

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Completed CTAP Community Planning Assessment Summary Report & Questionnaire



Prepared on Behalf of the Town of Goffstown

By:

The Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission



Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Community Planning Assessment Report

This report is a summary of the CTAP Community Planning Assessment which was completed using the gathered information from the Community Planning Assessment Questionnaire. This questionnaire is attached at the end of the Final Summary

History and Purpose:

The Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) is in the second year of a five-year process. The New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) initiated CTAP to provide support to communities projected to experience growth as a result of the Interstate 93 Expansion Project which stretches from Salem to Concord. The goal of the first phase of the program is to conduct Community Planning Assessments of those municipalities designated by the NH DOT as most likely to be affected by the expected increase in population. There are 26 CTAP-designated communities along the I93 corridor and a Community Planning Assessment has been conducted for each town. Eleven of these municipalities are located within the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission Region and include Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Chester, Deerfield, Derry, Goffstown, Hooksett, Londonderry, Manchester, and Raymond. The primary purpose of the Community Planning Assessment is to identify the policies and regulations these municipalities currently have in place to effectively prepare and manage growth.

Process:

The Community Planning Assessment consists of more than 100 questions. The survey is centered around the following four major planning themes:

- Theme A. – Community Infrastructure and Regional Cooperation
- Theme B. – Environmental Protection, Land Use, and Open Space
- Theme C. – Downtowns, Village Centers, and Community Vitality
- Theme D. - The Local Economy

The CTAP Steering Committee determined that the questions developed from these themes should address most of the growth concerns of municipalities affected by the Interstate 93 Expansion Project. The attached Community Planning Assessment for the Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire was completed through a review by Town officials, Planning Board members, and staff at the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission. The results are intended to provide community leaders and municipal officials with a basis to make decisions concerning the implementation of policies to address potential growth issues. These results are identified in this Executive Summary.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Findings:

The major planning needs and weaknesses identified by the Community Planning Assessment prepared for the Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire are listed as follows:

Key Recommendations:

- Dark skies ordinance and streetlights not required in all, if any, areas in the town of Goffstown
- The Town of Goffstown currently has a transfer station, curb side trash pick up, and recycling
- Goffstown has not considered housing needs and impacts for the future enough to meet predicted housing projections

CTAP COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT REPORT

Part I

Introduction

The Community Technical Assistance Project (CTAP) was implemented in an attempt to help member communities grapple with potential growth issues due to the expansion of Interstate 93. The first phase of the five-year process was to conduct Community Planning Assessments of those municipalities most likely to experience growth due to the expansion of I-93. The ultimate goal of the Community Planning Assessment process is to determine whether communities have policies and regulations in place to manage potential growth effectively.

The I-93 expansion is projected to last until 2012. In an effort to minimize the effects of potential growth, the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NH DOT) identified 26 municipalities stretched out along the I93 as areas most likely to be impacted.

Some of the potential growth impacts that the CTAP communities could experience include, increased population, traffic, and a greater demand for housing. Consequently, if

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

growth does occur in some or all of these areas, increased demand in municipal services across the board will be expected. CTAP communities will have to plan accordingly.

More than 100 questions were developed by professional planners and municipal officials involved in the CTAP process in an effort to determine if CTAP communities have policies and regulations in place to adequately address potential growth issues. These assessment questions were answered by reviewing existing town web sites, ordinances, regulations and city policies. The assessment questions were also answered with assistance from the municipal planners and other officials in each community.

Many of the assessment questions provide insight as to the status of the community's growth policies and the vision of the CTAP community towards its future development. The questions deal with many different planning issues including land use and mixed-use policies, zoning, minimum-lot requirements, historical preservation, open space, environmental protection, housing, water quality, economic development, and transportation. Furthermore, the assessment is designed to gauge the level at which public participation is present in each of the communities.

Prior to the publication of this report, municipal officials and Planning Board members of the Town of Goffstown were asked to review the preliminary findings of the community planning assessment and any possible growth issues that may have come to light as a result of the survey. This was accomplished at a regular scheduled meeting of the Goffstown Planning Board. The assessment questions provided discussion venues where municipal officials and planning board members could voice concerns and ask questions.

In developing this report, the SNHPC considered the insights, concerns, and recommendations offered, as well as other communications provided throughout the process and has included these where appropriate. As a result, this report should be viewed as a starting point or as a guide for future planning activities and goals. A copy of the Community Planning Assessment prepared for Goffstown is attached.

Part II

Theme A

Community Infrastructure and Regional Cooperation

The purpose of this theme is to determine how CTAP communities have planned for the future in terms of the provision and funding for municipal services. This may include new facilities and other infrastructure improvements to help meet these needs. In addition, Theme A considers how effective CTAP communities have been, and will be, regarding regional cooperation with other local municipalities in an effort to better serve constituents. Special attention is given to communication strategies and cooperation initiatives between communities within the region.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Theme A generated 42 questions dealing with the funding and delivery of municipal services, regional cooperation among local governments, housing, and transportation.

The Steering Committee identified a number of broad goals that CTAP-designated communities should strive to accomplish. These goals are outlined below:

Goals

- Promote the establishment of consistent funding approaches to help pay for improved and expanding public infrastructure and services. Local governments should make certain that their funding strategies are adequate to meet the new level of service provision to meet projected growth needs.
- Evaluate the need for regional cooperation between local governments. Regional approaches can often embellish the delivery of public services and environmental quality, avoid the possible duplication of services, and better allocate financial resources.
- Plan for an adequate supply of housing. The housing stock should reflect local needs and priorities and include housing for a range of income levels.
- Implement strategies to promote safe and efficient multi-modal transportation systems.

Findings:

- **The Town of Goffstown does not have a dark skies lighting ordinance in affect**
- **The Town of Goffstown has both curbside pick up and a transfer and recycling station for items too large for curbside pick up**
- **Goffstown uses the regional housing needs assessment to evaluate it's own individual housing needs within the community**
- **Accessory apartments are not allowed in the Town of Goffstown**
- **Although the Town of Goffstown does not have a specific age restricted housing ordinance they do permit age-restricted facilities for people 55 years of age and older**
- **Cul-de sacs and dead ends are discouraged in Goffstown, however, hammerhead style cul-de sacs are permitted**

Formatted: Font: Bold

Recommendations:

The Town of Goffstown currently has a secure amount of municipal services for it's residents. However it needs to make sure that current services, such as curbside pick up and the recycling and transfer station are equipped to handle new developments and an increase in residents. Goffstown has properly addressed current and future housing needs by comparing the regional housing assessment

Formatted: Font: Bold

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

with one specifically focused on the community's. This is an important step because observing neighboring towns and the steps they have taken to accommodate growth will aid in creating new strategies for taking on the increased amount of residents moving into the Goffstown Community. The town currently lacks a dark skies ordinance which maybe necessary to develop when new homes and businesses are built within the community and pose new illumination techniques. With new development, the Town needs to be able to accommodate all types of home owners. An ordinance should be developed to create and preserve age restricted housing. They permit age restricted housing so developing these housing complexes would be allowed and most likely welcome. In Goffstown, Cul-de sacs and dead ends are discouraged so that there is interconnectivity with streets through out town. However cul-de sacs could act as traffic calming techniques in certain areas and reduce traffic flow in larger developments and prevent cut through traffic.

Theme B

Environmental Protection, Land Use, and Open Space

The purpose of this theme is to determine how CTAP communities have planned for the protection of land in a way that is consistent and compatible with future growth trends. To achieve these goals communities must focus on future land use strategies and determine how these would help to promote the preservation of natural resources, open space, and environmental protection.

Theme B generated 38 questions dealing with natural resources, green infrastructure, parks and recreational opportunities, rural character, and the preservation of agricultural lands and forests.

The Steering Committee identified a number of broad goals that CTAP-designated communities should strive to accomplish. These goals are outlined below:

Goals

- Promote the preservation and protection of natural resources when addressing the economic needs of the community and region.
- Protect natural resources and the environment including ground water, aquifers, wildlife, and wildlife corridors.
- Establish and conserve an interconnected green infrastructure and ensure public access to open space, parks, and other recreational opportunities.
- Maintain rural character whenever possible especially forests and farms.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Findings:

- **The Town of Goffstown does not have a minimum density established to promote efficient land use and development**
- **The Town of Goffstown's zoning ordinance does not list or reference back lots**
- **The Town of Goffstown does not have a historic resources inventory completed for sites in the community**
- **There is also no Natural Resources Inventory conducted for the Town of Goffstown**
- **There is no written aquifer protection ordinance for the town of Goffstown**
- **There are no shore land or Riparian buffer regulations**
- **Development Regulations within Goffstown do not require developers to connect open spaces to existing greenways**
- **Conservation subdivisions are not referenced in any Town documents**

Formatted: Font: Bold

Recommendations:

Goffstown does not maintain a minimum density ordinance to promote efficient land use. This should be developed so that cluster developments can be created to preserve open space where appropriate. Maintaining a minimum density will also prevent single family housing from spreading out into open areas. There is currently no historic resources inventory for the Town of Goffstown. An inventory such as this will be useful to the town by identifying important structures and land that hold historical value, and can help put them under protection from development and from being destroyed. These historic sights are also important to the town because they add character to the town. Another inventory that Goffstown is lacking is a Natural Resources Inventory. This would show all the key locations around town that may require protection if they are not already placed under any. Natural resources must also be identified and located so that they can become a possible resource in the future. Aquifer protection ordinances and riparian buffers regulations should be developed for Goffstown so that surface water and other water supplies are kept clean and protected. Creating connectivity of open land between developments should also be a requirement for builders. These natural corridors help create wildlife habitats and improve quality of life for residents by creating opportunities for outdoor recreation and natural beauty. To help maintain

Formatted: Font: Bold

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

this open land conservation subdivisions standards should be created so that they are more likely to be created in town.

Theme C

Downtown/Village Centers and Community Vitality

The purpose of this theme is to determine how the CTAP communities have planned for the development and preservation of vibrant community centers which would include an extensive array of cultural and recreational resources. The overall intent is to enhance public participation by establishing areas for community activities around the downtown or common community village center which would add rural character and promote a sense of vitality to the village center.

Theme C generated 16 questions dealing with the development of village center districts and the promotion of walkable downtown areas in an effort to maintain the small town New England community tradition. Special emphasis was given to the development of main streets, historic preservation, and landscaping.

The Steering Committee identified a number of broad goals that CTAP-designated communities should strive to accomplish. These goals are outlined below:

Goals

- Develop or enhance downtowns and village centers through the reuse of existing infrastructure and the rehabilitation of buildings with historic value.
- Promote the development of walkable downtown areas which are consistent with historic patterns.
- Enhance Main streets and promote a small, New England town atmosphere.

Findings:

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

- **The Town of Goffstown does not have an infill development policy currently in place**
- **The town of Goffstown does not have designated scenic roads, however Route 13 through town is part of SNHPC's scenic byways proposal**
- **The Town's Zoning Ordinance does not reference a right-of-way ordinance to preserve existing trees**

Formatted: Font: Bold

Recommendations:

The town of Goffstown does not have an infill development policy. This could become beneficial because it would help accommodate growth without creating sprawl. This would work well with conservation developments. Designating scenic roads, if any, within the town would also help with preserving land. These roads could be added into a historic resources inventory if applicable. With the risk of new and larger developments being created due to the I93 expansion it would be wise to create a right-of-way ordinance to preserve larger trees. This not only leaves areas of natural shade and protection along roads and sidewalks but reduces the need for replanting and landscaping.

Formatted: Font: Bold

Theme D

Local Economy

The purpose of this theme is to determine if the CTAP community has enacted policies that promote economic viability, foster a prosperous business environment, and support agricultural development. The development of a strong local economy should result in increased local employment opportunities and livable wages.

Theme D generated 15 questions dealing with the development of economic development strategies, commercial and agricultural development, and tax incentives to attract new business development.

The Steering Committee identified a number of broad goals that CTAP-designated communities should strive to accomplish. These goals are outlined below:

Goals

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

- Support sustainable and balanced economic growth that reflects the current tax base.
- Strengthen local agriculture and forestry through the support of related infrastructure and economic systems.
- Support the development of new jobs and livable wages.

Findings:

- **There is no specific economic development plan written for the Goffstown Community**
- **The Town of Goffstown does not permit any residential development in any retail or commercially zoned areas**
- **No Goffstown documents make reference to mapping high intensity soils**
- **Agricultural lands are not inventoried in Goffstown as well**
- **Prime agricultural soils are also not required to be mapped in Goffstown and there are no areas in town that are designated for agricultural uses only, however, Zone A is designated as the Town's Agricultural district**
- **The town of Goffstown does not have an Agricultural Commission or a right-to-farm zoning ordinance**

Formatted: Font: Bold

Recommendations:

Goffstown has developed a successful and concentrated down town area. There is no residential development allowed within areas designated as commercial. While this helps to keep the commercial businesses in one area it restricts the benefits of mixed use zoning. Exceptions or regulations allowing for mixed use zoning could be addressed so that it can be permitted where appropriate.

Formatted: Font: Bold

Agricultural lands and high intensity soils are not inventoried in Goffstown. Both of these go hand in hand so it would be beneficial to have inventories done. Areas could then be designated as agricultural where the soils permit and make it most practical. Goffstown currently has an area Zoned as Zone A just for agricultural purposes, but certain lands not in Zone A could also become prime farm land. Creating an inventory would identify these areas. Developing an Agricultural commission could help develop these inventories and protect farm and other agricultural lands.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Summary

Overall Findings:

- | Over all the Town of Goffstown needs to secure some age restricted housing so that older residents can have a designated place to live, and that new developments are created with preserving open space in mind. Farm land should be tracked and protected as necessary.
- | Opportunities for mixed use housing would help maintain a well functioning down town that provides options to all residents. Goffstown must also be sure that the current transfer station can accommodate incoming growth, and if not, what changes would allow it to do so.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Community Planning Assessment Template

Theme A: Municipal Services/Facilities & Regional Cooperation *High quality municipal and educational services and facilities and effective regional cooperation and communication*

A-1 Funding and Delivering Municipal Services and Regional Cooperation

Goals

- Assist local governments in establishing stable, consistent funding approaches for public infrastructure and services.
- Ensure continuation of strong municipal services and schools so that they continue to provide quality services and meet projected growth.
- Develop and support new methods of regional cooperation that enhance local government delivery of public services while ensuring environmental quality.
- Allocate financial resources on a regional basis.

Specific Assessment Questions:

Is your community a member of an RPC?

Yes, the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission

Do you have appointed commissioners who regularly attend?

Barbara Griffin, Henry Boyle, Jo Ann Duffy, Anthony Marts

Is your community a participant in any mutual aid agreements for police, fire, water and sewer, solid waste, etc?

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Yes. While, the Communications Department provides 24 hour dispatch service to the Goffstown Police, Fire, EMS department, and St. Anselm College security it also assists on a contractual basis, the New Boston EMS, Fire, and Police department, as well as the Town of Weare's fire, police and EMS departments.

Does your community participate in any regional service agreements, including SAUs?
Yes, SAU 19 which includes the Town's of New Boston, Goffstown and Weare.

Does your community participate in other regional municipal cooperative efforts?
Yes, in sewer district with Manchester and others, Manchester provides water to the Grasmere Water District and within its franchise area, a portion of which covers Goffstown.

Do you have an existing procedure for incorporating regional impact into the plan review process?

Yes. Upon the Board's finding that, due to (a) the proposal's relative proximity to town borders, (b) transportation network's, (c) anticipated emissions such as light, noise, smoke, odors or particles, (d) proximity to aquifers or surface waters which transcend municipal boundaries, or (e) shared facilities such as schools and solid waste facilities, a regional impacts exists, the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission and the affected communities shall be notified. Notice, by certified mail 14 days prior to the hearing, shall include the Board's minutes, notice of date, time and place of the hearing and their right, as recipients of the notice, to testify concerning the proposal.

Does your community have an updated Capital Improvements Program in place and if so, when was the CIP last adopted?

Yes. The CIP was last updated in 2006, and the process has begun for 2007.

Does your community use Tax Increment Financing, community development funds, or Community Reinvestment and Opportunity Program (CROP) zones to provide infrastructure improvements in specific areas?

CDBG funds have been used in the past, but there are no current projects.

Does you community have impact fees and if so, for what type of facilities/services?

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Yes impact fees are currently assessed for schools, roads, and recreation facilities.

Does your community charge exactions (or off-site improvements) and if so, for what type of facilities/services?

Yes. The off site improvements are given to new subdivisions or instances of site-plan reviews.

Has your community planned for the provision of future utilities?

Yes, both sewer and water districts have expansion plans.

Does your community require underground installation of utilities?

Yes. Section 6-E of the Goffstown Development Regulations states that all utilities in new sub-divisions shall be underground and shall be located a minimum of seventeen (17) feet off the centerline of the roadway pavement. Utilities shall be located so as not to conflict with roadside drainage systems.

Does your community have an outdoor dark skies lighting ordinance? If so, what ordinance is it a part of?

Section 8 of the zoning ordinance limits outdoor lighting.

Are streetlights required or encouraged in any areas?

Streetlights are required to be installed where it is deemed appropriate by the Planning Board and it is subject to approval by the Board of Selectmen. However, new streetlights are currently not encouraged.

What long-range plans has your community made for meeting its future water supply needs?

The Town has planned to create a task force to assess the organization of the planning, funding, implementation of water and sewer services to ensure that the proper water and sewer services are in place to complement economic development and growth management standards.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

What are your current arrangements for septage disposal—does your town have a specified site and corresponding contract?

All septage is delivered directly to Manchester.

Has your community planned for its solid waste and recycling needs?

The town has a transfer station, which doubles as a recycling center, and is a drop off point for items that are too large for curbside collection. There is also a curbside pickup program for the town.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

A-2 Housing

Goal

- Ensure an adequate supply of affordable housing stock for a range of income levels that reflects regional and local needs and priorities.

Specific Assessment Questions:

How has your community planned for future housing needs?

According to the updated 2006 Goffstown Master Plan, the Town intends on creating new and strengthening existing residential neighborhoods and housing opportunities. The intention is to provide a diversity of affordable housing types throughout the community. New Residential development should be thought of in terms of forming cohesive neighborhoods, not as insular or standalone subdivisions or complexes. They intend to maintain and reinforce traditional compact settlement patterns to efficiently use land, preserve cultural and natural resources, and make the best use of investments and infrastructure. The implementation of “smart growth” principals by the Town has helped to ensure a healthy balance of facilities in the future.

Are the population and employment projections within your Master Plan consistent with regional and state projections?

The population projections from the town and state are slightly over 1,000 units away from each other. The Town population projection according to the 2006 Master Plan is 22,180 in the year 2025. The State projections for Goffstown’s population in 2025 are a bit lower at 21,030. No employment projections are available.

Does the community’s Master Plan reference and/or make use of the regional housing needs assessment in evaluating the housing needs within the community?

Yes. Table 4 of the 2006 Town Master Plan uses the housing needs assessment as their source for their table. They use the housing needs assessment as their basis for housing evaluations in Town. This assessment is widely used by many Towns including Goffstown to assess the current housing situations within their town.

Where within your community is new residential growth occurring?

Both within village centers and in suburban areas.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Do the community's land use regulations provide for a wide range of housing types (single-family, duplexes, manufactured homes, apartments, etc.)?

Yes. The regulations provide for single family housing, manufactured housing, multifamily, and apartment rentals.

Are accessory apartments permitted/allowed?

Yes, with conditions.

Does the community's land use regulations allow multi-family (> or = 2 units per dwelling) residences?

Yes.

Does your community have an age-restricted housing ordinance? If so, it is limited to 55+ or 62+?

No, Goffstown does not have a specific age-restricted housing ordinance however they do allow age-restricted facilities in accordance with state and federal law.

Do your community's regulations encourage energy conservation?

Yes, through open space subdivisions and opportunities for mixed use developments.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Do your community's regulations encourage housing that meets disabled and/or universal design standards?

Yes. Appendix G of the development regulations states that a first criterion for any design proposal is accessibility. ADA "standards for accessible design" are to be implemented for any design proposal.

Has your community taken any steps (such as tax relief programs) to help senior citizens remain within their own homes?

Yes. The Goffstown municipal website contains an elderly exemptions list which is based on the assessed value of the person's home. The exemptions are as follows:

If you are 65-75 years of age, the exempted amount is \$45,000

If you are 75-80 years of age, the exempted amount is \$60,000

If you are over 80 years of age, the exempted amount is \$80,000

Do your Master Plan or land use regulations define affordable and workforce housing? If yes, how are these terms defined?

Yes. Affordable housing is defined as housing for individuals of low and moderate income in which rent does not require more than 30% of income. A low income household earns less than 50% of the median family income and a moderate income household earns less than 80% of the median family income.

Does your community have an inclusionary housing ordinance or provide bonuses for affordable and workforce housing?

No

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

What steps has your community taken to provide and preserve affordable and workforce housing?

There is a Housing needs assessment that is put out by NHHFA and SNHPC. The report is updated every 5 years and is used by many communities to assess their current housing situation. With the information given by this assessment, Goffstown plans for the preservation of future affordable housing areas.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

A-3 Transportation

Goal

- Promote safe, efficient, accessible, and diverse multi-modal transportation solutions for services and goods.

Specific Assessment Questions:

Do the provisions of the master plan and zoning ordinance encourage a continuous street network? How is the connectivity of new streets ensured?

Yes. The Transportation section of the Master Plan states that to mitigate the congestion and improve the flow of traffic in Goffstown there needs to be a system of connectivity for local and through traffic in Goffstown Village and Pinardville and in newly developed neighborhoods or village centers. Connectivity is ensured via the subdivision regulation process.

Are cul-de sacs addressed (in the context of the street network of the town) in your regulations? If so, what aspects are regulated?

Cul-de sacs and dead ends are generally discouraged in Goffstown, however waivers can allow a hammerhead style cul-de sac to be constructed

Does the Planning Board permit design waivers for reduced pavement width and the installation of cape cod curbs?

Yes, in certain circumstances relating to traffic volumes and on-street parking needs.

Are dead-end streets permitted and if so, what is the maximum street length allowed?

According to section 4: Roadway Standards; in the Development Regulations, the graph lists the maximum length for Cul-de sacs both arterial and local at 1000 ft. There is no stated maximum or minimum length for Dead Ends in the list however dead ends are listed separate from Cul-de-sacs.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Does the community's road standards reflect the character and topography of the existing area in terms of slope and sight distance?

Yes. Section 2 – General Road Standards in the Development Regulations states that the Planning Board may require that a proposed subdivision plan preserve such natural features as trees, streams, water courses, and scenic views. The street and lot layout shall be adapted to the topography. Extensive excavation, grading and filling shall be avoided whenever possible.

Do road standards vary depending on anticipated traffic volumes?

Yes they do change in relation to volume. See Table in section 4: Roadway Standards in the Development Regulations.

What is the community's policy for issuing building permits on Class VI roads?

Section 2 of the Development Regulations states that no subdivision approval shall be granted for which proposed roads enter or exit upon a Class VI road or less.

Has the community considered bicycle or pedestrian transportation on a town-wide scale in the Master Plan or other planning documents?

Yes. Appendix F section 3 of the Town Master Plan lists the town's alternative transportation modes. Sidewalks, bicycle and walking paths, public transit and taxi/air service are referenced.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Do the land use regulations require sidewalks or bicycle paths or other pedestrian paths *within* new residential or commercial development?

Section 5 of the open space development chapter of the Goffstown Land Development regulations states that natural paths or bike paths are encouraged within the development. Paths provided within the development shall be constructed of gravel, woodchip, or other material as approved by the Planning Board.

Are trails or other pedestrian connections required or considered *between* developments in the plan review process?

Section 5 of the open space development chapter of the Goffstown Land Development regulations states that there shall be adequate on-site pedestrian circulation. Access, identified by a sign, shall be provided to all open space and related facilities from the residential areas. Natural paths or bike paths are encouraged within the development. Paths provided within the development shall be constructed of gravel, woodchip, or other material as approved by the Planning Board.

Do parking requirements in the community vary by use classification or zoning district? If so, what are they?

Yes. Section 7 of the Zoning Ordinance contains a table of uses and parking requirements. The table shows the different parking requirements for the many different uses in Goffstown that require parking.

Does the community permit/ encourage or require sub-compact parking spaces?

The Town Documents do not reference Sub-Compact Parking.

Does the community's parking regulations include maximum as well as minimum parking requirements, i.e., setting a limit on the amount of parking allowed?

No, however the minimum requirements are listed in the table of uses and requirements for parking in section 7 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Do the community's regulations and transportation planning practices encourage the implementation of traffic calming techniques?

Yes. Traffic Calming techniques to ensure traffic speeds are in-line with residential character of streets are referenced in the Transportation section of the Town Master Plan. One round-about has been installed, at Henry Bridge Road in Grasmere.

Do the community's land use regulations require the submission of traffic impact studies or analyses for new and enlarged developments? If so, when is a study required?

According to Section 2: Application and Approval Process, of the Development Regulations states that the Planning Board shall request and Town staff will have the opportunity to review and make recommendations, through the Planning and Economic coordinator, or otherwise, relative to all subdivision and development proposals. The Board may charge the application for professional review of their application by the Town staff. Evaluate access and egress of parcels for impacts to on-site traffic circulation, off-site traffic flow, turning movements, and sight distance. These evaluations should include a traffic impact analysis. Upon change of land-use, the Planning Board should encourage the development of shared parking and interconnect adjacent parcels of non-residential use, so as to manage the number of curb cuts and traffic on major streets.

Does your community encourage alternative transportation? If so, is this accomplished through the land use regulations or other means?

Yes. The use of alternative transportation such as Bicycles, buses, Taxi's and walking paths are encouraged in Goffstown. The encouragement of alternative transportation is generally just preferred throughout the town; however, Open Space developments may require walking paths and sidewalks for new construction.

If transit or other transportation alternatives exist, does your community encourage or allow transit-oriented development?

There are transportation alternatives existing in Goffstown as provided by the Manchester Transit Authority.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Does the community have access management standards? Are they restricted to a specified area in the community or to specified uses?

The town documents do not specifically reference access management standards however section 4, D of the Appendix F in the Town Master Plan states that the corridor management plan recommends creating opportunities for small-scale mixed use nodal development (Neighborhood Commercial Centers) at intersections that are currently signalized due to safety and congestion problems. These traffic signals, as well as enhanced Access Management, can improve traffic flow while also accommodating mixed-use commercial/residential uses.

Does the community have a memorandum of understanding with the DOT regarding driveway access on state highways?

Yes. Section 321 of the Goffstown Development Regulations states that applicants for non-residential and multi-family sites accessed from public streets under the jurisdiction of the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) shall be required to obtain a valid NHDOT Driveway Permit prior to final approval for such development.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Theme B: Environmental Protection, Land Use, and Open Space *Strengthened protection and expanded access to natural resources and open space*

Environmental Protection, Land Use, and Open Space Protection

Goals

- Protect natural resources in harmony with meeting economic needs of the community and the region.
- Protect natural resources and environmental health, including ground water and aquifers, wildlife, and wildlife corridors.
- Establish and conserve an interconnected green infrastructure.
- Ensure convenient and nearby public access to open space, parks, and recreational opportunities.
- Maintain unique and diverse rural character of the community and region by protecting and preserving farm and forestlands.

Specific Assessment Questions: *Land Use*

Does your Master Plan have a vision chapter and a land use chapter?

Yes, Section 1A of the Town Master Plan is the Town's Community Vision.

Has your community updated your Master Plan within the last five years? If not, how old is your plan?

Yes, the Master Plan was revised in 2006.

In what ways is your zoning ordinance consistent/or not consistent with the recommendations and projected land uses in the Master Plan?

Ordinance is inconsistent with property owned by Hillsborough County as the Planning Board is waiting for the County to complete its plan so that rezoning action might be consistent and comprehensive with this plan.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Does your community's zoning ordinance allow innovative land use techniques as listed in RSA 674:21? If so, which ones?

There is an Open Space Conservation Plan that is in place to establish guidelines that will encourage the town to use all available techniques to permanently protect targeted land in Goffstown, preserving them preserving them for future generations in an undeveloped state. This is included in the Town Master Plan. The Planning Board also utilizes phased development, accessory dwelling unit standards, and impact fees.

Do the community's land use plans and regulations establish minimum densities to promote efficient use of land?

There is no specific mention of a minimum density requirement however The Open Space overlay district allows a very low density, and large lots for residential uses in order to preserve environmentally sensitive areas. Section I-B of the Master Plan also states that the traditional compact settlement patterns are to be used in order to efficiently use land, preserve cultural and natural resources, and make the most of effective use of investments in infrastructure.

Does the community have different land use plans for villages, town center districts, other neighborhoods, and open, less dense rural areas?

Yes. According to the Master Plan, For the Village Residential areas, a village design context is instituted utilizing small lots, public sewer and water, single family and attached single family integrated into the neighborhood. The village commercial mixed use areas use a village context also with small lots, public water and sewer, village scaled service, retail, office and lodging uses, mixed with village scaled single family, single family attached and apartment uses. Create/design village center feel. Village Residential mixed use institutes village design contexts, utilizing small lots, public water and sewer, village scaled single family, single family attached and apartment uses, mixed with village scaled service and retail uses.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Do your community's regulations provide for a range of lot sizes? If so, what are they?
Yes. For the Conservation and Open Space district there is a minimum lot size of 5.0 acres, in the Agricultural district there is a minimum lot size of 2.0 acres, the medium density residential district has a minimum lot size of 1.0 acres, the High Density residential has a minimum lot size from 40,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet, The residential small business office district has a minimum lot size of 0.5 acres. The village commercial district has a minimum density of 5,000 square feet, the commercial district has a minimum density of 5,000 as well. The Commercial industrial flex zone has a minimum lot size of 1.0 acres and the industrial district has a minimum lot size of 2.0 acres.

Does your Master Plan and land use regulations encourage higher density development where water, sewer, and other infrastructure currently exist?
Yes.

Does the community's Master Plan encourage, and the zoning ordinance provide, for at least one or more zoning districts that allow a mix of residential and commercial uses?
Yes. The residential small business districts and the Village Commercial District allow this mix.

Do the community's land use plans encourage traditional neighborhood development or the development of new villages?
Yes, the traditional neighborhood development is fostered in order to preserve Goffstown's traditional character.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Does your community's zoning ordinance allow backlots?

There is nothing in the zoning ordinance which references backlots. Back lots have been developed via frontage variances or by plan approval of open space subdivision.

Does your community's zoning and/or development patterns locate nonresidential uses along major roadways or are those uses concentrated at intersections of major roads in a "village" or node?

For the most part, non-residential uses are instituted along major roadways in Goffstown. NH 114 and NH 114a have mostly non-residential uses.

Does your community have an historic resources inventory? Historic district(s)?
Demolition delay bylaw?

The town does not specifically mention an inventory, however a total of 60 historic buildings and structures exist in Goffstown as well as three historic districts. The three districts are, Carr Court Historic District, Grasmere historic District, and the Parker Station Historic District. Section 12.4.4 of the Zoning Ordinance states that within the HI District, no construction, demolition, or other activity shall be permitted or otherwise be allowed to occur which will affect the appearance of a building, structure, or improvement, unless a certificate of appropriateness shall have been issues therefore by the Historic District Commission in accordance with the procedures specified in section 15.15, Decision by the Historic District Commission. In addition to zoning districts, Goffstown's village center is a state designated historic register.

Are there any brownfields located in the community and does the community have any local plans to redevelop them?

Yes, Goffstown has 65 petroleum waste brownfields sites in Town and 3 other hazardous waste sites. The Advisory Committee for this will be involved in promoting and planning the re-use of the sites. The Advisory Committee will also work with SNHPC, local landowners, and other interested parties to pursue site clean-up, remediation, redevelopment, or re-use of the selected sites as valued commercial, industrial, municipal use, housing, recreational, or green space.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Does the community provide a property tax exemption for alternative energy installations per RSA 72:61-74?

No

Specific Assessment Questions: *Natural Resources*

What strategies and actions is the community taking to protect natural areas?

Goffstown has created an Open Space Conservation Plan to maintain the rural character of Goffstown through preservation of natural resources and open space as well as provide adequate setbacks and buffers to minimize any adverse affect of the use of a property on neighboring properties and promote a natural system of storm water management to minimize erosion and to encourage aquifer recharge. The Piscataquog River Watershed Association, the Society for the protection of NH forests, and the Nature Conservancy are some of the organizations involved in protecting natural areas. The Master Plan also has a section titled Recommended Land Use and Growth principals and actions which encourages the conservation of land in larger tracts, for continued use of farmland, un-fragmented wildlife habitat, and forest land. The Town should also promote land conservation through the use of tax incentives and/or zoning regulations. Additionally, Goffstown has enacted a wetlands overlay district to protect the town's ground and surface waters from contamination.

Does the community have a Natural Resources Inventory? If yes, when was the last inventory conducted?

Master Plan Appendix I, Open Space Plan, covers Prime Wetlands, aquifer considerations, wildlife habitat, agriculture, historical and cultural features, recreational and aesthetic features, and adjacent conservation lands.

Are there any local boards or commissions active in environmental protection?

Yes, the Goffstown Conservation Commission, Piscataquog River Local Advisory committee, and the parks and recreation commission. The Piscataquog River Watershed Association, the Society for the Protection of NH forests, and the Nature Conservancy are some of the organizations involved in protecting natural areas

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Does your community participate in the National Flood Insurance Program?

Yes, Goffstown does participate in the National Flood insurance program.

Does the community's land use regulations prohibit development within the floodplain and if so, how?

No, according to section 12.2 of the Zoning ordinance, Development restrictions in the One Hundred (100) year Floodplain may be constructed or substantially improved within the one hundred year floodplain as long as the lowest floor (including basement) is elevated to or above the 100 year flood-plain elevation. Non-residential buildings or structures shall comply with either the elevation standards for residential buildings in accordance with this section, or be flood-proofed so that below the 100 year flood plain, the structure is water tight, with walls substantially impermeable to the passage of water, and has structural components capable of resisting hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loads and the effects of buoyancy. It shall be certified by a registered professional engineer or architect that the design and methods of construction are in accordance with accepted standards of practice for meeting the provisions of this section. All manufactured homes are to be placed of substantially improved within the one hundred year floodplain shall be elevated on a permanent foundation such that the lowest floor is at or above the base flood level, and be securely anchored to resist flotation, collapse, or lateral movement.

Do the community's land use regulations require best management practices in its drainage, sedimentation and erosion control measures and if so, what examples are included?

Yes, each site plan presented to the Planning Board for approval shall include erosion and sedimentation control plan which identifies a series of effective temporary and permanent best management practices for prevention and/or minimization of soil erosion during and after site construction. In general, all erosion and sedimentation control plans shall be developed in accordance with the recommendations contained in a publication titled Storm-water management and erosion and sedimentation control handbook for urban and developing areas in New Hampshire

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Do the regulations require the submittal of drainage calculations and stormwater management plans?

Yes, section 218.1.14 of the Development regulations states that drainage calculations shall be prepared and sealed by a licensed professional engineer; the design of proposed drainage improvements shall be shown on a plan.

Does the community have regulations for erosion and sediment control during construction as well as post-construction?

Yes, section 235 of the Development Regulations states that Subdivision plans shall include plans for controlling erosion and sedimentation. Acceptable methods for erosion and sediment control measure include, but are not limited to, those outlined in "erosion and Sediment Control Design Handbook for Development areas of New Hampshire" These regulations control the erosion and sedimentation for pre-development and post development.

What storm interval(s) are required for drainage analysis calculations?

Appendix C of the Development Regulations states that storm drainage systems shall be designed using the 25 year storm return frequency, with impacts checked for the 50-year storm. Box culverts and bridges are designed for 50 or 100 year storms.

Has the community adopted a stormwater management ordinance?

The Master Plan does not Reference a Storm-water Management ordinance, however the Development regulations goes into detail regarding management regulations for storm-water. Calculations are confirmed for all Plan and subdivision proposals by the town Engineer.

Does the community have regulations for gravel excavating operations?

Yes. Section II – EXCAVATION REGULATIONS of the Zoning Ordinance.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Has the community adopted a Wetlands Conservation District?

Yes, Section 2 of the Zoning Ordinance states that there is a Wetlands conservation overlay district existing in the town.

Does the community have wetland buffer or setback requirements and if so, what are they?

Yes. 50 feet from any wetland of at least 5000 sq ft. in size and 100 feet from any wetland of at least 20,000 sq ft in size.

Have prime wetlands been inventoried and mapped within the community? Are there regulations in place protecting prime wetlands?

Yes. There has been a wetlands overlay district implemented to preserve the quality of this natural resource.

Does the community have an Aquifer Protection Ordinance?

Not specifically, however Section 12. 3.1.5 of the Zoning ordinance has provisions set forth in the wetlands conservation district to aid in the preservation of town and local aquifers and their recharge areas.

What mapping source is the basis of the district?

N/A

Has the community developed a Wellhead Protection Program and local regulations?

Yes, Goffstown does have an existing wellhead protection program

Does the community have land use regulations in place to protect surface water resources?

Yes, section 354, prohibited projects, in the Development ordinance states that when excavation is planned beneath or adjacent to inland surface waters, in such a manner that a permit is required from the NH Department of Environmental Services or Federal agencies with jurisdiction over the premises. However, the board may approve of such excavation if and when all necessary permits have been obtained.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Does the community have Shoreland or Riparian Buffer regulation in place?
Nothing is referenced in the Development Regulations or Zoning Ordinance concerning Riparian buffer regulations. However, the provisions set forth in the Wetlands Conservation District do aid in the protection of these water resources. Riparian zones are protected either as wetlands or through enforcement of New Hampshire's Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act.

Does the community's land use regulations utilize LID¹ performance standards and/or encourage use of environmentally-friendly techniques and materials, such as porous pavement?
No, but the town's Development Regulations are currently being considered for revisions to the Development Regulations include LID standards.

Has the community adopted the recommendations found in the Land Conservation Plan for New Hampshire's Coastal Watersheds, the Wildlife Action Plan, or the Natural Services Network? If not, would the community like more information about these plans?
No

Has the community adopted regulations to protect wildlife or wildlife habitat?
Goffstown has created an Open Space Conservation Plan to maintain the rural character of Goffstown through preservation of natural resources and open space as well as provide adequate setbacks and buffers to minimize any adverse affect of the use of a property on neighboring properties and promote a natural system of storm water management to minimize erosion and to encourage aquifer recharge. The Piscataquog River Watershed Association, the Society for the Protection of NH forests, and the Nature Conservancy are some of the organizations involved in protecting natural areas. The Master Plan also has a section titled Recommended Land Use and Growth principals and actions which encourages the conservation of land in larger tracts, for continued use of farmland, un-fragmented wildlife habitat, and forest land. The Town should also promote land conservation through the use of tax incentives and/or zoning regulations. Additionally, Goffstown has enacted a wetlands overlay district to protect the town's ground and surface waters from contamination which inevitably affects the wildlife and habitats.

¹ LID is "low-impact development", a series or network of stormwater techniques and performance standards that utilize the natural environment to reduce the impacts of development.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

What actions, if any, has the community taken in cooperation with neighboring communities to protect wildlife or wildlife habitat at the regional scale?

The Conservation Commission works with neighboring towns and the PWA _____

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Specific Assessment Questions: Open Space Preservation

Does the community have an Open Space Plan? When was the plan last updated?

Yes. It was adopted as an appendix to the Master Plan Dec 14, 2006.

Does the community's Master Plan consider the protection and preservation of wildlife habitats?

Yes.

Do the community's zoning districts require a minimum amount of open space in each development?

Yes, if the development is in the open Space conservation district there is a set amount of Open Space required by the regulations.

Do the community's land use regulations require developers to connect open spaces to existing greenways and other open space destinations within the community?

The Development Regulations do not specifically reference open space connectivity, however section 12.5 states that the encouragement of land use in accordance with its character and adaptability, including view sheds, assuring the permanent preservation of open space, agricultural lands, and other natural resources; allowing innovation and greater flexibility in the design of residential developments while facilitating the coordination of design and use between adjacent properties.

Do the community's land use regulations allow/require/or promote conservation subdivisions? Are conservation subdivisions mandatory in any zoning district within the community? If so, what is the acreage requirement? Is a density bonus offered?

Conservation Subdivisions are accomplished as open space subdivisions, conserving open space from development.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Does the community's land use regulations require new development to consider existing natural landscape features in the design of the site?

Yes.

What funding mechanisms has the community approved to acquire open space? (For example, bonds, the dedication of current use penalty taxes, capital reserve fund or conservation fund for land protection and acquisition, other mechanisms)?

According to the Town Master Plan, one of the town's recommended land use growth principles states that the town should promote land conservation through the use of tax incentives. The town currently utilizes the dedication of current use penalty taxes, capital reserve funds, and donations.

If your community dedicates current use penalties for land protection and acquisition, what is the percentage?

Yes at 100 percent.

Does your community have an open space committee and/or an active local land trust?

Yes, the Conservation Commission has an Open Space committee. There is not currently an active local land trust.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Theme C: Downtown/Village Centers and Community Vitality *Vital, diverse, safe, and participatory communities with rural character, vibrant community centers, and a wide range of cultural and recreational resources*

C-1 Downtowns and Village Centers

Goals

- Target and support new development and redevelopment of existing downtowns and village centers, reusing built infrastructure, and rehabilitating buildings of historic value.
- Promote walkable downtowns and villages consistent with historic patterns within the community and region.
- Maintain small community New England “feel” with vibrant community centers and main streets, and historic preservation of buildings and landscape.

Specific Assessment Questions:

Does your community have an established traditional compact center or village area? If so, how many are there and what are they commonly named?

Yes. There are three Village centers existing in Goffstown, Pinardville, Grasmere village and Goffstown Village.

Does your community’s zoning support these areas?

Yes.

Does your community have in place a Village Master Plan or Village Plan Alternative Ordinance?

Yes, the Master Plan includes a Goffstown Village Plan which is used to help propagate interconnectivity and continuity of vehicular facilities, pedestrian facilities, pedestrian friendly design, and traffic calming techniques, shared parking, and architectural compatibility.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Does your community have a policy to locate new public buildings near the community center?

Yes as well as most of the future developments in Town according to the Town Master Plan.

Are there public places that encourage community gathering such as parks, central plains/greens, or community centers?

Yes, the Goffstown Town Commons located at the intersection of Main Street and Elm offers the community a place for community gatherings. Barnard Park is located on mast road and offers a playground, soccer fields, tennis courts as well as a community pool.

Does your community have an infill development policy² or ordinance in place?

No.

Are residential uses and mixed uses encouraged or allowed within the central village or traditional downtowns area?

Yes, Commercial and residential uses are allowed in the village and downtown areas.

² Infill development is defined by EPA as “a strategy for accommodating growth and preventing sprawl through greater density and efficiency in land use development.” Examples include rear lot development, redevelopment in existing developed areas, etc.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Does your community have a sign ordinance? What are its dimensional/ and other key provisions?

Yes, Section 6 of the zoning ordinance, SIGN REGULATIONS. A permit must be issued for anything concerning a proposed sign for any use in Town. The surface area of a sign shall be determined by the maximum height of the sign multiplied by the maximum width. The surface area of a sign shall include all lettering or elements of a sign, accompanying design and symbols, together with the background, whether open or closed, on which they are displayed, but not including any supporting framework and bracing which are incidental to the display itself and which are not designated to attract attention. For a Commercial building the maximum sign area is 65 square feet with a maximum height of 10 feet. Industrial buildings shall have a maximum area of 100 square feet with a maximum height of 15 feet. For residential areas the maximum sign area is 8 square feet with a height of 10 feet. Village Commercial zones shall be allowed a maximum sign area of 24 square feet with a maximum height of 5 feet.

Has your community designated scenic roads? If so, how many and what are they named?

Yes, Ferson, Merrill, and Shirley Hill Roads per RSA 231: 157-158.

Does your community have design guidelines for new commercial and residential development? If so, are these guidelines advisory or mandatory?

Yes, in historic districts they are mandatory with appeal, but in the development regulations for subdivisions and site plans, may be waived by the Planning Board.

Is the maximum size and scale of new development as permitted in the community's zoning ordinance an appropriate scale for the community?

Yes.

Does your community's ordinance require the installation of street trees and landscaping for new and enlarged developments, both along existing roads and on roads to be constructed?

Yes, there shall be a landscape plan for each new development. Where new construction is implemented, there shall be landscaping that will conform to the areas natural setting in order to reduce the visual impacts and preserve the aesthetic appeal of the area.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Does your community's ordinance encourage the preservation of existing trees within the right-of-way of existing and proposed roadways?

Specific reference is included under Open Space Subdivision Regulations..

Does your community's ordinances preserve and enhance stone walls, both along the rights-of-way of roadways and across the landscape? If so, what ordinances are used to accomplish this? ***Stonewall boundaries are protected by RSA 272:6***

C-2 Vibrant Communities

Goals

- Support and encourage safe and diverse communities with a wide range of cultural and recreational resources.
- Foster an atmosphere wherein community members are actively involved and participate in civic life in their communities.

Specific Assessment Questions:

Are the citizens within your community active in community planning and growth initiatives?

Planning is done with Steering Committee workshops and public hearings. Meetings are televised, and plans, ordinances, and application forms are on the town website.

To what extent are community residents and business owners aware of your community's Master Plan?

The Master Plan is available on the Municipal Website which gives residents unconditional access to the Plan.

How does your community encourage public involvement and recruit new board members?

Public notice advertising on the town's website and in the local news media, as well as personal contact of current board members.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Theme D: Local Economy

Strengthened economic, business, and agricultural development that provides local employment and livable wages

D-1 Economic Vitality and Business Development

Goals

- Support sustainable and balanced economic growth and tax base.
- Support broad-based business development that provides local employment and livable wages.

Specific Assessment Questions:

Does your community have an economic development plan?

Yes. Appendix B in the Town Master Plan.

Does your community participate in the Main Street program?

Yes, Goffstown is a Main Street Community.

Where does your Master Plan anticipate or specify new nonresidential development to take place?

Goffstown Village and Pinardville and at specific locations along Route 114.

Where is most of your community's new commercial or industrial growth occurring?

Goffstown Village and Pinardville.

Is residential development permitted in retail or commercial areas?

Yes, in some districts, e.g. Village Commercial by right and in the Commercial, CIFZ, RSBO-1 and RSBO-2 by conditional use permit, as mixed use projects.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Does the community provide tax incentives for businesses to locate in the community center or other priority areas, e.g. RSA 79E tax relief for downtown improvements?

No

Does the community provide regulatory relief for businesses that locate in the community center?

No.

Has the community identified anchors (such as a post office or municipal building) which could be used to spur economic activity within the community center?

The Goffstown Town hall building contains the Town departments which could be seen as an identified anchor and is located in Goffstown Village

D-2 Agriculture and Rural Working Landscapes

Goals

- Strengthen local agriculture and forestry by supporting related infrastructure and economic systems.

Specific Assessment Questions:

What strategies for protecting farmland are in your Master Plan?

The Town Master Plan lists as one of its Land Use and Growth Principles, that the preservation of working landscapes by sustaining farm and forest land and other resource lands to maintain contiguous tracts of open land to minimize land use conflicts shall be instituted. This goes hand in hand with the open space conservation efforts in Town which will inevitably foster sustainability for farmlands and open spaces existing in Goffstown.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

How does the community's Master Plan and zoning ordinance define agriculture?

Agriculture is defined in the Zoning Ordinance as hay production, including grazing, truck gardening and silage production.

Does the zoning ordinance protect lands appropriate for agriculture and forestry with a substantial minimum lot size that discourages single-family tract housing and preserves large sites for forestry or agricultural uses?

The "Conservation" district requires 5 acre lots and protects primary wetlands, mountains, and forestry sites.

Does the community map the location of farms and prime agricultural soils?

The Conservation Commission does.

Do the ordinances require HISS³ mapping or county soils where on-site septic systems are required?

No. NH DES permitting is depended upon for septic systems.

Does your community have an Agricultural Inventory?

The Open Space portion of the Master Plan refers to agricultural land, but they are not specifically inventoried.

³ HISS stands for high intensity soils mapping, a site-specific requirements for soils analysis.

Town of Goffstown, New Hampshire

Do your community's ordinances require the mapping of prime soils for agricultural in development proposals?

There is nothing in the zoning ordinance or development regulations which required prime soils mapping for agriculture in development proposals however there is a provision which requires soil information to be obtained from a National Cooperative Soil survey series map.

Does your community have any districts that are restricted for agricultural uses only?

No, However Goffstown has Zone A designated as the Agricultural District which does allow mixed use residential development at low densities.

Does your community have an agriculture commission?

No, Goffstown does not have an Agricultural Commission.

Does your community reference the right-to-farm law in its zoning ordinance?

No, the Zoning Ordinance does not reference this law.

Other possible questions to ask the audience during the presentation of results:

How much do you know about CTAP? Would you like to know more?

What planning tools would be helpful to your community?

What did you think of this survey, and how do you think the town could use this information?