

Hello, Neighbors,

The Westmoreland Planning Board is beginning a series of letters to let our fellow citizens know of the work we do, and explain some of the thinking that goes into it, some of the legal and social context, some of the requirements handed down to us by the state, the town, the federal government. We hope with these letters to inform, to clarify, and to help all of us understand collectively why some rules are as they are.

We hope this will perhaps offset any sense of property owners that they are unfairly targeted for things that others do, or that they consider to be their right to do. We also hope that citizens of the town of Westmoreland understand that you are welcome to attend Planning Board meetings personally and let us know your point of view. We meet **monthly** the third Monday at 6:30.

Master Plan

Most of us have a general idea of the Town of Westmorland as a quiet, rural, beautiful place to live. a place where you can do as you wish as long as you don't trouble your neighbors, and they can do the same. This is not an accident and it is not inevitable. **Master Planning plays a key role in this.** In 2016, Westmoreland approved its most recent Master Plan. We gathered ideas and perspective from those citizens who responded to surveys and came to gathering sessions. We distilled these ideas through a filter of things that we could legally do. This process resulted in a document that is available to you at the Town Hall. The Master planning process is about to begin again, and, again, we want to encourage interested citizens of the town to become involved in it.

Zoning Ordinances

A zoning ordinance is a rule that defines how property in specific geographic zones can be used. It provides the boundaries, regulations, allowed uses, and controls in each division of a community. Westmoreland has 5 divisions or zones: Village Central, Commercial/Industrial, Medium Density Residential, Rural Residential, and Forestry Residential. The tables in the back of the zoning ordinance book lay out the particulars for each zone. The rest of the ordinances address specific items such as driveways, accessory structures, parking, etc. If you don't know what zone your property is, check the zoning map. All town documents pertaining to the Planning Board and referenced in this letter can be accessed at the town office or found on the website on the Departments - Planning and Zoning page (scroll to the bottom for the document links) <https://westmorelandnh.com/planning-%26-zoning> .

In our next letter, we will take a look at some of the ordinances adopted by the Planning Board, informed by the Master Plan, and approved by the voters at Town Meetings.

Westmoreland Planning Board