



Bedford, New Hampshire

2010 Master Plan



MUNICIPAL SERVICES & FACILITIES

Thursday, December 17, 2009

AGENDA

- **Approval of November 19, 2009 meeting minutes**
- **Presentation of the draft Historic and Cultural Resources and Municipal Services and Facilities elements of the plan**
- **Discussion of the recently completed Open Space Plan and Hazard Mitigation Plan and their relationship with the Master Plan**
- **Revised schedule**
- **Next meeting and adjourn**

MUNICIPAL SERVICES & FACILITIES GOALS

- **Establish efficiency and cost-effectiveness as a guiding principle for delivery of public services.**
- **Promote sustainability in municipal and public operations, starting with a Sustainability Task Force that can advise and support sustainability efforts by Town departments.**
- **Lead by example in municipal facilities and operations, fostering partnerships, communication, and sustainability principles through its investments and initiatives.**

EDUCATION

- **School system recently reorganized**
 - **3 elementary (K-4); intermediate (5-6); middle (7-8); high school (9-12)**
 - **Total enrollment – 4,424**
 - **Projections show gradual increase to 4,580 in 2013**
 - **Average class size varies (17 -19 students in elementary; 24 in grades 5 – 8; 10 – 28 in high school)**
- **Staffing**
 - **391 certified staff, 272 support**

EDUCATION

- **Facilities range between new and 55 years**
- **All schools except middle and high school have had numerous renovations and additions**
- **Additional capacity not expected given modest growth in enrollment**
- **Efforts continually underway to improve sustainability**

LIBRARY

- **Opened 1996**
- **Over 80,000 books, etc.**
- **12.5 FTE, plus volunteer help**
- **Upcoming needs include:**
 - **HVAC repairs**
 - **Sidewalks and fencing**
 - **Additional parking and lighting**
 - **Possible municipal water connection**

LIBRARY

- **Service needs:**
 - **Computer classes**
 - **Young adult programs**
 - **Meeting space/quiet study rooms**
 - **ADA accessibility**
 - **Technical infrastructure**
 - **Additional space for children's books**
 - **Additional; maintenance personnel**

PARKS AND RECREATION

- **22 parks, playgrounds, ball fields, etc.**
 - Includes School Department facilities, which are open to public evenings and weekends
- **Only 1 – 1.5 FTE**
- **Significant needs include:**
 - New fields of all kinds, especially baseball and softball (new ones on line next year – Swenson's Fields)
 - Existing fields have ongoing maintenance issues
 - Use of private soccer fields is restricted
 - Canoe access should be enhanced
 - Maintenance building needs to be replaced
 - Existing staff level woefully inadequate

PARKS AND RECREATION

- **Needs (con't)**
 - **Fee-based programs cover some, but not all expenses**
 - **Dog park**
 - **Some parts of town underserved**
 - **Community center/indoor pool for indoor recreational opportunities**
 - **Only one playground outside of ones on school property**
- **Town needs will be measured against national standards to further define need**

SENIOR SERVICES

- **Population projections show increases in elderly population**
- **No senior center in Bedford**
- **Programs in Manchester**
- **Issues to address:**
 - **Provide coordinated transportation services**
 - **Improved sidewalks**
 - **Better coordination of recreational and cultural programs**
 - **Consider adult/senior community center**

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Police**
 - **35 full time officers plus 8 civilian**
 - **Department understaffed**
 - **Department manages joint public safety complex**
 - **Opened in 1994**
 - **4700 sq. ft. for police**
 - **3 jail cells**
 - **20 vehicles; 3 replaced each year**
 - **Responded to 23,5000 calls in 2008**

PUBLIC SAFETY

- **Police Needs**
 - **Civil staff and officers**
 - **New radio equipment**
 - **New heating/cooling units**
 - **Roof repairs**
- **Fire**
 - **42 staff people**
 - **14 vehicles; firefighting equipment replaced on 25 year rotation, ambulances on 8 year rotation**
 - **Responded to over 3,500 calls**
 - **Fire needs**
 - **New equipment and vehicles**
 - **Substations in western and southern parts of town**

WATER/WASTEWATER

- **Two public water providers supply about 30% of the Town**
- **Bedford owns and manages sewer system on eastern side of town that flow to Manchester**
- **Remainder of town on private water and septic**
- **Town charged with enforcing Sewer Use Ordinance**
 - **Allocation of capacity and what is discharged**

WATER/WASTEWATER

- **Wastewater**
 - **Town's share of cost based on usage**
 - **Wastewater facilities plan prepared in 10/08**
 - **Five areas in Bedford discharge .432 mgd – capacity is 1.0 mgd**
 - **Connections/extensions initiated by developers**
 - **Town considering possible extension along Rt. 101**
 - **Issue of raising sewer rates to meet anticipated operating expenses – 6% over next 3-5 year period**
 - **Manchester facility is planning upgrade**
 - **Bedford needs to decide how much capacity to reserve**

WATER/WASTEWATER

- **Water**
 - **Two suppliers – Manchester Water Works and Pennichuck Water Works, Inc.**
 - **2003 conceptual plan – town needs were met**
 - **No specific plans to expand system at this time**

STORMWATER

- **Town is subject to EPA rules**
 - **Municipal Separate Storm System permits**
 - **Town in compliance since 2002**
 - **“good housekeeping practices”**
 - **Regional stormwater education and outreach**
 - **Flooding a bigger problem**
 - **Map flood-prone areas**
 - **Identify where stormwater management projects should be prioritized (low-impact development, etc.)**

SOLID WASTE

- **Transfer station – 8,122 tons through 11/30/09**
- **Household waste sent to Biddeford, ME**
- **Single stream recycling – 1,053 tons through 11/30/09**
 - **Increase over previous years**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Coordinate budgeting and decision-making with Town goals and priorities**
- **Establish Sustainability Task Force to coordinate efforts to enhance energy efficiency and sustainability for services and facilities**
- **Lead by example to encourage public and private efforts toward sustainability**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Local Government**
 - **Focuses on prioritizing and coordinating needs, improving efficiency, and communication**
- **Sustainability Task Force**
 - **Develop a sustainability plan, evaluate policies and regulations, and seek grants**

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Buildings and Common Areas**
 - **Unified management plan for maintenance, improve efficiency, and look for ways to meet new sustainability standards**
- **Water, Wastewater, Stormwater**
 - **Continue implementing EPA program, monitor flood events, map existing water and sewer lines, monitor the Manchester WWTF expansion, and evaluate RT. 101 water and sewer extension**