



Town of Exeter Master Plan ATTACHMENTS

Adopted
February 22, 2018



Baseline Snapshots

Population

Town & Community Services

Economic Development

Historic & Cultural Resources

Housing

Land Use

Natural Resources

Transportation



BASELINE SNAPSHOT

POPULATION

Why It Matters

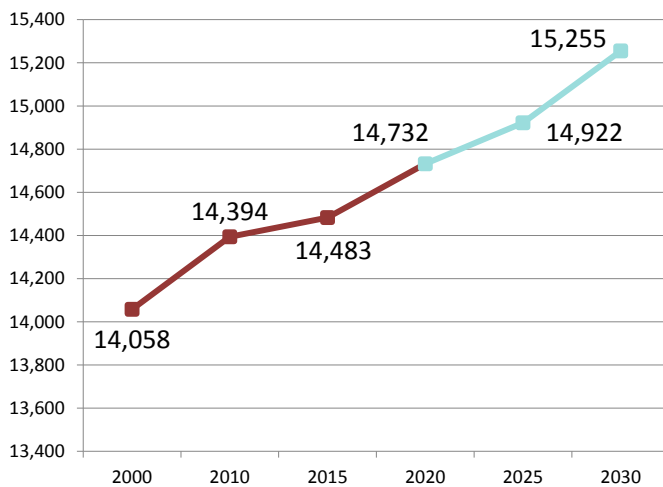
Understanding who lives in the community, and how that composition is changing, gives the Town of Exeter guidance on its future needs for housing, social services, recreation, transportation, and other factors that contribute to a resident's quality of life. Attributes of a population that are important to consider are size, age, racial and ethnic background, household composition, income, and special needs. Shifts in these characteristics in Exeter and the region can give insight into trends and changing preferences.

Population

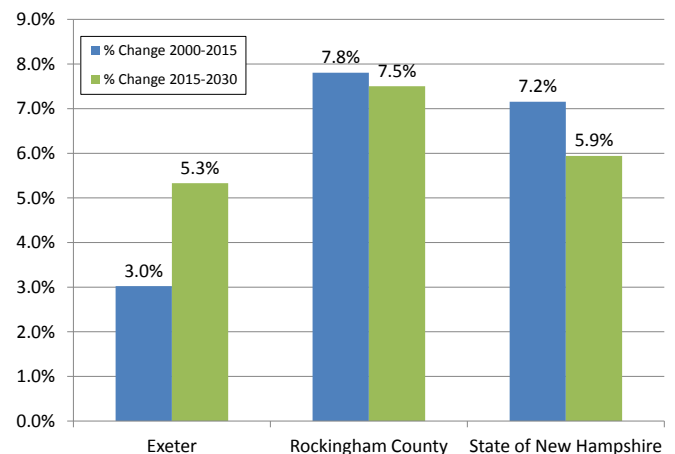
Growth

Exeter's population increased by an estimated 3% (approximately 425 people) from 2000 to 2015, a slower rate than that experienced across Rockingham County as a whole and the State of New Hampshire. Exeter is projected to grow another 5.3% by 2030, which is a slightly slower growth rate than that projected for the County and State. However, Exeter is projected to grow by a larger percentage in the next 15 years than it did in the past 15 years, while growth across the County and State are projected to be slower than the past 15 years.

Population Counts and Projected Growth in Exeter, 2000 to 2030



Percentage of Population Change (2000-2015) and Projected Growth (2015-2030) in Exeter, Rockingham County, and State of New Hampshire



Source: 2000 US Census, 2010 and 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning, State of New Hampshire Population Projections (September 2016)

Age

Exeter is getting older, a trend also observed in Rockingham County and the State of New Hampshire. It was estimated that the median age in Exeter increased by almost four years from 2000 to 2015, from 40.0 to 43.9; however, the median age was 46.6 years in 2010.

The change in median age from 2000 to 2015 is further detailed in the table above. In 2015 it was estimated that since 2000 the percentage of the population under 44 years decreased and those 45 years and older increased, thereby increasing the population's median age; however, there has been a noticeable

Median Age in Exeter, Rockingham County, and State of New Hampshire, 2000 to 2015

| | 2000 | 2010 | 2015 Estimate | Change 2000-2015 |
|-------------------|------|------|---------------|------------------|
| Exeter | 40.0 | 46.6 | 43.9 | + 3.9 |
| Rockingham County | 37.2 | 41.4 | 43.5 | + 6.3 |
| State of NH | 37.1 | 40.3 | 42.2 | + 5.1 |

Source: 2010 and 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

change in the past five years. From 2010 to 2015, it was estimated younger age groups, particularly 25 to 34 years and 10 to 14 years, increased, the latter growing since 2000. A change in the proportion of older residents in this five year period was also observed, where the percentage of residents between the ages of 60 to 64 years decreased and 65 to 75 years increased. Because the estimated growth in young adults and children in the past five years has lowered the median age, the Town should continue to monitor estimated changes to determine if a downward trend in Exeter's aging population is emerging.

Race/Ethnicity

Over the past 15 years, Exeter has remained a predominately white community. The percentage of people who identify as a race other than white or as two or more races has collectively increased from 2.8% to 3.8% of the total population. The Hispanic and Latino community has also grown slightly, from 0.9% to 1.6% of the population.

Household Characteristics

Composition

The number of family households (households of related individuals) in Exeter has remained constant as a percentage of total households over the last 15 years; however, what has changed is the make-up of those families. Since 2000, it has been estimated that the overall number of households with children under the age of 18 decreased (-5%) and the number of households with individuals over the age of 65 increased (21%). Another shift in family household composition was an estimated increase in the number of female-headed households with no husband present (43%), including those females with their own children under the age of 18 (61%).

The percentage of non-family households (non-related individuals living together) also saw estimated increases (14%), including individuals living alone (5%), particularly those 65 years and older (22%).

Income & Poverty

Between 2000 and 2015 the median household income in Exeter increased by an estimated 48%; however,

Change in the Distribution of Population by Age in Exeter, 2000 to 2015

| | 2000 | 2010 | 2015 Estimate | Difference 2000-2015 |
|-------------------|-------|-------|---------------|----------------------|
| Under 5 years | 5.5% | 4.8% | 4.4% | -1.1% |
| 5 to 9 years | 6.7% | 5.2% | 5.3% | -1.4% |
| 10 to 14 years | 7.6% | 5.4% | 8.8% | 1.2% |
| 15 to 19 years | 6.4% | 5.8% | 5.7% | -0.7% |
| 20 to 24 years | 3.1% | 4.2% | 4.6% | 1.5% |
| 25 to 34 years | 12.3% | 8.0% | 10.3% | -2.0% |
| 35 to 44 years | 17.5% | 13.9% | 13.3% | -4.2% |
| 45 to 54 years | 14.7% | 18.2% | 16.9% | 2.2% |
| 55 to 59 years | 5.4% | 7.4% | 6.1% | 0.7% |
| 60 to 64 years | 3.9% | 11.2% | 6.0% | 2.1% |
| 65 to 74 years | 7.2% | 3.7% | 9.4% | 2.2% |
| 75 to 84 years | 6.4% | 7.6% | 6.4% | 0.0% |
| 85 years and over | 3.3% | 3.8% | 3.0% | -0.3% |

Source: 2000 US Census, 2010 and 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Composition of Race and Ethnicity in Exeter, 2000 to 2015

| | 2000 | 2010 | 2015 Estimate |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|---------------|
| RACE | | | |
| Total population | 14,058 | 14,394 | 14,483 |
| One race | 99.0% | 99.3% | 98.0% |
| White | 97.2% | 96.5% | 96.2% |
| Black or African American | 0.4% | 0.8% | 0.9% |
| American Indian and Alaska Native | 0.2% | 0.0% | 0.3% |
| Asian | 0.9% | 1.4% | 0.6% |
| Some other race | 0.3% | 0.5% | 0.0% |
| Two or more races | 1.0% | 0.7% | 2.0% |
| HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE | | | |
| Hispanic or Latino (of any race) | 0.9% | 1.0% | 1.6% |
| Not Hispanic or Latino | 99.1% | 99.0% | 98.4% |

Source: 2000 US Census, 2010 and 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

when adjusted using the Consumer Price Index to show 2015 dollars, the rise in income only slightly increased a household's buying power for goods and services. In Rockingham County and the State of New Hampshire, this buying power decreased.

In 2015, the percentage of individuals and families living in poverty was estimated to be higher in Exeter than in Rockingham County as a whole. However, seniors 65 years and older in Exeter were less likely than seniors in Rockingham County or the State of New Hampshire as a whole to be living in poverty. They were also less likely to be living in poverty than other age brackets in Exeter.

Change in Household Composition in Exeter, 2000 to 2015

| | 2000 | 2010 | 2015 Estimate | Change 2000-2015 |
|---|-------|-------|---------------|------------------|
| Total households | 5,898 | 6,305 | 6,257 | 6% |
| Family households | 3,718 | 3,857 | 3,766 | 1% |
| With own children under 18 years | 1,830 | 1,661 | 1,786 | -2% |
| Married-couple family | 3,006 | 3,313 | 2,707 | -10% |
| With own children under 18 years | 1,381 | 1,394 | 999 | -28% |
| Female householder, no husband present | 522 | 440 | 745 | 43% |
| With own children under 18 years | 336 | 183 | 542 | 61% |
| Nonfamily households | 2,180 | 2,448 | 2,491 | 14% |
| Householder living alone | 1,842 | 2,068 | 1,927 | 5% |
| Householder 65 years and over | 808 | 1,009 | 988 | 22% |
| Households with individuals under 18 years | 1,917 | 1,766 | 1,825 | -5% |
| Households with individuals 65 years and over | 1,609 | 2,039 | 1,953 | 21% |
| Average household size | 2.32 | 2.22 | 2.25 | -0.07 |
| Average family size | 2.94 | 2.84 | 2.84 | -0.1 |

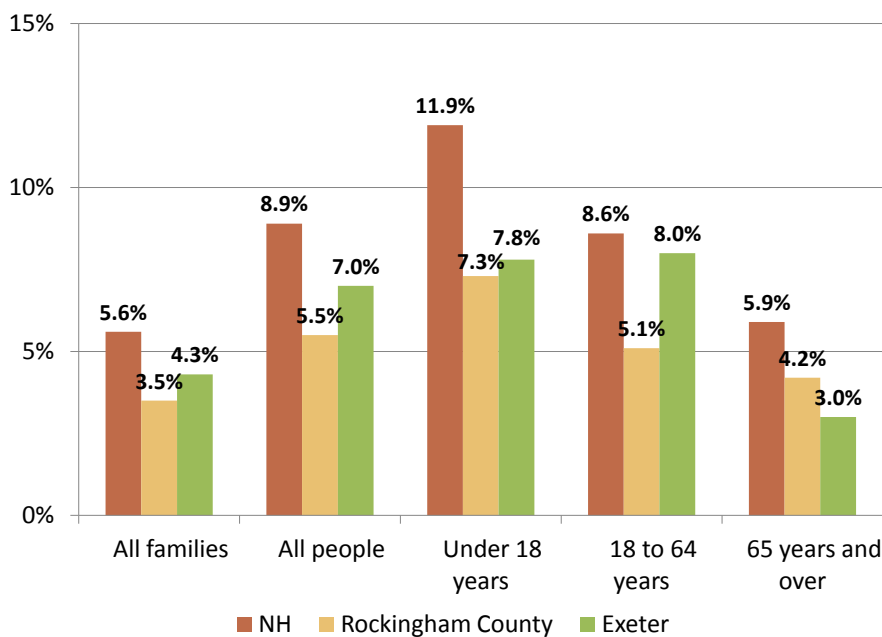
Source: 2000 US Census, 2010 and 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Change in Household Median Income in Exeter, Rockingham County, and State of New Hampshire, 2000 to 2015

| | 2000 (1999 dollars) | 2000 (2015 dollars)* | 2015 Estimate | % Change 2000-2015 (uncorrected dollars) | % Change 2000-2015 (2015 dollars)* |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|---------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Exeter | \$49,618 | \$70,590 | \$73,519 | 48% | 4.2% |
| Rockingham County | \$58,150 | \$82,728 | \$81,198 | 40% | -1.9% |
| State of NH | \$49,467 | \$70,375 | \$66,779 | 35% | -5.1% |

* Based on US Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation calculator
Source: 2000 US Census and 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Percentage of Families and Individuals Living in Poverty in Exeter, Rockingham County, and State of New Hampshire, 2015



Source: 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



BASELINE SNAPSHOT

TOWN & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Why It Matters

The Town of Exeter provides a broad range of services to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the community. There are also diverse services from private and non-profit organizations meeting the needs of residents. The level in which these services are delivered is influenced by changes in population, land development, environmental factors, and economic conditions. Evaluating service capacity in conjunction with anticipated change in community needs can help the Town determine strategic infrastructure and program investments in the near and long-term.

Town Services

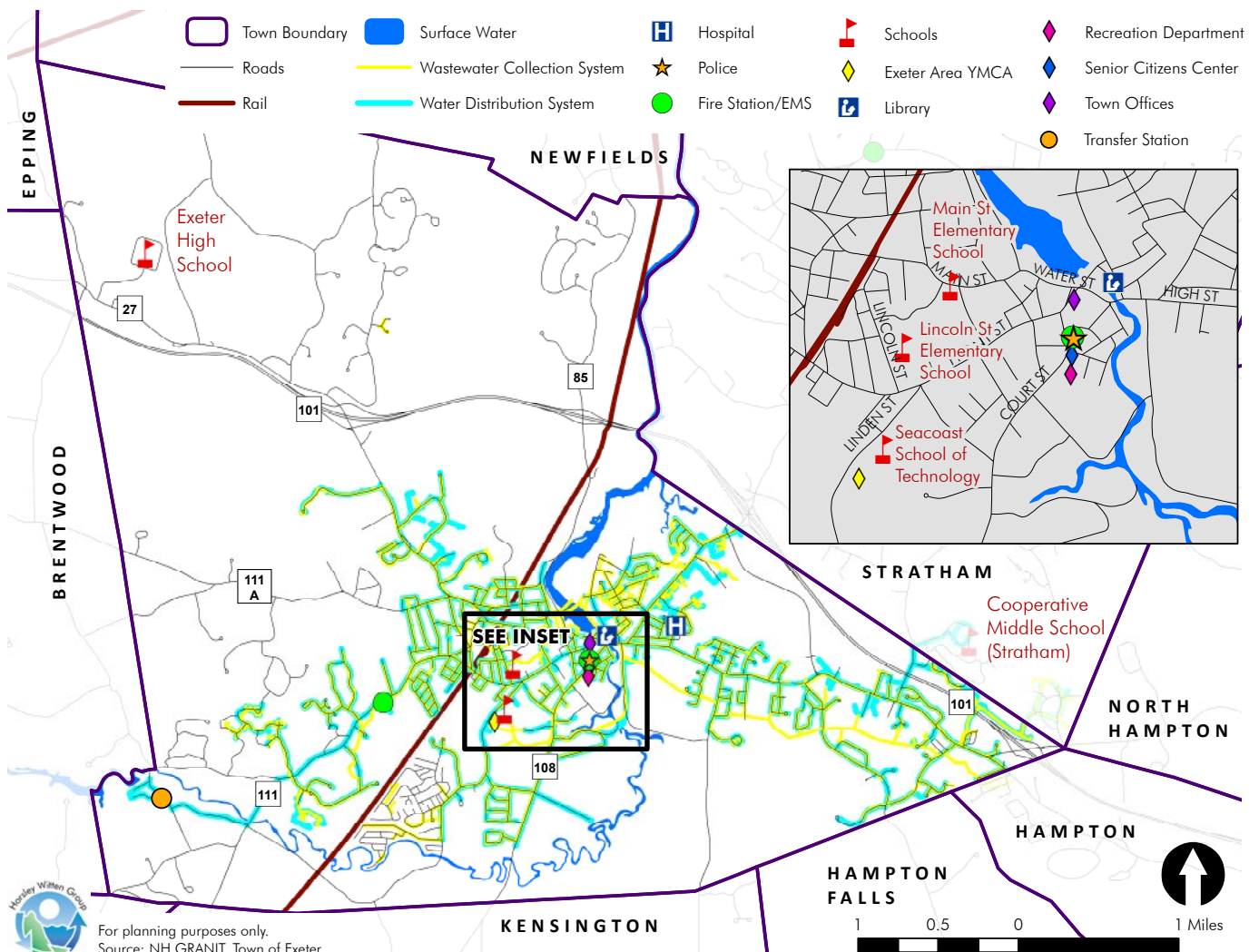
Parks and Recreation

Exeter supports numerous parks and recreation programs for its residents. The Parks and Recreation Department maintains all Exeter town parks, including: Recreation Park, Brickyard Park, Gale Park, Gilman Park, Park Street Common, Founder's Park, and Kids Park. The

Department is also responsible for the John C. Littlefield Memorial Skate Park. The Parks and Recreation Department building located at 32 Court Street has three meeting rooms available for community use.

A recreation needs assessment study was completed in 2015 by the University of New Hampshire. Following a series of focus groups, public input opportunities,

Town and Community Services in Exeter



and interviews, the study identified several key recommendations for the Town to consider as it makes improvements to the department's programs and facilities. Recommendations included building an indoor facility, improving maintenance and upkeep of existing parks and playgrounds, and creating and maintaining partnership with local stakeholders. One key recommendation that is currently moving forward is the redesign of Recreation Park. The park offers many recreational amenities to Exeter residents and visitors including eight tennis courts, two full size softball fields, one baseball field, Planet Playground, and the Daniel Healy Pool. The redesign will enhance and expand these opportunities.

Numerous town programs and activities are offered throughout the year for all ages including concerts, youth team athletics, summer camps, and activities for seniors.¹ Summer camps are very popular and typical enrollment reaches 250 participants, plus a waiting list. In addition to classes, the Department organizes day and overnight trips.

Roadways and Bridges

Exeter is served by state-maintained roadways and highways, including NH 101 (which has four exits for Exeter), Portsmouth Avenue (NH 108), Epping Road (NH 27), Newfields Road (NH 85), Brentwood Road (NH 111A), and Kingston Road (NH 111). Route 101 provides connections to Interstates 95 and 93. The Department of Public Works Highway Team consists of 12 full time and one part time staff members, and is responsible for the maintenance of town streets and sidewalks, including patching potholes and installing granite curbing. Routine maintenance includes sealing, painting, cleaning and spot repairs as required. The Team also repairs guardrails, plants trees, builds sidewalks, repairs bridge decks, paints parking spaces, plows snow, sands streets/sidewalks and cleans up fallen trees after a storm. The Town owns and maintains eight bridges and large culverts. The Department of



Planet Playground

Public Works complex at 13 Newfields Road houses the Public Works office, maintenance buildings for equipment and vehicles, as well as equipment and materials storage.

Waste Management

The Department of Public Works also manages the town's transfer station. The Town offers curb side collection through its "pay as you throw" program. Residents are required to use Town of Exeter trash bags, which can be purchased in local stores in two sizes. The Town also contracts with a private company for curbside collection of recyclable materials, which include paper, cardboard, milk/juice cartons, plastic and glass bottles/containers, aluminum products, and metal cans. Residents can also bring other recyclable items directly to the transfer station with or without a permit, depending on the item.² These include used oil, leaves and yard waste, books, clothes, electronics, metals, propane tanks, batteries, etc.

Water and Sewer

The Water-Sewer Division of the Department of Public Works strives to protect public health through the use of long-term planning, quality engineering, and preventative maintenance. The Division is responsible for providing quality drinking water and treated wastewater before discharging to the Squamscott River. The Division is staffed by a team of 15 people to maintain wastewater treatment, water treatment, and system operations.

Exeter's municipal drinking water system provides drinking water and fire protection to the majority of the Town's population, including Phillips Exeter Academy,



Department of Public Works Garage

¹ <http://exeternh.gov/recreation>

² <http://exeternh.gov/publicworks/transfer-station>

the Riverwoods community, and Exeter Hospital. The surface water treatment plant located on Portsmouth Avenue treats raw water from three sources and has a capacity of 1.5 million gallons per day (mgd). The three sources include: Exeter Reservoir, Skinner Springs in Stratham, and Exeter River. In 2015, Town received a notice of violation because Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) levels exceeded federal drinking water standards. To address the violation, the groundwater treatment plant on Lary Lane came online in 2016 and provides water that meets drinking water standards. Additional process modifications are planned for 2017 and 2018 to ensure safe drinking water, and a warrant article passed in March 2017 authorizing \$1,500,000 for the design and construction of drinking water improvements to decrease the formation of THMs. Drinking water consumption is an average of 1 mgd.



Exeter Water Tower

Exeter's wastewater system consists of a wastewater treatment plant, approximately 49 miles of sewer pipe, 1,500 manholes, nine pumping stations, and three combined sewer overflow diversion structures. The Town is currently under an US Environmental Protection Agency Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) to meet the new total nitrogen limits under its National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) discharge permit for the plant. Current discharges from the treatment plant into the Squamscott River exceed the nitrogen limits. In the fall of 2016, funds to construct a new wastewater treatment plant were approved to bring the Town into compliance, and construction is anticipated in 2017.

Exeter's Water and Sewer Advisory Committee advises the Board of Selectmen about the water and sewer issues in the Town. The Committee's duties include, but are not limited to, reviewing the rate structure for water and sewer charges and make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. These recommendations

may include service and user charges and metering methods.

Emergency Response

Exeter's Police and Fire Departments provide a variety of services to help ensure the safety of town residents and businesses. These services include police and fire protection and emergency response through the Emergency Operations Center,³ Code Red Community Notification,⁴ and assistance with carbon monoxide detector installation, among others. The Exeter Fire Department currently employs 28 staff members.

The Exeter Police Department is staffed with four detectives and a Patrol Division that includes 17 full time officers and one part time officer. The Patrol Division is on duty 24 hours a day seven days a week to respond to calls and patrol the Town. In terms of emergency communications, both police and fire are staffed 24/7 with six full time employees and two part time dispatchers.

In addition to protecting Exeter's citizens on a daily basis, the Exeter Police Department manages a variety of voluntary programs. For example, the Department's MedReturn Drug Collection Unit provides a safe and secure method to dispose of unwanted or expired household or prescription medications. The Police Department also offers a rapid response service for individuals with Alzheimer's and special needs in the event of emergencies or missing persons reports.⁵

Exeter Public Library

The Exeter Public Library, established in 1853, is an important part of the Exeter community. An elected Board of Trustees oversees the library's policies, personnel, and budget. The library's main source of funding comes from appropriations approved by Exeter voters. Other sources of income are trust fund income, donations, grants, fees for nonresident cards and special services. In addition to providing access to reading materials, workspace and computers, the library offers a wide variety of outreach programs, including book discussion groups, Summer Music Series, Story Hours and Open Art, book talks and book drop offs at various locations in town (senior centers, the summer Recreation Camp, day care centers, and the Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) center). The library also offers "Tech Teach," free one-on-one, 45 minute technology lessons about computers, software, etc.⁶ The Library has submitted a request for

³ <http://exeternh.gov/fire/emergency-management>

⁴ <https://public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/5619A5D2F523>

⁵ <http://exeternh.gov/police/alzheimers-and-individuals-special-needs-assistance-initiative>

⁶ <http://www.exeterpl.org/>

funding in the Town's 2016-2021 Capital Improvement Program to renovate the building to serve modern uses, including expanding the children's room, adding smaller study and meeting areas, and constructing a riverside boardwalk.

Public Schools

The Town of Exeter is part of New Hampshire School Administrative Unit 16 (SAU #16), which is made up of seven independent school districts: Brentwood, East Kingston, Exeter, Exeter Region Cooperative School District (ERCSD), Kensington, Stratham, and Newfields. Each town/district elects its own school board and that board is responsible for its elementary school district. The Exeter Elementary School District is made up of two schools: Main Street School (pre-kindergarten to grade 2) and Lincoln Street School (grades 3 to 5). Total enrollment in the two elementary schools at the end of the 2016-2017 school year was 1,010.



Exeter High School

The ERCSD serves students from Exeter, East Kingston, Kensington, Brentwood, Stratham, and Newfields, and includes Cooperative Middle School (grades 6 to 8, in Stratham), Exeter High School (grades 9 to 12, in Exeter), and the Seacoast School of Technology (SST, in Exeter). Being the largest community in SAU#16, Exeter represent roughly 40% of both the middle school and high school total student populations (1,321 and 1,665, respectively, at the end of the 2016-2017 school year). SST also serves Vocational Region #18 and has students from Epping, Exeter, Newmarket, Raymond, Sanborn Regional (Kingston), and Winnacunnet (Hampton) High Schools. Approximately 650 students are enrolled in its programs.

Also available through the ERCSD is the Exeter Adult Education Program. It offers a variety of courses, including free basic skills (reading, writing, and math), HiSET high school equivalency test preparation and English for Speakers of Other Languages classes.⁷

⁷ <http://sau16-dev.info/index.php/school-boards/exeter-region-coop>

Civic Life and Social Infrastructure

Exeter has a rich offering of social programs. Whether related to activities for seniors, programs for families, or assistance for those in need, many non-profit organizations and town-run programs serve as vital social infrastructure for Exeter residents.

Senior Programs

Exeter Senior Citizens Center

Located at 30 Court Street in historic Exeter, the Senior Citizens Center provides a meeting space for community organizations and hosts activities such as bingo, crafts, exercise classes and bridge games each day of the week.

Meals on Wheels

Rockingham Meals on Wheels provides weekday lunch service at the Exeter Senior Citizens Center, for people aged 60 and older and their spouse.

Taxi Vouchers

The Exeter Parks and Recreation Department offers a Taxi Ticket program through Academy Taxi. Under the program, residents over the age of 60 may purchase a book of 20 vouchers for \$10 which they can then use towards payment of their taxi transportation. The program is 50 percent-subsidized by the town.

Seacoast Family Promise

Seacoast Family Promise⁸ has been serving families in need since 2003. The organization helps families who are experiencing homelessness to find stable housing and return to self-sufficiency. Seacoast Family Promise includes 22 faith communities and 900 individual volunteers who help to provide meals and shelter. Exeter has a variety of organizations that serve as hosts and partners including: Exeter First United Methodist Church, Exeter Congregational Church, First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter, and the Exeter Women's Club.

YMCA Programs

The Exeter Area YMCA, located at 56 Linden Street at the site of the old junior high school, offers a variety of programs and classes for all ages, abilities and skill levels. Programs include: fitness and group exercise classes, sports leagues, youth sports camps, family and social activities, summer camp, and programming for older adults. Hours of operation and class times vary.

⁸ <http://www.seacoastfamilypromise.org/>



BASELINE SNAPSHOT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Why It Matters

Economic development is a primary source of a community's wealth, employment, and fiscal well-being. Supporting local economic development begins with identifying a community's assets, and requires continual investment in human resources, the built environment, and natural resources. An important component of a resilient local economy is a diverse business community with support for larger employers, small businesses, and entrepreneurs. Policies that support a clear path to establishing a business, identify which businesses are appropriate, and offer tools to help with complex development scenarios can be invaluable to both the short and long-term success of a town like Exeter. Further a community that invests in education and training, housing, infrastructure, and public services provides an environment that is conducive to private sector investment.

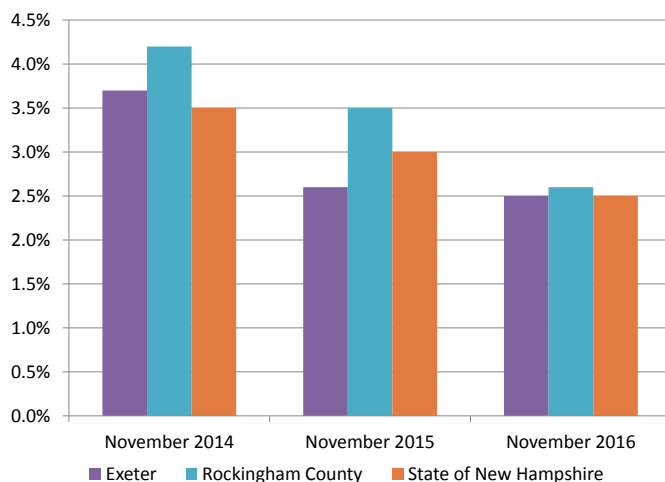
Exeter's Labor Force

The characteristics of the local labor force provide a baseline for attracting businesses and identifying workforce training needs.

Rate of Unemployment

Over the past three years, unemployment in Exeter, Rockingham County, and the State of New Hampshire has continued to decrease.

Unemployment Rate in Exeter, Rockingham County, and State of New Hampshire, 2014 to 2016

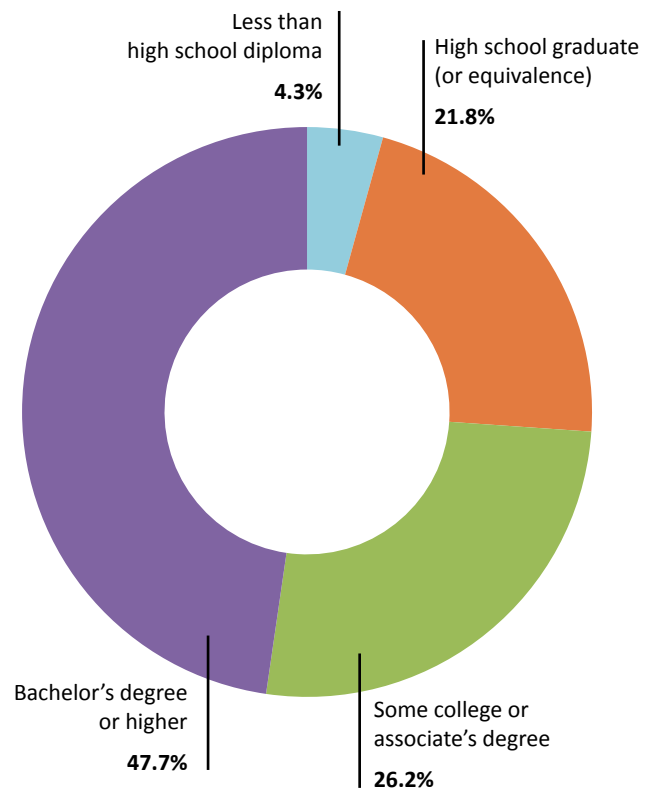


Source: New Hampshire Employment Security, Economic & Labor Market Information Bureau

Education

Nearly half of residents 25 years and older has a Bachelor's degree or higher. This is greater than that Rockingham County (38.8%) and the State of New Hampshire (34.9%). Less than 5% do not have a high school diploma or equivalent.

Education Attainment of Exeter Residents 25 years and older, 2015

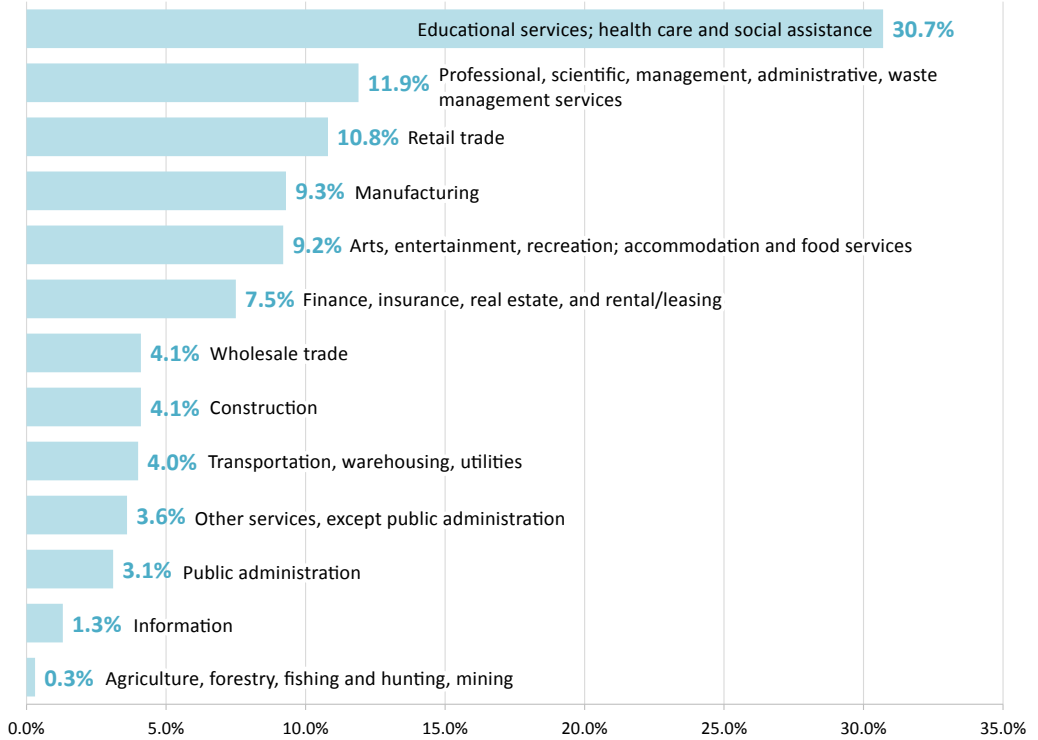


Source: 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Employment Sectors

In 2015, 30.7 % of residents were employed in the educational services, health care and social assistance industries. This reflects the job opportunities available in Exeter, including Exeter Hospital and Riverwoods at Exeter.

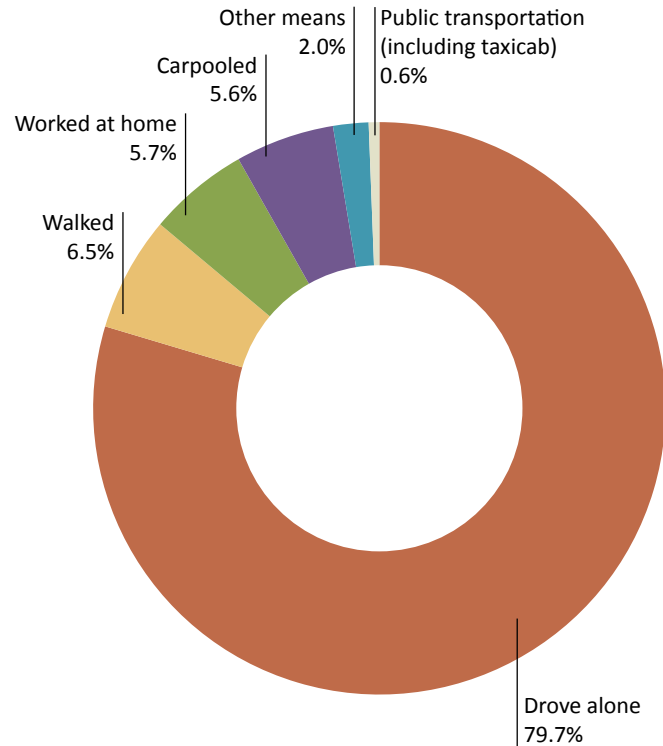
Industries of Civilian Exeter Residents 25 years and older, 2015



Commuting

According to the U.S. Census, most Exeter residents drive alone to work. More residents in Exeter walk to work (6.5%) than in Rockingham County (2.9%) and the State of New Hampshire as a whole (1.7%). Another 5.7% of Exeter residents work from home. Notably, less than 1% use public transportation, which includes COAST bus service and Amtrak's Downeaster. The mean travel time to work for Exeter residents is 25 minutes.

Means of Getting to Work, 2015



Median travel time to work: 25.5 minutes

Source: 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Exeter stop of Amtrak's Downeaster

Employment Characteristics in Exeter

Employment and Wages

In 2015, 556 Exeter businesses employed an average of almost 10,000 people. Many of these establishments are small businesses. In the Downtown alone are 91 street level commercial storefronts. The majority of employment opportunities in Exeter are in private-sector jobs. The average weekly wage for all sectors was \$1,150, only slightly higher than that of Rockingham County (\$999) and the State (\$1,010).

Annual Averages of Employment and Wages in Exeter, 2015

| Industry | Number of Businesses | Annual Average Employment | Average Weekly Wage |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Goods-Producing Industries | 59 | 1,195 | \$1,230 |
| Service-Producing Industries | 481 | 7,813 | \$1,163 |
| Total Private Sector Industries | 540 | 9,007 | \$1,172 |
| Total Government Sector* | 16 | 934 | \$935 |
| TOTAL | 556 | 9,942 | \$1,150 |

*Federal, state, and local governments

Source: "Covered Employment and Wages" prepared by the Economic and Labor Market Information Bureau, NHES (<http://www.nhes.nh.gov/elmi/statistics/documents/citytown2015.pdf>)

Exeter's Major Employers

While most of the private businesses in Exeter are smaller in scale, there are several larger employers.

Largest Private Sector Employers in Exeter, 2015

| Company | Product/Service | Number of Employees in Exeter | Year Established |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Exeter Hospital | Healthcare | 900 | 1897 |
| Philips Exeter Academy | Education | 520 | 1781 |
| Riverwoods at Exeter | Elderly housing, healthcare | 500 | 1994 |
| Cobham | Electronics | 370 | 1988 |
| Osram Sylvania | Electronics | 318 | 1989 |

Source: Town of Exeter Economic Development Department

Public employers include the Town of Exeter and the public school system. The Town of Exeter employs approximately 150 people. The School Administrative Unit (SAU) 16 has approximately 1,200 regular, full-time, and part-time employees across six towns, including Exeter where the Exeter Regional Cooperative School District (ERCSD) has its administrative offices. The ERCSD oversees Exeter High School (in Exeter), the Cooperative Middle School (in Stratham), and Seacoast School of Technology and Exeter Adult Education, both at the Tuck Learning Campus in Exeter. The ERCSD comprises of about 50% of the professional staff at SAU 16.



Exeter Hospital

Economic Development Tools

Economic Development Commission

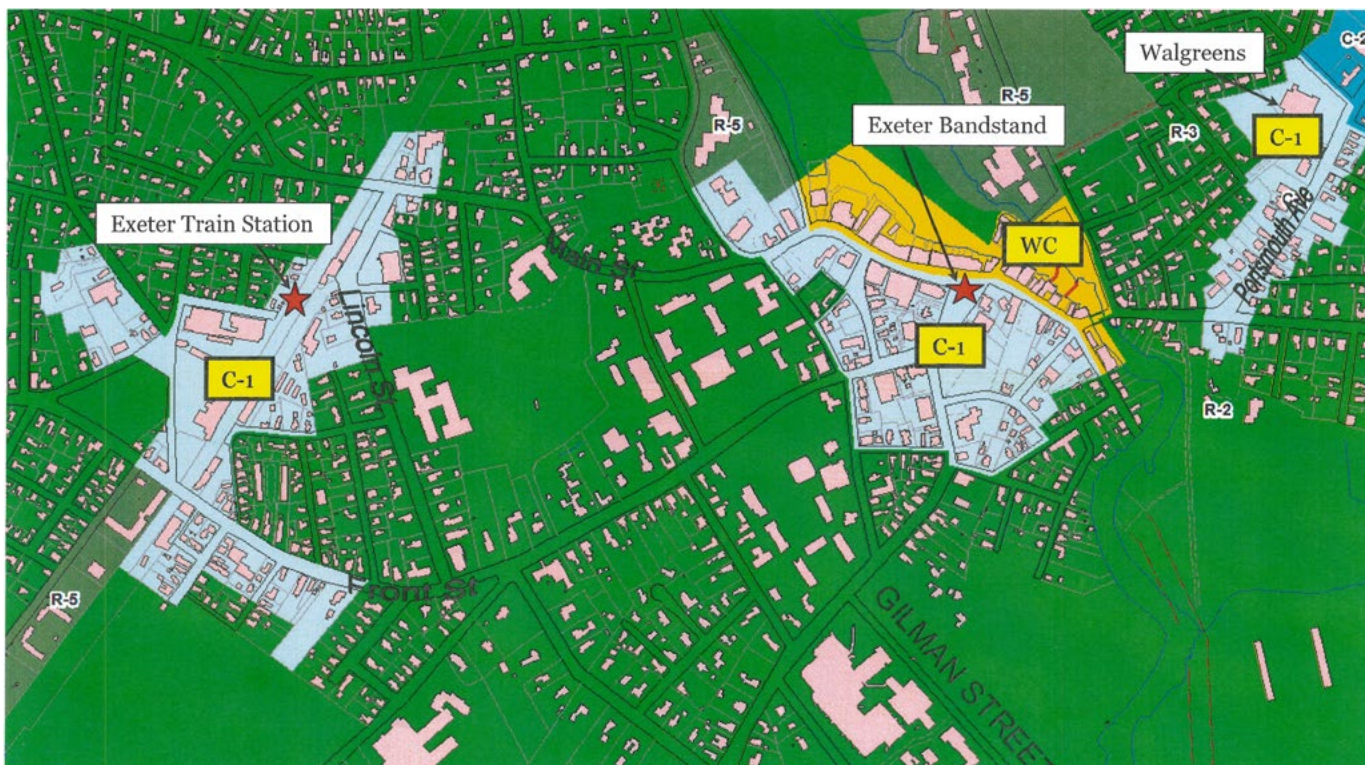
The Exeter Economic Development Commission (EEDC; also known as the Exeter Development Commission) is a nine member committee composed of town officials and citizens to further the efforts of economic development in the Town of Exeter. The EEDC facilitates relationships between the town and local businesses, thus supporting the economic foundation of the town and bolstering the vitality of the community. The EEDC aims to serve as a resource to existing and potential Exeter businesses. Its goals include:

- Retention and expansion of existing industries and businesses
- Attraction and development of new industries and businesses
- Redevelopment of targeted areas
- Fostering a cooperative effort with organizations involved in the economic development of the area
- Marketing Exeter as a choice industrial and business location

Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive (RSA 79E)

RSA 79E is a property tax relief program that seeks to encourage investment in town centers and to rehabilitate under-utilized buildings within these areas. The application process is made to the governing body by property owners desiring to make improvements that meet 79E guidelines as well as the public benefit test. In return, the governing body may provide tax relief at a pre-rehabilitation value for a finite period.

The RSA 79E incentive was adopted by the Town of Exeter in 2014. Eligible areas are zoning districts C-1 Central, C-1 Lincoln, C-1 Portsmouth Ave, and WC-Waterfront Commercial, as shown in the map below. In order to qualify for the program, a property will be in need of substantial rehabilitation and the rehabilitation will provide a tangible public benefit. A public benefit might include restoring a historic building, promoting downtown development, increasing downtown housing, or increases the economic vitality of downtown. The cost to rehabilitate the property must be at least 15% of the building's pre-rehabilitated assessed value, or \$75,000, whichever is less. The construction must also be consistent with the town's development regulations or the town's master plan.



RSA 79E Reference Map

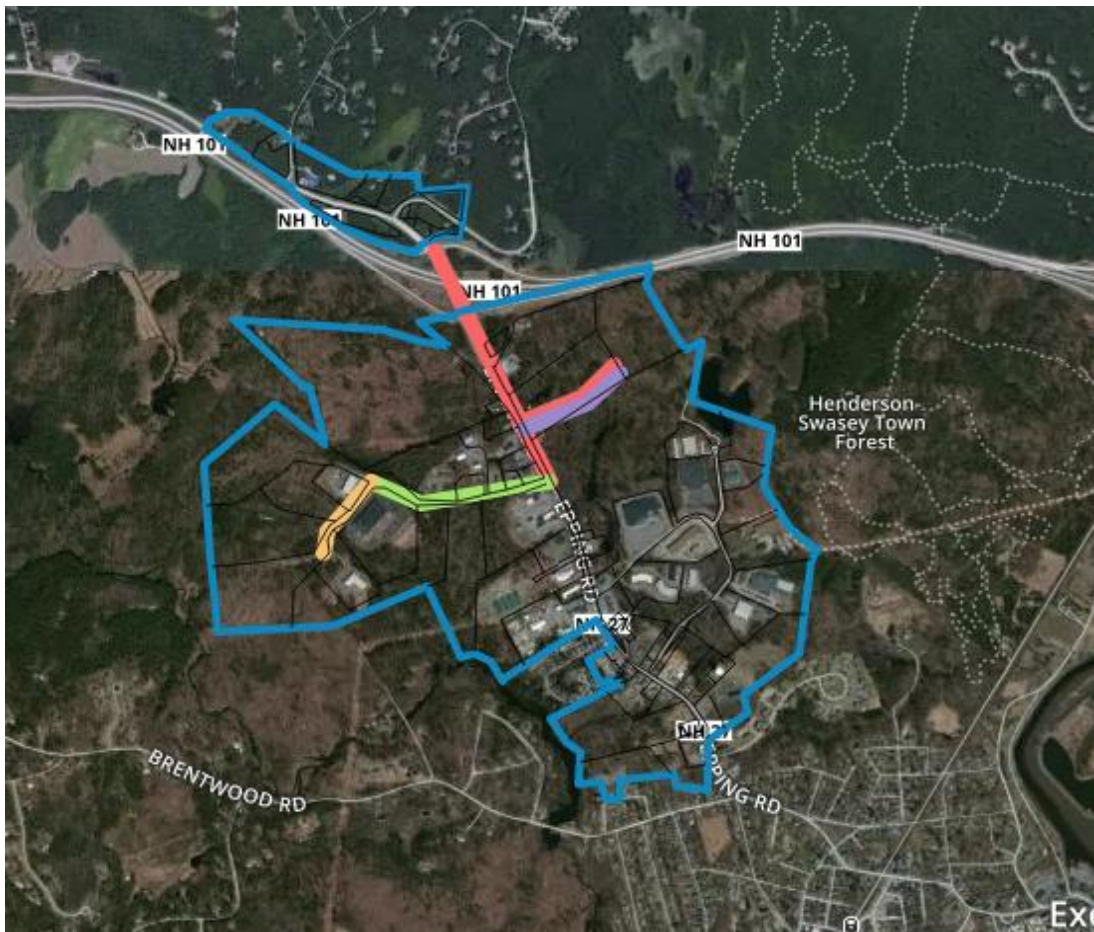
Tax Increment Financing District

A Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District was established in 2015 and encompasses almost 590 acres of underdeveloped and undeveloped land along Epping Road. A TIF District uses a portion of future tax revenue to make infrastructure investments (water, sewer, roads, etc.) in the target district to attract new development, which generates tax dollars and increased revenue to the town. These new tax dollars are used to pay off the cost of the improvements incrementally. When the investments have been paid off, and all future tax dollars revert to the general fund.

Epping Road Economic Revitalization Zone

The New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development has approved more than 40 zones around the state for the Economic Revitalization Zone program. Businesses located in an Economic Revitalization Zone (ERZ) may apply for tax credits against their Business Profit and Business Enterprise taxes. To qualify for the program, existing businesses must expand and/or create jobs. This can be accomplished by acquiring new equipment or hiring a new employee. In Exeter, an approved ERZ occupies a 1.5 mile stretch along the Epping Road corridor and includes 720 acres. The ERZ is approved for multiple land uses under the town’s zoning ordinance, including commercial, neighborhood professional, corporate technology, industrial, and multi-family residential.

Epping Road TIF District



| Legend | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Proposed Sewer/Water |  |
| Proposed Industrial Road |  |
| Existing Sewer/Water |  |
| Existing Forced Main |  |
| TIF Area |  |



BASELINE SNAPSHOT

HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES

Why It Matters

Exeter was founded in 1638, and has a rich history. As demonstrated by the active work of the Exeter Historical Society and the Town Commissions and Committees that handle historical and cultural preservation issues, Exeter's historic and cultural resources represent a vibrant part of the community's character. Some of these resources date back many generations, while new and vibrant cultural resources fill the community. This information provides a snapshot of Exeter's historic and cultural resources.

Historic Resources

Exeter's commitment to historic preservation is facilitated through the work of two town-led groups, the Historic District Commission (HDC) and the Heritage Commission. The HDC, established in 1970, is responsible for monitoring and preserving the integrity and beauty of the Exeter Historic Districts. The HDC administers Article 8 of the Town Zoning Ordinance that addresses historic districts in Exeter and works to preserve the architectural heritage of the Town, as well as elements of the community's architectural, cultural, social, economic and political history. The Heritage Commission was established by town vote in 2006 with a purpose of offering a way for local government to manage, recognize, and protect historical and cultural resources. The Commission differs from the HDC in that it has a town-wide scope. It undertakes a range of activities and operates in an advisory role, similar to the function of the conservation commission, but with a focus on historic resources. The Commission advises and assists other local boards and commissions, conducts inventories, educates the public on matters relating to historic preservation, provides information on historical resources, and serves as a resource for revitalization efforts.

Local Historic Districts and Properties on the National Register of Historic Places



Historic Districts and Buildings

There are three historic districts in Exeter, two of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). These include the Downtown Historic District, Front Street Historic District, and High Street Historic

District. Additionally, there are eight properties listed on the NRHP: Dudley House, First Church, Gilman Garrison, Major John Gilman House, Ladd-Gilman House, Moses-Kent House, Sewall-Edward-Garrison, and Samuel Tenney House.

Exeter continues to work towards protecting historic resources through designation and listing. The Town prepared an application in 2014 to the New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources to survey the history of the Franklin-South-River Streets neighborhood. A study completed that year found that of the 51 parcels, there are 46 contributing primary buildings and six contributing outbuildings. This study concluded that the area has historic integrity and is eligible to be listed on the NRHP. The most recent addition to the State Register of Historic Places is the barn on the Wiggins-Raynes Farm property¹ in October 2017, which the Town purchased in 2002 as conservation land (41 acres total). The property is the largest remaining farmland in Exeter and has roots back to the 17th century.



*Barn at Wiggins-Raynes Farm
(Photo courtesy of Joe Drapeau)*

The Town Hall is an iconic feature in downtown Exeter. The building was designed by the Boston architect, Arthur Gilman, who also designed Commonwealth Avenue in Boston, and constructed in 1855. Town Hall was built in Romanesque-style with a portico, cupola and a Statue of Justice. During the mid 1800s, Exeter hosted many important visitors, including Abraham Lincoln in 1860. President Lincoln delivered a speech in 1860 at the newly constructed Town Hall.

¹ <http://exeternh.gov/bcc/raynes-farm-project>

Town-wide Mapping Project

In March 2012, the Heritage Commission conducted a town-wide Mapping Project, to produce a series of maps that show the spatial development of Exeter over time, by documenting when different areas of the Town were developed. This is the first step for Exeter toward developing an historic inventory of architectural resources and the development history of the Town.

Exeter Historical Society

The Exeter Historical Society² (EHS) is a non-profit dedicated to the rich history of Exeter. It is a repository of documents, maps, photos, artifacts, and other ephemera and offers diverse monthly programming and events open to public. EHS is an enormous resource and partner to the HDC and Heritage Commission as well as the public schools. Its home is downtown at 47 Front Street. The building was built in 1896 and served as the Town's public library until 1987 when the library moved to its current location. The Town of Exeter still retains ownership of the building and leases it to the EHS.



Exeter Historical Society

American Independence Museum

The American Independence Museum,³ housed in the National Historic Landmark Ladd-Gilman House located in downtown Exeter, was founded in 1991 and features exhibits and educational programs in celebration of events, people, places and ideas that played a role in the founding of the United States of America. While it is known for its summertime Independence Festival, the American Independence Museum has programs and events planned throughout the year.

² <https://www.exeterhistory.org/>

³ <https://independencemuseum.org/>

Great Dam

Exeter's location along the Exeter and Squamscott Rivers made it an ideal location for settlers in the early 1700s. These rivers provided for the early industry that fueled the town's economy. In 2016, the Town undertook a major river restoration and dam removal project by removing the Great Dam, which had previously been located next to Founder's Park downtown. This removal and restoration was completed and will result in improved water quality throughout the town.



Squamscott River

Local Culture and the Arts

Exeter Arts and Theater

The Exeter Arts Committee⁴ is an all-volunteer Town committee, appointed by the Board of Selectmen that promotes the arts and artists in the region that sponsors a number of events and activities. The Committee is responsible for organizing and displaying shows in its gallery on the second floor in historic Exeter Town Hall. The Committee is also responsible for selecting the art that is on display in the Town Offices across the street at 10 Front Street. This art is on loan for a period of four months from local artists who participate in a lottery-style drawing for the limited spaces in the office building.

Built originally in 1915 by Judge Edward D. Mayer, the IOKA Theatre on Water Street in downtown Exeter featured an auditorium of almost 500 seats. At one time, it offered the largest screen in the area with an updated state-of-art sound system. A second screen was added in the restored basement, (a correction, this was intended but the Y backed out, a side note: the intended amenities; pool, bowling alley and gym

⁴ <http://www.exeterarts.org/>; <https://www.facebook.com/Exeter-ArtsCommittee>

were installed at later dates by another owner and then removed during various rehabilitations). The IOKA Theatre closed its doors in December 2008, and has remained closed since, with the building falling into visible disrepair.



IOKA Theater

Phillips Exeter Academy

Phillips Exeter Academy, which opened in 1781, is located in Exeter and retains its 18th-century New England charm. The campus is divided by the three main streets, with Georgian-style classroom buildings throughout. During the early 1900s, development at Phillips Exeter greatly increased, the cultural resources at Phillips Exeter have grown to include a theater, dance studio, art galleries, observatory, and science center – all of which offer programs that are open to the public.



Phillips Exeter Academy



BASELINE SNAPSHOT

HOUSING

Why It Matters

Providing residents with opportunities to have safe, affordable homes is a cornerstone of social and economic health in any community. A balance of diverse housing opportunities and adequate supply can build the local labor workforce and support the spectrum of people's housing needs through a lifetime – an apartment after graduation, a family's first home, or downsizing for empty-nesters or retirees. The type of housing available, its cost, and its condition are important attributes families and individuals evaluate when choosing a place to live. These factors can also influence whether a current resident can remain in town as he or she transitions from one life stage to another.

Housing Units and Types

Housing construction since 2010 has added 349 housing units, predominately multi-family homes. While representing a smaller percentage of total housing types, the number of manufactured homes has decreased by 4%.

Housing Construction Activity in Exeter, 2010 to 2015

| Housing Type | Residential Permits, Units Constructed | | | | | | | | Total Estimated Housing Units 2015 | Change 2010 to 2015 |
|----------------------|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | Housing Units in 2010 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | | | |
| Single Family | 3,065 | 15 | 13 | 13 | 15 | 8 | 11 | 3,140 | 2% | |
| Multi-Family | 2,551 | 39 | 9 | 58 | 1 | 71 | 129 | 2,858 | 12% | |
| Manufactured Housing | 879 | (12) | (8) | (5) | - | - | (8) | 846 | -4% | |
| Total Housing | 6,496 | 42 | 14 | 66 | 16 | 79 | 132 | 6,845 | 5% | |

Source: State of New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning State Data Center, "New Hampshire's Housing Supply: Current Estimates and Trends" (December 2016)

In 2015, the predominant housing type in Exeter was the single family home, representing almost half of the inventory. Apartment buildings made up another third (34.2%), followed by mobile homes and condominiums/townhouses.

Type of Housing as a Percentage of Total Housing, 2015

| Housing Type | Percentage of Total Housing |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Single family | 45.7% |
| Apartments (2-9 units) | 17.8% |
| Apartments (10+ units) | 16.4% |
| Mobile homes | 14.2% |
| Condos/Townhouses | 6.0% |

Source: 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Age of Housing

In 2015, 37.7% of homes in Exeter were built before 1960. Older homes contribute to community character and are important historic and cultural resources. The age of a home and its condition can also impact those sensitive to environmental factors, such as the elderly and young children.

Older homes can be more expensive to maintain over time. They are less energy efficient to heat and cool, and require more maintenance or retrofitting.

Type of Housing as a Percentage of Total Housing, 2015

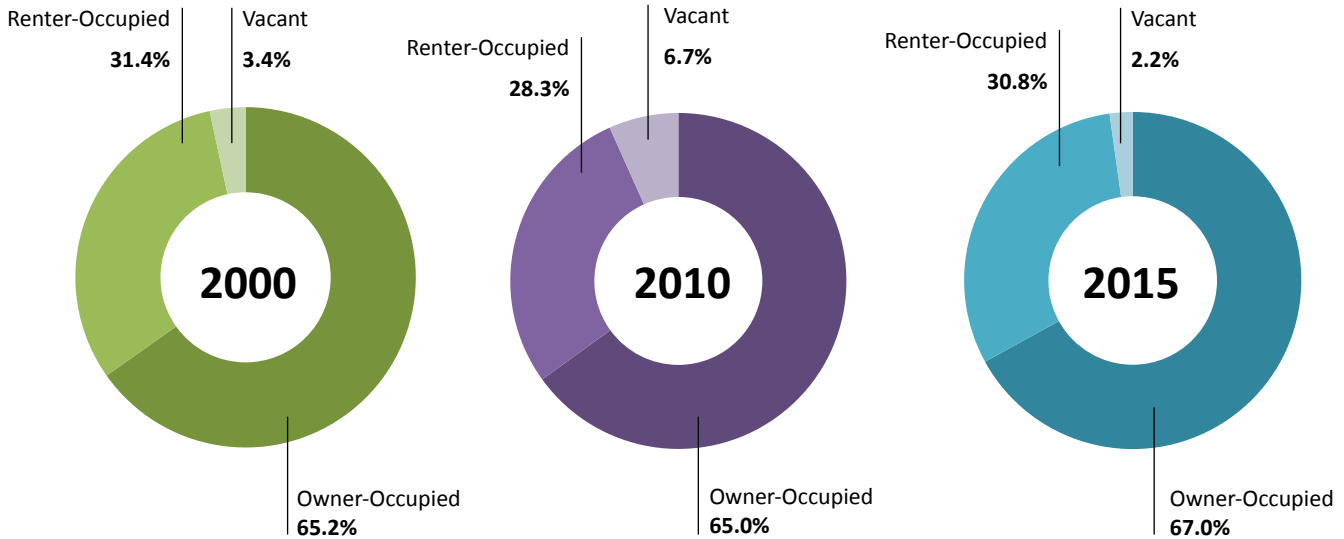
| | 2015 |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Built 2000 or later | 15.7% |
| Built 1990 to 1999 | 11.3% |
| Built 1980 to 1989 | 17.5% |
| Built 1970 to 1979 | 11.9% |
| Built 1960 to 1969 | 5.9% |
| Built 1950 to 1959 | 7.8% |
| Built 1940 to 1949 | 7.2% |
| Built 1939 or earlier | 22.7% |

Source: 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Occupancy

Exeter has maintained relatively high occupancy of its housing units, and in 2015 only 2.2% was reported to be vacant. A majority of occupied housing units have been owner-occupied, with about 31% rented. Occupancy rate serves as one indicator of cost, with lower occupancy rates suggesting high demand and higher costs relative to other markets in the region.

Occupancy of Housing Units in Exeter, 2015



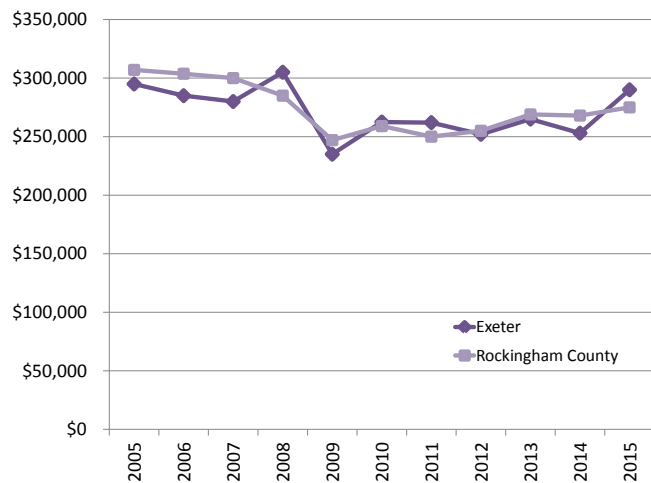
Source: 2000 US Census, 2010 and 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Housing Costs and Affordability

Median Sales Price

Since 2005, the median purchase price of all homes in Exeter peaked in 2008, when it reached just over \$300,000. However, it fell dramatically following the Great Recession, and has been slowly increasing since then. In 2015, it reached \$295,000—just short of its pre-recession peak.

Median Sales Price for All Homes in Exeter and Rockingham County, 2005 to 2015

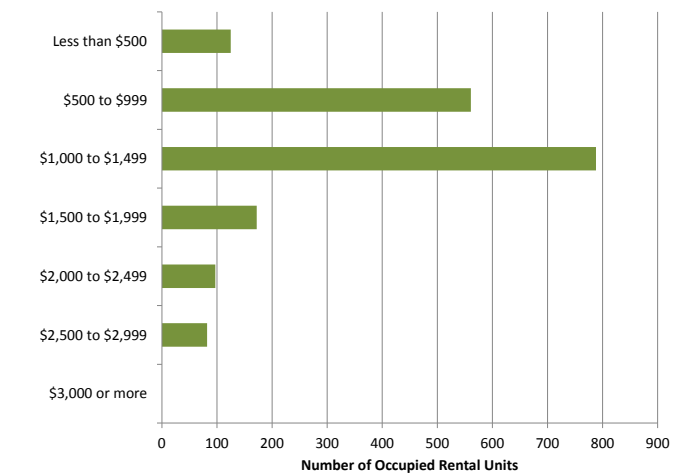


Source: NHHFA Purchase Price Database

Median Rent

In 2015, the median gross rent paid in occupied rental units in Exeter was \$1,174, slightly higher than that of Rockingham County (\$1,123) and statewide (\$1,000).

Median Sales Price for All Homes in Exeter and Rockingham County, 2005 to 2015

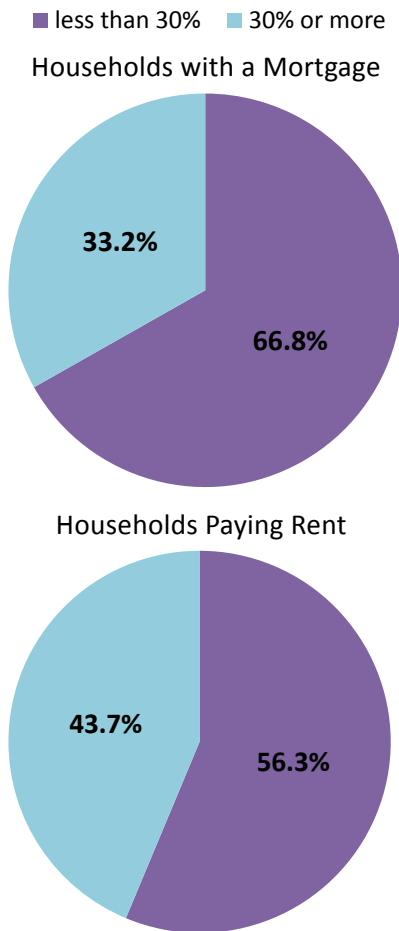


Source: 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Cost Burdens

One indicator of housing affordability is the percent of income spent on housing. When housing costs (rent, mortgage, insurance, utilities, fees, real estate taxes, etc.) are more than 30% of a household income, a household is considered to be “burdened.” In 2015, 33.2% of Exeter residents with a mortgage were burdened with housing costs. More than half of renters were burdened with housing costs.

Housing Costs as a Percentage of Household Income, 2015



Source: 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Workforce Housing

In 2010, the New Hampshire Workforce Housing law (RSA 674:58-61; Chapter 299, Laws of 2008 (SB 342)) went into effect. The law requires all municipalities to provide “reasonable and realistic opportunities” for the development of homes affordable to low and moderate income households. The New Hampshire Legislature recognized the shortage of affordable housing in the state and its impact on economic growth and expanding the state’s labor workforce. Each community is given the responsibility to develop strategies based on local conditions to meet the demand for workforce housing.

The Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) evaluated the region-wide need for workforce housing in their 2015 Master Plan. According to their preliminary estimates, Exeter’s estimated fair share to meet the regional need is approximately 2,600 units. Further analysis by the RPC since then shows the town’s regional fair share estimate at 3,253. With 4,004 units that meet the definition of workforce housing in Exeter, the town is currently well above its target.

Local Planning for Housing

The Exeter Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) was established in 2015. It provides advice to the Board of Selectmen regarding, among other things, the available housing and potential future housing needs for the Town. The HAC publishes an annual report on the state of housing in Exeter which is included in the Town Report. The mission of the HAC is “to identify, analyze, and develop recommendations regarding our current housing availability and our future housing needs to aid in our economic development needs and to maintain a viable, developmentally balanced community.”

The HAC released a report, *Report of the Exeter Housing Committee*, in May 2017 that examined housing trends and issues in Exeter with a list of recommendations for moving forward to meet projected needs.



BASELINE SNAPSHOT

LAND USE

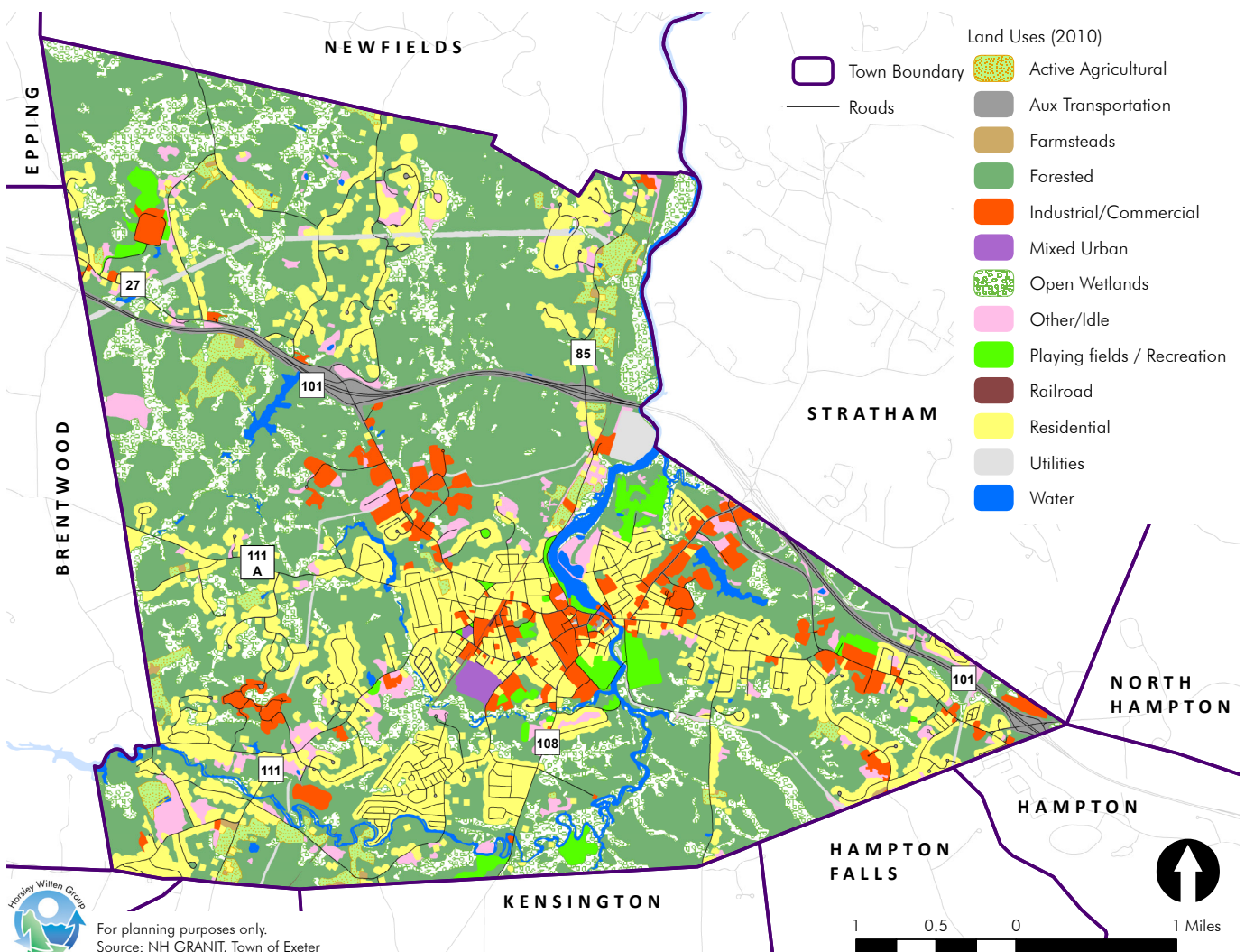
Why It Matters

The types of land uses allowed and where they occur influence economic, environmental, and social aspects of a community. The uses established within a given community will determine what types of jobs are available, what types of goods and services are provided, what type of housing is available, and where land is set aside for open space and recreation. Exeter uses several tools to manage land development. Zoning ordinances regulate where a particular use can be established, the location of buildings within a parcel, and performance standards to protect environmental quality and ensure positive community impacts. The Subdivision Regulations govern how new parcels are created as well as the design of new roads. In some cases, design guidelines are implemented to encourage high quality architectural or environmental design compatible with its surroundings.

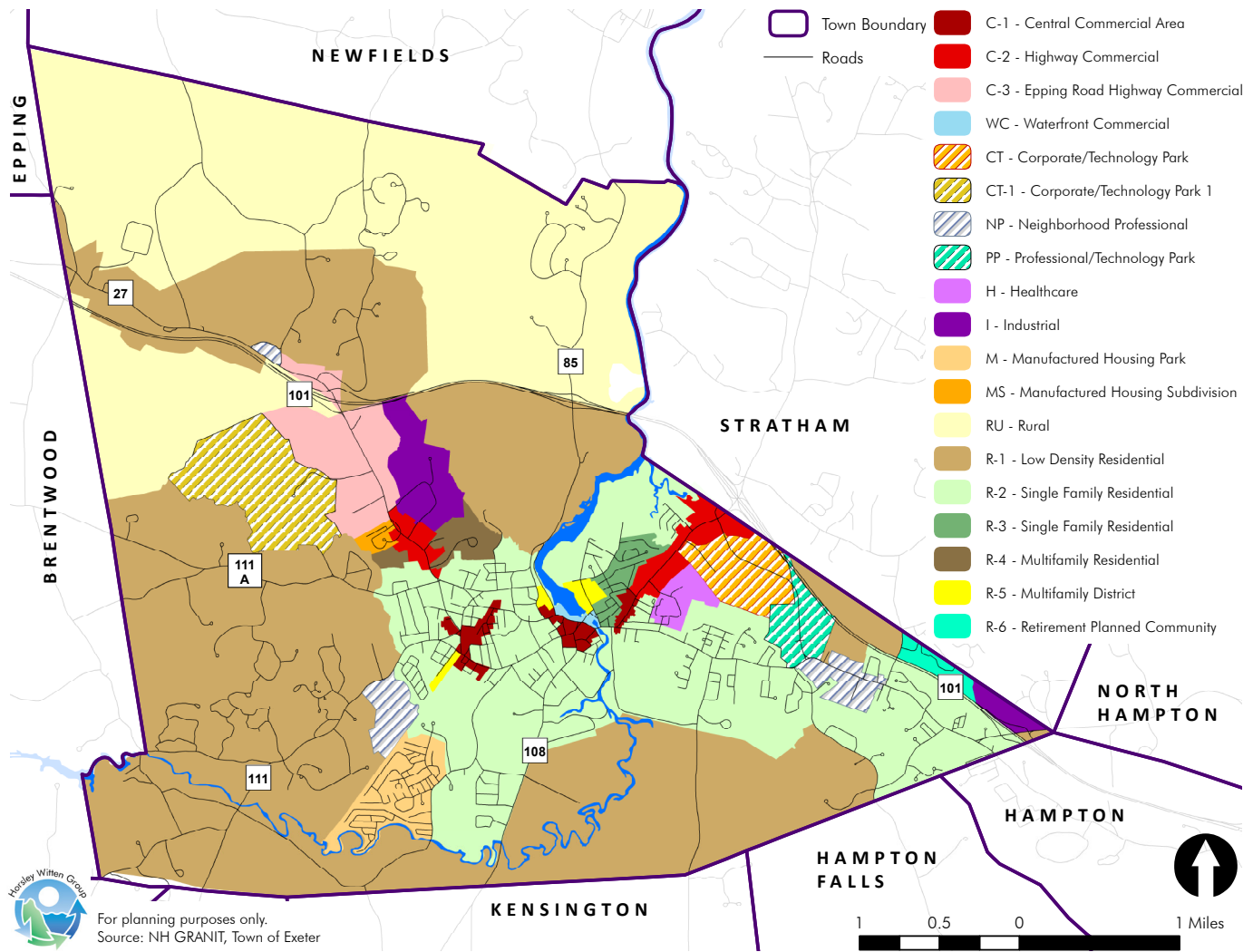
Current Land Uses

The most current land use data (2010) indicates that a majority of the town's land (63%) is undeveloped land as either forest, wetlands, or open water. Another 19% of the Town's land is occupied by residential uses. Industrial/commercial uses account for another 5%.

2010 Land Uses in Exeter



Zoning Districts



Land Use Management Tools

Zoning Ordinance

Updated as recently as 2016, the Town's Zoning Ordinance has 19 separate districts. Exeter is predominately zoned for a residential uses (about 88% of the land) under nine districts. Three commercial districts (Central Commercial (C-1), Highway Commercial (C-2), and Neighborhood Professional (NP)) also allow residential conversions as a special exemption.

Additional commercial districts, Epping Road Highway Commercial (C-3) and Waterfront Commercial (WC), focus on retail and office-oriented establishments. The Corporate/Technology Park districts (CT and CT-1) allow light industrial, research facilities, and professional office uses, among other related uses. The Professional Technology Park is similar to these two districts, but does not allow industrial uses or research and laboratory establishments without a special exemption. The Healthcare district focuses on medical

and healthcare establishments, primarily around Exeter Hospital.

There are six overlay districts that allow the Town to protect the town's historic districts and natural resources. Development requirements and performance standards in the respective Zoning Ordinance articles are established to minimize impacts of development to these resources.

- Open Space Development (Article 7) to promote conservation of open space and protection of natural resources through innovative, clustered design of new subdivisions.
- Historic District (Article 8) is applicable to the Downtown, Front Street, and High Street Historic Districts. Standards are intended to protect the character of each historic district by regulating size, scale, and design of new construction and redevelopment.
- Wetland Conservation District (Article 9.1) is applicable to surface waters, wetlands, vernal

pools, hydric soils, and streams, including their associated buffers as described in the ordinance.

- Aquifer Protection District (Article 9.2) is designed to protect groundwater and their recharge areas for the Town's drinking water supply, both public and private sources.
- Exeter Shoreland Protection District (Article 9.3) is intended to protect the water quality of the town's major water features, specifically the Water Works Pond and the Exeter and Squamscott Rivers and their tributaries.
- Floodplain Development Ordinance (Article 9.4) applies to flood hazard areas as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). These maps were updated in 2005.

The Town also implements a Growth Management Ordinance (Article 10), which requires phasing of residential development projects with 10 or more building lots. The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure that rate of growth is within the capacity of town services and facilities, the capacity of the natural environment is not adversely impacted, and town character is protected.

Site Plan Review and Subdivision Regulations

The Exeter Site Plan Review and Subdivision Regulations (as amended 2016) are used to review all land development in the Town of Exeter. These regulations outline application submission procedures and design and construction requirements.

Site Plan Review is required for new construction or expansion of non-residential uses, new construction and expansion of or conversion to multi-family (more than two units) uses, a change in use to a non-residential or multifamily use, or projects that would disturb more than one acre of land. Subdivision Review requirements are applicable to all subdivisions of land, lot line adjustments, and merging of lots.

The regulations list additional development specifications for projects in the Epping Road Highway Commercial District (C-3) and the Open Space Development Ordinance as well as projects with multifamily uses. Requirements generally focus on roadway access, parking, landscaping, and open space requirements, as appropriate.

Design Guidelines

The Historic District Commission (HDC) uses its design guidelines to direct projects within the three locally designated historic districts: Front Street, Downtown, and High Street. Guidelines encourage property owners to maintain as much of the historic features of a property as possible as they think about maintenance, adaptive reuse, or additions and new construction. Working in conjunction with the Building Department, the HDC Guidelines are a tool to maintaining the character and integrity of the historic districts.





BASELINE SNAPSHOT

NATURAL RESOURCES

Why It Matters

Natural resources provide a variety of environmental, health, economic, recreation, and public safety benefits. They support wildlife and fish habitat, improve air and water quality, provide spaces for people to recreate or simply interact with nature, and minimize flood damage. Ensuring the maintenance and protection of these resources is beneficial to both the community and the local ecosystem.

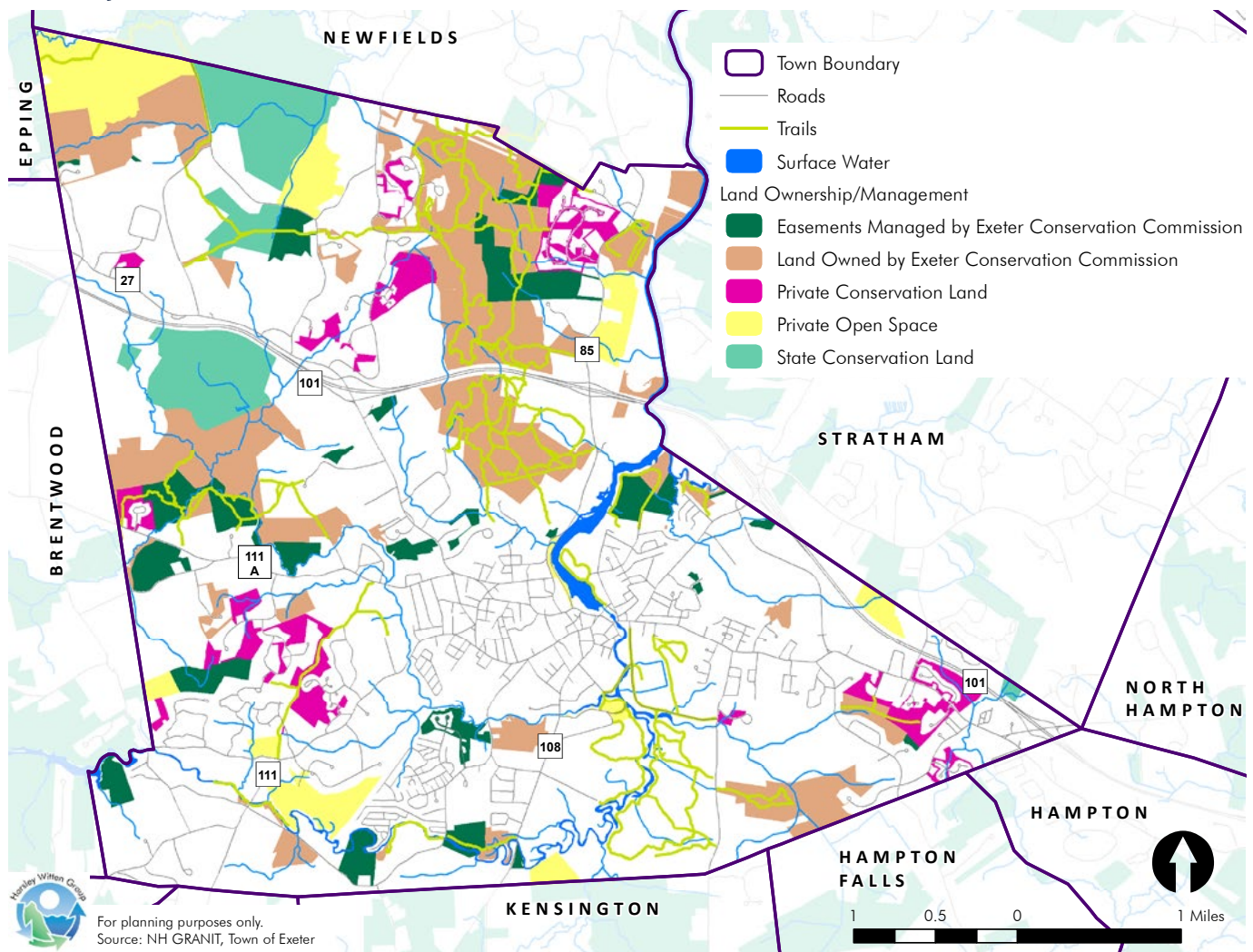
Conservation Land

Management of conservation lands is accomplished through the combined work of the Exeter Conservation Commission (ECC), land trusts, state agencies, and private homeowner associations. Public access and allowed uses on conservation lands vary greatly and are defined by the original terms of the conservation easement or deed. For Town-managed easements and Town-owned conservation land, the ECC is responsible

to ensure activities are appropriate for the resources being protected. In general, unless otherwise noted, passive recreational activities (hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, birding, nature or wildlife viewing, photography) are the most common activities permitted on town-owned conservation land.

Exeter has been actively identifying and conserving natural resources within the community for many years. According to the 2012 Natural Resource Inventory (NRI),

Overview of Conservation Land and Trail Network in Exeter

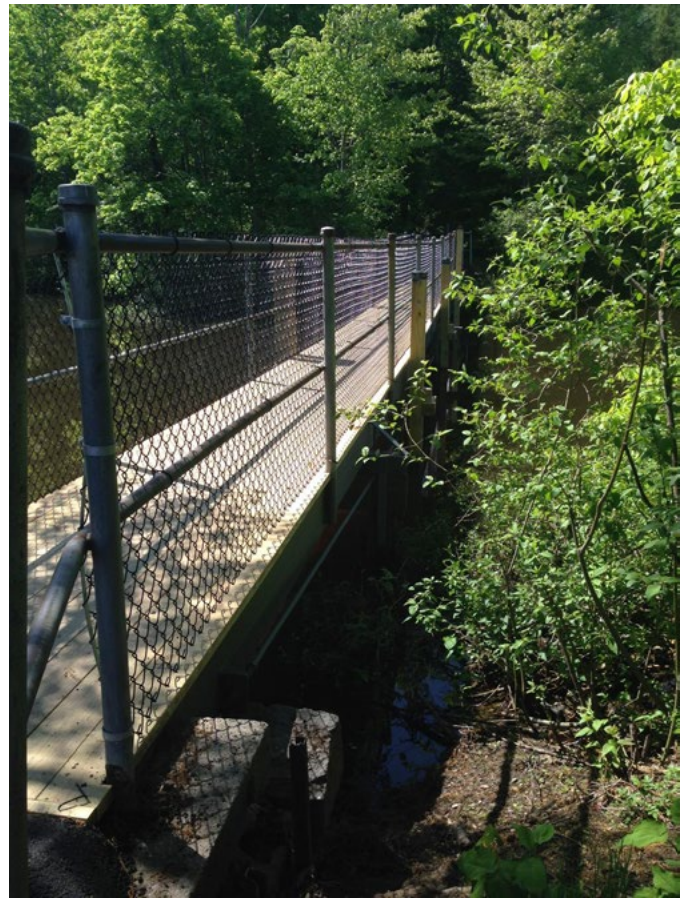


one third of Exeter’s land base has been conserved, though protection level varies based on the method for acquisition. The Town’s GIS inventory shows ownership and management in the table below. More than half of the conservation land in Exeter, 2,382 acres, are properties or easements owned or managed by the Exeter Conservation Commission. The remaining 1,500 acres are owned and/or managed by private property owners, land trusts, or the State of New Hampshire.

Exeter has been very successful in protecting its natural resources. The NRI consolidated existing data on Exeter’s resources and identified resource “hot spots” in town (eg. areas where multiple resources overlay each other) called focus areas. As shown in Table 5 of the NRI, Exeter’s Conservation efforts have addressed large percentages of our vital natural resources and ecosystem services including groundwater, wetlands, stream and river corridors, wildlife habitat, and unfragmented segments of open space. The Town has used regulatory tools to help minimize development impacts on these resources. These tools include zoning ordinances for protection of wetlands, aquifers, shorelands and floodplains. In addition, the Town has also relied on conservation easements obtained by local and regional land trusts, state and federal agencies as well as the Great Bay Resource Protection Partnership, New Hampshire Land Trust Coalitin, and Land and Community Heritage Investment Program, among other non-profit organizations.

Trails

Exeter’s trail system is an essential natural resource for residents and visitors. Exeter developed its *Trail Management Plan* in 2009 to guide the town and landowners in managing the 13 potential recreational trail regions and planning future trails and trail improvements. The Plan also provides useful information and best practices for the management of Exeter’s multi-use trails including both publicly and



Footbridge at Gilman Park



Photo by Brian Crowley

Bikers on trail in Henderson-Swasey Forest

Ownership and Management of Conservation Land in Exeter, 2016

| Owner/Manager | Acres | % of Total Acres of Conservation Land |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| Easements Managed by Exeter Conservation Commission | 613.66 | 16% |
| Land Owned by Exeter Conservation Commission | 1,768.63 | 46% |
| <i>Town of Exeter Sub-total</i> | <i>2,382.29</i> | - |
| Private Conservation Land | 403.93 | 10% |
| Private Open Space | 527.99 | 14% |
| State Conservation land | 549.47 | 14% |
| Total Acres of Conservation Land | 3,875.31 | - |

Source: Town of Exeter GIS

privately owned trail lands. Exeter’s two designated town forests, Oaklands and Henderson-Swasey (often referred to as Fort Rock) are managed for timber in addition to having a multitude of trails open to passive recreation and mountain biking. These networks are the only ones in town where biking is permitted but are very popular both within and beyond the seacoast region. The two regions are connected via a large tunnel under Route 101. The remaining trail regions in town are restricted to pedestrian uses and vary in both use intensity and trail density. The table below summarizes the trail uses and restrictions for public trails in Exeter.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Land set aside for conservation provides habitat to many of Exeter’s plant and wildlife species. In particular, healthy conservation land provides habitat to endangered, threatened, and rare species. According to the New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau, Exeter

Suitable and Restricted Uses on Public Trails in Exeter

is home to seven state-listed endangered plants and one reptile. Several others are listed as threatened or of special concern.

One conservation area of particular and unique value is the state protected natural community swamp white oak floodplain forest along the Exeter River.



Blanding Turtle (Emydoidea blandingii)

| Trail | Suitable Uses | Restricted Uses |
|---|--|---|
| Henderson-Swasey Town Forest Trails | Pedestrian recreation, such as hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, nature viewing, photography. Bicycles are allowed on established trails. | Motorized vehicles are prohibited, as are horses. Hunting is not allowed in Henderson-Swasey. Off-trail riding of bicycles is not allowed. |
| Jolly Rand Trail | Pedestrian recreation, such as walking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, nature viewing. Bicycles are allowed. | Motorized vehicles are prohibited. |
| Linden Street (McDonnell, Morrissette, and Linden Commons) Trails | Open to passive non-commercial recreational activity, fishing allowed. | No hunting, motorized vehicles, or biking, no dogs per private landowner. |
| Little River Trails | To be maintained as scenic open space for passive outdoor recreation. Hunting in accordance with the regulations is allowed. | No wheeled vehicles |
| Oaklands Town Forest and Forest Ridge Trails | Pedestrian recreation, such as hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, nature viewing, photography. Bicycles are allowed on established trails. Snowmobiles have historically been allowed on the established snowmobile trails in the winter months, as these trails are not located in the town forest. | Motorized vehicles are prohibited, as are horses. Hunting in season is allowed in the Oaklands town forest. Snowmobiles are not allowed in the Oaklands area proper, as they are a motorized vehicle. |
| Raynes Farm Trails | Pedestrian recreation | Motorized and wheeled vehicles are prohibited |
| Smith-Page Conservation Land Trails | Seasonal hunting on Smith-Page proper, pedestrian recreation including hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. | Hunting is not allowed on the Katz parcel (the rear of the Smith-Page conservation area). No motorized vehicles, no bicycles, no horses, no dogs, no camping. |
| Snowmobile Trails | For snowmobile use during winter and considered to be easy for pedestrian use in the spring, summer and fall. | ----- |

Source: Excerpts from *Exeter Trail Management Plan* (2009)

In the 2015 New Hampshire State Wildlife Action Plan (WAP), the state identifies species that are in greatest need of conservation and their associated habitats that are at greatest risk. Using biological data, landscape setting, and human influences, the state ranked habitat based on its capacity to support species of greatest conservation need into three tiers. In general, the “Highest Ranked in the State” tier includes the top 15% of each habitat that support state-listed species. The “Highest Ranked in the Biological Region” includes the top 30% of each habitat unique to that biological region. The final tier, “Supporting Landscapes,” includes the remaining 50% of each habitat plus very large intact forested lands that would not be otherwise top ranked. These high-ranking areas can be found in Exeter, many of which are within existing conservation lands.

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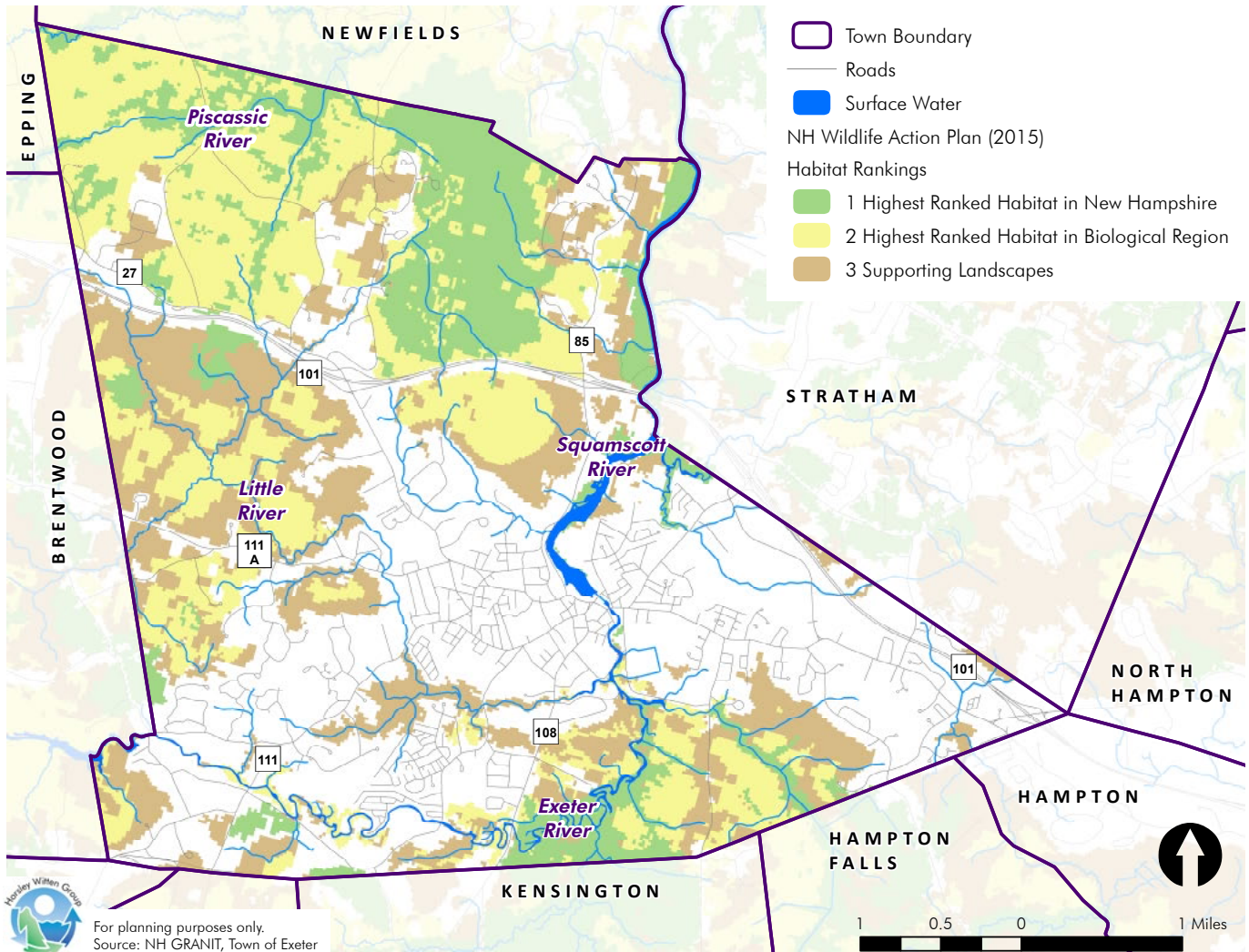
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

State-Listed Threatened, Endangered, and Special Concern Species Observed in Exeter

| Common Name | Species | Type | NH Classification |
|----------------------------|---|---------|-------------------|
| Climbing hempvine | <i>Mikania scandens</i> | Plant | Endangered |
| Great bur-reed | <i>Sparganium eurycarpum</i> | Plant | Threatened |
| Little-headed spikesedge | <i>Eleocharis parvula</i> | Plant | Threatened |
| Peat moss | <i>Sphagnum contortum</i> | Plant | Threatened |
| Sharp-flowered manna grass | <i>Glyceria acutiflora</i> | Plant | Endangered |
| Slender blue iris | <i>Iris prismatica</i> | Plant | Endangered |
| Spongy-leaved arrowhead | <i>Sagittaria montevidensis</i> ssp. <i>spongiosa</i> | Plant | Endangered |
| Stout dotted smartweed | <i>Persicaria robustior</i> | Plant | Endangered |
| Vasey's pondweed | <i>Potamogeton vaseyi</i> | Plant | Endangered |
| Water-plantain crowfoot | <i>Ranunculus ambigens</i> | Plant | Endangered |
| Common moorhen | <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | Bird | Special Concern |
| Nelson's sparrow | <i>Ammodramus nelsoni</i> | Bird | Special Concern |
| Osprey | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i> | Bird | Special Concern |
| Pied-billed grebe | <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i> | Bird | Threatened |
| Saltmarsh sparrow | <i>Ammodramus caudacutus</i> | Bird | Special Concern |
| Sora | <i>Porzana carolina</i> | Bird | Special Concern |
| Blanding's turtle | <i>Emydoidea blandingii</i> | Reptile | Endangered |
| Northern black racer | <i>Coluber constrictor constrictor</i> | Reptile | Threatened |
| Spotted turtle | <i>Clemmys guttata</i> | Reptile | Threatened |
| American eel | <i>Anguilla rostrata</i> | Fish | Special Concern |

Source: NH Natural Heritage Bureau, *Rare Plants, Rare Animals, and Exemplary Natural Communities in New Hampshire Towns* (July 2013)

¹ <http://www.wildlife.state.nh.us/wildlife/wap-high-rank.html>



Water Resources

Watersheds

Exeter is located within six watersheds, five of which drain toward Great Bay (Piscassic River (Lamprey), Exeter River, Little River, and the tidal Squamscott River) and one that drains toward the Atlantic Ocean (the Coastal Drainage Watershed). Protecting Exeter’s water resources ensures that residents have access to clean source water for drinking. Residents depend on both surface water (Exeter River) and groundwater sources for their potable water supply. Maintaining the health of the rivers and land throughout the watersheds optimizes Exeter’s water quality and quantity for current and future use.

Exeter also plays an important role in the ecological and economic health of Great Bay, the downstream receiving water for the majority of the town. The Little River flows into the Exeter River which then becomes the tidal Squamscott River, which flows through neighboring Stratham and Newfields to Great

Bay. Because the water quality in Great Bay and the Squamscott River is impaired, Exeter has been required to reduce its contribution of pollutants from its wastewater treatment plant as well as non-point source pollutin from stormwater runoff. As a result, Exeter is constructing a new upgraded wastewater treatment plant, and is working to reduce pollutants from land based sources.

To that end, the Town’s Healthy Lawns Clean Water Initiative aims to inform residents about the harmful effects from chemicals placed on lawns and their impacts as they flow untreated to rivers through wetlands, streams and storm drains when it rains. These wetlands, streams and storm drains connect lawns to Exeter’s rivers. In addition, the Town is implementing an educational and outreach program to raise awareness about the impact of stormwater runoff from other sources on surface water bodies. Think Blue Exeter provides information and educational materials to adults and children on stormwater pollution into streams by way of rain and snow-melt flowing across buildings, streets, parking lots, and other surfaces.

Stormwater collects dirt, debris, and chemicals and carries them directly to rivers and streams.

Wetlands

Wetlands are areas inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater and can be identified based on three criteria:

- Hydric Soils - A soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part.
- Hydrophytic Vegetation - Vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.
- Hydrology - The area is inundated with water either permanently or periodically or the soil is saturated to the surface at some time during the growing season of the prevalent vegetation.

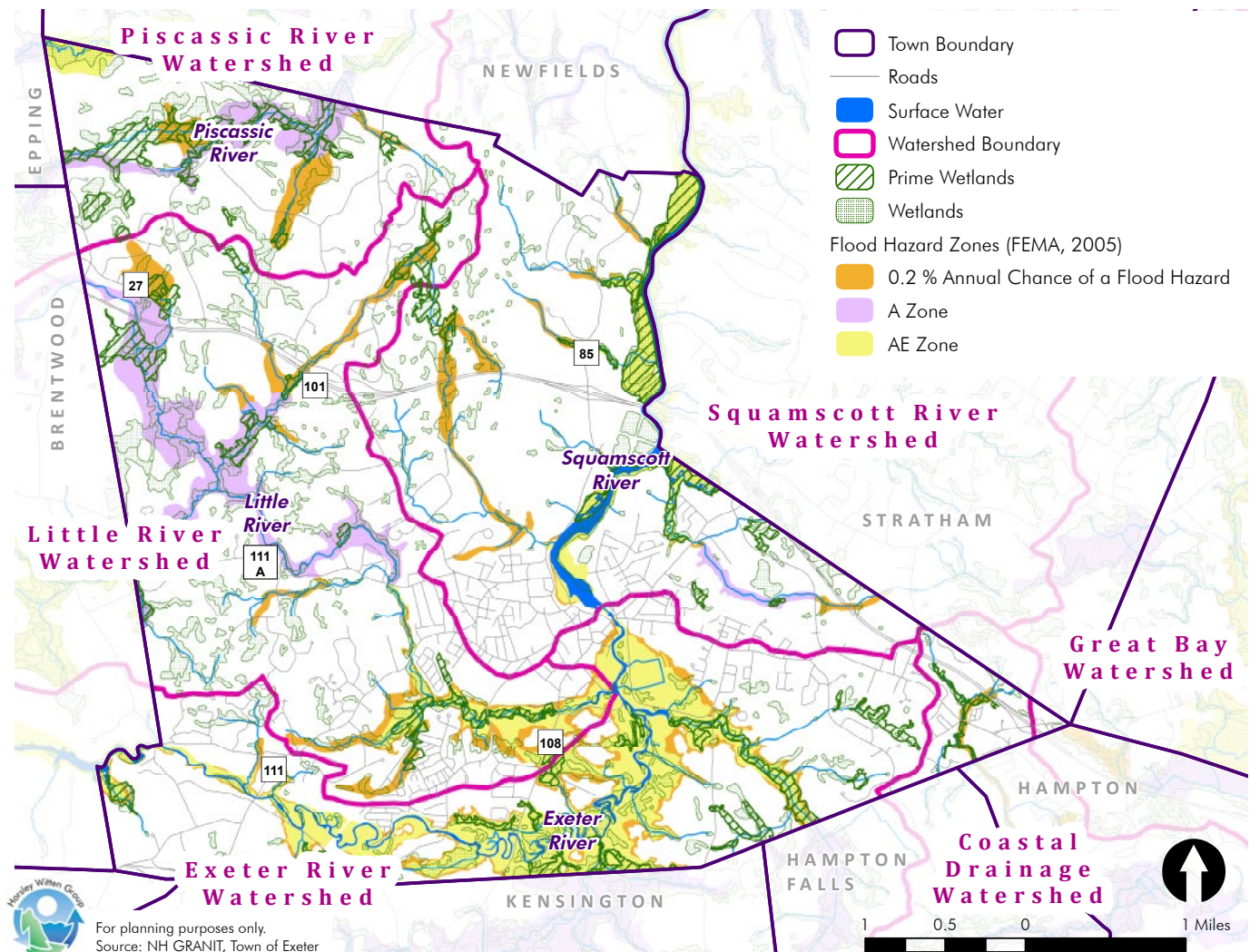
Examples include swamps, forested wetlands, marshes, bogs, and vernal pools. Wetlands absorb flood waters, treat stormwater, recharge groundwater supplies, serve as fish and wildlife habitat, and provide for recreation

and the aesthetic enjoyment. In New Hampshire, individual communities can designate “prime” wetlands that are high quality due to their large size, unspoiled character, and ability to sustain populations of rare or threatened plants and animals. Prime wetlands receive additional regulatory protection from the state. Exeter has designated nearly 750 acres of prime wetlands. Further, town ordinances protect wetlands through wetlands setback designations.

Flood Hazard Areas

While rivers and streams provide valuable water resources, they can also pose a threat to Exeter residents during rain events. The Town has a floodplain ordinance that enables it to participate in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which in turn allows residents living in flood hazard areas to purchase flood insurance at low cost. When periodic flooding occurs in these low-lying areas sediments and nutrients are recycled, creating rich soil deposits that often supports unique plant habitats. Undeveloped floodplains are also important in controlling erosion, buffering

Exeter's Inland Water Resources



against catastrophic flooding, and serve as significant habitat for wildlife. The major floodplains in Exeter are associated with the major rivers: Piscassic (Lamprey), Little, Exeter, and Squamscott. The current active FEMA flood map dates back to 2005, but FEMA is currently working to update its flood map in Exeter, and has presented a draft map, dated 2014, which is still under consideration.² The State and Town worked together in 2009 to develop a Geomorphic Assessment of the Exeter River. This analysis looked at the integrity of river and stream corridors and their buffers along the Exeter River, developed a prioritized list of projects to improve degraded areas and highlighted Fluvial Erosion Hazard areas. These indicate areas in town where the river corridor is likely to modify with large flooding events.

Aquifers

Groundwater is the primary source of public drinking water in Exeter. There are four aquifers in Exeter:

Cove Aquifer: This is Exeter’s largest aquifer in the southeast corner of town within the Exeter River Watershed.

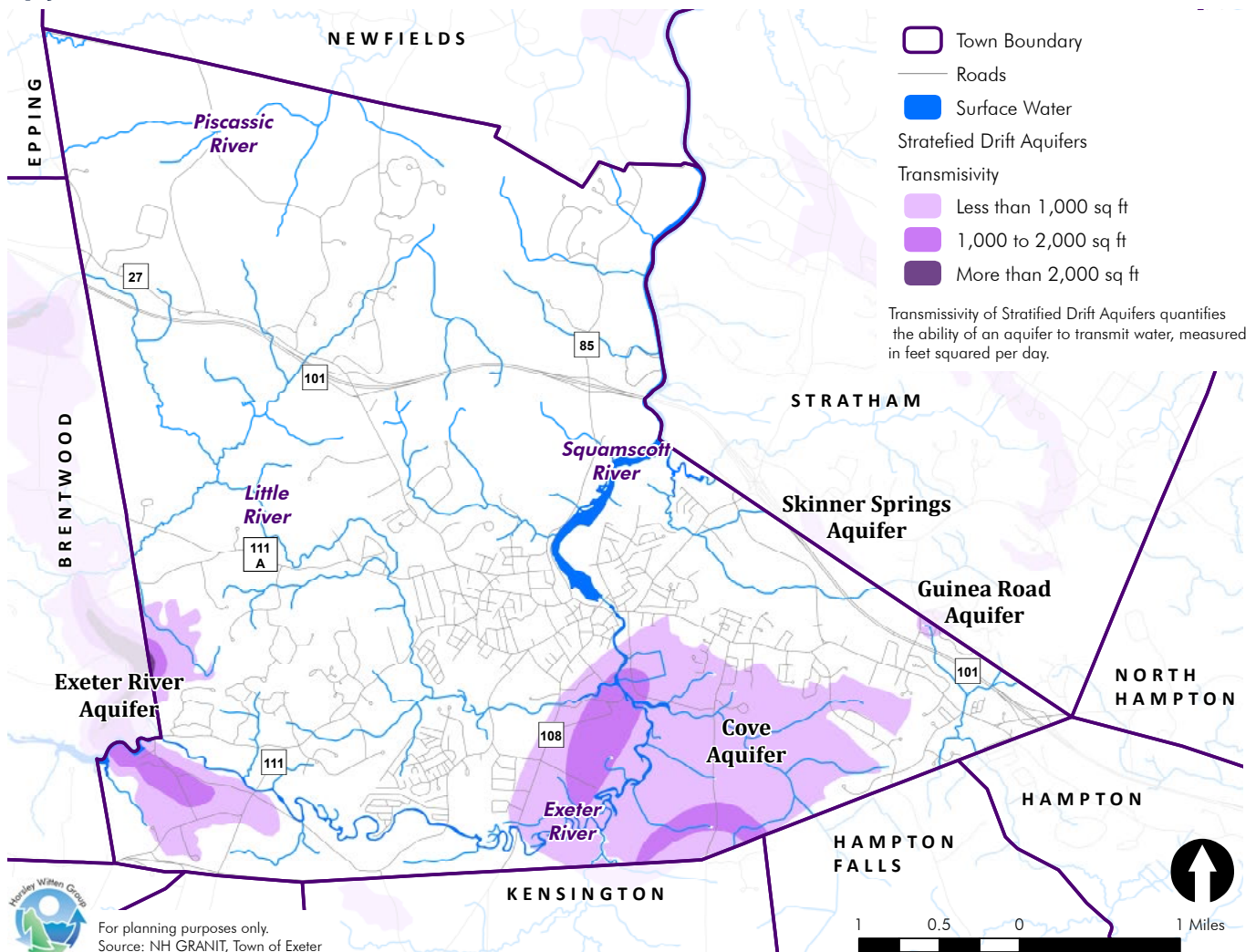
Exeter River Aquifer: This narrow aquifer is shared with the Town of Brentwood to the west.

Skinner Springs Aquifer: This small aquifer is approximately 35 acres in size shared by the Towns of Exeter and Stratham. Most of the aquifer is located in Stratham with approximately 10 acres in Exeter.

Guinea Road Aquifer: This aquifer is also a small aquifer of approximately 35 acres that Exeter shares about equally in size with Stratham. It is located less than 2,000 feet southeast of the Skinner Springs Aquifer described above and just southeast of Guinea Road in eastern Exeter.

The Town’s Aquifer Protection District Ordinance controls development and land uses within aquifers and their recharge areas to protect the available supply and quality of drinking water for the Town.

Aquifers in Exeter



2 Comparison between preliminary and existing FIRM: <https://www.nh.gov/oep/planning/programs/fmp/coastal-mapping-project/documents/cslf-exeter.pdf>. Obtained March 22, 2017.



BASELINE SNAPSHOT

TRANSPORTATION

Why It Matters

A sustainable transportation network supports the local economy and general quality of life by providing access to different modes of transportation and maintaining high quality infrastructure. Residents use the transportation network to access everyday needs like employment, health care, education, and general travel. Many people rely on the transportation system itself as a recreational asset by walking, jogging, and bicycling along the roads and trails of Exeter. Residents with low mobility, such as the disabled, elderly, children, and persons with low income, rely on more diverse ways of getting around. If these options are minimized, their access to everyday services and interaction with the community is also reduced. For local businesses, an efficient network provides access to goods and services that support their operations, allows employees to travel safely to work, and ensures customers are able to get to their storefronts.

Highways and Roads

To sustain local and regional connectivity for community members, Exeter maintains a series of public roadways, most of which are town and state roads. Exeter is served by highways NH 101, portions of NH 108, Epping Road (NH 27), Newfields Road (NH 85), Brentwood Road (NH 111A), and Kingston Road (NH 111) – all of which are state-maintained. Route 101 provides connections to Interstates 93 and 95. In addition, Exeter is one of 27 communities in New Hampshire that are part of the Urban Compact Program, which establishes the community as responsible for maintenance and operational control of the state highways within densely populated areas. This program provides funding for communities to maintain certain State Primary and Secondary roadways within the defined urban compact boundaries.

Public Transit and the Amtrak Downeaster

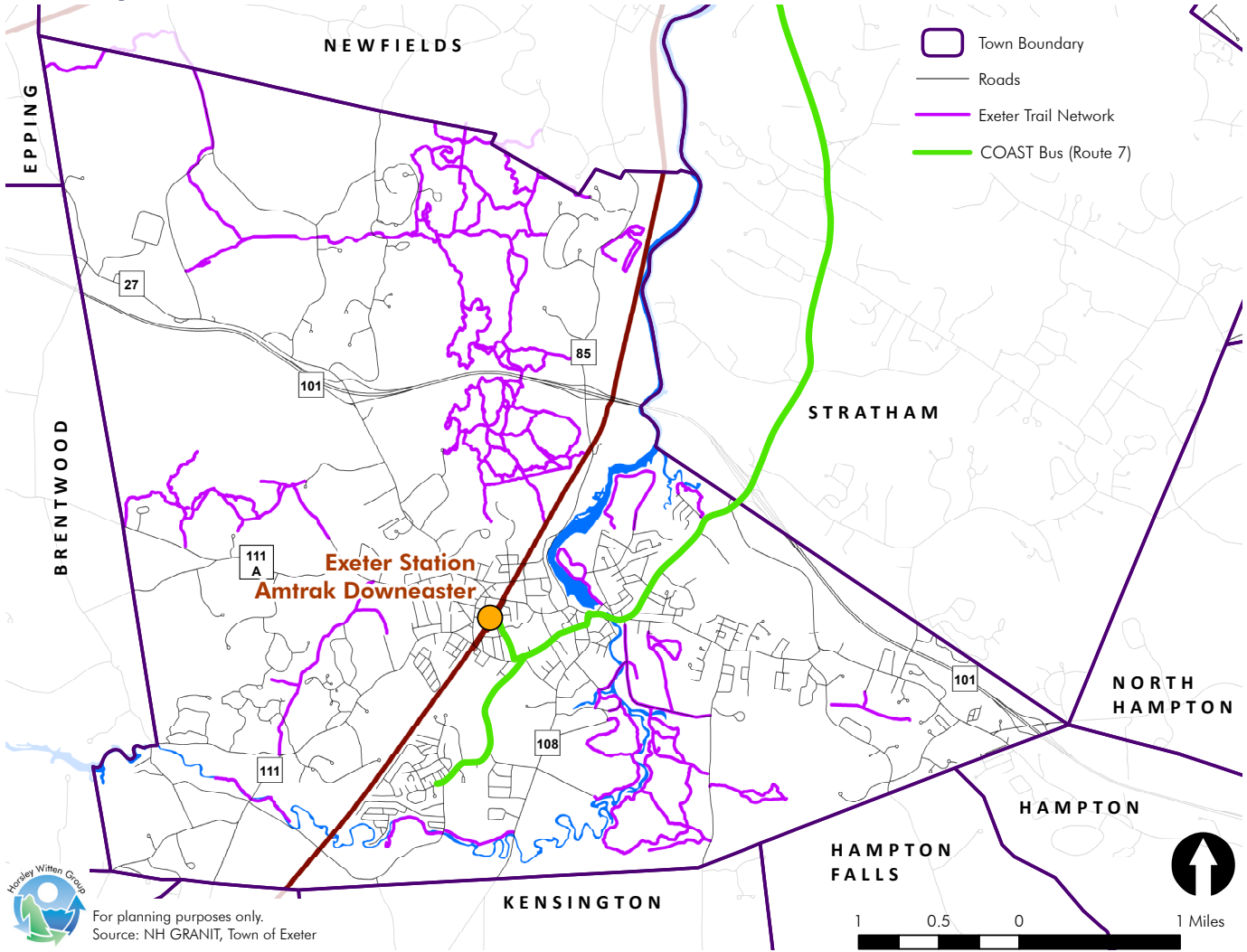
The two modes of public transit serving Exeter are the COAST bus service and the Amtrak Downeaster. COAST provides riders with the ability to get from Exeter to Newmarket, Dover, and Portsmouth. The bus is active three days per week and on Saturdays. The Amtrak Downeaster provides connectivity across New England to Exeter residents and visitors. The Downeaster operates along the northeast New England Corridor from Brunswick, Maine to Boston, Massachusetts with multiple stops along the way, including Exeter. The Downeaster provides a car-free way for people to visit Exeter from points across Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and beyond. In 2016, it has over 490,000 passengers, with 30% boarding or aligning

with New Hampshire stations. Both the Downeaster and COAST bus service provide Exeter residents with public transit options to other parts of New England. To foster continued regional connectivity, Exeter's Train Committee provides advocacy and support to efforts aimed at increasing and publicizing train service within the Town of Exeter. The group works closely with the Board of Selectmen on developing plans for enhancing the Exeter's train station, and assisting in its upkeep and operation.



Walking and Biking

Improvements were made recently to Exeter's networks of sidewalks and roadways in an effort to make the Town more pedestrian and bicycle friendly. Ensuring connectivity between sidewalks, bicycle lanes, and bicycle sharrows will create a safe environment for those on two feet and two wheels. The Town plans to continue to study and implement improvements, and consider projects that increase connectivity between these networks. Exeter officials also intend to conduct a bike path master plan study to review key areas of the Town, including state roads, where bike lanes can be prioritized. Already, bicycle lanes and sharrows



have been added to roadways throughout Exeter. For information about what sharrows mean for bicyclists and drivers, visit Exeter’s website.¹

The Town also has a large network of trails, which is used primarily for recreational activities such as hiking, running, biking, skiing, and snowshoeing. In 2009, the Exeter Trails Committee prepared a Trail Management Plan. It outlines conditions of each trail system, allowed and restricted uses, and recommended improvements.

Downtown Parking

Parking in Exeter is often a challenge, particularly in the downtown area. The Town maintains one 135-space municipal parking lot between Water and Bow Streets. There are three other parking lots in the downtown area, one on Center Street near the Post Office with 24 spaces, one adjacent to the boat launch on the riverfront that has 28 spaces, and one on Front Street near the train station. In addition to this off-street parking, Water Street and the other downtown streets

host approximately 250 on-street parking spaces that are limited to a two hour time limit. All of Exeter’s public parking in the downtown is free of charge.

Transportation Services for Seniors and Disabled Residents

Exeter has made certain transportation programs available to residents. These programs include:

- Transportation Assistance for Senior Citizens matches elderly residents with volunteer drivers.
- Rockingham Nutrition and Meals on Wheels Senior Shuttle Program provides nutritious meals and beneficial support services to Exeter’s older and disabled residents.
- A senior taxi voucher program which provides assistance by reducing the cost to use the taxi service to get around Exeter.
- Lamprey Health Care provides weekly transportation to local grocery stores.

1 <http://exeternh.gov/publicworks/sharrows>

Public Input

**Master Plan Community Survey
Election Day Table, November 8, 2016
Public Workshop, January 25, 2017
Public Open House, June 14, 2017
Public Comments, Draft Master Plan**

Exeter Master Plan Update

Election Day Table



November 8, 2016

On Election Day, the Steering Committee hosted a table near the polling location at the Seacoast School of Technology. Using sticky notes, residents were asked...

What is something you would change or improve in Exeter over the next 10 years?

Common themes seen in responses are provided below:

Natural resources, recreation, parks, open space

- More/improved playgrounds (5x)
- Recreational access to the water (4x)
- Pool/aquatic center (7x)
- More walking/biking/hiking trails/paths (9x)
- Conservation and protection of natural resources and open space (9x)
- Conserve trees (6x)
- Dog park (29x)

Increase/add sidewalks and create walkable areas (43x)

Growth/no growth/economic development

- No development on Rose Farm (x7)
- No development (general) (5x)
- Less industrial/commercial development (2x)
- Smart development/sustainable development/mixed use/ecotourism (6x)
- More business/industrial growth (6x)
- Support local businesses (4x)

Traffic and circulation

- Traffic circle/roundabout - by bandstand, by Exeter Inn (for and against) (10x)
- Fix the traffic problem downtown (9x)
- Fix dangerous intersections (4x)

Add infrastructure for biking, like bike lanes, to make it safer for biking/more opportunities (31x)

Support the redevelopment of IOKA Theater and of arts in general (20x)

Need for more affordable housing to accommodate both the elderly and young families (19x)

Downtown

- Solve parking problem (3x)
- Aesthetic improvements (signage, etc.) and increase vitality with more businesses and activities (4x)
- Bury power lines (3x)

Horsley Witten Group

Sustainable Environmental Solutions

55 Dorrance Street • Suite 403 • Providence, RI 02903
401-272-1717 • horsleywitten.com



MEMORANDUM

TO: Dave Sharples, Town Planner
FROM: Krista Moravec
DATE: July 11, 2017
RE: Exeter Master Plan Community Survey Summary
CC: File

As part of the Master Plan update process, the Town of Exeter administered a community survey. Horsley Witten was not part of the development and distribution of this survey; however, at the Town's request, a summary of collected responses has been prepared.

The survey asked four questions:

- Question 1: Please list five topics that you feel are important to Exeter now and into the future.
- Question 2: Are you an Exeter resident?
- Question 3: If yes, how long have you lived here?
- Question 4: What three words would you use when describing Exeter to someone who has never been here?

The Town made the survey available online via the Town's website. Paper copies were also available at the Town Offices, Public Library, Recreation Department, and other municipal offices. A total of 251 surveys were received.

Question 1: Please list five topics that you feel are important to Exeter now and into the future.

In order to fold the results of Question 1 into the current public participation program being lead by Horsley Witten, responses to the survey were organized around the similar themes identified in other outreach efforts:

Historic and Cultural Resources: Ideas that focused on the historic character of Exeter, arts and cultural resources, and the Philip Exeter Academy as both an historic and cultural asset.

Affordability: Ideas that focused on housing options, the cost of housing, and the general affordability of living in Exeter.

Lincoln Street/Train Station: Ideas that focused on Amtrak's Downeaster service, the train station, area surrounding the train station along Lincoln Street, and the connections between the train station and Downtown.

Downtown and the Waterfront: Ideas that focused on Downtown, specifically commercial activities, parking, walkability, traffic, and aesthetics. Ideas also included access to the waterfront, connections to the waterfront from Downtown, and removal of the dam.

Recreation and Public Health: Ideas that focused on recreational opportunities offered through the Parks and Recreation Department and the YMCA as well as ways to be active to improve overall public health.

Economic Development: Ideas that focused on general business support and development (including actions for both the Town and the Chamber of Commerce), development along corridors such as Epping Road and Portsmouth Avenue, and tourism.

Municipal Services and Operations: Ideas that focused on municipal infrastructure (roads, water, wastewater), services (schools, library, police, fire), and overall municipal administration and operations (taxes, transparency, boards and commissions).

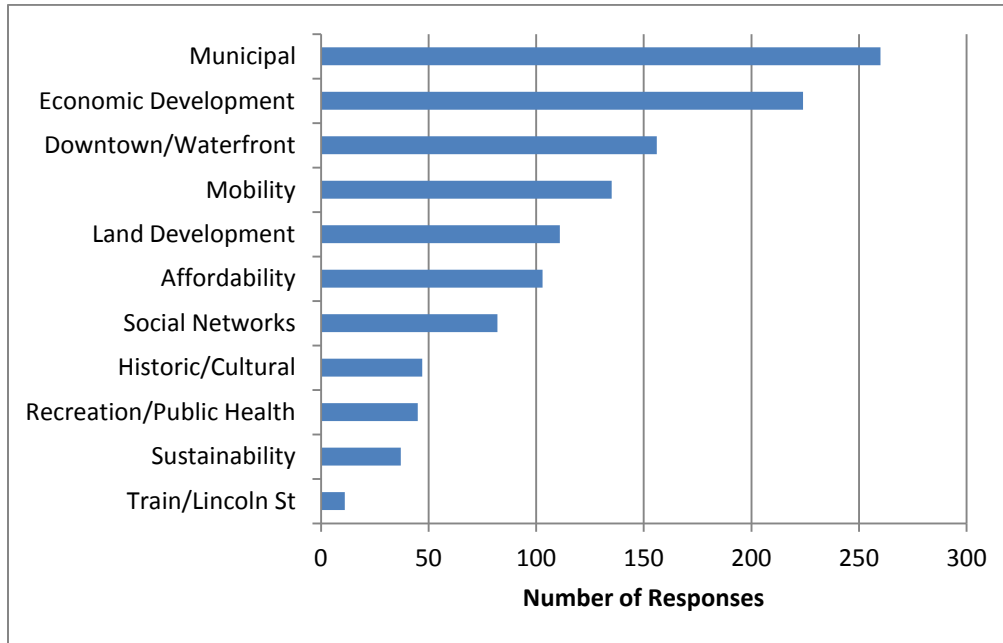
Land Development: Ideas that focused on general land development approaches, including land uses, land conservation (parks, trails, green space), economic development (corridors), and development density.

Social Networks: Ideas that focused on community events, civic engagement, diversity, safety, and making connections among residents.

Mobility: Ideas that focused on town-wide issues associated with traffic, walking, biking, and public transportation.

Sustainability: Ideas that focused on energy conservation, renewable energy, and being more environmental friendly.

Tally of Responses by Theme



Municipal

- 260 responses
- **Water (59 responses), quality education (53 responses)**, safety (23), improve and maintain infrastructure (23), improve roads, better planning, more efficient government (limit waste), trim administrative budget, rehab or improve library, lower water sewer rates, more friendly police force, attract mental health and elderly care services to the area, mandatory cat registration, elderly exemption, ADA, better trash pick up

Economic Development

- 224 responses
- **Economic development plan/targeted development (56)**, commercial growth (35), more restaurants (31), expand entertainment/arts, support local and small businesses, attract businesses, promote Exeter, maintain the business district, job growth

Downtown/Waterfront

- 156 responses
- **More downtown parking (53)**, revitalization (40), renovate the IOKA theater (31), develop the riverfront, increase nightlife opportunities, improve parking (but no garage), downtown businesses are not affordable, develop downtown housing

Mobility

- 135 responses
- **Traffic patterns/circulation(54)**, sidewalks/walkable town (40), bike and pedestrian plan (22), public transit, support “complete streets”

Land Development

- 111 responses
- Conservation (31), maintain public spaces (28), balanced growth (25), limit housing (multiple people commented that there were too many condos), 2 acre lot minimum, slow population growth, limit elderly housing
- Regarding “conservation:” of the 31 responses, 9 specifically stated that *more* conservation was important to Exeter. The remaining 22 responses simply stated that conservation or open space was important to Exeter (without specifically asking for “more” conservation).
- Specific places listed under the Land Development category:
 - “Preserve open space and outdoor rec opportunities (Parkway, Oaklands)”
 - “Maintain public open spaces including the pool and parks, etc.”
 - “access to recreation (e.g., kayak ramp at Pickpocket Dam? dog park?)”
 - “beautiful small town - careful development balance to avoid making it like Epping”
 - “Rezoning review/exception along Epping Rd. corridor, and beyond, to encourage business development in this area. Target with balanced and flexible environmental regulation based upon science.”

Affordability

- 103 responses
- **Lower taxes (71, also highest number of responses received in survey)**, affordable housing (22), low income support/economic diversity (5), adopt a Prop 13 (assessment based on sale price)

Social Networks

- 82 responses
- Government and community working together/improve communication (36), balance age diversity (young people leave/old people move in)(16), family friendly (14), good relations with PEA and hospital, continue family events, good relations with surrounding towns, improve info and welcome new residents

Historic & Cultural

- 47 responses
- Maintain community character (33), historic preservation (14)

Recreation/Public Health

- 45 responses
- Recreational opportunities (32), dog park (9), places/activities for kids (4)
- Specific types of activities mentioned under Recreation include: an indoor pool for the town, new improved sports fields, trails for biking/running, kayak ramp at Pickpocket Dam, dog park or dog-friendly parks (e.g., should be able to take dogs to Swansy Parkway), update to Park and Rec building, support for YWCA
- In terms of age groups identified in recreation/public health responses, the only age group singled out was kids/youth. Most related comments wanted more kids' activities and kids' recreational opportunities.

Sustainability

- 37 responses
- Environment (21), sustainability (multi-use development, green buildings) (14), climate change (2), ban on Styrofoam

Train/Lincoln Street

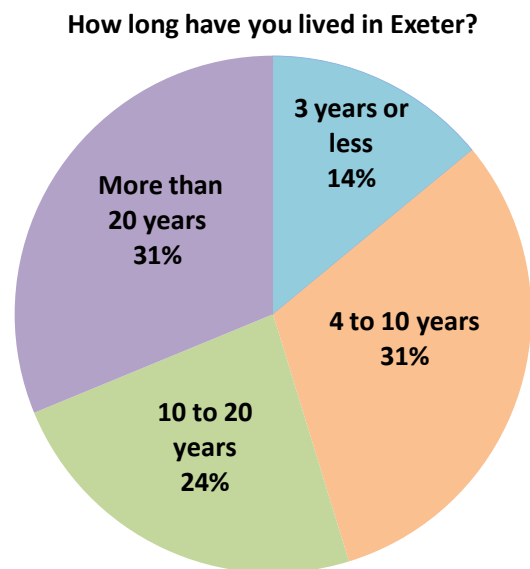
- 11 responses
- Utilization of train station (4), increase/improve parking (4), increase ridership (2), better station

Question 2: Are you an Exeter resident?

89% (223 responses) identified themselves as Exeter residents.

Question 3: If yes, how long have you lived in Exeter?

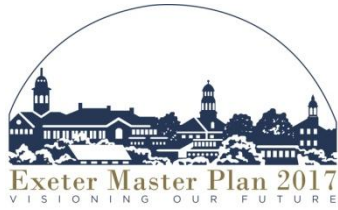
Respondents to the survey that live in Exeter were predominately established residents. About one third (31%, 69 respondents) have lived in Exeter between four and 10 years, and another third (31%) more than 20 years. One quarter (52 respondents) has lived in Exeter between 10 and 20 years. Only 14% (31 respondents) have been in town three years or less.



Question 4: What three words would you use when describing Exeter to someone who has never been here?

Of the 665 responses, a majority (83%) were positive.

| Category | Number of Responses |
|---|----------------------------|
| Picturesque/Quaint/Pretty | 179 |
| Historic | 81 |
| Community/Friendly/Welcoming | 49 |
| Family Friendly | 37 |
| Small-town Feel/Home/Nice Place to Live | 36 |
| Downtown/Vibrant/Shopping | 29 |
| Expensive | 28 |
| Safe | 21 |
| Growing/Improving/High Potential | 21 |
| Convenient/Desirable | 19 |
| Deteriorated/Close-minded/Outdated | 19 |
| Good Schools | 18 |
| Boring | 14 |
| Affluent/Snooty | 14 |
| Quiet | 13 |
| Bustling/Lively | 12 |
| Changing (negative) | 10 |
| Bureaucratic/Mismanaged Government | 10 |
| Natural/Recreation Resources | 10 |
| Socially/Economically Divided | 9 |
| Traffic/Crowded | 8 |
| Civic Minded/Involved Citizens | 8 |
| Pedestrian Friendly | 8 |
| Educated | 6 |
| Conservation/Environmentally-Minded | 4 |
| Dog Friendly | 2 |



Exeter Master Plan Update Public Workshop January 25, 2017

Introduction

A public workshop for the Exeter Master Plan update was held on January 25, 2017 at the Exeter High School from 7 pm to 9 pm. The purpose of the workshop was to understand what the community feels makes Exeter a great place to live and work, and how they would like to see the town in 10 to 20 years.

The evening was organized around small group discussions. After a brief introductory presentation, groups discussed three questions:

1. What is something positive happening in Exeter and why is it positive?
2. What has potential in Exeter but needs improvement? What are some of those improvements?
3. How would you like to see Exeter in the future? What are the opportunities and challenges to making that happen?

Participants were given broad direction for their responses, and were encouraged to include programs, projects, areas of town, or local policies. Because it was anticipated that an individual would not be able to talk about all their ideas that night, Participant Worksheets were provided to write down ideas that might not be discussed with the group. Worksheets were collected at the end of the evening.

For questions 2 and 3 above, prioritization techniques (dot voting) focused the discussion of each table. Participants voted on areas of improvement that should be short-term action items. They then voted on the top one big idea for Exeter's future from the table, and brainstormed its challenges and opportunities.

Approximately 200 people attended the workshop and participated in 18 small group discussions.

Discussions and Outcomes

As noted above, each participant was given the opportunity to write down all their answers to the posed questions. Discussion at each table was limited to each participant providing one idea from their overall list. This summary of the public input is provided in two ways: 1) the conversation that occurred at the table and how it was documented on a flip chart or worksheet (noted as the "master" for groups that did not have a flip chart); and 2) summary of all responses on the worksheets.

A wide range of topics and ideas were provided on the worksheets and were organized under the following themes (presented in no particular order):

Historic and Cultural Resources: Ideas that focused on the historic character of Exeter, arts and cultural resources, and the Philip Exeter Academy as both an historic and cultural asset.

Affordability: Ideas that focused on housing options, the cost of housing, and the general affordability of living in Exeter.

Lincoln Street/Train Station: Ideas that focused on Amtrak's Downeaster service, the train station, area surrounding the train station along Lincoln Street, and the connections between the train station and Downtown.

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Economic Development: Ideas that focused on general business support and development (including actions for both the Town and the Chamber of Commerce), development along corridors such as Epping Road and Portsmouth Avenue, and tourism.

Municipal Services and Operations: Ideas that focused on municipal infrastructure (roads, water, wastewater), services (schools, library, police, fire), and overall municipal administration and operations (taxes, transparency, boards and commissions).

Land Development: Ideas that focused on general land development approaches, including land uses, land conservation (parks, trails, green space), economic development (corridors), and development density.

Social Networks: Ideas that focused on community events, civic engagement, diversity, safety, and making connections among residents.

Mobility: Ideas that focused on town-wide issues associated with traffic, walking, biking, and public transportation.

Sustainability: Ideas that focused on energy conservation, renewable energy, and being more environmental friendly.

It should be noted that these themes are not mutually exclusive and ideas will typically overlap topics and would fall under more than one theme. Given the large volume of input, summaries provided in this report offer highlights from commonly expressed ideas. All responses will be considered as the Town updates the Master Plan. The full listing of worksheet responses is provided as an attachment to this summary.

Question 1: What is something positive happening in Exeter?

Summary of Tables

Participants provided one answer each on what they felt was something positive happening in Exeter and responses reflected the summary of Participant Worksheets provided below.

Summary of Worksheets

Participants saw the most positive aspects of Exeter in the Downtown and Waterfront, Social Networks, Land Development, and Municipal Services and Operations. Overall, participants love the walkability of Downtown; its historic architecture that maintains its traditional New England town feel; small, independent shops and restaurants; and the growing number of places to live nearby. Participants are generally happy with recent new investments, both public (streets and sidewalks) and private (new businesses), which will draw people to the area. Town offices and departments located in the Downtown make them accessible. The dam removal project has also been a positive aspect of the area and it has ignited new interest in the Squamscott River, recognizing its social, economic, and environmental benefits.

Many see positive aspects in the Social Networks of Exeter. There are many successful community-organized events (Farmers Market, Christmas activities, UFO Festival, Beer and Chili Festival, movie night) that bring people together. The Swasey Parkway is popular and many feel more community events can happen there. Participants feel that there is a lot of citizen participation in local government and community leaders are providing opportunities to hear their voices. Exeter's small town feel supports local community pride, people are friendly, and it's safe.

Under Land Development, the abundance of conservation land, trails, and parks in town is positive and contributes to their quality of life as well as bringing visitors into town. Some participants expressed support for the balance that is happening between new economic development efforts and protecting important habitat. New commercial development can bring in revenue to lessen the burden of residential property taxes. Participants are also hoping for more sustainable development practices along Epping Road and Portsmouth Avenue to limit sprawl and adverse impacts on natural resources.

Under Municipal Services and Operations, participants are happy with the quality of municipal services and facilities. As mentioned above, sidewalk and roadway improvements in Downtown are positive investments. The library is widely supported; schools are considered high quality and the Seacoast School of Technology provides students with valuable skills and experience; and police and fire departments are responsive. Town offices work efficiently and are easily accessible in the Downtown. The Parks and Recreation Department is also recognized for its affordable and accessible programming offered throughout the year.

Some responses to... What is something positive happening in Exeter?

The removal of the dam is a very positive recent event in Exeter. Doing so will increase the intensity of the Squamscott River. High quality natural resources not only provide benefits for nature, but provide benefits to Exeter residents (e.g. flood storage, aesthetics, water quality, and many more!)

The improvements to the sidewalks and streets downtown are a great quality to attracting people to come visit.

Downtown seems to be growing friendlier and reaching out to more diverse businesses, restaurants, stores to make it more attractive to both families and surrounding communities.

I care deeply about preserving as much undeveloped land as possible and I'm heartened that others feel the same.

Balanced development between residential/commercial.

Increased businesses/improvements on Epping Road corridor - that area was lacking and looked bad - now starting to build up and is a nicer entrance into town.

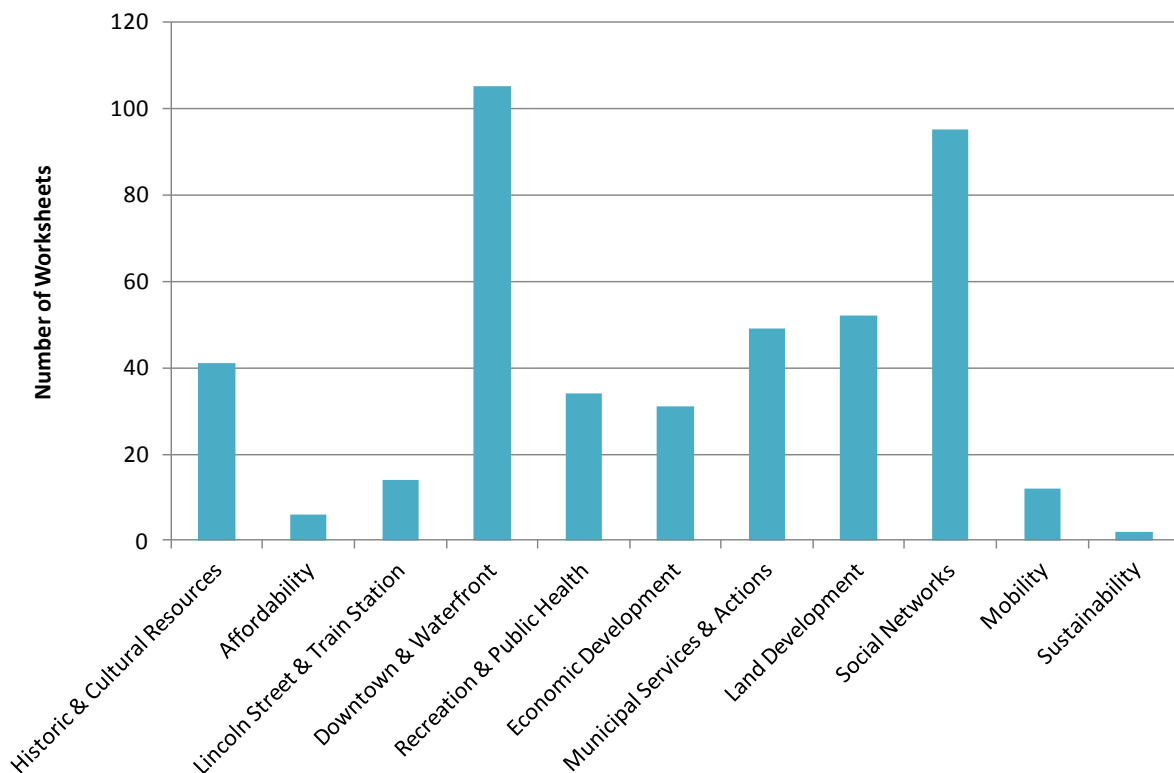
People are using our outdoor spaces, this is positive because people are coming from within town and out of town to use them.

Good public schools that teach both academic and social skills (attractive to young families).

Excellent library service options for multi-generations

Tech high school - training in "trades" - what our high school students need to obtain employment

The following bar chart provides a look at how many worksheets focused on a particular theme in the opening discussion.



Question 2: What has potential in Exeter but needs improvement?

Summary of Tables

Participants were asked what in Exeter has potential but needs improvements. Some tables did not rank their ideas, but for those that did, the following were the top ideas at each table (received the most dot votes):

- IOKA – The symbol needs protection. Further deterioration will make it unusable.
- Downtown parking – People have a hard time finding spaces and it is also a problem for merchants and employees. Is a parking garage the answer?
- Water treatment – Water for new housing is not meeting EPA standards.
- Recreation Department – Their facilities need improvement, including a pool.
- Traffic patterns Downtown – Problems particularly at the intersections, including the Bandstand, Linden Street, Front Street, and Pine Street.
- Lincoln Street at the train station – Potential for revitalization as an economic development corridor.
- Economic development – Embrace the idea and create better development in commercial zones, specifically Holland Way, Portsmouth Avenue, and Epping Road.
- Water Supply - Address drinking water quality and meet EPA standards

Summary of Participant Worksheets

In the participant worksheets, need for improvement in Exeter focused around the Downtown and Waterfront, Historic and Cultural Resources, Mobility, and Municipal Services and Operations. In the Downtown, participants talked about improving traffic flow and the need for parking, several asking about the feasibility of a parking garage. Many thought current improvements to sidewalks and crosswalks were great, but there is more to be done to enhance pedestrian mobility. The vitality and activity in the Downtown could also be enhanced. There are also opportunities to fill in vacant storefronts and buildings as well as vacant lots with new buildings, but they should fit in with the scale and historic character of the Downtown. The IOKA was mentioned as an eyesore, but has potential. There are concerns about the safety of the building and the likelihood for fire or release of hazardous materials. Many see the removal of the dam as an opportunity to improve access and usage of the Squamscott River and its waterfront. Public and private partnerships can be a way to make investments.

Improvements to Historic and Cultural Resources focused on creating an arts district, emphasizing the IOKA and Town Hall as opportunities. The Town needs to continue to maintain its historic character, and as mentioned above, new development should be compatible and enhance these resources. Historic and cultural landmarks should be promoted and highlighted as tourist destinations, but also to local residents. A suggestion was made that these resources could be used for public events. The Town's relationship with the Philips Exeter Academy can be expanded and it can offer opportunities to partner around arts and cultural events and other activities in the Downtown.

Mobility improvements outside of the Downtown focused on increasing walking and biking on a town-wide basis. Some propose more neighborhood sidewalks and connecting neighborhoods to Downtown. Suggestions were also made to increase public transportation options, particularly to Portsmouth and Manchester. Seniors and the youth could benefit from these new options.

Finally, improvements to Municipal Services and Operations focused on municipal services. More support should be given to the library. The need for improved drinking water treatment was also highlighted. The Town could also improve transparency through better reporting of government activities. The process of trash collection and use of the blue bags could also be better. Many cited current improvements made to local roads, and this should continue throughout town.

Some responses to... What has potential in Exeter but needs improvement?

Walkability is getting there but needs to keep growing

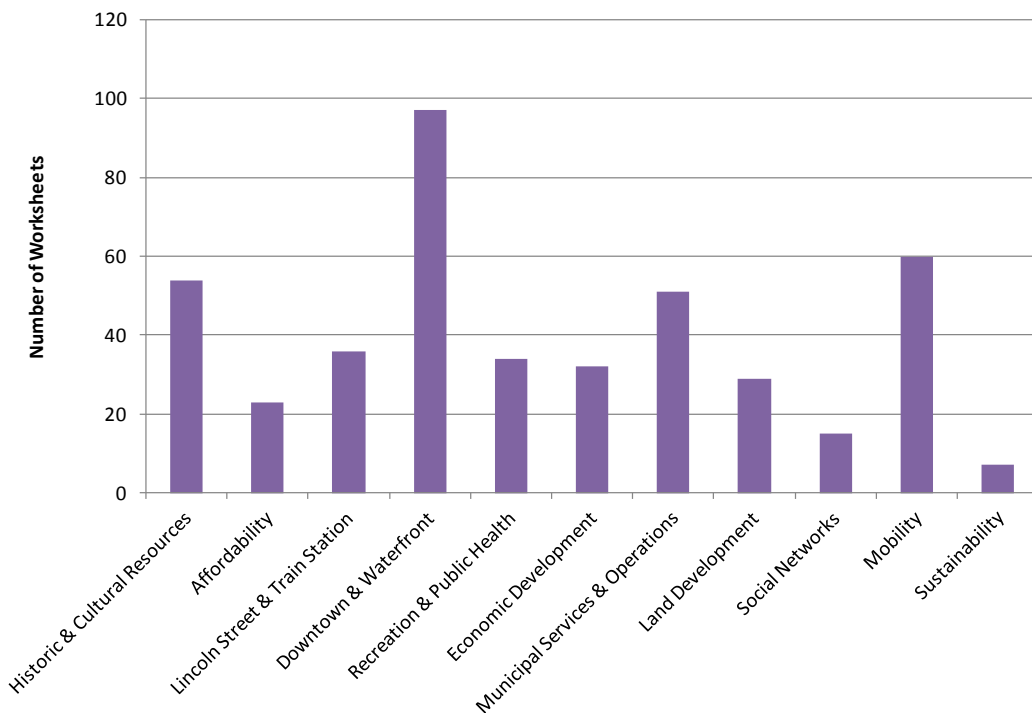
Fill in missing teeth in the downtown - vacant lots should be filled with new buildings that are sensitive to the scale and architectural character of the downtown.

I'd love to see more restaurants and bars that will attract young people to come to Exeter as a destination. For example, maybe more restaurants with outdoor seating? Keep building a vibrant downtown area - eventually I'd love to see a pedestrian walkway (like in Burlington or Montreal) making Exeter a really desirable destination. Lincoln Street, on the road behind Lexies' by the Handkerchief factory, might make a cool spot.

Create better connection to other sections of town. Multiple ways to travel through town.

It would be nice if there were road improvements that coincide with utilities improvement (i.e. Winter Street)

The following bar chart provides a look at how many worksheets focused on a particular theme for the second question.



Question 3: How would you like to see Exeter in the Future?

As a round-robin in their small group discussions, participants each provided their idea for Exeter's future. The group voted on the one that resonated the most to them from the list generated. For the idea that received the most votes, the group talked about the opportunities and challenges to making it happen. The following is a summary of those groups that documented their discussion. For those that did not, a summary of all future ideas listed on the Participant Worksheets is also provided.

Summary of Tables

Attracting Young People

Making Exeter more vibrant and attractive to young people

| Opportunities to Making this Happen | Challenges to Making this Happen |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Marketing/PR "destination city" - what is the message?▪ Grants to improve IOKA▪ Robust transportation - regionally connected▪ What does Exeter want to be? Market? Promote? Are we ready for people to come?▪ Build on "community" feel of Exeter; safe community in messaging▪ Build true community center▪ Increase affordable housing; walk to town▪ Create pedestrian zone downtown/town space▪ Better use of Town Hall; programs; full-time staff to develop▪ Develop mixed use areas (i.e. housing over shops)▪ Focus on the downtown▪ Valuable to local economy and Epping Road development | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ None were listed. |

Synergistic Development

Balance between development and conservation

| Opportunities to Making this Happen | Challenges to Making this Happen |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Develop spaces that are currently not used for the arts, music, dining▪ Lincoln Street development▪ Handkerchief Factory▪ IOKA▪ Rose Farm▪ Brad's auto body▪ Empty lot across from post office▪ Protected green space▪ Protect conservation land (Fort Rocks, Oakland's)▪ Dean property▪ Gilman Park▪ King Property▪ Colcord Pond▪ Old football fields (near YMCA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Parking▪ Money▪ Politics and political views▪ Zoning |

Lincoln Street Improvements

| Opportunities to Making this Happen | Challenges to Making this Happen |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Streetscape: Signage and landscapingSidewalks: improve materials, provide parking in front of stores, reduce crosswalk widthCreate signage and visual cues to allow for pedestriansWork collaboratively with available resources in the area, use of Lincoln Street School for parking | <ul style="list-style-type: none">None were listed. |

Village Character, Responsible Growth, Access

| Opportunities to Making this Happen | Challenges to Making this Happen |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">New businessesHow to discourage driving - Design? Access? Amenities?Incentivize mode sharingCase studiesEvaluate regulationsFind areas to build upIncrease community involvement and discussion - better communication around development -transparencyIdentify what to preserve and what to build uponCreate a regular community discussion (outside of town meetings) to keep awareness, provide education | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Do [new businesses] fit it?Taxes - we need a non-residential tax contributionCan residents be incentivized to give?Grants |

Recreational Opportunities

Expanded and Improved Recreation Opportunities

| Opportunities to Making this Happen | Challenges to Making this Happen |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Between Y and Town collaborationExpand active adult activities through Parks and RecreationMore physically active opp.Opportunity for use of open tracts for recreationalOutdoor education with Conservation Commission in collaboration with Parks and RecreationExpanding the pool for adult use - extended or special hours | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Space for expanded activityFunding - short sitedEngaging other participants/stakeholders |

Improve Recreation Department and Facilities (including indoor pool)

| Opportunities to Making this Happen | Challenges to Making this Happen |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Space available ▪ Have demand (private leagues) ▪ Community support ▪ Small size of community makes the scale easier ▪ Income - rent fields and buildings ▪ Attracts people to live in multi-family housing that exists | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plan for expansion denied due to cost ▪ Many fiscal challenges and already high property taxes ▪ Other priorities higher (schools...) ▪ Recent big project expenses ▪ Enough space? ▪ Aging population - will they see the need? ▪ PEA - community disconnect ▪ Not modern sign up process (stuck in an old structure), whole process and office disorganized - camp sign up ▪ Toilets |

Tour Boat along River to Great Bay

| Opportunities to Making this Happen | Challenges to Making this Happen |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tourists ▪ Greater spiritual development ▪ Educational development ▪ Job opportunities ▪ Connection of community ▪ Inter community solidarity ▪ Coastal lodging opportunities ▪ Better Alewife festival ▪ Decrease traffic to river | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Current and water depths ▪ Funding boats/vendors ▪ Seasonal ▪ Eco impact ▪ Not enough customers ▪ Too many people will use it ▪ Parking problem |

Downtown

Improvements to Downtown and Lincoln Street: Utilities Underground

| Opportunities to Making this Happen | Challenges to Making this Happen |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Street lighting street furniture ▪ Money - longer we wait the more it will cost ▪ Uniform system of parking - angled vs. parallel ▪ Wide sidewalks - café seating (i.e. Orange Leaf) ▪ Bump outs ▪ Connection from downtown to Lincoln Street ▪ Better tying of waterfront to downtown ▪ Design vision - a plan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Convincing tax payers to pay ▪ Priority of downtown vs. Lincoln Street ▪ Perception who pays - tax payers, businesses ▪ Lincoln Street - buy in from property owners and Water Street ▪ Money |

Downtown Community: Live, Work, Play

| Opportunities to Making this Happen | Challenges to Making this Happen |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tourism dollars ▪ Trolley - downtown to Epping Rd. etc ▪ More opportunities to use Swasey Parkway ▪ Improve quality of life for existing residents ▪ More mixed use | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safety ▪ Wetlands (a lot of our open spaces is wet) ▪ Parking not adequate ▪ Street are not designed to manage increased traffic ▪ Connectivity - need more sidewalks ▪ Stewardship and conserved land - a lot of conservation land and also a need for individuals to monitor these lands |

Connectivity: Extending Downtown along Epping Road and Elsewhere

| Opportunities to Making this Happen | Challenges to Making this Happen |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Shuttle system to connect areas to town ▪ Highlight existing trails as a way to get from one place to another ▪ Better connectivity - better real estate marketability ▪ Encourage walking/biking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Into and on 11A/Main St./Epping Rd. - dangerous ▪ Boat house area dangerous with 2-side parking - make 1-sided and add bike lane ▪ Sidewalks in neighborhoods to area ▪ Get folks out of cars ▪ Walkability through light industrial areas ▪ Cars and parking |

Downtown Revitalization

| Opportunities to Making this Happen | Challenges to Making this Happen |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revenue ▪ Development of more commercial space ▪ Embrace the historic significance of town while adding modern attractions and businesses (food, hotel, sporting, arts) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Zoning ▪ Governing - hard to get things done ▪ Tax rate too high - doesn't entice business owners |

Theaters (not specifically IOKA)

| Opportunities to Making this Happen | Challenges to Making this Happen |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Best for whole town - meet needs of many groups ▪ Self sufficient - financial stability - long term ▪ Utilize availability for other resources (high school and Town Hall) ▪ Look to the model of capital center for arts ▪ Local transportation to get people to theater and would in fact patronize on a regular basis ▪ Theater would help downtown restaurants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Money ▪ Competition from Portsmouth, Hampton, Newburyport, Durham and other towns in the area ▪ Frustration with parking like Portsmouth |

Affordable and Diverse Housing

| Opportunities to Making this Happen | Challenges to Making this Happen |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Home prices will be better ▪ Will attract more diverse people to live here, different walks of life, energy ▪ Creates jobs in construction ▪ Design, style, architecture can be diverse ▪ Incorporate solar renewable energy ▪ Allow families in town, stay living closer together | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Available land without compromising green space ▪ Who is going to build it? ▪ Age specific only – leads to segregated housing (55 and older - not retirement communities) ▪ Tough town regulating process, planning, zoning, historic building code ▪ Diversity can't be forced, develop organically but has to be prioritized - create opportunities ▪ Town infrastructure limits |

Keep Small Town Feel

| Opportunities to Making this Happen | Challenges to Making this Happen |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community involvement ▪ Long term resident ▪ Attract right kind of businesses - arts, mini theater, nightlife ▪ Encourage small business | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rising costs - infrastructure, teacher/staff pay ▪ Keep cost down but keep what we like ▪ Preserve neighborhoods - allow develop without negative impact to existing neighborhood |

Summary of Participant Worksheets

Ideas for the future of Exeter focused around Social Networks, the Downtown and Waterfront, Historic and Cultural Resources, and Economic Development. Under Social Networks, participants want to see a more diverse and inclusive community that is connected, particularly reaching out to seniors and encouraging them to contribute. Participants want Exeter to be more attractive to young adults and families, more opportunities for civic engagement, and continuing the large number of diverse events that bring everyone together. Safety and maintaining the small town feel is equally important.

In the Downtown, participants talked about maintaining small independent stores and restaurants, more nightlife, and taking a harder look at parking needs. Some suggest higher density and looking at ways to create less vehicular traffic to keep its walkability, including a trolley network and other forms of public transportation that could service the Downtown. Along the waterfront, participants want to see more access. A public boathouse is proposed, walkways, and space for public events.

Exeter's existing historic character is important to maintain, enhance, promote, and balance with new activities, particularly those within the Downtown. Many participants want to see a thriving arts scene and recognize the potential in existing resources like the Town Hall and the Philips Exeter Academy. The IOKA is also seen as a great opportunity and the Town should take the lead in promoting its redevelopment, specifically as a performance or art space.

Overall, participants support a vibrant, healthy local economy. Existing businesses need support, and future economic development should be balanced with natural resources and residential development. Exeter can become a destination by promoting its businesses, historic and cultural assets, and outdoor activities. Epping Road, as an economic development corridor, should be connected to the Downtown and other areas through public transportation and bicycle and walking amenities, perhaps developing a greenway plan for the corridor.

Some responses to... How would you like to see Exeter in the future?

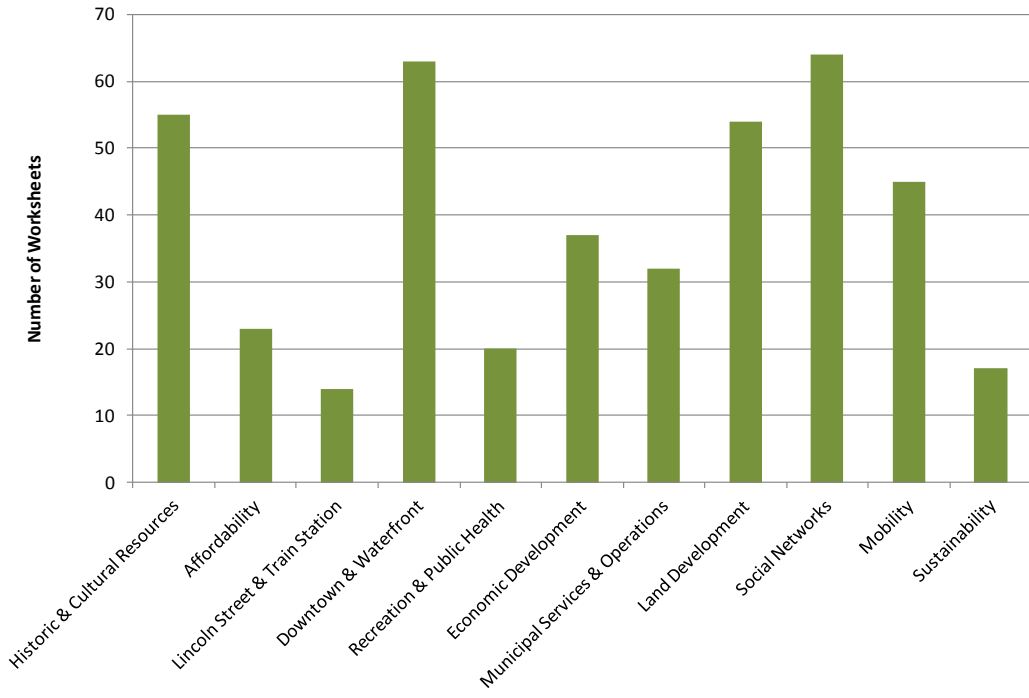
I would love to see an Exeter that is economically vibrant, is ecologically intact with highly functioning natural resources, has many opportunities for recreation (hiking, kayaking, biking), continues to have many family friendly community opportunities in town.

Continue to draw out-of-towners as a destination for day trips/stay-cations. With a mix of shopping, cultural and historical activities, outdoor activities, restaurants, etc. This would include reuse and revitalization of already developed areas such as Lincoln Street, Epping Road, and Portsmouth Avenue. Should also include public transportation opportunities to connect above-listed areas to downtown.

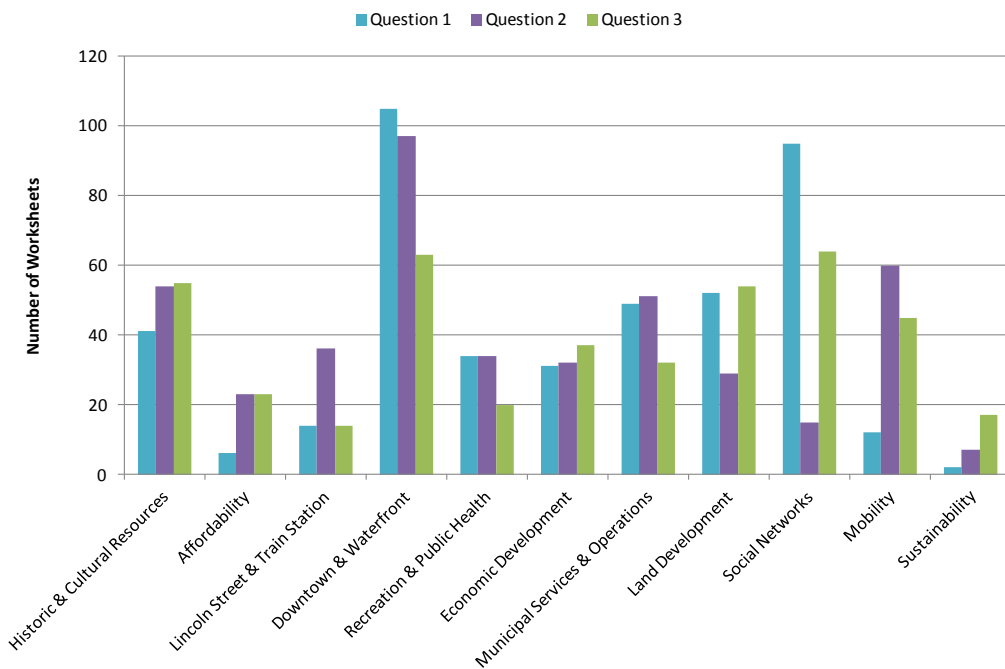
Vibrant, sustainable, affordable, attractive, respectful of its historic buildings, active and successful businesses, community, economic diversity, preservation of open spaces, active citizen involvement and informed citizenry.

Safe and welcoming environment for diverse people - all ages, colors, gender, etc.

An affordable, diverse community with a blend of thriving commerce and natural outdoor amenities.



The chart below combines worksheet responses from all three questions. The Downtown and waterfront were both on the minds of participants under all three questions as positive aspects of Exeter today, areas for improvement, and part of their vision for the future. Equally, Social Networks, including public events, volunteerism, and overall engagement within the community, demonstrates a clear sense of town pride today and wanting to build on these connections and carry them forward into the future.



Participant Worksheets

| WS # | Table # | 1. What is something positive happening in Exeter? Why is it positive? | 2. What has potential but needs improvement? What are some of those improvements? | 3. How would you like to see Exeter in the future? | 4. Top Idea | 4. What are the opportunities and challenges to making this happen? |
|------|---------|--|--|---|---|--|
| 1 | 1 | YMCA (bring people together) Community events (bring people together) Sidewalks Swasey parkway Fort Rock | Rte 27 business area (aesthetically) Rte 108 (aesthetically) Bring more businesses/restaurants IOKA Lincoln Street development Trash service (no more bags, better service) | Preserve green space/land -we don't need to build on every available piece of land! Maintaining historic beauty while making it a viable place to live, work and have a successful business. | | |
| 2 | 1 | Conservative lands: opportunity for recreation wildlife protection, water quality - also demonstrates Exeter's wiliness to fund land protection | Regional public transportation - were walkable already but try taking a bus anywhere... Affordable housing - I don't know the stats, but Exeter has poverty - public sector solutions should not be overlooked here. The IOKA need to reopen! Water treatment - Hurrah for Larry Lane, but we need to address our issues (i.e. exceeding EPA limits periodically) | | | |
| 3 | 1 | 1. The removal of the dam is very positive recent event in Exeter. Doing so will increase the intensity of the Ex-Squam River. High quality natural resources not only provide benefits for nature, but provide benefits to Exeter residents (e.g.. Flood, storage, aesthetics, water quality, and many more!) 2. Child care at public meeting! I wouldn't be here without it. Thank you! | 1. Exeter is not bike friendly, and is pedestrian friendly only within close proximity to downtown. Particularly as we look to mixed use development along the Epping Road & Portsmouth Ave corridor, we need to provide non-vehicle opportunities for travel (bike, walking) Lincoln St. corridor too. 2. Better incorporation of climate change in SLR in planning/development decisions. We have tons of great data tailored to our town e.g.. CRISE, CAPE that we should be using. 3. Greater value of natural resource protection. It benefits all of us, including economically. | 1. Economic development has been a priority of Exeter in recent years, often at the expense of natural resource protection. I would love to see Exeter take on the dual goals of economic development and natural resource protection, as the two are not mutually exclusive. With proper planning they can both be achieved. 2. Transparency in our municipal government. 3. I would love to see an Exeter that is economically vibrant, is ecologically intact with highly functioning natural resources, has many opportunities for recreation (hiking, kayaking, biking), continues to have many family friendly community opportunities in town. 4. I'd like the master plan to retain or strengthen the current language promoting bicycle and pedestrian friendly corridors, throughout town, especially on Epping Rd, Portsmouth Ave, Lincoln St and High St. The current town economic plan calls for, and we have seen an increase and interest from developers in creating multi use developments on Epping Rd and Portsmouth Ave. that include a residential component. We need to ensure safe non-vehicular connectivity between these new residential developments and the town center. This is important to promote the health and welfare of residents and promote our downtown businesses. If the only option for shopping is to go by car most of these residents will drive elsewhere and spending their dollars outside of town. 5. A new wastewater treatment plant! | | |
| 4 | 1 | Downtown rejuvenation Dam removal Restaurants Land Preservation | IOKA | | Expanded and Improved Parks and Recs | Additional active activities for adults |
| 5 | 1 | Downtown rejuvenation - sidewalks Dam removal Swasey parkway rejuvenation Amtrak - train | IOKA - preserve it or it will deteriorate Housing multi and single family Park field - Healy Pool - needs improvements, expansion | Water treatment facility Parks and recreation for all ages - expansion (not just kid stuff; tennis courts, pool expansion) | Improve Parks & Rec facilities - expand | Collaborate with YMCA Riverwoods Expand adult activities Challenges - money, space |
| 6 | 1 | Citizen participation in local government | Rover access Boat storage facility | Preserve its historical and avoid becoming a tourist mecca. | | |
| 7 | 1 | | Kayak storage Kayak rental | Maintain low population growth (i.e. don't attempt to double the population in 10 years) | | Economic factors seem to be pro-??? |

| WS # | Table # | 1. What is something positive happening in Exeter? Why is it positive? | 2. What has potential but needs improvement? What are some of those improvements? | 3. How would you like to see Exeter in the future? | 4. Top Idea | 4. What are the opportunities and challenges to making this happen? |
|------|---------|--|---|---|--|---|
| 8 | 1 | Downtown renovations Community leaders reaching out to community for feedback | Blue bags suck! IOKA | | | |
| 10 | 2 | 1. The YMCA: having the Y here have been a very positive development here in Exeter. It has been positive because it is a place where lots of people can come together to see each other and become more healthy. 2. Exeter Junior Baseball and Softball League: positive-helps kids be good neighbors and good sportsmen and women. | Adult recreation used to have softball league and adult basketball More sidewalks/bike lanes - my kids want to walk to friends' houses | Council on aging? Multigenerational programming | Developing a community for live, work and play | Challenge - funding for public transportation |
| 11 | 2 | Events Downtown buildings (including riverside) | Waterfront Traffic through downtown | Full of happy people | | |
| 12 | 2 | The addition of full day K in Exeter - keeps up with surrounding towns Recreation department - lots of different opportunities for kids Arts department - love that we have an active arts vibe in town - would love to see more! | it would be nice if there were road improvements that coincide with utilities improvement (i.e.. Winter St.) | Affordable workforce housing Continued robust downtown while preserving historical integrity. | Epping Road Development | Relieve the downtown somewhat by developing Epping Road to become an extension of the downtown feel. |
| 13 | 2 | 1. Historical markers - in front of town hall 2. Farmer's Market I love our local library and it needs to be supported | 1. More historical markers - a green street used to be African American neighborhood; Nike Factory/C. The Mills 2. More support for our historical society 3. More financial support for library 4. Give the YMCA a swimming pool 5. Adult recreation | 1. We will not retire here but I do believe if we want to have young families we need diverse housing opportunities. 2. Closing of our mobile home communities | | 1. What does PEA own in town? 2. Make sure PEA is at every deliberation 3. We need some form of public transportation - a trolley system 4. How do we work with our churches? How do we care for our disadvantage school kids and our homeless families. What makes us a whole community |
| 14 | 2 | Cleaning up downtown, new restaurants, (brings people to town if their money on a daily basis without using school and other resources); rehab of old buildings (makes things aesthetically pleasing) Dam removal - keeps downtown businesses out of the water Use of river recreationally - paddle boarding, kayakers - brings people to town and gives kids something to do. | 1. Movement to EHS 2. Traffic intersections at Pine/Linden St and Park/Main St 3. Public information of town meetings 4. Waterfront | 1. Smaller high school 2. Public transportation to EHS and beach 3. A walking loop including Swasey and downtown 4. Mountain bike trails as an economic pull for people living outside of town 5. Walking bridge at end of Swasey from Powder House to end of Swasey. | | |
| 15 | 2 | The improvements to the sidewalks and streets downtown are a great quality to attracting people to come visit. Using the parkway for community events is very positive. There is a wonderful feeling of togetherness at events. | Adult recreation. The Parks and Recreational complex needs to be expanded for softball, beach, volleyball, and basketball. | Development of Epping Road, sidewalks, bicycle lane, residential community. Possibly develop a greenway on Epping Road's plan. | | |
| 16 | 2 | The town and some individuals working to bring arts and music into our town and to have Exeter be a destination and so Exeter residents can stay in town for entertainment instead of having to go to Portsmouth or Newburyport. Also to promote local artists and musicians so they don't have to leave town to find work. | Parking downtown | More night life and entertainment in Exeter and family events Live Work Play | | |
| 17 | 2 | Dam removal project Sidewalk projects - improve access downtown New businesses - brewery | IOKA More sidewalks | Vibrant downtown with a focus on preserving the natural and open spaces within town - forest, river | | |

| WS # | Table # | 1. What is something positive happening in Exeter? Why is it positive? | 2. What has potential but needs improvement? What are some of those improvements? | 3. How would you like to see Exeter in the future? | 4. Top Idea | 4. What are the opportunities and challenges to making this happen? |
|------|---------|--|---|--|----------------|--|
| 18 | 2 | Downtown is staying full Balanced development between residential/commercial | Downtown parking to allow for growth Traffic pattern downtown Waterfront | Balance of old/new families spectrum of housing up and down the scale Academy pay taxes of off campus property, | | |
| 19 | 2 | Downtown: new sidewalks - more welcoming for residents and tourists More town/community events/Swasey: increases town pride and sense of community Increased businesses/improvements on Epping Rd.: Corridor - that area was lacking and looked bad - now starting to build up and is a nicer entrance into town. Brings other local towns in to spend money as well. Lincoln Street area: complete street program will improve connection to downtown Full day kindergarten and school improvements | The arts community: increase theater, movies, art, music venues etc The West End - better sidewalks and crosswalks and improved businesses Promotion and use of Downeaster: improved sidewalks Walkable town - improving but still room Recreation opportunities for adults Parks and Recreation - second ? Waterfront - improve usage/space use on river | Family friendly and vibrant community Active Mixed use areas: all neighborhoods connect to some stores, shops, etc. | Live/Work/Play | Connecting all of the town Need: sidewalks; mixed use land; development of West End and Epping Road Business so we can do what we plan |
| 20 | 2 | Downtown seems to be growing more friendly to reaching out of more diverse businesses, restaurants, stores to make it more attractive to both families and surrounding communities. Push and emphasis on the different town districts and the opportunities each has for growth, revitalization, ???, etc. | Town, walkability is getting there but needs to keep growing Parks and recreation accessibility for kids Responsible dog owners so some parks can be dog friendly Waterfront | Live/Work/Play As a community we need to figure out how to grow, develop and improve while maintaining the integrity and value That bring us here | | |
| 21 | 3 | Downtown space: new sidewalks, retail, restaurants (close to home, charm to New England) Exeter is attractive for new development and new businesses - supplement property tax with commercial tax? Additional thoughts: access town; river level; open space; new sidewalks; town capital improvements (dam, sidewalks, ? expansion treatment facilities); safe town; opportunities for new businesses; parks and access to woodlands | Taxes? Walking and open space downtown Water treatment "Complete Street" - Google it: emphasis for pedestrians on streets Train station Downtown Improvements: IOKA; park between bandstand and town hall; Waterfront accessible Affordability in town Commercial area of Lincoln Street Greater socio-economic diversity Complete | An affordable, diverse community with a blend of thriving commerce and natural outdoor amenities Pedestrian oriented downtown Create a new historic district | | |
| 22 | 3 | Opportunities for new businesses to come to town: get some variety; enliven downtown and surrounding areas and enrich and stimulate' draw people to the community | Parking What businesses actually come to town - too much repetition (Chinese, Mexican, coffee shops, pizza, banks) - keep out fast food and box stores | Small music venue - like Tupezo Music Hall (Londonderry) or Blue Ocean Music Hall (Salisbury) Opportunities - jobs; local businesses - restaurants/food/bars, lodging, shopping Challenges: finding space and or fixing IOKA | | |
| 23 | 3 | Parks and woodland - easy to get into nature? Ease of access to necessities - groceries, gas, pet store, hospital, etc. Easy access to highway, presence of railroad Safety - can run at night | Clearer notification/signage outside of downtown about parking guidelines - ex: winter parking ban on residential streets - how will residents know? Some businesses should be open later - ex: gas More parking needed downtown Water treatment | Diversity: how can we get more refugees sent here? How can we provide for low-wage workers? Bus connectivity to other towns/cities locally More often at night - so that there's more to do on a night out. | | |

| WS # | Table # | 1. What is something positive happening in Exeter? Why is it positive? | 2. What has potential but needs improvement? What are some of those improvements? | 3. How would you like to see Exeter in the future? | 4. Top Idea | 4. What are the opportunities and challenges to making this happen? |
|------|---------|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| 24 | 3 | Academy is growing - increased economic activity Amtrak participation is growing - increases travel options and economic activity Town safety | 1. Water treatment improvement to meet EPA rules (arsenic, lead, chlorine) 2. Riverfront sewer improvements; private and public partnership; public investment in return for private amenities. 3. Conservation land - complete green ring around Town for hiking and biking. 4. Amtrak waiting room 5. workforce housing 6. Parking | Boat tours from downtown to Portsmouth using Amsterdam style canal boats. Connections to Amtrak via tourist trolley, box lunches, historic guides, nature guides. Multistory parking garage in downtown Exeter (style like hospital garage), equipped with charging stations for future all electric cars. | | |
| 25 | 3 | Town Capital improvements: a) dam restoration; b) sidewalks; c) discussions about school expansions; d) water treatment plant Deferred maintenance items weaken our infrastructure our future economics and total growth. | Parking facilities Better/More affordable housing Riverfront (ecologically safe) development Greater socio/economic/racial/diversity | Diversity across all dimensions economic, ethnic, racial, etc. Public schools that are excellent in academics and the arts (not just sports as in Blue Hawk Drive) Balanced development: affordable residential, lighter and heavier commercial, and green spaces and entertainment Cherished public library, parks, train station, historical buildings, curated Accessible bike and pedestrian traffic around the whole town. Parking that encourages people to visit - better signage. | | |
| 26 | 3 | 1. Community Events - like Octoberfest, Revolutionary War Days, etc, sense of community *2. Safety - police and fire are responsive to calls 3. This meeting - to get input from the broad community 4. Excellent library 5. Good hospital | Land use development: needs to be carefully considered - NOT over developed, need balance between residential and conservation Water treatment: water never seems to be classified as "good" | Pedestrian - oriented downtown More diversity in shops Theater and cultural activities - movies, plays, more diverse musical events (orchestras, bands) | | |
| 27 | 3 | The Exeter River is gradually being restored to its natural state | The railroad station needs a waiting room | Create a new historic district bounded by and including Front, Pine, Court, and Elliot streets | | 1. Voters need to approve 2. Need state money for the waiting room |
| 28 | 3 | The new sidewalks - besides being dangerous certain places they are unattractive Removing the Dam - I voted for it but not happily, but once the water started flowing it is beautiful | The commercial part of Lincoln Street could be made more attractive - maybe adding trees, and island in the middle of the road, room for a sidewalk café. Continue redoing the sidewalks all over town. | More young families in affordable housing More trees, open space, and bike and walking trails, better drinking water | | |
| 29 | 3 | 1. Emphasis on land use in parks, restricted open areas, trails 2. Small towns many shops, library, PEA, HS, etc, train | Affordability - housing, restaurants, shops, water treatment "complete streets" | Keep the green and add to it and the water from the river New water treatment plant or ways affordability | | |
| 30 | 3 | Train - access to community, ability to bring in workers Economic development efforts - development to create vibrant, local work opportunities, potential to reduce residents tax rate | Waterfront - downtown amenities IOKA Train station Lincoln Street area | A local community with parks, entertainment, amenities Government | | |
| 31 | 4 | Maintaining Exeter's history Local driven town Strong focus on sports Strong supportive family dynamic Strong community involvement | Many access routes available to downtown and they are terrible Dangerous intersections - rotaries | Minimize multi-unit housing on small lots New construction neighborhood that are not drive-thru No big box stores Expanding YMCA | Maintaining the small community feel | Challenges: 1. everyone wants to move into a great town 2. Big box stores will want to come 3. Builders |

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|------|---------|--|---|---|--|--|
| 32 | 4 | Independent retail stores; bookstore, travel and nature Open space Historic downtown/waterfront PEA expansion Town offices in downtown Bike race/events Proximity of commercial strip to downtown Walkable town | The Richardsonian train station is a beautiful architectural asset. It is in a state of decay and could become a transportation centerpiece of the community. Complete the renovation of the former "Loaf and Ladle" building Fill-in missing teeth in the downtown - vacant lots should be filled with new buildings that are sensitive to the scale and architectural character of the downtown. Rehabilitate and re-design the public library Preserve historic buildings. | Higher density in downtown High speed rail Less vehicular traffic and pollution Reduce energy consumption | | Intransient land owners Progressive values Community involvement and support Business organizations and support Economic development Politics |
| 33 | 4 | Concerned citizens - good voter turnout "meeting" Good schools - Arts, services, teachers and staff | Clean, recycling, healthy, parks - good quality Need dog parks - or designated dog friendly trails/areas of town forest Low development - more thought going into who/where/when | Greener and cleaner Composting Re-usable bags in town = no plastic Bike lanes - promote safe and healthy commuters downtown Recreation department - more programs (variation), expand parking, more indoor options. | | |
| 34 | 4 | Quality of public schools and teachers Town Forest | Recreation facilities - need more fields and larger public pool and possibly indoor pool Have higher quality recreational leagues instead of private organizations for sports Expanded library and schools Keep green spaces green and stop cutting on Henderson/Swansey No building on wetlands | More trees - less clear cutting in forest Larger schools Traffic pattern that doesn't have to go through Town to get from one end to the other Dog friendly parks Public boat house Activities/café behind shops on water Only build houses and have more people when services meet the demand (i.e.. library, senior center, recreation) Inclusion of all voices in the community from various social/economic backgrounds. | Inclusion of all voices from the community | When talking and planning for the future of Exeter.+ 's - diverse input and opinions makes for a stronger community; welcomes all from all walks of life-'s - getting the message out to everyone for events such as the Master Planning meeting |
| 35 | 4 | Downtown atmosphere/community events and Farmers Market | Library and recreation center | Community centered with added transportation and recreation events for children, adults, and seniors. Focus on wellness and health. | Restoring/Improve downtown community buildings | Space, already high taxes |
| 36 | 4 | I think Exeter is very special - I've lived all over the country and in Exeter I finally found a place that is "as it should be": it's a very authentic New England town. Most of the homes are "original", the downtown is "alive" without being over commercialized. it's a town where people can (and do!) walk everywhere, children "and dogs" can safely play in the streets still. Being so close to recreational opportunities (river, hiking trails starting at Oak Street-Spring!) are unexpected for "in-town" living. It's clear, everybody is courteous; its' safe. its authentic. it's REAL. It feels like Exeter is the "way life's supposed to be" (despite being in NH vs. ME) | | Exeter is perfect - let's keep it that way! Progress is good - but not by sacrificing our way of life for money - greedy development opportunities. | Exeter is Unique and Authentic | Protect our way of life! |

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| 37 | 4 | Undamming the river, and generally along the river(s) Permitting microbreweries like The Neighborhood Can walk to groceries, auto mechanic, even auto dealerships - fabulous! Swasey events - all of theirs The walkable downtown, including town buildings is great. Independent businesses is great. River very quiet and peaceful almost all the time. | Dense/affordable housing in some locations Love the trains, nice if they didn't need to blow horn as much at 5am. | Remain walkable to town offices, library, restaurants, shops, etc. More frequent Downeaster service Make best use central town buildings to serve community Make use of the OIKA Enable foreign students of PEA to share their culture with the town (let's face it, we're Hogsmeade...) | Make best use of downtown space to retain current mix | Costs/taxes challenge Festivals on Swasey Park - enjoy Independence Days and Beer/Chili fest How to have more/often, but still let folks enjoy the park Use the town hall space for additional craft fairs, or month-long small retail space so town "cut" can help fund maintenance. Make more use of Folsom Tavern - monthly craft brew sampling, etc; like Independence Day every day Group top idea: Recreation department, facilities, pool - have not used pool, don't know recreation department's coverage in Swasey Park if any |
| 38 | 4 | Vibrant, walkable downtown Town offices/services easy to access Quiet and beautiful river/parks/communities Swasey Park Activities - Farmer's Market, festivals | Powder House/Cachment Pond/Footbridge to Swasey? Portsmouth Ave. - mixed zoning residential/commercial Folsom Tavern underused Riverfront behind shop houses Movie theater - move on it - poor IOKA Small grocer downtown | Traffic congestion sorted - all roads lead to gazebo Mixed residential/commercial (Singapore Style) Pet friendly, pedestrian friendly No home for hate Rail service/Uber/bus/electric vehicles/bikes/pedestrian Same feel - avoid Portsmouth errors Improve not destroy Vibrant connected community Livability More interaction between PEA and town (we are Hogsmeade) | Powder House/Cachment Pond/Footbridge to Swasey Park | Circular walking/jogging path to connect Swasey Park to Powder House via a foot bridge. Naturalize the Cachment Pond and improve the area of the historic Powder House. Work with Exeter Mill to make riverfront pathway to Cachment Pond. If footbridge is not feasible, cleaning up the path/attracting bird watchers, naturalizing for butterfly, fish, trees etc. Don't mow milkweed (monarch butterfly habitat) New sign at Powder House Challenges: Working with utility department for dual purpose pond (utility and beauty). Working with private Chinburg Association |
| 39 | 5 | Good public schools that teach both academic and social skills (attractive to young families) Creative downtown with independent shops (unique setting) improved sidewalks Schools - narrow age range, supportive environment for kids | Recreation pool is so frigid (hard to enjoy) Sidewalks downtown roll up (businesses close too soon for many working parents to take advantage) Parking a challenge (need an efficient solution like a garage) - makes events less enjoyable Train station - too infrequent and too little parking Downtown theater is a hazard (IOKA has potential but a danger to downtown) | More vibrant night life (events/festivals, extended into the night) More diverse community (mix of races and ethnicities) Parking downtown and train; destination (more tourism) How can people get around without a car Concept of (enrichment) - partnership with PEA | | |
| 40 | 5 | | After hours night life Traffic | (Spanish) | | |
| 41 | 5 | The YMCA has been a tremendous addition to the town. Its strength at present is that it appears to offer a variety of programs (fitness, arts, etc) that are utilized by residents of all ages. | Transportation infrastructure = certainly some positives (e.g.. Proximity to 101/95, Amtrak service) but needs improvement, such as more frequent service and such as traffic downtown. | I'd like to see in Exeter: Vibrant Inclusive Sustainable | | |
| 42 | 5 | 1. Downtown sidewalk improvements 2. YMCA 3. Swasey Parkway Farmers Market 4. Holiday events 5. Parks and recreation | 1. Sidewalks 2. Improvement public recreation pool, tennis etc. 3. Public music and theater 4. Improvement Rt 27 and Portsmouth Ave. 5. ??? Parking | Destination using Amtrak Vehicle free Family friendly parks Open space programs | | |

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| 43 | 5 | Good schools Love how green Exeter is | Great downtown Great events - but too congested; but not enough parking - maybe a parking garage, with several levels on the parking lot presently near police department | More parking so we can enjoy activities/events in Exeter | | |
| 44 | 5 | Interesting downtown-shops, restaurants, galley, old town hall events, library holiday events farmers market community events History Education | Theater IOKA downtown - I've heard it is a hazard, many question about this building - it had potential and is an eyesore. Why is it a hazard? What is leaching in the water? What I there is a fire - what would be in the air to cause harm? Potential for event venue Building downtown - looks abandoned above Chinese restaurant. | Inclusive - age, economically, abilities Economically vibrant - healthy Low crime - healthy community | | Small town politics |
| 45 | 5 | Library - excellent - reach out into community open space - walking paths - parks – beautiful city office works extremely well-efficient Independent shops downtown YMCA - kids programs History accessible | Cell towers needed for coverage Public transportation - trains more frequent station Discussions on housing - lower cost housing Parking downtown Congested Downtown | Town/gown Relationship Town/Riverwoods relationship How to keep town vibrant and what attracts young people Hike paths | | |
| 46 | 5 | Music in park, bandstand Community events/Chamber events (active) Amtrak - Downeaster Youth sport leagues Recreation opportunities Sidewalks-walkable downtown | | | | Parking garage |
| 47 | 6 | Improving the sidewalks, curbs, roads, bridges Increase safety | Continue improving the roads Improve intersections like the one near the Exeter Inn and the road to the YMCA Traffic flow patterns (Rt 10 under 101 - horrible traffic pattern and traffic lights) Bump out with greenery Visitors have a terrible time Dog park | With all the improvements we put down People will still be very friendly Safer place to drive Keep a small town feel with an attractive downtown No high risers | | |
| 48 | 6 | Opportunities for family activities (e.g. entertainment on Swasey pkwy in Summer) Walkable downtown - improved sidewalks | Traffic patterns in town Improvement includes more public transportation Park and ride? Additional bridge? Downtown movie theater Better/more parking, esp. at train station | Movie theater downtown Improved trails (walking and bicycling) network | | |

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| 49 | 6 | YMCA - people gathering/exercise/health Restaurants in town Art committee/gallery/arts community initiatives - events Library Seacoast Family Promise Farmers Market Water St. Housing for Elderly Train to Boston | Exeter hospital - needs to offer real health initiatives instead of joint replacement/procedures YMCA - pool/outdoor trails More bicycle safety lanes/sidewalk safety Recreation department should be more proactive in offerings and initiatives Use some imagination - how many trips to Foxwoods needs to be offered? Exeter schools should be more integrated in community - I would personally like to support what is going on but I never know what is going on. Police department has too many officers (more per capita than any other NH community) I hear reports of them being abusive to vulnerable individuals - teenagers, minorities. They push people around. IOKA revival Space for community gardens Phillips Exeter offers less and less to the community, they seems more and more into themselves. I appreciate efforts on Riverwoods part to be integrated in community. I hope they will continue to offer more. | Less cars More community building/opportunities Mire bicycle safety - wider bike lanes, narrower car travel lanes so the cars slow down More ??? With people type events More outdoor/physical activity offerings More utilization of school auditoriums | | |
| 50 | 6 | Opportunities for physical activities: 1. New YMCA 2. Improved bike paths and sidewalks 3. Town dock appropriate for kayaks, canoes | Neighborhood development Connecting paths Family opportunities (parks) Getting through traffic out of town and neighborhoods | Downtown as a destination, not a thoroughfare Develop peripheral road, to keep cars out of downtown | | |
| 51 | 6 | Sidewalks enlargement - make the downtown nicer to walk through | Portsmouth Ave/88 improve total look of these roads to attract more upscale businesses Use of the riverfront - rowing/get rid of the cyclone fence ??? Theater - asbestos abatement should be taken on by Town | Exeter should be tax free for folks over 70 Free Uber | | |
| 52 | 6 | Maintaining a vibrant downtown. People visit and contribute to our economy Swasey parkway Open house - Christmastime, parade, decorations Farmer's Market | Portsmouth Avenue development: restaurants, YMCA pool Network of biking and walking trails: Swasey, schools, town property. | As a community where opportunity exists for young adults, while also providing services for seniors Attract businesses (101, rail, I-95) Healthy lifestyles Transportation Healthcare | Funding | See poster board on our table |
| 53 | 6 | Dam removal - more natural environment, it's beautiful Citizen engagement - good to have people involved Investment in downtown - we care for our city | Dormant downtown businesses: IOKA, Louf & Laddle Town pool Conservation of green space/smart growth, water resources, wetlands Outdoor/indoor climbing gym Traffic patterns More arts and events in Swasey Park (Fall) | Historical, natural, out-doorsy, diverse, arts, great public schools. Small, independent businesses thrive No chains | | |

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| 54 | 6 | <p>1. Preservation of historical feel via downtown decorating, cultural festivals, historic open houses</p> <p>2. Independent town - not bedroom town i.e.. Milford, not industrious and commercial town (i.e.. Newington), not all multi-family (i.e.. Portsmouth), all services are available within town borders</p> <p>3. Highly responsive police and fire services</p> <p>4. Excellent library service options for multi-generations</p> <p>5. Swasey entertainment and gazebo</p> <p>6. Community events and church articulation in events and offerings (i.e.. turkey supper)</p> <p>7.) Luminaries</p> | <p>1. Connection of mobile home dwellers to community events</p> <p>2. Charging for the Independence Festival alienated citizens of lower economic who most need the education</p> <p>3. Accessibility of participation - need it have times and methods available to all</p> <p>4. Need preservation of farm and agricultural interests</p> <p>5. Need refocus off commercial and industrial</p> <p>6. Public transit</p> <p>7. Traffic very poor and impeding not enforced - limit commercial trucking to 7pm-6am; make water st one way</p> <p>8. Indoor pool</p> <p>9. Communication is not good! Need class on how to advertise, organize, delegate, ??? events</p> <p>10. Looks at Fed funding for IOKA asbestos removal</p> <p>11. Prevent Water St. from going all food</p> <p>12. Exeter Inn intersection</p> <p>13. Lights at McDonalds very unclear due to lanes not matching lights</p> <p>14. Utilize Gilman Park more</p> | <p>1. Maintain historic free while aesthetically adding businesses</p> <p>2. Blend of single and multi housing - limit no more than 3 stories</p> <p>3. Lower taxes by reducing unnecessary government (i.e.. Full time tax assessor)</p> <p>4. Reduce school costs by limiting "accessibility" provisions for S.P.E.D. (special ed) to reasonable (i.e.. not separate bus for 1 child when SPED bus already being offered.</p> <p>5. Community involved in development/restoration/events of Exeter</p> <p>6. Vibrant arts scene, classic food options (tradition New England and preppy food)</p> <p>7. Connected trail system</p> <p>8. Maintain independent small businesses</p> | | <p>1. Use scouts to build trails</p> <p>2. Survey towns folk, especially retired, regarding Available to teach/use for town good)</p> <p>3. Have master list of charity organizations and specifically ask them for help regarding non-profit community events</p> <p>4. Add community service requirement for graduation (not sure if in place already)</p> <p>5. Advertise at Laundromats, library, grocery store for maximum participation</p> <p>6. Make Water St. one way, reroute Water St. traffic past recreation department onto Court St and Pine St, limit commercial traffic to 7pm-6am on Water St.</p> <p>7. Create class for organizations/organizers to learn skills of organizing</p> <p>8. Zone for master plan</p> |
| 55 | 6 | <p>River restoration to its natural state and revitalization of Founder Parks (dam removal)</p> <p>Refreshing downtown - paving and sidewalks</p> <p>Influx of new businesses/restaurants downtown</p> <p>Farmer's Market</p> | <p>Downtown could be more of a draw to out-of-towners</p> <p>Lots of new restaurants are helpful, but if people are going to come from out of town for dinner, they'll want something else to go after dinner such as:</p> <p>shops open later, refurbish the IOKA as a performance space</p> | <p>Continue to draw out-of-towners as a destination for day trips/stay-cations. With a mix of shopping, cultural and historical activities, outdoor activities, restaurants, etc.</p> <p>This would include reuse and revitalization of already developed areas such as Lincoln Street, Epping Rd, and Portsmouth Ave. Should also include public transportation opportunities to connect above-listed areas to downtown.</p> | | |
| 56 | 6 | <p>Downtown is looking nicer; sidewalks</p> <p>Arts community is becoming more significant</p> | <p>We need more parking</p> <p>We need more work force housing</p> <p>Government and transparency; need better news reporting</p> | <p>Population more balances age-wise (attract young families/individuals) work force housing zoning</p> <p>Vibrant downtown - attracting people from surrounding towns - Exeter as a destination for fun education, shopping</p> <p>Retail shops that attract older customers - Many target PEA students</p> | | |
| 57 | 6 | <p>I have been in Exeter such a short period of time I'm not sure I can identify anything. But there seems to be a great deal of community spirit which emerges during town sponsored events.</p> | <p>"Downtown" business development - parking/promotion of businesses would be an improvement</p> | <p>Better zoned</p> <p>Protective of US history</p> | | |
| 58 | 7 | <p>The renovation of downtown very niceto improve - add benches, tables and chairs on the sidewalks - to encourage people to "stay awhile". Note how successful and active new market looks and feels.</p> | <p>The river area!Love the main town area. See comment on question 1The variety of shops, restaurants, etc: to be affordable, to attract younger adults</p> | <p>Still a small town, friendly and safe. And affordable for young folks starting out.</p> | <p>money and will to do what is best for the town in the long run</p> | |
| 59 | 7 | <p>As a business owner its my experience that Exeter is growing - I'm always meeting new residents, both young and old. Growth is vital to maintaining a stable business community. A vibrant business base keeps the community in touch with each other</p> | <p>1. Epping Road</p> <p>2. Downtown waterfront</p> <p>3. Parking both in town and at train station area</p> <p>4. Lincoln Street - strip mall</p> | <p>As a vibrant economic center and a cultural destination for the seacoast area.</p> | | <p>Theater - money - overall vision and direction</p> <p>Use school auditoriums</p> <p>Downtown street - café style benches tables, especially in front of Orange Leaf and Squamscott block</p> |

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| 60 | 7 | New sidewalks Downtown looks much better Move to put sidewalks on Kingston Road to Tamarind Lane Train Station - expand Need a dog park Need trails and places to walk dogs without leash but under voice control Indoor pickleball Senior Center of Exeter Public transportation to different places in Exeter | | | | |
| 61 | 7 | Fixing sidewalks downtown - looks "nicer" easier to walk on Removal of dam - back to nature; less expense to maintain, fish ladder Tech high school - training in "trades" - what our high school students need to obtain employment | Amtrak - more parking; public transportation from station to downtown Interchanges with 101 | Dog park - places to let you dog run Transportation (public) to malls, C & J, airport, etc Senior Center - a better facility Better interchange with 101 More retail (clothing stores) Indoor pickleball | Transportation to Airports (Manchester, Portland, Boston) | and to C&J parking (???) to Newburyport |
| 62 | 7 | Maintain traditional; continue upkeep of downtown buildings | 1. Transportation opportunities: bus, train to Boston, airports, etc. 2. Downtown parking 3. Utilize knowledge of RW in all town activities | | | |
| 63 | 7 | Downeaster serves and stages in town 10 times each and Summer 2016. Exeter reached 1 million riders cross our platform on Lincoln St. Exeter schools are second to none. Very dedicated teachers and staff New sidewalks downtown are in and beautiful Dam removal and river more beautiful than ever. | Transportation both around town and to area towns Town government too difficult to get things through Indoor facility and increase parking for transportation | Livability/Workable community for the future with respect for the past. Economic corridors in Exeter: 1. Downtown 2. Portsmouth Ave 3. Lincoln St 4. Epping Rd Lincoln St: 1. indoor train station (all weather) 2. Street safer, bump out to calm traffic and allow for pedestrian flow 3. Walkable/and bike ways 4. Street location signs and bus signs | | Government style Taxes Leadership |
| 64 | 7 | New sidewalks - downtown New restaurants - gathering of community | Angled parking downtown More bike paths | Diverse community with variety of shopping | | Where will money come from |
| 65 | 7 | Economic development - growth and jobs - form/use Community renewed energy | Lincoln St area - economic ??? Centered on the Downeastern Street improvements and connection to downtown | Small town character with mild growth A walkable community Good schools Adequate diverse housing | | Lincoln Street has significant economic development potential. There is a vision on what is needed in a local master plan (design charrett) to explain and generate that vision |
| 66 | 7 | 1. Citizens are talking, and respecting each other. Opposing views can all be heard, and discussed. 2. The Downeaster is positive. We need a station (Gerry's Variety) and a parking garage. Maybe 25 years, maybe 50, maybe 100. It must be done. 3. New organized economic development in town | 1. Portsmouth Avenue - multi-use, and landscaping 2. Epping Road Corridor - traffic 3 lanes; large building setbacks, landscape, bike lanes 3. Water Street sidewalks are good but need underground electric utilities. | 1. Parking garage at Szechuan Taste 2. More 4-story apartment buildings to increase housing density (not 2 acre house lots). Close neighbors. | | Money Vision Resistance to change Unity of purpose |

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| 67 | 7 | <p>a. This approach to citizen participation in the strategic planning process - feeling of respect for individual ideas and values</p> <p>b. Downtown - buildings/storefronts preserved/restored, in many cases - providing links to past and pride in heritage and sense of "hometown"</p> <p>c. Efforts to support independent businesses/economic development</p> <p>Negative: subtle sense that young families, environment, avoiding tax increases are more important than needs of senior citizens (now and in the future)</p> <p>Negative: parks and recreation building's spaces are not accessible to anyone. mobility issues (limits indoor program possibilities)</p> | | <p>1. Off-road flat bicycle path</p> <p>2. Breakfast place</p> <p>3. NH doesn't require that towns have a planning/supervising and coordinating committee (as opposed to Mass. and Maine) related to senior citizens' needs (housing, safety, health, wellness, lifelong learning, exercise, social interaction and stimulation, practical help/support for those remaining in their "separate" home etc. I hope some entity can evolve. In Exeter there use to be a committee on senior issues which disbanded - "nothing to do" - (see minutes of last meeting in town hall). In years ahead there will be more older citizens and a need to thoughtfully access and appreciate services/supports in place and what could evolve in economical and humane ways - based on "best practices" for seniors. Resource could include senior Resource Center in Hanover/Etna (a Dartmouth Hitchcock initiative)</p> | | |
| 68 | 7 | <p>Technical high school - Julia's Lunches</p> <p>It is easy for a newcomer to feel plugged in town meeting - deliberative</p> <p>Individual input sessions</p> <p>10 Passenger trains per day</p> <p>Organized economic development</p> <p>Sidewalks - restoration of downtown</p> <p>Social aspects of town</p> <p>Now people in town - business vibrant</p> <p>Epping town 3 lanes</p> <p>Riverwoods interact with HS students</p> <p>Loaf and Laddle = Seadog Brewing</p> | <p>Charming business district</p> <p>High end restaurants and music and arts - evening out in Exeter</p> <p>Lincoln St serves up economic development</p> <p>Exeter West</p> | <p>Better fine restaurants and arts to draw people to Exeter for an evening out.</p> <p>Bus service to service those who don't have a car</p> | | |
| 69 | 8 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sidewalks are awesome downtown 2. Stillwells - love ice cream 3. Waterfront (please develop) 4. Swasey Parkway (beer festival) 5. Farmer's Market - amazing 6. Good community (just moved here) 7. Amtrak - awesome 8. Christmas decorations 9. Walkability 10. Events | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beautiful path from Amtrak to downtown/waterfront 2. Develop waterfront behind stores 3. More restaurants 4. One of a kind Wi-Fi access at street level/waterfront - Fairpoint has fiberoptic in town I think - do it better than anyone else-being a leader very easy to do 5. Parking needs improvement 6. Pave road from exit 9 to downtown 7. Food trucks on parkway 8. Local kayak/canoe rental by public dock 9. Paint/repair/expand wood walkway behind downtown by town dock 10. Restaurants on waterfront 11. More events!!! 12. Get IOKA back up and running 13. Landscaping - plant as much as possible 14. Develop train station/whole area 15. Path through PEA boathouse from waterfront to Swasey Parkway (PEAS is bring ridiculous) 16. Tax breaks for me due to all my great ideas 17. Run the whole town on solar/wind 18. Each citizen gives \$100 to development fund for \$50 tax break (\$200/300/400/500 max for \$250 credit, 50% credit) *optional check box on taxes = \$140,000/year for development | <p>Help IOKA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More breweries 2. better accessibility 3. Better roads 4. Developed downtown/waterfront 5. Paint/expand area on water behind downtown (there's a diagram this person drew in this page) | | Landowners :(|

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| 70 | 8 | Enhanced accessibility of downtown - sidewalks and bridges! Town events - Swasey Parkway (Beer Festival was awesome) Alternative events on the Swasey - it appeals to many different kinds of people Walkway through the river shed – accessibility Arts downtown - I love the opportunity available without driving | Visibility when leaving the parking spots - install mirrors Riverfront development Improvements on the other side of downtown Rt 27 from exit 9 to downtown in seedy, needs improvement Layout on the building side of river/buildings Bike racks in downtown Development in empty commercial spots Volunteer website - match availability to opportunity Complete walkway from Swasey to town parks Enhance train station Trolley to the beach/Amtrak | NHCRHC.ORG Location accessibility without a vehicle - train to downtown to ocean/beach Cultural hub Guest speakers/workshops Town website to voice topics to discuss - workshops, etc (with a moderator) Connect generations IOKA - make a decision - too late or not? to develop Not developed like Portsmouth Brewery - Seadog at 11 Water Street :) Volunteer website for matching as well as in person list/storefront. | | |
| 71 | 8 | Sidewalk improvements The Farmers Market and use of Swasey Parkway The small town yet vibrant community The arts | IOKA Crossing situation on Front St. Parking Curb appeal Improvements to the river walk to attract businesses to the back side of Water St. Better access or direction from the Amtrak station to downtown Revitalize that area as well | Not to become Portsmouth Keep the uniqueness of Exeter - local business No chain retails The IOKA Community events in Swasey Park - concerts, festivals The arts becoming a bigger part - better exhibit space besides town hall Improvements to Front Street through PEA - better student crossing | | |
| 72 | 8 | Sidewalks - accessibility, looks nice YMCA - nice gathering place for community, promotes healthy lifestyle, close to town Swasey Parkway (festivals - beer festival) Farmer's Market Historic buildings - events - maintaining for historic feel Parks - open space Amtrak | Bring back IOKA Crossing situation at PEA Parking downtown Exit 9 - Rt27 into town -mismatch of buildings (new children's day care building nice) Library Bike racks - accessibility for bikes - bike lanes Gazebo - center area Downtown - needs something - greenery | Engage - culturally enriched - inclusive of all different types of residents Families - retirees - singles - economically diverse Promoting cultural healthcare - historic - healthy lifestyle Promoting of environmental policies - recycling, greenery Community gardens Public involvement | | Transparency - better communication with townspeople and businesses of what is going on and what is coming. |
| 73 | 8 | Conservation of undeveloped parcels - Preserve buffer between developed spaces and between towns; Provide recreational opportunities Minimizes urbanization of the town - Festivals and celebrations; Showcases the town; opportunities for the community to gather | Downtown traffic/parking | Integrating modern improvements without losing historical small town feel | | |
| 74 | 8 | Downtown revitalization brightens up the downtown Happy to hear Epping Rd may start development and a continuation of the redevelopments along Epping Rd. | Epping Rd still has a long way to go but I am hopeful the redevelopments and the development will continue. | Large business and large entities such as Riverwoods and PEA involved in the community. Larger contingent of volunteers that can help with community projects and improvements. | | |
| 75 | 8 | Town departments being responsible to inquiries and willing to find solutions. Maintaining the feeling of a small town | Better traffic control/highway marking | | | |
| 77 | 8 | The town is moving away from being a small town to being a diverse, complex town. Moving toward build out - a positive and negative process Volunteers | Involvement of hospital staff and PEA in town events and the community of Riverwoods | Keep the historical, friendly small town atmosphere while providing for the growth (???) of the town | | |

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|------|---------|---|---|--|---|---|
| 78 | 8 | Diversity collaborating to solve problems E.G. dam removal \$1.7 m passed by 60+% Active, involved diverse community - young, old, prep school and retirement communities Diverse economic assets - Exeter hospital, River Woods, Osram Sylvania, PEA, Water St. shopping district Deep historical assets - birth place of republican party, Powder House | Low income house for workers and working families Affordable assisted living facilities | Resilient in the face of challenges - ocean rise, storm surge, extreme precipitation events including ice/deep snow, cyber attack effecting banking, electrical grid | | |
| 79 | 8 | International flavor (PEA and many who travel abroad) Many free cultural events, active citizenry Farmer's Market (town surrounded by farms and farm stands) | Traffic and parking - new sidewalks | Water Street - traffic free (trolley from Portsmouth Ave to the train station and back a loop) Mixes use downtown | | |
| 80 | 9 | People are friendly here Streets are always clean - looks nice Snow removal is excellent - safe I love the new sidewalks Festivals on Swasey and town events | I'd like a place for music (a bar and restaurant) We need a dog park (more pet friendly) Shops should be open later, at least once a week Events happen too early! High rents for businesses, especially retail | More open space, including active areas More benches/meeting/park space More entertainment (music, festivals, etc) Longer hours (downtown not closed early) | | Improve the use of the waterfront while preserving the historic qualities of the town so that all residents can live, work and play Opportunities: amazing waterfront Challenges: who owns land along river, problems with continuity due to different land owners Current landscape and development |
| 81 | 9 | Cohesion and compatibility of buildings in center of Exeter - surrounding farms, wetlands, and open space. Lack of approval. | Water supply - safe? | 1. Maintain its historic character and quality 2. Protect agricultural soils; more public transportation to grocery stores, hospital, core doctors, high school | | |
| 82 | 9 | this evening is positive. Shows substantial community interest | Exeter River - the dam removal has began the process of restoring river to its historical state and to continue further dam activity. Downtown is attractive. Parking maybe a problem for further improvement. Open the back of Front Street for better view and use of river front. Perhaps this may relocate to new easements. | Emphasize that this is an historic town. That means town must be careful about zoning in the city - to preserve the history. Since Exeter center is historic, it should be desirable to protect as much open space as possible - and this may mean foreseeable tax treatment for open area - Possibly it may not expand water and sewer. Create walkways in city, especially along the river | | |
| 83 | 9 | Small town Sidewalks Swasey Parkway Transportation - trains highways Small town values | New senior center and young people center Less trailer parks, clean them up IOKA/movies Young families Friday and Saturday | More for seniors and youths More "housing" for seniors "Traffic" control - foot, bike, auto "loud vehicles" Roads | | Keep taxes under control and affordable |
| 84 | 9 | Sidewalks are great! Thanks! Dam came out - restores river to natural state - thanks! Solar array on Exeter Lumber, Al's Auto, memories yay! Great citizens, who participate Farmers Market | New fish ladder (natural) could be leveraged into region-wide festival if we had viewing platforms and dining decks. The new Sea Dogs brewery could be an anchor of a huge dining deck that stretched all the way to String Bridge. Would like to see more theater type events like Dickens at the town hall or at the IOKA - cultural staff!! :) | Climate change is in Exeter too! Greatly reduce carbon footprint - bikes, trolley, electric cars with charging stations Spacious walkable dining destination and cultural arts are lots of conversation areas and pocket arks Same quaint and historic character | Preserve historicalness, while developing waterfront for all strata of residents | We have a river, you can't buy one of those if you don't have one! Let's use it wisely to keep this a happy and healthy community for all! Thank for this round table opportunity! |
| 85 | 9 | Development on Rt 33 - Portsmouth Ave Downtown sidewalks Infrastructure repair - good DPW Growth of the arts | Public transportation in town government committee, etc. Treatment of stormwater Additional open space - conservation land Develop neighborhood pocket park | I would like Exeter to continue to be a small town - non urban A family town with lots of open space, clean water, good schools, public transportation, a healthy participating town government with citizens who understand important of caring for our environment. | Improve the use of the waterfront while preserving the historical quality of the town so that all residents of all income level can work and play in Exeter | Challenge - money, water supply |

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| 86 | 9 | The combination of the dinner/show at the town hall and Otis The new sidewalks The removal of the dam | Affordable housing River: riverwalk Sidewalks Bike paths Downtown: stay open later Better communication with town boards "Transparency" Train station Trolley from train station to downtown: maybe in Summer | 1. A place where all income levels can live, work and play 2. Good transit to service - locals and visitors; more multicultural, artistic events: festivals Community gathering places - various venues around the entire town PEA not in downtown | Improve waterfront while preserving historical qualities so that all income levels can live, work, play in Exeter | Challenges: People's aversion to change " " to taxes (needed for services) Opportunities - a whole bunch of young folks interested in Exeter |
| 87 | 9 | Love the new sidewalks downtown Its great to see the visual update/face lift but it seems to also be easier to walk around Pet friendly - lots of dog walkers The mix of classic downtown architecture with the contemporary development of the residents behind them. | IOKA theater needs an occupant or owner. It's a focal point in town and sad to see it dark (other than the sign) Exeter blue bags are annoying. I would rather have scheduled trash pick up with regular bags that's paid for quarterly. | A place where a wider variety of businesses can flourish downtown, with some nightlife on Friday and Saturdays (live music and later hours at restaurants). More dog friendly spaces downtown (currently off limit access include entire riverfront park and library area). Activities focused on and around the riverfront. Avoid being too fixated on the traditional building styles outside of downtown. Businesses open later/entertainment/downtown destination Festivals/events/activity on riverfront | Improve the use of the waterfront while preserving the historical quality of the town so that all residents of all income level can work and play in Exeter | Challenges: Respecting private land and private property An anti-development view from long-term residents Adopting too many town funded projects (taxes already high) Opportunity: The more we work as individuals to a common goal of town improvement, we all benefit from a more vibrant town. |
| 88 | 9 | Commercial development in the downtown area, particularly the new restaurants, will bring additional traffic and spending to Exeter. The beautification of the downtown this past year (sidewalks, etc) seems to have done much to effect this as well. | Better sidewalks outside of the immediate downtown area to continue to foster a walkable town in all areas Street upkeep - generally a New England problem, but many of the streets outside the downtown have holes and poor draining, which don't appear to be maintained. Would be great to see the IOKA theater redeveloped/rejuvenated for community use by public/private organizations. Incorporation of the riverfront into community/downtown some more. More storefronts on that side of the commercial stretch. | A vibrant energetic town with people outside all of the town - walking to restaurants, bars, parks, etc. We have wonderful outdoor space and plans for more, and without events and energy, people will not enjoy it. By having more events and a livelier ambiance, we will attract more tourism and dollars spend in the town. | Improve the use of the waterfront while preserving the historical quality of the town so that all residents of all income level can work and play in Exeter | Challenges: Private property Infrastructure Upkeep? Construction Opportunities: Greater foot traffic Greater economic growth Greater opportunity for small businesses to start and grow |
| 89 | 9 | The development of new eating establishments in downtown Exeter (e.g. Otis, Sea Dog restaurant) bringing more people downtown. The discussion of the importance of the arts (performing, visual, musical) in town and especially as it pertains to the use of town hall. | The riverfront on Water Street needs improvement to become a resource to draw people downtown. The riverfront is currently an underrated treasure that should be improved and attractive to visitors and residents. This will benefit residents and businesses. The Exeter Arts Committee needs to be reconstituted/rechartered to be a central scheduling/coordinating entity for all arts related events. This should include: music, visual arts, performing arts, film, and festivals. Use the open lot on Water St. as a public garden/sitting area until the owner builds a new building. Create some inviting space to attract people (like a town square) in the center of town Bike sharrows on Water Street | Exeter downtown is a destination for residents and visitors to: eat, shop, be entertained The Academy is integrated into the Town's vision and goals so that their development is consistent with that of its host community. And they pay their fair share. | | Balancing historic preservation with economic development Riverfront owners need to see the value in improving the waterfront. The current focus of the Exeter Arts Committee is too limited and needs to be seen as a central clearinghouse/coordinator of all arts-related events. |
| 90 | 9 | Positive Needs improve Future | | | | |

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| 91 | 10 | It seems like we have more young families moving into town - we need to attract young people in a state that is aging. Keep it affordable so that we can maintain this trend. Fairly vibrant restaurant scene, which seems to be improving. | We need to improve traffic through town. The traffic is exceedingly heavy at times - and a lot of it seems like through traffic - is there a route through traffic away from downtown? The intersection by the Exeter Inn/Catholic church is awful, I'd like to see a round-about there. Intersection at Court and Front near major Blake Hotel should have a stop sign, not a yield sign. Also the yield sign in front of the Inn by the bandstand should be a stop sign. | To remain a very walkable town, and to extend the walkable/downtown feel to Lincoln St. Improve Lincoln Street makes it more of a gateway (people do arrive by train to Lincoln St.) Better traffic patterns to maintain walkability - replace some yield signs with stop signs. Improve intersections by Exeter Inn with roundabout. | Walkability/Connectivity | More and better sidewalks - i.e., Epping Rd. |
| 92 | 10 | Community oriented events: farmers market, Swasey events, pumpkin toss. Performances at town hall; performances at PEA | Town hall Sidewalks Greenbelts Infrastructure: water/sewer | More trees, better pedestrian experience, car traffic/management/calming | Improve | Financial; property tax, space/availability Size/scale, community involvement |
| 93 | 10 | 1. YMCA - community center; multi-generational - different economic groups, families - all come together - health focus. 2. More bike lanes 3. ? Seems like more young families are moving to town - helps town to grow and stay vibrant Needs Improvement: 1. Develop vibrant downtown - need an "anchor" to attract folks downtown; concerns regarding parking; ? roads/infrastructure - some updating has occurred but need more 2. Support for more disadvantaged - St. Vincent de Paul - many services to the unseen population 3. Connections to other parts of town - Epping Road | | Vibrant diverse community - active downtown - culture/restaurants But still a close knit community with neighbors More connected to other areas downtown. Be able to walk from downtown to Park and Recreation, down Epping Rd to other businesses. | | |
| 94 | 10 | Sidewalk repaired | Traffic near academy???? | 1. Keep taxes low - to have ??? Living in the town 2. Diversify | | |
| 95 | 10 | Sidewalk renovation was great. Improved downtown walkability. Good for businesses. Otis restaurant - adding to vibrancy of downtown Sea Dog Brewery - amazing win for downtown Bike criterion - fun race to watch Farmers Market - Swasey Parkway | Bike lanes Bars/restaurants walkable downtown | Affordable housing Good economic diversity Destination for date night - more variety for dinner, lunch, breakfast Connect Epping Rd to downtown via sidewalks/bike lanes | | |
| 96 | 10 | The festivals and farmers market it brings people into downtown area which they usually window shop or shop while here. | Flow of traffic with the increase of condos and apartment buildings. The traffic flow is very congested and should be looked at. Parking downtown - maybe timing the lengths. Make Spring Street from bridge to water one way. | Keep downtown rural as much as possible. Maybe bring in more manufacturing rather than build more living spaces. This would keep Exeter - Exeter and not over tax. The school system as the people working in industries would go back to their own towns. | | |

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| 97 | 10 | Expansion/development of entry-level housing The town needs younger people/families The downtown is more active and diverse New businesses - draw attention/traffic to downtown Farmer's Market, expansion (???) | Rec/Fitness - walking trails/walkabouts Pool (Acton, MA model) - town bus enough to share with school - fitness, swim, rehab, salary, HS team and PE Epping Road development plan Cohesion traffic connection to town character | 15-20 years Green development as buildings are renovated and built Maintain historic character of downtown spaces Keeps small town community feel Development of walking trails to extend appreciation of Exeter beyond downtown. Connect Epping Rd to downtown (sidewalks etc) and encourage connections to Main/Water/Portsmouth Ave etc | | |
| 98 | 10 | Our recreation department is second to one in the area. From sports programs, to the pool, to our parks, events like free summer concerts, and more. The parks and recreation department enhances our town and builds community. Free parking downtown! (Makes me glad I don't live in Dover or Portsmouth) Our public schools are outstanding. I know many parents who moved here because of the schools in SAU 16. | I know it's already in progress, but the water system needs an upgrade. I've been pleased by what I've seen with regard to infrastructure improvements. Portsmouth Ave used to practically require a Jeep. Now it's smooth and nice to drive on. Continued improvements to our roads and sidewalks would be an area we can improve. | I would like to see a continued strong sense of community. I want to see Exeter sustain its character and the things that make it great (community, free parking, recreation, festivals, etc.), while growing and remaining vibrant. Continued investment in education and recreation | More walkability/connectivity | Opportunities: More business friendly Diverse business opportunity Challenges: Pulling it off without sprawl, losing small town feel Money |
| 99 | 10 | So many things positive happening! More place to live downtown (more density/less sprawl) Town's portion of tax rate has dropped from \$8.01 in 2012 to \$7.09 in 2017 Much infrastructure upgraded at a time of low interest rates. Epping Rd is beginning to see significant commercial development. We are doing a great job of preserving historic and natural heritage/resources. All told we are building a high quality of life at a lower price. | We need to be willing to embrace more and better and more intense commercial development in those corridors set aside for commercial development. (Specifically Epping Rd. Holland Way and Portsmouth Ave.) | Exeter's challenge is to augment the strengths - historic, walkable downtown; wonderful preservation of natural resources and conservation land - while securing a diverse and vibrant demographic both age-wise and socio-economic. We will only secure that vibrancy and diversity by delivering a high quality of life at a reasonable cost. | Connecting neighborhoods with downtown | Get folks out of their cars and emphasized bikes and pedestrian access. Roads should be multimodal. |
| 100 | 10 | 1. Dam taken down this year Surprised and happy about its look and feel Enjoy looking at it Natural Using the river more Festivals and Farmers Market | *More use of the river and or riverbank for use and viewing | Sidewalks rotted More to do evening/weekends Variety of restaurants Cultural/entertainment | | |
| 101 | 10 | Going forward with River improvements by removing the dam. The natural flow of the River will allow fish to return to natural spawning. The River is now surprisingly beautiful. | Safe biking lanes in town. Repaving and prominent line markings would improve safety. | A town without 18 wheelers passing through all day. Not only would it be quieter but safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. | | |
| 102 | 10 | Community/Regional Events: UFO American Independence Museum Movie nights Beer and chili fest Community Involvement: Tonight great example of people wanting to be involved in town Location regionally: Growth in Rockingham County well positioned in middle with easy access to state. | How we use some key location/downtown (evening events) Utilize the waterfront Housing opportunities downtown | Variety of housing within walking distance of downtown that allows residents to access the space without getting in a car. | | |

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| 103 | 10 | Enjoyed listening to talk at Water Street bookstore by authors. Library is a great resource | Improve website | | | |
| 104 | 10 | The attendance at tonight's meeting The announcement of Sea Dog coming to town: economic development; tourism; walking Volunteerism/sharing community values Police/Fire - great public service | IOKA Night life/entertainment Alternative means of transportation, specifically bike lanes shared. More Amtrak usage Lincoln Street Improvements to Exeter town hall Expanded parks and recreational facilities | More neighborhood connectivity-walking Concern: concerned about the continued expansion of PEA; they are getting closer and closer to downtown. This could hinder the economic vitality of future growth. | | ??? Strong base: Exeter Players, arts Perception: any improvements downtown often gets met with "let the business owners pay for it if they want it" this perception needs to be changes. Education is key. |
| 105 | 10 | Seeing more growth Social environment in Exeter. More people are getting involved | Epping Road Side street development Rear of town growth | New town office building Parking garage Eliminate poles (underground) | | |
| 106 | 11 | | SST - Seacoast School of Technology | | | |
| 107 | 11 | Townpeople show up for important issues. Our collective experience is so much more important than having a few official "leaders" make decisions "for" us. | Connectivity by various forms of transportation: Amtrak - good Biking - fair Bus - fair Walking - good More affordable and diverse housing - smaller, refurbishing what we have, diverse age groups, workforce, allow next generation to remain in town. Conservation land, trails, green spaces, night sky, water resources, wildlife habitat. | Optimize the riverfront with a well thought out and comprehensive (as much diversity and accessibility as possible) | | |
| 108 | 11 | Owner/Independent shops Individual identity Farmers Market Team (Exeter music and art scene) Walkable town Primaries come to town Walkable trails The River Safe Festivals of trees events Lanterns Community involvement The Y | (Overhead power lines) Arts in town - plays IOKA | Maintain its look/feels No overhead power lines Vibrant: IOKA - movie theater; community center; plays' live music Riverside: cafes, restaurants Not a ghost town come 8pm | | |
| 109 | 11 | Community Farmers Market Downtown - local shops Social/honesty/local farms/businesses Keep in local economy Thriving town/neighborhoods The participation of community members | Recreation department building - Y great, expansion Sidewalks Dangerous intersections | Sidewalks Dangerous intersections Conservation preservation (unique) not cookie cutter Family centered | | |
| 110 | 11 | 1. Schools - especially the "new" high school facility 2. Recreation facility/parks. Swasey Parkway - great space, summer films, concerts 3. Fire/police/hospital 4. Downtown sidewalks 5. Town maintenance - snow removal, sanding, pothole repair | Riverwalk - river development below "dam" Biking lanes ' consistent throughout town Sidewalks beyond downtown IOKA | More diverse | | |

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| 111 | 11 | <p>1. Since we moved several (3) years ago we have seen new businesses, new restaurants, Inn at Bardstand refurbished; why (brings people to Exeter)</p> <p>2. Resurgence of American Independence Museum on West side of town (makes town nice to drive through)</p> <p>3. Happenings on Swasey Parkway in Summer, Fall, Spring</p> <p>4. New family Y (brings community health/fitness together)</p> <p>5. Orthopedic unit/clinic building at Exeter Hospital (new dr.'s, new services for community)</p> <p>6. Vibrant and changing downtown</p> | <p>Riverwoods, senior involvement with volunteers</p> <p>SST outreach</p> <p>IOKA</p> <p>Economic development</p> <p>Infrastructure (intersections)</p> <p>Not invented here mentality</p> | <p>10 years:</p> <p>Affordable/diversity of housing</p> <p>Infrastructure (intersections to support/ease increase traffic)</p> <p>Exeter hospital increase/opportunities for health care</p> <p>Affiliations with best</p> | | On board Table #11 |
| 112 | 11 | <p>Positive items:</p> <p>New businesses/restaurants/constructions in town (residential and commercial - in downtown (less so) along Epping Rd and Hampton Rd.</p> <p>Resurgence of American Independence Museum</p> <p>Opening of new YMCA</p> <p>Removal of Great Dam and beginning restoration of Exeter River</p> <p>Why Positive?:Town wellness/quality of life increases on several levels - economic, cultural, social, environmental, historical, health/wellbeing</p> | <p>Economic development especially along Epping Road - subject to reasonable, focused regulation oversight that makes better compromises between Exeter's past and future.</p> | <p>More affordable: quality of life; housing</p> <p>Not Epping but with more economic development to finance other town enhancements</p> <p>More pedestrian and bike friendly</p> <p>More openness to reasonable compromises in zoning, planning, parking, wetlands, etc. to enable more economic development and to eliminate Exeter's anti-development reputation.</p> | | On our yellow board |
| 113 | 11 | <p>Downtown has remained a warren of local concerns, locally owned with "skin in the game". There are some vacancies but not an unhealthy number. Positive - because if local owners are the business base, they tend to be more cohesive than a bunch of chains.</p> <p>Dam removal: ultimately produces a healthier river in terms of a long term relationship of fresh H2O to estuary.</p> <p>Vibrant farmers market - Summer and Winter</p> <p>Consolidated enough that many residents can walk where they want to go</p> | <p>YMCA: good start but build up sense of it being a gathering place.</p> <p>Lincoln Street: great potential but would like to see a more considered streetscape.</p> <p>Revisit the possibility of a sheltered space for Amtrak.</p> | <p>Active IOKA or re-developed</p> <p>Engaged with the waterfront</p> <p>Some type of cohesive, build out, order of Epping Rd</p> <p>Decision one or another on a 2nd firehouse west of RR.</p> <p>Greater population diversity</p> | | |
| 114 | 11 | <p>Updating of the Master Plan with good public turnout:</p> <p>Positive because the Master Plan should be one of the most significant guiding documents that protects the best interest of town residents</p> | <p>Improvements in safety (example downtown sidewalks) - connectivity</p> <p>Traffic congestion improvements</p> | <p>A community that supports a balance between long time residents, new residents and economic development through thoughtful planning.</p> <p>* Community growth through thoughtful planning</p> | | |
| 115 | 11 | <p>Farmers Market - Summer and Winter</p> <p>Public/community opportunities: library, Y Trails</p> <p>A walkable town</p> | <p>Contiguous sidewalks from neighborhoods to downtown and parks</p> <p>Better/more restaurants - Loaf & Laddle space</p> <p>Indian Food</p> <p>Not franchises</p> <p>Bad to have 2 Aroma Joes</p> <p>Parking downtown</p> <p>IOKA</p> | <p>Continue and expand unique downtown look/feel/opportunities that are for all ages: arts, shopping, restaurants, recreation with multiple, safe and available ways for all to access regardless of neighborhood (transportation options)</p> | | |

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| 116 | 12 | The waterfront access/development YMCA Downtown Chamber of Commerce Healthy rivers Visually beautiful Safe Sidewalks Events Historic Schools Outdoor spaces Small business Friendly | Lighting Parking Conservation Relationship with Academy Drinking water quality Library Sidewalks - more More green initiative Lighting Parking Revitalize IOKA Growth - controlled | Stay safe! Small town Safe Restrictive covenant Keep schools great Lower taxes Arts Bike rental Segway tour Benches Freedom trail Historical trail | Small town historic feel | Opportunities: Community Involvement Long term residents Challenges: Keep cost down |
| 117 | 12 | Forming neighborhood communities. It is positive because it makes the town a safe and pleasant place to live. Not all towns have community. Events that foster community discussions regarding one book one town. It fosters growth, diversity, respect and dialogue. People being involved in town issues - regarding this event! Continuing traditions: parades, farmers market Downtown Waterfront/ outdoor spaces, YMCA, Parks and recreation, History | Save the IOKA Preserving historical buildings Saving open spaces Recycling program - more compost, solar - green programs No more new buildings! Public transportation to Portsmouth, Manchester Bike lanes Dog parks Improve drinking water Water fountains | Limited new buildings - no new houses or commercial buildings. Focus on revitalizing current spaces Be a historic town with progressive environmental initiatives Be a town that people like to live in and stay there for generations. Make historic walk from train station to downtown | Small town feel with maintaining historic character | Opportunities: Opportunity to preserve in an era of disregard to history and community We can make it more of a historic destination Maintaining neighborhoods Encouraging small business Challenges: Want to keep economic growth without over development Paying for all the perks |
| 118 | 12 | Development in downtown - previously open spaces being filled with interesting shops, restaurants - downtown is always busy (except post 9pm!) Appreciate the sidewalk work - like walking in town! Community activities especially around holidays - gives off good community feel New YMCA History/modern balance Schools | Open spaces/park spaces (preserving and formalizing playgrounds even if small) PEA/town relationship Exeter trash bags - why must we use those? Wasteful Drinking water improved Revitalize the IOKA | Vibrant lively town while maintaining smaller town/historic feel (don't become Portsmouth - don't push all the commercial). Foster community and keep on strengthening school system (yes it's good...it can still be better). Add progressive environment initiatives Preserve neighborhoods | Vibrant small town that remains safe | Opportunities: Town meetings and workout sessions like tonight Facilitating the flow of information to all people Money Attracting the right type of businesses (encouraging non-chains) Challenges: Money to invest (without) Rising costs/taxes |
| 119 | 12 | Healthy Rivers Committee: Hold discussions on harmful fertilizers and practices that have contaminated our water. Hold workshops educating citizens of less harmful lawn care products and practices. | Energy Conservation: should be considered in all town projects and replacement of town vehicles, lighting, heating/cooling, septic etc. Tax relief for energy conservation. Would like to see the Raynes Farm used more perhaps community garden plots, farming demonstrations/bee keeping classes etc. | I'd love to see a clean water, healthy vibrant river with an abundance of fish, herons, trees, birds and wildlife and habitat, more sidewalks, walking paths and trails and additional bike paths. Would like to see careful development - avoid big boy and multi unit housing (unless it is really affordable housing). Find a way to make it appealing for family owned/small businesses to be in Exeter - small companies, small businesses Like the planning guidelines and restrictions honored. We have good setbacks and guidelines. | | We have a lovely historic small town that deserves to be protected from too many housing units and big box development. The challenge is to maintain true character and flow of Exeter and have an affordable tax base. |
| 120 | 12 | Beauty of Exeter, especially downtown Recreation center programming - affordable and accessible Great schools YMCA in Exeter | Drinking water safety Sidewalks - especially from downtown to recreational fields Slow down on cut through from Walgreens to String bridge. Not safe for kids in this family neighborhood to walk and cross the street YMCA needs a pool | Beautiful town with great schools, great downtown, mix of ages from babies on up, all involved in a vibrant welcoming safe community. | Small town feel (historic) | Opportunities: Community events that link community Vibrant downtown Challenges: Community growth |

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| 121 | 12 | Great recreational programs - summer camp, sports, activities, ??? In the park; chili fest, farmers market Small medium town feel Historic building/history Family friendly Outdoor space Good downtown - mix of shopping and eating Waterfront Safety YMCA Schools | Green initiatives for town and school: solar compost etc Public wastebaskets downtown Fast Driving Preserving open spaces Slow down housing development Drinking water quality | Great schools and teachers - keep them small Vibrant downtown - people walking/shopping Small town feel with resources recreation/ chambers of commerce Keep the same size Keep open spaces Stay safe | Small town feel/stay safe - small town historic feel | Opportunity: Community involvement Attracts right business Volunteering Challenges: Rising costs - salary improvements Schools Preserving neighborhoods |
| 122 | 12 | Small town atmosphere Safe Small business friendly Historic buildings Family friendly | Some of the roads need paving Public wastebaskets downtown PEA students - AM crossings Drinking water Multi-family maintenance by landlords | Restrictive covenants on buildings - residential and commercial | Small historic town | Opportunities: Community involvement Long term residents Challenges: More taxes (float bonds to buy land?) More traffic More services* Look at Hingham |
| 123 | 12 | Active chamber of commerce - annual events that involve the community/plus brings more people to town Friendly, welcoming community Walkable downtown | IOKA YMCA needs a pool I love the library, but they could have more DVDs, books on CDs. | Not losing the small town feel, focusing on necessary updates. What needs to change - water quality, to schools, infrastructure etc. | Small town historic feel | Opportunities: Historic downtown Community that values that Challenges: population growth development |
| 124 | 12 | Anything that brings people downtown - farmers markets, holiday nights, sidewalk sales, etc. All services - hospitals, library, police, very good New restaurants Recreational programs, the YMCA | Downtown is great but needs more parking Need more downtown attractions - plays Drinking water needs improvement Business variances needed more | More arts - playhouse etc More businesses (that pay taxes but don't affect environment [eg. Too much offices]) Still small | | |
| 125 | 12 | Visually beautiful Community cares Schools are excellent The town has everything that one needs hospitals pharmacies grocery stores excellent library charming downtown community spirit holiday festivals, etc beautiful Swasey Parkway farmers market safe YMCA sidewalks | We need a more vibrant downtown area - too many Chinese and Mexican restaurants Downtown is so special and pretty so we don't really want to change the look of things The town should purchase the IOKA and restore it. The movies where always a vital part the community. Preserving open spaces Better relations with PEA Water improvement More sidewalks More green initiative | Keep the number of residents the same - keep the small town Don't over develop Stay safe Keep schools strong Zoning - commercial next to residential Protect open spaces Guard historic Need benches downtown in several places - perhaps memorial benches where people could buy a bench "in memory" | | |

| WS # | Table # | 1. What is something positive happening in Exeter? Why is it positive? | 2. What has potential but needs improvement? What are some of those improvements? | 3. How would you like to see Exeter in the future? | 4. Top Idea | 4. What are the opportunities and challenges to making this happen? |
|------|---------|--|---|---|--|---|
| 126 | 13 | Sidewalks - enhanced - looks better, easier - downtown - independent stores More accessible Economic developer - trails, walking, hiking, biking Communication from the school Open to hearing issues and ideas Epping Road growth Schools (SAU16) YMCA Dam removal Farmers Market Fall festival Christmas decor Hospital (great food) | High end housing - lower end "Affordable" (gap) No middle ground on housing School maybe overcrowded Business (commercial) Diversity related to restaurants Downtown closes to early Skate park Recreational fields - lights, parks, bathrooms More practice area Downtown parking - garage Public transportation (not consistent) IOKA Waterfront development/public boating | Something for the kids to do... Movies - family oriented activities Epping Rd Holland Way Trails - marked/mapped/ marketed/maintained Missed use...Epping Rd = Trolley More arts/shows and redevelop IOKA and Town Hall Town buys the IOKA Affordable housing - support diverse population... Nightlife - Buffalo Wild Wings Marshalls Develop waterfront | | |
| 127 | 14 | Kids are being raised well by parents, teachers and role models | Parking an issue downtown - maybe use resident permits or annual passes Exeter needs better announcements of meeting to ensure things are not slipped in and transparency of all department heads etc. Mark crosswalks downtown better - watching cars, traffic and pedestrians. Makes me avoid downtown. | Road better maintained for snow and patchwork Dog park More parking at gathering areas Better announcements of meetings and events - town website, by town clerk, department head or town manager but do not put this on Sherri! | | See previous |
| 128 | 14 | The overall aesthetic and culture of Exeter is excellent. It is a very nice community in which to live and raise a family. There is an essential structure to Exeter which places it in a unique position to combine classic, quaint New England town aesthetics with cosmopolitan elements, such as fine cuisine, arts, bookstores, and pubs. I genuinely believe that Exeter has something to offer that is distinct from other notable New England towns (eg. Portsmouth, Portland, Burlington, Bedford, NH etc). | With a clear vision defining Exeter's identity, the many areas for improvement and enhancement could place Exeter at the top of small town New England destinations. Foremost, among the aspects for improvements is enhancing the aesthetic potential of downtown, including the following - burying power lines (an opportunity that was dismissed recently), placing pseudo-gaslights along the street, making a small town green around the bandstand, and in general, planting more trees. The road through Swasey Parkway should be closed all the time or at least should have several speed bumps. I feel that these changes would serve to emphasize Exeter's extraordinarily rich history. The contemporary feel of the town should exploit the history to make the town more of a tourist destination. | Rather than be expository, here is a list: The Gilman Garrison House should be maintained better Kayak rentals down in the "marina" Use the Folsom Tavern - not just as a historic relic - but as a usable building. Make it an actual tavern or inn. Downtown could use a nice little market or co-op. A place to swim all 4 season (indoor pool) The IOKA needs to be sold and tuned into a theater for music and plays or at least a brewery/restaurant A nice, cozy, wooden pub Another inn (more places to stay) Use town hall more! Again, all improvements to Exeter should be enacted (and designed) with a clear identity defined. I feel the best identity for Exeter, and therefore its future, is to deftly combine historic New England charm with cosmopolitan elements. Philips Exeter happens to be an institution which is a perfect embodiment of the marriage of those two elements. | Beautify the downtown in a way that enhances its New England charm | The town website is poor and it's endemic of overall communication problems. I find it quite difficult to find out about what's going on in town. People seem overly reluctant to not change. Exeter but rather emphasize and enhance what is already here. |
| 129 | 14 | Bike lanes expanding, sidewalks expanded Downtown sidewalks cleaned up street Dam removal increasing aquatic life going forward Development of 27, sustainable development Kingston Road Project, Brickyard Park connection Restaurants (Lexies, Powder House, Neighborhood Beer) New YMCA | Traffic downtown Parking downtown for the future development (shops, restaurants, etc.) Stores open downtown past 6 or 7pm. More activities IOKA Variety of restaurants More use of Independence Museum/Tavern for events More use of town hall Lincoln Street Redevelopment/train station | Shut down Swasey Parkway to vehicle traffic. There is a parallel state road available that isn't through the middle of a park. Dog park *Vibrant active community People excited to visit at night! (besides parade, holidays, etc.) No more "bedroom community" (IOKA, shops, restaurants, bars, etc) Recreational activities. | | One town facebook page/social media account for residents Traffic plan |

| WS # | Table # | 1. What is something positive happening in Exeter? Why is it positive? | 2. What has potential but needs improvement? What are some of those improvements? | 3. How would you like to see Exeter in the future? | 4. Top Idea | 4. What are the opportunities and challenges to making this happen? |
|------|---------|---|---|---|-------------------|---|
| 130 | 14 | Downtown sidewalks, paving etc Library improvement proposal Dam removal Loaf and Laddle remodel REA and surrounding walking trails Station 19 Otis | *Train station and access from station into town: Lincoln Street corridor Burham Strip mall/shops North end of Main street school campus Street scaping Repaving Lincoln Street IOKA up and running or change to new business Old Loaf and Laddle occupation No more trails parks/low income housing/apartment buildings Swasey Park drive closed to car traffic | Blend of history (quaint shops/restaurants, small town feel) and 21st century progressive infrastructure (transportation, library, underground electrical lines, etc). | | |
| 131 | 14 | | Downtown parking Routes through town - close Swasey Established a green in downtown will benches More neighborhood sidewalks Traffic flow Intersections with multiple access Need controls - signage, lights, street marking Encourage commercial development near Exeter High School River access, development, use, improvement Grocery or co-op in Lincoln St. area | | | Need to market Exeter Communication - inform public Need one central social media location for town info for residents |
| 132 | 14 | There have been many changes/projects in the 3 yrs I've lived here that have improved the look of the town, as will well the function: sewer, paving on Portsmouth Ave, sidewalks and paving and lines repainted downtown. I like the designated dog areas and having bags/trash disposal for pet waster | Traffic flow and parking is not getting any easier at peak times and during events, Farmers Market parking. The flow in front of the entrance to Swasey Park and near Anthony's Bakery is very tight - I often encounter very large dump trucks that I feel I barely skim by. Intersection near Exeter Inn, Linden St. going to and from the YMCA is difficult to deal with. | Greener - walking/trails; recycling; tree planting More recreation with the water/river?? Access to some sort of transportation on a small scale - with the purpose of shuttling people downtown if they have to park somewhere else... Performances at the town hall Music at some of the restaurants, a little night life Restaurants with water views Co-op by train station and refurbishing of the look of that area | | |
| 133 | 14 | Expansion, growth, new businesses! Economic growth keeps town current PW improvements: sidewalks, bike paths - more inviting to visitors, Makes getting around easier. Adds recreation activities A lot of town events give small town feel: Christmas festivities; festivals at Swasey; UFO festival Great school system | Traffic patterns into town - new growth = more congestion Snow removal! Over plowing or under plowing on side roads Traffic during events Issues with water quality | Keeping small town with all the new expansion and developments Community garden Added parking downtown with growth A great community | Controlled growth | Challenges: Keeping residents happy Restricting businesses growth to an extent Cost - traffic pattern, increase police/fire, increase in residents/children, increase in school cost. Opportunities: Bring in visitors, improve local community Won't cause shock to current residents Will allow town to adjust to changes as needed Will cause town to stay on to of public works - keep beauty and appeal Keep small town charm |
| 134 | 14 | The downtown infrastructure improvements. Good for pedestrians safety, good for downtown businesses, good aesthetically. Excellent schools and well-prepared students Farmers Market | 1. Attracting light industry in the newly zoned areas on Epping Rd. 2. Underground utilities and town-wide tree planting 3. Need for a dog park | Controlled, thoughtful growth and a tax base to support it. | | |
| 135 | 14 | The YMCA Rt 27 with doctors offices/light traffic movement The farmers market year round | Water quality (drinking water that is) Snow removal, better organization Traffic congestion downtown, intersections of High St, Portsmouth Ave and Water St. | Small businesses in already developed land. Better street maintenance better water quality Dog park | | Community input in all decisions Communications to taxpayers (residents) through a clear website |

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|------|---------|--|--|---|-----------------------------|---|
| 136 | 15 | Positive (development green Exeter future): 1. sidewalks downtown 2. change adaptable 3. money into infrastructure 4. Exeter is growing 5. Community events (movies, chili fest, farmers market) 6. planning session - communication (DPW/website) 7. the Y being built 8. Full time fire and police 9. train station | 1. Parking downtown 2. Less parking in the front of the stores 3. Lincoln Street and not improved 4. Improved side walks through IOKA 5. Create better connection to other sections of town. Multiple ways to travel through town 6. Water quality 7. Recreation space and diversified for all ages 8. Promote more bike use off road | 1. Maintain character of downtown and connected areas 2. Productive growth (not grow to grow) 3. Small town feel (don't lose identity) 4. Maintain natural resources | Lincoln Street Improvements | 1. streetscape 2. Sidewalks 3. parking in front of storefronts 4. improve traffic to train station 1. signage and landmarks 2. sidewalk - improve materials, reduce parking in front of store fronts, change pattern reduce cross walk width 3. create signage and visual cues to allow for pedestrians 4. work collaboratively with available resources in the area - use of Lincoln Street school parking. |
| 137 | 16 | Safe neighborhoods Bustling downtown Community spirit Shared love of living here 4 airports | Better transportation - train parking Improving traffic patterns Focus on outlining land for housing, businesses etc. (Apartments being built where lawn chair is; new apartments overlooking water) Dog friendly park Taxes property Encourage same businesses Change for parking | Thoughtful development 21st century transportation hub | | |
| 138 | 16 | Quiet Safe Shopping is conveniently nearby Medical facilities are convenient | Parking in town | | | |
| 139 | 16 | Restaurants - bring all downtown Hiking trails - biking trails Attractions downtown New dwellings - apartments, condos, and town houses Parks - Swasey Pedestrian friendly Library Phillips Exeter School Independence Museum | Downtown - remove wires Parking at times | Community center Transportation solutions Water woes fixed Parking solutions Alternative energy opportunities | | Problem: property tax is biggest challenge Solution: Bring in industry (free enterprise zone?) |
| 140 | 16 | Public safety - comfortable to walk around Clean - pleasant to walk Nice downtown - attracts surrounding area School system PEA presence Open spaces | Traffic management Parks seem like they could be improved: aesthetics, parking, dog friendly Connecting of neighborhoods to downtown Cultural diversity Expansion of downtown walking network Cultural activities/centers Water quality Potholes | Clean, vibrant downtown surrounded by neighborhoods. A place to like and work Open spaces and green spaces | | |

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| 141 | 16 | I feel there is a growing concern/interest in continuing/protecting the town and undeveloped lands. Citizens are gathering together and talking about this stuff. Many are troubled by some of the recent projection that have taken place in town - for ex. the one on Epping Rd that abuts Colcord Pond and the proposed Rose Farm development. I care deeply about preserving as much undeveloped land as possible and I'm heartened that others feel the same. | The downtown sidewalks project turned out great. I think the folks who did the work did a beautiful job. I think there's still much to be done in the town to improve pedestrian and bike safety. More sidewalks, wider sidewalks, wider should sidewalks and/or a bike lane, narrower roads to slow traffic down. Speed bumps? Pursue methods to slow traffic down Make dangerous intersections safer | I am not opposed to new development; however I would like the focus to be on renovating/using existing properties and preserving undeveloped land because once it's gone, it's gone. I would like the town to put greater effort toward conservation/protection. | | |
| 142 | 16 | New restaurants Schools are great Historical charm Small town ways Train access Swasey Parkway River access Good age mix - created different perspectives Great walking town - creates vibrant feel Good parks and ball fields for kids Historic district important for respect of our past New wide sidewalks are easy to navigate | Develop the waterfront merchant area to be similar to Portsmouth. Bury the downtown power lines to improve visual appeal Streets are in dire need of repair and re-paving Get rid of pot holes Restoration of the IOKA Improve town water quality Property taxes are extremely high Improve western entrance to Exeter (near train station) | 1. Reserve a small town look and feel so that we don't become "generic town, USA" 2. Emphasize history of this great town 3. More emphasis on town festivals 4. Seize the opportunities that are connected to the river and access, waterfront park and restaurants similar to Portsmouth | | |
| 143 | 16 | Positive: Walkability to the downtown businesses/library and access to green spaces/recreation - Swasey Parkway; Henderson-Swasey Trails, PEA Trails Why? People-centric not car-centric - face to face interaction with people fosters community | Potential but needs improvement Theater vacancy 2nd floor vacancy Storefront vacancy Needs improvements in: traffic and parking now Attracting business development and historical center | Exeter in the future - the same vibrant, charming small town community Bike paths - connectivity of neighborhoods Diversity Resistant to the tides that change it | | |
| 144 | 16 | Positive: new restaurants, schools are great museums and civic events YMCA | Potential: Waterfront access to water in town, at docks, at library, recreational and pedestrian Repair wooden boardwalk Public art wider sidewalks downtown make snow-ban parking signs legible at 40mph dog parks public transportation to Portsmouth Performing arts, activities Preserve and expand pedestrian and gathering areas downtown | Future: *Small business development: focus on local over national/big-box development *Preserving of wetland and natural resources and open spaces Safe and welcoming environment for diverse people - all ages, colors, gender etc Continued diversity of age, culture "Green" zoning | | |
| 145 | 16 | Exeter is uniquely accessible. If you stand at the bandstand, you can walk to the library, hospital, 3 public schools, police station, fire station, supermarket, a gun club, and a country club. If you are in a car, you can be at the beach in 15 mins, 2 other states in 20 minutes or less, and another country in 4 hours. We have 4 airports within an hour. | Property taxes are too high | How about building a new fire station/police station on Kingston Road and then demolish existing fire station and police station and make that parking. | | |

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| 146 | 16 | <p>Positive:</p> <p>Existing and new businesses downtown - bring people downtown - sidewalks (new Otis, Laney etc, Sea Dog, Lexie's, 3 Brothers) YMCA</p> <p>Efforts to create arts focused community events - 1st Fridays</p> <p>Successful farmers market: summer and winter</p> <p>Town trails, Swasey, parks</p> | <p>Potential:</p> <p>Old town hall</p> <p>Public transportation</p> <p>Walkability/bikeability</p> <p>Business development - Epping Rd. corridor</p> | <p>In the future:</p> <p>Parking solved</p> <p>Manage development for an overall aesthetic i.e. make big new buildings consider road - front appeal, landscaping, etc.</p> <p>No big box stores</p> <p>Preserve natural spaces</p> | | |
| 147 | 16 | <p>Removing the dam and restoring the Exeter River - better for the environment. Vibrant downtown business are - serves as a core for the community</p> <p>Walkability downtown area - enables people to access town easily</p> <p>Strong major core businesses/organizations: Exeter Hospital, PEA, Riverwoods - helps with economic stability</p> <p>Easy access to public transportation to Boston - train, C&J (close)</p> <p>Very good school system - brings young families to the area, youth</p> | <p>Affordable housing - there is some, but I feel it is important to develop diversity, could be expanded.</p> <p>Train station area - could be made more of a hub for the town; more parking and accessibility</p> <p>Route 27/Epping Rd corridor - difficult to walk in the area further out of town - needs more infrastructure development as businesses are added.</p> <p>Bike path/wide shoulders - good in town but challenging to ride a bike</p> <p>More bike racks needed in popular areas, especially downtown.</p> | <p>Broader use of alternative energy - solar wherever possible</p> <p>Proactive plan to adapt to climate change - what areas will be impacted by higher ocean levels and more dramatic weather events</p> | | |
| 148 | 16 | <p>New sidewalks - safer more attractive, promotes walking</p> <p>Sound financials - can trust in long term viability of the community</p> <p>Safe neighborhoods - more desirable place to live</p> <p>Vibrant downtown is attractive: shops and variety of restaurants and enjoyable to be downtown to shop and eat locally</p> <p>Active citizen involvement - government is open to all who are interested in being involved.</p> <p>Historic downtown is valued and preserved - makes Exeter a special place to live and work</p> <p>Beautiful, natural river flowing through the town and meeting the Squamscott and its tidal changes - provides a focal point and connect back to why Exeter exists.</p> <p>Swasey Parkway and parks throughout town - makes more enjoyable place to live, easy to get out and exercise, meet up with others makes a more socially desirable place to be.</p> | <p>Work and state and utility companies to depress utility lines in the downtown (probably would require legislation)</p> <p>Community made up of multiple generations - how to work increase workforce housing, moderate housing</p> <p>Rail accessibility - alternative to parking lots for vehicles needed</p> <p>Portsmouth Ave - active commercial area but an attractive entrance to the town, put trees down the center.</p> | <p>Vibrant, sustainable, affordable, attractive, respectful of its historic buildings, active and successful businesses, community, economic diversity, preservation of open spaces, active citizen involvement and informed citizenry.</p> <p>21st century plan for transportation that is also respectful of the town's unique history and historic buildings constraints.</p> <p>No big box stores</p> <p>Retains small town and historic feel.</p> | | |

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|---------------------|-----------|---|--|---|---|--|
| 149 "Flip chart" | Gold star | Farmers Market in the Simmer/Winter - brings the local feel to the town Local businesses - general feel for keeping it small New YMCA New walkways The general downtown feel The academy fields Fort Rock outdoor area | Outdoor recreation area Bike path/walking paths Dog friendly spaces IOKA - do something big The development on Epping Rd Nightlife | Big ideas 10-20 years: Not too over populated Preserve the land use we have (what little of it) Better water supply Education a priority | Synergistic Development | Opportunities: Develop spaces that are currently not used for the arts, music, dining Lincoln Street development Handkerchief Factory IOKA Al Rose Brad's autobody Empty lot across from post office Protected green space Protect conservation land (Fort Rocks, Oakland's) Dean property Rose farm Gilman Park King Property Colcord Pond Old football fields (near YMCA) Challenges: Parking Money Politics Political views Zoning |
| 150 | Gold star | A desire to build community - community engagement Great open space – recreation Swamscott river Incredible YMCA New England preserved town | Politics...a few people make decision for all without considering broader interests. Desire/need for affordable housing Mass vibrant downtown at night Recreation Arts More festivals Leveraging academy Dog friendly | Community centered Diverse economic backgrounds Young and old mix Affordable Arts/dining Gilman Park - arts mecca Parking garage Leverage relationship with PEA Smart developments Destination arts environment shopping outdoor activities River restaurants | Smart developments | Create a destination Quality if life |
| 151 | Gold star | Downtown - traditional New England setting with boutique stores and charm Swasey - beautiful green space by river Beer and chili festival - unique community festival celebrating the season and bringing together rural entrepreneurs Town Hall - Christmas carol, political speeches, art museum | Building new train station Swasey - no dogs really? Prescott Park - arts foundation IOKA Theater Academy - public events? Quick turnover of shops? Top 2-3: Preserve green Lincoln Street update - smart development Promote arts (Prescott Part) Dining/music Leverage relationship with Academy | 8:15 - top ideas/concepts (top 2-3) 10-20 years out... | Strategic development within infrastructure | Lincoln St update: handkerchief factory, old train station Promote Arts: leverage relationship with academy Use "Prescott Park" arts foundation as example/vision: Summertime play, local musicians Preserve green space - 2 do at Gilman Park |
| 152 | Gold star | People are using our outdoor spaces, this is positive because people are coming from within town and out of town to use them. They spend money in town on food and entertainment and are doing things communally which is also positive. Chamber | Lincoln St has a ton of potential but surrounding space at tracks needs improvement. Some of those improvements include beautification but some are practical like easing access by and around tracks. | I would like to see Exeter continue to focus on manufacturing and other industrial business in the Epping Rd. corridor and tourist/residential needs in the downtown area. Continue good school Not large apartment complexes Leverage our newly flowing river Evening culture | Synergistic development/maintain | Opportunities: We have great space Leverage concerned citizens Challenges: Parking Owners of properties may not want to develop same way Competing views - how to provide input |

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|------|-----------|---|--|--|---|--|
| 153 | Gold star | The preservation of a New England town. Attention to keeping the downtown vibrant and attractive. It draws in foot traffic, its inviting to residents and non-residents. Open spaces preserved for recreation. Dam removal: recognition of the value of our natural resources, restoring one of those resources to near original condition. Active Chamber of Commerce, bringing good things to town (eg. chili fest). | Based on what I hear, there needs to be better coordination between Town Selection, Planning Board and Conservation Commission. We need responsible development that respects town ordinances and state law for preserving our quality of life. We don't need development for development sake. I'd like to see our downtown further improved. Downtown has so much potential. It's great now but can be even more interesting by spreading into some of the side streets. Also, it can include the retail location along Lincoln St. That's a spot that could use some revitalization - take advantage of the Amtrak station and draw more out-of-towners. Better sidewalks surrounding the downtown area. Not in downtown, but extending out of it into near neighborhoods. | I want to see Exeter become a shining example of how to things properly. Green space, smart development, pedestrian friendly, dog friendly. This will make Exeter a destination. I repeat... High quality of life with natural resources preserved, smart development (not just for the sake of collecting more taxes), the New England town feel still intact, a vibrant and supported arts culture. In summary... Making Exeter a destination for arts, dining and recreation for all ages and cultural backgrounds. | Smarter development, not necessarily more development | 1. Synergy between town boards, groups and leaders for identifying development and preservation potential. 2. Parking 3. Engagement from residents, especially the younger ones, for developing future vision. |
| 154 | Gold star | The dam removal was great. People can come to Exeter to kayak the falls, grab lunch and visit the shops. From some of the restaurants you can watch the kayakers playing in the eddies. | Lincoln Street is a mess. Attention should be spent redeveloping this area rather than destroying the incredible geography along Epping Rd. With increasing rain events, its makes no sense to level and fill these wet lands. It makes less sense for the taxpayers to pay for this road and bridge for a private landowner. | I would like to see Exeter as a destination town. Exeter has great geography, history and architecture. We already have name recognition because of the academy. We also have a regionally known trail network that draws mountain bikes, runners and hikers from around New England. We should capitalize on this by not developing Epping Rd, but instead buying the property. Exeter should be seen as a town that got it right. The same removal was a good start, now remove the holding pond by the mill and plant salt marsh grasses. Double down on conservation land. Replace the economic development guy with a grant writer. | Smarter development- Exeter as a destination town | |
| 155 | Gold star | The extension network of trails and access to green spaces is something extremely positive happening in Exeter. People of all class, age, gender can use them, free of charge, in a world where green space is rapidly diminishing and being developed instead let's keep Exeter's connection to nature. The name delicious restaurants/vibrant downtown Involvement of community Community focused neighborhoods with unique flare Beer and chili festivals! Using the outdoor spaces well Our chamber of commerce Awesome schools! Historic district | Our restaurant and bar scene. I'd love to see more restaurants and bars that will attract young people to come to Exeter as a destination. For example, maybe more restaurants with outdoor seating? Keep building a vibrant downtown area - eventually I'd love to see a pedestrian walkway (like in Burlington or Montreal) making Exeter a really desirable destination. Lincoln Street, on the road behind Lexies' by the Handkerchief factory, might make a cool spot. More dog friendly places! Leveraging a better relationship with the academy and publicizing arts Sidewalks/bikes paths Lincoln Street: Develop existing buildings instead of going after woods and wetlands (IOKA, Lincoln Street, across the tracks from the train station) Evening culture needs to be improved - more things to do that get people out and about (Like Prescott Park or the chili festivals, art shows, etc). | A town that marries an active outdoor lifestyle with a fun, bustling downtown area, while maintaining historic charm. Preserve nature now so people can enjoy it later - smart development. Let's develop already existing structures (IOKA, Handkerchief). | Smart development | Making it a destination for arts, green space, dining, sports and entertainment. Small development Challenges: Seeing big picture and not "quick profit" Compromising development with conservation |
| 156 | B | Young vibrant - great place to raise children Town is heading in a more vibrant direction | Increasing and focusing on walkability - bikeability, train accessibility Swasey Parkway - love to see no cars Increased place space, art space | Even more vibrant downtown - maintaining green spaces/open spaces, being careful not to over develop and be a cautious of urban sprawl. | | |

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| 157 | B | <p>Dam removal</p> <p>Well-attended meeting: people's concern/change</p> <p>hospitality/tourism growth - bringing more and more jobs</p> <p>Energy of residents</p> <p>Education/public schools - reputation</p> <p>People willing to invest in town/taxes</p> <p>Fort Rock - more public land</p> <p>Downtown Center - shops, important to draw</p> | <p>Downtown - revitalize - IOKA/Exeter town hall</p> <p>Closes too early</p> <p>More restaurants to visit with family and nightlife</p> <p>Parking downtown</p> <p>Clean up corner from Loaf & Laddle</p> <p>Exeter recreational</p> <p>Bathrooms locked</p> <p>Fields not drained/not maintained</p> <p>No dog friendly area/dog park</p> <p>Close in pool - year round</p> <p>Housing - affordable housing, worker housing</p> <p>Water/Sewer - poor water quality</p> <p>Electric - lines above ground with lots of power outages</p> <p>Sad to see trees cut back (seem hacked)</p> <p>River is under utilized</p> <p>See more with Swasey</p> <p>Town hall - under utilized - add more events</p> | <p>Future of downtown: Riverwalk</p> <p>A development of wharfs with upper decks (similar to Ceres Street Portsmouth) with walls of windows facing water</p> <p>Keep Exeter residents in Exeter</p> <p>Safety - we keep safety and security for the town</p> <p>Sustainable - recycling facility with store - to recycle more options: cooking oil, batteries, light bulbs</p> <p>Education/recreational department - recreational pool, covered pool to entice, swim meets/kids swim/public swim</p> <p>Develop Exeter Country Club</p> <p>More residential benefits from PEA</p> | Revitalize downtown | <p>Revenue</p> <p>Development of more commercial space</p> <p>Embrace the historic significance of the town while adding modern attractions/businesses: food, hotel, sporting, arts</p> <p>Zoning?</p> <p>Governing - hard to get things done</p> <p>Tax rate too high - doesn't entice business owners</p> |
| 158 | B | <p>Young vibrant safe community</p> <p>Great place to raise and educate kids</p> <p>Trails and open spaces are a big draw and add a lot to quality of life</p> | <p>Develop responsible focusing</p> <p>Walkability Bikeability</p> <p>Town accessibility</p> <p>Making green spaces more accessible</p> | | | |
| 159 | B | <p>Nightlife (\$\$)</p> <p>Parking (\$\$)</p> <p>Affordable housing (\$\$)</p> | | | | |



Exeter Master Plan Update Public Open House Summary

June 14, 2017

Introduction

As part of the ongoing public participation program of the Exeter Master Plan update, the second, and final, town-wide public input session was held on June 14, 2017 at the Exeter High School from 6 pm to 9 pm. Organized as a less-formal event than the prior public workshop, information was displayed as an open house, which gave attendees the time they needed to review material and ask questions at their own pace. The open house was organized by “driving actions.” Each action had a station with one to two activities to gather input and public opinion.

Summary of Stations

Grow

What type of development is most appropriate where?

The Town has identified these areas as having development or redevelopment potential. Thinking 10 years ahead and BIG PICTURE for the area as a whole, use a GREEN dot to choose the most appropriate uses. Use a RED dot for those uses that would not be appropriate. Use a comment card to tell us why the use should not go there. Also use a comment card to suggest uses not listed and where they can go. If you would like to identify uses in other parts of town, please mark the map.

Below is a summary of the top three answers for both categories, followed by a table of all votes.

Epping Road

Green

- Office Space (40)
- Mixed Use (36)
- Maker Space (32)

Red

- Single Family Homes (25)
- Townhouses/condos (14)
- Multi-family Apartments (10)

Kingston Road/ Hampton Way

Green

- Single Family Homes (28)
- Townhouses/condos (18)
- Multi-family Apartments (13)

Red

- Manufacturing (12)
- Mixed Use (11)
- Office Space (10)

Holland Way

Green

- Office Space (25)
- Manufacturing (25)
- Maker Space (20)

Red

- Townhouses/condos (16)
- Multi-family Apartments (16)
- Single Family Homes (15)

Downtown

Green

- Retail, Services, Restaurants (38)
- Mixed Use (33)
- Office Space (25)

Red

- Manufacturing (27)
- Single Family Homes (21)
- Multi-family Apartments (14)

Lincoln Street

Green

- Retail, Services, Restaurants (26)
- Live/Work Space (24)
- Maker Space (22)

Red

- Manufacturing (22)
- Single Family Homes (11)
- Multi-family Apartments (9)

Portsmouth Avenue

Green

- Retail, Services, Restaurants (27)
- Maker Space (24)
- Office Space (23)

Red

- Single Family Homes (26)
- Townhouses/condos (13)
- Multi-family Apartments (12)

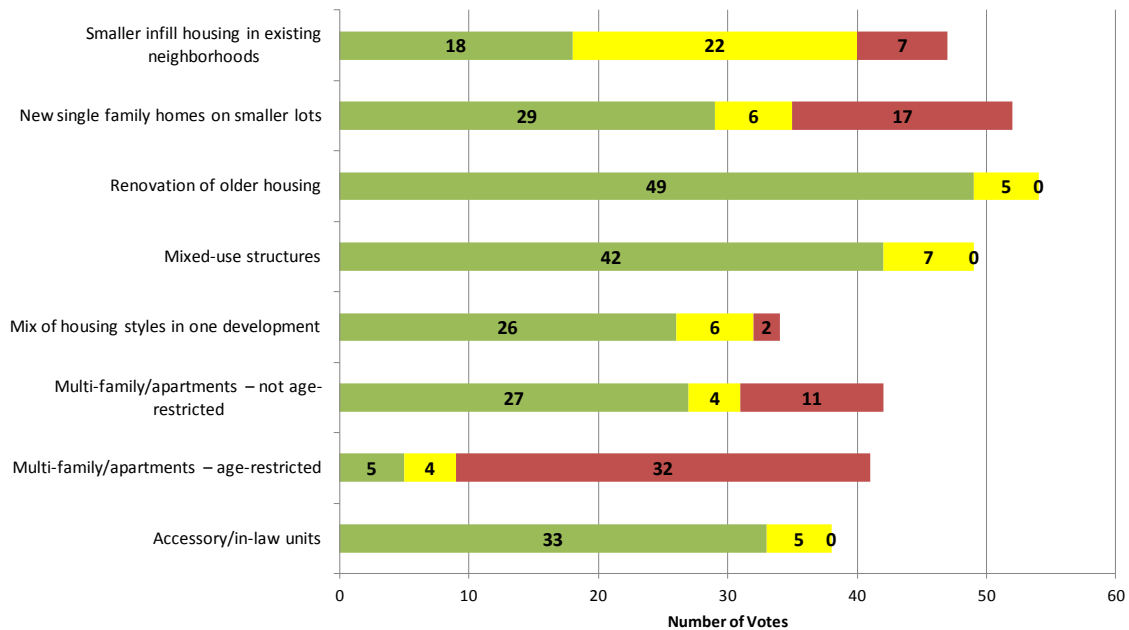
Tally of All Votes

| | | Epping Road | Holland Way | Lincoln Street | Kingston Rd/ Hampton Way | Downtown | Portsmouth Avenue |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------------|-------------|----------------|--------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Single Family Homes | Green | 4 | 2 | 14 | 28 | 1 | 0 |
| | Red | 25 | 15 | 11 | 2 | 21 | 26 |
| Townhouses/ Condos | Green | 12 | 4 | 19 | 18 | 10 | 6 |
| | Red | 14 | 16 | 6 | 6 | 13 | 13 |
| Multi-family Apartments | Green | 25 | 5 | 12 | 13 | 10 | 11 |
| | Red | 10 | 16 | 9 | 9 | 14 | 12 |
| Mixed Use | Green | 36 | 15 | 20 | 4 | 33 | 10 |
| | Red | 2 | 8 | 7 | 11 | 1 | 11 |
| Maker Space | Green | 32 | 20 | 22 | 12 | 24 | 24 |
| | Red | 0 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 0 |
| Live/Work Space | Green | 12 | 5 | 24 | 11 | 19 | 13 |
| | Red | 5 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Retail, Services, Restaurants | Green | 29 | 14 | 26 | 6 | 38 | 27 |
| | Red | 3 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 0 |
| Manufacturing | Green | 28 | 24 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 9 |
| | Red | 5 | 8 | 22 | 12 | 27 | 9 |
| Office Space | Green | 40 | 25 | 17 | 7 | 25 | 23 |
| | Red | 2 | 4 | 3 | 10 | 3 | 0 |

How can the town maintain housing diversity?

Use dots to select the tools most appropriate for Exeter: Green – a good fit; Yellow – maybe, but I need more information; Red – not a good fit.

Housing Types Appropriate for Exeter



Comment Cards for GROW

All comments are provided as they were written on the comment card.

- Develop the Handkerchief Factory into residential condos (with covered parking). Business is moving online anyway, per Andrew's strategy.
- Epping Rd development of any type needs to be thoughtful, landscaping, maintaining green barriers (trees) between Route 27 and the development. No Epping #2 in Exeter.
- Village in-fill (development of more multi-units in downtown area) will required better traffic pattern planning downtown
- Affordable housing – all new housing (multi-unit) needs to look attractive. Epping Rd lower income apt buildings are dreadfully unattractive.
- If I never see another building like this go up in Exeter, I'd be happy.
- Economic growth and natural resource protection are not mutually exclusive. With smart growth and planning, we can have both.
- There is no affordable startup space in town for a small new company... going to Epping.

Steward

Which tools can be used for management and maintenance of these resources?

Use sticky notes to identify sites or buildings where the proposed maintenance or management strategy can be used and who should be the lead. Provide other strategies that are not listed and where they can be best applied. Use a dot to show you agree with proposed ideas. Use a comment card to provide more information.

Each sticky note is listed below with the number of dots placed on each. Note that some dots were placed on proposed maintenance or management strategies without identifying details as to where they should be applied. In these instances, the assumption is that people are generally in favor of those strategies. The lists below are provided as written on the sticky note.

Performing trail maintenance (blazing, litter clean up, maintaining markers, etc.)

- (13 dots)
- All town trails (6 dots)
- Trail maintenance and parking lot, Oaklands, Town Rec Dept. (6 dots)
- Better signage (4 dots)
- Better trail markers and maps along Oakland Forest trails (3 dots)
- Create more user-friendly trail maps (2 dots)
- Minimize trail maintenance. No leaf blowing. No raking. (1 dot)
- Minimize bike modifications to trails in Fort Rock
- Around river
- Town Forest walking trail better marked
- Town Forest hiking trails need better marking. Oaklands Town Forest etc. by Highway Dept.

Conducting forestry management

- (6 dots)
- Along trail system (5 dots)
- Inventory trees on Swasey Parkway and create guided tour or booklet
- Inventory downtown trees, cut one, plant two
- Gilman Park

- All sites
- Henderson-Swasey and Oaklands

Installing needed amenities to support usage and upkeep (trash receptacles, signage, etc.)

- (16 dots)
- Upgrade Gilman Park, Park's Trustees with bonus \$ from town (5 dots)
- Trash cans at Park St park (2 dots)
- Ask Stillwells to clear trash receptacles outside their building every 3 hours in winter, every hour in summer. Constantly overflowing. (2 dots)
- Some sort of bathroom at "Purple Dino" park. Similar rest facilities at parks/playgrounds with large amounts of children (1 dot)
- Trash cans at Swasey Parkway

Managing invasive species

- (14 dots)
- Along riverbanks and creeks (5 dots)
- Town Forests, Oaklands, Henderson-Swasey, Raynes (3 dots)
- Asian Bittersweet, especially around Oaklands Town Forest (3 dots)
- Prevent invasives with planting natives, especially new riverbank upstream of former dam (1 dot)
- Purple loosestrife: roadsides, Exeter River bank, under power lines; Town volunteers, Academy? (1 dot)
- Incentivize homeowners to managed Japanese Knotweed (1 dot)
- All Exeter conservation lands can benefit from invasive management which requires monetary resources
- Garlic Mustard – a new invader that is spreading very quickly through Exeter

Enforcing use restrictions

- (4 dots)
- No dogs in posted parks (9 dots)
- Post and enforce hunting laws (8 dots)
- Eliminate dusk to dawn restriction in Swasey Parkway (6 dots)
- Allow dogs in parks (6 dots)
- Restrict purchase of buildings with historical significance by PEA (6 dots)
- Leash ordinance for dogs on trails (6 dots)
- No dog park

Managing conflicts among different types of users

- (8 dots)
- Certain trails at Henderson-Swasey designated for trail cycles for safety of hikers (3 dots)

Maintaining integrity of historic structures in designated historic districts

- (20 dots)
- IOKA needs temp. maintenance (lead paint chipping) (14 dots)
- Save IOKA – we need a cultural theater for events (8 dots)
- Would love to see green park space created around the bandstand (3 dots)

- General historic preservation (3 dots)
- Prevent PEA's demolition of historic homes (2 dots)

Maintaining historic integrity of structures outside of historic districts

- (18 dots)
- Raynes Barn (18 dots)

Maintenance of cultural places (memorial placards, memorial parks, etc.)

- (10 dots)
- Agree with concept (8 dots)
- And natural history sites, and natural resources

Developing management plans for buildings, sites, or resource areas

- (15 dots)
- Restore Richardsonian railroad station (6 dots)
- Swasey Park (6 dots)
- Planning IOKA Theater preservation and stabilization (5 dots)
- Encourage multiple uses and greater utilization of Town Hall (3 dots)
- Plan should include site assessment and evaluation -> restoration

Other ideas? (sticky notes)

- (2 dots)
- Make Rose Farm Spring (Jailhouse Spring) protected/historic area (15 dots)
- "Riverwalk" or some other sort of river access by library (10 dots)
- IOKA/IOKA restoration (9 dot)
- More clean-up of riverbanks near former Loaf and Ladle (7 dots)
- Make Pine Street a historic district (5 dots)
- Purchase lands adjacent to Town Forest for conservation: Fort Rock woods, Rose Farm, etc. (3 dots)
- Manage Swasey Parkway garbage left (mostly from Stilwells Ice Cream Shop) (3 dots)
- Water resources quality sufficiency, river/wetlands protection reclamation (3 dots)
- Recreational access to river at multiple points and for multiple uses – i.e. photography, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, sitting by the water, rock skipping (1 dot)
- Budget line for salary of B. Rimkunas – Town needs a dedicated historian (1 dot)
- Better town maintenance of historic cemeteries (1 dot)
- Make sure Epping Rd massive proposed project is set off the road behind wooded barrier. No Epping #2 (1 dot)
- Encourage stone bench donations
- Climate adaptation and resource identification
- Planning for climate change incorporated into all municipal docs and management plans
- Create protected scenic gateway along Newfields Rd between downtown, past river and Fort Rock Farm to 101
- History is more than just maintain. Exeter needs to continue to develop its sense of the past by activities (both boards)

Comment Cards for STEWARD

All comments are provided as they were written on the comment card.

- Make public spaces in Exeter open to all dogs – on leash/under owner control. Charge \$100 for poop left in situ.
- Public/private cooperation across the board; ideas of volunteers and town employees cooperation
- Water shortages: water table; droughts; low river levels (carcinogens)
- Town Forest hiking trails need better marking (Oaklands Town Forest, etc. by Highway Department)
- Water resource planning: if building permits and occupancy permits are granted, where is the additional water to come from? Are you reserving enough land around your reservoir to maintain water quality? Don't be like Danvers, MA.
- Water resources – water and waste water labs should be certified so people can have confidence in results

Connect

Thinking about how we get from one place to another, what places in Exeter should be connected that aren't, or should have better connections? What is the best route to connect them? How should we travel between these places?

On the map, use dots to identify the places that should be connected. Using the legend, draw the route to connect these places (Blue: by bike; Green: by walking; Orange: by other means; Purple: by car). If you use Orange, write your idea on the map or a comment card. If someone has already drawn a line that you agree with, put a dot on it.

Use the red marker to identify locations that are not safe for driving, walking, or biking. Use a comment card to provide more information. If someone has already marked in red an area you think is unsafe, put a dot on it.

Many diverse comments were received and a full listing is provided as an attachment to this summary. Below is a listing of comments as they were written on comment cards and are organized by topic. Note that some comments will be repeated if they fall under different topics.

Loops and Connections

- Coming from Jady Hill neighborhood to Downtown (walking). Need consistent sidewalks
- Bike trail to the coast
- Enhance safety and signage from Lincoln St train station to Main St by school, PEA to Downtown to Bandstand up Front by town offices and PEA to Saint Michaels, then return to Lincoln and train station.
- The road from the boarder of Newfields (Rte 85) to Swasey Parkway could be improved for walking and bicycling
- Bike lane out to EHS
- Bike routes to high school and middle school. Bike route to train station to Fort Rock riding/hike trails
- Walk route: want sidewalks/walk path from train crossing to train crossing; Front -> Main on the trackside
- Create greenway for biking/hiking Amesburg to Portsmouth, like Newfields to Manchester

- Would love to see shoulders created or sidewalks for biking/walking from 111A into town – so unsafe now
- Make 111 to Kingston walkable and bikeable
- Reestablish walk in front of PEA boathouse; Extend “riverwalk” from end of existing boardwalk along the rear of Water St properties. Connect to String Bridge. Connect (improve connection) to park adjacent to library. This creates a walking pedestrian ribbon from the Town Forest, through Swasey, to the PEA fields and trails. Enhancing the “riverwalk” could allow retail development on the lower levels of Water St.
- I would like to walk down Swasey Parkway, cross the river to walk by the old Power House loop
- Put in pedestrian bridge across Swasey to increase access to paths
- Waterfront boardwalk all the way to bridge. Also make boardwalk safe for small children
- Access to water from library, Swasey Park, and elsewhere. Water is currently barricaded.
- Connect downtown to Hannaford or On the Vine – street/sidewalk improvements, tree buffer to make pedestrian, bike friendly.
- Walk and bike from Forest St area to Town Forest via what is currently Rose Farm property. Buy that land (town) or find a way around perimeter of private property.
- Sidewalks for school kids: we live in the Oak Street neighborhood downtown. 3 blocks to walk the kids to school (Main St School) but no sidewalks. Perhaps we should consider sidewalks for all streets within reasonable walking distances from schools. Lacking sidewalks: Salem St, Oak St, Summer St, Cass St, Green St, Park St
- More conservation trails with linkages; colonial roads; Fort Rock Farm trails, abandoned rail (trestle trail)

Downtown

- Coming from Jady Hill neighborhood to Downtown (walking). Need consistent sidewalks
- Enhance safety and signage from Lincoln St train station to Main St by school, PEA to Downtown to Bandstand up Front by town offices and PEA to Saint Michaels, then return to Lincoln and train station.
- Newfields and Epping, High St – road needs crosswalks, speed enforcement. Fast moving traffic is not an argument against a crosswalk.
- Reestablish walk in front of PEA boathouse; Extend “riverwalk” from end of existing boardwalk along the rear of Water St properties. Connect to String Bridge. Connect (improve connection) to park adjacent to library. This creates a walking pedestrian ribbon from the Town Forest, through Swasey, to the PEA fields and trails. Enhancing the “riverwalk” could allow retail development on the lower levels of Water St.
- Clear snow from curbs for access to stores in the downtown
- Downtown bypass/parking; walking area downtown
- Access to water from library, Swasey Park, and elsewhere. Water is current barricaded.
- Crossing in front of PO very dangerous. A core-type object needed in middle of crosswalk
- 1) Have an area downtown for visitors and residents to sit and encourage shopping and local purchases of food, 2) sharrows on Main and Water Streets, 3) Bike access at Downeaster Station
- More benches, tables, etc. in main downtown area. Newmarket is a good example.
- Make parts of Water Street pedestrian only to eliminate grid lock of traffic. More trolley.
- Trolley connection, train station to downtown to Portsmouth Ave
- We need more parking downtown. No more restaurants till we have more parking
- Other: Vehicle traffic. Downtown gazebo area is alike a spoke in a wheel. Lots of traffic needs to get through. Traffic congestion makes me wish a way to bypass this area.

- Crosswalks better maintained, especially downtown
- Sidewalks for school kids: we live in the Oak Street neighborhood downtown. 3 blocks to walk the kids to school (Main St School) but no sidewalks. Perhaps we should consider sidewalks for all streets within reasonable walking distances from schools. Lacking sidewalks: Salem St, Oak St, Summer St, Cass St, Green St, Park St
- Safe sidewalk crossings. There should be a crosswalk on Epping Rd near the “triangle park” to get across to Winter Street. Winter Street also needs sidewalks all of the way to Front Street.

Improvements to and at the Train Station

- Bike sharing at train station
- Enhance safety and signage from Lincoln St train station to Main St by school, PEA to Downtown to Bandstand up Front by town offices and PEA to Saint Michaels, then return to Lincoln and train station.
- Bike routes to high school and middle school. Bike route to train station to Fort Rock riding/hike trails
- Walk route: want sidewalks/walk path from train crossing to train crossing; Front -> Main on the trackside
- Parking at railroad station
- More service on Amtrak
- Would like to have more rides (times) available on the Downeaster Train (particularly in the afternoon)
- Make train station as walkable as possible in all directions
- Improve Lincoln Street shops, train station building restoration and preservation. Create improved sidewalk connections and bike lands for bike/rail commuters
- 1) Have an area downtown for visitors and residents to sit and encourage shopping and local purchases of food, 2) Sharrows on Main and Water Streets, 3) Bike access at Downeaster Station
- Trolley connection, train station to downtown to Portsmouth Ave

New Infrastructure/Amenities in General

- I think the crosswalks should have a motion sensor so they would signal the crosswalk flash or light up, especially at night.
- Biking – wider shoulder on all radii out of town to make safe loops and attract cyclists
- Use Map My Ride App to see where most common Seacoast bike loops are and coordinate across towns to improve safety along those routes (bigger shoulder, bike lanes)
- Put more effort, funds into redesigning intersections: Winter St and Columbus Ave; Pine Front and Lincoln; Brentwood Rd and Columbus Ave
- Marked bike trails on sections of town streets to make biking safer
- Clear snow from curbs for access to stores in the downtown
- Focus on increasing sharrow or bicyclist lanes when roads are resurfaced
- Keep pedestrian crosswalks painted so they are visible
- Off road biking
- By-pass road? Volume does not make vendors wealthy
- Safe bike paths, more are currently safe.
- 1) Signage for visitors by train, bike, rail or car, 2) sidewalk for handicapped

Support and Prepare

How would you spend the Town's money... imagine that the Town has a budget surplus. After meeting all of its core financial obligations (schools, operation and maintenance of town facilities, fire/police, etc.), the Town has money available to address special projects and issues. How would you prioritize spending?

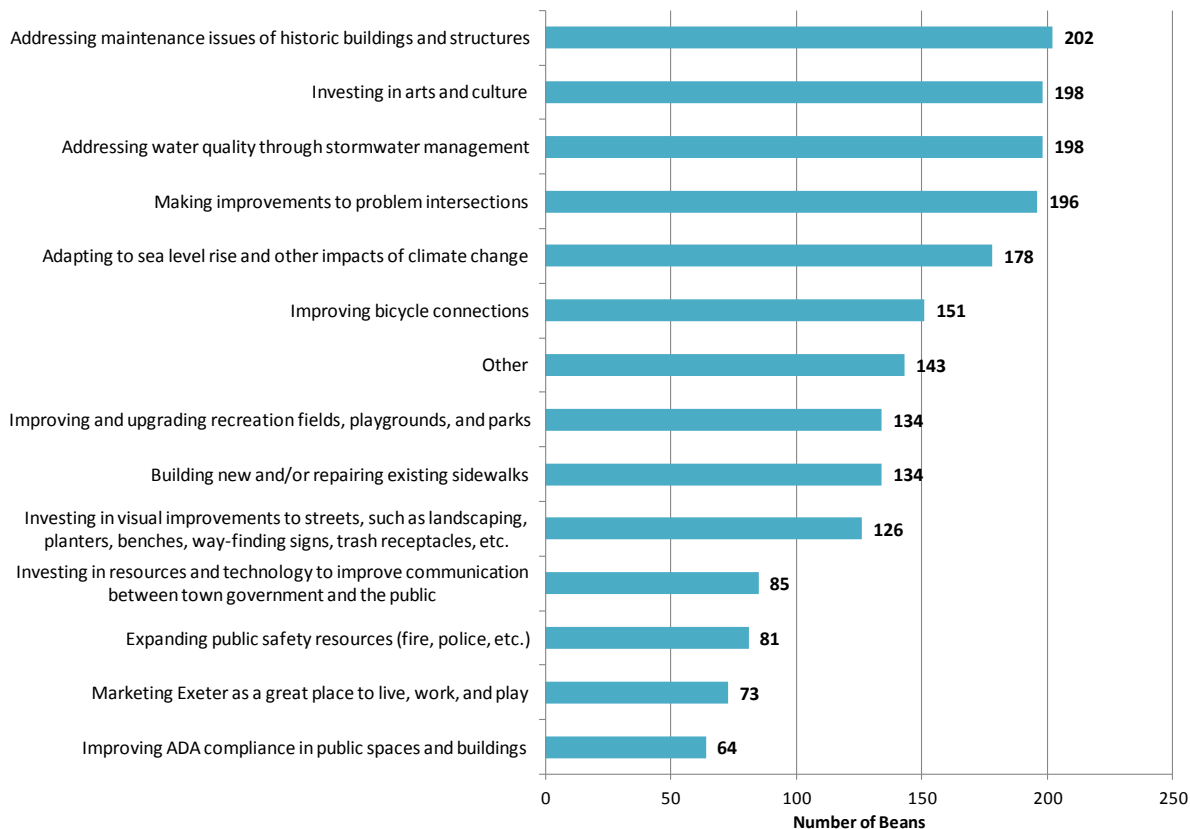
You have 20 beans. Each bean is worth the same amount. Place one or more beans in the cup or cups of the proposed projects you'd like to prioritize. The rules include:

- *You must use all of your beans.*
- *You must "fund" at least three of the projects.*
- *You cannot place more than 10 beans in one project.*

If you have a different idea than those presented, place bean(s) in the "Other" cup and use a comment card to explain what the money would be used for and how many beans you put in the cup.

1. *Making improvements to problem intersections*
2. *Expanding public safety resources (fire, police, etc.)*
3. *Adapting to sea level rise and other impacts of climate change*
4. *Improving ADA compliance in public spaces and buildings*
5. *Addressing water quality through stormwater management*
6. *Upgrading outdated water and wastewater infrastructure*
7. *Building new and/or repairing existing sidewalks*
8. *Improving bicycle connections*
9. *Investing in resources and technology to improve communication between town government and the public*
10. *Investing in visual improvements to streets, such as landscaping, planters, benches, way-finding signs, trash receptacles, etc.*
11. *Addressing maintenance issues of historic buildings and structures*
12. *Improving and upgrading recreation fields, playgrounds, and parks*
13. *Developing a marketing strategy to promote the Town and attract visitors*
14. *Sponsoring programs around music and the arts*
15. *Other*

Special Project Spending



“Other” Projects

Listed as written on comment card

| Proposed Special Project | Number of Beans (NP – Not Provided) |
|---|--|
| Upgrading Town Hall, having 3rd party operate it. Encourage music/arts. Renovate top floors open to public | 10 |
| IOKA | 10 |
| New senior citizen center | 10 |
| Epping Road corridor improvements to 3 lanes (center turning lane), bike lane, and sidewalks | 10 |
| *Extend river boardwalk behind Water Street stores - create pedestrian way in this location. Enhance/encourage retail development in this area. *Build shallow retail 2-3 stories high at town lot across from Green Bean. Build 3-4 story parking garage behind retail. Adds parking, fills in streetscape | 5 |
| Train station not on list, should be. | 5 |
| Dog park | 5 |
| Non-parking alternatives to train station users | 5 |
| Attempt to negotiate with Alan Lewis to release the IOKA to the town so it will be restored | 5 |
| Limit large scale development | 5 |
| If we are going to build out Epping Road, create pedestrian access and connectivity to town | 4 |

| Proposed Special Project | Number of Beans (NP – Not Provided) |
|---|--|
| More green space around Exeter. Not so much development/building | 4 |
| Improve the train station. E.g. full shelter and bike access | 4 |
| Protecting our water supply by putting sources in a conservation easement whenever possible | 4 |
| Coordinate parking with PEA | 4 |
| Difference to buy starter homes, single use | 4 |
| Single level condos for adults transitioning from homes to condos | 4 |
| Water improvements | 4 |
| Sewer improvements | 4 |
| Have a public track | 3 |
| Bike sharing program at Exeter train station, downtown, Portsmouth Ave, and Epping Rd | 3 |
| Wayfinding signs... Where is the restaurant? | 2 |
| Road maintenance | 2 |
| Build out sidewalks on High Street and Epping Road. We need safe pedestrian access and connectivity | NP |
| Remove snow from sidewalks for businesses and safety. It's horribly difficult. | NP |
| Need sidewalks on further down on Drink Water Road. A safety issue. Many walkers and joggers. Head to PEA trails from it. | NP |
| Funds for conservation | NP |
| Make it easier for town citizens to utilize town owned meeting space. Currently the liability insurance makes this prohibitive for renters, low income, students, and those who simply don't know how to access and pay for such a rider. Instead charge a user fee that would probably generate more revenue than the premium. | NP |
| Green space between bandstand and Town Hall | NP |
| Keep flowers and decorative grasses low at intersections so that drivers have a clear view of on-coming traffic | NP |
| Pave roads properly | NP |
| Look at Friday Updates from Durham. It's a great site for informing towns people | NP |
| The public library could definitely be more of a hub for family programming, particularly for young children | NP |
| Crosswalk at Winter St/Epping Rd for safety to Park St common (option real traffic light). Sidewalks! Epping Rd to Park St, Oak St, downtown, forest! | NP |
| Traffic circle at Exeter Inn | NP |
| I would love to see a collaborative effort to renovate IOKA - perhaps through a public/private partnership, maybe establishment of a 501(c)(3) to manage the effort. I would love to be involved in this (name provided) | NP |
| I wish the town elections in March the initiatives would indicate the Selectmen's order of priority for funding projects. The measures always indicate whether the Selectmen support an initiative or not, but I don't think they ever add it all up - massive total impact on budget. | NP |
| Use available resources | NP |
| Address water quality, period. Distribution system | NP |
| Is there any coordination with rail dispatch to stop trains so emergency vehicles can access western Exeter? | NP |

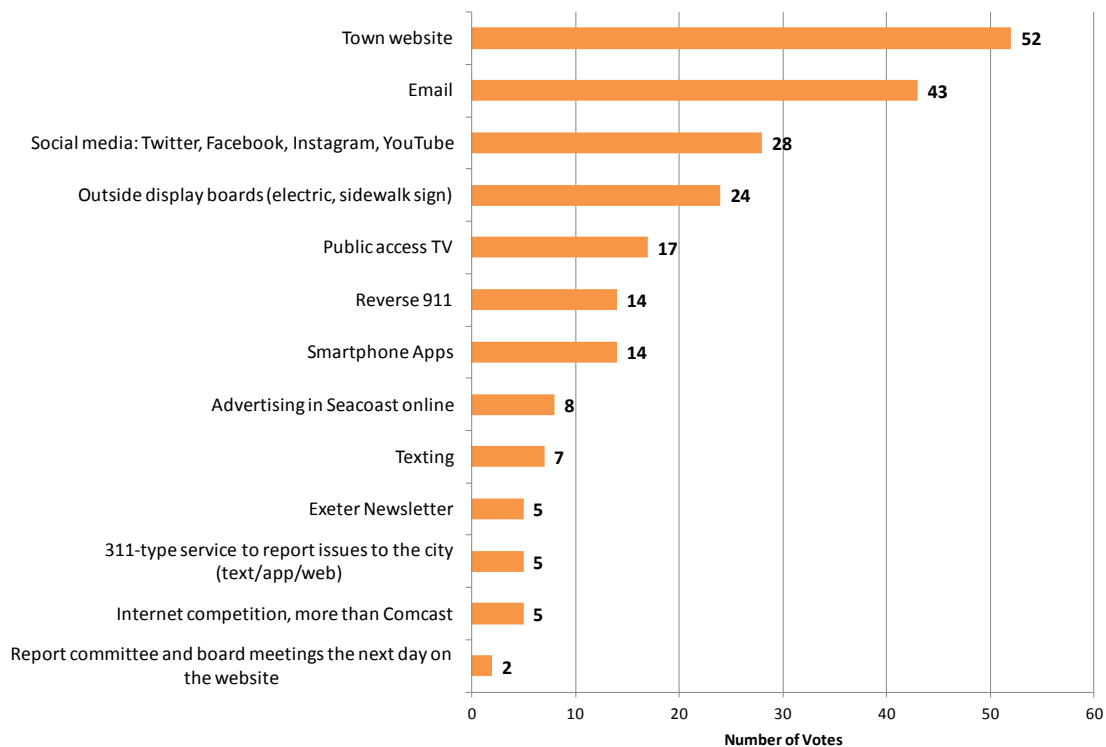
| Proposed Special Project | Number of Beans (NP – Not Provided) |
|--|--|
| I asked a shop owner why we don't have street buckers - musicians - in downtown Exeter and they told me the town requires a liability insurance policy. Surely there is a way to make this manageable for a musician who might make \$50 sitting on a bench with a guitar? | NP |

Communicate

What is the best way for the Town to communicate with the public?

Use dots to vote. Use comment cards to provide other ideas.

Best Way Town Can Communicate with the Public



Only one “other” response was received, which was to use the daily Exeter paper.

What would you like to hear more about from the Town?

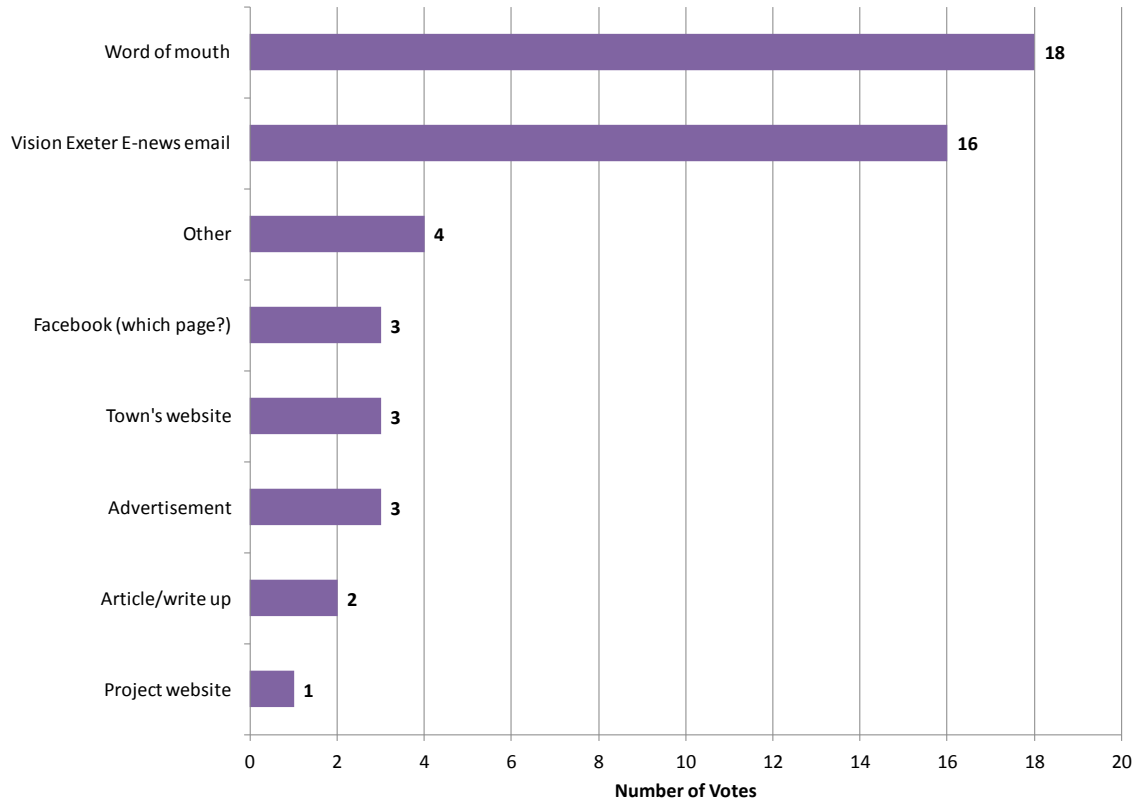
Use sticky notes. If a topic is already posted, place a dot on the note to indicate you agree.

The list is provided as written on the sticky note.

- Redevelopment of IOKA (10 dots)
- Goals of elected and hired officials (8 dots)
- Town website needs to be kept up to date and be more user friendly (6 dots)
- Fun events (5 dots)

- Email about elections/positions taken (5 dots)
- Economic impact of large increases in housing development (schools, police, fire, taxes, etc.) (3 dots)
- Dog park (3 dots)
- Plans for former mill “holding pond”, removal? (3 dots)
- More information provided to taxpayers for how town committees are run. Transparency (3 dots)
- Ballot measures – state what they are about (2 dots)
- Parking downtown (2 dots)
- Water shortages (2 dots)
- Volunteer opportunities (2 dots)
- Planning Board agendas with digital plans to review before hearings/decisions after meetings (2 dots)
- Exeter website: make event finding a priority item, easy to find. Encourage inter-town cooperation by posting area events also (1 dot)
- Look at Durham’s weekly updates (1 dot)
- How our town is planning for climate change. E.g. across all boards, departments, emergency management, natural resources, water supply. Incorporate into town planning/guiding documents (1 dot)
- Water quality alerts/safeguards (1 dot)
- When there are events going on (1 dot)
- Development of vacant parcel next to 11 Water Street (1 dot)
- Future developments – talks by Dave Sharples and Darren Winham (1 dot)
- 1) Renovation/possible public ownership of IOKA, 2) Redesign of public website to make it more user friendly, 3) What happened to the ice rink at Park St park?, 4) Previous, collaboration with PEA, 5) Better opportunity for safe biking particularly with children
- Planning for future traffic management downtown
- Encourage/entice businesses to stay open later
- Easy variance procedure to forgive parking for new development downtown
- Types of new trees on Water St, plans for more
- Parking and coordinating with PEA on parking for staff, faculty and students
- Events like this. I learned about it from planning committee member
- Teach local community involvement (how, who, where) at the school level – ask kids to make info posters, help with events, etc.
- Riverwoods needs better cell phone service. I’m interested in seeing cell towers built.
- What are the plans for the “lagoons’ that are used for wastewater?
- Housing – development location, generational levels, future plans
- Banners for events, important meetings, so there’s a “call to action” prompt
- I have lived in Exeter 4 years and did not know we had trails until tonight – and I have looked.
- Better info in voting booth for voters 1) maps next to motions to clarify place names utilized 2) info on impact of voting yes for all Selectmen – recommended ideas (i.e. total budget impact)
- Include parking and transit (non-workers car) in all new big proposals

How did you hear about this event?



The Facebook page of the Historical Society was listed. Other responses were RiverWoods bus schedule, Town Commission, and publicity at RiverWoods.

Other Comments

The following are comment cards that did not necessarily fit under the broader categories. They are provided as written on the comment card.

- Get artists to put art displays in vacant storefronts.
- I would love to see a collaborative effort to renovate the IOKA – perhaps through a public-private partnership/establishment of a 501(c)(3), maybe to manage the effort? I would love to be involved in this [contact information provided]
- Cell service (towers) – cell communication needs to be improved in some parts of town. Riverwoods on Rte 111 has very poor cell reception. Some medical information is transferred by cell service and it is possible in a few areas of Riverwoods.
- My husband is a LEED certified resiliency expert and would love to talk through issues related to resiliency with town stakeholders [contact information provided]

Exeter Master Plan Update

Public Open House Summary – ATTACHMENT

Full listing of individual comments for “Connect”

All comments are provided as they were written on the comment card.

- I think the crosswalks should have a motion sensor so they would signal the crosswalk flash or light up, especially at night.
- Bike sharing at train station
- Coming from Jady Hill neighborhood to Downtown (walking). Need consistent sidewalks
- Bike trail to the coast
- Enhance safety and signage from Lincoln St train station to Main St by school, PEA to Downtown to Bandstand up Front by town offices and PEA to Saint Michaels, then return to Lincoln and train station.
- The road from the boarder of Newfields (Rte 85) to Swasey Parkway could be improved for walking and bicycling
- Bike lane out to EHS
- Crosswalk at Park St Park across Epping Rd
- Newfields and Epping, High St – road needs crosswalks, speed enforcement. Fast moving traffic is not an argument against a crosswalk.
- Biking – wider shoulder on all radii out of town to make safe loops and attract cyclists
- Bike routes to high school and middle school. Bike route to train station to Fort Rock riding/hike trails
- Proper sidewalks into the middle school
- Walk route: want sidewalks/walk path from train crossing to train crossing; Front -> Main on the trackside
- Create greenway for biking/hiking Amesburg to Portsmouth, like Newfields to Manchester
- Use Map My Ride App to see where most common Seacoast bike loops are and coordinate across towns to improve safety along those routes (bigger shoulder, bike lanes)
- Put more effort, funds into redesigning intersections: Winter St and Columbus Ave; Pine Front and Lincoln; Brentwood Rd and Columbus Ave
- Would love to see shoulders created or sidewalks for biking/walking from 111A into town – so unsafe now
- Make 111 to Kingston walkable and bikeable
- Build the darn parking garage at Szechuan Taste!!
- Reestablish walk in front of PEA boathouse; Extend “riverwalk” from end of existing boardwalk along the rear of Water St properties. Connect to String Bridge. Connect (improve connection) to park adjacent to library. This creates a walking pedestrian ribbon from the Town Forest, through Swasey, to the PEA fields and trails. Enhancing the “riverwalk” could allow retail development on the lower levels of Water St.
- Enforce impeding laws. Must go speed and pull over to let pile up behind you go by
- Add shuttle service to Ports Ave from areas where the biz workers live. Alleviate Ports Ave congestion
- Epping Road – third lane for center turns, bike lane, sidewalk
- I would like to walk down Swasey Parkway, cross the river to walk by the old Power House loop

- Marked bike trails on sections of town streets to make biking safer
- Public transportation routed around town – all major streets and developments. Some kind of loop, continuous transit
- Access, especially for seniors, transportation to YMCA
- Parking at railroad station
- Clear snow from curbs for access to stores in the downtown
- Water/boat access and moorings increase (Swasey)
- Put in pedestrian bridge across Swasey to increase access to paths
- Improve all bike lanes (wider), special attention on Hampton Road. Fix intersection at 111A and Epping Rd
- More service on Amtrak
- Would like to have more rides (times) available on the Downeaster Train (particularly in the afternoon)
- Parking may be a problem with more development. 2-story garage could be a possibility somewhere, nicely designed.
- Route 111 and White Oak Drive is a dangerous intersection as people from Riverwoods frequently cross on foot. Traffic could slow here for safety. The blinker is a help, so that should stay if the state does not want a full stop. Crosswalk may be possible?
- Make train station as walkable as possible in all directions
- Downtown bypass/parking; walking area downtown
- Need to slow traffic down on all sides of the Park St Common. It's a speedway all around it. Our neighborhood is packed with kids who cross Park St to the Park St Common to get to school and I, along with other parents, fear our children's safety at this crossing.
- Develop plan for creating a roundabout at junction of 111, 108, and 27
- Waterfront boardwalk all the way to bridge. Also make boardwalk safe for small children
- Access to water from library, Swasey Park, and elsewhere. Water is current barricaded.
- Focus on increasing sharrows or bicyclist lanes when roads are resurfaced.
- Safe pedestrian crossing at Park St Common across Route 27
- Keep pedestrian crosswalks painted so they are visible
- Off road biking
- By-pass road? Volume does not make vendors wealthy
- Improve Lincoln Street shops, train station building restoration and preservation. Create improved sidewalk connections and bike lands for bike/rail commuters
- Connect downtown to Hannaford or On the Vine – street/sidewalk improvements, tree buffer to make pedestrian, bike friendly.
- Crossing in front of PO very dangerous. A core-type object needed in middle of crosswalk
- have an area downtown for visitors and residents to sit and encourage shopping and local purchases of food, 2) sharrows on Main and Water Streets, 3) Bike access at Downeaster Station
- Safe bike paths, more are currently safe. More benches, tables, etc. in main downtown area. Newmarket is a good example.
- Make parts of Water Street pedestrian only to eliminate grid lock of traffic. More trolley.
- Trolley connection, train station to downtown to Portsmouth Ave
- We need more parking downtown. No more restaurants till we have more parking
- Consider working with adjacent communities (e.g. Stratham)
- Other: Vehicle traffic. Downtown gazebo area is like a spoke in a wheel. Lots of traffic needs to get through. Traffic congestion makes me wish a way to bypass this area.

- Walk and bike from Forest St area to Town Forest via what is currently Rose Farm property. Buy that land (town) or find a way around perimeter of private property.
- Crosswalks better maintained, especially downtown
- 1) Signage for visitors by train, bike, rail or car, 2) sidewalk for handicapped
- Sidewalks for school kids: we live in the Oak Street neighborhood downtown. 3 blocks to walk the kids to school (Main St School) but no sidewalks. Perhaps we should consider sidewalks for all streets within reasonable walking distances from schools. Lacking sidewalks: Salem St, Oak St, Summer St, Cass St, Green St, Park St
- Safe sidewalk crossings. There should be a crosswalk on Epping Rd near the “triangle park” to get across to Winter Street. Winter Street also needs sidewalks all of the way to Front Street.
- More conservation trails with linkages; colonial roads; Fort Rock Farm trails, abandoned rail (trestle trail)
- Trails around Colcords Pond
- Finish other side of Exeter River, opposite parkway, gardens, paved walkway

Public Comment on Draft Master Plan

The Draft Master Plan was posted for comment between December 14, 2017 and January 12, 2018. The Master Plan is a policy document to help guide decision-makers in their efforts to meet the larger vision of the community. Some comments that were received may not have been addressed in the Master Plan for a variety of reasons. For example:

- A comment may have focused on specific projects or actions that are outside the typical purview of a Master Plan;
- A specific idea was provided that would need more consideration from the community as a whole before entering into the plan;
- A suggestion for a particular strategy may have been too detailed for the Master Plan.

Importantly, the fact that some comment were not addressed as part of this final review does not mean they are not worthy of consideration as future efforts of the Town. The Town provides a record of all comments here as documentation and reference. The names of people who provided comments were removed for privacy considerations.

Reading the Draft Master Plan I felt proud to be a member of such an organized, enlightened municipality. My husband and I participated in the early sessions to meet neighbors and to offer thoughts at Exeter High School. This is a readable and thorough document. There are many areas, as retirement years open before us, that my husband and I will look forward to volunteering in-- maintenance of trails, joining ad hoc, solution focused committees, etc. Thanks to ALL who have been a part of this work and document.

I think we should have a fenced-in dog park in Exeter, similar to the one in Kingston. To the extent possible, we should also seek to have the Amtrak make more frequent stops at the Exeter stop. Otherwise, looks like a great plan!

I have reviewed the Draft Exeter Master Plan. I think the plan did a good job of providing an overview of the "State of the Town" but is lacking in specifics. It seems to me that the plan is too safe and ends up being too bland to impact the town in any meaningful way. There are a ton of action items that include the actionable verbs; identify, resolve, prioritize, develop, evaluate, etc. I thought that was what we did in the working sessions? Personally, I feel a Master Plan with more tactical and actionable goals that result in quantifiable results would be better for Exeter. For example; Set aside public space for a new park in downtown, acquire land to build a d new indoor train station and expand parking, establish a fund for revolving loans to upgrade downtown facades. Change zoning ordinances to allow more density when affordable housing is included.

Although I understand a Master Plan is strategic in nature, I had hoped for an actionable plan wherein the action was not more planning. Seems like we are in a planning loop. I don't mean my comments to be negative because I believe the involvement of the community was great and the overall process was refreshing to be a part of. I just feel the end result will not serve us much better than the previous master plan.

I absolutely, 100% support the idea of the sidewalk being extended for Kingston Rd. In fact, I was under the impression that that particular project was already approved and in the progress. Regardless, extending the sidewalk so that part of town is not so disconnected would be a great improvement. Along with it, street lights as the road is windy and very dark, especially in the winter months. In addition to extending the sidewalk for Kingston Rd, I believe the train station on Lincoln Street could use an enclosed platform that provides public bathrooms, as well. A covered waiting area is insufficient for a climate like ours.

Nicely prepared document. However, I find the subjective bent toward support of the proposal to spend seven plus millions on expanding the P&R facilities in light of the additional request by the Library for an additional five million expansion outrageous. I would like see more around the financial impacts of these proposals in the context of existing bonds, operational and maintenance expenses, pensions and other liabilities Exeter tax payers are currently obligated. The solicited attitude that now is the time to spend money simply because of low interest rates is irresponsible and should be countered with fiscal responsibility intent on maintaining solvency not only for its current citizenry but also those who will inherit the debt for projects of dubious value and need. How can one learn of these existing financial obligations, where should one go to examine the records and who is the best likely to provide an honest assessment of the numbers?

A couple of things:

1. How can I take part in planning/contributing to the master plan from this point forward?

2. Is there a plan in place to address the toxic, undrinkable water?

Thank you for all you do.

Resident for 20 years. I've grown tired of the tax rate of this town. Unless our Master Plan includes significant Commercial investment to offset our property taxes, we won't be here in 5 years. It has just gotten too out of hand, approach \$30/mil. Now, with the impending major tax change all Americans will experience over the coming year(s), it will be even more of a penalty to live in a State like NH and Town like Exeter where taxes for the year exceed the Federal limits for deduction if you're middle class and own a home in this community. This is a plain and simple message...find revenue from Commercial business and demonstrate within 2 years of today, significant decrease in our tax mil rate for the Town of Exeter. Ensure this is a top priority in your Master Plans.

I thought this site would display the comments made by others - but it appears they are not visible. Sharing everyone's comments, real-time, will generate better ideas, more beneficial discussion, and a deeper understanding of this complex document for all residents. It will also allow residents to see areas of consensus or controversy they weren't even aware of. Thanks!

There are no considerations for low income housing, and nothing for our homeless population, (SVdP) had over 90 households or individuals in 2017. Most nights we have over 20 individuals or families living in their cars

Transportation: Please add Lamprey Health Care to this list

Waterfront: very little on call to action, this is one of our greatest asset

Local intersections: major problem was glad to see your notations

Communications: # 5 big problem TBD is discerning

Note: My first job was working for the NH dept of comprehensive planning.....I commend you on this plan

January 8, 2018

Mr. Dave Sharples, Exeter Town Planner
dsharples@exeternh.gov

www.visionexeter.com

Dear Mr. Sharples,

My name is _____, I have lived at _____, Exeter for 15 years and I am responding to the request for input for the Master Plan. I just saw the notice today and unfortunately I am out of town and cannot make the meeting so I am submitting my input to you. All of my research information is at home.

I met with Darren Wineham in July and we discussed my ideas for a Museum at the train station area that includes a parking garage. The Museum would be located at the site across the tracks from the platform, at Exeter Station Properties. There is room for a platform according to the AMTRAK map. The parking garage would be located where the Hankerchief Company building is currently located.

The Museum building would be the new home for the Exeter Historical Society and the Museum would be designed to celebrate Exeter's great Sculptor, Daniel Chester French, the man who created the Lincoln Memorial. He was born around the corner on Front Street, Exeter. The Museum would attract visitors, by train and car.

The current location of the Historical Society on Front Street is on the PEA campus and careful negotiations could raise the opportunity for PEA to acquire that building. Perhaps other negotiations to convince the Hankerchief Company to "temporarily" move to the 2 story brick building across from the Folsom Tavern, owned by PEA, while the parking garage is built. When the parking garage is built it should have many small shops and the Hankerchief Company could have the best location. The parking garage would have a bridge that would connect to the Museum on the other side of the tracks, where there would be additional parking, an Art Center, a Performing Center and the Daniel Chester French Museum.

There is a museum in the Berkshires called Chesterwood. It is where Daniel Chester French worked and lived until he died and they can provide you with all details and photos of the many sculptures he created. He is a world-renowned artist, and the Lincoln Memorial in DC is visited by people from all over the world. If you build it, they will visit Exeter and Exeter needs to use his fame, he wants you to.

I am sorry for such a cryptic explanation as I am heading out the door. I truly believe in this project and the location would be perfect. I will be back on January 18 if you feel you need a better explanation or if you are interested in all my research I have been doing since 2008.

p. 4, top of 2nd paragraph - Water Street businesses should get mentioned

p. 17, Climate Chapter - It is my opinion that the CAPE study should be included here. I believe I provided copies at the beginning and have them available if needed. It addressed not only sea rise and

storm surge but also looked at climate impacts from more severe storm events and its impact on emergency access, storm drain network functions, and buildings at risk so it covered a broader area of town and showed greater implications town-wide.

p. 25-26, Natural Resources section should mention the Natural Resource Inventory (2012). Suggested text: "The Natural Resource Inventory completed in 2012, identified sensitive resource areas in town, evaluated the existing level of protection afforded to these areas through land conservation, and based on a development-risk potential, highlighted those areas that should be prioritized for protection."

p. 43, #3 - Suggestion that referenced docs like the 2014-2015 UNH Needs Assessment document were hyperlinked in the final electronic version.

p. 44, #3-5 - I think these items should incorporate the findings from the CAPE study as it addresses flooding outside of sea level rise esp the performance (or under-performance) of stormwater infrastructure, buildings/structures at risk, and emergency egress. Also I think we should consider an action item associated with exploring whether Exeter would benefit from designating a Coastal Resilience Incentive Zone (CRIZ) in accordance with the recent adoption of SB-185 to support climate preparedness.

p. 46, #1 - This one does not make sense to me as its stated. Consider this revision: "Incorporate the development risk in determining conservation priority of areas". The NRI completed this but development potential changes based on economy/focus.

p. 46, #2 - add criteria "in the Natural Resources Inventory" and consider.....

p.47, #12 - unsure what maintenance is referring to. Raynes Barn? Property Monitoring? Trail infrastructure? Please clarify text.

p. 47, #14 - Suggest restating to "Review existing forest management plans (Henderson Swasey 2011, Oaklands 1993)) and revise "as needed to ensure they remain relevant to conservation land management goals".

p. 52, #8 - Suggest adding connection to open spaces in this bullet list. We should have a goal of working to create access to open spaces from major residential areas.

1) Add the following paragraph just before the subsection titled C-RiSe (draft page 18).

After the damage that occurred in New York and New Jersey from Superstorm Sandy, New Hampshire state legislators created the New Hampshire Coastal Risks and Hazards Commission to study the vulnerability of New Hampshire's coastal and Great Bay municipalities. The commission established a Science and Technical Advisory Panel to study and report on the sea level rise that the coastal municipalities could face by the year 2100. The commission involved the collaborative work of several federal and state agencies and representatives from each of the affected municipalities including Exeter. The commission focused on understanding the science, assessing the vulnerabilities, planning the

implementation of measures to mitigate risks, and proposing changes to legislation to facilitate actions by municipalities. The commission completed its work and published its final report: "Preparing New Hampshire for Projected Storm Surge, Sea-Level Rise and Extreme Precipitation" in November 2016. The full report can be viewed or downloaded at <http://www.nhcrhc.org>. The report makes many recommendations for action by the affected municipalities, including the recommendation that these issues be addressed in the municipalities' Master Plans.

2) The order of topics would make more sense if the subsection titled Natural Hazards (draft page 17) would be re-titled Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan and moved to after the subsection titled C-RiSe (now on draft page 18)

Typos, corrections and suggestions:

- 1) page 7 first subparagraph "Our community will continue see our natural landscapes" Should Be "Our community will continue to see our natural landscapes" [add "to"]
- 2) page 7 third subparagraph "...vibrancy for future generations and development will..." S/B "...vibrancy for future generations. Development will..." [new sentence]
- 3) page 7 fifth subparagraph "...shaped by public voices, and our respect..." S/B "...shaped by public voices. Our respect..." [new sentence]
- 4) page 12 Public Works subsection "The Department Public Works..." S/B "The Department Public of Works..." [add "of"]
- 5) page 13 first line "...Lary Lane wells.In 2015, Town received..." S/B "...Lary Lane wells. In 2015, The Town received..." [add space, correct font for "Lane", add "The"]
- 6) page 15 right column paragraph 2 "The role the school takes on in the..." S/B "The role the school plays in the..." [change "takes on" to "plays"]
- 7) page 15 right column paragraph 2 "...is ever expanding and community service..." S/B "...is ever expanding; community service..." [implement semicolon]
- 8) page 15 right column paragraph 2 [including examples that illustrate reaching out would be helpful]
- 9) page 16 first paragraph "...to either mitigate or adapt anticipated changes." S/B "...to either mitigate or adapt to anticipated changes." [add "to"]
- 10) page 16 third paragraph "The Department faces a couple challenges." S/B "The Department faces a couple of challenges." [add "of"]
- 11) page 17 and page 18 both have the same inset. One should be eliminated.
- 12) page 23 first paragraph "There are elements to everyday life in Exeter..." S/B "There are elements of everyday life in Exeter..." [change "to" to "of"]
- 13) page 26 first paragraph "Importantly, many these open space..." S/B "Importantly, many of these open space..." [add "of"]
- 14) page 26 inset on the right first paragraph "For example, uses a suite of tools..." S/B "For example, XXX uses a suite of tools..." [add subject for verb "uses"]
- 15) page 27 first paragraph under Residential Growth "...as indicated by the extreme low occupancy rates" S/B "...as indicated by the extreme low vacancy rates"
- 16) page 29 paragraph under Portsmouth Avenue "...arterial and commercial corridor..." [remove extra space after "commercial"]
- 17) page 30 last line under Lincoln Street "...a village-scale TOD concept" [expand acronym for the reader - Transit-Oriented Development]

- 18) page 35 last line on page "Developing conceptual plans to address primary issues, including safety, early on will keep the Town poised when funding opportunities present themselves" S/B "Developing conceptual plans early on to address primary issues, including safety, will keep the Town poised to take advantage of funding opportunities as they present themselves" [phrasing]
- 19) page 35 sentence in the blue inset "The Town needs to actively design and develop solutions for unsafe intersections that prioritize improving convenience for and the overall experience of pedestrians." S/B "The Town needs to actively design and develop solutions that correct unsafe intersections and improve the overall experience and convenience of pedestrians" [phrasing]
- 20) page 39 lead paragraph last sentence "...make residents aware of services are available..." S/B "...make residents aware of services that are available..." [add "that"]
- 21) page 39 second paragraph last sentence "...and other information can be packaged and pushed into..." S/B "...and other information can be packaged and inserted into..." [phrasing]
- 22) page 40 second sentence "...in spaces that were designed to feel welcoming and productive." S/B "...in spaces that were designed to feel welcoming and encourage productivity." [phrasing]
- 23) page 40 insert first bullet "...requires public investment in technology and commitment..." S/B "...requires both public investment in technology and commitment..."[add "both"]
- 24) page 40 insert second bullet "The public should have access to information about projects, programs, and other decisions being made at the local level and provide input." S/B "The public should have access to information about projects, programs, and decisions being made at the local level and be encouraged to provide input." [phrasing]
- 25) page 42 item 2 "CIP" S/B "Capital Improvement Program" [expand acronym]
- 26) page 45 item 7 "CIP" S/B "Capital Improvement Program" [expand acronym]
- 27) page 46 item 1 "Identify properties that would less likely be developed based on..." S/B "Identify properties that are less likely to be developed based on..." [phrasing]

Pg. 11 - there is a blurb about human services at the beginning of Parks and Rec that doesn't seem germane.

Include Park St. Common on the list or make it more clear there are other places like "Among Exeter's ## parks are (then list some of them)

Pg. 12 – The font for the title "Public Works" is not the same as Parks and Recreation. It looks like Public Works is a subset of P&R.

Somewhere under parking, maybe in the box about parking management strategies should we include charging stations for electric vehicles? The new energy committee is researching this.

Maybe under Connect or Communicate we could include a goal for educational opportunities about the history of Exeter. People seem to find it so charming, How did it get that way? (For example Water Street has already been raised once to address flooding.) and I need education aspects for grants. The Historical Society has some programs in no particular chronological order. Maybe the Town can subsidize them or develop our own public programs. Again a volunteer led action?

I recently went to the Exeter Library to review the Exeter Master Plan Draft dated December 7, 2017.

After review I feel compelled to submit my comments regarding the following inaccurate statements:

Page 35 Exeter Master Plan Draft dated December 7, 2017.

Subject of concern: notable intersections where congestion is also a problem.

“Outside of downtown are other notable intersections where congestion is also a problem. These include:”

Brentwood Road at Epping Road – should also include mention of Columbus Avenue which is used as cut through road. This 3 way intersection is always backed up on mornings during weekdays/schooldays and frequently blocked at all times of the day by impatient drivers that disregard the very clear traffic signage that states: “PLEASE DO NOT BLOCK INTERSECTION” . They are in a such a rush to get to that important appointment they drive out into the middle of the intersection with nowhere to go and end up blocking the intersection. “Congestion’ does apply to this intersection.

Brentwood Road at Dogtown Road –from my perspective this is a incorrect and thus a false statement. I have lived in Exeter at 40 Dogtown Road for 35 years and use this intersection usually multiple times a day. I have never encountered, nor observed “congestion” at the intersection of Brentwood Road at Dogtown Road This should be removed from the list of notable intersections where congestion is a problem. The Master Plan should be edited/corrected to eliminate this intersection as an area of congestion.

For reference I defined “congestion” as follows: Traffic congestion is a condition on road networks that occurs as use increases, and is characterized by slower speeds, longer trip times, and increased vehicular queuing.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my comments to the Exeter Master Plan Draft December 7, 2017.