

# Franklin Adopts Master Plan

BY J.D. O'GARA

After years in the making, Franklin's 2013 Master Plan was endorsed by Town Council on September 25, 2013, and formally adopted by the Planning Board on October 7, 2013.

"The last time it was done in Franklin was 1997," says Rep. Jeff Roy, who notes that "one of the things I was committed to doing before I finished my term on the Town Council was have the Master Plan fully completed, drafted, and approved, and hopefully, get an implementation team in place."

"Getting it done was something I'm very proud of," says Roy, "and I think the fact that we included the implementation plan and measurable benchmarks will make it a much more usable document. I don't think it's going to sit on a desk and gather dust."

The implementation team, he says, is "a vital component to making the Master Plan work, to have a team out there to monitor progress and make recommendations for town to focus on."

Roy explains that early on in the process, the council reworked the mission and vision statement for the town, bringing it up to date. Everything in

the plan refers back to the mission and vision statement. The entire 217-page document is available for viewing at the town website, but Roy explains that, for those who might not have time to take on the heavy reading, the 24-25-page implementation plan gives a good overview of what the larger document contains.

Some of the items it touches upon include encouraging work force housing and small business, and encouraging skilled workers to come to the town. In addition, the plan discusses conserving cultural and historic resources, revitalizing the core and maintaining the integrity of this New England town, and preserving open space, as well as becoming a green community. The plan also discusses providing affordable housing, and improved roadways and public transportation.

"The implementation plan has all of the goals and objectives that we came up with and has action items," says Roy. "As we unfolded and looked at each item in the Master Plan, we really referred to mission statement, and the document reflects that. It all provides a good blueprint for how we can continue to improve Franklin and make it a great place to live, work and raise a family."