

STATE GOAL

There is no state goal that specifically addresses population. However, all the other goals of the Growth Management Act depend on an understanding of the population and demographic data for Clifton and the region.

INTRODUCTION

To draft and adopt a comprehensive plan that will function well as a growth management rudder for the Town’s future course requires an understanding of Clifton’s population and its characteristics. Before attempting crystal ball predictions, it will be wise to look back at the history of Clifton’s population growth. An important goal of a comprehensive plan is to provide for a productive relationship between the future population and important community resources. Accordingly, most phases of the Comprehensive Plan are either dependent upon, or strongly influenced by the size and composition of the Town's population.

TOTAL POPULATION AND RATES OF CHANGE

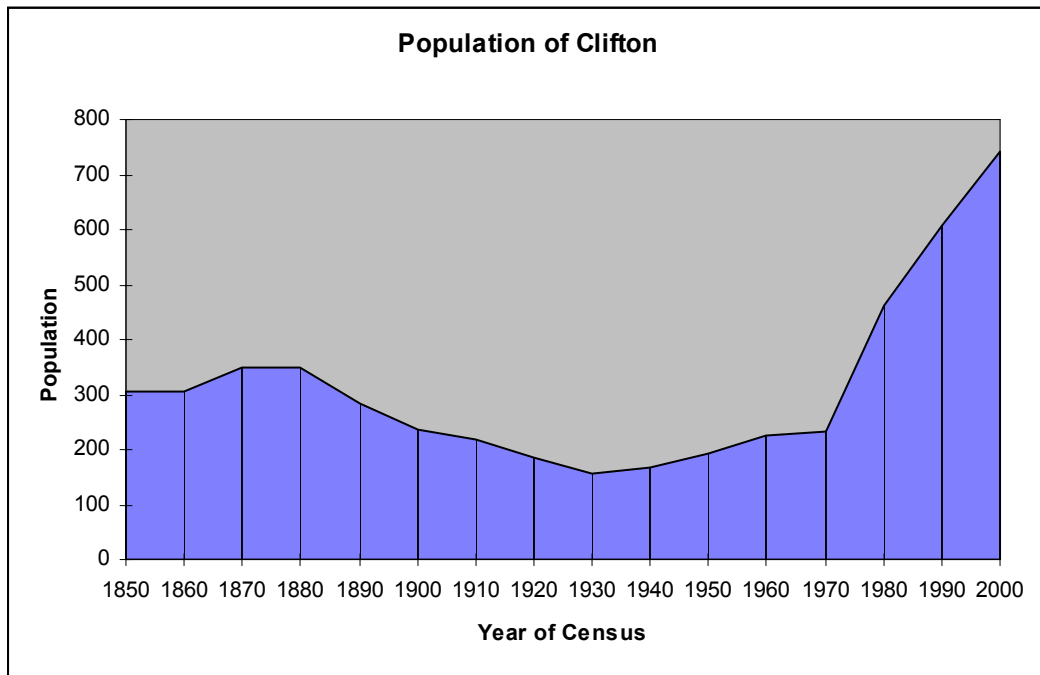
The first Census recorded for Clifton was in 1850. The table below shows the population for each Census year from 1850 to 2000 and the rate of change.

Table B-1

| TOWN OF CLIFTON HISTORIC POPULATION | | |
|--|-------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Year</i> | <i>Population</i> | <i>Rate of Change</i> |
| 1850 | 306 | -- |
| 1860 | 307 | 0.33% |
| 1870 | 348 | 13.36% |
| 1880 | 350 | 0.57% |
| 1890 | 284 | -18.86% |
| 1900 | 236 | -16.90% |
| 1910 | 217 | -8.05% |
| 1920 | 185 | -14.75% |
| 1930 | 156 | -15.68% |
| 1940 | 168 | 7.69% |
| 1950 | 193 | 14.88% |
| 1960 | 227 | 17.62% |
| 1970 | 233 | 2.64% |
| 1980 | 462 | 98.28% |
| 1990 | 607 | 31.39% |
| 2000 | 743 | 22.41% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Chart B-1



Mirroring the rural population of the whole country, Clifton's population peaked between 1850 and 1880 and then declined steadily to 1930. Following a modest increase in the 1930s, the conclusion of World War II and the baby boom nudged Clifton's population growth up into double digits in the 1940s and 1950s. After holding steady in the 1960s, Clifton experienced a dramatic 98.3% growth in the 1970s, from 233 to 462. Remember this was the back-to-the-earth era when the youth of Maine and the Nation sought to reconnect with America's roots. Clifton is ideal to live off the land, unfettered by technology and bureaucracy. Not as meteoric, but still substantial, population growth for the Town was 31.4% in the 1980s (to 607), and 22.4% in the 1990s, reaching 743 in the year 2000.

POPULATION HISTORIC TREND COMPARISONS

As mentioned previously in the Plan, the Town of Clifton, although located in Penobscot County, is also very much tied to Hancock County. Therefore Clifton's characteristics will also be compared to those of Hancock County and neighboring communities of Amherst and Otis in Hancock County.

The Table below shows rates of change in population from 1960 to 2000. It reveals that Clifton's population and growth rate changes do not follow the same curve as the nearby towns of Eddington and Holden, Penobscot County as a whole, or the State. In the past 30 years Clifton has experienced a population growth unlike any other in its history. The Town more than tripled in number between 1970 and 2000. Although the Town has had its own pattern of development, it does not mean the Town is unaffected by what is happening in its region or across the town line. The same social and economic forces that propelled strong growth for Holden (33.9%) and Eddington (41.8%) in the 1960s did not translate into growth

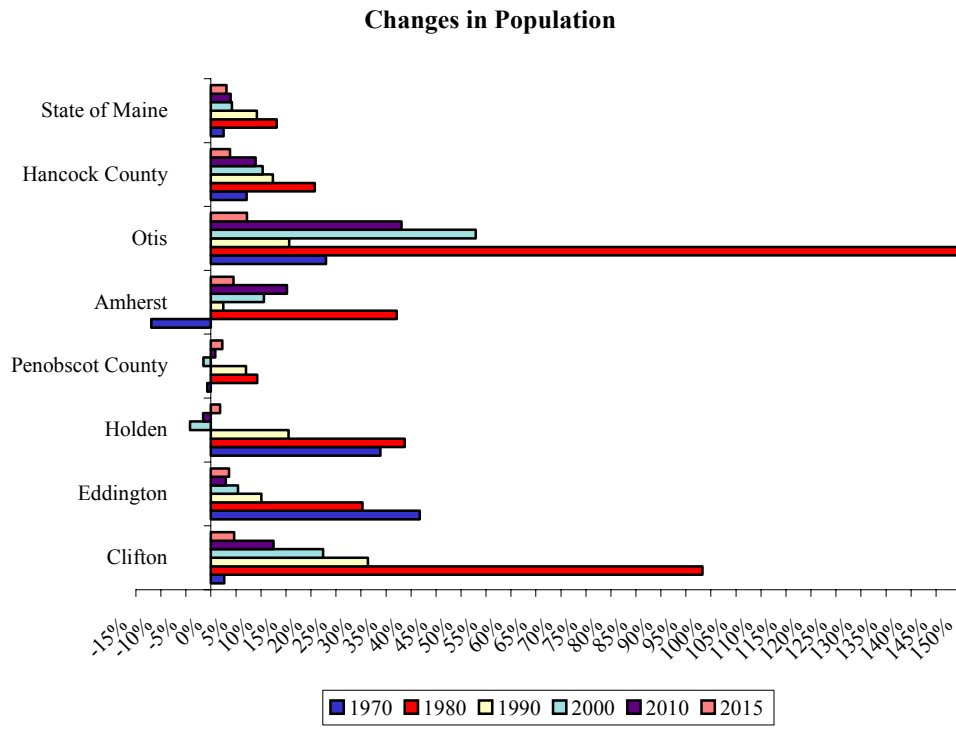
for Clifton. Whatever drove Clifton's growth in the 1970s did not similarly affect those towns to the same degree.

Table B-2

| COMPARATIVE RATES OF CHANGE IN POPULATION 1960-2010 | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|--------------------|
| | 1960 | 1970 | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 Projection | 2015 Projection |
| Clifton | 227 | 233 | 462 | 607 | 743 | 836 | 875 |
| Rate of Change | | 2.64% | 98.28% | 31.39% | 22.41% | 12.52% | 4.67% |
| Eddington | 958 | 1,358 | 1,769 | 1,947 | 2,052 | 2,113 | 2,189 |
| Rate of Change | | 41.75% | 30.27% | 10.06% | 5.39% | 2.97% | 3.60% |
| Holden | 1,375 | 1,841 | 2,554 | 2,951 | 2,827 | 2,783 | 2,833 |
| Rate of Change | | 33.89% | 38.73% | 15.54% | -4.20% | -1.56% | 1.80% |
| Penobscot County | 126,346 | 125,393 | 137,015 | 146,601 | 144,415 | 145,621 | 148,893 |
| Rate of Change | | -0.75% | 9.27% | 7.00% | -1.49% | 0.84% | 2.25% |
| Amherst | 168 | 148 | 203 | 208 | 230 | 265 | 277 |
| Rate of Change | | -11.90% | 37.16% | 2.46% | 10.58% | 15.22% | 4.53% |
| Otis | 100 | 123 | 307 | 355 | 543 | 750 | 804 |
| Rate of Change | | 23.00% | 149.59% | 15.64% | 52.96% | 38.12% | 7.20% |
| Hancock County | 32,293 | 34,590 | 41,781 | 46,948 | 51,791 | 56,428 | 58,569 |
| Rate of Change | | 7.11% | 20.79% | 12.37% | 10.32% | 8.95% | 3.79% |
| State of Maine | 969,265 | 993,663 | 1,124,660 | 1,227,928 | 1,279,470 | 1,330,117 | 1,371,022 |
| Rate of Change | | 2.52% | 13.18% | 9.18% | 4.20% | 3.96% | 3.08% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
 Maine State Planning Office Projections
 Fogler Library www.library.umaine.edu/census/townsearch.htm

Chart B-2



POPULATION BY GENDER

The following table breaks down Clifton’s population by gender. Generally, females are the predominant population because they statistically tend to live longer than males. However, the 2000 Census reports a slightly higher male population than female population.

Table B-3

| POPULATION BY GENDER | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| TOWN OF CLIFTON | | | | | |
| Year | Female | Percent | Male | Percent | Total |
| 2000 | 370 | 49.80% | 373 | 50.20% | 743 |
| 1990 | 309 | 50.91% | 298 | 49.09% | 607 |
| 1980 | 236 | 51.08% | 226 | 48.92% | 462 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

POPULATION BY AGE

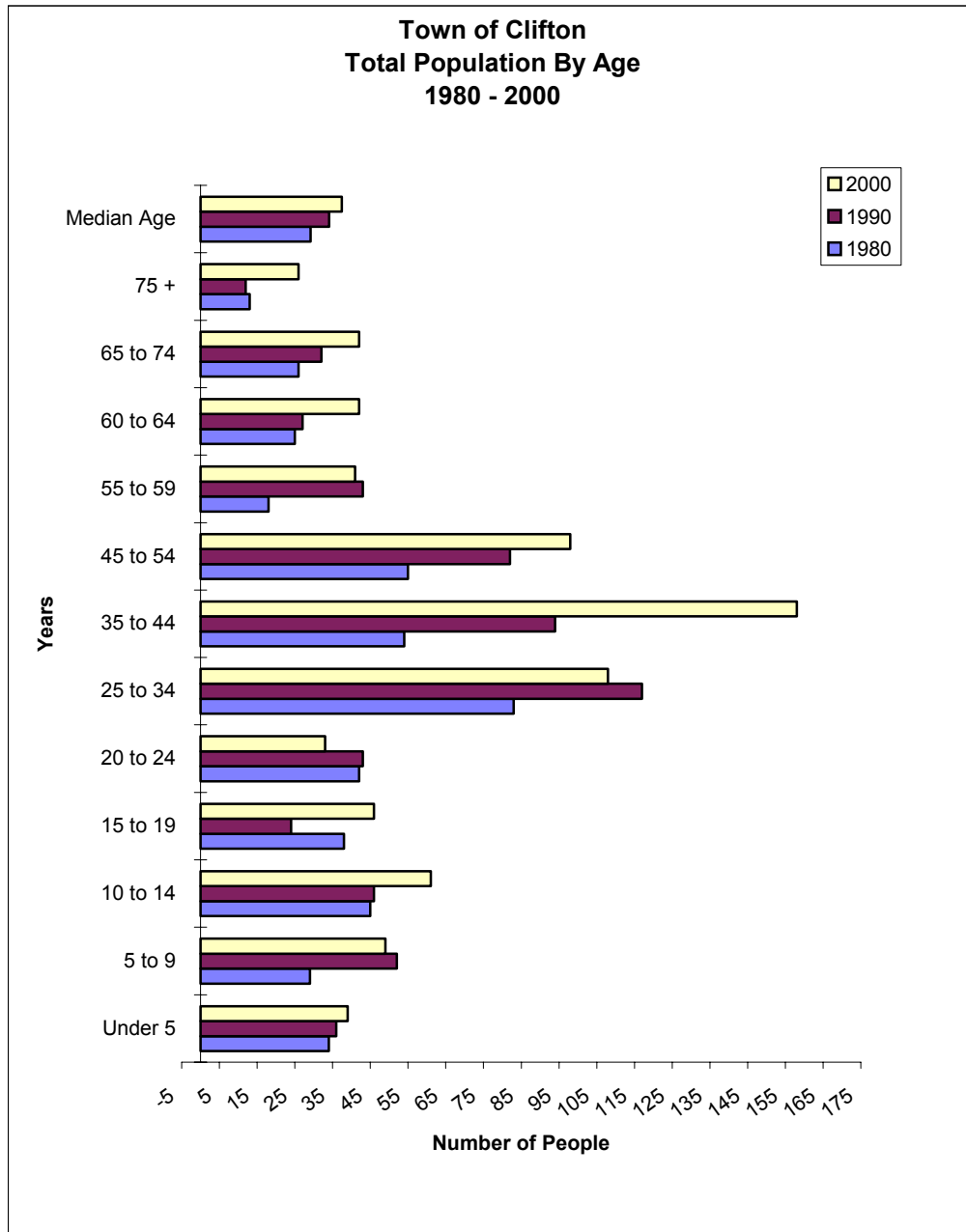
Demographic changes affect income, consumer expenditures, the labor force, demand for education at all levels, demand for human resources, and state revenues and expenses. The U.S. Census Bureau counts the number and percentage of people who fall within specified age groups in each geographic area. The Table shows the age distribution for Clifton's population for each of the last three census reports.

Table B-4

| TOWN OF CLIFTON POPULATION BY AGE AND RATES OF CHANGE 1980 -2000 | | | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| | 1980 | 1990 | Rate of Change | 2000 | Rate of Change |
| Under 5 | 34 | 36 | 5.88% | 39 | 8.33% |
| 5 to 9 | 29 | 52 | 79.31% | 49 | -5.77% |
| 10 to 14 | 45 | 46 | 2.22% | 61 | 32.61% |
| 15 to 19 | 38 | 24 | -36.84% | 46 | 91.67% |
| 20 to 24 | 42 | 43 | 2.38% | 33 | -23.26% |
| 25 to 34 | 83 | 117 | 40.96% | 108 | -7.69% |
| 35 to 44 | 54 | 94 | 74.07% | 158 | 68.09% |
| 45 to 54 | 55 | 82 | 49.09% | 98 | 19.51% |
| 55 to 59 | 18 | 43 | 138.89% | 41 | -4.65% |
| 60 to 64 | 25 | 27 | 8.00% | 42 | 55.56% |
| 65 to 74 | 26 | 32 | 23.08% | 42 | 31.25% |
| 75+ | 13 | 12 | -7.69% | 26 | 116.67% |
| Median Age | 29.2 | 34.1 | 16.78% | 37.4 | 9.68% |

Source: US Census Bureau

Chart B-3



In the past 20 years the age distribution of Clifton’s population has shifted. However, one statistic remains the same; the population is aging. The median age has increased from 29.2 in 1980 to 37.4 years in 2000. This trend is felt statewide.

In order to have a sufficient and economically viable entry-level work force, it is important for the young adult population (20 to 24) to be maintained and properly trained. The young adult population in Clifton decreased by approximately 30% from 1990 to 2000. Projections in this age group are also somewhat skewed as the State Planning Office has broken down age groups differently from the Census Bureau when calculating projections. However, it is safe to say more decreases in this population segment are expected through the year 2015.

The 25 to 44 years old population brings more than dollars to economy. Generally, this segment of the population participates actively in the workforce, purchases homes, start businesses and have children enrolled in school. Clifton’s 25 to 44 years old population has increased by approximately 26% from 1990 to 2000, and again although not comparing apples to apples in segments, it is safe to assume that Clifton will continue to experience population growth in this segment through the year 2015, however at a slower pace.

Peak earning years for workers happens between the ages of 45 and 54, making it very important economically for a community to maintain that population segment. Clifton’s 45 to 64 years population increased by 19.1% from 1990 to 2000 and is expected to experience continued growth until 2010.

Maine has one of the oldest populations in the United States. The senior population (65+) in Maine as a whole has grown rapidly and is projected to continue increasing, causing communities to shift special services and public support to meet the needs of the elderly, which is quite challenging in rural communities where services are not always readily available. Clifton’s 65+ population increased by 54.5% from 1990 to 2000 and is projected to continue increasing through the year 2015. The tables below show population projections by age segment for the Town of Clifton.

Table B-5

| TOWN OF CLIFTON CHANGES IN POPULATION FROM 2000 CENSUS TO 2003 PROJECTIONS | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| | 2000 | 2003 | Rate of Change |
| Under 5 | 39 | 39 | 0.00% |
| 5 to 19 / 5 to 17 | 156 | 148 | -5.13% |
| 20 to 34 / 18 to 29 | 141 | 86 | -39.01% |
| 35 to 44 / 30 to 44 | 158 | 236 | 49.37% |
| 45 to 64 | 181 | 198 | 9.39% |
| 65 to 74 / 65 to 79 | 42 | 58 | 38.10% |
| 75+/80+ | 26 | 17 | -34.62% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Maine State Planning Office Projections

Because the Maine State Planning Office breaks down age groups differently than the U.S. Census Bureau, a precise rate of change using projections of each age group cannot be acquired. However, it is important to remember that projections are educated guesses used in order to plan and are not intended to be precise. It is important to project how population will be broken out to identify the future needs of the community.

Table B-6

| TOWN OF CLIFTON POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY AGE | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| | 2003 | 2010 | Rate of Change | 2015 | Rate of Change |
| 0 to 4 | 39 | 40 | 2.56% | 41 | 2.50% |
| 5 to 17 | 148 | 155 | 4.73% | 163 | 5.16% |
| 18 to 29 | 86 | 90 | 4.65% | 85 | -5.56% |
| 30 to 44 | 236 | 240 | 1.69% | 259 | 7.92% |
| 45 to 64 | 198 | 225 | 13.64% | 225 | 0.00% |
| 65 to 79 | 58 | 65 | 12.07% | 80 | 23.08% |
| 80+ | 17 | 21 | 23.53% | 22 | 4.76% |
| Total | 782 | 836 | 6.91% | 875 | 4.67% |

Source: Maine State Planning Office

Table B-7

| PENOBSCOT COUNTY POPULATION BY AGE AND RATES OF CHANGE 1980 - 2000 | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------------|
| | 1980 | 1990 | Rate of Change | 2000 | Rate of Change |
| 0 to 4 | 9,309 | 9,639 | 3.54% | 7,768 | -19.41% |
| 5 to 19 | 58,756 | 32,323 | -44.99% | 30,688 | -5.06% |
| 20 to 24 | 23,091 | 13,229 | -42.71% | 10,962 | -17.14% |
| 25 to 44 | 36,446 | 46,884 | 28.64% | 42,028 | -10.36% |
| 45 to 64 | 25,255 | 27,580 | 9.21% | 34,553 | 25.28% |
| 65 to 79 | 14,158 | 15,199 | 7.35% | 16,744 | 10.17% |
| 80+ | * included in previous category | 1,747 | -- | 2,176 | 24.56% |
| Total | 137,015 | 146,601 | 7.00% | 144,919 | -1.15% |
| Median age | 28.2 | 32.5 | | 37.2 | |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table B-8

| PENOBSCOT COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY AGE AND RATES OF CHANGE 2003 - 2015 | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| | 2003 | 2010 | Rate of Change | 2015 | Rate of Change |
| 0 to 4 | 7,716 | 7,747 | 0.40% | 7,829 | 1.06% |
| 5 to 19 | 23,326 | 20,858 | -10.58% | 21,216 | 1.72% |
| 18 to 29 | 25,339 | 26,587 | 4.93% | 25,013 | -5.92% |
| 30 to 44 | 31,533 | 28,284 | -10.30% | 29,580 | 4.58% |
| 45 to 64 | 37,162 | 41,960 | 12.91% | 41,979 | 0.05% |
| 65 to 79 | 14,058 | 14,973 | 6.51% | 18,051 | 20.56% |
| 80+ | 4,893 | 5,212 | 6.52% | 5,225 | 0.25% |
| Total | 144,027 | 145,621 | 1.11% | 148,893 | 2.25% |

Source: Maine State Planning Office

Table B-9

| STATE OF MAINE POPULATION BY AGE AND RATES OF CHANGE 1980 - 2000 | | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| | 1980 | 1990 | Rate of Change | 2000 | Rate of Change |
| 0 to 4 | 78,514 | 85,806 | 9.29% | 70,726 | -17.57% |
| 5 to 19 | 242,873 | 261,056 | 7.49% | 264,759 | 1.42% |
| 20 to 24 | 141,433 | 85,453 | -39.58% | 69,656 | -18.49% |
| 25 to 44 | 301,524 | 400,268 | 32.75% | 370,597 | -7.41% |
| 45 to 64 | 219,398 | 232,185 | 5.83% | 315,783 | 36.00% |
| 65 to 84 | 140,918 | 145,316 | 3.12% | 160,086 | 10.16% |
| 85+ | * included in previous category | 17,844 | | 23,316 | 30.67% |
| Total | 1,124,660 | 1,227,928 | 9.18% | 1,274,923 | 3.83% |
| Median age | 30.4 | 33.9 | | 38.6 | |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Table B-10

| STATE OF MAINE POPULATION PROJECTIONS BY AGE AND RATES OF CHANGE 2003 - 2015 | | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|---------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| | 2003 | 2010 | Rate of Change | 2015 | Rate of Change |
| 0 to 4 | 70,842 | 72,043 | 1.70% | 73,041 | 1.39% |
| 5 to 19 | 217,108 | 199,393 | -8.16% | 204,145 | 2.38% |
| 18 to 29 | 179,780 | 189,784 | 5.56% | 178,802 | -5.79% |
| 30 to 44 | 286,730 | 261,676 | -8.74% | 274,751 | 5.00% |
| 45 to 64 | 348,938 | 408,070 | 16.95% | 411,622 | 0.87% |
| 65 to 79 | 146,405 | 155,493 | 6.21% | 187,337 | 20.48% |
| 80+ | 53,008 | 58,631 | 10.61% | 59,375 | 1.27% |
| Total | 1,302,811 | 1,345,090 | 3.25% | 1,389,073 | 3.27% |

Source: Maine State Planning Office

MIGRATION

Net migration is defined as the number of people that the Town has gained or lost after factoring out the actual number of births and deaths. If the Town has lost population after being adjusted for natural births and deaths it is referred to as out-migration. If the Town has gained population after being adjusted for natural births and deaths it is referred to as in-migration.

By 1980 for every person who lived in Clifton in 1970 there was now one more. It will be interesting to discover, if we can, where this in-migration settled and how the Town accommodated itself to such an explosion in population. The Table below will show that Clifton’s migration, although experiencing continued in-migration has slowed down. From 1980 to 1990 in-migration was almost half of the decade before at 21.91% (133 persons) and from 1990 to 2000 in-migration is calculated at 15.61% (116 persons). In 2000, Clifton’s in-migration rates in Clifton are much higher than that of the State, Penobscot County or Hancock County.

Table B-11

| MIGRATION PATTERNS | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|
| | Population | | | 1980-1990 Intercensal | | 1990-2000 Intercensal | | 1990 Migration | | 2000 Migration | |
| | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | Births | Deaths | Births | Deaths | Persons | % | Persons | % |
| Clifton | 462 | 607 | 743 | 61 | 49 | 68 | 48 | 133 | 21.91% | 116 | 15.61% |
| Penobscot County | 137,015 | 146,601 | 144,919 | 16,436 | 12,760 | 19,106 | 11,652 | -5,358 | -3.70% | 2,132 | 1.50% |
| Hancock County | 41,781 | 46,948 | 51,791 | 6,253 | 4,785 | 5,261 | 5,248 | 3,699 | 7.88% | 4,830 | 9.33% |
| State of Maine | 1,124,660 | 1,227,928 | 1,274,923 | 148,158 | 116,087 | 167,922 | 109,672 | 14,924 | 1.17% | 45,018 | 3.40% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Maine Department of Human Services

Anecdotal testimony indicates that for the last 20 years, in-migration may have been driven by the desire to live in the country, have some elbow-room, have less regulation, lower property taxes, more freedom to live as one pleases. Clifton’s lure as a place to buy or build a home seems to come from both the availability of attractive shoreland and residential lots and affordability in the real estate market.

SEASONAL POPULATION

From census data, we can also learn some helpful facts about the Town’s seasonal population. Conventional wisdom would be that Clifton has a noticeable seasonal population. The table below tracks census data for the period 1980 through 2000 on the number of seasonal, recreational, or occasional use dwellings in each geographic area and the percentage of these dwellings relative to all the dwellings in the area.

Table B-12

| SEASONAL, RECREATIONAL OR OCCASIONAL USE DWELLINGS RATE OF CHANGE AND PERCENT OF TOTAL HOUSING UNITS | | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 |
| Clifton | 120 | 113 | 99 |
| Rate of Change | | -5.83% | -12.39% |
| Total Housing Units | 305 | 375 | 416 |
| Percent of Total Housing Units | 39.34% | 30.13% | 23.80% |
| Eddington | 48 | 64 | 57 |
| Rate of Change | | 33.33% | -10.94% |
| Total Housing Units | 664 | 843 | 920 |
| Percent of Total Housing Units | 7.23% | 7.59% | 6.20% |
| Holden | 123 | 134 | 113 |
| Rate of Change | | 8.94% | -15.67% |
| Total Housing Units | 1,106 | 1,333 | 1,320 |
| Percent of Total Housing Units | 11.12% | 10.05% | 8.56% |
| Penobscot County | 3,999 | 4,038 | 4,962 |
| Rate of Change | | 0.98% | 22.88% |
| Total Housing Units | 53,415 | 61,359 | 66,847 |
| Percent of Total Housing Units | 7.49% | 6.58% | 7.42% |
| Amherst | 37 | 38 | 28 |
| Rate of Change | | 2.70% | -26.32% |
| Total Housing Units | 123 | 135 | 153 |
| Percent of Total Housing Units | 30.08% | 28.15% | 18.30% |
| Otis | 440 | 462 | 431 |
| Rate of Change | | 5.00% | -6.71% |
| Total Housing Units | 528 | 599 | 678 |
| Percent of Total Housing Units | 81.06% | 83.33% | 63.57% |
| Hancock County | 7,988 | 10,136 | 10,672 |
| Rate of Change | | 26.89% | 5.29% |
| Total Housing Units | 25,062 | 30,396 | 33,945 |
| Percent of Total Housing Units | 31.87% | 33.35% | 31.44% |
| State of Maine | 79,249 | 88,039 | 101,470 |
| Rate of Change | | 11.09% | 15.26% |
| Total Housing Units | 501,093 | 587,045 | 651,901 |
| Percent of Total Housing Units | 15.82% | 15.00% | 15.57% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

As might have been guessed, percentage wise, Clifton has significantly more seasonal use than Eddington or Holden, slightly more than Amherst, but is far outdistanced by Mariaville and Otis. While Eddington and Holden are in the same ball park as Penobscot County,

Clifton's seasonal population is considerably larger than the statewide percentages, which hover around 15%. It may be reasonable to view Clifton as more nearly shadowing its Hancock County neighbor than its own county in the timing and character of its growth. The actual number of seasonal dwellings in some of the towns cited has declined while the county and state figures have risen. A reasonable explanation may be that, at least for the

town's cited, existing dwellings have been converted from seasonal use to year-round use. This would seem to be confirmed by personal observation.

Although it may be inferred that Clifton's seasonal population has declined as the number of dwellings in this category has declined; again, personal observation leads at least to the possibility that these dwellings are being used more often in the 'off season' and that occasional weekend use year-round may have increased. It seems safe to, at least tentatively, conclude that Clifton had and continues to have a significant 'seasonal population' in the broadest sense but it is difficult to quantify. In the Spring of 1968, the only year-round residents on the Scott Point Road were George and Margie Baker, who lived on the Eddington side of the road. All other dwellings were used as seasonal dwellings only. Today, most of those seasonal dwellings have been converted to year-round housing.

It may also be safe to conclude that some of the housing need created by the Town's population growth has been met by the conversion of seasonal dwellings to year-round residences and vice versa. That is, at least some of Clifton's in-migration was due to seasonal residences becoming year-round homes. The trend of converting seasonal to year-round residences may strain the Town's natural resources, generate increasing demands for road maintenance and waste disposal, and make obvious an increased need for code enforcement.

GROUP QUARTERS

A group quarters is a living quarter where residents share common facilities or receive formally authorized care. Examples include college dormitories, retirement homes, and communes. For some group quarters, such as fraternity and sorority houses and certain types of group houses, a group quarters is distinguished from a housing unit if it houses ten or more unrelated people. The group quarters population is classified as institutional or noninstitutional and as military or civilian.

Clifton does not have a significant group quarters population. The 2000 Census reported one person living in noninstitutionalized group quarters.

HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSEHOLD SIZE

Although total population continues to increase, demographic changes show smaller households, indicating that fewer people are living in more housing units. This trend may be attributable to young adults leaving home and setting up one-person and two-person households; families with smaller numbers of children; higher divorce rates; and more elderly people living longer and on their own. The Fannie Mae Foundation cites shrinking household size as one of the top ten influences of the future. The Fannie Mae Foundation contends that the decreasing size of households will encourage suburban development of apartment houses and condominiums. It will also encourage "smart growth" through the revival of central cities as more nontraditional households require the flexibility, convenience and diversity that cities provide.

Table B-13

| NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS AND RATE OF CHANGE | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 Projection |
| Clifton | 165 | 222 | 303 | 430 |
| Rate of Change | | 34.55% | 36.49% | 41.91% |
| Penobscot County | 45,974 | 54,063 | 58,096 | 66,191 |
| Rate of Change | | 17.59% | 7.46% | 13.93% |
| Hancock County | 15,411 | 18,342 | 21,864 | 26,442 |
| Rate of Change | | 19.02% | 19.20% | 20.94% |
| State of Maine | 395,184 | 465,312 | 518,200 | 596,465 |
| Rate of Change | | 17.75% | 11.37% | 15.10% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Projections: are based on a twenty-year period using linear regression analysis.

Clifton has experienced a significantly large increase in number of households and that trend is projected to continue. Clifton's households are increasing at a higher percentage of Penobscot County, Hancock County and the State of Maine.

Table B- 14

| AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE AND RATE OF CHANGE | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| | 1980 | 1990 | 2000 | 2010 Projection |
| Clifton | 2.8 | 2.61 | 2.45 | 2.3 |
| Rate of Change | | -7.28% | -6.53% | -6.52% |
| Penobscot County | 2.8 | 2.57 | 2.38 | 2.2 |
| Rate of Change | | -8.95% | -7.98% | -8.18% |
| Hancock County | 2.71 | 2.56 | 2.31 | 2.14 |
| Rate of Change | | -5.86% | -10.82% | -7.94% |
| State of Maine | 2.75 | 2.56 | 2.39 | 2.23 |
| Rate of Change | | -7.42% | -7.11% | -7.17% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Projections: are based on a twenty-year period using linear regression analysis.

The number of people per household has decreased from 2.8 in 1980 to 2.45 in 2000. The state as a whole is experiencing the same trends in decreased household size.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Educational attainment is a community planning issue based on the premise that meeting the academic requirements of specific programs better prepares a labor force to function at a more productive level. As the economic environment has grown more complex over the years, there has been a corresponding increase of educational expectations and aspirations. At one time, an eighth grade education was considered sufficient. Today a high school diploma is considered a minimum level of achievement. However, the means for more earning potential has evolved to require technical training or a college education.

The table below shows the percent of population 25 years and older that have graduated high school and have obtained a minimum of a Bachelor Degree. The percentage of population that have obtained high school diplomas in Clifton is reported at about the same level as the Counties and the State as a whole. Although Clifton shows a smaller percentage of population with Bachelor Degrees or higher than that of the Counties or the State as a whole, the percentage of residents that reported having such degrees increased by 20.25% from 1990 to 2000. This percentage of increase is higher than that of Penobscot County and about the same as the State as a whole.

Table B-15

| EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Persons 25 and Older | | | | |
| | High School Graduate | | Bachelor Degree or Higher | |
| | 1990 | 2000 | 1990 | 2000 |
| Clifton | 65.54% | 85.70% | 11.06% | 13.30% |
| Penobscot County | 79.10% | 85.70% | 17.70% | 20.30% |
| Hancock County | 61.91% | 87.80% | 21.35% | 27.10% |
| State of Maine | 78.80% | 85.40% | 18.80% | 22.90% |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Generally, people attend college as a way of ensuring greater economic opportunity. With this comes the tendency to migrate to places where the opportunities are the greatest. This propagates the cycle of decreasing young adult, entry-level workforce population. It is important to remember, given current trends of our mobile society, individual educational attainment levels are not a direct reflection of educational attitudes of the geographical area. The distribution and comparison figures shown in the table are more a reflection of economic labor force conditions, trends in mobility and quality of life decisions rather than a reflection of the school system.

POLICIES AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

In order to ensure adequacy and relevancy of demographic information within the Comprehensive Plan, the Town of Clifton has developed the following policies:

B1. Policy

The Town will annually review and assess demographic growth indicators.

On-going Implementation Strategy

A. The Town Clerk will ensure all of the Town’s demographic information is kept in a designated area of the Town Office, along with the Comprehensive Plan, so that residents, the Comprehensive Plan Committee, the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board can easily obtain view these documents with the Comprehensive Plan.

B. The Comprehensive Planning Committee will prepare an annual report, to be presented to the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board, of their recommendations for prioritizing strategies, based on demographic information obtained from census reports, state agency reports and town records,