



Your Regional Plan

Municipal Meetings

Washington, NH
Camp Morgan Lodge
October 8, 2013

Attending:

Nan Schwartz – Town of Washington (PB)
Steve Terance – Town of Washington (PB)
Jean Kluk – Town of Washington (PB)
Mary Grenier – Town of Lempster (SB)
E. Lawrence Rawls – Town of Lempster (state representative)
Ken Eastman – Town of Washington (SB)

UVLSRPC Staff:

Christine Frost
Adam Ricker

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:

- ✓ Washington is working on two capital projects, the Town Hall and the Meeting House.
- ✓ Washington is looking at a 'safety complex' for fire, rescue and police.
- ✓ Washington is updating their Master Plan.
- ✓ Lempster is also working their Meeting House and is almost completed a new fire station that includes fire and rescue.
- ✓ Lempster is updating their Hazard Mitigation Plan
- ✓ Washington is hoping to complete work on Red Listed bridges
- ✓ Lempster is hoping to complete Keyes Hollow bridge, looking to put in a temporary bridge – Lempster/Washington bridge is completed

- ✓ Lempster Town forest on Long Pond is working on getting a conservation easement using their CIP. Already has \$17K in funding with grant funds. Final cost to the Town is expected to be about \$3K.

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

- ✓ Conservation of land – regional residents want conserved land.
- ✓ Encouraging new residents and new business owners to participate in local government/boards/commissions etc.
- ✓ Waterbodies, scenery and forests and their preservation
- ✓ Environment, rural character, agriculture and local way of life.
- ✓ Shared value system in the community. The natural beauty, environment and natural resources and character.

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 two topics that they selected that needed more conversation.

- Historic Building Preservation

Frustrating that large communities seem to have more resource or that people care more about their historic structures – there needs to be more funds for preservation projects- the Regional Planning Commission needs to advocate for LCHIP – donations, tax dollars, perhaps there could be a 50/50 cost share – the RPC should identify and map historic structures within the region to be included in the region plan to bring awareness – Goshen has zoning, Lempster does not, the differences from one community to the next make things difficult – promote public/private partnerships for preservation

- Roads

Road conditions are an issue – many were never built for the current uses and volume of traffic, i.e. logging trucks – log trucks warrant reconstruction of many roads – logging is an important economic driver in the area – weight limits are not followed – education of road agents is important throughout the region – need to plan for ditching and culverts etc. long term as opposed to playing catch up from past deferred maintenance – need to keep road agent as employee not elected position to ensure that you have qualified people

- Junky Yards

Aesthetics of the region is important – enforcement for public health reasons – container trucks (tractor trailers) used as storage – if it is not a vehicle it is not regulated as junk yard - permanent structures/ roll off containers – how do you define these issues, is there steel recycling that could pay for the removal and encourage people to get rid of these things? – reduces value of property and discourages people from purchasing

- Encouraging Young People and Others to Stay and Participate in the Town

Bring young people to the region? – how – transportation for kids is difficult – elementary school is great – summer residents tend to move back and retire – economic situation detracts from younger people being able to stay – encourage small business and businesses in homes – summer residents, lakes and ponds it is very important that the quality of these is maintained to encourage people to continue to be present – future retirees could bring connections, businesses and volunteers – Lempster Fire Dept. has younger people – cost of land is cheaper, affordable housing, they have seen increase in school population

The groups reconvened and shared their ideas about what they want to see happen in their communities and the larger region. Discussion followed regarding the importance of historic preservation to both communities and they shared ideas they have used for fund raising. Lempster would like to see new opportunities identified that were good for development and that might encourage some new business. The group asked UVLSRPC to identify commercial land that is viable for light industry, map the locations for future development so they could market these to people to demonstrate that there were opportunities for younger folks to begin business or find a place of employment and remain or move here.