



BARNSTEAD COMMUNITY PROFILE REPORT

**Barnstead, New Hampshire
May 6 & 7, 2005**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Acknowledgements..... | 1 |
| Overview of Community Profiles..... | 2 |
| Agenda | 3 |
| Friday Evening..... | 5 |
| The Mosaic..... | 5 |
| The Vision – What do we want Barnstead to be like in the future? | 5 |
| Community Profile Six Components | 7 |
| 1. Informed Citizen Participation and Community Leadership..... | 8 |
| 2. Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals, Youth and Lifelong Learning..... | 11 |
| 3. Community Services, Facilities, Utilities and Transportation | 14 |
| 4. Economic Vitality and Growth & Development | 16 |
| 5. Sense of Community and Recreational & Cultural Heritage..... | 18 |
| 6. Working Landscape and the Natural Environment..... | 20 |
| Saturday Morning: Key Issues..... | 23 |
| Conclusion | 34 |
| Appendices..... | 35 |
| Barnstead Follow-up Meeting..... | 36 |

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OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY PROFILES

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

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

In 1995, the League of Women Voters in the Upper Valley, working with UNH Cooperative Extension and UVM Cooperative Extension, identified ten key qualities that help a community to work well 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
Barnstead Community Profile
May 6 & 7, 2005
Agenda**

Friday Evening

6:00 Sign-In & Pot-Luck Supper

7:00 Welcome – Charlie French, UNH Cooperative Extension and Teresa Scahill, Steering Committee

- Overview of Community Profile Process
- Who is here?

Mosaic and Vision

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

Historical Overview – Priscilla Tiere, Carol Tiede

- Where has Barnstead 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 Barnstead in the component area
- Weaknesses of Barnstead 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 Barnstead 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 Barnstead Elementary School over two days: Friday evening, May 6, 2005 and most of the day Saturday, May 7, 2005. About 55 participants attended on Friday with approximately 45 people attending on Saturday. The list of attendees was slightly different each day.

The event began on Friday with a potluck supper. Charlie French, Extension Specialist, and Teresa Scahill, Steering Committee, gave us an overview of the profile process and an introduction to the goals for the two days. The goal is strengthening community involvement; its key idea is sustainability - balancing economic and environmental factors while thinking about the impacts of our actions for the next seven generations.

We spent a few minutes meeting each other, learning how long we had lived in town, where we live in town 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 Barnstead like today?

- stagnant
- a rural flavor
- unorganized
- over taxed
- isolated
- dysfunctional
- lakes and summer people
- dirty
- has a high school and great elementary school
- potential
- great library
- great parks and recreation
- no jobs

THE VISION – What do we want Barnstead to be like in the future?

- more business to offset taxes and jobs
- to be more like the past
- more communication between groups
- active senior/community/teen center
- downtown with coffee shop
- grocery store
- arts center
- beautified
- better roads
- public transportation

- more youth-based activities for teens
- kinder, more accepting community
- maintain rural character
- low taxes
- better leadership
- biking/hiking trails along Suncook River
- more positive than negative
- update schools
- better distribution of finances
- something creative on Timco site

COMMUNITY PROFILE SIX COMPONENTS

After we developed a mosaic and vision for Barnstead and digested some of the history, Charlie French introduced us to the idea of discussing Barnstead 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 5 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 Barnstead 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: Brian Gower

Recorder: Debbie Milano

Spokesperson: Pat Lucy

Participants: Phyllis Thoroughgoorf, Dennis Norton, Gunner Stollberg, Bruce Marriott

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:

- fire department and ambulance
- Selectman
 - progressive thinking
 - dedicated
 - available
- parks and recreation
- new high school
- citizen participation
- word of mouth - crisis
- more self reliant
- more open space
- peaceful
- town meeting
-

Group Response – Challenges:

- lack of parental and community involvement
- bedroom community
- developing jobs
- developing Timco/environment friendly way
- utilizing our land/water assets
- clean water-drinking and lakes
- teaching trades
- rural hub
- turnout poor at town meeting
- Planning Board
- development - prices
- poor people can't afford to live here
- lower taxes – how to
- maintaining taxes – low level
- no industry
- development of Timco
- road improvement without asphalt
- elderly housing facilities
- elderly services
- elderly transportation
- tax relief for elderly
- maintaining farm land
- recreational facilities/town
- adult education
- keeping kids active

- community center
- music and community action/kids and teens
- bigger school

Vision for the Future:

- keeping it rural and balanced
- cluster co-housing
- save open spaces
- more social services
- facility for services – Community Center
- ropes course, boat launch, picnic area
- recreational site Suncook Park
- shelter, playground – natural
- survivalist school, fishing
- access for handicapped
- teen outdoor education
- natural amphitheater – outdoor
- new police station
- extra curricular activities
- bigger school
- adult education
- child care
- parent room – resource center
- areas middle schools – 4H and crafts, life skills
- farm-food-co-op (medical, skills, childcare)
- keep money in town – local economy- hotels, restaurant, bed & breakfast
- Timco – environmental park, multipurpose develop and sell
- cultural center – community center
- transportation – public
- communications public TV
- town management
- more parades – in parade theme
- people magnet - festivals

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. maintain rural feel and balance progression
2. school and education
3. economics
4. vision statement
5. environmental

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

Facilitator: Sumner Dole

Recorder: Hazel Holmes

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Mike Tocci, Carol Tiede, Diane Norton, Carolyn Namaste, Cindy Headley

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:

- DARE program
- school based programs

- bullying
- substance abuse
- social skills
- self esteem
- story hour – pre-school, library
- sports programs (recreation department, school)
- senior group (nightholt hollow)
- Historical Society
- music in the summer – Barnstead parade
- comic ext. group (out of Laconia)
- adult classes – education classes
 - computers, exercise, pottery
- Curves, fitness and more
- Gingerbread – preschool
- afterschool program – YMCA sponsored
- youth group – church
- good news – school
- Scouts (boy scouts and girl scouts)
- PTA
 - elementary and high school
- home school
- child care
- drivers education at high school
- balanced meals at school (breakfast)
- food pantry
- PY workshop 6-12
 - some Barnstead businesses
- ice rink
- Locke Lake Colony
 - ice skating
 - high school teens using tennis courts
- senior bus to Concord
- school buses
 - pick children up within 2 miles
- Hospice – Concord
- Meals on Wheels – Pittsfield
- library
 - resourceful
 - computer
 - community room

Group Response – Challenges:

- volunteer
 - liability issues
- school communication
- busing to high school
 - snow cancellations

- youth, middle school hanging out
 - behind school
 - non-athletic activities
- transportation for youth activities/senior activities
- Barnstead youth workshop
- correct addresses –being numbered first responders aren't residents
- no health services within the community (no doctors, dentists, pharmacy)
- community communication
 - school website
 - internet
 - coordination
 - other websites
- Big Brother/Big Sister/grandparent program – school
- hike and bike trails along the rivers
- nature trails – lack of
- outdoor education programs (youth camp)
- funding resources outside of tax dollars
- drop out rate

Vision for the Future:

- environmental issues
- develop sources outside of taxes
- housing - more affordable young couples
- Senior Citizens housing
- Community Center – youth and seniors
- drop out rate
- pre-school
- attract business balance with rural character
- town economic development council
- Timco

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. youth programming
 - transportation
 - non-athletic programming
 - environmental education
2. networking community communication
3. healthcare – access and education
4. funding any family type program
 - non-tax funding sources addressing these issues
5. economic development – lack of

3. Community Services, Facilities, Utilities and Transportation

Facilitator: Dawn Call

Recorder: not noted

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Barbara Krilivsky, Jodi Lamy, Bruce Marriott, Judy Campbell

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:

- Capitol Improvement Fund
- public school buses
- elderly (?)
- library – well supported
- multiple denominations - churches
- parks and recreation – volunteer driven
- high school (beautiful/just starting)

- food pantry
- Bayside Paper – more informative
- volunteers
- Community Resource Team (CRT)
- bike trails/sidewalks to school (snowmobile trails)
- senior groups (Night Hawks, Locke Lakers)
- fire department very efficient
- police department (DARE, 24 hours, connection with kids, more policy coverage)

Group Response – Challenges:

- communication system –isolation fast growing
- small town governing structure
 - many don't understand how set up
- 2 SAU's for schools
- multiple phone prefixes/several zip codes
- activities for teens
- restaurants
- grocery store
- development – image coming in to town, business that need cleaning up
- more public access to public water facilities

Vision for the Future:

- paved roads
- public transportation
- update school curricula (books)
 - resolution to elementary and middle school
 - not as well prepared for high school
- more service: restaurants and grocery store
- senior center and youth center
- better access to town beach
- better communication – newsletter resources to be more effective
- community school – youth, adult training
- activities to integrate Barnstead and Alton youth

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. communication
2. resolution of school issues
3. increased activities and facilities (teens, youth, senior particularly)
4. additional services: restaurants, grocery store
5. better understanding and integration of small town government (e.g. responsibilities/expectation of various town groups)

4. Economic Vitality and Growth & Development

Facilitator: John Milano

Recorder: Lyn Archambault

Spokesperson: Lyn Archambault

Participants: Ed Tasker, Peter Krilivsky, Mike Lamy

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:

- rural aspect/old blood to preserve/conserv
- quiet
- school system
- strong town government
- conserve property for the public
- space needs committee

Group Response – Challenges:

- voters
- people not available enough
- too little to late for building permits
- taxing resources we have
- unite everyone in the community
- municipal services suffer
- town jumps ahead to purchase things without community input
- generate new industry
- municipal infrastructure
- how to support economically
- lack of incentive/work ethic
- not enough dollar amounts for jobs to support family

Vision for the Future:

- support the community with a viable setting
- infrastructure but keep the rural look
- on the job training for youths
- jobs for youth
- community involvement with the youth
- support the growth
- increasing activities in the Locke Lake area
- something for kids at all times
- more police control
- something for youth and elderly
- diverse populations
- affordable housing for elderly and single families
- to have an open mind with younger parents and single parents
- to maintain the rural flavor
- maintain dirt roads

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. maintain rural character
2. expand parks and recreation
3. increase municipal services
4. affordable housing and apartments
5. increase the tax base with industry and businesses, good paying jobs

5. Sense of Community and Recreational & Cultural Heritage

Facilitator: Mary Fougere

Recorder: Katie Archambault

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Gordon Headley, Martha Horton, Kathy Jenks, Shannon Swett

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:

- rural aspects
- small community
- good school system – K-12
- youthful support growing with the new school
- strong bonds

- natural resources
- library
- recreational facilities – lakes, rivers, ponds
- “fun place to be”
- welcoming to newcomers
- views, country and historical sites
- historical knowledge of town members
- friendly
- community events such as Old Home Days and town meetings, parades, etc.
- lots of care for each other
- good air quality
- school concerts
- different churches and high attendance
- decorating town with flowers during summer
- town beautification
- sports
- scouts
- people taking responsibility

Group Response-Challenges:

- factions
- improving and enlarging recreational facilities
- getting to know Barnstead
- being old in Barnstead – senior services
- transportation for teens – non-motorized and motorized
- teen events
- preserving and presenting history
- preserving rural character
- balancing needs of new residents
- overcoming attitudes towards Locke Lake
- preservation of lakes and rivers-managing
- maintaining spirit of volunteering
- make affordable taxes
- maintaining historical sites
- maintaining open spaces
- voter turnout at town meetings
- newcomers not always welcomed to help

Vision for the Future:

- more people involved in town decision with government
- maintained roads
- town information/welcome wagon
- more teen options/community center
- Chamber of Commerce
- increase amphibians
- lakes and rivers not polluted
- multi-use trails – non-motorized

- better understanding of trails and lake rules
- continue educational programs
- more communication between churches

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. lack of adult education opportunities in Barnstead
2. getting to know Barnstead – newcomers as well as long time or mid time residents
3. preserving the natural resources, historical buildings, history, views and character
4. the lack of available space for recreational and community, teen and senior gatherings
5. lack of coordinated vision/communication between municipal boards and committees and other private sectors

6. Working Landscape and the Natural Environment

Facilitator: not noted Recorder: Alan Robichaud Spokesperson: not noted
 Participants: Michael Akstin, Christine Akstin, Toni Barbatolfife, Judy Chase, Brad Libenson

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:

- land purchases by conservation district from taxes paid after current use
- limit on home building/year (32/year)
- acreage size minimums
- natural beauty (lakes, streams, ponds, rivers)
- geographically well-situated from anywhere
- recycling facility
- clean air conscious
- town beautification committee
- milfoil treatment team (town and state collaboration)
- natural water supply
- concerned citizens
- Baysider newspaper
- part of Belknap County Conservation District
- friends of the Suncook River
- control of timbering (timber tax and permits)
- not using salt on roads
- Lake Association
- stonewalls
- hiking trails and public beach
- snowmobile trails
- good hunting
- working farms

Group Response – Challenges:

- illegal dumping (back roads, woods)
- keeping private property clean (eyesores)
- water purchasing (corporations)
- writing ordinances against water extraction
- impact of failed septic systems on ground water, wildlife, etc.
- milfoil (Randle Pond, Locke Lake)
- repair and maintenance of dirt roads
- public participation in selectmen's meetings
- town participation in public access network
- public service announcements
- financial resources to preserve historical buildings
- maintenance of stonewalls
- accessible place to post meeting notices to involve people
- little knowledge of local hiking trails and other natural resources
- fish can't be eaten
- diminishing wildlife

Vision for the Future:

- develop visuals (maps) of natural resources of the town (trails, tributaries, rail beds, conservation land)
- community youth mapping
- rails and trails (with neighboring towns)
- “Emerald” rings around the town
- celebrate “Preambulation”
- work with neighboring communities on mutual issues (e.g. ground water, aquifers)
- branding...gateway to the Lakes Region
- clean up eyesores
- free clean-up days (hazardous material collection days)
- development that is aesthetically pleasing
- celebrating of natural resources (canoeing on the rivers)
- organized youth activities around natural resources (e.g. crewing, trail riding, etc.)
- grants writer to seek out resources
- swimming lessons, sailing, mountain biking
- aerial photography of Barnstead
- continue and strengthen CRT

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. preservation environmental health
2. improve accessibility to natural resource activities
3. increased sense of responsibility and community participation in environmental affairs
4. increase ability to purchase land for conservation
5. youth involvement in: education, celebration, environmental stewardship

Saturday Morning: Key Issues

Everyone reassembled bright and early Saturday morning at Barnstead Elementary School, 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, 4 key issues emerged as important to study for the future of Barnstead. This list is presented below.

Key Issues

1. Community Networking and Coordination
2. Rural Character and Environment
3. Lifelong Learning
4. Economic Opportunity

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

After a short mid-morning break, participants each chose which of the 4 key issues they would like to discuss further and broke into small groups accordingly. Each topic attracted enough people to form a small working group.

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

IMPACT:
How much will it matter?

| | | | |
|----------|------|----------|-----|
| High | | | |
| Moderate | | | |
| Low | | | |
| | High | Moderate | Low |

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 Community Networking and Coordination

Facilitator: Alan Robichaud

Recorder: Debbie Milano

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Cindy Headley, Toni Barbatofife, Judy Chase, Diane Beijer

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- community center
- town hall used for more functions
- Mountains Store central gathering place

Possible Solutions:

- clear identification of groups in town for general population
- directory of services
 - brief description and contact number
 - web based
 - newspaper
 - town hall, library, P.O.'s
 - forum for groups community fair
 - inform community and involvement
- welcome booklet and map
- directory
- to identify groups
 - county
 - town, etc.
- website improved
- public access channel
- broad-banded
- newspaper or community calendar
- community based activities, dances, fairs, parades
- how to identify the different sectors of community
 - dispel community myths
 - town meeting format
 - focus groups
- to integrate all age groups
- senior/teen center
- use unused spaces
- bring services here – expand on school use
- coordinate – who does it? Town administrator, principal
- town meeting with Belknap SVCS

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- community school
- CRT – convene sectors of community
- identify groups
- directory

- sectors of community identify
- website improve
- newspaper
- welcome booklet

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- coordination of leadership
 - principals
 - administrator
 - selectmen
- unused spaces use

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- senior teen center
- community calendar coordinator

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

none

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- community activities – dances, fairs, parades
- focus groups

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

none

Low Impact/High Feasibility

none

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

- public access channel

Key Issue # 2 Rural Character and Environment

Facilitator: Michele Gagne Recorder: John Call Spokesperson: not noted
 Participants: Gunnar Stohlberg, Bruce Mariott, Mary Fougere, Teresa Scahill, Ken Burt

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- maintain rural and balance progression
- preserving the open lands
 - natural resources, historic buildings
 - water, land and air quality
- smart developing (right now its not need for some)
- boards aren't enforcing regulations
 - not everyone is following vision laid out in Master Plan

- no place for people to interact
- tax maps not digitized
 - limits what can be done
- not enough people participating in planning the decision making
 - lack of volunteer leadership
 - groups aren't interacting together
- land and housing cost less than surrounding towns. Attracts "temporary residents"

Possible Solutions:

- capture oral history
 - existing to new
- develop innovative ways to share oral history
- share information about recreation opportunities through a website or cable channel (e.g. canoeing)
- create and maintain non-motorized trails
- digitize and make available town tax maps
- publicize and educate about existing maps and resources
- developing a group/network of volunteers
 - canoe launch sites
 - hiking trails
 - boat ramps
 - swimming areas
- developing long term, smart growth policies that are enforceable and enforced
- examining desirable options on a site such as Timco and link to planned growth
- examine cluster zoning
- enforce Master Plan and capital improvement plan
- determine and preserve critical natural resource areas and focus resources on areas
 - money
 - manpower
 - grants
 - gifts
 - maps
- enhance community involvement through more community activities
- recognize groups already working on issues
 - bring them together with other interested citizens and create a directory
- create directory of existing historical/cultural resources
- create a natural resource inventory
- put Master Plan on website
- determine best land use utilization for future planning
- list to explain roles and responsibilities for town government boards and commission
- recognize parks and recreation programs and facilities and volunteer base and expand where or if necessary
- bring together and catalog existing group resources and projects
 - historical
 - cultural
 - natural

- determine best land use utilization for smart growth and enforce Master Plan (zoning options i.e. districts)

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- bring groups working on natural resource issues together with other interested citizens
- recognize groups already working on issues
- publicize and educate existing maps and resources

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- digitizing tax maps and make available
- develop a group/network of volunteers – swimming areas
- develop a group/network volunteers – boat ramps
- determine and preserve critical natural resources areas and focus resources on those areas
- examine cluster zoning and other smart growth management plans
- developing a group/network volunteers – hiking trails
- developing a group/network volunteers – canoe launch site
- create a directory of existing historical/cultural resources (also noted as High Impact/High Feasibility)

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- natural resource inventory (also noted as Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility)
- determine best land use utilization for future planning
- enforce Master Plan and Capital Improvement Plan
- examine desirable options on a particular site and link to planned growth
- develop long term smart growth policies that are enforced and enforceable

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- put Master Plan on website
- list and explain roles and responsibilities for town government boards and commissions

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- develop innovative ways to share information about resources and history existing (website, cable)
- enhance community involvement through more community activities
- share information about recreation opportunities (i.e. canoeing, cross-country skiing)
- continue to capture oral history (started ones finish, get new oral history)
- recognize parks and facilities programs and facilities and volunteer base and expand where/if necessary

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- create and maintain non-motorized trails

Low Impact/High Feasibility

none

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

none

Key Issue #3 Lifelong Learning

Facilitator: Dotty Burrows

Recorder: Kattie Archambault

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Dawn McCartney, Susan Harford, Jodi Lamy, Sandy Burt, Pat Lucey, Kris Jannini, Dawn Call,

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

Possible Solutions:

- senior bus
- community center with transportation
- invite seniors into classrooms
- better system of communication of educational opportunity already available
- peer mentors in school/senior mentors
- recreational site on Suncook River: ropes course, boat launch, picnic area, shelter, playground, natural, survivalist school, fishing, access for handicapped, teen outdoor education (3 potential locations)
- setup committees for each park. Everyone needs to know that there is a recreation committee and conservation committee
- parent/community coordinator in the school
- formal community school
- before and after school care, that's not expensive
- apply for after school grant funding
- evaluate sponsorship of resources of before and after school care
- cultural center – natural and amphitheater
- provide transportation to and from for kindergarten or full day kindergarten
- establish a town funded education and recreation coordinator
- parent resource room in school
- more pre-school programs
- website for communication and education
- public television for education
- active volunteerism
- provide educational opportunities after school for kids, adults – affordable
- questionnaire for town and education
- community school
- lifelong learning touches all aspects of community life and all ages. It is affordable and meets the needs of the community, builds “community”, comfortable, inviting, welcoming
- promote community within the school and town and library
- life long learning builds on the needs and resources of the community

- community learning is a critical component of our towns well being. It unites all members of the town and fosters personal and community growth, community learning offers, educational/recreational opportunities to all
- cooperative farm with cooperative efforts: organic farm, medical center, life skills center, childcare
- education programs would include cooking, sewing, carpentry, computers, environment, etc.

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- recreational site on Suncook River: ropes course, boat launch, picnic area, shelter, playground, natural, survivalist school, fishing, access for handicapped, teen outdoor education (3 possible locations)
- educational programs would include cooking, sewing, carpentry, computers, environment, etc.
- parent/community coordinator in the school
- website for communication and education
- better system of communication of educational opportunities already available

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- set-up committees for each park. Everyone needs to know that there is a recreation committee and conservation committee
- more pre-school programs

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- before and after school care that is not expensive
- apply for after school care grants
- parent resource room in school
- provide transportation to and from for kindergarten or full day kindergarten
- establish a town funded education and recreation coordinator
- formal community school use of school facility (also noted as High Impact/Moderate Feasibility)
- community center with transportation (also noted as High Impact/Moderate Feasibility)

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- invite seniors into classrooms

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- peer mentors in school/senior mentor
- public television for education –cable

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- active volunteerism (also noted as Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility)

Low Impact/High Feasibility

none

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

- cooperative farm with cooperative efforts; organic farm, medical center, life skills center, child care
- senior bus

Key Issue #4 Economic Opportunity

Facilitator: Sumner Dole

Recorder: Becky Levesque

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Lyn Archambault, Kathy Jenks, Judith Campbell, Carol Tiede, Phyllis Thoroughgood, Gordon Headley, Bruce Shearer, Brad Libenson, John Milano, Hazel Mae Holmes

Possible Solutions:

Business & Industry

- research (state)
- on job training
- Chamber of Commerce
- town survey
- resources (municipal)
- new businesses
- cultural center (community center – multi-purpose)
- growth management
- youth retention proportionate permitting
- review town Master Plan
- user friendly – planned communities
- industrial park
- infrastructure – gateway Rt. 28 x 126
- capture Rt. 28 traffic – build a circle
- traffic control

Housing/Residential

- apartments - affordable
- senior housing
- single parent families
- town survey
- nursing/assisted living
- cluster housing
- growth management
- review town Master Plan

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- cultural center (e.g. community center multipurpose)
- develop understanding with selectmen/planning relating to business development
- Chamber of Commerce (sell Barnstead)
- infrastructure gateway Rt. 28 & Rt. 126

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- user friendly planned community
- affordable apartments
- proportionate permitting
- recreation areas in housing
- town survey
- capitalize environmental natural beauty
- industrial park
- hotel – 4 season campground

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- on job training
- new businesses
- hi tech business kids
- supermarket
- capture Rt. 28 traffic – possible circle
- traffic control
- municipal resources
- youth retention

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- research – state
- review town Master Plan

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- growth management
- senior housing
- housing single parent families
- nursing and assistant living

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

none

Low Impact/High Feasibility

- cluster housing

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

none

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 Barnstead 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.

#1 Rural Character and Environment

1. Determine best land use utilization for smart growth and enforce Master Plan **(24 votes)**
2. Determine and preserve critical natural resource areas and focus resources on these areas (money, manpower, grants, gifts and maps) **(3 votes)**
3. Bring together and catalog existing groups/resources and projects (historical, cultural, natural) **(3 votes)**

#2 Community Networking and Coordination

1. Create multiple communication tools to inform citizens of activities, events, and forums that enhance networking among all sectors (e.g. website, directory, welcome booklet, newspaper) **(23 votes)**
2. Schools serve as coordination centers for community services, events and activities (community school) **(4 votes)**
3. Expand CRT to include bi-monthly meeting with town leadership, coordinate leadership (e.g. principals, administration, selectman) **(2 votes)**

#3 Community Learning

1. Recreational/educational site on Suncook River: ropes course, boat launch, picnic area, shelter, playground, natural, survivalist school, fishing, access for handicapped, teen outdoor education – 3 potential locations **(18 votes)**
2. Educational programs would include cooking, sewing, carpentry, computers, environment, etc. for all ages **(7 votes)**
3. Parent/community coordinator in the school – mentors, seniors, parent involvement **(2 votes)**

#4 Economic Development

1. Community Center multipurpose (Chamber of Commerce, town official business relations) **(17 votes)**
2. Diverse housing options (affordable apartments, senior housing, cluster housing, single parent family, senior and assisted living) **(5 votes)**
3. New business (high tech/kids, supermarket, industrial park, on job training, hotel, 4 season campground) **(5 votes)**

ACTION GROUPS

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

Determine best land use utilization for smart growth and enforce Master Plan

Create multiple communication tools to inform citizens of activities, events, and forums that enhance networking among all sectors (e.g. website, directory, welcome booklet, newspaper)

Recreational/educational site on Suncook River: ropes course, boat launch, picnic area, shelter, playground, natural, survivalist school, fishing, access for handicapped, teen outdoor education – 3 potential locations

Community Center multipurpose (Chamber of Commerce, town official business relations)

CONCLUSION

Each small group reported back their plans to the entire group. All action groups agreed to recruit additional members to work with their committees. All the action groups will meet as a large group again on May 16, 2005 to begin to establish goals and objectives to accomplish the individual projects.

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

APPENDICES

Community Profile Participants

Toni Barbato-Fife
Teresa Scahill
Becky Levesque
Olivia Saunders
Peter Krilivsky
John Milano
Charles French
Jaci Olmsted
Ethel McConaghy
Carol Tiedi
Lyn Archambault
Dennis Norton
Gordon Headley
Brian Gower
Riley McCartney
Carol Namaste
Sandy Burt
Rep. John Thomas
Maureen Fitzpatrick
Mike Akstin
Susan Harford

Phyllis Thoroughgood
Hazel Mae Holmes
Mike Tocci
Mary Fougere
Barbara Krilivsky
Diane Beijer
Sumner Dole
Pat Lucey
Ann Bohley
Bruce Marriott
Judy Campbell
Jodi Lamy
Cindy Headley
Dawn McCartney
Adam Drapcho
John Call
Ken Burt
Kathy Jenks
Diane Norton
Christine Akstin

Shannon Swett
Dotty Burrows
Martha Horton
Dawn Call
Deb Milano
Alan Robichaud
Brad Olmsted
Bernie Lucey
Mike Geraci
Kattie Archambault
Barbara Norton
Mike Lamy
Judy Chase
Shane McCartney
Bruce Shearer
Gunner Stohlberg
Janet Allan
Kris Jannini
Ed Tasker
Brad Libenson

Barnstead Follow-up Meeting
May 16, 2005 6-7:30pm
Barnstead Town Hall

Community Center/Economic Development Action Group

Members present:

| | | |
|--------------------|----------|--|
| Hazel Mae Holmes | 435-6268 | nhbusiness@aol.com |
| Gordon Headley | 289-8150 | gheadley@lakeandstreamrealty.com |
| Ed Tasker | 435-6398 | |
| Crystal Emery | 435-6268 | lovingal988@aol.com |
| Becky Levesque | 527-5475 | rebecca.levesque@unh.edu |
| Kattie Archambault | 776-0327 | monkey1228192000@yahoo.com |

Economic Development Committee will join the Space Needs Committee on May 18th at 6:30pm at the Town Hall.

- Will talk to Selectmen to get copy of state business development powerpoint presentation
- Will talk to Belknap County

Next meeting: May 24th at 7:00, location TBD

Community Networking and Communication Action Group

Members present:

| | | |
|-----------------|----------|--|
| Judy Chase | 776-4890 | jdchase@metrocast.net |
| Deborah Milano | 776-2064 | dmilano@worldpath.net |
| Cindy Headley | 776-3100 | cheadley@lakeandstreamrealty.com |
| Diane Beijer | 776-3082 | alb8183@worldpath.net |
| Toni Barbato | 364-2683 | thebiz@together.net |
| Ethel McConaghy | 776-2881 | emc@metrocast.net |
| Elaine Burns | 776-2408 | eburnsr@metrocast.net |

Mission: To create multiple communication tools to inform citizens of activities, events and forums that enhance networking among all sectors (websites, directory, welcome booklet).

- Identify local agricultural-type markets to support local farmers, growers, producers
- What types of mediums do we have? What do we need?
- What do we want to communicate?
- Newspapers: letters to editor, op eds, press releases, annual communication plan
- Website with links
- Newsletters—who's got them?
- Communication committee?
- Website: town Selectmen; library

- Need a dedicated coordinator
- Newspaper: need a regular schedule (i.e. one topic/monthly)
- Town postings (town hall, library, schools, etc.)
- Newsletters (churches, schools)

Next meeting: May 23 at 12:00 at Locke Lake Lodge

Best Land Uses/Enforce Master Plan

Members present:

| | | |
|----------------|----------|--|
| John Milano | 776-2064 | |
| Dawn McCartney | 776-4063 | dawn02@worldpath.net |
| David Allen | 776-2881 | mcallen@metrocast.net |
| Teresa Scahill | 269-7501 | tmts@worldpath.net |

- Do asset mapping of special places with groups around town
 - Seniors
 - Bow hunters
 - Youth (schools)
 - Snowmobilers
 - Friends of Library
 - Locke Lake Association
 - Suncook Lake Association
 - Half Moon Lake Association
 - Lions Club/Lioness Club
 - Knights of Columbus
 - Dave will contact LRPC to get support and estimates of how much it would cost to “blow up” maps for use with above groups
 - Dawn will seek funding based on estimate and will laminate large maps when available
 - Michele will talk to county staff to help run some of the above groups
- Define what we’re asking people to do when mapping “special places”
- Join forces with the Conservation and Planning Board to get their support and assistance in activities
 - Go to one of their upcoming meetings to ask if they can join forces—maybe this group could be a subcommittee who takes recommendations from Planning Board/Conservation Commission
- Find out how to write a zoning ordinance to preserve farmland with prime soil (i.e. only develop 25% of land for parcel use some for recreation, housing, etc.)

Next meeting: June 27th at 6pm at the Library (at the CRT meeting)