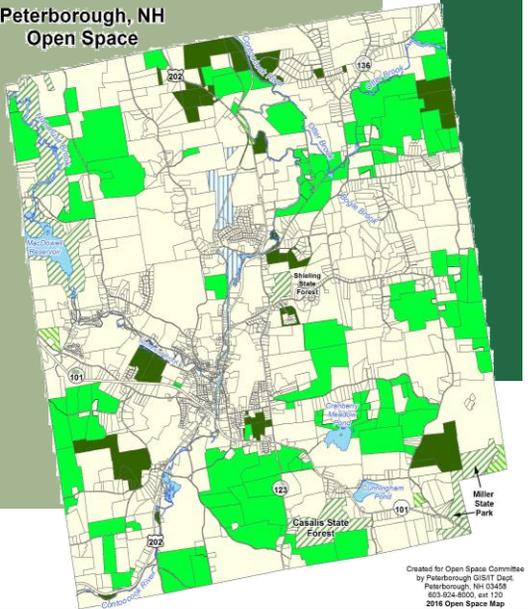
Section 245-26: Open Space Residential Development [OSRD] – Since 2004

- ❖ This allows for a form of residential subdivision that encourages and facilitates the maximization of protected open space by allowing housing units to be grouped on site or lots with dimensions, frontages, and setbacks reduced from conventional sizes.
- ❖ Approved OSRD Project: Robbe Farm Road, West Peterborough

Breakdown by acre per Open Space map:

- *Privately-Owned Conservation Easements – 5647 acres (24%)
- * Town-Owned Open Space - 1261 acres (5%)
168 acres are under conservation easement
- * State/Federal-Owned Land - 1169 acres (4.8%)
- * Water Supply Protection - 173 acres (<1%)
- * Other (Nonprofits) - 88 acres (<1%)

Peterborough, NH
Open Space



8,388 of Peterborough's 24,000 acres are protected space (34.7%)

HOUSING

Example of Infill Development

GOALS

Encourage the building and retention of affordable and workforce housing:

- ❖ For rental and ownership markets
- ❖ For people who earn at or below the median area income

Encourage traditional mixed-use neighborhoods

Encourage the reuse and adaptation of existing buildings and outbuildings:

- ❖ To provide additional housing
- ❖ To maintain the town's distinctive character

Continue to support mixed-use development in a way that does not:

- ❖ Negatively impact residential life
- ❖ Decrease the attractiveness of housing
- ❖ Cause the loss of residential units



PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Affordable and Workforce Housing

Jaffrey and Peterborough are spearheading work with surrounding towns, as well as the NH Housing Finance Authority, to explore viable housing options.

Form-Based Code Proposal

Summer 2017: Work began on designing a new zoning ordinance for Peterborough that would apply to residential districts, as well as the Town's central commercial districts. Proposed changes include:

- ❖ Parcel-based zoning with building forms by district
- ❖ Two mixed-use downtown zones
- ❖ Opportunity for smaller, denser units allowed on lots close to the town center with water and sewer

The Town has not adopted this code.

Types of Housing

Type	Total # of Units
Single-family	1,876
Senior Living Units	486
Single-family + ADUs	105
Two-family	192
Three-family	69
Apartment Buildings with 4+ units	476
Units Within Multi-use Buildings	42
Mobile Homes	6
Transitional Housing	5
TOTAL UNITS	3,257

Source: Town of Peterborough, Assessing Database ~ 12/2018

TRANSPORTATION

GOALS

Reduce the need for new road construction, improve traffic flow and enhance roadway safety

Improve intersections with significant capacity and/or safety deficiencies

Increase pedestrian safety to provide for a more walkable community

Require traffic and roadway maintenance impact studies for all new developments

THEMES

- ❖ Roadway Surface Management System
- ❖ Traffic Volume and Causation
- ❖ Parking Solutions
- ❖ Encourage Bicycling and Walking
- ❖ Mitigation Techniques



Of the Peterborough residents who commute to work, roughly **58%** have less than a 20 minute drive.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Signage

A group of merchants initiated a signage project to increase through-traffic in the downtown area to support wayfinding.

Parking

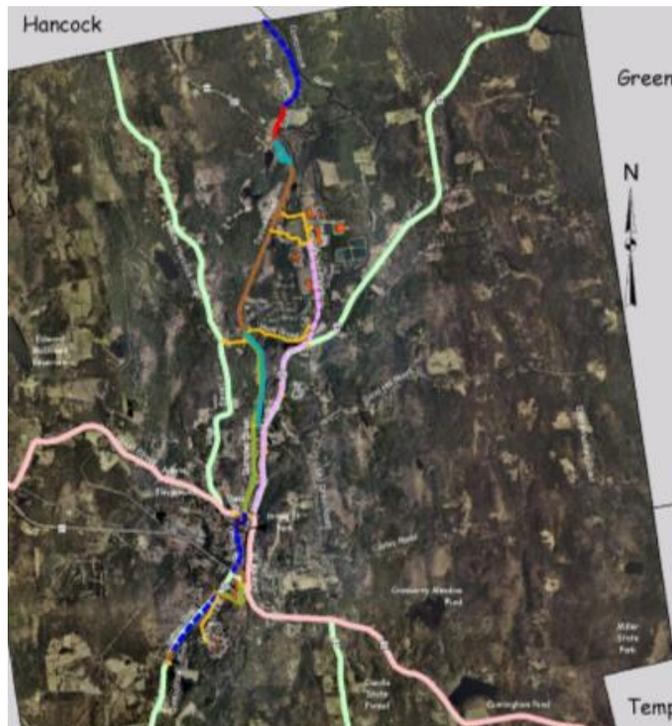
Work began in 2018 on a new, 50-space, downtown public parking lot, including a bus stop and a pedestrian bridge to Depot Square.

Roadway Surface Management System

Summer 2017: Peterborough road system was inventoried and analyzed to help determine the best road management program.

- ❖ The current operating budget of \$450,000 will be allocated for the preservation of good roads.
- ❖ 2018 Town Meeting Warrant Article: \$400,000 per year for next 10 years will be allocated toward roads that require more costly treatments (reconstruction or rehabilitation).

Peterborough Common Pathways



WATER RESOURCES

GOALS

Maintain the high quality municipal water supply currently enjoyed by the town

Ensure an adequate water supply for future generations

Ensure that the water quality issues remain at the forefront in town planning and decision making



PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Water Resources Advisory Committee

Met for 10 years and is now part of the Conservation Commission.

Stormwater Management

In 2008, the downtown storm water management was upgraded by the Dept of Public Works using grant funds and in-kind labor from WRAC.

Sequenced Batch Reactor at the Waste Water Treatment Facility

Treats the wastewater to a high standard and puts a cleaner effluent into the river. The treatment plant runs around half of the NHDES permitted flow, allowing for growth.

Water Sources

The joint purchase of three new wells is under negotiation with Jaffrey, NH.

Water Storage

Many sections of the water storage and distribution systems have undergone maintenance and repair.

THEMES

- ❖ Resource Inventory:
 - Surface Water
 - Groundwater
- ❖ Infrastructure
- ❖ Potential Threats
- ❖ Existing Programs & Policies

Peterborough Water Distribution System



LAND USE

GOALS

Ensure that natural resources such as wetlands, shorelands, floodplains, aquifers, and steep slopes are adequately protected

Protect open space while encouraging development in targeted village areas

Encourage smart growth through infill and mixed-use development

Encourage a new model of traditional neighborhoods

Encourage new small businesses in defined village districts and in the Downtown

Increase pedestrian safety and encourage bicycling and walking

THEMES

- ❖ Historic Development Patterns
- ❖ Analyzing Developable Land
- ❖ Integrating a Town Center
- ❖ Smart Growth and Walkability



Enhance and connect the villages in order to protect the natural environment

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Land Use Statistics

- ❖ Over 6,000 acres of land are restricted from development by local zoning
- ❖ About 1,000 acres are restricted from development by natural constraints on the landscape (wetlands, conservation shoreland, etc.)
- ❖ The largest zoning district is the Rural District, containing 88% of the total land area in town

Groundwater Protection Overlay Zone – Re-written and Adopted in 2011

- ❖ Clarified that the existing 50-foot wetland buffer is to remain naturally-vegetated
- ❖ Authorized a Conditional Use Permit process with the Planning Board through Site Plan Review

Traditional Neighborhood Overlay Zones – Adopted in 2014 and 2017

- ❖ An initial attempt to allow infill development which permits historically appropriate density using town water and sewer

Solar Ordinance – Adopted in 2018

- ❖ Established permitted uses, standards, and regulatory review requirements for solar energy systems

HISTORIC RESOURCES

GOALS

Identify significant historic resources in the Town of Peterborough

Educate the public about Peterborough's unique historic features in order to preserve the town's historic fabric

Foster the distinctive architectural heritage and physical landscape attributes of Peterborough

Protect historic resources from the impact of other land use decisions

THEMES

- ❖ Peterborough's Historic Fabric
- ❖ Record of Early Roads
- ❖ Architectural Styles
- ❖ Preservation Techniques
- ❖ Identify Community Character
- ❖ Funding Sources



A HISTORIC RESOURCE IS:

A district, site, building, structure, or object that is significant in the history, architecture, engineering, archaeology, or culture of the town.

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Heritage Commission

The Heritage Commission is involved in many activities that focus on the historic features of the community – including inventories of Grove Street and Evans Flat, historic viewsheds, and roads. It manages demolition review.

Peterborough Mobile App: “Explore Our Town”

The app, which is now displayed on the town's website, was developed by Tracy Messer of Time Travel Tours in celebration of Peterborough's 275th anniversary in 2014. The app maps out the history of Peterborough's buildings, businesses, and parks and gathering places.

GAR Hall

Completed in 2018, the GAR Hall was repurposed and rehabilitated without changing the historic aesthetic of the building or the surrounding streetscape. It now serves as a brewery.

Buildings Currently Registered on the National Historic Register

MacDowell Colony

Unitarian Church

Town House

All Saints' Church

Post Office

GAR Hall – Building Repurposing

REGIONAL CONCERNS

GOALS

Continue to play a strong role as a regional employer and a center of commerce, industry, and the arts

Remain a safe, healthy, and vibrant community

Protect the natural resources that make the Monadnock Region a destination for recreation

Create possibility to maintain a balanced supply of housing

Be aware of partnership opportunities between the town and major employers to make affordable housing available to workforce

Collaboration results in...

Regional awareness

Potential for more efficient delivery of services

Facilitation of joint responses to regional problems



PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Public Safety

Peterborough ambulance service covers several towns successfully. Expensive service and hiring difficulty requires expansion, including Jaffrey connection.

Public Works

Eight municipalities, along with the ConVal and Jaffrey-Rindge school districts, were the first in the State to buy as a collaboration from a third-party power supplier. Peterborough and Keene collaborate on the recycling of certain materials.

Water Resources

The joint purchase of three new wells is under negotiation with Jaffrey, NH.

Workforce Housing

NH regulations require realistic and reasonable town workforce housing. Jaffrey and Peterborough are spearheading work with surrounding towns, as well as NH Housing Finance Authority, to explore viable workforce housing alternatives.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

GOALS

Remain an educational, cultural, and economic hub

Continue to be known as an arts destination

Attract working artists to the community

Facilitate use of downtown space for arts and artists

Improve marketing expertise and utilize social media and a new website for event promotion

THEMES

- ❖ Peterborough's Artistic Heritage
- ❖ Directory of Cultural Resources
- ❖ Economic Impact
- ❖ Arts Infrastructure
- ❖ Marketing and Public Relations



Children & the Arts Lantern Festival – 2018

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Gathering Spaces

Improving the quality of the gathering spaces and halls in the town benefits the downtown area by boosting the number of events scheduled, thus attracting more people into the downtown area.

- ❖ Town House has the largest rentable hall in town, providing critical space for many community events with a capacity of 650 seats, including the balcony.
- ❖ Town Library will undergo renovations that will include a new space for small concerts and exhibits.
- ❖ A new performance arts venue, Thornton Wilder Center for the Arts at ConVal HS, is in development.

Exhibition Spaces

Arts community has begun collaborating to list all known gallery spaces and also match-up artists who need places to display their work with local businesses with the wall space.

Marketing & Public Relations

Arts community is collaborating on marketing practices to cross-promote the many artistic and cultural events.



Music in Depot Park & Monadnock Chorus at Town House - 2018

*The arts contribute more than
\$16 million annually to the
regional economy*

MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

GOALS

Provide well-maintained municipal facilities for the town's overall quality of life

Ensure that the facilities are cost-effective, efficient, and balanced

FACILITIES

Public Administration:

- ❖ Town House

Public Safety:

- ❖ Police
- ❖ Fire & Rescue

Public Works:

- ❖ Highway Garage
- ❖ Recycling Center
- ❖ Utilities & WWTP
- ❖ Buildings & Grounds
 - 5 Parks
 - 3 Cemeteries
 - Common Pathway

Public Library:

- ❖ Town Library
- ❖ Kyes-Sage Building

Recreation:

- ❖ Union Street Office & Facilities
- ❖ Community Center
- ❖ Cunningham Pond



Design for future Peterborough Library - 2018

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

Library

At Town Meeting 2018, the Town approved funds towards the designing, engineering, constructing renovations, interior fit out, and improvements to the Library.

Public Works Facility/Highway Garage

At Town Meeting 2018, the Town approved developing a conceptual design, preliminary cost estimate, and construction drawings for a new Department of Public Works Facility.

Recreation

Parking passes for Cunningham Pond opened to non-Peterborough residents in 2018. This winter, the Department brought back a public ice-skating rink. The community pool was recently refurbished, and a splash pad was added.

Town House

At Town Meeting 2017, the public approved Town House restorations and Upper Hall enhancements, which included renovating the Upper Hall floor and the roof.



*Peterborough Town House:
1918 - 2018*