



Your Regional Plan

Municipal Meetings

Lebanon, NH
Kilton Library
October 22, 2013

Attending:

Kate Connolly, Town of Hanover
Judith Esmay, Town of Hanover
Julia Griffin, Town of Hanover
Rick Dymont, City of Lebanon
Mark Goodwin, City of Lebanon
Arthur Gardiner, Town of Hanover
Ian Sim, Town of Hanover
Erling Heistad, City of Lebanon
Joan Monroe, City of Lebanon
David Brooks, City of Lebanon
Nicole Cormen, City of Lebanon
Sarah Simons, Vital Communities
Susan MacKenzie, Town of Lyme
Carol Dustin, Town of Lyme
Scott Osgood, Town of Enfield
Barbara McIlroy, Town of Hanover

UVLSRPC Staff:

Christine Frost
Rachel Ruppel
Quinn Molloy
Pat Crocker
Mike McCrory

The meeting began promptly at 6:00

Christine Frost gave an introduction of the agenda for the evening and provided an overview of the work that the Commission has completed to date on behalf of the communities in the region to complete the regional plan. Public feedback and research included:

- Online Feedback received through the Regional Forum on the Future
- Analysis completed on all 27 Master Plans within the region
- Public feedback received from 14 communities events around the region
- Independent phone survey results
- Existing conditions and current trends within the region

The Commission then asked for input from the attendees about what was happening within their communities. The following list was compiled:

- ✓ Enfield – water and sewer extension on Route 4 is complete
- ✓ Economic summit with businesses to discuss what's next now that Route 4 is completed
- ✓ Hanover – Residential project – planning board, zoning by neighborhood, asking residents to participate in host neighborhood meetings
- ✓ Hanover – town projects include: stormwater infrastructure upgrades, sidewalk plan (do we bond for this? How far do we want to go? Just finished a Safe Routes To School Project - What will happen now that there is no more funding for Safe Routes To School?)
- ✓ Community Center – expansion of gymnasium and senior housing
- ✓ Lebanon – working on implementing Master Plan
- ✓ Lebanon – CSO separation project, includes mapping inventory of entire sewer system
- ✓ Lebanon – conversations regarding road improvements, city hall renovations, using CSO to add sidewalks, upgrades to water infrastructure
- ✓ Lebanon is focusing on citizen engagement, involvement, seeking neighborhood level input
- ✓ Lebanon – focusing on efficiency, doing more with less, challenge to respond to emergency flooding and having to reprioritize CIP after natural disasters
- ✓ Lebanon – have seen a lot of permit applications for commercial development in the past 2 years, challenge to manage what's been approved while updating City regulations
- ✓ Lyme – working on a 10 year plan for upgrading roads and then maintaining them – having issue with the road that is falling into the CT River
- ✓ Lyme – working on 'aging in place' how to allow older people to remain in town, there is currently a lack of options in housing
- ✓ Hanover – shortage of rental housing for people of modest income
- ✓ Lebanon – perception that Lebanon should be providing more housing while other towns have not been is a complex issue: low income housing proximate to low income jobs, more dispersed, to improve quality of life, offer more opportunities of places to live
- ✓ Hanover – Gile, phase 4 affordable housing units going in
- ✓ Stormwater? Are we considering the 'folks' downstream? Focus more on larger culverts – opportunities to discuss stormwater utilities need to take place
- ✓ Lebanon – Westboro yard, active rail, mixed use, recreation – airport Master Plan going out to bid soon, this will be comprehensive - also interested in conducting a long range transportation plan, mixed use zoning, street lighting plans, completing Safe Routes To School analysis as well as stormwater regulations, proper sizing of culverts and LID techniques
- ✓ Lebanon – citizens initiative on invasive species are underway through an all volunteer effort
- ✓ RPC use to be bi-state, feels it a great loss to not be bi-state, but Ct River Joint Commissions is a bi-state organization – it is important to have this bi-state organization
- ✓ Flood control dams were a regional effort in the 1950/1960s no think of this for current era of flooding, needs regional approach to stormwater
- ✓ Lebanon – relicensing of Wilder Dam, moving into period of study, relationship with river features is in the Master Plan

After a short break the group reconvened and discussed what they valued about the region.

- ✓ Physical beauty and education
- ✓ 2/3 rural and 1/3 developed, best of both worlds
- ✓ Social offerings, direct human contact – there's a remarkable variety of intelligent people with different perspectives, make it interesting

- ✓ Rural area with jobs in health care
- ✓ CT River, engaged community who support one another
- ✓ Natural environment and cultural opportunities, in 5 minutes I can be in either
- ✓ High quality of life, access to rural, cultural, good schools, does not have a big-city traffic
- ✓ Very privileged to work with the quality of people after I retired, meet people because live in the community where diverse ideas and people are accepted
- ✓ Live on a hill, I can see Killington, great views, open sky
- ✓ Quality of life, wide range of people, diverse backgrounds and willing to speak their mind and be tolerant
- ✓ The outdoors
- ✓ When //// hits the fan, ecologically speaking NE and NW are two best places to live, long term view of community
- ✓ Access to fresh air, diverse and healthy foods
- ✓ Proximity to nature and the number of people who care about nature
- ✓ The degree to which an individual can make a difference here, a lot of creativity, artists
- ✓ Get up in the am, go on a 4 mile walk without encountering another person, breakfast at a local place, without a latte, farmers market and get fresh local produce, West Leb feed and supply, local business, ride my horse, live in an historic farmhouse
- ✓ Walkability – can walk to work and home, can live downtown
- ✓ Making connections to new opportunities for personal growth, a privilege to live here
- ✓ To have a specialized profession and get to live and raise a family in a pleasant place like this
- ✓ Three hour bus ride can take you any place in the world
- ✓ Live in a quiet neighborhood and can walk to church, pharmacy, movie theater, trails town hall
- ✓ At the town hall I know people who care and are devoting energy to making this a great place to live

After some great discussion the group was asked to participate in leading their own conversation about what projects and initiatives they felt were important to be represented in the Regional Plan. The group determined eight topics that that needed more conversation and should be addressed in the regional plan. The groups reconvened and shared their ideas about what they want to see happen in their communities and the larger region. Discussion followed regarding:

Transportation: reduce auto traffic, eliminate trips

There is a hope to increase car pooling in the region in order to reduce congestion and trips within the region – there is currently a bike and pedestrian committee discussing park and ride areas for rural areas, parking and riding bikes from around town and using shuttle buses. Some felt it was difficult to find these opportunities and that people need to be encouraged to use park and ride areas – could use existing lots such as churches that go unused during regular business hours. Is there an opportunity of increasing the Transportation Management Association's role in being more effective? – behavior change is difficult – parking is a challenge in Lebanon but charging for parking should be investigated – We're not talking about new modes as solutions, should we be? – Where could additional routes make sense? – Where does funding come from to solve these issues? – Not sure people support funding transit – people who want to live downtown will have better access to housing

Affordable Housing: dispersal of homes, maintain or increase quality of life, improve opportunities for future generations

There's a cycle of poverty, you have to disburse the affordable housing, and if people grow up seeing poverty then that is what they see. Change the environment people are living

in. Manufactured housing often means low cost housing in rural areas. Housing is low cost but high quality? It's possible to create mixed income neighborhoods. Where do we want to locate housing? How so we serve seniors and low income? Who are we housing? Housing needs to be distributed but the infrastructure is not distributed. How do we get affordable housing projects in places like Norwich? Where are the good examples? DRA forces you to charge 14% to those who are late on their tax bill.

Mid-career training

Computer and high tech is eliminating jobs – People need new skills to participate in the workforce – match employer needs with employee interests –health care opportunities and basic communication skills are in decline – vocational training is needed – difficult to anticipate future skills that will be needed and identify the soft skills – it will be important to train people for jobs in the area to maintain and improve the economic health of the region – 4 year college and votech training is required for places like DHMC/Whelen/Hypertherm – we need to teach how to learn – there's a need to be able to translate employer needs into educational opportunity – we have great resources right here RVCC, Lebanon College, Dartmouth College and more

Save the planet: biologically, legislatively and psychologically

Big picture, it is overwhelming to solve some of the issues that are in front of us – Can you start with a niche? – Pick something that interests you or what you are comfortable with – implementation is important – educate the public on the need for a healthy natural world no matter what the scale – healthy water infrastructure through strengthening the shoreline protection act – composting toilets, how do they get incorporated into zoning? – Enlarge the definition of floodplain – use incentives to improve these issues – create coalitions to solve issues

Transportation: Access from rural areas

What is the connection between more affordable housing in rural communities and where Advance Transit is available? – web-based rideshare would be helpful, and improve and support increasing the regional rideshare program – is there a way to create 5 acre zoning for park and rides in rural areas and then use mass transit as well from those locations? – What would make people bother to use it? – would cell phones work to coordinate rides? – Charge for parking and limit the time that people can park within the more concentrated areas – there are parking problems in Hanover

Resiliency with changing climate and demographics

With an aging population can we respond to the challenges of elderly at risk for problems? – there is more vulnerability – neighbors monitoring one another would be helpful – In Lyme there is an informal 'Those Guys' group that helps out where ever needed, providing rides, home repairs etc. now there's a 'Those Gals' starting up – the frequent issue is how to get groceries – Making connections and getting people involved through strong community

Broadband

Retaining town character while meeting regional needs