

Appendix 3: Visioning Forum II Report



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE
Cooperative Extension



Rockingham
Planning
Commission

**NORTH HAMPTON MASTER PLAN
VISIONING FORUM II
REPORT**

NOVEMBER 16, 2005

Accepted: 17 January 2006

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Master Plan Vision Section

Major Themes for Master Plan Vision Statement from Forum I

Preserve Rural New England character

- Protect natural resources: water, forests, pastures, wildlife
- Preserve town heritage: historic buildings, houses and barns, stone walls
- Use Conservation Subdivisions to protect land and resources

Spend wisely for municipal services and facilities (Yankee Thrift)

- Respond to residents' expectations for services and facilities
- Respect residents' willingness to provide funding for equipment + facilities
- Manage capital expenditures wisely and plan for future needs through a coordinated plan

Coordination and Communication between town departments and between the town and residents

- Broadcast public meetings
- Consider Town Meeting
- Coordination between departments
- Find new ways to reach out to residents and provide opportunities to get involved

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Comments about Major Themes of the Vision

Marshes should be included in what we preserve

Having a physically identifiable town center

Route 1 is central aspect to rural character

Use term "creative zoning" instead of "conservation subdivisions"

Affordable housing/workforce housing

Controls on commercial growth

Commercial growth needs to be incorporated & addressed

Issue not necessarily town meeting revival, but rather informing voters. (consequences of alternatives) – using multiple media

Need to make environment such that commercials businesses thrive or not put all eggs in one basket

Need better news outlet(s)

There are different notions/ideas around New Urbanism

Education about above & other planning items, as well

Slow growth

Taxation (residential vs. commercial)

Using tax bill as another method to educate people

Consider time of year when convening town residents and timing of vote is a factor

Limiting building size

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GROUP NUMBER 1 BREAKOUT DISCUSSION

Facilitator: Jill Robinson

Participants: Dr. Joseph Arena, Jr.; Kimberly Chenard, Judy Day, Sandy Dewing, Bob Landman, Priscilla Metalious, Walter Nordstrom, Peter Parker, Janet Sanborn, Phil Wilson

Discussion Topics: Highway Department, Library, Municipal Complex, Recreation

Municipal Complex and Library Priorities:

- Things for families
- Would be willing to pay [for them]
- Wants to pay for [them] with alternative means, i.e. fundraising
- Live with what we've got and not spend what we can't afford – can we afford to live here if taxes rise
- Get a needs assessment with cost analysis for entire facility
- We need to maintain equipment and buildings that we have before we spend
- We need a plan to conserve energy in all facilities – existing and new
- What are residents willing to give in terms of volunteering
- Creating a sense of community and bring people together and is there access and connections and creative fundraising
- Creative zoning
- Stop subsidizing IBR [Industrial-Business/Residential District] growth
 - make business have their own security
- Needs analysis to find out what's necessary
- Efficiently and cross-functionally use what we build
 - no isolated palaces
- Consistently perform routine maintenance on what we have

What Do We Need to Do?

- Find place for highway garage
 - most economical use of space we already own
- Most economical both now and in the long-term
- Population of town in future is important factor
 - population projection 25% growth
- Example [of bad decision]: buying a used fire truck that won't last

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How Do We Do This?

Look at complex as an integrated whole
Move the building itself [Old Town Hall]
Library becomes center
Using donations [to build or expand library]
People's participation in town matters/affairs has an influence on the outcome
What is different between us and other towns
 is it reaching out?
If you move town hall, may lose jail and historic elements
Do people have information on cost of library
If we move town hall, still need records space
Revisit multiple options from last years study
Instead of moving town hall to 239 Atlantic, put highway garage there
 but neighbors are concerned
 shielding? How to hide
There is more space where town hall is
 look at options for expanding complex on abutting properties or
 accessible [land behind Lamprey facility]
How can we utilize the railroad? It could be a road that the town uses
Railroad could be trail and recreation
Reconsider Cherry & Cedar Road for highway shed
 would it affect aquifer? Closed building
Work environment for people in highway department
Work environment for safety and work conditions
To attract and retain best people, have to provide needed facilities,
i.e. female fire fighters
Before we design, we need to do a needs assessment
 independent professional should do this
Centralize is goal, but it won't all fit
Hobbs' land is possible place for municipal complex
 accessible by Boston & Maine Railroad
1000 people [will be added to Town by 2025]
 will this be cost efficient to pay for community facility
Planning catch-up with facilities [not planning for growth]
Is it cost effective
Avoid a "vicious downward spiral of spending"
 how much to value social benefits from new facilities
 whenever we talk about spending more, one more person may
 have to leave town
We should compare ourselves to towns of similar size

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How Do We Coordinate Development of Municipal Complex

- Review last year's study
- Design charette
- Move town hall to 239 Atlantic Avenue
- Meeting place
- Make building structurally sound
- Consider private police for Lafayette Crossing to free police
- Get cost estimates for moving buildings
- How our growth relates to growth of other towns

How do we limit Commercial Growth?

- Limit square feet of buildings
- Type of business matters
- Control type of use
- Limit retail development [because of impact on police services]
- [Promote] commercial office & professional development [because it increases tax base without drain on police services]
- Creative zoning
- Revisit zoning for IBR [Industrial-Business/Residential District]

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GROUP NUMBER 2 BREAKOUT DISCUSSION

Facilitator: Charlie French

Participants: Allen Brandt, Jill Brandt, Emily Creighton, Rich Goeselt, Jeff Hillier, Jenifer Landman, Glen Martin, Robert Maxwell O'Kane, Laurel Pohl, Lisa Wilson

Discussion Topics: Highway Department, Library, Municipal Complex, Recreation

Needs Related to Municipal Complex and Highway Department:

- Municipal complex should be arranged better to reduce costs and ensure that emergency vehicles are out of way

 - keep cost down

 - service community's needs better

 - provide better access/parking

- A Master Plan of some sort needs to be developed for municipal complex to see how it can best be utilized (flow, etc.)

- Do all services/functions need to be located at municipal complex?

 - There needs to be more thought about how like services that people need to access can be housed together (car registration, dog license, etc.)

- Needs to be better education/communication regarding what the municipal complex entails – services, departments, space demands, etc.

- The public should be able to access emergency services in one location.

 - Need to consider daily needs vs. emergency needs

- Need for highway department facility that houses all equipment

 - E.g. salt/sand shed

- Complex doesn't need to be in high profile location

- Consider space demands for various municipal facilities (e.g. highway department)

- Needs to be some process to examine exactly what the diverse needs are down the road.

 - How far out do we look?

 - How do we prioritize those needs?

- Consider how existing municipal complex can be most efficiently/effectively used before we think about developing new space

- There is no place for storage of records

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Fire department needs expansion (possibly 2 more bays)

Ladder truck is ancient so new truck with taller ladder may be needed

The needs of the various town departments have to be communicated to the public – there are certain needs which cannot be overlooked (i.e. emergency facilities)

Police need evidence bays/lockers, Sally port needs expansion

There is a need for a community gathering spot (e.g. park benches, gazebos, meeting space, etc.)

Needs Related to Public Library:

Determine future space/physical demands of public library
books, meeting rooms, computer terminals

Library functions may cross over with recreation functions

Perhaps the 'library' should be broadened to be encompassed by a 'cultural center' that houses library, history center, school functions, etc.

Museum and welcome center integrated with library

Plans should be flexible to allow a variety of options

How Should Long-Range Planning Committee Address these Needs?

Committee needs to ensure that the Master Plan incorporates a system for identifying needs and priorities

Survey/Needs Assessment

Tap into Existing Data (Mires Report, previous committee work, etc.).

Get more department input (or effectively utilize input already provided)

Engage boards and community

Long Range Planning Committee needs to come up with new and better ways to communicate the needs identified through the assessment with public and a feedback loop that channels info from the public back to the assessment should be established

The question is, how is all of the existing needs data and new data going to be compiled and evaluated?

Perhaps utilize the community newsletter as an information/education conduit to the public

Whatever happens with regard to the planning process, it has to be built on the backs of public officials and the citizens of the community or it isn't going to happen.

There is great need a visionary to guide process

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The long range planning committee needs a directive from community, such as:

- Hire a consultant

- Involve more public input

- Spend money to ensure that things happen

Ultimately, the long range planning committee needs to find the solution that is least opposable but it has to be comprehensive and comprehensible

Get a neutral non-community member, such as staff from RPC or UNH Cooperative Extension, to coordinate and orchestrate the needs assessment process

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APPENDICES

A. Agenda

Master Plan Visioning Forum #2

November 16th, 2005

North Hampton Visioning Forum: This forum seeks to refine the public input that was provided through a community-wide survey and a community visioning forum. The end result of this public input process will be a Master Plan vision statement, a revised Community Services and Facilities section of the Master Plan, and a revised Capital Improvements Program.

7:00 **Welcome and Overview** (Phil Wilson)

7:15 **Master Plan Vision and Implementation Strategies** (Charlie French & Jill Robinson)

7:45 **Participants Move into Breakout Groups**

Participants will have the opportunity to participate in one of four breakout groups that focus on the Community Facilities and Services (CFS) section of the Master Plan. Each group will address a particular aspect of the CSF. The groups are as follows:

1. Highway Department
2. Library
3. Municipal Complex
4. Recreation Facilities and Amenities

-----Breakout Group Sessions Details-----

7:50 Introductions & Sign-in Sheet

Facilitators introduce themselves and explain their role – role is to facilitate a session aimed at collecting public input for the CSF section of the Master Plan.

Have session participants introduce themselves.

Pass around the sign-in sheet for names and contact info. Be sure that your breakout group's topic area is written on the top of the sign-in sheet.

7:55 Provide Background on Topic Area:

Outline breakout group topic area: What does it encompass?

The following questions are aimed at getting detailed input around a variety of items that need to be addressed in the Community Facilities and Services section of the Master Plan.

8:00 What are the most important goals that you would like to see achieved through the CFS section of the Master Plan regarding this topic? (Go around in round-robin format asking each participant for input. Bullet out the comments)

8:15 Of these goals, what are **three** key goals that are of high priority?

8:30 How might these goals be achieved?

8:45 How might achieving these goals impact other community services and facilities?

Group Reports: Each group gives 2-3 minute presentation to the large group on three goals and possible ways to address them.

9:20 **Wrap up and Next Steps** (Laurel Pohl)

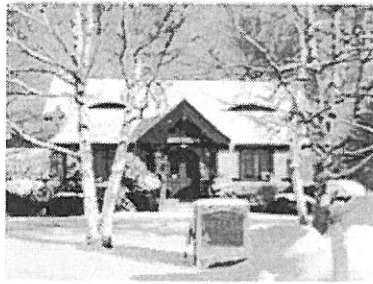
9:30 **Adjourn**

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B. Presentation of Results from Forum I & Next Steps in Forum II

North Hampton

Vision II: Taking the Next Steps



Vision II Roadmap



- How will public input be incorporated into Master Plan?
- Why is the Vision Chapter important?
- What are the Major Themes of the Vision Chapter?
- What we need to do tonight?

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Public Input

- ◆ Topic areas relate to different master plan chapters: Land Use, Recreation, etc.
- ◆ Last week's discussion frames the Vision Chapter and also each separate chapter's "mini-vision" section

The Vision Chapter

- ◆ Frames the discussion for the entire Master Plan
- ◆ What the Community thinks is most important
- ◆ Guides the setting of priorities and the development of an implementation plan

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Major Themes of the Vision

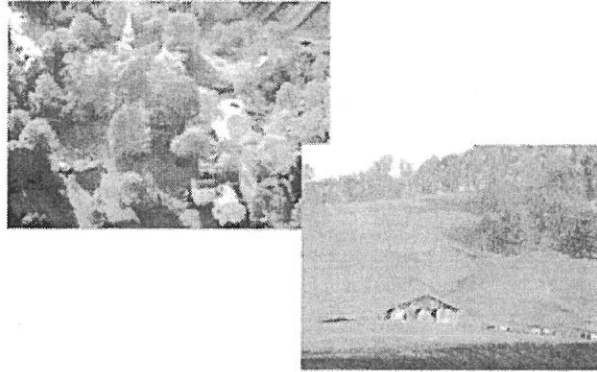


Major Themes of the Vision

- ◆ **Preserve Rural New England character**
- ◆ **Spend wisely** for municipal services and facilities (Yankee Thrift)
- ◆ **Coordination and Communication** between town departments and between the town and residents

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Preserve Rural Character



Preserve Rural Character

- ◆Protect natural resources: water, forests, pastures, wildlife
- ◆Preserve town heritage: historic buildings, houses and barns, stone walls
- ◆Use Conservation Subdivisions to protect land and resources

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Spend Wisely (Yankee Thrift)

- ◆ Respond to residents' expectations for services and facilities
- ◆ Respect residents' willingness to provide funding for equipment and facilities
- ◆ Manage capital expenditures wisely and plan for future needs through a coordinated plan

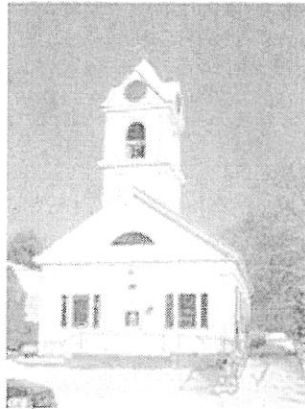
Coordination/ Communication

- ◆ Broadcast public meetings
- ◆ Consider Town Meeting
- ◆ Coordination between departments, between town and school system
- ◆ Find new ways to reach out to residents and provide opportunities to get involved

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Summary

- ◆ Rural character
- ◆ Spend wisely
- ◆ Coordination and
- ◆ Communication



CSF Master Plan Chapter:

Action Plan

- ◆ Highway Department
- ◆ Municipal Complex and Library
- ◆ Recreational Facilities and Amenities