



UNIVERSITY *of* NEW HAMPSHIRE
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

Canaan Community Profile Report

**Canaan, New Hampshire
November 16 & 17, 2001**

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OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY PROFILES

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

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

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

Creating a Community Profile in Canaan

Two years ago a group in town called the Promote Canaan Community wanted some help to boost our community. The local state representative put us in touch with Bobby Steven from the NH Department of Resource and Economic Development. Bobby met with a small group of Canaan residents. We proceeded to explore several ideas for the town. Later that year, Executive Councilor Ray Burton sponsored a Forum on community concerns (especially the downtown area). Based on the attendance and results of the Design Charette our small initial planning committee felt that the community would be ready for a Community Profile. Contact was made with UNH Cooperative Extension, which had experience working with communities and could facilitate a two-day process called a Community Profile based on information from the National Civic League on what makes a healthy community.

Judy Bush from UNH Cooperative Extension held an introductory session on the Community Profile in August and a planning committee was established to organize the event in Canaan. After several meetings with the Canaan Board of Selectmen, they agreed to provide the steering committee with the standard fee plus some seed money to help the organizing committee.

The group met regularly throughout 2000 and 2001 with Grafton County Extension Educator Deb Maes, and solicited donations from the community. We received support from community

members who were willing to help with facilitation of small group sessions, and provide donated door prizes and money to support a general mailing to all residents, plus food for the event. The Canaan Elementary School provided space for meetings throughout the planning process, plus classrooms space for facilitator training and rooms for breakout session for the profile itself. Students in art classes provided colorful posters for the dining area for the enjoyment of residents.

The Canaan Community Profile was held on November 16 & 17 at the Canaan Elementary School and is considered a success by townspeople and the planning committee.

UNH Cooperation Extension

Canaan Community Profile

Canaan Elementary School

November 16 & 17, 2001

Agenda

Friday Evening

5:30 Sign-In & Spaghetti Dinner

6:30 Welcome- Dan Reidy, Extension Educator, Family Development

- Overview of Community Profile Process
- Who is here?

Mosaic and Vision

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

Historical Overview –Daniel Fleetham

- Where has Canaan been?

7:45 Presentation of Community Profile components

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

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

9:30 Formal adjournment

Saturday

8:00 Coffee and check-in

8:30 Small group reports

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

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

9:45 Break

10:00 Small groups meet for key issue discussion:

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

11:45 Full Group: report back from small groups

12:15 Lunch and voting

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

1:15 Individual selection of project development groups

1:20 Project development: small groups

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

3:10 Full group: report back from small groups

- Thank you's
- Coordination of follow-up efforts

3:30 Adjourn

Canaan Community Profile

Friday Evening

The Canaan Community Profile was conducted at the Canaan Elementary School over two days: Friday evening, November 16, 2001 and all day Saturday November 17, 2001. About 89 participants attended on Friday, with 63 attending on Saturday.

The event began Friday with spaghetti dinner. Dan Reidy, Extension Educator in Family Development, gave us an overview of the profile process and an introduction to the goals for the two days. Its goal is strengthening community involvement; its key idea is sustainability - balancing economic and environmental factors while thinking about the impacts of our actions for the next seven generations.

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

THE MOSAIC - What is Canaan like today?

- Affordable real estate
- Exotic quaking bog
- Strong disagreements about raising money for public spending
- Gateway to the White Mountains—if we want to be
- Political diversity/political adversity
- A lot of political mistrust
- Close proximity to Concord and is associated with Route 4 traffic congestion
- No community newspaper
- Not a lot of cultural diversity
- Lack of town meeting-type government
- Excellent pediatric group
- Youth move away because of a lack of hope for good life here
- War between haves/have nots
- Pretty diverse community
- Clean and safe
- Great swimming
- Collection of small businesses
- A smaller version of what Lebanon was 10-20 years ago
- Lack of rental housing
- Variety of outdoor activities
- Lack of activities for juveniles
- Lack of zoning to protect property owners
- Poor secondary roads
- Great safety services—police, fire, fast squad
- Great snowmobile trails
- Woodsy
- Friendly
- Roads full of litter
- Growing
- Schools include kids from other communities
- Great open space
- Lack of businesses to provide tax base
- Good food at fundraisers
- Great library
- Low light pollution
- Public buildings in disrepair
- No snow
- No community center
- Excellent recycling
- Racetrack, hill climbs, mud bogs, motor cross
- Conservation is improved now
- Jet ski free lake—as of now
- Cardigan Mountain School
- Rails to trails downtown
- Nice lakes and ponds

- Main Street group
- Important aquifer area for Connecticut River
- Bird and Garden Club (60 years)
- Canaan Old Home Day
- Acknowledgement of town history
- Religious opportunities
- No taverns
- Meeting House readings
- Too much pavement, lack of safe sidewalks
- Proximity to Cardigan Mountain
- Lack of business draw to community “shopping”
- Active 4-H Clubs
- Lack of trees downtown
- Unpolluted waterways and air
- Summer concerts
- Friendly community
- Wonderful older people as resources
- View of Cardigan from all of downtown
- Canaan Historical Museum
- Active American Legion
- Many social groups that seek to do good
- Outstanding wetland and forest wildlife habitat
- Seasonal residents who love Canaan
- Beautiful historic Meeting House
- Empty storefronts
- Excellent VNA service
- Historical preservation commission
- Easy commuting to Hanover/Lebanon-high potential for population influx and the lack of planning to deal with it
- Ambitious group taking care of flowers downtown
- Too often used as bad example in Upper Valley
- Large number of dedicated and creative teachers in schools
- Meals on Wheels
- Williams Field for all kinds of sports
- Good trails and roads for horseback riding
- Good police protection
- Beautiful Canaan Street
- Good fire protection and ambulance service
- Potential for huge amount because of proximity to Lebanon
- Proximity to Dartmouth College, DHMC, airport, train, APD
- People driving fast through on way to someplace else
- Ecumenical Church Services
- Reputation of town and school district skews population influx

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

- Clean air and waterways
- Revitalized downtown
- No light pollution
- Marriage of quaint NE town and 21st century technology
- Answer to school funding
- Teen center
- Town co-op (food, etc.)
- Maintained roads
- Junk-free lawns
- Safe community to live in
- Small businesses in town--restaurants (a couple)
- A place where there is not too much machinery noise which inhibits natural noise—birds, wind, etc.
- Fast Internet access
- Preservation of open space, litter-free roads
- This level or greater citizen involvement/participation beyond tonight
- Woodsy
- Neighbors who still talk with each other and know each other
- Greater self-sufficiency
- Skateboarding and rollerblading park
- Improved community image
- Community center geared to all age brackets
- Better use of our natural resources
- Local vocational/technical school
- Town physician
- More local patronage
- More cultural activities open to public—

- concerts, art exhibits
- Maintain population balance between old-timers and newcomers
- A couple of clean stable industries
- Governing boards with both men and women
- Creative design solutions for our weird triangular green
- Pride in our community and our schools
- Enough money for public services so people don't need to take money out of their pockets
- Open and proactive government
- Better public/government relations
- Better student test scores
- Continued multi-use trails
- People who are in happy supportive families
- Trees to beautiful the downtown
- Persistence of people in unique lifestyles
- Better public transportation
- Increased religious attendance
- Community theater resurrected
- Greater parental involvement in schools
- Controlling the flood zone areas
- Preserve very special ecological places
- Finding a better way to get all of the town involved in its problems
- Retain high proportion of current use lands with forest management
- Sidewalks down the street/ways of slowing traffic
- Cutting down on noise pollution from car radios—lower volume, more headphones
- Lower speed limits
- Own court back
- More people in leadership because less attack of leadership style
- Scenic road designation
- No noise pollution, as from generators

TOWN HISTORY

Next Daniel Fleetham, Canaan town historian, presented historical snapshots to help answer the question "Where has Canaan been?".

- Charter granted 1761, Governor Wentworth
- Size of grants, 23,000 acres, bounded by Dor, Han, Or
- Town divided into 68 shares, given to 62 men and 6 societies
- Settlers: John Scofield 1766, Thomas Minor 1767, how they arrived, settled, meeting, children
- County roads set out 1774, 1776 population 26 adult males
- 1774 first Saw Mill—Moose Brook, Welch Mills Factory Village
- Broad Street (Canaan St) 1788 90 feet wide, mile long
- Wm. Douglas first apple orchard
- Town Meeting House 1792, 3 entrances, box and wall pews. Roller skating, dancing, shows
- Churches Baptist, Methodist, Congregational, Catholic, Advent, Assembly of God
- The Pest House

- Noyes Academy A drama
- The Great Canaan Fire Saturday June 2, 1923
- Hurricane 1938

COMMUNITY PROFILE TEN COMPONENTS

After we developed a mosaic and vision for Canaan, and digested some of the history, Dan Reidy introduced us to the idea of discussing Canaan within the framework of 10 qualities which can be used to profile a community. These topics, drawn from the work of the National Civic League and adapted by UNH Cooperative Extension are important components of any successful community. These components make a community work well now and sustain the cultural, economic and environmental health and vitality for the long-term future.

Civic Infrastructure

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

Community Infrastructure

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

Environment

8. Working Landscape and the Natural Environment

Economy

9. Economic Vitality
10. Growth and Development

Next, 10 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 facilitators lead the groups in their discussions and recorders made notes on more large tablets.

Each group considered the definition of their component and was asked the questions below in order to begin the discussion. Participants were asked to list the strengths of Canaan as they saw them, and then to list its concerns. Next the groups gave some thought to the problems and issues they thought were important to the town's future. Finally, each group was asked to identify five key issues, which they felt needed to be addressed by the town. These were brought back to the whole group and highlighted in three-minute summations presented by a member of each small group.

1. Effective Community Leadership

Facilitator: Koby Van Beest

Recorder: Patrick Andrew

Spokesperson: Koby Van Beest

Participants: Linda Schnetzer, Jackie Lary, Vicky Barrios, Deborah Crowell, Michael Weily

Statement of Purpose:

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

Questions to think about:

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

Group Response- Strengths:

- New police chief
- Home health—keep elders in community
- Senior center
- Educational diversity in leaders
- Churches have strong leaders
- Boy Scout leadership
- 4-H leadership
- Royal Rangers (church youth)
- Organized sports for kids
- Lions—help community projects
- LISTEN volunteers
- Active volunteers (Jackie)
- Groups willing to take on projects
- Young people energetic and willing to add energy
- Willingness to volunteer if asked
- Developing a vision
- Approachable police/town

- Good core values in community

Group Response- Concerns:

- Polarization—us vs. them
- Self-serving
- Might not be able to ask questions
- Ideas not shared between committees—Planning, Selectmen, Historic, Budget
- “Dishonesty”--hiding info that should be shared (not open)
- Possessive of power
- Sarcastic or not respectful
- Abusive of power
- Projects not done
- Misuse of funds
- Distrust
- Accountability
- Loss of elder leadership
- Private agenda
- Lack of civil behavior at public meetings—hostile public meetings
- Defensive behavior from leaders

Vision for the Future:

- More community service involvement of young people
- More unity between or positive exchange between leaders and people
- More open procedure of appointing committees and positions
- People sticking with individual integrity
- Better exchange of information—more sharing
- Leadership responsible for gathering factual information
- Accountable leadership
- Tolerance of diverse opinions
- Active participation
- Informed public

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Open exchange of information between community and leaders.
2. Make our leadership fully accountable.
3. Maintain and encourage youth and elder leadership.
4. Tap the potential of volunteers of all ages.
5. Vision of future balancing commercial and residential development with conservation of natural resources.

2. Informed Citizen Participation

Facilitator: Brenda Sage

Recorder: Kate Brooks

Spokesperson: Wayne Ferland

Participants: Dan Fleetham, Betty Fleetham, Dave Barney, Lynn Neily

Statement of Purpose:

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

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

Questions to think about:

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

Group Response- Strengths:

- Good number of people involved in volunteer and civic activities (non-government)
- Large and diverse group of people who could participate if they felt welcomed and/or recruited
- People are asked, but not enough
- Very passionate and opinionated people
- Parts of town website are very good
- It was good to have a court in town and would be good to get it back
- Town satisfies legal requirements for posting meetings, etc.
- We have clean air and water and citizens who care about those things
- Participation in fun sporting activities
- Old Home Days, concerts on common, fireworks at Cardigan
- Active clubs and organizations—Lion's, etc.
- Town newsletter that we can build upon, including letters to the editor, etc.
- Good to see younger participation in town government and community
- Good resource in older population—active senior center
- Adequate facilities to support the work of the community
- Cultural and recreational clubs
- Improvement in communication between town boards
- Good citizen support for scholarships—need more

- Several organizations which have formed to improve the town

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Group Response- Concerns:

- Very passionate and opinionated people
- Lack of communication within town government and with the public
- Failure to use either print or electronic media
- Fear of participation for fear of ridicule
- Citizens need to take more responsibility for the appearance of the town
- Need a way to dispose of things which they can't get to the dump or which the dump can't accept
- Need a town-wide clean-up day
- People voting on personalities, not making informed decisions
- Lack of inclination of town government to keep citizens informed
- Keeping public information current
- Lack of willingness/acceptance of town growth
- No mall
- Lack of acceptance of new ideas and people
- Lack of kids' activities—games, sports, movies
- Lack of active recruiting for town committees, etc.
- People don't know about businesses we have in town
- People don't take time to understand town agencies and the jobs they do
- Lack of voice in town projects and lack of follow-through on town commitments
- It would be nice to have Canaan town phone book
- People won't work for jobs available in town
- Lack of town survey—to know what our citizens have and what they need

Vision for the Future:

- Email mailing list to be kept informed of what's going on in town—also for snail mail
- People trying to support town businesses more
- Equalizing of gas prices
- More passionate and less opinionated people
- Up-to-date website
- More electric and solar powered cars
- Better relations between town government and its people
- A public that wants to be informed
- Less closed meetings
- Better intra-government communication
- Entire town face lift
- Improve visual impact to town approaches
- More print media coverage of town activities, meeting minutes, etc.
- Making price of food lower
- More input from citizens in Town Crier

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Communication—horizontally and vertically.
2. Make government more people-friendly and make people more government-friendly.
3. Creating an informed and involved people.
4. Reduce division between classes/cultures in our community.

5. Stronger recruitment for civic organizations.

3. Sense of Community

Facilitator: Sue Richardson Recorder: Pat Brown Spokesperson: Anna Disco
Participants: Robert Brown, Myra Oppel, Denise Reitsma, Helen Skeist, Henry Brown, Al Posnanski

Statement of Purpose:

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

Questions to think about:

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

Group Response- Strengths:

- Heritage—recognized and promoted
- Historic Commission
- Educational and economic diversity—also geographic (where lived before)
- Age diversity
- People know each other in businesses and community
- Teachers live in the community (neighbors—kids, parents)
- 2 lake associations
- Bird and Garden Club shares info about wildlife—many others also
- Depend on volunteers for emergency services
- Strong network of “word of mouth”
- Chronicle and Town Crier (Selectmen) newspapers and senior center monthly
- Vibrant senior center
- Recycling—hours, materials and flexible hours—social network
- Lion’s Club
- Library—good knowledge by librarians who know patrons
- All students stay together—not bused out

- Sports activities for children—volunteer run
- Having this meeting for the future—visionary
-

Group Response- Concerns:

- No communication vehicle—Canaan-wide
- People spread out—beyond walking
- Limited participation
- Jobs and shopping done elsewhere
- Balance growth of people, economics and open space
- Schools overcrowding if more people move in
- Lack of planned growth
- Controversy regarding the above
- Strong planning and zoning boards needed
- Lack of leadership participation
- Finding out what is here (roads, organizations, clubs)
- Make main street booklet available to citizens
- Birth residents vs. new people—belonging
- Sense of community
- Route #4—not going up to speed—long lines at commuter times
- Maintenance of roads—winter and mud isolates

Vision for the Future:

- More opportunities for children (after school, a community center)
- Planned growth
- Small businesses and industry (to keep people here)
- Safe roads to walk and bike on to visit people
- Shuttle or local (trips) van
- Create newspaper or news vehicle
- Website—used to communicate updated
- More gathering places
- Town meetings

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Planned vision for future of our community.
2. Economic diversity.
3. Communication.
4. Preservation of landmarks and natural resources.
6. Volunteers (keep, promote and recognize).

4. Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals and Youth

Facilitator: Len Reitsma

Recorder: Chris Dow

Spokesperson: Thomas Opper

Participants: Candace Carter, Dick Pusey, Sylvia Brown, Carole Cushman

Statement of Purpose:

Most communities face a variety of challenging social issues, such as substance abuse, domestic abuse, poverty and other concerns related to the elderly, youth, and families. Addressing these concerns effectively takes the coordinated efforts of the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

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

Questions to think about:

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

Group Response- Strengths:

- Sample size—watch out for each other’s family members
- Pediatric clinic
- Senior center—activities, building, Meals on Wheels
- LISTEN community dinners each Monday
- Proximity to APD and DHMH
- Sports programs—soccer, baseball, softball, YBA, basketball, swimming
- Having a public beach
- Trails: horse, rails, snowmobile, hike, outdoor activities
- After-school activities with participation—PTA
- Church mice—church youth programs
- 2 day care centers
- 4-H group in town
- Boy Scouts—Girl Scouts
- Boating—flat water ponds
- Numerous social involvement groups
-

Group Response- Concerns:

- Place for women to hang out
- Woman’s center
- Nautilus
- Central meeting place
- Community center for all ages
- Place for sports to take place
- Communicating what is available to people in town

- Activities in town
- We need public communication
- Full-time director or person in charge
- Section for youth services in community directory
- Make sure all have good healthcare—cost, transportation
- A co-op promoting healthy options for eating places in town and living styles—grocery stores in town
- Need for connectedness in town
- Farm-way at “the block”
- Addressing substance abuse at every age-level (economic, educational, socio-economic)
- Address erosion of respect
- Get a respectful response when a problem arises
- Figure out a way to help support families
- Deal with root causes of problems
- Find out what social assistance is at middle and high school
- Look at successful parents and business persons
- Foster health on a town-wide basis
- Only a few mothers who are free enough to volunteer in the schools
- Networking to make sure people don’t feel alone

Vision for the Future:

- We can afford a simple community center (like old CCB in Lebanon)
- Parent support group in town
- Farm-way at the “the block”
- Co-op
- Utilization of empty store fronts downtown
- A movie theater in town
- A family restaurant in town
- Affordable healthcare for all citizens
- Substance abuse recognized and addressed at all age levels
- Control speed on Route 4
- Sidewalks downtown
- Multi-age level support groups
- Comprehensive before and after-school programs
- Welcome programs

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Community center—meeting for youth with staff.
2. Affordable health care and more health care services and social services.
3. Community communication.
4. Improve town’s commerce center to promote healthy families to feel more connected as a community. Bringing families together to promote a sense of community.
5. Connecting all generations, all social groups and socio-economic levels for community unity.

5. Lifelong Education and Learning

Facilitator: Kevin Lary

Recorder: B.J. Hayward

Spokesperson: Kevin Lary

Participants: Steve Purcell, Reginald Barney, Sophie Seace, Peter Soloman

Statement of Purpose:

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

Questions to think about:

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

Group Response- Strengths:

- Community willing to provide but a lack of resources i.e. daycare—many people willing to provide service, but there's a lack of affordable daycare
- Home schooling seems to be increasing—what resources are available in town to parents who home school
- Mascoma Board is involved and open to parents home schooling
- Libraries
- Boy/Girl Scouts and 4-H
- Youth development groups
- Lions—fishing derby
- Recreation Department—swimming classes
- A lot of people feel quality education is very important but are paying as high a tax as they can afford
- Parents seem more involved with schools now than in past
- Canaan library very helpful to home schooled families
- Lots of enthusiastic faculty and administration in our schools
- Strong participation in school boards and committees
- Town Museum has class open house for elementary school

- Cardigan Mountain School

Group Response- Concerns:

- Adult education (i.e. computers)
- As Canaan grows nice to have Vocational Tech school in our town
- Like to see more accountability in our schools i.e. performance
- Like to see parent participation i.e. one day a month spent at the school
- Concern on number of students in 1 class and number of students in our schools
- Concern on future growth in our schools
- Placement of 5th grade at middle school—should be at elementary school level
- Concern that school not often available for community use—facility limits times available
- Above also to other facilities available
- Year-round school
- Basic education reading etc.--some students lacking these basics and are moved from grade to grade
- All after-school programs and youth groups available at a fee—not all children able to attend

Vision for the Future:

- More scholarships at different levels before graduation
- Benefit for people to know where to go for scholarships
- Find a reasonable way to fund quality education regardless of the town you live in
- Program to make computers available—not just for kids
- Community Center
- Build a new library
- Year-round school
- Smaller class sizes

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. A lot of people feel quality education is very important but they are paying all they can afford in taxes now.
2. More effort in how we use our facilities and what new facilities would be needed.
3. Future growth impact on our community and our schools.
4. Volunteerism.
5. Support for education outside of “public education”.

6. Community Services, Facilities and Utilities

Facilitator: Marty Pusey Recorder: Mary Garakaris Spokesperson: not noted
 Participants: John Dow, Earl Novig, Carole Fontaine, Rhoda Lambert, Samantha Baker, Terri Purcell, Joanne Miller

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

Questions to think about:

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

Group Response- Strengths:

- Police Department
- Fire Department
- New town barn (Highway Department)
- Good volunteer base
- Excellent library
- Excellent recycling
- Variety of churches
- Good community organizations
- Excellent paving on Goose Road and Switch Road
- Good school system
- Access to Mount Cardigan Recreation Area
- Excellent playground at Williams Field
- Canaan Lake
- Trails to trails
- Active senior center
- Advance Transit
- Adequate water supply
- Sewer system
- Nice historic buildings
- VNA
- Dartmouth Clinic
- Lion's Club
- Main Street Group
- LISTEN services
- Active Planning Board
- Active Conservation Commission
- Members of Dartmouth Lake Sunapee Council
- New police station
- Good private schools

Group Response- Concerns:

- Limited access to the library
- Poor fire safety in library
- Inadequate space/library
- Need proper planning and regulations to control growth
- Youth center
- Activity center
- Combined activity/arts center
- Bowling alley
- Provide some type of Vocational Technical School
- Using school facilities for evening adult education
- Hazardous waste collection on a regular basis
- Traffic flow situation
- Safe pedestrian zones
- More sidewalks
- More bike paths
- Fix roads
- Stinky sewers
- More education about and access to alternative energies
- Good size grocery store
- Drug store
- Encourage and attract businesses to town
- Too many visible power lines
- Bleak downtown—no sidewalks/no trees
- Littered roadsides
- Inadequate upkeep of public buildings
- More public information and discussion sessions

Vision for the Future:

- Clean, usable public drinking water
- A community center including: youth center, library, adult facilities, gym
- New town office
- Active plan and funding for improvement of downtown area
- New vocational technical school in Mascoma area
- Improved traffic flow
- More emphasis on alternative energies
- Zoning ordinance
- More public information/discussion sessions
- Impact fees
- Safe, affordable housing
- Complete medical services
- Town officials pursue more grants
- More exchange of information with surrounding towns

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Community center or centers.
2. Zoning and impact fees.
3. Revitalize downtown—better traffic flow, trees, sidewalks, more businesses.
4. More public information/discussion sessions.
5. Vocational Technical School.

7. Recreation and Cultural Heritage

Facilitator: David Cushman Recorder: Gary Wood

Spokesperson: David Cushman

Participants: Ted Fontaine, Jim Miller, Ellen Woodward, Cathy Lewis, Barbara Baker

Statement of Purpose:

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.

Questions to think about:

- What ways does the community celebrate itself?
- What are the special cultural centers, events and festivals within the community?
- Are these events well known within the community? Outside the community?
- Does the community preserve and enhance what is special and unique about its cultural heritage?
- Are children encouraged to participate in cultural events?
- Are citizens part of larger regional cultural events?

Group Response- Strengths:

- Potential opportunity for financial growth from recreation (i.e. small businesses)
- Natural resources, lakes, mountains, trails, rivers—corner of Appalachian Trail
- Snowmobile group
- Mount Cardigan Club
- Environmental friendliness
- Rails to trails (to be built upon)
- Cross country skiing
- Softball teams
- Raceway and motocross
- Concerts in summer
- Historical buildings
- Fishing, hunting, boating
- State forest
- Meeting house as a cultural base and North Church
- Plays at school
- Old Home Days
- Meeting house—meetings—readings

- Fishing Derby
- Church activities
- History of town
- Geology in New England area—close proximity to cities
- Town clubs
- School activities—team sports

Group Response- Concerns:

- Things to do for kids
- Liability for activities
- Youth activity—learning from activities
- Place to go—for kids programs
- More older kids
- Transportation for adults and kids
- Kids to learn responsibility
- Adults need to listen to kids
- How can church programs help
- Adult literacy programs—churches to help, more acceptance of tutors, coordination
- Better use of people resources
- Senior center
- Establish a volunteer committee
- Communication within town
- The old and the new
- Community and family cohesiveness
- Cultural change—external forces (local doctor, judge)
- Establish facilities for services
- A challenge to use what exists in town (i.e. social services)
- Knowledge of school curriculum

Vision for the Future:

- Hill with rope tow
- Revive ice skating rink
- Better use of winter facilities
- Satellite medical facility
- Town to invest in town doctor and other professionals
- Invest in other cultural and arts related
- Show kids local historic sites
- Merge some local and Cardigan School activities
- Help kids to learn they are future of town (heritage)
- Community to take bigger role in education
- Teen center and any age (youth to help).

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Community working with school system to provide cultural heritage and recreational opportunities.
2. Transportation issues (busing, traffic).
3. Facilities for recreational and cultural events.
4. Recreation-based revenues—ability to generate revenue and provide jobs.

5. Communication coordination for groups and activities.

8. Working Landscape and the Natural Environment

Facilitator: Carolyn Barney Recorder: Dan Ware

Spokesperson: Lisa Johnson

Participants: Chuck Townsend, Bruce Tuttle, Mary Stafford

Statement of Purpose:

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

Questions to think about:

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

Group Response- Strengths:

- Views of Cardigan Mountain
- Rails to trails
- Bear Pond Bog
- Conservation Commission
- Canaan Street Lake
- Goose Pond
- Clark Pond
- Indian River
- Water quality in water improves over 30
- Hunting culture
- Open fields for haying
- Wildlife—turkey, bear, fox, deer, moose, coyote, birds
- Historic building—Meeting House, Academy, North Church
- Historical Society
- Library, Senior Center, Tower House Inn, John Richard House
- Home of Smoky Bear
- Railroad bed through Canaan
- S-curves—natural area

- Mascoma Forest
- Canaan town forest—near s-curves
- Canaan Fairgrounds
- Lots of Class IV highways
- Old Canaan Reporter Newspaper and Wallace history of Canaan (the book)
- Good winter road maintenance

Group Response- Concerns:

- Effects of logging and timber
- Current use is very weak
- Zoning controversy
- Unplanned industrial development on Route 4
- Assets go unnoticed
- At risk of destructive use of ponds
- Not a lot of support for maintained historic buildings
- Still pollution into stream from houses
- At risk for sprawl in development
- Power lines block view of Mount Cardigan
- Small farms have disappeared
- No availability of farm services for non-farmers
- Winter salt contaminates areas along roads

Vision for the Future:

- Map of natural areas for public distribution
- Beautiful along Route 4
- Working farms of many kinds
- Farm stands and pick your own
- Most special places protected
- Salt not used in watershed area
- Rich variety of wildlife
- People aware of history and natural resources
- Series of (5) valley questions

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. A map of natural resources.
2. Maintain public buildings.
3. Support for agriculture.
4. Preservation of natural resources and wildlife.
5. Plan for population influx in the future.

9. Economic Vitality

Facilitator: Jim Laffan

Recorder: Dan Lambert

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Jean Clark, Hayward Stafford, Beverly Chapman, Judith Kushner

Statement of Purpose:

The need to maintain flourishing workplaces is of great importance to communities. A sustainable community includes a variety of businesses, industries, and institutions which are environmentally

sound, financially viable, provide reasonable wages and benefits to workers, and provides those workers with opportunities to develop their skills through training, education, and other forms of assistance to prepare for the community's future needs. Government, businesses and public service organizations are all important in attracting new investment and in developing new businesses that suit the character of the community.

Questions to think about:

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

Group Response- Strengths:

- Lack of zoning allows businesses to establish themselves
- Interesting businesses tucked away
- Good potential for additional small businesses
- Timber products, sugaring
- Outdoor recreation (snowmobiling, hunting, B + B)
- Opportunity to marry business and open space
- Race track—long history, good facility, a lot of money, growing sport
- Home businesses (heavy equipment, cottage industries, craftspeople)
- Downtown business group
- Cardigan/hiking
- Motocross
- Opportunity to define our town through zoning
- Water system downtown
- Community services directory
- People want to live in Canaan
- Availability of affordable real estate for housing development
- Local effort to create walkable commercial area
- Grocery store

Group Response- Concerns:

- Lack of recognition of race track by town leaders, empty seats, few asphalt races
- Establish businesses that provide everyday goods and services
- Expand downtown business group beyond downtown
- Tap into funds for community development/youth center
- Need to establish self-supporting youth center and provide job opportunities for young people
- Need for more people employed in downtown to patronize downtown businesses
- People leave town for work and shopping

- Come up with zoning plan that is tailored to Canaan—not boilerplate stamped on Canaan
- To identify majority wants for zoning
- Water system downtown
- Meet army corps and other regulations for building downtown in flood plain
- Bring more industry/decide what types
- Retain business
- Advertise existing buildings/infrastructure to attract business
- Select board has to identify Canaan’s interests/goals
- Take advantage of economic development agencies—Plymouth Economic Development group (Grafton County)—small business administration
- Lack of participation in town government
- Involve people who work in neighboring towns
- Provide infrastructure for population growth (roads, water)
- Determine what we want when it comes to size of population
- Provide good things for families that generate money
- Create businesses (restaurant, good grocery store) that don’t compete with Wal-Mart

Vision for the Future:

- Create music/theater/dancing opportunities that will draw people from other towns
- Retain local farms
- Develop niche agriculture
- Inviting, pretty downtown that people want to stop at for lunch
- Retain what is decent and good
- Restore and enhance use of existing public spaces/old town offices and senior center
- Maintain town buildings
- Maintain healthy forest resource economy
- Sports goods store
- Small business owners have capital/safety net to survive
- Winter sports complex—ice racing, skating rink, snowmobiling, skiing
- Revive Pinnacle Hill Ski Area
- Spend money to make money in recreational businesses
- Small high-tech businesses
- Hunting guide services
- Bookstore
- Bakery
- Automotive parts
- General store i.e. Farm-way
- Recreational center offering variety of activities
- Canaan newspaper—promotes Canaan
- Website and other promotional tools
- Building supply

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Lack of focus and participation in town government.
2. Using natural resources and landscape as a source of business opportunity (for example, outdoor recreation).
3. Maintain and improve what we have (buildings, water systems, existing businesses) to make it look inviting/walkable/attractive.

4. Encourage and promote cultural activities and local businesses.
5. Establish meaningful zoning keyed to Canaan to protect Canaan as we see it.
6. Encourage niche businesses and agricultural.

10. Growth and Development

Facilitator: Jenna Dixon

Recorder: Peggy Mitchell

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Jeff Majewsh, Ed Lary, Marcia Robertson, Nancy Allen

Statement of Purpose:

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

Questions to think about:

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

Group Response- Strengths:

- With no zoning folks can do whatever they wish with their properties within sub-division regulations
- Have a group called Friends of Main Street have a Planning Board
- Strong conservation board that works well with landowners to conserve land (easements)
- 73% of land is in current use (mostly wooded/being logged)
- Beautiful community/lakes/close to mountains/wildlife
- Have huge fiber optic cable in town
- Historic district/some regulation
- Watershed area/protection
- There seems to be a common thread of outdoor interests
- Many conservation easements in town—wildlife corridor
- Land is generally not posted/owners think of property as community resource

Group Response- Concerns:

- Lack of zoning causes sprawl
- Road mileage is high /causes high money commitment from town
- Lack of shore property that could increase tax base
- Need to develop a commercial/industrial base
- Need noise regulations

- Flood plain restricts downtown growth
- Lack of 3 phase electricity restricts industrial/commercial growth
- Do not have a plan for industrial, commercial, farming, residential areas
- Lack of town meeting curbs information among citizens
- Keep housing diverse—mixed ages, etc.

Vision for the Future:

- Simple zoning
- Incentive based growth
- Proactive work with power company to introduce 3 phase electricity
- Tap into fiber optic cable for access to companies
- Big supermarket (or co-op)
- Community center/rec center/gym/swimming pool
- General health care
- Noise and light protections for our rural way of life
- Revitalize downtown commercial center-bookstore, café, restaurant, supermarket, gas station
- Keep services in downtown

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Maintain rural character—keep land in current use (easements, conservation land).
2. Appropriate commercial and industrial growth.
3. Community amenities—health clinic, sports center, bookstore, restaurant—make downtown thrive, socially and commercially
4. Sensible residential planning and growth to keep services cost effective—impact fees need to be adopted.
5. Complex and contentious issues require high level of citizens education and participation.

Saturday Morning

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

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

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

Key Issues

1. Volunteerism (Note: this group's participants decided to combine with other groups due to a smaller interest in this issue—the group would like to work on it in the future)
2. Services and Community
3. Economic Diversity and Downtown Revitalization
4. Communications
5. Land Use Planning and Zoning
6. Education

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

After a short mid-morning break, participants each chose which of the 5 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.

	High			
IMPACT: How much will it matter?	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 Services and Community

Facilitator: Anna Disco

Recorder: Pat Brown

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Kim Ferland, Bev Chapman, Ellen Woodward, Candace Carter, Louise Kremzner, Tim Cohen, Cathy Lewis, Pat Williams

Brainstorming:

- Community Center (New? Existing? Teen center?) Where will it be located, transportation issues, volunteers/staff
- Use buildings for after-school programs, summer, group meetings
- Paid community/social service director/coordinator or grant writer
- Kids' place apart from church basement
- Cultural center—best location options
- Centered downtown? Canaan Street? West Canaan?
- Meet needs of all—kids, singles, couples, elderly
- Bring in volunteers
- Bring in existing grant (5 community)

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- Center downtown, year-round facility with coordinator

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- A physician in resident in Canaan
- Bring in volunteers
- Meet needs of all—kids, singles, couples, elderly
- Paid community social service director—coordinator/grant writer

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- “National Community Caregivers”
- Identifying existing services and networking
- Center a “Good Neighbor Clinic” here

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

None

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 Economic Diversity and Downtown Revitalization

Facilitator: Kevin Lary

Recorder: Gary Wood

Spokesperson: Lisa Johnson

Participants: Mark Koprowski, Ros Burke, Marty Pusey, Sue Pearson, Linda Schnetzer, Hayward Stafford, Carol Bergeron

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- Empty storefronts
- Define customer base—in town or draw from outside
- What services wanted—not just commercial
- Economic hope to younger people
- Income from passers-through—not just a bedroom community
- Other community role models—Littleton, Enfield, Lancaster
- Expand on what's here—build on what we have
- Concern regarding new development not look homogenized—unique, homegrown businesses, not chain stores; appearance of buildings
- Economics—what makes a business survive
- Physically appealing village
- Breakfast place—restaurants
- Concern regarding pulling restaurant patrons from outside Canaan
- Recognize 3-5 years of business development

Possible Projects/Solutions:

- Downtown transportation enhancement grant—support that grant with public education; public financial support (warrant article for capital reserve fund)
- Doctor and dentist even if one day per week
- Micro enterprise class at high school—all ages, focus on small business and start up
- S.C.O.R.E
- Inventory what's already in town—businesses and services
- Ways of advertising businesses—signs, directory
- Develop people base of Main Street group
- Get more businesses to Canaan Village Business Group
- Merchandising
- Support arts group/community center
- Start-up public/private partnership for restaurant
- Farmer's Market (weekly)
- Survey residents about services
- Change focus—what towns we draw from
- Outdoor businesses
- Potential of motor sports—promotion
- Downtown area a good focus and place to start
- Light industry
- Combine industry and aesthetics
- Business incubator—combined services, tax incentives, grow tax base
- Arts (via satellite) courses, quilting, access to existing groups, Canaan Mercantile (resource)
- Bethlehem Women's Business Group "WREN" (Women's Rural Entrepreneurial Network)
- Community Commercial Kitchen

- Watts regulator available
- Target and identify customers and market

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- Recruit doctor and dentist
- Promote microenterprise (small business) class at high school

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Create an arts group via satellite and help develop Canaan Mercantile crafts and classes
- Start public/private effort to establish a restaurant
- Explore developing a Rural Enterprise Network utilizing the WREN model
- Support business “incubator”—shared services with attractive tax rates

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- Develop membership of Canaan business association
- Help to expand the existing Friends of Canaan Main Street group
- Survey residents to determine what services are wanted
- Inventory what’s already in town (businesses)
- Support possible TE grant by public education generating financial support/warrant article for capital reserve fund

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

None

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Promote potential of motor sports
- Farmer’s and crafter’s market
- Attract hiking/backpacking store

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- Develop ways of advertising businesses (signs and directory)
- Target local customers/market

Low Impact/High Feasibility

- Encourage light industry

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

None

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

- Involve S.C.O.R.E.

Key Issue #3 Communications

Facilitator: Carolyn Barney

Recorder: Chris Dow

Spokesperson: Wayne Ferland

Participants: Dave Barney, B.J. Hayward, Steve Purcell, Terri Purcell, Brenda Sonya, Judith Kushner, Myra Oppel

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- Find better ways to disseminate information—horizontal and vertical
- Have things in place, use them better--tools we have: newspaper, website (electronic), meetings, mailings, word of mouth
- Need accurate/unbiased information regarding government issues—find way to get word out at government issues and people in town contribute info
- Lack of: opportunity for public participation in government process; communication with community and government leaders/bodies (Planning Board, Selectmen, Government); public input; process information to communicate; trust; current information
- Need: openness and honesty; coordination; better communication on how town government works; horizontal up addressed; tools and solutions; broader focus of communication
- Concerns: rubber stamp government; towns people attendance at meetings

Possible Solutions/Objectives and Projects:

- Mailing list (email, snail mail) used for government meetings or other meetings in town/area—1 for Selectmen, 1 for volunteers, website
- Town Crier—need public input and don't want competition with papers
- Canaan specific newsletter to collect and publish Canaan info
- More public participation in government process
- Post meetings--need progressive way to do this
- Communications coordinator volunteer
- Articles from community members
- Community breakfasts
- Person-to-person recruiting
- Phone calls with specifics

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

None

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Generate open public discussion at Selectmen meetings and other town meetings
- Better ways to post the meetings (need progressive way to do this)

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- Canaan-specific newsletter (collect, publish)
- Mailing list (email, snail mail)—1 for Selectmen, 1 for volunteers and website
- Phone calls with specifics
- Person-to-person recruiting
- Creating trust with non-biased accurate information timely

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

None

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Evaluate purpose of Town Crier

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

None

Low Impact/High Feasibility

None

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

None

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

None

Issue #4 Land Use Planning and Zoning

Facilitator: Mary Gerakaris

Recorder: Dan Ware

Spokesperson: Andy Musz

Participants: Elaine Morrison, Patsy Carter, David Scanlan, Richard Camden, Helen Skeist, Reginald Barney, Dick Pusey, Peter Solomon, Kate Brooks, Dan Lambert, Mary Stafford, Carole Cushman, Bruce Tuttle, Len Reitsma, Jim Morrison

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- Find better ways to disseminate information—horizontal and vertical
- Have things in place, use them better--tools we have: newspaper, website (electronic), meetings, mailings, word of mouth
- Need accurate/unbiased information regarding government issues—find way to get word out at government issues and people in town contribute info
- Lack of: opportunity for public participation in government process; communication with community and government leaders/bodies; Planning Board, Selectmen, Government; public input; process information to communicate; trust; current information
- Need: openness and honesty; coordination; better communication on how town government works; horizontal up addressed; tools and solutions; broader focus of communication
- Concerns: rubber stamp government; towns people attendance at meetings

Possible Solutions/Objectives and Projects:

- Mailing list (email, snail mail) used for government meetings or other meetings in town/area—1 for Selectmen, 1 for volunteers, website
- Town Crier—need public input and don't want competition with papers
- Canaan-specific newsletter to collect and publish Canaan info
- More public participation in government process
- Post meetings need progressive way to do this
- Communications coordinator volunteer
- Articles from community members
- Community breakfasts
- Person-to-person recruiting

- Phone calls with specifics

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- Early warning system of proposed development
- Zoning

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Reach people standing in the “no crowd”
- Expand and interconnect Canaan town forest
- Communicate with Hanover and Lebanon regarding their effect on Canaan’s growth and development
- Educate public in ways to use and protect their property (seminars on land-use planning)

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- Educate the public regarding Planning Board warrant article about ability to collect impact fees
- Keep in mind our bond with towns in our school district when doing our regional planning
- Network with realtors and include them in planning process

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- Actively pursue working forest and farm-friendly easements

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Inventory of town features which are important land use planning
- Communicate regionally—share both the benefits and burdens of economics
- Awareness of our niche in the regional context
- Long-range vision for town

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- Impact fees to help offset cost to town of new development

Low Impact/High Feasibility

None

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

None

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

None

Issue #5 Education

Facilitator: Koby van Beest

Recorder: Patrick Andrew

Spokesperson: Thomas Opper

Participants: Jim Laffan, Dan Fleetham, Peggy Mitchell, Denise Reitsma, Sue Richardson

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- Image of Canaan education in upper valley and in the community
- Appropriate educational opportunity for all students
- Two camps—pro-education vs. not invested/question value
- Promote education as a position priority for all ages
- Bring knowledgeable volunteers into the schools

Possible Solutions and Projects:

- Grants
- Campaign to promote education success stories
- Volunteers in school
- Alumni/3 association
- History projects connected to community
- Community service projects for students
- Community use of school facilities
- Improve guidance for students (appropriateness)
- Charter schools or alternative schools—individualizing education
- Outreach from schools
- Better guidance for getting students into post high school opportunities
- Consistent behavior (dress codes, etc.)
- Vocational schools
- Adult ed—drop out recovery resources
- Tax structure changes to change us vs. them problem
- Community school classes based on interest (cooking, computers)
- Better communication

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- Behavior, dress codes, etc.
- Charter schools
- Tax structure
- Guidance for high school students
- Vocational school
- Grants

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Community classes
- Community service projects
- Adult education--drop out recovery

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- Communication from schools
- Volunteers in school
- Community use of facilities
- History projects connected to community unity
- Campaign to promote success stories
- Campaign to reconnect community and schools

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- Alumni association

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Grants
- Outreach from schools

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- Community classes—enrichment

Low Impact/High Feasibility

None

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

None

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

- Grants

Saturday Afternoon

PROJECT SELECTION

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

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

Education

1. Create a vocational school within the Mascoma School District **(26 votes)**
2. Grant Coordinator **(3 votes)**
3. Campaign to reconnect community and school **(30 votes)**

Communications

1. New Canaan community newsletter and evaluate Town Crier **(31 votes)**
2. Better use of current media, electronic media, snail mail, email and website **(9 votes)**
3. Person to person recruiting for specific tasks **(3 votes)**

Economic Diversity and Community/Downtown Revitalization

1. Support business incubator—develop rural enterprise network **(23 votes)**
2. Another restaurant **(2 votes)**
3. Expand membership/support for Friends of Canaan Main Street and Business Group **(14 votes)**

Land Use

1. Institute create land use planning: inventory, education and impact fee (short and long-term goals) **(50 votes)**
2. Promote rural character of town through easements, expanding and interconnecting town forest and educating the public **(28 votes)**

Community and Social Services

1. Community center with separate space for teens and adults, cultural activities, art/pottery/etc., coffee house, outdoor and indoor recreation **(46 votes)**
2. Paid community coordinator who: does grant writing, is a volunteer coordinator, networks services and programs, coordinates programs, deals with community care, and manages/coordinates health services **(13 votes)**
3. Transportation to: health services, shopping, community center, and events **(2 votes)**

ACTION GROUPS

After the voting, the group decided to focus in on the top 5 projects. These were:

Land Use Planning
Community Building/Center
Canaan Community Newsletter
Connecting Community and School
Vocational School

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

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

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

Project #1 Land Use Planning

Facilitator: Len Reitsma

Recorder: Kate Brooks

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: David Scanlan, Lisa Johnson, Dick Pusey, Mary Stafford, Hayward Stafford, Debby Crowell, Daniel Ware, Lucille Seymour, Helen Skeist

Goals:

Impact fee

- Pressing short-term need
- Must get info to voting public
- Needs to be disassociated with (from) zoning
- Consider proposal to repeal SB2 and return to traditional town meeting

- Standardization of issues related to impact fees
- Collect info on town resources (inventory and questionnaire)
- Strategizing ways to maintain rural character (easements, seminars, etc.)
- Zoning (does not necessary do all you want it to; should protect people from higher taxes; should protect property values)
- When planning projects—see what other towns have done and evaluate

Planning:

- What do we have in place?
- Planning Board, Conservation Committee, Master Plan (which starts with town-wide survey), Natural Resources Inventory in progress
- Reps from different boards/groups should meet regularly

Obstacles:

- Educating public
- Selling ideas

Solutions:

- Involving people; flexibility; go to local groups who are involved with specific issues (i.e. Fish and Game, Lions) and solicit their input
- Having small group meetings

Leadership:

- Town committees/boards working on Master Plan
- Need better interface with Select Board
- Develop closer working relationship between Selectmen, Planning Board, Conservation Commission and interested public

Action Steps:

- Master Plan questionnaire to be sent out
- Combined meeting of Select Board, Planning Board, Conservation Commission, general public
- Committee should be set up to collect info for inventory (including existing printed info)
- Assist Planning Board in educating public about importance of impact fee ordinance
- Address issue of SB2

Timeline:

- Impact fee ordinance (Planning Board meeting 2nd Thursday in December 12/13)
- Master Plan questionnaire—1 year
- Natural Resource Inventory—3 years
- Revised Master Plan—3 years
- Joint meeting of Select Board, Planning Board, Conservation Commission to review UNH generated report as soon as it's available
- Report to public about this weekend's meeting—write article and or letter for Valley News and Chronicle
- Creative land use plan—5 years

First Step:

- Dan will inform Planning Board that members of this group would like to attend December 13 meeting
- Len will inform the group when the joint meeting with Planning Board will be held (cf #5 above)

First Step: Summary of discussion for the press

**Meeting: First available Planning Board Meeting—December 13
Joint meeting of Planning Board, Select Board and Conservation Commission
(March/April 2002)**

**Convener: Planning Board—Dan Ware
Joint Meeting—Len Reitsma**

Project #2 Community Building/Center

Facilitator: Pat Brown

Recorder: Jan Furbush

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Pat Williams, Carole Cushman, Terri Purcell, Steve Purcell, Rosalind Burke, Marty Pusey, Gary Wood, Mark Koprowski, Timothy Cohen

Goals and Objectives:

- Define its purpose
- Education of community as to its need
- Number of buildings
- Location
- Transportation
- Funding
- Coordinator of services
- Staffing—paid and volunteer
- Develop questionnaire for adults and kids
- Study other communities

Existing initiatives:

- Senior center
- Outing club at high school
- Town purchase of Cozy Corner site
- Already identified as a need by downtown design workshop
- Drawing existing services together from out-of-town and within town
- Transportation for children and youth i.e. advance transit
- Existing community support--volunteers

Obstacles & Solutions:

1. Money
 - grants
 - CIP
 - fundraising—by existing groups and new sources
 - pamphlet to encourage in memoriam giving and estate planning
 - collaborate with other organizations—cost sharing
2. Design
 - architect

3. Location
 - must accommodate needs
 - committee
 - vote
4. Operating costs
 - devise and study budget
 -
5. Transporting citizens
 - volunteer
 - public transport—expand existing

Leadership:

- Existing civic groups
- Schools
- Churches
- Reps from town government
- Businesses
- Social services in area
- Interested citizens

Resources:

- Professional consultation
- Successful models—Deb Maes—CREEPY Program; Steve Early—PAVE in Colebrook
- Interns (college)
- Donations—local businesses, Mascoma Saving Bank, Lions and other Clubs
- Volunteers—labor and materials
- Site
- Financial support from town

Action Steps/Timeline:

- Form a task force (12/01)
- Design and send out surveys to adult and youth (2/02)
- News release with survey results (3/02)
- Town-wide community meeting (4/02)
- Program design development and budget preparation (2002-2003)
- Site development (2002-2003)
- Design of facility(ies) (2002-2003)
- Fundraising (2002-2003)

Meeting: December 5 @ 7pm at Canaan Police Department Conference Room

Conveners: Tim Cohen 523-7784 (work) or 523-9682 (home)

Carole Cushman 523-7573

Project #3 Canaan Community Newsletter

Facilitator: Carolyn Barney

Recorder: Chris Dow

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Judith Kushner, Wayne Ferland, Brenda Souza, Reginald Barney, David Barney, Carol Bergeron, B.J. Hayward, Eleanor Barney, Chris Dow, Myra Oppel

Newsletters we have:

Senior Center

Town Crier

School Newsletter

Goal:

- Develop a new newsletter that is either town funded or volunteer funded including:
 - Informative
 - Objective
 - Fair-accurate
 - Timely
 - Community activities
 - Factual
 - Sports
 - School
 - Pictures

Potential Obstacles:

- Money
- People
- Back-up
- Burn-out
- How to collect info
- Threat to town
- Work place
- Apathy
- How to pay workers

Potential Solutions:

- Represent reasonable voices in town
- Have it a newsletter not with opinionated or biased opinions
- Non-threatening and open forum
- Mission statement made clear
- Have it be on time and timely
- Create trust—accurate/unbiased

Leadership:

- Editor/designer
- Info coordinator(s)
- Publicity of newsletter
- Computer people
- Funding/advertising
- Initial production
- Distribution

- Multi-generational and youth involvement
- Graphics/photo/cartoons/varied
- Sports coordinator
- Club rep and church rep
- Editorial board
- Web person

Resources:

- Churches and halls
- Active civic organizations/churches
- Skilled volunteers-potential leaders
- Computer access
- Leader willing to coordinate this
- Model newsletter to use

Action Steps:

- Gather a group to identify and research:
 - Cost/funding
 - Content
 - Format
 - Mission statement
 - Logistics—who will print
 - Ads
 - Distribution
 - Frequency
 - Naming—w/contest possibly
 - Evaluate models/designs

Timeline:

- December 5, 2001—organization meeting—bring models
- January 2002—preliminary overview of format
 - Begin mission statement
 - Identify editorial board
 - Funding possibilities
 - Responsibilities assigned
- February 2002—research reports
- March 2002—community-publicity contacts (schools/clubs/town/senior center)
- April 2002—information/production
- Mid May 2002—1st publication

Meeting: December 5, 2001 @ 7pm at Senior Center

Convener: Myra Oppel 523-7569

Project #4 Connecting Community and School

Facilitator: Koby van Beeth

Recorder: Patrick Andrew

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Cathy Lewis, Candace Carter, Thomas Oppel, Denise Reitsma, Anna Disco, Patsy Carter, Elaine Morrison, Patrick Andrew

Goals and Objectives:

communication

- get people in to school: for events and for volunteers
- Focus on solving problems
- Accessible and attractive schools
- Collect feedback and solution ideas
- Get people to ask “What are we going to do about it?”

community use of school facilities

- Calendar of facilities’ use (available in many locations with a protocol for signing up for space)

Existing Initiatives:

communication

- Student paper
- Student time and effort
- Elementary newsletter

community use of school facilities

- Master calendar
- Contact person
- Current users (town league—Mediros, Lions, Scouts)

Potential Obstacles:

- Money
- Time/people
- Ownership: who contributes, who edits, who receives, who pays for

Solutions:

- News from all schools once a month in a newsletter
- Invitation to volunteer at a recruitment fair
- Sports schedule
- Drama schedule
- Meeting agendas and minutes
- Web with links—H.W. website
- People to people

Leadership:

- Editorial committee to include: each school, SAU, at large (limited school connection)

Resources:

- CES newsletter

- PTA
- APS
- Grant
- School Budget

Timeline:

- Committee meets in January and sets up organization

Action Steps:

communication

- Form committee
- Contact board, schools, SAU
- Set a date
- Advertise—free food (later)

community use of school facilities

- Link to communication

Meeting: December 5, 2001 @ 7pm at high school (c-e or library)

Convener: all members of committee

Project #5 Vocational School

Facilitator: Sue Richardson

Recorder: Mary Gerakaris

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Jim Laffin, Bev Chapman, Richard Candem, Dan Fleetham, Kevin Lary, Donald Blunt, Louise Kremzner

Goals and Objectives:

- Create a vocational school in Mascoma School District
- Create a charter school? (create as part of existing school system--explore feasibility)
- Visit and explore existing schools
- Explore what is available in NH
- Apprenticeships with local craftspeople, skilled laborers, artists, etc.
- Input from business community regarding needs

Existing Initiatives:

- Career days in school
- Hartford Vocational Tech and others in area

Obstacles and Solutions:

- Money (solution: grants from state, corporations)
- Apathy (solution: charter school)
- Facilities (solution: apprenticeship programs with support from business and community scholarships)
- Limited access (solution: career education/info at early age)
- Stigma (solution: positive promotion of schools)

Leadership:

- Business leaders
- Educators
- Craftspeople

- Artists
- Students
- NH Job Training Corps
- Politician (i.e. Cliff Below, Ray Burton)
- Forest management
- Sports coaches and/or companies
- Local colleges
- NH Department of Education

Resources:

- Space/equipment
- Money
- Teachers
- Coordination
- Review present space and resources available
- Community support
- Promotion of idea through professional spokespeople

Action Steps:

- Convince people of need
- Better communication with school officials
- Site visits
- Know requirements for certification
- Look for existing charter vocational schools
- Present idea to local school officials and get feedback
- Present idea to students and get feedback
- Find out about previous groundwork in this field
- Contact with School Board
- Explore level of education needed for various jobs
- Using Tuck Business School, Plymouth State, UNH
- Peter Soloman: find out per student tuition at Hartford Voc Tech
- Jim Laffan—call Department of Education
- Don Blunt—convener (523-4308)
- Kevin Lary—assistant convener
- Bev Chapman—info that MVRHS already has

Timeline:

- Creating a committee for info gathering phase
- Organization and presentation of info

Meeting: January 12, 2002 @ 7pm at Louise Kremzner's (alternate date January 20)

Convener: Don Blunt 523-4308

CONCLUSION

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.

APPENDIX

Canaan Community Profile Participants

Linda Schnetzer	Judith Kushner
Jackie Lary	Jeff Majeursh
Vicky Barrios	Ed Lary
Deborah Crowell	Marcia Robertson
Michael Weily	Nancy Allen
Dan Fleetham	Kim Ferland
Betty Fleetham	Bev Chapman
Dave Barney	Louise Kiemzner
Lynn Neily	Tim Cohen
Robert Brown	Pat Williams
Myra Oppel	Mark Koprowski
Denise Reitsma	Ros Burke
Helen Skeist	Marty Pusey
Henry Brown	Sue Pearson
Al Posnanski	Carol Bergeron
Candace Carter	B.J. Hayward
Dick Pusey	Brenda Sonya
Sylvia Brown	Elaine Morrison
Carole Cushman	Patsy Carter
Steve Purcell	David Scanlan
Reginald Barney	Richard Candem
Sophie Seace	Dick Pusey
Peter Soloman	Kate Brooks
John Dow	Dan Lambert
Earl Novig	Len Reitsma
Carole Fontaine	Jim Morrison
Rhoda Lambert	Jim Laffan
Samantha Baker	Peggy Mitchell
Terri Purcell	Sue Richardson
Joanne Miller	Lisa Johnson
Ted Fontaine	Daniel Ware
Jim Miller	Lucille Seymour
Ellen Woodward	Gary Wood
Cathy Lewis	Brenda Souza
Barbara Baker	Cathy Lewis
Chuck Townsend	Anna Disco
Bruce Tuttle	Patrick Andrew
Mary Stafford	Donald Blunt
Jean Clark	Wayne Ferland
Hayward Stafford	Andy Musz
Beverly Chapman	

Canaan Community Profile Facilitators and Recorders

Koby van Beest
Patrick Andrew
Brenda Sage
Kate Brooks
Sue Richardson
Pat Brown
Len Reitsma
Chris Dow
Kevin Lary
B.J. Hayward
Marty Pusey

Mary Garakaris
David Cushman
Gary Wood
Carolyn Barney
Dan Ware
Jim Laffan
Dan Lambert
Jenna Dixon
Peggy Mitchell
Jan Furbush

Canaan Community Profile Steering Committee

Carole and David Cushman
Dave and Carolyn Barney
Len Reitsma
Thomas and Myra Oppel
Reggie Barney
Andy Musz
Louise Kremzner
Mark Simon (co-chair)
Giovanna Lepore (co-chair)