



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Hooksett Community Profile Report

**Hooksett, New Hampshire
November 2 & 3, 2001**

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OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY PROFILES

The Community Profile is a process by which communities take stock of where they are today and develop an action plan for how they want to operate in the future. Whether the issue is a quality school system, an air pollution problem, lack of adequate affordable housing or solid waste disposal, the need for effective problem-solving skills is the same. A community must have strong leaders, from all sectors, who are able to work together with informed involved citizens to reach agreement on issues. The Community Profile assists communities to develop their problem-solving ability. It is a self-evaluation tool that draws heavily on the collective wisdom of the participants and is not a test or a comparison between communities. It provides a method for citizens to affirm community strengths, identify concerns and problems, and then to help a community structure collaborative approaches to meet these challenges creatively, set directions for the future, and manage change.

The original Civic Profile emerged from the Governor's Commission on New Hampshire in the 21st Century as a process and a mechanism that communities could use to strengthen their civic infrastructure. The National Civic League, along with several university studies, identified those qualities that make a community work - that help communities plan for the future and survive such dramatic change as extreme population growth, plant shut-downs or military base closings.

In 1995, the League of Women Voters in the Upper Valley, working with UNH Cooperative Extension and UVM Cooperative Extension, identified ten key qualities that help a community to work well now and sustain its social, economic, and environmental health for the future. This is the model that was adapted by the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Profile and are the "tools" of the community self-assessment.

Creating a Community Profile in Hooksett

On January 24, 2001, the Hooksett Community Profile Steering Committee had its first meeting. We learned all about the Community Profile process through a UNH Cooperative Extension video and talking with UNHCE staff. We discussed funding and the need for a budget and the timeframe for the event. Dates in May and June were proposed, but the group felt more time was needed to prepare. The group established a meeting schedule of twice a month and agreed to get the ball rolling. At the second meeting we began to discuss the need for outreach through the various civic organizations and community groups and businesses. Again, dates for the event were discussed, now looking at September or October. As the meetings continued, the Steering Committee learned about the Master Plan and other Town Studies. Funding needs and sources continued to be discussed. A date was established to allow an action plan to be established, November 2 & 3, 2001 were the chosen dates for the event.

By the end of the first couple months of meeting, the Steering Committee defined many tasks to be completed and felt that subcommittees focused in specific areas would best accomplish moving forward. In addition, the group established a mission statement and action plan goal. The mission statement was:

“The Mission of the Hooksett Profile Steering Committee is to foster a sense of community, encourage citizen participation and identify town-wide projects and priorities by launching a successful Community Profile event.”

By planning, coordinating and hosting Community Profile workshops, the Committee hopes to establish a framework of short- and long-term projects with broad community involvement and participation. In addition, the discussion and findings of the Community Profile event will provide necessary input as Hooksett updates its existing master plan.

The Action Plan and sub committees and their charge were:

Action Plan

In order to achieve a successful community profile, the steering committee will need to identify and involve community members representing the diversity of the community; will need to raise funds for costs associated with the event; will need to educate our community about the event and any activities leading up to the event; and will need to organize the event and assist in coordinating follow-up work.

Sub-committees and their charge

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Finance: | To receive, expend, track and account for funds available for the event, which will be used for planning, outreach, pre-event activities; invitations; and all other event related expenses, as well as possible Master Plan input and outreach activities. This sub-committee will need to coordinate with the other various subcommittees on funds necessary to carry out functions, current balance and future budget needs |
| Promotion: | To get the word out about the event and any pre-events, as well as coordinate with the other committees the invitation of community members. |
| Event Planning: | To coordinate community profile event logistics, such as location, food, and facilitators. |
| Outreach: | To develop and implement or coordinate pre-event activities. Coordination will be necessary with the other subcommittees, to ensure proper community notification and funds available. |
| Fundraising: | To raise funds and services or goods needed for community profile event, as well as any pre-event activities and possibly for Master Plan input and outreach activities. |

The Steering Committee always stayed focused on publicizing the event to ensure a strong turnout of Community members. As such, the Steering Committee marched in the Parade at Old Home Day, had almost weekly articles in the Hooksett Banner, and several in the Union Leader. As a means of utilizing modern technology and minimal costs, the Steering Committee extensively used email to friends and neighbors to get the word out about the event, ask for volunteers, and share information.

By May, the subcommittees were in full swing promoting the event, raising funds and managing a budget, conducting outreach to the various community groups, and planning the event. The nearing of summer found us low on cash and low on time, with the size of the Steering Committee dwindling. None the less the remaining members continued their efforts on outreach and fundraising and sought participation of new community members. A letter was sent to Town Board and Commission members advertising a Steering Committee meeting. At the meeting, the UNHCE video was played and an action plan was presented to show people where they were needed. Some new members were obtained.

A highlight of the summer for the Outreach subcommittee was marching in the parade at Old Home Day and committee members answering questions and handing out UNHCE brochures on the Community Profile process. Friends and family of the committee members were a great help in the outreach event.

Fall arrived shortly thereafter, seemingly without warning, and the panic set-in that there were less than 2 months left before the event. Meetings increased to weekly to accommodate the efforts needed before the fast approaching event. Invitations needed to be finalized, sent, and RSVPs received. Once the group settled on a brochure being the main initiation method and how the committee would track RSVPs, a tremendous amount of effort was spent refining the Hooksett specific brochure. Outreach through group presentations and newspaper articles increased as did fundraising efforts. Attention now also focused on the remaining event details such as meals and presentations. Information was developed and posted on the Hooksett Public Library website as an additional means of providing information.

By early October, the brochures were printed and mailed to all registered voter households. In addition, letters were sent to all Hooksett Boards and Commission members seeking their participation in the event. The list of facilitators was finalized and all attended the facilitator training by UNHCE. On November 2 & 3, we had a good turnout of about 150 community members, all receiving a souvenir t-shirt and participating in the development of a community project. Since the event, the community projects resulting from the event continue to progress with additional community member participation.

Thanks to all for a successful event!

Steering Committee members:

Mike Dibitto, Chair
Mary Ruel
Carol Lighthall
Betty Mae Parnell
Vickie Connell
Alex Vailas
Steve Korzyniowski
Frank Kotowski
Charles Watson, Town Planner
John Gryval
Marion Jacobi

Becky Berk
Dave Pauquette
Johy Turbyne
Pam Gerbi, UNH Cooperative Extension
Pat Thompson
Olive and Clif Mathewson
Julie Williams
Chris Boudreau Schena
Peggy Teravanien
Sandy Sheidow-Oliver

UNH Cooperation Extension

Hooksett Community Profile

Hooksett Memorial School

November 2 & 3, 2001

Agenda

Friday Evening

5:30 Sign-In & Potluck Supper

**6:30 Welcome- Judy Bush, Extension Educator and Coordinator,
Strengthening NH Communities**

- Overview of Community Profile Process
- Who is here?

Mosaic and Vision

- What is Hooksett like now?
- What do we want Hooksett to be like in the future?

Historical Overview – Steve Korzyniowski

- Where has Hooksett been?

7:45 Presentation of Community Profile components

- 1) Effective Community Leadership
- 2) Informed Citizen Participation
- 3) Sense of Community
- 4) Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals and Youth
- 5) Lifelong Education and Learning
- 6) Community Services, Facilities, and Utilities
- 7) Recreation and Cultural Heritage
- 8) Working Landscape and the Natural Environment
- 9) Economic Vitality
- 10) Growth and Development
- 11) Transportation

8:00 Break/Move into small groups

8:15 Small group discussions of components

Random assignments to small groups, one component per group

- Strengths of Hooksett in the component area
- Weaknesses of Hooksett in the component area
- What would you like to see in the future?
- What are the 5 key issues that need to be addressed?

9:30 Formal adjournment

Saturday

8:00 Coffee and check-in

8:30 Small group reports

- Each of the eleven small groups report to the large group, three minutes each.

9:15 Selection of key issues – participants select small group/issues

9:45 Break

10:00 Small groups meet for key issue discussion:

- Define the problem or opportunity
- Project goals - identify what you want to accomplish
- Identify potential projects/solutions
- Evaluate potential projects using impact-feasibility grid
- Select 3 projects to bring to the full group

11:45 Full Group: report back from small groups

12:15 Lunch and voting

- Which projects do you think we should move forward on?
- Which are the most important projects for Hooksett right now?

1:15 Individual selection of project development groups

1:20 Project development: small groups

- Principal leadership
- Resources needed
- Potential obstacles/solutions
- Action steps and timeline

3:10 Full group: report back from small groups

- Thank you's and door prizes
- Coordination of follow-up efforts

3:30 Adjourn

Hooksett Community Profile

Friday Evening

The Hooksett Community Profile was conducted at Hooksett Memorial School over two days: Friday evening, November 2, 2001 and all day Saturday November 3, 2001. About 82 participants attended on Friday, with 69 attending on Saturday.

The event began Friday with a potluck dinner. Judy Bush, Extension Educator and Strengthening New Hampshire Communities Coordinator, gave us an overview of the profile process and an introduction to the goals for the two days. Its goal is strengthening community involvement; its key idea is sustainability - balancing economic and environmental factors while thinking about the impacts of our actions for the next seven generations.

We spent a few minutes meeting each other, learning how long we had lived in town, where we live in town, where we work, and how many of us had children in the schools. We were then asked to offer descriptions of what our town was like right now and what we would like it to be like in the future. Adjectives and phrases were called out and recorded on large easels labeled "NOW" and "FUTURE" at the front of the room. Here are the results:

THE MOSAIC - What is Hooksett like today?

- Good proximity to jobs
- No aesthetic standards for buildings
- No indoor walking paths
- Lack of nice shops
- Great place to live
- Lack of defined Main Street
- Best Cub Scouts in NH
- Limited historic preservation efforts
- Great neighbors
- Increasing home values
- Limited artists in residency programs
- Public art
- Active athletic society for children
- Lack of controlled growth
- Sandwiched between two major cities
- The "Pinnacle"
- No golf courses
- Dangerous passing on 28 Bypass
- Good snowplowing in winter
- Insufficient health providers
- No town center
- Newly defined business area
- No town beach or picnic park
- Lack of use of the river
- Hooksett-ites
- Too many vacant buildings with new construction going up
- No YMCA
- No town forest
- Lack of street lights
- Limited affordable housing
- No diversity in winter after-school programs
- A good DARE Program
- Located in major transportation corridor
- Intolerable congestion on Rte. 3
- Too small buses
- Town committees and boards keep info close (don't share)
- Good Old Home Day
- Lack of traffic lights at dangerous intersections
- Brand new very active Kiwanis Club this year
- Very active Lion's Club
- Term limits on volunteers
- No municipal swimming pool
- Broken website
- No heaters/broken heaters on school buses
- Active PTA
- Heavily chlorinated water
- Too many gravel trucks on road
- Lack of late school bus

- Restaurants
- Out-of-school suspension program
- Too many bus stops
- No after-school programs for kids
- Insufficient communication between town departments
- Responsive police and fire
- Insufficient participation/volunteers (community)
- Lambert Park
- Lack of resources-for low income (food and secure)
- Good police and fire department
- No ventilation system in school
- Bad school lunches
- Open door policy for leaders
- Active garden club
- Southern NH University
- Lack of handicapped accessibility for recreation and public access
- Too few buses
- No community center
- No walking/bike trails
- Robie's Country Store
- Good teachers and faculty
- Multiple car dealerships
- Is more upscale housing
- Unsafe/no crosswalks
- No parks
- Lack of recreational facilities/outdated playground
- Excellent teachers
- Lilac bridge
- Youth-safe sidewalks
- No place for teens to hang out
- I93
- Toll booths
- Limited water and sewer services
- No senior center
- Adolescent drug abusers
- Lack of common citizenship
- No access TV
- Limited natural woodlands
- Kids Caboose
- Community newspaper (Hooksett Banner)
- Good water and sewer
- Lack of school space
- Gridlock
- Disjointed
- Lovely river
- Lack of transportation
- Sidewalks
- Recycling center
- Lack of elderly housing
- Great library
- Rural
- Few precious ponds
- Conveniently located
- Friendly
- Traffic growing
- Uncontrolled growth
- Availability for participation
- A good place
- Lack of senior services
- Lack of athletic facilities
- Lots of opportunities
- Low crime
- No high school

THE VISION - What do we want Hooksett to be like in the future?

- A network of parks
- Preservation of open spaces
- If not our own high school, a high school where all our children go
- A community and athletic center
- A multi-cultural community
- A transportation system
- More public pools, playgrounds and toy stores
- Much shorter school bus runs; smaller schools
- No mini malls
- A recycling center
- More open space between developments
- An access center in community center
- After-school care and transportation
- Bike paths
- Boulevard-like bypass that goes through length of town
- Own high school
- More high tech and financial services
- Defined main street

- More sidewalks
- More schools
- More Toys R Us'
- Another bridge
- A Best Buy
- Ethics committee
- In community center: facility for seniors with transportation
- More compost and recycling center
- A nice town center
- "dark look" better lighting system
- More residential-less commercial
- Walking trails
- Preserved ponds for public recreation
- More cultural activities (music, art, dance)
- A long-term restricted growth plan for residential areas
- Theater arts program
- Double lands North and South on Route 3
- Seat belts on school buses
- Kids more involved with town
- Elderly housing
- Elderly recreation center
- Ongoing community development committee for town
- A pick-up of recyclables
- A natural resources inventory
- A heritage trail
- Recreational facilities utilizing river
- Improved water and sewer system
- Community with coordinated zoning and planning
- 18 hole public golf course
- Mandatory town-wide recycling
- Sequenced traffic lights on Route 3
- Bypass for Rte 3
- Many candidates for elected and appointed positions
- Restore Lilac Bridge
- Community access TV
- Ensure and protect small town feel
- Mall and Target
- Drama club
- New garbage center
- More wildlife centers
- No term limits on boards and commissions
- Better bond rating with state
- Professional office park for high tech businesses
- No heavy trucking on Rte 3A
- Another bridge linking Rte 3 and 3A
- Skate park
- As long as children go to Manchester schools, access to Manchester committee access TV to be better informed
- Green strips and tree strips on streets
- Strong community leadership
- Setbacks further back from roads for possible road widening
- Shorter bus stops
- More community involvement
- Make more use of community development at Southern NH University
- A 10 mile bike path along the river
- A safe place for kids and teens to hang out
- Extra lanes on both North and South 28 Bypass
- Establish a historic district
- Cooperative relationship within and between town boards and committees
- A town website that provides up-to-date minutes of meetings
- Get voters better informed (go back to Old Town Meeting)
- Move utility wires underground
- No more cul-du-sacs
- Get rid of eye sores on Rte. 3
- Give awards for outstanding landscapes/landscaping
- better training of police, fire and ambulances for terrorist attacks
- more coordination about and with youth activities with town administrators

TOWN HISTORY

Next Steve presented historical snapshots to help answer the question "Where has Hooksett been and where is it now?".

My Grandfather emigrated from Europe in the 1900's and settled on a farm on Route 3-A in Hooksett in 1922. Having lived on Route 3-A for the better part of 45 years I've seen a lot of changes. The laying of Route 93 through town, the cleansing of the Merrimack River, the birth and demise of the Hooksett Airport and continuous prosperity and growth.

These changes may seem rather profound to my contemporaries. However, what is even more extraordinary is a study of Hooksett's history back to the year 1600 when the first white men arrived. In that year there were probably no more than 5000 native Americans living within the present day borders of New Hampshire.

New Hampshire native Americans belonged to a group known as Algonkians. This large group was in turn divided into the Abnaki and Pennacook tribes that lived in villages scattered throughout the state. Most lived in villages that varied in population from 50 to 200 people. The Abenakis lived in the East portion of the state and consisted of sub-tribes called Ossipees and Pequawkets. The Pennacooks lived in the Western part and consisted of several sub-tribes. These names may sound familiar to us modern folks: Amoskeags, Nashuans, Piscataquas, Winnepesaukee, Souhegans, Squamscots.

The importance of the Native American to the Town of Hooksett, and white man in general, cannot be overstated. It was the Native American who had learned how to clear and cultivate the forest lands and extract maple syrup and sugar from the maple trees. The Natives had learned how to strip the bark of a birch tree and make a wonderfully light and useful craft known as the canoe. They invented snowshoes, mocassins, and traps for wild animals. They taught white men about the medicinal value of the local herbs and how to cultivate such crops as corn, squash, pumpkins and many kinds of beans. These were essentials for Europeans to survive in the new land of North America.

To grow these crops the Natives would clear the land by girdling trees near the base. This would kill the tree by cutting off the flow of sap. When the tree was dry and brittle it would be burned or toppled over and dragged away. Thus they made their fields and villages where many of our communities today now stand. At least eight of our modern communities are all built upon the site of old Native American villages: Hooksett, Suncook, Nashua, Manchester, Concord, Franklin, The Weirs, and Laconia. Today the Native Americans are gone but they have left upon the land a great many names which still ring in our ears and show on our maps. They liked words that ended in or contained the sound in "cook" or "ook" and "ack" or "auke"; hence the names we use today. Pennacook, Suncook, Hooksett, Merrimack, Soucook and Piscataquaog. Name of old Native American Chiefs such as Passaconaway, Chocorua and Kankamangus adorn our maps and identify our roads and mountains.

In the early 1700's when American was claimed as a property of King George the first of England. The King was encouraging settlement further inland in New England. There were several port cities, but things in the interior were moving slowly. There were a few European people living in

small communities such as Hampton, Exeter and Portsmouth. These residents approached the proprietors in Massachusetts about the possibility of starting a new settlement in Southern NH. After much discussion, King George issued a charter establishing the Town of Chester in the province of NH on May 8, 1722. This town included what is now called Hooksett as well as Candia, Raymond and Auburn.

People started moving in, clearing farms, building saw mills and building homes. As time passed, the American Revolution occurred and America became an independent nation. The people who lived in what is now called Hooksett had great difficulties communicating their needs to the town leaders in Chester 16 miles away. Even by 1800 that was still a stretch by horse and buggy in Summer or by horse and sleigh in winter the 32 mile round trip was very likely exhausting.

The residents in this area were firm in demanding that the state legislatures do something about this. The area was given a charter to found the town of Hooksett in June of 1822. The first town meeting was held that year on September 16 in halls tavern in the village, since a town hall did not exist.

The town continued to grow and by the end of the civil war business was booming. There were hotels and taverns in town, a steamboat make regular runs from Manchester to Hooksett, the railroad arrived in the late 1840's, and the Head family established a very large brickyard.

Bricks from this enterprise built nearly all the building in Manchester known as the Amoskeag Mills. Several Granite quarries were founded in town, and a large mill complex was built on the river at a point where Lambert's park is located. There were three large railroad bridges across the river above the falls that were used to haul the finished bricks from the brick year out to the main railroad line. The Riverside Inn, which was across the street from Robie's store in 1909 was doing a great business, and there was a dance pavillion at the Pinnacle as well as a small wild animal farm. The tower on top of the pinnacle gave a great view up and down the river, and West to the mountains. The electric street cars went right through town, and for a modest fee one could travel to Manchester or Concord.

Today there are no streetcars and no steamboat on the river. We do have a prosperous town. The resources that made Hooksett prosperous in the past continue to provide today. Not many communities have the infrastructure and natural resource that Hooksett has. The Merrimack River...Hooksett probably would not exist if it weren't for this resource where the Native Americans carved out their fields and village that eventually became Hooksett. We have route 93, which bring efficient transport to and from Boston to the North country. Hooksett has an excellent public school system and the very fine University of Southern New Hampshire.

It is up to all of us to carry the torch forward for future generations so that we balance the use of these resources to maintain or improve the quality of life for all that live and work here. That's why we are involved with the community profile project. So we can make contribution to planning our community and help our town leaders design the place in which we live. As we think about our town keep in mind what you want our community to be, think about our past...where we came from, what are we now... and what will be our identity in the future.

Hooksett is not a large city yet, but we have an identity crisis. What is Hooksett? What central theme do we as caring citizens want to create and carry forward into the future. Our neighbors in Nashua identify their town as the Gate City, Manchester is the “Queen City”, and Concord is the “Capital City”. What are we? Are we a mining town with a proliferation of gravel pits around every corner? Are we a college town? Are we a bedroom community? We certainly are not a tourist town...a Woodstock, Vermont or Newport, Rhode Island. So as we participate in the community profile project, please “Share your Vision”. What would you like your community to be like in 10, 20, 50 or even 100 years.....Share your Vision and make Hooksett a great place to live. It is up to you.

COMMUNITY PROFILE ELEVEN COMPONENTS

After we developed a mosaic and vision for Hooksett, and digested some of the historical information, Judy Bush introduced us to the idea of discussing Hooksett within the framework of 11 qualities which can be used to profile a community. These topics, drawn from the work of the National Civic League and adapted by UNH Cooperative Extension are important components of any successful community. These components make a community work well now and sustain the cultural, economic and environmental health and vitality for the long-term future.

Civic Infrastructure

1. Effective Community Leadership
2. Informed Citizen Participation
3. Sense of Community

Community Infrastructure

4. Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals and Youth
5. Lifelong Education and Learning
6. Community Services, Facilities and Utilities
7. Recreation and Cultural Heritage

Environment

8. Working Landscape and the Natural Environment

Economy

9. Economic Vitality
10. Growth and Development
11. Transportation

Next, 11 small groups of approximately 6 people each were randomly formed, one group for each of the components. The small groups adjourned to various rooms where facilitators lead the groups in their discussions and recorders made notes on more large tablets. Due to a smaller group for component #7 Recreation and Cultural Heritage, it combined with component #3 Sense of Community.

Each group considered the definition of their component and was asked the questions below in order to begin the discussion. Participants were asked to list the strengths of Hooksett as they saw them, and then to list its concerns. Next the groups gave some thought to the problems and issues

they thought were important to the town's future. Finally, each group was asked to identify five key issues which need to be addressed by the town. These were brought back to the whole group and highlighted in three-minute summations presented by a member of each small group.

1. Effective Community Leadership

Facilitator: Becky Berk

Recorder: JoAnn D'Avanza

Spokesperson: Michael McCoy

Participants: Janine McCoy, Bob St. Jean, Elaine Langer, Ray Langer, Tina Paquette, Kathy Hughes, Etana Jacobi, Cheryl Shoup

Statement of Purpose:

The public, private and non-profit sectors must all develop leaders who can cooperate with each other in enhancing the long-term future of the community. Leadership must be responsive, honest, efficient, enlightened, fair and accountable. Leaders should be representative of their community, and should have both a grasp of the community's problems and the ability to envision an economically secure, environmentally sound and socially viable future. Leaders should be attuned to the potential to exploit opportunities and to solve problems of the community by cooperating with other neighboring communities.

Questions to think about:

- Is there active leadership in all three sectors in the community: public, private and non-profit?
- Do leaders seek out the interests and ideas of local citizens?
- Do they represent diverse community interests (age and gender groups, length of time they have resided in the community, etc.)?
- Do leaders demonstrate knowledge, accountability, professionalism, and innovation?
- Is leadership results-oriented?
- Do leaders demonstrate long range (20+ years) thinking? Do they understand the impacts of their actions on the long term health and vitality of the community?
- Are leaders willing to consider and utilize alternative methods for delivering services, and to undertake regional solutions where appropriate?
- Do all three sectors actively recruit, train, and empower new leaders?
- Do leaders have a common forum to discuss issues with other leaders in the region?
- How do region wide policy conflicts get resolved?

Group Response- Strengths:

- Council listens to you-tries to do what town wants
- Good communication with home schoolers and School Board
- School Board has done good job communicating some issues
- Communicating applies to all boards
- Every person on board is a volunteer
- School board interacts with kids
- Good communication in town
- Good town report
- Citizen issues are addressed-responsive
- Open communication with fire department
- Good mix of age groups w/ leaders
- Leaders address tax base to bring economic development into town

- Town hall helpful to newcomers and old timers
- Leaders aware of traffic problems
- At-large board members
- Staggered terms

Group Response- Concerns:

- Business development lacking
- Business development not high tech
- Development should be proportionate-volunteers should have this idea in mind
- Problem of revolving door-town council, sewer committee, etc. (office holders move from position to position)
- Volunteers should have expertise
- Not enough public input
- More inclusive of soliciting participation
- Perception of “good old boy” network
- Sometimes not enough communication-ie high school negotiations with Manchester
- Lack of complete coverage reporting from newspapers
- More opportunities for dialogue with officials
- Need to build in more opportunities for dialogue outside of annual meetings
- Minutes should go to newspaper
- Getting people to attend meeting
- More public and visible promotion of meetings
- Too much short-term planning and thinking
- Not proactive and responsive in helping neighborhoods with difficulties
- Fostering and encouraging more youth involvement
- Boards have been out-maneuvered
- Be leaders rather than followers

Vision for the Future:

this group did not note a vision for the future

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Long-term development of a tax base-proactive planning.
2. Need for improved communication (i.e. website, newsletter, newspaper, access TV---vehicle and content.
3. Diversity on boards.
4. Encourage candidates and participation.
5. Increased civil discussions with regard to town issues to avoid division of community.

2. Informed Citizen Participation

Facilitator: Jim Brown Recorder: Gwen Brown Spokesperson: Marion Jacobi
 Participants: Janet St. Jean, Marty Deering, Warren Parnell, Alex Urilas, William McDonald

Statement of Purpose:

If a community is to be strong, citizens must participate through voting in local elections, serving on governmental boards, attending public hearings and being active in civic organizations.

Declining ability of government to meet community needs means that philanthropy and volunteerism become even more important. All citizens need to develop knowledge and skills to contribute to community life. All sectors within a community -- private, public, and nonprofit -- must each take responsibility for the community's civic education and generate and share information with the public. Sharing in problem solving and planning for the future as a community increases pride in the community and can result in an ethic of giving and sharing as a way of life.

Questions to think about:

- Do citizens know how the system works?
- Is it easy for newcomers to learn how to get involved in the community?
- How do people find out what is going on in the community?
- What is the level of volunteerism and philanthropy in the community?
- Which are the best areas and which are the weaker areas?
- Are citizens actively involved in major projects?
- Do citizens volunteer to serve on local boards and committees?
- Is participation pro-active or reactive?
- Do civic organizations and local businesses actively contribute to community functions?
- Do citizens have the information they need to make good decisions?
- Is there both adequate and balanced media coverage of local events and issues?
- How well do local committees and boards communicate with each other and the public and with other boards and committees throughout the region?
- Are local citizens actively involved in civic and business organizations and clubs that involve interaction with residents of neighboring communities?
- Do civic education efforts involve the entire community?
- Do schools, churches, youth and civic groups provide citizen education and promote community service?

Group Response- Strengths:

- Hooksett Banner
- Strong local organizations (Hooksett-ites, Kiwanis, Lions, PTA)
- Good volunteerism
- Strong volunteerism in school, town committees, youth organizations, library)
- Unique form of government (town meetings)
- Strong senior participation
- Democratic town meetings
- Wonderful forum for good participation
- Strong grassroots communication (via verbal/email)
- Town council letter
- School notices
- Annual report
- Good response from police
- Good response from fire department
- Approachable department heads and governing bodies
- Knowledge of physical location of town offices

Group Response- Concerns:

- Low voter participation of younger voters
- Getting people involved-reading Banner
- Broken webpage
- Better access to written reports from different town boards—minutes
- No welcome wagon
- Encouraging public to participate
- Need new blood in volunteers
- Term limits on elected positions
- Encourage better participation for elected positions—more choices
- Access TV
- Need list of local businesses and communication with them on a regular basis i.e. town council newsletter
- Crisis management team/plan needed
- A better forum to communicate needs and wants of citizens (i.e. Profile)
- No volunteer recruiting organization
- Stronger cooperation/communication between boards
- Crisis management/responsive not reactive community-wide
- Lack of communication with neighboring communities and businesses
- No universal information highway for all elements of community
- No list of businesses in Hooksett

Vision for the Future:

- A good website with regularly updated minutes from all boards
- Community access TV
- Public notice of all meetings
- Interactive communication to be posted for maximum reading by public
- Central place for volunteer recruitment
- Volunteer form for recruitment to be distributed when registering at town hall
- Clarification of warrant articles so people can understand
- Utilize existing resources to disseminate information
- Maintaining communication with local businesses and citizens
- Encourage candidates for elected positions

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Communication network (Banner, Access TV, email, town website).
2. Volunteer recruitment organization.
3. Open communication between neighboring communities, businesses, town boards and citizens.
4. Getting more people informed and involved.
5. A personal welcome to new businesses and residents.

3 & 7. Sense of Community and Recreation & Cultural Heritage

Facilitator: Steve Korzyniowski

Recorder: Shari DeMarco

Spokesperson: Ginger Kozlowski

Participants: John Brock, Raymond Carignan, Robert Schroeder, Jim Robinson, Carol Lighthall, Barb Brennan, Mike Jolin

Statement of Purpose:

A community is made up of different people with different interests, experiences and backgrounds. These characteristics may divide a community into natural groups but there must be cooperation among them if the community is to work well. Increasing social complexity presents challenges to reaching consensus or resolving conflicts but also provide opportunities for cultural enrichment. As disagreements arise, neutral forums and processes are needed where all opinions can be heard and consensus encouraged. In addition, programs are needed to increase communication and understanding of different perspectives among groups and within the community as a whole.

Questions to think about:

- How much communication is there among diverse interest groups in the community such as natives/newcomers, summer/year round residents, young parents/retirees, as well as business community, commuters, etc.?
- Are such groups involved in identifying community goals and in resolving community issues?
- Do all groups have skills to become involved in the community?
- Do formal and informal forums exist for sharing ideas and resolving public issues?
- Are collective decisions which represent broad input reached and implemented?
- Do groups cooperate in resolving broad disputes?
- Do small, specific conflicts escalate into larger issues?
- Does the community deal with critical issues before they become crises? How is this done?
- How would you define the self image of the community? Is it a positive one?
- How is social and cultural diversity celebrated in the community?

Group Response- Strengths:

- Strong base H.Y.A.A.
- Like schools and Scouts
- Excellent emergency services (new safety center, etc.)
- Lot of land area
- Old Home Day
- Robie's Country Store, Hooksett-ites
- Library is quasi community center
- PTA
- Booster Club
- PTA won best volunteer organization for state
- Granite Hills community is great/interacts well with larger community
- Beautiful river-boat ramp in park
- Waterfront store open during "season"
- Hooksett Banner is great
- Great infrastructure: highways, roads, town water, sewer, power
- Great number of volunteers in diverse areas
- People are now open to change
- Lot of potential

- Good river access/multiple locations
- Lot of “hidden/untapped” natural resources
- We do have good cultural opportunity
- Grant piano in library—open for play (restricted)
- Library has great visually challenged opportunities
- Tri-town ice rink
- New safety center: tours, meeting rooms, weight rooms
- Diverse civic groups—very active (Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis, Lions)
- Caring community
- Wealth of human knowledge i.e. history etc.
- Warmth of people
- American Legion very active
- Knights of Columbus resources
- Mix of old and new citizens

Group Response- Concerns:

- Getting word out about civic resources
- Traffic mat
- A lack of historic appreciation
- Lifestyle
- No public transport
- Lack of involvement in civic activities
- Only pockets of sense of community
- No welcome for new people
- Newcomers are resented
- No Master Plan for community involvement
- No vision or integrated plan for involvement
- South Hooksett residents feel alienated due to geography
- Residents are unaware of available resources
- More recreational development (pools, skateboard park, teen hangout)
- No teen activities
- No town center—geographic problems
- Old Home Day timing—ineffective in its current state
- People lack a reason to get involved
- Lack of adult recreational facilities
- We currently limit terms of commissioners, etc. (remove term limits)
- Few people willing to serve
- Infrastructure prevents people from getting involved
- Small pockets of community involvement
- Heritage Trail didn’t happen in Hooksett
- Need to preserve Lilac Bridge

Vision for the Future:

- Country Club/Sporting Club
- Well-planned community/recreation center
- Village school?
- Community education programs
- Music/arts in park for families/adults

- Have city/community parks and activities in them
- Community volunteer program to get more organizations/involvement
- Welcome Wagon
- Movement to make Hooksett hazard materials free
- Dual highway to better connect opposite sides of town
- Sister city in Europe
- Bike trails, pools, 18 hole golf (public)
- Demographics on communities to match needs and wants to program
- Expanded website with civic, sense of community and current info

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Community center(s) for recreation, performing arts, and community education.
2. Bring different parts of town together—a town center feeling.
3. Build on natural resources to promote a sense of community and recreation—river, bike trails.
4. Heritage and historic appreciation building efforts—where we were, where we’ll go, Robie’s, Lilac Bridge, Heritage Trail.

4. Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals and Youth

Facilitator: Marlene Lein Recorder: Pam Telfer-Whitacre Spokesperson: Alan Brennen
 Participants: Charles Watson, Jeannette Carignan, John Turtyne, Matt Barrett, Greg DeMarco

Statement of Purpose:

Most communities face a variety of challenging social issues, such as substance abuse, domestic abuse, poverty and other concerns related to the elderly, youth, and families. Addressing these concerns effectively takes the coordinated efforts of the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Support services such as adequate child day care, comprehensive after-school, youth, teen and senior programs, preventative health and substance abuse programs, parenting and family support programs and effective human service networks help strengthen the social fabric of a community. Aided by effective communication, compassionate leadership, active citizen participation and inter-group cooperation, a comprehensive package of supportive services will enable a community to nurture healthy community members.

Questions to think about:

- There are _____ local and/or regional programs available addressing the social issues of our youth, teens, seniors, parents and families.
- The health and social services are accessible, adequate and provided in an equitable manner.
- The three sectors work together to provide a comprehensive package of programs.
- The majority of programs are of _____ quality.
- Community services are “cradle to grave”, addressing the entire age spectrum of the community.
- Local government provides an array of services for the community’s neediest members.
- There is adequate information about the available services and many community members utilize them.
- Many of the services allow families to participate together.
- Local government is responsive to emerging needs of community members.
- Local government considers and utilizes alternative methods of service delivery.

Group Response- Strengths:

- Holley Berry-Senior Live-In (Private)
- HYAA Sports Program
- Old Home Day
- Donati Field (Kid's Caboose)
- Lion's Club
- Kiwanis Club
- DARE Program
- Church availability (building programs)
- Employment opportunities
- Tax base supporting programs
- Good disability support in education system
- Food bank
- HERC program
- Town welfare
- Cub Scouts/Boy Scouts
- Hooksett-ites

Group Response- Concerns:

- Inadequate sidewalks (Holley Berry-example)
- Lack of affordable housing
- Working families need a place to live
- Overcrowded schools
- Potential defeat of school bond
- CAVE (Citizens Against Virtually Everything)
- More activities to link elderly residents with youth
- Community participation (communication to town residents)
- No Hooksett website to communicate news
- Transportation for elderly to medical, shopping, etc.

Vision for the Future:

- Make sure HYAA continues to be supported
- Building of a local high school is essential to maintaining youth/town identity
- Family use of local school facilities
- Funding for increased outdoor active and passive recreation facilities
- Community center

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Family use of local school facilities.
2. HYAA—continued town/community support.
3. High School—maintain town identity.
4. Funding active/passive recreation facilities.
5. Community Center.

5. Lifelong Education and Learning

Facilitator: Ron Lucci

Recorder: Diane Monteith

Spokesperson: Ron Lucci

Participants: Martin Cannita, Tim Morelli, Sam Paiton, Nancy Barrett, Joanne McHugh, Joan Holley

Statement of Purpose:

Education is a lifelong endeavor, much more extensive than just the K-12 school system. It starts at home, continues through childhood and the teen years, and progresses throughout adult life. People of all ages need to develop knowledge and skills in order to improve the quality of their own lives and those of their families, and to contribute more effectively to community life. Programs of higher education and lifelong learning provide local businesses with a pool of trained employees. Other formal and informal learning opportunities allow community members to discover hidden talents and develop an array of interests and skills. Lifelong learning allows citizens to manage their lives more effectively in a changing economy and to participate in increasingly complex municipal operations with greater knowledge and skill.

Questions to think about:

- Are education and social services provided equitably?
- What services does the community provide to its neediest citizens?
- Does the community, through its schools or other programs, offer counseling on parenting or family relationships?
- What local or regional programs or services are offered? What are needed? For daycare/substance abuse/recreational/youth counseling?
- Are these services adequate? Are they well utilized? Under-utilized?
- Are school programs adequate for the community's needs?
- Is school planning forward thinking and open to regional solutions?
- Does local government address qualitative concerns about service?
- Does government consider and utilize alternative methods of service delivery?

Group Response- Strengths:

- Hooksett Library is excellent (hours, children's programs, compared to other towns, computers, meeting rooms, site, sunset)
- Education is excellent in Hooksett (always trying to improve curriculum, prepare for higher education, stay abreast of needs for the work force)
- Teachers are excellent (kids love school and teachers, lucky to have strong teachers, teachers appear to enjoy working with the kids)
- Schools are in rural setting as opposed to urban setting
- Schools provide safe haven given issues in society
- Kids are safe in the school environment
- Local resource (Southern NH University, foreign students could be involved in education of Hooksett students)
- Schools have many supportive parents that are involved (many parent volunteers—this is a strength of the school system)
- School Board does excellent job informing
- The public state of schools presentation newspaper article (resourceful with limited budget kept diverse curriculum going)
- School presentations were clear and even handed, not biased—gave recommendations

- School is for all the children regardless of ethnic background (diversity is healthy)
- Not having neighborhood schools

Group Response- Concerns:

- Not utilizing Southern NH University resources
- Lack of space for all three schools—K-8
- Lack of athletics facilities—sports programs could be deeper to enhance the curriculum
- Lack of programs for adults and kids in diversified areas
- Schools are not used for courses such as adult education, fun courses
- Available resources are not known such as NH Vocational Tech
- Extension courses from Voch Tech and other schools not in Hooksett
- Insufficient funds and space to implement programs for advanced learners
- Tax payers need to open wallets
- Tax payers need to be educated
- Educate the public on what is being done with tax dollars beyond K-8
- In order to pass a vote with no voters—should offer opportunities to all age groups not just education needs of children
- Help the tax payers to understand “what’s in it for them”
- Schools are underutilized to have services for everyone in town
- If senior citizens can share the use of one space and school resources they would vote yes (new gym for example and computer lab)
- Young students do not interact with older citizens
- When kids are out of school parents get out of loop disconnected from local school
- Kids going to high school out of Hooksett may have less quality education
- Hooksett is not represented in governance of High School now

Vision for the Future:

- Address the needs of all students K-12
- Poll the community to see what they want—involve citizens in future adult educational plans
- Needs assessment
- Adequate facilities for additional programs
- SPACE
- Campus-like approach –playing fields etc. all in one location
- Smaller class sizes (20)
- Have kids visit local colleges
- Establish partnership with college
- Involve college students to be active in Hooksett schools i.e. Americorps
- Welcome senior citizens to volunteer in local schools
- Schools should partner with the library
- Improve communication to enhance research materials—improve cooperation and communication between school and library to enhance educational services

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Identify and utilize all educational resources/facilities (UNH, SNU, Voc Tech, Americorps, library).
2. Maintain current quality of education in Hooksett while meeting the future space need challenges.

3. Develop “non-formal” educational programs for all members of the community—including athletics, hobbies, art.
4. Educate public on value and benefits of the additional programs to them.
5. Share information regarding High School options—allow public to share input—timeline, compare programs.

6. Community Services, Facilities and Utilities

Facilitator: Frank Kotowski Recorder: Margaret Teravainen Spokesperson: Mike DiBitetto
 Participants: Cliff Mathewson, Lisa Morelli, Chris DiBitetto, Jennifer Paquin

Statement of Purpose:

A community provides many essential facilities and services to its members—public facilities such as municipal buildings, schools, sidewalks, roads, libraries, a recycling center, and cemeteries as well as services and utilities such as police, fire, ambulance, highway maintenance, water and sewer. These key functions consume the majority of tax dollars and sharply influence the community’s quality of life.

Questions to think about:

- What schools and other public facilities exist in the community?
- What facilities or services are needed?
- Are public water sources protected?
- How does the community handle disposal of its wastes?
- Does the town have a plan for financing the maintenance, expansion and replacement of its public facilities? Is it open to regional solutions for future infrastructural needs?
- Is there adequate housing available for elderly or disabled individuals? For people of lower income?
- Are public buildings such as schools and town hall adequate for our needs? Are they accessible to people with disabilities? Are they energy efficient?
- Do officials address qualitative concerns about facilities and systems and utilize alternative methods of service delivery?
- Are officials professional and entrepreneurial in meeting public facility needs?
- Are appropriate physical connections being made, such as public transportation between housing and job (or shopping) sites?

Group Response- Strengths:

- Strong sense of community, sense of history (i.e. Robie’s)
- Quick response time fire department
- Excellent library
- Excellent teachers
- Super sewerage infrastructure
- Good access to boat ramps (Merrimack River)
- Road systems are good
- Good plowing/snow removal
- Good/excellent highway access
- Good college (SNHU)
- Town hall/municipal employees are informative

- Excellent safety department
- Cemeteries—in town/maintained well by town and Boy Scouts
- Well trained PD?FD personnel/good response
- Great ambulance service/response time
- Hazard Materials Department handled situations well
- Good athletic fields/facilities
- Water system—village water-central-Penachuck system are good (tastes good)

Group Response- Concerns:

- Not enough schools
- Services lag behind growth
- Need more books in library
- Street paving lags behind development
- Recyclables not picked up
- Bike riding is “scary”
- “Misery Hill” needs water
- Too many water companies
- Growth in town affects infrastructure
- Schools are outdated
- Recycling mandatory—curbside pickup
- Need comprehensive utility plan (sewer, water, etc.)
- People don’t participate in existing systems
- Need a youth center/rec center
- Need senior services
- Afternoon/after school activities/after school care
- Sidewalks needed-should be mandatory
- Crosswalks—overcoming/working with state to make walking easier
- Safety (highway)—improving communications with DOT (State)
- Nighttime activities for youth
- Need an assembly area/youth center/community center
- Upgrading FD/PD training for 1st response
- Insuring safety in all facilities/utilities
- Keep operating costs in public buildings
- Working a Master Plan/implementing the plan
- Implement and fund a highway plan in anticipation of growth

Vision for the Future:

- Roadway system that meets our needs/moves traffic safely and efficiently
- By-pass connecting to Route 93
- Schools updated—technology/infrastructure
- Community center/youth/all facets of community
- Transportation system (public)
- Community service (social services)
- Wellness center
- Improved local health facilities
- Town clock/town square/town center
- Emergency system communication system
- More bicycle/pedestrian friendly

- Riverwalk
- Municipal Golf Course
- Arts Center

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Strong need for community/youth center to help facilitate community outreach and fellowship and wellness.
2. Highway improvement long-term plan for vehicles and pedestrians.
3. Create outdoor recreational facilities which currently doesn't exist (i.e. Golf Course, Riverwalk, bike trails, walking, nature trails).
4. Improve current school building facilities to host societal trends—meet higher safety and technology standards and increased class sizes.
5. Create, implement and fund Master Plan (to be refreshed in a timely fashion).

8. Working Landscape and the Natural Environment

Facilitator: Pat Thompson

Recorder: Betty Mae Parnell

Spokesperson: Fred Bishop

Participants: Sean Feren, David Masciarelli, Carolyn Schroeder, Ray Upham, Vivian Kotowski, Pauline Bishop

Statement of Purpose:

Natural resources and historical assets of a community contribute significantly to the quality of life for residents and play an integral part in defining community character. Streams, rivers, walking trails, working farms, forests, clean air, historic buildings and bridges, wildlife, and open land help determine a community's personality and contribute to the everyday pleasures of community life. A sustainable community recognizes the importance of these assets and takes appropriate measures to assure their continuance.

Questions to think about:

- What are your town's special water and land sites?
- Is there a broad community interest and participation in maintaining these?
- How healthy are the natural systems within the community?
- What stresses are the local economy and population putting on those natural systems?
- Are there ways to increase the resilience of the local natural systems to allow them to respond to adverse or changing conditions?
- Are current systems, such as waste management, handled in a way that preserves the integrity of natural systems in the community without damaging the integrity of natural systems elsewhere?
- Are the existing businesses environmentally sound?
- Are the public water sources protected?

Group Response- Strengths:

- Robie's—national historical place
- Lilac Bridge restoration
- Merrimack River
- Lambert's Park
- Head's Pond
- Historical Society

- Mt. Saint Mary's Building
- Clean Air
- Mr. Bee's Florist
- Blake's Farm
- Hackett Hill Viewpoint
- Pinnacle
- Donati Field
- Use of Recreation Facilities
- Dube's Pond
- Dam—waterfall
- Action plan—NH landscaping

Group Response- Concerns:

- Lack of walking and biking trail
- Status of Heritage Trail
- Manage growth along Merrimack River
- Develop recreational areas along Merrimack River
- Difficulty to access areas mentioned in strengths
- Balance development and environmental preservation
- Research opportunities to beautify Pine Valley Pond
- Gravel and mining operations
- Maintain green areas with developers
- Landscape medians
- Pedestrian unfriendly
- Pedestrian bridge over Route 3 or 28

Vision for the Future:

- Historical walking trail—development of tours
- Bus tours—town sites
- Heritage Trail completion
- Extension of Donati Field
- Information centers—Robie's Store and strategic locations
- Business participation in medians—"Adopt a Median"
- Development of town forest
- Development of town green
- Continuation of small town ruralness
- Development of bike paths—Chester Turnpike (old)

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Walking and biking trails.
2. Heritage/Lilac Bridge.
3. Town green.
4. Access to Merrimack River, ponds and historical sites.
5. Establish information centers.

9. Economic Vitality

Facilitator: Richard Marshall Recorder: Tom Young Spokesperson: Rachel Jacobi
Participants: Dot Campell, Dan Ferry, Miriam Beck, Joan McDonald, Marie Paff

Statement of Purpose:

The need to maintain flourishing workplaces is of great importance to communities. A sustainable community includes a variety of businesses, industries, and institutions which are environmentally sound, financially viable, provide reasonable wages and benefits to workers, and provides those workers with opportunities to develop their skills through training, education, and other forms of assistance to prepare for the community's future needs. Government, businesses and public service organizations are all important in attracting new investment and in developing new businesses that suit the character of the community.

Questions to think about:

- What types of businesses, industries, and institutions make up the economic base of the community? of the region?
- How diverse is the economic base? Is one sector or one employer dominant or is there a wide variety of sectors and employers?
- Are the existing businesses environmentally sound?
- Are there locally available education opportunities to provide residents with skills that match the needs of local businesses?
- What business services are lacking in the community?
- What types of jobs are available to residents in terms of security, wage levels, skill levels, and benefits?
- Do wages allow the majority of the population to enjoy a reasonable life style?

Group Response- Strengths:

- Strong retail base
- Strong individual base
- Location to I-93
- Location to Manchester/Concord helps access to customers and labor
- Because of location by Big City the Demano is here
- Newly planned business area Route 3A can be molded to our advantage
- Room to expand residential development
- Transient travelers—advantage to business
- Room to expand business to strengthen tax base
- University--Southern NH
- In-home business—attractive
- Location/location/location to city/highways/airport
- Youth labor market in town
- Abundant natural resource
- Water and sewer infrastructure
- Natural gas line
- PSNH—electrical line

- Railroad system
- Economic vitality not dependent on industry
- Industrial park by Route 3
- River—water frontage

Group Response- Concerns:

- Funding for schools is low
- School classes are large
- Transit—Route 3—just getting through town
- Unable to bring in bigger companies
- Lack of variety in business sector
- Limited professional/financial services
- Zoning limits height of buildings
- Getting water to business/residential difficult
- Failure of community to invest in the future
- Too many auto dealerships
- Too few good restaurants
- Limited diversity in wage level
- Wage scales do not provide ability to live in the community
- Need to work outside the community to be able to live in community
- Public not adequately educated on tax benefits on different types of growth
- Conflicting sense of community—no sense of greater community by Granite Hills/West-side/North-end/South-end of Hooksett—no bonding
- Lack of community social and recreational cultural diversity
- Community is economically fragmented
- Larger homes attracting higher end wage earners with limited ability to provide high end commercial
- Not using river as a draw
- Are zoning ordinances economically sound for the town
- Town administration is not friendly to development

Vision for the Future:

- Planned business growth
- Higher school fund
- River development—attractive
- High end shops
- Better local highway system
- Mall
- Planned infrastructure
- Balance—community/industry/residential
- River crossing in middle of town
- Sound economic base
- Availability of high end jobs
- Golf course & recreational and cultural program
- Community center
- Supported zoning

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Improved school system to attract high end employers.
2. Improve traffic circulation/transportation Master Plan in whole town.
3. Balance between residential/commercial/industrial growth to establish stronger tax base.
4. Make development process business-friendly.
5. Strong community social/recreation foundation which will strengthen economic vitality.
6. Ensure that infrastructure is available to allow for economic growth i.e. water, sewer, gas and transportation.

10. Growth and Development

Facilitator: Dave Hess

Recorder: John Gryval

Spokesperson: Mary Ruel

Participants: Richard Monteith, Fran Boucher

Statement of Purpose:

Local control of businesses is important to the economic health of a community. The more often money circulates within the community before leaving, the more the community benefits. Locally controlled businesses allow employees to have a voice in the decisions that affect them.

Questions to think about:

- What percent of the community's businesses, industries and organizations are locally owned?
- What percent of the community's businesses, industries and organizations have linkages to the local environment, social structure or economy?
- To what extent do local businesses purchase products from each other?
- What additional business services are needed that could be locally provided and locally owned?
- Is there an adequate supply of locally owned, locally controlled credit available for local businesses?
- Do employees have a voice in the decisions of their employer?
- Is there a reasonable distribution of wealth across the population or is there a wide gap between the haves and the have-nots. How has this distribution changed over time?

Group Response- Strengths:

- Good development of community property
- Tennis courts
- Riverfront protection
- Lambert Park boat ramp
- Watershed and aquifer mapping
- Current modern zoning ordinances
- Awareness of open space
- Move toward preservation of natural environment
- Opportunity as a development corridor

Group Response- Concerns:

- Consider livability in development (more open space, less sprawl)

- Elderly housing
- Maintain existing recreational right-of-ways
- Multi-use zones regulations too ambiguous
- Working with developers to preserve our community
- Aesthetic preservation (trees—natural habitat)
- Retain more natural vegetation
- Town purchase conservation easements

Vision for the Future:

- More green space
- More river access
- More cluster development
- Planned recreational area in each development
- Preserve and develop non-motorized trails
- Better mix of residential and commercial
- Larger lot sizes
- Plan industrial development
- Temporary moratorium on residential development
- Revisit the strip zoning for commercial and industrial

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Preserve and develop non-motorized trails.
2. Greater preservation of natural environment.
3. Revisit zoning
 - a. mix of commercial—residential
 - b. industrial and community development closer to interchanges
 - c. increase buffer zones on new development
 - d. revisit community and industrial strip zoning
4. Aesthetic preservation
 - a. trees and natural habitat
 - b. conservation easements
 - c. riverfront protection
 - d. more green space
5. Less sprawl.

11. Transportation

Facilitator: Patrick Long

Recorder: Glen Simons

Spokesperson: Ann Marie Kenny

Participants: Elizabeth Deady, Ed Groves, Diane Petty, Nan Veilleux, Tim Shoup

Statement of Purpose:

Hooksett’s strategic location and economic importance bring many people to live, work, and shop here. Roads get most of us where we need and want to go, and most people drive their own cars for convenience. However, more vehicles sharing the roads results in increased highway maintenance, air pollution, and traffic congestion. Alternatives to automobile travel include pedestrian and bicycle travel, and bus and rail transportation.

Group Response- Strengths:

- 93 runs through Hooksett
- Size of town allots for improvements
- Plenty of time and space to add sidewalks
- Safe areas to walk
- Wide shoulders help where they exist
- Double lanes around new developments help
- Lights activated when emergency vehicles come through
- 2 bridges over Merrimack River in town
- Heavy traffic allows time to chat with family while in traffic
- Speed limits enforced
- Emergency vehicle access good
- Reduced speed limits have lowered accidents with large trucks
- Very limited one-way streets
- Reduced toll coming off Route 93 (Hooksett Exit)
- Weigh station on Route 3A limits heavy truck traffic
- Re-paving of neighborhood streets is good because of outside contractors doing the job

Group Response- Concerns:

- Exit 9A needed to go to college
- North River Road needs to be extended
- Get more trucks to use Route 93
- Lower truck traffic through Hooksett
- Lack of sidewalks
- Need walkway to cross Route 3 by Wal-Mart
- Heavy traffic on Route 3
- Lack of bike/hike paths
- No bus services for youth/elderly
- No transportation to help town citizens/children to access town library
- Lack of alternate routes to alleviate traffic build-up
- No bus service for children for commercial sponsored activities
- Do we want to provide traffic capability to meet only town needs or to accommodate outsiders to access restaurants/businesses?
- Can toll booths in Hooksett be removed to encourage more traffic on Route 93 vs. Route 3
- High accident volume on Route 3 and 3A
- Lights no synchronized on Route 3
- Lack of street lights on Route 3
- Lack of street lights on By-pass 28
- Lack of access to west side of Hooksett from the east side
- No alternate routes through town

Vision for the Future:

- Need Exit 9A (Diamond interchange) for people to bypass Route 3
- Change liquor store on Route 93 into truck stop/restaurant to draw truck traffic off Route 3
- Jersey barriers on Route 3 to limit left turn traffic
- Catwalks across major traffic ways
- Keep Hooksett country
- Lower speed limit on 3A to 30mph to dissuade heavy truck traffic

- Hooksett town shuttle for youth/residents to businesses, community centers, activities
- By-pass and pedestrian sidewalks everywhere feasible—especially high volume places
- Medians to limit left turn traffic
- Paved bike routes along the river for bikers/in-line skaters
- Mountain bike trails
- Eliminate through traffic going through neighborhoods
- Synchronizing of lights on Route 3
- Buffer zones along roads for businesses along major roads
- Limit commercial growth through specialized/creative zoning
- If you create a plan (zoning)—it cannot be changed

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Minimize traffic on main arteries and town roads.
2. Develop/encourage alternate routes.
3. Public transportation.
4. Sidewalks, paths and street lights.
5. Minimize commercial traffic.

Saturday Morning

Everyone reassembled bright and early Saturday morning in Hooksett Memorial School, where we were greeted by hot coffee, tea and delicious baked goods. There were a few folks there who had not been present Friday evening and they soon felt the enthusiasm of the rest of the group. Similarly, a few members of the Friday night small groups were missing. However, most of the people were stalwarts who had signed on for both days.

The 10 easels from the small groups of the night before were arrayed across the front of the room, each bearing a list of the key issues for that topic area. Our working day began with short presentations from a member of the each of the groups, explaining their group's list.

Judy Bush then presented us with her version of a condensed list of overarching issues which she felt had come up repeatedly in various ways in the small group lists. The entire group worked together to evaluate and refine this list. After some discussion, 6 key issues emerged as important to study for the future of Hooksett. This list is presented below along with some of the related ideas that were mentioned.

Key Issues

1. Moving Around Our Community Safely and Easily
2. Improving Community Communication
3. Balancing Assets and Growth
4. Natural Resources
5. Creating a Sense of Community
6. Quality of Lifelong Learning

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

After a short mid-morning break, participants each chose which of the 6 key issues they would like to discuss further and broke into small groups accordingly. Each topic attracted enough people to form a small working group.

The task of each group was to think about problems that existed in each area and then to brainstorm possible solutions/answers to the issue identified. We did that by thinking out loud for half an hour or so about "problems" and "goals." Then we suggested solutions, from practical to fanciful to idealistic. The next step was to evaluate the reality of each possible solution/project using the following impact/feasibility grid.

IMPACT: How much will it matter?	High			
	Moderate			
	Low			
		Low	Moderate	High
		FEASIBILITY: How possible is it in our community?		

Using the grid above, we copied each of our proposed solutions onto sticky notes. For each solution, the group decided together what the feasibility and impact of the solution would be. Then we placed the sticky note in the appropriate box.

Based on the grid, each group chose three solutions and wrote them up as proposals on their easel to be presented to the large group. Some groups chose only proposals with high impact/feasibility ratings, while others chose projects from a variety of ratings. Small projects, which were highly feasible, but of low impact, were favored by those who wanted to start small and accomplish something quickly. Long term, difficult projects had advocates who were willing to commit to longer struggles with high rewards. Many of the groups proposed a combination of proposals. Verbatim notes from each of the groups are presented below.

Key Issue #1 Moving Around Our Community Safely and Easily

Facilitator: Patrick Long

Recorder: Glen Simons

Spokesperson: Dave Marston

Participants: Bob St. Jean, Paul Lucille, Ginger Kozlowski, Ray Carignan, Jeannette Carignan, Mike Jolin

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- 2 categories—via vehicle; via foot/bike
- Can't do much without a vehicle
- No public transportation
- Congestion
- Lack of connectivity between opposite sides of town
- Very unsafe for one to get across town because current roads cannot accommodate vehicles/pedestrians/bicyclists
- Route 3A truck traffic is high to avoid Route 93
 - Tolls
 - Weight limits
 - Possible avoiding of driver truck log
 - Lack of services off of 93
- Route 3 gridlock
- Lack of alternative routes
- Lack of control of growth
- Inadequate supply of north/south traffic
- No sustained communication with state on long-term traffic plans
- No sustained, long-term commitment by town
- How do we deal with a congested, incomplete road system and lack of alternate transportation methods and lack of long-term funding for all of it?

Solutions:

- Widen Route 3/Route 3A
- By-pass around town
- Synchronizing traffic lights
- Additional stacking lanes
- Access management to alleviate traffic on Route 3
- Improve access/egress into Granite State Marketplace
- Improve access/egress into Dunkin Donuts
- Town needs to be pro-active in traffic planning
- Identify alternate source of funding
- Establish traffic impact fund
- Need a Master Plan we will stick to
- Build bike paths, walking paths
- Buses
- Put mailboxes/newspaper boxes on both sides of street on Route 3A to avoid citizens crossing streets
- Lower speed limits
- More police, police presence
- Develop transportation advocacy committee & oversight committee
- Redesign roadways
- Improve signs, signals

- Need for east/west connector road by Cigna
- Change weight-limit on Route 3A to be same or lower than I-93
- Need for east/west connector road by Alice Avenue
- Open weigh station more often on 3A

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- Redesign roadways
- By-pass around town

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- More police presence
- Widen Route 3

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- Identify alternate source of funding
- Town needs to be proactive in traffic planning
- Development transportation advocacy committee and oversight committee
- Establish traffic impact fund
- Need for east/west connector road by Cigna
- Need Master Plan we will stick to

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- Bike and walking paths
- Change weight limit on Route 3A

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Access management to alleviate traffic on Route 3
- Additional stacking lanes
- Buses

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- Improve signs signals

Low Impact/High Feasibility

- Put mail/newspaper boxes on Route 3A to discourage street crossing

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Lower speed limits

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

- Synchronize traffic signals

Key Issue #2 Improving Community Communication

Facilitator: Jim Brown

Recorder: Gwen Brown

Spokesperson: Marion Jacobi

Participants: Warren Parnell, Betty Mae Parnell, Pat Thompson, Peggy Teravainen, John Turtyne, Joan McDonald, Marlene Lein, Dan Ferry, David Paquette, Bryan Williams

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- Need for active up-to-date website
- Geographic isolation (multiple neighborhoods)
- Public apathy
- Accessibility of town officials
- No public access TV
- Need additional media/community coverage besides “Banner” such as community newsletter
- Public meetings should be better controlled and structured with defined starting and ending times
- No welcome to new residents and businesses
- Lack of communication between boards, organizations, civic groups, neighboring towns, faith community, businesses, etc.
- lack of volunteer recruitment

Possible Projects/Solutions:

- Make up-to-date listings of meetings, contact groups, volunteer opportunities, phone numbers
- Make list available
- Develop staff and fund Hooksett website—call “Hooksett Village”
- Access TV
- Web cam
- Info available for non-web users
- Multiple media
- Outside town hall—notice of meetings
- Marquee sign
- Welcome to Hooksett sign with groups in town
- More info centers welcome centers
- Satellite info centers
- Active recruitment for boards, town offices, etc.
- More frequent social events—one for every season for all (ask each organization to co-sponsor events)
- Coordinator of volunteer projects—initiated/funded by Hooksett
- Pay for Hooksett insert/page in Banner with possible coordination with adjoining towns with business sponsors
- Approach town council for communication budget
- Inform businesses of town events

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

None

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

None

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- Up-to-date listings of meetings, contact groups, volunteer opportunities, phone numbers
- Active recruitment of volunteers, town offices and civic organizations
- Approach town council re: communications budget
- Coordinator of volunteer projects (initiated/funded by Hooksett)
- Access TV
- Web cam
- Info available for non-web users
- Multiple media (develop newsletter)
- Develop staff and fund Hooksett website
- Pay for Hooksett insert/page in Banner with possible coordination with towns and with business sponsor
- Inform businesses of town events
- Make list available
- Ask organizations to co-sponsor events
- More frequent social events—for all

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

None

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Satellite info centers
- Outside town hall notice of meetings
- Marquee sign
- More info centers, welcome centers

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

None

Low Impact/High Feasibility

None

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

None

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

None

Key Issue #3 Balancing Assets and Growth

Facilitator: John Gryval

Recorder: Dave Hess

Spokesperson: Tom Young

Participants: Martin Cummute, Anne Marie Kenny, Carol Lighthall, Elaine and Ray Langer, Jim Robinson, Tina Paquette, Joanne D'Avanza, Mary Farwell

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

Assets

- Highway system potential to develop commercial and industrial
- Merrimack River
- Railroad
- Infrastructure—water, sewer, gas
- Diversity in size of businesses
- Location, location, location
- Self-control—governable
- Good public school system K-8
- University
- Open space
- Population diversity

Growth

- Affordable housing
- Infrastructure—utilities, highways
- Strategic planning—big picture and long-term
- Southern University growth
- By-pass road
- Impact fees
- Manchester Sand/Mt. St. Mary's

Goals:

- Consolidation of utilities
- Controlled growth
- “Smart” growth—planned (aesthetics, geographic planning)
- Diversified tax base
- Encourage office parks
- Green—open space
- Recreational access
- Historic preservation
- Affordable and rental housing (elderly, low-income)

Possible Solutions/Objectives and Projects:

- Update Master Plan
- Maintain quality of schools
- Non-school impact fees
- Target and business development
- Formation of community development committee
- Evaluation zoning (encourage aesthetics, geographic planning, encourage office parks, open space)
- Scenic roads

- Slow growth ordinance
- Encourage cluster development
- Utility Master Plan
- Continuing planning education

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- Update Master Plan
- Formation of community development commission
- Utility Master Plan
- Maintain quality schools

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Evaluate zoning (encourage aesthetics, geographic planning, encourage office parks)
- Slow growth ordinance
- Encourage cluster development

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- Targeted business development

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- Continuing planning education

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

None

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

None

Low Impact/High Feasibility

None

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

None

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

None

Key Issue #4 Natural Resources

Facilitator: Becky Berk

Recorder: Tim Fleury

Spokesperson: Jennifer Paiton

Participants: Michael McCoy, Janine McCoy, Dot Campbell, Ron Luci, Ed Groves Sr., Carolyn Schroeder, Nan Veilleux, Fran Boucher, Nancy Barrett

Clarification of the Issue:

- Communication about issue
- Link trails with education and community efforts
- Maintain underpass (Route 28) to allow better access to trails system
- Create awareness that not all trail use is bad (not all trails are used by off-road vehicles)
- Identify existing and potential trails
- Riverwalk
- Contact landowners about protecting/conservation easements to protect Heritage Trail
- Increased awareness of Heritage Trail
- Focus on Lilac Bridge
- Walking and biking trails
- Help from statewide organizations to maintain trails system
- Contact corporations to inform them of off-road vehicle use

Potential Projects/Solutions:

- Use natural resource inventory to identify existing and potential passive recreational trail system
- Use inventory to identify wildlife corridors
- Complete and implement Heritage Trail (Riverwalk, Lilac Bridge, land acquisition, education, trail branching off, section of paved bike trail along river)
- Select a portion of existing trail as a nature trail for education
- Maintain a functional trail/underpass (Route 28)—existing
- Identify specific use for specific trails (or section) and assign appropriate use
- Link website to town of Hooksett (include phone # to volunteer)
- Designate a Hooksett conservation day/week; promote it (Banner, 5K race, nature walks, clean-up crews, spring peeper day)
- Communicate with state organization about land preservation
- Investigate what surrounding towns are doing to maintain any restricted access to trails
- Bulletin board about trail systems and projects
- Conservation corner in Hooksett Banner and website
- Complete natural resources inventory (NRI)
- Connect and protect green spaces
- Maintain existing trail system—seniors and teens
- Create and recognize volunteers whom maintain trail system
- Landowner participation/acceptance of trail use
- Contact landowners about trails for conserving and use

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- Update Master Plan
- Formation of community development commission

- Utility Master Plan
- Maintain quality schools

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Landowner participation, education and acceptance of trail use

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- Events to promote natural areas (5K walk/race, clean-up crews, etc.)
- Designate a conservation day/week

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- Work with state organizations about options, efforts for land preservation
- Complete natural resources inventory
- Research what other towns are doing to maintain trail system
- Conservation corner in Banner
- Complete and implement Heritage Trail (include Riverwalk, Lilac Bridge, land acquisition, education)

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

None

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- Website linked to town site

Low Impact/High Feasibility

- Maintain functional underpass (Route 28) linked to wildlife corridor

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Designate/select portions of trail for education/nature center
- Volunteer-maintained trail system
- Bulletin board of trail system
- Identify and provide signage for specified use(s) of specific trails

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

None

Final Projects:

- Complete a natural resources inventory (make priority to complete map of existing and potential trail system)
- Investigate public/private efforts to implement and maintain land preservation and recreational trail system
- Complete and implement Heritage Trail to include:
Riverwalk
Lilac Bridge
Land acquisition
Awareness

Key Issue #5 Creating a Sense of Community

Facilitator: Diane Monteith

Recorder: Maria Papp

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Fred Bishop, Roy Upham, Aurie Upham, Frank Kotowski, Lisa Morelli, Cliff Mathewson, Robert Schroeder, Sam Paiton, John Brock, Cheryl Shoup, Diane Monteith, Mariam Beck, Etana Jacobi

Clarification of the Problem/Issue:

- Lack of a sense of community
- Geographic obstacles
- Lack of facilities
- Lack of identity
- Fragmentation (i.e. churches, schools)
- Lack of sense of common purpose
- Sense of isolation and belonging
- Separate communities
- Resistance to inclusion
- Proximity to Manchester/Concord
- No communication for residents to introduce community offerings and activities

Identify Projects/Solutions:

- Establish drama club for adults and children
- Create activities to interests, hobbies of the public
- Develop strong recreation program with financial support from town--include senior programs
- Establish a coordinated volunteer program
- Fully utilize existing facilities
- Inventory existing facilities and publish directory
- Develop a road race
- Include all ages
- Community/senior center
- Add more recreational facilities and fields
- Community swimming pools
- Golf course
- Publicize service clubs (define what they do and their value)
- Welcome wagon
- Teen center/programs
- After-school programs (i.e. Boys Club, YMCA, etc.)
- Village green with bandstand
- Town band
- Develop/establish a "center of town"
- Compile available land for parks
- Require developers to provide useable community space
- Establish partnerships with developers and businesses
- Keep students within the community (i.e. High School)
- High School with community center
- Establish recreational programs
- Survey community to determine what they feel is lacking with regards to sense of community and recreational programs
- More public presentations

- Establish town meetings
- More community celebrations/events like Old Home Day (i.e. Winter Festivals)

Program Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- Keep students within the community (i.e. High School)
- High School with community center
- Develop/establish a center of town
- Village green with a bandstand

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- After-school programs (Boys Club, YMCA, etc.)
- Develop strong recreation program—with financial support from town (include senior programs)
- Establish partnerships with developers and businesses
- Require developer to provide useable community space

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- More community get-togethers (i.e. Old Home Day, Winter Festival)
- Inventory existing facilities and publish directory
- Public service clubs (define what they do and their value)
- Establish a coordinator volunteer program
- Include all ages
- Establish a drama club for adults and children
- Create activities to interests, hobbies of the public
- More public presentations
- Teen center
- Community and senior center

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- Community swimming pool
- Complete natural resources inventory
- Research what other towns are doing to maintain trail system
- Conservation corner in Banner
- Complete and implement Heritage Trail (include Riverwalk, Lilac Bridge, land acquisition, education)

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Establish town meetings
- Develop a road race
- Add more recreational facilities and fields

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- Fully utilize existing facilities

Low Impact/High Feasibility

- Survey community to determine what they feel is lacking with regards to sense of community and rec programs

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

None

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

- Compile available land for parks

Key Issue #6 Quality of Lifelong Learning

Facilitator: Shari Demarco

Recorder: Pam Whittacre

Spokesperson: Joan Holley

Participants: Michael DiBitetto, Steve Korzyniowski, Rachel Jacobi, Ann Marie Van De Water, Alan Brennan, Greg DeMarco

Clarification of the Issue/Problem:

- Need lifelong learning facility and organization for all ages including high school, adult and senior citizens
- No post age 14 education program/facility—high school
- Fragmented community resulting
- Lack of awareness of current education resources
- Lack of senior citizen education
- Lack of educational space
- Lack of continuing education (age 0-100)

Potential Solutions:

- New mission statement—School Board
- Identify land for facility
- Research how other communities are working
- Plan facility (community center)
- Identify programming needs
- Start group to educate voters on needs and benefits for the need for lifelong education facilitation/organization
- Formal investigations to begin on unified/multi-community school district (beyond Auburn & Candia)
- Start group to explore use of existing facilities for evening education (schools, businesses, universities, libraries)
- Explore funding options to support lifelong continuing education
- Liaison with School Board on Manchester High School crisis
- Committee to look at High School and “charter” options
- Serious evaluation of all high school options

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- Plan facility
- Formal investigation of unified multi-school district (beyond Auburn/Candia)

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- New mission statement for school board

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- Explore funding (all sources) for lifelong learning (businesses, individuals....)
- Use of library for lifelong learning—explore now
- Identify land for facility
- Start a support group to educate voters and tax payers about the need for lifelong educational facility
- Serious evaluation of all high school options
- Liaison with school board on current crisis situation of high school

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

None

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Committee to look at high school “charter” option

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- Identify programming needs
- Research other communities are working

Low Impact/High Feasibility

None

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

None

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

None

Saturday Afternoon

PROJECT SELECTION

We returned to the large group after lunch break. A member of each small group presented the projects that the group had come up with. Judy Bush led a short discussion about whether some projects overlapped and could be combined with other closely related ones.

Every participant received five adhesive dots to use to "vote" on projects they thought were important for Hooksett to work on right away. Each voter could place as many dots as they wished by any project, distributing their five votes as they pleased. The projects receiving the most votes would then be discussed in small groups. The list of project ideas follows.

#1 Moving Around our Community Safely and Easily

1. Develop an advocacy and oversight group **(1 vote)**
2. Identify alternate means of functional transportation **(17 votes)**
3. Address Route 3 congestion through short and long-term solutions **(38 votes)**

#2 Improving Communication and Increasing Citizen Involvement

1. Volunteer coordinator/committee to facilitate communication for active recruitment for town office, civic organizations and other volunteer opportunities **(10 votes)**
2. Create and distribute up-to-date listings of volunteer opportunities, civic groups, town boards, meeting dates, contact info—making it available to all businesses and citizens in Hooksett **(combined with another project)**
3. Develop multi-media info systems to disseminate town and community info (newsletter, access TV, website, etc.) **(17 votes)**

#3 Balancing Assets and Growth

1. Update Master Plan with community development committee **(39 votes)**
2. Evaluate zoning (geographic planning, encourage cluster development, slow growth ordinance, encourage aesthetics, encourage professional office parks) **(24 votes)**
3. Targeted business development **(6 votes)**

#4 Accessing and Preserving Natural Resources

1. Complete Natural Resources Inventory (priority—map out existing and potential trail systems) **(38 votes)**
2. Investigate public/private efforts to implement and maintain land preservation and recreational trail system **(1 vote)**

#5 Creating a Sense of Community

1. Community Center for all Hooksett residents **(50 votes)**
2. Creation of a public directory (service clubs, facilities available to public, parks/playgrounds, town committees and commissions, historical sites, volunteer opportunities) **(37 votes)**
3. Establish rec/cultural network to include arts, drama, hobbies, etc. for all ages **(14 votes)**

#6 Quality of Lifelong Learning

1. Need lifelong learning facility and organization for all ages including high school, adults and senior citizens **(14 votes)**
2. Expand school board mission to include a lifelong education focus **(1 vote)**
3. Enlist community residents to participate in the process of educating voters for needs and benefits; explore funding options; explore use of existing facilities **(20 votes)**

ACTION GROUPS

After the voting, the group decided to focus in on the top 6 projects. These were:

Creation of a Public Directory
Updating Master Plan
Heritage Trail
Natural Resource Directory
Address Route 3 Congestion
Community Center

Participants once again self-selected themselves into small groups according to the project that interested them most. Each group was asked to define the following:

- Critical Steps to Implementation
- Resources Needed
- Principal Leadership (group or individual)
- Potential Obstacles with Possible Strategies to Overcome Them
- Timeline for Implementation
- Action Step Coordinator

Some of the groups used these steps as a way to focus their discussions and notes, while others did not. Hence, the reports that follow are in a number of different formats.

Project #1 Creation of a Public Directory

Facilitator: Jim Brown Recorder: Gwen Brown Spokesperson: Marlene Lein
 Participants: Dan Ferry, Peggy Teravainen, Marion Jacobi, Marlene Lein, Tina Paquette, David Paquette, Sam Paiton, Miriam Beck, Vivian Kotowski, Joan McDonald

Critical Steps to Implementation:

- Distribute to everyone in town (residents, businesses, newcomers, service providers)
- Administrator to organize and distribute in timely manner
- ID who is on list (strong representation of town—encompass and add social services, enhance sense of community, resource tool)

Existing Initiatives:

- Town hall—Tina
- Phone book
- Banner
- Helpline
- Website
- Library
- Merrimack County Director
- Town report
- Parks and recreation
- Historical association
- Churches
- Hooksett-ites
- Schools
- Commerce alliance

Obstacles:

- Maintenance (up-to-date)
- Cost of publication
- Distribution
- Frequency
- Volunteer coordination
- Administration

Solutions:

- Financial support from town and civic organizations
- Free distribution via web and town hall
- Ask Boy Scouts to distribute
- Need database??? (source)
- Check accuracy of all info periodically

Ask for Input:

- Sandy Piper, Leslie Nepveu
- Liz Dinwoodie (Assistant Town Administrator)
- Fran and Pat (Library)
- Joy Buzzel
- Helpline
- Individual organizations

Timeline:

- Complete within six months

Members:

Dan Ferry, Marion Jacobi, Jim Brown, Marlene Lein, Tina Paquette, Sam Paiton, Peggy Teravainen, Miriam Beck

Action Steps:

- Calls to individuals
- Item in Banner

Meeting: November 15, 2001 @ 7pm at Hooksett Library

Convener: Marion Jacobi 626-7729

Project #2 Updating Master Plan

Facilitator: Steve Korzyniowski Recorder: Joanne D'Avanza

Spokesperson: Mary Ruel

Participants: Carol Lighthall, Greg DeMarco, Mary Farwell, Robert St. Jean, Anne Marie Kenny, Alan Brennan, Martin Cannata, Tom Young

Defining the Project:

Key components

1. transportation
2. education
3. conservation and preservation
4. recreation
5. land use
6. economic development
7. utilities
8. housing
9. community facilities
10. transportation
11. population

Objectives:

- Community created Master Plan with ownership and input of plan
- Cover topics important to town
- Put money forward to accomplish
- Volunteers needed
- Boards to follow plan when completed
- Community development committee—appointed by TX and funded
- TC support and PB support to update
- Forums for input

Existing initiatives:

- Community Profile
- SNHPC—economic development section
- Transportation effort—business input
- Town council goal
- Some funding

Obstacles & Solutions:

- Utilizing community development committee to coordinate
- Lack of volunteers
- Resistance to change
- Funding
- Manageable size tasks for volunteers
- Leadership—solid
- Engaging all aspects of community
- Including people not associated with government

Leadership:

- Town Council, Planning Board, community development committee must have solid leaders
- Strong advocate of Master Plan in all planning activities
- Leaders from each component group represented as well as community
- Identify criteria for leadership

Resources:

- Money
- Volunteers (motivated)
- Other communities
- Office of State Planning
- Town Planner and Planning Board

Action Steps:

- Create community development committee
- Commitment from Planning Board through community development committee
- Recommend to Planning Board that we create community development committee
- Establish timeline for process
- Create mission statement for community development committee
- Establish goals and objectives for community development committee
- Establish re-evaluation date

Timeline:

- 11/17/01—next meeting date
- 12/03/01—give Planning Board presentation
- 12/17/01—get Planning Board buy-in
- mid to late January 2002—community meeting and create subcommittees
- February 2002—start subcommittee meeting
- June 2003—updated Master Plan

Meeting: November 17, 2001 @ 9am at Hooksett Library

Convener: Mary Ruel 344-0704

Project #3 Heritage Trail

Facilitator: Becky Berk

Recorder: Pam Telfer-Whitacre

Spokesperson:

Participants: Warren Parnell, Mike Jolin, Dot Campbell, John Turbyne, Robert Schroeder, Jim Robinson, Charles Watson, Joan Holley

Define the Project:

- Complete and implement heritage trail to include a Riverwalk, the Lilac Bridge, land acquisition and awareness

Existing Initiatives:

- Manchester is done (maps, photos of site); none in Hooksett (what is done is info gathering)-- there is state support, potential funds at state level

Obstacles:

- Land ownership
- Safety
- Rail use, cost
- Defining scope
- Human resource committee
- Insufficient community awareness
- Maintenance issues

Leadership:

- Through grassroots advocate group
- Help from Robie's group
- Parks and Recreation
- Conservation Commission
- Neighboring communities with experience
- Civic organizations
- School involvement
- Southern NH Planning Commission

Resources:

- Town council
- Legal line item for heritage
- Explore grants
- Local University/college students for course assignment
- Land surveyor

- Land owners
- Civic organizations
- Sewer commission
- (also see leadership section)

Action Steps:

- Investigate Ferry Crossing for documented right of crossing
- Plan for periodic reporting to community on progress
- Update land owner and abutt. Lists
- Define who the group is going to be
- Develop a funding plan/case statement/marketing plan “adopt a section”, re-open the “Grace” case
- Implementing the action plan

Timeline:

- Establish group ASAP
- Complete case statement/funding plan
- Complete nuts and bolts to verify facts and current status of land
- Ask rep from neighboring community to walk us through the process

First Steps:

- Charles will put a news piece in the paper to solicit interest in the project
 - Where: Robie’s Store
 - Who: Pam Whitacre
 - Date: To be determined
- Dot to gather hard copy resources
- Joan to copy notes and prepare agenda for first meeting

Meeting: November 15, 2001 @ 7pm at Robie’s Store

Convener: Pam Whitacre 268-3840

Project #4 Natural Resources Inventory

Facilitator: David Hess

Recorder: John Gryval

Spokesperson: Ron Lucci

Participants: Ray and Elaine Langer, Ron Lucci, Mike McCoy, Janine McCoy, Jennifer Paiton, Fran Boucher, Nan Veilleux

Goals:

- Identify what we have
- How we preserve it
- What will we do with it

Objectives:

- Accessibility
- Community awareness
- Involve land preservation groups
- Create wildlife corridors
- Encourage conservation easements
- Identify negative influences
- Wetland protection

- Preservation of bio-diversity
- Natural beauty

Existing Initiatives:

- Hooksett Conservation Commission
- NH F & G
- UNH Cooperative Extension
- NH Trailwrights
- Audubon Society
- Hooksett Garden Club
- Forest Society
- Natural Conservancy Group

Obstacles:

- Large developers
- Private landowners
- Opposing elected officials
- Volunteers (enough?)
- Funding

Solutions:

- Fiscal impact presentations
- Amend zoning ordinances
- Tax breaks for landowners
- Elect supportive officials
- Get acquainted

Leadership:

- Conservation Commission
- Snowmobile Association
- NH Horse and Trail Association
- NEMBA (mountain bike)
- New committee

Resources:

- Not more than \$10,000
- Manpower unknown

Action Steps/Timeline:

3 months:

- Go to Conservation Commission
- Form a committee
- Review existing maps
- Review existing Aerial photos community awareness

12 months:

- Walk the land (contact landowners)
- Coordination with leadership

- Raise revenue

15 months:

- Troubleshooting
- Prepare final time line

Meeting: November 7, 2001 @ 7pm at Town Hall

Convener: Ron Lucci 485-5508

Project #5 Address Route 3 Congestion

Facilitator: Patrick Long

Recorder: Glenn Simons

Spokesperson: Dave Marston

Participants: Ginger Kozlowski, Jeannette Carignan, Ray Carignan, Carolyn Schroeder, Betty Mae Parnell

Goals and Objectives:

- Long-term goals would be a North/South Bypass
- Short-term goal would be to address gridlock on Route 3 between Wal-mart and McDonald's (assess traffic lights)
- Widen Route 3
- Second exit and entry point into Granite State Marketplace
- Back exit for businesses on west side of Route 3
- Stronger restriction on development with respect to Route 3
- Study group to evaluate cause of the traffic congestion

Existing Initiatives:

Long-term:

- North/South Bypass
- Review Route 3 study done by State 2 years ago
- Review current Master Plan/other development plans to make sure they match up

Short-term:

- Address grid-lock
- Synchronize traffic lights
- Talk to police with respect to traffic light control
- Note that Alice Ave/Bypass 28 intersections are already in process
- Improved road signage

Obstacles and Solutions:

Long-term:

- \$\$ (solution-look into state/federal funds available)
- Conservation concerns (solution-look into state/federal funds available)
- Loss of current commercial business
- Assembly of land to develop corridor (solution-reservation of corridors through subdivision/zoning approval)

Short-term:

- \$\$ (solution same as above)
- communication (solution-contact state traffic division)
- police short-staffed (solution-hire traffic controller)
- publicity to prevent gridlock (solution-to inform public and enforce law)

Leadership:

Long-term:

- town council (Charles Watson)
- police
- town highway department
- local/state reps
- town administration

Resources:

- Need traffic engineers
- State/local reps
- Town highway department
- Police
- Town liaison to state to access existing reports/data

Action Steps:

- Define studies
- Recruit town leaders and departments to make sure plan is implemented
 - Town administrator
 - Town planner
 - Police and highway departments
- Get community involved in contacting town officials
- Get community involved in project

Timeline:

- November 20—initiate announcement of 11/25 as organizational meeting
- November 25—1st organized meeting at library
- March 2002—short-term goals addressed; proper authorities contacted
- September 2002—all sources of data gathered for evaluation
- November 2002—presentation of results

Meeting: November 26, 2001 @ 7pm at Library

Convener: Glenn Simons

Project #6 Community Center

Facilitator: Diane Monteith

Recorder: Marie Papp

Spokesperson: Fred Bishop

Participants: Olive Mathewson, John Rock, Roy Upham, Aurie Upham, Etana Jacobi, Fred Bishop, Frank Kotowski, Cliff Mathewson, Shari DeMarco, Lisa Morelli, Bryan Williams, Miriam Beck

Goals and Objectives:

- Access the needs that should be served by the community center
- Build a case for a community center
- Community center would be a place to bring everyone in the community together
- Identify specific needs
 - Elderly
 - Handicapped accessible
 - Children after-school
- Design action plan

- Design community center that is feasible that the town will accept and pay for
- Take advantage of grant money available
- Alternative funding sources (i.e. state, federal foundations, businesses)
- Conduct a number of site visits to evaluate what other communities are offering
- Form a steering committee of volunteers
- Public relations effort to publicize community center project to gain support and momentum
- Provide access to all organizations and individuals including faith-based organizations
- Research existing facilities to determine available space within town for short and long-term needs
- Answer “who, what, when, where, how and why”
- Provide a good place for
 - Recreation
 - Senior services
 - Community health services
- Attract cooperation and assistance from local businesses

Existing Initiatives:

- Hooksett Youth Athletic Association (HYAA)—all sports and cheerleading
- Schools
- Hooksett-ites
- Lion’s Clubs and other clubs
- Old Home Day
- Other towns (CAP, Visiting Nurses, Service Link)
- Church sponsored activities
- Concord interfaith caregivers
- Town meetings and committees
- Library activities
 - Story time
 - Provide space
 - Internet access
- Parks and Recreation
- Women’s Club
- Garden Club
- Existing Fitness/Health Clubs
- Restaurants
- Southern NH University
- Hooksett entertainers
- Choirs
- Scouting

Obstacles and Solutions:

- Security issues based on varied ages (solution—complete a study and develop plan—utilize other communities and professional assistance)
- Money/funding (solution—grant writer, professional fundraisers, federal/state/local grants, businesses, determine scope and associated costs)
- Land/facility/space (solution—start small and expand, establish subcommittee)
- Volunteers/manpower (solution—provide informational forum, enlist cooperation of town fathers, approach organizations)

- Transportation/access
 - Leadership and organization
 - Liability
 - Legal restrictions
 - Competing resources
 - Lack of volunteers/workers
 - Cost-benefit/health benefits
 - Ongoing maintenance
 - Building support and momentum
- ***develop sound business plan***

Leadership:

- Invite any interested residents/business interests—varied ages
- Notify all service groups and involve them
- Involve school children
- Use community service projects
- Invite respected key local and state and national leaders
- Dale Hemeon/HYAA
- Significant business owners—identify Hooksett residents that hold key positions in businesses
- People who are interested in potential employment at community center
- People who have experience in similar projects
- Students who need internships at local colleges
- Local public relations/marketing expert

Resources:

- Planning for all phases with timeline
- Research in-kind resources
- Recruit volunteers
- Project manager
- Director
- Money
- Building site
- Committee—fresh start—new people
- Incorporate existing town administration
- Advanced commitment—major sponsor
- Business plan

Action Steps:

- Create steering committee
- Conduct site visits
- Interview experienced people
- Recruit space needs members who prepared school presentations
- Create public survey
- Prepare business plan
- Committee should be clear and concise
- Add to town responsibility
- Identify possible locations
- Establish timeline

- Obtain commitments for leadership gifts
- Sell it
- Set target date for public presentation

Timeline:

- January 2002—establish volunteer committee; recruit members for steering committee
- February 2002—steering committee established
- March 30 2002—complete site visits; interviews conducted
- May 1, 2002—create survey
- May 14, 2002—(voting day) distribute survey
- September 2002—prepare business plans; obtain commitments for leadership gifts; public presentation

Meeting: November 17, 2001 @ 9am at place to be determined

Conveners: Diane Monteith 622-2442

CONCLUSION

Each small group reported back their plans to the entire group. The full group discussed next steps to keep up the momentum from the Profile, with each group appointing someone to maintain contact with the Hooksett Profile Steering Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

APPENDIX

Hooksett Community Profile Participants

Janine McCoy	Jennifer Paquin
Bob St. Jean	Fred Bishop
Elaine Langer	Sean Feren
Ray Langer	David Masciarelli
Tina Paquette	Carolyn Schroeder
Kathy Hughes	Ray Uphan
Etana Jacobi	Vivian Kotowski
Cheryl Shoup	Pauline Bishop
Marion Jacobi	Rachel Jacobi
Michael McCoy	Dot Campbell
Janet St. Jean	Dan Ferry
Marty Deering	Miriam Beck
Warren Parnell	Joan McDonald
Alex Urilas	Marie Paff
William McDonald	Mary Ruel
Ginger Kozlowski	Richard Monteith
John Brock	Fran Boucher
Raymond Carignan	Ann Marie Kenny
Robert Schroeder	Elizabeth Deady
Jim Robinson	Ed Groves
Carol Lighthall	Diane Petty
Barb Brennan	Nan Veilleux
Mike Jolin	Tim Shoup
Charles Watson	Dave Marston
Alan Brennen	Paul Lucille
Jeannette Carignan	Mike Jolin
John Turtyne	Betty Mae Parnell
Matt Barrett	Pat Thompson
Greg DeMarco	Bryan Williams
Martin Cannata	Tom YoungMartin Commute
Tim Morelli	Jim Robinson
Sam Paiton	Mary Farwell
Nancy Barrett	Jennifer Paiton
Joanne McHugh	Aurie Upham
Joan Holley	Ann Marie Van de Water
Mike Dibitto	Mary Farwell
Cliff Mathewson	Olive Mathewson
Lisa Morelli	John Rock
Chris DiBitetto	

Hooksett Community Profile Facilitators and Recorders

Becky Berk
Joanne D'Avanza
Jim Brown
Gwen Brown
Steve Korzyniowski
Shari DeMarco
Marlene Lein
Pam Telfer-Whitacre
Ron Lucci
Diana Monteith
Frank Kotowski

Margaret Teravainen
Pat Thompson
Betty Mae Parnell
Richard Marshall
Tom Young
Dave Hess
John Gryval
Patrick Long
Glen Simons
Tim Fleury

Hooksett Community Profile Steering Committee

Mike Dibitto, Chair
Mary Ruel
Carol Lighthall
Betty Mae Parnell
Vickie Connell
Alex Vailas
Steve Korzyniowski
Frank Kotowski
Charles Watson, Town Planner
John Gryval

Becky Berk
Dave Pauquette
John Turbyne
Pam Gerbi, UNH Cooperative Extension
Pat Thompson
Olive and Cliff Mathewson
Julie Williams
Chris Boudreau Schena
Peggy Teravanien
Sandy Sheidow-Oliver