

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.

Steering Committee Members:

David Nelson (chair), George Klauber (vice chair), Jack Robillard (secretary), Rick Metts, Neil Wetherbee, Cecile Cormier, Elizabeth Ives, Jack Dowd, Jack Robichaud, Nicole Ferrante, Ken Gould

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, John Dowd, 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)

To view the Our Town, Our Future Derry Community Profile report in its entirety, please visit the UNH Cooperative Extension's Community Assistance website at:

<http://extension.unh.edu/CommDev/CACPAP.htm>



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Derry Our Town, Our Future Community Profile West Running Brook Middle School April 4, 2009

The Community Profile project is facilitated by the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension in partnership with the City of Derry. UNH Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity educator and employer. UNH, U.S. Department of Agriculture and New Hampshire counties cooperating.

Over 150 community members came together on Saturday, April 4, 2009 to discuss the past, present and the future of Derry. Following is a brief summary of the conversation that took place during that day.

Community Profile components discussed Saturday morning were subsequent issues outlined for work throughout the event:

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

Saturday afternoon small groups focused on the following seven themes to determine potential projects for Derry to work on:

- Protection of Natural Resources
- Community Support
- Leadership and Communication
- Planning
- Traffic/Transportation
- Economic Development
- Downtown
- Recreational & Leisure

Projects brought forward from the eight small groups above for the large group to vote on are listed below. The number of votes for each topic is listed in parenthesis:

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 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)**