Community Facilities

(Updated in 2012)

Overview

One of the most important responsibilities of local governments is to provide community facilities for the health, safety, and welfare of its residents and businesses. While the Master Plan primarily focuses on the use of the land and its capacity to handle development, it could be argued that the ability of a Town to supply adequate community services and facilities affects the use of the land. The anticipated amount and type of future residential and non-residential development in Plaistow will influence the level of community facilities required by the Town. As the Town's residential and commercial base increases, the Town will need to allocate additional resources to specific community facilities and services.

The following is an inventory and summary of Plaistow's existing community facilities and the projected needs associated with the service or facility.

Public Safety Complex (Police, Fire, Rescue and Emergency Management Departments)

At present, the Town of Plaistow's Police Department, Fire and Rescue Departments and Emergency Management Department are all jointly located in the John D. Fitzgerald Safety Complex, 27 Elm Street. All Departments have occupied space at the Safety Complex since 1986. Both Fire and Police have 24-hour dispatch service with the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department providing primary back up response.

John D. Fitzgerald Safety Complex

Safety Complex Lobby

Police Department

As of July 2010, the Police Department had 17 full-time Officers, 1 part-time Officer, 2 full-time Secretaries, 1 part-time Records Clerk, 5 full-time Dispatchers, 1 part-time Dispatcher, 1 part-time Animal Control Officer, 2 part-time School Crossing Guards, 1 full-time Assistant County Attorney Prosecutor (contract), and 1 part-time Legal Assistant (contract), and is at full strength.

According to the Department, and based upon current fixed and service population trends, there will be a need for additional full-time Officers over the next several years. With the added entry-level Officers, there will be greater opportunity to transfer more experienced Officers into the Special Investigations Unit and add a School Resource Officer to the Middle School. With the added Middle School Resource Officer, police presence will be available at all of the three schools.

The Department has eleven police cruisers, 1 motorcycle, 2 ATV's/trailers, and 3 bicycles. Seven of the cars are marked (and laptop equipped) and four are unmarked. A detailed list of the cruisers and their rotation schedule can be seen in the C.I.P. There are several civilian vehicles available to the Special Investigations Unit and are frequently rotated in and out as the need arises.

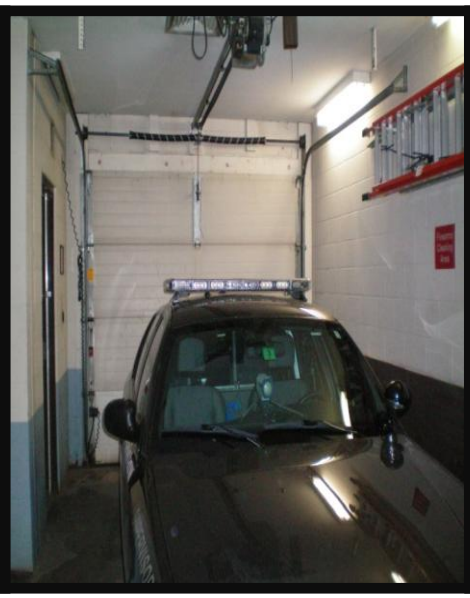
There have been numerous internal structural changes in the safety complex since 1986 when the department first moved in. All internal changes have occurred as a result of added personnel, added responsibilities, statutory changes, correction of fundamental design flaws to the existing structures, and tightening security for personnel and prisoners. The current space configuration of 4,800 square feet is not sufficient or adequate to handle existing staff and will only worsen as staff is added. An office trailer was added to the rear of the complex to house the Special Investigations Unit and their function. Creating an addition to accommodate growth is an option but not practical and may well be cost prohibitive. A Public Safety Complex Expansion Committee was formed in 2001 and several options and sites were examined. No decisions have been made as to site, but the Committee nevertheless has endorsed a new police facility to be located somewhere in Town. H.K.T. Architects of Somerville, Massachusetts was hired in 2004 to conduct a Space Needs Analysis and to present options on the existing site. To view minutes of the Committee meetings, please go to the Town's website and click on the Police Department's link.

Table CF-1 represents a summary of sixteen law enforcement activities commonly reported to the State and FBI through the Uniform Crime Reporting System (UCR). The categories are NOT all-inclusive and do not separately represent walk-ins, routine telephone inquiries, drug cases, suicides, or domestics. Many of these may be located in the total calls for service, however.

Table CF-1: Crime Statistics - 2001 - 2010

Type of Crime	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Murder/Manslaughter	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	46	38	43	33	47	42	50	49	38	38
Theft/Robbery	225	225	273	273	239	283	290	262	267	308
MV Theft/Recovery	31	27	47	28	32	40	35	24	20	24
Criminal Mischief	162	186	190	223	156	190	158	137	135	120
DWI	22	43	27	30	34	48	28	27	16	17
MV Accidents	472	538	524	673	524	467	541	420	469	413
Alarms (police)	1,340	1,339	1,061	1,107	807	802	843	806	795	715
Assaults	85	81	97	83	78	68	66	65	65	73
Sexual Assaults	20	14	16	**30**	30	17	25	23	44	50
Traffic Citations	697	1001	673	**711**	686	650	386	552	361	273
MV Stops	5,901	6,514	3,333	4,407	2,087	2,973	3,342	6,108	6,883	5,508
Domestic Calls	148	128	107	104	74	84	106	116	109	118
Arrests - Adult	341	389	342	363	431	382	407	421	452	410
Arrests - Juvenile	75	56	54	52	95	79	64	57	45	74
Arrests - MV	416	445	57	55	88	61	63	86	91	61
Totals:	**9,981**	**11,025**	**6,844**	**8,172**	**5,408**	**6,186**	**6,404**	**9,153**	**9,790**	**8,202**
Calls for Service (Police & Fire)	13,482	15,030	14,763	15,499	12,787	13,640	13,502	16,758	18,341	15,450
Calls for Service (Atkinson Police & Fire)	3,620	3,431	2,923	3,878	3,869	3,865	3,851	7,488	7,348	3,051
Total Calls for Service for Communications Center	**17,102**	**18,461**	**17,686**	**19,377**	**16,656**	**17,505**	**17,353**	**24,246**	**25,689**	**18,501**

Source: Police Department, Town of Plaistow



Police Dept. Special Investigations Unit ***Police Dept. Processing*** ***Police Dept. Holding Cells***

Police Dept. Kitchen ***Police Dept. Dispatch Office*** ***Police Dept. Impound Lot***

The Police Department undertook a very large construction project in 2010 year which included the construction of an animal kennel/shelter through donations that could assist residents with their pets during an emergency. The two-room kennel/shelter is attached to the Highway Garage and was completed without using any tax dollars. A tremendous amount of in-kind donations and money from businesses and residents was raised for the project.

The Police Department was also able to complete a training facility building at their Firing Range through local donations, a project that took approximately two years. The building is generator-equipped and will be used for storage and classroom training for officers.

New Animal Control Facility Located at Old County Road

Kennels at the new Animal Control Facility

Fire Department

Table CF-2 includes a six-year history of the Fire Department's call activity. With the exception of fire alarms and miscellaneous calls, the number of calls to which the Department responds has remained fairly constant.

Table CF-2: Six-Year Fire Call Activity

Type of Fire	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Auto Fires	5	5	10	12	8	16
Boiler Heater Malfunctions	3	9	5	10	7	4
Carbon Monoxide Alarms	8	7	5	14	22	8
Fire Alarm Activations	111	65	95	92	107	88
Hazardous Materials Incidents	5	6	5	7	1	5
Motor Vehicle Accidents	108	94	115	77	82	81
Mutual Aid (Provided)	19	24	25	22	36	21
Odor Investigations	16	12	14	13	14	13
Other (Non-Specified)	32	33	45	21	40	46
Public Assists	5	16	21	14	20	30
Rescue	500	466	509	527	564	596
Smoke Investigations	14	15	16	12	23	9
Structure Fires	3	2	8	9	10	5
Wood/Grass/Brush Fires	3	17	21	10	10	18
Total	832	773	891	840	944	940

Source: Plaistow Fire Department, 2011

The apparatus area is 75 feet by 75 feet and is adequate for the Department's current needs, however there is a need for a new venting system that can immediately remove diesel exhaust fumes from the building once a vehicle becomes operational and new breathing air equipment. There is also an area in front of the bays that needs to be resurfaced due to rutting that has occurred due to the weight of the fire apparatus.

Fire Department Bays

Fire Dept. Kitchen *Fire Chief's Office*

Ambulance (Rescue)

The Plaistow Fire Department maintains a transporting ambulance and contracts with a third party for additional transporting ambulance services. As of 2011, the Plaistow Fire Department has 3 full-time firefighters and 31 part-time (on-call) firefighters. Many maintain a certification through the national registry of emergency medical technicians.

Table CF-2 presents information on the number of ambulance calls are responded to in Plaistow for the years 2006 through 2010.

Fire Dept. Storage Closet *Fire Dept. Training Room* *Fire Dept. Hallway Storage*

Table CF-3 includes an inventory of the department's equipment with the anticipated replacement year. The department recognizes that the older equipment should be replaced and has identified the following vehicles in need of replacement:

Table CF-3: Five-Year Ambulance Calls

Year	Calls	Percent Increase
2006	466	-------
2007	509	0.0922%
2008	527	0.0353%
2009	564	0.0702%
2010	596	0.0567%
Five Year Percent Increase:		**21.81%**

Source: Fire Chief, Plaistow Fire Department, 2011

Table CF-4: Fire Department 8 - Year Equipment Replacement Schedule

Vehicle	Make/Model	Serviceable Lifetime (Years)	Estimated Cost per Vehicle	Scheduled Replacement Year
Command	2004 Ford	10	$35,000	2014
Engine-1	2003 KME	25	$400,000	
Engine-7	1987 KME	25	$400,000	2012
Tower-3	1991 Pierce	25	$350,000	2009
Tanker-5	1993 Pierce	25	$400,000	
Forestry-4	1994 GMC	20	$40,000	2014
Rescue-2	2006 Chevy	10	$150,000	2016
Rescue-6	1994 Ford	10	$150,000	2013

Source: Fire Chief, Plaistow Fire Department, 2011

Fire Department Storage Room and Copy Area

Table CF-5: Fire Department Equipment Cost Analysis

25 Year Cost Analysis			
Vehicle	**Make/Model**	**Number of Units Per 25 Year Interval**	**Estimated Total Cost per 25 year Interval**
Command	2004 Ford	2.5	$87,500
Engine-1	2003 KME	1	$400,000
Engine-7	1987 KME	1	$400,000
Tower-3	1991 Pierce	1	$350,000
Tanker-5	1993 Pierce	1	$400,000
Forestry-4	1994 GMC	1.25	$50,000
Rescue-2	2006 Chevy	2.5	$375,000
Rescue-3	1994 Ford	2.5	$375,000

The 25-year interval total cost is $2,437,500
The cost per year is $97,500

Office of Emergency Management

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) works with and coordinate with Federal, State Regional and Local Departments and Agencies to prepare Plaistow for any possible natural or man-made disaster, including public health emergencies.

The OEM is responsible for updating the Plaistow Hazard Mitigation Plan which is an important plan that details the Town's response to emergencies and disasters of all kinds. It is also required in order to maintain eligibility for State and Federal grants as they become available. Grants allow the Town to do more in the way of preparing for disasters and emergencies, while defraying the costs to the taxpayers.

Each year, many town employees engage in various training exercises to be prepared in times of an emergency. Members of the Fire Department, Police Department, Emergency Management Team as well as other Town Officials are also National Incident Management System (NIMS) certified by FEMA to provide a better and more coordinated level of service in a disaster.

Emergency Management Director's Office

Public Safety Complex Building Committee

The Public Safety Complex, which currently houses the Fire and Police Departments, was designed in 1981 when the Departments were much smaller. The serious deficiencies with the facility are compelling the Town to plan for relocation and/or expansion. Some of the deficiencies include: handicap accessibility, critical space needs for officers and firefighters, staff, and prisoners, lack of confidentiality, lack of conference rooms, lack of juvenile/gender sound and separation in cells, suicide risks in cell block, lack of an Investigative Unit facility, and lack of ample parking.

In order to address many of the space and building needs, a Public Safety Complex Committee was established to study options for addressing the many challenging issues. Throughout the years, the Committee has generally focused their efforts on the current site and the possibility of separating the police/fire functions. A new stand-alone police facility at the rear was being reviewed as recently as 2010. The Fire Department and perhaps other Departments would expand into the current Police side of the Public Safety Complex. The Committee also recommended to the Board of Selectmen to commence discussions with a neighboring property owner about the possibility of acquiring a small piece of land to assist in siting. The Committee also suggested renewed discussions with HKT Architects of Somerville, Massachusetts, the firm previously retained by the Town for the Space Needs Assessment.

Water Department

Fire Suppression Water Line

The Town has been placing monies aside every year as long as there are working plans by the State of New Hampshire to widen Route 125. The goal is to have a fire suppression line the entire length of Route 125 in Plaistow. The water line currently runs from approximately 50 yards north of the Haverhill, Ma to Westville Road. It then cuts across Route 125 from east to west. The water line then runs north from East Road to the former Goudreault trailer sales site. A line was recently installed from Jesse George along Old Road to Route 125. It then crosses over Route 125 to the southwest corner of Route 125 and Route 121A. There is also a line that runs from Chandler Avenue north along Route 121A to Sanborn's candies. There was also a line recently installed from Old County Road to Walton Road. There is also a loop under the Kingston Road Bridge along Kingston Road. The Town approved $498,300 at the March, 2010 Town Meeting for the upcoming Route 125 widening project that includes widening from Old Road along Route 125 to Route 121A, and from Walton Road to Route 121A along Route 125.

Currently, the Town is investigating the cost to fund the two remaining Route 125 expansion projects: 1) East Road to Old Road (2013) and Old County Road to the Kingston Town Line (2015).

The Fire Suppression Water Line is being installed as part of the Widening of Route 125 for the Segment Between Walton Road and Old Road.

Pump and Pump House Replacement

Located on Arbor Lane, this project is the pump that pumps the water for the fire suppression system. Based upon an independent assessment of the overall system in 2007, it is in need of replacement by 2015. Also based upon the assessment, the building that houses the pump for the

fire suppression system will also need to be replaced at the same time that the pumps are replaced (2015).

The Pump House that Houses the Fire Suppression Pump located at the end of Arbor Lane.

Cell Tower

Also or formerly known as the "Water Tower", the Water Tower Study completed in 2008 and recommended that work needs to be done to the foundation and tower including refurbishing and repainting. This is in order to maintain the structure in order to support the use of the tower by various telecommunication companies who have contracts with the Town of Plaistow.

The Cell Tower (formerly known as the "Water Tower") located on Main Street near the Railroad Tracks

Highway Department

The Plaistow Highway Department is staffed by a Highway Supervisor, a full-time Foreman, two full-time Laborers and a part-time summer Laborer. One of the primary duties of the Highway Department staff is the summer and winter maintenance of 35.77 miles of Class V (local) roads which represent 63% of the total road miles in Plaistow. The Highway Department is also assisted by outside contractors.

The existing Highway Garage is located at 37 Old County Road, next to the Salt Shed and the Town's Landfill site. Built in 1976, it is a small, 2,400 square foot building with 1,716 square feet of the total used for vehicle and equipment space. The office used by employees is actually located in a 320 square foot office trailer and a separate box trailer that was brought in is utilized for storage.

The current Salt Shed structure is rapidly deteriorating, must undergo costly repairs to maintain it, and suffered a collapse during the January 2011 storm. Due to the dilapidated state, there is loss of product, which, as the salt washes away from the salt shed, enters the ground water and potentially impairs water quality due to the high levels of sodium chloride.

The Highway Department is Located Adjacent to the Landfill and an Open Salt Shed.

Highway Department 320 Square Foot Temporary Office Trailer

Over the years, the Highway Department has doubled in size of both employees and equipment over the years. The Highway Department is now responsible for landscaping maintenance on all Town properties, including the PARC facility on Old County Road. These additional responsibilities translate into the need for additional equipment and additional space to adequately house the larger highway equipment, salt and sand. There is costly and valuable equipment that cannot be properly stored to protect them from weather and premature depreciation.

In addition, there is methane gas contamination in the building and there is product waste and groundwater contamination from the aging and decaying salt shed. Explosive quantities of the methane gas have been found outside the building, with the potential of it seeping into the building. Daily precautions must be taken to ventilate the building and insure a safe working environment. The methane gas contamination and concern over employee health was the major reason for the Town bringing in a separate office trailer.

Table CF-6 includes an inventory of the Highway Department vehicles which, due to the lack of equipment storage space, there is not adequate room for winter time storage of all of this equipment and no space to perform routine vehicle maintenance or repairs.

Table CF-6: Highway Department Equipment Inventory

Vehicle	Make / Model	Serviceable Lifetime (years)	Estimated Cost Per vehicle	Scheduled Replacement Date
6 Wheel Dump Truck	2010 International 6W Dump Truck	9	$160,000	2009
6 Wheel Dump Truck	2008 International	8	$160,000	2015
Dump Truck	2004 Ford F-550	7	$110,000	2012
Pick-Up Truck	2006 Ford F-350	7	$40,000	2013
Front-End Loader	2001 Caterpillar 924	15	$120,000	2016
Roadside Brush Cutter		10	$110,000	2011
Backhoe	1987 Ford	20	$0.00 (change of equipment)	

There is currently a desperate need for the Town to pursue a new Highway Garage and Salt Shed which will allow for the proper protection of the Town's costly investments by shielding equipment and proper storage of materials. Proper protection will allow for the lengthened service life of existing equipment and materials. Equipment deterioration accelerates under conditions of freezing temperature, snow, rain, dust, sun, and chemical contamination. In addition, new facilities will be more energy efficient and will meet all building and life safety codes, thus protecting Town employees and the public from methane gas contamination.

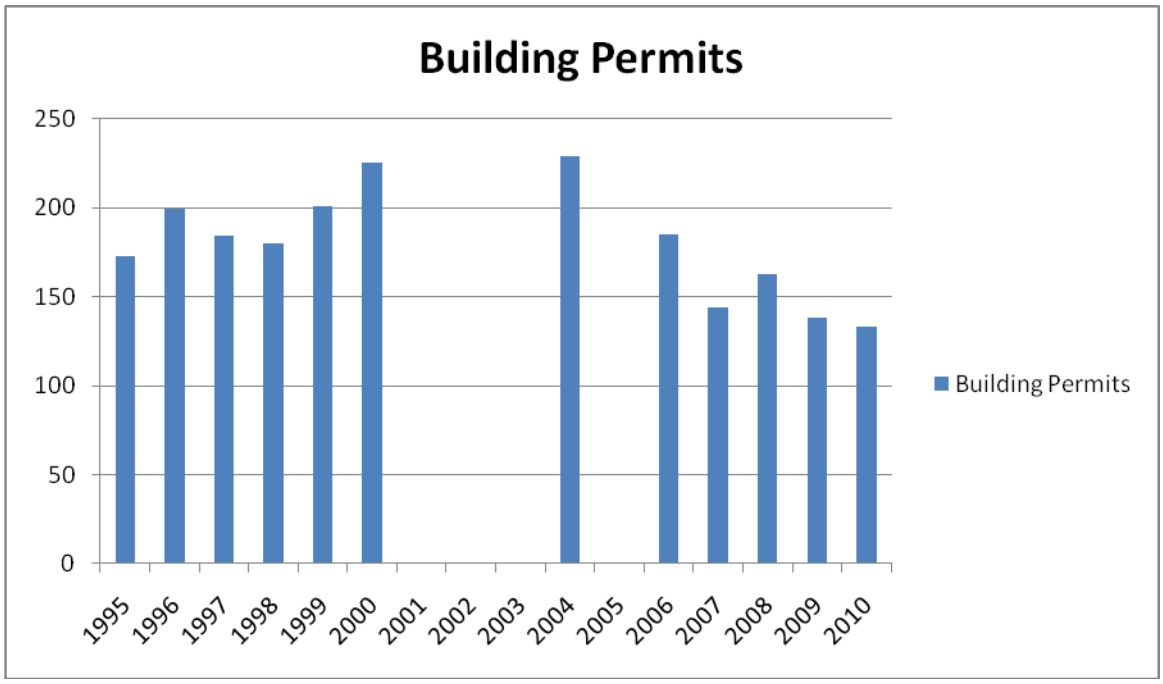
Building Safety Department

The Town's Building Inspector is responsible for the enforcement of the Town's building codes, zoning ordinance, subdivision and site plan review regulations. The Department has one full time building inspector and one part time secretary. The Town contracts with an electrical inspector and plumbing / gas inspector on a per job basis. Table CF-7 is a summary of building permits for the last six years.

Table CF-7: Building Permits 5-Year Analysis

Year	Permits	% Increase
1995	173	
1996	199	
1997	184	
1998	180	
1999	201	
2000	225	
2004	229	
2006	185	
2007	144	-23.78%
2008	163	13.19%
2009	138	-15.33%
2010	133	-3.62%
Totals	**763**	**-28.10%**

Source: Town of Plaistow Building Department, 2011



Source: Town of Plaistow Building Department, 2011

Table CF-7 includes a six-year history of building permits issued in Town. For the four-year period between 1996 and 1999 inclusive, the number of building permits ranged between 180 and 201. The year 2000 experienced an increase of 24 permits or 11.9%. Information on the value of the building activity for the years 1995 through 2000 was not available. For the year 2001 through early June, the Town issued 76 building permits for a total estimated value of $4,075,420. Of that total, the addition and remodeling to the Pollard Elementary School accounted for $2,246,383.

Solid Waste Management

Since February 2000, the Town of Plaistow had contracted with Waste Management Inc. to provide curbside collection of household waste and recyclable materials. Prior to early 2000, BFI had a contract for five years with the Town for the same service.

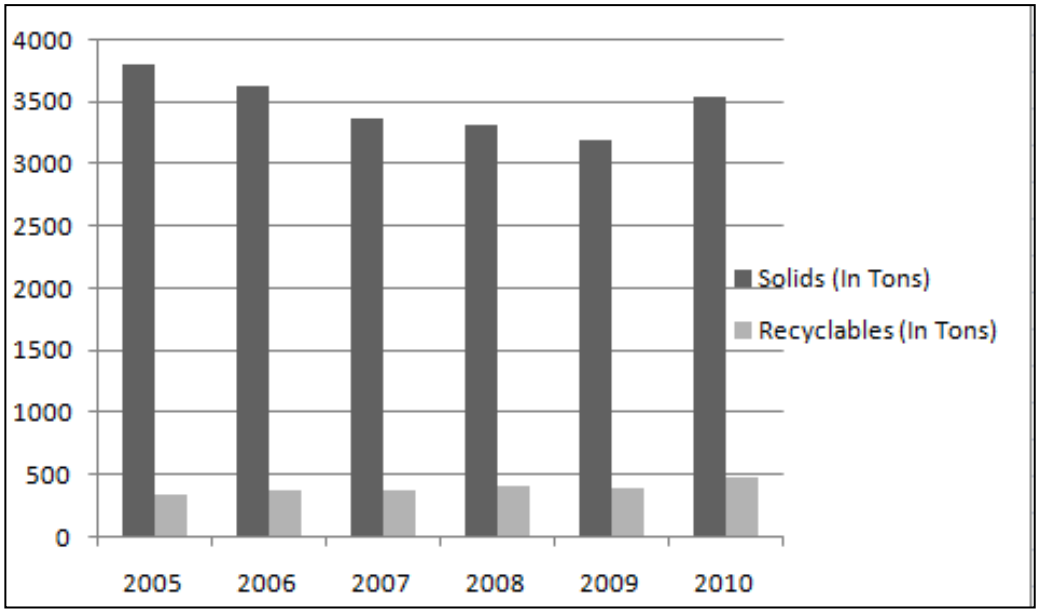
In 2010, the Town of Plaistow began contracting with JRM Hauling & Recycling to provide the solid waste/recycling services. As part of the new service contract, JRM began working to enhance Plaistow's recycling program to make it more convenient and easy for people and is working with the Town on a campaign to increase the amount of recycled materials and decrease the non-recyclable material that is thrown away in Town.

While there are a lot of residents in Plaistow recycling, as of the start of the new contract, only 11% of Plaistow's residents were recycling. Additionally, some residents aren't sure exactly what they can and can't recycle and, as a result, many items that can be recyclable are not

finding their way into the recycling stream. Therefore, the Town is working hard to encourage everyone to consider increasing their recycling practices as this will decrease the cost for trash removal overall.

The Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager manage the Town's solid waste program. The Town closed its sanitary landfill in 1987. At present, the Town only accepts brush, metal and yard waste at the site. The Town installed groundwater-monitoring wells at the former landfill site, which a professional engineering firm is supervising.

Recycling Trends in the Town of Plaistow
(2005 – 2010)



Source: Town of Plaistow Records.

Library

In May 2000, the Plaistow Public Library relocated from its former location on Elm Street to a new 15,400 square foot building on Main Street in Plaistow village. This new facility includes 13,400 square feet for public space and 2,000 square feet for storage and by the staff. Over the past decade since the move, the library has become well established at its new location. The facility is designed to accommodate a Town population of approximately 10,000 people. According to the 2010 US census, Plaistow's population is 7,609, which is still well within the building's capacity. The facility was designed to handle a potential expansion once the population exceeds 10,000. At current growth rates, such an expansion would likely occur after the year 2020.

As of 2011, the library staff includes a full-time Director, a full-time Assistant Director and Children's Librarian, two teenage Pages who work 10 hours per week, an Administrative Assistant who works 20 hours per week, one Professional Cataloguer who works 19 hours per week, an Inter Library Loan Staff who works 14 hours per week and two Library Assistants, who work 32 hours and 21 hours per week respectively. The staff works to operate the library 54 hours per week, including 4 hours on Saturday.

Table CF-8: Library Acquisitions and Circulation

Year	Acquisitions	Circulation	% Increase In Circulation
2005	Not Available	61198	
2006	2703	64240	4.97%
2007	3047	63960	-0.43%
2008	2412	66369	3.76%
2009	2994	69430	4.61%
2010	3378	70242	1.16%

Source: Plaistow Public Library, May 2011

Table CF-8 shows a generally steady increase in circulation over the period from 2005 to 2010. Circulation in the year 2000 was 56,039, which corresponds to a 25% increase in circulation in the first decade of business at the library's Main Street location.

The Plaistow Public Library offers several convenient services that are actively utilized by area residents. Below is a brief summary of library statistics from the 2010 Annual Report. For the year 2010, there were:

- 52,216 total annual visits by patrons
- 1,251 uses of meeting rooms
- 200 library sponsored programs which drew an attendance of 5,090
- 39 summer reading programs which drew an attendance of 1,503

As of 2010, there were 4,550 registered patrons, including 17 new non-resident patrons. These statistics reflect a high usage of various library services.

The Director and Staff of the Plaistow Public Library hold a strong focus on maintaining the library's vitality to Plaistow residents. Recent developments in technology have been changing the way people access library resources. Due to these changes, traditional library functions are threatened to become obsolete. To ensure that the library stays vital to the community, a Strategic Long Range Plan is being written by a diverse group of community members including the Library Board of Trustees, Library Staff, and various interested residents. The goal of this plan is to study the current use of the facility and identify how the library may better serve the needs of Plaistow's population. Such improvements might include offering new services like

loaning electric readers, offering more databases that can be accessed remotely and implementing a new automated circulation system which will provide staff and card holders with many more options. Additionally, the library is investigating a new system that would allow better sharing of Plaistow's collections with those of Sandown, Danville and Atkinson to better serve the students and families of the Timberlane Regional School District.

Town Hall

The Town Hall was built for municipal use and has been used as such for over 100 years. An attractive brick building with unique architecture, the inside of the building has experienced many changes.

As of 2010, a major renovation of the Town Hall has been completed including new office space, the installation of an elevator, heating and cooling upgrades, and all new flooring throughout the Town Hall. It is truly a beautiful, functional Town Hall that everybody is truly enjoying!

Second Floor of Plaistow Town Hall - The Donald Sargent Room

Plaistow Town Hall

Plaistow Town Hall Lobby

Improvements to the walkways around the Town Hall, including the horseshoe driveway in front of the building are planned for the future.Other Issues with the Town Hall include sufficient parking when a large activity occurs, but it is currently adequate for most occasions.

Historical Society Building

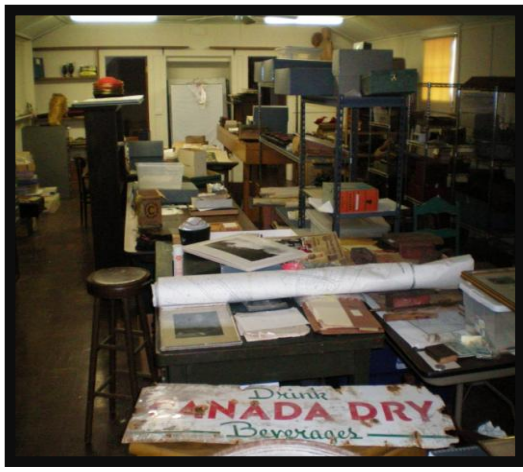
The Historical Society Building is located at 127 Main Street on/adjacent to Seaver Brook. Originally built in 1957 to house Plaistow's Fire Department, the structure wasn't occupied by the Historical Society until the mid 1980's when the new Safety Complex was opened. The first floor of the building contains an office area, as well as the museum space and a bathroom. The second floor is mainly used for storage, but also contains a small kitchen. The building's windows are covered in a plastic film to protect photosensitive historical artifacts from sun damage.

The Historical Society Museum displays a variety of artifacts from Plaistow's history including the original clock face from Town Hall, an 1861 Hand Tub from the Fire Department, and a cross section of Plaistow's late Great Elm Tree. The museum is operated by the Historical Society Members, who welcome the public to come visit during their weekly hours or by calling ahead and scheduling an appointment.

There are concerns about the water, septic and HVAC systems which may require significant renovations in the future. Currently, the bathroom can only sustain very limited use and this restricts the facility from offering better service to its caretakers and visitors.

The following images depict, clockwise from top left: The Historical Society Museum at 127 Main Street, the building's location on Seaver Brook, storage of artifacts on the second floor, and the interior of the first floor museum.

Front of Plaistow Historical Society Building Side of Historical Society Building on Seaver Brook



Second Floor Storage *Historical Society Museum* *Historical Society Kitchen*

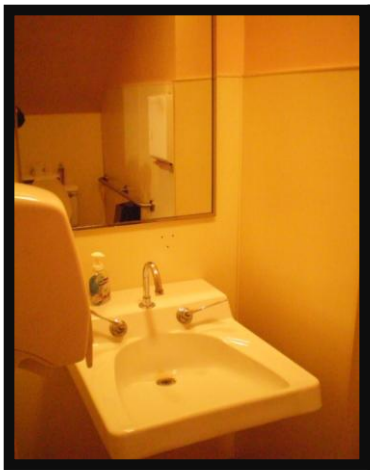
Plaistow District Court

The Plaistow District Court has been located at its current site of 14 Elm Street since 2001. Prior to it serving as the Plaistow District Court, the building was the home of the Plaistow Library which officially opened its doors on August 23, 1977. After many decades of sharing space in the Town Hall, the Town voted to purchase the A-Z Tool Company for $37,000 located at 14 Elm Street for the purpose of locating a larger location for the Town's library.

District Court Courtroom *Plaistow District Court on Elm Street*

By 1987, it was became clear that due to the limitations of this building and the associated parking, it was determined that expansion of this facility was not possible and that a new site and building would be needed. In 1998, the Town passed a warrant article to purchase 5 acres of land on Main Street and by May 15, 2000, the doors to a new, beautifully constructed library were opened at 85 Main Street.

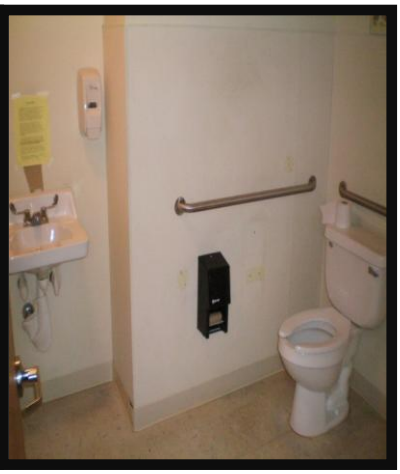
The Plaistow District Court outgrew its location on the second floor of the Plaistow Town Hall, and the decision was made to move the Court House to the vacant library building. The pictures below show the various rooms as utilized by the Plaistow District Court. As of 2012, there are plans to replace the heating and cooling system and to paint the outside of the Court House.



District Court Bathroom

District Court Lobby

District Court Holding Room



District Court Bathroom

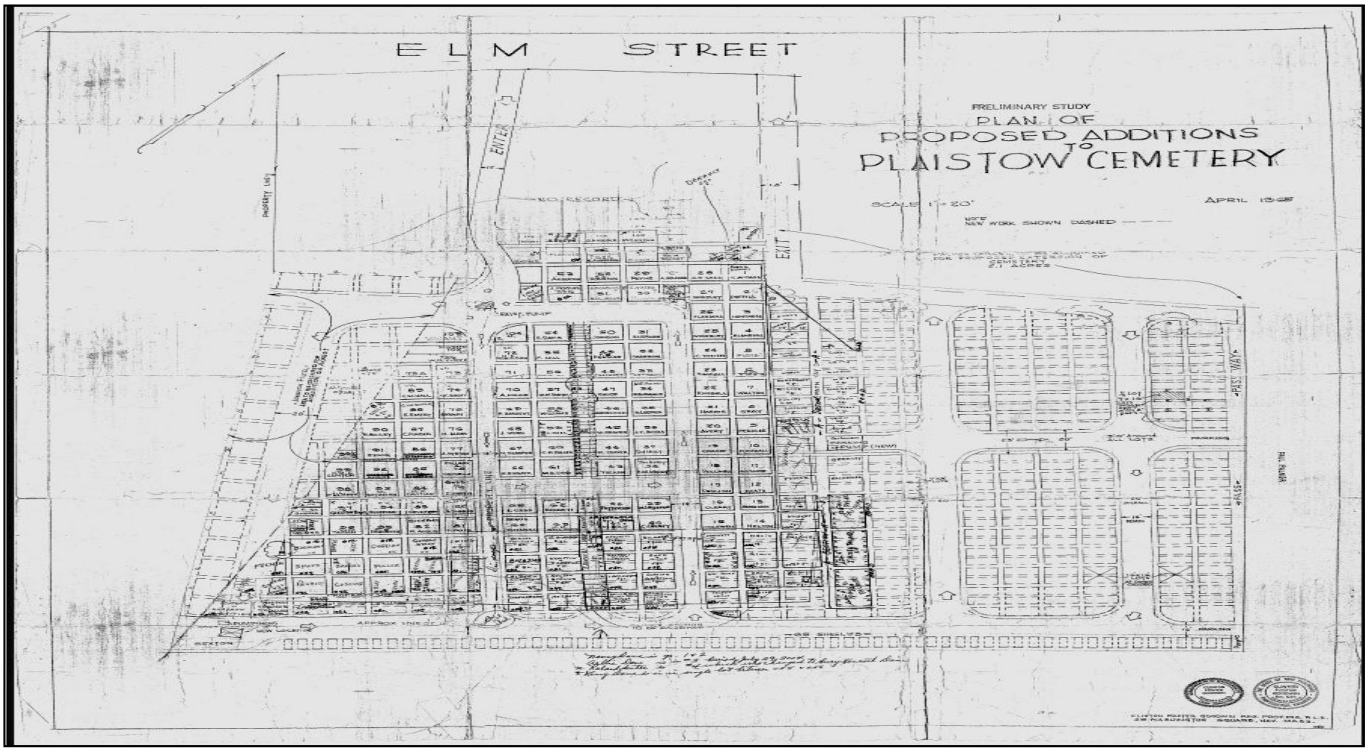
Cemetery

According to N.H. Revised Statute Annotated (RSA) 289:2, every municipality shall provide one or more suitable cemeteries for the interment of deceased persons within its boundaries, which shall be subject to such regulations as the municipality may establish. Located between the Town Hall and Public Safety Complex on the south side of Elm Street, the Plaistow Cemetery began as a so-called burying ground with the earliest marked graves beginning from the year 1831. There is no record of its establishment or original area, but its size can be interpolated by using the dimensions from the two deeds from when the small original area was extended by land purchases in 1854 from two abutters, Stephen Badger and Moses Davis. Stephen Badger added 38.87 square rods to the south and southwest sides and Moses Davis added 55.63 square rods to the east and northeast sides.

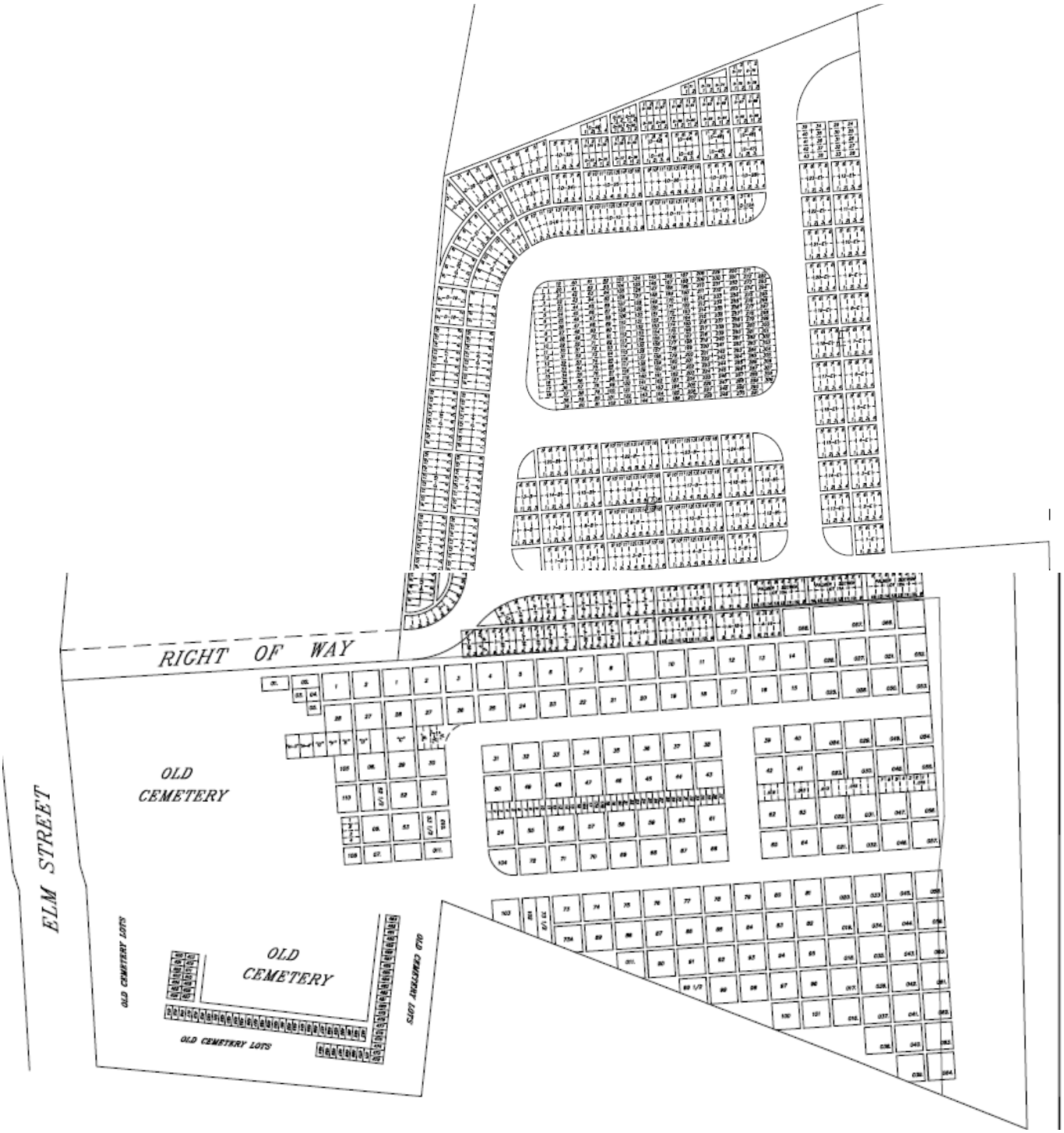
In 1882, Warren Davis, by way of his guardian John N. Sleeper, sold one acre and 15 square rods to further enlarge the cemetery.

In 1967, Paul D. Palmer donated a large section east and northeast of the then existing cemetery. This donation also included an 18 foot right-of-way granting the Town of Plaistow the right to pass and re-pass along the southeasterly side of Elm Street to the northwesterly corner of the tract, adjacent to the easterly side of the Plaistow Cemetery as now fenced.

Present Day Pictures of the Plaistow Cemetery



An Old Map Showing the Proposed Additions to the Plaistow Cemetery



Layout of the Plaistow Cemetery

On December 6, 1992, seventeen members of Boy Scout Troop 18 worked from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in below-freezing weather to record inscriptions and the locations of 1,337 headstones in the Old Section of the Plaistow Cemetery. They then released a "Directory of the Plaistow Cemetery" which includes a master index and map, 32 section directories and maps, and a veteran's listing. Copies of these directories can still be found at the Plaistow Library.

Today the Cemetery consists of 4.9 acres and is laid out in sections A through E, with section A representing the oldest part of the cemetery.

As pursuant to N.H. RSA 289:7, I(a), the operation and maintenance of Plaistow's cemetery is owned and maintained by the Town, and is in the charge of the Cemetery Trustees. Plaistow's Cemetery is not in compliance with the State mandated set-back requirement, therefore while it may be enlarged, it can only be done provided that no portion of the enlargement is located any closer than 100 feet of any dwelling house, schoolhouse or school lot, store or other place of business without the consent of the owner of the same, water sources or highways than the existing cemetery, and provided that no such enlargement shall be located within 50 feet of any classification of state highway.

Timberlane Regional School District

The Timberlane Regional School District includes the Towns of Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow and Sandown. Supervisory Administrative Unit # 55 serves the Timberlane Regional School District and the Hampstead School District. Students living in the Town of Plaistow attend the Pollard Elementary School for Grades K through 5, the Timberlane Regional Middle School for Grades 6, 7 and 8 and the Timberlane Regional High School for Grades 9 through 12. All three schools are located in the Town of Plaistow.

Table CF-9: TRSD- Grades K-12- Enrollment of Plaistow Children

Year	K-5	6-8	9-12	Total
2001/2002	564	365	408	1,337
2002/2003	555	366	410	1,331
2003/2004	547	369	430	1,346
2004/2005	584	341	478	1,403
2005/2006	554	342	473	1,369
2006/2007	510	344	496	1,350
2007/2008	550	338	474	1,362
2008/2008	500	336	479	1,315
2009/2010	487	337	458	1,282
2010/2011	479	322	445	1,246
Increase in Last 10 Years	-15.07%	-11.78%	9.06%	-6.80%
Increase in Last 5 Years	-6.08%	-6.40%	-10.28%	-7.70%
Increase in Last 3 Years	-4.20%	-4.17%	-7.10%	-5.20%

Source: Powerschool- Actual Enrollment of October 1st, 2010

As indicated in **Table CF-9**, the total Plaistow enrollment for grades K-12 was 1,246 for the 2010/2011 school year. During the last ten years, the total enrollment of Plaistow students attending schools in the Timberlane Regional School District decreased by 91 students, or nearly 7%. As of the 2010/2011 school year, Pollard Elementary School accounts for 38% of Plaistow's student enrollment while Timberlane Regional Middle School accounts for 26% and Timberlane Regional High School accounts for 36%. During the ten year period from 2001/2002 to 2010/2011, student enrollment decreased by 15% and 12% for the Elementary and Middle Schools respectively, while student enrollment increased by 9% at the High School.

There are multiple factors that may be contributing to these enrollment trends. During the 1990's there was a pronounced growth in school enrollment. During the 1996 / 1997 school year alone, there was a one-year increase of 12% to the Elementary School. However, this growth rate has not been sustained. In fact, Plaistow enrollment experienced negative growth during the 10 years from 2001/2002 to 2010/2011. The positive growth of enrollment at the High School in contrast to the negative growth of the Elementary and Middle Schools is remaining evidence of the large growth of the 1990's that traveled through the natural progression of the education system. Also, a decrease in Plaistow enrollment could have been exacerbated by the market recession of the late 2000's. A difficult market impedes the sale of homes from older families to younger families, thus translating to fewer children in the school district.

Table CF-10: Plaistow School Enrollment Projections

Year Ending	K - 5	6 - 8	9 - 12	Total
2011	469	294	458	1,221
2012	484	256	449	1,189
2013	475	245	420	1,140
2014	456	243	413	1,112
2015	446	256	368	1,070
2016	441	259	336	1,036
2017	437	250	335	1,022

Source: NESDEC Enrollment Study dated November 2010

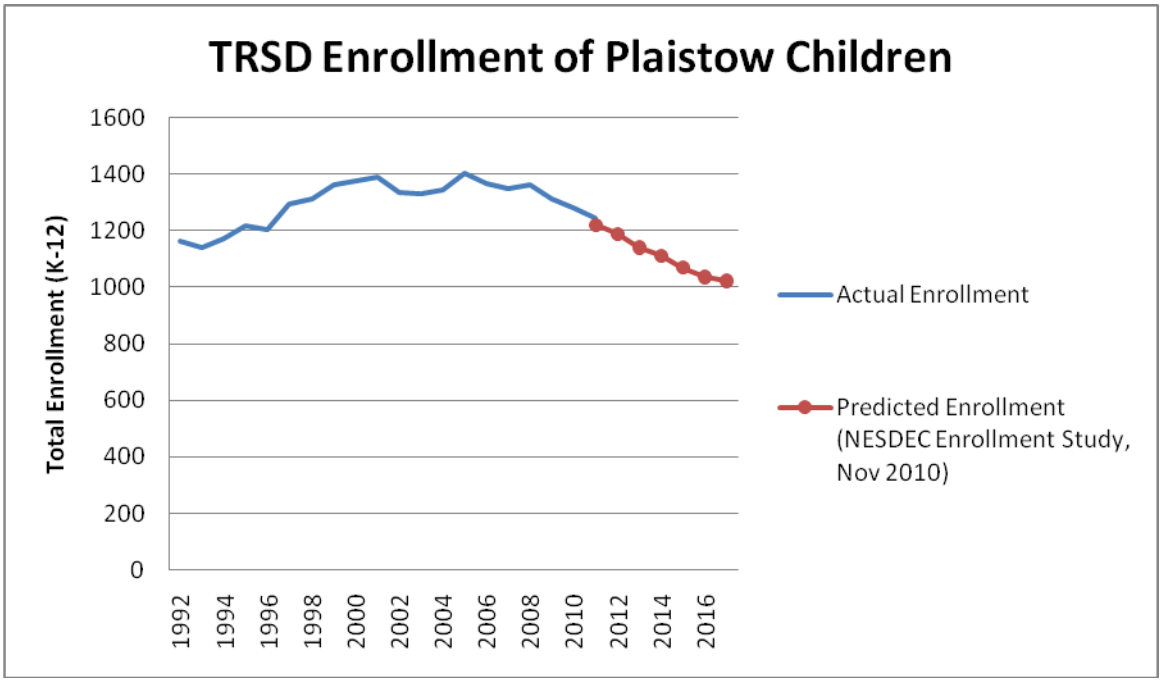
Table CF-11: Plaistow's Projected Increase in School Enrollment

Year	K - 5	6 - 8	9 - 12	Total
2017	437	250	335	1,022
7 Year Increase	-42	-72	-110	-224
% Increase	-8.80%	-22.40%	-24.70%	-18%

Source: NESDEC Enrollment Study Dated November 2010

Tables CF-10 and CF-11 include information on Plaistow's projected school enrollment for grades K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 for the period from school year 2010-2011 to 2016-2017. During this time, the number of Plaistow students enrolled in grades K-5 is expected to decrease by 42 or nearly 9%. Meanwhile, Plaistow enrollment at the Middle School is expected to decrease by 72 or nearly 22% and enrollment at the High School is expected to decrease by 110 or nearly 25%.

The following graph depicts a summary of both historical and projected enrollment of Plaistow children in the Timberlane Regional School District.



The projected enrollment figures are calculated by the New England School Development Council, which uses a complex algorithm including many variables. However, one variable not included is the role of the housing market in the turnover rate of older families to younger families with children. Therefore it is possible that outside changes, such as an upturn in the housing market, could moderate the projected decrease in enrollment.

Table CF-12: Per Pupil Cost Comparison- Timberlane Regional and State

Year Ending	Elementary Timberlane	State	Middle School Timberlane	State	High School Timberlane	State
2010	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2009	$11,962.55	$12,599.53	$11,735.73	$11,549.54	$11,543.21	$12,213.99
2008	$11,475.43	$12,095.86	$11,265.80	$11,160.93	$11,108.27	$11,573.01
2007	$10,643.34	$11,506.68	$10,776.38	$10,639.57	$10,337.75	$10,876.72
2006	$9,916.13	$10,716.01	$10,224.39	$9,821.37	$9,491.21	$9,992.06
2005	$9,318.15	$10,108.08	$9,473.59	$9,208.20	$8,822.35	$9,430.51
2004	$8,585.36	$9,406.37	$8,727.82	$8,557.69	$7,911.43	$8,982.46
2003	$8,146.60	$8,743.90	$8,111.36	$7,901.12	$7,885.35	$8,502.50
2002	$7,179.48	$7,961.42	$7,776.45	$7,143.66	$8,005.16	$8,022.55
2001	$6,788.84	$7,321.56	$6,952.72	$6,645.92	$7,106.82	$7,502.14
2000	$6,026.08	$6,705.19	$6,472.21	$6,232.09	$7,091.14	$7,166.55

Source: NH State Department of Education, Cost Per Pupil By District, 2000 - 01 through 2009 – 10

Table CF-13: Total Cost Per Pupil Comparison- Timberlane Regional and State

Year	Timberlane Regional Total	State Total
2010	Not Available	Not Available
2009	$11,762.43	$12,213.99
2008	$11,298.11	$11,745.55
2007	$10,573.07	$11,135.10
2006	$9,846.26	$10,304.88
2005	$9,190.42	$9,710.10
2004	$8,396.70	$9,098.56
2003	$8,055.97	$8,496.28
2002	$7,590.11	$7,809.49
2001	$6,923.83	$7,233.49
2000	$6,429.85	$6,738.36

Source: NH State Department of Education, Cost Per Pupil by District, 2000 - 01 through 2009 – 10

Tables CF-12 and CF-13 include the cost per pupil for Plaistow students in the Timberlane Regional School District compared to the State of New Hampshire Average. The per pupil costs are based on current expenditures as reported on each school district's Annual Financial Report (MS-25) for each of the above years. Cost per pupil represents current expenditures less tuition and transportation costs. Since capital expenditures and debt service are not current expenditures, they are not included in the above costs.

Per pupil costs in the Timberlane Regional School District are typically below the New Hampshire State Average. The average cost per pupil for Timberlane has been less than the State Average each year from 2000 to 2009. In 2009, the cost per pupil average for Timberlane was nearly 4% below the State cost per pupil. During that year, the Timberlane Elementary School and High School cost per pupil were both nearly 5% below the State Average while the Middle School was 1.6% above the State Average.

In order to ensure that the Timberlane Regional School District continues to provide safe, efficient and effective educational services, a Capital Improvement Plan has been written through the cooperation of several parties including the New England School Development Council (NESDEC), New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), Lavalle Brensinger Architects, Timberlane Strategic Planning Committee and community members at large. The plan identifies district needs for facility renovations, reconstructions, and replacements. There are several critical challenges facing the Timberlane Regional School District, such as rehabilitating/replacing school facilities that do not support 21st century educational programs, increasing school capacities, and pursuing the necessary support and funding for improvements.

The TRSD Capital Improvement Plan offers several different schemes for solving facility deficiencies in the district. The plan currently indorsed by the Supervisory Administrative Unit 55 is a multi-phase project involving the construction of a new Timberlane Regional High School on the existing property and renovation of the old High School building into a new Timberlane Regional Middle School. As of 2011, the timeline established for this project has been affected by a moratorium placed on state funding aid for school construction costs, which has impacted the

Timberlane District's ability to pursue funding options. It is possible that the moratorium will be extended for an additional two years beyond 2011 and that state funding aid for school construction costs may be permanently amended. In such a case, the Capital Improvement Plan will investigate how to proceed in the best interest of the Timberlane Regional School District and community.

Meanwhile, the past couple years have seen a number of successful improvements made to district school facilities. The community has been very supportive of several projects within the $10,000 to $350,000 range for upgrading core infrastructure facilities. Such projects have refurbished roofs, boilers, septic systems, and kitchens in the district's buildings. As an example, a major renovation is planned for the Pollard Elementary School kitchen for summer 2011 that will increase efficiency and improve café service. These ongoing projects are making significant improvements in the condition of school buildings district wide.