

CHAPTER 5

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

EXETER MASTER PLAN 2002 UPDATE



JUNE, 2002

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Community Facilities and Civic Life

1. Introduction

Community facilities are those facilities, both public and private, which provide a service to the public. Civic life are those programs and services which help enrich us as residents and business owners of Exeter.

The purpose of this chapter is to identify the community facilities and facets of civic life that have made Exeter one of New Hampshire's most desirable communities in the seacoast region. The further purpose of this chapter is to provide an assessment of these community facilities and programs, including the functions they serve, their impact on the community and recommendations for the future.

A complete representation of these facilities and programs in this chapter are presented in the following text. Please see **Map CF-1** as to location of these facilities and **Map CF-2** as to town owned land.

The Exeter Board of Selectmen, other volunteer boards, special interest groups and others may aid in the selection and implementation of recommendations for these facilities. The residents of Exeter are ultimately the deciding element in any change or growth of these facilities and civic programs.

Community facilities are those facilities, both public and private, which provide a service to the public. Civic life are those programs and services which help enrich us as residents and business owners of Exeter.

2. Marketing and Access

There are a myriad of facilities and programs that contribute to the rich texture of life in Exeter. In order for these resources to be fully utilized and enjoyed by citizens and visitors, the Town should take steps to improve the volume and quality of marketing and promotional efforts, as well as develop better access to buildings and information.

RECOMMENDATIONS :

The following recommendations were developed during the January 2002 Visioning Sessions.

1. Maintain and improve the Town web site, adding links to community programs and developing user feedback vehicles.
2. Create informational kiosks at selected parks and in frequented public areas to promote various programs and resources, including, but not limited to local programs, parks, trails, special events, and meetings.

3. Improve production quality and programmatic breadth of Channel 22 government access network,
4. Erect directional signs for existing facilities,
5. Promote and develop alternative transportation options for entry to and egress from Town, including:
 - a) Continued development at and advertising of train station,
 - b) Development of bicycle routes along main arteries,
 - c) Preservation of existing sidewalks and expansion of pedestrian walkways,
6. Improve downtown parking options.

3. Town Departments

Fire Department

The Exeter Fire Department provides fire, rescue and emergency services. It also operates the town's Emergency Management Department and conducts drills in conjunction with the NH Office of Emergency Management.

The Fire Department was first established in 1873, with the purchase of an Amoskeag Eagle Steamer. The steamer has been restored and is used as a showpiece at many special events throughout New England. The Fire Department is located at 20 Court Street and shares the Public Safety Complex with the Police Department. The building was constructed in 1979.

The Exeter Fire Department provides the largest branch of the community's emergency services by providing fire, rescue, and emergency medical services. The Department operates the Town's Emergency Management Department conducting drills in conjunction with the State of New Hampshire Office of Emergency Management and with the Seabrook station nuclear power plant. In addition, the Fire Department is involved in several professional organizations; the Interstate Emergency Unit System; Seacoast Fire Chiefs Officers Association; Seacoast Technical Assistance Response Team; State Fireman's Association; Seacoast Region Emergency Medical Services Training Committee and the Seacoast Regional Emergency Medical Services Council.

The Fire Department staff consists of a staff of 23 full-time personnel (the Chief, the Assistant Chief/Health Officer, the Office Manager, the Deputy Health Officer, 1 Captain/Emergency Management Director, 4

Lieutenants, 16 Firefighters, the Deputy Chief) and a “call force” of twenty-two. The Fire Department operates with four-man minimum emergency response team.

Equipment

The Fire Department operates a fleet consisting of 2 command cars, 4 engines, 2 ambulances, 1 ladder truck, 1 forestry truck and trailer, 1 utility truck, 1 fire alarm bucket truck, 1 boat, 1 Special Operations truck and houses the regional hazmat response trailer.

The Fire Department has achieved paramedic level emergency medical services since the last Master Plan Report in 1994.

**Table CF-1
EXETER FIRE DEPARTMENT VEHICLE INVENTORY
AND REPLACEMENT SCHEDULE**

	Vehicle	Replacement Date
Car 1	2000 Ford XLT Explorer	2007
Car 2	1998 Ford XLT Explorer	2005
Rescue 1	2001 International Ambulance	2010*
Rescue 2	1996 Freightliner Ambulance	2005*
Rescue 3	New Ambulance	2004* (anticipated purchase)
Engine 1	1997 Pierce Quantum Pumper	2022
Engine 2	1984 Mack/Pierce Pumper	2007
Engine 3	1979 Mack Pumper	2002
Engine 4	1989 Pierce Arrow Pumper	2012
Ladder 1	110' Emergency One Ladder Truck	2017
Fire Alarm	1993 International Bucket Truck	2013
Utility 1	2001 Ford 350 SD Pickup	213
Forestry 1	1985 GMC Sierra 3500	Rebuilt in 2001
Spec. Ops.	1988 International 1954	2005
Boat	1979 14' Sears Gamefisher	2003

* Ambulance Fund replacement

Accomplishments

Since 1995, the Fire Department has achieved paramedic level emergency medical services. The department has also expanded fire inspections and has developed a vehicle replacement and maintenance program. Health inspections have also been implemented to ensure safety for the citizens of Exeter. In 2001, Fire Scope completed a fire department infrastructure study. This study made recommendations for additional stations and placement of the stations based on town growth and the timely delivery of emergency services.

Emergency Management

The Fire Department is the only agency in the geographical boundaries of the community capable of dealing with Nuclear, Chemical Explosive or Natural disasters.

Like most fire departments across the country, Exeter's has been given the additional responsibilities of Homeland Security. As "First Responders", the Exeter Fire Department will focus its efforts on the purchasing of equipment and training of its members. They must have the ability to respond and effectively mitigate against Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) or Biological – Nuclear, Incendiary, Chemical or Explosive Incidents (B-Nice). The department is the ideal agency to deal with B-Nice or WMD incidents, as its members have been trained to make rapid life/death decisions and are able to rescue people and initiate Advanced Life Support if needed. Exeter's Fire Department also has the ability to call upon the resources from other municipal fire departments or other regional hazardous materials response teams. The Fire Department is the only agency in the geographical boundaries of the community capable of quickly mobilizing personnel and equipment to deal with these types of incidents. Furthermore, through the EMD (Emergency Management Director) the department communicates with Federal agencies, such as US Army's Civil Support Team, the US Coast Guards North Atlantic Strike Team and the State Government to mobilize resources or personnel.

Our largest emergency management deployment in recent history was during the flood in 1996. The staff of the fire department, with assistance and guidance from the town manger and selectmen, operated the Town's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for 7 days. With support and resources from FEMA, the National Guard and water companies across the state, the emergency team provided services to town departments who were unable to help themselves.

Emergency Medical Services

Increases in various water sports and other forms of outdoor recreation have placed added demands upon the fire department.

The Exeter Fire Department currently operates two paramedic level ambulances. A third ambulance is scheduled to go into service in the year 2004. The department employs ten paramedics, nine EMT-Intermediates and two EMT-Basics. The Fire Department staff completes over 1000 hours of continuing education every year. In addition to providing ambulance coverage for the town, the fire department has responded to the various needs of the community in many different ways. The department has added EMS bike patrols to town events such as the Revolutionary War Festival and the Christmas parade. With the increase of outdoor recreation in Exeter, the bikes have proven to be an invaluable tool in locating and providing care to individuals injured on the extensive conservation trail system in town. Other types of sports also provide a unique challenge to the Fire Department. Increases in kayaking and canoeing as well as motorboats have placed an increased demand on the fire department. As **Table CF-2** shows, a steady increase in ambulance service can be seen over the course of the last several years. As Exeter's population growth continues, the department anticipates a greater demand on all services.

**Table CF-2
RUN VOLUMES**

	1998	1999	2000	2001
Ambulance	1115	1113	1277	1253
Fire	754	983	1175	1123
Service Calls	779	984	1032	1461

Health Department

The Health Department is also administered by the Fire Department. The Town self-inspects town businesses using guidelines and rules set forth by the State. A part-time Deputy Health Officer conducts inspections of all restaurants, day care facilities and food service providers. Currently the Town inspects 84 licensed food service and eight childcare facilities. The department also responded to over 300 health-related activities in 2001. Licensing fees charges offset the department’s expenses making the service no cost to the town. As additional businesses come to Exeter, coupled with a growing dependency from other departments, expanding the position of Deputy Health Officer to a full time position is anticipated.

Goals: Future plans include meeting current demands for service through shorter response times and better coverage. To meet these goals additional staffing, station, advanced technology and the implementation of the fire infrastructure report will be needed.

Future plans of the Health Department include meeting growing demands for service by improving response times and offering better coverage.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To follow the recommendations as outlined in the 2001 fire department infrastructure study completed by Fire Scope with an emphasis on reducing response time.
2. To provide fire fighters with the most technologically advanced equipment to allow for improved safety for the fire fighters as well as victims of fires.
3. To keep department resources up to date and continue to train staff as outlined by new “Homeland Security” measures.
4. To expand the position of Deputy Health Officer to fulltime.

Police Department

The Police department is currently staffed by 23 officers.... There are no part-time police officers nor are there any plans to add them to the department.

The Police Department is responsible for local law enforcement and public safety. The Police Department is currently staffed by twenty (23) full-time officers and a civilian parking enforcement/animal control officer. There are no part-time police officers nor are there any plans to add them to the department. This is due to the limits placed on accredited agencies regarding training standards. Of the 23 officers that are on staff they are broken down in the following manner:

Administration - Chief and two Lieutenants; each Lieutenant oversees a division of the department. These divisions are broken into the patrol (or uniformed) division, and the staff (or non uniformed) division..

Staff Division - This division includes one detective Sergeant, three detectives, one school resource officer and one juvenile officer. The staff division handles all investigations in major criminal cases. Communication personnel come under the control of the staff division commander. These employees handle all phone, 911 and radio communications for the police and fire departments. The Communication department is staffed by five full time and eight part-time civilians.

Patrol Division – This division consists of three sergeants, eleven patrol officers, and the civilian parking enforcement /animal control. These officers supply 24-hour coverage 365 days a year. They handle all emergency calls for service and conduct routine patrol functions in town. They enforce both criminal and motor vehicle laws.

Records Division - The records division is staffed by three full-time and two part-time civilians. These employees handle all business related requests for the department. They also handle all customers that come to the department for business transactions.

The department also employs a part-time police prosecutor who handles all misdemeanor and violation cases in district court.

The following two tables are indicative of the growth of the town and the issues that come with this growth. The first is a serious crime table which gives a breakdown of the number of serious crimes as defined by the F.B.I that have been reported to the department.

TABLE CF-3
TOWN OF EXETER, SERIOUS CRIMES
(1996-2001)

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	3	0	1	1	1	3	9
Robbery	1	2	3	4	1	2	13
Aggravated Assault	1	4	2	1	6	5	19
Burglary	33	66	36	36	23	30	224
Larceny	189	245	162	166	195	189	1,146
Motor Vehicle Theft	9	10	8	14	9	9	59

TABLE CF-4
EXETER POLICE DEPARTMENT SERVICE CALLS
(1996-2001)

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Phone Calls	64,951	54,301	48,430	54,919	54,138	47,431	324,170
911 Calls	2,579	2,597	2,608	2,492	2,258	2,027	14,561
* Calls for service	22,549	20,677	21,353	23,232	23,631	23,070	134,512
Motor Vehicle Contacts	8,665	6,757	7,153	6,905	8,931	7,212	45,623
**Population	13,258	13,019	13,409	13,338	14,058		

- * This does not include fire or EMS calls although the dispatch center handles them well.
- ** Figures supplied by the Rockingham Planning Commission.

The Department of Justice puts out statistics that give guidelines for manpower averages. The average officers needed per thousand people that are served, ranges from the national average of 2.5 officers per thousand, the New England average of 1.9 officers per thousand and the North East average which is 1.8 officers per thousand. Exeter currently has 1.6 officers per thousand people. By using the lowest of the three ranges, the Exeter Police Department should have 25 officers department wide to properly police the community. As the population grows, additional officers will be needed to safely and efficiently police the community.

Facilities and Equipment

A space needs assessment study is needed for the department.

The Police Department is housed in the Public Safety Complex located on Court Street. The Public Safety Complex was built in 1979 and is used by both the Police and Fire Departments. The Police Department currently utilizes 6,200 square feet of the total 18,100 square foot Public Safety Complex. A number of renovations have taken place to add office and storage space to house the police department, mostly in the detective division. These renovations have made the most of the space that is now available, but as the town and department grow, there will be a need to look at increasing the size of the building. Currently the fire department is in the planning stages of the feasibility of a second station. The results of the study will have a direct impact on the Police Department. When this study is completed, a decision to either keep or move some of the fire department to a different location should be made. Once accomplished the police should have a clearer picture of what space would be available at the current location to possibly use for future growth of the police department. The police department still needs a professional study of what the future space needs will be and how the department can be accommodated at the current location.

The Fire and Police departments will work together to determine the future growth and/or renovation needs of the safety complex.

The department currently has 12 vehicles, 6 of the 12 are front line responder vehicles, 4 are unmarked cars assigned to detectives, one is the DARE van and one is a crime scene response vehicle. Front line vehicles (i.e. marked cars used for patrol) are scheduled to be replaced on a three one-year and two the next year schedule. Front line vehicles are rotated to a less demanding use (e.g. unmarked detective cars) once they have reached the end of their service life. Since 1998 the department has turned over vehicles that are coming out of service to other town departments, who in turn use them for a couple of years. The town should strictly follow this schedule so that the department is equipped with a current and well maintained fleet.

The Police Department's computer capabilities are continually being upgraded. As the system expands there is a need for an Information Technology Manager.

Both the Police and Fire departments share dispatch services. The Police Department oversees the communications center. The center receives all incoming emergency calls and then dispatches for police, fire and ambulance services. The center uses a system of computer aided dispatching. This includes the ability to communicate with officers through secure laptop computers. The center is extremely busy handling thousands of calls every year for emergency and non-emergency calls for service. The center also handles all the business calls that come into the building. They also handle thousands of radio communications with police and fire department members. The next large-scale replacement of communications equipment will be for the main base station radio. This radio controls all communications between police and fire as well as numerous other channels for surrounding towns. A capital improvement project has been proposed requesting funds for the radio in 2003.

The Police Department has and continues the process of upgrading its computer capabilities on a set schedule. The department has nearly 20 personal computers that are used by officers and support staff. Cruisers have laptop computers and its dispatch center has a computer-aided system. The task of keeping the equipment operating has become a full time job. Currently, no one is tasked with this responsibility and the department and town staff lacks a qualified employee able to handle the demand. As equipment and technology continue to change at a rapid pace, it is crucial that qualified staff (such as an Information Technology Manager) be added to the department. This position would be responsible for the ongoing replacement of PC's, software programs and repair of existing technology.

The Police Department has adopted the philosophy of Community Oriented Policing and Problem Oriented Policing.

Department Programs

In 1991, the Police Department adopted the philosophy of "Community Oriented Policing" (C.O.P.) The C.O.P. philosophy is intended to make the Police Department more responsive to the needs of the community and to deliver services in a way that will address these needs. In conjunction with the C.O.P. philosophy "Problem Oriented Policing" has also become a department philosophy. This concept allows officers to deal directly with an issue and allows them the latitude to solve the problem. This includes problems such as speeding vehicles, loud noise, parking concerns etc.

For a number of years the department has been pursuing state and national levels of accreditation.

Programs that have been offered in the past and continue to be offered are Neighborhood Watch (a neighborhood based crime prevention program), Exeter Crimeline (a program designed to solicit information on unsolved crimes and to reward individuals providing useful input), gunlock giveaway (free gun locks given to any citizen that needs one), and children safety seat check and replacement. The department continues to be very active in the schools with DARE, the police athletic league, bike rodeos, Halloween safety, read across America and others.

The police department has been pursuing both state and national levels of accreditation for a number of years. Accreditation involves the review of Police Department operations and implementation of policies that are consistent with national policing standards. The State of New Hampshire adopted a 3 level process of accreditation. In 2001 the department reached both level 2 and level 3 of the state accreditation process. The department will continue to strive for the last level, which is national accreditation. National accreditation will result in improved department operations and service to the community, in addition to placing the Police Department among some of the most elite law enforcement agencies in the nation.

In 2001, both level 2 and level 3 accreditation was achieved. Achieving national accreditation will result in improved department operations and service to the community.

In keeping with the National Homeland Security Initiatives, the Exeter Police Department needs to be better prepared to handle a bio terrorism incident. Currently the department is ill trained and equipped to handle such an incident. Funds were requested in the 2003 Capital Improvement Program in an attempt to address this serious issue.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Hire a new police officer in both 2003 and 2004 to bring the department to the Northeast standard of manpower for a town of Exeter's size.
2. Hire a civilian information technology manager for the police and fire departments who could handle the repair, purchase, programming and other issues that arise dealing with computer technology changes.
3. Continue to pursue National Accreditation for the Department.
4. Conduct a space needs survey to outline the future spacing needs of the department. Continue to work closely with the Fire Department to achieve service improvements and cost savings.
5. Train and equip officers to deal with bio-terrorism threats.
6. Continue to work with the local school system to actively promote the PAL and D.A.R.E. programs as well as other public safety related programs. Continue with a problem orientated policing concept that allows officers and the public to work together to solve issues.

Public Library

The Exeter Public Library is a vibrant expanding informational source for the community of Exeter.

The mission of the Exeter Public Library is to champion and nurture reading as a vital element in lifelong learning, through access to informational materials, books and services to meet the recreational, professional, and educational needs of the community.

In 2002 the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association named the Exeter Public Library "***Library of the Year***".

The Exeter Public Library is located on one acre of land at the corner of String Bridge and Pleasant Street. Opened in 1987, the Exeter Public Library measures 18,000 square feet and has a collection size of 72,677 titles, as of December 31, 2001. Library services are available on a free basis for all Exeter residents, and for non-residents for a fee. There are approximately 9,900 registered borrowers.

In addition to its books, periodicals, audio books, music compact disks, and videocassettes the library features a number of other services and programs. Programs include personal computers for patron use, patron

internet access, beginner internet and e-mail classes, reference services in house and online, children's services and programs, interlibrary loan, book discussion groups, writers groups, out-reach programs (program the library staff takes to members of the community at off site locations), Tai Chi, Feng Shui, pet care, herb and wildlife gardening, dream analysis, and wellness. The library maintains an interactive web page with online library catalog access.

The library manages an extensive collection of genealogical materials and maintains the New England Antiquities Research Association (NEARA) collection.

The meeting room at the library, which seat 100 people, is available for other functions at no cost and is used by the Rockingham County Genealogy society, the Seabreeze Quilting Club, soccer groups, Exeter PTO, Project Prom, Oasis, and Sight Services to the Blind, etc.

Since patron prefer to access information in three general ways; by themselves by browsing the collection, by asking the reference librarian, and by using the internet the library made adjustments to respond to these different needs.

1. The collection is closely monitored for additions and discards. Older materials of value are kept in good repair. Both steps make the collection easier to browse.
2. The library has a trained reference librarian on duty for the majority of the hours it is open.
3. The library has three computers with direct internet access with plans to add two to four more.

Eight (8) full-time employees, including the director, a reference librarian, and a technical services librarian, four (4) part-time library workers, and three (3) teenage pages currently staff the library. Circulation (the number of books and materials borrowed each year) has risen more that **65%** from 1997 to 2001.

In response to the growing number of patrons and the increase of circulation, interlibrary loan, reference questions, and children and adults attending library programs the library received an additional \$18,000 through a CIP (capital improvement plan) warrant article to have a professional space assessment study of the existing library space. Such a study will supply recommendations about the most efficient way to use the space currently available.

At the Exeter Planning Board Visioning session in 2002 residents were very positive about the current role of the library in the community. In each breakout group citizens requested more parking, additional hours, and the need for additional space in the next 5 years. In the fall of 2002, the Exeter Library will begin its third five-year plan with a committee

In 2002, the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association named the Exeter Public Library 'Library of the Year'.

The needs of the Public Library include increased parking, additional space and longer hours.

composed of interested residents, members of the library board of trustees and staff. The concerns voiced at the visioning session will be foremost among the topics discussed in the library's future plans.

Public Works

The Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining and overseeing all Town roads, parking lots, bridges, dams, sidewalks and the transfer station. Public Works is also responsible for all municipal buildings, structures and vehicles (excluding Fire Department vehicles), the recycling and composting programs, and the drinking water, wastewater, and storm water collection systems. The Department also provides engineering and contracting services for all Town Departments and functions, including the review of development proposals before the Planning Board.

The Department is currently staffed by a total of forty-two (42) employees administered by the Public Works Director and managed by Town Engineer, Water/Sewer Superintendent, Highway Superintendent, Maintenance Superintendent and Office Manager. The Public Works Department is comprised of five teams with the following staffing: Engineering (2), Water/Sewer (14), Highway (14), Maintenance (9) and Office Services (3).

Facilities and Equipment

The Public Works Department main complex is located on 56 acres of land off Newfields Road, approximately one mile north of downtown Exeter. The complex consists of administrative offices, equipment and vehicle repair and storage facilities, salt storage shed, fuel dispensing facility, and the Wastewater Treatment Facility. The sewer facilities also include nine sewer-pumping stations located throughout town. The Public Works Department also operates and maintains the Water Treatment Facility located adjacent to the Water Works Pond on Portsmouth Avenue. In addition to the Water Treatment Plant, the water facilities consist of miscellaneous storage, pumping and control buildings, including two one million gallon water storage tanks, one 380,000-gallon water storage tank, one groundwater pumping station (Lary Lane well), the Exeter River pumping station and two water pressure booster stations.

The Public Works Department is responsible for maintaining all Town buildings and municipal structures including Town Office, Town Hall, Public Safety Complex, Senior Citizen Center, Recreation Department buildings, the Simpson Property, the Bandstand and the Powder House.

**TABLE CF-5
Public Works Facilities Inventory**

Item	Quantity	Item	Quantity
Roads	58 miles	Water mains	55 miles
Sidewalks	8 miles	Sewer mains	53 miles
Bridges	9	Storm drain mains	28 miles
Dams	6	Fire hydrants	320
Catch basins	1,300	Sewer manholes	1,220

**TABLE CF-6
Public Works Major Equipment Inventory**

Item	Qty	Item	Qty
Dump trucks	9	Sidewalk tractors	4
Sedans	5	Pickup trucks	9
Van	1	Loaders	2
Sweeper/catch-basin cleaner	1	Sewer vacuum truck	1
Snow loader	1	Backhoes	2
Brush chipper	1	Asphalt roller	1

Vision and Plans for the Future

Town growth continues to strain the resources of the Department. The addition of new roads and sidewalks as well as new connections to the water, sewer, and storm drain systems will require additional resources of equipment, manpower and funding. This department must anticipate budget increases in order to meet present and future demands.

The Department has completed water system and sewer system evaluation studies that will assist in the development of future system upgrades and improvements. The Department will continue to seek funding for the development of a storm water system study. In addition, the Department has developed a long-term road paving plan, new sidewalks plan, and sidewalk maintenance plan. The Department is building a new 3,000 square foot office building in 2002 with accommodations for future expansion.

The Department is continually working on ways to increase productivity and improve quality. Team building and visioning are two efforts employees are working on for this purpose. The Public Works Department has developed its vision statement of “Preserving, Enhancing Community & Environment” and is committed to operate by values of “Safety, Integrity, and Teamwork.

Town growth continues to strain the resources of The Department as it works on ways to increase productivity and improve quality throughout.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Department has developed its vision statement of "Preserving, Enhancing Community & Environment" and it committed to operate by values of "Safety, Integrity, and Teamwork".

1. Construct new 3.4 million gallon per day Water Treatment Plant on land adjacent to reservoir and out of flood zone.
2. Construct new 1.5 million gallon elevated water storage tank off Epping Road.
3. Conduct storm water system evaluation study and construct recommended improvements and upgrades.
4. Construct water distribution system improvements to increase fire flows and improve hydraulics between treatment plant and storage facilities.
5. Improve and signalize the Guinea Road / Hampton Road intersection.
6. Design and install improvements at the Hampton Road / Holland Way and Water Street / Main Street intersections.
7. Replace Park Street railroad bridge.
8. Continue work to eliminate combined sewer overflows including complete separation of all storm water, address capacity deficiencies and reduce infiltration.
9. Eliminate and correct reverse slope sewer mains.
10. Support and encourage employees to obtain Public Works Academy certifications.
11. Design and construction of improvements to the downtown business area and associated parking facilities.
12. Upgrade and maintenance of wastewater treatment plant.
13. Construct emergency water system interconnection with Hampton water system.
14. Complete networking of office computers and incorporate computer aided drafting and design (CADD) system.

4. Public Buildings

Town Hall

The Town Hall is one of the many structural gems of downtown Exeter. Built in 1855, this beautiful Greek Revival style brick building features four (4) large columns in front of the building's entrance and a cupola upon which sits Lady Justice, a carved mahogany statue painted white. Together, these features create an unforgettable presence, which impacts the visitor and resident alike.

The Town Hall is located on Front Street, directly across from the Town Office Building. It consists of three (3) floors, including a hall on the main floor that can seat approximately 500 people, the lower level, which is occupied by the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce and the Exeter District Court and an upper level, which is partially occupied by the Exeter Area Arts Association. Somewhat difficult to find, the building's public restrooms are accessible on the outside of the building on Water Street and in the back of the building.

Programs: Currently the main floor of the Town Hall is utilized for a variety of public and private events, workshops and meetings throughout the year. The upper level, although largely underutilized, houses art exhibits. The Exeter Area Arts Association organizes the scheduling for these shows a year in advance. The Town Manager and the Board of Selectman oversee, review and act upon all requests for use of the facility.

Facility Improvements: Over the years the Town Hall has seen many repairs and improvements. Below is a list of some of the past repairs:

- 1992- The statue Lady Justice was completely re-sculpted.
- 1999- Cupola restoration, roof reshingling and chimney repairs were completed
- 2000- Interior trusses were replaced.
- 2001- Front steps were replaced with new granite, a brick entry highlighted with the town seal in granite replaced the old entry.

Future improvements and repairs:

- 2002- Addition of an elevator to the upper level to improve public access.
- 2002- Stage to be rebuilt (the present stage was built about ten years ago and is made of Styrofoam! It was intended for only one production number). Exterior repairs such as gutters and

fascia as well as drainage improvements, driveway and retaining wall repairs.

2003– Boilers and heat zoning

As part of the downtown restoration plan, the Town should look into connecting the spaces between the Bandstand, Town Hall and Town Office to make them more pedestrian friendly while maintaining safe vehicular and bicycle flow as well as parking.

Other future repairs: Window and sash repairs and replacement, brickwork and brownstone repair, exterior and interior painting, central air conditioning, completion of architectural detail work on cupola, sound system and lighting improvements.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Town should appoint a study committee charged with identifying the best use of the facility.
2. The Town should continue physical improvements as planned in order to provide the town with a usable stage/theater, additional office space on the upper level, other improvements needed as identified for the uses suggested (see #1) including bringing the facility into compliance with ADA requirements.
3. As part of the downtown restoration plan, the Town should look into connecting the spaces between the Bandstand, Town Hall and Town Office to make them more pedestrian friendly while maintaining safe vehicular and bicycle flow as well as parking.

Town Office Building

Because of the wide variety of services provided within the Town Office Building, it serves as the principal point of contact with Town government for most Exeter residents and as such, represents an important community facility.

The Town Office building is located on Front Street in the center of downtown. This two story Federal style brick building was built in 1892 and contains 6,440 square feet of finished office space.

The first floor of the Town Office building houses office space for the Selectmen, Town Manager, Administration, Town Clerk, Assessing, Finance, and Accounting. The second floor houses Planning and Building Departments, Welfare and two meeting rooms; the Nowak Room and the Wheelwright Room. The basement has some storage areas for building maintenance, as well as for some records.

The Nowak Room is utilized for various town meetings or presentations and by various Town Boards in conducting monthly or biweekly meetings. The Nowak Room is wired for cable TV and houses the Exeter Government/Education Cable TV equipment. The Wheelwright Room serves as a conference room for town and other business. Private groups wishing to utilize the meeting rooms need approval from the Selectmen.

Most Exeter residents visit the Town Office building to obtain information, examine documents, conduct research, obtain a marriage license, register their motor vehicle, register their dog, obtain a birth certificate or death certificate, pay a tax bill and/or water bill, obtain a

building permit, or to pick up a recycling bin. Because of the wide variety of services provided within the Town Office Building, it serves as the principal point of contact with Town government for most Exeter residents and as such, represents an important community facility.

The Town Office building currently is able to meet the administrative needs of the offices mentioned above, but the need for expansion in the next three (3) years, or sooner, must be addressed. The physical condition of this building is good, with only minor improvements anticipated. One such improvement will involve bringing the Town Office building into compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA). This will consist of making the office doorways, bathrooms, and general workspace handicap accessible.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Town should work with staff and professionals in identifying space needs for personnel and storage in the Town Office building,
2. The Town should undertake the necessary steps to create modifications and improvements to office space, repair and replace all aspects of the heating and ventilation system, make modifications or replace electrical and phone systems to bring the building up to present-day technology.
3. The Town should continue to bring the Town Office building into full compliance with the requirements of the ADA.

The Town should undertake the necessary steps to create modifications and improvements to office space, repair and replace all aspects of the heating and ventilation system, make modifications or replace electrical and phone systems to bring the building up to present-day technology.

5. Other Facilities

Exeter Cemeteries

Public Facilities: There are twenty two (non-active) cemeteries known to exist in town. Most of these have historic significance such as the Winter Street Cemetery. The Town Parks and Recreation Department are charged with maintaining cemeteries on town owned properties, while those on private property are maintained with private funds. The size of these cemeteries varies from a single plot, such as the historic Dudley gravesite on the Squamscott, to several hundreds of plots.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Due to the historic significance of many of the cemeteries, groups that have interest in these sites should work together to create a maintenance plan for the various sites. These groups may include but are not limited to the Historic District Commission, Exeter Historic Society, Parks Advisory Committee and the Exeter Cemetery Association.

More information on goals and recommendations of town owned cemetery sites may be found in Chapter 6 - Parks and Recreation.

Exeter Cemetery Association

Exeter Cemetery is the only active cemetery in town. Remaining land area is adequate for the future.

Private Facilities: The Exeter Cemetery is located on a 90-acre parcel on Linden Street, across from the Exeter Area High School Annex. Currently there are approximately 36 acres of undeveloped land available for use. A Cremation Garden has been established to hold approximately 300 cremations. The Exeter Cemetery was established in 1843 and is a private entity administered by five (5) trustees, each elected by the cemetery lot owners for a term of five (5) years. Exeter Cemetery is the only active cemetery in town. Based upon the remaining land area at the Exeter Cemetery, the cemetery needs of Exeter will be met well into the future.

Restoration of Winter Street Cemetery: In the spring of 1998, the Exeter Cemetery Association began an extensive restoration effort of the historic town owned Winter Street Cemetery. Extensive cleanup and landscaping was added, the perimeter stonewall was rebuilt, entryways were created with cobblestone and brick and other amenities, such as a flagpole, water spigot and benches were added. The cleanup/restoration effort also included locating, unearthing and cleanup of approximately 200 buried headstones. The Exeter Cemetery Association continues to donate time and material to assist in the maintenance and upkeep of this historically significant cemetery.

In 2000, the Association developed a lighting plan to help combat vandalism within the park and to add to the park's historic charm. Period appropriate lantern style lighting was suggested. Unfortunately, due to the cost of the project, the lighting plan was put on hold.

Exeter Hospital

Exeter Health Resources is one of the most comprehensive health care providers in the State. With subsidiaries Synergy Health & Fitness, Rockingham Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice, Exeter Hospital, Exeter Healthcare, and Core Physician Services, the organization employs more than 1,900 people, the largest employer in the Town of Exeter.

The Exeter Hospital campus is situated on approximately 34 acres of land off Buzell Avenue and Portsmouth Avenue. Over the past decade, considerable growth has taken place with the addition of nearly 40,000 square feet in the Perry Building and 45,000 square feet in the Synergy Health & Fitness Center. The campus will again be changed with the addition of nearly 100,000 square feet of new space that will act as the main entrance to the hospital and adjacent new physician office space, and will include community lecture space, expanded e-library, capabilities for public utilization, and a health food cafeteria.

Recognizing the parking issue on campus, a two-phased parking garage has created nearly 800 additional parking spaces that are conveniently located near the front entrance.

Exeter Health Resources is following national trends in the delivery of medicine as more and more procedures are being done on a one-day basis. Because of this trend, there are no plans to add any additional beds to Exeter Hospital.

Because of very poor reimbursement for the 100 intermediate beds at Exeter Healthcare, there will be discussion as to what services might be more cost effective and complement the entire delivery system better. Possibilities include expansion/conversion of additional beds to sub-acute status to manage a greater volume of orthopedic rehab patients.

Exeter Health Resources' mission has been and will continue to be reaching out to the community and trying to make a difference in the health status of those they serve. The organization recently opened a pediatric dental center that caters to indigent children from the local and regional area. Mobile medical units, including one outfitted for pediatric dentistry, will be traveling throughout the Seacoast providing pro-bono health services to those in need. A new comprehensive diabetes, endocrine and nutrition center in Hampton is bringing state of the art diabetes management resources and a nationally renowned medical director to diabetics who otherwise were receiving no care or being under managed.

Exeter Health Resources' mission has been and will continue to be reaching out to the Community and trying to make a difference in the health status of those they serve.

Exeter Health Resources is a growing organization that is reacting to the changing face of health care. It will continue to be independent and not-for-profit, supplying more than 4.5 million dollars of community benefit to those in need.

New services including radiation therapy, a comprehensive breast health center and cardiovascular services are some of the comprehensive medical services Exeter Health Resources will be promoting in the near future. Construction within the existing Exeter Hospital structure will allow for expanded services as the area population grows and demands placed on this health care organization increases.

Exeter Post Office

The Exeter Post Office is a full service Federal facility, and as such, adequately serves the needs of Exeter residents. The Exeter facility offers full window service, passport applications and processing, as well as stamp orders by mail or fax with home delivery.

The post office was originally established in Exeter in 1789, with John Ward Gilman as the first postmaster. After many postmasters and different locations the post office is now located on Front Street on the

old site of the Day-Swasey House, also known as the First Church Parsonage and the Lamson Tavern.

The post office now employs 43 men and women. It has 20 mail routes serviced by 10 rural and 10 city carriers. They deliver over 10000 pieces of mail a day and cover over 180 miles of delivery area.

There is no plan for expansion at the present time, but as new housing developments occur in Exeter, the post office is hoping for more curbside deliveries as a means for reducing costs.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Provide for off-site, driver-side car mail drop-off to avoid downtown on-street parking issues and therefore creating improved service capabilities.

Exeter Train Station*

The new train stations now offers Exeter residents daily Amtrak service to Boston, MA., and Portland, ME. Site improvements will be ongoing for the town.

After a 40-year absence rail passenger service returned to Exeter on December 15, 2001 as "The Downeaster" via Amtrak. The initial eight train a day schedule between Portland and Boston is serviced by a brand new \$1.4 million passenger station built immediately adjacent to the old Lincoln St., Boston and Main station.

In the planning for a decade, the station is seeing above anticipated use, with approximately 60% of the 78 newly constructed parking spaces used on a regular basis. Concern has been expressed that the parking will not be sufficient as ridership grows over time and funding is being sought from the federal government to expand the parking to the south, and to provide an exit onto Garfield St. The grant application will provide for an additional 62 spaces. The project cost is estimated at \$475,000, of which the Town will be responsible for \$95,000. Funding will be available in 2004 or 2005.

Expansion of the station and available parking will involve the purchase of land and buildings associated with Dearborn Moving and Storage. Demolition of the building and the construction of parking and the access onto Garfield Street will allow for a one-way flow of traffic and the ability of busses to access the platform directly. At present, this is not possible given the current parking lot design. It is anticipated that the expanded parking and additional access will be in place by 2006.

*** See Chapter 3, Transportation for an updated discussion on the Exeter train station and Downeaster.**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Create access links to downtown area.
2. Create more parking for commuters using rail service.
3. Beautify the Lincoln Street – train station area as a gateway into Exeter.
4. Create a user-friendly train station by adding signage, information kiosk, maps and other information for traveler.

Public Housing

The Exeter Housing Authority manages a total of 107 apartments in the Town. Of this total, 85 units are located at the Squamscott View Apartments, an elderly housing complex at 277 Water Street. A total of fifteen (15) two-, three- and four- bedroom units are located on Linden Street; four (4) two- and three-bedroom units on Portsmouth Avenue and three (3) two-bedroom units on Auburn Street. A five-member board of directors and an executive director oversees the management of these public housing units.

There are presently 107 apartments managed by the Exeter Housing Authority. The Authority also aids in obtaining housing through the statewide HUD program.

Private Housing: Exeter residents can also apply for Section 8 Vouchers from the New Hampshire Housing Finance Authority. This is a statewide program through (HUD) the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, who provides rent subsidies to eligible low-income individuals and families in the form of a voucher given to accepted private landlords. Due to the lack of affordable housing in the seacoast region of New Hampshire, the current voucher system does not adequately service all those in need. Presently, there is approximately a two to three year waiting list to receive a voucher.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Housing Authority should continue to monitor the public housing needs of the Town and seek to meet those needs in as efficient and effective a manner as possible.
2. The Housing Authority should establish a working group with the Town's Affordable Housing Committee, Welfare Office and community social service agencies to address the public housing needs of the community.
3. The Housing Authority should continue to work with area landlords interested in taking part in the Section 8 rental assistance program.

A recent parking study by the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce revealed the need for more off-street parking, especially during weekday work hours.

Public Parking

Downtown parking has been a topic of conversation since the horse and buggy days. A concern of both past and present, adequate and ample

parking is seen as the foundation to a vibrant downtown with successful businesses and efficient services.

Starting in the winter of 2001, the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored a parking study of the downtown area with the assistance of the Rockingham Planning Commission and Town employees. This study was conducted for both on and off-street parking. Off-street parking areas studied included three municipal parking lots with a total of 191 parking spaces. The study results showed that off-street parking is being utilized at or beyond its effective capacity for weekdays during typical work hours.

*** See Chapter 3, Transportation for an updated discussion on public parking.**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Due to the high average occupancy of the parking lots, the amount of off-street parking available should be increased. This could be accomplished through:
 - a. Purchase land for the purpose of creating additional public parking lots.
 - b. Lease of land for purposes of creating additional public parking lots.
 - c. Create a commuter lot to reduce the use of the large municipal lot as a carpool meeting point.
 - d. Construct a parking structure at the large municipal parking site or some other downtown location.
2. Examine more closely the benefits and impacts of converting the under utilized on-street parking on selected streets, such as Center Street, to all day parking. A second area to consider would be the String Bridge/Chestnut Street parking.
3. Consider alternative ways to finance the costs of obtaining additional parking in Downtown Exeter.

6. Education

Public School District

The Town of Exeter has two different "school districts" which govern the public schools. The Exeter Elementary School District is made up of

three schools: Farrell School located on School Street, Main Street School, and Lincoln Street School.

The second school district which governs Exeter's public schools is the Exeter Region Cooperative School District made up of the Cooperative Middle School (located in Stratham housing grades six through grade eight), Exeter High School (located on Linden Street in Exeter housing grades nine through twelve), and the Seacoast School of Technology (at the same location as the Exeter High School).

The Seacoast School of Technology serves Vocational region #18, which includes students from Epping, Exeter, Newmarket, Raymond, Sanborn Regional (Kingston), and Winnacunnet (Hampton) High Schools.

**TABLE CF-7
SCHOOL FACILITIES
(2002)**

<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>SQUARE FEET</u>	<u>AGE</u>
Exeter School District		
Lincoln Street School *	62,000	1959
Main Street School **	59,000	1932
Farrell School ***	7,500	1876
Court Street Facility ****	32,000	
School Property (Land)		
Exeter High School	148,000	1920
Annex	79,000	1967
Seacoast School of Technology	65,000	1962
Cooperative Middle School	175,000	1998
SAU #16 Offices, Gorham Hall ^	6,000	1864

* Gymnasium added in 1990

** Additions completed in 1956, 1993 (acquired by School District in 1971)

*** Leased to Great Bay Kids Company

**** Currently not in use (acquired by School District in 1995)

* SAU #16 leases space in Gorham Hall beginning in 1989.

Exeter Elementary School District

Farrell School (three to four year olds)

The Farrell School houses the Exeter Developmental Preschool which provides Preschool Education for three and four year old students identified as special needs. The Farrell School is also leased out to Great Bay Kids Company, a non-profit day care center serving non-handicapped children ages three to five.

Future growth in the Exeter area will create a need for continued expansion and renovations to the Mains Street and Lincoln Street Schools.

Main Street School (kindergarten through grade two)

The last addition to Main Street School occurred in 1993. This renovation/construction project included a multipurpose room that is used extensively by the Exeter Recreation Dept. for basketball and other activities. A playground was also added at this time which is used extensively by the community on weekends and non-school hours. This addition/renovation project brought the total number of classrooms at Main Street School to 24 with a capacity of 518 students. Main Street School also provides space for community organizations such as Cub Scouts, Brownies, and Daisies.

Lincoln Street School (grades three through five)

The last major addition to Lincoln Street School occurred in 1991. This included a 10,000 square foot gymnasium that is used extensively by the Town's Recreation Department as well as high school and junior varsity athletic teams.

Lincoln Street School has undergone renovation projects from 1998-2000. These have included roofing improvements, enhanced windows, and a new HVAC system.

Two ballfields are shared by Main Street School and Lincoln Street School for Physical Education. Junior League and Little League teams use these ballfields extensively.

The Exeter Region Cooperative School District

The Exeter Region Cooperative School District has School Board representation from 6 towns: Brentwood, East Kingston, Exeter, Kensington, Newfields, and Stratham. Each of these programs is governed by the Cooperative School District.

Cooperative Middle School (grades six through eight)

The Cooperative Middle School was built in 1998. It is located in Stratham but it does serve students from Exeter in grades six through eight. The facility has six playing fields that are used by the students of the Middle School as well as the Recreation Dept. and its programs. An auditorium is used extensively for plays, musical performances, and other community events.

The Exeter High School (grades nine through twelve)

Exeter High School is in dire need of renovations and additions. A \$39,000,000 appropriation has been approved to be spent in two stages (2000) and (2002) to reconstruct Exeter High School by the voters. The plan for reconstruction consists of additions and renovations to increase the size of the facility to 320,000 square feet. This would accommodate a projected enrollment of 2,000 students.

It is planned for the Seacoast School of Technology to relocate to another site off of Linden Street thus freeing up their current space at the high school for renovation.

The building formerly known as Exeter Area Junior High School, is now part of Exeter High School. This building, referred to as "the annex" also houses the Exeter Adult Education Program. It is located on the same campus as the High School.

Field acquisition in Kensington has been pursued to offset the loss of current High School fields which will be consumed with additions to the High School Construction of new playing fields on existing "lower playing fields" area south of Little River will help meet the athletic needs of the High School programs and other community programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Main Street School: Future needs at Main Street School include improved parking, increased safety access to the playground, and enhanced playground facilities.
2. Lincoln Street School: Future needs at Lincoln Street School include the possibility of school expansion due to potential student growth. Additional parking is also needed at L.S.S. Another ballfield should be developed to provide an additional Physical Education station as well as a means to provide an added playing field for Exeter. Finally, a playground facility to serve the students at L.S.S. is truly needed.
3. Cooperative Middle School: Future needs include the possibility of providing an additional pod of classrooms to increase the capacity of the school to 1,500 students.
4. Cooperative High School/Seacoast School of Technology: Several recommendations were developed as part of the EHS 1999 and 2001 Future Search workshops and later endorsed by the Exeter Region Cooperative School Board. They area as follows:
 - a. Due to Exeter's full-time fire and police protection, Exeter High School and the Seacoast School of Technology need to be located in the Town of Exeter.

Exeter High School was a topic of great concern to those who attended the 2002 Master Plan Visioning Session, it was felt that major renovations and additions are necessary.

- b. Retain the Linden Street site and identify an additional site to accommodate the EHS and SST programs and interscholastic athletic needs.
 - c. As part of the reconstruction of the high school, install air conditioning in major areas such as the auditorium, central offices, gymnasium, cafeteria etc, in order to provide year-round use for students and adults, including senior citizens.
 - d. Address life safety and emergency planning issues while minimizing disruption to neighbors including development of secondary access, provide adequate parking, improve circulation and delivery areas, provide appropriate loading and unloading of students from buses as well as from cars.
5. Other: School administration should work with Town Planning Department and Planning Board to develop impact fees to offset future school population growth.

Exeter Adult Education Program

Exeter Adult Education offers an integrated variety of programs that seek to inspire and empower adults to become life long learners. The program helps individuals realize their full potential through expanding literacy skills, providing enrichment courses, computer education, tutorial programs and adult high school diploma alternative.

Phillips Exeter Academy (PEA)

Phillips Exeter Academy is a valuable asset to the town of Exeter. A close partnership between the town and the Academy is necessary as we plan for the future.

John Phillips, founder of Phillips Exeter Academy defined its mission more than two centuries ago by stating: "Above all," John Phillips stated, "it is expected that the attention of instructors to the disposition of the minds and morals of the youth under their charge will exceed every other care; well considering that though goodness without knowledge is weak and feeble, yet knowledge without goodness is dangerous, and that both united form the noblest character, and lay the surest foundation of usefulness to mankind."

Phillips Exeter Academy continues the commitment to unite knowledge and goodness. It seeks students who combine proven academic ability, intellectual curiosity, and tenacity with decency and good character.

Since its inception in 1781, Phillips Exeter Academy has been committed to creating and developing an exceptional learning atmosphere through careful planning of its campus. The facilities master planning process has evolved over two centuries. Throughout this continuing process, many architects and planners have contributed to Exeter's exceptional campus. The most recent facilities planning efforts include the **Perry Dean Rogers Master Plan of 1992** and the **Finegold Alexander Master Plan of 1997**. Two significant buildings,

the Forrestal-Bowld Music Building and the Phelps Science Center, ultimately emerged from those efforts.

In 1997, the Academy's Board of Trustees continued the master plan process with the next chapter in a history of previous master plans. The Exeter Trustees and administration, with input from faculty and staff, has prepared the **Academy Master Plan**, which is intended to ensure that Exeter in the coming century continues to “attract and retain the finest faculty, enroll the finest students, and create the finest learning environment, both in and out of the classroom.” The master plan focuses on four areas critical to Exeter’s mission and future:

- Student Recruitment and Enrollment
- Faculty and Staff Recruitment and Retention
- Academy Life Beyond the Classroom
- Academic Curriculum

The elements of the Academy Master Plan will have a continuing impact on buildings, infrastructure, and landscaping throughout campus. A profile of the Academy helps place the Academy in context.

The Academy enrollment is 1015 students, split nearly equally male and female. The Academy has a faculty comprised of 198 members and a support staff of 460. The land area is comprised of 876 acres, 250 of which are landscaped grounds and 626 are within managed forest and fields. The Academy properties consist of 122 building comprising 1,466,000 square feet of space. This profile is expected to remain constant for the foreseeable future.

The Board of Trustees retained Centerbrook Architects, from Centerbrook, Connecticut to work with the Academy's Facilities Integration Team (FIT) to prepare a **Facilities Master Plan** to assess the conditions of selected existing facilities on campus and to identify needs for new or renovated facilities. Throughout this process, the team identified facilities needs on campus, set priorities and made recommendations for future projects. Several areas quickly emerged as requiring immediate attention. Exeter remains committed to creating a “total learning environment” by extending the Harkness philosophy beyond the classroom to all areas of campus life.

The master plan identified the following facilities needs that will in time be addressed as specific projects: Renovation of the former Thompson Science Building into a new Academy Center, implementation of campus accessibility projects, improvements to residential life through the on-going dormitory renovation projects, renovation of the dining halls, renovation of athletic facilities to support the physical education program, renovation of faculty housing and the acquisition of additional housing as needed, continuing the implementation of the landscape master plan and upgrading campus infrastructure components.

* Source of summary is from Centerbrook's Architect's master plan of May 2002.

Montessori School of Exeter

This school was established in 1979 and is located at 2 Newfields Road. It is fully approved for the Montessori method of teaching and presently has an enrollment of 75 children ages two and a half to kindergarten. Eleven teachers and a full time director staff the school.

The facility can handle 75 to 78 children as it presently stands. There are no plans for further expansion at this time.

7. Civic Life

Exeter enjoys an abundance of cultural and entertainment options as part of the New Hampshire Seacoast Region and its proximity to Boston.

Exeter enjoys an abundance of cultural and entertainment options as part of the New Hampshire Seacoast Region and its proximity to Boston. In town, residents have access to a variety of educational and enrichment programs for the Arts. The vital downtown area, with the striking Town Hall and picturesque Swazey Pavilion, draws visitors and prospective residents year round.

The Arts and Entertainment (art, music, theater, literature)

Exeter is rich in cultural pursuits and offers residents many avenues to explore through both private businesses and civic organizations.

Town-Owned

Through the efforts of the Exeter Arts Committee, Art is prominently displayed in Town-owned facilities.

Civic arts include programs through the Exeter Arts Committee, the Parks and Recreation Department, the Exeter Public Library, and the Exeter Adult Education Program. These departments and organizations offer language, art, and theatrical programs. The recent Parks and Recreation offering of the Magical Theater Arts Program is an introduction for children to life skills through the playful process of theater training. The Library offers children's story hours as well as book discussions and presentations for adults, poetry readings and a Writers Group that meets twice monthly to encourage and critique writing styles. The Exeter Adult Education Program offers a variety of language, art and enrichment courses for Town residents.

Art is prominently displayed in Town-owned facilities through the efforts of the Exeter Arts Committee. The Committee members are appointed by the Town Selectmen and charged with encouraging the visual arts and supporting artists in the Seacoast Area. The Committee is responsible for the organization and mounting of three continuous art exhibits in the Exeter Town Offices, including an open house during

Winterfest, and one holiday show at the Town Hall. The Committee also schedules and supervises the use of the Town Hall Gallery and studios. In the coming years, the Committee intends to continue these exhibits and events as described above and hopes to expand their exhibits to include three-dimensional art, such as sculpture and pottery. These plans include purchasing a glass showcase for the three-dimensional displays in the Town Offices. The upcoming installation of an elevator at the Town Hall will dramatically improve access to the second floor gallery and studios. It is the intent of the Committee to expand the visual arts in the community by offering classes and programs. With the elevator, and other improvements planned for the Town Hall, the Committee expects to better utilize other second floor rooms for programs, classes and studios. With these changes, the second floor of the Town Hall will become a creative resource center for Seacoast artists and art organizations. As in the past, the Committee continues to encourage the addition of music during events at both the Town Offices exhibit and Town Hall gallery to enhance and compliment the art presentation to the community.

In the future, craftsmen and vendors could expand on the concept of a successful summer 'farmers market' and consider offering a year 'round indoor market.

The Committee has a working partnership with other area art organizations: Seacoast Art Association, New Hampshire Society for Photographic Arts, Exeter Center for Creative Arts, and Artists resident at River Woods in Exeter.

Private

Private businesses in Exeter are another resource for the Arts, from art and music lessons at the Exeter Center for Creative Arts (ECCA), to book readings and story hours at the local bookstores, Time of Wonder and Water Street Books. The Great Bay Youth Orchestra, a regional organization, meets and performs in the Cooperative Middle School auditorium. They seek to develop a high quality musical ensemble comprised of youths from the Great Bay area, while promoting a lifelong love of music and the arts in its members. This is a relatively new organization that will hopefully flourish and nurture young musicians in the coming years.

Private businesses in Exeter are another resource for the Arts.

Exeter Fine Crafts, on Water Street, works to promote and preserve the traditions of fine craftsmanship in New England. Their retail shop offers a wide selection of products made by Northern New England craftsman, while their Education Department offers classes and workshops for adults and children in such things as art, clay, and jewelry. Many other craftsmen and merchants also make Exeter their home. In the future, craftsmen and vendors could expand on the concept of a successful summer "farmers market" and consider offering a year round indoor market or seasonal arts and crafts festivals.

The construction of an outdoor amphitheater in Swasey Park would be an inviting venue for entertainment and cultural activities.

Entertainment forms another facet of Civic Life in Exeter. The Ioka Theater, on Water Street, continues to show new movie releases since its inception in 1915. Residents enjoy dining and shopping in the

Historic District, along with Town and commercially sponsored annual events, such as the Spring Fling, Winter Festival, Christmas Parade, and summer concerts at Swasey Park and the downtown pavilion.

In the future, events could be showcased at an outdoor amphitheater in Swasey Park. Residents are drawn to this park for afternoon walks along the river or picnics on the grass. Some just come to sit and admire the view. But the park's largest draw are the structured events that take place along Swasey Parkway during warm weather months, such as the summer concert series and the festivities associated with the annual Revolutionary War Festival. The construction of an amphitheater to replace the existing stage would be an inviting venue for these entertaining and cultural activities. Also in the coming years, park officials should consider closing Swasey Parkway to vehicular traffic to further enhance the Town's enjoyment of this popular gathering place.

New Outlook Teen Center

New Outlook's mission is to provide a community that engages youth in opportunities that nurture belonging, independence, resilience and social responsibility.

New Outlook's program was established in the early 1990's with a sense of community urgency to provide a safe place with new opportunities for local youth. Its mission is to provide a community that engages youth in opportunities that nurture belonging, independence, resilience, and social responsibility. New Outlook's vision statement states:

In fulfilling the mission, New Outlook works collaboratively in the community to offer a variety of educational and recreational activities that

- ❖ Develop a sense of belonging and personal importance
- ❖ Enhance self-awareness and self-confidence
- ❖ Promote academic pursuit and success
- ❖ Foster creative expression
- ❖ Instill cooperative spirit and leadership qualities
- ❖ Teach the value and importance of healthy recreation and relaxation

In July 2001, New Outlook purchased a building at 120 Front Street – the former Poggio & Sons Market. There still exists a laundromat in the rear of the building. New Outlook has renovated the facility, adding office and meeting space, handicapped accessible bathrooms, new windows in the basement, a new fire escape to the upstairs apartment, and finishing work to the interior.

New Outlook conducts ten core program activities on-site and off-site throughout the school year and summer months, in addition to helping develop and implement broad community based prevention and coalition building strategies. A pool of at least fifty youth are engaged regularly in program activities, and serve an average of eighteen youth daily in on-site and off-site programming. Examples of the core

programs and services include after school programs, Riverwoods intergenerational program and arts and crafts. It continues to expand core services, integrating programs with other youth and family service organizations in the area.

Facility Needs: The building and property still need several improvements. The store front window sills need reconstructing, the basement needs to be brought up to code, the parking lot and driveway need paving, the laundromat needs upgrading, a wheelchair ramp needs to be built, and better lighting is needed for the laundromat and parking lot areas. Additional needs include a bike rack, a permanent basketball hoop, improved access to technology and the Internet, and an appealing usable grassy area at the rear of the property.

Program Needs: New Outlook hopes to enhance the look of the building, the property and the availability of facility by expanding usable program space over the next five years. The Teen Center wants the youth and adults in the community to utilize the facility for meetings, social gatherings, programs and services, and resource and referral information.

8. Historical Resources *

All across America, communities continue to see resurgence in the appreciation for historic resources. The historical character and charm of Exeter's two historic districts provide a focal point for many facets of Civic Life in the community. The Exeter Historic District Commission (HDC), established on 8 June 1970, is the mechanism through which the Town and its residents can carefully manage change and maintain the quality of life in the coming years.

Exeter's history is a rich one, stretching back to 1638 when it was founded by the Reverend John Wheelwright and a small band of settlers from Massachusetts. The historical resources of Exeter are considerable and well appreciated by both residents and those visiting the Town. Exeter's downtown includes structures of many architectural styles from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

*** See Chapter 9, "Historic and Cultural Resources" for a more complete description.**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the Town and its representatives pursue the goals and objectives of both the Downtown and Riverfront revitalization projects aimed at enhancing the overall enjoyment of the downtown area.

The historical character and charm of Exeter's two Historical districts provide a focal point for many facets of Civic Life in the community.

2. That the Town encourages and welcomes Art and Cultural events in town and facilitates use of its buildings.
3. That the Town recognizes the historical significance and educational value of structures, buildings and programs of the private organizations that contribute to the vitality of Civic Life in Exeter.
4. That the Town and its representatives actively support the efforts of the Historic District Commission to protect and preserve the historical heritage of Exeter, through enforcement of Article 8 of the Town’s Zoning Ordinance, Historic Districts.
5. That the Town and its representatives work to enhance the historic districts and take steps towards restoring elements that have deteriorated over time. This should include a review of the pedestrian and traffic flow in the shopping district, landscaping, sidewalks and lighting as part of the Downtown and Waterfront revitalization projects.
6. That the Historic District Commission conduct periodic reviews of its Guidelines, adopted on 1 January 2001, to insure their continued effectiveness in achieving the purposes of Article 8 of the Town’s Zoning Ordinance, consistency with appropriate State and Federal guidelines, and flexibility to embrace new materials, products and processes associated with the preservation of historic structures.
7. That the Historic District Commission undertake an inventory of all historic structures located within the two (2) existing historic districts and prepare a data base to assist the Commission in preserving and monitoring building changes over time. That the Historic District Commission continues to pursue opportunities to interact and communicate with community residents and provide information and guidance on historic preservation. This should include the use of a variety of media.

The EHDC is a body of volunteer citizens that look to preserve and protect important historic landmarks and the overall charm of the Town.

Town-Owned

The Exeter Town Hall, with the Statue of Justice on top of the cupola, was built in 1855. The Swasey Pavilion is a more recent addition to the collection of historic structures in the downtown area and was built in 1916. The “bandstand” as it is more commonly known, is the focal point for downtown Exeter and the stage for the Exeter Brass Band’s summer concert series and other civic events throughout the year.

Another landmark of historical significance is the “Powder House,” located at Duck Point across from Swasey Parkway on the bank of the Squamscott River. Built in 1771, the Powder House served as a storage location for gunpowder during the Revolutionary War and it is believed

that a number of those barrels were eventually used in the Battle of Bunker Hill. This landmark was refurbished in 1999.

The Exeter Historic District Commission is a body of volunteer citizens that look to preserve and protect these important landmarks and the overall charm and ambiance of the Town. As stated in the Town's Zoning Ordinance, the purposes of the Historic District Commission are:

- ✧ To safeguard the heritage of the Town as it is represented in structures of historical and architectural value located, or which may be located in an historic district;
- ✧ To preserve and reflect elements of the community's architectural, cultural, social, economic and political history;
- ✧ To conserve property values;
- ✧ To foster civic pride; and
- ✧ To promote use of an historic district for the education, pleasure and welfare of the citizens of Exeter.

As mentioned above, there are two (2) historic districts in the Town: The Front Street Historic District, created in 1971, which runs along both sides of Front Street, 200 feet from the curb line, from Spring Street to Lincoln Street; and the Downtown Historic District, created in 1979, which runs along both sides of Water Street, 200 feet from the curb line, from Main Street to High Street, including Chestnut and Pleasant Streets.

Both of these historic districts are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, several individual structures are on the National Register: the Gilman Garrison House at 12 Water Street; the First Church at 21 Front Street; the Maj. John Gilman House at 25 Cass Street; the Ladd-Gilman House (part of the American Independence Museum) at Governor's Lane and Water Street; the Moses-Kent House at 1 Pine Street; the Dudley House at 14 Front Street; and the Edward Sewall Garrison House at 16 Epping Road.

Private

In 1991, the **American Independence Museum** opened to the public. Sitting atop a hill, overlooking downtown Exeter, the museum's Ladd-Gilman House offers tours, educational programs, and exhibits 17th and 18th century documents, furnishings and other artifacts pertaining to the American Revolution. Included among its collection are an original Order of the Purple Heart, designed by George Washington; an original Dunlap Broadside copy of the Declaration of Independence; and two original drafts of the Constitution of the United States. Built in the early 1700s, the Ladd-Gilman House served as the State treasury during the

The vitality and enjoyment of the historic districts will be further advanced as the Town makes progress towards a new vision for the streetscape in the downtown area.

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Revolution. John Taylor Gilman lived in the house during his fourteen terms as Governor of New Hampshire, and his family occupied the house until it was purchased by the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of New Hampshire in 1902.

Folsom Tavern, the museum's second property, was built in 1775 and was the center of much political and social activity during the Revolution. In 1783, twelve revolutionary soldiers met here and formed the Society of the Cincinnati of NH, and six years later George Washington stopped by during his Presidential tour. In 1929, the Society saved the building from demolition and moved it to its present location on Water Street. Today, the American Independence Museum is engaged in a master planning process to unite its buildings and grounds with gardens, walkways, new entrances and parking, and to restore the Folsom Tavern as an education and community resource. Its major objective is to expand the museum's dedication to the study, collection and interpretation of New Hampshire's role in the Revolution and the founding of our nation, and to strengthen its ability to serve this community.

The Exeter Historical Society is a non-profit organization dedicated to the research and preservation of Exeter's past. Located on 47 Front Street in a yellow brick classical revival building, the building was designed by the prominent Boston firm of Rotch and Tilden in 1894 as Exeter's Public Library and Civil War Memorial. In 1989 the building was restored as the Exeter Historical Society and now contains exhibition rooms, a library, and archives on Exeter area history. EHS provides adult programs, educational outreach, Civil War exhibits, and co-sponsors historic events and publications throughout the year for its community.

Gilman Garrison House c. 1690 is an historic property owned and operated by The Society For the Preservation of New England Antiquities. As described in 1719, the house "was built as a fortified house, strategically sited to protect the valuable sawmills owned by John Gilman. The interior reveals walls constructed of massive sawn logs. In the mid-18th century it was substantially remodeled and a wing with elegant paneled doors was added. The building was restored in the 1950s by local preservationist William Dudley to reveal its early architecture and to interpret the lives of its varied occupants over the centuries. Open to the public by appointment only, the Gilman Garrison House serves as part of SPNEA's Study Houses Program.

IOKA Theater

The present IOKA Theater, located on Water Street, was established and built by Judge Edward D Mayer in 1915. It is the only public movie theater located in Exeter. The theater has undergone several renovations over the years, mainly in 1936 and 1987. The name IOKA is Indian and means "playground".

The theater has first run movies to offer the residents. It also has a soda bar in the main lobby. Marquee rentals are available. This theater adequately supplies the needs of Exeter residents at the present time. There are no further plans for expansion.

The vitality and enjoyment of the historic districts will be further advanced as the Town makes progress towards a new vision for the streetscape in the downtown area. Efforts are now underway to showcase the architectural beauty of Exeter, not disguise it. Advances in technology that have brought us everyday conveniences over the years have unfortunately made their mark. Trees and grass have been replaced with utility poles, telephone wires and parking spaces. Town planners are looking toward a more visually appealing streetscape that is pedestrian friendly and offers inviting spaces for walkers and shoppers alike. Traffic flow will be rerouted to make better use of the town center and Swasey Pavilion. Other efforts are looking at the revitalization of the Riverfront area along Water Street. While several residential and commercial elements are currently housed there, the Riverfront project seeks to showcase the natural beauty of this area and make a visually distinctive connection with the existing shopping district.

APPENDIX A
VISIONING SESSION RESULTS

Master Plan Visioning Session, January 2002
Community Facilities – Condensed Summary of Comments

Votes	Improvements to Existing Facilities	Votes	NEEDS in 10-15 years
	School/student etc.		Community Center
65	<i>Improve High School: New building, grounds and parking</i>	20	<i>Community center: Indoor pool, multi-use recreation</i>
13	Teens: Improve teen center, more after school programs		
3	Main street school improvements: Larger staff parking, building improvements		Downtown Related
1	Remove “junior” from High School Annex	8	<i>Downtown parking facility</i>
-	SST (Seacoast School of Technology)	7	Public restrooms and signs
		4	Facilities that encourage public transportation (Trolley stops)
	Information	4	<i>Community “kiosk”</i>
2	Channel 22 (Include Community News)	2	<i>Incentive to occupy downtown storefronts</i>
-	Public signs for existing facilities (2-way street signs)	1	Year round community market and craft market
-	Publish maps and community facility and policy use(web site, e-mail, town newsletter)	1	Outdoor pedestrian amenities
		1	Purchase property of drive-thru bank for community use
	Train Station	1	<i>Affordable in-town hotel/motel</i>
11	<i>Train station (up-grade, tickets, access, historic station)</i>	-	Shared Bicycle Program
-	Child care at or near facilities (train station)		
-	<i>Pedestrian path from train station to downtown</i>		Entertainment/Arts
		10	<i>Outdoor concert area, amphitheater. (See Swasey Park)</i>
	Downtown Facilities and General	2	Another movie theater
17	<i>Town Hall (elevator, bathroom , theater, gallery on 3rd floor, public address system)</i>	-	Theater-auditorium
9	<i>Improve Bandstand area</i>		
4	Bury power lines along Water Street		OTHER
2	Acquire systems for hearing impaired for use at public meetings	13	<i>Affordable housing</i>
3	Library: more teen programs, expand parking and library	1	Fire (West-side sub station)
1	Senior center (more programs)	1	Consider land requirements (Where will we put any new facilities, esp. in town)
-	Police	-	<i>New Water Treatment Plant</i>
-	Exeter facilities used by surrounding communities – consider their regional use	-	Dedicated rooms for adult education
-	Renovate Town Office	-	<i>Expansion of elderly housing</i>
-	Continued renovation of Folsom Tavern	-	<i>Shopping center</i>
	Utilities		
10	Acquire and provide for water supply in future		Public transportation
4	Expansion of water lines and sewer lines	15	<i>Shuttle Service/Trolleys (Downtown and Portsmouth Avenue)</i>
1	Define sewer district / increase	1	Remote Parking areas (town wide)

Community Facilities – Summary of final voting

	requirements for commercial use pre-treatment		
-	All infrastructure		
-	Ample process for ensuring proper handling of waste water run-off		Access
		18	<i>Sidewalks (West side and everywhere)</i>
	Swasey/riverfront area	12	<i>Bike paths: Road access from Front Street (from edge of town) to Brickyard Pond (Increase sidewalks. Broad shoulders and bike paths) Also consider scenic byway loop (attendant amenities)</i>
12	<i>Continue to improve river front area, create marina/dock space</i>	1	<i>Third bridge across river</i>
6	<i>Make Swasey Parkway pedestrian only</i>		
1	<i>Expand river-walk, need a pedestrian bridge over Squamscott (Riverfront project)</i>		
	Rec related		
6	<i>Outdoor Skating Rink</i>		
2	<i>Youth fields</i>		
1	<i>Upgrade Gilman Park – picnic & family area</i>		
-	<i>Improve Tennis Courts</i>		

Note: *Italicized font indicates the topic was mentioned in one or other topic session.*