



UNIVERSITY *of* NEW HAMPSHIRE  
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

**LANDAFF  
COMMUNITY PROFILE  
REPORT**

**Landaff, New Hampshire  
September 29 & 30, 2006**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements.....	2
Introduction.....	3
Agenda.....	5
Friday Evening.....	7
The Mosaic.....	7
The Vision.....	7
History Presentation.....	8
The Six Components.....	11
1. Informed Citizen Participation and Community Leadership.....	12
2. Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals & Youth and Lifelong Learning.....	14
3. Community Services, Facilities, Utilities and Transportation.....	16
4. Economic Vitality and Growth and Development.....	18
5. Sense of Community and Recreational & Cultural Heritage.....	20
6. Working Landscape and the Natural Environment.....	22
Saturday Morning: Key Issues.....	25
Conclusion.....	33
Appendices.....	34

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 Bercovitz*

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.

**UNH Cooperative Extension  
Landaff Community Profile  
September 29 & 30, 2006  
Agenda**

Friday Evening

**6:00 Sign-In & Chicken Pot Pie Supper**

**7:00 Welcome** – Charlie French, UNH Cooperative Extension and Shirley Peterson, Steering Committee Chair

- Overview of Community Profile Process
- Who is here?

**Mosaic and Vision**

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

**Historical Overview – Shirley Peterson (as written by Andrea Fitzgerald)**

- Where has Landaff been?

**7:45 Presentation of Community Profile components**

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

**8:00 Break/Move into small groups**

**8:15 Small group discussions of components**

Random assignments to small groups, one component per group

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

**9:30 Formal adjournment**

Saturday

**8:30 Coffee and check-in**

**9:00 Small group reports**

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

**9:45 Selection of key issues – participants select small group/issues**

**10:15 Break**

**10:30 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

**12:15 Full Group: report back from small groups**

**12:45 Lunch and voting**

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

**1:30 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

**2:00 Formal adjournment**

## **Community Profile Friday Evening**

The Community Profile was conducted at Landaff Grange Hall over two days: Friday evening, September 29, 2006 and most of the day Saturday, September 30, 2006. About over 70 participants attended on Friday with approximately 40 people attending on Saturday. The list of attendees was slightly different each day.

The event began on Friday with a chicken pie supper. Charlie French, Extension Specialist, and Shirley Peterson, chair of the Steering Committee, gave us an overview of the profile process and an introduction to the goals for the two days. The goal of the process 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 and learning how long we had lived in town. 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 Landaff like today?**

- friendly, small town, nice folks
- rural flavor
- pristine, clean environment
- people care wildlife
- community pride (Old Home Day, Fire Department)
- quiet and very beautiful
- diverse employment, community unites (great place to live)
- minimal light, noise, etc. pollution
- growing community
  - nervous re: future growth
- intelligent people
- strong minded
- clean and safe
- rustic and remote
- close knit community where we look out for each other
- good citizenship – civic minded
- Landaff people love Landaff
- respect for neighbors
- frost-heave capital of state
- beautiful wildlife
- people stay

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

- keep as is – no change
- value past as change(s) come
- share community assets with visitors (shoppers?)
- municipal infrastructure (street lights)

- land protection for wildlife
- control growth so youth/families can stay/move here
- maintain rural/country aspects
- small home-based businesses vs. “big” industry
- cell phone service – high speed Internet - cable
- shops –small cottage industry to share with others
- managed change – agree on change
- maintain Blue School
- more special signs – stop signs, dead-end signs, control speeders
- beautiful mountain vision – minimal light pollution, minimal noise pollution
- more publicized events – electronically etc. – to create sense of inclusion with out-of-towners
- more community interaction, more civic events
- keep community safe
- resource to help manage land – make resources known
- Safety – including better enforcement of state fire codes
- contacts for resource management

## **Historical Presentation**

Landaff was first granted in 1764. It was then granted to Dartmouth College in 1770, and incorporated in 1774. The industrious early residents went right to work. The first sawmill and gristmill were built in 1775 and 1776 respectively. Turbulent times were suffered in Landaff during the Revolutionary War and subsequent years when there were considerations to join Vermont and litigation that resulted in the division of the eastern part of Landaff over disagreements in building a road. In 1791 Dartmouth College relinquished its claims to the township of Landaff. In 1793 the first license to sell alcohol was given. The first town meetings were held in private homes and then at the 1840 Methodist Church on the site of the present day Methodist Church. In 1798 the town was divided into three school districts, appropriating \$150.00 for use of the schools. By 1840 there were nine school districts. In 1851 the road was built from Jockey Hill to Lisbon. In 1853 the road was built along Mill Brook. Agriculture was the main business especially from the beginning until the Civil War era. Many farmers raised sheep. Farms also produced maple syrup, cheese, and wool in addition to the usual crops. Many of the farmers donated their own produce, wood, livestock and poultry to support church and

Grange functions while being almost totally self-sufficient. Population continued to grow. In 1770 there was one family, and by 1860 there were 1,000 residents. In 1895 New England Telephone and Telegraph set poles. Three starch factories were on Mill Brook. One to three tons of starch was made daily, this being from potatoes and used in different types of manufacturing. Lumbering was another lucrative early business. Early sawmills and bobbin mills were also located on Mill Brook. Spruce oil stills were used to manufacture spruce oil for different manufacturers. There was a limekiln in the Scotland district, and there was a cement factory owned by the Bronsons. Landaff Gold Mining District was in existence for approximately 20 years, though it did not produce any great amount. There was a general store in Landaff Center. Mt. Hope Grange was started in 1876 and continues to the present day. In 1880, occupations in Landaff consisted of: blacksmith, bobbin maker, carpenter, clergyman, compositor (typesetter), domestic servant, farmer, laborer, music teacher, stonemason, and teacher. These individuals' families came from Canada, Connecticut, England, Ireland, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, and Vermont.

Today, Landaff's population is estimated at 380. (Chrissy, I don't know what you want to say about Landaff today. I guess I live in the past. I don't know what to say about Landaff today.)

Largest family (it's a tie):

- *Adams and Jane Poor – 8 children and an 18 year-old farm worker, Fred Swasey*
- *Daniel and Marcia Stimpson – 8 children and a brother, Sylvester Stimpson working on farm*
- *John and Laura Noyes – 8 children and a mother-in-law, Matilda Sherman*

Unusual names:

*Arzella Austin (f)*

*Capitola Shuman (f)*

*Cyrene Noyes (m)*

*Drusilla Eaton (f)*

*Felix Corum, a 12 year-old servant from Canada (m)*

*Luna Clark (f)*  
*Moor Noyes (f)*  
*Moren Knight (m)*  
*Philena Woods (f)*  
*Pluma Downer (f)*  
*Roancy Downer (f)*  
*Stork Whitcher (m)*

*Youngest and oldest:*

*Eugene Stnaley – 5M*  
*Savory Gordon - 87*

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Sources:

- *History of Landaff, New Hampshire* by Stanley P. Currier and Edgar T. Clement, 1966
- United States Census for 1880 @ [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)
- *Personal Traces, A Historical Collection of Personal Accounts from Lisbon, Landaff and Lyman, New Hampshire*, by Andrea M. Fitzgerald 2005. All profits benefit the Lisbon Landaff Lyman Area Historical Society.

## **COMMUNITY PROFILE SIX COMPONENTS**

After we developed a mosaic and vision for Landaff and digested some of the history, Charlie French introduced us to the idea of discussing Landaff within the framework of 6 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**

Informed Citizen Participation and Community Leadership  
Sense of Community and Recreational & Cultural Heritage

### **Community Infrastructure**

Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals and Youth and Lifelong Learning  
Community Services, Facilities and Utilities & Transportation

### **Environment**

Working Landscape and the Natural Environment

### **Economy**

Economic Vitality and Growth and Development

Next, 6 small groups of approximately 8 people each, were randomly formed, one group for each of the components. The small groups adjourned to various rooms where community trained facilitators lead the groups in their discussions and recorders made notes on more large tablets. Each group considered the definition of their component and examined the statement to be considered for their component to begin the discussion. Participants were asked to list the strengths of Landaff 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 on Saturday morning.

# 1. Informed Citizen Participation and Community Leadership

Facilitator: Judy Boulet

Recorder: Bill Adam

Spokesperson: Don Wharton

Participants: Philip Finkle, Deb Erb, Clifford Boivin, Claudia Lavoie, Linda Mickelsen, Betsy Babcock, Stephen Schultz

## 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. All citizens need to develop knowledge and skills to contribute to community life. All sectors within a community—private, public and nonprofit—must each take responsibility for the community’s civic education and generate and share information with the public. Sharing in problem solving and planning for the future as a community increases pride in the community and can result in an ethic of giving and sharing as a way of life.

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

## 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.
- Schools, churches, youth and civic groups provide citizen education and promote community service.
- Citizens are actively recruited and involved in major projects.
- Participation and leadership is proactive instead of reactive, facing community issues before they become crises.
- Local committees and boards communicate well with each other, the public and with boards and committees throughout the region
- 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.
- Leaders demonstrate long-range (20+ years) thinking. They understand the impacts of their actions on the long term health and vitality of the community.
- 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.

- Schools, churches, youth and civic groups provide citizen education and promote community service.
- Citizens are actively recruited and involved in major projects.
- Participation and leadership is proactive instead of reactive, facing community issues before they become crises.
- Local committees and boards communicate well with each other, the public and with boards and committees throughout the region.

#### Group Response – Strengths:

- life squad and fire department - open
- easy to get involved
- accessible
- capable people – willing to help
- willing to stay in office
- dedication
- people willing to participate (at Old Home Day, energy)
- trying to work on tough issues
- small community – willing to meet with each other

#### Group Response – Challenges:

- getting people to be leaders
- need more
- leaders need education – state regulations
- new Master Plan
- Blue School – future? identity, cost?
- how to attract younger families (school) expansion
- assessment of citizens to help town work
- land issues
- firemen – recognition-compensation (for example money) Lisbon

#### Vision for the Future:

- illness/flu planning
- emergency preparedness – who have skill test
- resource list of skills and volunteers
- “take what you have to give”
- more communication to citizens
- minutes of Boards - available
- publish leaders such as fire chiefs
- people magnet - festivals

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

1. more communication needed for citizens
2. easy to get involved with leadership in Landaff
3. people are willing to work on tough issues
4. development of the new “Master Plan”
5. Blue School – future? costs?

## **2. Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals, Youth and Lifelong Learning**

Facilitator: Vicky Ransmeier

Recorder: Patrick Webb

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Tom Smith, Denise Cartwright, Pauline Noble, Stephanie Giunta, Richard Bronson, Marilyn Booth, Doug Erb

### Statement of Purpose:

Support services such as adequate child day care, comprehensive after-school, youth, teen and senior programs, preventative health and substance abuse programs, parenting and family support programs, and effective human service networks help strengthen the social fabric of a community. Aided by effective communication, compassionate leadership, active citizen participation, and inter-group cooperation, a comprehensive package of supportive services will enable a community to nurture healthy community members.

Programs of higher education and lifelong learning provide businesses with a pool of trained employees. Other formal and informal learning opportunities allow community members to discover hidden talents and develop an array of interests and skills. Lifelong learning allows citizens to manage their lives more effectively in a changing economy and to participate in increasingly complex municipal operations with greater knowledge and skill.

### 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 (public, private and nonprofit) 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.
- 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.
- 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 communication and cooperation between the municipal government and the local public school board.
- 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:

- educational programs  
    modern technology offers opportunities to town residents
- Blue School offer 1-on-1 education
- important to retain Blue School  
    98 – 13      2004 – 25      2006-18
- need to plan for future growth as property changes ownership as older citizens die/sell
- Grange still a factor – 15-20 average attendees
- shared ministry (in summer)
- youth sports (K-3 peewee soccer)
- community asset (LVFD hosts community activities, fire safety)
- technology and television has lessened personal community contact

### Group Response – Challenges:

- how to help neighbors in need
- point persons – method to contact (some churches do that)
- building/retaining (a sense of community)
- adequate law enforcement, especially near Blue School, Landaff is easy target
- citizens unclear as to constables responsibility
- policing your own community
- surveillance cameras near Blue School
- have more local Landaff participation in Lisbon Lions Club to help our kid's interests
- controlled growth allows us to anticipate issues

### Vision for the Future:

- no metro/subway
- just one small billion dollar company
- senior citizen activity  
    van service  
    meals  
    Meals-on-Wheels from Littleton
- no Landaff focus (in town)  
    social aspect for seniors to get together
- transportation from here
- create a monthly event with local kids too
- one-third of Landaff is over age 55
- child care needs? Lisbon Children's Center

### Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. senior citizens activity needs
2. important to retain Blue School
3. planning for future growth as property changes hands
4. better law enforcement near Blue School
5. how to help neighbors in need

### **3. Community Services, Facilities, Utilities and Transportation**

Facilitator: Matthew J. Michaelis

Recorder: Jaye Michaelis

Spokesperson: Harry McGovern

Participants: Angie Bronson, David Clement, Richard Giunta, Carol Wharton, Donald Beaudin, Allan Boulet, Ed Peterson

#### 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.

Roads get most of us where we need and want to go and most people drive their own cars for convenience. However, more vehicles sharing the roads results in increased highway maintenance, air pollution and traffic congestion. Alternatives to automobile travel include pedestrians and bicycle travel and bus and rail transportation.

#### 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 infrastructural needs.
- Public buildings such as schools and town offices are adequate for our needs.
- Public buildings are accessible to people with disabilities and are energy efficient.
- The community is easy to travel around by foot and bicycle.
- Officials address qualitative concerns about facilities and systems and utilize alternative methods of service delivery.
- Appropriate physical connections exist, such as public transportation between housing and job sites.
- The levels and quality of emergency services - fire, police and ambulance are \_\_\_\_.
- The community encourages carpooling, and helps make it work for people by providing information and accessible parking areas.
- Tradeoffs, such as maintenance, pollution and congestion are considered when widening main roads or building new roads.

#### Group Response – Strengths:

- Blue School – small, intimate
- excellent road agent
- good fire department – all volunteers
- Town Hall – wonderful old building, focal point
- town safe and beautiful for walking, biking and other modes of transportation

- recycling choice or option with Lisbon
- good town vehicles – road and fire
- emergency services adequate - 911
- benefit of state maintained road (parts of Landaff)
- ball field at Blue School
- Audubon trails maintained by Audubon Society
- conservation easement for recreation
- hiking on Class VI roads
- snowmobile trails
- cross country skiing

#### Group Response – Challenges:

- limited police force
  - no police cruiser/4 wheel drive vehicle
  - no police station
  - antiquated police technology/communication
- need municipal building – police and fire eventually ambulance, highway, emergency facilities
- need more town office space (town clerk, selectmen, zoning board)
- better road signage (street signs, stop signs, speed signs)
- clarify certain road names
- signage at Mill Brook and Chandler Pond – dangerous
- Blue School may not be adequate in the future – no plan for expansion of school
- no parking – limited at Blue School safety issues
- no water or bathroom facilities at fire station or highway department
- need younger volunteers for fire department
- transportation services needed for elderly, physically challenged, disabled, etc.
- information sharing on available community services – “people helping people,” Grange activities
- lack of community action board/newsletter

#### Vision for the Future:

- expansion of town office and meeting facilities – center of town upgraded fire and police or new
- emergency services facility
- expansion of school based on growth or new /additional facility
- safe community, not congested with well maintained roads
- better intra-community communication
- better communication of outsourced/local community services
- more community events as a source of information sharing
- transportation assistance/network for those in need (hospital, shopping, doctor appointment)

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. upgrade emergency services, facilities and equipment
2. town offices needs
3. future school needs
4. develop communication network to provide information to those in need of transportation and other services
5. update/add street signs, stop signs, school and other safety signs

#### **4. Economic Vitality and Growth & Development**

Facilitator: Mary Beaudin

Recorder: Andy Blodgett

Spokesperson: Jason Cartwright

Participants: Frankie Blodgett, Susan O’Hearn, Rebecca McGovern, Jeannette Blodgett

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. 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.

A healthy community includes access to a variety of environmentally sound and successful 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. 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:

- A variety of businesses, industries and institutions make up the economic base of the community and the region, such as \_\_\_\_\_.
- 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 \_\_\_\_\_.
- 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.
- 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, young families and/or single-parent families.
- Land use regulations and land protection efforts are preserving an adequate amount of open space in the community and areas of natural beauty and historic importance are well protected

### Group Response – Strengths:

- present businesses
  - cottage
  - farms (1) hay sugaring(maple)
  - curtain rod
  - horses (boarding)
  - logging
  
  - hair
  - Internet
  - security
  - salvage
  - wood working
  - catering
  - massage
  - plumbing
  - taxidermy
- sense of volunteering/to save money
- resource reality available (NIMBY)
- recreation availability
- open land
- land owner involvement (conservation hurting)
- creative arts education high school and people
- Internet business

### Group Response – Challenges:

- access to high speed Internet/communication
- access to cell phone
- lack of business development plan
- reliant on other community for services (P.O., milk, gas, school)
- affordable housing
- lack of inclusion (acre) O.S.H.O.
- police, security/fire, codes
- lack of younger people
- infrastructure/package plan in fire department, facility
- average age at fire department
- lack of pool of volunteers
- lack of serviceable school facilities
- lack of desire for development
- lack of recreation facility

### Vision for the Future:

- KISS
- plan for businesses growth to support community desire
- develop access to technology
- improve municipal infrastructure (buildings)
- cottage U/S heavy industry

- community involvement, cross social economic barrier in town events (social capital)
- maintain rural appearance (green belt)
- communication, town meetings/involvement of land owners
- maintain dirt roads

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. lack of business plan/zoning
2. lack of adequate municipal facilities
3. lack of technology infrastructure
4. lack of younger involvement
5. maintain rural atmosphere

## **5. Sense of Community and Recreational & Cultural Heritage**

Facilitator: Florence Webb

Recorder: Ray Lobdell

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Thomas Koda, Ghislain Roy, Lloyd Sagar, Phyllis Sagar, Ann Thetonia, Bill Kelly, Roberta Ulricson, James O'Hearn

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. Increase 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.

Recreational 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:

- 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.
- Community members often put aside their differences to work for the common good of the community.
- Formal and informal forums exist for sharing ideas and resolving public issues.
- Our community celebrates itself in many different ways, including \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 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:

- good turnout today
- interconnect/tied together
- peace and quiet
- outdoor recreation – cross country skiing, snowshoe, hike, snowmobile, hunt, fish, walking, birding
- Blue School shows
- downhill skiing close by
- snowmobile club
- Grange
- Old Home Day

#### Group Response-Challenges:

- lack of communication
- information resource for newcomers
- Historical Society/museum? Keep ownership of treasures
- lack of communications
  - agendas
  - newsletter
  - timely minutes
- more transparency in town government
- minutes/information online or by mail
- more community events or meeting place
- what will people come together around? (food, coffee shop? bar?)
- outreach to new residents
- garden tours and walking tours
- drop in meeting place
- our own Post Office?? Zip code
- posted land – limits for neighborliness (liability-snow-mobilers)
- land acquisition for recreation (grant funded) (tax issues)
- protecting open space
- larger WMNF?
- identifying recreation lands
  - easements, conservation status, etc. multiple use
- set-aside current use penalty money for acquiring recreational property

#### Vision for the Future:

- come together more often
  - dance, movie night, theatre, talent shows
- skiing/snowshoeing (winter sports)

- recreation committee or commission? work on land use issues
- library branch
- Blue School – important cultural presence  
identity for children (treasure)

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. identify recreation land and seek ways to acquire it
2. our own Post Office and zip code
3. opportunities for social interactions; community gatherings
4. communications – newsletters, agendas, etc.
5. historical museum or group

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

Facilitator: Bryan Dwyer

Recorder: Nicole Finitis

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: James Smalley, Debbie Brown, Michael Ransmeier, Dot Wiggins, Reg Lavoie, Valerie Kimber-Roy, Al Thetonia

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:

- beautiful
- bordered/in national forest (25% lots of natural land)
- large/undeveloped parcels (land)
- different terrains
- wildlife
- sunrise/views
- large parcels – pastured land
- diverse landscaping
- clean water – minimal pollution
- clean roads/walkways
- smells clean!
- lots of timber
- horse farm
- working dairy farms
- logging/timber
- developed town vs. unspoiled land
- attractive town center
- ponds/natural and not developed
- bird hunting
- good soil
- nice old stone walls
- hear wildlife (owls, birds, etc.)

#### Group Response – Challenges:

- pollution (noise, light, air, water, etc.)
- keeping it rural
- controlling change (preserve character)
- preserve large (key\*) open spaces
- where to have growth (resources)
- update/identify conservation parcels (environmental assets)
- change in view of zoning laws
- keeping Landaff a secret
- how to incorporate “The Acre” in the town activities/how to improve
- growth – where to go? Where to find the “happy medium”?
- growth – raise taxes

#### Vision for the Future:

- adapting to growth
- growth control
- preserve history
- trees green/open fields and mountains
- continuity with the past
- open land preserved/large tracts
- preserving wildlife/our land for future

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. how to preserve our pristine, natural character while adapting to growth
2. maintain an environment for wildlife
3. preserving large parcels
4. assessing our environmental assets (taking inventory)
5. pollution (noise, air, light, water)

## **Saturday Morning**

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

The 6 easels from the small groups of the night before were arrayed across the front of the room, each bearing a list of the five key issues for that topic area. Our working 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, 3 key issues emerged as important to study for the future of Landaff. This list is presented below.

### **Key Issues**

1. Preserving Rural Character and the Natural Environment
2. Citizen Engagement, Volunteerism and Communication
3. Municipal Infrastructure and Services

## PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

After a short mid-morning break, participants each chose which of the 3 key issues they would like to discuss further and broke into small groups accordingly. Each topic attracted enough people to form a small working group.

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

<b>IMPACT:</b> 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 Preserving Rural Character and the Natural Environment**

Facilitator: Bryan Dwyer

Recorder: Nicole Finitis

Spokesperson: Ray Lavoie

Participants: Stephen Schultz, Don Wharton, Marilyn Booth, Richard Bronson, Susan O’Hearn, James O’Hearn, Matthew Michaelis, Ray Lobdell

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

- promote wildlife diversity
- losing agriculture land to disuse and development
- knowing how to use resources
- lack of resource inventory
- a Master Plan update
- growth and change
- pollution (air, noise, water, land, light, etc.)

### Possible Solutions:

- town needs to complete a Natural Resource Inventory
- update Master Plan (after the NRI)
- update zoning rules
- moratorium on growth/new development (temporary)
- education for the town
- recycling of waste – explore alternatives
- education on managing land (for multiple uses)
- create a warrant article to establish conservation funding
  - from current use penalty
  - timber tax
- establish a grant seeking task force
- dollars and sense of open space
- Extension program – identifying what the Extension program can do for the land/home owner
- consider open space

### Project Evaluations:

#### High Impact/High Feasibility

- Master Plan update
- update zoning rules
- consider open space zoning if it preserves the rural character
- Natural Resources Inventory
- create a warrant article to establish conservation funding (current use penalty, timber tax)
- education opportunities for the town (i.e. Dollars & Sense of Open Space, Extension program, ID for homeowners to manage lands)
- update and complete NRI – Master Plan
- establish a grant seeking task force (also noted as Moderate Impact/High Feasibility)

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- education on managing land (multiple uses)

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- moratorium on growth/new development

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- explore alternatives to recycle local waste (grass, leaves, and septage)

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

none

Low Impact/High Feasibility

none

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

none

## **Key Issue # 2 Citizen Engagement and Volunteerism Communication**

Facilitator: Patrick Webb

Recorder: Judy Boulet

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Dot Wiggins, Angie Bronson, Jane Smalley, Bill Adam, Frankie Blodgett, Jaye Michaelis, Bill Kelly, Carol Wharton, Clifford Boivin

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

- publications, web page, newsletters, e-mailings (911 have computer technology callings – phone tree)
- coffee shop, word-of-mouth
- post notices in Lisbon
- post notes at Town Hall sign board here on Town Hall land
- lack of DSL
- NH Coop “Wild Blue”
- what is the financial impact on the town?
- community petition to request services
- lack of cell phones
- Internet
- technology survey to townspeople

### Possible Solutions:

- identify the need  
Grange, Methodist Women's Group, Friends' in Counsel
- Who knows what?
- Meals on Wheels
- Hospice
- something should be set up in Landaff for Landaff. WE need a hub to begin the volunteerism (i.e. driving)
- need coordinator
- rides, van services, card parties, dances, 1/3 of community over age 55
- pot luck dinners
- hiking, walking, mountain biking
- need for camaraderie
- New Year's Eve parties
- personal invitation
- activities center around Lisbon school
- encouragement needed for participation
- recognition for younger people
- Landaff/Lisbon/Lyman Historical society
- Norma Titus has mountains of information
- Landaff needs its own point person!
- Landaff needs a "space"
- need to solicit artifacts

### Project Evaluations:

#### High Impact/High Feasibility

- network of helpers for those in need
- newsletter, bulletin board communications
- make/use bulletin board at town hall
- sign board

#### High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- community social activities: pot luck dinner, card parties, game night, holiday parties, hiking/biking/walks (also noted as High Impact/High Feasibility)
- survey to townspeople re: high speed internet, cell phones (also noted as Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility)
- community petition to utilities company (also noted as Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility)

#### High Impact/Low Feasibility

none

#### Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- web page

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- phone tree
- younger involvement – contact personally recognition (also noted as Moderate Impact/High Feasibility)

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- Historical Society – contact townspeople for artifacts – space for display
- post notices in Lisbon (also noted as Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility)

Low Impact/High Feasibility

none

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

none

**Key Issue #3 Municipal Infrastructure and Services**

Facilitator: Florence Webb

Recorder: Mary Beaudin

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Roberta Ulricson, Claudia Lavoie, Betsy Babcock, Donald Beaudin, Ed Peterson, Michael Ransmeier  
Thomas Smith, Lloyd Sagar, Phyllis Sagar, Debora Ers, Philip Finkle

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- no control of Post Office
- separation of 911 information (Landaff/Lisbon)
- need place to store records
- running water/restrooms for fire department, town shed
- office space/meeting space for town
- fire department building adequate?
- need to acquire land
- highway facility improvement
- meeting OSHA regulations in buildings
- attempt to centralize services in one area of town
- what about the “temporary” building at the Blue School
- bring back grades?
- lack of parking spaces
- increase of law enforcement needs/increase capacity of law enforcement
- decide what to do with commercial zone
- need to update Master Plan
- need for affordable housing
- expanding the Blue School
- attract small businesses

### Possible Solutions:

- Town Hall annex
- redo/access septic system
- well/septic for highway department
- combine fire/highway department
- have central place for meetings
- add police to fire and highway (public works)
- acquire land
- approach landowners
- replace “temporary” with permanent at Blue School
- fill/create parking area
- replace Blue School with historical museum
- keep school/emergency buildings separate
- make Master Plan
- put generator in municipal building
- build emergency shelter
- update emergency/crisis plan
- was D.O.T. signage effective?
- upgrade playground equipment

### Project Evaluations:

#### High Impact/High Feasibility

- Blue School parking
- create/revise Master Plan
- acquire land
- Town Hall annex/improvement (also noted as Moderate Impact/High Feasibility)
- upgrade fire station (also noted as Moderate Impact/High Feasibility)

#### High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- combine fire, highway, and police building
- build new fire station (also noted as Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility)
- Blue School replace temporary with permanent

#### High Impact/Low Feasibility

- build new school

#### Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- update/upgrade playground equipment
- emergency shelter
- well and septic for highway department
- update emergency plan

#### Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none

#### Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- increase law enforcement (traffic)

Low Impact/High Feasibility

- review D.O.T. signage

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

- central location for meetings
- Blue School > museum

## **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 six adhesive dots to use to “vote” on the project in each theme they thought were important for Landaff 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 discussed in small groups in the afternoon. The list of project ideas follows.

## **ACTION GROUPS**

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

1. Preserving Rural Character and the Natural Environment
2. Citizen Engagement, Volunteerism and Communication
3. Municipal Infrastructure and Services

## **CONCLUSION**

Each small group worked to determine what resources they needed for the follow-up meeting on October 10, 2006 and agreed to recruit additional members to work with their committees. All the action groups will meet as a large group again on October 10 to begin to establish goals and objectives to accomplish the individual projects as facilitated/supported by UNH Cooperative Extension.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

## APPENDIX

### Community Profile Participants

Bill Adam	Betsy Babcock	Don Beaudin	Mary Beaudin
Andy Blodgett	Jeannette Blodgett	Frankie Blodgett	Clifford Boivin
Sally Boivin	Marilyn Booth	Allan Boulet	Judy Boulet
Richard Bronson	Angie Bronson	Debbie Brown	Jason Cartwright
Denise Cartwright	Nancy Cooper	David Clement	Doug Erb
Deb Erb	Peter Errol	Philip Finkle	Elaina Finkle
Rep. Edmond Gionet	Richard Giunta	Stephanie Giunta	Bill Kelly
Valerie Kimber-Roy	Ghislain Roy	Tom Koda	Claudia Lavoie
Reg Lavoie	Ray Lobdell	Harry McGovern	Becky McGovern
Frank Mellaci	Matthew Michaelis	Jaye Michaelis	Linda Michelson
Pauline Noble	Jim O'Hearn	Susan O'Hearn	Shirley Peterson
Ed Peterson	Michael Ransmeier	Vicky Ransmeier	John Rice
Kumja Rice	Lloyd Sagar	Phyllis Sagar	Heidi Sagar
Rich Sagar	Stephen Schultz	Jane Smalley	Thomas Smith
Chrissy Smith	Al Thetonia	Ann Thetonia	Roberta Ulricson
Don Wharton	Carol Wharton	Dot Wiggins	

### UNH Participants

Charlie French	Michele Gagne	Deb Maes
Nory Parr	Robin Peters	

### Steering Committee

Mary Beaudin	Sue O'Hearn	Shirley Peterson
Vicky Ransmeier	Chrissy Smith	Roberta Ulricson
Florence Webb		

### Small group facilitators and recorders

Bill Adam	Mary Beaudin	Andy Blodgett
Judy Boulet	Bryan Dwyer (student)	Nicole Finitis (student)
Ray Lobdell	Jaye Michaelis	Matthew Michaelis
Vicky Ransmeier	Florence Webb	Patrick Webb

### Planning Board

Brenda Dodge	Deb Erb	Philip Finkle
Erroll Peters	John Rice	Michael Ransmeier
Patrick Webb		

### Board of Selectmen

Douglas Erb	Michael Ransmeier	C. Bruce Ulricson
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## **Follow-up Meeting Minutes October 10, 2006 Landaff Grange Hall**

### **Municipal Infrastructure and Services**

Members:

Florence Webb, Harry McGovern, Becky McGovern, Frank Mellaci, Allan Boulet, Vicky Ransmeier, Michael Ransmeier, Philip Finkle, Jason Cartwright, Ed Peterson, Don Beaudin, Thomas Smith, Deb Erb, Claudia Lavoie, Lloyd and Phyllis Sagar and Heidi and Dick Sagar

This group will focus on examining the small parking lot by the Blue School and obtain costs so that it can be paved and expanded for the safety of the school children. They will also obtain the report done by the future building needs committee a couple of years ago that did an existing buildings assessment as well as the report done by fire officials who visited several fire stations in other towns similar to Landaff to plan for the future of their fire station. They will assess the cost of the highway department adding a possible portable or dug well and a closed container sewer system. Finally, they will pull together a listing of current town-owned lands to assess how existing town facilities might be expanded or moved to a bigger parcel or combining services at one site.

The next meeting will be October 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Grange Hall.

### **Communication and Volunteerism**

Members:

Richard and Stephanie Giunta, Jane Smalley, Bill Adam, Angie Bronson, Jaye Michaelis, Frankie Blodgett, Dot Wiggins, Carol Wharton, Clifford Boivin, Mary Beaudin, Judy Boulet, Bill Kelly, Pat Webb

This group is focusing on developing a newsletter and community website to increase communication about activities in town. With a \$50 donation from Judy Hodge to get the domain name for the website, the newsletter will be online as well as sent out to those without web access and be at sites around town to be picked up. Some Woodsville High School students will do a mock up of both the website and the newsletter and the community will help decide the name of the newsletter itself. They also will be looking for locations for a bulletin board somewhere in the town center that will be handicapped accessible to post meeting minutes and other important town information.

The next meeting will be October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Grange Hall.

## **Preserving Rural Character and the Natural Environment**

Members:

Stephen Schultz, Don Wharton, Marilyn Booth, Richard Bronson, Sue and James O'Hearn, Matthew Michaelis, Reg Lavoie, Ray Lobdell

This group is looking at conducting a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) through support by UNH Cooperative Extension and other state agencies and will be looking for funding support to match the state monies available (maybe through a land use change tax). They will examine Lisbon's NRI and get a representative from there to come and talk to the group about the process. The group also talked about having a monthly "land" talk, which might include such programs as the Dollars and Sense of Saving Special Places and Land Conservation strategies.

Next meeting: October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the Grange Hall.