

**TOWN OF HOPKINTON, NH
FINDING OF FACTS
AND
NOTICE OF GROWTH IMPACT**

BACKGROUND

The Hopkinton Planning Board held a public hearing on Tuesday, April 14, 2009, at 7:00 PM in the Hopkinton Town Hall to present its Findings of Facts as a result of the Board's monitoring of growth in Hopkinton in accordance with Hopkinton Zoning Ordinance Section XIII Growth Management and Innovative Land Use Control.

It is the Planning Board's role to determine, monitor, evaluate and establish a rate of residential growth that does not unreasonably interfere with Hopkinton's capacity for planned, orderly and reasonable expansion of its services to accommodate such growth.

In accordance with Section 13.4 of the Hopkinton Zoning Ordinance, an indicator of growth impact occurs when:

- (a) The average annual percent increase in building permits for dwelling units in Hopkinton for the past five years exceeds the same average of the combined seven abutting communities.
- (b) The most recently published average annual percent population growth for Hopkinton as reported by the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning exceeds the same average of the combined seven abutting communities.
- (c) The number of public school students enrolled or projected for the coming year for the combined schools in the Hopkinton School System exceeds 90 percent of its stated capacity as defined by the Hopkinton School Board.
- (d) The annual full value tax rate of Hopkinton as reported by the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration exceeds the average annual full value tax rate of the combined seven abutting communities or Merrimack County for the reporting year. (For comparison purposes, the tax rates will be equalized to full value.)
- (e) The number of dwelling units of all projects combined, for which approval is being sought from the Planning Board, at any time of reporting, if approved could result in conditions defined by a., b., c., or d. above.
- (f) The number of public school students enrolled or projected for the coming year for the combined schools in the Hopkinton School System exceeds 100 percent of its stated capacity as defined by the Hopkinton School Board.

- (g) The annual capital expenditures including debt service and capital outlay for combined municipal and school expenditures exceeds 20 percent of the total municipal and school department expenditures combined.

FINDINGS

13.4(a) - Building Permits - The average percent increase in building permits for dwelling units in Hopkinton for the past five years exceeds the same average of the combined seven abutting communities. FINDING: The average percent increase in building permits for dwelling units in Hopkinton for the past five years EXCEEDS average of combined abutting communities.

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2004-2008 % Change	2004-2008 % Change to the Average of the Seven Communities	avg for 5 years
Hopkinton	20	13	26	9	8	-47.4%	31.6%	15
Warner	19	16	12	5	3	-72.7%	-31.8%	11
Webster	26	20	16	14	9	-47.1%	32.4%	17
Concord	235	143	111	103	42	-66.9%	-17.2%	127
Bow	32	24	16	25	14	-36.9%	57.7%	22
Dunbarton	28	24	19	19	9	-54.5%	13.6%	20
Weare	95	96	54	54	25	-61.4%	-3.5%	65
Henniker	25	33	18	7	8	-56.0%	9.9%	18
Avg of Seven Communities	60	46	34	30	15	-60.0%		37

Source: Individual Towns and Websites

13.4(b) - Population Growth - The average annual percent population growth as reported by the New Hampshire Office of State Planning exceeds the same average of the combined seven abutting communities. FINDING: NHOEP reports U.S. Census Data. Hopkinton does NOT EXCEED the average percent population of combined abutting communities.

	1990	2000	1990-2000% Increase:	2007 OEP Estimate:	Est Growth Increase from 2000/2007	% Change in Growth from the Avg % of Seven Communities		
Hopkinton	4,806	5,339	11.09%	5,590	4.7%	-26%		
Warner	2,250	2,760	22.67%	2,938	6.4%	1%		
Webster	1,405	1,579	12.38%	1,774	12.3%	93%		
Concord	36,006	40,687	13.00%	42,044	3.3%	-48%		
Bow	5,500	7,138	29.78%	7,748	8.5%	34%		
Dunbarton	1,759	2,226	26.55%	2,564	15.2%	138%		
Weare	6,193	7,776	25.56%	8,952	15.1%	137%		
Henniker	4,151	4,433	6.79%	4,922	11.0%	73%		
Avg of Seven Communities	7,759	8,992	15.90%	9,567	6.4%			

Source: NH Office of Energy & Planning

13.4 (c) & (f) - School Enrollment - The number of public students enrolled or projected for the coming year for the combined schools in the Hopkinton School System exceeds 90 (100) percent of its stated capacity as defined by the Hopkinton School Board. FINDING: 13.4 (c) Enrollment for the current year does **NOT EXCEED** 90% of the District capacity for all schools combined. Enrollment for projected year **EXCEEDS** 90% of the District capacity for all schools combined. 13.4 (f) Enrollment for the current and coming year does **NOT EXCEED** 100% of District capacity.

	Building (Design) Capacity	(District) Guideline Capacity	2008/2009 Enrollment	2008/2009 % Capacity (District)	2009/2010 Enrollment Projected	2009/2010 % Capacity (District)	2009/2010 % Capacity Projected (Design)
Harold Martin	426	278	246	88.5%	213	76.6%	50.0%
Maple Street	362	264	227	86.0%	242	91.7%	66.9%
Middle/High School	729	550	502	91.3%	533	96.9%	73.1%
Combined	1517	1092	975	89.3%	988	90.5%	65.1%

Source: Hopkinton SAU

13.4(d) - The annual full tax rate of Hopkinton as reported by the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration exceeds the average annual full value tax rate of the combined seven abutting communities or Merrimack County for the reporting year. FINDING: Hopkinton **EXCEEDS** the average annual full value rate of the abutting communities. Information with respect to Merrimack County was not available at the time of this report.

	2007 Tax Rate	2007 Ratio	2007 Full Value Tax Rate	2008 Tax Rate	2007 Ratio	2008 Full Value Tax Rate
Hopkinton	\$21.05	100.0%	\$20.89	\$22.19	100.0%	22.19
Warner	\$20.68	100.0%	\$20.55	\$23.72	100.0%	23.72
Webster	\$17.64	93.8%	\$17.01	\$18.71	93.8%	17.55
Concord	\$19.63	96.4%	\$18.77	\$20.49	96.4%	19.75
Bow	\$21.02	98.8%	\$21.81	\$22.53	98.8%	22.26
Dunbarton	\$14.56	91.2%	\$13.52	\$15.48	91.2%	14.12
Weare	\$15.27	100.0%	\$15.10	\$15.90	100.0%	15.90
Henniker	\$24.78	93.1%	\$22.83	\$27.16	93.1%	25.29
Region (Avg of Seven Communities)	\$19.33	96.7%	\$18.81	\$20.77	96.7%	\$20.10
Merrimack County Actual Tax Rate:	\$19.04			<i>Unavailable</i>		

Source: NH Department of Revenue Administration. Note: At the time of this report, 2008 Ratio and County Tax Rate was not available.

13.4(e) - Dwelling Units for Projects - The number of dwelling units of all projects combined, for which approval is being sought from the Planning Board, at any time of reporting, if approved could result in conditions defined by a., b., c., or d. above.

13.4(a) Building Permits	*13.4(b) Population Growth	13.4(c) District Capacity 90%	13.4(d) Annual Full Value Rate
0	0	89.38%	See above

*Based on two adults and one child per household.

13.4(g) - Annual Capital Expenditures - The annual capital expenditures including debt service and capital outlay for combined municipal and school expenditures exceed 20 percent of the total municipal and school department expenditures combined. FINDING: Capital expenditures do NOT EXCEED 20% of the total municipal and school expenditures combined.

	2008 Total Operating Expenditures	2008 Total Capital Expenditures	Total Combined Expenditures	20% Municipal School Operating Expenditures				
Municipal	\$5,370,544	\$219,384	\$5,589,928					
School ('07/'08)	\$14,404,958	\$191,630	\$14,596,588					
Combined:	\$19,775,502	\$411,014	\$20,186,516	\$3,955,100				
Source: Hopkinton Selectmen's Office, Hopkinton SAU Office								

DECISION

Phasing of Future Developments:

Based on the findings documented above, the Hopkinton Planning Board has determined that indicators 13.4 (a) and (d) have occurred and therefore there is a need to implement phasing of future developments in accordance with Section 13.6 of the Zoning Ordinance and Section 2.4.9 of the Subdivision Regulations. This decision is intended to assist the Planning Board's efforts to insure that the rate of residential growth does not unreasonably interfere with the Town's ability to provide services.

Limit the Issuance of Building Permits:

The Planning Board further finds that through its monitoring that indicators 13.4 (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e), plus one or more of (f) or (g) has not occurred; therefore, there is no need to limit the issuance of residential building permits in accordance with Section 13.7 of the Zoning Ordinance.

For the Hopkinton Planning Board,

Karen L. Robertson
 Planning/Zoning Director