



UNIVERSITY *of* NEW HAMPSHIRE  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**SPEAK UP, EPPING!  
COMMUNITY PROFILE  
REPORT**

**Epping, New Hampshire  
April 14, 2007**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments.....	3
Introduction.....	4
Creating a Community Profile in Epping.....	4
Agenda.....	6
Saturday Morning.....	8
The Mosaic.....	8
The Vision.....	9
Historical Presentation.....	10
The Eleven Components.....	11
1. Effective Community Leadership.....	12
2. Informed Citizen Participation.....	14
3. Sense of Community.....	15
4. Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals and Youth.....	18
5. Lifelong Education and Learning.....	21
6. Community Services, Facilities and Utilities.....	24
7. Recreation and Cultural Heritage.....	25
8. Working Landscape and the Natural Environment.....	28
9. Economic Vitality.....	30
10. Growth and Development.....	32
11. Transportation.....	35
Saturday Lunch: Key Issues.....	38
1. Natural Resources & Environment	
2. Communication	
3. Infrastructure & Public Safety	
4. Revitalization of Downtown	
5. Community Involvement & Leadership	
6. School & Lifelong Learning	
7. Recreation Activities	
Saturday Afternoon.....	40
Key Issues	
Downtown Revitalization	
Communication	
Infrastructure & Public Safety	
Natural Resource & Environment	
Community Involvement & Leadership	
Schools & Lifelong Learning	
Recreation Activities	
Project Selection.....	54
Action Groups.....	55
Define downtown open and green space through zoning	
Communication tools: upgrade website; bulletin board; ETV	
Sidewalks—network throughout downtown and Route 125	
Establish a downtown revitalization committee for beautification	
Create an organized volunteer system for Epping	
Open town facilities and services after hours to the public	
Inventory recreational resources for pamphlets and distribute to residents	
Conclusion.....	55
Appendices: List of participants, steering committee, facilitators/recorders and Follow-up Meeting	

The Community Profile model was developed with the assistance of:

University of Vermont Cooperative Extension: *Bill McMaster and Bob Townsend*

University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension: *Jerry Howe*

Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs: *Peg Elmer*

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission: *Vicki Smith*

Tufts University, Center for Environmental Management, Consortium for Regional Sustainability: *Elizabeth Kline*

New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: *Tom Deans and Deborah Cowen*

Vermont Community Foundation: *Eddie Gale*

Sustainable Seattle: *Alan Atkisson*

University of Vermont Center for Rural Studies: *Fred Schmidt*

Community Innovations: *Jeff Bercuvitz*

The Upper Valley: 2001 & Beyond Steering Committee Members: *Don Bourdon, Delia Clark, Ann Crow, Geoff Dates, Harrison Drinkwater, Charlotte Faulkner, Phil McLane-Bradley, Deecie McNelly, Walter Paine, Betty Porter, Bob Rosenblum, Barry Schuster, Mike Smith, and Vicki Smith* and with generous donation of time and expertise from: *Jackie Clement, Ed Delhagen, Susan Edsall, Maureen Hart, and Anne Peyton*

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 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 and are the "tools" of the community's self-assessment.

### Creating a Community Profile in Epping

Speak Up, Epping! was conducted as a result of the efforts of several community members, with support from the Epping Planning Board and Selectmen, all hoping to gain a vision for the community that would assist in the Master Plan Update as well as enlist more citizen participation in the activities and needs of the community.

It was supported by several individuals and businesses. Thanks to all of them for making the event happen:

Liz Conrad and Michelle Cromarty (steering committee co chairs) and other members of the steering committee:

Jeff Conrad	Marcel Riel	Grace Lavoie
Cliff Cray	Gloria Riel	Judy Leavis
Barbara Helmstetter	John Bennett	Bob Lonek
Mary Ann Jenness	Amos Clapp	Marjorie Pim
Isobel Parke	Abby Constantineau	Allison Thurston
Brian Toomire	Amanda Cooper	Pam Currier
Madelyn Williamson (Curator)	Irene Cote	Stacey Jordan
	Bob Jordan	

Thanks also to the Epping School Board Superintendent, Barbara Munsey and our school employees, Laura Dodge and Diane Thebeault, from School Food Service who prepared the meals as well as:

Town Manager Steve  
Fournier  
Town Selectmen  
Planning Board  
Recreation Department

Epping Fire Department  
Fire Department  
Explorer Post 716  
Glenn Frederick  
EPTV Team

Epping Town website  
Steve Jenness for  
technical support

The donation banner was created by Deb Booth's and Tobey Harman's art classes at Epping Middle School and Epping High School and also thanks to UNH Cooperative Extension: Claudia Boozer-Blasco, Charlie French, Michele Gagne and 4-H Spaces Conference – for youth 9 years of age and older.

**UNH Cooperative Extension  
Epping Community Profile  
April 14, 2007  
Agenda**

**7:30 Sign-In & Pancake Breakfast**

**8:30 Welcome** – Charlie French, UNH Cooperative Extension and Liz Conrad, Steering Committee Co-Chair

- Overview of Community Profile Process
- Who is here?

**Mosaic and Vision**

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

**Historical Overview: Back to the Future -Madelyn Williamson, Epping Historical Society**

- Where has Epping been?

**9:15 Presentation of Community Profile components**

- Effective Community Leadership
- Informed Citizen Participation
- Sense of Community
- Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals and Youth
- Lifelong Education and Learning
- Community Services, Facilities, and Utilities
- Recreation and Cultural Heritage
- Working Landscape and the Natural Environment
- Economic Vitality
- Growth and Development
- Transportation

**9:30 Break/Move into small groups**

**9:45 Small group discussions of components**

Random assignments to small groups, one component per group

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

**11:00 Break**

**11:15 Small group reports**

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

**11:45 Lunch**

**12:30 Selection of key issues**

**1:15 Selection of small groups**

**1:30 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

**3:00 Full Group: report back from small groups**

**3:15 Voting**

- Which projects do you think we should move forward on?
- Which is the most important project for Epping right now?

**3:30 Individual selection of project development groups**

Project development: small groups

- Who needs to be involved (agencies/individuals)
- Resources needed
- Other things needed to be done prior to follow-up meeting

**4:00 Formal adjournment**

## Community Profile Saturday Morning

The Community Profile was conducted at Epping Middle-High School on Saturday April 14, 2007. Over 100 citizens attended.

The event began on Saturday with a pancake breakfast prepared by Laura Dodge and Diane Thebeault. Charlie French, Extension Specialist, and Liz Conrad, Co-Chair of the Steering Committee, gave an overview of the profile process and an introduction to the goals for the day. The goal of the Profile 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 lived and where we work. 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 Epping like today?**

- growing
- busy
- still rural
- it's not as caring and no time to volunteer
- diverse population
- core of people who really care and many people on fringes
- rich and prime in location relative to outside
- whole lot of smart, fun people
- commercial
- growing pains
- there is disagreement among groups in town
- convenient
- a lot of hobby farms in town
- full of potential that is unrealized
- still the center of the universe
- a lot of us who volunteer our time to the fire department
- in transition
- not enough newcomers are here
- disconnected
- small
- incredibly supportive of school system, a lot of parent involvement
- older demographically
- no "G" in Epping
- turning into Plaistow
- attractive to retirees
- not sure what there is to do in Epping
- concerned about environment (becoming more green-oriented; oldest recycling center)
- the Harvey's still let us sled on their hill
- fun place to live

- still a good place to raise children
- good place to send children to school
- not a lot for “20 somethings” to do

### **THE VISION – What do we want Epping to be like in the future?**

- bicycle paths
- fewer Applebees and more Zampa
- little more growth but not too much at one time
- still a small town
- better communication
- educating all citizens about issues before going into voting booth
- better development of natural resources
- community center
- keeping the rural flavor
- residents to take pride in property
- more investment in schools
- more pride in community
- open space
- use all of resources/diversity in town
- public transportation
- manage commercial growth
- affordable housing
- energy, independence and environment sustainability
- dog park

## **Historical Overview** – Madelyn Williamson, Historical Society

The Epping historical presentation was an illustrated power point narrative titled "From Back to the Future". It was effectively begun and concluded by Native American drumming meant to focus on Epping's ancient beginnings, historical legacy and future aspirations. The general foundation used was the Town Seal depicting the river, red clay soil and three Governors.

Madelyn began with the lives of the earliest inhabitants along the river, water powered mills and creation of the town followed by the brick-making industries (red clay) and others with the resulting social economic and architectural changes within a more industrialized and growing town, the latter including street scenes, public buildings, schoolhouses and churches with emphasis on one religious community (Hedding). Illustrated narrative of military services was included and a surprising variety of native notable persons were focused upon all using photos wherever possible, including Epping's three Governors.

## COMMUNITY PROFILE ELEVEN COMPONENTS

After we developed a mosaic and vision for Epping and digested some of the history, Charlie French introduced us to the idea of discussing Epping 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**

Effective Community Leadership  
Informed Citizen Participation  
Sense of Community

### **Community Infrastructure**

Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals and Youth  
Lifelong Education and Learning  
Community Services, Facilities and Utilities  
Recreation and Cultural Heritage

### **Environment**

Working Landscape and the Natural Environment

### **Economy**

Economic Vitality  
Growth and Development  
Transportation

Next, 11 small groups of approximately 7 people each were randomly formed, one group for each of the components. The small groups adjourned to various rooms where community trained facilitators led the groups in their discussions and recorders made notes on large tablets. Each group considered the definition of their component and examined the statements to be considered for their component to begin the discussion. Participants were asked to list the strengths of Epping 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 that 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 before lunch.

# 1. Effective Community Leadership

Facilitator: Irene Cote

Recorder: Emily Lawless

Spokesperson: Amy Randall

Participants: Kevin Martin, Fred Hopper, Maryanne Swegles, Joy True, Donna Keefe, Madelyn Williamson

## Statement of Purpose:

Healthy communities have, and develop, public leaders who work together to enhance the long-term future of the community. Community leadership must be responsive, honest, efficient, enlightened, fair and accountable. It should have the ability to bring the community together to participate in open, neutral dialogue on important issues.

Leaders should be representative of their community and be able to envision an economically secure, environmentally sound and social viable future. Leaders should understand the challenges facing the community and be able to take advantage of opportunities within the community and in cooperation with neighboring ones. Leadership should empower community members to assist in resolving community issues.

## Statements a community should consider:

- Our leadership actively recruits, trains and empowers new leaders.
- Leadership represents diverse community interest (age and gender groups, length of time they have resided in the community, culture, etc).
- Community leadership demonstrates knowledge, accountability, professionalism, innovation and is results-oriented.
- Leaders involve local citizens in identifying community goals and resolving community issues.
- Leadership seeks out opportunities to exchange information with citizens about community issues.
- Community leadership is proactive, dealing with critical issues before they become crises.
- Leaders demonstrate long-range (20+ years) thinking. They understand the impacts of their actions on the long term health and vitality of the community.
- Leaders share the responsibilities of the community with its members and empower others to help find solutions.
- Leaders are willing to consider and use creative methods for addressing challenges, and look for regional solutions where appropriate.
- Leaders discuss issues with other leaders in the region.

## Group Response – Strengths:

- televised meetings
- stable leadership
- number of board members: 5
- passionate leaders
- work hard to improve town
- people willing to serve—there's a lack of vacancy
- accessibility of officials
- innovative
- new blood on committees to keep open mind

### Group Response – Challenges:

- more involvement in community
- more homework to be done on project and contracts
- lack of communication between boards
- work harder to maintain a tight budget
- inform public mandated expenditures
- more aggressive action to gain newcomers
- individual interest of residents
- extroverts need to help bring in introverts
- involve younger people
- age diversity on boards to get new ideas
- better modes of communication
- have a communication representative for each board maybe through a newsletter: available all around town or on internet

### Vision for the Future:

- managed growth
- keep the small town atmosphere
- control taxes
- regional meetings
- expand historic district to keep Epping quaint
- create a central theme for the whole town
- more leadership
- more grant research and writing
- sensitivity to maintaining a small town feel
- more building facades
  - exteriors

### Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. communication!!!
2. SB2 vs. town meeting
  - monthly newsletter with committee meeting notes/community representative from each board to public
3. leaders to create more community involvement and support
4. keeping Epping a rural community
5. control taxes!!
  - communicate with state and federal government
6. town meetings
  - promote more communication
  - create dialogue
7. sensitivity to maintain small town feel
8. expand historic district

## 2. Informed Citizen Participation

Facilitator: Marjorie Pim

Recorder: Marc Smith

Spokesperson: Milke Morasco

Participants: Jeff Conrad, Charles P. Sanborn, Bill Camire, Mike Swegles, Dan Bennis

### Statement of Purpose:

In a healthy community, citizens actively participate through voting in the local elections, serving on local boards, attending public hearings, and being involved in civic organizations and community activities. The increasing complexity of municipal operations is limiting the ability of government to meet community needs, escalating the importance of active citizen involvement and volunteerism.

All sectors within a community – private, public and nonprofit-must each take responsibility for the community's civic education and exchange information with the public. All citizens need to develop knowledge and skills to contribute to community life. Shared problem solving and planning for the future as a community increase local pride and commitment.

### Statements a community should consider:

- Citizens know how the system works and it is easy for newcomers to learn how to get involved in the community.
- People find out easily what is going on in the community.
- We have a \_\_\_\_\_ level of volunteerism and philanthropy in the community.
- Civic education efforts involve the entire community.
- Schools, churches, youth and civic groups provide citizen education and promote community service.
- Citizens are actively recruited and involved in major projects.
- Citizens volunteer to serve on local boards and committees.
- Participation is proactive instead of reactive, facing community issues before they become crises.
- Civic organizations and local businesses actively contribute to community functions.
- Citizens have the information they need to make good decisions.
- There is both adequate and balanced media coverage of local events and issues.
- Local communities and boards communicate well with each other, the public and with boards and committees throughout the region.
- Local citizens are actively involved in civic and business organizations and clubs that involve interaction with residents of neighboring communities.

### Group Response – Strengths:

- core group of people
- volunteer fire department
- dedicated fire department
- fire station open to community (shelter, etc.)
- E.P.T.V.
- churches
- school system
- free childcare at events
- library
- town web page
- post office

- in Exeter and other regional newspapers
- town annual report

#### Group Response – Challenges:

- EPTV could be expanded
- town web page needs maintenance
- no longer have a town store/center
- no newsletter
- need to reach more people in the community outside core group
- town communication/involvement

#### Vision for the Future:

- incentive to participate and communicating it
- improve communication with larger outside businesses and new residents
- packet of information for new residents (annual reports, resources, service opportunities)
  - partner with real estate agents
- interactive communication
- lots of participation
- facility for large group activity
- communicate and update town media
- link town web page to EPTV and local business/upcoming events/meeting minutes
- stream meetings on web page
- put meetings on digital cable servers (on demand)
- have this report available at town hall

#### Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. improve communications (current, relevant, all media) to reach all audiences
2. promote participation (knowledge of community and approach those people)
3. inform “new-comers” into the community (Welcome Wagon)
4. finding out what residents have to offer
5. provide incentives for participation

### **3. Sense of Community**

Facilitator: Judy Leavis

Recorder: Allison Thurston

Spokesperson: Julie DiTursi

Participants: Judy Sandborn, Joe Denoncour, Brian Toomire, Barbara Camire, Louge Harvey, Kristin Morasco, Cliff Cray

#### Statement of Purpose:

A sense of community is an intangible yet vital component of a healthy community. It encompasses elements such as image, spirit, character and pride, along with processes such as communication, inter-group relations and networking.

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 as a unit. Increased communication and understanding of different perspectives among groups and within the community as a whole is an important factor in establishing a sense of community.

Villages, towns, and cities with a sense of community include those wherein all members: contribute to and hold a common vision for the future; respect and celebrate their heritage, diversity, and resources; share information, and; develop and sustain an abundance of social networks and relationships.

Statements a community should consider:

- There is adequate communication among diverse groups in the community such as natives/newcomers, summer/year round residents, young parents/retirees, as well as business community, commuters, etc.
- Groups like the above are involved in identifying community goals and in resolving community issues.
- The community's heritage is celebrated regularly.
- There is a common vision for our community among members.
- Community members often put aside their differences to work for the common good of the community.
- All groups know how to become involved in the community.
- Formal and informal forums exist for sharing ideas and resolving public issues.
- Collective decisions which represent broad input are reached and implemented.
- The self image of the community is a positive one.
- Social and cultural diversity are celebrated in the community.
- Local government is inclusive of all groups in its long-term planning and visioning efforts.
- Community members are proud of the community's character.

Group Response – Strengths:

- EPTV
- Joe Denoncour (Town Crier)
- local businesses are a place to meet people
- recycle center is a good communication center
- newspapers
- Speak Up, Epping! and other small group events
- canoe race
- Legion
- Fireman's Ball
- PTO events – ice cream social
- parades
- high note festival
- Harvey's Hill sledding
- McDonalds – nice place to sit and chat
- Zampa
- Pam & Cheryl's
- willingness to work together for a cause
- small enough to know your neighbors
- diverse cast of talented people
- yoga class
- more adult programs
- Recreation Department
- Volunteer Fire Department

### Group Response – Challenges:

- not sure what community we belong to-- Manchester or Seacoast
- need for a newsletter just for Epping
- not enough people take time to stop and talk to neighbors
- newcomers don't trust their neighbors
- volunteerism going down
- fear of being accused of abuse – misinterpretation of physical contact (i.e. hugging)
- counter effects of society, technology and busy lifestyles (Internet)
- how many families have meals together
- lack of community center
- maintaining parks and other recreational areas
- getting kids and parents involved in programs such as Scouts and sports programs
- some parents don't want to get involved
- lack of parks
- people aren't using the parks that we do have
- not aware of what's available
- town isn't taking care of current recreational areas – not enough funding
- keep open space open
- Hetnar Orchard sale
- encourage farming/agriculture
- buy locally – not enough encouragement
- to maintain Volunteer Fire Department
- balancing the old and the new (ideas, growth)
- being close enough to know your neighbor but still have privacy

### Vision for the Future:

- more people getting involved in events such as this
- give people something to care about
- town pride
- continued improvement of town image
- people are taking pride – clean schools
- quality businesses
- newspapers
- better programming on EPTV – want to see more, not just set up at back of room and kept more interesting
- more volunteers
- more community events
- Old Home Days
- community center
- larger library
- downtown beautification and revitalization
- get grant writers involved – make them aware of our desires and needs
- preserve historic integrity

#### Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. communication (EPTV and newsletter)
2. open space
3. community center and parks
4. more volunteerism
5. revitalization of downtown (beautification, small businesses)
6. more community events

## **4. Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals and Youth**

Facilitator: Bob Jordan                      Recorder: Jessica Demetrakopoulos                      Spokesperson: Eric Constantineau  
Participants: Dixie Tremblay, Becky Racine, Nancy DeSoto, Michael Charkowski, Pam Currier, Amy Goodrich

#### 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 sector.

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 member.

#### Statements a community should consider:

- 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:

- good senior center program
- public recreation center
- community programs – Watson Academy
- community forum – opportunities to citizens
- utilize space

- canoe race
- community church – food pantry (coats)
- Meals on Wheels
- high school counselor – additional support
- size of community
- rides offered by friends – connections
- volunteer program – elementary school
- artisan residents at elementary school
- youth athletic programs
- sports teams for older kids
- any kid can try out—there are seldom cuts with open participation
- good size school
- tennis court/basketball/fields for public
- Summer Fair (?); Old Home Days (?)
- Memorial Day parade – great for families and everyone
- library has innovative topics that bring kids to library and invoke involvement
- summer recreation program
- Care program
- summer school
- Health Services – convenient/access
- Head Start program
- Volunteer Fire Department
- very active teen program like Scouts
- local hospital with dental van and health screening

Group Response – Challenges:

- bring back summer fair
- connecting all ages, elders and kids
- school funding
- communication among groups to general public for reaching out
- Watson Academy needs TLC
- National Register building needs help
- communication with new residents (how to get involved)
- need an Epping newsletter for people without cable
- need a Welcome Wagon or a new resident supper to give more time for new residents
- voting day
- involvement – personal connections
- transportation to health services
- community outreach programs
- groups with their own agendas
- getting elderly involved
- EPTV – for people without cable TV
- balance between funding and time
- connecting community skills with schools and programs
- infrastructure – limited resources
- competing for money
- recreation space – more and maintenance
- action plan needed for future

- get kids involved – volunteer
- population grows older and needs healthcare money and resources (maintaining appropriate balance)
- prioritize needs (meals, health, etc.)
- educate about needs
- more events that highlight Epping
- pride of being from Epping (kids and everyone)
- knowledge about history
- Epping High School shield (carrying history through generations)
- interaction with community
- keeping newcomers informed
- information about Watson
- extra person for library Monday nights
- apathy – need community forum/meetings

Vision for the Future:

- keeping historical elements in mind – fix up, improve Watson Academy
- community – type daycare
- public access to Lamprey River (i.e. land next to Town Hall)
- integration of public services and schools
  - public nurse for elementary school and elders
- lifelong education program 24/7 schools
- building maintenance issue of high school addressed
- Epping to be the volunteer capital of state
- committee groups coming together
- establish a newsletter available in different ways (website – mailing)
- website linked to other programs
- better use of EPTV
- better/more dynamic website
- communication through website--submit comments/information
  - include kids interactions (ex. download coloring books)
  - include Epping history
- artisan residents in the evening open to whole community
- recreate Old Home Days
- communicate natural resource access and conservation
- trails and Lamprey forest map in center of town
- trail system organization
- more opportunities for people to get to trails and clean up daily
- support tourism industry with map of trails-- put on website

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. communication
  - newsletter, website, EPTV, map (community committee(s))
2. infrastructure
  - action plan
  - building maintenance (Watson, High School, fields, library)

3. human resources
  - volunteers – artists’ residence
  - expand and coordinate volunteer pool
  - tap our own knowledge and skill pool
  - Old Home Day
4. natural resources
  - better awareness of parks and trails
  - trail and public access

## 5. Lifelong Education and Learning

Facilitator: Amos Clapp

Recorder: not noted

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Isobel Parke, Ginny LaPierre, Heidi Gagnon, Rose Colby, Bob Goodrich, Elaine Gatchel, Sandy Cray, Heather Charnoski

### 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 education provide local business 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.

### Statements a community should consider:

- Educational opportunities are easily accessible and provided equitably.
- Lifelong educational opportunities, including formal and informal academic, vocational, artistic, and spiritual meet the community’s needs.
- School planning is forward thinking and is open to regional solutions.
- There is a plentiful pool of skilled labor for local businesses to draw from.
- The level and quality of adult literacy programming in the community is \_\_\_\_\_.
- The public school facilities adequately meet community members’ needs.
- There is a (n) \_\_\_\_\_ level of quality preschool and daycare opportunities in the community.
- There is good communication and cooperation between the municipal government and the local public school board.
- Local and regional employers actively support and are involved in the local K-12 public schools.
- The community supports and values high quality K-12 public school education.
- There is a support network for community members who home-school their children.

### Group Response-Strengths:

- K-12 school system in town
- three daycares
- exercise group

- Recreation Department
- school partners with other towns for vocational education
- strong school leadership
- good parent support
- school facilities are good
- strong art program
- artist and residents program
- EYAA sports program for kids
- Leddy Center
- library (great book collection) with Tracy W. & Amanda
- theatre groups
- volunteer facets
- Boy and Girl Scouts
- Historical Society
- first aid courses
- Fire Department – Explorer Group with ongoing classes
  - teach Walmart how to use defibrillator
- had satellite TV teachers
- elementary school teaches social skills

#### Group Response-Challenges:

- lack of adult education
- parent support (lack of)
- poor communication
- Epping TV should advertise better
- poor website
- no cable TV for many
- poor accessibility
- town newspaper
- funding for any education
- state penalizes thru taxes
- should give grants instead of scholarships
- choices for classes are limited
- hard to choose appropriate classes for continuing education
- communication between school and town is poor
- don't train alternative life/vocational education
- strapped for staff at schools
- teaching life management schools
- teach how to budget money—we don't but should teach how to do home economics and shop to boys and girls
- can't do vo-tech till Junior
- no daily life skills courses
- state doesn't fund for life skills
- what should be taught at home vs. school
- NH population is getting older (graying)
- thinking about regional solutions
- adult education outreach
- early education preparedness

- stereotypes of small towns
- small towns/everyone has trouble with funding
- small towns are hard to attract new teachers
- beginning teacher's salary is low
- rising need for funding competition

Vision for the Future:

- see undesirable teachers gone
- fix system for firing teachers
- people will stay and be supported
- will have open, honest communication
- knowledge of town affairs
- schools will have grants
- will have a plan for life-long learning (cradle>grave learning)
- expanded Recreation Department
- for credit, distance learning in Epping
- satellite courses
- facilitators for courses
- bring in elders in community to facilitate
- more vo-tech courses available for people any age who just want to learn a trade
- free vo-tech classes for everyone
- life skills classes everyday
- good sex education
- social skill classes
- principal meetings every morning
- improve infrastructure, make it more appealing
- town swimming lessons

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. teach life skills to apply to real life with people from community – hands-on
2. lack of good communication – update website, TV and school; involvement with TV
3. funding
4. lifelong education skill opportunities (grade>cradle: include tech skill)
5. beautification of schools and facilities, better grounds and fields; town pool and lessons
6. support and attract good teachers with different methods like pay and merit

## 6. Community Services, Facilities and Utilities

Facilitator: Grace Lavoie

Recorder: Jessica Greco

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Richard Straw, Lois Straw, Penn Brown, Jack Kennedy, Lyn Healy, Teresa Kucera, Tracy Dwyer, Debbie Moulton, Rhona Crandall

### 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.

### Statements a community should consider:

- Public facilities and services such as \_\_\_\_\_ are needed in our community.
- The community's road system is adequate and well-maintained. The use of traffic controls (signs, lights, speed limits, police, etc.) is well planned and coordinated.
- Our public water source is protected.
- Our community does a great job of reducing, recycling, and disposing of its wastes.
- The town has a plan for financing the maintenance, expansion and replacement of its public facilities.
- The community is open to regional solutions for future infrastructure needs.
- Public buildings such as schools and town offices are adequate for our needs.
- Our public buildings are accessible to people with disabilities and are energy efficient.
- The community is easy to travel around by foot and bicycle.

### Group Response – Strengths:

- good library staff
- opening a new Middle School
- town is doing well with the money available
- excellent communication system
- do our own recycling
- excellent Fire Department and ambulance services
- good parent organization EYAA
- tradition of Hedding Campground

### Group Response – Challenges:

- Rt. 125 has a potential to become a barrier
- needs ways to cross 125- underpass/overpass
- not enough involvement from entire community
- lack of things to do for kids ex. skateboarding park
- more meetings to brainstorm solutions and come up with a plan
- more sidewalks
- better control of speeding cars downtown
- concern for pedestrian safety – no sidewalks
- downtown is underutilized – feeling of neglect
- more trees downtown to improve aesthetics
- people don't utilize downtown

- need a quality sign-means of advertising/communicate information
- congested downtown Friday nights
- need speed limit signs on Main Street
- transportation for elderly/disabled
- call lists for elderly in case they need transportation
- intersection west (Epping Market) and 27 is complicated
- dangerous rotary by Walmart
- connector between Dunkin Donuts and McDonalds
- focus on traffic issues being created by new development
- community should be able to utilize gym
- closer access to pool
- better negotiation with big businesses (e.g. Walmart) not looking out for the well-being of Epping
- not a good community center
- not good enough support for small businesses
- no public meeting rooms
- local hardware store going out of business because of Lowes/Walmart

Vision for the Future:

not noted

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. community center that provides multiple services to all ages
2. general improvement/revitalization downtown
3. more youth activities
  - basketball
  - skateboard park
  - pool
  - more tennis courts
4. paved bike trail (e.g. recreation path)
5. improved communication to the community about services available
6. bike lane and/or sidewalks
7. beautification of the downtown area with lights and trees, more outdoor art
8. better road management

## **7. Recreation and Cultural Heritage**

Facilitator: John Bennett

Recorder: Britt Canner

Spokesperson: Devon Rains

Participants: Jane Kennedy, Eric Moulton, John Crandall, Jaymie Frederick, Andrea Loving, Barbara Munsey, Colleen Schmidt

Statement of Purpose:

Recreation and cultural activities nurture the body and soul of a community – individual and team sports, outdoor activities, arts, crafts, music, dance, theater, holidays, festivals and celebrations. Recreational opportunities allow community members to experience and appreciate the community’s diversity of natural and human resources. Cultural activities reflect and build a community’s positive sense of itself and strengthen the fabric of social interactions within the community.

Statements a community should consider:

- Our community celebrates itself in many different ways, including \_\_\_\_\_.
- There is a wide array of recreational opportunities available to community members.
- There are special cultural centers, events and festivals within the community.
- There is a high level of awareness about and accessibility to available recreational opportunities.
- Our cultural events bring together and celebrate the community's diverse population.
- Many of the recreational opportunities allow community members to experience the community's natural resources.
- The community preserves and enhances what is special and unique about its cultural heritage.
- Children, youth and seniors are encouraged to participate in cultural events.
- Citizens are part of larger regional cultural events.

Group Response – Strengths:

- Leddy Center
- upstairs/downstairs theater
- EYAA (Epping Youth Athletic Association)
- 4-H group
- town conservation
  - kayak/canoe races
- Boy/Girl Scouts
- Lamprey
- Watershed Association
- Memorial Day parade
- recreation center
- High Note Festival
- snowmobile paths
- town fair “Old Home Day” (past), Historical Society
- Epping days (past)
- Epping Public TV
- Legion karaoke
- new school gymnasium
- Fireman's Ball
- race tracks
- Applebee's
- Zampas

Group Response – Challenges:

- upping Epping (70's)
- Epping cares – lack of promotion/communication/participation
- bad communication skills
- can't change reputations
- slow growth
- no press/lack of good press
- coordination/plan (conflict of dates, resources)
- expand website
- sense of community

- no kids in school
- where did the sports fields go? (Legion, softball)
- dedicated communication person
- Epping TV
  - people need to be aware of the access to it
  - better use – communication tool
- parks/playground lack of central playground
- lack of benches/tables at Blaire Park
- lack of “getting out” – groups to go to Boston, etc.
- lack of “downtown feel”
- communication
  - merge groups
- skateboards/bikes--lack of a place to do these things
- adult and kids recreation/gym
- lack of exercise places
- negativity – negative Epping image
- last minute mailings before elections
- money/lack of funding
- subcommittees – come together
- meeting all age group’s needs
- offer activities for age groups to interact together

Vision for the Future:

- park--something for everyone
  - playground, picnic tables, track, ice skating, skateboarding, animals
- use new land to make this happen
- have a downtown to walk around, relay
- better communication (events, calendar)
- way to announce events – mailings, email update
- communication person
- return to “Old Home Days”, talent show
- indoor facility
  - YMCA
  - community pool
- afterschool program
- in-town afterschool activities for all ages
- adult sports league
- better identification of public lands
- pride in Epping
- Epping Historical tour/town history in schools
- maintain cultural heritage (zoning)

### Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. positive communication of activities/resources (means, coordinator, newsletter, tv, website)
2. downtown park by river
3. recreation park for all ages
4. indoor recreation center for everyone (YMCA, education)
5. celebrate cultural heritage – town history in schools; “Old Home Days”, canoe races
6. positive town reputation

## **8. Working Landscape and the Natural Environment**

Facilitator: Bob Lonek

Recorder: Derrick Cullen

Spokesperson: Kathy Stanley

Participants: Ray Racine, Jeff Harris, Bob Kimball, Amogene Kimball, John Schmidt

### 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, forest, clean air, historic buildings and bridges, wildlife and open land help to 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.

### Statements a community should consider:

- The community has recently inventoried its natural base.
- There is broad community interest and participation in protecting key natural resource and historical assets.
- Steps have been taken to provide long-term land protection to assure functioning natural resource systems.
- The local economy and population are putting stress on those natural resource systems.
- There are ways to increase the resilience of the local natural resource systems to allow them to respond to diverse or changing conditions, such as \_\_\_\_\_.
- Current systems, such as waste management, are handled in a way that preserves the integrity of natural systems in the community without damaging the integrity of natural systems elsewhere.
- Existing businesses are environmentally sound.
- Public water sources are protected.
- Some of these natural resource features are unique or in some way important regionally or statewide.
- Natural resource and open space contribute to the economic vitality of the community.
- Critical resources are being negatively impacted by competing land uses.
- Steps have been taken to establish regulatory controls and promote voluntary actions to assure the continued availability of natural resources.
- The community has addressed regional natural resource features and issues with surrounding communities.

### Group Response – Strengths:

- active commission
- Garden Club
- lively commercial interest
- non-motorized pedestrian already established railroad trails
- potential conservation land--river bends
- protection from development--conservation easements

### Group Response – Challenges:

- balance
- access to natural resources (Lamprey River)
- recycling
- preservation of historical buildings
- pedestrian-friendly walkways in and to key areas
- improve landscaping along main roads
- refurbish private buildings
  - revitalize

### Vision for the Future:

- more recreation fields/facilities--improve existing
- walking paths on Lamprey River
- bicycle paths, horse paths
  - multiple uses
- community playground
- increase water access to boats

### Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. use commercial interest to beautify the land (residential as well)
2. promote Garden Club
3. access to natural resources
4. continuing and improving recycling efforts
5. exploration of funding through grants
6. expanding recreation fields and facilities
7. support of conservation commission and their efforts

## 9. Economic Vitality

Facilitator: Amanda Cooper

Recorder: Brandon Stapleton

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Tracie Wilkins, Jane Burley, Jodi Montalbano, Jean Calaci, Sheila Allen-Harris, Susan V. McGeough, Crys Frederick

### Statement of Purpose:

The private, public and non-profit sectors are all important in attracting new investment and in developing new businesses that suit the character of the community and meet its needs. The need to sustain successful workplaces is an important factor to the health of a community. The more often money circulates within the community before leaving, the more the community benefits.

A healthy community includes access to a variety of environmentally sound businesses, industries, and institutions that provide reasonable wages and benefits to workers, engage in family-friendly policies, provide workers with opportunities to develop marketable skills, and contribute to the overall well-being of the community.

### Statements a community should consider:

- A variety of businesses, industries and institutions make up the economic base of the community and the region, such as \_\_\_\_\_.
- We have a diverse economic base. No one sector or one employer dominates; there is a wide variety of sectors and employers.
- Existing businesses are environmentally sound.
- There are locally available educational opportunities to provide residents with skills that match the needs of local businesses.
- Local government works well with the local businesses to enhance the economic vitality of the community.
- There are business services lacking in the community, such as \_\_\_\_\_.
- There are many types of jobs available to residents in terms of security, wage levels, skill levels, and benefits, examples \_\_\_\_\_.
- Community members patronize downtown businesses on a regular basis and value the local businesses.
- Wages allow the majority of the population to enjoy a reasonable lifestyle.
- Local government supports and promotes local businesses.

### Group Response – Strengths:

- proximity to Portsmouth and Manchester and 101/125
- library
- open space available for development
- green building requirement
- big box stores > destination
- people in Epping are shopping in Epping
- people who need low end employment
- big box trickle down
- Recreation Department
- town water and sewer
- a lot of restaurants
- a lot of service sector employment

- good rich brickyard
- Leddy Center
- family farms
- quality of life
- conservation land
- 20 minutes from UNH
- close to Exeter > Downeaster Train
- business friendly community
- car dealership warrant art
- tele-commuters
- EPTV
- two pre-schools
- availability of land and low tax rate
- Route 27 commercial/industrial zoning
- race tracks

Group Response – Challenges:

- big box stores
- attracting businesses that require higher skills
- attract businesses with store fronts – downtown business
- diversity of businesses
- lack of foot traffic
- proximity to urban areas
- Pease
- EPTV
- balancing growth and keeping quaintness of Epping
- car traffic affecting foot traffic
- 125 traffic
- not becoming Plaistow
- community newsletter/communication
- unbiased communication
- people not working in the community
- community centers
- taxes
- town infrastructure
- preschools/kindergarten and childcare
- private school – public school investment
- improvement of education
- community investment
- community images/race tracks
- development

Vision for the Future:

- quaint downtown
- park
- bigger library
- continue retail growth
- investment in DPW

- revitalize storefront
- light residential/office development Exit 8
- small grocery store (local produce)
- second bank
- smaller service businesses
- local ownership
- golf course/professional recreation (gym, pool, skating rink)
- green space/rural flavor – public park
- investment in children (schools)
- buildings that reflect town images
- tuition students to high school
- solving traffic problem (foot/tire)
- West Epping Five Corners
- local communication – welcome packet

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. revitalize downtown
2. improving communication
3. public investment in community (personal)
4. balance local and “Big Box” development and retail economic base
5. seeking other sources of public revenue
6. maintain green spaces appropriate use

## **10. Growth and Development**

Facilitator: Abby

Recorder: Alex Dymnet/Dee Henley

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Marie Kucera, Vicki Inskeep-Brown, Greg Dodge, Jeffrey LeDuc, Nathan Kamensky, Heather Clark, Siobhan Senier

Statement of Purpose:

A community can more effectively manage its growth through the prudent use of local zoning ordinances and planning regulations that guide how land is divided, used and developed. These tools allow the community to regulate the development of residential areas, commercial districts, and the town center. These are key considerations in managing growth while maintaining community character.

Another important factor in the development of a healthy community is the diversity of housing. This encompasses availability, affordability, and location, all of which affect the lives of community members, especially the elderly, disabled and low-income families.

Statements a community should consider:

- The community’s zoning and planning regulations are updated regularly and reflect a broad spectrum of residents’ vision of the community in 5, 10 and 20 years.
- There is adequate affordable and rental housing for the elderly and disabled.
- There is adequate rental housing in the community.
- Land use regulations and land protection efforts are preserving an adequate amount of open space in the community.

- Current zoning regulations favor protecting the character of key sections of the community over new commercial development.
- There is adequate housing for young families and/or single-parent families.
- Our zoning regulations are designed to counteract sprawl.
- Municipal government works well with landowners to promote land protection and sustainable development while respecting private property rights.
- Residential housing is planned so that negative effects on traffic, public schools, sewer and water systems, and wildlife habitats are minimized.
- Areas of natural beauty and historic importance are well protected by zoning regulations and land protection efforts.
- Our community commits financial resources toward protecting valuable natural resources.

Group Response – Strengths:

- lots of undeveloped land
- opportunity to learn from mistakes
- 125-27 lots of commercial possibility
- immense possibility for natural resources to be developed or conserved
- capacity with waste water treatment plant
- have been improving infrastructure
- existing Master Plan
  - zoning regulations
  - Planning Board
  - conservation/preservation
- strong community interest/awareness
- well funded police/fire
- location 101-125 (central)
  - good for commuting
  - rural yet easy access
- attractive to business
- new Middle School
  - K-12 school system
- local control of school system
- numerous civic/religious groups
  - cultural i.e. Leddy Center
  - performing arts

Group Response – Challenges:

- concerned about sprawl 125-Rt. 27
- maintaining rural/historical character of town
- large tracts of land owned by few people
- funding recreational activities (downtown park)
- Epping = Race track
- Epping reputation in negative
  - crazy politics
  - location Epping (worse than other parts)
- there is negative view of Epping from surrounding community
- maintaining public services i.e. fire/police/DPW
- keeping tax rates affordable

- affordable housing for all income groups
- fragmentation (political) throughout the town
- defining and maintaining sustainable growth
- encouraging other types of business other than service type businesses (no strips!)
- educating town members of Epping of ramifications of growth and development (planning)
- wetlands conservation and protection relative to growth
- determine whether existing Master Plan has been followed
- Master Plan should be reviewed more often than a couple of years
- what Planning Board does affect everyone
- how effective/effectiveness of Planning Board?
- focus on special interest (one particular issue) is a challenge
  - biased/government officials
- need more people involved within organizations, government, volunteers
- past Grade 5 becomes challenging
- negative reputation in school (s) Middle School/High School

#### Vision for the Future:

- community center for youth and elderly
- foster communication (community spirit)
- more parks, ball fields, playgrounds, etc.
- Boys & Girls Club
- high end business development (tech parks, professional parks)
- attract community college
  - branch of university
- curb-side recycling
- top quality school system (K-12)
- preserve historical buildings
  - rural character of rural zones
- entertainment (attract)

#### Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. maintaining rural character
2. controlled development/defined sustainable growth
3. review/revise Master Plan and follow--include all boards/residents
4. attract professional business, higher education facilities
5. quality schools (K-12 accredited)
6. expand community recreation facilities

# 11. Transportation

Facilitator: Liz Conrad      Recorder: Brian Biernat, Celis Brisban      Spokesperson: Kim Gaudet  
Participants: Tom Gauthier, Greg Tillman, Carol Maynard, Judy Ouellet, Robert Sunderland, Mary Ahern, Anita Sunderland, Levi Horton, Dennis Brown

## Statement of Purpose:

A community'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 road results in increased highway maintenance, air pollution, and traffic congestion. Alternatives to automobile travel include pedestrian and bicycle travel, and bus and rail transportation.

## Statements a community should consider:

- Our current road system is adequate and meets the needs of the residents and visitors.
- The use of traffic controls (signs, lights, speed limits, police, etc.) is adequate throughout residential and commercial areas.
- It is easy to get around on foot and by bicycle in our community.
- The community encourages car pooling, and helps make it work for people by providing information and accessible parking areas.
- Parking is adequate in the commercial areas.
- Tradeoffs, such as maintenance, pollution, and congestion are considered when widening main roads or building new roads.
- Public transportation would ease some of the traffic problems.
- Residents and visitors would use public transportation if it was available.

## Group Response – Strengths:

- Park and Ride
- intersection of many state roads
- rail trail
- highways ease local road congestion

## Group Response – Challenges:

- safety issues on 125
  - traffic lights/crosswalks
- better pre planning for plowing
  - secondary roads
- intersection 127 and Main Street
  - stop thru traffic
  - more police presence
- 125 traffic congestion
  - speeding/safety issues on secondary roads
- re-doing roads = maintenance/repair
- narrow roads difficult to use for pedestrians/sidewalk installation
- not enough sidewalks on Main Street
- not safe to cross 125 on foot
- can't walk from Park and Ride to anywhere else
  - location not safe for pedestrians

- used for wrong purpose
- in-town public parking insufficient
- no public transportation connecting to other towns
- no elderly public transportation for local areas/regional areas
- no public transportation coming into town for commercial use
- current school buses are run down
  - unsafe/reliable
- slow down truck traffic on 27 heading to ERCO

Vision for the Future:

- expanded off-road trails
- segregate vehicle/pedestrian routes
- solve issues with motorized off-road vehicles
- public transportation
  - in-town
  - inter-town
  - expand Wildcat to include Epping
- pedestrian access
  - Main Street>parking lot>Walmart
- walking paths along rural roads
- walking sidewalks downtown
  - library
  - Town Hall
  - old fire station
  - old bridge
- expand downtown parking
- parking improvements
  - Bank of America
  - Leddy Center
  - commercial areas
- bicycle network
- no left turn on 125 to get into new Starbucks (Epi Center)
- create spur road for businesses on 125
- safety and reliability of school buses
- improving navigation on Lamprey River
- 125 northbound and 27 east bound wider turn lane
- accelerating the widening of 125
- Prescott Road, Blake Road, improvements for greater safety
- overpasses at 125 intersections
- widen Blake Road bridge

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. public transportation
  - in town
  - inter town
2. 125 > flow and safety
  - overpasses

- business spur road
- intersections
- congestion
- 3. school buses
  - safety/reliability
- 4. downtown
  - parking
  - pedestrians – sidewalks, crosswalks
  - signal light – Rt. 27 and Main Street
- 5. maintenance/upkeep town roads
  - plowing
  - over growth – shoulders/repairing
  - bridges – intersections
- 6. improve walking/non-motorized
  - paths/routes on country road

## **Saturday Lunch**

The 11 easels from the small groups were arrayed across the front of the room, each bearing a list of the key issues for that topic area. This portion of the day began with short presentations from a member of each of the groups, explaining their group's list. The entire group worked together to evaluate and refine this list. After some discussion, 7 key issues emerged as important to study for the future of Epping. This list is presented below.

### **Themes**

1. Downtown Revitalization
2. Communication
3. Infrastructure and Public Safety
4. Natural Resources and Environment
5. Community Involvement and Leadership
6. Schools and Lifelong Learning
7. Recreation Activities

## PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

After lunch, participants each chose which of the 7 themes 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 theme 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 Downtown Revitalization

Facilitator: Judy Leavis

Recorder: Allison Thurston

Spokesperson: Penn Brown

Participants: Mary Ahern, Devon Rains, Rose Colby, Madelyn Williamson, Pam Currier, Becky Racine, Maryann Swegles, Jack Kennedy, Jane Kennedy, Elaine Gatchell, Robert Sunderland, Anita Sunderland, Bob Jordan, Heidi Gagnon, Hannah Gagnon

### Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- town looks rundown
- don't let 125 overrun/define the town
- how to attract small businesses
- need a comprehensive solution
- define what is downtown?
- downtown is...Cumberland Farms > Town House Pizza>Post Office>Grange
- should include 125
- historic district needs to be expanded
- need to find ways to attract businesses to the downtown
- need to define what is downtown
- does the town require new businesses to put in sidewalks?
- need destination downtown
- no place/park downtown near river

### Possible Solutions:

- beautification/perception i.e. planning, street lights, painting
- donating paint to companies downtown
- how to maintain plantings downtown
- remove manger before Easter
- decorate for holidays more
- fence to be more welcoming
- EHOP, cleaners, laundromat don't fit in visually
- better parking to attract potential business owners (project in the works through Historical Society)
- possible purchase of EHOP plaza in future
- move or revamp laundromat
- park access is in the works
- need a café
- need for a central theme
- set standards of up-keep
- all lamp posts the same
- sidewalks level and easier to walk on
- build on heritage as a "Brick" town
- encourage 2<sup>nd</sup> floors and dormers
- lamp posts on sidewalk side
- help to define downtown
- beautification committee
- ok to try again ideas that didn't work before
- a blessing in the Leddy Center

- better communication between Planning Board, Historical Society and building inspector. Need to work together “Statement of Purpose”
- go between committee to help communications between boards
- need to identify a common goal
- water and sewer – more
- buying out apartment buildings downtown and making improvements
- association of business owners need to establish a Chamber of Commerce

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- improve communication between board members to improve the revitalization efforts
- building inspector that works with the Planning Board, Historical Society, “Statement of Purpose”
- come up with a common goal
- beautification/perception
  - black iron lamps
  - brick sidewalks
  - printing
  - painting
  - emphasize town heritage
- park access to the public
- better parking to attract more potential business owners (project in works)
- creating a beautification committee
- remove manger before Easter
- decorate for holidays more

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- donating paint to companies downtown

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- encourage 2<sup>nd</sup> floors and dormers (also noted as Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility)
- creating a regulation on the look of buildings downtown (also noted as Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility)
- EHOP, cleaners and laundry may need to be made to fit in visually
- create more commercial space
- to relocate the laundromat or revamp
- fence made to be more welcoming to people

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

none

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- purchase of EHOP plaza in the future

### Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- encourage 2<sup>nd</sup> floors and dormers (also noted as Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility)
- creating a regulation on the look of buildings downtown (also noted as Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility)

### Low Impact/High Feasibility

none

### Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none

### Low Impact/Low Feasibility

- water and sewer improve infrastructure
- Chamber of Commerce
- business owners association

## **Key Issue # 2 Communication**

Facilitator: Grace Lavoie

Recorder: not noted

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Dennis Brown, Liz Conrad, Amy Randall, Colleen Schmidt, Barbara Helmstetter, Steve Fournier, Barbara Munsey, Jaymie Frederick, Michael Charkoush, Sandy Cray, Cliff Cray

### Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- email
- newsletter
- town newspaper
- job position to create a newsletter/update website
- problem getting attention of the press
- issue with legality
- SB2 does not communicate as effectively
  - people not showing up
- lose intimacy of town meetings with a large population
- need one or more forums for deliberation
- problem getting accurate information
- public access – anything can be shown
- people need to want and access to information
- streaming content
- regular meetings with senior groups
- community calendar
- town crier
- website with community calendar and what happened at each event

### Possible Solutions:

- warrant article
- bulletin board outside of town hall
- people need to take the initiative to get information
- two separate sources of information – government and non-government
- email newsletter for up-to-the minute information

- quarterly newsletter
- communication committee – discuss and solve communication problems
- ETV switch to communications department or committee for the town
- steering committee for ETV
- streaming media online
- private newsletter
- school and town should pool resources for one communication department
- need better/updated equipment
- better communication between town and school
- communicate among town departments
- collaborate

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- form communications committee
- switch ETV to a CMN department
- better equipment for ETV
- live meeting at town hall with committee members

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- better communication between school and town and other boards
- pool resources between town and school for ETV
- upgraded website

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- residents should take initiative
- community calendar for all groups
- monthly newsletter
- create town newspaper

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- email newsletter bi-weekly

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- school district newsletter

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

none

Low Impact/High Feasibility

- bulletin board

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

- online town meetings: blog

- concerned citizen website (non-governmental)

### **Key Issue #3 Infrastructure and Public Safety**

Facilitator: Abby Constantineau

Recorder: Dee Henley

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Dan Bennis, Crys Frederick, Nathan Kamensky, Brian Toomire, Greg Tillman

#### Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- traffic (Rt. 27 & Rt. 125) (Main Street)
- Main Street/Route 27
- pedestrian safety
- bridges too old
- lack of transportation (public)
- accessibility for handicap disability (through the town)
- Town Hall
- SAU building
- maintain town buildings
- money/capital improvement fund
- better planning on how to finance infrastructure

#### Possible Solutions:

- incorporate “Wildcat” into public transportation
- elderly transport (accessible)
  - van pool
- private bus companies (for the alternative public transport – long distance)
  - Greyhound
  - C&J
  - Coast
- sidewalks (in town)
  - crosswalks (along 125 & in town)
- capital improvement funding
  - write Capital Improvement Plan
  - public relations (sell it!)
- have development on access road off of 125 instead of on 125
- a spur road from McDonalds to Main Street
- renovate town hall with handicap accessibility as well
- relocate Recreation to SAU building
- replace Blake Road bridge
- encourage widening of 125 (soon)
- overpass or underpass (125)

## Project Evaluations:

### High Impact/High Feasibility

- sidewalks (in town)
- crosswalks
- elderly transport (accessible) through van pool (also noted as Moderate Impact/High Feasibility)

### High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- rebuild Blake Road bridge (also noted as Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility)
- capital improvement fund (also noted as High Impact/High Feasibility)
  - write Capital Improvement Plan
  - public relations

### High Impact/Low Feasibility

- underpasses or overpasses (125)
- development of access road off of 125 instead of on 125 (also noted as Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility)

### Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

none

### Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- alternative long distance transport
  - private bus companies (Greyhound, C&J, Coast)
- incorporate “Wildcat” into public transportation
- renovate Town Hall (handicap access)

### Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- a spur road from McDonalds to Main Street (also noted as Low Impact/Low Feasibility)

### Low Impact/High Feasibility

none

### Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- relocate recreation to SAU building (also noted as Low Impact/High Feasibility)

### Low Impact/Low Feasibility

none

## **Key Issue #4 Natural Resources and Environment**

Facilitator: Bob Lonek

Recorder: Derrick Cullen

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Julie DiTursi, Isobel Parke, Amos Clapp, Amogene Kimball, Ray Racine, Charles P. Sanborn, Jne Burley, Judy Sanborn, Andy Vallone

### Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- keeping open spaces for farms and forests
- awareness of parks and trails and their permitted uses/signage
- access and maintenance to natural resources

### Possible Solutions:

- funding for land acquisitions
- funding by bond/grant writing
- funding by use tax
- use wetland as park
- incorporate awareness about recycling
- stronger guidelines for open space development
- make sure that there are zoning provisions for green space
- define “downtown” through zoning
- develop specific zoning for downtown
- protect against premature development in space other than downtown
- community gardens in downtown open space
- protect land along the Lamprey

### Project Evaluations:

#### High Impact/High Feasibility

- funding by bond/grant writing

#### High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- define “downtown” through zoning
- protect land along the Lamprey and its tributaries
- develop specific zoning for “downtown”
- funding by use tax
- ensure zoning provisions for green space
- land acquisitions funding (conservation easements)
- stronger guidelines open for open space development

#### High Impact/Low Feasibility

- protect against premature development in space other than downtown
- keeping open space – farms and forests

#### Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- awareness of parks and trails including permitted uses, signage and maps

#### Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- un-buildable land as park
- access to natural resources/maintenance

#### Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

none

#### Low Impact/High Feasibility

- community gardens in downtown open space

#### Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none

#### Low Impact/Low Feasibility

none

### **Key Issue #5. Community Involvement & Leadership**

Facilitator: John Bennett

Recorder: Britt Canner

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Eric Constantineau, Debbie Moulton, Nancy DeSotto, Mike Swegles, Donna Keefe, Judy Ouellette, Carol Maynard, Jeff LeDuc

#### Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- how do we develop a community that enhances the volunteering and leadership
- not supportive of small business
- how to form groups and put on events to serve people who currently aren't
- how do we tap into new people, welcome them – learn about them and teach about us

#### Possible Solutions:

- have a list of human community resources – directory/database
- all volunteer organizations meet quarterly
- have an incentive for volunteers
- Welcome Wagon events
- engage long-time residents to lead tours and share history
- have a trail clean-up day
- have someone coordinate ways to volunteer
- give the opportunity for volunteerism
- have business people teach business people
- get volunteers for transportation
- more events > Old Home Days
- have a questionnaire after voting to find needs and possibilities
- tap resources of adults outside the school systems
- have kids hand out flyers
- have kids call families
- use EPTV and Carriage Town News to get word out
- put up newspaper for upcoming events and volunteer organizations on website
- stress to leaders that we are a volunteer town
- follow-up/safe, available, convenient meeting places

- a location where community questions are answered
- make Watson a central location for community involvement
- make Watson easier to access and use
- get more meeting places in town
- identify current meeting places

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- engage long time residents to lead tours and share history
- use EPTV and Carriage Town news to get word out
- safe, available, convenient meeting places – identify them
- needs assessment
- survey/questionnaire

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Welcome Wagon events and package
- make Watson a central location for community involvement (make Watson easier to access)
- have a location where community questions can be answered
- have an incentive for these volunteers (Epping volunteers)
- tap resources of adults outside of school system
- have someone coordinate ways to volunteer

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- have a list/database of human community resources, bring groups together, all volunteer groups meet together

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

none

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- website with upcoming events and volunteer organizations

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- Old Home Days
- more events

Low Impact/High Feasibility

- stress to leaders that Epping is a volunteer town

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

none

## **Key Issue #6. Schools and Lifelong Learning**

Facilitator: Marjorie Pim

Recorder: Marc Smith & Sean Carroll

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Teresa Kucera, Dixie Tremblay, Jodi Montalbano, Mary Ann Jenness, Jeff Conrad, Joe Denoncour, Maria Raymond

### Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

none noted

### Possible Solutions:

- service learning (send students into the community)
- educate community about what makes quality education
- advertise educational offerings (ex. Care)
- explore other adult education offerings
- teach conversational languages
- attracting highly qualified teachers on the secondary level
- form a cooperative to get student teachers (ex. UNH)
- provide childcare facilities for teachers
- educate parents on school courses/college prep (through workshops, online, etc.)
- survey the community to see what they are willing to offer
  - expertise/skills
  - time
  - job shadowing
- educate the town on ways to save money
- expose community to school activities and talents
- open facilities after hours to the public

### Project Evaluations:

#### High Impact/High Feasibility

- advertise educational offerings
- open facilities after hours to the public and services

#### High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- form a cooperative to get student teachers (UNH)
- inform community about what makes quality education to allow us to attract qualified teachers on the secondary level by funding the budget
- educate community about what makes good education and attract highly qualified teachers on the secondary level

#### High Impact/Low Feasibility

- start teaching languages earlier in educational career
- service learning (send students into the community)
- end to apathy – information is available if people search for it
- bring expertise from UNH or town volunteers to assist with website – build it around a system, not personal (also noted as Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility)
- redesign website by experts who communicate with citizens/community (also noted as Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility)

#### Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- educate parents through workshops
- educate the town on ways to save money
- expose community to school activities and talents
- educate parents through online sources

#### Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- explore other adult education offerings (survey)
- survey the community to see what they are willing to offer, such as expertise, time, and skills and internships

#### Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- provide childcare facilities for teachers and school community

#### Low Impact/High Feasibility

- teach conversational languages through adult education

#### Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none

#### Low Impact/Low Feasibility

none

### **Key Issue #7. Recreation activities; access to**

Facilitator: Amanda Cooper Recorder: Brandon Stapleton/ Jessica Demetrakopoulos Spokesperson: Ginny LaPierre  
Participants: Eric Moulton, Sue Kimball, Fred Hopper, Kathy Stanley-Berling, Heather Charkewski, Kevin Martin, Joy Tree,  
Irene Cote

#### Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- activities for kids (toddler, 6<sup>th</sup> grade and above)
- communication problem about pamphlet
- young children need a place to play with guidance
- walking in woods – not recreation
- formal recreation
- town park –bring back (behind Maple Tree School)
- resources we are not using (e.g. skating rink)
- set aside funding
- can't always depend on volunteers

- buy land somewhere else for ballfield
- keep kids in their neighborhood
- private courts
- parking for recreational activities
  - for hiking trails
  - accessibility
- Middle School kids activities that have adult supervision
- keep kids busy – not bored
- recreational activities in facilities not being used
- what is the CARE program?
  - get it publicized/lack of communication
- limited funding
- hard to find website/information
- directory
- no Internet access
- the local newspaper
- needs a page of stuff happening in Epping
- organized adult activities
- information about them
- space available
- shortage of fields (permission to build)
- availability- need more space
- community involvement/activities for new residents and everyone
- bring adults without children together to socialize
- 20's something age group
- unused fields – or not available fields

#### Possible Solutions:

- look for building space
- community center – place for parents to hang out and meet
- toddler program – playground – with toddler access
- donations for each piece of equipment on the playground
- funding used for recreational parks and activities
- bike and walking paths
- canoeing from one place to another
- recreational walking tour
- canoe race
- community challenge
- go out on the river
- make a video of going down the Lamprey River, then sell the videos – make money
- videos of the canoe race
- movie theater
- chess club/cards
- inventory of what Epping has and needs
- ask the community what type of recreation they want to do
- more events
- softball team, volleyball co-ed teams, etc.
- find out what other similar towns do and have done

- 60's and 70's age group activities
- communication about book club, etc.
- dances – dance lessons/classes
- trips – bus trips, e.g. Foxwoods
- classes – ballroom dancing
- happen at Town Hall
- family activities
- “Miss” Epping, town pride, town picnics
- Old Home Days – games, races, kids stuff
- outdoor recreation
  - Fox Run Park – field maintenance/improvement
- managing/improving our fields and open spaces
- a place to play softball
- wildflower walk, bird walk
- swimming area – designated with supervision
- community swimming pool
- community weekend/Epping clean up day
- annual fundraiser
- resource pamphlet for new residents
- skate park/near safety complex
- vehicle trails

#### Project Evaluations:

##### High Impact/High Feasibility

- create a recreational inventory
- accessible pamphlet of resources for new residents
- community recreation survey/forum
- skate park (with concession stand) for supervision near safety complex
- annual fund raising for a recreational cause

##### High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- managing fields and open spaces (also noted as High Impact/High Feasibility)

##### High Impact/Low Feasibility

- look for building space and staff for a community center
- movie theater
- community center with more events (trips, dance classes, dances, family oriented programs)
- seek sponsors of community playground equipment (also noted as High Impact/Moderate Feasibility)
- upping Epping (town pride events, Old Home Days) (also noted as High Impact/Moderate Feasibility)

##### Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- outdoor recreation through LRAC River Tour
- construct and maintain bike and walking paths
- make a video of Lamprey River Canoe Race path

- Epping gives back day
  - clean up parks and roads

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- playground with toddler appropriate equipment

Low Impact/High Feasibility

- wildflower/bird walks, fly fishing demonstrations, LRAC

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- ATV, dirt bike vehicle trails

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

- designate swimming areas

## PROJECT SELECTION

We returned to the large group to hear from a member of each small group who presented the projects that the group had come up with.

Every participant received seven adhesive dots to use to “vote” on the project in each theme they thought were important for Epping to work on right away. Each voter placed a dot as they wished on one project within each topic so that there would be a priority project for each group to work on first. The projects receiving the most votes were then to be discussed in small groups in the follow-up meeting scheduled for April 24th. The list of project ideas follows.

### Natural Resources & Environment:

- Define downtown open and green space through zoning (**33 votes**)
- Funding for open spaces (**24 votes**)
- Increase recycling (**17 votes**)

### Communication

- Communication tools (implement) upgrade website; e-newsletter; bulletin board; ETV (regular communication meetings; paper newsletter (**51 votes**))
- Form communication committee and department for town, school and community (**22 votes**)
- Inter-board communication regularly (**3 votes**)

### Infrastructure and Public Safety

- Sidewalks – network throughout downtown & 125 (**38 votes**)
- Capital improvement fund/Master Plan (**26 votes**)
- Elderly transportation (**12 vote**)
- Renovate Town Hall (**7 votes**)
- Rebuild Blake Road Bridge (**1 vote**)

### Revitalization of Downtown

- Establish a downtown revitalization committee (beautification) (**50 votes**)
- Collaborate with Planning Board on park downtown revitalization project (beautification) (**11 votes**)
- Establish a statement of purpose and agree on a common vision (**5 votes**)

### Community Involvement and Leadership

- Create an organized volunteer system for Epping (Welcome Wagon, database of skills and needs, elderly resources, quarterly meeting of all volunteer organizations; centralized location (**55 votes**))
- Engage volunteers (incentive program) (**6 votes**)
- Determine understand and volunteers (survey) (**4 votes**)

### Schools & Lifelong Learning

- Open facilities and services after hours to public (**45 votes**)
- Develop service learning opportunities – connect students with community (**16 votes**)
- Inform community about what makes quality education to allow us to attract qualified teachers on the secondary level by funding the budget (**12 votes**)

### Recreational Activities

- Inventory recreational resources for pamphlets and distribute to residents (**45 votes**)
- Manage open spaces and fields (**13 votes**)
- Skate park (**12 votes**)
- Community recreation survey (**1 vote**)

## **ACTION GROUPS**

After the voting, the groups decided to focus in on the top project from each group. These are listed below.

1. Define downtown open and green space through zoning
2. Communication tools (implement) including upgrading the website; e-newsletter; bulletin board; ETV (regular communication meetings; paper newsletter )
3. Sidewalks – network throughout downtown & 125
4. Establish a downtown revitalization committee (beautification)
5. Create an organized volunteer system for Epping (Welcome Wagon, database of skills and needs, elderly resources, quarterly meeting of all volunteer organizations; centralized location)
6. Open facilities and services after hours to public
7. Inventory recreational resources for pamphlets and distribute to residents

## **CONCLUSION**

All the action groups will meet as a large group again on April 24, 2007 to begin to establish goals and objectives to accomplish the individual projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

## APPENDIX

### Community Profile Participants

Kevin Martin	Amy Randall	Fred Hopper
Maryanne Swegles	Mike Swegles	Donna Keefe
Madilyn Williamson	Jeff Conrad	Charles P. Sanborn
Judy Sanborn	Bill Camire	Joy True
Julie DiTursi	Barbara Camire	
Louge Harvey	Dan Bennis	Cliff Cray
Mike Morasco	Kristin Morasco	Joe Denoncour
Brian Toomire	Julie DiTursi	Barbara Camire
Dixie Tremblay	Becky Racine	Nancy DeSotto
Michael Charkowski	Eric Constantineau	Pam Carrier
Amy Goodrich	Isobel Parke	Ginny LaPierre
Heidi Gagnon	Rose Colby	Bob Goodrich
Elaine Gatchel	Sandy Cray	Heather Charnoski
Richard Straw	Lois Straw	Penn Brown
Jack Kennedy	Lyn Healy	Teresa Kucera
Tracy Dwyer	Debbie Moulton	Rhona Crandall
Jane Kennedy	Eric Moulton	John Crandall
Devon Rains	Jaymie Frederick	Andrea Loving
Barbara Munsey	Colleen Schmidt	Bob Lonek
Ray Racine	Kathy Stanley-Berling	Jeff Harris
Bob Kimball	Amogene Kimball	John Schmidt
Tracie Wilkins	Jane Burley	Jodi Montalbano
Jean Calaci	Sheila Allen-Harris	Susan McGeough
Crys Frederick	Marie Kucera	Vicki Inskeep-Brown
Greg Dodge	Jeffrey LeDuc	Nathan Kamensky
Heather Clark	Siobhan Senior	Tom Gauthier
Greg Tillman	Carol Maynard	Judy Ouellet
Robert Sunderland	Mary Ahern	Anita Sunderland
Levi Horton	Dennis Brown	Kim Gauthier
Hannah Gagnon	Barbara Helmstetter	Steve Fournier
Andy Vallone	Mary Ann Jenness	Maria Raymond
Heather Charkewski	Irene Cote	Ginny LaPierre
Marcel Riel	Gloria Riel	

Community Profile Facilitators/Recorders

Irene Cote	Emily Lawless (UNH)	Amy Randall
Marjorie Pim	Marc Smith (UNH)	Judy Leavis
Allison Thurston	Julie DeTursi	Bob Jordan
Jessica Demetrakopoulos (UNH)	Eric Constantineau	Amos Clapp
Grace Lavoie	Jessica Greco(UNH)	John Bennett
Britt Canner (UNH)	Devon Rains	Bob Lonek
Derrick Cullen (UNH)	Kathy Stanley	Amanda Cooper
Brandon Stapleton (UNH)	Abby Constantineau	Alex Dymnet (UNH)
Dee Henley (UNH)	Liz Conrad	Brian Biernat (UNH)
Celis Brisbin (UNH)	Kim Gaudet	Penn Brown
Ginny LaPierre		

Community Profile Steering Committee

Liz Conrad	Michelle Cromarty	Jeff Conrad
Cliff Cray	Barbara Helmstetter	Mary Ann Jenness
Isobel Parke	Brian Toomire	Madelyn Williamson

Childcare Workers

Debbie Deary	Ryan O'Day	Carissa Johnson
Seth Hickey	Ashley Ferris	

**Speak Up, Epping!**  
**Follow-up Meeting**  
**April 24, 2007, 7:00-8:30 pm**  
**Epping Elementary School**

Approximately 30 citizens participated in the follow-up meeting facilitated by UNH Cooperative Extension on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Epping Elementary school, where participants received an overview of what occurred and began work to outline their objectives and timeline for the projects developed at the Speak Up, Epping! Community Profile held on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Following is a brief summary of each projects' upcoming tasks, as well as their next meeting date/time, location and convener.

**Downtown Revitalization (including defining the downtown open and green space through zoning from the Natural Resources group as well as sidewalks networked throughout downtown & Route 125 from the Infrastructure and Public Safety group):**

Group will focus on seeking out funding and marketing strategies for their goals as well as define their objectives and present these to the Select Board, Planning Board and Town Planner.

Next meeting: Wed. May 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Library  
Convener: Jane Burley [whitebarn245@aol.com](mailto:whitebarn245@aol.com)

**Communication**

Group will network with other communities who have developed websites and newsletters as a resource before beginning work on these projects and will possibly work with students at the school. The town has already paid for and ordered a bulletin board for use in front of the town hall to post upcoming events.

Next meeting: Tues. May 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Fire Station (location to be confirmed)  
Convener: Barbara Helmstetter [barbara.s.helmstetter@dartmouth.edu](mailto:barbara.s.helmstetter@dartmouth.edu)

**Community Involvement and Leadership**

This group will be called "Epping Volunteers" and will work on a volunteer system, including a clearinghouse to contain needs and resources, will grow volunteer corps through web, newsletter and EPTV, will facilitate communication among existing groups and to be more efficient, develop and coordinate volunteer training (i.e. food safety) and develop a recognition program for local volunteers.

Next meeting: Tues. May 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at the Fire Station  
Convener: Liz Conrad [ljconrad01@comcast.net](mailto:ljconrad01@comcast.net)

## **Recreation**

Group will survey what's available in Epping for recreational opportunities for all age groups and will invite the Recreation Department, Conservation Commission and later the Communication group to work on this project. Charlie French from UNH Cooperative Extension will assist this group in accomplishing its goals.

Next meeting: Tues. May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at Watson Academy  
Convener: Mary Ann Jenness [maj1028@comcast.net](mailto:maj1028@comcast.net)

The other group formed at Speak Up, Epping!, **Schools and Lifelong Learning** will collaborate with the Facilities Committee in town to ensure marketing is done to keep the schools and other facilities in town are open after hours to the public.

All groups will come together on **Tues. July 17<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00pm for a potluck picnic to report on progress and next steps as well as celebrate accomplishments. The steering committee will be marketing this event in the coming weeks.