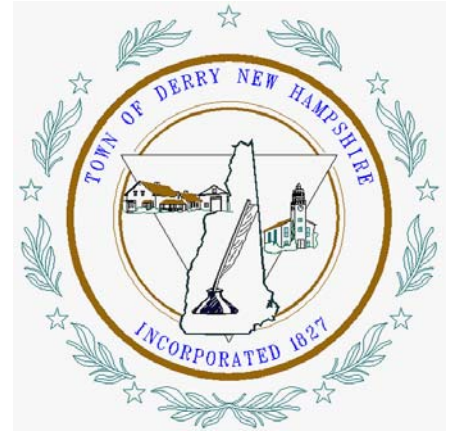




UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Derry Our Town-Our Future Community Profile Report

**Derry, New Hampshire
April 4, 2009**

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The Community Profile model was developed with the assistance of:

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University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension: *Jerry Howe*

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The Upper Valley: 2001 & Beyond Steering Committee Members: *Don Bourdon, Delia Clark, Ann Crow, Geoff Dates, Harrison Drinkwater, Charlotte Faulkner, Phil McLane-Bradley, Deecie McNelly, Walter Paine, Betty Porter, Bob Rosenblum, Barry Schuster, Mike Smith, and Vicki Smith* and with generous donation of time and expertise from: *Jackie Clement, Ed Delhagen, Susan Edsall, Maureen Hart, and Anne Peyton*

OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY PROFILES

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

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

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

Creating a Community Profile in Derry

The Our Town-Our Future Derry Community Profile was conducted as a result of the Planning Department's desire to update the town's Master Plan as well as enlist more citizen participation in the activities and needs of the community.

Small group facilitators and recorders:

Mastora Bakhiet, Charlie Zoeller, Rizalina Ababa, Amanda Landry, Gordon Graham, Bina Contreras, Maggie Maxwell, Dylan Kreis, Jack Dowd, Elizabeth Ives, George Klauber, Bethany Hobbs, Margie Ives, Jillian Harris, Nicole Ferrante, Marieka Buhlmann, Dan Reidy, Rick Alleva, Dave Nelson, Anna Baker, Claudia Boozer-Blasco

Town Support:

George Sioras (Community Development Director), Elizabeth Robidoux (Planning Clerk)

Steering Committee:

David Nelson (chair)

George Klauber (vice chair)

Jack Robillard (secretary)

Rick Metts

Neil Wetherbee

Cecile Cormier

Elizabeth Ives

Jack Dowd

Nicole Ferrante

Ken Gould

**UNH Cooperative Extension
Derry Community Profile
April 4, 2009
Agenda**

7:30 Sign-In & Dunkin' Donuts Breakfast

8:30 Welcome – Michele Gagne, UNH Cooperative Extension; Dave Nelson, Steering Committee Chair; and George Sioras, Community Development Director

- Overview of Community Profile process
- Who is here?

Mosaic and Vision

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

Historical Overview: Rick Holmes

- Where has Derry been?

9:15 Presentation of Community Profile components

- Effective Community Leadership
- Informed Citizen Participation
- Sense of Community
- Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals and Youth
- Lifelong Education and Learning
- Community Services, Facilities, and Utilities
- Recreation and Cultural Heritage
- Working Landscape and the Natural Environment
- Economic Vitality
- Growth and Development
- Transportation

9:30 Break/Move into small groups

9:45 Small group discussions of components

Random assignments to small groups, one component per group

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

11:00 Break

11:15 Small group reports

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

11:45 Lunch

12:30 Selection of key issues

1:15 Selection of small groups

1:30 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

3:00 Full Group: report back from small groups

3:15 Voting

- Which projects do you think we should move forward on?
- Which is the most important project for Derry right now?

4:00 Formal adjournment

Community Profile Saturday Morning

The Community Profile was conducted at West Running Brook Middle School on Saturday April 4, 2009. Approximately 150 citizens attended.

The event began on Saturday with a donuts, muffins and coffee donated by Dunkin Donuts. Michele Gagne from UNH Cooperative Extension, and David Nelson, Co-Chair of the Steering Committee, gave an overview of the profile process and an introduction to the goals for the day. The goal of the Profile 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. George Sioras, Derry's Community Development Director gave an overview of how the Profile will feed into the Master Plan.

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

THE MOSAIC - What is Derry like today?

- Rail trail needs paving
- No homeless shelter
- Great recycling program
- Spot zoning/miss matched zoning
- Very fragmented
- Lacking unique small businesses
- Younger on-average than rest of country
- No formal Senior Center
- Good community center for people to meet
- Where are the rest of the civic minded today
- Transient
- Biased to build new and not restore old
- Nice beach here – Galliens Beach
- Helpful volunteers
- Not ethnically diversified
- Lack of public transportation
- Lacking in teen centers
- Two great venues for performing arts
- Lots of traffic
- Undeveloped commercial opportunities
- Not enough industry
- Shrinking Main Street
- Inability to be self- sustaining
- Lack of continuity to physical appearance and structure
- Great Parks and Recreation Department
- Wonderful dog park
- Not exploiting excellent locations for business
- Political apathy

- Poetry center
- Excellent after-school clubs at schools
- Lots of churches
- Dog pound needs to be updated
- Argumentative
- Stagnant
- Overpopulated
- Underappreciated
- Beautiful
- Diversified
- Disengaged
- Littered
- Great recreation
- Tattoo parlors and pharmacies
- Good downtown restaurants
- Pedestrian unfriendly
- Over-taxed
- Still a bedroom community
- Not reaching its potential
- Unrestricted
- Great schools
- Educating children is the biggest business
- Full of collaborating agencies
- Historic gems
- Expensive schools
- Helpful social agencies
- Lacking in green space and environmental awareness
- Aging
- Good library
- Unfriendly to veterans
- Lots of high density housing
- Location, location, location - conveniently located
- Lack of parking near arts venues

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

- Emergency shelter in Derry
- Effective study of municipal efficiency
- Buy more local
- Approval of open space ordinance
- Attracting more business
- Revitalize downtown that is available
- Adding a college for lifelong learning
- Strengthening requirements for signage and maintaining appearance of buildings
- Better regional transportation
- Encourage and educate on recycling
- Town funds support the arts

- Businesses that people travel to work to come to Derry through tax incentives
- Supporting families and family life activities
- Protect Hall and conservation land behind it
- Better regulations on wetlands
- Approval of the conservation overlay district
- Community service to pick up litter
- State representatives take more active role in representing issues of Derry
- Develop E. Derry in recognition of Allen Shephard
- Keep Derry clean
- Bowling alley, skate park and teen center
- Expansion of sewer and water
- Truly public high school that supports special needs students
- Balance rural character with development
- Free downtown Wi-Fi
- Support green building
- Reduce taxes
- Town council more responsive to people's needs
- Improved communication in and out
- Farmer's and crafter's market
- Positive free youth program (local)
- Balanced development between East and West
- More cultural diversity
- Bicycle friendly transportation system
- Save historical buildings
- Create Derry as a destination for tourism
- Need for a hotel
- Ice rink or pool
- Expand library or create a satellite location
- Increased opportunities and participation in community activities
- Address drug problem through public education and policing
- End of spending money on Exit 4A
- Protect local water supply
- Alleviate traffic on Broadway
- Motivate and expand volunteerism
- Improve residential zoning to protect property values
- Livestock ordinance
- Preservation of open spaces and agricultural soils/lands
- Successful/ proactive strategy
- Need I – 93 widening
- Land acquisition for public purposes downtown
- Reduce residential speed limit to 30 MPH or less
- Converting East Broadway to a Historic District

The history of Derry, as narrated by Richard Holmes

The origin of the Town of Derry goes back to the ancient Kingdom of Scotland. There for a hundred generations, the ancestors of the founders of our Town were farmers, herdsman and weavers. There, from the misty Isle of Skye to the Port of Leigh, they struggled to survive on their small, rocky farms. In the 17th century the British put down a rebellion and confiscated much of Northern Ireland. This rich farm land - the Ulster Plantation - was offered to outsiders at very low rents. Soon thousands of Scots were sailing across the Irish Sea to claim this fertile land. With them they also brought to Ireland their Presbyterian faith and their Scottish culture. Our Town's ancestors settled around the Town of Aghadowey in County Londonderry. To history these people would become known as Ulster Scots or Scotch Irish.

For many years all went well. In 1689, the native Irish rose up to reclaim their land. For months thousands of Ulster men and women were under siege in the fortified City of Londonderry. There, they were forced to survive by eating dogs, cats and mice. Finally on the 105th day, 12 year old Jamie McGregor, on the cathedral tower, fired a signal canon. This let the imprisoned people know that he had just seen the British ships break through the barriers on the River Foyle. Soon those ships would be unloading barrels of food at the quay; the siege was over! McGregor would later go on to become the founder of our Town.

The years that followed were not all that good for the Ulster Scots. The King was threatening to sharply raise their land rents. Most of the Presbyterian Churches in Ulster were closed and given to Anglican pastors. The Scots weren't even allowed to serve as teachers for their own children, or to hold any public office. The British also turned over the collecting of taxes to brutal "tax farmers." In addition, the Presbyterians were required to pay a tithe of 10% of their income to the Church of England.

In 1718, a tiny Presbyterian congregation in Aghadowey decided that enough was enough; they would immigrate to the New World. These sixteen families, led by their Pastor Rev. James McGregor, boarded the good ship Robert and arrived in Boston on August 4, 1718. Here they found considerable hostility by the British colonists in Massachusetts. In time, however, they were able to secure a 100 square mile grant of land far into the northern wilderness. This uninhabited frontier land had previously been named Nutfield because of its many nut trees and wide expanse of marshy grasslands. On April 11, 1719, the sixteen families finally arrived at their new homes and knelt in prayer on the shores of Beaver Lake to thank God for giving them this land. Here they could raise their families, and live free from cultural, economic and religious oppression.

In 1722 they appealed to the royal government in Portsmouth to become a town. They threw off the old name of Nutfield and instead called their new town Londonderry - after their old home in Northern Ireland. This land included what is now the towns of Windham, Derry and Londonderry as well as portions of Salem, Manchester and Hudson. Here on their common field they planted what is claimed to be the first crop of potatoes in North America. To make money, almost every home had a patch of flax growing in their yards. From every house could be heard the sounds of looms making cloth. Their linen was sold all over New England. Even George Washington and Thomas Jefferson wore clothes made from Londonderry Linen. Soon however, weavers from other towns were making linen of inferior quality and claiming it was real, honest-to-goodness Londonderry Linen. To prevent their cloth from hurting the reputation of our weavers, the Town meeting in 1748 required that all locally made

linen be marked with our Town's name. Londonderry Linen is claimed to be the first trade-marked product in America.

During the Revolutionary War, the overwhelming majority of the townsfolk were decidedly on the side of the patriot cause. Men from our Town served first at Bunker Hill and continued on bravely to the end of the war at Yorktown. Matthew Thornton - from what is now Derry Village - was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. General John Stark who latter said "Live Free Or Die" was born here, as was General George Reid who served longer than any other Patriot leader except one - his best friend General George Dearborn who had enlisted one day earlier. There were a few from our town who remained loyal to the king. Foremost of these Tories was Colonel Stephen Holland who, while serving as our selectmen, was actually a major British spy.

During the years since 1719, our men and women have fought in a dozen wars. From the time of the French and Indian War, the Civil War and onto the current conflicts against terrorism, our sons and daughters have fought bravely and with pride. Too many of these warriors did not survive to return to Derry and grow old surrounded by friends and family in their hometown. The names of these Derry heroes are inscribed on a war memorial in East Derry and at the McGregor Park in West Derry.

Throughout the 18th century, pieces of the original Nutfield grant broke away to form separate towns. In 1825-1827 there were efforts made to separate the remaining area into 2 separate towns. There was considerable agitation both for and against the split. Finally, after much political rancor and ill will, the division was approved by the state government and signed into law on July 2, 1827. A new town was born which took the name of Derry - the original name of Londonderry in Northern Ireland which means a hill covered with oak trees.

The town maintained an agriculture-based economy until 1870 when Colonel William Pillsbury began shoe factories in the Broadway section of Town. Prior to Pillsbury, that part of Derry was home to a single store, a hotel, a lumber mill, 5 houses and a railroad depot. As the decades passed, Broadway began a remarkable growth because of the booming shoe factories. Soon the streets in western Derry were lined with new stores, churches and houses. Trolley lines were built to connect Derry to Manchester and Chester. One of our shoe factories claimed to be the longest wooden building in the country! The H.P. Hood Co. manufactured all of their butter from their Broadway creamery and rushed it daily to Boston - only an hour away by train. Each year millions of shoes were manufactured in Derry and shipped to 5 continents. By 1900 three-quarters of the Town's population lived and worked within walking distance of Broadway.

During the early 20th century, the shoe industry began to move to the southern states and the Hood Company moved its operations to Massachusetts. In 1960, the last of our Broadway shoe factories was destroyed in a fire. More and more of our working men and women were now forced to drive to Manchester or to Massachusetts to find employment. A few of our local stores and apartment buildings actually closed and were boarded up. The population of Derry from 1900 to 1960 remained relatively unchanged as too many of our young people decided against remaining in Derry. They saw their futures lying in other towns. We were defiantly a part of the North-East Coast rust belt. Derry was commonly perceived to be a town in decline with its best days behind it.

All this would change in July 1963 when Interstate Highway I-93 opened. Within a decade, our population doubled, and in 20 years it tripled. Derry's population now is about 5 times larger then it was in 1963. With this increased population and prosperity came both problems and opportunities. Our former fields and forests were quickly turned into housing developments. The land that was once was

pasture to a thousand cows is now the home to hundreds of apartment units. Once all of our shopping was done in the small stores on Broadway; now the many malls of Derry supply the needs and wants of our citizens. Each year more and more of our citizens find employment within the industrial parks of Derry. Once our children were educated in one of a dozen primitive one-room school houses; now our youth attend large, well appointed modern schools with state-of-the-art technology in every classroom. Pinkerton Academy, our Town's high school, is the largest such school in America.

For nearly 300 years we have been a town and a community. During those years, hundreds of thousands of hard working men and women have called Derry home. We have also been home to many remarkable men and women who have gained national reputation. Among those that have not been previously mentioned are: Mary Lyon, a pioneer in the education of women; Robert Frost, America's favorite poet; Buddy Stewart, a pioneer of jazz; Robert Rogers, a military innovator; Alan B. Shepard, America's first man in space; George "Lefty" Tyler, the star pitcher with the "Miracle Braves" of 1916; Samantha Brown, the star of many travel television shows; and Trish Dunn-Luoma, a multi-medal winning Olympian.

THE ELEVEN COMPONENTS

After we developed a mosaic and vision for Derry and digested some of the history, Michele Gagne introduced us to the idea of discussing Derry within the framework of 11 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

- Effective Community Leadership
- Informed Citizen Participation
- Sense of Community

Community Infrastructure

- Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals and Youth
- Lifelong Education and Learning
- Community Services, Facilities and Utilities
- Recreation and Cultural Heritage

Environment

- Working Landscape and the Natural Environment

Economy

- Economic Vitality
- Growth and Development
- Transportation

Next, 11 small groups were randomly formed, one group for each of the components. The small groups adjourned to various rooms where community trained facilitators led the groups in their discussions and recorders made notes on large tablets. Each group considered the definition of their component and examined the statements to be considered for their component to begin the discussion. Participants were asked to list the strengths of Derry as they saw them, and then to list its concerns. Next the groups gave some thought to the problems and issues they thought were important to the town's future. Finally, each group was asked to identify five key issues that need to be addressed by the town. These were brought back to the whole group and highlighted in three-minute summations presented by a member of each small group before lunch.

1. Effective Community Leadership

Facilitator: Rizalina Ababa Recorder: Charlie Zoeller Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Ann Anderson, Maria McKenna, Kimberly Bavaro, John Meyer, Neil Wetherbee, Erich Whitney, Kevin Stefanilo, Darrell Park, Bill Fortier, Faye Fortier

Statement of Purpose:

Healthy communities have, and develop, public leaders who work together to enhance the long-term future of the community. Community leadership must be responsive, honest, efficient, enlightened, fair and accountable. It should have the ability to bring the community together to participate in open, neutral dialogue on important issues.

Leaders should be representative of their community and be able to envision an economically secure, environmentally sound and social viable future. Leaders should understand the challenges facing the community and be able to take advantage of opportunities within the community and in cooperation with neighboring ones. Leadership should empower community members to assist in resolving community issues.

Statements a community should consider:

- Our leadership actively recruits, trains and empowers new leaders.
- Leadership represents diverse community interest (age and gender groups, length of time they have resided in the community, culture, etc).
- Community leadership demonstrates knowledge, accountability, professionalism, innovation and is results-oriented.
- Leaders involve local citizens in identifying community goals and resolving community issues.
- Leadership seeks out opportunities to exchange information with citizens about community issues.
- Community leadership is proactive, dealing with critical issues before they become crises.
- Leaders demonstrate long-range (20+ years) thinking. They understand the impacts of their actions on the long term health and vitality of the community.
- Leaders share the responsibilities of the community with its members and empower others to help find solutions.
- Leaders are willing to consider and use creative methods for addressing challenges, and look for regional solutions where appropriate.
- Leaders discuss issues with other leaders in the region.

Group Response – Strengths:

- Diversity of ideas
- Experienced leaders
- Caring leaders
- Passion
- Concern for youth involvement
- Instinctual fortitude/tolerance in facing lots of contention
- Maintain focus
- Wide spectrum of qualified volunteer leaders

Group Response – Challenges:

- Not enough support for maintaining the old – too much emphasis on starting new
- Executing successful economic development consistent w/ Derry's assets and location
- Not enough pro-active vision and planning, stop being mostly reactive (railroad, I-93)
- Requires community consensus
- Elected leaders need to reserve time and energy for long-term needs/vision – not spend all time on immediate and minute
- Communication/coordinating efforts – i.e. Interfaith group, Episcopal church and Temple, rotary clubs
- Vision of leaders – progress
- More open-minded
- Balance economic development and small town feel or become city? More diverse or stay rural?
- Identity of Derry? 1 or 2 – Can we be 1?
- Can we go forward until we are 1?
- Perception – West Derry is the ugly and neglected stepsister?
- Voter apathy

Vision for the Future:

- Involvement of more young adults (20's, 30's)
- Develop clear community vision
- Improve forum, leadership council communication among community leaders (political, non-profit, business)
- Town council offer alternative times, venues, workshops
- Elected leaders more responsive to community needs rather than vocal (special interests, minority)

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Identify broad community vision and issues – identity crisis
2. Develop effective ways to engage community members thru communication strategies
3. Pro-activity → Vision
4. Leadership Council/Forum (political, non-profit, businesses)
5. Balancing need for economic development w/ small town-ness

2. Informed Citizen Participation

Facilitator: Elizabeth Ives

Recorder: George Klauber

Spokesperson: Mark Connors

Participants: Janice DelPozzo, Denyce Ellis, Corrine Safron, James Webb, Michelle Keaney, Maureen Heard, Mark Connors, Marianne Page, Barbara McCarthy

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. The increasing complexity of municipal operations is limiting the ability of government to meet community needs, escalating the importance of active citizen involvement and volunteerism.

All sectors within a community – private, public and nonprofit-must each take responsibility for the community's civic education and exchange information with the public. All citizens need to develop knowledge and skills to contribute to community life. Shared problem solving and planning for the future as a community increase local pride and commitment.

Statements a community should consider:

- Citizens know how the system works and it is easy for newcomers to learn how to get involved in the community.
- People find out easily what is going on in the community.
- We have a _____ level of volunteerism and philanthropy in the community.
- Civic education efforts involve the entire community.
- Schools, churches, youth and civic groups provide citizen education and promote community service.
- Citizens are actively recruited and involved in major projects.
- Citizens volunteer to serve on local boards and committees.
- Participation is proactive instead of reactive, facing community issues before they become crises.
- Civic organizations and local businesses actively contribute to community functions.
- Citizens have the information they need to make good decisions.
- There is both adequate and balanced media coverage of local events and issues.
- Local communities and boards communicate well with each other, the public and with boards and committees throughout the region.
- Local citizens are actively involved in civic and business organizations and clubs that involve interaction with residents of neighboring communities.

Group Response – Strengths:

- Derry CATV
- Emergency communication
- Nutfield News – good (free)
- New website!
- SE Human Service Council (agencies)
- Derry News
- Community Center use of bulletin board

- Flashing dot signs
- Derry Mom's club
- Clubs do service in community (Rotary, Scouts, lots of groups)
- Schools send info home
- Library – bulleting board
- Town Hall – bulletin board
- Level of volunteerism
- Pinkerton gets students involved
- Pinkerton gets organizations involved
- Parks and Recreation gets people involved
- The more people participate the more they get involved
- Derry Fest
- Veterans organization gets people involved

Group Response – Challenges:

- Voter apathy = lack of volunteerism
- Derry is a bedroom community
- How do we let people know “what’s in it for them” to get involved?
- We need to get recognition for people
- People do not know how to get involved to what they do where do they go to get involved
- Educate people that they can get involved w/o it becoming a long-term commitment
- How to work through bringing change about – how do you facilitate a change
- Overcoming projects
- Lack of funds to complete project
- Town leaders – negativity and argumentative
- People are concerned about getting involved/acceptable public meetings
- Get people out to vote
- The same people get involved in most volunteering in community
- Rental properties – not “Roots” to community
- Limit growth/rental property
- No incentives to get people involved
- Elected people must do more outreach
- Politics Rule – local elected people do not outreach to citizens or groups
- Finding out about volunteering activities
- People do not know about local TV
- No local “Welcoming Info”
- Disjointed info on all
- “Central Clearing House” for all groups
- When people get involved and there is no follow through and support by town or citizenry

Vision for the Future:

- Adapt and USE the Town Master Plan
- Plan what the town does using the Master Plan as a guide
- Centralized info some way to use what we have to communicate to the public
- Better participation and involve citizenry to have public meetings be more welcoming and inclusive
- Citizens empowered to have a stake in their community

- Show results – why and what is the outcome. Build enthusiasm.
- Consistent outreach to public
- Give citizens reason to have a stake in community – foster this

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Communication – to the public regarding opportunities to contribute, general town info, decisions by elected people, events, organizations
2. Involvement by citizenry and elected officials a stake in their community
3. Have a Master Plan, accept it, use it. “Our Master Plan” is our contract with the government. Make it a living document.
4. Apathy – people don’t or will not get involved
5. Get people involved early when they move into town (Renters vs. Owners) secondary taxpayers vs. tax payers

3. Sense of Community

Facilitator: Marieka Buhlmann Recorder: Dan Reidy Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Maria LeBel, Ed Muller, Glenn Villiard, Kelly Mahoney, John O'Connor, Lori Dunkerley, Ray Fontaine, Leona McNeill, Jennifer Books

Statement of Purpose:

A sense of community is an intangible yet vital component of a healthy community. It encompasses elements such as image, spirit, character and pride, along with processes such as communication, inter-group relations and networking.

A community is made up of different people with different interests, experiences and backgrounds. These characteristics may divide a community into natural groups but there must be cooperation among them if the community is to work well as a unit. 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.

Villages, towns, and cities with a sense of community include those wherein all members: contribute to and hold a common vision for the future; respect and celebrate their heritage, diversity, and resources; share information, and; develop and sustain an abundance of social networks and relationships.

Statements a community should consider:

- There is adequate communication among diverse groups in the community such as natives/newcomers, summer/year round residents, young parents/retirees, as well as business community, commuters, etc.
- Groups like the above are involved in identifying community goals and in resolving community issues.
- The community's heritage is celebrated regularly.
- There is a common vision for our community among members.
- Community members often put aside their differences to work for the common good of the community.
- All groups know how to become involved in the community.
- Formal and informal forums exist for sharing ideas and resolving public issues.
- Collective decisions which represent broad input are reached and implemented.
- The self image of the community is a positive one.
- Social and cultural diversity are celebrated in the community.
- Local government is inclusive of all groups in its long-term planning and visioning efforts.
- Community members are proud of the community's character.

Group Response – Strengths:

- Volunteer groups
- Downtown is there
- Little League –parade, serious and fun
- Parks and Recreation Dept

- Swimming lessons, kids activities for all age groups –great programs
- Eastman Building
- Concerts –something every weekend brings everyone together
- Website, Nutfield News
- Community Gardens and Community Center
- Adams Memorial Opera House
- Schools are a resource for information
- Frost festival
- Parades
- Derry Fest
- Girls and Boy Scouts (community service, spaghetti suppers)
- Church suppers
- Library services
- Christmas Polar Express
- Seasons, New England, Historical, Maple Sugaring, Trick or Treat, 4th of July
- Derry beaches, Beaver Lake
- Stockbridge Theatre
- Reverse 911 for emergencies for land lines
- Community for Better Derry Association of Derry Taxpayers
- Social/service organizations
- Welcome Home monument
- Derry Clean up – community-wide

Group Response – Challenges:

- Trash pick-up – No trash on streets
- Taxes – high
- Getting pride for the community
- Government structure fractures town
- Divide between East Derry and Derry – need to work as a single town
- Neglect of conservation land – preservation of green space
- Single family homes vs multi and lack of a stake – yet renters here today too
- Customer service lacking from some municipal departments
- Communicate effectively to get word out for what people find important – different people motivated in different ways – two way street
- Bedroom community
- Promote local business, products, crafts, farmers markets
- Downtown – better looking and consistent
- Local merchants don't like postings in their stores
- Bring businesses into town
- Negative stories and editorials need to respect each other - value differences
- Lack of attendance at town council meetings
- Community volunteerism, getting involved
- Battling “nothing will change – so why get involved?”
- People are busy
- Commuter town/bedroom community
- No environmental organization – educational
- Closing the MET
- No/limited funding for culture

Vision for the Future:

- Better communication
- Bulletin board
- Use schools
- Can use website
- Cable 17 – bulletin board
- Multiple methods necessary
- Unified message
- E-mail sign ups
- Something @ car registration
- Road-side clean up teams
- Fund/grants for historic preservation and conservation lands and enforcements
- Knowing what needs to be done so people can help
- Canvas neighborhoods to promote and seek volunteers
- Farmers Market w/crafts, etc. downtown to get people downtown – people like fresh, locally grown produce, etc.
- Open Space in West Derry
- Pocket parks – but not just downtown
- Cluster housing- keeping housing close to preserve land
- Re – evaluate zoning
- Tax incentive for downtown businesses to do façade improvements: good for economic development
- Community Garden: Broadway Farm (knowledge about, appearance, access)
- Funding

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Communication, inclusive, community
2. Open space
3. Respectful dialogue that is inclusive
 - More opportunities
 - Leaders and residents and organizations
4. Community/Farmer's Market – community bulletin board
5. Community Pride
 - Trash pick-up
 - Identity
 - Historical Sites
 - Unity

4. Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals and Youth

Facilitator: Bina Contreras Recorder: Maggie Maxwell

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Robert Gorham, Erika Mahon, Donna Villiard, Gordon Krantz, Caroline McNamara, Chris Peterson, Craig Bulkley, Paul McKenna, George Fodor, Paul Doolittle, Ed Reimitis

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 sector.

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 member.

Statements a community should consider:

- There are _____ local and/or regional programs available addressing the social issues of our youth, teens, seniors, parents and families.
- The health and social services are accessible, adequate and provided in an equitable manner.
- The three sectors 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:

- The Upper Room – for at risk teens
- Excellent school system – Pinkerton Academy
- Very well educated population
- Active/diverse Parks and Receptions
- Boys & Girls Club – after school programs (basketball, healthy living) healthy kids
- Excellent scouting programs
- The Garrish Ctr – Community Ctr. Meals on Wheels
- Diversified youth population
- EMS
- Humane Society – foster animals, food
- Familiar faces

- Excellent selection of churches
- CATS – Teen Safety Prevention (driving, suicide)
- Community working on Senior Center
- Safe community
- Programs through Parks and Recreation (for seniors)
- Good nursing home facility
- Good senior housing
- Healthy Adult Ed. Program
- Hospice Services – Service Link
- Community Caregivers
- Youth health ed. – elementary area
- Helpful neighbors
- Derry Track Club
- Parkland Hospital (Classes, Health Fair)
- Natural Resources – trails
- Relay for Life
- Active rotaries – E.D.V.I.S.
- Summer concerts
- Derry Police Department (counseling, family support services, school presence, responsive)
- Opera House & Theatre

Group Response – Challenges:

- C-A-R-T hours not always convenient
- Transportation program expensive
- Families not qualified for other transportation programs have very limited access to transportation services
- Encouraging older people to stay in Derry
- High tax rate
- Lack of a teen center
- Lack of parental education or education not reaching right population demographically, physically inaccessible programs don't meet family needs
- Working to build community isolation
- Bowling Alley – useful for all ages
- Need more community bike trails
- Bedroom community – lack of connection
- Communicate strengths so they are used
- Promoting healthy lifestyles
- More social events for all community members
- Pooling resources & services more holistically
- Rate of foreclosures
- More support groups
- Commuter/community separation

Vision for the Future:

- Huge senior center/ pre-senior program (evening activities, transportation, open longer hours)
- Teen center: Bowling Alley, pool, paved bike path – everywhere, ice rink, skate park
- Library twice size of current one open 24/7
- East Derry library – children's library

- Better website
- Working farmers market
- Friendship center moved out of downtown
- Pet store
- Expand the Upper Room – neighborhood gathering
- High speed rail – Boston → Derry: improve quality of life
- Recognize sub-abuse and bring in services

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Community Campus – Elders & Teen Center
2. Transportation
3. Money/tax structure. Attract commercial/industrial enterprise
 - More family oriented attraction/ make Derry more multi-functional
 - Acknowledge challenges we face
4. Availability of social services
5. Neighborhood development

5. Lifelong Education and Learning

Facilitator: Bethany Hobbs

Recorder: John Dowd

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Nancy Barbour, Mary Ellen Hannon, Patricia Hutchins, Susan Kopetz, Jean Roalsvig, Sandy Shapiro, Jona Bostwick, Paula Frank, Brad Ek

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 education provide local business with a pool of trained employees. Other formal and informal learning opportunities allow community members to discover hidden talents and develop an array of interests and skills. Lifelong learning allows citizens to manage their lives more effectively in a changing economy and to participate in increasingly complex municipal operations with greater knowledge and skill.

Statements a community should consider:

- Educational opportunities are easily accessible and provided equitably.
- Lifelong educational opportunities, including formal and informal academic, vocational, artistic, and spiritual meet the community's needs.
- School planning is forward thinking and is open to regional solutions.
- There is a plentiful pool of skilled labor for local businesses to draw from.
- The level and quality of adult literacy programming in the community is _____.
- The public school facilities adequately meet community members' needs.
- There is a (n) _____ level of quality preschool and daycare opportunities in the community.
- There is good communication and cooperation between the municipal government and the local public school board.
- Local and regional employers actively support and are involved in the local K-12 public schools.
- The community supports and values high quality K-12 public school education.
- There is a support network for community members who home-school their children.

Group Response-Strengths:

- Existing Adult Learning program – diverse course offering
- Libraries
- Strong curriculum at Pinkerton
- Parkland – CERT
- State education programs – Fish/Game
- Town recreation programs
- Boys/Girls Club
- After school programs
- Accessibility to school programs

- Free GED program
- Partnerships w/education
- Vocational Coop
- Community support for schools
- Upper Room

Group Response-Challenges:

- Lack of time
- Access to technology
- Promotion
- Transportation
- Funding
- Mac/PC (access)
- Working parents – commuting
- Lack of central meeting location
- Not ethnically diverse – lack of awareness/education
- Class division

Vision for the Future:

- Central facility
 - Teen/Senior
 - Dance Hall Recreation Center
- Town wide transportation
- Tax credit for volunteers
- Partnerships w/local businesses
- Mentoring
- Local Community College
- Computer lab in Library
- Unlimited pool of teachers

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Transportation (for after school programs and involvement of youth with working parents)
2. Facility (central location)
3. Resources – computer lab
4. Curriculum
 - Funding
 - Strong adult education
 - Training around diversity/ethnicity/awareness raising for socio-economic class issues
5. Libraries (consolidation)

6. Community Services, Facilities and Utilities

Facilitator: Mastora Bakhiet Recorder: Maggie Maxwell Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Lee Maloney, Beth Morris, Mary Eisner, Albert Dimmock, Frances Rose Gage, Leigh Hernandez, Christine Irvin, Janet Conroy, Nancy Ek

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.

Statements a community should consider:

- Public facilities and services such as _____ are needed in our community.
- The community's road system is adequate and well-maintained. The use of traffic controls (signs, lights, speed limits, police, etc.) is well planned and coordinated.
- Our public water source is protected.
- Our community does a great job of reducing, recycling, and disposing of its wastes.
- The town has a plan for financing the maintenance, expansion and replacement of its public facilities.
- The community is open to regional solutions for future infrastructure needs.
- Public buildings such as schools and town offices are adequate for our needs.
- Our public buildings are accessible to people with disabilities and are energy efficient.
- The community is easy to travel around by foot and bicycle.

Group Response – Strengths:

- Those that volunteer such as cleaning roads – Girl/Boy Scouts
- Volunteers on our PB, Zoning, Heritage Commission
- MGCC
- Good, expanded water system (Lake Massabesic)
- Good schools
- Private community wells
- Excellent highway department
- Recycling center
- Parks and Recreation
- Sewage systems
- Water and sewer paid by users
- Libraries – interlibrary @ Mills
- Executive Conservation Commission - open space/zoning
- Meals on wheels
- CART transportation
- Hospital
- Churches – and all that they do

- Public safety: ambulance, fire, police
- Community Health Services – CHS
- -Community Caregivers and the Upper Room
- Parkland – senior group, outreach w/education programs
- Beautiful arts facility - Opera House, Adams Memorial Opera House
- Pinkerton Academy
- Forest Hills Cemetery – historic section
- Location next to Rt. 93
- History Museum
- Chamber of Commerce

Group Response – Challenges:

- Need to get people civically involved: volunteers, voting, running for office
- Lack of communication i.e. town paper updates – improve communication
- Notify people about CH 17 – about its updates on the town
- Encouraging people to become involved
- Challenge for people to meet our taxes
- Maintain Derry character while recognizing growth: the balance
- Bring up Veterans benefits to \$500 point
- Traffic gridlock particularly downtown Derry
- Housing for homeless
- Downtown parking
- Stinky water
- How do we keep Derry affordable for the elderly?
- Special Education
- Activities for teens
- A formal Senior Center
- Keep water pure, keep air clean, environmental safety, salted roads
- Updated dog pound
- Public transportation
- Sidewalk conditions i.e. West Broadway and no sidewalks (North Side)
- Litter – trash bags, Give a Hoot Don't Pollute
- Care for elderly during emergencies

Vision for the Future:

- Improve, expand sewer and water systems
- Expand bike path
- Unique businesses
- Linking our historical sites so we become a destination
- Senior and Teen Centers a reality
- Parking next to Adams Memorial Opera House
- Make Derry walker friendly with more sidewalks
- Bigger dog pound
- Fixed, improved public transportation linking key areas
- Use existing buildings instead of building new – ex. Floyd School
- Annual opinion survey by Town Council
- Homestead exemption for elderly to state review

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Keep seniors here – taxes, emergencies, services, transportation
2. Community involvement – communication, voting
3. Pedestrian friendly –sidewalk maintenance, expansion, parking – sidewalks in all planning buildings
4. Plan for expansion i.e. water, sewer, traffic control
5. Maintain character/balance growth
6. Look at seniors, teens, homeless and low income families

7. Recreation and Cultural Heritage

Facilitator: Jill Harris

Recorder: Nicole Ferrante

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Betsy Burtis, Rebecca Morris, Eleanor Strang, Luis Hernandez, Greg Woychik, Mary Till, Charles Stewart, John Gleason, Marion Willis

Statement of Purpose:

Recreation and cultural activities nurture the body and soul of a community – individual and team sports, outdoor activities, arts, crafts, music, dance, theater, holidays, festivals and celebrations. Recreational opportunities allow community members to experience and appreciate the community’s diversity of natural and human resources. Cultural activities reflect and build a community’s positive sense of itself and strengthen the fabric of social interactions within the community.

Statements a community should consider:

- Our community celebrates itself in many different ways, including _____.
- There is a wide array of recreational opportunities available to community members.
- There are special cultural centers, events and festivals within the community.
- There is a high level of awareness about and accessibility to available recreational opportunities.
- Our cultural events bring together and celebrate the community’s diverse population.
- Many of the recreational opportunities allow community members to experience the community’s natural resources.
- The community preserves and enhances what is special and unique about its cultural heritage.
- Children, youth and seniors are encouraged to participate in cultural events.
- Citizens are part of larger regional cultural events.

Group Response – Strengths:

- Teamwork
- Two art venues “Performing”
- Robert Frost Farm
- Historic District
- Attempts for programs
- Playground & venues
- Library & free programs
- Active rail trail in development
- Summer music series
- Events
- Beaches & Lake, Hood Park/Pond, Galliens Beach
- Community center
- Diversity of religious and spiritual
- History Museum
- East Derry Church
- Forrest Hills Cemetery
- Available historic resources, houses, buildings
- Parks and Recreation

- Veterans Hall
- Pinkerton Academy
- Thanksgiving Parade
- Rich cultural heritage & center of Southern NH
- Trails and conservation land
- Hood Farm & Golf Course
- Upper Room
- Boys & Girls club
- Many town parks
- Senior Center in development
- Generational diversity
- Holiday Parades
- Derry Fest
- Frost Festival
- Sports programs for all ages
- Volunteers

Group Response – Challenges:

- Lack of downtown parking for events
- High turnover rate for business & events “need support”
- Lack of community vision that includes support for recreation and cultural heritage
- Property acquisition for Library and downtown parking
- More parking for cultural events and commercial property
- Marketing for public lots “parking” more signage and visibility and safety
- Handicap accessibility for disabled and elderly in general
- Need an indoor space for large meeting rooms and community center
- Multipurpose space
- More funding for recreation events/community programs outside of school for youth
- Lack of big “public” venue downtown in Derry
- Existing performing centers; too small or lack of a convenient location
- Need financial support for cultural and museum projects
- Need an accurate map of Derry
- Functioning Chamber of Commerce – location, vision
- Better marketing and public awareness by the Chamber about facilities, programs and hours
- People don’t have time to volunteer/need of volunteers because of commuters – “bedroom community”
- Better 4th of July celebration w/music @ McGregor Park during the day leading up to fireworks
- Need more community cohesion to attract residents to events
- Need overall community pride
- Need to publicize accomplishments, better public relations, heritage/advantages – emphasize the positives
- Prioritize recreation and cultural heritage to create a better sense of community

Vision for the Future:

- Use Pinkerton as a platform for resources
- Develop relationships between leaders
- Location/facility that accommodates big venues (site for fireworks and big events)

- Expand additional parking facilities downtown to accommodate events (safe parking, publicize)
- Center for Lifelong Learning
- Need to “build” Senior Center
- Finish rail trail
- Town pool and skating rink

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Parking – safe, publicized, accessible, ample for the downtown area; community events, recreational events – “Doesn’t take away from area”
2. Stronger commitment and clearer vision of cultural heritage and recreation resources
3. Develop, market, and promote additional and existing recreational cultural resources and events
4. Repair/maintain/replace – facilities for recreation, cultural needs
 - Vets Hall
 - Upper Village Hall
 - Others
5. Large multipurpose public venue in an accessible location for community events

8. Working Landscape and the Natural Environment

Facilitator: Anna Baker Recorder: Claudia Boozer-Blasco Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Dan Allen, John Burtis, Mary Joe Dalton, Paul Dionne, Caitlin O'Neil, Denise Walderich, Elizabeth Cary, Leigh Hutchinson, Steve Palmer, Selma Gould

Statement of Purpose:

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

Statements a community should consider:

- The community has recently inventoried its natural base.
- There is broad community interest and participation in protecting key natural resource and historical assets.
- Steps have been taken to provide long-term land protection to assure functioning natural resource systems.
- The local economy and population are putting stress on those natural resource systems.
- There are ways to increase the resilience of the local natural resource systems to allow them to respond to diverse or changing conditions, such as _____.
- Current systems, such as waste management, are handled in a way that preserves the integrity of natural systems in the community without damaging the integrity of natural systems elsewhere.
- Existing businesses are environmentally sound.
- Public water sources are protected.
- Some of these natural resource features are unique or in some way important regionally or statewide.
- Natural resource and open space contribute to the economic vitality of the community.
- Critical resources are being negatively impacted by competing land uses.
- Steps have been taken to establish regulatory controls and promote voluntary actions to assure the continued availability of natural resources.
- The community has addressed regional natural resource features and issues with surrounding communities.

Group Response – Strengths:

- Rural character even though populated state: saved 1,000 acres of land in 16 years; strong Conservation Commission; protected agricultural land; town supports these initiatives – ex. grant money
- Transfer station and recycling opportunities have improved
- Beaver Lake Improvement Association exists
- As a result of understanding costs of open-space vs. commercial, has been able to testify before planning group

- Awareness that open space can save money
- All is accessible in short distance
- Paul Dionne is a strength!
- Rick Holmes and his historical knowledge a strength – shares with schools
- More trees in town now compared to 1776
- Children more environmentally sound and aware
- Having clean water, important open space helps protect this – preserving wildlife important
- Robert Frost Farm
- Variety of churches get along
- Bus service availability – promotes environmentally friendly mindset
- Have available commercial space
- East Derry Historical Society and Upper Village Hall has potential
- Library is excellent
- Air is cleaner here
- Diversity of business means you don't have to travel too far
- Many organization exist that focus on preservation

Group Response – Challenges:

- Educate public regarding the cost savings of open space vs. residential development
- Resources/expertise to help with grants/money on these issues
- Partnerships strengthened between Conservation, Library, and Recreation Department
- Not enough volunteers to participate about these issues--people are busy, dual-incomes, many other commitments
- Recognize different groups in town have different purposes and missions – confusion with roles – challenge when don't have a clear direction of preserving natural resources and misinformation and don't understand
- Have Community Profiles more often
- Sometimes Conservation and Recreation have different objectives
- Off-road vehicles – detrimental to environment vs. individual rights
- Old/unused buildings might become unsafe
- Need to pay for services – ex. Fire Department
- Need to determine what services are needed
- Education about the need to pay for services – taxes have to cover these
- To get more people recycling and composting – to reduce waste in streams
- Staying current with solution to issues--what's happening nationally
- Keeping air, water, Beaver Lake clean
- Clean industries will keep air and water clean
- Responsible energy use by town – solar, wind, environmentally sound solutions
- Encouraging people to grow gardens and buy local
- Only so much time that volunteer can give to issues
- Protect the children on streets with big trucks – need to enforce speed limits
- Parents need to know where their children are playing
- Commuter light rail through Derry
- Prioritizing all these issues among town leadership, commercial interests, personal/family interests
- Save East Derry Upper Village Hall
- More advertising and usage of buses
- Litter problem – trash on sides of road- wish more volunteering to pick up trash

- Teach people not to litter
- Town government to think about resources and stimulus money for preserving open-space vs. Exit 4A

Vision for the Future:

- Partnerships – linked organizations very effective together – town government included
- Continued protection of natural and historic resources
- Green marketing – energy, local, conservation, natural resources, recycling, commuting, gardening, noise
- Historical asset protection
- Energy conservation
- City/town services reflecting population and ability to pay
- Stop drain of \$ federal and state
- Safety
- Effective communication
- Community Volunteer Coordinator on staff
- More bike paths, rail trail
- Town makes commitment to expend more for tax payments
- Town looking for alternatives energy sources – ex. oil for energy, solar, uses for methane—there's hot air to tap into!

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Preservation of historical assets
2. Protection and appropriate utilization of natural resources
3. Communication and education of cost-benefit analysis of commercial, residential, open space and green marketing (bus, gardens, recycling, carpools, etc.)
4. Increased collaboration, planning, and implementation among all stockholders, including citizens and town government
5. Increased leadership on alternative energy production and usage – town as a role model

9. Economic Vitality

Facilitator: Amanda Landry

Recorder: Gordon Graham

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Christina Grover, Kathy Mercer, Doug Newell, Wendy Smith, Marilyn Sullivan, Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien, Steve Barry, Bob Conlon, Ken Gould, Deb Paul, Catherine Whooten, Donna Green

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. The need to sustain successful workplaces is an important factor to the health of a community. The more often money circulates within the community before leaving, the more the community benefits.

A healthy community includes access to a variety of environmentally sound 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.

Statements a community should consider:

- A variety of businesses, industries and institutions make up the economic base of the community and the region, such as _____.
- We have a diverse economic base. No one sector or one employer dominates; there is a wide variety of sectors and employers.
- Existing businesses are environmentally sound.
- There are locally available educational opportunities to provide residents with skills that match the needs of local businesses.
- Local government works well with the local businesses to enhance the economic vitality of the community.
- There are business services lacking in the community, such as _____.
- There are many types of jobs available to residents in terms of security, wage levels, skill levels, and benefits, examples _____.
- Community members patronize downtown businesses on a regular basis and value the local businesses.
- Wages allow the majority of the population to enjoy a reasonable lifestyle.
- Local government supports and promotes local businesses.

Group Response – Strengths:

- Two churches have food banks and food kitchen
- Community safety net
- Human service network supports people who need help
- Entrepreneurial spirit
- Expertise
- First responders – strong (emergency) they're full time
- Include mix use
- Room for growth

- Affordable
- Good access transportation (buses, airport, highway)
- Not a lot of polluting industry
- A lot of healthcare oriented facilities
- A lot of civic groups/clubs for all ages
- Efficient planning and permitting process
- Pinkerton/Parkland
- 93/Airport
- Downtown (Central) identified center present
- A lot of history/heritage
- Good public recreation
- Infrastructure supports health-friendly businesses
- Good public utility infrastructure
- Highly educated workforce
- Good place to raise a family
- Safe in terms of no crime
- Good libraries
- Hospitals
- Availability of retail outlets
- Networking of business owners downtown
- Strong care of civic volunteerism

Group Response – Challenges:

- Zoning doesn't consider/protect value of existing uses
- Too much multi-family/multi-use zoning
- Community involvement
- Maintain improvement effects/projects
- Not enough code enforcements
- Loss of manufacturing/industry in towns (high paid jobs)
- Citizens don't have influence on how Pinkerton spends their tax \$
- Educational funding is a challenge for Derry
- Cost of education is shifted onto tax payers
- Parents don't have influence on child's education
- DDC + Chamber not doing enough for local businesses
- Local businesses have trouble staying open – high turnover rate with downtown businesses
- Loss of jobs
- Shift of becoming a bedroom community
- Lack of parking
- Lack of hometown pride
- Pinkerton is not “sticky” (Doesn't carry over to surrounding community--people do not stay in Derry. They come to Pinkerton for their child's education and then leave.)
- Highest tax rate in state
- Maintaining sufficient influence in state government to draw for share

Vision for the Future:

- More non-polluting, goods-producing high salary, tax positive businesses in town
- Leadership program to get new blood in committees and government
- Beautiful Derry Program

- More symmetry to make things in town flow more easily
- More non-goods producing/high tech knowledge based business (highest paying)
- Small businesses incubator that's responsive to small business needs
- Small businesses should be in empty store fronts
- Transportation system, non-polluting systems - people can ride bikes, local bus system, walking/sidewalks
- Balance of business in town – diversity between big/small
- Increase single-family housing stock in proportion with multi-family stock
- Formulate Heritage Commission--keep more traditional
- Single – family/starter-home housing

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Untapped resources and opportunities
2. Capitalize more on downtown
3. More balance/diversified tax base – high tax rate
4. Better communication/support/cooperation between town and business owners
5. Need leadership program/development in Derry
6. Planning and encourage new usage and protecting value of existing users

10. Growth and Development

Facilitator: Dylan Kreise Recorder: Jack Dowd Spokesperson: Bob Letourneau

Participants: Tate Conlon, Brenda Keith, Robert Letourneau, Dan McKenna, Eva Standress, Fred Tompkins, Dennis Wiley, Brenda Willis, Shannon McKenna, Kevin Coyle

Statement of Purpose:

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. These are key considerations in managing growth while maintaining community character.

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

Statements a community should consider:

- The community's zoning and planning regulations are updated regularly and reflect a broad spectrum of residents' vision of the community in 5, 10 and 20 years.
- There is adequate affordable and rental housing for the elderly and disabled.
- There is adequate rental housing in the community.
- Land use regulations and land protection efforts are preserving an adequate amount of open space in the community.
- Current zoning regulations favor protecting the character of key sections of the community over new commercial development.
- There is adequate housing for young families and/or single-parent families.
- Our zoning regulations are designed to counteract sprawl.
- Municipal government works well with landowners to promote land protection and sustainable development while respecting private property rights.
- Residential housing is planned so that negative effects on traffic, public schools, sewer and water systems, and wildlife habitats are minimized.
- Areas of natural beauty and historic importance are well protected by zoning regulations and land protection efforts.
- Our community commits financial resources toward protecting valuable natural resources.

Group Response – Strengths and Weaknesses:

- Downtown is a vital need to continue, can become weak if not continued
- Location of Derry is beneficial history is an important part of marketing
- Geographic location of Derry many people came because of location – ability to manage growth
- Adequate/affordable low income housing
- Have enough adequate space for education – High School is a strength
- Regulations have been formed in events like this one. Zoning – reached by community consensus

- Several large conservation areas – Doolittle Farm, Sawpoint Farm
- Performing Arts venues in town, several prestigious events – very available to citizens
- New construction in town
- Enough areas preserved in community – conservation did a great job (community involvement needed)
- Growth management ordinance has been a great success – NH smart growth
- Parks and Recreation doing a great job for youth and seniors
- Spend our money wisely. Derry – cost per student is very good. School Board and Pinkerton have been very efficient
- Great group of volunteers in the community – Marion Gerrish, Civic Organization etc., school volunteers – state recognition means self perpetuating
- Community events are well attended – Frost Festival and Derry Fest among many others
- Airport

Group Response – Challenges:

- Using existing and zoned properties for development (Exit 4A for traffic relief, need more than exit)
- Property taxes a major challenge. C/I vs. residential (zoning) potential is in the future, zoning needs to be looked at
- More uniformed signage for downtown
- Need to follow through with plans – lack of incentives in NH for community/industrial development
- Traffic problems: rotary – downtown- several other areas (RT -28)
- Derry – Tax rate higher than other area towns. Apartment complexes are a burden need alternative housing – more than our share of workforce housing.
- How the state funds education method of taxing locally (mean other than property taxes)
- Economic development is #1 for smart growth, bring in more jobs – high tech
- How do we bring in economic development with high tax rate

Vision for the Future:

- Make a plan that people will follow – Master Plan being updated. Transportation plan: do reality checks on what is
- How we want to see Derry in 10 years
- More shopping places – like Loop, Kohl’s, Target, Super Wal-Mart would have been good
- More marketing of existing businesses bring the people here
- Revitalization of downtown
- Policeman on white horse
- Updated signs to market where the parking is
- Possible Main St. program for downtown make it a destination point

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Economic development
2. Transportation/traffic
3. Downtown (revitalization)/rezoned plan
4. Tax issues
5. Conservation/land issues

11. Transportation

Facilitator: Rick Alleva

Recorder: Dave Nelson

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Wendy DeSaulniers, Tod McKenna, Gretchen Fodor, Carl Accardo, Joan Crimlisk, Diane Stefanilo, Riccardo Buzzanga, Lloyd Webster

Statement of Purpose:

A community's strategic location and economic importance bring many people to live, work, and shop here. 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 road results in increased highway maintenance, air pollution, and traffic congestion. Alternatives to automobile travel include pedestrian and bicycle travel, and bus and rail transportation.

Statements a community should consider:

- Our current road system is adequate and meets the needs of the residents and visitors.
- The use of traffic controls (signs, lights, speed limits, police, etc.) is adequate throughout residential and commercial areas.
- It is easy to get around on foot and by bicycle in our community.
- The community encourages car pooling, and helps make it work for people by providing information and accessible parking areas.
- Parking is adequate in the commercial areas.
- Tradeoffs, such as maintenance, pollution, and congestion are considered when widening main roads or building new roads.
- Public transportation would ease some of the traffic problems.
- Residents and visitors would use public transportation if it was available.

Group Response – Strengths:

- Highway – I93, RT 111, RT 102
- Excellent road maintenance
- Beginning of bike trail
- Derry rail trail
- Public transportation depots in Derry
- Logan vs. Manchester airport
- Network specialty busses
- Elderly-facility based
- Special needs
- Derry Recreation Department trips/busses
- Sidewalks downtown
- Circle ok except at rush hour
- Snow plowing
- Interesting topography – biker friendly roads
- Public transport (bus to Boston) is used
- Non-profit groups private bus transport for activities
- Boys and Girls Club bus

- Informal car pooling
- Rail right-of-way potential for re-use
- I-93 widening
- Opportunity to fill empty seats on return commuter busses
- Handicap parking spaces
- No parking meters
- Available parking lot capacity
- Active policing- traffic control
- Rotaries a big advantage (but not ours, too small)
- Gas stations – lots
- Ski mobile trails

Group Response – Challenges:

- Folsom Rd. intersection accidents
- Exit 4A – big debate -not helpful
- Volume of traffic on RT 102
- Left turn challenges
- Traffic is fast
- Speed limit is too high
- Issue w/ cut – through roads – enforcement
- Where’s the cop when needed?
- Bad drivers, inconsiderate – cell phone use
- Absence of sidewalks in areas, near country club estates
- Sidewalks on Tsenietto, from Post Office to Ross’ Corner onto RT 102
- Balance safety and rural character
- Can’t walk on bike paths
- Sidewalks around Beaver Lake
- Funding of improvements
- Resolve status of private roads
- Use of PSNH right-of-way by off road vehicles (risk to property owners)
- Better off-road vehicle (snowmobile, ATV, etc.) lines
- Different needs hi-density vs. rural areas
- Noise issue on ATV’S
- Need more state regional local communication and coordination

Vision for the Future:

- Secondary impact of I93 widening – planning
- More community involvement
 - Broader participant base
 - Outreach to youth
- Vital downtown, as a destination
- Network of walk/bike paths – need to be safe
- Separate network of ATV trails
- Attention to detail
 - Sign maintenance
 - Sign placement
- Bigger traffic circle
- Better traffic management

Key Issues for Now and the Future:

1. Existence and widening of I-93 and its impact
2. Traffic management
 - Speed limits
 - Speed enforcements
 - Danforth Circle
 - Safety
3. Balance between safety vs. convenient access
 - Commerce
 - Recreation
 - Urban/hi-density
 - Rural
4. More non-auto transportation
 - Walking
 - Biking
 - Snow mobile
 - ATV
5. - Recognition of multiple transport resources, unique to Derry

Saturday Lunch

The 11 easels from the small groups were arrayed across the front of the room, each bearing a list of the key issues for that topic area. This portion of the 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, 8 themes emerged as important to study for the future of Derry. This list is presented below.

Themes

1. Economic Development
2. Traffic & Transportation
3. Leadership & Communication
4. Planning
5. Downtown
6. Leisure & Recreation
7. Community Center
8. Natural Resources

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

After lunch, participants each chose which of the 8 themes 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 theme and then to brainstorm possible solutions/answers to the issue identified. We did that by thinking out loud for half an hour or so about “problems” and “goals.” Then we suggested solutions, from practical to fanciful to idealistic. The next step was to evaluate the reality of each possible solution/project using the following impact/feasibility grid.

IMPACT:
How much will it matter?

High	1	2	3
Moderate	4	5	6
Low	7	8	9
	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 Economic Development

Facilitator: Rizalina Ababa Recorder: Charlie Zoeller Spokesperson: Doug Newell

Participants: Beverly Ferrante, Albert Dimmock, Frances Rose Gage, Leigh Hernandez, Darrell Park, Craig Bulkley, Paul McKenna, Luis Hernandez, Carl Accardo

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- Only change in State tax system can provide tax relief in Derry
- Derry lacks marketing plan and effort
- Develop incentives to promote business relocation to Derry including rezoning
- Change Rental/Commercial tax rates
- Downtown small businesses need better/more support from the Town
 - Communication between business DEDC, Chamber and Town
- Retention of existing businesses downtown and improve diversification
- Derry needs Economic Development vision
- What types of Economic Development will have significant impact to ease tax burden?
- Even with vastly increased business development, property tax rate not likely to be effected significantly
- Derry needs comprehensive Economic Development vision and plan to attract and keep business here – small and large
- Absentee landlords downtown

Possible Solutions:

- Promote/leverage Pinkerton in marketing Derry and Stockbridge Theater
- Town or locals buy downtown properties
- Add satellite college campus
- Zoning review for economic development
- Recruit talented volunteers from Derry to develop vision
- Collaboration among those with divergent perspectives, “ideologies”, affiliations
- Draw talent from Derry and beyond to implement
- Identify high tech prospects
- Downtown revitalization elemental

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- Draw talent from Derry and beyond to implement

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Add satellite college campus
- Downtown revitalization elemental

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- Town or locals buying downtown building in place of absentee landlords

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

None noted

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Promote/leverage Pinkerton in marketing Derry and Stockbridge Theatre

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 #2 Traffic & Transportation

Facilitator: Marieka Buhlmann Recorder: Dan Reidy Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Nancy Ek, Brad Ek, Riccardo Buzzanga, Lloyd Webster

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- Broadway from I-93 to traffic circle
- Bike/rail trail to downtown and to East and North with snowmobiles
- Exit 4A and funding
- More transportation options create more socioeconomic and economic development
- Broadway one-way going out in AM, one-way going in PM
- Pedestrian and walking, sidewalks, Beaver Lake, Tsienneto Rd, ATV and snowmobile trails get people out of their cars-use these networks
- Traffic management-speed, review and enforcement
- Public transportation for elderly and after schoolers

Possible Solutions:

- Fix Exit 4
- Continued support of rail trail completion for economic development and non-auto transport into downtown area
- Exit 4A not a solution to downtown Derry traffic
- Knowledge of traffic study results-done 6 months ago
- CART Cooperative Alliance for Regional Transportation \$2/one-way trip strategy to promote sidewalks for school-walkers
- Sidewalks for Tsienneto
- Examine ways to transport school kids from after school programs including athletics (middle school and high school) to a common neighborhood locations
- Review by traffic safety committee speed on rural roads and yielding and red light violations-better enforcement

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

Not noted

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Not noted

High Impact/Low Feasibility

Not noted

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

Not noted

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Not noted

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

Not noted

Low Impact/High Feasibility

Not noted

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Not noted

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

Not noted

Key Issue #3 Leadership & Communication

Facilitator: Bina Contreras Recorder: Maggie Maxwell Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: George Fodor, Maureen Heard, Greg Woychik, Elizabeth Cary, Leigh Hutchinson, John Meyer, Neil Wetherbee, Bob Oxford, Betsy Burtis

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- Increase community involvement improve communication, voting, inclusivity
- Have Master Plan be a living document
- Get people involved early
- Respectful, inclusive dialogue
- Leadership counsel/forum
- Community pride
- Effective ways to engage community members through communication strategies
- Cooperation between town and business owners
- Need leadership development program
- Inform public about how to be involved
- Apathy
- Town role model-energy production and usage
- Definition and scope of vision in order to communicate--we have something to say
- Leaders need to listen
- Methodology of communication-diverse range
- Coordination of information to effectively communicate needs, opportunities
- Master Plan not communicated or used by town leadership
- Too many people do not receive the message-even when it is communicated
- Vision needs to be communicated and understood
- How do we resolve disagreement and still stay on track in working toward our vision?
- Recognize other forms of leadership in the community
- Fragmented leadership

Possible Solutions:

- Community coordinator
- Clarifying avenues/development of community plan (revising)
- Welcome materials
- Unofficial ombudsman
- Leadership development "Leadership Derry"
- Volunteer outreach: RSVP program, youth volunteer program, volunteer appreciation
- Have town council examine plan and determine its usefulness
- Develop mission and vision statement for Derry
- Executive summary of Master Plan
- Communication of Master Plan
- Job descriptions, qualifications/competencies for appointed officials
- Town referendums

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- Volunteer outreach; RSVP Program; Youth Program; Volunteer Appreciation
- Job descriptions/competencies for appointed officials

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Alignment of goals and objectives to Master Plan
- Community coordinator
- Development and revision of a comprehensive communication plan

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- Executive summary of a Master Plan
- Develop a town mission and vision statement

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

None noted

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Leadership development program
- Welcome folder materials

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- Unofficial ombudsman
- Town referendums to settle issues

Low Impact/High Feasibility

None noted

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

None noted

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

- Communication of Master Plan

Key Issue #4 Planning

Facilitator: Mastora Bakhiet

Recorder: Margie Ives

Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Janet Conroy, Donna Green, Steve Barry, Bob Conlon, Deb Paul, Catherine Whootten, Marion Willis, Charles Stewart, Joan Crimlisk, Diane Stefanilo, Kevin Stefanilo, Ken Gould

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- No long term vision, expansion dictated by this year's proposals
- Identify what has not been done in the planning for the town
- What is the vision and where are we on the Master Plan?

Possible Solutions:

- Vision of impact of expanded I-93, the population pressure
- Make Derry a destination to visit and for shopping
- Compute dollar value of commercial and open space CF to residential housing cost, find out worth of town
- Create synergy between Londonderry and Derry
- Seek funding for a cost analysis of community/operating staff/resident and of town services
- Tax problem-foreclosures
- Define Derry 2030-goal in Master Plan
- Put together task force in six months to revisit procedures, policies, rules and regulations for development
- Put results together for public: town website goal for task
- Zoning and planning process considering existing uses (ex. new senior housing unit traffic impact)
- Zoning to stay in compliance with planning and enforcement
- Liaison reports from Town Council at Town Council meetings
- Stricter zoning requirements proactive code enforcement

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

Not noted

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Not noted

High Impact/Low Feasibility

Not noted

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

Not noted

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility
Not noted

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility
Not noted

Low Impact/High Feasibility
Not noted

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility
Not noted

Low Impact/Low Feasibility
Not noted

Key Issue #5 Downtown

Facilitator: Jillian Harris Recorder: Nicole Ferrante Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Gordon Graham, Phil Picillo, Mary Eisner, Chris Peterson, Shannon McKenna, Michelle Keaney, Jona Bostwick, Eleanor Strang, Kelly Mahoney, John O'Connor

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- Absentee landlords
- Traffic congestion
- Parking for special events/community facilities
- Be able to do a variety of things downtown (destination shopping)
- Parking
- Continue expanding façade of entire downtown and street scape
- Publicize parking “signage”, safety in lots, accessibility
- Lack of police presence
- Balancing bringing people downtown with traffic congestion by redirecting pass through traffic
- Expanding commercial development
- Improving aesthetics
- Vision beyond Broadway
- Utilized unused/neglected space
- Land acquisition for parking and expansion
- Improve the gateway
- Winter maintenance

Possible Solutions:

- Improve winter/snow maintenance through DPW (sidewalks/parking lots)
- Program to financially support businesses to maintain and improve façade and signage
- Attract new businesses to shop locally by: Derry dollars-chamber-taste of Derry
- Promote businesses you already have
- Farmers/community market: change legislation to make it easier for it to happen
- Coordinate police protection especially on nights of events/activities
- Acquire property next to Adams Memorial for parking/garage
- Brown sign on I-93 for historic district for Derry
- Welcome to Derry Downtown sign at entrance
- Extend and pave rail trail into downtown
- Maintain and extend stamped brick and lighting and underground utilities
- Blight ordinance
- Purchase vacant property/redevelop for community downtown
- Create bypass to downtown for through traffic
- Improve parking signage
- Murals on vacant walls
- Acquire property for parking at library and McGregor Park

- Involve community service groups to beautify downtown
- Tie in promotions between downtown events and businesses
- Blue light for emergency contact similar to those at colleges

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- Blight ordinance
- Attract new businesses by and promotion of exiting
 - Derry dollars
 - “Taste of Derry” type of event
- Tie in promotions between downtown events and downtown businesses
- Improve snow/winter maintenance program (DPW)

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Farmers Market/Community Fest with arts/crafts
- Town should purchase and assume leadership role in redevelopment of vacant properties
- Maintain and extend the lights and stamped brick and underground utilities

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- Program to financially support businesses to maintain and improve façade and signage
- Acquire property next to Adam’s Memorial for parking garage
- Create bypass to downtown for through traffic

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- Extend and pave the rail trail into downtown
- Improve parking signage
- Involve community service groups to beautify downtown
- “Welcome to Derry” sign as the gateway (archway) to downtown
- Murals on vacant walls

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Acquire property for parking at library and McGregor Park
- Coordinate Police protection, increased presence for community events

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- Blue light/emergency contact buttons
- Brown sign on 93 for “Historic Derry”

Low Impact/High Feasibility

None noted

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

None noted

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

None noted

Key Issue #6 Leisure & Recreation

Facilitator: Anna Baker Recorder: Bethany Hobbs Spokesperson: Mark Connors

Participants: Andy Yasment, Christine Irvin, Kevin Coyle, Mark Connors, Lori Dunkerley, Ray Fontaine, Leona McNeill, Steve Palmer, Erich Whitney

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- Access, transportation
- Connect neighborhoods to green space
- Plan to make vision a reality systematic approach to making it happen
- Need to develop visual art, musical art, but where, need to develop
- Make a check box to show priority (“a place to live”) stuff to do here would cancel the need to commute to activity
- Communicating available activities
- Rail/trail signs
- Website development
- Gap between schools and programs offered (superintendent controls decisions of what’s in schools)
- Promotion of sports teams
- Cooperation with business sector
- Open space/paired with recreation and leisure
- Use of conservation lands-not necessarily advertised space to be used
- “LCHIP” \$=passive recreation
- difference between corporate and private world “we need to do something to drive the people in”
- awareness as: a big issue
- fundraising-raising money for parks, lack of “wanting it to happen” negative attitude people would rather volunteer than give money
- sense of community-it can mean more than one thing “the place to be”-Derry
- ability to give to everything
- need a pool, especially for teenagers and seniors

Possible Solutions:

- Community calendar to hang on walls, put up around town
- Website, make an online area more collaborative
- Email/listserv to send messages about sign-ups
- Kiosks in the library-more computers in town to access the website
- Sign up fair for spring sports, cross market summer, fall, winter
- Use Derry Fest: have a volunteer group at the festival to advertise activities
- Town responsible for putting out public/private events, putting out a list (recreation department). Hard copy and online list.
- Give accountability to town council
- Community fair along the bike path (trail cleanup April 18)

- Town employees more involved in marketing
- Nurture of town Master Plan-connecting with NGO's
- More grant money; outside of town budget-who would do this? New position?
- Monthly meeting to share ideas
- Activities fair
- Car registration
- Location of fair?
- 10K race (new uses of resources)
- information centers
- community TV station
- Newspaper advertises? Calendar-good for newspaper--town sponsored

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- Community calendar--hard copy passed out around town and in newspaper
- Local news involvement enhanced
- Increase accountability to town council for making public/private events more well-known, specifically Recreation Department

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Website availability with calendar developed collaboratively
- E-mail/list serve with activities and calendar
- Website/list serve
- Town employees more involved with marketing of events, activities

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- More grant money

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- Monthly meeting to share ideas (cross marketing of organizations)

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Information kiosk in town in various places
- Kiosks in the library with computers to access town web site
- Sign up for fairs each season (activities, sports)
 - advertising, location of fair, logistics

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

None noted

Low Impact/High Feasibility

- Involve community TV station
- 10K race (new use of resources) to raise interests encourage people to discover them (the activities)

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility
None noted

Low Impact/Low Feasibility
None noted

Key Issue #7 Community Center

Facilitator: Dylan Kreis Recorder: Jack Dowd Spokesperson: not noted

Participants: Nanci Collica, Diane Gavrish, Brenda Guggisberg, Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien, Gordon Krantz, Caroline McNamara, Gretchen Fodor, Kimberly Bavaro, Elizabeth Ives

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- Need money
- Community supports the citizenry. Single parents, resources like skating rink, pools, having one center. Bring people together esp. teens and seniors.
- Transportation to bring people to different center. Getting kids home.
- Awareness of how we can help one another
- Community that is aware of needs and connects people to the services
- To cultivate a community that is more supportive and more aware of the needs of its citizens

Possible Solutions:

- Bring resources into community
- Transportation
- Non profit to get the message out through a newsletter or web site regarding how to get involved
- A means to network different organizations to form a coalition of organizations
- Community being more walk-able
- 211 resource line
- Town information packet all the information about Derry navigating Derry
- Senior center/teen center need help funding is needed (community center)
- Adult life long learning
- Woman shelter, homeless center
- Community survey-a system that brings us together
- Using businesses to get information to public i.e. barber shops, etc
- Wellness fair for seniors and teens to distribute information and could also do screening
- Coalition is needed to get message out (Derry Community Action Group)
- Southern NH human services-2nd Thursday each month

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

Not noted

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Not noted

High Impact/Low Feasibility

Not noted

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

Not noted

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Not noted

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

Not noted

Low Impact/High Feasibility

Not noted

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Not noted

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

Not noted

Key Issue #8 Natural Resources

Facilitator: Claudia Boozer-Blasco Recorder: David Nelson Spokesperson: Ed Riemitis, Marianne Paige, Paul Doolittle

Participants: Carl Bannon, Paul Doolittle, Ed Reimitis, Marianne Page, Paula Frank, Mary Till, Jennifer Books, Selma Gould, Dan Allen

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed:

- Land development laws/regulations
- Financial resources for open space acquisition
- Enforcement staff (paid staff)
- Maintenance staff (paid staff)
- Documentation of problems
- Lack of awareness of multi-use rules for conservation land
- Lack of an open space ordinance-cluster development (the good kind)
- Lack of awareness by homeowners in watersheds
- Lack of awareness of cost-benefit analysis of developed vs. non-developed land
- Lack of a comprehensive aquifer protection regulation
- Lack of sustainability as a guiding principle

Possible Solutions:

- Garner monetary resources
- Implement Beaver Lake Watershed Management Plan
- Conservation Commission recommended to Planning Board to include in Master Plan
- Communication and marketing plan to raise awareness of existing resources
- Aquifer protection and large water withdrawal ordinance
- Work with schools to integrate awareness with curriculum and involve parents
- Complete and enact the open space ordinance
- Involvement of school children in environmental issues
- Hire paid staff to handle environmental issues and coordinate volunteers

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- Implement Beaver Lake Watershed Management Plan (BLMP)
- Conservation Commission recommend to Planning Board to include BLMP to be included in new Master Plan

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Aquifer protection & large water withdrawal ordinance
- Complete & enact the open space ordinance

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- Garner monetary resources
- Hire paid staff to handle environmental issues & coordinate volunteers

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- Work with schools to integrate awareness with curriculum and involve parents

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Involvement of school children in environmental issues
- Communication & marketing plan raise awareness of existing resources

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

None noted

Low Impact/High Feasibility

None noted

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

None noted

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

None noted

PROJECT SELECTION

We returned to the large group to hear from a member of each small group who presented the projects that the group had come up with.

Every participant voted in each category for the project for each group to work on first. The projects receiving the most votes were then to be discussed in small groups in the follow-up meeting scheduled for April 29th. The list of project ideas follows.

Protection of Natural Resources

- Implement Beaver Lake Watershed Management Plan as part of the town's Master Plan (**31 votes**)
- Complete and enact the open space zoning amendment (**29 votes**)
- Education of the community (adults & children) on environmental sustainability as a guiding principal (**24 votes**)

Community Support

- Community Center--virtual, physical, and/or both? (**35 votes**)
- Form a Community Leadership Coalition – needs assessment and/or gap analysis (**29 votes**)
- Marketing/messaging campaign – awareness raising (**4 votes**)

Leadership and Communication

- Community and volunteer outreach coordinator (**38 votes**)
- Consistent alignment with and communication of Master Plan (**25 votes**)
- Leadership expectations/descriptions and development of community leaders (**11 votes**)

Planning

- Development of a taskforce to review planning, zoning regulations for stricter requirements and more proactive enforcement (**52 votes**)
- Derry 2030: the great vision (**13 votes**)
- Compute the dollar value for commercial, open space, and residential costs in excess of revenue generated (**8 votes**)

Traffic/Transportation

- Fix downtown traffic based on Traffic Study completed about 6 mos. ago; focus is on downtown – both getting thru and shoppers/diners (**46 votes**)
- Sidewalks for Beaver Lake; Tsienneto; schools and other walkers (**24 votes**)
- Review of traffic and speed controls and violators by Safety Committee (**1 vote**)

Economic Development

- Develop comprehensive economic development vision and plan, inclusive of diverse locals (**58 votes**)

- Develop monetary incentives to high tech prospects (**9 votes**)
- Rezoning and infrastructure (**20 votes**)

Downtown

- Town takes leadership role in purchasing and redeveloping property in downtown. For example, acquire property next to Adams Memorial for parking garage and land next to library (**51 votes**)
- Create and promote a downtown identity through a physical gateway on Broadway and Merchant with promotions that connect downtown businesses and events (**12 votes**)
- Beautify downtown through a blight ordinance and maintain and extend façade and stamped sidewalk, lighting & underground utilities (**27 votes**)

Recreation & Leisure

- Encourage town Recreation Department to expand their involvement and improve their awareness-making (**23 votes**)
- Improve town website/create e-mail list serve (**16 votes**)
- Community calendar passed around and put in local newspapers (**30 votes**)

ACTION GROUPS

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

1. Implement Beaver Lake Watershed Management Plan as part of the town's Master Plan
2. Community Center virtual, physical, and/or both?
3. Community and volunteer outreach coordinator
4. Development taskforce to review planning, zoning regulations for stricter requirements and more proactive enforcement
5. Fix downtown traffic based on Traffic Study completed about 6 mos. ago; focus is on downtown – both getting thru and shoppers/diners
6. Develop comprehensive economic development vision and plan, inclusive of diverse locals

CONCLUSION

All the action groups will meet as a large group again on April 29, 2009, 7-8:30 pm at the Derry Municipal Center (3rd floor) to begin to establish goals and objectives to accomplish the individual projects.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

APPENDIX

Community Profile Participants

Nanci Collica	Doug Newell	Steve Palmer
Diane Gavrish	Wendy Smith	Carl Bannon
Brenda Guggisberg	Marilyn Sullivan	Paul Doolittle
Katherine Prudhomme-O'Brien	Robert Gorham	Ed Reimitis
Gordon Krantz	Erika Mahon	Marianne Page
Caroline McNamara	Donna Villiard	Paula Frank
Gretchen Fodor	Tate Conlon	Mary Till
Lee Maloney	Brenda Keith	Jennifer Books
Beth Morris	Robert Letourneau	Selma Gould
Gordon Graham	Dan McKenna	Janet Conroy
Phil Picillo	Eva Stadress	Donna Green
Mary Eisner	Fred Tompkins	Steve Barry
Chris Peterson	Dennis Wiley	Bob Conlon
Shannon McKenna	Brenda Willis	Deb Paul
Michelle Keaney	Janice DelPozzo	Catherine Whooten
Jona Bostwick	Denyce Ellis	Marion Willis
Eleanor Strang	Corrine Safron	Charles Stewart
Kelly Mahoney	James Webb	Joan Crimlisk
John O'Connor	Barbara McCarthy	Diane Stefanilo
Ann Anderson	Bob Oxford	Betsy Burtis
Maria McKenna	George Fodor	Rebecca Morris
Bill Fortier	Maureen Heard	John Gleason
Faye Fortier	Greg Woychik	Maria LeBel
Kimberly Bavaro	Elizabeth Cary	Ed Muller
John Meyer	Leigh Hutchinson	Glenn Villiard
Erich Whitney	Nancy Barbour	Wendy DeSaulniers
Kevin Stefanilo	Mary Ellen Hannon	Tod McKenna
Beverly Ferrante	Patricia Hutchins	Nancy Ek
Albert Dimmock	Susan Kopetz	Brad Ek
Frances Rose Gage	Jean Roalsvig	Riccardo Buzzanga
Leigh Hernandez	Sandy Shapiro	Lloyd Webster
Darrell Park	Andy Yasment	Dan Allen
Craig Bulkley	Christine Irvin	John Burtis
Paul McKenna	Kevin Coyle	Mary Joe Dalton
Luis Hernandez	Mark Connors	Paul Dionne
Carl Accardo	Lori Dunkerley	Caitlin O'Neil
Christina Grover	Ray Fontaine	Denise Walderich
Kathy Mercer	Leona McNeill	

Community Profile Facilitators/Recorders

Elizabeth Ives	Maggie Maxwell	Jillian Harris
Mastora Bakhiet	Dylan Kreis	Nicole Ferrante
Rizalina Ababa	Jack Dowd	Marieka Buhlmann
Charlie Zoeller	George Klauber	Dan Reidy
Neil Wetherbee	Bethany Hobbs	Rick Alleva
Amanda Landry	Bethany Hobbs	Dave Nelson
Gordon Graham	Margie Ives	Anna Baker
Bina Contreras	Ken Gould	Claudia Boozer-Blasco

Community Profile Steering Committee

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George Klauber (vice chair)
Jack Robillard (secretary)
Rick Metts

Neil Wetherbee
Cecile Cormier
Elizabeth Ives
Jack Dowd

Nicole Ferrante
Ken Gould