

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

To the residents of the Town of Abington:

We the members of the Abington Planning Board, respectfully submit our Annual Report for the year 2006.

The duties of the Abington Planning Board are many and varied, but its primary responsibility is to plan for the future development of the Town. The Board does this through the comprehensive planning process and through the preparation of a Comprehensive Master Plan. The Abington Master Plan was completed in 1999 and updated in 2004 by the Planning Board through the preparation of the Abington Community Development Plan. The Board has also prepared an Affordable Housing Strategy to guide the Town's efforts in meeting its requirements to provide affordable housing in the community. These documents form the basis for guiding the growth and development of the community and are implemented through land use controls that include the Zoning By-Law and Subdivision Regulations. These land use controls are annually reviewed and updated by the Planning Board to respond to changing conditions and are the principle means of implementing the goals and objectives of the Master Plan and the Planning Process.

In 2006 The Abington Planning Board spearheaded an effort to prepare an update to the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) to be filed with the State Division of Conservation Services. An up-to-date, approved and state certified OSRP is required for any request for State and Federal Grant assistance to acquire land or facilities for open space or recreation. The Planning Board together with the involvement and cooperation of the Park and Recreation Commission, the Conservation Commission and the Open Space Committee successfully completed the Plan Update in June, 2006 and submitted it to the state for review and approval.

During the year, the Board was involved in the drafting and review of regulations that will govern the development of the former South Weymouth Naval Air Station. A primary concern of the Board is to assure to the extent feasible the impacts of the development on the Town of Abington and its residents will be properly mitigated.

The Planning Board provides direction and supervision of the work of the Town Planner Daniel Crane, AICP who assists the Board along with Planning Board Secretary Elizabeth Shea in carrying out the day to day operations of the Planning Office. The Planning Board reviewed fifteen development proposals during 2006 and one condominium conversion. In addition, the Board acted on seven Special Permit applications, three subdivision plans and one roadway acceptance. In 2006 the Planning Board considered and approved six surety bond reductions for on-going subdivisions under development.

The Planning Board is available to respond to any questions or concerns regarding development in the community and is appreciative of any input the townspeople may offer. The townspeople are invited to contact the Board through the Town Planner at 781-982-0069, in writing to the Board at the Town Offices or by attending a meeting of the Board. The Board meets at Town Hall in the Susan Meir Room on the first Monday of the month and at other times when needed. The Board would like to give thanks to the other Town Boards for their input and for the help from Town Planner Dan Crane and Liz Shea. Please feel free to attend our meetings, which are open to the public, and to observe what is discussed and accomplished.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne P. Smith, *Chairman*
Timothy P. Barry, *Vice Chairman*
Bruce G. Hughes, *Clerk*
Jeffrey M. Rangel, *Member*
Robert Soper, *Member*