



**Town of Londonderry Planning Board
268B Mammoth Road - Moose Hill Conference
Agenda
March 23, 2026
6:00 P.M.**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Adjournment**
- III. Public Hearing**

The Londonderry Planning Board will hold a public meeting on Monday, March 23, 2026, at 6:00. P.M. in Moose Hill Council Chambers to consider the following:

Pursuant to RSA 675:2, RSA 675:6, and RSA 675:7, and the Town of Londonderry Zoning Ordinance Section 8.6, that the Londonderry Planning Board will hold a public hearing to consider proposed amendments to the Town of Londonderry Zoning Ordinance.

The Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing to consider proposed amendments to the Londonderry Zoning Ordinance, Section 5.2 – Planned Unit Development (PUD), adopted under the authority of RSA 674:21 (Innovative Land Use Controls).

The proposed amendments include a comprehensive update to Section 5.2, establishing revised standards, definitions, and review procedures for Planned Unit Developments.

Following the public hearing, the Planning Board may make a recommendation to the Londonderry Town Council, which is the body authorized to adopt zoning amendments pursuant to RSA 675:2.

Complete text of the proposed amendments is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Planning & Economic Development Department, Town Clerks Office, and on the Town's website at www.londonderrynh.gov.

Residents and interested parties are encouraged to attend.

Documents:

1. LZO5.2_PUD Amd_DRAFT PH_03.23.26.pdf
2. Current_LZO_PUDsection5.2.pdf
1. SummaryMemo_LZO5.2PUD_10.08.25.pdf

Section 5.2 – Planned Unit Development (PUD)

5.2.1 Authority

This Section is enacted pursuant to RSA 674:21, Innovative Land Use Controls, which provides statutory authority for the Town of Londonderry to adopt and administer a Planned Unit Development (PUD) ordinance.

5.2.2 Purpose & Objectives

A. A Planned Unit Development (PUD) allows a landowner to propose a development project with flexibility from the standard land use regulations that would otherwise apply to the property. A PUD Master Plan functions similarly to a special zoning designation for a specific tract of land, establishing permitted uses, dimensional requirements, and development standards. (Note: In this ordinance, all references to a “Master Plan” mean the PUD Master Plan, unless specifically stated as the Town of Londonderry Master Plan.)

B. The purpose of this ordinance is to encourage innovative, high-quality development that provides a balanced mix of housing types, preserves open space and environmental resources, and promotes efficient land use and infrastructure investment. The PUD process is intended to:

1. Foster creative design that enhances community character and livability.
2. Support housing opportunities that meet the needs of a diverse population.
3. Ensure coordinated development that integrates with the Town’s long-range planning goals.
4. Provide flexibility from conventional zoning standards where such flexibility results in a higher-quality, more sustainable outcome.

PUDs are intended to offer flexibility from conventional zoning standards only when such flexibility yields higher-quality, sustainable land use, and measurable community benefit, and where the development demonstrates clear consistency with Londonderry’s Comprehensive Master Plan.

C. The objectives of this Planned Unit Development ordinance are as follows:

1. **Housing Diversity.** To encourage a variety of housing types, including single-family, multi-family, affordable, and workforce housing, in accordance with state law and the Town’s Comprehensive Master Plan.
2. **Mixed-Use Development.** To provide opportunities for the integration of residential, commercial, civic, and recreational uses in cohesive, walkable neighborhoods.
3. **Sustainable Land Use.** To promote compact development patterns that make efficient use of land and infrastructure, minimize sprawl, and preserve open space, agricultural land, natural resources, and environmentally sensitive areas.

4. **Quality and Transparency.** To establish clear, predictable, and measurable development standards, and to ensure transparency and accountability in the review process through meaningful public participation.
5. **Economic Vitality.** To support the Town’s long-term fiscal stability by encouraging development patterns that broaden the tax base, foster local business opportunities, and contribute to sustainable economic growth.

5.2.3 Definitions

Planned Unit Development (PUD): A form of development, generally under unified ownership or control, that permits flexibility in the application of conventional zoning and subdivision standards in order to encourage innovative design, a mix of land uses, efficient infrastructure, and the preservation of open space, consistent with the purposes and objectives of this ordinance.

Density Bonus: An allowance for additional dwelling units or floor area above the maximum otherwise permitted by the underlying zoning district, granted by the Planning Board upon a finding that the development provides specified community benefits, such as affordable housing, enhanced open space, environmental protection, or community amenities.

Open Space: Land within a PUD that is permanently set aside and legally protected for conservation, recreation, agriculture, or similar purposes. Open space shall not be occupied by residential, commercial, or industrial structures, but may include accessory facilities for recreation, stormwater management, or utilities that are compatible with the open space purpose.

Public Amenities / Public Infrastructure Improvements: Facilities, improvements, or investments provided as part of a Planned Unit Development that are accessible to and benefit the general public, and that exceed what would otherwise be required under conventional zoning or site plan regulations. Public amenities and infrastructure improvements may be on-site or off-site, provided there is a clear and direct relationship to the impacts of the development.

Community Benefit: A measurable, tangible improvement or contribution provided as part of a Planned Unit Development that serves the public interest, addresses impacts created by the development, and provides value beyond what would otherwise be required under conventional zoning, site plan, or subdivision regulations.

5.2.4 Administration and Review Process

The process for reviewing and administering a Planned Unit Development (PUD) shall be as follows:

A. Pre-Application Consultation.

1. Due to the complexity of PUDs, applicants are strongly encouraged to meet with the Planning & Economic Development Department staff prior to preparing a formal

application to discuss the concept, applicable regulations, and submission requirements.

2. Applicants are further required to hold a conceptual consultation with the Planning Board in accordance with RSA 676:4, II(a), to receive non-binding feedback on the general concept, density, mix of uses, and consistency with Town objectives.
3. The Planning Board may also request that the applicant hold an informational community input session to solicit early feedback from residents and abutters prior to submitting a formal application.

B. Formal Application.

1. A PUD application (referred to as the PUD Master Plan) and checklist shall be submitted in accordance with the requirements of this ordinance and the Planning Board's regulations.
2. The PUD Master Plan shall include proposed land uses, density, circulation, open space, utilities, phasing (including the sequencing of residential and non-residential development), and any requested modifications or waivers from zoning, site plan, or subdivision standards.

C. Public Hearing and Completeness Review.

1. The Planning Board shall hold at least one public hearing on the PUD Master Plan, properly noticed in accordance with RSA 676:4.
2. At the public hearing, the Board shall determine whether the application is complete. Upon a finding of completeness, the statutory review period under RSA 676:4 shall begin.

D. Planning Board Review and Action.

1. The Planning Board may conduct **work sessions or additional hearings** as necessary to evaluate the proposal, including referral to third-party peer review for technical matters (traffic, fiscal, utilities, environmental impacts, etc.).
2. The Planning Board shall approve, approve with conditions, or deny the PUD Master Plan within statutory deadlines.
3. In rendering its decision, the Planning Board shall make specific written findings regarding:
 - a. Consistency with the purpose and objectives of this ordinance;
 - b. Compliance with the Town's Master Plan;
 - c. Adequacy of open space, infrastructure, and environmental protections; and
 - d. Justification for any modifications or waivers granted including documentation of any substantial community benefit relied upon to approve flexibility or density bonuses.

E. Appeals.

Any appeal of a Planning Board decision on a PUD application shall proceed in accordance with RSA 677:15.

F. Recordation.

1. The Planning & Economic Development Department shall maintain a permanent record of all approved PUD Master Plans.
2. Each approved PUD shall be identified on the Official Zoning Map as an overlay, labeled sequentially as PUD-1, PUD-2, etc.

G. Subsequent Approvals.

1. Following approval of a PUD Master Plan, the applicant shall submit **site plan and/or subdivision applications** for specific phases or components of the project.
2. In the event of a conflict between the approved Master Plan and the Subdivision or Site Plan Regulations, the terms of the approved Master Plan shall control.

H. Compliance and Expiration.

1. All development shall be consistent with the approved Master Plan as determined by the Planning Board.
2. The PUD Master Plan shall include a phasing plan that clearly identifies the sequence of residential and non-residential development. Unless otherwise approved by the Planning Board based on specific findings, a substantial portion of the approved commercial component shall reach “active and substantial development” prior to commencement of stand-alone commercial development that is not clearly neighborhood-serving or integral to the initial residential phases.
3. For purposes of this Section, “active and substantial development” shall have the meaning established in the Londonderry Site Plan Regulations (currently defined to include, at a minimum:
 - i. Construction and/or installation of basic infrastructure to support the development, including foundation walls and footings for proposed buildings; roadways, accessways, and parking lots to at least a gravel base; and utilities placed in underground conduit ready for connection to proposed buildings/structures;
 - ii. Construction and completion of drainage improvements to service the development, including detention/retention basins, treatment swales, pipes, underdrains, catch basins, and related improvements;
 - iii. Installation and maintenance of all erosion control measures specified on the approved plans; and
 - iv. Review and approval of items i-iii by the Department of Public Works and Engineering or its designee), consistent with RSA 674:39.
4. If active and substantial development has not begun within **two (2) years** of approval, or within another timeframe specified in the approval, the PUD approval shall expire and the underlying zoning shall control.
5. Extensions may be granted by the Planning Board for good cause shown.

I. Amendments and Extinguishment.

1. Amendments to an approved PUD shall follow the same review and hearing process as the original approval.

2. A landowner may extinguish a PUD by notifying the Planning Board in writing of the intent not to develop under the approved PUD.

5.2.5 PUD Master Plan

- A. In preparing a Planned Unit Development (PUD) Master Plan, applicants may request flexibility from certain dimensional and design standards otherwise required by the Zoning Ordinance, Site Plan Regulations, and Subdivision Regulations, pursuant to the Town's authority under RSA 674:21 (Innovative Land Use Controls). Such flexibility may include, but is not limited to, permitted land uses, density, setbacks, buffers, building height, lot size and dimensions, parking, and other site design elements. Flexibility shall only be granted where the proposed plan demonstrates compliance with the purposes and objectives of this ordinance and results in equal or greater community benefit than would be achieved under conventional development standards.
- B. The PUD Master Plan shall consist of all documents, plans, and materials submitted by the applicant that collectively describe the proposed development. At minimum, submissions shall include those items outlined in the *PUD Master Plan Submission Checklist* adopted by the Planning Board, which includes but is not limited to:
 1. A land use plan, including maps and drawings.
 2. A land use summary table identifying acreage, proposed uses, densities, and development standards.
 3. A completed PUD application form.
 4. A written narrative describing the overall development concept, consistency with the Town's Master Plan, and justification for requested flexibility and any proposed density bonuses, including demonstration of substantial community benefit where applicable.
 5. Architectural, landscape, and site design guidelines, where applicable.
 6. A proposed phasing plan, including the timing of infrastructure and public amenities.
 7. Any additional development guidelines, conditions, or requirements imposed or accepted by the Planning Board as part of its approval.
- C. The land use plan shall clearly delineate one or more land use areas within the PUD. For each area, the accompanying land use summary shall specify approximate acreage, proposed uses, density, and any special development standards applicable to that area.

D. PUD Master Plan Submission Checklist.

The Planning Board shall adopt and maintain a *PUD Master Plan Submission Checklist* that sets forth the detailed submittal requirements for PUD applications. The checklist shall include, at a minimum, the items specified in subsection B above and may be updated periodically by the Planning Board to reflect changes in best practices, state law, or local needs. Use of the checklist shall be mandatory for all applicants, and no application shall be deemed complete until the requirements of the checklist are satisfied to the satisfaction of the Planning Board.

5.2.6 Basic Eligibility Requirements

The following criteria shall apply to all Planned Unit Developments (PUDs):

A. Location.

PUDs may be proposed in any zoning district, subject to the purposes and objectives of this ordinance, provided they comply with the review standards set forth herein.

B. Tract Size.

The minimum tract size for a Planned Unit Development (PUD) shall be one hundred (100) contiguous acres. Parcels separated by a road, right-of-way, utility corridor, waterway, or similar feature shall be considered contiguous unless the Planning Board determines the separation prevents the tract from functioning as a unified PUD.

Previously developed land may be included within a PUD only where the PUD Master Plan proposes substantial redevelopment that improves aesthetics, architectural design, connectivity, and overall site integration, resulting in a cohesive and unified development consistent with the purposes of this ordinance.

C. Ownership.

A PUD shall be under unified ownership at the time of application or, where multiple ownership exists, subject to a binding development agreement requiring all owners to comply with the approved PUD Master Plan. Following approval, parcels may be subdivided or transferred, provided the overall PUD remains consistent with the approved master plan.

D. Utilities.

All PUDs shall be served by public water and public sewer systems. Service shall be determined to be reasonably consistent with the Town's Sewer Facilities Master Plan, as determined by the Planning Board.

5.2.7 Permitted Uses

A. General Rule.

Uses permitted within a PUD shall be those specifically approved by the Planning Board as part of the PUD Master Plan. No use shall be permitted unless expressly authorized through the master plan approval process.

B. Eligible Uses.

1. Any use listed as permitted, special exception, or conditional use in the underlying zoning district may be proposed within a PUD.
2. In addition, mixed uses — including residential, commercial, civic, and recreational uses — may be combined within a PUD where consistent with the purposes of this ordinance and the Town's Master Plan.

C. Prohibited Uses.

1. Uses prohibited in the underlying zoning district remain prohibited in a PUD, unless specifically authorized as part of the PUD ordinance.
2. Residential uses shall not be permitted within a PUD located in the Gateway Business District.

D. Planning Board Discretion.

The Planning Board may approve, conditionally approve, or deny proposed uses based on consistency with the objectives of this ordinance, the Town's Master Plan, and the design standards set forth in Section 5.2.

5.2.8 Standards of Development

The following standards shall apply to all Planned Unit Developments (PUDs):

A. Parking and Loading.

1. Off-street parking and loading shall generally comply with Section 3.09 of the Site Plan Regulations for each proposed use.
2. The Planning Board may approve shared parking, reduced ratios, or other flexible arrangements where supported by a parking analysis, provided such waivers remain consistent with the design, purposes, and objectives of the PUD.

B. Building Height.

1. Except for non-occupiable structures (e.g., chimneys, water towers, steeples), no building shall exceed 50 feet in height unless otherwise authorized by the Planning Board through the Master Plan process.

2. All structures shall also comply with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements and the limitations of the Airport Approach Height Overlay (Section 3.7.4).

C. Residential Density.

1. The maximum residential density for a PUD shall be six (6) dwelling units per gross acre, except where density bonuses are approved in accordance with Section 5.2.7.C.3 (Density Bonuses). The Planning Board may grant such bonuses where the applicant demonstrates provision of significant community benefits, as defined in the density bonus table. In no case shall the total density exceed 25% above the baseline density. In reviewing proposed densities, the Planning Board shall evaluate:
 - a. The amount of buildable land (exclusive of wetlands, steep slopes, and other constrained areas).
 - b. The adequacy of public water and sewer to serve the proposed development.
 - c. Compatibility of the proposed residential density with adjoining land uses and the Town's Comprehensive Master Plan.
2. Non-residential uses may be located in a flexible pattern provided they are compatible with residential components and contribute to the overall design and objectives of the PUD.
3. Density Bonus Framework for PUDs
 - a. Baseline Density: Maximum of 6 dwelling units per gross acre (unless otherwise specified in the underlying zoning).
 - b. Eligible Density Bonuses:

The Planning Board may grant additional density, up to a maximum of 25% above baseline, where the applicant demonstrates substantial community benefit in one or more of the following categories:

Community Benefit	Bonus Allowed	Criteria / Standards
Affordable	+10–15%	At least 15% of total units deed-restricted for households earning ≤80% AMI; minimum 30-year affordability period.
Open Space & Environmental Protection	+5–10%	Preservation of ≥50% of tract as permanent open space, with enhanced protection of wetlands, floodplains, or wildlife corridors beyond ordinance minimum.
Sustainability / Green Building	+5%	Certification under LEED, Passive House, or equivalent green building program; significant stormwater management improvements.
Mixed-Use Integration	+5–10%	Inclusion of commercial, civic, or institutional uses that create a walkable, integrated environment consistent with the Master Plan.

Cap on Density Increases:

No PUD shall exceed 25% above baseline density (i.e., maximum of 7.5 dwelling units per acre where baseline is 6 du/acre), unless specifically authorized by the Planning Board after public hearing.

D. Compliance with Other Regulations.

1. Unless waived or modified as part of the PUD Master Plan approval, all PUDs shall comply with applicable provisions of the Zoning Ordinance, Site Plan Regulations, and Subdivision Regulations.
2. All PUDs must comply with applicable local, state, and federal requirements relating to public health and safety, building codes, stormwater, and environmental protection. These requirements shall not be waived.

E. Setbacks and Buffers.

1. All roads and principal structures shall be set back a minimum of fifty (50) feet from the external boundaries of a PUD tract where it abuts existing residential uses, unless a reduced setback is approved by the Planning Board to facilitate access or integration of compatible uses.
2. Landscaping, open space, and screening shall be used to provide a reasonable buffer between the PUD and adjoining properties, except where adjoining uses are compatible or integration is desirable.

F. Covenants, Restrictions, and Easements.

1. Any proposed covenants, restrictions, or easements shall be reviewed and approved by the Planning Board prior to recording.
2. All such documents shall provide for enforcement by the Town, at its option and at the developer’s expense, under appropriate circumstances.

3. Covenants, restrictions, and easements shall be recorded with the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds.

G. G. Phasing and Substantial Completion.

1. The PUD Master Plan shall identify phases, including the timing and triggers for residential, commercial, civic, and infrastructure components.
2. The Planning Board may require, as a condition of approval, that certain public infrastructure and/or a defined portion of the commercial component reach active and substantial development or substantial completion (as defined in the Site Plan Regulations and applied under RSA 674:39) before commencement of specified non-residential phases, to ensure that infrastructure and community benefit keep pace with development.

5.2.9 Planning Board Review Criteria

The following criteria shall guide the Planning Board in determining appropriate land uses, densities, and development standards for any PUD. Final determination of whether a proposal meets the purposes and objectives of this ordinance rests with the Planning Board in its reasonable discretion.

A. General Considerations.

In reviewing a PUD application, the Planning Board shall consider:

1. Compliance with the provisions of the Londonderry Zoning Ordinance, Site Plan Regulations, Subdivision Regulations, and all applicable state and federal laws, unless such provisions are expressly waived or modified through PUD approval.
2. Consistency with the Londonderry Master Plan and related plans or studies formally adopted by the Town.
3. Conformance with the purposes and objectives of this Section.
4. Adequacy of public infrastructure and services to accommodate the proposed development, including water, sewer, roads, drainage, emergency services, and schools.
5. Fiscal and economic impacts of the PUD on the Town, including both municipal revenues and costs of services.
6. The extent to which the proposal provides substantial community benefit, including but not limited to public infrastructure, amenities, and housing that would not reasonably be expected under conventional development.

B. Specific Objectives.

Every PUD shall incorporate a combination of the following elements, which distinguish it from conventional zoning and justify departures from otherwise applicable standards:

1. Harmonious Mix of Uses. A PUD shall provide a compatible and integrated mix of residential, commercial, civic, and/or recreational uses, designed in a manner that:
 - a. Creates walkable, connected neighborhoods or districts;

- b. Provides daily services, amenities, or employment opportunities in proximity to housing;
 - c. Ensures transitions in building scale, intensity, and design to minimize conflicts between differing land uses;
 - d. Balances private development with public spaces and community benefits; and
 - e. Supports the goals of the Londonderry Master Plan for mixed-use centers and sustainable growth.
2. High-quality architectural and site design, with placement of structures that respects natural topography, soils, vegetation, slopes, and drainage patterns.
 3. Preservation of meaningful open space and natural resources, including wetlands, wildlife corridors, agricultural land, and scenic viewsheds.
 4. Protection of cultural and historic resources, including stone walls, farmsteads, and archaeological features.
 5. Provision of active and passive recreational opportunities integrated into the development.
 6. Attractive and functional landscaping, pedestrian amenities, and integration of sidewalks, bikeways, and multi-use paths.
 7. Transportation improvements, including traffic mitigation, traffic calming, or transportation demand management measures to reduce reliance on single-occupancy vehicles.
 8. Design strategies that minimize the visual impact of parking, such as rear-lot placement, structured parking, or significant landscaping and screening.
 9. Incorporation of sustainable development practices, including energy efficiency, renewable energy systems, low-impact stormwater management, and green building design.
 10. Provision of additional community benefits, such as civic space, childcare facilities, community centers, or other amenities accessible to the public.
 11. Demonstrated substantial community benefit in the provision of public infrastructure and amenities, including but not limited to civic space, trails, transit facilities, or off-site infrastructure improvements that provide a clear, quantifiable benefit to the community beyond that required solely to serve the development.

5.2.10 Submission Requirements

A. General.

An application for a Planned Unit Development shall include a complete PUD Master Plan Submission Package, prepared in accordance with the requirements of this Section and the PUD Master Plan Checklist maintained by the Community Development Department. The format, number, and method of submission shall be determined by the Department.

B. Required Materials.

The submission package shall include, at a minimum:

1. Completed PUD application form and application fee.
2. Abutters list prepared in accordance with RSA 676:4(I)(d) and Town of Londonderry ordinances.
3. Narrative statement describing:
 - a. The purpose of the PUD;
 - b. How the proposal advances the objectives of Section 5.2;
 - c. Anticipated community benefits and community impacts.
4. Proposed PUD Master Land Use Plan, including maps, plans, and supporting schedules.
5. Development phasing schedule, bonding/security provisions, and anticipated build-out timeline.
6. Proposed covenants, restrictions, easements, and ownership/management arrangements for common areas.

C. Required Information.

The PUD Master Plan shall include sufficient information to enable the Planning Board to evaluate compliance with this Section and other applicable regulations. Items may be preliminary in nature but must be of sufficient detail to convey the overall concept. Required information includes:

1. **Existing Conditions**
 - a. Underlying zoning classification and zoning of adjoining lots.
 - b. Total tract acreage.
 - c. General topography, soils, wetlands, surface waters, slopes, ridgelines, cultural and historic features, and other natural resources (overview format acceptable).
2. **Proposed Development Program**
 - a. Land use plan and land use list, delineating areas by type, acreage, density, and intended use(s).
 - b. Estimated number of dwelling units and overall density, with reference to density bonus provisions (if applicable).
 - c. Location, type, and scale of proposed non-residential uses.
 - d. Location and acreage of proposed open space and resource protection areas.
3. **Site Design and Infrastructure**
 - a. General layout of streets, sidewalks, bikeways, and multi-use paths.
 - b. Location and size of parking areas and loading facilities.
 - c. Conceptual water supply, sewer/septic, stormwater management, and utility systems.
 - d. Proposed fire protection and emergency access strategies.
 - e. Landscaping and buffering plan.

4. Design Guidelines

- a. Architectural standards or guidelines addressing building form, scale, and materials.
- b. Signage plan, including standards for size, placement, and design consistency.
- c. Lighting plan, if applicable.

5. Impact Analysis

- a. Preliminary traffic impact assessment (trip generation, distribution, and potential off-site improvements).
- b. Fiscal impact statement, including projected municipal service costs and revenues.
- c. Environmental impact summary, addressing resource areas to be preserved or mitigated.

6. Governance and Implementation

- a. Ownership/management structure for common areas (e.g., condominium, homeowners' association, master association).
- b. Articles of incorporation and bylaws for any association or entity responsible for ongoing management.
- c. Phasing schedule and bonding/security provisions to ensure timely completion of infrastructure and amenities.

D. Additional Information.

The Planning Board may require the submission of additional information, studies, or legal documentation reasonably necessary to evaluate the design, operation, or maintenance of the proposed PUD.

5.2.11 Interpretation and Application

- A. The approved PUD Master Plan shall serve as the controlling land use document for the subject tract. The Planning Board shall review subsequent site plan and subdivision applications for conformity with the approved Master Plan. In the event of a conflict, the provisions of the approved Master Plan shall govern.
- B. Elements of the Master Plan may be presented in conceptual or generalized form and refined through subsequent site plan or subdivision applications. Such elements may include lot layout, road alignment, parking configuration, utilities, landscaping, and architectural details. Modifications shall be permitted at the site plan or subdivision stage provided they remain consistent with the intent and objectives of the approved Master Plan.
- C. Where the Master Plan does not specify a particular development standard (e.g., dimensional requirement, setback, or performance standard), the applicable

provisions of the Zoning Ordinance, Site Plan Regulations, or Subdivision Regulations shall apply, as determined by the Planning Board.

5.2.12 Fees

- A. Application fees for PUDs shall be established by the Town Council as part of the Town's official Land Use Fee Schedule.
- B. In addition to application fees, applicants shall be responsible for costs of abutter notification, legal notices, and any third-party technical review, consistent with the Town's Subdivision and Site Plan Regulations.

DRAFT

- F. For other residential development proposed to be serviced with public water and public sewer, and proposing no dwelling structures within 200 feet of a street other than one created by that development: twenty (20) dwelling units per year from the date of final approval.
- G. For all other residential development: fifteen (15) dwelling units per year from the date of final approval.

5.2 Planned Unit Development

5.2.1 Authority

The Section is enacted in pursuant to [RSA 674:21](#), innovative land use controls, which provides the statutory authority for the Town of Londonderry to allow for the development of a Planned Unit Development ordinance.

5.2.2 Purpose

- A. A Planned Unit Development (PUD) allows a landowner to propose his/her own development project largely independent from current land use regulations otherwise applicable to that property. A PUD master plan is akin to a special zoning district designation for a particular tract of land in terms of uses, dimensions, and other development standards. (Note: every reference to a master plan in this PUD ordinance refers to the PUD Master Plan rather than the Town of Londonderry Master Plan, except where the latter is specifically referred to as such.)
- B. The purpose of this ordinance is to promote flexibility in large scale development by considering project proposals based upon a comprehensive, integrated and detailed plan rather than the specific constraints applicable to piecemeal lot-by-lot development under conventional zoning. A PUD should improve the quality of new development by encouraging aesthetically attractive features and promoting quality site and architectural design. The Planning Board will use the 2004 Londonderry Master Plan and/or successor plans, 2009 Londonderry Small Area Master Plan and/or successor plans, 2003 Londonderry Design Charrette and/or successor plans (if applicable) and any other long range planning document as guidance in the land use development aspect of the PUD master planning process.

5.2.3 Process

The process for administering a Planned Unit Development is as follows:

- A. Due to the complexity inherent in PUD's, prior to developing a detailed PUD proposal or submitting an application, applicants are strongly encouraged to:
 - 1. Meet with the Community Development Department to discuss their ideas; and
 - 2. Hold a conceptual discussion with the Planning Board.
- B. The applicant submits a formal PUD application (also known as the proposed PUD master plan) as specified elsewhere in this section.
- C. The Planning Board holds a public hearing on the PUD application and determines whether or not it is complete, in accordance with this ordinance. The board must take final action on the application within 65 days of a finding of completeness.
- D. The Planning Board approves, denies, or approves with conditions the PUD application. An applicant may appeal any such decision of the Planning Board in the same manner specified for appeals for site plan determinations and subdivision determinations ([RSA 677:15](#)).

- E. The Community Development Department maintains a record of all approved PUD master plans. The PUD is demarcated on the Zoning Map of the Town (over the underlying zoning district) and labeled based on the order in which the master plan was approved (as PUD-1, PUD-2, etc.).
- F. Subsequent to the PUD approval, the applicant submits a separate site plan application and/or subdivision application for development of the tract in accordance with the master plan. In the event of a conflict between the terms of the approved master plan and the terms of the site plan regulations or subdivision regulations, the terms of the approved master plan shall control.
- G. Any development on the subject property must be consistent with the approved master plan as determined by the Planning Board. While it is the master plan, rather than the underlying zoning district, that regulates development of the subject tract, there shall remain an underlying zoning designation for the tract at all times.
- H. In the event active and substantial development or building has not begun on the site by the owner or the owner's successor-in-interest in accordance with the approved master plan within four years after the date of approval, or in accordance with other specific terms of the approval, then the master plan shall be deemed to have expired and the underlying zoning shall then control development of the land. Landowners may apply to the Planning Board for extensions of this time period for good cause shown.
- I. Landowners may apply to amend all or a portion of an approved PUD following the same process applicable to the establishment of a PUD. A landowner may extinguish a PUD by notifying the Planning Board in writing that he/she does not intend to utilize the PUD.

5.2.4 PUD Master Plan

- A. In devising the PUD master plan, subject to specific limitations, guidelines, and objectives stated elsewhere in this ordinance, there is flexibility in the selection of land uses, density, setbacks, buffers, building heights, lot sizes, lot dimensions, parking requirements, and most site design and development standards contained in the Zoning Ordinance, Site Plan Regulations, Subdivision Regulations.
- B. The master plan is composed of all of the elements submitted by the applicant which describe the project including:
 - 1. A land use plan (drawing),
 - 2. Land use list,
 - 3. PUD application,
 - 4. Narrative,
 - 5. Architectural guidelines (if applicable),
 - 6. Any other development guidelines
 - 7. Any additions, deletions, modifications, and/or clarifications stipulated by the Planning Board in its approval.
- C. The land plan delineates one or more land use areas. An accompanying land use list gives a designation for each land use area specifying approximate acreage, types of uses, density and any other development standards peculiar to that area.

5.2.5 Basic Requirements

The following requirements apply:

- A. **Location.** PUD's are permitted in any zoning district on one or more lots, or portions of lots, of land provided they meet all other criteria outlined in this Section.
- B. **Tract size.** The minimum area required for a PUD shall be one hundred (100) contiguous acres of land. Where portions of the tract are separated by a road, road right-of-way, utility, waterway, or another like element, the land shall be deemed contiguous unless the intervening feature is of such a nature that the Planning Board determines that the land could not function effectively as a PUD.
 - 1. A PUD may include land which has been previously developed under the requirements of the underlying zoning only when, as part of the PUD Master Plan, the previously developed portion of land is substantially redeveloped in a manner which is consistent with the spirit of the PUD ordinance and which proposes improvements to such items as the aesthetics, architectural design, connectivity with the undeveloped part of the PUD and which creates a unified concept and design for the entire parcel.
- C. **Ownership.** The PUD shall either be under unified ownership or be a collection of lots under separate ownership with a development agreement stipulating all owners are subject to the requirements of any PUD Master Plan approval by the Planning Board at the time of application. However, the tract may be subsequently subdivided consistent with the terms and conditions of the approved master plan. Multiple parties may own, manage, and/or develop various components of the PUD provided that the overall PUD remains integrated.
- D. **Water and Sewer.** Only those tracts which contain buildings that will be serviced by water (Manchester Water Works, Derry Municipal Water, or Pennichuck Water) and municipal sewer systems (and determined to be reasonably consistent with the Town's Sewer Facilities Master Plan as determined by the Planning Board) are permitted to be included in a PUD.

5.2.6 Permitted Uses

- A. The uses listed in the PUD column of the Table of Uses (Section 4.1) may be proposed for inclusion in a PUD. However, no use is permitted in a PUD unless specifically approved by the Planning Board as part of the PUD Master Plan.
 - 1. Due to the unique characteristics of the Gateway Business District, Residential uses otherwise permitted in a PUD shall not be permitted in a PUD Master Plan for any lot with Gateway Business District as the underlying zoning district.
- B. Any uses that are permitted in the underlying zoning district, either by right, special exception or conditional use permit (at such time as this procedure may be established) shall be considered permitted uses in a PUD.

5.2.7 Standards of Development

The following standards shall apply to all PUD's:

- A. Off street parking and loading shall comply with Section 3.09 of the Site Plan Regulations for each proposed use. However, the Planning Board may grant waivers for parking if the Board finds that waivers will be compatible with the design and purposes of the PUD.
- B. Except for structures not intended for human occupancy (chimney, water tower, etc.) height of buildings shall not exceed 50 feet, or as specified by the Federal Aviation Administration as part of their permitting process or by the limitations outlined in the Airport Approach Height Overlay (Section 3.7.4).
- C. In PUD's where residential uses are proposed, the overall residential density of a PUD may not exceed six (6) residential dwelling units (including single family homes) per gross acre of the PUD tract. In determining appropriate density, in addition to other criteria here, the Planning Board shall pay special attention to the amount of buildable land contained on the tract as determined or reasonably estimated in the submission materials. Permitted non-residential uses may be located in a flexible spatial environment, assuring compatibility with residential uses and with the overall development design.
- D. The PUD shall be in compliance with:
 - 1. All standards contained within the Zoning Ordinance, Site Plan Regulations, and Subdivision Regulations unless waived or modified as part of the master plan; and
 - 2. All applicable local, state, and federal law relating to public health and safety, building construction, and drainage (these standards may not be waived or modified).
- E. All roads and structures shall be set back a minimum of fifty (50) feet from all exterior PUD tract boundaries which abut residential uses except where transportation or use linkages are desired. Landscaping and other screening devices shall be designed to provide a reasonable buffer between the PUD and adjoining property except where compatible uses adjoin one another.
- F. Any proposed covenants, restrictions, and easements must be approved by the Planning Board. A provision must be built into the documents providing for municipal enforcement of the covenants, restrictions, and easements at the Town's option and at the developer's expense under appropriate circumstances.
- G. In a PUD where ownership is subject to restrictions, covenants and other agreements, those documents shall be recorded in the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds.

5.2.8 Criteria for Review of PUD Proposals

The following criteria shall guide the Planning Board in determining appropriate land uses, densities, and other development standards for the PUD. It is emphasized that the determination of whether or not a proposal meets the intent and objectives of this ordinance is made by the Planning Board in its reasonable discretion.

- A. **General Considerations.** The Planning Board shall consider the following:
 - 1. Provisions of Town of Londonderry Zoning Ordinance, Site Plan Regulations, Subdivision Regulations, and other applicable town, state, and federal law, where appropriate.



2. Consistency with the Town of Londonderry Master Plan, and any related plans or studies (such as the Londonderry Business Park Design Charrette, Northwest Small Area Master Plan, etc.)
 3. Conformance with the intent and objectives of this Section.
 4. Infrastructure capacity and the effect of the PUD upon public services and public safety.
 5. Prospective fiscal impact upon the Town of Londonderry.
- B. **Specific objectives.** Every PUD shall incorporate a number of the following elements. Their usage defines a planned unit development and justifies departures from standards otherwise applicable under conventional zoning (introduction of new uses, more intensive land uses, higher density, novel design approaches, etc.).
1. Inclusion of a harmonious mix of uses.
 2. Provisions for quality architectural design.
 3. Placement of structures on most suitable sites with consideration of topography, soils, vegetation, slope, etc.
 4. Preservation of open space.
 5. Preservation of natural vegetation and other important natural features.
 6. Preservation of important cultural resources such as stone walls and other archaeological sites.
 7. Development of active or passive recreational areas.
 8. Quality landscaping.
 9. Use of sidewalks, bikeways, and other multi-use paths.
 10. Use of traffic mitigation, traffic calming, or Transportation Demand Management measures.
 11. Significant screening of, or rear placement of, parking areas.
 12. Sustainable design and construction practices promoting energy conservation.
 13. Other public benefits such as provision of a community center or day care center.
 14. Public access to community facilities in PUD.

5.2.9 Submission Requirements

- A. **Materials.** The applicant for a PUD shall provide the following materials (in format and number as reasonably determined by the Community Development Department):
1. Completed PUD application
 2. Narrative, including a statement of purpose for the PUD and how it meets the goals of this Section
 3. Proposed land plan
 4. Proposed land use list
 5. Completed abutters list
 6. PUD application fee
- B. **Information.** The applicant for a PUD shall provide the following information. Given the amount of information needed it is recommended that the plan be developed and refined through several conceptual/preliminary iterations with the staff and Planning Board. Many of

these items may be presented as approximations or preliminary estimates subject to change, where appropriate.

1. Present underlying zoning classification and zoning classification of all adjoining lots.
2. Topographic information on the tract including soil types, wetlands, surface water, land contours, natural and cultural resources, ridges and knolls, rock outcrops, steep slopes, etc. This information may be presented in an overview format, in less detail than would be required of a site plan or subdivision application provided that a clear sense of the tract is conveyed sufficient to evaluate the PUD proposal (for example, wetlands need not be professionally delineated if potentially wet low lying areas are roughly indicated).
3. Total acreage of the tract; rough delineation of each land use area with approximate acreage,
4. Proposed uses for each land use area, preferably given with some specificity.
5. Proposed total number of dwelling units and overall residential density for the tract (if applicable).
6. Proposed general estimates of location, size, use(s) for each structure.
7. Proposed general estimates of location, width, and materials of all streets, drives, sidewalks, and paths.
8. Proposed general estimates of location and number of spaces for each parking area.
9. Summary of proposed traffic impact, including preliminary estimates of trip generation, trip distribution, and potential areas of off-site transportation improvements.
10. Proposed open space areas.
11. Natural and cultural resources proposed to be preserved.
12. Proposed buffers, if appropriate, to adjoining property.
13. Sketch/plan of proposed landscaping.
14. Brief explanation or sketch of proposed water and sewer/septic systems.
15. Brief explanation or sketch of proposed stormwater management plan.
16. Brief explanation or sketch of other proposed utilities.
17. Brief explanation or sketch of proposed firefighting strategy.
18. Proposed architectural standards or guidelines or brief explanation/sketch of architectural treatment.
19. A "Signage Plan" shall be submitted. This document shall establish guidelines regulating and coordinating all signage within the PUD including general representations of tenant signage, development signage, directional signage, and vehicular and pedestrian traffic circulation signage. Specific criteria for design, size, proposed sign types (wall, free standing, etc.), materials, heights, colors, set-backs, projections and contextual issues shall be established. Any other sign design information as required by the Town shall also be provided.
20. Proposed time schedule for completion of the project, phasing schedule (if applicable depending on scale and type of PUD), plans for bonding if applicable, and well thought out plan to ensure that the amenities will be completed as proposed and in a timely manner.
21. Proposed covenants, restrictions and easements and how they will be monitored and enforced, if applicable.

22. Proposed ownership arrangement of each section of the PUD whether to be subdivided, held in fee simple, owned under a condominium arrangement, etc.
23. Proposed articles of incorporation and bylaws of any corporation and/or association to be formed.
24. *Miscellaneous Studies and Documents* - The Planning Board shall have the authority to require the submittal of any additional information, studies, documents, etc., relative to the design, operation, or maintenance of the proposed project.
25. Any other information that the Planning Board or the Town Attorney may deem reasonably necessary.

5.2.10 Interpretation/application of PUD master plan

The Planning Board shall review any site plan or subdivision application for its conformity with the approved PUD master plan; however, the PUD will have control over site review and subdivision regulations. The Board may use its discretion in determining if particular items are consistent with the intent of the plan.

- A. Many items in the PUD Master Plan will be presented and construed to be in preliminary sketch form subject to preparation of detailed, engineering analysis and some modification at the site plan/subdivision application stage consistent with the master plan. These items include exact lot locations and layouts, exact locations of roads and paths, size and configuration of parking lots, utility information, water and sewer/septic, drainage, landscaping, and architectural renderings. (For example, the land plan may show numerous trees to be planted. The applicant would be able to significantly modify the locations and types of planting at the site plan stage provided the intent of the landscaping element as presented in the land plan is met.)
- B. All development standards must ultimately be determinable for each land use area. Where specific development standards are neither stated nor implied in the PUD master plan, the most appropriate standards otherwise applicable (from the Zoning Ordinance, Site Plan Regulations, and/or Subdivision Regulations) shall apply as determined by the Planning Board. (For example, an area designated for a particular use in the PUD master plan does not specify front setbacks. The front setbacks contained in the appropriate underlying zoning district would then apply.)

5.2.11 Fees

The application fees for a PUD are as follows:

- A. \$20.00 per gross acre of the tract not to exceed \$5,000
- B. Legal notice and abutter notification fees shall be as determined in the latest version of the Town's Subdivision and Site Plan Regulations.

5.3 Conservation Subdivisions

5.3.1 Purposes

Town of Londonderry, New Hampshire



Planning & Economic Development Department
268B Mammoth Road
Town Hall – 2nd Floor

603-432-1100
603-432-1128

www.londonderrynh.org

Planning – Zoning – Economic Development – Conservation

MEMORANDUM

TO: Planning Board

FROM: Kellie Caron, Deputy Town Manager & Director of Economic Development

DATE: October 8, 2025

RE: Summary of Amendments – LZO Section 5.2 Planned Unit Development (PUD)

Background

On **July 7, 2025**, the Town Council adopted the following motion:

Motion 2: Direct Town Manager to Draft Amendments

I move that the Town Council direct the Town Manager to prepare draft amendments to the Planned Unit Development ordinance and proceed in accordance with the process outlined in Section 8.6 of the Londonderry Zoning Ordinance. The proposed amendments should address the following: Clarify the purpose and objectives of the ordinance to support housing diversity, infrastructure efficiency, and environmental protection; Amend the review process to include enhanced public participation through multiple public meetings and hearings; Establish clear, measurable development standards for open space, affordable housing, mixed-use development, and environmental protections; and Strengthen the criteria and justification required for any modifications or waivers to ordinance standards.

Pursuant to this directive, staff conducted a comprehensive review of Section 5.2 (Planned Unit Development) using **APA (American Planning Association) guidance, New Hampshire statutory authority (RSA 674:21), and ordinances from peer New Hampshire municipalities.** The attached amended draft reflects both the Council's directive and contemporary best practices in land use regulation.

Summary of Changes

The amended ordinance includes the following substantive updates:

1. Purpose & Objectives (Sec. 5.2.2)

- Clarifies PUD objectives consistent with the Council's July 2025 motion.
- Expands focus on **housing diversity, mixed-use opportunities, infrastructure efficiency, environmental protection, and economic vitality.**

2. Definitions (Sec. 5.2.3)

- Revised to align with APA and NH community standards.
- Clarifies key terms including **Planned Unit Development, Density Bonus, and Open Space.**

3. Administration & Review Process (Sec. 5.2.4)

- Incorporates **pre-application consultations, conceptual Planning Board discussions, and community input sessions.**
- Requires structured public hearings and written findings.
- Implements Council directive for **enhanced public participation.**

4. PUD Master Plan & Submission Requirements (Secs. 5.2.5 & 5.2.9)

- Requires comprehensive **Master Plan submission** supported by a **checklist adopted by the Planning Board.**
- Establishes measurable standards for **land use, density, open space, housing, and environmental protections.**

5. Eligibility & Permitted Uses (Secs. 5.2.6 & 5.2.7)

- Establishes tract size thresholds
- Clarifies permitted/prohibited uses and expressly support **mixed-use development** where appropriate.

6. Standards of Development (Sec. 5.2.8)

- Introduces a **Density Bonus Framework** (up to 25% above baseline) linked to community benefits: affordable housing, open space preservation, sustainable design, public amenities, and mixed-use integration.
- Adds measurable criteria for building height, parking, setbacks, and buffers.
- Requires covenants and easements to be recorded with municipal enforcement provisions.

7. **Planning Board Review Criteria (Sec. 5.2.8)**

- Expands evaluation to include fiscal impacts, infrastructure adequacy, preservation of natural and cultural resources, and public benefits.
- Strengthens standards for **harmonious mix of uses** and **sustainable design**.

8. **Interpretation, Application, and Fees (Secs. 5.2.10–5.2.12)**

- Clarifies the **PUD Master Plan as the controlling document**.
- Establishes fee-setting authority under the **Town Council Land Use Fee Schedule**.

References Used

- **Town Council Motion 2, July 2025** – directing amendments to Section 5.2.
- **APA Planning Advisory Service Reports:**
 - PAS Report 545, *The Principles of Planned Unit Development* (APA, 2006).
 - PAS Report 556, *Innovative Tools for Zoning and Subdivision* (APA, 2007).
 - PAS QuickNotes No. 12, *Planned Unit Developments*.
- **New Hampshire Statutes:**
 - RSA 674:21, *Innovative Land Use Controls*.
 - RSA 676:4, *Planning Board Procedures on Subdivision and Site Plans*.
 - RSA 677:15, *Appeals of Planning Board Decisions*.
- **Municipal Ordinances Reviewed:** Amherst, Bedford, Durham, Exeter, NH.

Conclusion & Next Steps

The revised Planned Unit Development (PUD) ordinance implements the Town Council's July 2025 directive, incorporates APA best practices, and strengthens Londonderry's regulatory framework for innovative, mixed-use, and sustainable development.

The Planning Board's task is to review the draft, provide feedback, and participate in work sessions to refine the language prior to public hearing and Town Council consideration.

Tentative Timeline

Planning Board (PB)

- October 8, 2025 – Introduction & Work Session: Presentation of initial amendments; Board discussion and feedback.
- November 12, 2025 – Work Session: Incorporation of revisions based on October session; further refinement.
- December 2025 (Date TBD) – Public Hearing: Formal public hearing on the proposed amendments, consistent with the Londonderry Zoning Ordinance.

Town Council (TC)

- January 5, 2026 – First Reading: Council consideration of Planning Board recommendations following work sessions and hearing.
- January 19, 2026 – Public Hearing & Adoption: Final Council review and vote on ordinance amendments.