



# Your Regional Plan

## Municipal Meetings

Canaan, NH  
Meetinghouse, Canaan Street Lake  
October 3, 2013

### Attending:

John Bergeron – Town of Canaan (PB)  
Scott Borthweck – Town of Canaan (SB)  
Dave Barney – Town of Canaan (SB, PB)  
Bethann Weick – Town of Dorchester (pB)  
Bill Trought – Town of Dorchester (PB)  
Dan Kiley – Town of Dorchester (PB)  
Carolann Morrison – Town of Canaan (PB)  
Mike Sampson – Town of Canaan (Town Administrator)  
Bob Green – Town of Dorchester (PB)  
Scott Osborn – Town of Enfield (planner)  
Bill Chabot – Town of Canaan (CC)

### UVLSRPC Staff:

Christine Frost  
Adam Ricker  
Quinn Molloy

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:

- ✓ Mascoma High School renovation – working on school long range plan
- ✓ Health Clinic, 5 Town co-op clinic focused on Mascoma Valley towns
- ✓ Economic Development – working on businesses (5) in Canaan for expansion and relocation

- ✓ Canaan is looking to redevelop the speedway, town will have public interest in the speedway, new speedway being built
- ✓ Canaan rescue squad moving to 24 hour service
- ✓ Canaan water/sewer has increased capacity can accommodate development
- ✓ Enfield – Mascoma Lake, there's not good public access – 2-acre area near shaker bridge was owned by DRED but the Town is taking over – looking for non-motorized access, picnic, beach etc. w/ connection to rail trail would be really great connection
- ✓ Route 4 Economic Development, Family Dollar breaking ground in 2013
- ✓ Hoping for a grocery store in Enfield
- ✓ Has adequate sewer and water supply for expansion
- ✓ Discussion of connection of camps on the lake to the sewer system
- ✓ In Dorchester 95% of the land is in current use
- ✓ People value rural life, but makes change difficult
- ✓ Town splits between upper valley region and Plymouth
- ✓ Need more board tax base, people on small lots are stuck
- ✓ No jobs in Dorchester, people have to move for work, will increase with fuel costs
- ✓ Large land project in the region, people are unsure how this will end or if it will be open for motorized vehicles, foot only, horse???
- ✓ There is no retail in Dorchester

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

- ✓ Public education
- ✓ Quality of life
- ✓ Open spaces
- ✓ Rural life
- ✓ Medical care
- ✓ Economic drivers
- ✓ Rural/open spaces with potential for niche cottage industry
- ✓ Current use

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.

- Cooperative Efforts within the Mascoma Valley

Dorchester EMS services are split ½ in Canaan and ½ Warren – similar situation with Canaan/Enfield – geography of the region is naturally split – where does plan for grocery store stand?? Don't thin Canaan is a likely place – Route 4 in Enfield is better possibility, if it happens, it will likely be small – Dorchester there is a big draw for open space, green woodlands encouraging recreation, 2<sup>nd</sup> homes are the hope! – Negative statements about current use, deter large land investors – Do we want growth? For taxes yes, yet want to preserve nature of the town (rural and quiet), current use falsely portrayed often look at studies by SPACE, does not cost towns \$, always looking at kids, schools, roads, are major costs – retirees and 2<sup>nd</sup> homes = the ideal resident – What are connections between towns? Speedway, good for taxes, convenience stores but also noise problems – Dorchester has nothing, almost too far to be a bedroom community to anywhere – bus service reaches Canaan – how to get services to Dorchester, can't fill seats – recreation is key – focus on summer homes? – but no water recreation within town, only accessible by non-motorized vehicles – boost community to Plymouth – only option for Dorchester families?

- Transit/Transportation

There is little public transportation – smart cars – smart technology – customer vehicles – need funding

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 understanding the geographic differences and isolation of some of the very rural communities. The school system is of regional importance, transportation needs to be more reliable and during the day as well as just for commuters. Additionally, more small business could bring stability to the region, while communities do travel long distances most places are too remote to be viewed as bedroom communities. Services are needed but discussion about taxes are difficult and current use is important but also can be a point of contention.