

## **Section X**

### **Regional Concern**

#### ***Introduction***

Sunapee is located in Sullivan County in the west-central part of New Hampshire. The regional activities which dominate this part of the state are mostly recreation related. The nearest employment centers which provide jobs for the region are the Newport/Claremont area, the Lebanon/Hanover area, and the Concord area.

Many natural features, institutions, and other entities in the region contribute to the quality of life in the Town of Sunapee.

#### ***Important Regional Natural Features***

##### **Lake Sunapee**

Lake Sunapee is part of the towns of Sunapee, Newbury, and New London. This large lake is vital to the summer recreational activities of the Town of Sunapee and the entire region. The boat launches in Sunapee Harbor and Georges Mills are important points of access to the lake for residents of the region.

The lake has an additional importance to the Town of Sunapee, since it is the water supply for Sunapee Village and its environs.

##### **Mount Sunapee State Park**

Mount Sunapee State Park is owned by the State of New Hampshire. The park is located mostly in the Town of Newbury with a portion in the Town of Goshen. In addition to the mountain land which comprises most of the park, there is a portion of the park which abuts Lake Sunapee where there is a state beach.

The ski area on the mountain part of the park has been leased to private operators for the past 10 years, and it has grown considerably during that time as a result of investments in new trails, new equipment and a new lodge. The leaseholders have proposed to expand the ski area and construct condominiums in the Town of Goshen, but this proposal has been rejected by the State.

There is a popular beach with a ample parking in the portion of the park which abuts Lake Sunapee.

### ***Important Regional Institutions***

#### **Dartmouth College**

Dartmouth College is located in the Town of Hanover. Dartmouth is one of the largest employers in the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Region. The college offers continuing education, arts and music programs to residents of Sunapee and the region.

#### **Colby Sawyer College**

Colby Sawyer College is located in New London. It also offers continuing education, arts and music programs to a more limited audience with the region.

#### **Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center**

The Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center is located in Hanover and Lebanon, within a half hour drive of Sunapee. Not only is the medical center a major source of employment, it also provides world class medical treatment.

#### **New London Hospital**

New London Hospital has recently completed a major expansion. It provides emergency services, out-patient treatment to residents of the towns surrounding New London.

### ***Other Important Regional Entities***

#### **Interstate 89 Exit 12A**

This is the only interstate exit within the boundaries of Sunapee. It is located at the Springfield town line. Otter Pond and the village of Georges Mills lie on the Sunapee side of the exit. The Springfield side has the power facility industrial plant, but most of the Springfield land is light residential or woodlands.

Many interstate exits have become centers for gas stations and strip commercial development serving the high traffic volumes found on the interstate. It is in Sunapee's interest to have dialogue with the Town of Springfield and the Regional Planning Commission about future potential development around this exit. Intense commercial development could have an adverse impact on an important recreational resource in the Town of Sunapee.

#### **Wild Goose Boat Launch Site**

The state has advanced plans for an additional boat launch to provide regional access to Lake Sunapee at the Wild Goose site, close to the state beach in Newbury. This

proposal has met opposition from nearby residents and organizations intent on protecting the quality of the lake.

### ***Recommendations***

- 1. Stay abreast of hearings involving regional projects that affect the town and request municipal involvement as abutters per RSA 35:54-57.**

State statutes allow for any municipality to have abutter status in any permit applications where there might be a regional impact. The Planning Board in the municipality where a project is proposed is required to make a determination of regional impact. However, the Town of Sunapee should be proactive in contacting other Planning Boards if there is perceived to be a regional impact from a proposed project.