



Fall 2012

Fall Newsletter

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

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Public Defining Values for the Regional Plan

Commission staff spent considerable time over the past few months engaging communities about what is important to them. They inquired with people throughout the region and asked, “what is valued within the region?” “What are the elements that make up the communities that people choose to be a part of?” “What are the issues that need to be addressed?” Here are some of the things that we have heard and learned to date:

- Education is one of the most present issues in many people’s minds; expressed through interest in increased access, a desire for higher quality, and expressions of gratitude and appreciation for those who work in and toward educational systems within the region.
- The security of having a job and concern over current lack of confidence that there will be opportunities in the future for them and their children.
- Neighbors, families, kids, friendly, love, life,

community – were words used by many to describe values and a sense of belonging and identifying with their community. New families, and returning families wanted to be closer to their families.

- A clear identity and connection with land, its value, and the influence and status that land brings to people. Many confirmed the

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Coordinated Transportation Plan Up-Dates Completed

Coordinated Human Service and Public Transportation Plans were recently completed for Southern Grafton and Sullivan County. These plans, updated every five years, help guide the development of transportation improvements and innovations in the region. The Federal Transit Administration in Washington, D.C. and the NH DOT require coordinated transportation plans to support requests for funding projects, but their main goal is to create a comprehensive strategy to assist state and community agencies, transportation ser-

vice providers, and communities in coordinating public transit and human service transportation efforts. The objective of the coordinated plans are:

- Identifying unmet transportation needs
- Identifying transportation service gaps (e.g. un-served and underserved areas) and overlaps (e.g. service redundancies)
- Completing an inventory of existing public transit and human service transportation providers
- Identifying strate-

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Regional Plan Continued from Page 1

complexity of resolving competing land uses. Acknowledgement of the vast diversity of natural resources in close proximity to where they lived, with a strong desire to maintain that was clear.

- Important to maintain a sense of security, safety and pride.
- Appreciation for the connectivity between small communities and larger centers.
- Connection to or appeal of rural farms, and a sense of pride in participating in farming activities and knowing where their food comes from.
- Some felt disenfranchised from



Claremont Chili Cook-off October 2012

public processes (confusion over decisions being made, and saddened when those in 'charge' do not realize the impacts of their decisions).

What came across clearly was that people feel connected and invested in the communities they grew up in or have come to call home. We met people who were negatively affected by public

decision-making but still maintained that they didn't want to live anywhere else. And we met people new to the region who commented mostly on the people, schools and unique combination of rural lifestyle and easy access to necessities. We also heard about the richness of arts and cultural events.

While people expressed interest in tackling public transportation issues, wanted to see more options for seniors, changes in taxation policies or took issue with some past land use decision; most people were proud of the region they live in, value the vast assets that are available in the region and call the region home by choice.

Coordinated Transportation Continued from Page 1

gies to maximize the use of limited transportation resources through coordination

- Enhancing mobility within and between communities
- Increasing access to employment, schools, medical centers, retail outlets, and other essential services



The Grafton-Coos and Sullivan County Regional Coordination Councils served as Advisory Committees to provide input and guidance throughout the development of the plans. If you are interested in reviewing the plans, you can visit the UVLSRPC website to read or download a copy using the following link <http://tinyurl.com/ad8s6mm>

What is Mobility Management?

Most of us give little thought to transportation. We hop in the car and zip off to the mall, to the grocery store, to go to the doctor or dentist or visit a friend. If we find ourselves temporarily unable to drive, we have family or friends nearby

to call for a lift. But for many residents of rural areas, those options are not available; public transit routes are limited to a few densely populated locales or limited schedules don't mesh with appointment times or days, and taxi services are either not available or may be too costly for those on fixed-incomes.

Illness, disability and aging heighten the need for transportation to maintain both good health and independence. Providing services for those with critical needs for transportation with few other options is the challenge for transportation planners in all rural areas. Here in Sullivan County NH we are employing mobility

UVLSRPC Receives \$184,000 USDA Solid Waste Grant

The Commission will work with two Vermont solid waste management districts to evaluate cooperative solid waste management within the Connecticut River Valley. This project will include all towns with a population under 10,000 within the Commission's region making a total of 56 towns including Vermont. The four major tasks of the project are: 1.) Expand household hazardous waste (HHW) collection services within NH, explore reciprocal programs between New Hampshire



VT Compost Company facility, Montpelier, VT

and Vermont, and provide resources to schools for chemical cleanouts; 2.) Expand unwanted medicine collections; 3.) Develop a marketing campaign to instill habitual proper HHW management and reduced toxic product purchases; and 4.) Develop a food and yard waste collection, processing, and marketing system. This project began on October 1, 2012 and will end on September 30, 2013. Contact Victoria Davis at 603-448-1680 for more information.

Mobility Continued from Page 2

management principles to deal with the multiple challenges of rural geography – where the resident density is relatively low and distances to services are relatively long, an aging population, and constrained public budgets. The Commission is working with Sullivan County communities on a number of projects to address the need for transportation services using mobility management strategies.

Mobility management is an approach to transportation planning that focuses on individualized customer markets and involves establishing a variety of services to meet the needs of those markets. It uses a coordinated service delivery network to achieve connectivity for customers. Mobility management differs from traditional transit service development in a number of ways. Traditional transit service planning involves traffic flow analyses, origin and destination studies, travel corridor planning,

and especially high capital-intensive investment planning. The focus is on meeting demand on centralized, highly traveled routes.



Mobility management, on the other hand, is focused on ways to effectively meet the needs of specific groups of individuals with diverse options and services using multiple modes such as demand response vans, taxi vouchers, and volunteer drivers. Mobility management can be compared to a travel agency looking for the best way to meet a traveler's needs. Meeting those needs involves everything from innovative management practices and infrastructure design to complementary development strategies that improve public access and mobility.

The Commission, partnering with the NH Department of Transportation, NH Department of Health and Human Services, the Endowment for Health, Community Alliance of Human Services Transportation, faith-based organizations and numerous local and regional human service agencies involved in the Sullivan County Regional Coordinating Council, has assisted with the planning and implementation of a Volunteer Driver Program that brings transportation services to those without options to all the towns in Sullivan County. With a toll-free phone number (877-418-0118) serving as a central point of contact for transportation assistance Community Alliance of Human Services Transportation (CATS) solves individual transportation challenges with the service of a volunteer driver, demand-response mini-bus, and coordination with other transportation services. For more information go to www.uvlsrpc.org and enter 'mobility' in the web site's search tool.

They Made A Comic About What? Housing



The Development of "What about Workforce Housing?"

"How can you explain workforce housing to people without losing them half way through?" asks Anne Duncan Cooley, Executive Director of the Upper Valley Housing Coalition. Over a year ago, Anne and Mike McCrory met at a coffee shop in White River Junction, Vermont. Mike had recently completed a weeklong workshop at the Center for Cartoon Studies just down the street. They discussed how to apply the theory of Graphic Info media (a.k.a. comics) to regional planning. Why not a comic about workforce housing?

They contacted Sam Carbaugh, a

graphic artist and alumnus of the Center for Cartoon Studies. The medium of comics has grown in popularity over the past several decades. Since the graphic novel *Maus* won the Pulitzer Prize for literature in 1992, comics have been a proven medium to convey the full range of human experience and emotion.

They contacted George Reagan, Housing Awareness Program Administrator at New Hampshire Housing, to see if there would be opportunity for a mini-grant to fund the development of the comic. George was initially hesitant. "The idea from the start was exciting and innovative," George recalls, "but it was an unconventional format. I became their biggest fan."

The final comic, "What is Workforce Housing?" was published both in hardcopy and online in August 2012. It tells the story of a cast of characters gathered in a couple's home discussing a housing development proposed in their neighborhood. Their conversation becomes the means to inform the reader about workforce housing

and related land use topics relevant to New Hampshire communities.

We are hopeful the comic continues to be a useful tool for housing education throughout the state and serves as a model for future comics that may cover other housing or land use topics. The comic is free to download from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission web site (go to www.uvlsrcpc.org and enter 'comic' in the web site's search tool).

Michael McCrory is Senior Planner at UVLSRPC. Please share your thoughts about the comic with Michael at 603.448.1680, or mmccrory@uvlsrcpc.org.



Opportunity for Municipalities

The New Hampshire Community Planning Grant (CPG) Program provides competitive matching grants for municipalities to create or revise local regulations so they provide more value to the long term vitality of a community and deliver results.

The CPG Program is administered by New Hampshire Housing under a cooperative agreement with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In the first round of funding this past summer, the Commission was successful in assisting the town of Enfield and the City of Lebanon to receive

funding. (see article on pg 5, Lebanon Energy) If your community is interested in reviewing your ordinances to ensure that they are working the way that you think they should, or you are interested in ensuring that land use decisions bring vitality to your community, please give the Commission a call. **Round 2 is just around the corner!**

How easy and safe is it to Bike or Walk in the Region?

Among many exciting projects, the Commission is currently conducting a region wide Level of Service (LOS) project for bicycle and pedestrian use. The Commission is calculating the bicycle and pedestrian LOS for each segment of state road in the region. The LOS score represents how well each road does in accommodating bicycles and pedestrians. The score uses a variety of characteristics about the road to calculate a score for each section. Among

the numerous variables that go into the score, some of the most significant are: daily traffic volume, number of lanes and their width, the current condition of the pavement, the width of the shoulder and / or sidewalk and traffic speed. Once all of the state roads in the region are analyzed, the Commission will create a map showing each segment of the road color coded to the corresponding score

based on the conditions in that particular segment. The results of this project will have many applications, but the project was developed to map how easy it is for residents to access local food sources. If you have questions or would like more details, please contact Adam Ricker at 603-448-1680 or email: aricker@uvlsrc.org.

Lebanon's Energy Efficiency Initiative

The City of Lebanon has worked for years on a new Master Plan and celebrated successful adoption of the Master Plan in March 2012. The Lebanon Planning Board then adopted an Energy Chapter soon after that in April 2012. With the Master Plan in place Lebanon City Staff are now working hard to implement the recommendations to reach the City's vision to 2030. With the help of a Community Planning Grant from New Hampshire Housing the City has added energy efficiency and renewable energy to its implementation efforts.

The City's long-term goal is to be a leader in energy efficiency, renewable energy reliance, and innovation across municipal, commercial, institutional and residential sectors. One of the key strategies to achieving this goal, in addition to maximizing energy efficiency in City buildings, is to develop guidelines to encourage energy efficiency in

new construction in both commercial and residential buildings. This Energy Efficiency Initiative will explore a broad range of topics and approaches to reaching the above goals. Areas of focus include:



Infra-red picture of Library, Lebanon, NH

- Land Use Regulations: Long-term planning is critical to promoting future energy efficient land use and development.
- Building Codes: Increase energy efficient building practices.
- Municipal Policies: Decrease en-

ergy consumption and increase conservation practices as part of conducting City business to save taxpayer money.

The Commission is assisting the City with its Energy Efficiency Initiative through technical assistance and public education and outreach. "Having the Regional Planning Commission work with us through the Community Planning Grant helps maintain momentum on this initiative," says Andrew Gast-Bray, Director of the City's Planning Department. Over the coming months the City will be hosting a number of public meetings and focus group discussions to review recommended changes to the City's land use regulations and Building Code. More information about the City's Master Plan Implementation effort is available on its web site (go to <http://www.lebnh.net/> and search for "Master Plan Implementation").

UVLSRPC Commissioners

Acworth:	Laurence Williamson Brian Miller
Charlestown:	Steven Smith
Claremont:	Peter Guillette
Comish:	William Lipfert
Dorchester:	William Trought
Enfield:	Dan Kiley Steven Schneider
Grafton County:	Ken Morley
Grantham:	Thain Allan Ken Ryder
Hanover:	Katherine Connolly Joanne Whitcomb
Lebanon:	Larry LeClair Joan Monroe
Lyme:	Dan Brand Sam Greene
New London:	Bob Crane Nancy Rollins
Newbury:	Claire Vannatta
Newport:	Jeffrey Kessler
Orford:	Paul Dalton
Piermont:	Vacant
Plainfield:	James Taylor
Springfield:	Kevin Lee George McCusker
Sunapee:	Aaron Simpson Josh Trow
Unity:	William Schroeter Robert Trabka
Wilmot:	John O'Connor Linda Scofield
At-Large Members:	Peter Gregory Marc Scarano Nancy Merrill

New Faces at Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

The Commission has seen increased interest from communities to appoint Commissioners. Over this past year the Commission has welcomed the following new Commissioners:

From the **Town of Acworth**—Brian Miller

From the **City of Claremont**—Peter Guillette

From the **Town of Grantham** - Ken Ryder

From the **Town of New London** - Bob Crane, Nancy Rollins

From the **Town of Springfield** - George McCusker

From the **Town of Unity** - William Schroeter, Robert Trabka

From the **Town of Wilmot** - John O'Connor, Linda Scofield

We welcome these new Commissioners and look forward to meeting others interested in becoming Commissioners. There are currently vacancies in the member Towns of Croydon, Goshen, Lempster, Orange and Washington.



Commission Annual Meeting at the Common Man in Claremont, 2012

How does someone become a Commissioner?

Each member municipality of the Regional Planning Commission is entitled to 2 representatives to the Commission. Municipalities with a population of over 10,000 but less than 25,000 may appoint 3 representatives to the Commission. Currently those are Claremont, Lebanon and Hanover.

Representatives from the community shall be nominated by the Planning Board of each municipality from the residents thereof and shall be appointed by the municipal officers of each municipality (Select board or City Council). Any county may also, by resolution of its County Commissioners, become a member of the Commission and shall be entitled to appoint 2 representatives to the Commission.

The terms of office for Commissioners shall be for 4 years, but initial appointments shall be for 2 and 4 years. In municipalities entitled to 3 or more representatives, initial appointment shall be for 2, 3 and 4 years. Commissioners have over- all fiduciary responsibility for the Commission. The Commissioner's job is to both represent the general public's interest in assuring that the organization serves the region effectively through ongoing communication and represents the municipal body that appointed the Commissioner.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Commission please contact Christine Walker at 448-1680.

Saying Farewell and Thank You To Outgoing Commissioners

The Commission had a number Commissioners whose term had expired this year who have provided lasting value and impressions on the region through their work at the Commission. We wish to thank the following for their dedication to the Commission and their service to the communities they live in:

City of Claremont - Bernie Folta, never to be short on ideas, and a wealth of knowledge about right-to-know issues. A tireless participant in the process of civic engagement.

City of Lebanon - Shawn Donovan, provided guidance to the Commission during its move to 10 Water Street which has turned out not only to be a great asset to the Commission, but spurred redevelopment in an old mill in the center of the city. Shawn lead the Commission as Chair for two years.

Town of Newbury - Judy Healy, from the beginning Judy jumped in as an active Commissioner volunteering to gather data at local food centers for a major Commission project.

Town of Washington - John Sheehy, provided insight to rural issues and was a consistent participant.

Town of Sunapee - Susanne Gottling, provided support as the Select board's representative. She was replaced by Josh Trow.



Kudos to Summer Staff

A special thanks to our summer intern Margaret (Meg) Terrill. Meg was a huge help this summer with some of our outreach effort to begin outlining what is important to the region. Thanks for sticking out those late hours and for all the work this summer.



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Address Service Requested

Regional Forum on the Future

Here is one more opportunity to provide your input to the Regional Plan online.

You can:

- Share favorite places and your opinions on important topics;
- See the breadth of comments from your friends and neighbors, and;
- Visit often and watch the Forum grow.

Visit the Regional Plan web site and explore!

<http://regionalplan.uvlsrc.org/>

