

2019-10-13 Jan Hardenbergh - jch@jch.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

1962 and 2001 Master Plans

There have been two previous Master Plans for Sudbury. The first was created in 1962 and the second in 2001. The Master Plan from 1962 is from a different era, filled with fascinating historical details. For example, Sudbury built five schools in five years: Horse Pond School in 1958 (now the State Crime Lab), Fairbank School in 1959 (our aging community center), General John Nixon School in 1960, Israel Loring School in 1961, and finally Haynes was under construction in 1962. Sudbury was in the middle of a major growth spurt!

There are a several issues we recognized in 1962 and they were still issues in 2001, such as preserving the historic and agricultural character of our town, as well as how to encourage economic development.

Traffic issues were discussed in both plans. In 1962, when so much land was still vacant, there were radical proposals for traffic circulation including a "ring road" around the Town Center, to be created by extending Old Lancaster Road to Route 27 on both the east and west sides of the Town Center. 1962 was still before the recognition of the importance of wetlands, and therefore, the solution to Boston Post Road/Route 20 traffic was to have an expressway running from Wayland through the wetlands that would then join Boston Post Road/Route 20 at Horse Pond Road.

In 2001, there was a much more modest goal for the Town Center - to improve pedestrian and vehicular circulation, and to integrate the buildings with a historic walking trail. The trail was designed immediately, and in 2015 new crosswalks and lights were put in the Town Center to make it much safer for pedestrians to navigate the intersection. The vehicle traffic in the Town Center continues to be tedious.

There are many specific issues from the 2001 Master Plan that have come to pass. These range from significant open space properties we have protected and the system of walkways, to the more specific and practical items, such as the "pay as you throw" trash bags. Some of the plans has been slowly percolating over the past two decades, such as the north/south Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and the Sudbury History Center.

Both of the previous Master Plans have been scanned and can be found on the Town website (www.sudbury.ma.us) by searching for Master Plan 2001 and 1962, or on one of the top menu bars on the Planning and Community Development Department homepage (www.sudbury.ma.us/pcd).

The Master Plan update process is expected to continue through the spring of 2020. The Master Plan Steering Committee meets the third Friday of the month from 8:45 to 10:45 a.m. at the Sudbury Police Station, 75 Hudson Road. All meetings are open to the public.

Visit our website for public event listings and other information about the update process: www.sudbury.ma.us/masterplan. If you have questions, please contact Adam Duchesneau, Director of Planning and Community Development, at 978-639-3398 or DuchesneauA@sudbury.ma.us.