Town of Newington
New Hampshire

Master Plan 2010-2020

Adopted by the Newington Planning Board on November 9, 2009
The flat barge-like vessel in the center of the Town Seal (above) portrays the Piscataqua River Gundalow, a work horse of river transportation. It was of shallow draft with ample cargo space to carry bricks, wood for kilns, lumber, farm produce, and southern cotton from the port of Portsmouth to upriver mills.

The arrows in the stumps commemorate early attacks by Native Americans. The flintlock musket, powder horn and plow, abandoned in the furrow, honor the embattled farmer ancestors and every generation since who have served in all the wars of the Colony and the Republic.

The spears of grass surrounding the emblem are the feed grass timothy, a species that was first discovered on the Newington shores of the Piscataqua.
Newington Planning Board

Back row from left to right: Cosmas Iocovozzi, Jack Pare, Chris Cross, Denis Hebert (Chair), Michael Marconi (Vice Chair), Cliff Abbott, Tom Bobotas, and Peggy Lamson
The final resting place of Valentine Pickering appears to be atop a containment dike adjacent to Tank #30006 at Sprague Energy's Bloody Point Terminal (Mr. Pickering's remains were subsequently moved to the Town Cemetery). Sprague's facility is one of several tank farms situated along a three mile stretch of Newington's Piscataqua River waterfront. These tank farms comprise some three quarters of New Hampshire's bulk petroleum reserves.

Newington's waterfront has seen many changes since Mr. Pickering's demise in 1870. His gravestone is a tangible remnant of the town's long and colorful history. The unusual juxtaposition of this gravestone alongside a 30,000 barrel oil storage tank highlights the complexity of the task facing Newington's municipal planners: how to best preserve the town's historic resources and community identity, while protecting the natural environment and encouraging sustainable economic growth that will benefit the entire region.
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John Frink Rowe (1909-1986), good citizen, Navy man, artist, author, staunch protector of the town he loved, and member of the Newington Planning Board from 1954 to 1986. Preparation of Newington's first master plan commenced in 1985 under the direction of Captain Rowe.