



## PRESS RELEASE

December 14, 2017... A draft of our community Master Plan is complete! After over a year of hard work, the document is ready for public review. "We've worked hard to create a plan that reflects the values communicated to us through the public process, and we want to give people another chance to provide comments." said David Sharples, Town Planner. Hard copies of the draft plan will be available in the Public Library and in the Planning and Development office in the Town Offices building. The Town has also posted the draft on the Master Plan website [www.visionexeter.com](http://www.visionexeter.com) where residents can view the document and provide comments electronically. Comments can also be dropped off in the Planning and Development Office or emailed to the Town Planner at [dsharples@exeternh.gov](mailto:dsharples@exeternh.gov). The Town will be taking comments on the draft Master Plan until January 12, 2018.

Over the course of 2017, the Town of Exeter worked to update the Master Plan under the guidance of their Master Plan Steering Committee. With the help of municipal staff and project consultant Horsley Witten Group, the Steering Committee launched an ambitious public engagement effort in the fall of 2016. This process included events that were attended by hundreds of residents, an interactive website, direct engagement with smaller groups, and dozens of stakeholder interviews.

The product of this community engagement was used to create a document that articulates the values shared by Exeter residents and business owners. People talked about what they feel are the most treasured places in the community, the most pressing challenges, and hundreds of ideas how to keep the Town such a special community. The culmination of the plan is an Action Agenda that will be used over the next 10 years to guide investment, make public improvements, and protect natural and cultural resources.

For more information, contact David Sharples, Town Planner, at [dsharples@exeternh.gov](mailto:dsharples@exeternh.gov) or 773-6112.

### ***About the Master Plan...***

The Town of Exeter is in the final phase of updating its Master Plan. The Master Plan communicates a shared vision for Exeter's future and is a roadmap that guides how the Town can build on its assets and overcome barriers to reach that vision. The Master Plan is a policy document used by Town staff, Planning Board, and other local boards and committees to make decisions about:

- What new development looks like and where it happens
- How to protect environmentally sensitive and historically significant areas
- Priorities for future public investments in community services, including recreational facilities, public safety, and utilities

Its most important goal is to protect and enhance the things in Exeter that make it a great place to live, both for today's residents and for future generations.

The Master Plan Steering Committee guided the Master Plan update process. The committee is made up of residents, business owners, members of local boards and commissions, and Town staff.

Over the next month, the Town will receive comments on the draft and then bring those to the Steering Committee for review. The target schedule for adoption by the Board of Selectmen is late winter.

Visit [www.visionexeter.com](http://www.visionexeter.com) for more information.