

NEWARK, VERMONT

TOWN PLAN

September 17, 2012

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I. INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Title 24, VSA, Chapter 117, Section 4325 and 4381, the Newark Planning Commission has prepared this Municipal Development Plan. The goal of this plan is to provide recommendations and direction for future actions by all local, regional and state governmental agencies in regard to the future area development that may have an impact on the character of the Town of Newark.

In the preparation of this plan, the Newark Planning Commission has considered the following factors:

- Existing land use
- Community facilities, services and resources
- Natural resource factors
- Population
- Inputs and opinions of the taxpayers of Newark
- Newark citizen inputs and feedback collected during the 2008 Newark Land-Use Investigation (carried out with the Northeast Vermont Development Association under a grant from the State of Vermont)

It is important for the citizens of Newark to understand that this Newark Town Plan does not represent or include zoning bylaws or development regulations.

It is also important for the residents of Newark to know that all energy generation and transmission development that are linked to the electrical grid are approved and regulated by the State of Vermont through the Public Service Board under Act 30 V.S.A. Section 248. Town participation in the State's review process and current Town goals and objectives is the best way to ensure that the Town of Newark's goals and objectives are considered and weighed by the Public Service Board during the decision process.

After it is approved (locally and regionally), Newark's town plan will become an important tool in protecting the town's interests in development hearings (such as Act 250 hearings) to which the Town of Newark is a party.

A. Vision Statement

Newark is a rural town with a beautiful natural setting. Woodlands, open fields, hills, scenic vistas, clean water and air, and clean streams and pristine ponds make Newark a unique and pleasant community to visit and live in. The environment is clean and healthy.

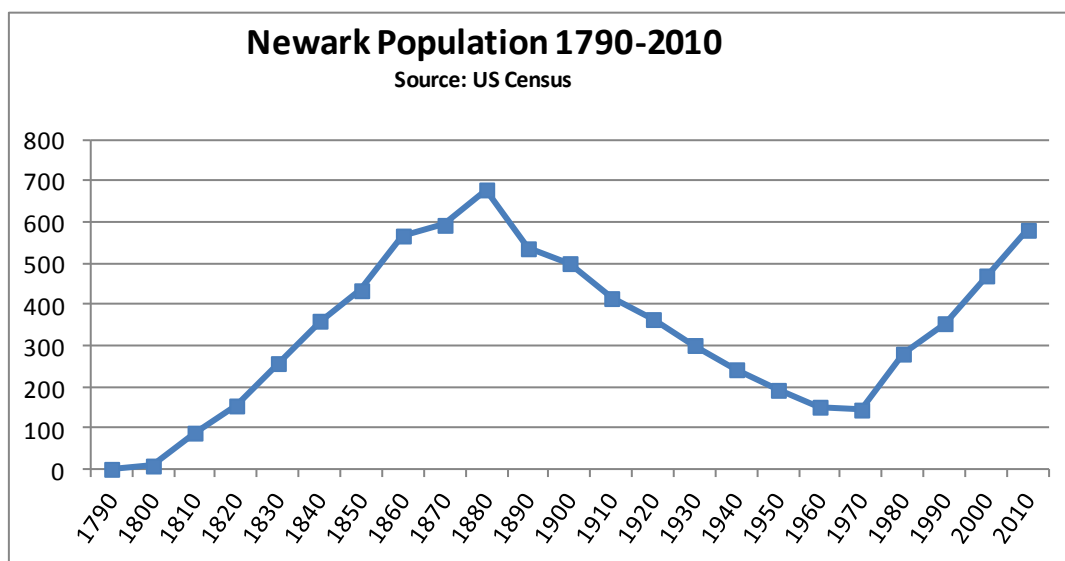
It is these characteristics which the Town of Newark intends to protect and preserve.

B. Newark Profile

Newark is the northernmost town in Caledonia County. Its square outline is set diagonally across a north-south ridge, leaving the east and west corners in valleys. A land cover analysis of Newark's 37.24 square miles shows that over 90% of the town is forested.

Newark Land Cover	
Forested	92.6%
Open/Agricultural	5.8%
Developed	1.5%
Barren (usually sand/gravel pits & bald peaks)	0.1%

Its population peak of 697 was reached in 1880 and its 2010 population, according to the 2010 Census is 581. The median age in Newark rose from 39 years in 2000 to 48.5 in 2010. (One half the population was younger than 48.5 and one half was older). The statewide median age rose during the same period, but less steeply, from 38 to 41.5.



In 2010 Newark's median household income was \$49,375 (versus a statewide median income of \$51,841). (American Community Survey 2010-5year estimates).

In the year 2010 nearly fifty percent of Newark's 576 housing units were used as seasonal/recreational houses or camps. (284 out of 576 total housing units).

Newark was chartered on August 15, 1781 to William Wall along with 69 other shareholders by the then Republic of Vermont. James Ball is said to be the first settler, having cleared the land in 1795 and settled with his family in 1797. The 1875 map of Newark shows 13 school districts. By 1950 the number of schools had been reduced to two and today Newark supports only one school, located in the center of the town on Newark Street.

C. Newark Town Government

Newark is governed by a 3-member selectboard elected to staggered terms by the voters. The

selectboard is responsible for preparing the town's budget, setting policy, administering town finances, and a variety of related duties. The town also has a Town Clerk and Treasurer, plus an Assistant Treasurer/Clerk, hired by the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk and staff maintain regular hours in the town office building.

Like most small Vermont communities Newark is heavily dependent upon volunteers to carry out many governmental duties. In addition to members of the selectboard, several dozen local residents are elected or appointed to serve on boards and committees and to represent Newark on state and regional boards and associations. This dedication and sense of duty helps define our community and keeps local institutions open and accessible.

D. Soil, Bedrock And Slope

According to a General Soil Map by the Soil Conservation Service over half of Newark's land falls into one or more of the following four categories:

- 1) Unfavorable depth to bedrock, less than 20 to 40 inches,
- 2) Excess soil wetness,
- 3) Unfavorable topography, mainly excessively steep slope, and
- 4) Unfavorable rate of movement of water through soil.

These factors leave relatively little acreage suitable for dense or even sparse housing development. Furthermore, in 2007, the State of Vermont took delegation of all enforcement of local potable water and wastewater systems. The state strengthened regulations. Systems that were previously considered exempt from state regulation may now require a permit. (See *Environmental Protection Rules, Chapter 1, Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules, Effective Sept. 29, 2007.*) Some activities that may now require a permit include: construction of single-family residences; construction or modification of a wastewater system or potable water supply; making alterations to an existing structure that increases design flows or operational requirements, new connections to an existing wastewater system or potable water supply, subdivisions of land; and repair and replacement of a failed wastewater system or potable water supply.

The Town of Newark should cooperate with local and state regulators to assure that all future development meets state and federal regulations.

E. Newark's Neighbors

The towns of Westmore, Ferdinand, Sutton, Burke, East Haven, and Brighton border Newark. These towns are also rural in nature. Westmore, Sutton, Burke, Brighton, and the Unified Towns and Gores (of which Ferdinand is a part) have town plans that are very similar in content to Newark's. In addition, these neighboring towns have adopted zoning bylaws. Among Newark's neighbors, only East Haven has neither a town plan nor zoning bylaws.

While Newark's Town Plan shares visions and goals with regional plans and the plans of the surrounding towns, five of the six abutting towns regulate development more strictly than does Newark. Residents should be aware that this may make Newark attractive for development

activities that cannot pass muster under the zoning bylaws of neighboring towns. Residents should be particularly aware of the zoning districts that abut Newark:

- **Burke:** The area that abuts Newark is a low-density district called “Agricultural – Residential II.” The stated purpose of this district is to “maintain and preserve the agricultural character and scenic qualities of outlying areas while providing the opportunity for low-density residential housing, limited non-residential development and the continued operation and expansion of agricultural operations, forest management, and other resource based activities.” This district has a 5 acre minimum lot size. It should also be noted that this district does allow for commercial/industrial uses, such as earth extraction, heavy equipment yards, log and lumber yards, and truck terminals, although many of these uses are limited to Route 5. Much of the area in question is in a “Scenic Conservation Overlay,” (i.e., areas with an elevation of 1,500 feet or more), which gives the Burke Development Review Board a degree of discretion regarding clearing forested cover and landscaping when approving building sites. The town is currently contemplating the use of performance standards that might accommodate a broader array of industrial uses in this area.
- **Brighton:** The area that abuts Newark is characterized by forestry and agriculture, as well as camps and scattered homes, which rely on onsite water and wastewater disposal. There are limited roads and electrical infrastructure in this district, and the soils tend to have limited capacity to support onsite wastewater disposal. The town of Brighton considers many areas of this district to have “great scenic values that would be lost, if the land were overdeveloped.” The “Rural Lands” district (minimum 5 acres) is largely single-family dwellings and camps, although earth extraction is permitted. While not mandatory, there are provisions for planned residential development.
- **Ferdinand:** The area that abuts Newark is wooded with no public road access. (Commercial, industrial, and residential development is restricted to 500 feet of the centerline of publicly owned and maintained roads.) Ferdinand is part of the Unified Towns and Gores, which has a Conservation Overlay for areas with hydric soils and wetlands, slopes greater than 20%, critical natural wildlife habitat, and areas over 2,500 feet in elevation.
- **Sutton:** The area that abuts Newark is considered “rural,” which according to the land use objectives of the district, provides for “limited residential development” and activities that are deemed compatible with agriculture and forestry. Manufacturing and commercial uses are approved conditionally. The maximum allowable density abutting Newark is two acres.
- **Westmore:** The town’s zoning has two minimum lot sizes: 20,000 sq. ft. for shoreland development, and 40,000 sq. ft. for all other. The town is zoned for very limited commercial development. The commercial development that is allowed (conditionally) is largely related to retail and hospitality industries.

The Town of Burke and the State of Vermont are presently reviewing a major Burke Mountain

Ski Area development plan that includes over one thousand living units, hotels and other commercial buildings and businesses. The Burke Mountain development may have future impacts on Newark's citizens and the town. This possibility should be studied and reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Newark Selectboard and the Newark Planning Commission.

The Newark Selectboard and Newark Planning Commission are active in keeping current with the area's development plans and issues by participating in monthly planning meetings and by attending various planning related workshops offered by such agencies as the State of Vermont, the Northeastern Vermont Development Association (NVDA) and the Vermont League of Cities and Towns. Newark supports the NVDA and stays abreast of regional development plans and issues.

II. PUBLIC BUILDINGS, LANDS, AND HISTORIC BUILDINGS

The Town of Newark owns four buildings: Newark Street School, Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, and Town Garage. These buildings are situated on a twelve-acre parcel located just north of the crossroads of Newark Street (TH 1) and Schoolhouse Road (TH 17 & 27).

The Town Clerk's Office was built in 1973-1974, has 560 square feet of floor area, is handicap accessible, and has electric heat. The building has been maintained well and is in fair condition. It consists of three rooms: the clerk's office, the document vault, and the conference room. The conference room is used for meetings of the selectboard, listers, planning commission, and other town groups. The conference room is also used for Election Day polling.

The Newark Street School was constructed in 1980 and a description of it will be found under Education.

The Town Garage was constructed in 1986. It is a 40 x 100 foot, five-bay metal structure housing the Newark Volunteer Fire Department, and the town's road equipment.

The oldest building owned by the town is the Town Hall which is in poor condition. The lower level has been converted into a recycling center. A new asphalt paved floor was laid and new doors were installed in 1990 and 1996. A new roof was installed in 1997 and the building was repainted in 2007. These improvements were made possible by private donations and by bottle monies provided by the recycling center.

The State of Vermont owns and operates the Bald Hill Fish Hatchery.

The Town has three cemeteries. Packer Cemetery is the oldest and has no land for future burials. Land was recently purchased for the future expansion of the Pleasant View Cemetery. There is also an old family cemetery located on VT. Route 114 (Island Pond Road).

The Newark Union Church was built in 1862 and is owned by the pew holders. The building is in good condition thanks to grants and donations. A new roof was installed in 1997 with the help of a grant from the Vermont Preservation Trust. In the last few years the building has been rewired, painted, and had new windows installed. The Bicentennial Committee landscaped the grounds in 1991. The church is used for Newark's annual Old Home Day celebration in July and

for a non-denominational Easter service. The Newark Balkan Chorus has performed in the church many times and the acoustics are excellent. It has been used by the school for programs and graduation. The church is also available for weddings and funerals.

The area adjacent to the Town Hall is used as a town park. It has a paved area for a basketball/volleyball court. It also has a covered picnic area. The park is used annually for the fire department chicken Bar-B-Q and flea market on Old Home Day.

The town also owns (in conjunction with the Vermont Land Trust, Inc. and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board) land at the north end of Center Pond and the development rights on the entire east side of Center Pond. These lands and development rights were acquired in 1995 as part of the Center Pond Project in order to provide open spaces, a beach, camping areas, and hunting areas for present and future generations of Newark residents. Students from the Newark Street School help maintain walking trails through the Center Pond area. This area has been overseen in the past by the Center Pond Natural Resources Committee composed of residents and camp owners. A member of the selectboard and a member of the Planning Commission serve as ex officio members of the Committee. The Committee has been inactive during the past decade.

A. Problems

- Ongoing need for preservation and improvement of the old Town Hall
- The present inactive status of the Town Preservation/Center Pond Natural Resources Committee
- The aging of the Town Clerk Office and the Town Garage/Fire Department facilities

B. Actions

- Encourage continued landscaping and improvement projects involving the Town Hall, Church and Town Clerk's Office.
- Re-activate the Center Pond Natural Resources Committee or a more general Town Preservation/Conservation Committee.
- Encourage the town to take appropriate actions to preserve the Town Hall, church, and the natural beauty and wildlife of the town.
- Evaluate the present condition and future needs of the Town Clerk's office and the Town Garage/ Fire Department facilities.

III. EDUCATION

The Newark Street School is a public school, serving students in grades K-8. The school moved from a single, one-room schoolhouse to its current site at 1448 Newark Street in 1980, when a

new wood frame school was built. The original building was two stories, with 3 classrooms on the ground floor and a multipurpose room with kitchen upstairs. In 1997, work was completed on an addition to the building. The current building has 4 classrooms, a library, an office, nurse's room, activity room, kitchen and a community room complete with basketball court.

Enrollment at the school experienced steady growth over the years and reached a peak in 1996-1997 with 75 students in attendance. Enrollment returned to the high 50s and 60s for a number of years. Currently there are 53 students enrolled.

The Newark Street School, along with other Vermont schools, has adopted a standards-based approach to teaching. The New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) is administered to grade three and grade eight students in all Vermont schools. The results are used to guide instruction. Newark students have scored above the state average and continue to show improvements over time.

The school provides a wide range of programs for students, despite its small size. In addition to the core subject areas, the school offers classroom music, instrumental music, physical education, art, guidance counseling, and a library. Nursing services are provided by certified specialists on a part-time basis. Access to the Internet is available through a local area network. The school has a part-time principal, special educator, secretary, and aide services for students in need. The school provides a bus for transporting students to and from school. The school also provides a breakfast and lunch program.

The Safe Schools Healthy Students federal grant received by the Caledonia North Supervisory Union (CNSU) has funded security measures at Newark Street School as well as student services. The CNSU After-School Program provides a safe and healthy on-site learning experience for children after regular school hours.

The Newark Street School is a member of the Vermont Rural Partnership. The Partnership is a non-profit organization dedicated to sustaining rural schools and rural communities. Funded by private grant funds, the Partnership supports community involvement in schools and school involvement in the community. In May and June 2009 students and community members constructed an outdoor bread oven. Newark Street School has a co-op relationship with the Burke Mountain Skiing Program. Place-Based Learning programs in science and social studies provide opportunities for students to learn about their town and utilize the resources it has to offer.

A propane-fired electric generator was installed at the school, improving its ability to serve as an emergency site for the town.

The Newark Street School is a vital community resource. It serves as the center for civic programs and activities, is a source of pride for residents, and is essential to the town's community identity.

Lyndon Institute is the designated high school for Newark Students. Transportation to and from the school is the responsibility of parents.

A. Problems

- Lack of federal and state funding for increased educational mandates
- Continued rising cost of education and the increasing education tax burden imposed by the state

B. Actions

- Encourage the School Board to continue their fine efforts in the following areas:
 - Maintaining a cost effective school budget
 - Maintaining the high quality of our children's education
 - Ensuring that the school facility meets not only the short term, but also the long term needs of Newark's children
- Encourage the continued participation in school activities and events by the town's residents.
- Encourage the School Board to maintain the rural character of our present school system.

IV. TRANSPORTATION

Transportation planning is vital for a community. It has a fundamental impact on land use development; provides for the movement of people and goods within the community; and provides connections among homes, community facilities and destinations beyond the community. The main goal of the transportation policy in Newark is to provide a safe, efficient and convenient network of roads for all Newark residents and visitors.

At the present time, there are 43.427 miles of public road in Newark, consisting of Class 1, 2, 3, and 4 highways. Of the 43.427 miles of public road, 5.10 miles are Class 4 highways, which although publicly owned rights of way, are not maintained by the town. In addition to public roads, the Land Use Investigation Project identified 20.265 miles of private roads in Newark.

Property owners may request that the town maintain their Class 4 highways. It is Newark's policy to consider such a request if:

1. The property owners, at their own expense, upgrade the road to meet the state's Class 3 standards
2. The property owners transfer ownership of the road to the town.
3. The property owners give permission to the town to enlarge the road.

The mileage breakdown is:

Class 1 - State Highways	6.097
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Class 2 - Newark Street	6.880
<u>Class 3 - Town Highways</u>	<u>30.450</u>
Total	43.427

State Route 5A runs from the Newark/Sutton town line to the Westmore/Newark town line in a north/south direction. State Route 114 runs north/south from the Newark/East Haven town line to the Newark/Brighton town line. The only paved town highway is Newark Street, which runs from the Burke/Newark town line to the Bald Hill Fish Hatchery. All other town highways are gravel.

Appropriated funds and FEMA grant money have been used to upgrade and improve Newark's gravel roads. The improvements include extensive ditching, new culverts, and new surface gravel. It is felt that the existing road network and maintenance programs serve the town's citizens adequately at the present time. The town continues to apply for grant monies to aid with the cost of road maintenance. The town follows the state's recommendations for gravel road construction and maintenance. New roads (for a subdivision, for example) will be considered for acceptance by the town only if they meet minimum Class 3 Standards as defined by Vermont Statute. A developer or property owner must receive the town's permission before connecting a new road to an existing town road.

The town has no sidewalks, so care and caution should be at the utmost when walking along our roads.

Access permits, or curb cuts, allowing new driveways/roads to access town roads are available at the Town Clerk's Office for a small fee. In order to assure that no damage is done to town highways, new connections to town highways require approval by the town. Vermont Transportation Department approval is required to access State Highways.

Currently, there are few alternatives that would allow residents to become less dependent on motor vehicles. Rural Community Transit (RCT) is a non-profit transportation group that serves a wide range of passengers through a variety of programs. RCT coordinates medical trips for Medicaid-eligible persons and also provide services for area social service agencies. RCT relies on a volunteer driver network and, as demand increases, so does the need for volunteers.

The Vermont Agency of Transportation has developed a free resource called **Go Vermont** (govermont.org) to help people reduce their transportation costs through carpooling, vanpooling and ride sharing.

Newark is conducting research on ancient roads within the town. These are roads that were laid out by town officials at some point in the past, but fell out of use over time. Recent state legislation which gave towns a limited amount of time to identify and reclaim these roads has expired.

The town garage, which houses the town highway equipment and the fire department vehicles, is located just north of the Newark Street School.

The Road Commissioner is elected at Town Meeting annually and maintains the town highways, working closely with the selectboard.

The Newark E-Z Riders snowmobile club maintains a network of snowmobile trails in Newark. The trails are part of a state-wide network overseen by the Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST). Snowmobile trails may intersect town roads at designated crossings, but town ordinance prohibits operating a snowmobile on a town road. All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) are also prohibited from town roads.

Newark has an ordinance forbidding the moving of snow from a driveway onto a town road (a practice that can create hazardous conditions for drivers). It is town policy to leave a road unplowed if all the homes on that road are unoccupied in the winter.

A. Problems

- Increasing traffic - as more homes and camps are constructed, traffic and road wear increases. Speeding is a major problem as is increased truck traffic.
- Lack of Public Transportation - The majority of residents who are employed must drive to their place of employment. Car-pooling is difficult due to varied hours and home locations.
- Maintenance - brush cutting along the highways is a never-ending process, as is resurfacing the gravel roads and Newark Street paving.
- Development that requires new roads increases the town's road maintenance burden.

B. Actions

- Encourage development to occur along present roads and discourage development that requires new roads to be built.
- Review the adequacy of speed limits and improve the visibility of speed limit signs.
- Support state, regional, and local transportation alternatives such as RCT and Go Vermont.
- Consider widening current roads to allow year-round maintenance as more homes are built.

V. FIRE PROTECTION

Fire Protection for the town is provided by the dedicated volunteers of the Newark Volunteer Fire Department. The department has two tanker trucks, an equipment trailer (purchased new in

2009), and a Chevrolet Tahoe, which is used for medical calls and for towing the trailer. This equipment is kept in the east end of the town garage. The trucks and fire station are all equipped with two-way radios. The space occupied by the Fire Department is heated so that the equipment is available for year-round use. The volunteers use personal paging devices to enable them to be on call 24 hours a day. The department was awarded a FEMA grant in 2004 for its first new truck.

Dispatching is managed by the St. Johnsbury Dispatch system, which is manned 24/7. The fire department's recent equipment acquisitions have brought about an upgrade of Newark's fire protection classification by the insurance underwriting organizations from a class 10 (towns with no protection) to class 9. The new classification enables property owners to obtain insurance at a lower cost.

The department has entered into mutual aid agreements with two mutual aid organizations. One is the "Northeast Mutual Aid," which includes the six towns on Newark's southerly borders, and the other is the "Northeast International Mutual Aid Systems", which includes those towns on the northerly borders. Newark is part of mutual aid systems involving 25 other fire departments.

The department has currently 6 EMTs and 1 EMT-I on its roster, with more in training. Our department assists in staffing Lyndon Rescue's Brighton facility, providing faster response to those Newark residents in the northern end of town. The town's EMTs are qualified to work with Lyndon Rescue.

The past performance of the department has been exceptional. The town's goal is to assure that the department can sustain its level of excellence.

The town appropriates funds for department operations. The department raises additional funds through an annual Chicken BBQ, an annual Chicken Pie Supper, and the generous donations of residents and property owners.

A. Problems

- Development of year-round and seasonal homes
- Development along Class 4 roads
- Gated or barred private roads
- Future commercial/industrial development
- Commercial and residential use of hazardous materials
- Enrolling community members in the fire department
- The availability of private or public water holes and water supplies
- Major changes in the status of fire departments within our mutual aid systems

- Crowded conditions at the town garage and fire department
- Increased costs

B. Actions

- Evaluate the present condition and future needs of the Newark's Fire Department facilities.
- Encourage community support for the Newark Volunteer Fire Department.
- Seek out state, federal, and private grants and donations for its operation.
- Encourage landowners and developers to consider the department's ability to respond when planning, building, and logging.

VI. POLICE PROTECTION

Newark police services are provided by two part-time constables who are elected each year at Town Meeting. The constables are paid only for services performed for the town, which are typically initiated by local complaints about violations of town ordinances or state statutes.

In addition, the town is offered 24-hour coverage by the Vermont State Police based in St. Johnsbury. The town also has the option of contracting directly with the Caledonia County Sheriff's Department for additional coverage on a per hour basis. Newark currently has no contract with the Sheriff's Department and therefore receives no coverage from their personnel.

Copies of the town ordinances are available at the Town Clerk's Office.

A. Problems

- Traffic control, speeding, vandalism, and burglary
- Decreased commitment by the State Police in their coverage of rural communities
- Changes in the state statutes regarding training and liabilities of constables

B. Actions

- Encourage citizens to report suspicious activities to the appropriate law enforcement agencies (e.g., State Police, Crime Stoppers, town constables, and/or the Fish and Game Department).
- Encourage State Government to increase State Police funding for better coverage in rural areas.

VII. EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Town of Newark is served by Lyndon Rescue, Inc., an ambulance service, which is located at Lyndon State College. Lyndon Rescue's board consists of one person from each of the towns it serves. In addition to providing emergency ambulance service, Lyndon Rescue can also transport patients from one medical facility to another (e.g., from Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital to the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire).

Many Newark residents use Corner Medical in Lyndonville, Island Pond Health Care and medical offices in St. Johnsbury for their health care. The nearest pharmacies are located in Lyndonville and St. Johnsbury. Eye care is available in St. Johnsbury and dental services are provided in Lyndonville and St. Johnsbury. The nearest hospital is Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital in St. Johnsbury. The Dartmouth-Hitchcock Advance Response Team (DHART) can transport patients to the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center or any other facility in New England. There are additional medical and hospital facilities nearby in Newport, Vermont and Littleton, New Hampshire.

The town has implemented the Enhanced 911 Program. All roads have been named and signs indicating their names have been erected. All homes have been numbered. This facilitates quicker response by emergency vehicles. New house numbers are assigned by the Newark Volunteer Fire Department. The department will also provide reflective house number signs for a small fee.

The Newark Volunteer Fire Department can provide emergency medical services (see Fire Protection on page 10). The department can provide the first response to a 911 call. Any necessary follow up can be provided by Lyndon Rescue. The fire department has a portable defibrillator and a basket to transport patients when vehicle access is not available. The department's work has been praised by Lyndon Rescue.

Newark, along with 23 other area communities, belongs to Local Emergency Planning Committee 9 (www.lepc9.org). The LEPC develops response and mitigation plans for a variety of natural and man-made disasters including floods, hazardous material spills, wildfires, snow storms, and terrorism.

Newark does not participate in the National Flood Insurance Plan and does not administer flood hazard regulations. As a result, flood insurance is not available to Newark residents and FEMA pre-disaster mitigation funding is not available to the town.

A. Problems

- Homes and camps can be hard to find.
- Flood insurance is not available.
- Newark is not eligible for FEMA pre-disaster mitigation funding.

B. Actions

- Assure that all roads have their names posted clearly.
- Encourage property owners to display house numbers on their houses and camps.
- Investigate the feasibility of participating in the National Flood Insurance Plan.
- Investigate the eligibility requirements for FEMA funding.

VIII. WASTE MANAGEMENT

Newark maintains a solid waste transfer facility in an enclosed area adjacent to the former Town Hall. The first floor of the building has been converted to a recycling center/transfer station where the town is recycling glass, steel cans, plastic, corrugated cardboard, newspapers, junk mail, aluminum cans and other materials. Solid waste is removed weekly by a local contractor and disposed of by the contractor at the Waste U.S.A. landfill in Coventry, Vermont.

The town's recycling program has adopted the state's ambitious goal of recycling 50% (by weight) of its solid waste. The program has widespread community support and the town is presently recycling approximately 30% of its solid waste.

Newark's transfer facility is open Saturday, 8 A.M. to Noon and Sunday, 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. Residents are required to bring recycling in order to avoid paying a trash disposal fee.

The Town of Newark is a member of the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District and works in cooperation with the District to manage the solid and hazardous wastes in accordance with the District's Solid Waste Implementation Plan.

Newark residents may dispose of metal, batteries, oil, and other materials at NKWMD's facility in Lyndonville. Newark also sponsors a Bulky Day annually when residents may dispose of tires, appliances, furniture and other approved items at the NKWMD facility.

A. Problems

- Illegal dumpsites, open burning of trash, and improper disposal of hazardous waste
- Junk cars
- Increasing cost of waste disposal

B. Actions

- The town and its residents should continue to support and assist the state in enforcing waste disposal laws.
- Owners of junk vehicles should be encouraged to dispose of them or to store them in

environmentally safe, fenced enclosures.

- The town should encourage residents to reduce the volume of solid waste by reducing their use of disposable items, reusing items whenever possible, and recycling all possible items after their last use.

IX. ENVIRONMENTAL

Residents and property owners treasure Newark's rural character and the way of life it enables. Survey respondents in the 2008 Newark Land-Use Investigation said they valued Newark's clean air and water, peace and quiet, scenery, and undeveloped lands. They also value Newark's ponds, streams, agricultural lands, forests, and the recreational and economic opportunities that they provide.

A vast majority (over 80%) of survey respondents indicated concern about the effects of development on their quality of life and expressed opposition to industrial and commercial development, large-scale housing development, clear cutting, and the establishment of waste dumping sites near their property. A majority of respondents favored acquisition of land by the town and 75% of the respondents favored regulation of development by the town in order to preserve its rural atmosphere.

The town is concerned about plans for major development within Newark and in neighboring towns. Since most area towns regulate development more strictly than Newark, Newark may find itself vulnerable to types of development that surrounding towns find undesirable. These developments could threaten the environment and quality of life that Newark residents value.

The town's goal is to assure that future generations may enjoy a high quality of life, economic and recreational opportunities, abundant clean water, clean air, healthy habitat for fish and wildlife, picturesque landscapes, and peace and quiet.

While it is the intention of the citizens of Newark to preserve the scenic beauty and quality of wildlife habitat in all areas of the town, lands that the town places special value upon for scenic, wildlife, and recreational importance include:

- The ridgeline historically known as Hogback Mountain, which consists of Walker Mountain, Hawk Rock, and Packer Mountain
- The high-elevation areas along Newark Street, Abbott Hill Road, Pinnacle Road, Spruce Ridge Road, Maple Ridge Road, and Kinney Hill Road
- The town's ponds including Newark Pond, Center Pond, Beck Pond, Walker Pond, Sawdust Pond, and Brown Pond
- The towns rivers and streams including the East and West Branch of the Passumpsic, Bean Brook, Sleeper Brook as well as the smaller tributaries, wetlands, and vernal pools

These natural resources provide economic, recreational, and aesthetic benefits to both residents and visitors. Development that would compromise these benefits is inappropriate and inconsistent with the town's vision and goals.

The town encourages sensible and sustainable use of Newark's lands and natural resources, the protection of wildlife habitat and fragile natural features, and the preservation of the town's rural character.

The town will support efforts to identify and protect fragile elements of the environment, identify factors that may impact the environment, and promote awareness of good environmental practices. The town sees enrollment of land into the state's Current Use Program as a way to avert some environmental problems and the town encourages land owners to learn more about the program. Current Use provides property tax relief to owners of large parcels of forest and agricultural land in exchange for the landowner's commitment to abide by certain development restrictions. The objectives of Current Use are to keep Vermont's agricultural and forest land in production, help slow the development of these lands, and achieve greater equity in property taxation on undeveloped land.

The Vermont Department of Taxes 2010 Annual Report shows that 7,247 acres of Newark land were enrolled in the current use program—about 31% of Newark's land area. (Statewide, over 2,000,000 acres are enrolled in the program—about 1/3 of Vermont's total land area.)

The state has posted more information about the Current Use Program at www.state.vt.us/tax.

The town will acquire land when appropriate (through gifts or reasonable purchase); support conservation groups that seek easements on sensitive parcels; and work, through both regulatory and non-regulatory means, to assure that development does not have a negative impact upon the character of the town, despoil its environment, or adversely affect wildlife habitat.

A. Clean Air

Newark enjoys clean air. There are presently no industrial sources of air pollution in Newark. The primary sources of air pollution are cars and trucks, open fires (brush and rubbish), and wood-fired heating systems.

Outdoor wood-fired boilers (OWBs) have been a cause for concern because many older models generate considerable pollution. According to the state, older OWBs produce many times more pollution than indoor woodstoves. Responding to complaints about OWBs, the State of Vermont began regulating them in 1997 and tightened regulations in 2007 and again in 2010. Residents should be aware that the state often enforces these regulations retroactively; installations that were in compliance when they were installed, may no longer be in compliance.

The state maintains a website, vtwoodsmoke.org, explaining OWB regulations and listing equipment certified for use in Vermont.

The town recommends that property owners consider their proximity to neighbors when selecting a site for an OWB and recommends that all wood-burning equipment be maintained

and operated properly. The town will discourage any proposed land use that would have a negative impact on air quality.

B. Sensitive Wildlife Habitat

Newark contains many areas that are environmentally sensitive. Even minor degradation of these areas can have ripple effects that are surprising in scope. The town has a diverse landscape that includes fields, forests, ponds, streams, wetlands, ridgelines, and slopes. Each element of the landscape plays a part in sustaining the diversity of plant and animal life, which in turn, support traditional activities such as hunting, fishing, and foraging.

Newark values its ridgelines and other high elevation areas and recognizes the great importance of these areas to both resident and migratory wildlife. Therefore commercial and industrial development at elevations greater than 1700 feet should be strictly avoided. The town discourages land development including the construction of roads and extension of utilities at these elevations with the exception of activities related to non-commercial recreation, forest management, camps, and single-family residences.

Newark's ponds and streams support populations of wild and stocked fish. Wetlands, road and field edges provide critical habitat for a variety of species. Newark's mix of habitat types and large contiguous tracts of undeveloped land provide ideal habitat for deer, moose, and bear.

The State of Vermont has included many of the town's wetlands in its inventory of significant wetlands. These areas are located primarily around Newark's ponds and along the streams that feed the Clyde River and the East and West Branches of the Passumpsic River. State law affords these areas special protection.

The State of Vermont has identified two deer wintering areas in Newark in the dense stands of softwoods that slope down to Bean Brook and Roundy Brook. These areas also provide winter food for a number of other species including porcupines, hares, fox, fisher, coyotes, and bobcat.

Potential threats to Newark's wildlife populations are:

- Subdivision and development, which can impinge upon core habitat areas and interrupt seasonal travel corridors
- Air and water pollution
- Failure to follow best practices when extracting renewable and finite natural resources
- Illegal trapping, hunting, and fishing
- The introduction of invasive, non-native species

The town encourages loggers and landowners to follow the recommendations provided by the State of Vermont in its publications *Wildlife Habitat Management for Vermont Woodlands*, *a Landowner's Guide* and *Management Guide for Deer Wintering Areas*. Both publications are available from the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (vtfishandwildlife.com).

The town encourages landowners who wish to subdivide or develop their land to consider forest contiguity and wildlife travel corridors in their planning.

C. Peace And Quiet

Newark is quiet due to its sparse population, its lack of industrial development, and the absence of major throughways. Noise that negatively affects the quality of life in Newark and any proposed land use that would generate excessive noise should be discouraged.

Visitors are often overwhelmed by the clear view of the night skies that Newark residents enjoy. Poorly designed outdoor lighting can obscure the night sky. The town encourages residents to meet their outdoor lighting requirements in ways that do not interfere with viewing the night sky. An Internet search for *how to reduce light pollution* will provide a wealth of information on how to improve the effectiveness outdoor lighting systems while reducing their costs.

D. Problems

- Environmental degradation caused by poorly planned development, illegal disposal of waste, illegal burning, improper extraction of natural resources, and other human activities
- Threats to environmentally sensitive areas, plants, and animals
- Fragmentation of woodlands
- Property tax burdens that make it difficult for many land owners to hold onto large tracts of undeveloped land
- Unregulated development

E. Actions

- Promote awareness of environmental threats and warning signs.
- Promote awareness of best environmental practices and encourage residents to adopt them.
- Encourage residents to report illegal or unsound activities to the appropriate state or county agency.
- Encourage landowners to learn about the state's Current Use Program and support the town's efforts to acquire land and development rights in order to slow the fragmentation of woodlands.
- Explore methods of regulating growth and development that are effective and acceptable to the residents of Newark.

X. ENERGY

Energy is consumed in Vermont for transportation (32%), residential use (29%), and commercial and industrial use (39%). Since Newark has no major commerce or industry, energy use in the town is probably divided equally between the transportation and residential sectors.

Most residential energy is used for space heating and water heating. According to the 2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, roughly 60% of homes in Caledonia County were heated by fuel oil, 14% were heated by bottled, tank, or LP gas; 20% were heated with wood, and 3% had electric heat. By contrast, about 38% of Newark residents use wood as heating source. Many residents also use wood as an inexpensive supplementary heating source.

Residential electricity is the other major energy requirement in Newark. Most of the town receives its electricity from the Lyndonville Electric Department, which, in addition to purchasing power from major generators, operates two small hydro facilities (Vail and Great Falls) on the Passumpsic River. The northern quarter of Newark receives its electricity from the Vermont Electric Co-Op.

According to the Vermont Public Service Department, as recently as 2009, Lyndonville Electric residential customers paid less than the average residential rate payers in Vermont: \$0.141 per kWh vs. \$0.148 per kWh. There are several factors which could affect the future cost of electricity in Newark including:

- Large residential developments planned in neighboring towns
- The 2012 expiration of Entergy's contract with Vermont utilities
- Vermont Yankee's relicensing effort (Vermont Yankee currently provides 35% of Vermont's electricity)
- The phase-out of Hydro Quebec's contract with Vermont utilities (2012 through 2020)
- The resolution of controversies surrounding large-scale wind farms proposed for East Haven, Sheffield, and Lowell

The Northeast Kingdom of Vermont is now a net exporter of energy, it produces more than it uses. (The Moore, Comerford, and McIndoes Falls dams on the Connecticut River produce more electricity than the region consumes, but they are considered to be assets of New Hampshire.) Most of the money that Newark residents spend on energy leaves Vermont.

The town's objective is to improve energy efficiency and to reduce the number of energy dollars that leave the local economy.

The town encourages builders to adopt best energy practices in constructing new buildings. These practices include designing for passive solar heating, adequate insulation, and inclusion of Energy Star appliances. The Environmental Protection Agency maintains a website on "green building" at epa.gov/greenbuilding.

The town also encourages homeowners to upgrade the energy efficiency of their homes by weather stripping, insulating walls and attics, replacing leaky doors and windows, and replacing old appliances with Energy Star appliances. The state and federal governments offer a variety of incentives to homeowners in the form of rebates, tax deductions, and tax credits. Some manufacturers, dealers, and utilities also offer incentives. The websites energystar.gov, energy.gov/taxbreaks.htm, and efficiencyvermont.com describe some of these incentive programs.

A handful of residents have undertaken small-scale renewable energy projects (wind and solar electricity and solar hot water). Newark encourages these efforts. The state and federal governments offer incentives for renewable energy projects in the form of rebates, tax breaks, and net metering (whereby utilities buy electric power back from homeowners). Information about these programs is available at rerc-vt.org and dsireusa.org.

Newark's Energy Coordinator can provide additional information about the various incentive programs.

Newark residents have expressed concern over the impact of industrial development, fearing that it could destroy the character of the town. Therefore, industrial-scale power generation and transmission facilities are inappropriate in the town. This includes, but is not limited to, industrial-scale wind turbines and their associated transmission facilities. Development of industrial wind turbines generally occurs at higher elevations—often along ridgelines. In Newark, these areas are among the town's most sensitive ecological areas; most wild and unfragmented lands; and most prominent aesthetic landmarks, highly visible from conservation lands, scenic roads, and dwellings. Such facilities are inconsistent with the town's vision and goals.

A. Problems

- Increasing cost of energy
- Vermont energy dollars leave the state
- The potential of large-scale energy generation and transmission facilities to alter the character of the town and disturb residents' vision for the town

B. Actions

- Encourage residents to reduce energy requirements by adopting best residential practices.
- Promote awareness of local sources of energy and opportunities to employ renewable energy.
- Oppose plans to locate industrial scale generation and transmission facilities in Newark.

XI. WATER RESOURCES

The Town of Newark has neither a central public municipal water supply nor a municipal sewage disposal/treatment system. Few privately owned water systems serve more than one dwelling. There are no shared sewage disposal systems in Newark. Most water and sewage systems are dedicated to a single lot and make use of on-site water and septic systems.

The town does maintain a single source water system that provides drinking water to the Newark Town School, the Town Garage and the Town Clerk's Office.

The use of on-site systems has worked well in Newark and there are no plans to consider municipal systems in the near future. However, as Newark grows and changes, the town should be aware of potential problems in order to protect the health and wellbeing of its residents. The quality of ground and surface water is an issue of ever increasing importance to the town's residents.

Vermont's stormwater regulations require that the majority of stormwater be treated on site for any development that involves over one acre of disturbed land. Smaller developments, such as single-family homes, are exempt from State and federal stormwater regulations. Smaller developments, however, can have a cumulative impact on water quality.

Low Impact Development (LID) techniques mimic natural hydrologic processes. LID provides an alternative to conventional stormwater management techniques. LID can be employed at individual homes to minimize runoff and maximize infiltration. Techniques can be relatively simple – like creating rain gardens in low-lying areas to absorb runoff, or “disconnecting impervious surfaces,” e.g. downspouts drain into a yard, and not a driveway. The net result is fewer contaminants entering our lakes, rivers and streams. There has been some educational outreach on LID in the Northeast Kingdom. Although Newark has no zoning, landowners might benefit from outreach and education before they develop (or redevelop their lots).

The Department of Environmental Conservation presently regulates all waste and potable water systems in the State of Vermont. A Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Permit must be applied for and granted by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

As mentioned elsewhere in this plan, the ponds and streams within Newark's borders are irreplaceable assets. The preservation of their purity and esthetic beauty is a concern to Newark residents.

Information covering sewage systems and requirements are available through the Agency of Natural Resources and the Newark Town Clerk's Office.

The town's goal is to maintain or improve the quality of surface and ground water to ensure a safe, drinkable water supply and to maintain a high level of appreciation for the protection of the ponds and streams of Newark.

A. Problems

- Each resident and landowner has the ability to affect the quality of their own water resources as well as the water resources of others.

B. Actions

- Provide regulatory information concerning wastewater and potable water to Newark residents and interested parties.
- Provide educational and testing information for proper waste disposal and clean water to Newark residents and interested parties.
- Urge residents to inform town officials of any situation which might adversely affect the town's water resources.

XII. RECREATIONAL

Newark abounds with outdoor recreational opportunities: hiking, biking, boating, canoeing, camping, cross country and back country skiing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, golfing, hunting, and fishing.

Areas that provide public access for outdoor activities include:

Bald Hill Wildlife Management Area—This is a 932 acre area located in Newark and Westmore. It is owned by the State of Vermont and managed by the Fish and Wildlife Department. The area is open to hiking and skiing as well as hunting, fishing, and trapping (subject to state regulations).

Newark Pond and Center Pond—Both ponds provide opportunities for fishing and boating. Each pond has a state-maintained fishing access area for launching boats, canoes, and kayaks. Personal watercraft are not permitted on either pond. Both ponds support populations of stocked and wild fish. Center Pond feeds the East Branch of the Passumpsic River and Newark Pond is the source of the West Branch. Both streams have populations of native brook trout as well as fish stocked by the state's Fish and Wildlife Department.

Center Pond Project—The Town of Newark, working with the Vermont Land Trust, has protected nearly 700 acres of land abutting Center Pond from future development. The protected area includes 4,800 feet of shoreline. Of this, the town owns 113 acres with 950 feet of shoreline.

Newark Pond Natural Area—Forty-four acres on the southwest end of Newark Pond was acquired by the Nature Conservancy. The preserve was acquired to protect an island on which loons nest. In addition to the island, the preserve includes a hiking trail and 2,410 feet of the pond's shoreline.

The Northeastern Vermont Development Association provides two guides for bicycling in the Northeast Kingdom (nvda.net/Transp/documents). *Cycling in the Kingdom* includes a route from East Burke to Island Pond that travels along Route 114 through Newark. *Cycling the Kingdom's Back Roads* includes a route that enters Newark from the north on Abbott Hill Road and continues down Newark Street, Schoolhouse Road, and Maple Ridge Road.

The Vermont Association of Snow Travelers (VAST) is an association of local snowmobile clubs that includes the Newark E-Z Riders who maintain Newark's snowmobile trails. Since most snowmobile trails are located on private land, VAST relies on the generosity of landowners for the privilege of riding on their land. The Town of Newark does not permit snowmobiles to operate on town roads.

Use of all terrain vehicles is increasing in popularity. VASA (Vermont All-Terrain Vehicle Sportsman's Association) is an association of local ATV clubs. There are currently no VASA trails in Newark and ATVs are not permitted on roads or public lands in Newark. ATV operators must obtain landowner permission before using ATVs on private land.

Many landowners permit non-motorized traffic on their lands. Some landowners permit hunting and trapping. Abuse of landowner generosity has resulted in an increase in posted land. The Town of Newark encourages people to seek permission to access posted land and to respect the rights of landowners.

The town's goals are to:

- maximize opportunities for outdoor recreation including hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, and boating
- engage the town's children in the widest possible variety of outdoor educational and recreational activities
- provide opportunities for motorized sports that do not degrade the environment, violate the rights of property owners, or interfere with other recreational activities

A. Problems

- Increase in amount of posted private land
- Reduced appreciation of outdoor recreation
- Loss of recreational opportunities due to environmental degradation
- Conflicting uses of the same recreational resources

B. Actions

- Encourage owners of large tracts of undeveloped land to keep their land open to recreational uses.

- Discourage the behaviors (littering and dumping, unauthorized camping and campfires, use of motorized vehicles without permission, hunting too close to roads and residences) that cause landowners to post their land.
- Encourage people to seek landowner permission to access posted land.
- Encourage people to use safe, environmentally sound, and courteous practices while enjoying Newark's outdoor activities.
- Work with sporting groups such as VAST and VASA to assure that members follow regulations and thereby maintain good relations with landowners and townspeople.
- Promote school activities such as cross country skiing and hiking as well as activities that relate to forestry, wildlife management, fisheries management, and natural resources management.
- Pursue land acquisition by the town (by gift or purchase) to protect valuable natural resources and increase recreational opportunities.
- Explore the need and possibility of an ordinance to limit the size of motors used on the town's ponds.
- Explore the possibility of working with the Fish and Wildlife Department to identify and reserve an area for children under the age of 15 to fish.
- Work with the Fish and Wildlife Department to assure that fishing access areas are used only for their intended purposes and that they are not used in ways that disturb the peace.

XIII. RESIDENTIAL

According to 2010 Census, Newark's housing stock consisted of 576 units: 266 full-time residential units (for 581 residents), 284 seasonal or recreational units, and 26 vacant units. .

The State of Vermont uses median income to determine the costs of "affordable housing" in a location. In Caledonia County, the cost of affordable housing is calculated in the following manner:

Median household income for a family of four in Caledonia County (HUD 2011)	\$53,100
To determine moderate income status, multiply this figure by 80%	\$42,480
Divide this figure by 12 to determine monthly income	\$3,540
Multiply this figure by 30% to determine total monthly housing costs	\$1,062

Thus, housing in Newark is considered to be affordable if monthly housing costs (including rent, utilities, and condominium association fees) do not exceed \$1,062.

The town's goal is to maintain its rural, residential character, to work to maintain the affordability of housing, and to encourage builders to construct high quality, energy efficient, environmentally sound housing.

A. Problems

- Poorly planned housing development
- Increasing cost of maintaining housing stock
- Neglected or abandoned buildings
- Lack of housing for seniors

B. Actions

- Recognize the limitations of groundwater and soil capabilities and require proper installation of water and sewage systems.
- Explore the use of both regulatory and non-regulatory methods of managing growth and discouraging types of development that would alter the character of the town or strain the capabilities of local transportation, safety, and health systems.

- Establish a town committee to evaluate the town's future needs for affordable housing and housing for seniors.
- Promote federal and state programs for construction and improvement of Newark's stock of affordable housing and housing for seniors.

XIV. FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE

Forestry and Agriculture in Newark have always been closely linked. Early settlers cleared the woodland for homesteads and in so doing, used the wood for homes, fuel, and potash. The cleared land was then available for agricultural purposes, of which there were several over the next two centuries.

After a century and a half of vigorous agricultural activity, these endeavors began to decline. Much of the cropland however, is still being used for agricultural crops. Large farms in the neighboring Town of Sutton are keeping these lands open by growing some of their cattle feed here in Newark. Newark's last commercial dairy operation closed its doors in 2003. Much of the town's pastureland and marginal cropland have reverted to woodland.

Newark has always been heavily forested and its woodlands have been a reliable source of forest products. The increasing amount of woodland in Newark provides the potential for growth of the forest-based sector of the economy. Newark's woodlands are also valuable for wildlife and recreation.

A. Problems

- Use of unsound practices by landowners

B. Actions

- Encourage individual landowners to consider working with a knowledgeable forester to draw up a forestry plan, such plans should consider sustainable harvesting techniques, timber stand mix, and continuous renewal of the forest resource.
- Actively support and encourage the maintenance of the State of Vermont Use Value Appraisal Program (Current Use). This is one planning tool for insuring that land is kept in agricultural and forest production.

XV. COMMERCIAL

Newark's commercial activities at the present time are forestry, arts and crafts, individual home construction, and home occupations. Most residents commute to nearby towns to work.

Newark's goal is to maintain its unique rural atmosphere and natural scenic beauty, while encouraging the orderly and environmentally development of economic opportunities.

Residents of the Northeast Kingdom view the rural character of the region, its natural resources, and its large tracts of undeveloped land as its most valuable resource and vital to an economic future that is most compatible with their lifestyles, sensibilities, and preferences. The Town of Newark encourages development that preserves and makes use of these economic drivers, respects the natural environment, and improves the well-being of residents. The town regards development that would compromise the rural character of the town, its natural resources, and its large tracts of undeveloped land as inappropriate and inconsistent with the town's vision and goals.

The Town of Newark supports the NVDA's efforts to develop industrial parks that provide the infrastructure and services required for industrial development in the region. The town supports the NVDA's efforts to promote industrial development in these areas.

The Town of Newark regards large-scale industrial development as inappropriate within the town, preferring instead to support the NVDA's development efforts. In addition, Newark regards commercial or industrial structures that exceed 125 feet in height as inappropriate and inconsistent with the town's vision and goals.

A. Problems

- The small number of economic opportunities in the region can force property owners to sacrifice long-term benefits in order to meet short term needs.

B. Actions

- Encourage all forms of business with an emphasis on recreation, since Newark's greatest asset is natural beauty, woods, fields and unspoiled waterways. This makes recreation the most logical commercial venture with the best potential for growth. All forms of small, home-based business and agricultural activities should be encouraged
- As has been stated in this plan, the primary objective is to maintain the peaceful, rural atmosphere, and high quality of life that is enjoyed in Newark. That being understood, it is imperative that Newark develop a policy that would encourage commercial growth while not jeopardizing our standards or the environment.
- Encourage the development of small and home based businesses around the assets of the surrounding area (e.g., Burke Mountain, the many beautiful lakes and ponds, the hiking trails and facilities, etc.).
- Encourage the selectboard to provide a copy of the Town Plan, General Soil Map, and resource information to recipients of Building Information Forms.
- Encourage the selectboard and planning commission review each ACT 250 Notification for consistency with the town's overall objectives.

- Encourage the selectboard and planning commission represent Newark's interests and planning goals at state or neighboring town hearings involving commercial development that would or could have a negative impact on Newark's Town Plan's objectives and goals.

XVI. MAPS

The Town of Newark maintains an extensive library of maps that may be viewed at the town clerk's office.

The Vermont Center for Geographic Information (a public non-profit chartered by the State of Vermont) maintains a set of interactive mapping tools, available on-line at www.vcgi.org.

The following maps are attached to this document:

- General Highway Map
- Town of Newark, Vermont Map 1: Base Features
- Town of Newark, Vermont Map 2: Land Use/Land Cover

XVII. IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

Our recommended program for the implementation of Newark's Town Plan is:

- Ongoing: Increase Newark citizen awareness of Newark's Town Plan.
- Ongoing: Encourage the Selectboard to continue supporting a Newark Building Committee with focus on the future needs of Newark's Town buildings.
- 2012: Review the status/interest in reactivating and organizing a Town Preservation/Center Pond Natural Resource Committee.
- Ongoing: Support Newark's School Board in their efforts to maintain the high quality level of our children's education and to preserve the rural character of our present school system.
- Ongoing: Make information available to Newark's homeowners on how they can obtain street numbers for better identification of their homes by emergency services.

- Ongoing: Have the Town Clerk's Office continue to provide regulatory information concerning waste and potable water to all interested Newark residents.
- 2012: Review the need to establish a formal Town Committee focused on affordable and senior housing in Newark.