

**NORTHFIELD PLANNING BOARD
MASTER PLAN
MINUTES 01-23-03**

Members present: Doug Read, Dick Cullen, Fran LaBranche, Chris Hunt, Bill Dawson, Gloria Pickering, Dick Maher, George Flanders. Also Greg Tansley, LRPC and Eliza Conde, Secretary.

Greg Tansley presented the "Community Characteristics" chapter derived from the 2000 Census and the Office of State Planning. There was discussion about housing values and numbers which show that the majority of housing units in Northfield are single family. The growth rate in population and housing units was dramatic in the 1980's and dropped off in the 1990's. Not shown in these charts is the growth from 2000 to 2002. These figures will be included in the final version of this chapter. The Board requested that the adult age group be broken down into 2 age groups.

Greg Tansley moved on to beginning the "Transportation" chapter of the Master Plan. He presented a profile of Northfield's transportation characteristics from the US Census Bureau. The general trend is more vehicles per household, more people driving alone and a longer commutes to work. The Board identified the following issues as problems needing to be addressed:

- Pedestrian safety
 - Speeding traffic creating safety hazard for walkers on country roads
 - Elm Street side walk not delineated enough
 - Road projects should allow for shoulders for walking and biking
 - Perhaps part of the Planning could include need for shoulders.
 - Need for public transportation or at least a central area for existing transportation
 - General disagreement of whether roads should be paved or not paved

Greg will put together the Transportation chapter for the Board's review for the next meeting which will be Feb. 27,2003 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eliza Conde, Secretary