



# Your Regional Plan

## Municipal Meetings

New London, NH  
Tracy Memorial Library  
October 10, 2013

### **Attending:**

George McCusker, Town of Springfield  
Leigh Calloway, Town of Springfield  
Nancy Rollins, Town of New London  
Bob Crane, Town of New London  
Emma Crane, Town of New London  
Michele Holton, Town of New London  
Lucy St. John, Town of New London  
John O'Conner, Town of Wilmot  
Gerald Coogan, Town of New London  
Gerry Gold, Town of New London  
Linda Schofield, Town of Wilmot  
Kim Hallquist, Town of New London

### UVLSRPC Staff:

Christine Frost  
Quinn Molloy  
Rachel Ruppel  
Pat Crocker

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:

- ✓ Springfield is finishing a wetlands inventory and mapping. It will lead to considering zoning amendments, address dissatisfaction with older, maps currently used for zoning regulations. Public engagement is very high for the project, around 150 people.
- ✓ New London is reviewing shoreland, wetlands and streams overlay districts jointly with the conservation commission and the planning boards.
- ✓ Redevelopment of shopping center in New London
- ✓ Crockett's Corners development plans
- ✓ There's concern about boat docks, boathouses, development on Lake Sunapee and other lakes in New London
- ✓ New London has in its CIP building and grounds maintenance and roads, establishing a location for PD one day. \$1.5M
- ✓ Springfield has frontloaded their CIP with near-term projects
- ✓ Wilmot uses capital reserve funds to manage yearly budget, they don't have much town infrastructure, road agent monitors bridge issues, received emergency funds to fix storm damage, roads etc.
- ✓ Springfield doesn't use reserve fund, instead carries a large fund balance.

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

- ✓ Can access great cultural and recreation activities in close proximity
- ✓ Sense of community
- ✓ Get out and enjoy nature, exercise, see friends in the neighborhood, community involvement
- ✓ Trail system in New London and volunteers who work on them; have a patch for those who hike all trails in town
- ✓ Rural environment, exists because of people who value rural environment; strong land conservation efforts to maintain rural life for the future
- ✓ School district is second to none; KRSD
- ✓ People are willing to participate in events and issues
- ✓ 200 years of heritage; echo what other have said
- ✓ People who create small business; owners are dedicated
- ✓ Moved here intentionally because there's a world class health care system; 2 miles off the interstate; 40 minutes to Concord; have retail within easy access; rural residential living
- ✓ Most attractive is the preservation of rural nature; do not foresee a lot of development in the future
- ✓ Natural beauty and nice town; built environment great gardens; flowers in town

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 five topics that they selected that needed more conversation and should be priority issues within 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:

### **Community Character and how to maintain it; design issues**

*How do we maintain? What's in the design? What are you trying to preserve? Think that New London downtown is declining. Issues of local vendors competing with online opportunities such as Amazon. Is the past more bucolic than we think? Parking is an issue in downtown New London. Public transportation is an issue for older people. There is difficulty trying to determine the community center. Need to get more information out to community members who are not involved in government.*

### **Questions on surveys that are asked to obtain local information**

*There needs to be an understanding of the types of information that is helpful to design a better survey. Need to ask questions that are specific to the problems that are needed to be solved.*

**Land Conservation: Public Town Issues vs. Non-profit and volunteer issue?** *(no one joined this conversation)*

**Aging in Community; A role for regional planning**

*There was conversation about what the needs of people are as they age. Suggestion to conduct a market analysis to find out the needs; families want to know that their parents/older adults will be safe and supported. Need to know what services the community can provide. Are there regulations in place that allow for 'in-law' or accessory dwellings. Communities need to start to conversation given the demographic changes anticipated. Appreciation that people have different preferences.*

**Participation in KRSD issues and budgeting** *(no one joined this discussion)*

**Balance of economic growth and community character**

*Each town has different and unique zoning and different town identities which is a big challenge. Need to acknowledge the differences of each town in the regional plan. The scale of 'regional' is different depending on where you are coming from.*