

November 2011

The Planning Board recently published the Master Plan for Downtown Rockport. The area covered by the Plan stretches from Bearskin Neck to the MBTA Station.

The Planning Board worked with residents to identify key issues and concerns, to develop action items to address them, and to produce a vision for the future of Downtown. Ms. Carolyn Britt, the Planning Board's consulting planner, prepared comprehensive background information on the Downtown area focused on population, housing, businesses, recreation, and institutions. In May 2010 the Planning Board began a series of public meetings. The first (May 20, 2010) included presentation of the background information, followed by four smaller group discussions on specific topics. The second meeting (July 15, 2010) focused on parking. A meeting for hospitality businesses and another for retail businesses were held in late September and early October 2010. Work continued in 2011 with presentations on Recommendations & Action Items (March 10, 2011) and the Draft Complete Downtown Master Plan (May 5, 2011). The final Plan was presented to the Board of Selectmen at a workshop on November 8, 2011.

A master plan is a dynamic document that changes over time as new information becomes available, as action items are accomplished, as new studies and reports are completed, and as priorities change. The Planning Board intends to prepare a brief annual update report to be posted on this site. These annual updates will summarize changes in basic information and data available, and identify progress that has been made on the recommendations. The Board encourages residents to bring changes and accomplishments to our attention each year.

Realizing the Vision

It is the Planning Board's hope that the Downtown Master Plan will serve as a framework that will put into context the many parts that make up a whole, well-functioning community. We hope this vantage point will encourage individuals, committees, and boards to take responsibility for specific Action Items, which, taken as a whole, will achieve the Vision for 20 years hence in 2030.

Residents are encouraged to read the Plan and send any comments and questions to planningboardinfo@townofrockport.com or call the Planning Board office at 978-546-5008.

What's Next

Following the focus on Downtown, the Board will continue to develop a Master Plan for Rockport by examining the other areas of the Town, working with residents to produce an overall vision for Rockport's future, both short- and long-term.

Thank you for your interest in master planning for Rockport.