

VISION AND OBJECTIVES

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The Community's Vision

In the course of researching and developing this Plan, a clear consensus appeared: Lisbon residents love their Town and want an effective Plan to help them protect its character while managing for the future. This desire is driven by an underlying concern that residential development may well accelerate over the ten-year Plan period and that further commercial growth is desirable but must be properly guided.

The intent of this Plan, then, is to reflect the sentiments and values of the community, as identified through public meetings, the efforts of other Town officials and agencies, volunteer efforts by residents, and in the comments received by members of the public throughout the Plan preparation.

These views and the research and background information developed for this Plan lead to the articulation of an overall vision to guide Lisbon through the next ten years and beyond:

Lisbon will guide future growth and change to

- *Protect its rural character,*
- *Provide a strong economic base, and*
- *Enhance the quality of life for its residents.*

To achieve this overall vision, this Plan identifies four guiding objectives, listed at the end of this Section, and a series of specific strategies for each objective. However, a plan can only work if it is put into action. If Lisbon is to preserve and protect those assets and qualities that make Lisbon a special place, then the community must not just adopt the Plan, but must implement it. That is the challenge Lisbon faces.

“We are proud that this quiet, rural community with an excellent and modern school system also offers cultural, recreational, commercial and retail opportunities in a modern and scenic setting.”

*Thomas W. Sparkman
First Selectman*

Community Interests

Several community meetings and exercises were held during the process of preparing this Plan to learn about issues important to Lisbon. These meetings involved Lisbon residents in thinking about the future of the community and developing Plan strategies. Three basic categories were defined to focus the considerations. The following table summarizes the results.

Conservation

Natural Environment Water quality, wetlands, forests, slopes, natural features

Historic Assets Stone Arch Bridge, John Bishop Museum, Keystone Bridge, other historic building and houses of worship

Natural / Scenic Resources Scenic Highways, Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers, Farmland

Development

Business Build on Lisbon Landing success, promote high quality retail and appropriate industrial development

Residential Housing Design to retain rural character, Ensure diversity of housing availability

Village Center Newent Center as Community focal point

Infrastructure

Future Municipal Needs Town Hall improvements; Fire Station; Town Public Works; Lisbon Meadows; Community Center.

Education Anticipate future school facility requirements or new school sites.

Transportation Adequacy of roads and intersections; public transportation needs; pedestrian access

Strengths

During the planning process, participants were asked to identify things in Lisbon that they:

- were the proudest of,
- felt were the most symbolic of Lisbon,
- felt should be recognized, or
- may want to protect or encourage.

Concerns

Similarly, participants were asked to identify the things in Lisbon that:

- they were the sorriest about,
- were the least symbolic of Lisbon,
- they feel need to be addressed, or
- they may want to change or discourage.



Based on a planning points exercise at a public workshop, residents in attendance ranked the importance of the issues listed above in the following order:

Issue	Topic	Percent of Votes
Community Character	Conservation	14
Open Space	Conservation	13
Community Facilities	Infrastructure	12
Business Development	Development	12
Historic Resources	Conservation	10
Natural Resources	Conservation	10
Residential Development	Development	9
Village Enhancement	Development	7
Housing Needs	Development	5
Pedestrian/Bicycle	Infrastructure	4
Utilities	Infrastructure	2
Vehicular Circulation	Infrastructure	1

Keystone Arch Bridge



“Everyone seems to like living in Lisbon ...”

Public meeting comment

Community Objectives

From these exercises, it was apparent that conservation issues were a high priority, residential and business development were important, and community facilities planning needed attention. Based on the overall vision for Lisbon, research and analysis, public comments, and discussions by the Planning and Zoning Commission, a set of challenging, yet achievable, objectives and strategies was characterized to organize this Plan.

The four guiding objectives of this Plan are:

- ❖ **Preserve Community Character.**
- ❖ **Establish an Efficient Town Center and Municipal Campus.**
- ❖ **Guide Residential Growth.**
- ❖ **Encourage Economic Development.**

These objectives and implementing strategies for each are discussed in Chapters 3 through 6 of this Plan. Chapter 7 provides a summary table of implementation strategies for each objective, and a graphic representation of a Future Land Use Plan based on the objectives and strategies provided.