

## **Rockingham County Gap Session October 23, 2003**

### **What are the needs of NH residents, businesses and organizations and how important are they?**

- Environmental impact from growth. Concentrated population growth. Impact of growth on communities. No plan for growth and loss because of it. [10 votes]
- Need for affordable housing. No adjustment for single mothers for housing allowances- imbalanced. [7 votes]
- Get youth more involved in communities. [7 votes]
- Not enough state support to tax structure – too dependent on towns. [7 votes]
- Need more focus on agriculture – less people involved (feels the profession is being “shunned”.) [4 votes]
- Rapid influx of new cultures. Need (social institutions to embrace and) to support them. [3 votes]
- Uneven support of K-12 education. [2 votes]
- Quality, affordable childcare and state kindergarten – attract quality childcare providers, too. [2 votes]
- Sustainability - impacts of our actions. [2 votes]
- Seniors (are allowing themselves to become) too complacent and need to become advocates. [1 vote]
- Family poverty and homelessness. [1 vote]
- Towns are separated and need to have a voice for certain issues. [1 vote]
- Public transportation. [1 vote]
- Community supported agriculture programs – (consumers and farmers working together.) [1 vote]
- Lack of services for people with disabilities.
- Livable wage.
- Support structures for locally owned, locally managed businesses.
- Role of religion vs. state. (Separation or non-separation of church and state.)
- Air quality – (tail pipe issues, ozone alerts.)
- (NH’s status as a tax-outflow state) – not enough money coming in from the Feds for education.
- Pace of change is accelerating without support on how to handle it. (Communities need help in managing and dealing with change – pace of change is fast.)
- Need more role modeling for youth in volunteering – with working parents.

## **What should Extension do over the next two years and beyond to address these issues?**

- **Growth**

- Develop program(s) for smart growth. Extension take the lead for communities and their “volunteer” boards. Raise awareness of what’s out there. Work with developers who might help. (Some tools are already out there, i.e conservation easements – raise awareness of what’s available.) [8 votes]
- Identify the common stakes/issues throughout towns close to each other - link towns - and relate it to residents – (i.e. water issues) [5 votes]
- Work with schools and planning boards, (conservation commissions) - need master planning – get data and mapping (GIS, to planning boards, schools and communities.) [1 vote]
- Examine different ways to attract folks to programs we already have – work with town or organizations/county and local government.
- More (expand capacity to do) community profiles – then follow-up to profiles (one or two years later) in systematic way.
- Phil Auger kinds of things – but you’re preaching to the choir – Expand new ways to get to others who really need it.
- Identify major funding contributors to become involved in growth issues – corporate partners. (“Malling” the state.)
- Study the subject of “growth” – there are pros and cons (good and bad things about growth and educate towns about this then lead discussions.)

- **Youth Involvement**

- Service learning opportunities – start with young children – (in schools and town governments.) [9 votes]
- Provide training and programs for college students to work with youth. (UNH undergraduates.) [8 votes]
- Help expand youth and partners training. (Educate/expand the knowledge about youth involvement – Youth Adult Partnership - YAP - training for NH organizations.) [4 votes]
- More leader training on minimizing burnout for adults (volunteers (4-H) – to get more youth involved (increase the number of volunteers in the program.) [2 votes]
- Engage youth more in doing Community Profiles. [1 vote]
- Educate children (even in elementary school) about getting involved in their community (communicate – what’s in it for them)
- Community Youth Profiles – great information – but there was no follow up and support for the ideas that were created. (Bring several communities together – i.e. 4-5 communities to form coalitions to follow up on youth profile recommendations.)

- **Affordable housing**
  - Research and share best practices regionally, nationally and internationally (on all of this - growth, youth involvement, affordable housing, etc.) [6 votes]
  - Help communities meet their affordable housing quota. Bring communities together to look at affordable housing – consortium. (Perhaps on a county-basis – Extension would be the link.) [2 votes]
  - Help those who need affordable housing to use the system (how to work the system to find it.) [1 vote]
  - Extension explore federal programs that are available that NH might not be getting. (Why doesn't NH get more \$\$? Note – there is reluctance by some communities to do this – because they know they will attract children and families – which will cost the town in education.)
  - Extension can help communities look into quadraplex or multi-units, Community Land Trusts and other options – if communities want to. (Educate communities about community land trusts – i.e. quadraplex units on town-owned land. Each community is given a “fair share apportionment” – what their target is to provide affordable housing.)
  - Deliver a curriculum for partners in housing to work together (including grant writing on ways communities could help themselves – partners – developers, planning boards, etc.)
  
- **Taxes/state support**
  - Take an inventory of all volunteers (AARP, RSP, etc. who can lobby) to look at tax structure. (“Make the bullets and ask volunteers to fire them.”) [1 vote]
  - Send facts/big maps to legislators to show them the issues. (“Horton Hears a Who” – We're the dust people.) [1 vote]
  - Is there technology available for tax modeling? (Access to technology to do tax modeling – research and development.) [1 vote]
  - Pull information together on how taxes impact residents. (Studies of pros & cons of an income tax in NH – it's available, but needs to be distributed and communicated to public and legislators.)
  - (Can Extension lobby/advocate for a tax reform? NO)

## **What are the best ways for Extension to deliver educational programs and information?**

- Focus graduate/undergraduate research projects on “real” world issues and work with teachers by developing curriculum that would focus on these issues.
- Market our programs better.
- Tap into local cable access channels – (provide materials for them.)
- Community weekly newspapers need to be tapped more and newsletters – monthly articles. (Put Extension information there.)
- Email communities (to get information on their newsletters.)
- Link to (community) web sites. Help build web sites. Use web sites to publicize events (especially Extension events.)
- Assist communities with building web sites
- Put flyers in libraries – (places where it’s free.)
- Use/address different learning styles through teaching. (Put it in writing, say it (vocal) and then have people DO it.)
- Video libraries (with a list distributed to communities.)
- Offer free food to attract people. (Media publicity – Estuary Issues.)
- Distance learning and interactive discussion boards and technology. (Blackboard – on-line interactive educational programs.)
- Meet people where they are at – where programs are already happening. (Use existing schedules and structures in communities – i.e. in schools or town meetings – tap into another meeting or event.)
- Live community TV – call in shows.
- Tape cassettes – to put in car while you’re driving – paid subscription for this type of service to cover costs. (Extension on Tape – instead of Books on Tape.)
- NHPR – regular time slots – a regular, weekly program.
- Get on WMUR’s web site as a constant link.
- Link county services with community programs web sites. (Delivery of programs through existing county programs - jails, nursing homes.)
- Always involve youth – model this to all organizations and communities.