

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 2007.

The duties of the Abington Planning Board are many, but its primary responsibility is to carefully assess the needs, requirements and potential of the Town and plan for and guide its present and future development. The Board does this through the comprehensive planning process and the preparation of a Master Plan. The Abington Master Plan and its recent updates have served as the basis for guiding the pattern of development in the town through the adoption of land use controls including the Zoning By-Law and Subdivision Regulations. The Abington Master Plan consists of several important elements including plans for land use, open space and recreation, economic development, circulation and transportation, housing and public facilities. It is important that the Master Plan and these various elements be periodically updated to consider changing conditions in town and to provide for new opportunities and challenges.

The Board is pleased to report that the Town of Abington is current in its planning efforts and notes that in the past year the Town has gained final approval and certification of the Abington Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs. Final approval of the OSRP was the result of a cooperative effort by the Planning Board, the Park and Recreation Commission, the Conservation Commission and the Open Space Committee and allows Abington to participate in Division of Conservation Services grant rounds through the year 2011.

During the year, the Board was involved in the drafting and adoption of amendments to regulations that have encouraged business development in the community. These have facilitated the increased interest in Abington as a prime business location and as a place of residence for persons working in the Boston area. A concern of the Board is to assure to the extent feasible that the impacts of new developments on the Town of Abington and its residents are 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 thirteen Site Plan development proposals during 2007 which included: a Lowe's Home Improvement Center; Rockland Trust Bank Branch; Sullivan Tire outlet; Abington Athletic facility; and, an Over 55 development of 101 residential units. In addition, the Board acted on two definitive subdivision plans and 12 Form A application.

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*