

## Sudbury's Master Plan – Bridging our History to our Future

“It is agreed betweene the inhabitants of the towne of sudbury and Ambrose Leech, That the towne will give unto the said Ambrose 6 acres in Mr Pendleton's 2nd Addition of meadow w<sup>ch</sup> shall run on the north side of his meadow lying on the west side of the river & shall run from the river to the upland... For and in consideration whereof the said Ambrose doth propose to build a sufficient cart bridge over the river three feet above high watermark twelve foot wyde”<sup>1</sup>.

The year was 1642, and that passage from Hudson's *The History of Sudbury Massachusetts 1638 – 1889* refers to one of the earliest examples of planning for the future of Sudbury. The original territory was divided by streams and “without a bridge the east and west side inhabitants might be separated sometimes for weeks, and travelers to the frontier beyond would be much hindered on their way.”<sup>2</sup> Our earliest settlers knew that planning was vital for the survival and success of Sudbury, and that sentiment continues today. Your Planning Board has embarked upon the ambitious journey of updating Sudbury's Master Plan and has assembled a Steering Committee made up of various Town Board and Committee members, as well as several at-large community members to drive the effort. Last updated in 2001, the new Master Plan will be used as a guide for the Town of Sudbury in the areas of land use, economic development, housing, transportation, community services, and capital/facilities planning among others.

It is very likely that once completed in 2020 this Plan will still be in effect in 2039, the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sudbury. The town has obviously gone through many changes since 1648, but also since 2001. The challenge facing the Planning Board and Steering Committee is how to address our future needs while attempting to maintain the character, history, and personality of Sudbury. This is an opportunity to reflect on where we've been, where we are now, where we want to be in the future, and how we get there. In other words, this will be our blueprint to achieve our vision for Sudbury. It is intended to be written by the community and to express what makes Sudbury unique. We need your voice to be heard to fully understand what the community values.

Ambrose Leech built a bridge to ensure the future success of Sudbury; you can too. Help us bridge Sudbury's past to her future. Visit <https://sudbury.ma.us/masterplan/> or email [masterplan@sudbury.ma.us](mailto:masterplan@sudbury.ma.us) for more information on how to get involved.

Daniel E. Carty, Chairman, Sudbury Board of Selectmen (and proud member of the Master Plan Steering Committee)

<sup>1, 2</sup>. Alfred Sereno Hudson, *The History of Sudbury Massachusetts 1638-1889*. Published by the Town of Sudbury, 1889.