

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 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. This person may take the place of an elected member in the event of a conflict of interest or other reason an elected member cannot fulfill his or her duties when the Planning Board is considering Special Permit applications. Monthly Planning Board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month and additional meetings are held as required by the workload. 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 Planning Board throughout the past fifty four years.

2004 was a busy year for the Planning Board. In addition to our 12 monthly meetings, a total of 11 other meetings, public hearings and meetings to address specific issues, were conducted. The monthly meeting agendas typically include issues such as land division applications, providing information to the Board of Appeals regarding petitions for special permits and providing information to the public. Ongoing projects such as the PineCrest Estates subdivision, the Silver Maple Farm subdivision, and the Berkshire Concrete Corporation operation off High Street were also agenda items of several meetings. The Planning Board has also been working to develop Zoning Bylaw changes that will further protect the curb appeal of properties in Dalton and help preserve the “small town” aspects of Dalton. The board is hopeful that these changes will be presented at a public hearing early next year and presented for approval by the residents of Dalton later in the year. The Planning Board has also been working with other town officials and boards to improve our business and commercial tax base while preserving the residential character of Dalton.

Congratulations to Russell Sears on his election to the board this year. Former board member Mary Lamke was appointed by the Select Board to fill the vacant Associate member position. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Dalton Planning Board for their time and hard work in 2004. 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.