

LIST OF PETERSHAM PARCEL NUMBERS AND OWNERS

For Map Updated to April 18, 1980

1	Town of Petersham	23	Bull, George W. Jr. & D.S.
2	Town of Petersham	24	Town of Petersham
3	Unitarian Society	25	Anderson, Carl W. & C.C.
4	Simes, Olive (est.)	26	Town of Petersham
5	Smith, Paul D., Trustee	27	Tower, Charles S. & C.D.
6	Sherwood, Harold C. & M.E.	28	Cobb, Hazel E. & Dugan, M.
7	Sherwood, Harold C. & M.E.	29	Duplessie, William A. & B.J.
8	Simes, Olive (est.)	30	Warrington, Richard & Nancy
8.1	Sherwood, Harold C. & M.E.	31	Town of Petersham
9	Fiske, Margaret, (est.)	32	Anderson, Edwin C.
10	Environmental Sanitation & Engineering Assoc. Inc.	33	Church, J.W. & M.L.
11	Haines, D.F. & D.G.	34	Town of Petersham
12	Lamb, Herbert N. & T.M.	35	New England Tel. & Tel. Co.
13	Clark, C. Kenneth	36	Kenney, Agnes B.
14	Olson, Earl H. & C.	37	Best Robert H. & C.A.
15	Olson, Earl H. & C.	38	Germond, B.J. & D.M.
16	Perkins, William W.	39	Lavoie, Donald A.
16.1	Sherwood, H.C & M.E.	40	Goudie, Kathleen J.
17	Sherwood, H.C. & M.E.	41	Petersham Historical Soc.
18	New England National Bank	42	Potee, K.G. & J.K.
19	Kuniholm, David A. & O.R.	43	Flint, Susan W.
20	Raup, High M. & Lucy G.	44	Orthodox Society
21	Kuniholm, David A. & O.R.	45	Fenn, Donald F. & E.C.
22	Larson, G.G. & S.B.	46	Fleming, E.L.

- 47 Burrell, Marie E.
- 48 Les Soeurs de L'Assomption
- 49 Town of Petersham

Public Lands in Petersham circa 1980

Parcel #	Owner	Description	Acres	
1	Town of Petersham	South Common	0.9	
2	" "	SW corners of Common	1.1	
24	" "	Fiske portion Center Cemetary	0.3	
26	" "	Town Hall, Office, Center Cemetary	3.0	
31	" "	Fire Station	0.6	
34	" "	Police Station	0.2	
49	" "	Northwest Common	0.6	
50	" "	North Common	1.0	
98	" "	Center School	17.6	
137	" "	Coolidge Cemetary	0.7	
150	" "	Babbitt Sanctuary	55.0	
171	" "	Nichewaug Cemetary	0.7	
245	" "	Babbitt Sanctuary	0.2	
269	" "	Town Barn and Swamp	8.7	
357	" "	Ledgeville Cemetary	1.0	
370	" "	East Street Cemetary	9.1	
390	" "	Shaw Pit	42.2	
425	" "	Williams Cemetary	0.2	
465	" "	Town Forest	97.9	
476	" "	Town Forest	20.0	
483	" "	North Cemetary	0.8	
600	" "	Burrage Corner Cemetary	0.3	
685	" "	Town Dump	7.1	
698	" "	West Street Cemetary	5.0	
721	" "	Schaefer Lot	8.4	282.6
630	Comm. of MA D.E.M	Fed. Women's Clubs State Forest	112.8	
631	" "	" " "	473.6	
632	" "	" " "	0.1	586.5
525	" "	Petersham State Forest	23.2	
534	" "	" " "	286.6	
584	" "	" " "	185.4	477.2
429	" F&G	Narrow Lane Wldf. Mgt. Area	211.3	
433	" "	Narrow Ln/Glasheen Wldf. Mgt. Area	341.1	552.4*
175	" M.D.C.	Parcels in Original Town	31.4	
176	" "	" " "	17.7	
177	" "	" " "	19.1	
178	" "	" " "	149.3	
181	" "	" " "	14.0	
183	" "	" " "	94.7	
186	" "	" " "	40.1	
220	" "	" " "	12.2	
222	" "	" " "	0.4	
226	" "	" " "	12.9	
253	" "	" " "	76.5	
570	" "	" " "	5.1	
573	" "	" " "	1.5	
574	" "	" " "	0.6	
577	" "	" " "	11.7	
578	" "	" " "	108.7	
608	" "	" " "	3.1	
614	" "	" " "	47.1	
1	Comm. of MA F&G	Green Diamond Forestry Co. Total Fish & Game	257.9	810.3

Parcel	Owner	Description	Acres	
615	Comm. of MA M.D.C.	Parcels in Original Town	82.3	
616	"	"	9.7	
627	"	"	32.0	
629	"	"	813.7	
645	"	"	63.9	
658	"	"	134.1	
672	"	"	51.2	
684	"	"	125.9	
700	"	"	99.5	
726	"	"	84.2	
-	"	Parcel annexed to Town (approx)	<u>19405.7</u>	21548.3
			Total for Commonwealth	<u>23164.4</u>
48	Les Soeurs de L'assumption	Academy	7.0	
537	"	Novitiate	19.9	
554	Roman Catholic Bishop/Springfield	Saint Peter's Church	<u>0.7</u>	27.6
44	Orthodox Society	Church Lot	0.5	
66	"	Parsonage	<u>2.7</u>	3.2
3	Unitarian Society	Church Lot	0.5	
69	"	Parsonage	<u>2.2</u>	2.7
			Total Church Land	<u>33.5</u>
212	Pres. & Fellows of Harvard College	Part of Slab City Tract	104.1	
243	"	"	123.4	
287	"	"	210.2	
298	"	"	26.9	
311	"	"	25.0	
484	"	Part of Prospect Hill Tract	465.9	
485	"	"	2.7	
488	"	"	107.0	
527	"	"	46.7	
541	"	Part of Tom Swamp Tract	152.1	
561	"	Higginson House	3.2	
572	"	Part of Tom Swamp Tract	637.9	
583	"	"	296.6	
669	"	Schwartz Tract	44.0	
701	"	Simes-Ayers-Johnson Lot	<u>308.4</u>	2554.1
296	Massachusetts Audubon	East of Connors Pond	98.1	
297	"	Reed's Island	1.9	
300	"	Border of Pond, East	3.2	
301	"	North of Loring Hill Road	79.7	
310	"	East of Rt 122, South of Pond	11.8	
320	"	South of Loring Hill Road	<u>142.0</u>	336.7
288	Trustees of Reservations	Part of Brooks Wildlife Sanctuary	186.5	
292.1	"	"	39.3	
295	"	"	52.7	
365.1	"	"	7.6	
361	"	"	25.1	
377	"	North Common	22.4	
377.2	"	Law Office lot	2.3	
384	"	Part of Brooks Wildlife Sanctuary	<u>148.0</u>	483.9
299	Swift River Valley Trust	Connors Pond	29.2	
303	"	Connors Pond Landing	<u>1.5</u>	30.7
219	Trustees of Reservations	Old Daniels School of Forestry	51.5	
230	"	"	52.9	
232	"	"	51.6	
234	"	"	13.2	
235	"	"	10.9	
236	"	"	7.5	

Parcel	Owner	Description	Acres	
216	Trustees of Reservations	Old Worcester Nat'l History Soc.	13.9	
217	"	"	16.6	
217A	"	"	15.0	
218	"	"	24.5	
233	"	"	22.9	
238	"	"	17.5	
239	"	"	22.2	
240	"	"	6.2	
241	"	"	8.8	355.2
Misc. Non Profits				
556	Petersham Craft Center	Lot	0.8	
99	Petersham Grange	"	1.7	
41	Petersham Historical Soc.	Museum Site	0.2	
405	"	"	0.2	
410	"	Ledgeville School	0.2	
410	"	Indian Caves	0.8	
417	"	East Street School	0.2	1.4
51	Petersham Memorial Library	Building site	0.6	
421	Five Charities Lot		3.8	5.8
Total				
Others Not Likely to Develop				
466	Petersham Country Club	Golf Course	98.0	
469	"	"	50.2	
471	"	"	14.1	
472	"	"	17.3	
474	"	"	7.7	187.3
470	Petersham Curling Club	Building site	0.5	0.5
521	Petersham Gun Club	Land	70.2	
521A	"	"	20.9	91.1
199	Carter Pond Co.	Land	100.7	
200	"	"	10.1	
201	"	"	0.8	111.6
Total Others			390.5	

Total area in old Petersham 24,054.3
Total area in new Petersham 43,460

	Newtown	Old Town
"open land"		
Town	282.6	282.6
State	23,164.4 = 53%	3,758.7
Church	33.5	33.5
Conservation	3710.6	3766.6
Misc	396.3	396.3
Total	27,637.4 = 64%	8,231.7 = 34%
"other lands"	15,822.6 = 36%	15,822.6 = 66%
	43,460.0	24,054.3

POPULATION OF PETERSHAM

**1765	-	707	1870	-	1335
1776	-	1235	1875	-	1203
1790	-	1560	1880	-	1109
1800	-	1794	1885	-	1032
1810	-	1490*	1890	-	1050
1820	-	1623	1895	-	952
1830	-	1696	1900	-	853
1840	-	1775	1905	-	855
1850	-	1527	**1910	-	757
1855	-	1553	1915	-	727
1860	-	1465	1920	-	642
1865	-	1428	1925	-	
			1930	-	
*The drop in 1810 occurs because the town of Dana was set off from Petersham in 1801.			***1935	-	718
			1940	-	923
			1945	-	743
** 1765 - 1910 Taken from The History of Land Use in the Harvard Forest			1950	-	814
			1955	-	929
*** 1935 - 1965 Taken from The Decennial Census (1965) Page 18			1960	-	890
			***1965	-	990
			1970	-	1030±

Petersham Land Use

	Private	Public	Total
Houselots	460	30	490
Fields	945	60	1005
Abandoned Fields	290	15	305
Forest	14,400	6,560	20,960
Swamps & Marshes	690	460	1,150
Ponds	160	195	355
Other	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>15</u>
Total	16,955	7,325	24,280

Rounded to nearest 5 acres (Preliminary Estimate)

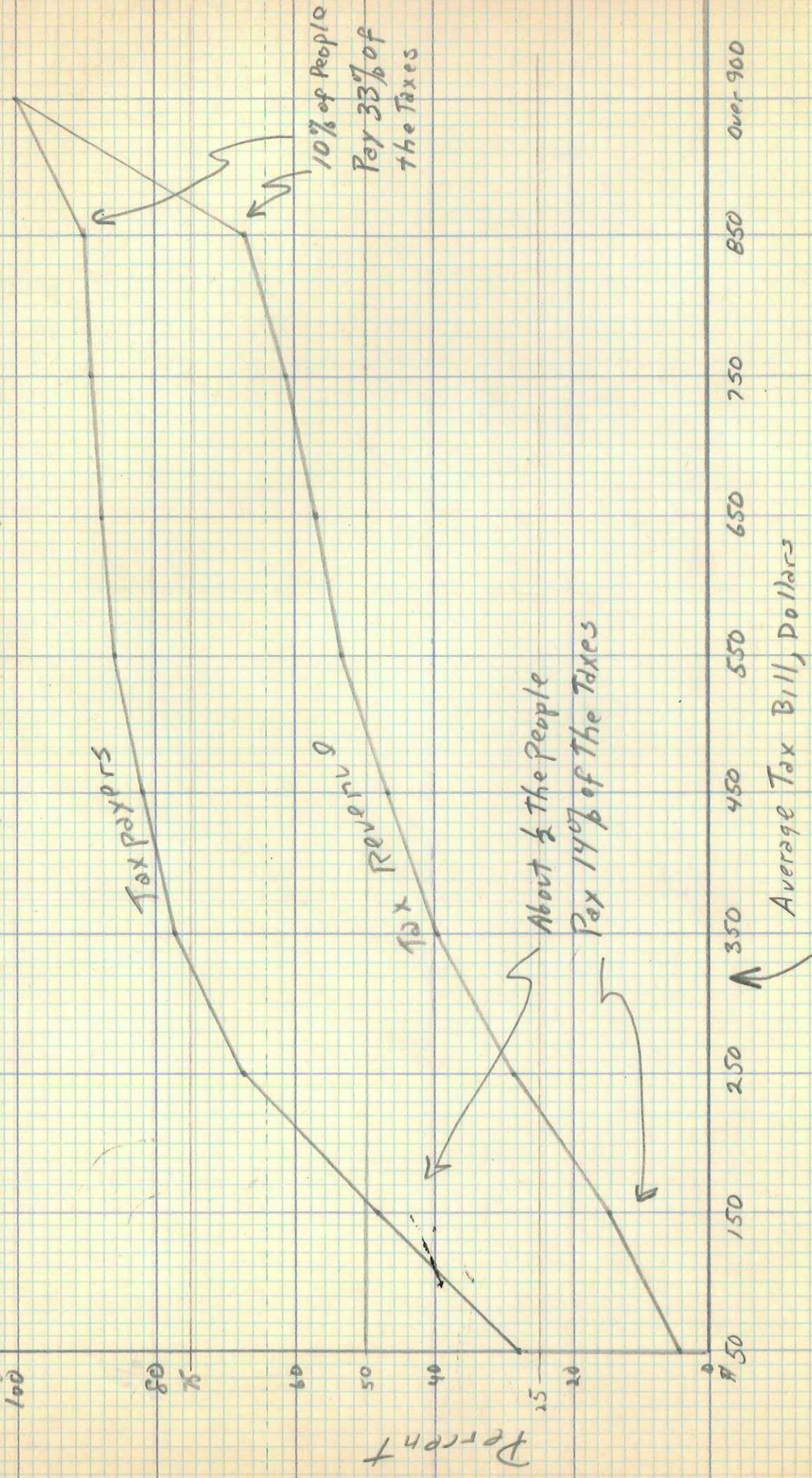
Petershome Land Use

	Private	Public	Total
Houselots	460	30	490
Fields	945	60	1005
Abandoned Fields	290	15	305
Forest	14,400	6,560	20,960
Swamps & Marshes	690	460	1,150
Ponds	160	195	355
Other	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>15</u>
Total	16,955	7,325	24,280

Rounded to nearest 5 acres (Preliminary Estimate)

Peter Sham - 1964

Cumulative Percentage of Taxpayers, by Size of Tax Bill
Cumulative Percentage of Revenue Raised by Size of Tax Bill



10% of People
Pay 33% of
the Taxes

About 1/2 of the People
Pay 14% of the Taxes

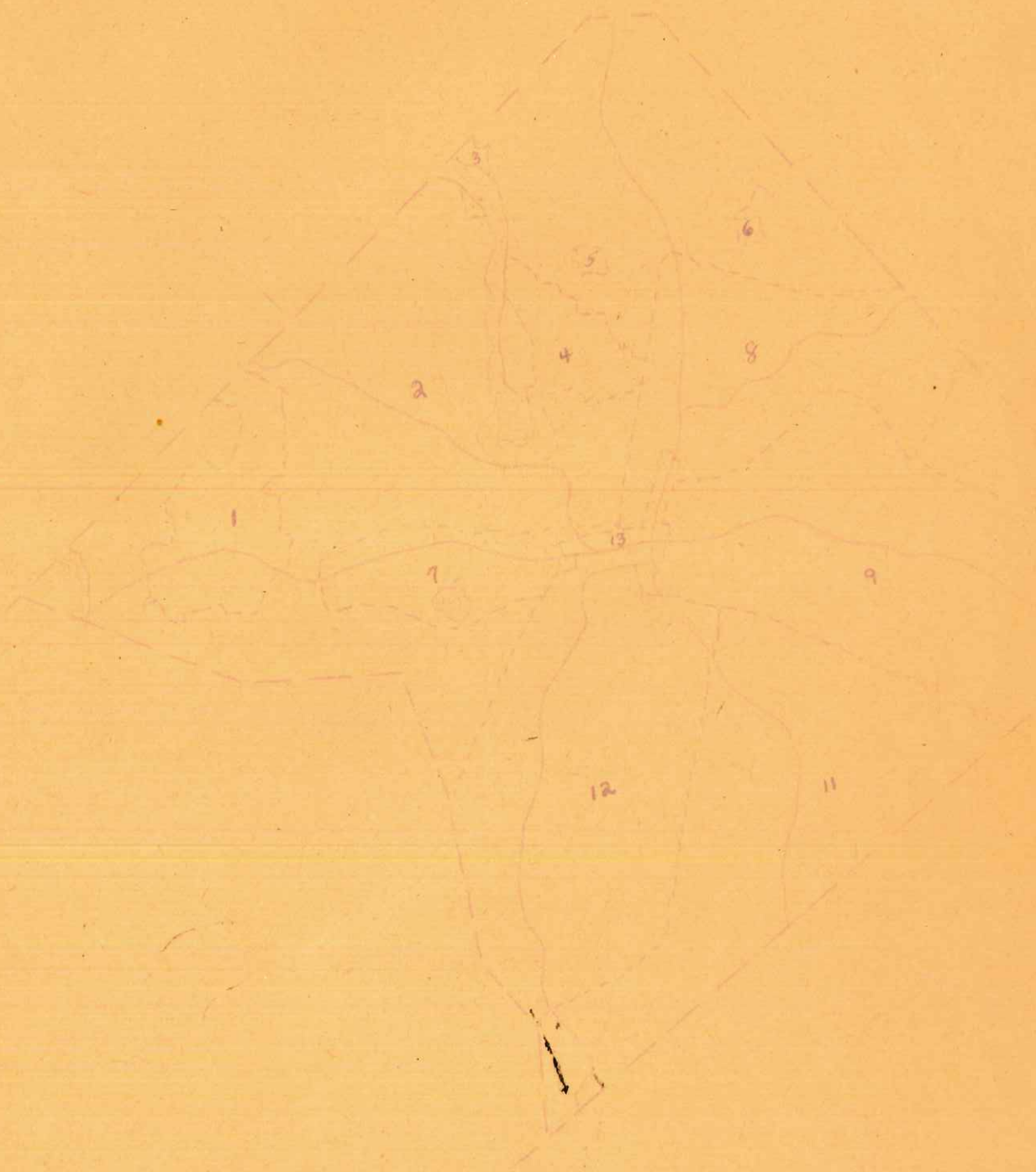
Average Tax Bill, Dollars

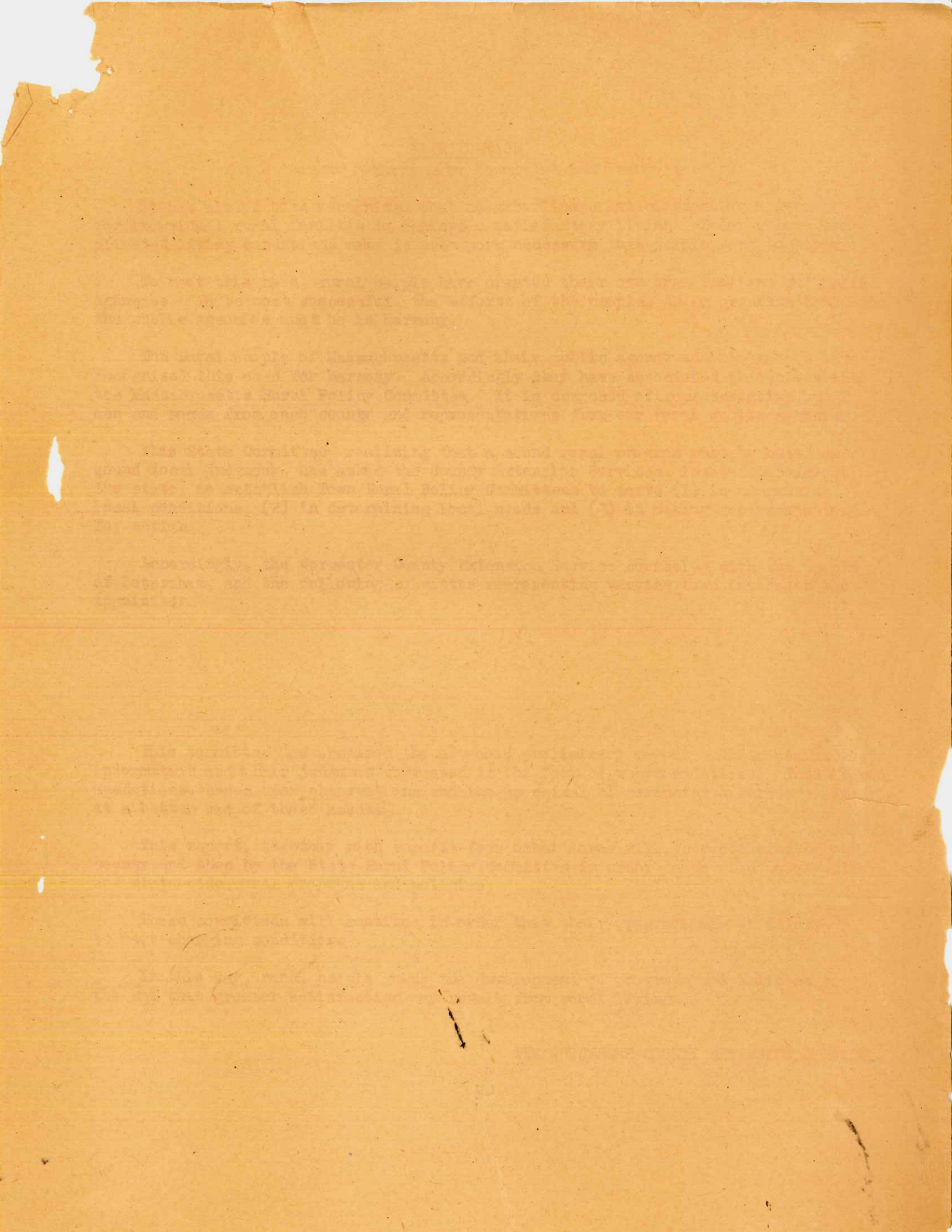
Average Bill \$320 - 2/3 of the people pay less.

Files: Mass. Towns & Cities A-Z

A PRELIMINARY COUNTRY LIFE REPORT
FOR THE TOWN OF PETERSHAM

Prepared by the
Country Life Committee of Petersham





THIS REPORT

The Putersham County Life Committee submits this preliminary report for the consideration of all those interested in the progress of the town of Putersham.

The committee has carefully appraised the physical facilities of our town, the soil, the land, climate, water, etc. We have considered our people and what they are doing. We have divided the town into "Areas" (See report on front page) on the basis of conditions and interests in order to simplify consideration of our problems. We have appraised the assets and handicaps of our town from the rural viewpoint. As a result, we have submitted recommendations which may serve as common objectives for all who are responsible for the conduct of rural programs in our town.

We do not consider this report as a completed task. It is only preliminary. Likewise, the work of the committee is not finished. It is our hope and plan that this committee may, with some change in personnel, each year, continue permanently in order:

- (1) that this report can be checked from time to time to ascertain the progress of the organizations and agencies in following out our recommendations;
- (2) to re-examine the report and make corrections and amplifications as new information and ideas come to light; and
- (3) to make modifications to meet the constantly changing social and economic conditions under which we live.

Thus, this preliminary or basic report will be followed by progressive work.

The committee appreciates the assistance of the Extension Service in securing the factual and technical information and clerical assistance used in connection with the preparation of this preliminary report.

We believe that the coordinated effort of everyone interested in rural welfare will yield results. It is for this reason that the committee has given the right to prepare this preliminary report and is willing to continue as a consulting body in the interest of local and outside agencies working on rural problems. We believe that criticism, suggestions and assistance.

THE PUTERSHAM COUNTY LIFE COMMITTEE

PART I DESCRIPTION OF RESOURCES

I. GENERAL

A. Physical

Location - Petersham is a hill town occupying about 25,000 acres in northeastern Worcester County. It adjoins the Worcester-Franklin County line and the Quabbin Reservoir area which is under the control of the Metropolitan Water Commission. The industrial town of Athol (approximately 10,750 population) adjoins Petersham on the north. Gardner is about 14 miles northeastward, and Worcester lies about 32 miles to the southeast. Barre (3,510 population in 1935) adjoins Petersham on the southwest. A trunkline highway from Worcester to Athol passes through Petersham. The town is connected with surrounding large towns and cities by hard surfaced roads. The closest rail facilities are at Athol.

Topography, Relief, and Drainage - The topography of Petersham is steeply rolling and hilly with long narrow ridges and steep valleys. Three prominent north-south ridges dominate the town. One passes through the center across the town from north to south and has a broad gentle top and slopes steeply 250 to 300 feet into the valleys on either side. The ridge in the western part of town has little flat or level surface. It is primarily steeply rolling and hilly and is flanked by steeply rolling hills. Differences in elevation from 200 to 300 feet are common. It slopes in the direction of Harvard Pond to the east and to the Quabbin Reservoir to the west. The eastern most ridge is separated from the central by the east branch of the Swift River which occupies a deep sharp valley. The ridge itself is rather broad topped and is flanked by steeply rolling hills. Peak elevations on the eastern and central ridge are at about 1,100 feet while the western ridge is about 100 feet lower. The southern corner of town is characterized by sharp steep valleys and steep hills with practically no level upland surface. The eastern branch of the Swift River drains to the south and southwestward. The other streams in town drain in the same direction. The whole town lies within the Swift River watershed.

In addition to the Harvard Pond and adjoining swampland, the only other large body of water in Petersham is the Quabbin area which occupies the eastern corner of town. In addition to these two larger ponds, however, there are a number of smaller ones adjoining the water courses in all sections of the town.

Climate - Petersham has a climate similar to that in the hillsides of western Worcester County. Rainfall varies between about 40 - 45 inches with dry years with rainfall of 25 - 35 inches once in every five or ten years at least. The rain has fairly even distribution with perhaps a slight increase during the summer. High summer temperatures and longer intervals between rains combine with well drained soils to produce drought conditions on farm lands during July and August. Second hay crops are practically lost and pastures get brown and dry.

The higher elevations and more northerly location than prevails in southwestern Arizona County make for slightly cooler temperatures all year round and later spring seasons. The frost free season varies from 150-170 days but cool spring weather shortens the actual growing season to 140-160 days or less and delays it from one to two weeks as compared with the southwestern part of the county. The exposed high ridges in town have an advantage of cool pleasant summer breezes and are subjected to the force of winter storms.

Rainfall and temperature conditions are well adapted to the growth of forage crops, particularly

Soils - Petersham, with its rough hilly topography has a great deal of soil that is poorly suited or unsuited to agriculture. The following table is a general indication of the adaptability of Petersham soils to agriculture.

	<u>Soil Classification*</u>	
	<u>Approximate Acreage</u>	<u>Per Cent</u>
Good Adaptability	5,040	20
Limited Adaptability	8,636	35
Unsuitable	10,854	43
Other	439	2
Total	24,969	100

*From Land Use Survey and Land Classification by Dr. Rozman
for the State Planning Board, 1938. Based on U. S. Soil Survey.

The above table indicates a very low proportion (20 per cent) of the soils in town that are well adapted to agriculture. These well adapted soils occupy areas primarily on the broad top of the central ridge in the neighborhood of Petersham Center, and include some large areas of well adapted soils on the more gently sloping areas on the eastern ridge. In addition to this, there are some scattered areas of well adapted soil on some of the more gently sloping hilltops, primarily in the eastern part of town. The well adapted soils along the central ridge include moderately heavy loams (Gloucester, Charlton, and Brookfield Series) that have fair to good moisture holding capacity and are well drained.

The topography on most of these well adapted soils is moderately or gently sloping, and there are comparatively few stones. These soils occupy large continuous areas. The larger areas of the well adapted soil on the eastern ridge, primarily sandy soils (Gloucester Series) that are easily tilled and on level to gently sloping topography, but are inclined to be light and droughty, especially during dry years. They are very well drained. The areas of these more droughty soils which have some hilltops above them do not suffer so much from lack of moisture as those on hilltops because of some water drainage to the lower slopes. The scattered areas of well adapted soil in town include both the moderate loams, as well as fine sandy loams and sandy loams.

A larger proportion of the soils are of limited adaptability to agriculture (35 per cent). These soils of limited adaptability constitute about 50 percent of the soil in the western half of town. They occupy some of the steeper slopes and include stony loams and stony fine sandy loams (Gloucester Series). There are a few scattered areas of similar kinds of soils in the south eastern part of town. Almost none of the soil in western Petersham is of limited agricultural adaptability.

Soils unsuited to agriculture have the least distribution of any of the groups in Petersham (43 per cent of the total). These soils have their widest distribution in eastern Petersham, and occupy nearly all of the land that is not well adapted agriculturally. Here, these soils include primarily much stony land, or very stony sandy loam soils. In addition to the rough land, there are along the stream courses, many small areas of wet swampy land that is unsuited to agriculture.

scattered sections of brush along the stream and in the fields that are situated to agricultural use. A strip of swampy land borders the stream and around Harvard Road.

Survey - The land use cover of Petersham is dominantly forests, and brushland. The following table gives a general idea of the proportion of the different kinds of land cover in Petersham.

	Land Use Survey	
	Approximate Acreage	Per Cent
Cropland and Plowable Pasture	1,588	6.4
Stony and Woodland Pasture	1,578	6.3
Woodland	21,338	87.3
Swamps and Wasteland	12	.1
Commercial and Other	439	1.7
Total	24,965	100.0

A very high proportion of Petersham is woodland, (87 per cent). These woodlands occupy nearly all of the land in the western part of town, and most of the steeper and rocky land in the eastern and southern parts of town. The cropland and plowable pasture make up only six per cent of the total land area of the town. This cropland is concentrated in the valley of the stream and in certain sections of the eastern ridge. Generally east of the stream, in these places, many of the cropland fields are large. In other parts of the town there are any open fields at all, they are small and scattered. Agricultural land in open cropland and plowable pasture are areas of brushy pasture, much of which has grown up to woodland. These brushy and stony pastures occupy about one half of the area of the town. During the past 50 or 70 years, a great deal of cropland and plowable pasture land growing crops or pasture have reverted to woodland or brush.

3. People

Historical Background and Population - Town Petersham was originally settled by the Massachusetts Country, the nearest settlements were Holland and a few families in the town of Petersham was a frontier town. The original owners were soldiers who had served in the Indian Wars, and who had received a grant of 124 acres for each of 12 soldiers who had served their terms to the original settlers who began the settlement of the town. The town was called "Volunteer Town" as it was often called. The town was settled during the late 1700's. By 1750, there were enough families settled in Petersham to apply for town rights, and in that year, the community was incorporated as the town of Petersham. The early settlers had had to contend with the Indians and their attacks on the town. Petersham was incorporated with Lancaster by a "joint" act, and later a road was planned to run through to Springfield.

The present State Road from Athol to Worcester through Petersham was opened in 1918. During the early 1800's the influence and population of Petersham was so great that there was some talk of erecting a new county with Petersham as the shire town. However, the division of the Valley Counties made such a move uncalled for. Petersham was always an agricultural town, primarily, with only the usual industries of an early New England town assuming any significance.

According to some authorities, the modern Petersham, a town of residences and beauty, began when the Harvard Forest lands were purchased, and the conservation of the principal woodlands around the town was started. Summer residents began to feel more secure in purchasing sites for summer homes. When electricity came into town during the World War, foresight was exercised in putting the wires under ground. With the growth of Petersham as a residential town, with a large number of wealthy summer residents, there has been a continuous effort to keep the town beautiful to the eye and to discourage a display of billboards, unsightly dumps, etc.

Population

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>
1765	707	1875	1,203
1776	2,135	1880	1,109
1790	1,560	1885	1,032
1800	1,794	1890	1,050
1810	1,490	1895	952
1820	1,623	1900	853
1830	1,696	1905	855
1840	1,775	1910	757
1850	1,527	1915	727
1855	1,553	1920	642
1860	1,465	1925	672
1865	1,428	1930	660
1870	1,335	1935	718

According to the above table, the population of Petersham increased rather rapidly up to a total of approximately 1,800 people in the year 1800. It fluctuated somewhat from 1800 to 1820, the years of peak population, and began its real decline following that date. This decline has been rather steady until modern times. Statistics since 1920 indicate a very slight increase. The rapid decline in population followed the beginning of the westward movement, and concentration of industries in some of the larger cities along well established transportation routes. The people who had up to this time been engaged in farming and in small industries and home industries began to move closer to the larger centers, or to move to farms in the west. They were gradually replaced by summer residents who took up the old farms and who built large estate homes. With the current industrial boom, there might be a slight tendency for temporary residents to make their homes in Petersham and work in the mills in Athol or Barre.

Nativity and Age Groups

Nativity*

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per Cent of Total</u>
Total Population	660	100
Color:		
Negro	---	---
White	660	100
Native white	591	89.5
of Native parentage	463	78.3
of Foreign or Mixed parentage	128	21.7
Foreign born white	69	10.5

*U. S. Census information, 1930

Age Groups*

<u>Age (Years)</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Per cent of Total</u>
Under 5	55	8.5
5 - 14	112	17.0
15 - 24	93	14.1
25 - 34	79	12.0
35 - 44	79	12.0
45 - 64	149	22.6
65 and over	92	13.8

*U. S. Census Information, 1930

The Worcester County Land Use Planning Survey has revealed the following information regarding the people living outside the village center. This group constitutes about 67 per cent of the total town population. The following table indicates young people up to and including the ages of 16 who are living outside of the village center.

Young People*

	<u>Under 10 Years</u>	<u>10 - 16 Years</u>	<u>Over 16 Years</u>	<u>Total</u>
Boys	29	32	63	124
Girls	31	21	27	79
Total	60	53	90	203

*Worcester County Land Use Planning Survey, 1935

This table indicates that a large proportion of the young people in Petersham live outside of the village center.

Occupations - According to the 1935 Agricultural Census figures, 33 per cent of the town's population lives on "Census" farms. The remainder of the people who live outside are not farmers. Of the people living on farms, about 70 per cent get their living from farming. Figures from the Worcester County Land Use Planning Survey give a little more detail concerning the occupations of the people in Petersham. This survey included nearly everyone living outside of the village center (a total of 467 people, or about 67 per cent of the town's population).

The following table summarizes the information on the population outside of the village center and presents an idea of those engaged in farm and non-farm occupations.

Occupations of Petersham Non-Village Population
By Type of Farm*

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Part-time</u>	<u>Dairy</u>	<u>Poultry</u>	<u>Combination</u>
Work off their own farms as farm laborers	3	1	0	1	0
Unskilled labor	10	8	1	0	1
Skilled labor	13	5	1	0	1
Common labor	1	1	0	0	0
Professional	10	1	0	0	0
Total off-the-farm workers	37	16	2	1	2
Number of farms	6	18	8	6	5
Population on farms	240	119	56	21	11
Average people per farm	34	6.6	7.0	3.5	6.2

*Worcester County Land Use Planning Survey, 1938.

Analysis of the information presented on the above table indicates the following conditions regarding the work of the people in Petersham:

- a. 467, or about 67 per cent of the total population of Petersham lives outside of the village.
- b. Fifty-one per cent of these people are in rural residences where no farming, except for subsistence is done, and the people must depend upon some outside source of income for a living.
- c. About 40 per cent of the people, outside of the village center, or about 27 per cent of the total town population live on farms and gain some part of their living from the sale of farm products.
- d. Sixty-two per cent of farm families, including the part-time farmers, have a source of income from non-farm labor in addition to the income from the sale of agricultural products.
- e. Excluding part-time farmers, about 26 per cent of those classified as full-time commercial farmers are engaged in off-the-farm work.

- f. The non-farm work engaged in by farmers, including part-time farmers, is both skilled and un-skilled labor.
- g. A large proportion of the rural residents who are engaged in non-farm work (54 per cent) are engaged in skilled labor or professional work. This is a much higher proportion than is usual in many towns.

Dwellings - Most of the people who live in Petersham are all year round residents. The number of those who only stay during the summer time has decreased of late years. This is particularly true of the people who live outside of the village center. There are still quite a number who come to the village and stay during the summer time.

Approximately 55 to 60 per cent of the dwellings in town are in the village center and the rest are in the outlying districts.

Plans of Living - In general the houses in the village are very attractive in appearance and kept in good condition. Farm houses in the outlying districts are generally in good to fair condition, and attractive in appearance. A few of the houses in the rural areas, principally estate homes and some new residences, classified as being in excellent condition. The following table, based on information secured from the Worcester County Land Use Planning Survey in 1938, indicates a very low percentage of poor and very poor rural homes. Many of the very poor homes are tarpaper shacks around the ponds which are only temporary in character, lasting only as long as the saw-mills will be in operation. There are a few other tarpaper shacks near the Athol border occupied by people who find part-time employment in Athol.

Condition of Dwellings by Type of Farm
(in percents)

	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Part-time Dairy</u>	<u>Dairy</u>	<u>Poultry</u>	<u>Combination</u>	<u>All Farms</u>
Excellent	9%	0%	0%	0%	0%	5%
Good	45	56	44	37	60	47.1
Fair	36	22	66	63	40	37.7
Poor	3	22	0	0	0	5.5
Very Poor	6	0	0	0	0	3.7

Information secured in the Worcester County Land Use Planning Survey of 1938 on conveniences in the rural homes in Petersham outside of the village indicates that in electricity, automobiles, screens for the windows, and radios, the majority of the homes are equipped. A very low proportion of them however, have household refrigeration, running water, baths, or sewage facilities. The proportion of farm homes equipped with conveniences is usually higher than the proportion of the residences. The situation as far as the residences are concerned involves a group of homes that are equipped with nearly all of the conveniences and another group which has practically none.

Homes with Conveniences
by Type of Farm

Per Cent of each type with conveniences

	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Part-time</u>	<u>Dairy</u>	<u>Poultry</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>Total Farms</u>
Number of Farms	67	18	8	6	5	
Electricity	60%	61%	88%	83%	80%	64.4%
Home Refrigeration	22	11	38	33	40	23
Automobile	48	78	88	83	100	60.5
Water	36	28	63	67	60	39.4
Bath	33	28	38	33	60	33.6
Sewage	37	39	38	33	60	38.4
Screens	67	72	88	83	80	71.1
Radio	60	67	88	67	80	64.4

Approximately 60 per cent of the homes in rural Petersham raise vegetables for use during the summer. Less than one-third of rural homes have vegetables to can or to store for winter use. The rural residences are most lacking in this respect. Less than half of them have vegetable gardens. Generally speaking, the farm homes have vegetable gardens and over half of them raise vegetables to can or store.

Per Cent of Farms with Vegetables for Home Use
by Type of Farm

	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Part-time</u>	<u>Dairy</u>	<u>Poultry</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>All Farms</u>
Vegetables raised	46%	83%	100%	67%	100%	60.5%
" to can	22	56	63	33	40	32.6
" to store	19	50	63	33	40	29.8

There is undoubtedly a possibility for better nutrition among some of the rural families. Some of the homes in town might be classified as sub-standard. Exact information on where these are and the conditions which exist, however, is lacking at the present time.

Health

Public Recreation Facilities in Petersham are not particularly well developed at the present time. There is an excellent golf course however, operated by Petersham Country Club, and there has been some discussion on the development of swimming facilities around some pond in town.

Social Centers of Interest - The only organized social center of interest in the town is Petersham Center. Here, the school, churches, town building, library, post office, stores, and hotel are located. In addition to this center there is a neighborhood in the eastern part of town around the Ledgville school, which is still running. The neighborhood meetings are held in the school building. The people living in the little houses around Harvard Pond are engaged in work connected with the saw mills there and are a temporary neighborhood which will be gone as soon as the activity in the mills ceases. Near the Athol line are a number of people who constitute a small neighborhood, the residents of which work primarily in Athol.

C. Economic Activities

Industrial - Petersham has never been an industrial town. During the early 1800's however, there were some mills operating. These included the woolen mill, saw and grist mills, and a powder keg mill. Chair seating for the Gardner factories was made and palm leaf hats were made as a home industry. With the concentration of industry however, which began in the early 1800's, these mills ceased operation.

During the past few years, handicrafts, under the direction of local people, have developed to a very advanced degree and the products of the art have attained a very high quality, even though the quantity of the production is relatively small.

Agricultural - Agriculture in Petersham reached its height during the early 1800's. Agricultural Census figures which begin in 1865 emphasize this decline. The town population has decreased from over 700 to about 325 in 1935. The number of acres in agriculture, both cropland and pastures, has decreased very significantly during the past 70 years and even during the past twenty years.

The number of Census farms decreased by nearly 50 per cent (153 farms) from 1865 to 1935. The total acres of farmland decreased in similar proportion (34,749 acres to 7,200 acres) during the same period. A similar proportion of decrease was noted during this same period in the acres of improved land on the farms. The decrease in the amount of hay produced, however, and in the number of cows has been much smaller than that indicated in the total farms. Thus the most active farms have not diminished their business greatly during the last twenty years. The most outstanding decrease noted over that census period was in the assessed value of farm land and buildings which amounted to 73 per cent (\$726,885 to \$194,150).

The following information secured from the Worcester County Land Use Planning Survey gives some indication of the numbers of various types of farms in town and the proportion of the farm land area each type of farm uses.

Type	Type of Farms	
	Per Cent of Total Number of Farms	Per Cent of Total Land in Farms
Residential	64%	40%
Part-time	17	19
Dairy	8	21
Part-dairy	6	4
Combination	5	16
Total	100%	100%

According to the above table about 41 per cent of total farmland in town is occupied by full-time commercial farms, and another 19 per cent is in part-time farms.

Dairy - Dairy farming has declined steadily for the last seventy years. There are about nine or ten farms that have more than ten dairy cows. About four others have between four and nine cows. The total number of dairy cows in town, according to Worcester County Survey, 1938, was 302. Approximately 75 per cent of these were on dairy farms in herds of ten cows or more.

Number of Dairy Cows*

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>
1919	350	1925	297	1931	286
1920	362	1926	338	1932	302
1921	343	1927	295	1933	325
1922	427	1928	378	1934	299
1923	358	1929	271	1935	296
1924	350	1930	291	1936	279

*Town Animal Inspector's Records.

Size of Herd*

	<u>No. of Herds</u>	<u>No. of Cows</u>	<u>Per Cent Total Cows</u>
1 Cow	13	13	4.3
2 - 4	14	39	12.9
5 - 9	4	26	8.6
10 - 19	4	59	19.5
20 and over	5	165	54.6
Total	40	302	100.0

*Worcester County Land Use Planning Survey, 1938.

These dairy farms are primarily in the eastern part of town. There are about eight dairy farms that are strictly dairy with practically no diversification. Five other farms, mostly with small herds, have a combination of dairy and poultry enterprises, and in some cases small vegetable acreages.

There are over two-thirds as many calves and heifers as there are dairy cows in town. This indicates a very high proportion of young stock on the farm in comparison with many towns in the county. A number of the dairy farmers in town raise replacements and sell them. A few of the farmers have to depend on some purchased replacement stock.

The Worcester County Survey indicated an average production of milk slightly higher than the State average of 6,000 pounds. This was based upon fairly high rate of grain feeding. The amount of improved pasture on these dairy farms is very small. Nearly all of the pasture in town is brushy or unimproved pasture with a very low carrying capacity. A good deal of this has been abandoned during the past twenty or thirty years.

Approximate Amount of Roughage Grown on Dairy Farms*

<u>Type of Roughage</u>	<u>Amount Per Animal</u>
Hay	2.0 Tons per animal unit
Ensilage and Green feed	1.2 tons per dairy cow
Pasture	4.0 acres per animal unit

*Based upon figures from Worcester County Land Use Planning Survey, 1938.

Basing the statement on figures of the above table, it is apparent that only limited roughage is available for the animals on the farms in Petersham. This is especially true when considering the low available amount of hay grown, and ensilage and green feed produced. The low carrying capacity of the pastures in town make even the 4 acres per animal unit insufficient. Actually, less than 40 per cent of the required pasture is available.

According to the Worcester County Land Use Planning Survey, 1938, the five dairy farms in town hired a total of 15 men and the five combination farms hired six.

Only about five per cent of the milk produced in town is distributed in Petersham. Four producer-dealers handle practically all of the milk produced in the town, and most of it is distributed in Gardner and Athol.

Poultry - Since 1900, the poultry industry in Petersham has been increasing. Much of the increase is due to developments on two large poultry farms. This is the only branch of agricultural production that has been increasing during the past several years. Except for the two large commercial flocks, most of the remaining birds in town are in smaller flocks on part-time and combination farms. Most of the commercial poultry flocks are in the western part of town, west of Petersham Center.

Number of Fowl Assessed

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>
1895	706	1920	1861
1900	711	1925	2411
1905	1203	1930	3280
1910	1034	1935	3613
1915	1448		

The following table from the Worcester County Land Use Planning Survey, 1938, indicates the number of hens in town and the chicks raised according to size of farm:

Hens and Chicks Raised by Type of Farm, 1938*

	<u>Type of Farm</u>				<u>Total</u>
	<u>Residential</u>	<u>Part-time</u>	<u>Dairy</u>	<u>Poultry</u>	
Hens	240	706	296	3500	5986
Chicks Raised	498	558	307	16898	21171

*Worcester County Land Use Planning Survey.

The figures presented in this table indicate that the owners of most of the small flocks purchase chicks rather than raise their own. Possibly some of the combination farms raise most of their chicks rather than buying them. The large commercial poultry farms, however, raise chicks for sale as well as to use for maintaining the farm flock.

According to the same survey, the poultry farms hired four men, in addition to the workers in the family.

Fruit - There are no commercial fruit orchards in Petersham. According to the State Planning Board M, there are 44 small plots scattered in all parts of town that have fruit trees or the remnants of orchards on them. None of these plots are over three, four, or five acres in size, and all of the trees on them are old. On many of the former orchards, the hurricane finished destruction that old age had begun. A little fruit is produced in some of the orchards for home use.

Vegetables - Commercial vegetables are not significant in Petersham agriculture. There are two commercial vegetable enterprises of significant size in town, however, and many vegetables are raised on farms in small plots in excess of the needs of the farm owner and his family. Very few vegetables are marketed outside of town. During the summertime, there is a limited market for vegetables in Petersham Center. Part of this market is supplied by local producers, but a good deal of the requirements are met by vegetable dealers who come in from out of town.

Forests - Excluding the recent increase in land area resulting from boundary adjustments by the Metropolitan Water Commission, there are 17,489 acres, or about 70 per cent of the total land area of the town classified as woodland, which may be classified according to the following table:

Woodland Classification*

	Approximate Acres	Per Cent of Total Woodland Acreage
Better Hardwoods	5650	32.3
Softwood-Better Hardwoods	2192	12.5
Softwood	1130	6.5
Inferior Hardwood	2047	11.7
Softwood-Inferior Hardwood	3642	20.8
Indeterminate	2828	16.2
Total	17489	100.0

*Worcester County Land Use Planning Survey, 1935.

The present Petersham forests have resulted from historical factors which have produced considerable change in the composition as compared to the original forests. At present, there is a very high proportion of softwoods, primarily white pine. A large part of this is the growth that has come in on land that was formerly agricultural. By 1820, nearly 70 per cent of the total land area of the town had been cleared. The cleared areas expanded east and west from the ridge tops including most of the forests along the lower slopes and along the valleys. With the growth of industries and opening up of the west, agricultural land in New England was abandoned. Petersham followed this trend, till at the present time, 70 per cent of the total land area of the town is in forest. Large areas of field and pasture grew up to pure white-pine stands which produced the so-called woodlot that constituted, before the 1938 hurricane, most of the commercial timber in Petersham. The tendency, however, is for these pine woodlots to change gradually to hardwood species. At present, the producing capacity of these forests is very low and trees are primarily of middle age. Practically all of the commercial timber in town has been destroyed by the hurricane. In addition to the predominant softwood (white pine) the hardwood species include ash and maple. On much of the cut over land and abandoned pasture, gray birch, poplar, and red maple occur frequently. Most of the soil in town is adapted to the production of hardwood trees, although many of the sites have lighter, sandier soils, and are more adapted to the production of white pine and other softwoods.

About 2100 acres of forest land in Petersham belong to the Harvard Forest. There is an additional 1400 acres of State Forest and about 180 acres of Town Forest. The Metropolitan Water Commission has taken over about 1100 acres of land in the southern part of town. This is, of course, in addition to the 22,000 acres that is included in what was formerly Dana and part of Greenwich. Much of the remaining 12,000 acres of forest land in Petersham is owned in connection with the large estates in town. The Worcester County Land Use Planning Survey, 1935, listed over 7,000 acres as belonging to farms in town, including the rural residences.

Over 16 per cent of the forest land in Petersham was destroyed by the hurricane and there was considerable other partial damage. These destroyed areas were all stands of old field pine. About 60 million board feet of merchantable timber were salvaged and sold to the government. Smaller amounts were sold to nearby wood-using industries.

Recreation Industry (Commercial)

Game and Wildlife

D. Social Facilities

Credit and Banking - Private credit facilities are available through banks in Athol and in Gardner as well as those in Worcester. In addition to these, Government credit facilities are available to rural people in Petersham, and may be contacted through offices in Worcester.

Roads - There is a total of approximately 23 miles of hard surfaced roads in Petersham. These include the main Worcester and Athol Highway which passes from south to north through the town through Petersham Center. From Petersham Center, a branch highway extends westward to the Daniel Shay's Highway, and another one extends westward to the Quabbin Reservoir. In addition to these, there is a hard surfaced road extending from Petersham Center to Hardwick through Ware; another directly east of the Center, the old road to Barre; and another branches eastward just north of the Center, and continues through Templeton to Gardner. Some of the connecting roads are well kept gravel roads, but there is a high proportion of poorly-cared-for dirt road in all parts of town, much of which has not been cleared out since the hurricane. There are many roads that are abandoned or used only as fire trails and wood roads.

Railroads - There are no railroads in Petersham. The closest facilities are in Athol. There is a railroad at Barre which offers only limited service.

Bus Lines - There is no bus service directly through Petersham. Closest available service is by way of Athol where bus lines offering service to Fitchburg and Gardner in one direction, and Greenfield in the other, may be reached.

Telephone - Telephone service is available to everyone in town who wishes it.

Rural Mail Delivery - There is a post office in Petersham Center and all people in the outlying parts of town have Rural Free Delivery Mail Service.

Water - There is no town water system. Water is supplied by private wells both in the village center and in areas outside the village. Part of the homes outside the village center in Petersham are equipped with electric pumps and have running water in the homes, but a very large proportion of them, including both farms and rural residences, do not have this convenience. The table on page 10 of this report entitled "Per Cent of Homes with Conveniences by Type of Farm", gives the details of this condition.

Fire Protection

Electrification - While most of the town is served by electricity, there is an area in the southwest that has none at the present time.

Schools - There is a high school and a grade school in Petersham Center, and a rural school, known as Ledgeville School, east of the center. Children are brought to the Center Grade and High School by eight different school busses. The Ledgeville School is a rural school occupying a small building on East Street. The Center School is housed in one large building including both the high school and grade school. There is a gymnasium in connection with the school building. There is equipment for both sewing classes and cooking classes in school, but no vocational equipment for boys. School activities include, in addition to regular class work, athletics, art, and music.

The high school enrollment includes about 80 pupils. There are over 100 in the grammar school in the center and about 17 or so at Ledgeville.

Library - The Petersham Library is practically a self-supporting institution. It is housed in an attractive and very adequate stone building in Petersham Center. Library hours are apparently convenient to everyone in town. Circulation is approximately 9000 books yearly, nearly half of which are fiction, and the remainder divided between non-fiction and juvenile. New books are added each year. Books of special interest not on the library shelves are borrowed from the Division of Public Libraries in Boston.

Health - There is a school doctor and a school nurse. A general health program is carried on. The work of the school nurse includes school visits, home visits, advice to parents concerning the condition of their children, and many clinics conducted annually. The clinics held include tests for hearing, Tuberculosis Clinics (sponsored in 1939, a very complete Tuberculosis survey), Clinics for the removal of tonsils, Dental Clinics, and Heart Clinics. In addition to the clinics, physical examinations are given at the beginning and end of each year, and special examinations are given to pupils entering school for the first time. First Aid courses are taught by the school nurse for the seventh and eighth grade pupils, and home nursing is given to the girls of sophomore, junior, and senior classes in high school. The school doctor gives vaccinations and inoculations to pupils.

The report of the school physician indicated about 16 cases of malnutrition among the school pupils mostly in the grammar school in the center.

Necessary hospital work in connection with the school clinics is done at a hospital in Ware. There is a hospital at Athol where people may go for necessary care.

Hot school lunches are served to the children at schools. Some materials have been secured from the Surplus Marketing Administration.

Community Organizations - The following is a list of community organizations in the town:

- Three church societies
- Handicraft Society
- 4-H Club
- Boy Scouts
- Village Improvement Society
- Town Planning Board
- Historical Society
- Memorial Library Society
- Ledgeville Association
- American Red Cross
- British Relief

It might be well to note here that the Town Planning Board has been working in Petersham for some time, and that the "Improvement Society" has been an active organization for over 50 years. These groups have done much good work in town planning and making civic improvements. Most of their efforts have been directed at what are commonly termed civic improvements pertaining mostly to the village center and to public utilities.

Community Meeting Places - Meeting space is available both in the Town Hall and in the library.

Community Recreation Facilities

Public Finances

Tax Rates

Year	Rate	Year	Rate	Year	Rate
1865	\$20.90	1890	\$13.00	1915	\$20.00
1870	13.90	1895	10.30	1920	21.60
1875	14.20	1900	14.40	1925	24.80
1880	14.00	1905	15.70	1930	22.20
1885	13.90	1910	17.20	1935	27.20

Municipal Expenditures

	1921	1926	1931	1936
Schools	\$20,415	\$19,403	\$20,710	\$19,877
Highways	13,899	29,022	23,016	24,134
Charities, etc.	2,091	504	1,913	6,850
Other	8,531	9,281	10,536	21,382
Total	\$44,936	\$58,211	\$55,175	\$62,243

II. DESCRIPTION OF AREAS BY LAND USE CLASSES

The Petersham Country Life Committee divided the town into areas on the basis of the character and degree of adjustments that would be necessary to maintain the land in farms. Individual areas are more or less homogenous in regards to natural, social, and economic factors. This division of the town into areas helps to organize the information available on the town and to provide a basis for further discussion and the making of recommendations. The map on the front of this report gives the outline and enumeration of the areas and can be referred to for the location of the areas described in the following pages.

Land Class IA - Includes land immediately suitable for commercial agriculture, now in farms upon which minor adjustments are necessary.

Area 9

(Contains about 3455 acres, or approximately
13.9 per cent of the total land area of the town)

Area 9 is the only farming area in Petersham which appears to have held its own as a farming section or perhaps improved slightly during the past ten or fifteen years. A large proportion of the very active farms in town are located in this area.

Area 9 occupies the land adjoining East Street on the Old Barre Road extending from Petersham Center to the Barre line. It occupies part of the central ridge in town and extends over across the top of the eastern ridge. Much of the topography is moderately to gently sloping but the southern border of the area is hilly. The valley of the Swift River crosses just east of Petersham Center. Approximately 35 per cent of the soils in the area are well adapted to agriculture. It occupies primarily moderate and gentle slopes on the broad ridge top. The well adapted soils include moderately heavy loams in the western part and sandy soils towards the east. Practically all the rest of the soil in the area is unsuited to agriculture consisting of stony rough land and a little wet swampy land along the streams.

Approximately 25 to 30 per cent of the area is open cropland or pasture. Much of the cropland is in rather large continuous areas and many fields tend to be large and regular in shape.

Most of the commercial dairy farms in town are in this area. Much of the pasture associated with the cropland is brushy and practically none of it is improved pasture. The eight small farm orchards indicated on the State Planning Board Map are not commercial enterprises and most of them receive

very little care. The woodland cover is divided between thin stands of conifer and dense stands of mixed hardwood and softwood trees.

The Ledgeville School located at about the center of the area serves both as a grade school for the children in the area and as a neighborhood center. Rural mail service, electricity, and telephone services are available to everyone in the area.

There are a number of abandoned farmsteads and residences along the road in all sections of this area.

A hard surfaced road from Petersham to Barre passes through the length of the area and one well kept gravel road extends southwards from the Ledgeville school. The other branching roads in the area are all dirt roads in fair condition.

Land Class IIB - Land immediately suitable for commercial agriculture and now in farms which needs major adjustments if the farms are to remain in business.

Farming in the following areas has declined a good deal in the last 15 to 20 years or more. Many farms are occupied by residents, but are no longer operated as farms. Others have been abandoned entirely. Much land has gone back to pasture and brush. There are individual farms in these areas which are still operated on a commercial scale and are good farms.

Area 8

(Contains about 2634 acres, or approximately
10.6 per cent of the total land area of the town)

Area 8 extends north from Petersham Center for about two miles along No. Main Street eastwards along Popple Camp Road to the Phillipston town line. North from Petersham it occupies a broad gentle ridgetop and extends eastward through a hilly steeply rolling area across the Swift River Valley. The area along the gentle ridgetop north of Petersham Center is occupied by well adapted soil which is primarily moderate loam and sandy loam. About 35 to 40 per cent of the area is in soil well adapted to agriculture, and the remainder of the soil is unsuited to agriculture because of its rough and stony character.

Along North Main Street the area immediately bordering the road is in rather large continuous open cropland fields, few of which are really operated as farm land now. In the remainder of the area there are a few small scattered

fields of open cropland. Associated with the cropland fields are a few areas of brushy, poorly-cared-for pasture land. Most of these are in scattered fields in the eastern part of the area. The open cropland and brushy pasture constitute less than 25 per cent of all the land in the area.

The forests are primarily dense stands of mixed hardwood and softwood trees. Most of the farms are estates not operated as farms. The little commercial farming done here, includes one large dairy farm and one vegetable grower.

Petersham Center serves as a social and community center. All the people living in the area have electricity and telephone service if they desire it. Both North Main Street and Popple Camp Road are hard surfaced. Popple Camp Road is the main road through Phillipston to Templeton and Gardner. North Main Street continues north to Athol.

Area 10

(Contains about 1330 acres, or approximately
5.3 per cent of the total land area of the town)

Area 10 borders the Phillipston town line and the eastern corner of Petersham. It occupies broad gently sloping hilltop sections and is crossed by one well defined stream valley, Moccasin Brook. About 40 per cent of the land in the area is well adapted to agriculture and consists of a sandy soil (Gloucester Series). The remainder of the soil in the area is unsuited to agriculture because of its stony character or because it is low and swampy. There are several scattered fields of open pasture and cropland, none of which are being operated now. All of the farms in the area are abandoned. Two or three houses in the eastern edge of the area are still occupied as residences. Of the dozen or so dwellings, only two or three are occupied. The roads in this area are dirt surfaced and some of them have not been opened up since the hurricane.

Area 12

(Contains about 3582 acres, or approximately
14.3 per cent of the total land area of the town)

Area 12 occupies the broad ridge extending south of Petersham to the town line along Hardwick Road and part of the new highway between Petersham and Barre. The topography varies from broad gently sloping hilltops through the center to steeply sloping hillsides on either edge of the area. The southern edge is inclined to be a little more rolling and hilly than it is on the north. Well adapted soil occupies about 20 per cent of the area. It is located on the broad more gently sloping hillside sections and includes moderate loam soils (Gloucester Series).

More than 20 per cent of the area is in open cropland or brushy pasture. Most of the larger cropland fields are in the northern part of the area and associated with them are a few large and several small sections of brushy or poorly-cared-for pasture land. In the southern part of the area, cropland and pasture land fields are small and scattered. There are ten or a dozen small farm orchards but none of them have received any care in late years. The forests which cover the rest of the area are primarily dense stands of mixed hardwood and softwood trees. There are a few areas of dense stands of conifers.

There are about 65 dwellings in the area. About ten of these are unoccupied. A very few of them are small-scale farms. The remainder are primarily residences, or in the southern part of the area, summer camps.

This area, located on a high ridge top, is an excellent site for summer homes or all year-round residences as it commands a wonderful view of the surrounding country. Some of the homes in this part of town do not have access to electricity.

Petersham Center is the social center. Hardwick Road, a hard surfaced road extends from Petersham through the area to the Hardwick line. In the northern part of the area, the new highway from Petersham to Barre crosses from west to east. In addition, there is about a mile and one-half of hard surfaced road in the northern part of the area and another mile or so in the southern part. The remainder of the roads are gravel surfaced and in fair condition although certain sections of them are not open to travel in the southern part of the area.

Area 7

(Contains about 1159 acres, or approximately
4.6 per cent of the total land area of the town)

Area 7 is a small area bordering West Street and extends east from Petersham Center across the valley to the western ridge in town. Topography varies from moderately and rolling to steep and hilly. There are only two small areas of well adapted soil which consists of fine sandy loam (Gloucester Series). Most of the remainder is of limited agricultural adaptability and is a stony fine sandy loam on moderately steep topography. There are small sections of rough stony land unsuited to agriculture, particularly in the western end of the area. Nearly 45 per cent of the area is in open cropland fields or in brushy pasture. Most of the fields are small and irregular in shape. There are a half a dozen farm orchards, none of which have received any care during the last few years. Much of the farm land has been abandoned or has gone back to brush during the past twenty or thirty years. Poultry farming is the principal type pursued at the present time. There are a few residences along the road, and a few small dairy farms. There is a total of about 18 residences, including farm homes, in the whole area. Two of these are not occupied.

West Street is a hard surfaced road throughout its length. Electric service, rural mail service, and telephone service are available to anyone in the area who desires them. Petersham Center is the community center and only outlet.

Land Class IIIB - Land not immediately suitable for agriculture (except poultry or part-time farming or residential purposes). Not now in farms.

Area 1

(Contains about 842 acres, or approximately 3.4 per cent of the total land area of the town)

Area 1, Federation of Women's Clubs State Forest, occupies rolling hilly land in the western part of Petersham. Soil includes a stony fine sandy loam of limited adaptability to agriculture and rough stony land that is unsuited, about equally divided in acreage. These are primarily dense stands of mixed hardwoods and softwoods.

Area 2

(Contains about 8439 acres, or approximately 33.3 per cent of the total land area of the town)

Area 2 is a large forest area occupying most of northern and western Petersham. It extends from the broad gentle ridge top in the northern part of town and extends southwestwards down a steep long slope across Harvard Pond over the steep hilly land of the western ridge to the Quabbin Reservoir. Some of the broader hilltops and the more gentle slopes are areas of well adapted agricultural soil, primarily moderate loams and fine sandy loam. These do not occupy more than 10 or 15 per cent of the total area.

Approximately 25 to 30 per cent of the total area consists of rough stony or swampy land that is unsuited to agricultural use. The remainder of the area includes stony and fine sandy loam soils on the steeper slopes and rolling topography which are of limited agricultural adaptability. Parts of this area include both dense stands of conifers and dense stands of mixed hardwood and softwood trees. Along the valley bordering Harvard Pond are a few scattered areas of gravelly and light soil upon which there are dense stands of young ~~grown~~ conifers. This area includes the Tom Swamp, Prospect Hill, and Schwarz tracts belonging to the Harvard Forest.

There are several residences along the New Salem and the Athol Roads, west of Petersham, near the Athol town line, along north Main Street. Associated with the residences are small cropland fields and small acreages of brushy pasture. There is no commercial agriculture of any significance. Around Harvard Pond there is a small group of houses, temporary in character, occupied by people who are associated with the saw mills that are sawing logs stored in Harvard Pond.

(The committee to supply information on available electric and telephone service and rural free delivery service to the families in this area)

Areas 3 & 4

(Contain about 367 acres, or approximately
1.5 per cent of the total land area of the town)

State Forest land along the Riceville Reservoir and the adjoining steep stony hillslopes. These forests consist of dense middle-aged stands of mixed hardwood and softwood trees.

Areas 5 & 6

(Contain about 74 acres, or approximately
.3 per cent of the total land area of the town)

These are Town Forests on stony loam and sandy loam soils on steep topography. Area 5 is covered by dense stands of mixed hardwoods and softwoods. Area 6 is primarily dense stands of conifers much of which was destroyed in the 1938 hurricane.

Area 11

(Contains about 2963 acres, or approximately
11.9 per cent of the total land area of the town)

Area 11 is a forest area occupying southern and southeastern Petersham. The topography is steeply rolling and hilly with very little flat land. It borders the east branch of the Swift River.

There are a few scattered areas of brushy pasture and a few small cropland fields in the southern part of the area. There is no commercial farming done, however. The remainder of the area is covered with either dense stands of mixed hardwood and softwood trees, or areas of dense conifer growth. Practically all of the conifers were destroyed in the hurricane. In the southern part of the area around and west of Harvard Pond are a number of summer homes. Practically none of the soil is well adapted to agriculture except for one or two isolated sections of fine sandy loam and loam soil. The remainder of the area is mostly rough stony land or stony loam soil unsuited to agriculture. There are small sections of land of limited agricultural adaptability constituting not more than 25 per cent of the whole area.

In the east, bordering the new road from Petersham to Barre, there are a number of summer homes and cottages. About half of these are part-time residences and a number have not been used during late years.

In the pond bordering the highway there are a number of hurricane logs stored.

The new road from Petersham to Barre is the only hard surfaced road in the area. East of this are a few dirt or fairly well kept gravel roads. In the southern

part of the area the summer camp section is served by gravel roads kept in fair condition. The main outlet of the southern part of the area is by way of Hardwick Road.

Land Class IV - Urban and Industrial Areas

Area 13

(Contains about 123 acres, or approximately .5 per cent of the total land area of the town)

Area 13, Petersham Center, occupies the broad gentle ridge tops in the center of town. It has an excellent view of all surrounding areas and is located on an area of moderate loam soil, well drained. This is the only organized social center in town, and it is here that the Center School, Churches, Town Hall, Town Library, Hotel Rest Homes, and Post Office are located. Petersham Center is located at the junction and crossroads of the main highway passing through town.

III. SUMMARY OF ASSETS AND HANDICAPS OF PETERSDHAM

Petersdham is a hill town near the western border of Worcester County and occupies a commanding position on the uplands with an excellent view in all directions. It is within easy reach of the industrial towns of Athol, Barre, Gardner, Fitzburg, and Keeler, and is connected to these towns by good hard surfaced highways. Hilly rough topography and abundance of forest cover combined with elevations above surrounding areas offer a combination of beautiful scenery and pleasant summer weather very attractive to people who are looking either for summer homes or all year round residences. Areas of good agricultural land, while constituting a comparatively small proportion of the total town area, occupy broad hilltop areas throughout the center and eastern part of town and constitute an important though small part of the life of the inhabitants of Petersdham.

The population of Petersdham has been decreasing almost steadily for the last hundred years, but since 1930 apparently there has been a tendency toward a slight increase. Approximately twenty-five per cent of the people in the town make their living from farming. A larger number live on farms and depend upon non-farm work for support. A still larger number are residents in the outlying districts. A very large number of these rural residents (nearly half) gain their living from skilled and professional labor. The rest are engaged in unskilled and common labor. This proportion of skilled and professional workers is unusually high.

The dwellings in town are mostly in fair to good condition. The estate homes and most of the dwellings in the village center are in excellent condition. Baths, running water and household refrigeration are the home conveniences that are most lacking in rural homes in Petersdham. A large proportion of the farmers living in town have good gardens and have vegetable both to eat and to store, in addition to fresh vegetables during the summer season. A comparatively small proportion (less than half) of the residential farms in Petersdham, however, have gardens.

As indicated in the report of the school doctor there are more cases of malnutrition among the school children. There are no public recreation facilities in town and only one excellent private golf course. The library in the center of the town is well attractive in appearance and well kept, and offers recreation possibilities for many people.

Farming has declined greatly during the last seventy to one hundred years. The area east of Petersdham center, towards the Barre town line, is the only one in town that has maintained itself or improved generally as far as farming is concerned during the last several years. In other parts of the town there are a few scattered farms that are successful and have been expanding, but there are no areas where farming has generally increased or held its own. Dairy farming and poultry raising are the most important forms of farming in Petersdham from a commercial point of view. There are two commercial vegetable growers in town but most of the farmers have small amounts of vegetable in excess of their own needs.

Seventy per cent of the area in Petersham is in forest cover and it represents one of the more important aspects of the town. Much of this forest is in public ownership. In addition to this the Harvard forest owns about 2,100 acres and perhaps five or six thousand acres are owned on the large estates. The remainder are in smaller holdings and in farm owned lots. Most of the commercial trees in town, white pine, were destroyed during the 1938 hurricane. Most of the salvage work of hurricane timber has been accomplished.

There are large areas of agricultural land in town that have been abandoned during the the last few years and that is growing up to brush. Much of this is associated with farm holdings that are still being operated as farms.

The main roads in town are mostly hard surfaced and in excellent condition. Many of the back roads, however, are in poor condition, and have not been cleaned out since the hurricane. There are no railroad connections in town, the closest being Athol. Rural fire protection is well cared for. Equipment is especially adapted to fight forest fires. Equipment is maintained by the town, by the state, and by the Harvard Forest.

The high school is located in the center and there is one rural school in town. Buildings and equipment are in good condition. The general health situation is well cared for in the schools through the school nurse, the school doctor, and several clinics, held annually.

There are a number of community organizations which have been active during the last several years. These include Church and handicraft societies. Young Peoples' Organizations, Relief and Red Cross Organizations, the Town Planning Board, and the Village Improvement Society.

Financially, the town is in excellent condition, with a very low tax rate and very low municipal indebtedness.

PART II PROBLEMS

LIST OF PROBLEMS

The following list of problems enumerates some of the more obvious problems that were made apparent during the course of committee discussions, or that are easily identified in the preceding pages of this report.

1. Rough hilly topography
2. Much steep stony soil
3. Much soil droughty in character
4. A large proportion of the total town unsuited to agriculture, or of limited agricultural adaptability (About 80 per cent of the total town area)
5. Large areas of forest land in town in poor condition, much of these forests suffered from the hurricane; other sections have suffered from lack of care
6. A number of rural homes in town that are in poor or very poor condition, including approximately 9 to 10 per cent of the total number of dwellings in town
7. A low proportion of dwellings in town equipped with running water and bath facilities, sewage facilities, or household refrigeration (between 25 and 30 per cent of the total number of homes for each of these conveniences)
8. A large number of rural residents raise no home gardens (about 40 per cent of the total outside of the village center)
9. No public recreation facilities developed in town. This is particularly in reference to young peoples' activities
10. A generally declining agriculture
11. Inadequate marketing facilities for small quantity production for individual farms
12. Large areas of abandoned and poorly cared for pasture reverting to brush
13. Inadequate pastures on dairy farms
14. A very limited amount of home grown roughage available on dairy farms
15. Difficulty of securing good farm labor at a price that farmers can afford to pay
16. Impracticability of improving farm woodlots with the present tax policy on the farm woodlots
17. Problem of marketing farm forest products
18. Many poorly cared for and abandoned roads in town
19. Some cases of malnutrition among school children as reported in town reports
20. Lack of exact detailed information on situation in town
21. Inadequate recreational and vocational facilities for young people
22. Lack of leaders for vocational and recreational activities

III. CLASSIFICATION OF PROBLEMS

The problems listed above may be classified into three groups according to the difficulty of their solution. Group 1 includes those problems which are almost or impossible of solution; Group 2 includes those problems which will require considerable time and cooperation for solution; and Group 3 includes those problems which may be solved in the immediate future.

Group 1

1. Rough hilly topography
2. Much steep stony soil
3. Much soil droughty in character
4. A large proportion of the total town unsuited to agriculture, or of limited agricultural adaptability (about 80 per cent of the total town area)

Group 2

1. Large areas of forest land in town in poor condition, much of these forests suffered from the hurricane, other sections have suffered from lack of care
2. A number of rural homes in town that are in poor or very poor condition, including approximately 9 or 10 per cent of the total number of dwellings in town.
3. A low proportion of dwellings in town equipped with running water and bath facilities, sewage facilities, or household refrigeration (between 23 and 40 per cent of the total number of homes for each of these conveniences)
4. A large number of rural residents raise no home gardens (about 40 per cent of the total outside of the village center)
5. A generally declining agriculture
6. Inadequate marketing facilities for small quantity production for individual farms
7. Large areas of abandoned and poorly cared for pasture reverting to brush
8. Inadequate pastures on dairy farms
9. A very limited amount of home grown roughage available on dairy farms
10. Difficulty of securing good farm labor at a price that farmers can afford to pay
11. Impracticability of improving farm woodlots with the present tax policy on the farm woodlots
12. Problem of marketing farm forest products
13. Many poorly cared for and abandoned roads in town
14. Some cases of malnutrition among school children as reported in town report
15. Lack of exact detailed information on situation in town
16. Inadequate recreational and vocational facilities for young people

Group 3

1. No public recreation facilities developed in town. This is particularly in reference to young peoples' activities
2. Lack of leaders for vocational and recreational activities

III. ANALYTICAL STATEMENT OF PROBLEMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Better Living from the Farm - Many people do not make full use of their time and land resources to add to their living. Many families might be able to have backyard poultry flocks, or a cow for home use by using the time and land now at their disposal. According to the Worcester County Land Use Planning Survey, 1938, most of the farmers have gardens, poultry, and cows for home use, but this is true for less than half of the other residents outside of the village center. In view of future economic conditions when family incomes may be less than at present, knowledge and use of farming for home consumption would be an asset for every rural family from the points of view of family finances, health, and avocation.

(17.3-1) The committee recommends farming for home use where people have time and land resources to make it practical.

The committee recommends that information be secured as to where farming for family use is practical and demonstrations to show how it will be practical.

Home Management - There are a number of needy families in town and a number who live in what might be termed sub-standard homes. These are not confined to any one part of town. Many of these people would benefit from demonstrations and instruction on "how to get along with little" in regard to clothing and making the home attractive as well as in regard to food and nutrition. Many of these people receive goods distributed by the Surplus Marketing Administration.

(17.6-2) The committee recommends individual demonstrations and education as the most satisfactory way of educating those who need or desire information on home management.

Recreation - Young People - There are in town about 150 young people in school between the ages of 10 and 25 years and about 100 who are out of school. A large part of these live outside the center. There are no adequate recreation facilities such as playgrounds, swimming pools, or tennis courts for these young people. Those out of school have less opportunity than those in school. The school children have a band and some organized sports. The school is equipped with a gymnasium. The young peoples' organizations with recreational programs include Scouts and 4-H clubs but do not reach many of the young people in town. There has been talk by local groups of a town swimming pool.

(19.-3) The committee recommends the development of a swimming pool and recreation facilities to meet the needs and desires of young people.

Farm Marketing - There are a few farms in town with a large production of milk and eggs that have an established market. Many farms have a small production of poultry and vegetable products, maple sugar, honey, and perhaps some canned goods, meats, and berries in excess of home needs. Alone these farms do not have enough production to market successfully. A cooperative market or roadside stand might be able to handle these products in sufficient quantity and quality to supply both a local and tourist trade as well as ship to Worcester or Boston by way of cooperative trucks from Hubbardston. These cooperative efforts could apply to the marketing of farm woodland and handicraft products as well. The excellent roads provide sites for a roadside market.

(22.17-4) The committee recommends that information be secured on the costs and methods of conducting a cooperative marketing enterprise, including roadside stand and that information on source of products for the market be carefully assembled.

Pastures - Many acres of pasture land has been recently abandoned and is growing up to brush and reverting to woodland. This acreage can be estimated at between 1000 and 1500 acres at least. Much of this is suitable to development as pasture land, and is on both abandoned and active farms. It represents an economic loss when it reverts to poor brush or woods. Cooperative pastures or individual efforts might be employed successfully to retain these pastures and build up their carrying capacity through proper management and fertilizing for use in raising dairy replacements, sheep or beef cattle. The major problem is fencing.

(22.211-5) The committee recommends pasture improvement practices and demonstrations to indicate where they are practical; and that information be secured on the possibility of either individual or cooperative large scale pasture improvement plans for the purpose of raising dairy replacements, beef cattle, or sheep.

Vocational Work - Young People - Vocational work offered in school includes cooking and sewing classes and some work in handicrafts. The handicrafts are for youngsters 8-10 years old primarily. The cooking and sewing classes are in high school. Carpentering and greenhouse work were offered at one time but little interest was exhibited in them. Outside of school the 4-H clubs offer canning and cooking. The trade school in Worcester offers opportunity to a limited number of boys and is difficult for many to reach. Vocational needs of the young people are inadequately met and most of them leave school with no training that can be applied to making a living.

(37.-6) The committee recommends emphasis on practical vocational work for young people.

This is a preliminary report which will be followed up by action. From time to time progress reports will be issued to explain follow-up and resulting accomplishments. This report will be amplified and changed as conditions change and further information becomes available. Your suggestions and criticisms will be welcomed by this committee.

Real Estate

Property Tax Rate Grows With Area

By BERNARD MELTZER

Why should more new buildings and rapid growth in an area lead to higher real estate taxes? Readers are constantly asking this question. They are surprised when they find that growth and more rateables mean more taxes — not less.

Q. Eight years ago, when I bought my property, my taxes were only \$390 a year. At that time, my township had a population of less than 1,000 people. I imagine an "urbanologist" such as yourself would have classified it as "rural."

Now my taxes are \$1,610 per year. Next year they will be even higher. The population is now over 10,000. More than 2,000 new homes and commercial buildings have been built. Each time a developer comes into our township there is a big announcement about the large amount of new "rateables" that are being brought into the area.

What I don't understand is, if we are getting all of these new rateables, why are everybody's taxes jumping so fast? As you can see, mine have gone up over 400 per cent in eight years! Is our township being mismanaged, or is somebody stealing tax money?

A. It isn't a case of stealing tax money; it's just that your township is paying the price of rapid growth. In spite of statements you may have read to the contrary, it's a general rule of urban development that as an area grows in population the taxes paid by the individual property owner increase. The corollary to this generalization is that the larger the community, the higher the taxes. Also, an interrelated phenomenon is that the more rapid the growth, usually the more rapid the tax increase.

The reason behind all of this is that people require municipal services. The more concentrated the population, the more services are both required and demanded.

The low tax rates exist in rural communities. Generally, stable rural communities have the lowest tax rates of all. At one time, we were under the impression that rapid

population growth for an area was synonymous with progress. From experience we have discovered that usually the opposite is true.

Q. Can I take out a fire insurance policy on my brother-in-law's property? I see it as an easy way to make \$10,000 or \$20,000.

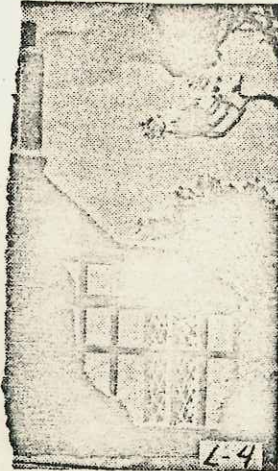
He runs a restaurant. The kitchen walls have a thick layer of grease. The basement is piled high with junk and discarded boxes. He's too cheap to buy new electrical fuses, so he puts pennies behind the old ones when they blow. Some day soon the whole place will go up in one flash. See why my idea of buying a fire insurance policy on his property makes sense?

A. Your idea makes sense. Others have thought about this before you were born, but it cannot be done. The reason is that, legally, you have no insurable interest in the property. Even if you were to buy a policy and a fire occurred, you would find that the insurance company would refuse to pay because of your lack of a bona fide insurable interest.

The only way you could have a legitimate claim would be to acquire some interest in the property or the business — such as becoming part owner, lending your brother-in-law money in the form of a mortgage, investing in the restaurant, or some other similar activity. If you do this, you now have an insurable interest and you can get your agent to write a policy.

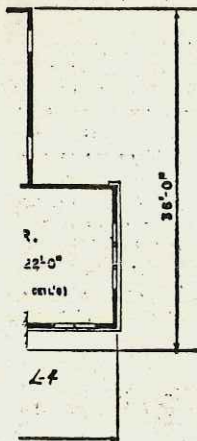
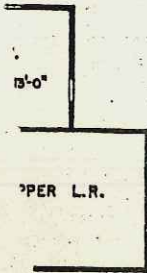
Q. I am writing this letter on behalf of five lot owners. In back of us a builder is about to start a large housing development. He will install sewer and water lines right in front of our properties in order to get to his land. We sure would like to hook on to these utility lines, as it would make our properties more valuable. The developer says no! Can we force the issue?

A. You cannot force a developer to allow you to hook on to his utility lines. He is paying for them. When you bought your lots, he made no representation to you that this could be done. In fact, he was not even in the picture.



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- 1 Frity
- 2 Ruth Corledge
- 3 Delight
- 4 Parsons
- 5 Davis ex officio
- 6 Gale

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Pre-Cast Concrete

- MONOLITHIC ONE PIE
- NON-SKID SURFACES
- ALL SIZES — STEEL CONCRETE
- STONE-BRICK-PLAIN
- ALUMINUM & IRON RA

for FREE ESTIMATE

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306 Main St. - Wo

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IN OU

Building Permits

Housing Units

Parade Camps

1970	3	2
1971	8	
1972	1	1
1973	5	2
1974	8	1
1975	5	
1976	6) 295 48 / yr	

$$\begin{array}{r} 13 \\ 50 \overline{) 60000} \end{array}$$

4,600,000

NEW HOUSE - BUILDING PERMITS

1964 to Present (1975)

James Maloney	- North Main Street	- 1964
Charles Upham	- North Main Street, Athol Road	- June 1964
William Ellsworth, Jr.	- East Street	- July 1964
Paul Holm	- Hardwick Road - Lewis Street	- May 1965
Howard Goddard	- East Street & Quaker Drive	- May 1966
Wayne Elliott	- Dairy Bar - (House Construction) Popple Camp Road	- April 1966
Duguay	- Hardwick Road	- April 1967
LaPointe	- Popple Camp Road	- Oct. 1967
Simms	- Hardwick Road	- April 1968
Barnes	- East Street	- April 1968
Buell	- Cottage relocated - Loring Hill	- June 1968
Joseph Cromwell	- So. Athol Road	- Dec. 1968
Robert Painchaud	- Flat Rock Road	- April 1969
George Brunelle	- East Street	- Oct. 1969
Ralph Lundquist	- Hardwick Road	- Nov. 1969
Russell C. Rivers	- Old Hardwick Road	- June 1970
Harry Gormley	- (Camp) Old Athol Road	- June 1970
Richard B. Edwards	- (Camp) No address listed	- Nov. 1970
J. Robert Moore	- North Main Street	- April 1971
Gordon A. Barrett	- Turnpike Road	- June 1971
John D. O'Grady	- Athol Road	- July 1971
Robert W. Norton	- Flat Rock Road	- Aug. 1971
Peter West	- South Street	- Sept. 1971
Daniel S. Ballou	- Nichewaugh Road	- Oct. 1971
Jeffrey D. Gilbert	- North Main Street - Sunset Lane	- Oct. 1971
John Fiske	- East Street	- March 1972
Norman LaPointe	- Amidon Drive	- Oct. 1972
Frank Brierly	- Hardwick Road	- Jan. 1973
Dennis Duguay	- Old Hardwick Road	- April 1973
Bernard A. Bassett	- Birch Drive	- July 1973
Palmer H. Beam	- Hardwick Road	- Aug. 1973
David S. Beach	- Carter Pond Road	- Sept. 1973
Harold E. Sherwood, Jr.	- Spring Street	- Nov. 1973
Winston Whitney	- Glasheen Road	- March 1974
Roland Barnes	- (Camp) South Street	- May 1974
Dale R. Monette	- Hardwick Road	- June 1974
Roland Barnes	- South Street	- Aug. 1974
Kathryn C. Smith	- West Street	- Aug. 1974
Exton E. Elliott, Jr.	- Phillipston Road	- Aug. 1974
Vincent Purple	- Briggs Road	- Aug. 1974
Robert W. Heim	- North Main Street	- Sept. 1974
Stephen A. Smith	- Poor Farm Road	- Oct. 1974

McNeil	- Carberry Road	-	1975
Kenneth B. Levine	- West Street	- May	1975
Michael K. Gabrenas	- Hardwick Road	- May	1975
John Jenkins	- Carter Pond Road	- May	1975
Edwin Gifford	- Turnpike Road	- June	1975

Trailer Permits

John LaPointe	- Phillipston Road	-	1970
Norman LaPointe	- Amidon Drive	-	1970
O'Connor	- Dairy Bar Living Quarters	-	1971 ?

NEW HOUSE - BUILDING PERMITS

1964 to Present (1972)

Charles Upham	- North Main Street, Athol Road	- June 1964	2
William Ellsworth, Jr.	- East Street	- July 1964	
Paul Holm	- Hardwick Road - Lewis Street	- May 1965	1
Howard Goddard	- East Street & Quaker Drive	- May 1966	→ 2

James Maloney	- North Main Street	- No record	1964
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Duguay	- Hardwick Road	- April 1967	2 (1)
La Pointe	- Popple Camp Road	- Oct. 1967	No
Simms	- Hardwick Road	- April 1968	
Barnes	- East Street	- April 1968	4
Buell	- Cottage relocated -Loring Hill	- June 1968	
Joseph Cromwell	- S. Athol Road	- Dec. 1968	

Robert Painchard	- Flat Rock Road	- April 1969	
Ralph Lundquist	- Hardwick Road	- Nov. 1969	3
George Brunelle	- East Street	- Oct. 1969	

Russell C. Rivers	- Old Hardwick Road	- June 1970	
Harry Gormley	- (Camp) Old Athol Road	- June 1970	No 5 (4)
Richard B. Edwards	- (Camp) No address listed	- Nov. 1970	

J. Robert Moore	- North Main Street	- April 1971	
Gordon A. Barrett	- Turnpike Road	- June 1971	
John D. O'Grady	- Athol Road	- July 1971	
Robert W. Norton	- Flat Rock Road	- August 1971	7+1-2
Peter West	- South Street	- Sept. 1971	
Daniel S. Ballou	- Nichewaug Road	- Oct. 1971	
Jeffrey D. Gilbert	- North Main Street - Sunset Lane	- Oct. 1971	

John Fiske	- East Street	- March 1972	No 2 (1)
Norman LaPointe	- Amidon Drive	- Oct. 1972	

Wayne Elliott	- Dairy Bar - (House Construction) Popple Camp Road	- April 1966	28 25 inc/2 1/2
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Trailer Permits

John LaPointe	- Phillipston Road	1970
Norman LaPointe	- Amidon Drive	1970

O'Connor - Dairy Bar Living Quarters 1971?

TOWN OF PETERSHAM

Where Its Residents Work

<u>Town</u>	<u>Number</u>	
✓ Petersham	131	35%
✓ Athol	99	26%
✓ Orange	12	3
✓ Barre	15	4
✓ Gardner	22	6
✓ Erving	9	2
✓ Worcester	25	7
✓ Greenfield	3	1
✓ Springfield	3	1
✓ Boston	4	1
✓ Palmer	1	
✓ Wheelwright	1	
✓ Baldwinville	3	1
✓ Three Rivers	1	
✓ Fitchburg	1	
✓ Waltham	1	
✓ Rutland	1	
✓ Brookfield	1	
✓ Hardwick	1	
✓ Ashburnham	1	
✓ Belchertown	1	
✓ Acton	1	
✓ Maynard	1	
Unknown	32	9
	<u>370</u>	<u>96%</u>
	338	

Pre-school 68

Grade K-6 151

348
758
1106

maker 129
from Street List

17-20	48	M-321
20-30	146	F-459
30-40	142	<u>diff in</u>
40-50	106	overlap
50-60	125	of
60-70	94	students
70-	197	
	<u>758</u>	

25
2/5
37

* Data set off
Gould

1950

Population of Peterborough

1765	707	1930	680
1776	1235	1935	718
1790	1560	1940	923
1800	1794	1945	743
1810	1490*	1950	814
1820	1623	1955	929
1830	1696	1960	890
1840	1775	1965	990
1850	1527	1970	1014
1855	1553	1976	1100
1860	1465		
1865	1428		
1870	1335		
1875	1203		
1880	1109		
1885	1032		
1890	1050		
1895	952		
1900	853		
1905	855		
1910	757		
1915	727		
1920	642		
1925	672		

The Decennial Census
1965
P 18

Land Use
At Harvard
Forest

1938

$$\begin{array}{r}
 45-76 \quad 3 \overline{) 357} \quad 11.5 \\
 \underline{31} \\
 70-76 \quad = 6 \overline{) 86} \quad 14 \\
 \underline{65} \\
 65-76 \quad = 11 \overline{) 110}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1120 \\
 1146 \\
 \hline
 86 \\
 718 \\
 \underline{612} \\
 106 \\
 \underline{15} \overline{) 176} \\
 100 \\
 \hline
 76
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1775 \\
 642 \\
 \hline
 1133 \\
 \underline{141}
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 1800 \\
 1733 \\
 \hline
 67
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r}
 67 \overline{) 1704} \\
 \underline{134} \\
 455 \\
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 530
 \end{array}$$

Country Life
Report
f/ Peterborough

WEATHER
Fair Tonight
Cloudy Sat.

Details On Page 2

At

Vol. CXLIV, No. 5

10c Single Copy

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Athol, Orange Populations Hit The Skids

Athol is one of three towns in Worcester County that showed a decrease in population over the past 10 years, according to the report of the U. S. Bureau of the Census made public in Washington, D.C., Thursday. Orange, in neighboring Franklin County, shows a similar decrease.

According to the report Athol's population at year's end, 1970, was 11,185, a 3.9 per cent decrease over the 1960 tabulation, 11,637. Other Worcester County towns showing a decrease were the county seat, Worcester, and Rutland.

In Orange census figures list 6,104 residents, an eight per cent decrease over the 6,154 figure in 1960.

Contributing to the population rise tallied for Worcester County since 1960, a 9.4 per cent increase to 637,969, were towns of Phillipston, Petersham and Royalston.

Of the three Phillipston showed the greatest percentage increase, 25.5 per cent to 872 from 695; Petersham followed with 13.9 per cent increase to 1,014 from 980. Royalston's increase of 1.1 per cent brought the town's population to 809 from 800.

Massachusetts' population, according to the census bureau's final report, showed a 10.5 per cent growth since 1960, the 1970 tabulation 5,689,170.

B52 Bomber From Westover Crashes, Nine Men Aboard

CHARLEVOIX, Mich. (AP) — An Air Force B52 bomber with nine men aboard—said by witnesses to have exploded in a ball of fire—crashed into Lake Michigan Thursday night off the northwest tip of Michigan's Lower Peninsula.

Coast Guard aircraft and vessels at the scene reported finding wreckage and debris from the aircraft, including two emergency life vests and a helmet. No sign of survivors.

A Strategic Air Command investigation team was on the scene today.

The eight-engine bomber was unarmed and on a training flight from Westover Air Force Base about 100 miles from Charlevoix.



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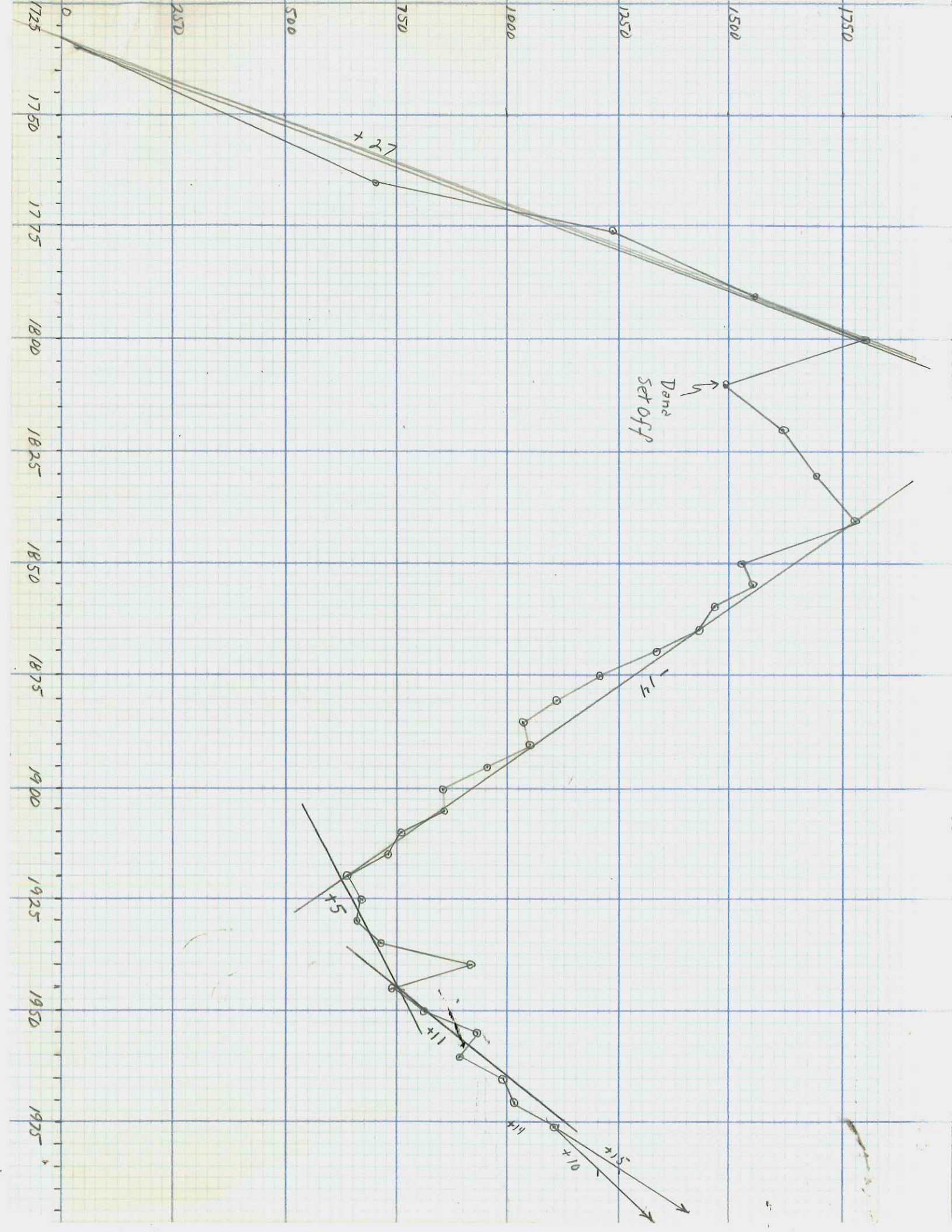
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Petersham's Growth Problem

- 1) Families have in the past moved into town rather slowly. (Data should be readily available for the last few years. Query: is the pace accelerating?).
How Rapid is the turnover??
- 2) In general, most of the older houses have been renovated and few new houses have been built -- primarily on existing surfaced roads that have power and telephone lines. (Data also available here)
 - a) The pattern of expansion has so far added little to road construction or snow removal costs. Also school bus routes have not been appreciably expanded. So far, there is still some unutilized capacity in the local school. (Data also available on all these points.)
- 3) This pattern of slow growth of responsible householders is also unlikely to generate a need for a full-time police protection (3-4 men to get 24 hr. coverage) or full-time fire protection (x men to cover specific pieces of equipment) at least until we get ~~x~~^y families in town. (There should be some way to estimate ~~x~~^y.)
- 4) One of the chief added costs of growth is that of education at the Mahar School -- primarily because charges are pro-rated on a per capita basis.
(Currently about \$200/student.) Regional k-12 may change this. (Estimate)
- 5) It should be possible to see what the costs of government (broken down into General, Roads, Schools) are per taxing unit. The distribution of taxing units should also be readily available -- perhaps divided between cost groups (residents vs non-residents, children vs non-children, etc.)
- 6) The object of this analysis should be to clarify the arithmetic of growth and the financial facts of life necessary for judging how new growth adds to costs and how tax base must expand to keep pace.

GROWTH IN PETERSHAM

The problem we now face is to direct town growth so that people from as many walks of life as possible can live here because land and houses can be bought at prices they can afford, taxes stay at a reasonable level and because the high quality environment will have wide appeal. Growth will take place in two ways:

- A. House by house expansion along existing highways, typically by dividing a property along the road.
- B. Many houses at once in a subdivision on a fairly sizeable tract, typically this development requires new roads and other public facilities.

The townspeople can probably gamble that type A expansion will be slow enough and include a sufficient variety of houses so that the net increment to tax revenue will just about offset added costs. Most of the prime safeguards are already in the town by-laws regulating spacing, set-back and height for appearance, sanitary water and sewage systems. Lot size of 1 acre might be more desirable than the present 0.57 acre. However, if construction on gravel roads is not regulated there may be need for major road improvement when bussing and snow clearance is needed. (What assistance is available for this work?)

The townspeople must at all costs avoid a fiscal catastrophe that could follow the sudden, large-scale expansion of costs likely to follow type B expansion which outgrows present facilities. To avoid this every rule must be bent toward insuring that when subdivision takes place, the added tax revenue will cover added costs. Only a high grade development will do this. The special zoning regulations that apply to subdivisions should insure that good development takes place. Success largely revolves around affecting the economics of development -- which is in turn governed by the rise in land values between purchase as a tract and sale as houselots,

typically a 10 fold increase. All subdivision rules that make a cheap development economically unfeasible should be explored. Lot size rules must be the same for Type A and B development. Rules about road layout and quality, however, apply only to subdivisions. Undergrounding utilities may also be under the control of the town. Rules that prohibit filling of swamps in order to protect water quality and flood plains also cut down developable area. Under cluster zoning the town can also require that a certain proportion of the tract be set aside for conservation or recreation. These and other subdivision rules should be explored and adopted if found desirable.

Complete rationalization of a framework for growth will also require a new plan for "building districts" that makes provision for a variety of desirable activities, but locates each where it will preserve or enhance the environment of the town and reduces costs. The physical basis for this should begin with a plan for water and land use prepared by the Conservation Commission.

An effective approach to gaining citizen support might include:

1. Clarifying the economics of growth and municipal finance -- showing that unbalanced development reduces freedom to live in a town by raising costs and/or lowering services and environmental quality.
2. Show how people in the town can themselves direct town growth so that the scope of individual choice by present and future residents is increased for type A development; while insuring against a disasterous event by channelling outside speculator type B developments toward high grade subdivisions.

TOWN OF PETERSHAM
Street List
January 1, 1976

Allen Drive			
Brown, Robert P.	Mass. Audubon Director	Petam	23
Amidon Drive			
Amidon, Phillip W.	Mechanical Engineer	O	52
Amidon, Barbara J.	Housewife		48
Amidon, Bradford S.	Industrial Management - GPH		24
Amidon, Terry J.	Student		19
LaPointe, Norman L.	Construction Worker	Petam	29
LaPointe, Theresa	Housewife & L.P. N.	Reg	26 ✓
Athol Road, Petersham			
Cromwell, Joseph H.	Truckdriver A		36
Cromwell, Carole A.	Housewife & Waitress skip		31
Newman, Lawrence			
Newman, Virginia			
Barre Road			
O'Connor, Martin J.	Auto. Mechanic - B		27
O'Connor, Jean F.	Unemployed		24
Mullaney, Gerald A.	Package Store Manager	Petam	36
Mullaney, Beverly A.	Housewife		35
Engdahl, Gerald A.	Consultant - P		44
Engdahl, Frances E.	Housewife		43
Engdahl, Rick M.	Student		18
Modzeleski, William S.	Mechanic	B	33
Modzeleski, June	Housewife		35
Anderson, Louise A.	Retired		78
Kelley, Barbara M.	Retired		65
Cannon, Stephen M.	Activities Director	P	27
Cannon, Joan M.	Waitress	B	25
Cannon, Irene F.	Housewife		66
Graves, Roger E.	Highway Superintendent	Petam	23
Graves, Janice C.	Housewife		21
Birch Drive			
Bassett, Bernard A.	Laborer - ?		31
Bassett, Bonnie L.	Housewife		28
Briggs Road			
Shepherd, John D.	Retired		67
Carter Pond Road			
Beach, David S.	Field Service Computer Co. 3		26
Beach, Nancy E.	Housewife		24
Jenkins, Harding B.	Private Consultant P		57
Jenkins, Elizabeth S.	Housewife		58
Jenkins, John S.	Manager Cold Brook C.C. B		29
Jenkins, Cynthia	Housewife		29
Common			
Raup, Hugh M.	Retired		74
Raup, Lucy G.	Housewife		73
Brown, Peter W.	Hospital Administrator A		29
Brown, Melissa L.	Housewife		27

Common con't.

Paul, Richard E.	Salesman	A	46
Paul, Eileen A.	Housewife & Teacher	Ho	45
Paul, Theodore R.	Student		22
Paul, Linda L.	Student		21
Paul, John H.	Student		19
Rue, Charles V.	Ceramic Engineer - WORK		54
Rue, Evelyn H.	Housewife		54
Reed, David R.	Teacher & Counselor	P	26
Germond, Bartholomew J. Jr.	Salesman		50
Germond, Dona M.	Store Manager	Pham	44
Germond, Karen M.	Student		18
Curtis, Carroll C.	Gift Shop Operator	Pham	44
Lavoie, Donald A.	Gift Shop Operator	Pham	49
Goudie, Robert E.	?		45
Goudie, Kathleen J.	Teacher - A		40
Goudie, Robert E. Jr.	Student		17
Bercier, Gertrude	Librarian		65
Caouette, Prazede	Retired		77
Duquette, Gabrielle	Retired		67
Fournier, Germaine M.	Music Teacher		63
Gaudette, Rita T.	House Work		61
Hardy, Marie	Bursar		64
LaRose, Mabel	Cook		54
Paradis, M. Dorothy	Div. Program Moderator		52
Prud'homme, Marie	Housekeeper		63
Simoneau, Marie	Teacher		63

Doe valley road

Flye, Donald R.	Draftsman GARY		40
Flye, Barbara J.	Housewife		38
Canney, Raymond J.	Truckdriver ERU		45
Canney, Phyllis J.	Housewife		42
Canney, Cheryl A.	Student		17
McHugh, Roger A.	Mechanic - ?		26
McHugh, Kathleen M.	Housewife		22

Dugway Road

Coolidge, Arthur R.	Civil Engineer Tech.	Ret.	53
Coolidge, Helen C.	Housewife		71
Dodge, Dorothy L.	Soc.-Office Worker	ARTHUR	62
Lee, James G.	Manager	A	41
Welch, Edward E.	Retired		80
Joy, M. Verne	Retired		60
Joy, Jean P.	Real Estate Broker	P	51

East Street

Towne, Robert W.	Property Maintenance	ERU	54
Towne, Ellen R.	Physical Therapy Aid	A	62
Best, Robert H.	Unemployed - GARDNER		35
Best, Carol A.	Housewife		32
Dugan, Myra C.	Nurse Companion	P	65
Rice, Eva I.	Retired		100
Duplessie, William A.	Salesman - W. SPRINGFIELD		47
Duplessie, Barbara J.	Housewife		49
Duplessie, William R.	Student - A PART TIME STUDENT		20
Duplessie, Joan	Student		17

East Street con't.

Kenney, Agnes B.	Housewife	77
Faust, Agnes G.	Dietician Asst. <i>A</i>	51
Warrington, Richard H.	Order Analyst <i>A</i>	46
Warrington, Nancy	Housewife	41
Warrington, Brenda L.	Governess <i>A</i>	19
Anderson, Edwin C.	Garage Proprietor <i>P</i>	52
Church, John W.	Reg. Mgr. of Arbitration Assn. <i>ASTA</i>	59
Church, Maxine L.	Housewife	53
Church, John W. Jr.	Student	20
Kenney, George T.	Laborer - <i>P</i>	52
Kenney, Joan K.	Postmistress <i>P</i>	50
Kenney, Mary A.	Tutor <i>A</i>	26
Kenney, Joseph E.	Teacher <i>A</i>	23
Kenney, Michael J.	Student	19
Kenney, Bernadette M.	Student	17
Brunelle, George F.	Grinder <i>A</i>	49
Brunelle, Marilee	Factory Worker <i>A</i>	40
Johnson, Scott A.	Student	21
Brunelle, M. Kathryn	Tel. Operator Sup. <i>GARDNER</i>	47
Harty, Jacqueline A.	Unemployed	22
Fiske, John	Retired	75
Fiske, Rosalie C.	Housewife	69
Thayer, Robert E.	Foreman - <i>A</i>	42
Thayer, Margaret C.	Housewife	38
Rice, Robert L. Jr.	Librarian	28
Rice, Linda M.	Teacher - <i>GARD</i>	27
Deveikis, Peter M.	Artist - <i>GARD</i>	26
Barkentin, William S.	Unemployed	27
Miller, Kenneth E.	Traffic Consultant - <i>GARD</i>	36
Miller, Jane B.	Housewife	34
Hachey, Donald T.	Lawyer <i>A</i>	40
Hachey, Anne K.	Housewife	43
Barnes, Emma C.	Housewife	80
Moore, David P.	Truckdriver - <i>ERVING</i>	33
Moore, Irene R.	Housewife	34
Wapner, Eugene	Lithographer - <i>GREEN FIELD</i>	41
Wapner, Carole J.	Housewife	40
Smith, Norman G.	Laborer - <i>P</i>	33
Smith, Carole A.	Secretary - <i>?</i>	32
Barnes, Linda S.	Town Treasurer & Asst. Cook <i>P</i>	32
Ellsworth, William W. Jr.	Carpenter - <i>P</i>	32
Ellsworth, Mary Ann	Reg, Nurse - <i>ATHIL</i>	29
Bassett, Clara L.	Housewife	69
Pryor, Ethel L.	Retired	58
Scott, Milton C.	Sexton of Cemeteries <i>P</i>	30
Scott, Carol A.	Housewife	34
Cooley, Jennibelle	Housewife	77
Bassett, Ernest K.	Housewife	54
Bassett, Marion V.	Toolmaker - <i>A</i>	58
Ellsworth, William Sr.	Housewife	52
Ellsworth, Luella M.	Carpenter - <i>P</i>	51
Perkins, William W. Sr.	Housewife	59
Perkins, Siri M.	Carpenter <i>P</i>	58
Reid, Robert B.	Housewife	62
Reid, Verna J.	Bus-Contractor <i>P</i>	62
Newcomb, Ralph H.	Housewife	62
	Lineman - <i>BARRE</i>	37

East Street con't.			
Newcomb, Roberta M.	Housewife & Busdriver ^P		38
Newcomb, Lu-Ann	Student		18
Flat Rock Road			
Testa, Anthony	Assembler & Real Estate Broker - ^{ALP}		61
Testa, Medera E.	Housewife		58
Clark, Elsie D.	Housewife		73
Coan, Jacqueline K.	Unemployed		50
Finnen, Everett A.	Marine Electrician - ?		52
Gay Drive			
Babbitt, Corinne H.	Retired		69
Glen Valley Road			
White, Gerard R.	Machinist - ^A		47
White, Lillian E.	Housewife		54
White, Marion J.	Housewife		75
Hammond Road			
Cummings, Ronald	Self-employed ^P		31
Cummings, Eleanor C.	Secretary - ^B		29
Downs, Alice J.	Retired		93
Ewing, John S.	Farming - ^P		28
Hardwick Road			
Jolda, Ronald S.	Student		26
Jolda, Karen A.	Registered Nurse - ?		23
Streeter, William P.	Retired		68
Streeter, Hope W.	Housewife		56
Clark, C. Kenneth	Retired		73
Clark, Evelyn M.	School Teacher ^A		68
Clark, Robert A.	Laboratory Instructor - ^A		36
Bassett, Teddy A.	Shellfilter - ^A		32
Bassett, Sharon P.	Housewife		35
Kessler, Ronald J.	Student		17
Olson, Earl H.	Bank Clerk - ^D		57
Olson, Carolyn M.	Teacher - ^B		58
Olson, Janice M.	Teacher - ^{Wor.}		29
Ahlstrom, Ronald E.	Foreman - ^{ASH. BOON HAD}		39
Ahlstrom, Lois E.	Housewife		33
Holm, Paul E.	Chief Inspector - ^A		54
Holm, Vibeke	Housewife		48
Holm, Karsten A.	Student		19
Pierce, George W.	Retired		67
Pierce, Mary N.	Housewife		70
Phillips, Alden P.	Nurse Attendant - ^{BELCHERTOWN}		41
Phillips, Alice F.	Cafeteria Mgr. ^P		35
Simms, V. Edward	Metallurgist - ^A		41
Simms, Helen E.	Teacher ^P		38
Foster, Stuart E.	Machine Operator ^A		34
Foster, Sally J.	Housewife		33
Banks, Bruce R.	Truckdriver - ^A		30
Banks, Karen L.	Housewife		29
Beam, Palmer H.	Engineer - ^A		32
Beam, Heather	Social Worker - ^A		27
McGinnis, Wayne R.	Laborer ^P		60

Hardwick Road

McGinnis, Maude	Retired	74
McCunc, Joseph N.	Writer & Store Clerk - P	58
Brightman, Peter E.	English Teacher - Actor	38
Brightman, Marcia E.	Teacher - MAY 1944	27
VanAlstyne, John P.	Dean - wor	54
VanAlstyne, Robin Y.	Student	20
Fisher, Donald G.	Retired	80
Fisher, marion E.	Housewife	79
Grover, Esther C.	Retired	70
Recos, George J.	Carpenter - P	43
Recos, Shirley H.	Housewife	40
Waid, Charles F.	Sluicagate Worker - (P - wood Currier)	59
Waid, Dorothy B.	Housewife	55
Dorow, Arthur L.	Retired	78
Dorow, Ernest W.	Wood Worker - A	50
Dorow, Kenneth A.	Foundry Worker - B	44
Dorow, Richard D.	Wood Worker - A	36
Dorow, Wilbur L.	Garage worker - P	39
Coolidge, Basil E. Jr.	Flute Milling - A	41
Collidge, Roberta A.	Housewife	27
Monette, Dale R.	Clerk - A	26
Monette, Suzanne	Clerk & Typist - A	26
Gabrenas, Michael K.	Salesman - A	24
Gabrenas, Cheryl J.	Housewife	24
LePoer, Bernard A. Jr.	Machinist - A	51
LePoer, Annie R.	Housewife	51
Bates, Frances R.	Retired	72
Barnes, Grace E.	Housewife & Bus Driver P	61
Carlson, Henry H.	Teacher - wor	41
Carlson, Catherine V.	Housewife	35
Upshaw, Arthur D.	Toolmaker - BROOKFIELD	37
Upshaw, Anna M.	Housewife	31
Hubbard, James H.	Toolmaker	25
Hubbard, Romona A.	Stockroom Girl	24
Lundquist, Ralph P.	Foreman - A	54
Lundquist, Margaret E.	Housewife	52
Lundquist, Ralph L.	Student	28
Lundquist, Michael G.	Counselor-teacher P	26
Curtis, Hutchinsen S.	Marketing Mgr. - wor	46
Curtis, martha B.	Housewife	41
Silva, Brien R.	Student	17
Brierly, Frank L.	Retired	70
Brierly, Elizabeth G.	Housewife	72
Hall, Mildred	Nurses Aid - A	57
Coombs, Richard P.	Process Control Insp. - B	51
Coombs, Beverly J.	Bus Driver - P	48
Coombs, Deborah	Student	18
Coombs, Scott K.	Bus Driver P	21
Rust, Everett L.	Office Manager - A	39
Rust, Laurel J.	Housewife & L.R.N. -	37
Smith, George W.	Retired	65
Smith, Glorian R.	Housewife	58
Duguay, Dennis A.	Packer - A	29
Duguay, Linda J.	Dietary A	27
Rivers, Russell C.	Retired	69
Rivers, Florence M.	Housewife	60

Hardwick Road con't.		
Mourling, Florence M.	Retired	87
Rivers, David R.	Auto. Parts Mgr. - ?	23
LePoer, John P.	Elementary Principal P P	48
LePoer, Ann W.	Teacher	47
LePoer, JoAnn	Advertising Coordinator Boston	25
LePoer, Lynn	Nurses Training W.P.	21
Harty Drive		
Harty, Ruth M.	Housewife	73
Efesik, William R.	Laborer - P	58
Hubbardston Road		
Pajak, William E.	Laborer -	37
Pajak, Florence G.	Housewife	49
Castine, Gerald F.	Blacksmith - P	28
Castine, Diane K.	Reg. Pharmacist - A	28
Leighton Road		
Geffkin, Wesley F.	Retired	69
Geffkin, Louise H.	Retired	67
Maple Lane		
Johnson, Margaret H.	Housewife	77
Perkins, Charlie P.	Farmer P P	64
Perkins, David L.	Farmer P	28
Perkins, Irene L.	Housewife	25
Rawding, Ivor P.	Retired	85
Rawding, Mary C.	Housewife	75
Hyde, Edward H.	Woodsman - P	51
Hyde, J. Ann	Housewife - P	41
Hyde, John William	Student	19
Coolidge, F. Arthur	Farmer P	64
Monson Turnpike		
Hellen, Frederick J.	Teacher P	55
Hellen, Florence	Teacher P	51
Hellen, Nancy B.	Student	20
Baldwin, Charles Raymond	Retired	79
Baldwin, Flora N.	Housewife	75
Gifford, Edwin J.	Retired	61
Gifford, Lydia L.	Housewife	55
Hutchinson, Theodore L.	Self-employed - P	53
Hutchinson, Beverly K.	Housewife	54
Hutchinson, T. William	Self-employed - P	26
Burke, Elaine F.	Housewife - Nurses Aid - moved	41
Burke, Thomas M.	Lumberjack - ?	19
Painchaud, Robert E.	Machinist - ?	42
Painchaud, Claire A.	Secretary - ?	44
Adams, Glayds L.	Housewife	69
Nichewaugh Lane		
Bassingthwaite, Frank B.	Woodworker - GARDNER	54
Bassingthwaite, Ruth E.	Housewife & Sub. Postal Clerk P	48
Langlois, James J.	Artist - P	26
Langlois, Eva S.	Housewife -	27
Nilson, Roy P.	Reporter-Journalist W.P.	29
Nilson, Marilyn G.	Housewife	29

Nichewaug Road

Cousens, David A. J.	Office Worker - A	33
Cousens, Kaye D.	Housewife	24
Upham, Harry S.	Retired	77
Upham, Dora L.	Housewife	75
Upham, Donald F.	Machinist - A	53
Upham, Loyd S.	Laborer - A	35
Albertine, Louis G. Jr	Unemployed	32
Albertine, Glenede F.	Teacher - HARY	27
Pietz, Paul F.	Unemployed Planner - P	29
Pietz, V. Gay	Housewife	37
Newton, Richard F.	Contractor	29
Newton, Ann C.	Contractor - A	25
Coolidge, Horace	Engineer	51
Coolidge, Doris	Wife & Teacher's Aid P	47
Coolidge, Curtis A.	Student	20
Van Os, June M.	Registered Nurse-Night	42
Van Os, Philip A.	Student & Counselor - P	19
Collette, Edward J. Jr.	Contractor	35
Collette, Helen T.	Housewife	30
Noel, Everett		
Noel, Lisa		
Ballou, Daniel S.	Tel. Repairman - G	29
Ballou, Kathy J.	Housewife	27

North Main Street

Potee, K. Gale	Physician - PALMER	51
Potee, Joanne K.	Housewife	43
Flint, Susan W.	Artist - P	73
Gudheim, Nan G.	Housewife	66
Reed, David R.	Night Teacher-Brandon P	27
Brown, Robin	Night Teacher-Brandon P	22
Loftus, Thomas	Night Teacher-Brandon P	22
Conboy, Michael J.	Engineer - W.A.	41
Conboy, Elisabeth A.	Housewife & Reg. Nurse - GARD	37
Greanier, Theodore A.	Retired	67
Greanier, Alice K.	Nurses Aid - A	60
White, Bonnie C.	Laborer - A	64
White, Ruth B.	Inspector - A	62
Maloney, James F.	Civil Engineer - (STATE)	52
Maloney, Barbara D.	Housewife & Real Estate Broker A	45
Craig, Edward Jr.	Dist. Agent - SPRING	46
Craig, Frances L.	Teacher -	43
Craig, Heather J.	Student	20
Craig, Susan E.	Student	19
Craig, Gordon E.	Student	17
Moore, J. Robert	Retired	71
moore, Mary D.	Housewife	69
Bently, William	Research-Harvard Forest - P	40
Bently, Margaret	Housewife	28
Faulkner, Ann M.	Technician-Harvard - P	23
Callaham, Dale A.	Cabot technician - Harvard P	25
Smith, O. Russell Jr.	Merchant - P	41
Smith, Dorothy A.	Housewife	38
Quigley, Ronald E.	Pres. of U. T. D. P Canadian	43
Quigley, June M.	Housewife Canadian	43
Quigley, Valerie L.	Student Canadian	20
Quigley, Gordon F.	Student Canadian	18

North Main Street con't.

Thayer, Robert H.	Tool Finisher - P	64
Thayer, Louise E.	Housewife	62
Thayer, John W.	Unemployed	23
McCormick, Juliette A.	Retired Teacher	84
Chicoine, Donald J.	Self-employed Contractor - GARD	38
Chicoine, F. E. Ann	Housewife	53
Ganson, Gordon M.	Student	21
Ganson, Heather	Bookkeeper - ?	20
Hildum, Edward B.	Engineer - GARD	65
Hildum, M. Elizabeth	Retired	72
Hildum, Isabel M.	Housewife	63
Hildum, Nikki E.	Programmer analyst -	34
Pugliese, Thomas P.	Builder - P	31
Pugliese, Dorothy M.	Housewife	28
Brunelle, Bernard A.	Auto Mechanic - WHEELWRIGHT	27
Brunelle, Sandra L.	Housewife	28
Brauchle, Charles A.	Dentist - A	61
Brauchle, Marjorie J.	Housewife	56
Peterson, Hall James	Private Investor - P	36
Peterson, Kate B.	Housewife	35
Holdfield, Christine A.	Governess - P	19
Smith, Cornwell S.	Night Teacher P	20
Mandigo, Dennis	Student	17
MacLellan, Michael	Student	17
Dillow, Harold R.	Toolmaker - P	55
Dillow, Amelia A.	Housewife	58
Mack-hale, James P.	Sales Manager - B	66
Mack-hale, May S.	At Home	69
Mack-hale, Robert A.	U.S. Coast Guard -	38
Brosnihan, Anna M.	Retired	66
Smith, Delores R.	Housewife	47
Boragine, Gene A.	Unemployed	27
Boragine, Susan L.	Teacher - ERU	28
Fisher, Nancy L.	Teacher - ERU	24
Fisher, Amy L.	Research Teacher ERU	24
Pepper, John C.	Musician -	24
Deminnee, Kenneth F.	Grinder - A	33
Deminee, Katherine A.	Housewife	26
Allard, Emma	Receptionist -	84
Asselin, Elodiane	Official Driver	60
Aucoin, Blanche	Retired	81
Audet, Irine	Montessori Teacher	50
Barrett, Vivian	Retired	76
Beaubien, Cecile	Seamstress Canadian	64
Biron, Anne	Co-ordinator (Seniorate) Canadian	61
Boisvert, Gabrielle	Seamstress Canadian	63
Bonin, Simonne	Teacher's Aid	65
Bouthillette, Claire	Musician	69
Bulman, Mary Ellen	Teacher	29
Brassard, Gabrielle	Retired	74
Carpentier, Rose Alma	Retired	83
Chicoine, Blanche	Retired	82
Chicoine, Irene	Retired	84
Cloutier, Amabilis	Retired	77
Cormier, Clara	Retired	80
Couture, Jeanne	Seamstress	67

North Main Street con't.

Deshaies, Maria	Retired		86
Durand, Marie	Retired		76
Desjardins, Gertrude	Sprirtual Advisor		62
Fecteau, Marie	Retired		86
Fluette, Germaine	Retired	Canadian	74
Fournier, Aline	Retired		69
Fournier, Lucienne	Retired		74
Gagnon, Marie Eva	Retired		67
Gaudreau, Magda	Retired		81
Girard, Lydia	Retired		78
Gregoire, Marie Louise	Seamstress	Canadian	72
Grise, Bernadette	Nurse's Aid		72
Guertin, Judith	Student		27
Jalet, Frances	Secretary		68
Kosowicz, Arline	Cook		39
Labranche, Rachel	Nurse's Aid		52
Lacourse, Cecile	Seamstress		64
Laferrriere, Alice	Student		31
Lanoue, Rachel	Retired		75
Lapointe, M. Claire	Coordinator		41
Laramee, Maguerite	Retired		70
LaRue, Marie	Retired		84
Lavoie, Jeannette M. (Sr.)	Provincial Superior		44
Leblanc, Albertine	Retired		76
Lemaire, Rhea	Retired		76
Levasseur, Beatrice	Secretary		58
Marcoux, Irene	Retired		77
Messier, Camille	Retired		70
Morin, Cecile	Retired		73
Nadeau, Aurere	Provincial Treasurer		67
Nadreau, Diana	Retired		88
Palmerie, Vivian	Cook		56
Parent, Doris	Local Treasurer		59
Payant, Anne Marie	Retired		78
Pelletier, Jacqueline	Reg. Nurse		50
Poirior, marguerite	Housework		66
Proulx, Eudoxie	Retired		80
Provencher, Alma	Retired		88
Richard, Claire	Retired		75
Soucy, Patrice	Student		20
Richard, Claire	Retired	Canadian	75
Therrien, Lydia	Retired		89
Turgeon, Regina	Retired	Canadian	71
Leonard, Mildred F.	Retired		75
Dickson, Glenn N.	Landscaper		37
Dickson, Wanda E.	Housewife		34
McCann, Peter H.	Self-employed		36
McCann, Gail	Secretary & Rental Agent		36
O'Lari, Andrea L.	Vice Pres. Supply Co.		26
Carlson, Larry C.	Unemployed		35
Burke, James M. Jr.	Equipment Installer		51
Hein, Robert W.	Broker		49
Hein, Jane R.	Housewife		47
Hein, Linda J.	Student		22
Hein, Janice M.	Waitress		21
Hein, Donald K.	Unemployed		19

North Main Street con't.

Bryant, Stuart R.	Machine Designer - A		46
Bryant, Mary Yvonne	Housewife & Real Estate Broker		47
Carmody, John T. B.	Neurosurgeon - WOR		70
Carmody, Joan K.	Housewife		63
Elliot, Exton E. Jr.	Salesman - WOR		26
Elliot, Lynn M.	Secretary - WOR		23
Limeburner, Richard	Student		30
Limeburner, J. Karen	Teacher - P		25
Bryant, Albert Ray	Carpenter		80
Bryant, Richard W.	Carpenter		49
Gould, Ernest M. Jr.	Forest Economist		57
Gould, Anna B.	Housewife		55
Berry, William I. Jr.	Surveyor		32
Berry, Katherine	Order Clerk - P		32
Lyford, Walter H.	Soil Scientist		66
Lyford, Joy P.	Housewife		63
Lee, David R.	Cabot Researcher		31
Lee, Carole M.	Housewife		31
Tomlinson, R. Barry	Prof. of Botany	British(U.K.)	43
Tomlinson, Elizabeth A.	Housewife	British(New Zealand)	33
Mattmuller, Monica R.	Lab. Tech.	Swiss	27
Dunford, John	Computer Programmer	Canada	31
Dunford, Susan A.	Research Fellow		29
Posluszny, Usher	Researcher	Canadian	28
Bowes, Bryan G.	Cabot Foundation	Scotland	43
Bowes, Ruth O.	Housewife	Scotland	46
Zimmerman, Martin H.	Prof. of Forestry		49
Zimmerman, Elvira	Housewife		52
Zimmerman, Regula D.	Student		20
Zimmerman, Barbara H.	Student		18
Swan, John Marcus	Biologist		37
Robinson, Larry	Ass't Highway Supt.		28
Robinson, Nancy	Housewife		29
O'Grady, John D.	Pro. Supt. Country Club		42
O'Grady, Eileen A.	Teacher		40
Cookman, Donald H.	Teacher - Boston		49
Cookman, Jeanne H.	Housewife & Student		48
Cookman, Christopher E.	Self-employed - ?		20
Walker, Robert S.	Draftsman - A		44
Walker, Sheila J.	Housewife		40
Kennan, Dana W. Jr.	I.B.M. Supervisor - WOR		34
Kennan, Charlotte B.	Teacher - WOR		33
Upham, Charles F.	Retired		72
Upham, Cecelia R.	Housewife		64
St. Helaire, Edmund J.	Property Maintenance - ERV		40
St. Helaire, Frances I.	Housewife		38
St. Helaire, Theresa A.	Secretary		21
St. Helaire, Carol A.	Office Worker	ERV	19
St. Helaire, Edmund J.	Student		18
Burnham, Robert L.	Truck Driver - A		60
Burnham, Nancy L.	Veterinarian Ass't. A		21
Lovern, Wilbur R.	Inhalation Therapist - A		34
Lovern, Helen E.	Housewife		34

Oliver Street

Buell, Lawrence M.	Teacher - GREEN.	32
Buell, Carmen D.	Homemaker	30
Buell, Harry C.	Self-employed - P	64
Buell, Ruth W.	Housewife	62

New Salem Road

Baldwin, William E.	Dump Keeper - P	84
Baldwin, Maybelle M.	Housewife	76
Knox, Gayla A.	Telephone Operator GARD	52

Pat Connor Road

Wallace, Margaret A.	Clerk & Bookkeeper - A	62
Wallace, Elizabeth A.	Secretary - A	29
Wallack, Robert M.	News writer	25
Wallack, Barbara E.	Teacher's Aid	25

Phillips Drive

Smith, Philip Wheaton	Maintenance - A	56
Smith, Beverly L.	Cook P	49
Smith, Virginia A.	Nurse's Aid A	21
Jones, John P.	Machine Operator A	34

Popple Camp Road

LaPointe, Shirley M.	Secretary - P	52
LaPointe, Martha A.	Secretary - A	22
LaPointe, Rita C.	Secretary - GARD	21
LaPointe, Leona M.	Student	17
LaPointe, Leo J.	Police Chief - P	48
LaPointe, Shirley P.	Lab. Tech. - P	47
Preble, Frances J.	Retired	73
Dexter, Katherine T.	Housewife	74
Goforth, Patricia L.	Technician - P	23
Weidlich, Wayne H.	Research Fellow P	32
Weidlich, Sandra K.	Secretary P	29
Elliot, Exton E.	Custodian P	66
Elliot, Patricia E.	Dog Groomer for Vet. - A	24
DeJackome, Ronald B.	Construction Worker - A	28
DeJackome, Charlene W.	Housewife	26
Costa, Lawrence J.	Grinder - A	37
Costa, Kay C.	Housewife	38
Page, Marc T.	Woodworker - BARD	25
Elliott, Wayne E.	Maintenance Tech. P	61
Elliott, Helen F.	Household Staff-Brandon P	62
LaPointe, Paul N.	Salesman - P	39
LaPointe, Ruth A.	Housewife	34
Morris, Richard J.	Plumber - A	41
Morris, Arleen V.	Housewife	35
Faulkner, John R.	Sander - GARD	37
Faulkner, Susan C.	Housewife	35
O'Brien, Russell G.	Conservation Asst. - FRV	37
O'Brien, Frances E.	Office Work - P	38

Quaker Drive

Knapp, Allen E. Sr.	Caretaker - P	64
Knapp, Helen C.	Housewife	62

Route #122

Skinner, Benjamin W.	Manager of Hardware Store <i>A</i>	36
Skinner, Eva-Rae	Housewife	33
Robinson, Charles E.	Herdsman - <i>BALD</i>	55
Robinson, Ruth B.	Housewife & Teacher - <i>O</i>	48
Robinson, Dana	Student	18
Robinson, Susan E.	Student	17
Gudheim, Arne R. Jr.	Chemical Engineer - <i>A</i>	34
Gudheim, Emma W.	Housewife	31
Yonkers, George W.	Caretaker - <i>P</i>	76
Yonkers, Mary C.	Graduator - <i>A</i>	63
Buck, John P.	Foreman - <i>A</i>	34
Buck, Brenda B.	Housewife	33
Young, Rudolph B.	Staff Engineer - <i>GARD</i>	31
Young, Patricia H.	Housewife	31
Young, Suzanne H.	Retired	58

Russell Road

Cooley, Dwight A.	Laborer - <i>A</i>	49
Cooley, Marjorie E.	Machine Operator - <i>A</i>	48
Thompson, Donald A. Sr.	Carpenter	59
Thompson, Carole J.	Student - <i>?</i>	39

Shaw Road

LaPointe, John L.	Contractor - <i>P</i>	28
LaPointe, Norma C.	Housewife	27

South Main Street

Anderson, Carl W.	Retired	59
Anderson, Celeste C.	Housewife	56
Bull, George W. Jr.	Paul Revere Ins. Co. - <i>WOR.</i>	27
Bull, Dale S.	Secretary - <i>WOR.</i>	28
Egenberg, John L.	Vice Pres. & General Manager - <i>WOR.</i>	37
Egenberg, Nicole S.	Housewife	34
Kuniholm, David A.	Manufacture Sales Rep. - <i>P</i>	57
Kuniholm, Olive R.	Housewife	54
Kuniholm, David A. Jr.	Mecanical Engineer - <i>W. SPRING</i>	28
Kuniholm, Donna L.	Teaching Fellowship - <i>SPAIN</i>	25
Gauthier, Alfred	Salesman - <i>A</i>	56
Gauthier, Mary G.	Housewife	47
Gauthier, Alan C.	Laborer - <i>B</i>	21
Barnes, John W.	Retired	68
Barnes, Cynthia R.	Secretary <i>P</i>	45
Nicholson, Richard P.	Jr. N.R.O.T.C. Quabbin Reg. - <i>P</i>	61
Nicholson, Marie K.	Housewife	55
Coolidge, Rosamond C.	Retired	64
Coolidge, Ruth M.	Typist - <i>A</i>	59
Anastas, Charles F.	Teacher	25
Anastas, Betsy Ann L.	Teacher's Aid	23
Correa, Michael A.	Artist	25
Francis-Correa, Barbara A.	Teacher's Aid	24
Bowes, Gregory R.	Director of Art Dept. - <i>B</i>	54
Bowes, Blanche M.	Retired	81
Johnson, Arnold N.	Antique Dealer - <i>P</i>	69
Johnson, Rhea A.	Housewife	61

South Street

Nelson, Lawrence I.	Toolmaker - P	63
Nelson, Edna E.	Teacher - A	61
Nelson, Paul H.	Student	27
Nelson, Nancy A.	Teacher - WOR	25
Legare, Denis N.	Machinist - B	27
Legare, Jeanine M.	Housewife	25
Cunningham, William B.	Retired	75
Cunningham, Delma A.	Housewife	68
Nelson, Leah H.	Housewife and Cook	64
Mitchell, Gordon B.	Woodsmen P	48
Foster, Edmund E.	Retired	74
Foster, Helen D.	Retired	65
Barnes, Roland S.	Student - P (Picnic)	23
Barnes, Jacqueline M.	Teacher - P	26
Codley, Richard D.	Laborer - A	37
Cooley, Mary	Housewife	35
King, Gilbert M.	Custodian - P	57
King, Myrtle E.	Housewife	52
Lawson, Floy F.	Retired	78
West, Peter V.	Draftsman - O	33
West, Grace L.	Housewife	32
Britt, Lester D.	Flute Grinder - A	47
Britt, Mildred J.	Housewife	57
Glenn, Everette F. Jr.	Machinist - BALD	37
Glenn, Eleanor M.	Housewife	34
Hallberg, Carl G.	Retired	69
Hallberg, Edith V.	Teacher - P	62
Corey, Roger L.	Engineer - WOR	57
Corey, Barbara A.	Tutor - O	48
Corey, Roger L. Jr.	Student	18

English

Spring Street

Nelson, Ebba H.	Housewife - BUS DRIVER P	69
Johnson, Louise M.	Housewife - P	71

Sunset Lane

Gilbert, Jeffery D.	Attorney - ?	31
Gilbert, Bethel	Social Worker - ?	33
Hall, Raymond L.	Maintenance - A	56
Hall, Sylvia L.	Housewife	47
Myers, Scott G.	Unemployed	22
Servheen, Rita M.	Housewife	50
Kniley, John C.	Editor-Parachutes Inc. O	28
Kniley, Vonder S.	Artist - P	30
Brown, David C.	Vice Pres. of Engineering - D	40
Brown, Allison B.	Housewife	34
Riley, Susan H.	Self-employed - P	23

Tom Swamp Road

Burrage, Cora A.	Housewife	79
Allen, Irene A.	Housewife	67
Allen, Roger Jr.	Security Officer - ?	32
Rice, John M.	Crater	23
Rice, Jane S.	Mail Clerk	22
Cross, Wilton E.	Book Dealer - P	83

New Street Road cont.

Cross, Rosella M.
 Dinty, Robert R.
 Dinty, Carolyn A.
 White, Roger F.

Housewife & Book Dealer P 54
 Toolmaker-Foreman - A 44
 Housewife 32
 Chipper - 64

West Street

Abbott, Carol A.
 Lord, Edith M.
 Smith, Kathryn C.
 Smith, Charlene E.
 Cobb, Hazel E.
 Marsh, Fredrik A.
 Marsh, Edythe E.
 Perkins, Robert J.
 Perkins, Monika
 Gross, Frederick K. Jr.
 Gross, Sandra Y.
 Kirousis, Charles
 Kirousis, Linda M.
 Tate, Gordon P.
 Tate, Florence I.
 Haines, Delight G.
 Haines, Frances D.
 Lamb, Eleanor N.
 Balmos, Brock T.
 Balmos, Christine A.
 Lamb, Herbert N, Jr.
 Lamb, Thelma M.
 Ewing, Gladys T.
 Hannus, Laura C.
 Mazur, Ronald M.
 Mazur, Joyce M.
 Mazur, Michal J.
 Marsh, Earl W.
 Marsh, Olive B.
 Nault, Onesime E.
 Nault, Charlotte E.
 Bartus, Richard N.
 Bartus, Michael L.
 Upham, Clifford E.
 Upham, Julia C.
 Preble, Ruth H.
 Barnes, Bernard H. Jr.
 Barnes, Ethel L.
 Amidon, Jennie A.
 Moriarty, Richard W.
 Moriarty, Ellen G.
 Goodsell, Carolyn W.
 Siccardi, Barth L.
 Siccardi, Martha F.
 Torrey, John G.
 Torrey, Norah J.
 Marton, Geza
 Myeke, Janet J.
 Lavigne, Ronald L.

Dental Secretary - W.O.R. 40
 Retired 77
 Clerk - A 63
 Office Worker - W.O.R. 21
 Teacher P 66
 Design Draftsman - THREE ROOMS 37
 Housewife 32
 Phototype Foreman - A 33
 Housewife 29
 Industrial Engineer - W.O.R. 29
 Housewife 29
 Headmaster-Brandon School P 34
 Housewife 33
 Minister - P 57
 Housewife 58
 Librarian - P 57
 Editor - Needle Artist - P-1 24
 Housewife 81
 Machinist - A 24
 Office Worker - GARD 24
 Draftsman - D 50
 Housewife 50
 Housewife 75
 Retired 80
 Minister P 41
 Teacher 43
 Student 18
 Retired 62
 Housewife & Teacher - P 70
 Architect - W.O.R. 41
 Housewife 39
 Truckdriver - GREEN 38
 Housewife 34
 Machine Operator - A 50
 Assembler - A 47
 Housewife 83
 Farmer - P 47
 Personnel Director - A 44
 Housewife 68
 Programmer Analyst - FITCH 51
 Housewife 46
 Retired Artist 86
 Retired 65
 Retired 46
 Cabot Prof. Of Botany P 54
 Housewife 52
 Self-employed - P 47
 Inventory Key Puncher 24
 Student 34

TH^{EV} = 13-14 3g Lt. APT. Armed & Dangerous
 1 caught 7-9 PM
 Bal - Late 3g + 5 min

	Total	Cleared	Balance	clearing rate
1733	25000	0	25000	
1781	"	4,340	20660	48 years + 90
1791	"	3,116 ?	21884	
1801		8318	16682	
1811		9151	15,849	
1821		9005	15,995	
1831		14,625	10,375	
1840 Est		18,750	6,250	59 yrs + 244

1938 3160 21840 98 yrs - 159

1970 1250 23750 32 yrs - 59

24750
21037
3713

250.00

99 dry land = 250 Ac wet & water

1733 24,750 dry land 62 years 131.7/yr

1795 33% cleared = 8167 cleared

16583 forested + 11,633 45 years 258.5/yr

95% increase

1840 80% cleared = 19800 cleared

4950 forested - 16087 ac 130 = 123.7/yr mostly by 1900 = 266/yr

1970 85% forested = 21037 forested

3713 open & developed -2287 ÷ 70 = 33

1970 1250 Ac A&F fields

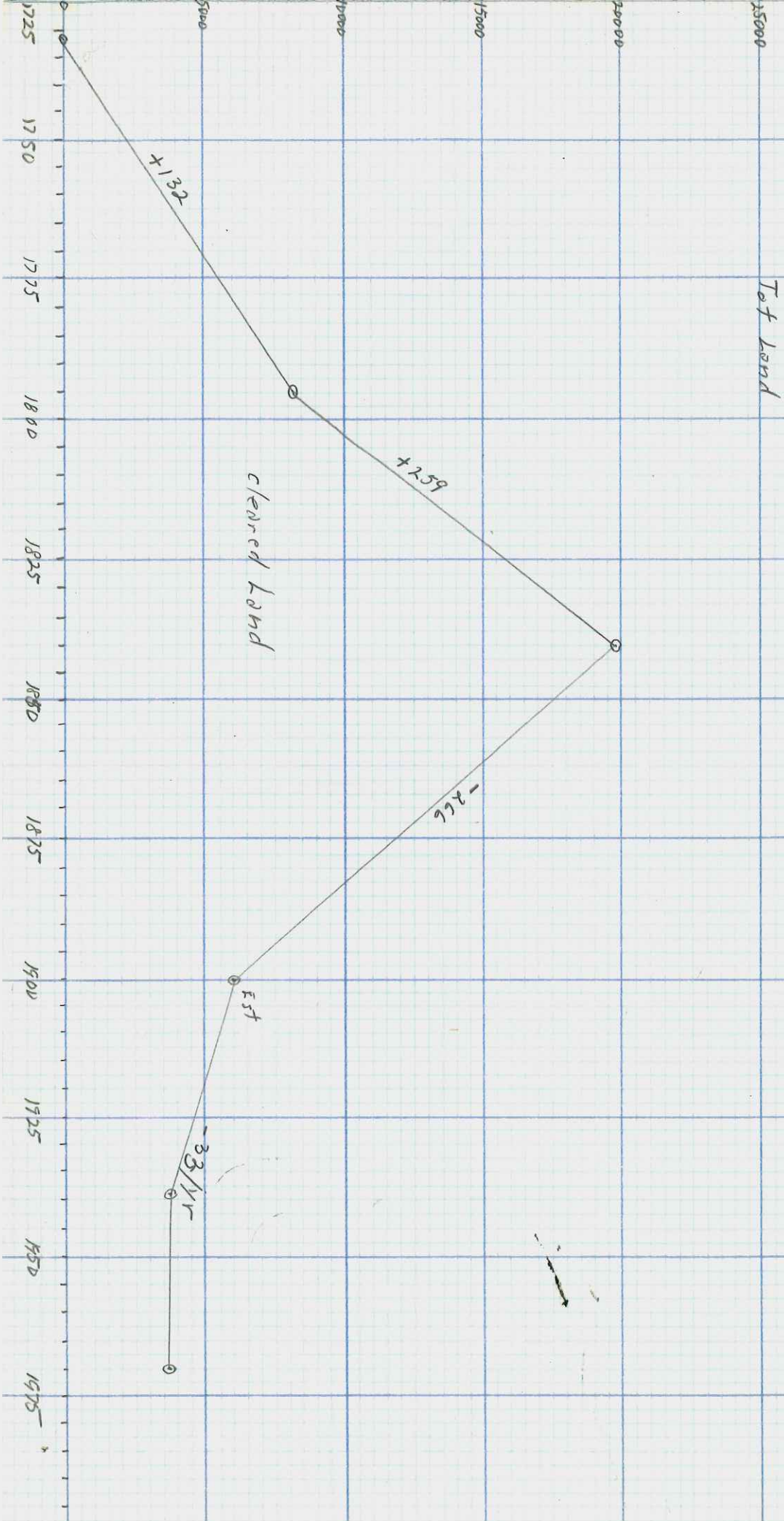
490 " House lots

1938 3,160

? his table shows 18,750

1840-1938 = 98 yrs 19800
- 3160
16640 = 170/yr

1938-1970 = 32 yrs 3160
1250
1910 =



A Study of the Management of Change

by

The Petersham Growth Policy Committee

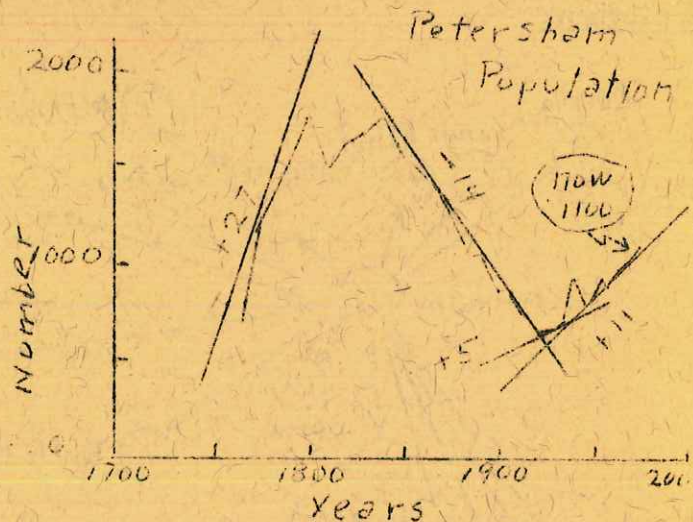
Members: Larry Buell, Planning Board; Charles Perkins, Selectman; Marianna Berry, Board of Health; Delight Haines, Historic District Commission; Ernest Gould, Conservation Commission; At Large: William Berry, Jr., Carolyn Cameron, Roger Corey, Barbara Nickless, Peter West, Chairman.

Responsibility: Charged by law to develop a local growth policy statement; to hold hearings in the process of developing that statement; to review and comment on the statements and reports developed by other participants under the Act; and, as desired to propose revisions, etc. to local by-laws or ordinances in order to promote the objectives of their policy statement.

Background: The Growth Policy Committee has prepared the following sketch of Petersham as a springboard for a discussion with our neighbors about what we all want to see happen to the town and how we can manage that kind of change.

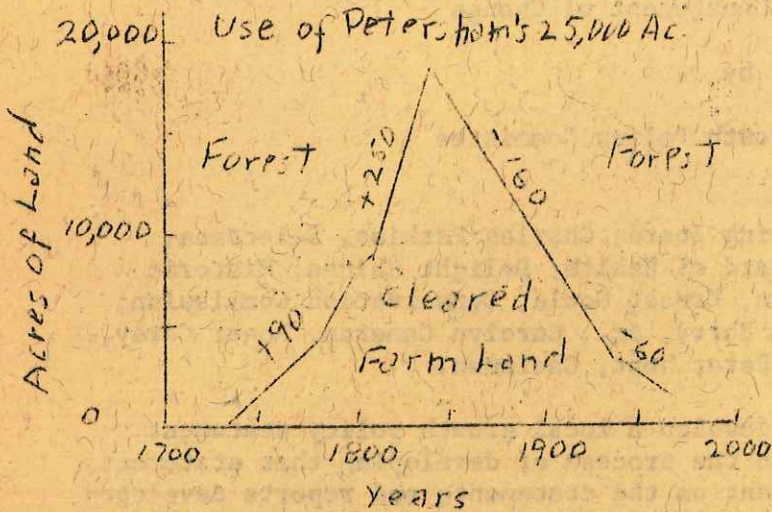
Population

After the town was granted in 1733, settlers came in ever increasing numbers and population increased fairly steadily for about 100 years. Throughout most of this period, Petersham gained an average of 27 people a year until 1800 when a peak of 1794 was reached. Settling off Dana caused a drop in 1810 but growth continued until 1840 when it suddenly ceased and a rapid decline followed for 30 years. Population "bottomed out" in 1920 and grew slowly at an average gain of 5 people per year for the next 25 years. After World War II, growth doubled to about 11 people a year and since 1970 has been at a rate of about 14 per year.



Land Use

Initially, Petersham was isolated, inward looking and every family "lived unto itself" on a subsistence farm. Land clearing was slow during this first phase, averaging about 90 acres a year for a couple of generations. About the turn of the century, however, roads were improved and the water power towns built up a demand for farm produce so prices rose and Petersham began to turn outward. Without artificial fertilizers to increase production, the only thing farmers could do was clear more land. This was done rapidly, and an average of 250 acres a year were cleared as farming expanded to reach about 18,000 open acres in 1840. After that, low-cost produce from the west started a farm de-



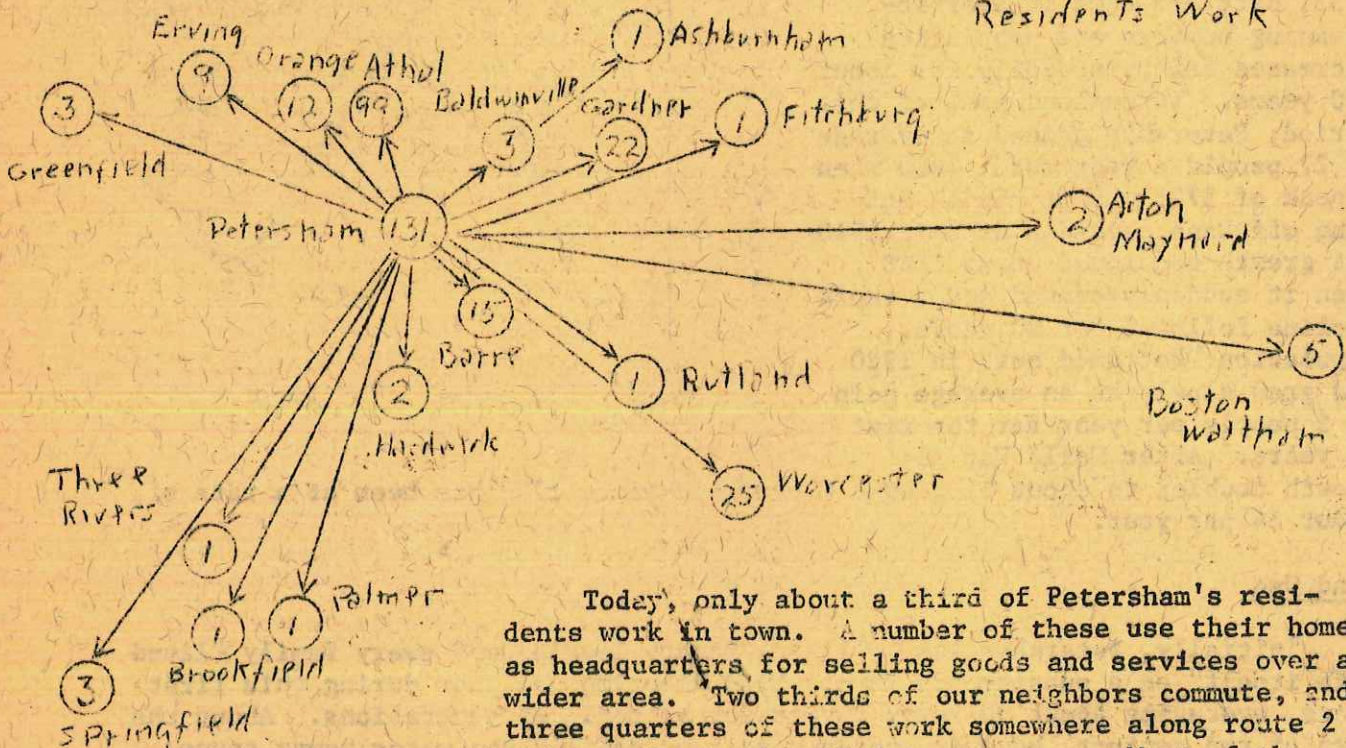
pression and people gave up. Many took factory jobs while others moved west and the decline of Petersham's agriculture began.

By mid-century some city people found Petersham was cooler in the summer than Boston, Providence or New York and they started to vacation at the Nichewaug and eventually bought up many of the old farms for summer homes. A large part of the town was bought by MDC to safeguard Quabbin water in the mid 20's which effectively stopped growth to the west.

Roads and autos, however, continued to improve so that daily commuting to work in nearby towns became feasible by the late 1930's and commonplace in the 40's. Petersham entered a new phase where the land, which by now was largely forested, became valuable mainly as a pleasant and private place to live. By the 50's all the repairable old houses were fixed up and newcomers had to start building. Since 1970 the selectmen have given 33 building permits; a few for camps and remodeling, but mostly for homes.

Employment

where 338 of Petersham's Residents Work



Today, only about a third of Petersham's residents work in town. A number of these use their homes as headquarters for selling goods and services over a wider area. Two thirds of our neighbors commute, and three quarters of these work somewhere along route 2 between Boston and Greenfield, mostly in the Athol-Orange area. Most of the rest commute over route 122 to Barre and Worcester. Employment opportunities in a zone from Erving to Gardner and south to Worcester are critically important to Petersham residents who look outward for their livelihood and inward for living space

Summary

So, Petersham has survived great change, but has always managed to maintain its rural character. First, a hundred years of farm expansion and prosperity until three-quarters of the town was open farm land followed by about a hundred years of farm decline and hard times. Farmers moved out and then summer people bought in, but finally commuting became a way of life. The town is now 85 percent forested, just about back to pre-colonial times. MDC has special powers to utilize the Swift River and to regulate sanitary conditions in 80% of the town, a fact of some long term importance. Today about 9500 acres are specially protected wetlands or are owned by public or quasi-public organizations not likely to develop their land. About 500 acres are already in houselots, leaving about 15,000 acres of potentially developable land. After allowing 15 percent for roads, we have room for about 8000 more 1 1/2 acre houselots, or about 24,000 new residents. The land is there - what shall we use it for and at what rate are we likely to need it?

What may the future hold?

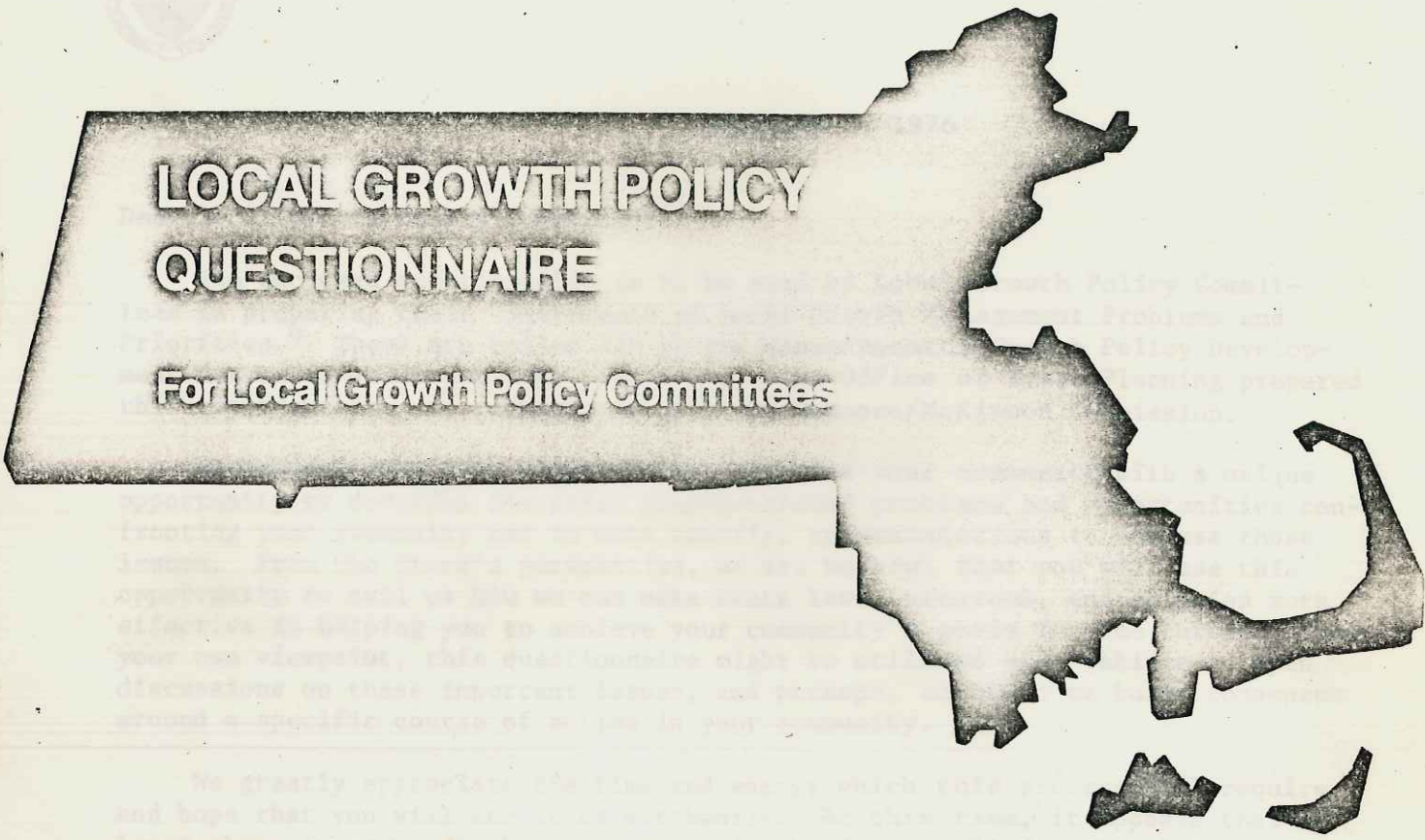
1. At least 1/3 of Petersham will remain undeveloped.
2. Industry and business expansion in town will be limited.
3. Most residents will commute.
4. Commuting area will be stable.
5. Taxes will be moderate as long as:
 1. At least this much land is held by owners for open space uses.
 2. In addition, a lot of wet and steep land is not suitable for development.
 3. Conservation easements cover some land.
6. Slow population growth will:
 1. Lack of central water and sewage excludes large water consumers.
 2. Strict pollution control in Quabbin watershed will discourage some others.
7. Past population growth will:
 1. Insufficient in-town jobs.
 2. Good roads make travel easy.
 3. Car travel likely to continue in spite of fuel shortage.
 1. Highways in new directions seem unlikely.
 2. Only major change likely in making 122 into a divided highway at some future date.
 1. Central water and/or sewage not needed.
 2. Part time police and fire protection is adequate,
 3. Education facilities remain adequate,
 4. Road construction and other services stay at present levels.
 1. Result in 5-10 new single family houses a year built on existing town roads.
 2. Probably have a mix of values, family sizes and incomes,
 3. be likely if jobs in commuting zone are stable or grow only slowly as in the past.
 1. most likely follow rapid increase of jobs in commuting zone or shortening of travel time that expands commuting zone,
 2. result in subdivisions before present roads are built up,
 3. call for more public services sooner,
 4. can raise taxes enough to exclude low and moderate income residents.

We all have some control over the kind of change that takes place in Petersham. The questions we need to clarify are what kind of town we really want, and how we can increase our chances of getting it?

*Original
Peterson*

THE GOVERNMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS

1000 STATE STREET BOSTON 20133



LOCAL GROWTH POLICY QUESTIONNAIRE

For Local Growth Policy Committees

We greatly appreciate the time and energy which you will invest in completing this questionnaire and hope that you will find it a useful experience. In this regard, the State Planning Office is pleased to announce that the questionnaire will be available to all local growth policy committees in the Commonwealth. We believe that your participation in this questionnaire will be a valuable contribution to the formulation of growth policies for the Commonwealth.

To be used in preparing a
Local Statement of Growth Problems and Priorities

In accordance with
**The Massachusetts Growth Policy Development Act
Chapter 807 of the Acts of 1975**

Prepared by
The Office of State Planning

In cooperation with
**The Special Commission on the Effects of Growth Patterns
on the Quality of Life in the Commonwealth**

January, 1976

The preparation and publication of this document was financed in part through an urban planning grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, under the provisions of Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON 02133

February 2, 1976

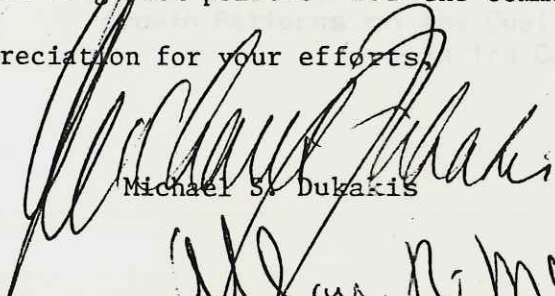
Dear Local Growth Policy Committee:

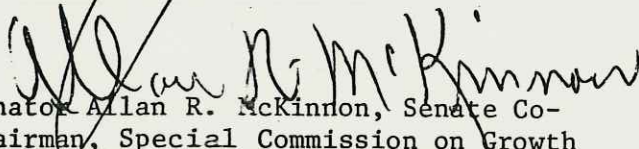
The enclosed questionnaire is to be used by Local Growth Policy Committees in preparing their "Statements of Local Growth Management Problems and Priorities." These are called for by the Massachusetts Growth Policy Development Act under which you came into being. The Office of State Planning prepared this questionnaire, in cooperation with the Wetmore/McKinnon Commission.

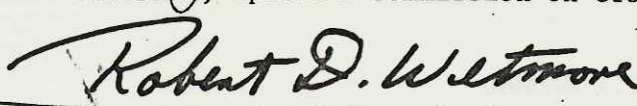
We believe that this questionnaire provides your community with a unique opportunity to describe the major growth-related problems and opportunities confronting your community and to make specific recommendations to address those issues. From the State's perspective, we are hopeful that you will use this opportunity to tell us how we can make state laws, programs, and policies more effective in helping you to achieve your community's goals for the future. From your own viewpoint, this questionnaire might be utilized as a vehicle to open discussions on these important issues, and perhaps, to begin to build consensus around a specific course of action in your community.

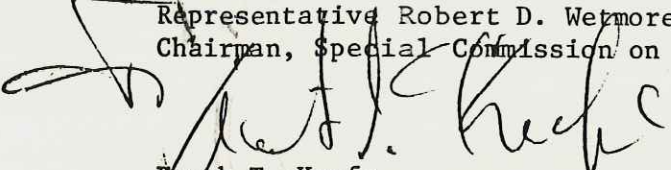
We greatly appreciate the time and energy which this process will require and hope that you will see it as worthwhile. At this time, it appears that at least three-quarters of the communities in the State will form Local Growth Policy Committees. On that basis alone, there appears to be overwhelming interest in growth-related issues. We hope this translates into unprecedented participation in the formulation of growth policies for the Commonwealth.

With best regards and appreciation for your efforts,


Michael S. Dukakis


Senator Allan R. McKinnon, Senate Co-Chairman, Special Commission on Growth


Representative Robert D. Wetmore, House Co-Chairman, Special Commission on Growth


Frank T. Keefe
Director of State Planning

LOCAL GROWTH POLICY QUESTIONNAIRE

to be used by
Local Growth Policy Committees

in the preparation of
"A Local Statement of Growth Problems and Priorities"

in compliance with
The Massachusetts Growth Policy Development Act
(Chapter 807 of the Acts of 1975)

prepared by
The OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING

in cooperation with
The Special Commission on the Effects of
Growth Patterns on the Quality of Life
in the Commonwealth

JANUARY/1976

INSTRUCTIONS

The following questionnaire provides a format for preparing a local "Statement of Growth Management Problems and Priorities" by your Local Growth Policy Committee, in accordance with the Massachusetts Growth Policy Development Act (Chapter 807 of the Acts of 1975). By filling out this questionnaire, your Committee will be making such a "Statement." If your Committee so desires, it may add any additional material to this questionnaire.

There are a few things you should keep in mind when filling out this questionnaire:

1. Answer the questions for the most part out of your heads, in your own words, based on what you know about your community, and on your perceptions about its values. This is not in any way intended as a "professional" planning exercise. The intention is to get a sense of the attitudes of local officials and citizens towards the community's growth problems and priorities.
2. These questions should not require any new data collection or elaborate studies of any kind. If any studies are now underway in your community, then so indicate; but don't let that stop you from giving your impression as to where you are now.
3. Don't feel limited by the questions, or by the spaces provided. If you have any relevant comments or suggestions to add, then do so. Use additional sheets wherever warranted.
4. Define what you mean as best you can, so that it will be clear to those reading your response. Where you can, give some specific examples. Cite sources of available information where it will be useful to others to know of its existence.
5. The multiple-choice questions (where you only have to check a box) might be regarded in part as a guide to some of the things which you might consider in thinking about these issues.
6. Read through each part of the questionnaire before you start to fill it out. Some of your comments on an earlier question might be covered by a later question.
7. Some questions may seem irrelevant to your community, or unanswerable. If they are, just say so, and go on.
8. In answering some questions, you may feel that you don't really have enough information to answer accurately. In those cases, try to give your "best guess" and indicate the lack of information. (If you wish, you can request technical assistance on any parts of the questionnaire.)
9. In some cases, your Local Growth Policy Committee might not agree on a particular answer. If that happens, then just indicate that "most members feel so and so..." or "some members feel such and such..." or simply "we couldn't agree on one answer..." But try to be as definitive as you can.
10. Try to use the questionnaire to start a dialogue within your community. Don't view it as the final word on where you're going, but only as a starting point in talking about these questions.

LOCAL GROWTH POLICY QUESTIONNAIRE

JANUARY/1976

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INTRODUCTION

The structure of this questionnaire is divided into four parts. The first part provides an opportunity for you to describe what has been happening to your community in terms of growth, development, and change, and to outline the problems and opportunities facing your community. The second part looks to the future, asking for your sense of where your community might be headed, and for a description of what kind of future you would like to see for your community. The third part examines your perceptions of your community's role within the larger "region" (however you want to define it) of which you are a part, and within the state as a whole. Finally, the fourth part asks for a summary of your findings and recommendations.

Some communities may very well determine that their past growth and development has been satisfactory, and presents no significant issues for the future. That is certainly a reasonable response, and a very valuable one as well. The Massachusetts Growth Policy Development Act is intended in part to elicit from communities their sense of the potential issues, if any, which growth and development poses for them. It will be important to learn how many communities feel that growth presents no serious problems to be resolved, or opportunities which might be capitalized upon.

It should be noted from the outset that the terms "growth" and "development" as used throughout this questionnaire are not intended necessarily to mean positive growth or development. Non-growth (or negative growth) and areas which have not developed (or in which there has been disinvestment) may well be as significant as the positive growth and development which has occurred.

There is a separate "Handbook" distributed to all Local Growth Policy Committees, explaining procedures, suggestions on hearings, and various other aspects of the Massachusetts Growth Policy Development Act (Chapter 807 of the Acts of 1975). Included in that "Handbook" is an explanation of how your community can avail itself of "technical assistance" in this process, if your Committee so desires. If you have any questions on this or any other matter related to the Act, call the Office of State Planning at (617) 727-8990. (The address for correspondence is: Room 2101, One Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108.)

PART I. YOUR COMMUNITY: FROM THE PAST INTO THE PRESENT

This first part of the questionnaire is intended to provide your community with the opportunity to examine what has been happening to your community (and not just in it) and to describe where you are today. While the future need not be a simple reflection of the past, certain lessons hopefully can be learned from the past. Furthermore, it may be necessary (or prudent) to address issues raised by past growth and development -- before attempting to anticipate future problems. *(You should read the instructions at the beginning of the questionnaire before answering any of the various sections.)*

1:1 General Description of Past Growth, Development, and Change: Describe briefly below what has been happening (or not happening), in terms of growth and development, to your community over the last ten to fifteen years. This description might include things occurring outside your community but which are significant to your community. The emphasis here should be on merely describing what has happened; questions as to the effect which that growth has had on your community will be covered later. Consideration might be given in this description to: population and housing growth (or non-growth); social and economic changes; commercial and industrial development; changes in existing physical conditions (e.g., deterioration or rehabilitation); transportation; recreation; conservation; agriculture; environmental protection; public facilities and programs; and whatever other facets of growth have been significant to your community. For some communities, the growth which they experienced during the 1960's was substantially different from that of the early 1970's. If that was true for your community, please also comment on the extent and nature of the recent changes (over the last 3 to 5 years) in your community's growth and development. *(Use additional sheets, as necessary.)*

Population growth has been slow and erratic. 1955 - 60 we lost 39, but in the next 5 years, we gained 100. Between 1965 to '70 we gained 24. Since 1970, we have probably gained another 30 to 40 people. Present population is around 1100.'

Petersham has about 24,000 acres outside the main Quabbin-taking line. About 7000 acres is owned by public and quasi-public organizations who are not likely to develop their land. An added 2000 is water or wetland, on wetland not suitable for development. This leaves about 15,000 acres of potentially developable land. After allowing 20% for roads, this leaves a potential 8000 1.5 acre houselots.

Full development is unlikely. Petersham is a bedroom town where 90% of the workers commute by automobile to their jobs. Most in adjoining and nearby towns where employment has been fairly stable. Few drive longer distances to jobs in Worcester, Boston, Greenfield, Amherst.

Although Petersham has a sizable number of wealthy residents and professional executive types, it also has a large number of blue collar workers, and a great many people who retire on their social security alone.

1:2 Factors Influencing Growth, Development, and Change: There are a variety of factors which might have had a significant influence on your community's growth, development, and change in the past. Some of these factors may have stimulated growth, while others may have served to discourage or deter growth. A number of possible factors are listed below. Please indicate whether you feel that each of these factors either: (a) stimulated or encouraged growth; (b) discouraged or deterred growth; (c) had a mixed influence (encouraging or discouraging only certain kinds of growth, or growth only at certain locations); (d) had no significant noticeable influence on growth; or (e) it is hard to say what influence it has had on the community's growth. (Again, we are not yet asking you whether that impact was good or bad.)

<u>Factors</u> (Check one alongside each):	Encouraged growth	Discouraged Growth	Mixed Influence	No Significant Influence	Hard to Say
Changing birth rates-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional development patterns-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development in neighboring communities-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local property tax rates-----	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of water supply-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of sewers-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of solid waste disposal facilities-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local zoning-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local subdivision regulations-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of developable land-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of redevelopable land or buildings-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional highway network-----	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nearby highway interchanges-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local street network-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Railroads-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rapid transit services-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Character of local schools-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Quality of other local services-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
"Character" of community-----	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
"Character" of region-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental quality of the community-----	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental quality of the region-----	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreational facilities-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preserved open space-----	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economic factors-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cultural facilities-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nearby shopping facilities-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nearby job opportunities-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Labor force-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental regulations-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Availability of health care-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other: <u>Quabbin</u> -----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments (if any):

1:3 Which of these factors has had the most significant influence on growth, development, and change in the past? (List up to six.) **Development of neighboring communities; Local sub-division regulations; Local zoning; Regional highway network; Character of community; Nearby job opportunities;**

1:4 Which of these factors (from 1:2) might be subject to change in the future, if any? **Development of neighboring communities; Nearby job opportunities; Regional highway network; Availability of developable land.**

1:5 Analysis of the Impact of Past Growth, Development, and Change: Based on the description of what has been happening to your community, what would you say has been the overall impact of that growth, development, and change? Consider both positive and negative impacts, if any. You might want to comment in particular on the impacts on: available opportunities, natural and environmental resources, the "character" and identity of your community, the fiscal costs and benefits, and any other significant impacts upon your community. Describe briefly below the most important aspects of that overall impact. (You will be asked to comment on some of the more particular impacts on the next few pages.)

Petersham has preserved its character as a pleasant rural environment for living because its residents cared enough to adopt zoning regulations; highways allowed a commuter town; jobs held up in nearby communities; services have been adequate at a cost low enough so a wide variety of people can afford to live here. Public and quasi-public institutions preserve a great deal of open space at no cost to the town.

1:6 The following list of possible concerns might have been impacted by past growth, development, and change. Indicate below whether these issues are of concern to your community, and if they are, what the impact of growth has been upon those issues.

Consider the impact of past growth, development, and change upon the following (below):

-----The impact has been-----

		Not a Concern	Concern		Preserved	Improved	Changed, Not Positive or Negative	Damaged	No Significant Impact	Can't Say	Other (Comment Below)
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a. Available Opportunities:

Jobs:	Construction-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Permanent: Blue-collar-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Permanent: White-collar-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Housing:	Lower-Cost-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Medium-Cost-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Higher-Cost-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Elderly-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Families-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Recreation-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Shopping-----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other: Health Services -----	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

b. Natural and Environmental Resources:

Water quality-----		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Present available water supply-----		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Future water supply (that is, aquifers, aquifer recharge areas, potential reservoir sites)-----		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wetlands-----		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prime agricultural lands-----		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Open space, scenic vistas-----		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air quality-----		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mineral resources (e.g., gravel, coal)-----		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wildlife habitats-----		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains-----		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Coastal areas, stream/river banks-----		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other:-----		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

c. Character and Identity of the Community-----

d. Fiscal Costs and Benefits-----

e. Other:-----

Comments: Fiscal problems are always of concern. So far costs have stayed within the capability of residents to pay, but state sharing is essential especially in education.

- 1:7 Would you say that the overall impact of growth, development, and change has been (check one):
 Positive. Negative. Mixed. Neutral. No Impact. Can't Say.

Comments: **Impact on life style and human environment at a low growth rate.**

- 1:8 Why is the overall impact seen as good or bad? That is, are there goals which past growth and change has or has not supported?

By-laws have maintained community character - and growth has been small and gradual.

- 1:9 Could any of the negative impacts of growth, development, and change have been avoided? Were some of the negative impacts inevitable, or acceptable in light of other community goals?

Most problems will be in the future.

- 1:10 Residential Growth, Development, and Change: Describe the residential growth, development, and change of your community over the last ten to fifteen years. How sizable has that residential development been? Has the rate of residential growth been higher or lower or the same as that in the past? Has it been primarily single-family or apartments or a mix? Has there been a significant amount of construction of seasonal housing?

Average 4 - 6 houses a year. Perhaps 1 seasonal. All are single family. Only one or two trailers in town.

- 1:11 What has been the impact of that residential growth, development, and change? Consider in particular the impact upon: available opportunities, natural and environmental resources, the character and identity of the community, and the fiscal costs and benefits (as outlined in Question 1.6).

Not much to date. In 5 or 10 years there may be problems if schools are outgrown or if area must be sewerred.

- 1:12 Commercial Growth, Development, and Change: Describe the commercial growth, development, and change in your community over the last ten to fifteen years. How sizable has that commercial development been? Has the rate of commercial growth changed significantly during the recent past? Has the nature of commercial development changed? Has recent commercial development been spread throughout the community or in only a few areas? What has happened to commercial growth "downtown"? Has there been significant commercial growth in shopping centers?

Practically nil.

- 1:13 What has been the impact of that commercial growth, development, and change? Consider in particular the impact upon: available opportunities, natural and environmental resources, the character and identity of the community, and the fiscal costs and benefits (as outlined in Question 1.6).

Nil.

- 1:14 Industrial Growth, Development, and Change: Describe the industrial growth, development, and change in your community over the last ten to fifteen years. How sizable has that industrial development been? Has it been primarily light or heavy industries (or a mix)? What kinds of jobs has new industry (if any) contained?

Nil.

- 1:15 What has been the impact of that industrial growth, development, and change? Consider in particular the impact upon: available opportunities, natural and environmental resources, the character and identity of the community, and the fiscal costs and benefits (as outlined in Question 1.6).

Nil.

1:16 Existing Physical Conditions: Have there been significant changes in existing physical conditions in your community (distinct from new development) over the last ten to fifteen years? Has there been any substantial deterioration or dis-investment in existing structures? Has there been any substantial rehabilitation or re-investment? If so, please describe those changes and their impact upon the community.

Nil.

1:18 Social and Economic Changes: Has your community undergone any significant social and/or economic changes over the last ten to fifteen years? If so, please describe briefly the nature and extent of those changes and their impact upon the community.

Nil.

1:19 Development in Neighboring Communities: Has development or development-related activity in neighboring communities over the last ten to fifteen years had any significant impact upon your community? If so, please describe that activity and its impact upon your community.

Nil.

1:20 Conservation Efforts: Were there any actions taken by your community, or by some other level of government, or by a private group aimed at conservation, which had a significant impact upon your community? If so, please describe those efforts and their impact upon the community.

Green belt along Swift River - but all changes will impact more in the future than the present.

1:21 State and Federal Transportation Investments: Have state and federal transportation investments (highway and mass transit) over the last ten to fifteen years had a significant impact upon your community? If so, please describe which transportation investments and their impact upon the community.

No. Could be very bad if Northwest Highway is put through town.

1:22 Federal, State, and Regional Water and Sewer Investment Programs: Have federal, state, or regional investment programs for water supply or sewerage treatment over the last ten to fifteen years had a significant impact upon your community? If so, please describe which water and sewer investment programs and their impact upon the community.

Nil.

1:23 Other State Investment or Regulatory Programs: Have other state investment or regulatory programs over the last ten to fifteen years had a significant impact upon your community? If so, please describe which programs and their impact upon the community.

Wetlands Act.

Previous Steps the Community Has Taken in Response to Growth: The following questions ask you to examine some of the actions which your community has taken in response to the issues raised by previous growth, development, and change.

- 1:24 Zoning: When was the last substantial revision to your zoning done? Nov. 24, 1969
 Community does not have zoning (go to question 1:28) **and currently working on addition.**
- 1:25 Does your present zoning bylaw or ordinance include any of the following (check as many as are appropriate):
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Flood plain provisions. | <input type="checkbox"/> Phased or timed growth provisions. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cluster provisions. | <input type="checkbox"/> Transferrable development rights. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planned unit development provisions. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site plan review. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Specific wetlands districts or restrictions. | <input type="checkbox"/> Specific restrictions near water bodies, rivers, streams, or coastal areas. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservancy districts. | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural land protection. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other important provisions: | |
- 1:26 Does your zoning presently (check as many as apply):
- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allow apartments in specific districts. | <input type="checkbox"/> Allow commercial development along major arterials ("strip" commercial development). |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Allow apartments generally throughout the community. | <input type="checkbox"/> Allow commercial development only in specific well-defined areas. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allow apartments only on special permit (as an "exception"). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regarding commercial development, other: on application & 1925 law. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not allow apartments. | <input type="checkbox"/> Have large undeveloped areas zoned for industry. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Regarding apartments, other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Have limited areas (mostly already developed) zoned for industry. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> For most of the undeveloped land, allow housing only at very low densities (one acre or more per dwelling). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regarding industrial development, other: none |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For a significant amount of the undeveloped land, allow housing at a medium density (less than one acre per dwelling). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other key use regulations: revisions being worked on currently |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regarding single-family development, other: apartments in existing dwellings | |
- 1:27 Has your community's zoning been relatively successful in avoiding "detrimental" development, yet allowing (or encouraging) "sound" development? Explain briefly. Cite examples if relevant.
Yes - no great demand
- 1:28 Subdivision Regulations: When was the last major revision to your subdivision regulations done? 1963
 Community does not have subdivision regulations (go to question 1:30).
- 1:29 Has your community's subdivision regulations been relatively successful in avoiding "detrimental" development, yet allowing "sound" development? Please explain briefly; cite examples if relevant.
Yes - no applications
- 1:30 Open Space Acquisition: Has your community purchased any significant amounts of open space lands? If yes, briefly describe the types and amounts of land acquired. Has your community considered or acquired any "conservation easements" or "development rights" (not actual ownership, but restrictions on development)? Was any state or federal aid used for any of those open space acquisitions?
Conservation easement - Swift River
So far no purchased land. Aquisition by gifts.
- 1:31 Historic Preservation: Has your community established any historic districts or taken other actions aimed at historic preservation? If so, please describe briefly.
Yes - center historic district - various historic sites and archeological features.
- 1:32 Urban Renewal: Has your community undertaken any urban renewal activities? If so, describe briefly.
No
- 1:33 Have there been any other actions taken by your community to prevent/discourage negative growth, dis-investment, or the deterioration of existing development? If so, please describe.
No

Previous Steps the Community Has Taken in Response to Growth (continued):

1:34 Comprehensive Planning: Has your community undertaken any comprehensive planning efforts in the recent past (e.g., a "master plan")?

- Yes, recently completed, date: _____ (Attach, if relevant.) Continuing, ongoing comprehensive planning effort.
- Yes, but not updated in recent past. Last done: _____ No.
- Comprehensive plan now underway. Other: _____

1:35 Planning Staff: Does your community have professional planning staff (check one)?

- Yes, full-time. (Number: _____) Yes, part-time. No.

Has your community utilized planning consultants (check one)?

- Yes, on an ongoing basis. Yes, intermittently. No. Other: _____

1:36 Have the comprehensive planning studies and your professional staff (if any) been effective in influencing decisions made by your community, or in some other respect? Explain briefly.

Can't say - too early

1:37 Other Local Actions: Have there been any other significant actions taken by the community in response to the issues (or potential issues) raised by growth, development, and change? If so, explain briefly below.

Trailer by-law, 1½ acre zoning, protect unsewered nature of town, scenic roads, town voted down a proposal to have a specific contained industrial area.

1:38 How would you rate the overall effectiveness of these local responses (outlined above and on the previous page) to growth-related issues (check one)?

- Relatively successful as a whole.
- Successful in some areas, less successful in others (please explain below).
- Relatively unsuccessful.
- No significant effect.
- No particular growth-related issues for our community.
- Can't say.
- Other: _____

Comments:

1:39 What have been the major reasons behind what your community has done (and hasn't done) in the past to control growth and development? (Check as many as apply.)

- Existence (or lack) of professional planning staff.
- Concern for permitting only those uses which would have a positive impact (that is, lower) the local property tax rate.
- Environmental concerns.
- Concern for allowing individuals to decide the "best" use for their own land.
- Economic development.
- Social values.
- Availability of money to achieve desired goal.
- Efforts to maintain the "status quo" relative to other nearby communities.
- Preserving the "character" of the community.
- Restrictive state laws.
- Lack of sufficient state laws.
- Other: _____

Which of these has been most important?

"Status quo"

"character"

Individuals to decide the "best" use of their land.

1:40 Problems and Opportunities Presented by Past Growth, Development, and Change: What are the major problems and opportunities posed by the growth, development, and change of the last ten to fifteen years, as far as your community is concerned? List up to six of each:

ProblemsOpportunities

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Plan & maintain rural rds.</u> | 1. <u>Using land for education</u> |
| 2. <u>Waste disposal</u> | 2. <u>"Character"</u> |
| 3. <u>Local employment</u> | 3. <u>Outdoor recreation</u> |
| 4. <u>School</u> | 4. <u>Rural atmosphere</u> |
| 5. <u>Commercial use of res. dist.</u> | 5. <u>Commitment to zoning</u> |
| 6. <u>State highways</u> | 6. <u>Quality environment</u> |

1:41 For each of the problems and opportunities listed above, is there something which can be done to resolve the problem, or to capitalize on the opportunity? What could be done (not necessarily should be done)? Who could do something (e.g., the public or private sector, local government or some other level of government)? What would it take to get something done (e.g., money, land, new local controls, new state laws, etc.)? Of the possible responses to these issues, are some better than others?

Problems:

- 1: Planning and assistance in designing rural roads.
- 2: Solid waste disposal suitable to rural needs.
- 3: More flexible regulation to meet the needs of non-sewered area.
- 4: Less state intervention & more state assistance.
- 5: More care in control of future commercial development.
- 6: More local input on state highway planning.

Opportunities:

- 1: Development of outdoor classrooms in natural history area.
- 2: Maintain character through zoning regulation & board of health sanitation regulations.
- 3: Maintain present state of existing areas.
- 4: Encouragement of open fields & atmosphere.
- 5: Continuous review of whats happening to our town.
- 6: Direct change in desired direction.

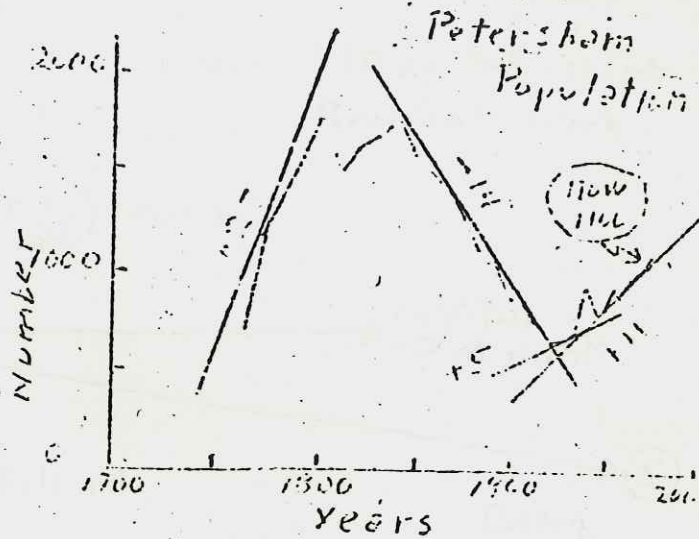
Comments:

Continuous overview of problems and opportunities.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON PART I:

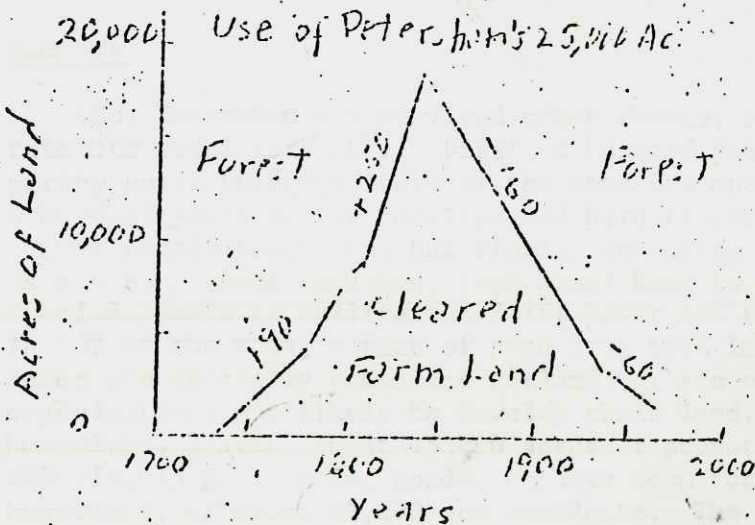
Population

After the town was granted in 1733, settlers came in ever increasing numbers and population increased fairly steadily for about 100 years. Throughout most of this period, Petersham gained an average of 27 people a year until 1800 when a peak of 1794 was reached. Setting off Dana caused a drop in 1810 but growth continued until 1840 when it suddenly ceased and a rapid decline followed for 30 years. Population "bottomed out" in 1920 and grew slowly at an average gain of 5 people per year for the next 25 years. After World War II, growth doubled to about 11 people a year and since 1970 has been at a rate of about 14 per year.



Land Use

Initially, Petersham was isolated, inward looking and every family "lived unto itself" on a subsistence farm. Land clearing was slow during this first phase, averaging about 90 acres a year for a couple of generations. About the turn of the century, however, roads were improved and the water power towns built up a demand for farm produce so prices rose and Petersham began to turn outward. Without artificial fertilizers to increase production, the only thing farmers could do was clear more land. This was done rapidly, and an average of 250 acres a year were cleared as farming expanded to reach about 18,000 open acres in 1840. After that, low-cost produce from the west started a farm de-



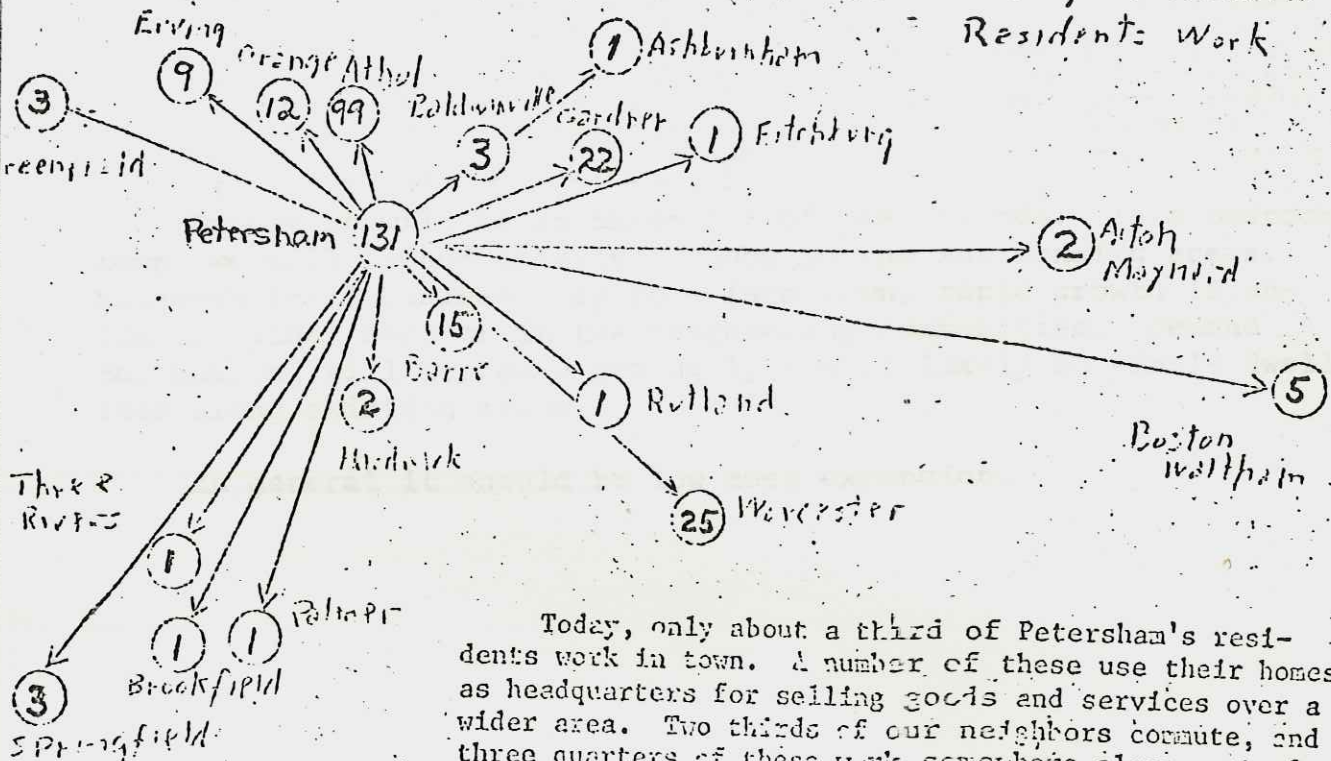
pression and people gave up. Many took factory jobs while others moved west and the decline of Petersham's agriculture began.

By mid-century some city people found Petersham was cooler in the summer than Boston, Providence or New York and they started to vacation at the Nichewaug and eventually bought up many of the old farms for summer homes. A large part of the town was bought by MDC to safeguard Quabbin water in the mid 20's which effectively stopped growth to the west.

Roads and autos, however, continued to improve so that daily commuting to work in nearby towns became feasible by the late 1930's and commonplace in the 40's. Petersham entered a new phase where the land, which by now was largely forested, became valuable mainly as a pleasant and private place to live. By the 50's all the repairable old houses were fixed up and newcomers had to start building. Since 1970 the selectmen have given 33 building permits; a few for camps and remodeling, but mostly for homes.

Employment

where 338 of Petersham's Residents work



Today, only about a third of Petersham's residents work in town. A number of these use their homes as headquarters for selling goods and services over a wider area. Two thirds of our neighbors commute, and three quarters of these work somewhere along route 2 between Boston and Greenfield, mostly in the Athol-Orange area. Most of the rest commute over route 122 to Barre and Worcester. Employment opportunities in a zone from Erving to Gardner and south to Worcester are critically important to Petersham residents who look outward for their livelihood and inward for living space.

Summary

So, Petersham has survived great change, but has always managed to maintain its rural character. First, a hundred years of farm expansion and prosperity until three-quarters of the town was open farm land followed by about a hundred years of farm decline and hard times. Farmers moved out and then summer people bought in, but finally commuting became a way of life. The town is now 85 percent forested, just about back to pre-colonial times. MDC has special powers to utilize the Swift River and to regulate sanitary conditions in 80% of the town, a fact of some long term importance. Today about 9500 acres are specially protected wetlands or are owned by public or quasi-public organizations not likely to develop their land. About 500 acres are already in houselots, leaving about 15,000 acres of potentially developable land. After allowing 15 percent for roads, we have room for about 8000 more 1 1/2 acre houselots, or about 24,000 new residents. The land is there - what shall we use it for and at what rate are we likely to need it?

2:4 General Description of Expectations for the Future: Describe below what appears to you to be most likely to happen to your community over the next twenty years, in terms of growth, development, and change. (We will call this the "most likely future" for your community.) This may not be what you want to see happen, but it is what you expect to see happen (unless something is done). In particular, comment on those aspects of growth which are likely to depart from the previous "growth trends." You might include consideration of: residential growth, commercial and industrial growth, social and economic changes, development in neighboring communities, and so on. (You need only describe it here. You will be asked to comment on the impacts on the following page.)

Expect it will be an extension of past trends. As a bedroom town, we will depend chiefly on jobs in the surrounding areas. Although small business may come into town, rapid growth is unlikely either here or in the neighboring communities. Demand for housing will increase gradually - will likely be single dwellings along existing roads.

In general it should be low cost expansion.

2:5 In what important respects could a range of things occur? Are there certain aspects of the description above for which there are a wide range of possibilities?

The main variable might be the completion of the northwest highway out of Worcester. This could bring increased commuter pressure, but perhaps most important, would have a disastrous environmental impact if it cuts the town in half.

Rapid growth stimulated by the regional economy on transportation could lead to subdivision which will change the character of the town and its tempo of change.

2:6 What are the most significant factors which might influence the future growth, development, and changes to occur to your community? How would those factors affect growth within the range of things outlined above (see 2:5)? Which of those factors are within the control (or influence) of your community?

Availability of jobs is the chief variable beyond our control. Hopefully we can influence new highway location. The advent of a subdivision development could suddenly push growth beyond our capability to service with present town facilities. Reduction of State Aid could bring about a fiscal crisis. Perhaps the trend to live in a rural area could have an impact.

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- 2:7 The Impact of the "MOST LIKELY Future": What would be the probable impact of that "most likely future" (see question 2:4 on previous page) on your community? In particular, comment on its impact on the community's assets and liabilities (see question 2:1). Would those impacts be positive or negative for the community? What problems and/or opportunities would that "most likely future" present for your community?

If we avoid financial crisis by gradual growth as a non-sewered area, the nature of the town could be very attractive. High cost development on unsettled roads should be avoided. We should try to keep business development on highways where traffic hazards will be minimized, together with adverse impacts on residential and agricultural areas.

Water quality will probably be protected by the town and M.D.C. and the environmental quality of the town will be protected, especially if a means of maintaining open land can be found.

- 2:8 Comment on (if not covered above) the overall impact of that "most likely future" on various issues of concern to the community (perhaps as outlined in question 1:6 on page 3), such as: available opportunities, the character and identity of the community, natural and environmental resources, and fiscal costs and benefits. Try to give some specific examples of what you mean.

Growth is likely to be on remaining open farm lands unless some arrangement is made to prevent it. The problem of providing for the proliferation and/or expansion of small business in town will continue as a focus of concern which can be treated by zoning adoption.

- 2:9 How would the community be able to reasonably meet the "needs" of that "most likely" growth and development, such as in terms of water supply, sewerage facilities, solid waste disposal, schools, other public facilities, and so on? Would this be likely to require some form of multi-community ("regional") action?

Needs of slow growth can be met internally with the possible exception of solid waste recycling.

- 2:10 Would there likely be an appropriate mix of jobs and housing, within or nearby to the community?

Could be, except for housing for the elderly.

- 2:11 Of the impacts discussed above, which are the most important? What is the "best" (most positive) and "worst" things about that "most likely future"?

To maintain present status- eventual financial stress as town facilities are outgrown and our loss of character.

- 2:12 Would you say that the overall impact of that "most likely" future for your community would be (check one):

Positive. Negative. Mixed. Neutral. No impact. Hard to say.

2:13 Rapid Growth Potential: Does your community have the potential for what you might consider "rapid" growth?

Yes (answer questions below).

No (go on to question 2:17).

2:14 What would be the impact of that rapid growth were it to occur? What problems and/or opportunities would it present to your community?

**Probably in the form of sub-division causing rapid rise.
Demand for public services.**

2:15 What steps, if any, would your community consider to avoid or encourage that rapid growth?

String out subdivision control to insure high tax yield.

Development that will cover more of the added costs of government.

2:16 If that rapid growth were to occur, what steps, if any, would your community consider in response to the problems and opportunities posed by rapid growth?

**Place limits on growth rate; tighten sanitation regulations,
tie up more land in non-development forms.**

2:17 Negative-Growth Potential: Does your community have the potential for "negative" growth or dis-investment?

Yes (answer questions below).

No (go on to question 2:21).

2:18 What would be the impact of that negative growth were it to occur? What problems and/or opportunities would it present to your community?

**Employment in commuter region could decline - thus stopping
growth.**

2:19 What steps, if any, would your community consider to avoid that negative growth?

Encourage growth in nearby towns that are already interested.

Improve schools to better equip youth to move on and out.

2:20 If that negative growth were to occur, what steps, if any, would your community consider in response to the problems and/or opportunities posed by negative growth?

See above.

2:21 Potential for Substantially Different Types of Growth: Does your community have the potential for a substantially different type of growth or development, relative to what has occurred in the past?

Yes (answer questions below).

No (go on to question 2:25).

2:22 What would be the impact of that different type of growth were it to occur? What problems and/or opportunities would it present to your community?

**Sub-division - no opportunity for industrialization, recreations,
division or other use of existing buildings, roads, second homes.**

2:23 What steps, if any, would your community consider to avoid or encourage that different type of growth?

Zoning - sub-division control laws.

2:24 If that different growth were to occur, what steps, if any, would your community consider in response to the problems and/or opportunities posed by such different growth?

Go to the town meeting.

2:25 Are there any other contingencies or uncertainties which your community might face in the future? Describe briefly.

Quabbin recreation.

2:26 Description of "DESIRED Future": Given the range of things which could happen, what would you like to see in terms of your community's future growth, development, and change? (We will call this the "desired future" for your community.) In particular, how is this different from the "most likely future" described above (see question 2:4)?

At first public hearing there was a unanimous desire to keep the town as it is. Rural, farmed, forested wisely. A bedroom town with the largest possible houselots. To allow expansion on a controlled basis.

2:27 In what respects and for what reasons, is this "desired future" preferable?

There is a good balance of socio-economic people and a high quality of living environment.

2:28 Actions Necessary to Achieve "DESIRED Future": What kinds of actions would be necessary in order to encourage the future growth, development, and change of your community to more closely resemble the "desired future"? By whom? What would it take (e.g., money, land, new laws, etc.)? In particular, differentiate between actions by the community and actions by others?

Mild regional job growth, careful development of transportation, continued concern for protecting the natural environment. The state's role is to provide the infrastructure and an appropriate business environment for discriminating growth for economic activity.

Also enable localities to plan their own destinys within the state fremework which itself balances local, state and regional needs.

CACT 1975

2:29 Would your community consider multi-community ("regional") actions to promote that "desired future"? Under what conditions?

Yes. Only for those problems best solved on a regional, rather than a local level.

2:30 What would you propose right now in order to move your community towards achieving that "desired future"?

Planning.

What may the future hold?

1. At least 1/3 of Petersham will remain undeveloped.

2. Industry and business expansion in town will be limited.

3. Most residents will commute.

4. Commuting area will be stable.

5. Taxes will be moderate as long as:

6. Slow population growth will:

7. Fast population growth will:

1. At least this much land is held by owners for open space uses.

2. In addition, a lot of wet and steep land is not suitable for development.

3. Conservation easements cover some land.

1. Lack of central water and sewage excludes large water consumers.

2. Strict pollution control in Quabbin watershed will discourage some others.

1. Insufficient in-town jobs.

2. Good roads make travel easy.

3. Car travel likely to continue in spite of fuel shortage.

1. Highways in new directions seem unlikely.

2. Only major change likely in making 122 into a divided highway at some future date.

1. Central water and/or sewage not needed.

2. Part time police and fire protection is adequate.

3. Education facilities remain adequate.

4. Road construction and other services stay at present levels.

5. State does not make unnecessary and costly mandates.

1. Result in 5-10 new single family houses a year built on existing town roads.

2. Probably have a mix of values, family sizes and incomes.

3. Be likely if jobs in commuting zone are stable or grow only slowly as in the past.

1. Most likely follow rapid increase of jobs in commuting zone or shortening of travel time that expands commuting zone.

2. Result in subdivisions before present roads are built up.

3. Call for more public services sooner.

4. Can raise taxes enough to exclude low and moderate income residents.

We all have some control over the kind of change that takes place in Petersham. The questions we need to clarify are what kind of town we really want, and how we can increase our chances of getting it?

PART II. YOUR COMMUNITY'S ROLE IN THE LARGER WORLD

The two previous sections have dealt with your community's past, present, and future. The following section provides you with an opportunity to describe your view of your community's role within the larger "region" (however you want to define it) and within the state as a whole.

3:1 Inter-Relationships Among Municipalities: Do you feel that development-related decisions in neighboring communities could have an impact on your community?

- Yes.
 No.

Explain briefly; give some specific examples -- both from the past and potentially in the future.

Schools

Industry

Transportation (senior citizens & commuters)

Solid waste

3:2 Similarly, is it likely that development-related decisions in your community have had (or might have in the future) an impact on neighboring communities?

- Yes.
 No.

Explain briefly; give examples where relevant.

3:3 Are some of the problems and opportunities which your community faces affected by actions in neighboring communities? (For example, is your water supply partially dependent on watersheds or reservoirs in other communities?)

- Yes.
 No.

Explain briefly; give examples where relevant.

3:4 Regional Inter-Action: Please give your impressions (not data) as to how the residents and activities in your community relate to those in other communities, as follows:

- a. Do most residents work outside the community? Where? **Yes; 50 mi. radius**
- b. Do employees in your community live elsewhere? Where? **very few**
- c. Where do residents shop? **Athol, Barre, Gardner, 50 mi. radius and further**
- d. Where do local shoppers come from? **most anywhere**
- e. What about recreation? Do residents go elsewhere? Do others come to your community? **Yes - Yes**
- f. What about cultural activities? **Some**
- g. What about educational activities? **Some**
- h. What about health care? **Out of town**
- i. Are there other activities for which residents go elsewhere, or for which "outsiders" come to your community? **Craft center, outdoor recreation, vacation here. Museum, theaters, concerts etc. elsewhere.**

Based on the above, how would you characterize the inter-action between the residents and activities in your community relative to those in other communities?

Good to excellent.

3:5 The Regional Development Pattern: How is the future growth, development, and change of your community related to the overall pattern and shape of development within the larger "region" (however defined) of which you are a part?

Jobs

3:6 How would you define that "region"?

Mostly Northern Worcester County and North Eastern Franklin Co.

ONE DAY

3:7 In particular, relative to economic development, what would be the impact upon your community of the overall economic development of that "region"?

slow development could be advantageous. Fast development, disasterous.

- 3:8 Shared Responsibilities, Costs, and Benefits: Do you feel that there are issues which your community faces which are shared by some of your surrounding neighbors (such as, water supply, sewerage treatment, solid waste disposal, transportation improvements, etc.)? Similarly, are there "regional" issues (such as, housing, economic development, air quality, public transportation) which your community would like to see addressed regionally, with responsibility shared by the various communities of the region? Under what conditions would your community support such regional endeavors? Has your community participated in inter-municipal or regional programs in the past?

Efficiency , cost, and administration of public transportation, solid waste, health services, municipal water supply, elderly housing, schools, public works, completion of RV #2.

- 3:9 Are there costs and benefits associated with growth and development which "spill over" municipal boundaries? If so, give some specific examples from your own experience. Would your community support measures whereby those costs and benefits were more widely distributed? Under what conditions?

Yes.

M.D.C. places a constraint on development which is a good impact. Costs of fire protection within the Quabbin should be better shared in reimbursement funds.

**Franklin County Home Care Corporation (transportation of the elderly).
Education.**

- 3:10 Developments of Regional Impact: Some recent land use legislation (such as the Martha's Vineyard Act) has proposed special regulation for "developments of regional impact." Have there been in the past or do you see the possibility in the future for such "developments of regional impact" within the vicinity of your community? That is, are there any past or potential developments which because of their character, magnitude, or location, could have a substantial effect upon the "health, safety, or welfare" of citizens outside the jurisdiction of a single municipality? Give some specific examples if possible. Would your community support multi-community regulation for such developments? Under what conditions?

Surrounding towns of Quabbin should have consideration and say on development or other use (recreation etc.) within the Quabbin.

- 3:11 Areas of Critical Planning Concern: Recent land use legislation (including the Martha's Vineyard Act) has also proposed special regulation for "areas of critical planning concern." Are there within the vicinity of your community some "areas of critical planning concern" which might be subject to some special controls by more than one municipality? Some examples might include: significant agricultural, grazing, and watershed lands; areas with unstable soils; forests and related lands which require long stability for continuing renewal; beaches and dunes; significant estuaries, shorelands, and flood plains of rivers, lakes, and streams; inland and coastal wetlands, marshes, or tidal lands; an area where uncontrolled development could result in irreversible damage to important historical, environmental, natural, or archaeological resources; or areas suitable for economic development activities. Would your community support multi-community regulation of such areas? Under what conditions?

M.D.C. watershed towns might unite to keep the rural character of the area. Multi-community planning might support the retention of farm lands and open fields, but probably keep present operating unit independence.

- 3:12 Statewide Roles and Responsibilities: Do existing state laws, programs, or policies have a significant impact on the growth and development of your community? Of your "region"? Of the Commonwealth as a whole? For the better or worse? How well does the State make its laws, programs, and policies work? Which ones work well and which ones poorly? Give some specific examples.

Wetlands law beneficial.

Most laws and regulations do not apply to a town with a population of 1000 - they lean toward a larger community. Since local participation works well the state should allow techniques for managing small towns by the people.

- 3:13 There are presently a variety of state regulatory programs, including Chapter 774 (the "Anti-Snob Zoning Law"), the State Building Code, the State Sanitary Code, the Wetlands Protection Act, and others, which influence local decisions. In addition, the Massachusetts Environmental Protection Act (M.E.P.A.) requires a "report" on potential environmental impacts before the State takes any significant actions. Please describe one or two instances, if there have been any, in which such programs have had particularly desirable or undesirable impacts upon the growth and development of your community. (If you feel that a program has adversely affected your community, do you still feel that the program serves a legitimate larger purpose?)

Wetlands protection is particularly desirable.

Need more sanitary code options for staying non-sewered.

Better solid waste laws attuned to small towns.

More technical support for local government activity.

- 3:14 The State has invested sizable sums of money for transportation, including highways, rail lines, and regional transit systems. What has been (and what could be) the impact of these investments on your community, both in terms of growth and development, and in terms of traveling convenience?

More local input on state highways.

More local option on development of highways.

Standards for low speed roads and assistance in designing them.

- * 3:15 ~~The heavy reliance on the local property tax has often been cited as a prime cause for many of the effects of growth and development. Do you agree with this? If the tax system were changed so that local property tax rates were less dependent on the local "property tax base," how would that alter development-related decisions made by your community?~~

Would greatly help if it didn't erase local government in the process.

- 3:16 Agricultural land has been declining throughout the Commonwealth at a substantial rate over the last several decades. Do you see this as a statewide concern? What sort of action by the State would you support to address this issue?

Need something.

- 3:17 What other specific growth-related issues do you see as having particular statewide significance?

Energy policy. Growth policy that identifies needs of development and coordinates state investments to that end. Planning process needs improvement, especially to insure appropriate level of decision for each problem.

- 3:18 What could the State Legislature do to make it easier for your community to achieve its goals, and to assist you in guiding overall growth and development? What old laws hinder your community and what new laws are needed? Enabling legislation? Zoning? Economic development instruments? Growth management and land use? Housing? Regulation? Other?

Planning process that is responsive and multitiered.

* It is the opinion of the committee that small town government should be allowed to make their own decisions, when applicable, without state regulations. This does not however, mean that we would not seek state assistance with specific problems.

PART IV. SUMMARY

Based on the above, please summarize below your growth management issues, policies, and priorities, and add any additional comments as you see fit. (If any significant issues have not been covered in the above Questionnaire, you may attach additional background material in support of your recommendations.)

- 4:1 Goals/Objectives/Values: What are the major goals, objectives, and/or values which your community feels should guide the future growth, development, and change of your community, of your region, and of the State as a whole?

Quality life for individuals should be maintained or enhanced in a way that treats all citizens equitably, but is still efficient. Include in quality of life - natural world, man-made world, and social organizations, whereby people work together in business and in government.

- 4:2 Major Growth-Related Issues: What are the major growth-related issues (both positive and negative) facing your community?

Jobs, transportation - planning - natural environment - agriculture.

- 4:3 Issue Resolution: In terms of resolving or addressing the above issues, what actions would be necessary? By whom? What constraints are there in seeing those issues resolved?

1. **Strict zoning by-laws to regulate growth.**
2. **There are important differences between urban and rural towns and legislation should be applicable to them.**
3. **It would be helpful for the state to invest in a plan enabling towns to plan, alone or together, their problems, local or regional.**

- 4:4 Programmatic and Institutional Changes Proposed: Are there changes in existing programs or in existing institutions (e.g., regional bodies) which would facilitate the resolution of those growth-related issues?

Tax base - planning procedures and financing.

4:5 Additional Comments: Are there other findings made by your committee upon which you would base recommendations (as outlined below)?

Not yet.

4:6 RECOMMENDATIONS: What recommendations would you make based on all of the above? Please indicate priorities among those recommendations. Also indicate who should be responsible for following up on each recommendation.

See above

4:7 Next Steps: Are there some specific "next steps" which should be taken in order to further those recommendations? By whom?

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Additional Comments:

All our public agencies must be alert and effective to cope successfully with growth whether it is fast or slow, positive or negative. However, goodwill, intelligence, and efficiency will not be enough without some new structural changes designed to give towns and state agencies a new capacity to act. Among the areas that presently need attention are the following:

1. The town lacks a set of carefully thought out goals and a committee is needed to make and revise them as required and to annually measure progress toward them. Such a committee on goals and their achievement should report annually to the town meeting and work with and parallel to the Finance Committee in reviewing each year the town's operation and in responding to articles in the warrant.
2. Present regional planning associations are of little use to towns that have no federally reimbursed projects. They are also too arbitrarily defined. Towns should be encouraged to band together for planning in an ad hoc way as mutual problems become apparent. Just as state aid to regional schools allows towns to cooperate in any pattern that effectively solves their educational problem so aid in planning solutions to other problems like sewerage, solid waste, recreation, etc. should encourage flexible planning units designed to solve each problem in its own best framework of participants rather than the single frame imposed by the arbitrary boundary of a regional planning association.

Under this new concept of flexible cooperative problem solving the present regional planning office might become a pool of expertise where services could be purchased by any set of towns struggling to solve a common problem. For example, Petersham might well associate with M.D.C., D.N.R. and all other towns abutting Quabbin to plan outdoor recreation facilities. Another grouping would be appropriate to regional solid waste treatment and a third grouping might take common cause in planning highway developing and transportation improvements; still another for public health and so on. As each problem varies, so the area participants needed for its solution will change and state policy should promote this flexibility.

3. It is apparent that the local property tax will not support an adequate educational system or transportation network. This fact is already recognized and partially compensated by state subsidies which help towns meet state standards. It appears that some further increase is needed in school aid linked with controls that promote local innovation and efficiency. The state highway support is now so confused that not even the state Department of Public Works is sure of the situation, to say nothing of the towns who need more flexible aid with design and construction geared to local requirements. Rural areas, for instance, need help in designing scenic and other roads for traffic at less than 30 M.P.H. The present highway support system should be clarified and better rationalized to support community needs as well as it has supported county and state requirements.

4. The ideal situation would be that the state confer with local officials before planning new highways and legislating rules of regulations that have no bearing on the needs of small towns. These unnecessary regulations not only complicate the running of the town's business but also add unnecessary costs to the taxpayer.

Petersham Development

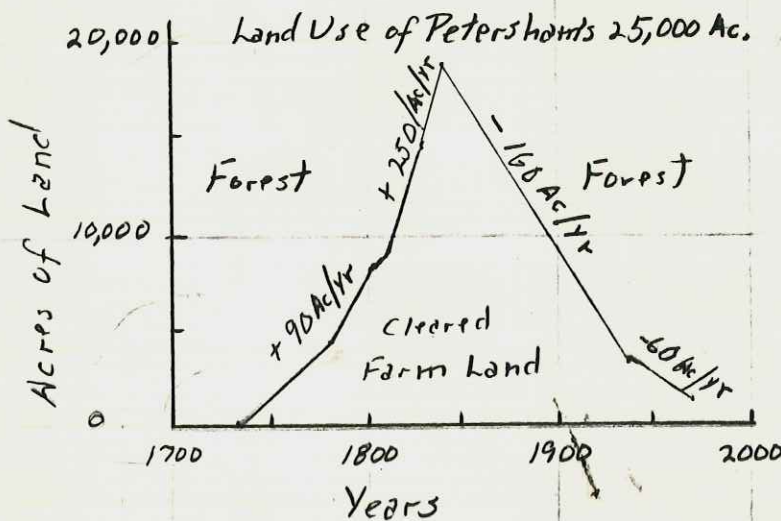
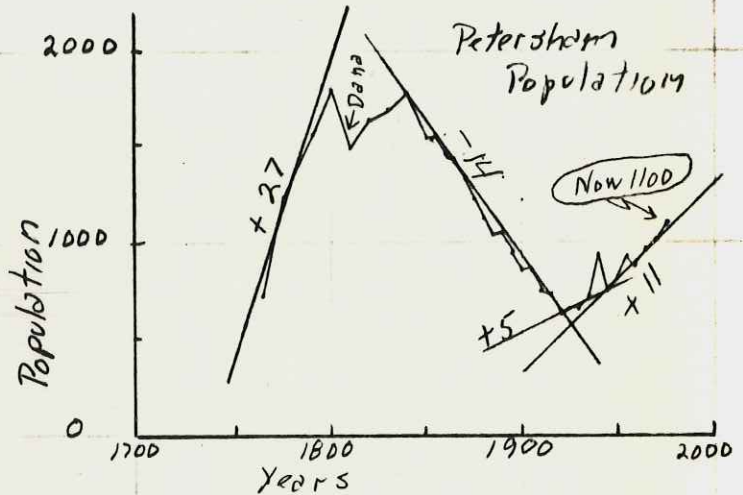
The Growth Committee has prepared this thumbnail sketch of Petersham as a background for public discussion of what we want the town to be like and how we can guide change in that direction.

Population

After the town was granted in 1733, settlers came in ever increasing numbers and population increased fairly steadily for about 100 years. Throughout most of this period, Petersham gained an average of 27 people a year until 1800 when a peak of 1794 was reached. Setting off Dana caused a drop in 1810 but growth continued until 1840 when it suddenly ceased and a rapid decline followed for 80 years. Population "bottomed out" in 1920 and grew slowly at an average gain of 5 people per year for the next 25 years. After World War II, growth doubled to about 11 people a year and since 1970 has been at a rate of about 14 per year.

Land Use

Initially, Petersham was isolated, inward looking and every family "lived unto itself" on a subsistence farm. Land clearing was slow during this first phase, averaging about 90 acres a year for a couple of generations. About the turn of the century, however, roads were improved and the water power towns built up a demand for farm produce so prices rose and Petersham began to turn outward. Without artificial fertilizers to increase production, the only thing farmers could do was clear

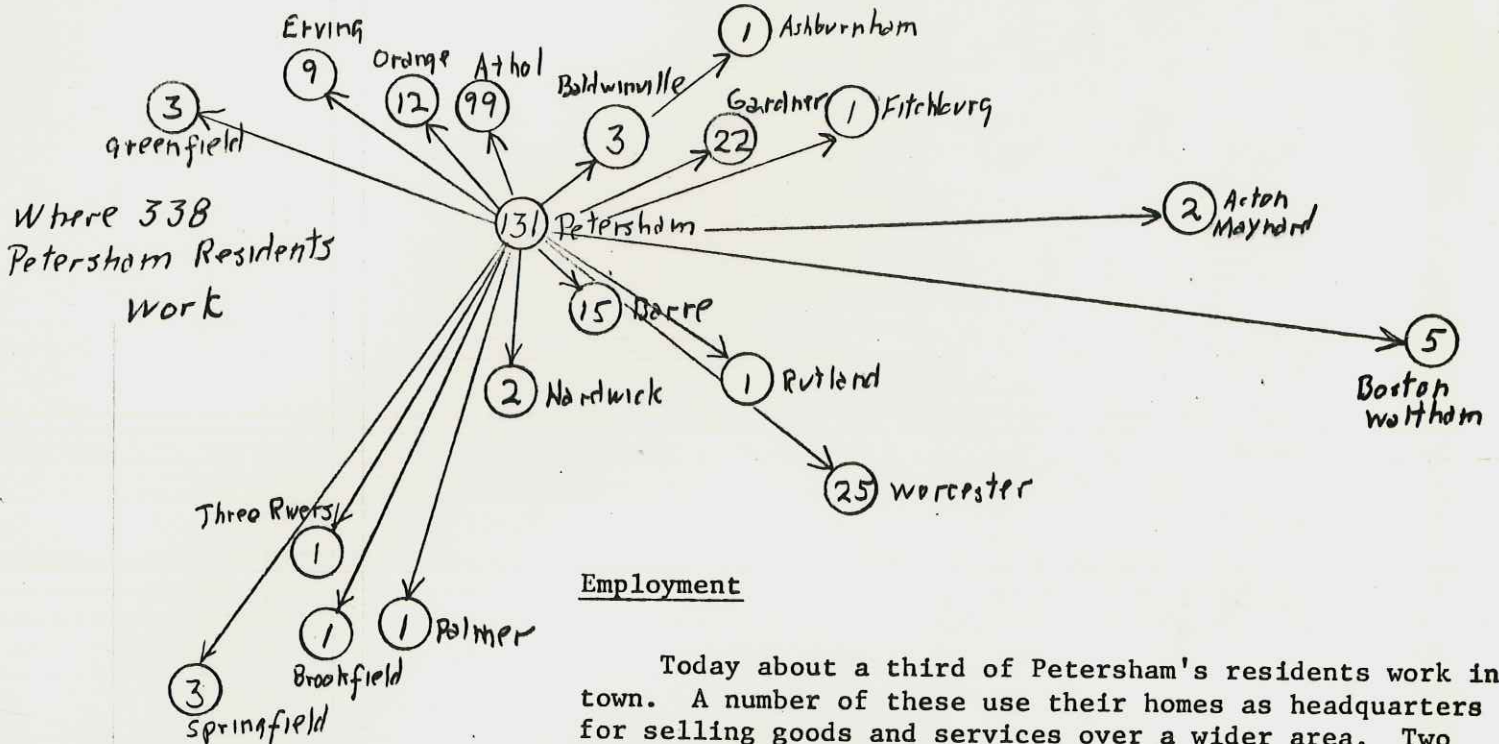


more land. This was done rapidly, and an average of 250 acres a year were cleared as farming expanded to reach about 18,000 open acres in 1840. After that, low-cost produce from the west started a farm depression and people gave up. Many took factory jobs while others moved west and the decline of Petersham's agriculture began.

By mid-century some city people found Petersham was cooler in the summer than Boston, Providence or New York and they started to vacation at the Nichewaug

and eventually bought up many of the old farms for summer homes. Roads and autos continued to improve so that daily commuting to work in nearby towns became feasible by the late 1930's and commonplace in the 40's. Petersham entered a new phase where the land, which by now was largely forested, became valuable mainly as a pleasant

and private place to live. By the 50's all the repairable old houses were fixed up and newcomers had to start building. Since 1970 the selectmen have given 33 building permits; a few for camps and remodeling, but mostly for homes.



Today about a third of Petersham's residents work in town. A number of these use their homes as headquarters for selling goods and services over a wider area. Two thirds of our neighbors commute, and three quarters of these work somewhere along route 2 between Boston and Greenfield, mostly in the Athol-Orange area. Most of the rest commute over route 122 to Barre and Worcester. Employment opportunities in a zone from Erving to Gardner and south to Worcester are critically important to Petersham residents who look outward for their livelihood and inward for living space.

Summary

So, Petersham has survived great change. First, a hundred years of farm expansion and prosperity until three-quarters of the town was open farm land followed by about a hundred years of farm decline and hard times. Farmers moved out and then summer people bought in, but finally commuting became a way of life. The town is now 85 percent forested, just about back to pre-colonial times. MDC has special powers to utilize the Swift River and to regulate sanitary conditions in 80% of the town, a fact of some long term importance. Today about 9500 acres are specially protected wetlands or are owned by public or quasi-public organizations not likely to develop their land. About 500 acres are already in houselots, leaving about 15,000 acres of potentially developable land. After allowing 15 percent for roads, we have room for about 8000 more 1 1/2 acre houselots, or about 24,000 new residents. The land is there - what we shall we use it for and at what rate are we likely to need it?

Most Likely Future

The most likely future for Petersham is probably an extension of past trends. We will probably be able to protect the character of the town and our high quality natural environment at a low cost. As a bedroom town we will depend chiefly on jobs in the surrounding area. Although some small business may come into town, rapid

growth is unlikely either here or in the commuting zone. The region seems rather stable and without some radical change many young people will have to move away to find suitable jobs. In light of this, the demand for housing will probably increase gradually. New houses will likely be single dwellings along existing roads which are already plowed and have power, telephone and school bus service. We can expect to average 5 or 6 a year for the next decade or so and the impact on costs will depend mainly on the number of children to be educated. If new houses include a modest number of second and retirement homes, we might just squeak out another 5 to 10 years without a radical change in town services or costs. More rapid growth will bring the need for adjustment sooner.

Thinking now about the future of Petersham what do you consider our major assets and liability?

Assets:

Liability?

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING FOR PETERSHAM'S ELDERLY

The Committee

This study committee was charged with the task of investigating the problem of housing for the elderly of Petersham what the needs are and how they can be met. We early found that providing suitable shelter is only one aspect albeit an important one, of promoting a healthy, interesting and dignified life for our older citizens. It is also clear that most older people are physically and mentally better off if they can remain in the familiar surroundings of their own home as long as possible. Consequently, we also investigated the services needed to give elderly people an option about staying at home as long as they are more comfortable there.

The Elderly

The age distribution of present residents suggests that for some time to come the town is likely to have at least as many people 65 years of age and older as it now has (See Figure 1). There might be a slight increase as the present 30 to 40 year group ages. All this assumes that in- and out-migration will be about the same as in the recent past. If we accept these figures the magnitude of elderly problems is likely to be about the same as the present and we will not be faced by a sharp increase or decrease in the days ahead.

One unusual feature of Petersham's population is the fact that the Sisters of the Assumption home for retired nuns is located here. Residents in this church facility account for 65 of Petersham's 200 citizens who are 65 years of age or older. The remaining 135 regular residents make up 12% of the population, about the same as in Phillipston but less than in Athol, New Salem, Orange, Royalston and the 1.2% average of greater Franklin County. Another indicator of possible need is the number of elderly citizens with income below the poverty line out of 135 older citizens, 25% are in this class. This is a greater percentage of elderly poor than in Athol, Royalston, Phillipston and Orange, and 5 percentage points higher than the average for greater Franklin County.

Figure 1.

PETERSHAM POPULATION

BY AGE AND SEX 1979

