

Section 2: INTRODUCTION

A. Statement of Purpose

The 2006 update of the Grafton Open Space and Recreation Plan is part of a Town-wide effort to manage growth and protect the natural and built resources that Grafton has to offer. The Town has worked aggressively in these arenas, but should benefit from an updated plan to refer to for direction and coordination.

The 1990's saw continued growth and land consumption. The 1999 Plan identified many tracts of land to be protected, most of which remain important today. The plan also identified goals and objectives relevant to open space and recreation in Grafton. In addition, the Plan developed a five-year action plan in accordance with its goals and objectives. While efforts have been made to achieve the goals of the 1999 Plan, much of the action plan has not been realized. The 2006 update is a current action plan that builds on the 1999 Plan, and is adjusted to reflect changes in and around Grafton that have occurred over the past seven years. The primary purpose of this plan is to realize the Town's vision where open space preservation is integral to the Town's character, where pastoral landscapes are valued and where natural and historical resources are protected and retained.

B. Planning Process and Public Participation

In an attempt to determine citizen preferences in regards to open space and recreation, the Open Space and Recreation Committee utilized two methods: a town-wide citizen survey and two public forums.

The survey was conducted in May 2006 with each household in Grafton receiving a survey containing eight questions dealing with open space and recreation. With 871 returned surveys, the response rate was 12.2%.

The first public forum was held the evening of May 3, 2006 at the Brigham Hill Community Barn. At this forum, citizens were briefed on the Town's open space and recreation resources, and the goals and objectives from the Town's previous Open Space & Recreation Plan were reviewed to see if they were still valid or warranted modification.

The second public forum was held the evening of January 30, 2007 at the Brigham Hill Community Barn. At this forum, citizens reviewed the draft 2006 Open Space and Recreation Plan.

In addition to the survey and forums, the Committee met monthly throughout the duration of this project starting in February 2006. All Committee meetings were open to the public.