

Jackson Planning Board 2018 Annual Report

People find their way to Jackson many ways, some lucky enough to be born here, some lured by hiking and skiing in the White Mountains, others attracted by the beauty of a fall foliage drive. The physical beauty, proximity to the mountains and closeness to nature may be the primary attraction, but what makes Jackson special is the community that so many have worked hard to develop, grow and maintain. We are indeed fortunate to call Jackson our home, and for many, a second home, but like most good relationships, it takes caring, good communication, and an investment of time and effort to keep vibrant.

The Planning Board plays a critical role in listening and setting goals for the community through the Master Plan renewed every ten years, most recently completed in 2016. One of the goals set in the plan was to review how we might encourage housing diversity to meet the needs of the community. In 2018, the Planning Board established the Jackson Housing Opportunity Matters committee. Scott Badger, Vice Chair of the Planning Board, chairs the committee and is joined by Betsey Harding, Secretary of the Planning Board, and volunteers: Roger Aubrey, Dick Badger, Kevin Bennett, Emily Benson, Gail Doktor, Sarah Duffy, Margaret Graziano, Tish Hanlon, Bob Kantack, Barbara Theriault, Bob Thompson, and Jim Wasco. The Committee took advantage of a Municipal Technical Assistance Grant from Plan NH and hired Steve Whitman from Resilience Planning. Several community work sessions were held and revisions to the Jackson Zoning Ordinance were recommended to encourage housing diversity. The work of the Committee continues and we hope to see more results of their efforts in the coming months.

Other Planning Board activity in 2018 was light. Most notable in the approval of one subdivision application was the lack of clarity in the Zoning Ordinance as to what constitutes a private road. Warrant articles for changes to the ZO will be presented at Public Hearing to be voted on at the Town Meeting.

Planning Board efforts for 2019 will include a follow up initiative started in 2018 to ensure we protect water quality and a Capital Planning process to meet the mandated responsibility of the Planning Board. I am pleased to acknowledge the efforts of Planning Board Members in 2018, especially Scott Badger, Vice Chair and Betsey Harding, Secretary, who have stepped up to lead and represent the Planning Board on the Housing Committee, and the continued efforts of Dick Bennett, Kathleen Dougherty, Sarah Kimball, and Chris McAleer. The Board welcomes the addition of Huntley Allan as Alternate and hopes that we can encourage others to fill the remaining three Alternate positions to help with our efforts in the coming year.

William Terry
Chairperson