April 9 – 11, 2015
Franklin, New Hampshire
Table of Contents

Acknowledgements............................................................................................................................................. 1

Executive Summary.............................................................................................................................................. 2
  Background: Franklin for a Lifetime.............................................................................................................. 2
  Process: Assets and Opportunities for the Future............................................................................................ 2
  Community Engagement: Franklin Voices ......................................................................................................... 2
  Community Workshop: April 9-11 .................................................................................................................... 3
  Outcome: Action Groups ................................................................................................................................. 3

Background: Franklin for a Lifetime.................................................................................................................. 4
  Why Franklin .................................................................................................................................................. 4
  Steering Committee ...................................................................................................................................... 5
  Short-term Goals .......................................................................................................................................... 5
  Long-term Goals .......................................................................................................................................... 6
  Community Engagement .............................................................................................................................. 6

Franklin for a Lifetime Workshop.................................................................................................................... 8
  Thursday, April 9, 2015 – Summary ............................................................................................................. 8
  Friday, April 10, 2015 - Summary ................................................................................................................ 8

Business Development/Entrepreneurship/Downtown Improvements............................................................ 9
  Key Concepts ................................................................................................................................................. 9
  Ideas .............................................................................................................................................................. 10

Arts & Culture .................................................................................................................................................. 10
  Key Concepts .............................................................................................................................................. 10

Recreation ....................................................................................................................................................... 11
  Key Concepts ............................................................................................................................................ 11
  Ideas .......................................................................................................................................................... 11

Infrastructure ................................................................................................................................................... 12
  Key Concepts ............................................................................................................................................ 12
  Ideas ........................................................................................................................................................ 12

Housing ............................................................................................................................................................. 12
  Key Concepts ........................................................................................................................................... 12
  Ideas ......................................................................................................................................................... 13

Volunteerism/ Civic Life .................................................................................................................................. 13
  Key Concepts ........................................................................................................................................... 13
  Ideas ........................................................................................................................................................ 13

Saturday, April 11, 2015 – Design Charette by Plan NH ..................................................................................... 14

Outcomes.......................................................................................................................................................... 16
  Summary of May 26th Presentation ............................................................................................................. 16
  Action Committees .................................................................................................................................... 16
  Next Steps ................................................................................................................................................. 16
Acknowledgements

Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design™
Resource Team Leaders

Josh Bloom
Co-founder, The Community Land Use and Economics Group

Ted Brady
State Director, Vermont and New Hampshire, United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development

Eric J. Chinburg
President and Founder, Chinburg Properties

Susan Fox
Associate Director, Institute on Disability; Director, the Center on Aging and Community Living at the University of New Hampshire

Rick Hauser
Mayor of Perry, New York; President, In.Site: Architecture

Carmen Lorentz
Director, Division of Economic Development, New Hampshire Department of Resource and Economic Development

Ariana McBride
Director of Strategic Capacity Building, Ninigret Partners

Cynthia Nitikin
Director, Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design™; Senior Vice President, Project for Public Spaces

Catherine O’Brian
Coordinator, Arts Education & Arts in Heath Care Grants & Programs

Philip B. Stafford
Director, Center on Aging and Community, Indiana University

Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur
Strategic Advisor and Co-Lead of Livable Communities, AARP Education & Outreach

Funding and Partners
Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design™
CommunityMatters®
The National Endowment for the Arts
USDA Rural Development
Project for Public Spaces
The Orton Family Foundation

Franklin Steering Committee

Jim Aberg
Krystal Alpers
Jo Brown
Elizabeth Dragon
George Dzujna
Melissa Lee
Dick Lewis
Meg Miller
Sue Cagle, UNHCE
Sharon Cowen, UNHCE
Robin LeBlanc, Plan NH

UNH Cooperative Extension Staff

Sharon Cowen
Molly Donovan
Sue Cagle
Charlie French
André Garron
Casey Hancock
Chris Keeley
Geoff Sewake
Sarah Smith
Milana Glukharev-Fleszar, UNHCE Intern
Executive Summary

Background: Franklin for a Lifetime

The Franklin for a Lifetime project aims to create a healthy and vibrant Franklin community for all residents, in support of an aging population. The workshop, April 9 – 11, 2015, was hosted by the City of Franklin in partnership with University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and Plan New Hampshire, and supported by the National Endowment for the Arts and the United States Department of Agriculture, through the Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design™. The workshop has explored how NH communities can respond to an aging population through housing, economic development, planning and community design.

Process: Assets and Opportunities for the Future

Franklin is a rural community with a strong cultural and historic identity and vision for its future. The historic downtown area is part of the city’s legacy. As with other NH communities, Franklin is experiencing the challenges of an aging population and a struggling downtown economy.

Franklin has assets in terms of its engaged and committed citizens and businesses. Other advantages include the hospital, library, churches, arts and culture, natural resources, recreation activities, Franklin Business & Industrial Development Corporation, Choose Franklin, Bessie Rowell Community Center, past and planned civic projects and other assets. In addition, the city has TRIP Senior Center, options for assisted living and nursing home care, and a system of services for seniors and other community members. Moreover, the city has a strong and stable government.

Franklin views its senior population as an asset and a resource, a source for its volunteers and workforce. Stabilizing housing and services for the senior community is a priority.

Community Engagement: Franklin Voices

As preparation for the April workshop, the Franklin for a Lifetime Steering Committee and UNH Cooperative Extension engaged 119 community members through storytelling groups, a children’s artwork project, one-on-one interviews, two business focus groups, and an elder social service provider focus group to get community input about how to make Franklin a more healthy and vibrant community for all. The engagement work was called Franklin Voices.

Key themes emerged from the compiled Franklin Voices comments. These included a sense of community; civic life; economic vitality, transportation, housing, infrastructure; natural resources, cultural resources, historic sites; community and health services; and schools.

Throughout the Franklin Voices process, community participants stressed the sense of community in Franklin, the value of community members helping each other. Challenges for the city focused on downtown, including the existing housing, lack of transportation, few restaurants or stores, and a desire for revitalization. Need for more communication on issues and activities was suggested. A more detailed summary of findings can be found in the Franklin Voices report. (See Appendix for full report)
Community Workshop: April 9-11

The two-and-half day Franklin for a Lifetime workshop began with an all-community supper. On Thursday night and Friday, the workshop hosted three national speakers, along with a panel of five NH experts, on aging and community economic development.

A workshop engagement activity asked participants what they and the community could do to make Franklin more welcoming for all ages. Resulting themes included: recreation for all; infrastructure, including benches, roads and transportation; business development and entrepreneurship ideas for new business; downtown improvement, including diverse businesses, downtown improvements, and fixing up the appearance; housing for all ages and income levels; volunteerism and civic life; and school improvement. Small group discussions were held on Friday to generate actionable ideas for the theme areas; discussing schools was eliminated by attendees and arts and culture discussion was added.

On Saturday, Plan NH conducted a design activity staffed by the organization’s members to develop ideas for the city. The results of this design charrette can be found in the Plan NH report.

Outcome: Action Groups

On May 26, 2015, Franklin City Council held a community meeting to host featured speaker Rick Hauser, mayor of Perry, New York; hear highlights from the Franklin for a Lifetime project; and form community action groups to move Franklin forward, based on learning and input from Franklin Voices and the April workshop. The Steering Committee has identified five action groups that community members can join to contribute to community projects.

Each action group will be led by a community member or Franklin staff member. UNH Cooperative Extension will provide staff support to the action groups as they organize and move forward on their action items.

ACTION GROUPS

- Marketing – “Champions for Franklin”
- Community Events and Recreational Opportunities
- Housing
- Arts and culture
- Volunteerism/civic life
Background: Franklin for a Lifetime

Why Franklin

In studying the issues of an aging population in NH communities, UNH Cooperative Extension asked Franklin to partner on the Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design™ award application, as Franklin had previous experience with collaborating and bringing members of the community together on issues and projects. UNH Cooperative Extension has been part of collaborations with Franklin on asset building and healthy eating, active living (HEAL) to address obesity. The mayor has initiated a number of task forces, including a drug task force and foster care task force. As such, in applying for the award to do the Franklin for a Lifetime project, the experience and expertise of Franklin, Plan NH and UNH Cooperative Extension presented a compelling story to the grant funders.

Franklin is a small rural community situated at the junction of the Pemigewasset and Winnipesaukee rivers that form the Merrimack River. According to New Hampshire Employment Security Economic and Development Labor Information Bureau, Franklin was first incorporated in 1828 and became a city in 1895. Economic beginnings came from manufacturing that used the rivers for power. Mill buildings remain part of the historic downtown area and the city’s legacy. However, similar to other NH communities, Franklin is now experiencing an aging population and a challenging economy. Census figures show the 2010 population as 8477. Residents, age 65 and over, represent 15% of the population, which will undoubtedly increase in the future, putting pressure on available and suitable housing, transportation, services, and other infrastructure. Among community members of all ages, poverty affects about 20% of residents, compared to 8% for the state. Population growth from 2000 to 2010 was less than a 1% increase, with a small loss projected in the future. The city faces challenges.

Conversely, the city has many strong assets, including the network of engaged and committed citizens and businesses, along with the hospital, library, churches, an active arts community, Franklin Business & Industrial Development Corporation, Choose Franklin, and the Bessie Rowell Community Center. In
addition, the city has a strong and stable government. In terms of older residents, there is TRIP Senior Center and a system of support services and facilities for seniors.

Franklin has made it clear from the beginning of this project that the senior population represents an asset and a resource, a source for its volunteers and workforce. “We must keep our aging populations active and involved,” said Elizabeth Dragon, Franklin’s city manager. “One man on our city council – a beloved neighbor and very active volunteer- had to move from Franklin because he couldn’t find a suitable place to live.” Stabilizing housing and services for the senior community is now a major priority for a city working to improve itself on a number of fronts.

Steering Committee

The Steering Committee was comprised of several passionate city officials and engaged community members representing the community of Franklin. The Steering Committee began meeting in September 2014 to work alongside UNH Cooperative Extension and Plan NH to plan and coordinate the workshop, engage the community, secure donations and market the workshop to the greater community. The Steering Committee set out the following goals:

**Short-term Goals**

- Assess what Franklin looks like now, in terms of demographics, housing, transportation, local economics, businesses, arts, economic development and community resources.
- Identify why older members of the Franklin community are leaving the city.
- Determine ways in which the community can improve citizens’ own perceptions of the city and living in Franklin for all ages and stages of life.
- Determine how addressing the needs of an aging population can benefit everyone in the community.
- Use the arts to connect intergenerational community members.
- Educate community members and regional/state stakeholders about the demographic changes in the state and Franklin and why aging is an issue we need to discuss.
- Determine what, if any, local and/or state regulations, legislation, zoning, building codes, etc., present barriers to developing and implementing a community response that supports aging in place/in community.
- Engage a cross-section of Franklin community members to develop and set in motion a community response (action plan) to an aging population that reflects what residents want for a multi-generational community in the future. The community response will support aging in place/in community and may include housing, community design, transportation, the arts,
businesses, a revitalized downtown, health and recreation, other. The community response will benefit all ages.

- Engage citizens to sign up and commit to being part of the process of implementing the action plan developed as a result of the workshop.
- Develop resources and a model that can be used in other NH communities to respond to an aging population.

### Framing Question

**How do we make Franklin a healthy and vibrant community for all citizens in support of an aging population?”**

### Long-term Goals

- Create a community environment that encourages older community members to remain in Franklin, keeping them active and encouraging their community contributions. This may include the arts, housing options, transportation, community design, a revitalized downtown, support services, other.
- Create a healthy environment for multigenerational individuals throughout their lifespan that includes the physical, social, natural, cultural and economic environment.
- Develop community responses to aging that will also revitalize and strengthen the local economy and infrastructure of the city for everyone.

The Steering Committee worked with UNH Cooperative Extension and Plan NH to plan the workshop and engage community members and was responsible for securing the locations, food and refreshments and marketing of the Franklin for a Lifetime Workshop. Marketing information was posted on the City’s website, sent through Constant Contact e-mail lists, and distributed through flyers at locations throughout Franklin.

### Community Engagement

Prior to the rural design workshop, UNH Cooperative Extension, and the Franklin for a Lifetime steering committee, working with Arianna McBride and Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design™, used story-based engagement activities to support and inform the workshop. UNH Cooperative Extension and the Franklin for a Lifetime Steering Committee engaged 119 community members through a children’s artwork project, storytelling groups, one-on-one interviews, business focus groups, and an elder social service provider focus group. The purpose of Franklin Voices was to:

- Collect information about what would make Franklin a more welcoming and supportive city for people of all ages
• Ensure that a diversity of perspectives participated in activities so that information collected was as representative of the community as possible
• Provide an opportunity for people’s voices to be heard with the intent of building their interest in ongoing community engagement and civic participation

Participants stressed that there is a great sense of community in Franklin. There are good, strong connections and the community helps one another – neighbors helping neighbors. The hospital and number of recreational activities are seen as strengths. Some in the business community referenced frustration with local government while also listing many strengths of downtown and ideas for the future. Many groups talked about the need for more communications on issues and activities. The most prevalent challenge appeared to be downtown including the existing housing, lack of transportation, restaurants, shops and an overall desire for revitalization. Looking toward the future, many participants stressed the need for change downtown and improvements in schools. (See Appendix for the full Franklin Voices 2015 report)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Storytelling Circles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A story circle is a group of people sharing their experiences based on a theme or a prompt. Following the sharing of individual stories the group explores common themes, questions, and/or related information. Each circle is ideally 5-8 people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group story helps build personal relationships among those who participate and creates a dialogue where the group can explore issues in more depth, prompted by the stories.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key themes from Franklin Voices:
• Sense of community
• Civic life
• Economic vitality
• Transportation
• Housing
• Infrastructure
• Natural resources
• Cultural resources
• Historic sites
• Community and health services and schools
Franklin for a Lifetime Workshop

Thursday, April 9, 2015 – Summary

Thursday night began with a community supper prepared by the Franklin Regional Hospital and included 82 participants. The Steering Committee shared their experiences facilitating storytelling groups for the Franklin Voices project. Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur of AARP Livable Communities presented on the topic of age-friendly communities and discussed various components of the built and social environment that must be considered. Wallace-Brodeur’s presentation also revealed the similarities in needs and preferences of older adults and millennials where both groups are interested in living in age-friendly communities.

Following Wallace-Brodeur’s presentation and lively question-and-answer session with the crowd, participants were given sheets of paper printed with a light bulb and asked to answer two questions:

- What is something you can do to make Franklin a more welcoming place for all ages to live?
- What is something to be addressed by the community to make Franklin welcoming for people of all ages?

The activity elicited 50 responses and UNH Cooperative Extension staff sorted the responses into different themes. The themes included:

- Recreation for all: trails; business ideas
- Infrastructure: benches, roads, transportation
- Business development/entrepreneurship: ideas for new business
- Downtown Improvement: diverse business, improvements, fix up appearance
- Housing: Multi-generational and multi-income
- Volunteerism/Civic Life
- Schools: improvement

Friday, April 10, 2015 - Summary

Friday, two national speakers presented and five local New Hampshire experts participated in a moderated panel discussion.

Phil Stafford, of the Center for Aging and Community, Indiana University, presented the idea of approaching aging as a community challenge rather than a personal issue.

Josh Bloom, of Clue Group in Washington, DC discussed how to create a vibrant downtown Franklin, and shared creative ideas utilized in other communities such as community activation and community capital.

Following the two presentations, the emerging themes from Friday night were presented to the participants: recreation, infrastructure, business development/entrepreneurship, downtown improvement, housing, volunteerism/civic life, and schools. Participants discussed whether these themes were comprehensive, and decided to add arts and culture.
Friday afternoon, five NH leaders participated in a panel discussion:

Carmen Lorentz, NH Division of Economic Development, shared what programs the Division of Economic Development takes part in, such as business recruitment and retention, export assistance, job training grants, and tax credits.

Sue Fox, Center on Aging and Community Living of the UNH Institute on Disability, discussed person-centered options for aging and community living where individuals are able to live and age in the community of their choice.

Ted Brady, USDA Rural Development, discussed funding possibilities through USDA Rural Development.

Catherine O’Brien, NH State Council on the Arts, discussed the important role and health benefits of the arts in the life of older adults, and shared some of the programs that integrate creative arts with older adults.

Eric Chinburg, Chinburg Properties, shared his experiences renovating old mill buildings in Newmarket, NH, and discussed what communities can do to attract developers to their town or city. Participants were most interested in hearing from Eric Chinburg about experiences with Mill redevelopment, rural downtowns and the possibilities for Franklin.

The 80 participants organized into small groups for discussion on these themes. Small group discussions were facilitated by UNH Cooperative Extension Staff. The groups were asked to discuss key concepts from the speakers and opportunities and ideas for Franklin. Participants were interested in discussing all of the aforementioned themes except for schools.

Key Concepts and Ideas

The key concepts and ideas identified in the small groups are listed below from each session. These are provided as a record of the concepts and ideas generated by the community members who participated.

Business Development/Entrepreneurship/Downtown Improvements

Key Concepts

- The approach needs to be phased. Need to start where you are with an eye towards where you want to be.
- Keeping in mind the Amazon Model
- Determine or start with your mission statement which will become your path forward with effort and not be exclusionary
- Lack of alignment with business commerce strategy with focus on the elderly population
- Creating a community that is inviting to all generations with an inviting commerce area.
- Elderly population seem to be the focus not businesses.
- Community based vision must differentiate yourself from other communities. Narrow the general
- Two owners own 30% of businesses downtown. Picking and choosing businesses won’t work if they are inconsistent with the owners’ vision
- Less than friendly city
• People first, businesses are opportunistic.
• Drug store, movie house, clothing stores are potential
• Politics are an issue
• Bring back the park bench in downtown
• Three legged stool
  ▪ Business
  ▪ Government
  ▪ Civic

Ideas

• Tourism
• Culture/Arts
• Economic Feasibility
• Environmental Sustainability
• Green infrastructure
• Role of Government
• Business Development Entrepreneurialism

Arts & Culture

Key Concepts

• Need basic services/retail opportunities to support downtown
• Anything downtown has to look different than a row of stores
• Franklin has amazing buildings
• Arts and culture can be an economic driver
• More arts downtown
• Heating sidewalks
• Rocking chairs in summer but what in winter?
• Walking tour with QR codes for historic buildings
• Build on existing programs
  ▪ Storytelling guild at library
  ▪ 3 Rivers signers
  ▪ New downtown art gallery
  ▪ Opera House – 1 activity per month
    ▪ Dinner and a show packaging
  ▪ Blues series at Elks House – acts from all over
• Programming ideas to get adults into library – adults haven't been willing to come but successful in getting kids
• Co-working space at library
• Makers space
• Artists space
• Studio live/work building
• Enhance transportation options to get folks there
• Intergenerational programming in the afternoon for older community members who won’t drive at night
  • Community gardens – example in Newport, Vermont People in the neighborhood take care of it
• Knitting to decorate trees
• Used wood pallets for chairs
• Get neighborhoods involved
• Infuse arts and culture with other areas
• Schools have had to cut back on arts and nothing has replaced it. Make community activities that involve kids
• Intergenerational arts
• Intergenerational music
• Define arts and culture broadly
• Use trails – signage pointing out history
• Build on historical society
• Arts and health – statewide arts and health network – education

Recreation

Key Concepts

• Intergenerational recreation/activities for all
• Benches in parks/downtown
• Parklets
• Places for all ages to gather/socialize/hang out

Ideas:

• Connecting trails
• Pop up businesses during events downtown—First Day
• Skating rink
• Bowling alley
• Golf course
• Indoor recreation during winter
• Ski area—working to establish mountain bike trails
• Pop up bike store/ snowshoeing
• Event for rails to trails
• Improve public perception of Rails to Trails—underutilized
• Market/ publicize recreational activities
  • No local newspaper—people don’t know what’s going on
  • Community List Serve
  • “Free Positive Press”
• Use sign at Regal Theatre to advertise events
• “Rolling sign” to advertise events in Franklin
• Streamlining communication—monthly newsletter from several organizations (rec center, TRIP center, library)
• Volunteers to coordinate information

Infrastructure

Key Concepts

• How does it affect city services? Housing developments/transportation
• Emergency services
• 78% covered by water/sewer
• Patch work
• Broadband—key
• Cellular service
• Poor to average roads
• Plowing
• Red listed bridges
• 100 yr flood plain in Main St area
• Senior bus service (60+ only, grant for disabled)
• Volunteer ride program (older adult only—2 trips/week)
• Winnipesaukee transit program
  • Proposal from Franklin/Boscawen corridor
  • Frequent service to additional service
  • Raise revenue
  • Taxi services (lacking)
  • Current EMT services taxed for ride to docs

Ideas

• Emergency help business (lifting service)
  • RTrans should be a part of this solution
• Animal control—need for ratification in animal control
  • Officers already need to do this
• Clearing sidewalks
• Geography

Housing

Key Concepts

• Housing not just designed for seniors, multi-generational
• Locate senior housing close to retail and services
• Walkability and accessibility and safety
• Identify assets to leverage
• 1950s to now—we had operational mills, theatre, etc.—we have the infrastructure, need to reverse the trend—incentivize redevelopment
• Integrated housing
• The location of housing can revamp downtown
• Shared common space with neighbors
• Appeal of “the front porch”
• Assessments of housing for accessibility—existing buildings

Ideas

• Asset inventory of housing
• Use pop-up stores to show benefit of first floor, enhance housing upstairs
• Alliance between city and landowners to overcome building code barriers—change use to match the code
• Building owner relationships with FBIDC
• Multi-generational, multi-income housing in downtown—choices
• How to reconcile necessary money need on rentals with cost of renovating
• Need federal assistance programs for rebuilding
• Need to reconcile privacy/space with accessibility
• Downtown will be more affordable due to greater effectiveness with services

Volunteerism/ Civic Life

Key Concepts

• Danish example—college students living for free and assisting elderly
• Knowing availability of volunteer opportunities
• Communication where volunteers are needed—match up system
• Volunteer projects to make Main Street better

Ideas

• Matching process—system needs with volunteers
  ▪ Choose Franklin
  ▪ Physical place/ hub of information
  ▪ Could be run by volunteers if you had the space
    ▪ Community center
    ▪ Satellite chamber office
• Foster intergenerational—not just broad
• Collaboration with schools (community service)
• Incentives for youth to volunteer
• Educating the community about what is available at all ages
  ▪ Volunteer tasks appropriate for all ages
• Redefining volunteerism
  ▪ Including helping elderly neighbor with lawn care, etc.
  ▪ Helping with downtown plantings, etc.
• Service groups work together to coordinate different needs
• Adopt-a-spot
• Garden clubs
• Recognize volunteers—publicly recognize people for hours of community service
• Volunteer ride program (older adult only—2 trips/week)
• Intergenerational center
  ▪ Community center—Tiny Twisters and Senior Center

Saturday, April 11, 2015 – Design Charette by Plan NH

Saturday was a work session for Plan NH to develop design recommendations based on community input from the engagement activities and ideas presented by speakers during the previous workshop sessions. The Plan NH team was comprised of volunteer members of the organization, who are architects, landscape architects, engineers, planners, transportation consultants, housing experts, historic preservation experts and interns.

Plan NH presented to a group of about 30 Franklin community members. Plan NH discussed some of their discoveries:

• Needs of aging do fit with needs of livable city for all
• More housing is not really needed—but better housing and choices
• Franklin is in the middle of tourism in NH
• People of Franklin are committed to change and creating a more livable city
• Franklin has historic assets to be leveraged (heritage of Daniel Webster, mill buildings, train trestle)
• Franklin also has natural resources to be leveraged

Some of Plan NH’s recommendations included:

• Make Franklin, NH the 3rd city in the state to become a “sustainable city”
  ▪ Explore solar options
• Make Franklin “open for business” through adjusting the attitude of city government to new development
  ▪ Create partnerships and accomplishments
• Revitalize the downtown with a focus on Bridge to Bridge (B2B)
  ▪ Minimize risk for property owners
  ▪ Engage community
  ▪ Incubator space for downtown economic development
  ▪ Reduced fee space
  ▪ Identify 2-3 start-up businesses
  ▪ Improve signage
• “Front porches/parklets”: 2 parking spaces become a pop-up park
• Community engagement: wall to leave comments
• Move farmers market downtown and make very visible
• Obtain a downtown coordinator in city government to organize relationships

Economic Development
• Target WWW: Wisdom, Working World, people who have a “degree in wisdom from life”
• Target YES: Young Minds, Entrepreneurs, Stay
• Competition of people to bring in businesses with free rent for business and residence
• Start businesses that serve community
• Stay, work, play

Open spaces and recreation
• Connect trails
• Web based recreation guide

Infrastructure
• Enough space on Central Street for traffic, bike lanes, and parallel parking with minimal changes
• Create bumped out sidewalks to shorten crosswalks (easier for older and disabled to cross)
• Create median refuge by gas station halfway across the street

Marceau Park
• Create a band shell/community space
• Building next door could be developed into a restaurant and use outdoor space for seating
• Might attract people to come downtown and participate
• Pop-up attraction similar to skating rink at Strawberry Banke

The future of transportation
• Franklin based taxi service
• Better sidewalks, complete streets
• Better transit
• Car-sharing, bike-sharing, ride-sharing

Encouraging multi-aged housing
• Allow mutli-aged (in-law) housing
• Simplify permitting process
• Increase housing units

Mill building renovations
• “Village of downtown”
• Housing, shops, kayak rentals
• Create front porches, areas for gathering, seating
• Intergenerational cohabitation
• Deck space for cafes or seating
Outcomes

Summary of May 26th Presentation

On May 26, 2015, Franklin City Council held a community meeting to host featured speaker Rick Hauser, mayor of Perry, New York and owner of In.Site: Architecture, a member of the Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design™ resource team. In addition, attendees heard highlights from the Franklin for a Lifetime project and formed community action groups to move Franklin forward, based on learning and input from Franklin Voices and the April workshop. Participants at the meeting included approximately 50 city council members, city officials, members of the Plan NH design team and members of the public, many of whom came to the April workshop.

Rick Hauser presented his own experiences as mayor and architect addressing the challenges of a downtown in decline, after working with his own community to revitalize buildings in his town of Perry, NY. He also discussed “Main Street, LLC,” a model for downtown revitalization that uses community entrepreneurism, citizens working together and private sector rehab.

Before the meeting, the steering committee identified five action groups that community members can join to contribute time and energy to Franklin community projects. Members of the audience were asked to sign up and volunteer to work on action groups to move Franklin forward.

Action Committees

Marketing – “Champions for Franklin”
Contact: Elizabeth Dragon

Community Events and Recreational Opportunities
Contact: Krystal Alpers

Housing
Contact: Dick Lewis

Arts and Culture
Contact: to be decided

Volunteerism/Civic Life
Contact: Jo Brown and George Dzujna

Next Steps

As follow up to the workshops, the steering committee will be meeting in late June 2015 to identify what the follow up to the workshop will be. Each action group is led by a community member or Franklin city staff member. UNH Cooperative Extension will provide staff support for the next 6-12 months to the action groups, as needed, as they organize and move forward on their action items.

For more information contact:
UNH Cooperative Extension
Community Development
Tel: 603-862-5046 extension.unh.edu
Email: molly.donovan@unh.edu