

PLYMOUTH COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES

October 4, 2005

1. Summary

A primary reason that communities plan for their future is to: take stock of existing services and facilities; identify services currently available to town residents; evaluate the effectiveness of the town and other providers in delivering those services; anticipate future demands; and assess whether those demands can be met efficiently. According to the results of the Summer 2004 Community Attitude Survey, Plymouth residents enjoy a range of services and facilities, including an efficient municipal government, excellent emergency services, access to a variety of social, cultural, recreational and health-care services, and state of the art telecommunications infrastructure. Despite the wide range of excellent services available, the town faces several challenges regarding specific facilities and services.

This profile is divided into twelve sections. The first section provides an overview. The following 10 sections describe a municipal facility or service, the current and projected need with recommendations to address these needs. The sections are

Municipal Administration	Health and Human Services
Town Properties	Cost of Services
Pease Public Library	Water and Sewer District
Emergency Services	Communications
Solid Waste/Recycling	Energy

The last section presents goals and policies relating to Plymouth's facilities and services. Arts and recreation including public land used for recreational purposes, historical resources, educational facilities, and transportation, are addressed elsewhere in this plan.

2. Municipal Administration

Plymouth operates under the Town Meeting form of government and is led by an elected three-member Board of Selectmen, which will become a five-member board in March 2006. The annual Town Meeting is held in March, at which time town citizens elect officers, vote on an annual budget and take other action that comes before them. The Selectmen prepares the budget with assistance from the four-member Advisory Budget Committee.

The Selectmen's Office functions as the administrative arm of the Board of Selectmen. It is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the Town government and coordinates the work of Town departments. Working in the office is the Town Administrator, Community Planner, Code Enforcement Officer, Financial Assistant, Selectmen's Secretary and Land Records Clerk and several other part-time personnel.

The Community Planner is responsible for planning functions involving review of development proposals such as land use permits, site plans and subdivisions. The Planner interacts with the public with regard to any building, planning or zoning inquiries and provides limited enforcement of the regulations and ordinances. In addition, the Planner renders technical assistance to the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Board of Selectmen. The Code Enforcement Officer is primarily responsible for enforcing the Town's ordinances and regulations.

The Office of the Tax Collector is responsible for collecting all taxes for the Town. Property taxes are the largest source of revenue, although the tax collector is also responsible for collecting yield taxes on timber cuts and land use change taxes. Property taxes are billed semi-annually with taxes due in July and December.

The Town Clerk's Office issues registration permits for all motor vehicles, trailers, tractors, and heavy equipment owned by the Plymouth residents. The Town Clerk is also authorized to renew state vehicle registrations for citizens of other towns. The Town Clerk maintains vital statistics, such as births, marriages, deaths and burial permits, dog licenses. The Clerk records and files certain legal documents such as copies of wetland permits, chattel mortgages, liens on property (excluding real estate), writs and federal tax liens. Overseeing elections in collaboration with the Town Moderator is also the responsibility of the Town Clerk's Office.

The Welfare Officer supervises Town assistance to the needy as provided by state law. Issues of health and safety are referred to the Town's Health Officer.

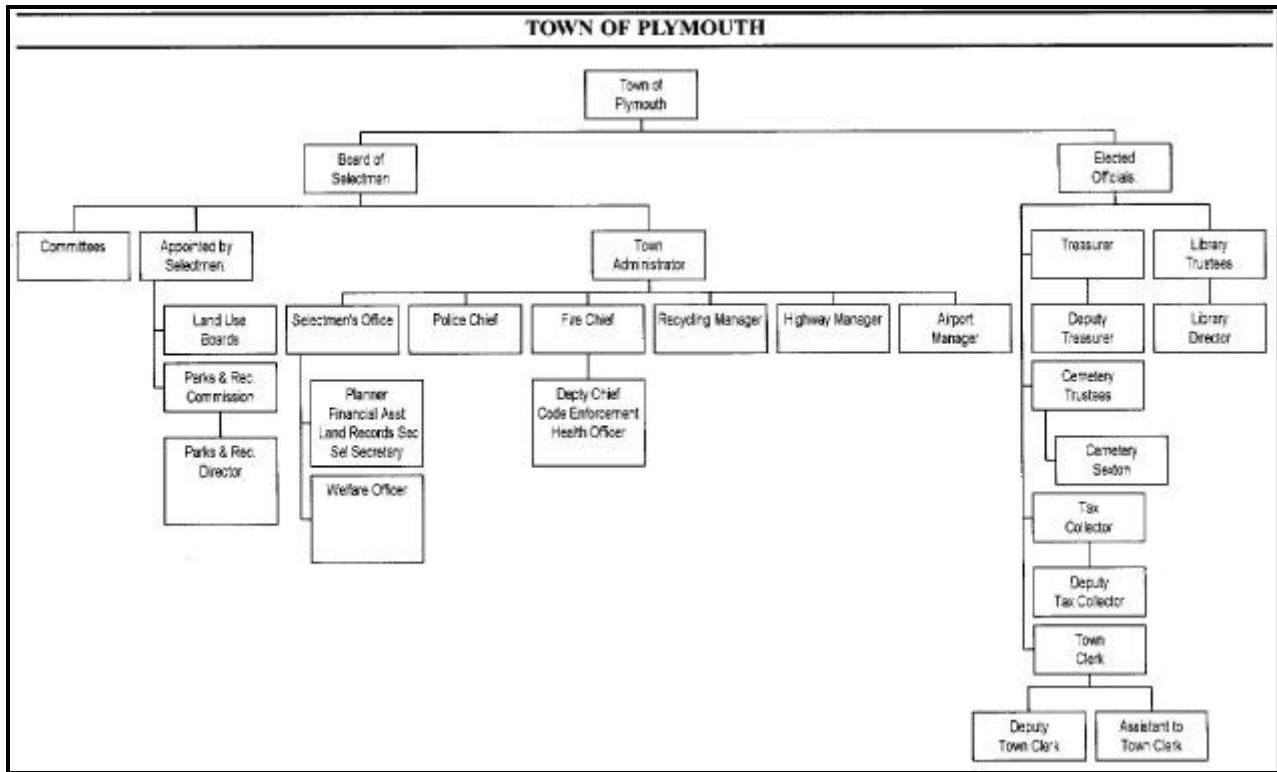
Plymouth Town Administration

Current Elected Officials include:

- Board of Selectmen (3)
- Town Clerk
- Tax Collector
- Town Treasurer
- Town Moderator
- Supervisors of the Checklist (3)
- Trustees of the Trust Fund (3)
- Advisory Budget Committee (3)
- Library Trustees (5)
- Cemetery Trustees (3)

Current Selectmen's Office staff includes:

- Town Administrator
- Community Planner
- Finance/Personnel Officer
- Selectmen's Secretary
- Land Records Clerk
- Bookkeeper
- Code Enforcement/Health Officer
- Welfare Officer



In addition to town staff and elected officers, Plymouth’s government is reliant on dozens of local residents who volunteer their time on various boards and committees. The Board of Selectmen appoints the following boards and committees:

- Planning Board
- Zoning Board of Adjustment
- Conservation Commission
- Highway and Public Safety Committee
- Parks and Recreation Commission
- Public Community Channel-3 Committee
- Capital Improvement Committee (submits work to the Planning Board.)

The Selectmen also appoint members of the community to serve on the Parking Committee and Public Safety Complex Committee. Various other local positions and representatives to regional organizations are also appointed by the Selectmen. The willingness of citizens to serve in the many volunteer positions is a perennial concern among New Hampshire’s small towns. Plymouth is no exception.

At the present time, it appears as though current staffing levels, supported by the willingness of local residents to participate in municipal government, are adequate.

3. Town Properties

Plymouth owns and maintains a number of properties, including:

- Town Hall (0.49 acres)
- Police Department (4.18 acres)
- Fire Department (0.54 acres)
- Town Common with Gazebo (0.29 acres)
- Plymouth Municipal Airport (136+/- acres)
- Pease Public Library (0.25 acres)
- Fox Park (32.1 acres)
- Winter Street mini-park (0.26 acres)
- Town Highway Garage
- Plymouth Recycling Center
- Nine cemeteries
- Walter Newton Natural Area (63 acres)
- Plymouth Mountain (1,100-acre conservation easement)

Renovations, new construction and other needs relating to these properties are noted later in this profile.

4. Pease Public Library

The Pease Public Library was opened in its present facility in 1991. The mission of the library is to provide “residents of all ages with access to services that will:

- Facilitate continued growth and learning throughout their lives;
- Provide the information needed to answer their questions;
- Teach skills related to finding, evaluating and using technology effectively;
- Help meet recreational and informational reading interests, through print/non-print materials and programs; and
- Provide space for meetings and informal gathering.”

The library has a collection that included 26,625 books, 1,142 audio books, and 1,445 videotapes/DVDs as of July 2004. Other library services include computer stations available to local residents, a reference desk, and a meeting room available to local residents and groups. Use of the library has increased significantly in recent years. In 1995 there were 22,578 library visits. The number of annual visits grew to approximately 42,198¹ in 2004 (July 2003 to June 2004.) Circulation is the most precise indicator for library use, with detailed statistics providing accurate information on many aspects of material usage. The total circulation of materials for 2004 was 76,116, which is more than double the circulation of 1995.

¹ The library does not have an automatic counter and therefore conducts a survey of patrons for one week in the fall and one week in the spring, then calculates the average daily visitor and estimates the annual visits.

A five-member Board of Trustees elected to three-year terms governs the library. The library is open 48-hours per week and is staffed by a director, two assistant-librarians and 4 support staff. This represents a full-time equivalent of 4.275 staff. The annual budget for the library was \$229,387 in 2004.

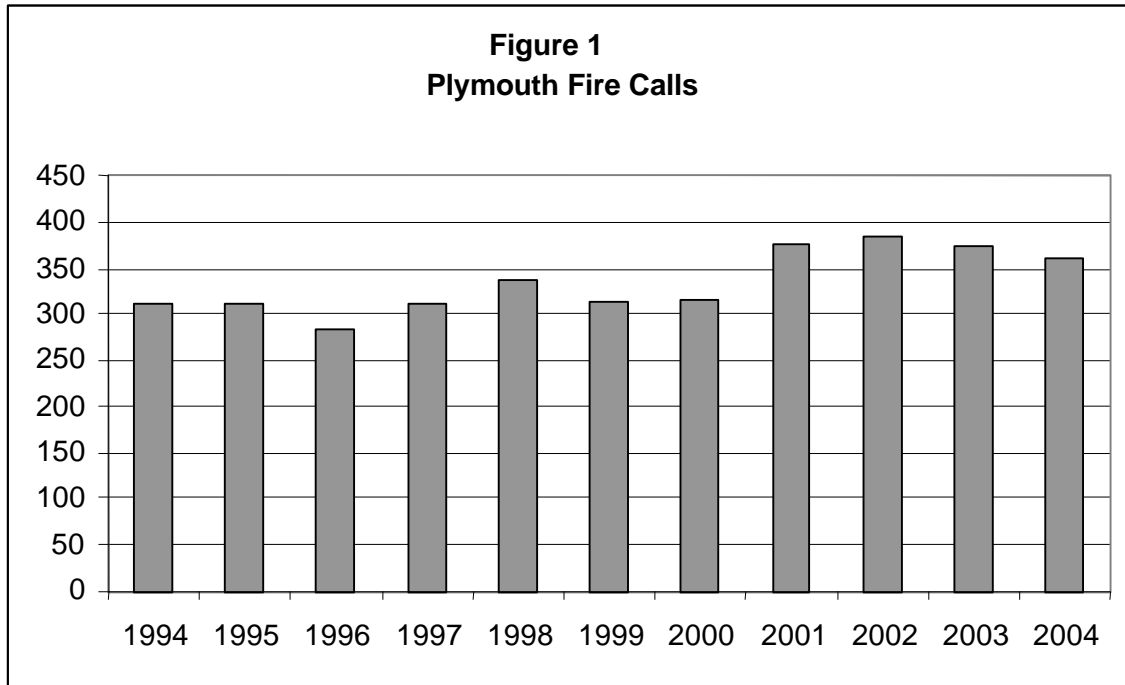
In 2003, the Trustees organized a committee to develop an action plan for the Library's service to the community over the subsequent three to five years. The Committee completed its planning process in June 2004, and published a Long Range Plan (see Appendix), which set forth a number of goals and objectives related to the provision and expansion of library services to meet a growing population.

5. Emergency Services

Fire and Ambulance

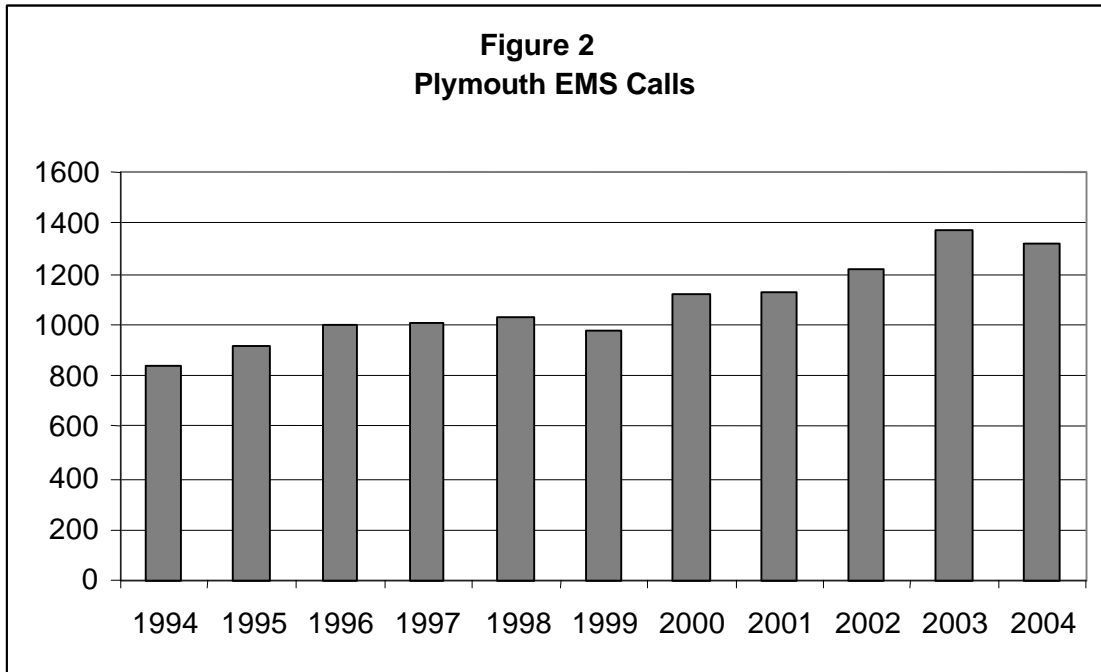
The first organized fire-fighting unit in Plymouth was established in 1831. From then until today the Plymouth Fire and Ambulance Service has evolved to provide vital public safety services for the Town of Plymouth and surrounding communities.

The fire department is a member of the Lakes Region Mutual Fire Aid Association. The goal of the association is to provide and receive assistance from surrounding communities during times of major emergencies. Services provided by the fire department include fire suppression, fire safety inspections and code enforcement reviews, public education, hazardous materials mitigation, fire alarm system maintenance and operation, issuance of permits and special services to protect lives, property and the environment. In fiscal year (FY) 2004, the combined expenses of the fire and ambulance service \$1,045,608. The main reason for the increase is employee wages and benefits.



- In 2004, the fire department responded to 362 calls, slightly down from the previous year (375 calls) but 17% more than in 1994 (310 calls.)
- Between 1995 and 1999, the department averaged 310 calls/year.
- Between 2000 and 2004, the average was 362 calls/year.

The ambulance serves a population of over 15,000 people. The service extends to Ashland, Campton, Holderness, Thornton, Rumney and Plymouth. Residents may receive Advanced Life Support emergency medical services via two rescue ambulances. The ambulance service responded to 1,317 calls in 2004, slightly fewer than in the preceding year (1,375) but dramatically higher than in 1994 (845 calls) Between 1995 and 1999, the department averaged 986 calls/year. Between 2000 and 2004, the average was 1,232 calls/year.



Fire and ambulance service staff includes a Chief, Deputy Chief, a Captain, three Lieutenants, four Fire Fighters, a Secretary and thirty paid on-call fire/EMS personnel. The services are located on Highland Street. The station is 5,700 square feet and has undergone minor renovations and repairs. To address space needs and facility limitations for both the Fire and Ambulance Department and Police Department, the Town has developed plans for the construction of a Public Safety Complex to house all emergency services. In addition, a replacement schedule for equipment and vehicles has been included in the Town’s Capital Improvement Plan (see Appendix) and reserve funds have been established for this purpose.

The Fire/EMS Departments have requested four additional full-time personnel for the past two years but the positions have not been funded. The Town will have a comprehensive Fire and Ambulance Operations Study conducted by a qualified consultant in FY05.

- Fire and EMS
Major Equipment Inventory**
- 1964 Maxim Fire truck
 - 1981 Mack Fire Engine
 - 1987 Mack Pumper
 - 1991 Seagrave Ladder Truck
 - 1998 Freightliner Firetruck
 - 2003 Smeal Fire Engine
 - 2001 Dodge Brush Truck
 - 1997 Ambulance
 - 2002 Ambulance
 - 1991 Control Vehicle
 - Jaws of Life
 - Defibrillator Lifepaks (3)
 - Misc. Breathing Apparatus & Breathing Compressor

Police

Plymouth Police Department

The Plymouth Police Department is a full-service, full-time police agency that has formally existed since the late 1800s. Since 1990 the department has been housed in an 8,000 square foot building, which supports a secure, temporary holding facility plus a communications center. The building is located on a 4.18-acre lot at 334 Main Street with easy access to four major roadways that serve most of the town's population.

Although the 8,000-square-foot metal building, on a concrete slab, should meet the 2005 space needs of the police department, the interior configuration of the space is very inefficient and ill suited for the organization². The building itself is in poor condition. A number of outstanding problems have been identified:

- metal building with a combination propane fired forced hot air and base board hot water heating system is expensive to operate
- water damage to exterior doors and walls
- rotting exterior doors
- water damage on roof
- information technology and other wiring in the ceiling (squirrels and birds living in the ceiling)
- no central air conditioning
- poor water pressure in toilets and poor drainage in cell blocks create cleaning problems
- facility requires additional holding facilities that comply with appropriate standards

Additionally, the communication center needs to be upgraded from analog to digital technology.

In response to these issues, the Police and Fire Department have worked with a needs committee to explore building a joint Public Safety Complex. At the March 2005 Town Meeting, voters approved \$25,000 in both Police and Fire budgets (total \$50,000) for design work on the new complex that could provide one facility for the police, fire and ambulance which would allow resources to be shared and provide a central command center for the community during emergencies. The concept has wide community support. According to the 2004 Community Attitude Survey, respondents support the Public Safety Complex and see it as the most critical capital improvement in Town.

² Town of Plymouth, Program of Space Requirements 2004 survey prepared for Turner Group, Inc.

The Police Department has three primary divisions: administration, operations and support services. The primary responsibilities of the department are traditional patrol services and a full-service criminal investigation. In addition, the department provides community outreach programs; communication services to seven police departments and two Plymouth municipal services (Highway Department, Village Water and Sewer (after hours)). The department has 27 employees including:

- 10 full-time and 3 part-time police officers
- 2 part-time parking enforcement personnel,
- 5 full-time dispatchers and 4 part-time dispatchers,
- 1 full-time and 1 part-time secretary
- 1 prosecutor (employee service contract with Town).

According to the 2005 Town Report, "partnerships with the University Police have strengthened..."

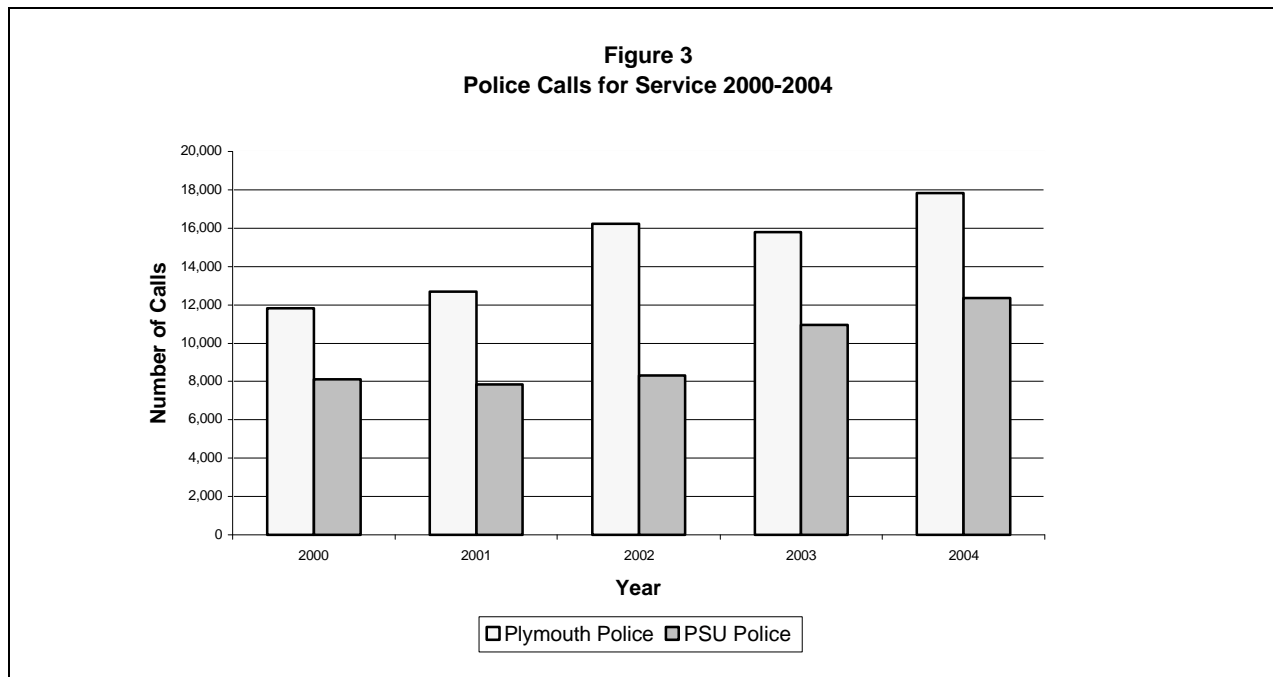
This has allowed the department to "hold off asking for additional personal" to meet the demands of the growing business community in West Plymouth as well as the growing residential areas. In addition to working jointly with Plymouth State University Police, in accordance with the Life Safety Services Agreement, the department participates in mutual aid agreements³ and responds to adjacent communities when requested. The 2004 cost of policing for the Town was \$1,212,930.

In 2004, the police department responded to 17,832 calls for service, a 13% increase from the previous year (15,797 calls) and significantly higher than in 2000 (11,832 calls or 51% increase.) Between 2000 and 2004, the department averaged 14,876 calls/year.

Police Department Major Equipment Inventory

- 4 Ford Crown Victoria police vehicles
- 1 Expedition Ford SUV
- 1 Ford Taurus Sedan
- Police Communication System includes base station antennas and towers
- Propane powered automatic emergency power for entire facility
- Closed circuit television interior/exterior and other physical security for critical infrastructure
- Networked computer system
- Parking Enforcement Division with adequate equipment (parking meters & tools) to enforcement ordinances

³ <http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/VII/105/105-13.htm>



Source: Plymouth Police Dispatch Center Monthly Comparison Reports 2000-2004

PSU Police

Plymouth State University maintains a 10-person, full-time and fully certified police agency. University Police is multi-jurisdictional (meaning it has authority to police in more than one community.) As noted previously, Plymouth and PSU have a Life Safety Agreement. The agreement defines both departments' structure and areas of responsibility as well as coordination of services between both organizations.

In 2004, University Police responded to 12,365 calls for service, a 13% increase from the previous year of 10,968 calls. Like Plymouth's Police Department, University Police has experienced more than a 50% increase in calls since 2000. Between 2000 and 2004, University Police averaged 9,530 calls/year. In 2004 PSU spent \$803,929 for University Police and an additional \$43,278 for a dispatch contract to Plymouth's Police Department.

6. Solid Waste

The Solid Waste Management Department operates the Plymouth Recycling Center on Beech Hill Road. The facility includes a two-tier building, half of which deals with the processing of recyclables and the other half houses a stationary compactor and 40 yard roll-off container. A separate building for the office and employee lunchroom was constructed at the site with grant money and donations in 2004. The Town decommissioned its incinerator in the late 1990s and capped its landfill in 2002.

Weather-tight storage is provided for recyclable products in five storage trailers and a 288 square foot pole barn. Concrete bunkers provide outside storage for metal, tires, glass and asphalt shingles. The facility also houses state-certified scales and an horizontal baler for paper and corrugated baling.

The department is responsible for the disposal of all solid waste generated in Plymouth and includes an extensive recycling program. It is managed by:

- a half-time superintendent;
- a facility foreman;
- 3 operators; and
- part-time staff as needed.

The staff is responsible for enforcement of the regulations; the maintenance of the buildings; equipment and grounds; and processing material for sale in the recycling markets.

The department has been in the forefront of recycling in New Hampshire and was recognized by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services as Recycling Center of the Year in 1999, 2000, and 2001. Traditional programs are maintained for the following materials: glass, metal, aluminum, mixed paper, newspaper, and corrugated cardboard.

In addition, the facility offers unique programs in the areas of asphalt shingle recovery, processing of tires, glass aggregate processing and the collection of asphalt, concrete and excavated materials for useful aggregate. Yard waste composting and used oil collection programs (which is used to fuel a hot air furnace in the recycling area of the building) are well established. Approximately 450 tons of recyclable products are processed each year that along with fees, generate twenty-five percent of the operation expenses.

Plymouth is a member town of the Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District and currently utilizes the disposal contract negotiated by the District. Household waste and construction debris is transported and deposited at the North Country Environment Landfill in Bethlehem. The District also cooperates in biannual household hazardous waste collection for paint, pesticides, and fluorescent bulb disposal.

7. Health and Human Services

Speare Memorial Hospital is a 35-bed, 73,000 square foot institution located on approximately three acres of land. The hospital serves the greater Plymouth area and, because of the tourist industry, often services clients from out-of-state. In 2004 there were 1,312 admissions to the hospital and 17,927 emergency room visits. As of December 2004, the hospital had 299 employees (90 medical staff) and annual revenues of approximately 42 million dollars. The hospital includes equipment for full radiological services, CT scanning, ultrasound, mammography, and nuclear testing. There is also equipment to support laboratory testing, surgical procedures, cardiopulmonary testing, physical therapy, and occupational therapy.

The Speare Memorial Hospital traces its beginning to 1892 when a group of thirteen public spirited women recognized the need for a hospital “to relieve suffering regardless of ghostly situations.” It took \$700 to open the doors of the Emily Balch Cottage Hospital in 1899. The name came from the mother of the principal organizer, Catherine Holmes Balch of Holderness. A fire in 1916 destroyed the hospital but it was rebuilt in 1920 at a new location. In 1940, Mr. Speare, a prominent banker from Nashua, made a \$50,000 challenge to the community to match a donation from him to build a new hospital. It took nine years to raise the needed funds, but in October 1949 construction began at the hospital’s current location with a final cost of \$523,400.

During the past two decades, the hospital has been renovated extensively:

- 1985: Added 10,000 square feet, an intensive care unit, new equipment and improvements to nearly every department (\$2.1 million.)
- 1989: A new operating suite and space for storage and receiving.
- 1996: Renovated and expanded the Emergency Department, outpatient areas.
- 1998: Renovation of the medical-surgical and obstetrics units.
- 2004-2006: The hospital is currently in the midst of an expansion/renovation project includes the addition of 23,000 square feet to accommodate growth in outpatient services. The project will also improve access for patients and visitors, increase parking and modernize infrastructure (\$15 million).

Community Services

Because Plymouth is a regional center for the area, the community serves as host to many human service agencies. The largest facility in Plymouth is the **Whole Village Family Resource Center** opened in 1996 on the west end of Highland Street. The center is home to a dozen community service agencies that serve the families of 19 towns in central New Hampshire. It's dedicated to building strong families.

The **Plymouth Regional Senior Center** is located in the railroad station on Green Street. The station has been renovated maintaining the historic features of the building. It serves as the hub of activities for senior citizens in the region. The kitchen in the facility is the source of the "Meals on Wheels" program and also provides economical meals at the facility. Weekly recreation programs and special events are held at the center. The center also serves as a meeting place or site for community programs and activities.

Other social service agencies are located throughout the town in leased office space.

Also in Plymouth are the **Pemi-Bridge House**, a homeless shelter, and a safe house for victims of domestic violence.

Community Organizations

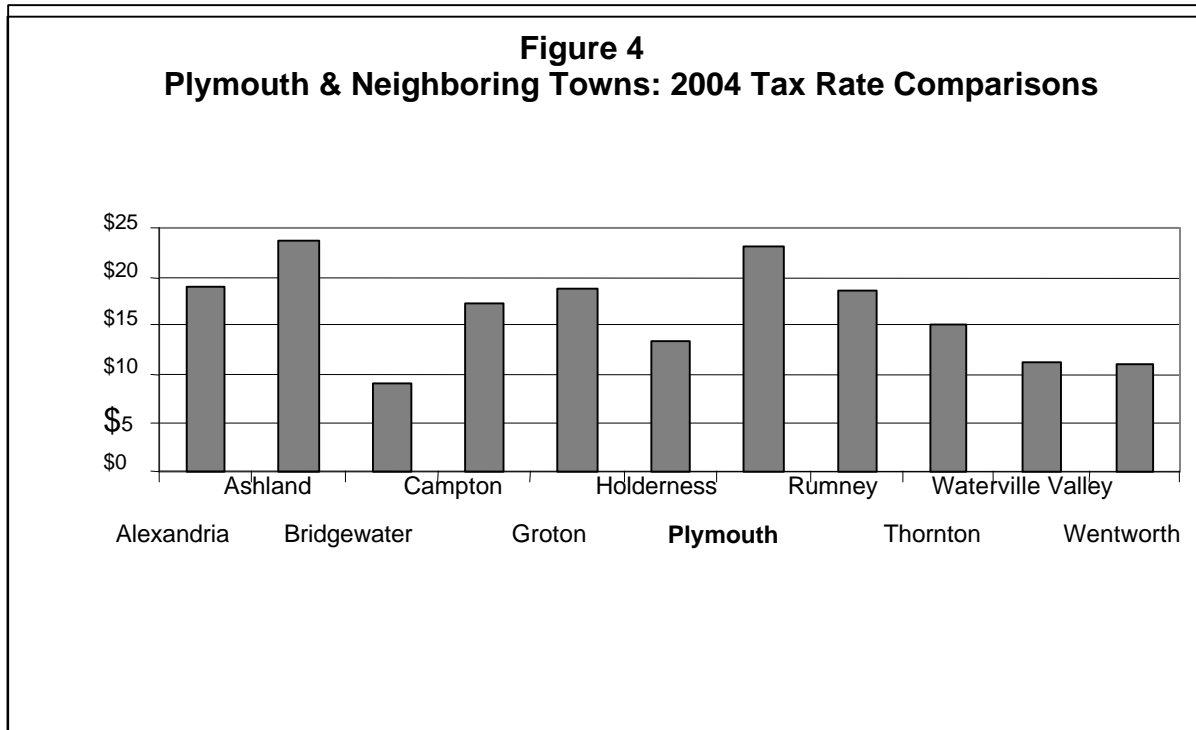
The Town of Plymouth supports several regional and not-for profit organizations providing important services to local residents. In 2004, voters supported the following organizations:

- Pemi-Baker Home Health Agency
- Grafton County Home Health Agency
- Grafton County Senior Citizen Council
- Humane Society
- Plymouth Chamber of Commerce
- Tri-County Community Action
- North Country Council
- Plymouth Regional Free Clinic
- Friends of the Arts
- Main Street Program
- Voices Against Violence
- Baker River Watershed
- Conservation Commission
- Conservation Commission Dues
- Genesis-Lakes Mental Health
- Baker-Pemi Senior Citizens

The donation for these services for 2004 was \$45,857.

8. Cost of Government

The cost of providing municipal services and facilities to Plymouth residents has long been a matter of great concern to local officials and taxpayers. The primary revenues source for the municipality is the property tax. Due to Plymouth’s function as a regional commercial and service center, the demands placed on municipal services, especially emergency services, by the large student population, and the high percentage of property that is exempted from the property tax, Plymouth’s tax burden has consistently ranked among the highest in the state.



The Town has taken several steps to reduce the tax burden. For several years, the Town has prepared and adopted a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to assist with setting priorities for capital projects and scheduling those major expenditures in a manner that avoids sharp fluctuations in the budget from year to year. The Town’s goal is to allocate an amount equal to 0.5% of the total equalized valuation for the purpose of maintaining capital assets.

The Town has also worked with Plymouth State University (PSU) to share the cost of emergency services associated with PSU. In 2004, the Board of Selectmen reached a seven-year agreement with PSU, which significantly increased the amount of reimbursements to the Town for municipal services provided to the college.

9. Water and Sewer Facilities

Water and Sewer District

Plymouth's municipal water and sewer systems serve a designated district encompassing somewhat less than half the town, including the downtown and adjacent neighborhoods, Tenney Mountain Highway and Tenney Mountain Resort (see Map ____). A three-member Board of Commissioners elected for three-year terms governs the District. The positions of Moderator and Clerk are elected for one-year terms, while the Treasurer is elected for three years. There are eleven people employed by the District.

The Plymouth Selectmen originally set the District boundaries in 1859, when the Plymouth Village Fire District was established. The Fire District purchased water from the Plymouth Aqueduct and Water Company, a private company. In 1893, the New Hampshire Legislature authorized the Plymouth Village Fire District to establish and maintain waterworks for the purpose of fire protection and use by the citizens of the District. Subsequently, the Fire District purchased the Plymouth Aqueduct and Water Company for the purpose of impounding water. In July 1971, the Legislature approved the name change to the Plymouth Village Water & Sewer District. The office for PVWSD is located on North Main Street.

Water Supply

There are ten public drinking water systems (PWS) in Plymouth, all of which derive their drinking water from groundwater: four community systems (PCSs), two non-transient non-community systems (NTNCs), and four transient non-community systems (TNCs).

Plymouth's largest PWS is the Plymouth Village Water & Sewer District. This water supply source is two gravel packed wells located off Foster Street. There are two water systems within the District, the lower system and the high system. In the lower system, water is pumped directly to users within the downtown or village area. No connections may be made to the low system above a foundation sill elevation of 608' Mean Sea Level (MSL). In the high system, water is pumped to a 2.5 million gallon water tank, then pumped to a 0.3 million gallon tank and gravity fed to the remaining users. These water tanks are located off Reservoir Road. No connections may be made to the high system above a foundation sill elevation of 710' MSL. There are 975 connections to the two water systems.

The existing well field has a capacity of greater than 1 million gallons per day (MGD) and the current average daily use is less than 1/2 MGD. Well #1 has an estimated capacity of 700,000 gallons per day and is housed inside a chemical treatment building. Well #2 is located in a below ground bunker and has a capacity of 600,000 GPD. Increased production from the 14-acre well field is possible with additional wells. The Foster Street well field is the only aquifer in the area identified with a large quantity of water.

In October 2001 the District working with the Northeast Rural Water Association prepared a Source Protection Plan for Plymouth's public drinking water sources (see Appendix C). The purpose of the plan is "to protect the quality of Plymouth's drinking water by identifying and managing potential sources of contamination and threatening activities that occur within the source protection area" (see Map ____).

Sewer System

The Secondary Wastewater Treatment Facility came on line in May 1991. This is a 0.7 million gallon per day facility. The facility uses the rotating biological disk treatment process with primary and secondary settlement tanks. Sludge is dewatered and stabilized in an enclosed composting process. The resulting compost is given away for use in gardens, lawns and general landscaping.

The District also treats sewage from River Street, the Holderness School, and the Plymouth State College Field House and maintenance garage in Holderness. There are 930 connections to the sewer system. In 2004, approximately 150,000 gallons per day of excess capacity was available to accommodate additional development. In light of recent development activity, and planned expansion at PSU, the availability of treatment capacity may be an issue of local concern in the coming years.

Facility Needs

No major deficiencies in either facility have been identified, although the District is presently in the process of assessing the needs of both the water and sewer system.

10. Communications

Newspapers

Plymouth has its own weekly newspaper, the *Record Enterprise*. It is published on Thursdays and is distributed widely throughout Town. In addition, Plymouth is covered in the daily *Laconia Citizen*. The statewide newspaper, *Union Leader* (published in Manchester), and the *Concord Monitor* are available for home delivery.

Television

There is not a separate television market for north central New Hampshire, according to the industry's official definitions as used by the FCC and by ratings companies such as Nielsen. Since most of the state receives its CBS, NBC, Fox, UPN, and WB service from Boston, north central New Hampshire is usually counted as part of the Boston market. WMUR (Channel 9 from Manchester) carries school cancellations and delayed-opening announcements for Plymouth.

Adelphia provides cable television as well as Internet connection. The town receives a franchise fee of 2% of gross revenue (not including internet services) from Adelphia. By stipulation of the franchise agreement between Adelphia and Plymouth, Plymouth Community Channel 3 (PCC3) is the non-commercial, public, educational and government access for Adelphia Communications' cable TV subscribers in Plymouth and nine other area towns.

PCC3's Cable Casting Center is located in Pease Public Library. PCC3 began cable casting in 1992. In addition to cablecasts, PCC3 provides video programming to the region. Table 1 compares activities since 1997.

Year	Notice Runs	Public Video	Educational Video	Government Video
1997	339	40	61	6
1998	265	42	118	9
1999	231	43	96	4
2000	292	54	120	4
2001	205	111	126	3
2002	325	204	118	8
2003	NA	NA	NA	NA
2004	1,000			

Source: 2004 Town Report

Also, Plymouth State University (PSU) maintains a state-of-the-art video conferencing facility that allows satellite downlink of remote transmissions.

Radio

Numerous radio stations can be received in the Plymouth area, including Boston, Montreal and Portland stations. WLKZ (104.9), WLNH (98.3), and WPNH (100.1) all carry school cancellations and delayed-opening announcements for Plymouth. WPCR is the local student run station.

Telephone

Verizon is Plymouth's local telephone company. Rates vary depending on the consumer's service preference. Consumers can choose their long-distance provider from any number of companies.

Verizon Wireless is the most widely used cellular phone service provider in the Plymouth area. Many Plymouth residents do, however, utilize services from cell phone companies who provide service in the Concord area. There are two cell towers in Plymouth, located in the northeast corner of town (Source: NH OEP).

Internet

In an effort to inform New Hampshire businesses about providers of broadband services, the NH Department of Resources and Economic Development and the NH Public Utilities Commission have compiled a list of providers who have stated that they offer data services (Source: Public Utilities Commission; last revised 4/23/02). There are a number of local access providers that provide Plymouth residents with access to the Internet. The market is quickly changing, and new services are regularly being offered.

Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) is an *always-on* Internet connection that normally terminates in a socket on your wall, one that looks much like a phone socket. In the US, the socket is exactly a phone socket, and, for the popular residential DSL, (ADSL), the same house wiring does indeed carry both phone and data. DSL is available to only about one-half of the phone lines in Plymouth. Currently, dial-up links are available, as well as frame relay and T1 lines. PSU also has an extensive high-speed computer network across campus that allows faculty, staff and students to access the Internet and other resources quickly and efficiently.

Town Information

The Pease Public Library, Plymouth schools and the Town Offices are additional information sources in Plymouth. Other informal sources of local news include the Recycling Center, Anderson's Bakery, and the local churches.

Web

There is a notable lack of information about Plymouth on the Web. The New Hampshire Association of Regional Planning Commissions provides community profiles, including Plymouth; on its data center web page. The North Country Council provides general information on its member communities, including data on population, employment, housing, health care options, transportation, among other things. The Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce web page includes general information that pertains to Plymouth, as does Plymouth State University's site. Plymouth itself has not created its own municipal web page, at public forums in the past years, participants have repeatedly suggested developing a local web site to improve communication and community involvement.

11. Energy

Energy Use

Fuel Type Used	Plymouth		Grafton County		New Hampshire	
	# of housing units	% of housing units	# of housing units	% of housing units	# of housing units	% of housing units
Utility gas	79	4.7	487	1.5	87,287	18.39
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	122	7.3	4,580	14.5	50,823	10.71
Electricity	335	20.0	2,608	8.3	36,223	7.63
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	1,073	63.9	20,768	65.7	275,827	58.12
Coal or coke	8	0.5	42	0.1	873	0.18
Wood	61	3.6	2,950	9.3	20,226	4.26
Solar energy	0	0.0	11	0.0	180	0.04
Other fuel	0	0.0	115	0.4	2,263	0.48
No fuel used	0	0.0	37	0.1	904	0.19
Total Occupied Housing Units	1,678	100.0	31,598	100.0	474,606	100.00

Source: US Census Bureau 2000

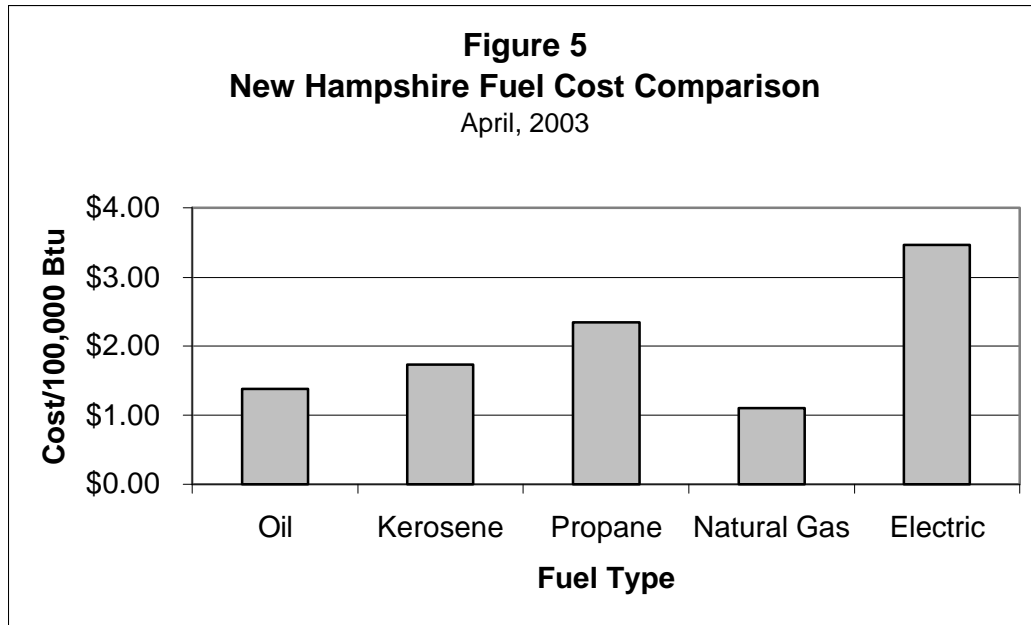
- Fuel oil is by far the most common fuel type used in Plymouth, as well as in the county and the state.
- The second most commonly used fuel type in Plymouth is electricity (20%). Comparatively, the percentage of houses in the county using electric heat is 8.9%; in the state, it is 7.6%. The significant difference is probably related to Plymouth being home of the NH Electric Coop headquarters.
- The second most common fuel for heat in the county is bottled or tank gas (almost 15%), while the state as a whole uses utility gas (19%).
- Wood is not a significant source of heat for Plymouth homes. About 9% of the county uses wood for fuel and only 4% of the state.
- While Plymouth has no homes powered by solar energy, there are 11 home in the county and 180 homes (.04%) in the state using solar power as their main fuel source.

According to NH Energy Facts 2002, NH ranks 41st in the nation for energy consumption per capita and ranks 19th in the nation for energy cost per capita.

Energy Supply

Heating Fuel

Plymouth is served by a number of oil and natural gas fuel suppliers in Grafton and Carroll Counties. The following chart compares fuel costs in New Hampshire, as of April 2003.



Source: Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services (NH OEP)

Fuel costs have skyrocketed since these data were collected two years ago. As of October 2005, the cost for 100,000 Btu's of oil is closer to the cost of electricity in 2003.

Electricity

In 1995, the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission sponsored the "Roundtable on Competition in New Hampshire's Electric Energy Industry." Also in that year, legislative committee work began at the State House on House Bill 1392, which eventually passed both the House and Senate and was signed into law by the Governor in May of 1996. HB 1392 was a directive to the Public Utilities Commission to split up the traditional utility functions and "aggressively pursue restructuring and increased consumer choice" in the electric industry. Thus, instead of utilities generating, transmitting and distributing electricity, the law in New Hampshire mandates separation of the generation from the transmission and distribution functions and the provision of generation service by the competitive market. It maintains the monopoly for delivery of electricity, both the transmission and distribution, avoiding the duplication of poles and wires. So, while Plymouth's local utility remains in place to deliver electricity, other companies are able to sell the consumer the generation part of electricity.

In mandating competition, the legislature's goal was to lower New Hampshire's electric rates by bringing them closer to the regional average in order to: 1) help established businesses become

more competitive; 2) make New Hampshire a more attractive place to live and do business; and 3) provide financial relief to residential customers. (Source: NH Public Utilities Commission)

The local electric distribution company used in Plymouth is the **New Hampshire Electric Cooperative** (NHEC). Founded in 1939 by a group of farmers in Concord, NHEC is a nonprofit electric utility serving approximately 78,000 members in all or part of 116 of the 235 cities and towns across the New Hampshire. Today NHEC remains a consumer-owned and democratically controlled electric distributor. Its 5,000 miles of energized line traverse nine of the 10 counties in New Hampshire.

NHEC power is received from the New England Power Pool at a number of delivery points and includes a mix of hydro, coal, oil and nuclear. In addition, energy supply comes from three small power producers. These are Bracket Brook Hydro (40 kilowatts) in Orford, Tolles Energy Resources Sandwich Hydro (50 kilowatts) in Sandwich and the Tillotson Rubber Company (600 kilowatts of wood-fired cogeneration) in Dixville Notch. The Cooperative also receives power into its distribution system from Goodrich Falls Hydro (600 kilowatts) in Bartlett for wheeling to the Public Service Company of New Hampshire.

NHEC Consumers

Today, eighty-seven percent of the NHEC's consumers are residential. The remainders are small commercial, large commercial and industrial consumers. Nearly 30% of the Cooperative's residential members are seasonal residents of Cooperative service territory. Only nine of the Cooperative's accounts have peak demands over 1,000 kilowatts and these are ski areas, a factory-resort complex, a packings manufacturing plant, a bottled water producer and a state university.

In recent years the Cooperative has focused on becoming a complete energy solutions company by offering for sale a range of electric products such as high-efficiency water heaters, temperature and outage notification devices, whole house surge protection, and outdoor lighting. The Cooperative also offers its residential and commercial members a variety of energy-efficiency programs, which are funded by the statewide Systems Benefit Charge (SBC).

Gas

Pipelines and transmission lines in the Plymouth area are shown on Map ____.

Wood

Wood is obviously plentiful in the Plymouth region and is available from any number of people advertising via signs, newspapers and word of mouth. Green wood ranges from \$100-\$150 per cord; dry ranges from \$150-\$200 per cord. These prices have increased significantly during 2005.

Renewable Energy in New Hampshire

Although renewable energy does not seem to play a part in Plymouth, there is potential for wind generators and other renewables. Within the state, renewables are an important source of energy. There are:

- six wood-fired power plants in the state;
- three landfill gas-fired facilities; and

- two municipal solid waste-fired power plants.

In the summer of 1999, these comprised 4.3% of the state's electric generating capability, according to "Energy Facts."

New Hampshire consumed more hydroelectric power than it produced in 1999 by a half-million megawatts due to contributions to the New England regional grid from sources such as Hydro Quebec.

There are nine utility-owned hydro-generation sites and 27 non-utility hydro-generation sites in New Hampshire. PSU has a cogeneration plant.

Power Needs

Plymouth seems to have access to all of the electric power it needs. Energy efficiency and conservation in Town facilities and services should be promoted and encouraged by increasing public awareness of conservation techniques and through good building design and careful site planning.

12. Planning Considerations

Goal: The provision of community facilities and services, utilities and energy to meet present and future demands of Plymouth residents in a cost efficient and environmentally sound manner.

1. Plan for adequate facilities and services to accommodate anticipated future demands, so that those demands do not create an unreasonable burden on the Town's ability to provide them. To this end:
 - the scale and timing of development should be controlled to ensure that the resulting demand for services and facilities does not exceed the town's ability to provide them;
 - the provision of new or expanded capital facilities should be coordinated to avoid sharp annual fluctuations in the property tax rate;
 - in the event new or expanded public facilities required to accommodate new development are not available or planned, the developer shall fund the proportional cost of the facility(s) needed to accommodate the new development unless the municipality determines that the proposed development will provide community benefits which outweigh or offset the cost of facilities.
2. Maintain and enhance existing town properties to meet the current and anticipated needs of the community. To the extent feasible, the most effective and efficient use of existing services, structures, facilities and utilities should be made before expanding capacity or constructing new buildings or facilities.
3. Continue to update annually the Capital Improvements Plan that forecasts needs for fire and police protection, ambulance service, solid waste management, recreation, land purchase, roads, schools and general governmental costs.
4. Implement the recommendations of the 2004 Pease Library Long Range Plan.
5. Ensure that all development is accessible to emergency service vehicles and require all new development to provide fire protection facilities as deemed necessary.
6. Establish a procedure to evaluate new development proposals for demands on municipal facilities and services to ensure that the developer funds the costs associated with new development, and to prevent development from overburdening the Town's ability to provide services and facilities in a cost effective manner.
7. Continue to investigate, plan, and implement strategies to keep solid waste disposal costs as low as possible; also to expand recycling programs and improve existing programs.
8. Continue to support regional and not-for-profit organizations that provide important community services.

9. Control the pace and the scale of development to insure the adequacy of facilities and services and to protect potentially threatened areas (e.g., wetlands, natural habitats, agricultural areas, scenic vistas, historical and cultural resources, river quality.)
10. Support the efforts to construct a new Public Safety Complex to meet the existing and future needs of the community.
11. Monitor firefighting, rescue services and police protection needs.
12. Recognize that undeveloped land does not burden the town with demands for services and facilities. Evaluate the fiscal impact of public investment in land conservation and act accordingly to maximize the positive impacts of such investments.
13. Consider the adoption of impact fees for one or more public facilities to ensure that the costs of new or expanded public facilities that are necessary to support new development are funded by that development.
14. Explore alternative funding mechanisms for local facilities, services and education to reduce the dependence on the property tax. Establish a strong and visible commitment to energy efficiency and sustainability.
15. Conserve forestlands as a renewable resource.