



Troy Community Profile Report

Troy, New Hampshire
June 6 & 7, 2003

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Gap Mtn. Bakery
Stan's Troy Market
Village Barn Troy
Troy Country Store
Thomas Transportation
Monadnock Berries
Troy Village Store (Minute Mart)
Inn @ East Hill Farm
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Hannaford's (Keene)
Shaw's (Keene)
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OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Community Profile is a process by which communities stake 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 in developing 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 changes 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 and these are the "tools" of the community self-assessment.

TOWN HISTORY- presented by the fifth grade youth

- There were 7 schools
- There was a bell that work up the workers for the mill
- People are not taking care of the environment
- The railroad went through Troy
- The mill used to be a chalk place
- There used to be a railroad track in Troy, which is now a dirt bike trail
- The town hall used to be small
- The population has increased
- The common used to be in two pieces
- Troy Mills used to make fabric
- In 1924 Sand Dam was built for the Memorial Day program
- There used to be a Troy High School
- The library got a new addition to it
- The common used to be for grazing animals
- School structure is over 100 years old
- Sand Dam used to be clean before Troy Mills

- In 2002 we tested the water of Sand Dam every two weeks and found nothing
- Old railroad station and tracks run through Troy
- The common used to be split so people could drive through
- Troy used to be controlled by Fitzwilliam
- The railroad tracks were in use one time, but now they're just in pieces
- Troy soldiers' names carved in stone in the Common
- The Troy Mills
- Kids used to slide down High Street

TOWN HISTORY—presented by Bob Hall

Welcome to Troy Tomorrow. Never mind that your invitation offers you desert instead of dessert. A lot of work has gone into setting up this event and seeing the fine turnout of interested citizens, and knowing the capabilities of the facilitators one just knows that history will be made tonight and tomorrow. Special thanks go to Laura Kelsey and Evan John for master-minding this event.

I have been assigned the task of compressing 242 years of Troy history into a 5 or 6 minute presentation so either I must talk very fast or skim the surface. As I am first on the program I probably will not put you to sleep. Let's briefly relive Troy's colorful past by viewing Marion Austin's historic panels, not in detail from where you sit, but rather by Marion's chosen topics – namely: Troy's People, The Churches, The Schools, Transportation, Troy Industry, and the Town Common.

Yes, things are different in Troy in 2003. A lot of water has passed over the many dams in the area. History tells us that Troy Mills owned at least 5 bodies of water to produce the power in 1851 needed to drive their machinery. But Troy goes back further than that. It all started for us in 1761 (that's 242 years ago for anyone who is counting) with an exploration of West Hill by a William Barker. Our Mr. Barker returned to Troy in 1764 to build a log house. In the fall of that same year he came again, this time with his family now numbering 5, by ox cart. There were no roads from Winchendon and history does not tell us how long the journey took. The potholes of today are but a minor inconvenience to the Barker family's trials and tribulations of 1764. And do remember there was no AAA, McDonalds rest stops, or cell phone.

The Barker's neighbors and companions were now the bear (so what else is new), the wolf, the panther, the hawk, and the partridge. A Silas Fife came to East Hill in 1765 and purchased land at one time owned by Oliver P. Whitcomb, father to Jim Whitcomb, and grandfather to Judy Whitcomb Hall, here tonight. A procession of settlers followed Barker and Fife and some of those present will recognize the family names of – Tolman, Newell, Lawrence, Harrington, Haskell, Farrar, and others. Land changed hands, forests became fields, mills and shops appeared, and hard working settler women bore children. Redcoats and Redskins had their influence, but history doesn't name the tribes of the latter. Their colorful past was kept alive somewhat by a fraternal order of Redmen and research will open to those pages one day.

A growing population needed roads, then gravel, places of worship, eventual schools, industry to provide the necessities of life, and methods of transportation for goods and people. The schools, roads, and Town building maintenance meant taxes and a Town government. A Town Hall appeared and a Town Common to exchange produce and provide a gathering place. Farms produced milk for the towns, hides for the tanneries, grain for the grist mills, and logs to

be sawed into timbers. Some of those logs exist today as support for the existing Town Hall and the bark is still on those 190 (yes) old logs. The milk in 8 quart cans produced 16 cents each for the farmer and what can you buy today for sixteen cents? A hired man got a dollar a day and a hot meal at noon.

While Troy Mills was perhaps but a vision in 1851, it got its start in 1865, but there was much more. Some feel there were a many as 40 farms operating in the Troy we didn't know, which fed their owners and produced income. A boy was expected to pull his weight 100 years ago and his day might start at 4:30 a.m. with the milking before breakfast. By 6:30 he might be on his way to a West Hill wood lot to pick up a load of pine or spruce logs bound for Asa Dort's sawmill for eventual use in a pail shop, chair shop, or box mill. The boxes might be for salt cod and were not held together by staples, but with dove-tailed corners. The Troy teen would make two round trips of lot to mill and then head up French Hill and to arrive at The Farm at East Hill around 5 p.m. No supper yet' till horses were attended to and the milking done, again. Bed was welcomed by 8:30. Remember French Hill wasn't a four minute ride in those days. And there was no jumping into a truck after a cold beer after work. Luckily there was no TV, CD, or DVD's to tempt a working teen in the evening as 4:30 came early. At some point in history there were B.V.D's and I need some help here.

In addition to Troy's forest products there was granite to quarry and finish, coal to import and deliver, ice to cut, store, and sell, bricks to be made, pottery to form, and iron to shape. The life and livelihood of a farmer meant wagons and wagon wheels, tools to cut and plow, and household goods for the farm women whose life was not book clubs, exercise classes, and PTAs. A second car and likely not even a second mare or gelding didn't take them to the mall or strip, but all manner of household needs were brought to them. Some by pad of paper ordering when a market man made the rounds on Tuesday and some hit or miss meanderings of the meat man, scissors and knife grinder, tinsmith, and Medicine man. Meat might be corned beef or salt pork which was the sometimes bacon on the farm and was fried crisp for breakfast or plunked in the bean pot for the Saturday night staple. Beans were not the only Saturday night repeater as the bath took its turn in the weekly scheme of things. Depending on the size of the family the bath followed the beans or started early to allow each their turn. History doesn't tell us if bath water was recycled and if so who got first water. Please direct your attention to Jim Whitcomb's family bathtub. Can we really call it a tub? And did a user get to change the water or did he or she learn to be frugal. Somehow it doesn't seem likely that Jim and family shared the bath and tub to save water.

History books will provide you with dates, names and events. Much has been recorded by Drs. Caverly and Stone, the 1976 red bicentennial paper bound booklet, Fuller Ripley's 1986 Fabric of Troy, and most recently the Heritage Commission's Troy The Way It Was. History is being made tonight and tomorrow and perhaps an outcome as one of our collective efforts could be a well-illustrated Troy version of the familiar Images of America series.

As many of you may know, Troy once was a part of Fitzwilliam, Richmond, Swanzey and Marlborough, and struggled vainly to pull away and incorporate as a separate village. This was allowed to happen in 1815. A Town Hall was built, eventually rotated ¼ of a turn, saw many uses, and is currently being investigated to preserve and utilize that bit of Troy history. Most certainly Troy Mills has been the economic backbone of the community and left its mark with produce and vision. A railroad has thrived, served thousands, and while this writer doesn't believe in ghosts, it doesn't hurt to lend an ear and listen to what our past will tell us.

Where does this 242 year-old history bring us today? What can we build upon and invest in as part of our future? How can we capitalize on a mountain, a mill that has changed hands, miles of trails to explore, the creative minds of long timer and new comer, and that not be overlooked – vision and strengths of our youth. With Troy Tomorrow as our rallying cry – shall we build stairway to a better Troy for tomorrow?

UNH Cooperative Extension

Troy Community Profile

Troy Elementary School

June 6 & 7, 2003

Agenda

Friday Evening

6:30 Sign In & Dessert

7:00 Welcome - Nancy Adams, UNH Cooperative Extension

- Overview of Community Profile Process
- Who is here?

Mosaic and Vision

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

Historical Overview -

- Where has Troy been?

7:45 Presentation of Community Profile components

- 1) Informed Citizen Participation and Community Leadership
- 2) Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals & Youth and Lifelong Learning
- 3) Community Services, Facilities & Utilities and Transportation
- 4) Economic Vitality & Growth and Development
- 5) Sense of Community and Cultural Heritage
- 6) 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 Troy in the component area
- Weaknesses of Troy 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 seven 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 are the most important projects for Troy right now?

1:30 Individual selection of project development groups

Project development: small groups

- Who's missing & should be invited to follow-up meeting

2:00 Full group: report back from small groups

- Thank you's and door prizes
- Coordination of follow-up efforts

Formal adjournment

Community Profile Friday Evening

The Troy Community Profile was conducted at the Troy Elementary School over two days: Friday evening, June 6, 2003 and all day Saturday, June 7, 2003. About 60 participants attended on Friday, with about 30 attending on Saturday.

The event began Friday with ice cream sundaes donated by Kimball Farms. Nancy Adams, UNH Cooperative Extension Educator, gave an overview of the profile process and an introduction to the goals for the two days. A Community Profile is something like a potluck supper - a feast of ideas. 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 Troy like today?

- Economically struggling
- Serious infrastructure problems (water, etc) that will impact taxes
- Over taxed
- Environmental
- A lot of small businesses
- Difficult for those entering government to know everything
- Lots of kids
- Lower income rental with 2 bedrooms not just 1
- Part of a regional school district
- New people involved in school
- Professional offices in Troy Mills
- Support of the elementary school
- High school students refer to Troy as "Troylet"
- Recent recognition by the National Register of Historic Places
- Beautiful town common
- Local bank
- Abundant forests
- Lots of water
- Surrounded by a lot of great towns
- A lot of hidden talents
- Community participation
- Need a list of who lives, works here, etc.

- Our own mountain - GAP Mountain
- Renovation of Troy depot
- Volunteer fire department
- Troy Historical Society and Museum
- Troy Heritage Commission doing a wonderful job
- Town is facing development pressures - recognition that this is a wonderful place to live
- Inn at East Hill Farm
- High tax on properties with views of Mt. Monadnock
- Wonderful, beautifully kept landfill and transfer station
- Local ambulance service
- Good chef/good local restaurant/good food
- Nature of town is going from mill town to bedroom community
- Fragmented
- Safe
- A lot of good, energetic people ready to help - need to pull them together
- Volunteer government that is challenged and hard to get volunteers
- Caring town
- Nothing for kids to do
- More publicity about good things in Troy
- Serious environmental concerns
- Troy Mill have/with different types of shops to sell wholesale
- Good library
- In need of a new image
- Rich history - evidence by old buildings
- Good local town newspaper
- Economic uncertainties of a possible bypass
- Best view of Mt. Monadnock
- Great bike/walking paths
- State recognition for all things elementary students do
- Great access to Keene via safe roads
- Good local services for a town this size i.e. bakery, hardware store
- Very good high school
- Great web site
- Part of a rail system
- Convenient services for seniors in local area
- Wonderful population of great/grand people
- Four churches
- Troy Conservation Commission
- Three cemeteries - beautifully kept
- Yearly crafts festival
- Local committee to decorate common at Christmas time

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

- DSL services
- To become more of a destination site for visitors
- Not needing to rely solely on property taxes for income
- Development of Troy Mills
- Recreation center and after-school activities for kids
- Turn Sand Dam from polluted lake into municipal pool
- Lower water and tax bills
- Renovation of Troy Elementary School to meet code
- Preserve charm of Mom and Pop shops and not go to chains
- Don't allow businesses that will deteriorate town (e.g. pawn shop)
- Clean up of the toxic waste dump
- Sharing public transportation with City of Keene
- Preserve village area and other old historic sites
- Protection of land around Sand Dam Pond
- More community involvement from new people
- Increased preservation of historic structures including residential
- Students be educated in a modern, updated high school
- Need for updated Master Plan
- Conservation of our natural landscape
- Hiking trail link to Mt. Monadnock from downtown Troy
- Bringing in more small, clean industries
- Crossing guards
- Development of Troy as a tourist (visitor) destination

COMMUNITY PROFILE SIX COMPONENTS

After we developed a mosaic and vision for, and digested some of the historical information, Nancy Adams introduced us to the idea of discussing 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

Community Infrastructure

Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals and Youth and Lifelong Learning

Community Services, Facilities and Utilities and Transportation

Sense of Community and Cultural Heritage

Environment

Working Landscape and the Natural Environment

Economy

Economic Vitality and Growth and Development

Next, 6 small groups of approximately 6 people each were randomly formed, one group for each of the components. A small group was also formed with youth who examined the same components the adults looked at. The small groups adjourned to various rooms where facilitators lead the groups in their discussions and recorders made notes on more large tablets. Also included in the final report-outs for each component are the results of the 5th grade youth “profile” held during a school day.

Each group considered the definition of their component and was asked questions below in order to begin the discussion. Participants were asked to list the strengths of 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 need to be addressed in the future 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 Citizenship Participation and Community Leadership

Adult Group: Facilitator: Carla Press Recorder: Janis Carney Spokesperson: not noted
Participants: Al Giles, Don Uplan, George Maattala, Tom Britton, Katherine Sandman, Steve Sanz

Youth Group: Facilitator: Lauren Bressett Recorder: Jack Munn Spokesperson: Amanda Oerman
Participants: Andreas John, Isabel John, Emerald Levick, Amanda Oerman

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.

Group Response - Strengths:

- Cooperation and communication between Planning Boards and Selectmen
- Fair procedures replacing “Old Boy” network
- New leadership
- Outside consultant upgrading procedures –guiding/counseling Selectmen
- Honest, committed people in difficult circumstances
- Information availability
- Troy News
- Committees accessible, but not being recruited actively
- Many willing volunteers
- Town has percentage in Mill
- Fire people

(5th grade youth)

- Boy Scouts
- Baseball
- Memorial Day parade
- Selectmen
- Town yard sales
- School band
- Group clean up
- Five churches
- Travel basketball

- Good schools
- Girl Scouts
- Police department
- P.T.O – parent teacher organization
- Sport groups
- Destination Imagination
- Youth group
- Sports/leagues
- Library
- Girls' softball
- Soccer
- Fire people
- Town clean up – mix of people

(Youth group)

- Lots of opportunities to get involved
- Door is not shut to youth
- Same people involved in government

Group Response - Challenges

- Involving younger residents
- Select Board unresponsive in past
- Need system to utilize volunteer resources
- Changing to Australian ballot
- Less informed voters
- Town leaders need to take initiative on Mill development
- Town finances
- Educate town on financial choices
- Infrastructure complements Keene, we should make Keene complement us
- Leadership needs to develop vision, goals
- Need long range plan – 5 year minimum
- Master Plan
- Diversification of town income
- Developing vision with large issues unresolved (Mill, bypass, water)
- More choice in supermarkets

(5th grade youth)

- No mall
- McDonalds
- No supercenter
- Litter
- Sand Dam is dirty
- Hornet problem at skate park
- More police

- Unsafe people
- No arcade
- Not enough town clean up
- Not enough community activities
- Newer library books
- More punishment
- Bigger schools
- Ice cream shops

Vision for the Future:

- Bypass – go/no go
- Selectmen as strong leaders
- Town manager – could share with neighboring towns
- Outreach to community to get fresh input
- Community Center i.e. gym
- Bring trains back to restored depot
- Town pool

(5th grade youth)

- Better baseball fields
- High School closer
- Mall
- Cleaner stores
- Cleaner Sand Dam
- Bigger, better skate parks
- Safer roads
- More notices to people saying what's going on
- More parades
- High School and Middle School
- Parks and cleaner ones
- Movie theatre
- Arcade
- A huge game store for video games
- Advertise more citizen participation – (advertisements now word of mouth) people do not see flyers/posters – maybe more emphasis in newsletter – monthly

(Youth group)

- People do not know about website
- Put regular news page on website
- Older kids – moving on beyond town
- Activities on Common
- Recreation Center – could improve communication/teen involvement
- Notices – community news at recycling center – “kiosk”
- More advertised > community clean up on regular basis

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. living, long-range Master Plan
2. strong leadership community back to town, solicits community input (community center, bulletin board)
3. advisory board/standing committee
4. finance committee drawing on community expertise
5. shared town manager

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

Adult Group: Facilitator: Valerie Britton Recorder: Christine Parshall Spokesperson: not noted
Participants: Lorna Dingley, Marci Conand, Chester Puiet, Iver Olsen, Ralph Heald, Jan Firmin

Youth Group: Facilitator: Lauren Bressett Recorder: Jack Munn Spokesperson: Amanda Oerman
Participants: Andreas John, Isabel John, Emerald Levick, Amanda Oerman

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.

Group Response - Strengths:

- Good private preschool and an attempt to bring public preschool
- Fantastic grammar school
- Sand Dam recreation program
- Local library programs for youth and adults (other organizations use facility for programs)
- School activities which bring in families (many)
- Good eateries
- Adequate businesses and services (stores, bank)
- Centrally located for continuing education
- Senior activities like Meals on Wheels
- Senior Community Center (Kimball Hall)
- Ambulance service
- Fantastic police department
- Keene located services are easy to get to (social services)
- Town events that include whole family and community

- Good youth athletics (skate park, team sports, ball field)
- Joint sports program with other towns (baseball and soccer)
- Active Girl Scout troop
- Four churches which do their part
- Inn at East Hill Farm (community oriented business) is good employment for young people
- Monadnock Berries also community oriented
- Good communication between municipal government and local school system (Monadnock District)
- Awesome post office
- Helping Hands (provides donated food, clothing, and furniture to those in need)
- Overseer of the poor (town welfare officer)
- Library, school, churches

(5th grade youth)

- Senior center, recreation lounge
- Lots of organizations to learn at: Historical Society
- Library has good books
- Educational field trips take place
- Churches teach bible to one another
- Job shadowing at Troy school occurs
- The schools are good
- Awana
- Steel drums/drums
- Education: fitness and health

(Youth group)

- Recreation program at Sand Dam
- Good elementary school
- Good library
- Clean town
- Relatively safe town
- Less distraction than living in city – more time for family

Group Response - Challenges:

- Daycare (affordable)
- After school programs (more opportunities)
- Inadequate tax base
- High school does not adequately meet student needs and community needs
- Condition of school will impact whole community in the future
- Schools could make better use of new technology (like computers)
- Not enough community activities for whole family
- No supervision for children
- People who are not educated in how to raise children

- People who have not completed high school and who don't have skills for good jobs
- Transportation
- Lack of mentor programs for youth
- Public transportation (elderly and youth)
- Scheduled transportation (like friendly bus)
- Local (in town) job opportunities (youth and adults)
- Rough small group of kids
- Better participation in town government
- Lack of crossing guards for school children
- Lack of emergency volunteers
- Not enough community support for education
- Not enough value placed on education
- Lack of communication
- Wish for better promotion of great Troy kids
- Library not open long enough, 6 hour school

(5th grade youth)

- No colleges, no after school learning centers
- Don't have enough money--more information about schools
- Captain Underpants
- Bigger stage
- More activities for learning
- We don't like Mazis Beacon for typing
- Less reading out of textbooks
- Cargo net for gym
- More and further field trips
- Book Fair prices too high
- Only one school
- Library needs more money
- More Nancy Drew books
- Murder Mysteries
- No colleges in Troy
- Sunday School needs fun educational programs

Vision for the Future:

- Good high school with needed facilities comparable to other local schools
- More community spirit and togetherness
- More positive opportunities to interact with others in town
- Movies at town hall
- Weekly concerts
- Separate the junior and senior high
- Community Center (maybe at Sand Dam Pond)
- Continued growth and improvement at Sand Dam Pond
- Bypass providing safety in town for children and adults

- More businesses for employment opportunities
- Rename Troy Mill facility
- Better town reputation
- Better swimming facility for adults
- Adult fitness center
- Spruce up older buildings with town help if necessary
- Local recognition of people who give (volunteers) to the town
- I want to see people own this town and love it
- Beautify gateways to town
- Volunteer network to link seniors to Internet and access to computers if not affordable
- Enforce town rules and regulations
- An after school learning center, organized and more fun

(5th grade youth)

- Bigger budget for the school, more sites to see, more learning
- More activities
- Bigger school
- After school programs should be free
- Magazines we want (American Girl, Sports Illustrated, Time for Kids, Teen People)
- Parents should not have to sign-up for children to use computers at library
- Better food
- Two libraries
- More books
- Library open more hours of the day
- More scholarships
- More KFC, McDonalds, Applebees, Snapple, Pub99, Buffet, Marco Polo
- More time to eat during lunch and more recess
- Less noise pollution around Commons – no trucks with bypass

(Youth group)

- Get rid of billboards – outskirts of town
- New high school – education is good – facilities need to be improved
- Add an extra room at elementary school
- Adult learning program at recreation center
- Sand Dam Pond – good place for recreation center – there is an existing building – could be expanded

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. education: facilities, continuing education
2. transportation: public transport for youth and seniors
3. sense of community
4. job opportunities
5. activities for youth

3. Community Services, Facilities, Utilities and Transportation

Adult Group: Facilitator: Darleen Uhlir Recorder: Nancy Bradford-Sisson Spokesperson: Sam Johnson
Participants: Sam Johnson, Barbara LaPointe, Kacey Clarke, Dorothy Olsen, Isabel Vern, Sue Oerman

Youth Group: Facilitator: Lauren Bressett Recorder: Jack Munn Spokesperson: Amanda Oerman
Participants: Andreas John, Isabel John, Emerald Levick, Amanda Oerman

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 pedestrian and bicycle travel and bus and rail transportation.

Group Response - Strengths:

- Library – fabulous summer program
- Pretty Common
- Caring population
- Town road crew – very good
- Well-run landfill operation - \$ from recycling
- Troy seniors center
- Kimball Hall
- Wonderful teachers at elementary school
- Station 58 – public access TV (done by 6th graders)
- Inn at East Hill Farm
- View of Monadnock
- Water sources – adequate drinking water
- Common area appealing due to existing small businesses
- Anticipated opening of ice cream shop
- Fabulous post office
- Architecturally appealing town hall
- Troy Town News
- Good fire, police, ambulance services
- Cemeteries well maintained
- Open to regional solutions
- Blueberry Farm
- Availability to railroad tracks for recreational use (trail clean-up twice year)
- Association with Southwest Regional Planning Commission
- Meadowood (regional fire department and hall)
- Arts festival

(Youth group)

- Senior housing center

- Memorial Day parade and other functions
- Book sales at library
- Sales on the Common
- Community knows each other – what everybody is doing
- Town image is improving – “image”
- Skateboard park – not much else for youth
- Walkathon
- Playground
- Lots of trails – not heavily used
- Lots of sports team – elementary, but not teenagers
- No sports leagues for adults/older teens
- High school provides opportunities for teens outside of town

Group Response - Challenges:

- Parking places at common
- Traffic from the mall area
- Handicapped accessibility of selectman’s office
- Recruiting a committee to decorate common for Christmas
- Sidewalk on School Street (and elsewhere)
- Police need to be more responsive (patrolling town proper rather than Rt. 12)
- Enforcement of speed limits and pedestrian crosswalks (walkers as well as drivers)
- Sand Dam renovations/improvements
- Insufficient funds to address known challenges
- Lack of volunteer involvement in community
- Lack of public transportation
- Lack of community spirit
- Modernizing elementary school and regional high school
- Clean-up of Troy Mills residue
- After school programs more visible
- Water and sewer department need to stabilize
- Lack of funding for qualified town services providers
- Poor cable service

Vision for the Future:

- Common maintained – “kept”
- Bus service to Keene
- Community Center at Sand Dam (with indoor pool)
- If by-pass goes through, then seniors use alternative transportation (like golf carts) within the town proper
- By-pass go through
- Town Common area to be a designated tourist destination due to historic buildings and related businesses
- Clean-up, restoration and tasteful redevelopment of Troy Mills (Quonset hut and fences must go)

- No porno shops
- Modern elementary school and high school that is the envy of Cheshire County
- Town skiing/sliding hill
- Small town pharmacy
- More tax dollars back to town-restructure tax basis/less to regional school more to services
- Need more recreation for teens: adults – fitness or recreation center (tennis courts are always destroyed)

(Youth group)

- Need pool tables – jobs for teens at recreation center and maintaining facilities could be a business
- Would be nice for community pool – could provide summer jobs for teens
- Need community service opportunities for teens in town
- More publicity needed about Troy Museum and restoring Depot
- Preference is more healthy activities – but most kids don’t – are not “active”
- Need public transportation to Keene/Swanzey – putt putt golf/movies
- Need a great ice cream stand

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. schools- maintaining and improving (elementary and regional high school)
2. redevelopment- community center, new business, Troy Mills, Common area, tourism, volunteerism, sidewalks
3. public transportation
4. maintaining high level of town services
5. taxes/funding sources – tax redistribution

4. Economic Vitality & Growth and Development

Adult Group: Facilitator: Theresia Weber-John Recorder: Karen Johnson Spokesperson: not noted
 Participants: Dave Adams, Judy Hall, Fenella Levick, Gary Sheldon

Youth Group: Facilitator: Lauren Bressett Recorder: Jack Munn Spokesperson: Amanda Oerman
 Participants: Andreas John, Isabel John, Emerald Levick, Amanda Oerman

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

Group Response - Strengths:

- Very good downtown/common area (bank, hardware, bakery, video)
- Need a pharmacy – need to go to Rindge or Keene
- Good mini-mall
- Laundry
- Craft shop, Blueberry Farm
- Library
- Stan's nursery
- Undeveloped natural resources wetlands
- Great inn with community involvement
- Availability of properties conducive to businesses
- Variety of untapped, skilled labor
- Labor is in youth – lot of potential
- Lot of land for recreational use
- Public conserved land- Society for Protection of NH Forests
- Excellent location – convenient to many places
- Infrastructure-water/sewer, 3 phase power, recycling center, police, ambulance, fire department
- Active churches
- Helping Hands (2nd hand shop)
- Land for industrial use on Dort Street
- Troy Mills
- Possible by-pass
- Elderly housing (behind Kimball Hall)
- We have room for expansion on all kinds of housing (building, renovation)
- Southwest Regional Planning Commission (they are of service to the town)
- NH Grants – Ralph Wentworth
- Tourists coming into town to spend money
- Historical building – National Historical Register
- Mill town, mill pond - scenic & beginning of industrial revolution people might want to see this
- Decent road system
- Miles of state road system
- Good care of roads/maintenance
- Skateboard park, Sand Dam project, ball fields, recreational programs
- We have the Sand Dam Park, we have a nursing home, and Troy Soldiers names engraved in a stone

(5th grade youth)

- Safe structure at school
- No breaking into school
- Good math teachers and others
- Some clean facilities
- Common has improved

- Good town maintenance
- Growing library
- Baseball/softball/good leagues
- No safe playgrounds
- D.A.R.E.
- Lots of small businesses – no chain stores, like McDonalds

(Youth group)

- Hardware store has come back
- Restaurants are improving
- Need to do more for housing – lots of run down neighborhoods
- Few after school opportunities for teen jobs

Group Response – Challenges:

- Utilization of the mill properties
- Clean-up of unattractive industrial properties
- Deteriorating infrastructure: water/sewer old system
- Southwest area: Concord does not seem to be aware – no information about this area
- Tax structure – economic challenge
- Clean up of Rockwood Pond landfill
- Low business/industrial assessment base
- Develop more industry and business
- Keeping people/youth in area
- Lack of jobs-historically people in town worked at mill
- Something more for tourists to do in town
- More places to stay
- Tourists come but don't stay – lack of attraction
- Fix up town hall attractively
- Develop depot area – on-going
- Making natural resources accessible
- Excellent ambulance service, fire department, committees, town government but need more volunteer and participation
- Master plan update
- Monadnock Master Plan affects Troy
- Schools need renovating
- Encourage/recognize community pride
- Encourage gardening club
- Our town is too small, so we can't put many things in it. We only have two baseball teams, We have Troy Mills and our skate park is dirty.

(5th grade youth)

- School structure needs improvement
- No places where children can't play safely
- Ponds, such as Sand Dam, need a lot of cleaning (leeches, snapping turtles)

- Sand Dam playground needs tons of improvements
- More recreation places
- Need an arcade
- Need better parks
- Need more skate parks
- Raising cost of leagues
- Cleaner water
- Cleaner town
- More materials for school and town
- Clean up pipes to water

Vision for the Future:

- A welcome packet for people coming to town (phone #'s, committees that need volunteers, amenities)
- Renovate/utilize the mill
- Troy Town News needs an office
- Clean out basement of town hall and capitalize on things there – jail cell, old pumper
- Complete development of depot area
- Youth center
- Developing greater access to natural resource area
- Develop a walkway around Sand Dam
- Nice welcome signs
- Welcome/tourist center at depot – map of town with key places, coffee
- Upgrade the infrastructure – grants
- Our skate park could be bigger

(5th grade youth)

- We could lower the taxes
- More town cleanups
- Bigger library
- Cleaner Sand Dam
- Improvement on a better playground
- Troy Mills turned into a mall
- Fancy restorations
- More trash cans
- Bike path
- Movie theatre
- Growing town
- More money
- Support candidates
- Sold/selling land
- Shops (any kind)
- More town support
- More buildings

- No chain stores or strip malls

(Youth group)

- Repair existing buildings in town
- Small business employment good
- More small business ok with mill
- Okay to travel outside town for jobs
- No apartment complexes – no suburban residential development
- Like old fashioned/traditional neighborhoods
- Some industry needed, clean high tech- mill building
- No industrial parks

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. land (development of natural resources, conserved land, recreational land)
2. utilize the mill property
3. careful development of tourism/potential (welcome packet, signs, activities, tourist center/depot)
4. develop more business and industry
5. upgrade infrastructure

5. Sense of Community and Cultural Heritage

Adult Group: Facilitator: Marcia Press Recorder: CJ Hall Spokesperson: not noted
 Participants: Ralph Wentworth, Amy Willey, Peter Knieste, John Satas, Leo Belletete, Evan John

Youth Group: Facilitator: Lauren Bressett Recorder: Jack Munn Spokesperson: Amanda Oerman
 Participants: Andreas John, Isabel John, Emerald Levick, Amanda Oerman

Statement of Purpose:

A sense of community is an intangible yet vital component of a healthy community. It encompasses element 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. Increased communication and understanding of different perspectives among groups and within the community as a whole is an important factor in establishing a sense of community.

Group Response - Strengths:

- Great participation and involvement in cultural events – active participation in civic groups: Lions Club, various town commissions and boards (e.g. arts festivals, spring lecture series)
- Recreational opportunities are excellent: hiking, hunting, trail riding
- New England town meeting
- Good geographic location to benefit from general regional growth
- Town is considering seriously the impact of growth
- People are helpful and friendly
- RR Depot/historical building--rails to trails program goes through Troy
- Small town atmosphere and people are appealing
- State government is having to take a greater interest in Cheshire County with Troy included – lags in resources and development investment

- Keene residents seeking more peace and quiet are likely to choose Troy due to its convenience, places to have quiet dinners
- Troy still retains its “typical New England” flavor
- Resources available to challenge kids skateboard park – baseball team, summer Sand Dam program
- Townspeople – in spite of tax burdens – still are committed to infrastructure improvements
- Good regional development planning
- A lot of people come to Troy activities

(5th grade youth)

- The Troy School helps clean the environment
- We work well with each other as a town
- Cleaning Sand Dam
- Volunteers for charity
- After school programs
- The town helps to clean up
- People on their free time help other people learn
- Sport activities
- Bike safety

Group Response – Challenges:

- Teens need more organized activities
- Percentage of townspeople involved in town activities is low. The work falls upon the same citizens.
- Closure of Troy Mills – and the landfill belonging to the Mill. The waste of leaking into nearby ground water.
- Limited parking in downtown discourages people from shopping
- Can some of Troy Mills site be used for parking?
- People committed to change and progress get burned – out before they fully learn their tasks and responsibilities
- Troy has had to face too many difficult issues in a very short period of time: Troy Mills closure, sewage leakage, landfill, and bypass proposed around town
- Property taxes are forcing residents out
- Social stratification is happening between more wealthy newcomers and long time residents
- Prejudice exists between the two groups mentioned above
- “Affordable” housing is not helping the tax base expand. Condition of these units detract from areas, general image of town.
- Do we need tax credits to assist historical homeowners to keep their homes authentic
- Lousy geography to attract business – no access to main highways (trucking restrictions) land not flat enough for development of new businesses
- Not many people help clean up Sand Dam

(5th grade youth)

- People are littering all over
- The school needs more money

- Troy people should come together as Troy people
- No clean swimming area
- Not enough town clean ups
- Skate park is not clean
- Nobody cares about the graffiti at the skate park
- No legal dirt bike areas
- Need more people to volunteer in clean-up
- More police should be at the skate park
- Our graveyards are not good

Vision for the Future:

- Redevelopment of Mill – diverse type of use, professional, business, light industry, dance studio that is well maintained
- Troy needs to network with resource agencies
- Train depot has great potential (parking, town history focal point)
- Future tourist destination – need to get information out to visitors and new citizens (maps, pamphlets, brochures)
- Re-examining our town management structure – is it changing to meet out changing needs
- Become more closely involved in regional high school issues
- Teen recreation center with computers e.g. community center
- Upgrade the website
- A clean and healthy environment

(5th grade youth)

- The town of Troy grows with new and colorful things--make the environment more fun
- Should open bathrooms at Sand Dam (clean)
- More town clean-up
- Dirt bike paths
- Everyone can work together and clean up the environment
- Drinking water available at Sand Dam
- Clean up our skate park
- Get rid of Troy Mills
- Make a town newspaper
- Make the trailer park nicer
- Sand Dam clean

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. promotion of tourism and improve the outside perception and attractiveness of Troy
2. strategic development of Mill property
3. preservation of historical character
4. improving participation and management in town affairs
5. comprehensive community/recreation center emphasizing opportunities for kids and teenagers

6. Working Landscape and the Natural Environment

Adult Group: Facilitator: Joan Epro Recorder: Darcy Doyle Spokesperson: Anthony Levick
Participants: Bob Hall, Sally Adams, Diana Belletete, Anthony Levick, Ken LaPointe, Todd Bergeron, Diane Kellner, Jeanne Drugg

Youth Group: Facilitator: Lauren Bressett Recorder: Jack Munn Spokesperson: Amanda Oerman
Participants: Andreas John, Isabel John, Emerald Levick, Amanda Oerman

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 a community life. A sustainable community recognizes the importance of these assets and takes appropriate measures to assure their continuance.

Group Response - Strengths:

- Terrain – hiking trail
- Farms, biking, snowmobiling, ATV, horse back, fishing, hunting
- Clean air
- Rural
- Close to Mt. Monadnock, cities, Gap Mountain
- 2-acre lot size
- Natural beauty
- Common
- Old houses
- Small town New England charm
- Perkins Pond
- Dog friendly
- Water supply – good
- Wildlife
- Sidewalks
- Recycle center – clean and neat
- Concerned citizens
- Railroad bed trails
- Historic assets
- Protected land
- Organized trail system
- Environmentally conscious businesses: East Hill Farm and Monadnock Berries
- Body of water in town – Village Pond
- Great views
- Beautiful gardens
- Old large trees and forests
- We have good working lands

(5th grade youth)

- Our plants produce oxygen and they're all over the common-- Sand Dam park is a good working landscape
- We made a nice town and have more trees for oxygen
- We have nice views (Mt. Monadnock and Village Pond)
- We have lots of plants
- Good people
- Good community
- Lots of wetlands – good despite controversy

(Youth group)

- Great recycling center – very clean/good help
- Lots of natural springs – sources of drinking water
- Generally town clean – except some pockets: hill behind Minute Mart/trailer park
- Toxic waste site
- Lots of forests/lakes/streams – Ashmetol River cleared up
- Mt. Monadnock – views
- Several farms – at 2 active
- Large lots
- Town does well with environment
- Town is very old/historic buildings

Group Response – Challenges:

- Development – ribbon, clusters
- Guidance for young
- Clean industry – promote new clean industry
- No camp site
- Water treatment system – open, should be closed system
- Preserve any land that becomes available
- By-pass
- Guiding the influx of tourism
- Publicize natural environment to people/tourists
- More trails
- Polluted water near Mill
- Waste dump clean up
- Preserve the dams
- Brown building near railroad bridge – remove
- More public recreation spots with picnic tables
- Trail around Sand Dam
- Fix quarry road triangle
- Troy welcome signs
- More volunteers for town clean-up
- Trash bins?
- Unregistered vehicles

- Troy Mills because it pollutes the whole town

(5th grade youth)

- Too many working lands and not enough natural places
- We are trying to cram too many buildings in a small town
- Troy Mills should be knocked down and something we could use and won't pollute anything
- Nobody works on Sand Dam
- Not enough farms
- Not enough trees
- Pollution
- Not many sites and views
- Hill is dangerous

Vision for the Future:

- Troy Mills filled with clean business
- Fix Sand Dam for better use
- Better recreation area – fences
- Improve view of Monadnock from downtown by removing carefully selected trees
- Remove ugly brown building near common
- Improve nature trails – railroad to Gap Mountain and Monadnock – maps, signs, boardwalks, etc.
- A new playground

(5th grade youth)

- Fixing up graveyards
- More natural places or a park
- Take better care of natural places
- Troy Mills should become a mall
- Environment. Plant more plants and take down some apartments
- If people could work together to fix our town
- If we could extend the common or move so it is not in the middle of the highway
- A mall
- A park
- More farms
- More veggies
- Better security on cemeteries
- Appreciate natural environment
- Clean up toxic waste site and trashy areas

(Youth group)

- Sand Dam Pond – swimming a concern – used to be much cleaner
- Prevent too much development
- Keep large lots
- No strip malls

- Town keep local flavor
- Town is positioned for growth – access to larger towns on main roads – attraction due to environment
- Would like to see controlled growth – town grow a little
- Preserve historic buildings
- Like the by-pass plans

Key Issues for Now and the Future

1. clean up Troy Mills complex and bring in clean industry
2. clean up hazardous waste dump
3. improve recreational activities: Sand Dam, nature trails, other trails
4. clean up and beautify both entrances to town village: Brown building, triangle
5. preserve the rural character of town

Priorities (Youth group)

Facilitator: Lauren Bressett

Recorder: Jack Munn

Spokesperson: Amanda Oerman

Participants: Andreas John, Isabel John, Emerald Levick, Amanda Oerman

The youth from their Friday night session reported out their top priorities, which were shared with the large group on Saturday morning as follows:

1. Recreation Center “could be a private business” –gym, swimming pool, facilities and activities like a YMCA
2. New high school facilities
3. Preserving small town character/feeling
4. More community activities/services that bring community together
5. More involvement – jobs for teens – at recreation/community centers/activities – “could be a private business”

Priorities (5th grade youth)

The 5th grade youth developed their priorities on a recent school day, which was shared with the large group on Saturday morning as follows:

1. Town pool
2. Bigger school
3. Cleaner Sand Dam
4. Mini animal rescue shelter
5. Bike path

Saturday Morning

Everyone reassembled bright and early Saturday morning at Troy 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 8 easels from the small groups of the night (including the 5th grade youth and the youth group meeting on Friday 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 each of the groups, explaining their group's list. 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 Troy . This list is presented below along with some of the related ideas that were mentioned.

Key Issues

1. Recreation
2. Environment
3. Preserving Rural Character
4. Education and Schools
5. Town Management
6. Economic Development

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

After a short mid-morning break, participants each chose which of the 6 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 aloud 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 Recreation

Facilitator: Carla Press

Recorder: Janis Carney

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Todd Bergeron, Anthony Leuch, Judy Hall, Nancy Doyle, Dorothy Olsen, Lorna Dingley

Possible Solutions:

- senior activities
- bingo on common
- band concerts
- town quilt
- hiking and biking activities
- senior recognition day
- pool/ping pong tables
- volleyball
- open gym
- place to play games with new people
- improve skate park
- roller skating night
- movie night on common
- Friday nights on common
- community theatre
- contra dances
- other dances

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- band concerts
- bingo on common
- dances – contra
- Friday nights on common
- family events

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

not noted

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- town pool

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

none noted

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- bike path, paved or dirt
- community theatre

Moderate Impact/ Low Feasibility

- roller skating night

Low Impact/High Feasibility

- town quilt

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none noted

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

none noted

Key Issue #2 Environment

Facilitator: Carla Press

Recorder: Janis Carney

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Todd Bergeron, Anthony Leuch, Judy Hall, Nancy Doyle, Dorothy Olsen, Lorna Dingley

Possible Solutions:

- clean up hazardous waste
- develop natural resources trails: motor and non-motor, different feelings about trail use
- Thoreau trail
- wildflower trails
- maps and brochures about trails
- newspaper articles in other towns re: trails and Troy
- birding: sanctuary
- protecting waterways
- window flower box competition
- Troy spring festival (blueberry)
- climb Mt. Monadnock day
- climb Gap Mt. day
- environment
- clean Sand Dam – litter
- Rhododendron State Park: trail to Cheese Cut and Big Rock
- more play equipment at Sand Dam
- better bathrooms at Sand Dam
- town historic signs
- Old Mill map
- tourist center
- stonewall trails
- encourage conservation easement
- animal shelter
- tree thinning across from common to increase view of mountains
- park area after tree thinning
- party at parking lot of Village Gathering Mall – utilize depot

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- tourist center at railroad depot
- thinning trees between common: Mill views, Troy needs mountain image
- encourage conservation easements
- window flower boxes competition
- flower festival – Blueberry festival

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none noted

High Impact/Low Feasibility

none noted

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- historic markers, signs, Old Mill maps
- brochures/maps on trails

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- climb Mt. Monadnock day
- national hike Mt. Monadnock festival

Moderate Impact/ Low Feasibility

none noted

Low Impact/High Feasibility

- bird watching
- trail – Thoreau walk
- more use of Rhondordon State Park – connection to rail trail
- newspaper articles on trails

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none noted

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

- trail to Cheese rock – big rock
- hold a block party at Mt. Monadnock parking lot

Key Issue # 3 Preserving Rural Character

Facilitator: Carla Press

Recorder: Janis Carney

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Todd Bergeron, Anthony Leuch, Judy Hall, Nancy Doyle, Dorothy Olsen, Lorna Dingley

Possible Solutions:

- old home days
- investigate zoning issues (sidewalks, cluster vs. sprawl, conservation development)
- welcome signs/clean up entrance to town
- eliminate new super sized billboard
- no mall at Mill
- enforcing current land use regulations
- encourage mom and pop businesses in keeping with NH character
- triangle near crematorium (plant garden)
- town clean up
- clean up raffle
- sidewalk repair and maintenance

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- enforcing regulations land use
- ice cream social with Friday night at common
- movies on the common
- raffle tickets to encourage clean up

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- zoning
- conservation development
- comprehensive community recreation center
- project hazardous waste awareness for town people – letter writing

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- sidewalk – repair existing

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- welcome to Troy sign

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none noted

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- improving sidewalks

Low Impact/High Feasibility

none noted

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- investigate/eliminate billboards (large)

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

- recreational activities at Sam Dam
- improve skate board park
- pool tables, ping pong, games, open gym, volleyball

Key Issue #4 Education and Schools

Facilitator: Lauren Bressett

Recorder: Nancy Bradford-Sisson

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Tom Britta, Rochelle Sokol, Karen Johnson, Don Upton, Al Giles, Darleen Uhler, Ralph Wentworth, Iver Olsen, Jeanne Drugg, Sharon Thomas

Potential Solutions:

- regional high school facility condition may lead to loss of accreditation
- blended middle/senior high
- lack of autonomy due to regional school
- town-based marketing for new school
- school annual meeting
- reach effective consensus about regional high school
- increase life-long learning opportunities across age spectrum
- continue and enhance community involvement with elementary school
- provide training opportunities for volunteers to provide life-long learning
- local forums to address regional high school - bring district officials to forum and work to get participation
- increase parental involvement with schools

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- regular periodic town forums for issue

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- address regional issues locally
- increase parental involvement

High Impact/Low Feasibility

none noted

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- parking lot – utilize public access, TV and www town item access

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- provide training to volunteers to promote life-long learning

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

none noted

Low Impact/High Feasibility

none noted

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none noted

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

none noted

Key Issue #5 Town Management

Facilitator: Lauren Bressett Recorder: Nancy Bradford-Sisson Spokesperson: not noted
Participants: Tom Britta, Rochelle Sokol, Karen Johnson, Don Upton, Al Giles, Darleen Uhlir, Ralph Wentworth, Iver Olsen, Jeanne Drugg, Sharon Thomas

Potential Solutions:

- update Master Plan
- town officials need to increase skills to run town correctly
- citizens need to be more informed of issues – e.g. open forums, pre-election newsletters
- too many demands of town officials (shared town manager)
- keep citizens involved in town meeting (advisory citizens committee – properly trained)
- increase coordination and teamwork among town officials and committees
- form committee for Master Plan
- locate and provide education for town officials (funded)/handling conflict in a positive way
- explore other town solutions
- recruit volunteers for town government
- publicize needs and roles for positions, e.g. job descriptions on town web site including skills needed and time involved
- informational meetings on volunteer and elected roles for citizens and information included in welcome packets about entry level roles
- regular periodic town forums for all issues
- utilize public access tv

Program Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- increase coordination between government agencies
- inform citizens regarding town needs and volunteer activities. Informational packets
- describe skills needed by town and time requirements, publish job descriptions and roles
- link up with all other NH towns to learn their solutions to problems
- study feasibility of shared town manager
- update Master Plan

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- seek help and education from state for town officials
- actively recruit new volunteers to town positions

High Impact/Low Feasibility

none noted

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

none noted

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none noted

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

none noted

Low Impact/High Feasibility

none noted

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none noted

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

none noted

Key Issue #6 Economic Development

Facilitator: Lauren Bressett

Recorder: Nancy Bradford-Sisson

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Tom Britta, Rochelle Sokol, Karen Johnson, Don Upton, Al Giles, Darleen Uhlir, Ralph Wentworth, Iver Olsen, Jeanne Drugg, Sharon Thomas

Potential Solutions:

- increase of two worker households leads to less capacity for citizen involvement
- develop business incubator for local trades and talents
- promoting Troy's assets to bring in businesses, tourism, and citizens, land available for industry development
- exploit Rt. 12 maintaining rural vision and plan for by-pass effect
- focus on aesthetics
- Troy needs to be a destination spot rather than a pass-through
- Troy Mills complex/complexities
- pay attention to aesthetics
- explore feasibility of hydro power at Troy Mills
- continue to update website
- town signage with accurate contact information
- develop town promotion

- renovate and convert buildings around common
- citizen involvement in decision-making process with Troy Mills - Charrette

Program Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- erect comprehensive welcome sign
- aesthetics
- updating website
- enlarge input into the outcome of Troy Mills facility

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- convert tenements to shops and small businesses

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- convert tenements to shops and small businesses

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

none noted

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none noted

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- exploit water power

Low Impact/High Feasibility

none noted

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

none noted

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

none noted

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. Nancy Adams 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 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.

#1 Preserving Rural Character

1. Encourage small businesses to settle in Troy (as opposed to chains), supporting and seeking “cottage” and “Mom and Pop” businesses **(16 votes)**
2. Welcome to Troy signs and put them at both sides of town **(4 votes)**
3. Clean up entrances to town: beautify the triangle near crematorium; buy and tear down brown building near common (by bridge) **(15 votes)**

#2 Recreation

1. Friday Night at the Common: ice cream social, band concerts, bingo on common, use bandstand, dances (contra and other types) and movies **(13 votes)**
2. Comprehensive community recreation center: improve skateboard park; pool tables, ping pong, games; and open gym with volleyball **(5 votes)**
3. Improve Sand Dam: recreational activities **(8 votes)**

#3 Environment

1. Celebration of town: town festivals, Thoreau walk, senior recognition day, blueberry/flower festival, Christmas trees on common, decoration on common, Old Home Day, Climb Mt. Monadnock, etc. **(14 votes)**
2. Town beautification: historic markers, trail maps, window boxes contest judged by seniors **(15 votes)**
3. Environmental: thinning trees between common and mills (view of Mt. Monadnock) with trails (Rhododendrum State Park, hiking and biking, publicity-maps, newspaper) **(1 votes)**
4. Congressional letter writing campaign re: Superfund site **(9 votes)**

#4 Schools and Education

1. Increase parental involvement **(1 vote)**
2. Regular periodic town forums for issues **(1 vote)**

3. Local forums to address Regional High School—bring district officials to forum and work to get participation **(8 votes)**

#5 Economic Development

1. Pay attention to aesthetics of town including beautification, signage with accurate contract information **(combined with Environment #2)**
2. Citizen involvement in decision-making process with Troy Mills—charette **(13 votes)**
3. Continue to update web site **(0 votes)**

#6 Town Management

1. Update Master Plan **(6 votes)**
2. Study feasibility of shared town manager **(21 votes)**
3. Connect with other towns to learn their solutions to problems **(5 votes)**

ACTION GROUPS

After the voting, the group decided to focus in on the top project from each group. These are listed below with their convener information and list of resource agencies/organizations as well as individuals to be invited to the follow-up meeting scheduled for June 23, 2003.

Study Feasibility of Town Management: Selectboard, outside consultant – Don Jutton, Town Employees, SW Regional Planning, Rindge, Department Heads (town offices), Jaffrey, Municipal Association, former Selectmen. **The convener: Don Upton 876-3626, fax 876-3624, donaldupton@msn.com**

Encourage Small Business to settle in Troy: Monadnock Economic Development, Rural Development, Small Business Development Administration, State Chamber of Commerce, Senator Tom Eaton’s office, owners of property, current small business owners, SW Regional Planning. **The convener: Evan John**

Town Beautification: Roads, people/highway department, Planning Board, veterans, garden club at school, town conservation committee, zoning board, nursery owners, owner of “Brown house”, senior citizens, UNH Cooperative Extension, youth, area garden clubs. **The convener: Carla Press – c.press@sau47.k12.nh.us and Nancy McGartland – rmcroth@cheshire.net**

Town Celebrations: Citizens of Troy, Monadnock Berries, Troy Conservation Committee, senior citizens, churches, local businesses for sponsorships, Heritage Commission, Inn at East Hill Farm, police and fire department, teachers, scouts, town newsletter, Historical Society. **The convener: Jeanne Drugg – hdr@cheshire.net**

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 Profile Steering Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 2PM.

APPENDIX

Community Profile Participants

Alexander Giles
Andreas John
Anthony Leuch
Bret Durfee
Carla Press
Curt Cardine
Darleen Uhler
Diana Belletete
Emerald Levick
Gary Sheldon
Jack Munn
Jeanne Drugg
Joan Epro
John Satis
Judy Hall
Judy Lepine
Marshall Adams
Ralph Heald
Robert Graham
Sue Oerman
Theresia Weber-John
William Covenor

Cindy Rodenhouser
Jan Firmin
Lorna Dingley
C.J. Hult
Dave Adams
Barbara LaPointe
Karen Johnson
Mike Cummings
Katherine Sandman
Victoria Hawkins
Dorothy Olsen
Marci Conant
Diane Kellner
Brian Shaughnessey
George Maattala
Isabel Venn
Peter Allen
Kenneth LaPointe
Steve Sawyer
Mandy Oerman
Dorrie Upton
Bev Wilkins

Peter Knieste
Ralph Wentworth
B. Lepine
Marcie Press
Sally Adams
Amy Wiley
Sam Johnson
Nancy Cummings
Nancy McGartland
Donald Upton
Iver Olsen
Janis Carney
Darcy Doyle
Tom Britton
Kacey Clarke
Sharon Thomas
Rochelle Sokol
Anna Tilton
Carol Jones
Chet Priest
Isabel John
Fenella Levick

Community Profile Facilitators and Recorders

Carla Press
Christine Parshall
Theresia Weber-John
CJ Hall

Janis Carney
Darlene Uhlir
Karen Johnson
Joan Epro

Valerie Britton
Nancy Bradford-Sisson
Marcia Press
Darcy Doyle

Community Profile Steering Committee

Evan John (co-chair)
Marcia Press
Glenn Shattler
Fenella Levick
Donald Upton
Cindy Satas
Bruce McCulley
Jo Prelas

Laura Kelsey (co-chair)
Marci Conant
Gary Sheldon
Ed Thomas
David Dahl
Christy McCulley
Bob Hall