

PLANNING BOARD

Richard F. Ladd, Chairman

The primary purpose of the Dalton Planning Board is to regulate the division and use of land within the town. The Dalton Planning Board is composed of five Dalton residents elected by the general public. An additional member is appointed by the Select Board to serve as an associate member. Monthly Planning Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month and additional meetings are held as required by the workload. All meetings are open to the public. The current quality of life and the “look” of Dalton is a tribute to the hard work by the many people who have donated their time and talents by serving as members of the Dalton Planning Board throughout the past fifty-three years.

This year was a busy year (as usual) for the Planning Board and a total of 27 meetings were conducted. The monthly meeting agendas usually included issues such as land division applications and providing information to the Board of Appeals regarding numerous petitions for special permits. Other projects such as the Silver Maple Farm subdivision application and the Berkshire Concrete Corporation operation off High Street required additional meetings. The Planning Board also devoted a great deal of time in 2003 to develop and implement a change in the Zoning Bylaws. This Zoning Bylaw addition, called Open Space Residential Development, permits a type of residential development that keeps at least one half of the land in the development area forever undeveloped. Permission to create lots one half the normal size can be granted (with conditions) by the Planning Board in exchange for the developer permanently protecting the other half of the land. The recently adopted Dalton Master Plan indicated residents of Dalton wished to allow for residential development but also wanted to retain the scenic beauty of Dalton. The Open Space Residential Development bylaw was implemented as a response to this objective. Dalton’s first OSRD development, “Silver Maple Farm,” is currently being constructed on the former Burgner farm property off Dalton Division Road.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Dalton Planning Board for their time and hard work in 2003. Without their help, and the help of many other volunteers serving on numerous other Committees and Boards in the Town of Dalton, our community would not be the special place that it is today.