

# Memorandum

**To:** Rollinsford-NROC meeting participants  
**From:** Amanda J. Lindley Stone, UNH Cooperative Extension  
**Subject:** Summary of April 18, 2006 NROC *Dealing with Growth in Rollinsford*  
Follow-up Discussion

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Dear Rollinsford-NROC participant,

Attached is a summary of the discussions held on April 18, 2006 after the NROC *Dealing with Growth in Rollinsford* presentation.

**Please review the summary prior to the next meeting, and bring it with you on May 2.**

Anyone who was not able to attend the April 18 meeting is very welcome to attend the next meeting on May 2, so encourage others to join us. Community participation is key to the success of the Rollinsford-NROC program. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

## **NEXT ROLLINSFORD-NROC FOLLOW-UP MEETING:**

**Tuesday May 2, 7-9pm**  
**Rollinsford Grade School - Gym**

### **Meeting purpose:**

- Narrow the list of priorities for NROC assistance to three
- Break into three groups (one for each priority) to start developing actions for each priority. Participants are free to join whichever group best reflects their interests.

### **Preparation:**

- Review the meeting items on the last page of this summary
- Bring this summary with you to the meeting

Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

*Amanda Stone*

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# **Natural Resources Outreach Coalition (NROC)**

## **SUMMARY OF THE MEETING HELD ON April 18, 2006**

### **TO FOLLOW UP THE ROLLINSFORD DEALING WITH GROWTH PRESENTATION**

**Present:** 25 Rollinsford Residents

*NROC Team: Amanda Stone, Phil Auger & Frank Mitchell (UNH Cooperative Extension), Julia Peterson (Sea Grant/Cooperative Extension), Steve Miller (Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve), Jodi Castallo (NH Estuaries Project) and Barbara Macmillan (NH Dept of Environmental Services).*

#### **1. Purpose & Expected Outcome of the Facilitated Discussion:**

The purpose of this meeting was to brainstorm and begin to prioritize “outcomes” - i.e. what the group would like to see happen to manage growth and protect natural resources.

#### **2. What do you love about Deerfield/What are you concerned about?**

Each person in the group introduced themselves, and responded to these two questions. Below is a summary of that input. The responses to these questions provided the context for later discussion of “outcomes”.

#### **Facilitators:**

**GROUP 1** - Frank Mitchell (UNH Cooperative Extension) and Cynthia Copeland (Strafford Regional Planning Commission)

**GROUP 2** - Julia Peterson (UNH Cooperative Extension) and Barbara Macmillan (NH Dept of Environmental Services)

**GROUP 3** - Phil Auger (UNH Cooperative Extension) and Steve Miller (Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve)

#### **What Do You Love About Rollinsford?**

##### **GROUP 1**

- Rural character in close proximity to seacoast
- It's a different town-decompress
- Drive to every town around and not see hidden little gem
- Tranquility-peaceful, quiet oasis
- Huge amount of habitat, wildlife (refuge)
- Possible to connect to past - imagine 100 – 200 years ago
- Everything above
- Sense of space

##### **GROUP 2**

- Communal feel
- History
- Visual beauty
- Country roads – trees – fields
- Smallness of the town

- Sense of community
- Everything one stop – history – town

### **GROUP 3**

- Its potential – natural & historic
- Open spaces
- Variety of human and natural resources
- History and scenic qualities
- School is a unique “pearl”

### **What are your Concerns about Rollinsford (Natural Resources and Growth)**

### **GROUP 1**

- Water resources (drinking water) knowing where aquifer/well head protection areas are is important
- Quality of water in town is not good (arsenic) (taste)
- Treatment of municipal water
- In last year, growth with rising land valuations – then land sold for subdivision
- Fiscal and monetary policies in relation to land use policies/planning efforts
- Need to move quickly in regards to market forces
- More residential (smaller homes impacted more than McMansions)
- Pressure on open space
- Gobbling up what makes Rollinsford itself
- Need design standards – protect view shed
- Pressure from outside
- Not being forward looking (develop guides for future)
- Losing rural character
- Need for mandatory conservation subdivision

### **GROUP 2**

- About shortsightedness – in town (how many came here tonight)
- All the new houses
- Destruction of viewscapes – due to growth
- Farmland destroyed w/new homes
- Growth coming up here from border, too much too fast.
- Growth and school capacity
- Communication between all residents.

### **GROUP 3**

- Not investing in infrastructure village aesthetics
- Age of landowners
- Keeping unfragmented lands – losing demographic diversity
- That development is done thoughtfully
- Loss of scenic quality and natural resources particularly wetlands
- Lack of enforcement

#### **4. Brainstorming Outcomes – What We Want:**

The next step for each group was to brainstorm a list of ideas for “outcomes” – what results you want to see happen – in the context of natural resources protection and managing the effects of growth. Each group then selected their top three priorities from the list of outcome ideas.

#### **GROUP 1**

**Facilitators: Frank Mitchell & Cynthia Copeland**

#### **What Results (Outcomes) Would You Like to See Happen through the NROC process?**

- (Hollis) Durham model of subdivision process
- Start w/basics first land conservation - early discussion about goals/solutions
- All parties present
- Rollinsford remains an oasis
- Assessment of water resources (evaluate well head protection, wells)
- Wetlands – evaluate values of wetlands in town
- Water district – search for wells – new sources
- Citizen involvement in decisions

#### **GROUP 1 PRIORITIES**

1. Use process like Durham and Hollis for required open space subdivision.
2. Water Resources Assessment
3. Evaluate wetlands
4. More water district involvement
  - commissioners
  - public

#### **GROUP 2**

**Facilitators: Julia Peterson & Barbara Macmillan**

#### **What Results (Outcomes) Would You Like to See Happen through the NROC process?**

- Concentrated business district
- More preserved open space
- Scoutland is permanently protected & Turcotte property is also
- More conserved open space through variable lot size
- Long term plan for the town
- Protected land w/community access
- Local agriculture (working farming) protected

#### **GROUP 2 PRIORITIES**

1. More preserved open space
2. Long term plan for the town
3. More conserved open space through variable lot size

### **GROUP 3**

**Facilitators: Phil Auger & Steve Miller**

#### **What Results (Outcomes) Would You Like to See Happen through the NROC process?**

- Preserve viewsheds
- Put effective enforcement into place
- More pedestrian friendly system within and beyond “Walmart corridor”
- Better transportation planning
- More land in conservation
- Protect water quality – scarce resource
- Lower property taxes
- Increased public outreach goal more public involvement
- Better zoning regulations

#### **GROUP 3 PRIORITIES**

1. Better zoning regulations
2. Enforce regulations
3. More land in conservation

**PLEASE REFER TO THE NEXT PAGE FOR PREPARATION STEPS  
FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

## **PREPARATION FOR THE May 2, 2006 MEETING**

Using the lists of top priorities identified by each group, NROC staff compiled a master list that combined similar ideas into the categories below. Note that there is no ranked order of priorities. At the May 2, 2006 meeting, the Rollinsford NROC participants will decide on the top three items that Rollinsford will work on with assistance from NROC staff over the next year.

### **Combined List of Priorities:**

- **Zoning and Subdivision Regulations**
  - Use process like Durham and Hollis for required open space subdivision.
  - More conserved open space through variable lot size
  - Better zoning regulations
  - Enforce regulations
  
- **Water Resources**
  - Water Resources Assessment
  - More water district involvement
    - commissioners
    - public
  
- **Evaluate wetlands**
  
- **Land Conservation**
  - More preserved open space
  - More land in conservation
  
- **Develop a long term plan for the town**

Once the top three priorities have been identified, the next item on the agenda for the **Tuesday May 2** meeting will be for participants to develop specific action items to address each of the top three outcomes prioritized by the group.

Participants will break into three action groups (one for each prioritized outcome), with each participant joining the group that reflects their primary interests. Each group will develop a list of action items for their topic area.

An NROC staff member with appropriate expertise will facilitate each group discussion. NROC staff will then incorporate these actions into a draft one-year work plan for community members to implement with NROC assistance.