

Chapter II. Population

The goal of the Population Section is to inform users of the Master Plan of the historic and current population as well as projected changes to the population and its demographics. As the Town looks at long range planning for services and resources it is important to understand the anticipated needs of the residents. Any significant change in population and its makeup will consequently effect land use patterns, the Town's economic base, local demand for housing, transportation, human services, and community facilities and Town services.

Historical Population Trends

The Town of New Hampton was granted in 1775 and settled about the same time. New Hampton was incorporated in 1777. The Town was reduced in size when in 1797 the area of town which now Center Harbor separate from New Hampton.

The population grew rapidly to 652 in 1790 and to 1,095 in 1800. This decade was the fastest rate of growth that the town has experienced. Population growth continued at a steady pace for the next 30 years, when it peaked in 1830 at 1,905. This trend was reversed for the 100 years as the town began a steady decline down to 692 in 1930. Population began to increase steadily again from that point back up to 946 in 1970. At that point a dramatic growth spurt set in with a 32% increase to 1,249 in 1980 and another 28.8% to 1,606 in 1990. The population in 2010 was 2,165 showing an 11% change from 2000. The population in 2015 rested at 2,206 showing a 4% increasing just 5 years.

New Hampshire is the second in the country for fastest growing percentage of residents over 60 years of age. The median age was 44.8 years old in 2014, according to Economic and Labor Information Bureau for the New Hampshire Employment Security. Children under the age of 19 was at 534, while people 55 and older was 689. New Hampton seems to be following the age trends of the State of New Hampshire.

There are many online sites with links to the most up-to-date information on population and trends. A quick internet search brings up many government sites with statistics on New Hampton, Belknap County, and the State of New Hampshire.

**** Draft Population Section scheduled for Public Hearing - May 21, 2019***