

REPORT OF THE WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Plympton launched its official web site, <http://town.plympton.ma.us>, in March of this year. The result of months of information collection and software development, the site contains over 300 pages of information about our community. Initial feedback has been extremely positive. Citizens can now go online and learn about various boards, departments and committees; better understand procedures for doing business with the town, determine fees and download forms; and view and schedule town and community events via the town calendar feature. Many of the town government pages are complete, and in the coming months we'll round out the site with community organization content.

The site was developed through hundreds of hours of volunteer work and at minimal cost to taxpayers. Boards, committees and departments worked hard with Web Committee members to develop the site content. Web Committee members quickly mastered site maintenance tools, and consolidated, edited and posted the material. The site software was designed and built - again on purely voluntary basis - by Devine & Pearson, a Quincy-based communications firm. Devine & Pearson's expert software developers worked closely with the Committee to create an eye-catching site that projects a warm, professional image of Plympton. The site is hosted at a substantially reduced rate by Fishnet NewMedia, a Plymouth Internet technologies company that also provided the town calendar and administration features free of charge.

One measure of Plympton's web site success will be how well it is received and used in the first few months. But a more important measure will be how fresh and useful it remains in the coming years. To that end, we need your help. We urge you to work with us to assure continuously accurate and meaningful content. The site is only as good as the content it displays, and that material must originate from government, community organizations and private citizens. The calendar feature is a wonderful tool for all citizens, but only if organizations continue to advise the Committee of events and meetings. And volunteers with basic HTML knowledge are always welcome to help us maintain the site! We can always be reached via email at: **webmaster@town.plympton.ma.us**.

Respectfully submitted,

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