



Your Regional Plan

Municipal Meetings

Croydon, NH
Croydon Town Office
September 23, 2013

Attending:

David Hooley – Town of Croydon (Road Agent)
John Clements – Town of Croydon (SB)
Kym Car – Town of Croydon (SB)
Philip Maheu – Town of Croydon (PB)
E. Lawrence Rawls – Town of Croydon (PB)
Jeff Kessler – Town of Newport (SB)
James Harding – Town of Croydon (SB/PB)

UVLSRPC Staff:

Christine Frost
Quinn Molloy
Rachel Ruppel

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:

- ✓ Rockybound Pond was classified as impaired and the Town of Croydon had done a lot of work (on going water quality testing and upgrades to septic systems) on this water body and want to know why it was classified as impaired and asked that if this map were to be in the Regional Plan that explanations of why it was classified be made clear.
- ✓ The Planning Board on Croydon is looking to update the Town's Master Plan and may need advice from the RPC and assistance completing a survey.
- ✓ There was discussion and questions about the population level within Croydon and why it has not grown over the years.

- ✓ Town of Croydon would like to see some business growth.
- ✓ Corbin Park occupies ½ of the land; there's concern over the large landowners and the potential for transfers into subdivisions and what that might mean for Croydon. The landowners are intergenerational, and some are multiple owners but nothing prohibiting land transfers.
- ✓ There is potential of development of large lots for sale, could create higher demand for services as well as additional opportunities for jobs and construction opportunities. Croydon is aware that Grantham where there has been an increase of population is right next door and Croydon residents have easy access to Lebanon.
- ✓ No outstanding public works issues in Croydon; have addressed mud season in recent years.
- ✓ About ½ of the roads in Croydon are paved; the rest are dirt
- ✓ Newport is rebuilding the foundation of many of its dirt roads; major investment to alleviate mud season
- ✓ Croydon is now offering 4th grade in their elementary school and will be providing school choice after 4th grade.
- ✓ Would like Route 10 to be maintained or rehabilitated
- ✓ In the summer the Town of Croydon maintains Croydon tpk and Reeds Mills roads and in the winter the town maintains them.

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

- ✓ Croydon is a good place to raise kids, with good friends and neighbors and a low crime rate
- ✓ There are things to do year-round, fairs, colleges, sports – nothing is too far away.
- ✓ Volunteerism and community support to get things done, everyone pitches in when needed.
- ✓ Rural nature of the town and access to wider world via I-89
- ✓ Wildlife habitat can see moose, deer, bear, turkey - open land, forests and fields
- ✓ Live at my house, go outside when I want, can do what I want – when I want, and no one can tell me what to do
- ✓ This is like NH used to be – to preserve NH values. 2nd lowest tax rate in the state and yet we still maintain town services!
- ✓ NH advantage, low business tax, keep tax climate the way it is

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.

- Broadband and cellphone access

30 – 40 year old generation needs good broadband to conduct business – broadband is the biggest question that Croydon has – home sales are affected in areas that have better coverage – people work from home - dial up is too slow – there was an announcement of a meeting at the Regional Planning Commission this Thursday in Lebanon – Tamworth has 2 new antennae providing wireless internet in a rural town – 2 wireless internet outfits have come to Croydon but need a minimum of 25 customers – DSL is available through Fairpoint – some have satellite (HughesNet) – cell towers generally not wanted on some folks property – Croydon is still working on these issues – Fairpoint box has picked up about 100 homes – HughesNet Gen4 is fast, satellite is \$70 mo. – weather affects the satellite – Comcast wants 20 connections per mile, Croydon told no chance that they'll come – Newport is pretty well served but not all areas – Some folks use the Newport library wi-fi – Not sure if Croydon has a free wi-fi hotspot, could be done at the ball park for the public to use or the town hall – no password protection for the public – generally our group thought a town hotspot is a good idea and if Fairpoint keeps

extending it would be good – NH Fastroads is in Newport (skipped Grantham, runs to Enfield)
Providers can lease space on their fiber optic line but still need population density – October
30th mtg w/Fastroads on additional expansion.

- Keeping the status quo in Croydon

Important to maintain the sense of community in Croydon – people help each other out – everyone knows one another – people are friendly and helpful – Want to make sure that there is work for people but need to be careful not to develop too fast and lose what people like about the rural area.

The two groups reconvened and shared their ideas about what they want to see happen in their communities and the larger region. Discussion followed regarding providing broadband access which is clearly an issue and how that might increase the possibility of development of some of the large tracts of land in Croydon because they would be more attractive. Additional conversation took place about Croydon completing their Master Plan to ensure that with the inevitable deployment of broadband they could maintain the Town that they enjoy today. Newport provided experience they had with updating their Master Plan. The Town of Croydon asked if the Commission could attend their PB meeting on November 4th and asked for additional resources in addressing some local cell tower issues.

