

REPORT OF THE PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board is responsible for the development and improvement of the Town's Zoning By-law and with the preparation of the Subdivision Rules and Regulations. Pursuant to the Subdivision Control Law, the Planning Board reviews proposed divisions of land and conducts public hearings on subdivision applications. As provided in our Zoning By-law, the Planning Board also reviews site plans for industrial or commercial uses and conducts public hearings for certain types of special permits.

The Planning Board meets the first Tuesday and third Monday of each month in its Town House office at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise stated.

The Planning Board consists of five members, each elected to a staggered five-year term. At its organizational meeting this year, the Planning Board elected Ann Sobolewski to the position of Chair and Brian Wick to the position of Clerk.

This year the Planning Board conducted several subdivision hearings and reviewed site plans for an industrial development in the vicinity of the Industrial Park. We also revised several sections of the Subdivision Rules and Regulations and are conducting an ongoing review of the Subdivision Rules and Regulations to identify areas for future improvement.

The Planning Board conducted public hearings related to the installation, and later the modification, of the town's second cellular communications tower at Main Street and County Road. In order to better address issues related to the siting of such telecommunications towers in town, Planning Board modified the cellular telecommunications section of the Zoning By-law at the 2002 Town Meeting. Unfortunately, following its review of the zoning amendment, the Attorney General's Office modified that By-law and, consequently, the Planning Board is again reviewing this section of the By-law in order to improve it.

The Planning Board remains involved in the review of the Industrial Park development. This year, we reviewed the Environmental Notification Form submitted to the MEPA unit of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs and will review the final Environmental Impact Report when it is filed with that office.

As Plympton continues to experience increased development pressures the scope and extent of the Planning Board's obligations are growing. For example, the Board is part of the recently formed Long Range Planning Task Force. The Task Force will be involved in devising overall development plans for the Town and seeks to obtain grant funding from the state to assist in that effort. The Planning Board looks forward to coordinating this effort and to aiding the community in addressing the issues presented by increased local development.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Sobolewski, Chair
Brian Wick, Clerk
Jack O'Leary
Allison Raines
John Rantuccio.