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**Purposes of Planning Law and the Planning Board:** Planning law is an important tool for the implementation of urban land use and development policies. Common land use planning concerns are:

- Spatial issues, concerning where development of varying intensities should be located, with consideration given to natural and man-made hazards, such as floodplains, unstable soils, and airport hazards; with consideration given to environmentally-sensitive area, such as wetlands and unique plant and animal habitat; and with consideration given to resource conservation, such as preservation of prime agricultural or mineral lands, historic districts, and archaeological sites.
- Timing issues, involving when development should occur, tied to availability of necessary systems, such as water and sewer, and essential public services, such as schools, police and fire protection, plowing, and other road maintenance requirements. The rate at which such services are extended to new developments is frequently a matter of fiscal constraints.
- Functional and Appearance issues, involving how a development should look and perform when completed. Concerns such as habitability standards, vehicular and pedestrian safety, resource conservation, and preservation of existing natural features are relevant.

To carry out these purposes, Planning Board members also serve on Ludlow's Building Additions and Alterations Committee, the Capital Expenditures Committee; the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission; Ludlow's Fair Housing Committee; the Air installation Compatible Use Zoning Commission; the Rail Trail Committee; the Open Space Land use Committee; and the Westover A.F.R.B. Noise Pollution Abatement Committee. In addition, the Planning Board Chairman serves as a member-at-large at the Ludlow Town Meeting.

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