

## **Strafford County Gap Session October 21, 2003**

### **What are the needs of NH residents, businesses and organizations and how important are they?**

- Planning for growth & development. Public awareness for conservation easements to keep large blocks of land for agriculture, open space, etc. [8 votes]
- Promote “buying locally”. Support local agriculture to protect open space. Incorporate nutrition for adults. (Educate adults to understand this connection and need.) [7 votes]
- Affordable health (dental) care (underinsured). [6 votes]
- Affordable housing. [5 votes]
- Expand public transportation. [4 votes]
- More quality childcare. [4 votes]
- Employment opportunities to support families with living wage. [4 votes]
- Change the system. [3 votes]
- Increase drug/alcohol treatment facilities –local. [2 votes]
- Address (high school) dropout rate. [2 votes]
- Affordable/available part-time child care. [1 vote]
- Youth-related family activities. [1 vote]
- Nutrition programs for adults. [1 vote]
- Parenting groups. Parent education in rural areas. [1 vote]
- Balancing housing growth with infrastructure needs – taxes. [1 vote]
- After-school/vacation enrichment; employ high school students/adults as mentors. [1 vote]
- Deal with overlapping agencies.
- Passing on family land - succession education.
- Activities for elderly – information, cultural, health, etc.
- Domestic violence – increase counseling options.
- Mental health counseling for underinsured.
- Directory of parenting resources (housing, substance abuse, etc.)

### **What should Extension do over the next two years and beyond to address these issues?**

#### **Public awareness/planning growth:**

(Public awareness for conservation easements to keep large blocks of land for agriculture, open space, etc. Planning for growth development.)

- Continue to work with people one-on-one. [6 votes]
- Draw big picture to bring issues together – connect the dots (interrelated issues in land use planning.) [4 votes]
- Explore more Phil Auger type positions. [2 votes]

- Share information with county & local planning boards (as well as regional planning boards.) [1 vote]
- Have people “in the field” (working hands-on with issues.) [1 vote]
- Extend what foresters do to non-forest lands.

### **Promote “buying locally”**

(Support local agriculture to protect open space – incorporate nutrition for adults. Educate adults to understand this connection and need.)

- Conduct nutrition programs in community for parents of young children. [4 votes]
- Incorporate as message into Extension work being done.
- Continue to explore Community Supported Agriculture (CSA).
- Marketing. (Support marketing efforts and strategies.)

### **Affordable Health Care**

Affordable health (dental) care (underinsured).

- Pull players together – currently very territorial. [4 votes]
- Educate on how to deal with the health care system [1 vote]
- Explore whether pro bono dental services are available & facilitate (opportunities).
- (Facilitate) health education for underinsured.

### **Affordable Housing**

- Develop skills needed for life skills – money management, etc. Continue work currently being done. [4 votes]
- Keep focused on the big picture (community planning and land usage.)

[7 votes didn’t see a clear role for Extension.]

### **What are the best ways for Extension to deliver educational programs and information?**

- Work with agencies to train staff.
- Telephone response.
- Newspaper – announcements and feature stories.
- Email response.
- Collaborate with agencies.
- Educate through schools/expand to parents.
- One-on one work.
- Stay in the field (hands-on, continue to do what we teach.)
- Continue “twilight” type meetings.
- Measure efforts/effectiveness.
- Train the trainer.
- Publicize through school newsletters.
- Connect to school websites.

- Links to other info sources – provide for field specialists. (Timely info, links & response.)
- Target communications to schools.
- Better marketing.
- Mission statement – prioritize areas – focus.
- Focus on big picture – integrating issues.
- Use a variety of methods.
- Focus groups – good idea.