

REPORT ON FRANKLIN TOWN PLAN REVISION

December 9, 2011

The Franklin Planning Commission has been working to complete an update of the Town's "*Municipal Plan*". This effort is part of a continuing planning process that guides the Town's decisions for future growth. Their planning process conforms to the State's four planning goals of Chapter 117, Section 4302, which strive for a comprehensive planning process that includes *citizen participation*, the *consideration for the consequences of growth*, and *compatibility with surrounding municipalities*.

The Franklin Municipal Plan contains 15 chapters, which include: Introduction; Community Profile; Setting, Historic, and Archeological Features; Economy; Community Facilities; Community Services; Community Utilities; Energy; Economy; Transportation; Education; Natural Conditions and Features; Land Use; Compatibility with Neighboring Towns; and Implementing the Plan. These chapters are consistent with the 13 goals established in Chapter 117, Section 4302. These goals aim to:

- maintain the historic settlement pattern of compact village centers separated by rural countryside;
- provide a strong and diverse economy with rewarding job opportunities; broaden access to educational and vocational training opportunities for people of all ages;
- provide for safe, convenient, economic, and energy efficient transportation systems;
- to identify, protect, and preserve important natural and historic resources;
- to maintain and improve the quality of air, water, wildlife, and land resources;
- to encourage the efficient use of energy and development of renewable energy resources;
- to maintain and enhance recreational opportunities; to encourage and strengthen agricultural and forest industries;
- to provide for the wise and efficient use of natural resources;
- to ensure the availability of safe and affordable housing;
- to plan for, finance, and provide an efficient system of public facilities and services; and
- to ensure the availability of safe and affordable childcare.

By state statute, Towns must prepare and update their town plan every five years; the current Franklin Municipal Plan will expire on September 12, 2012. The 2011 plan update focused on deleting items that are no longer relevant to the town and refining existing items. Limited new objectives were added to implement the plan. Additionally, this Plan updates key information on demographic and economic trends. The Municipal Plan does not propose to alter the designation of any land area.