



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



Henniker Community Profile Report

**Henniker, New Hampshire
April 17 & 18, 2009**

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The Community Profile model was developed with the assistance of:

University of Vermont Cooperative Extension: *Bill McMaster and Bob Townsend*
University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension: *Jerry Howe*
Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs: *Peg Elmer*
Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission: *Vicki Smith*
Tufts University, Center for Environmental Management, Consortium for Regional
Sustainability: *Elizabeth Kline*
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: *Tom Deans and Deborah Cowen*
Vermont Community Foundation: *Eddie Gale*
Sustainable Seattle: *Alan Atkisson*
University of Vermont Center for Rural Studies: *Fred Schmidt*
Community Innovations: *Jeff Bercovitz*
The Upper Valley: 2001 & Beyond Steering Committee Members: *Don Bourdon, Delia
Clark, Ann Crow, Geoff Dates, Harrison Drinkwater, Charlotte Faulkner, Phil
McLane-Bradley, Deecie McNelly, Walter Paine, Betty Porter, Bob Rosenblum,
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and Anne Peyton*

OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY PROFILES

The Community Profile is a process by which communities take stock of where they are today and develop an action plan for how they want to operate in the future. Whether the issue is a quality school system, an air pollution problem, lack of adequate affordable housing or solid waste disposal, the need for effective problem-solving skills is the same. A community must have strong leaders, from all sectors, who are able to work together with informed involved citizens to reach agreement on issues. The Community Profile assists communities to develop their problem-solving ability. It is a self-evaluation tool that draws heavily on the collective wisdom of the participants and is not a test or a comparison between communities. It provides a method for citizens to affirm community strengths, identify concerns and problems, and then to help a community structure collaborative approaches to meet these challenges creatively, set directions for the future, and manage change.

The original Civic Profile emerged from the Governor's Commission on New Hampshire in the 21st Century as a process and a mechanism that communities could use to strengthen their civic infrastructure. The National Civic League, along with several university studies, identified those qualities that make a community work - that help communities plan for the future and survive such dramatic change as extreme population growth, plant shut-downs or military base closings.

In 1995, the League of Women Voters in the Upper Valley, working with UNH Cooperative Extension and UVM Cooperative Extension, identified ten key qualities that help a community to work well and sustain its social, economic, and environmental health for the future. This is the model that was adapted by the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and are the "tools" of the community's self-assessment.

Creating a Community Profile in Henniker

The Henniker Community Profile was conducted as a result of the Planning Board's desire to update the town's Master Plan as well as enlist more citizen participation in the activities and needs of the community.

Steering Committee Members:

Amanda Gilman (Chair), Lia Houk, Jim O'Rourke, Chad Carter, Lori Runksmeier, Martha Sunderland, Jim Crane, Cheryl Morse, Rebecca Warner Mancini, and Louise Frank Cyr

Small group facilitators and recorders:

Amanda Landry, Thom Linehan, Ashley James, Michael Koski, Louise Frank Cyr, Tim Fleury, Theo (UNH), Erling Jorgensen, Stephanie Lesperance, Martha Sunderland, Garrett (UNH), Dan Reidy, Rebecca Warner Maccini, Steve (UNH), Jim Crane, Jenny Dorman, Cheryl Morse, Laura Scott

**UNH Cooperative Extension
Henniker Community Profile
April 17 & 18, 2009
Agenda**

Friday, April 17, 2009: 6:00-9:30 p.m.

6:00 Sign-In & Potluck Supper

7:00 Welcome – Amanda Gilman, *Steering Committee Chair*
Terry Stamps, *Henniker Planning Board*
Charlie French, *UNH Cooperative Extension*

- Overview of Community Profile Process
- Who is here?

Mosaic and Vision

- What is Henniker like now?
- What do we want Henniker to be like in the future?

Historical Overview – Jen Connor

- Where has Henniker been?

7:45 Presentation of Community Profile components

- *Informed Citizen Participation and Community Leadership*
- *Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals & Youth and Lifelong Learning*
- *Community Services, Facilities, & Utilities and Transportation*
- *Economic Vitality and Growth & Development*
- *Sense of Community and Recreation and Cultural Heritage*
- *Working Landscape and the Natural Environment*

8:00 Break/Move into small groups

8:15 Small group discussions of components

Random assignments to small groups, one component per group

- Strengths of Henniker in the component area
- Challenges of Henniker in the component area
- What would you like to see in the future?
- What are the 5 key issues that need to be addressed?

9:30 Formal adjournment

Saturday, April 18, 2009: 8:30 a.m.-2:00pm

8:30 Coffee and check-in

9:00 Small group reports

- Each of the six small groups report to the large group, three minutes each.

9:45 Selection of key issues - participants select small group/issues

10:15 Break

10:30 Small groups meet for key issue discussion:

- Define the problem or opportunity
- Project goals - identify what you want to accomplish
- Identify potential projects/solutions
- Evaluate potential projects using impact-feasibility grid
- Select 3 projects to bring to the full group

12:15 Full Group: report back from small groups

12:45 Lunch and voting

- Which projects do you think we should move forward on?
- Which is the most important project for Henniker right now?

1:30 Individual selection of project development groups

Project development: small groups

- Who needs to be involved (agencies/individuals)
- Resources needed
- Other things needed to be done prior to follow-up meeting

2:00 Formal adjournment

****Follow-up Meeting for Action Groups:
May 4, 2009 6:30-8:00pm
Henniker Community Center****

Community Profile Friday Evening

The Community Profile was conducted at the Henniker Community School on Friday and Saturday, April 17 & 18, 2009. Approximately 60 citizens attended.

We spent a few minutes meeting each other, learning how long we had lived in town, where we lived and where we work. We were then asked to offer descriptions of what our town was like right now and what we would like it to be like in the future. Adjectives and phrases were called out and recorded on large easels labeled “NOW” and “FUTURE” at the front of the room. Here are the results:

THE MOSAIC - What is Henniker like today?

- Close – knit
- Ski-town
- Small
- Holding pattern
- College town
- Over-taxed
- Great deal of beauty
- Teens complain there’s nothing to do – boring
- Small businesses are self-employed
- Many intellectual and musical opportunities
- Great place to raise a family
- Safe community with a good police force
- Recreational opportunities
- An active community
- Has an international focus through a sister community
- A lot of pride in being from Henniker
- Environmentally conscious
- Concerned for others in “holding pattern”
- Small rural businesses
- Good schools
- Welcoming
- Idyllic
- Retained services in time when others have not
- Historical quality
- Very “white” race
- Good recreational opportunities
- Patriotic
- Distinctive

THE VISION – What do we want Henniker to be like in the future?

- Rural
- Return to farming and gardening
- Technological
- Supportive of our small businesses
- Supportive of alternative energy (solar, wind, geothermal)
- Maintain recreational opportunities
- More after-school activities for kids
- Bigger business in the heavy commercial district
- Encourage more energy efficient buildings in town/sites
- Public transportation
- Senior housing
- Low income housing
- Leveling of property taxes
- Quieter rumble strip
- Community wellness center
- The town stay the same
- More thriving Main Street
- More diverse
- More small businesses especially retail
- More comprehensive recycling
- Higher social capital
- Longer school day and year
- Town beach/pool
- Bus transport to Concord
- Designated carpool areas
- Support schools and colleges for well-being of community
- Commercial district at end Rte 114
- Inviting entrances to community

The history of Henniker, as narrated by Jen Connor

Welcome to the Henniker Community Profile. My name is Jen Connor and I am a seventh generation Connor in the town of Henniker.

Our town has not always had its unique name. Originally it was called Number Six which came from being the sixth land grant in a line from the Connecticut River to the Merrimack. After a group settled in the area from Marlborough, MA they named it New Marlborough. Later on, the land was granted to Andrew Todd who unselfishly named it Todd's Town. It was not until 1768 when a group petitioned to become an official town that we became known as Henniker. Henniker was incorporated on November 10, 1768. The name was given to us by the last Royal Governor of New Hampshire, John Wentworth, to honor his friend - Sir John Henniker - a London shipping merchant. For this reason we can proudly say we are the only Henniker on Earth!

In the beginning, Henniker was primarily a farming and agricultural town. Fields were home to live stock and crops. Fruit production was quite profitable with enough apples produced to export thousands of bushels a year to Manchester and Boston. Not only was the soil rich, but the Contoocook River provided a great source of hydropower to support the many mills, shops and factories built along its shores. Henniker hosted two major industries for many years - farming and manufacturing - which was supported by the thriving rail system. Just some of the goods produced in town were paper, flour, lumber, clothing, tin-ware, blacksmith's supplies and furniture.

Henniker was not immune to Mother Nature and her sheer strength and power. It is hard to believe that the stone bridge in the center of town was reduced to a pile of rocks as a result of the Hurricane of 1938. Four days of heavy rain washed out the bridge and many roads in town. Two years earlier, many of the same roads and other bridges in town were washed away as a result of an icy winter, heavy snows and the rapid rise in temperature. Through it all, townspeople worked together to keep life going as smooth as possible and rebuild their town.

After World War II, educating returning veterans became a priority for the country. Many colleges were established during this time, including New England College. The school opened its doors in September of 1946 with no money, buildings or financial support. Merchants in town provided credit to the new school and eventually became its board of trustees. My great-grandfather - Fred T. Connor was among those trustees and individuals responsible for bringing the college to town. One of the first buildings the college purchased was the Henniker Inn. It was used for dining services and student housing until the 1960's and now serves as the administration building. Over the years, the college has grown to what you see today and established itself as a major fixture of our town.

Probably the largest and most emotional change to Henniker's landscape occurred in the early 1960's when the Hopkinton-Everett Dam was built and large portions of Henniker's prime land (over 2000 acres) were taken by eminent domain. Thirty families were displaced, neighborhoods and businesses disappeared and townspeople lost their jobs as the mills were forced to move or close altogether. In true small town spirit, people turned to each other and helped neighbors and friends rebuild their lives.

Throughout its history, religion has played a large part in our community. This could explain the tight knit feeling townspeople have toward each other. Today the two active churches are the Congregational Church and St. Theresa's Catholic Church. However, in years past, Henniker has been home to a Methodist Church (now the Henniker Community Center), a Baptist community,

Universalist Church (now the Grange Hall) and the Quakers. While there are not as many in the Quaker community, gatherings are still held in the Quaker Meeting House.

Henniker's past has shaped the town in to what you see today. With the exception of a few small family farms scattered around the hills, the industry is largely a part of our history. The mills and factories are gone as well, but the community is still thriving. With the college still the main industry in town, Henniker is home to many businesses - large and small. From the mom and pop shops, and lumber mills to the family owned ski area to the company that ships medical supplies all over the world. The town continues to evolve and change with the times all the while remaining true to its roots.

Henniker is your typical New England small town. We have picturesque bridges, historical homes, white picket fences, and a beautiful landscape. But more importantly, Henniker is a community full of pride and spirit. Where neighbors are there for each other no matter what - a natural disaster, government seizure, a sick child, or simply a joyous celebration. Henniker citizens come together to help and honor their own. This is not just a place to live, it is a truly a home.



COPY OF THE CHARTER OF HENNIKER

PROVINCE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

George the third by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith and so forth.

To all to whom these presents shall come Greeting.

Whereas our loyal subjects, inhabitants of a Tract of Land within our Province of New Hampshire, known by the name of Number Six in the line of Towns and containing six miles square, and bounded as hereafter mentioned, Have humbly Petitioned & Requested us that they may be erected and incorporated into a Township and enfranchised with the same privileges which other towns within our said Province have & Enjoy by law: and appearing unto us to be conducing to the general good of our said province, as well as of the said inhabitants in particular, by maintaining good order & encouraging the culture of the land, that the same should be done. Know ye therefore, that we of our special Grace, certain knowledge, and for the encouragement & promotion of the good purposes and ends aforesaid, and with the advice of our Trusty and well beloved John Wentworth, Esqr. our Governor and Commander in Chief of our said Province, and of our Council of the same, have erected and ordained & by these Presents for us, our heirs and Successors, Do will & ordain that the inhabitants of the Tract of Land aforesaid, & others who shall inhabit & improve thereon hereafter, the same being litted & bounded as follows, viz: Beginning at the North West Corner (nearest) of New Hopkinton as called, thence on a straight line to the north east corner of Hillsborough so called, being by estimation six miles, then by said Hillsborough line to the south east corner thereof, being supposed to be six miles, then on a straight line to the south west corner of said New Hopkinton, then by that to the Corner where it begins, all the said lines being supposed to be six miles each, be and hereby are declared to be a town Corporate & are hereby erected and incorporated into a Body Politic & Corporate to have continuance forever, by the name of Henniker, with all the powers, & authorities, Privileges, Immunities & Franchises, which any other Towns in said Province by Law have and Enjoy, to the said Inhabitants or who shall hereafter inhabit there, & their Successors forever, always reserving to us, our heirs and successors all White Pine trees which are or shall be found growing and being on the said Tract of Land for the use of our Royal Navy, reserving also to us, our heirs and successors, the power and right of distilling said Towns when it shall appear necessary and convenient for the inhabitants thereof. Provided, nevertheless, & 'tis hereby declared, that this Charter and grant is not intended and shall not in any manner be construed to affect the private property of the soil within the Limits aforesaid; And as the several Towns within our said Province are by the Laws thereof enabled and authorized to Assemble, and by the majority of the Voters present to chuse all officers & transact such affairs as in the said Laws declared.

We do by these presents nominate & appoint Ellahim How, to call the first meeting of said Inhabitants to be held within the said Town, at any time within three months from the date hereof, giving legal notice of the time and design of holding such meeting, after which the Annual Meeting in said Town shall be held for the choice of said Officers & the purposes aforesaid, on the first Monday of March annually.

In Testimony whereof we have caused the Seal of our said Province to be hereunto affixed. Witness our aforesaid Governor and Commander in Chief this Tenth day of November in the Ninth year of our Reign and in ye year of our Lord Christ, 1768. By his Excellency's Command with advice of Council.

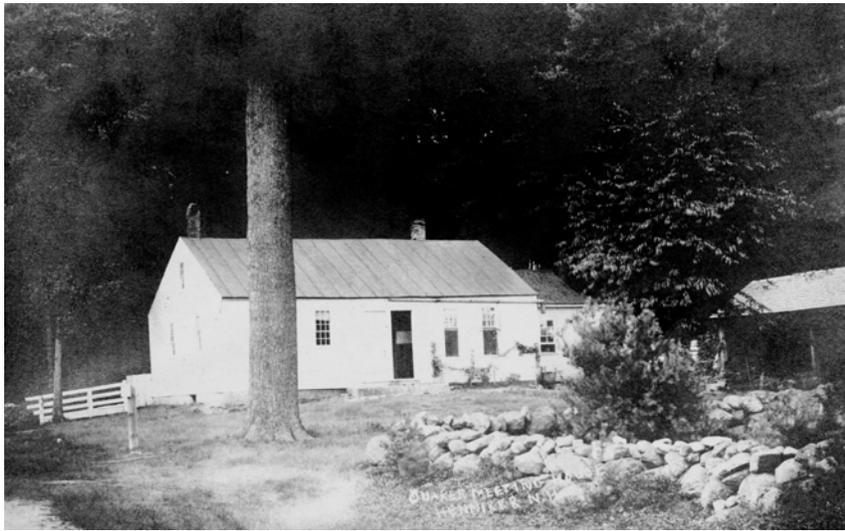
T. Atkinson Jr. Sec'y,

J. Wentworth

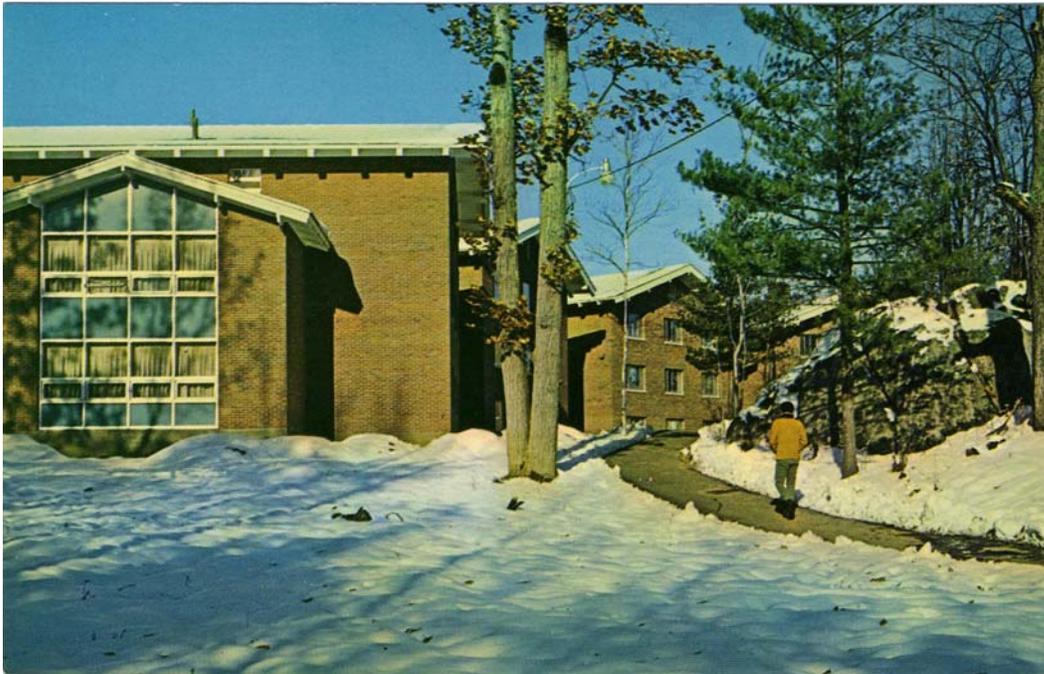
Province of New Hampshire, Portsmouth, Nov. 19, 1768. Recorded according to ye above in ye Book for recording Charters of Incorporation.

Attest

T. Atkinson Jr. Secy.







THE SIX COMPONENTS

After we developed a mosaic and vision for Henniker and digested some of the history, Michele Gagne introduced us to the idea of discussing Henniker within the framework of 6 qualities which can be used to profile a community. These topics, drawn from the work of the National Civic League and adapted by UNH Cooperative Extension, are important components of any successful community. These components make a community work well now and sustain the cultural, economic and environmental health and vitality for the long-term future.

Civic Infrastructure

Informed Citizen Participation and Community Leadership
Sense of Community and Recreational & Cultural Heritage

Community Infrastructure

Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals and Youth and Lifelong Learning
Community Services, Facilities and Utilities & Transportation

Environment

Working Landscape and the Natural Environment

Economy

Economic Vitality and Growth and Development

Next, 6 small groups were randomly formed, one group for each of the combined components. The small groups adjourned to various rooms where community trained facilitators led the groups in their discussions and recorders made notes on large tablets. Each group considered the definition of their component and examined the statements to be considered for their component to begin the discussion. Participants were asked to list the strengths of Henniker as they saw them, and then to list its concerns. Next the groups gave some thought to the problems and issues they thought were important to the town's future. Finally, each group was asked to identify five key issues that need to be addressed by the town. These were brought back to the whole group and highlighted in three-minute summations presented by a member of each small group Saturday morning.

Friday Evening

1. Informed Citizen Participation and Community Leadership

Facilitator: Tim Fleury

Recorder: Laura Scott

Spokesperson: Peter Flynn

Participants: Jack Bopp, Ken Carr, Pat Fisher, Peter Flynn, Amanda Gilman, Greg Goldberry, Jean Lewis, Theresa Maier, Janice McElroy, Martha Taylor

Statement of Purpose:

In a healthy community, citizens actively participate through voting in the local elections, serving on local boards, attending public hearings, and being involved in civic organizations and community activities. All citizens need to develop knowledge and skills to contribute to community life. All sectors within a community—private, public and nonprofit—must each take responsibility for the community's civic education and generate and share information with the public. Sharing in problem solving and planning for the future as a community increases pride in the community and can result in an ethic of giving and sharing as a way of life.

The public, private and non-profit sectors must all develop leaders who can cooperate with each other in enhancing the long-term future of the community. Leadership should be responsive, honest, efficient, enlightened, fair and accountable. Leaders should be representative of their community and should have both a grasp of the community's problems and the ability to envision an economically secure, environmentally sound and socially viable future. Leaders should be attuned to the potential to exploit opportunities and to solve problems of the community by cooperating with other neighboring communities.

Statements a community should consider:

- Citizens know how the system works and it is easy for newcomers to learn how to get involved in the community.
- People find out easily what is going on in the community.
- Schools, churches, youth and civic groups provide citizen education and promote community service.
- Citizens are actively recruited and involved in major projects.
- Participation and leadership is proactive instead of reactive, facing community issues before they become crises.
- Local committees and boards communicate well with each other, the public and with boards and committees throughout the region
- Our leadership actively recruits, trains and empowers new leaders.
- Leadership represents diverse community interest (age and gender groups, length of time they have resided in the community, culture, etc).
- Community leadership demonstrates knowledge, accountability, professionalism, innovation and is results-oriented.
- Leaders involve local citizens in identifying community goals and resolving community issues.
- Leaders demonstrate long-range (20+ years) thinking. They understand the impacts of their actions on the long term health and vitality of the community.

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STRENGTHS

- Well informed
- Opportunities
- Board members professional and responsible
- High rate of participation in town boards
- Transition from school → town/civic
- Enthusiasm
- Close knit community
- Accepting to new people
- High level of sophistication
- Leadership/training/education opportunities
- Website/town postings/Outlook
- Rural zoning/land use planning
- School projection/growth
- Willing to do work necessary
- Businesses help when asked
- Leadership from service organizations
- Well organized local government
- Informal gossip network/info sharing
- Can be independent/respect for privacy
- Question status quo is respectful and respected
- Faith community leaders coordinate/talk to major churches and are respectable leaders
- Fun loving/get along
- Respect each other even if they disagree
- Family focus/welcoming
- Schools
- Diverse in education/experience/economics

CHALLENGES

- Same people volunteer/lack of diversity
- Afraid of involvement in boards/committees because of time commitment and politics
- Need to take responsibility
- Get what you pay for (taxes)
- Get everyone to volunteer

- Long-term business plans for Commercial Development – new/large/small
- Lack of social diversity
- New people have to make effort to get involved
- No way to centralize info on/for new residents
- Some boards are thankless/no fun
- Some citizens are abusive/mean to volunteer boards/staff
- Leaders lack social diversity
- Recognizing leadership qualities for what they are
- Reluctance for board members to be chair/leader

FUTURE

- How to attract business
- All citizens volunteer for things
- Web site listing for all town based volunteer opportunities
- Web posting by citizens
- SPOT
- Rentees feel welcome/connected
- Town-owned/sponsored sign for announcements
- Town donation wish list
- Wait list for boards/committees

KEY ISSUES

1. Increase knowledge of and expand culture of volunteerism
2. Develop pool of potential appointed/elected officials and board members
3. Develop mechanism for welcoming new residents
4. Use technology to improve communication
5. A welcoming envoy for persons of diverse backgrounds

2. Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals & Youth and Lifelong Learning

Facilitator: Erling Jorgensen

Recorder: Dan Howard

Spokesperson: Lia Houk

Participants: Jen Connor, Jim O'Rourke, Beth Allen, Joel Begin, Stephanie Brown, Chad Carter, Mike Cyr, Julie Fuller, Lia Houk, Jim McElroy, Lori Zaniboni

Statement of Purpose:

Support services such as adequate child day care, comprehensive after-school, youth, teen and senior programs, preventative health and substance abuse programs, parenting and family support programs, and effective human service networks help strengthen the social fabric of a community. Aided by effective communication, compassionate leadership, active citizen participation, and inter-group cooperation, a comprehensive package of supportive services will enable a community to nurture healthy community members.

Programs of higher education and lifelong learning provide businesses with a pool of trained employees. Other formal and informal learning opportunities allow community members to discover hidden talents and develop an array of interests and skills. Lifelong learning allows citizens to manage their lives more effectively in a changing economy and to participate in increasingly complex municipal operations with greater knowledge and skill.

Statements a community should consider:

- There are _____ local and/or regional programs available addressing the social issues of our youth, teens, seniors, parents and families.
- The health and social services are accessible, adequate and provided in an equitable manner.
- The three sectors (public, private and nonprofit) work together to provide a comprehensive package of programs.
- The majority of programs are of _____ quality.
- Community services are “cradle to grave”, addressing the entire age spectrum of the community.
- Local government provides an array of services for the community’s neediest members.
- There is adequate information about the available services and many community members utilize them.
- Many of the services allow families to participate together.
- Educational opportunities are easily accessible and provided equitably.
- Lifelong educational opportunities, including formal and informal academic, vocational, artistic, and spiritual meet the community’s needs.
- The level and quality of adult literacy programming in the community is _____.
- The public school facilities adequately meet community members’ needs.
- There is a (n) _____ level of quality preschool and daycare opportunities in the community.
- There is communication and cooperation between the municipal government and the local public school board.
- The community supports and values high quality K-12 public school education.
- There is a support network for community members who home-school their children.

STRENGTHS

- White Birch Community Center
- Henniker Community Center
- Town Administrator encourages youth programs
- School well supported by town with after school activities to include athletics
- Town supported athletics
- Free youth athletics
- Specific town funds, tax-exempt donations, town subsidiaries
- Community Center funded by town and donations
- Teen Center funded by town and donations
- Teen Center has parent volunteers
- Town Administrators involved with teens – the Grange/passing out breakfast
- 5 and under Ski Free at Pat's Peak
- Ski area family friendly, school programs
- NEC adds diversity to town
- NEC library accessible to citizens
- Pre-school at school and White Birch
- Visitation Center at NEC for families dealing with domestic violence “Safe Haven”
- LINEC at NEC for senior learning
- Spirit of Henniker supporting community involvement with families
- Healthcare/wellness in town supporting local pharmacy
- Physician/chiropractor/dentist in town
- Town very supportive of healthcare

CHALLENGES

- Adult literacy program not in town
- College to town cohesion and communication
 - lectures, entertainment
- Everything volunteer hard to maintain quality – needs professionals
- No full time recreation position
- Fire & Rescue not sustainable with only volunteers
- Money
- Competing athletic programs no over-arching plan
- Undeveloped land that can be utilized for athletics
- No adult recreation leagues
- Enhancing town communication
- Town website improvement
- Finding man-power for community bulletins/email list
- College student participation in town
- Perception of college students
- Maintaining congenial relationship between college and town
- Identify common denominator in shared interest between town and college
- Educational costs/affordability
- Partial input to regional High School

- Prosecution based substance abuse program, can be something different

FUTURE

- Competitive education
- Adequate funding for education
- Better facilities and consolidated programs for athletics
- Range of supervised after school activities not only sports based
- Use college students as resources for experiential learning
- Facility that promotes town and college integration
- Formalizing relationship with college for co-operative learning
- Need for elder care and housing
- Swimming area
- Community art programs – art, films

KEY ISSUES

- Common facility to incorporate wide range of community and college needs
 - Clinic/community wellness center
 - Substance abuse
 - Used for athletics
 - Pool
- Communication – increasing town and college communication
- Increasing communication in town
 - E-mail list
 - Website enhancement
- Transition from volunteer-based to mixture of volunteers and professionals
 - Professionals help find the money
 - Funding
 - Grants
 - Catalyst and coordinating other resources
- Comprehensive teen and youth program
 - Large involvement with community
- Elder care based center

3. Community Services, Facilities, Utilities & Transportation

Facilitator: Louise F. Cyr Recorder: Ashley Morce Spokesperson: John Kjellman

Participants: Craig Blouin, John Kjellman, Nicole Gage, Jeannie Ackerman, Cynthia Martin, Yolanda Mcknair, Mark Mitch, David Reid, Doug White

Statement of Purpose:

A community provides many essential facilities and services to its members - public facilities such as municipal buildings, schools, sidewalks, roads, libraries, a recycling center and cemeteries as well as services and utilities such as police, fire, ambulance, highway maintenance, water and sewer. These key functions consume the majority of tax dollars and sharply influence the community's quality of life.

Roads get most of us where we need and want to go and most people drive their own cars for convenience. However, more vehicles sharing the roads results in increased highway maintenance, air pollution and traffic congestion. Alternatives to automobile travel include pedestrians and bicycle travel and bus and rail transportation.

Statements a community should consider:

- Public facilities and services such as _____ are needed in our community.
- The community's road system is adequate and well-maintained. The use of traffic controls (signs, lights, speed limits, police, etc) is well planned and coordinated.
- Our public water source is protected.
- Our community does a great job of reducing, recycling, and disposing of its wastes.
- The town has a plan for financing the maintenance, expansion and replacement of its public facilities.
- The community is open to regional solutions for future infrastructural needs.
- Public buildings such as schools and town offices are adequate for our needs.
- Public buildings are accessible to people with disabilities and are energy efficient.
- The community is easy to travel around by foot and bicycle.
- Officials address qualitative concerns about facilities and systems and utilize alternative methods of service delivery.
- Appropriate physical connections exist, such as public transportation between housing and job sites.
- The levels and quality of emergency services - fire, police and ambulance are _____.
- The community encourages carpooling, and helps make it work for people by providing information and accessible parking areas.
- Tradeoffs, such as maintenance, pollution and congestion are considered when widening main roads or building new roads.

STRENGTHS

- Quality community services – well trained/equipped
- Fire, Police, Ambulance
- Roads well maintained, adequate snow removal

- School has good reputation
- NEC is an asset
- Good speed limit enforcement
- Accessible municipal buildings – easy to get to/get around, handicapped accessible
- Presence of community center→ available to community
 - Scheduling and access
 - Nominal charge
- Music summer program
- Model recycling center
- White Birch Community Center – wide variety of services (childcare, senior, summer, exercise)
- Approachable leadership in town management
- Active historical society and museum
- Good town recreation program for youth
- Active churches accessible to community
- NEC is asset to community
 - Library is open to residents
- Town library is open, accessible, well maintained
- High quality water resources (ground and recreational)
- Services to maintain water quality is adequate
- Access to highway (I-89, RT 202, RT 114) is beneficial to town
- Proximity to wide variety of activities (Concord, VT, seacoast, State Parks, mountains, hospitals)
- Safe community (low crime)
- Lots of open space and commitment to keeping it
- Recreational opportunities
- Lots of boat launches

CHALLENGES

- Substantial deterioration of gravel roads in winter months
- Crossing RT 202 especially in rush hour
- Traffic control (stoplights, overpass) issues with increase in traffic volume
- Route 202 dangerous (outgrown it)
- Growth has overwhelmed current facilities
- Problems with road markings (\$ to paint, lack of...)
- Inadequate bicycle paths, sidewalks
- Lack of downtown parking (potentially with downtown growth)
- Safety crossing from Rush SA to downtown
- Marking of crosswalks (paint, lights, sound)
- Need to expand recycling → pay to throw
- No town beach and swimming pool
- Challenge to maintain open space while developing (balance)
- Maintain/expand tax base
- Concord Hospital monopoly on local care → loss of personal healthcare
- Lack of public transportation
- Tax structure in NH affecting Henniker
- Revaluations of property is too far apart

- No local cable access channel
- No energy efficient municipal buildings

FUTURE

- Senior housing
- Reevaluations of property
- After school buses
- More \$ for highway maintenance
- Safe, rural, family friendly community
- Public transport (buses, intra-inter town, Concord)
- Playground of Old Concord Rd
- Maintain open space and recreational space
- Well marked open and recreational space
- Maintain cross-city trails
- Safer RT 202 and RT 9
- Town wide recycling and expand plastic recycling
- Family friendly and affordable restaurants
- Small medical center (doctor's office with nurse, ex. family doctor)
- More town swimming options
- Working farms
- Alternative energy initiatives
- Improved technological infrastructure (access to cable)
- More energy efficient municipal buildings (increased cost effectiveness)
- Incentives for private, residential alternative energy use
- Maintain viable downtown
- NO WALMARTS

KEY ISSUES

- Make downtown more bike and pedestrian friendly
- Public playground
- Safety RT 202 and RT 9
- Increase/manage tax base
- Better communication of recreation opportunities (public trails, fishing, conservation land for public use, boat launches)
- Maintain and communicate open space and recreation

4. Economic Vitality and Growth & Development

Facilitator: Michael Koski

Recorder: Garrett Bayer

Spokesperson: Brian Mazerski

Participants: Richard Conde, Linda Connor, Martin Ferreira, Lisa Hustis, Neal Martin, Brian Mazerski, Nina Morse, Michael Moynihan, Kathy Mullholand, Joan O'Connor, Lori Runksmeir

Statement of Purpose:

The private, public and non-profit sectors are all important in attracting new investment and in developing new businesses that suit the character of the community and meet its needs. A community can more effectively manage its growth through the prudent use of local zoning ordinances and planning regulations that guide how land is divided, used, and developed. These tools allow the community to regulate the development of residential areas, commercial districts and the town center.

A healthy community includes access to a variety of environmentally sound and successful businesses, industries, and institutions that provide reasonable wages and benefits to workers, engage in family-friendly policies, provide workers with opportunities to develop marketable skills and contribute to the overall well-being of the community. Another important factor in the development of a healthy community is the diversity of housing. This encompasses availability, affordability and location, all of which affect the lives of community members, especially the elderly, disabled and low-income families.

Statements a community should consider:

- A variety of businesses, industries and institutions make up the economic base of the community and the region, such as _____.
- There are locally available educational opportunities to provide residents with skills that match the needs of local businesses.
- Local government works well with the local businesses to enhance the economic vitality of the community.
- There are business services lacking in the community, such as _____.
- Community members patronize downtown businesses on a regular basis and value the local businesses.
- Wages allow the majority of the population to enjoy a reasonable lifestyle.
- The community's zoning and planning regulations are updated regularly and reflect a broad spectrum of residents' vision of the community in 5, 10 and 20 years.
- There is adequate affordable and rental housing for the elderly and disabled, young families and/or single-parent families.
- Land use regulations and land protection efforts are preserving an adequate amount of open space in the community and areas of natural beauty and historic importance are well protected

STRENGTHS

- Good crossroads
 - 114 and Main Street
 - 114 and 202
- Self-contained

- Contoocook River
 - recreation is a strength
- Pats Peak
- Little traffic
- NEC
- Small businesses
 - home based business
- Federal flood plain
- Reasonable commute
- Scenic
- Good town services
 - road maintenance
 - police/fire dept/rescue
- Good school system
- Ponds and wetlands/habitats
- Utilities
- Small businesses maintain small town feel while providing excellent services
- Community loyalty
- Diversity of housing
- Philanthropic people and businesses
- Water quality
- Civic organizations (Masons, Rotary, Lions)
- Churches
- Rural atmosphere
- Friendliness
- Good town center
- Restaurants/retail shops
- Buying local when they can
- Local doctor/dentist, veterinarian and chiropractor
- Wild bird rehab center
- You – pick farms
- Local produce/agriculture and artisans/artists
- Safety and comfort walking outside

FUTURE

- Reclamation of finished excavation to fertile land
- Full store fronts
- Bigger tax base (more businesses and jobs)
- Some sort of public transportation to Concord
- Engage youth in the community
- Engage the community in the things important to the youth
- Attract young adults
- A lower tax rate
- Community pool/beach/ponds
- Restaurant open on Monday night

- Interesting retail shops
- Advertise the natural resources
- Better town website
- Retirement/nursing home
- Better access to technology
- More competition with cable/internet for ALL
- Better phone service at a reasonable price
- Better cell service
- Businesses that are enduring/open all year
- Green space
- Eco-tourism
- Death Alley → Hillsboro - Hopkinton

CHALLENGES

- Home owners' property taxes
- Disproportion of business tax to property/personal tax
- Development
 - real estate/residential
 - business
 - anti-commercial bias
- Planning/Zoning Board process doesn't encourage growth
- Growth – limited resources and location
- NEC students feel that the town “hates” them
- Miscommunication between Town and NEC
- Fuel supplies
- Engaging the young adults in the community
- Zoning ordinance need to allow streamlining/refining
- Need for more jobs for youth
- Range population of commuters
- Limited competition leads to higher prices
- Limited water and sewage area

5. Sense of Community and Recreational & Cultural Heritage

Facilitator: Stephanie Lesperance Recorder: Amanda Landry Spokesperson: Bob Stamps

Participants: Martha Sunderland, Deb Dow, Barbara C French, Robert Galster, Holly Green, Gail Kennedy, Bob Stamps, Jay Zax, Lori Bergeron

Statement of Purpose:

A sense of community is an intangible yet vital component of a healthy community. It encompasses elements such as image, spirit, character and pride, along with processes such as communication, inter-group relations and networking. A community is made up of different people with different interests, experiences and backgrounds. Increase communication and understanding of different perspectives among groups and within the community as a whole is an important factor in establishing a sense of community.

Recreational and cultural activities nurture the body and soul of a community - individual and team sports, outdoor activities, arts, crafts, music, dance, theater, holidays, festivals and celebrations. Recreational opportunities allow community members to experience and appreciate the community's diversity of natural and human resources. Cultural activities reflect and build a community's positive sense of itself and strengthen the fabric of social interactions within the community.

Statements a community should consider:

- There is adequate communication among diverse groups in the community such as natives/newcomers, summer/year round residents, young parents/retirees, as well as business community, commuters, etc.
- Community members often put aside their differences to work for the common good of the community.
- Formal and informal forums exist for sharing ideas and resolving public issues.
- Our community celebrates itself in many different ways, including _____ .
- Our community celebrates itself in many different ways, including _____.
- There is a wide array of recreational opportunities available to community members.
- There are special cultural centers, events and festivals within the community.
- There is a high level of awareness about and accessibility to available recreational opportunities.
- Our cultural events bring together and celebrate the community's diverse population.
- Many of the recreational opportunities allow community members to experience the community's natural resources.
- The community preserves and enhances what is special and unique about its cultural heritage.
- Children, youth and seniors are encouraged to participate in cultural events.
- Citizens are part of larger regional cultural events

STRENGTHS

- Areas for apple and blueberry picking
- Maple sugar/syrup
- People feel affiliated to the town –proved to be the only Henniker on the Earth

- Only one stop sign between Henniker and Boston
- Great restaurants and coffee shop where people can connect
- Still have a drugstore/pharmacy
- Have a very nice hardware store
- Nice feed store
- Full-service grocery
- Quilting and fiber studio
- The library has children's programs
- Music lessons available
- Support our schools and care about our kids
- Animal rehabilitation center – Wings
- Pet Resort
- Fitness center
- Well-known for a town this size – people know of Henniker everywhere
- Topography
- Nice entrance to town
- Small businesses are organized
- Good philanthropic organizations (ex. Rotary and Lions)
- Old Home Days
- Winter Carnival
- Memorial Day Parade
- Community center is a nice asset
- Community concert/Christmas concert
- Nice facilities for recreation – ball fields
- Lots of hiking trails
- Best white water rafting and kayaking, white river fishing
- Community school
- X-country ski trails and snowshoeing
- Pat's Peak gives town a unique feel
- The river brings a lot to town
- A lot of places people can rub elbows – social capital
- A lot of maintained traditions – Town Meeting, Memorial Day Parade
- Preserved historical buildings
- The churches are a strong community
- Strong Historical Society
- A lot of people willing to volunteer for town committees
- Summer concerts
- Library
- Children's sports program
- Real downtown
- Open space
- New England College
- Diversity of people – people get along well
- A lot of cooperation – work together on an issue
- When there's a need, the community comes together
- White Birch

CHALLENGES

- Strengthen relationship between college and town → there's a disconnect
- Town/gown committee no longer exists
- Town can share that resource
- No place to take children for childcare/daycare (there is no licensed daycare for children under 18 months)
- Trouble finding places to put more fields, playgrounds
- Lack of public swimming areas
- Lack of volunteers/coaches
- Concerned about pressure on young children with organized sports
- Need to have children active, but need to promote family activities
- Have young people interested in history/culture of town to pass it on
- Not a diverse community – culturally, racially, linguistically
- Don't do enough to bring the world to us
- Hard to involve/know people until they have kids in the school system
- Lack of communication in terms of recreational opportunities for younger/pre-school kids, older kids are disconnected
- No welcome wagon
- Leave social connections up to the individual – have to go look for them
- Don't take advantage of recreational activities available river – it's a real jewel
- Besides sports, community doesn't offer other activities for youth (ex. drama, music)
- Breaking up large parcels of land for development – change from farming into the suburbs
- Challenge in supporting small businesses
- Maintaining/preserving farming
- RT. 2 connector is an extremely dangerous road. Traffic is incredible – a lot of future development. It's a management problem in the future.
- Transportation
- Need a playground outside of the school playground
- Teenagers are bored
- It's a dichotomy – we want progress with minimal change
- The draw of nearby towns – people are involved in things outside of town
- Peoples' schedules affect their ability to participate in community activities and community businesses

FUTURE VISION

- Indoor pool for all ages
- Cooperate with NEC
- More influences in town to make river more beautiful/aesthetic take advantage of it – market the river for aesthetics and economy. People love river town tourism.
- Continue to work on open space
- Encourage farming/agriculture
- Encourage people to have gardens/farming plots
- Recreation director – teenage trip programs

- Auditorium/assemble to go w/recreation public/private – theatre, music, speakers, indoor hockey, soccer – economic vitality
- Welcome committee
- To have a town/gown committee
- More community festivals/activities like Old Home Day, square dances
- E-newsletter (great way for newcomers to get info about Henniker) – share activities for everyone in town
- Have a coordination of resources in town

KEY ISSUES

- Treat the river as an asset
- Protect the rural nature of the town (open space, farmland, farmer’s market, community garden)
- Better partnership with NEC w/culture and recreation (indoor swimming pool)
- More activities to bring town folk together
- Improve enjoyment for young people
- Increased communication and outreach
- Promoting social capital and community volunteering

6. Working Landscape and the Natural Environment

Facilitator: Theo (UNH) Recorder: Steve (UNH) Spokesperson: Terry Stamps

Participants: Heidi Galster, Angela Robinson, Terry Stamps, Ron Taylor, Ruth Zax, Susan Murray, Jennifer Parker

Statement of Purpose:

Natural resources and historical assets of a community contribute significantly to the quality of life for residents and play an integral part in defining community character. Streams, rivers, walking trails, working farms, forest, clean air, historic buildings and bridges, wildlife and open land help to determine a community's personality and contribute to the everyday pleasures of community life. A sustainable community recognizes the importance of these assets and takes appropriate measures to assure their continuance.

Statements a community should consider:

- The community has recently inventoried its natural base.
- There is broad community interest and participation in protecting key natural resource and historical assets.
- Steps have been taken to provide long term land protection to assure functioning natural resource systems.
- The local economy and population are putting stress on those natural resource systems.
- There are ways to increase the resilience of the local natural resource systems to allow them to respond to diverse or changing conditions, such as _____.
- Current systems, such as waste management, are handled in a way that preserves the integrity of natural systems in the community without damaging the integrity of natural systems elsewhere.
- Existing businesses are environmentally sound.
- Public water sources are protected.
- Some of these natural resource features are unique or in some way important regionally or statewide.
- Natural resource and open space contribute to the economic vitality of the community.
- Critical resources are being negatively impacted by competing land uses.
- Steps have been taken to establish regulatory controls and promote voluntary actions to assure the continued availability of natural resources.
- The community has addressed regional natural resource features and issues with surrounding communities.

STRENGTHS

- Broad common interests and participation in protecting key resources
- Land use change tax for land conservation
- Town voted to put money toward conservation easement
- 2003 – Natural Resource Inventory
- Active open space committee
- Public water sources are protected – great water supply record for safety and quality

- Overall low level of pollution
- Abundant natural resources and wildlife
- Great waste management plant
- Natural resources bring people from all over – kayaking, fishing, skiing
- ¾ mile of the Contoocook river bank put into conservation easement
- Granite steps installed for kayakers (take out)
- Active and vital Historical Society
- Historical markers
- Hearse House and old cemetery, churches, historical buildings, annual events and calendar
- Old Home Day
- Covered bridge being renovated

CHALLENGES

- Expensive town to live in
- Push and pull to engage commercial development – could impact natural resources
- Town is growing – being able to balance development with protecting natural resources
- Not bicycle-friendly/motorcycle-friendly
- Limited sidewalks, not pedestrian-friendly
- Enforcing environmental violations
- Townspeople need to improve recycling- some people do, some don't
- NEC doesn't recycle as much as they ought to
- Maintaining historic aesthetics in village area
- Historical preservation of residences
- Reusing historic buildings as opposed to demolition/not being used
- Continuing working farms—support them
- Ensuring that wildlife corridors exist
- Attracting green businesses
- Clean air
- Supporting growth while protecting natural resources
- More parks, playgrounds – gathering places
- Better community understanding in what affects property taxes
- Swimming location on the Contoocook river
- Pool
- Bike paths, walking paths
- More access to river esp. in village area
- More farms
- Farmstand – corn and tomatoes
- Community gardens

KEY ISSUES

- Balancing development with environmental protection
- Attracting businesses that align with Henniker's values and rural character
- Helping the community understand what affects property taxes
- Market and optimize the recreational opportunities that exist (recreational destination)

- Enhance village area with additional gathering spots and appropriate small businesses aligned with historical aesthetics

Saturday Morning Key Issues

The 6 easels from the small groups were arrayed across the front of the room, each bearing a list of the key issues for that topic area. This portion of the day began with short presentations from a member of each of the groups, explaining their group's list. The entire group worked together to evaluate and refine this list. After some discussion, 6 themes emerged as important to study for the future of Henniker. This list is presented below.

Informed Citizen Participation and Community Leadership

- Increase knowledge of volunteer opportunities and expand the culture of volunteerism
- Develop a pool of potential people to serve as appointed/elected official and board members
- Develop a mechanism for welcoming new residents
- Use technology to improve communication
- Conscious, directed efforts to expand and develop community participation and leadership among under-represented groups

Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals & Youth and Lifelong Learning

- Common facility to incorporate a wide range of community and college needs to include clinic/community wellness center
 - substance abuse
 - pool
 - athletics
- Increase town and college communication
- Increasing town communication – website enhancement
- Transition from volunteer – based to mix of volunteers and professionals
- Comprehensive teen and youth programs
- Elder care based center

Community Services, Facilities, Utilities & Transportation

- Make downtown more bike and pedestrian friendly
- Public playground
- Safer Rte 202 and Rte 9
- Increase/manage tax base
- Maintain and communicate open space and recreation opportunities (public trails, conservation for public use, fishing, boat launches)

Economic Vitality and Growth & Development

- Lower property taxes
- Zoning
- Better communication and technology access (competition/lower prices)
- College and town relations – town and gown
- Make Henniker a destination for retail and tourism/recreation to and from Concord
- Maintain businesses loyalty/services

Sense of Community and Recreational & Cultural Heritage

- Treat the river as an asset
- Protect the rural nature of the town
- Better partnerships with NEC for cultural and recreational activities
- More activities to bring townsfolk together
- Improve enjoyment for young people
- Increased communication and outreach
- Promoting social capital and community volunteering

Working Landscape and the Natural Environment

- Balancing development with environmental protection
- Attracting businesses that align with Henniker's values and rural character
- Helping the community understand what affects property taxes
- Market and optimize the recreational opportunities that exist (recreational destination)
- Enhance village area with additional gathering spots and appropriate small businesses aligned with historical aesthetics

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

After lunch, participants each chose which of the 6 themes they would like to discuss further and broke into small groups accordingly. Each topic attracted enough people to form a small working group.

The task of each group was to think about problems that existed in each theme and then to brainstorm possible solutions/answers to the issue identified. We did that by thinking out loud for half an hour or so about “problems” and “goals.” Then we suggested solutions, from practical to fanciful to idealistic. The next step was to evaluate the reality of each possible solution/project using the following impact/feasibility grid.

IMPACT:
How much will it matter?

High	1	2	3
Moderate	4	5	6
Low	7	8	9
	Low	Moderate	High

FEASIBILITY: How possible is it in our community?

Using the grid above, we copied each of our proposed solutions onto sticky notes. For each solution, the group decided together what the feasibility and impact of the solution would be. Then we placed the sticky note in the appropriate box.

Based on the grid, each group chose three solutions and wrote them up as proposals on their easel to be presented to the large group. Some groups chose only proposals with high impact/feasibility ratings, while others chose projects from a variety of ratings. Small projects, which were highly feasible but of low impact, were favored by those who wanted to start small and accomplish something quickly. Long term, difficult projects had advocates who were willing to commit to longer struggles with high rewards. Many of the groups proposed a combination of proposals. Verbatim notes from each of the groups are presented below.

SATURDAY MORNING

Serving the Needs of People of All Ages

Facilitator: Tim Fleury
O'Rourke

Recorder: Rebecca Warner Maccini

Spokesperson: Jim

Participants: Jim O'Rourke, Joel Begin, Stephanie Brown, Julie Fuller, Jack Bopp, Jean Lewis, Deb Dow, Nicole Girardet, Karen Jorgensen

PROBLEM

- Meeting the needs of the neediest people in town
- Fitness, needs about people's health, spirituality
- Need for a wellness center that incorporates lots of activities that meet the needs of people of all ages
- No cohesive place, have different places that meet needs
- Remember the needs of people with disabilities, elders, those family members who are older and living with younger family members who are working
- Need to identify disabilities, need to remember ADA
- Lack of continuum of care in our community – people would like to stay in town- lack of housing in town for this. Need is growing. People are moving out of town.
- Lack of coordinated effort, person that takes care of or looks at the needs of young people, teens
- Need of a person who is paid to coordinate the efforts. This person – grantwriter?
- Knowledge of, or various passages for young people in the community, something to look forward to that exists at age 11, 13, 15 (feeling like part of something) – part of the community
- Finding an overall plan for people of all ages in a comprehensive, cohesive way
- Fragmentation of the various recreation bars and other activities
- Give international students an understanding of town life and connecting people of various ages – teaching one another, helping one another
- Families – feel disconnected until their kids are in school
- Needs of the renters –integrating them

POTENTIAL PROJECTS/SOLUTIONS

- Meeting place that is central will enable connections between town and college
- Help people be more connected beyond the town, think globally. Lift up sister city connections, the trips to Nicaragua. Make these resources available and help incorporate these into the 'passages' that happen in the town.
- Learn from other towns and find out how they are doing things to address the same issues that we have (ex. Rec. Director in Hopkinton)
- Study how other towns or organizations deal with the same struggles. Find out from other towns what resources are available to do what we want to do.
- Social worker funded by the town
- NEC and town 'facility' could be integrated

- Internships/work study students – use them in the community or in the integrated ‘facility’ for NEC and community
- Model that looks at preventing problems, especially considering the people who have the greatest needs
- Big facility run by professionals that provides comprehensive activities and wellness programs to meet needs of people of all ages
- Information overall of what exists to provide for recreational, spiritual and social in the community right now (volunteer opportunities, global connections, environmental – looking beyond our community and how we connect with the rest of the world)
- On website, brochure – overview of what exists right now and make this available for people
- Ability to sign up on e-mail list for programs that provide for needs. Make needs and opportunities known through e-mail.
- Way to develop social-networking of places in town
- Welcoming packet to people in town (realtors know this). Ideas include: visit from someone, welcoming committee, ways to track new people, have a follow-up visit, newcomer’s potluck.
- Connect townspeople and international students especially at holiday time. Adopt a Student – incorporate integration. Welcome students to church Thanksgiving dinner.
- Connect freshmen to families in town

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- Look at how other towns have approached this problem – e.g., Hopkinton, Contoocook
- Welcoming committee including packet, visit, potluck, check-in six months

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Director that puts together what is available in one place
- Information source (website) for everything
- E-mail tailored to volunteer needs and program availability (improve webpage)

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- Comprehensive facility with a director servicing all needs: health, recreation, environmental, volunteers
- Facility that integrates needs of town
- Work study students for needs of town integrate with facility
- Integrate NEC & facility

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- Make information available for international – global connections – e.g., trip to Nicaragua

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Connect freshman & families in town for dinner, get-togethers, holidays
- Adopt a student for business, holidays
- Integrate NEC “social work department” with needs of town

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- Social worker for the town

Low Impact/High Feasibility

None noted

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

None noted

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

None noted

IMPROVE VILLAGE VITALITY

Facilitator: Louise F. Cyr Recorder: Cheryl Morse Spokesperson: Bob Stamps

Participants: Brian Mazerski, Lia Houk, Jim McElroy, Peter Flynn, Robert Galster, Gail Kennedy, Bob Stamps, Jay Zax, Heidi Galster, Jakan Kaan Hastal

OPPORTUNITY

- People wandering around (eating, shopping, activities)
- Strolling along the river
- Appreciation and connection to what Henniker has to offer
- Thriving businesses

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

- Attract artisans and craftsmen
- Studying Downtown Zone
- Create a river walk
- Sidewalk improvement
- More downtown festivals
- Attract boutiques, bistros – upscale
- Expand Pat's Peak for more of year
- Improve blinking light intersection
- Study other vital villages
- Henniker businesses and walk brochure – include map
- Attract bars and casinos
- Add traffic light @ Post Office
- Year round water park and hotel
- Downtown access to river and boating
- Create activities for children
- Open houses for downtown businesses
- Encourage green business activities
- Fast food business
- Pursue grant for Main St. America
- Attract Starbucks
- Riverside dining
- Sprucing up the village – landscaping
- Trees
- Coherent signage strategy and parking
- Develop marketing strategy
- Create an economic development committee
- Late shopping nights
- Assessment inventory
- Create historical homes tours

- A Taste of Henniker project
- Mindful development
- Redoing Master Plan with focus of improving village vitality

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- Studying downtown zoning and parking
- Study other vital village
- Develop marketing strategy
- Pursue “Main St. USA”
- Create Chamber of Commerce
- Revising Master Plan with focus of village vitality

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Asset inventory
- Create a riverwalk/river project
- Coherent signage strategy
- Year round Water Park and hotel
- Encourage green businesses/activities

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- Improve blinking light intersection (town center)
- Attract bars and casinos
- Add traffic light and post office at Place Road
- Downtown access to river and boating
- Expand Pats Peak
- Starbucks/Water Park facility
- Mindful development
- Attract boutiques & bistros

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- Create economic development committee
- Henniker business and walking brochure

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- More downtown festivals
- Create activities for children e.g., circus, carnival
- Sprucing up the village downtown

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- Sidewalk improvement
- Attracting artisans and craftsmen
- Riverside dining

Low Impact/High Feasibility

- Open houses for businesses downtown

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- A Taste of Henniker project
- Trees

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

- Fast food businesses
- Late shopping nights
- Create “historic home tour”

Natural Resources

Facilitator: Stephanie Lesperance Recorder: Jim Crane Spokesperson: Not Noted

Participant: David Reid, Joan O'Connor, Jen Connor, Ken Carr, Barbara C French, Terry Stamps, Dale Jennings, Gerry Scala

PROBLEMS

- Conserve and enhance natural resources and maintain rural character while allowing appropriate development
- Promote and encourage current use
- Preserving rural character
 - Open space, farms, less invasive infrastructure
 - Maintain small village center
 - Preserve sense of history (homes, etc.)
 - Promote healthy lifestyle
- Appropriate development
 - Attractive and keep with town character
 - Small interesting shops
 - Not North Conway
 - Inviting/attractive entrance to town
- Natural resources
 - Rivers
 - Amy Brook
 - The Mink Halls
 - Lakes and ponds
 - Recreation trails
 - Bound trees
 - Maintain parks
 - Flood plain
 - Ocean Born Mary home
 - Woods and forest
 - Wetlands
 - Stone walls
 - Wildlife habitat

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS/PROJECTS

- Education about environmental regulations and best management practices with enforcement
- Define the town's natural assets and how to market/promote for town's benefit
- Promote and encourage current use ownership, land conservation, land donation
- Capitalize on the natural resources as an economic benefit to Henniker
- Have a study done that shows the socio-economic potential of natural resources and maintaining the rural character
- Develop access to the natural resources
- Promote individual and business sustainability

- Develop aesthetic standards to protect the character of town in development (site plan – review)
- Historic preservation
- Support the local farmer (Agri – tourism, explore tax incentives)
- Create community gardens
- Create attractive entrances to town – develop in keeping rural character
- Create informational signs prompting Henniker 114 and 202/9 (toll booth/information station)
- Build public restroom (Pee and Pay)
- Have a study done that shows the socio-economic potential of natural resources and maintaining the rural character that will define the town’s natural resources and how to best promote/market for town’s benefit
- Community Garden – investigate ways to promote and preserve local farming (tax incentive, working farms)
- Develop aesthetic standards for development and promote historic preservation
- Promote and encourage current use, land conservation and land donation

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- Develop aesthetic standards
- Promote and encourage current use
- Have a study done that shows the socio-economic potential of natural resources
- Support the local farmer
- Community gardens

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Education about environmental regulation and best management with enforcement
- Historic preservation
- Create informational signs

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- Capitalize on the natural resources as an economic benefit to Henniker

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- Build public restrooms
- Develop access to the natural resources

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Promote individual and business sustainability

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- Create attractive entrances to town

Low Impact/High Feasibility

None noted

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

None noted

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

- taxes

Communications

Facilitator: Erling Jorgensen Recorder: Jenny Dorman Spokesperson: Not Noted

Participants: Craig Blouin, Nicole Gage, Richard Conde, Lori Runksmeier, Erling Jorgensen, Chad Carter, Holly Green, Ruth Zax

PROBLEM

- Townspeople/college communication and expectations “Two-Way Street”
- Townspeople not knowing/aren’t welcome at college events and vice versa
- Easier access to ALL community events
- No “welcome wagon” – a need
- Poor technological availability with only ONE provider – spotty coverage for cell phone, cable, internet
- Growing need for technology
 - Services not keeping up with demand
- Communication isn’t easy
 - Many hurdles

SOLUTIONS

- User friendly website
- Find a “webmaster” – single person fed information from groups
- Have a “professional” webmaster
- Easy access for anyone to add events to calendar/website – with screening process to avoid inappropriate material
- Easier navigation on website – Destination: Henniker website
- A communication and recreation director
- A dialogue/forum for resolving Town/College issues with leadership
- Thinking of solutions as positive – not more taxes
- A source for NEC to show their input and to receive recognition
- Promote and improve recognition for NEC of website – write to leadership asking them to acknowledge NEC
- Internship with communication majors
- High school internet
- Town outreach and communication committees – broad representation
- Community Access Television – Podcast
- Volunteers to podcast
- Central area for event signs
- Community bulletin board that everyone has access to
- Put up another cell phone tower
- Survey about cell phone and cable access
- Have the Outlook become more frequent
- Paid subscription access to local news
- Send press releases to Concord Monitor

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- Find a “webmaster”-- a single person fed information from groups

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Have the Outlook become more frequent
- Better partnership with NEC & the town through programs
- Town outreach and communication committee (with broad representation)
- Have a professional webmaster
- User friendly website
- Easy access for anyone to add events to calendar/website screening process to avoid inappropriate material
- Easier navigation on website; Destination: Henniker website

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- A communication/recreation director
- Put up another cell phone tower

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- A source for NEC to show their input and to receive recognition
- Developing a leadership forum of community and NEC leaders to facilitate better town/gown communication and relationships
- Promote and improve recognition for NEC or website; write to leadership asking them to acknowledge NEC & how it benefits town
- Central area for event signs
- Increasing low tech communication tools, i.e., community bulletin board

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Internship with communication majors and high school interns
- Community access television - podcast

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

None noted

Low Impact/High Feasibility

- Send press releases to Concord Monitor

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Survey about cell phone and cable access

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

- Paid subscription access to local newspaper
- Thinking of solutions as positive – not more taxes

Citizen Participation and Leadership

Facilitator: Thom Linehan

Recorder: Martha Sunderland

Spokesperson: Neal Martin

Participant: John Kjellman, Neal Martin, Mike Cyr, Angela Robinson, Ron Taylor, Bernadette Crane

POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

- Recognition dinner for volunteers
- Identify volunteer opportunities to those not who do not get involved and motivate them to get involved
 - ask for their help directly – not just a newsletter
 - Spread word and culture of volunteerism
- High school community service – make better use of this resource
 - Mandatory service on committee
 - Community service day
- Have community reach out to H.S. community service volunteers to bring them in to committee work – recognize
- Let people know what is available, personal approach
- Find leaders w/out an agenda so that all issues addressed
 - define roles
 - avoid overburdening
- Provide community development training for volunteers
 - Managing meetings
 - Agenda setting
 - Leadership skills
- Define what volunteer requirements might be so they aren't afraid of what they might get into
- Welcome committee- try to get newcomers involved right away, activity participation as well as volunteering
- \$100/yr tax credit for volunteer work
- Volunteer opportunity fair – booth at public gathering
- Outreach from committees
- Use civic clubs to host and honor volunteers
- Promote more participation in civic groups
- Opportunities for whole families to volunteer
- Family oriented activities
- Connect with people at concerts to draw them in
- Support Henniker Spirit Committee
- Use Outlook for more volunteer outreach
- Make outlook Bi-monthly or monthly
- Outlook as e-letter more often and printed quarterly – simple text letter

Project Evaluations:

High Impact/High Feasibility

- \$100/yr tax credit for volunteer work

- Volunteer opportunity Fair
- Booth at public gatherings
- Identify volunteer opportunities to those not yet involved
- Outlook as regular e-letter (simple text) (website) and quarterly print
- Use Outlook for volunteer outreach – monthly/bi-monthly
- Connect with people as concerns to draw them in

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Recognition dinners for volunteers

High Impact/Low Feasibility

- \$

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

- Support Henniker Spirit Committee at town meetings
- Family oriented activities
- Outreach from committees
- Use civic clubs to host volunteers and also honor them
- Outreach through newspapers; letters to editor

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Personal approach to bring in volunteers
- Volunteer opportunity Fair/booth
- Provide community development training for volunteers

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

- Better define volunteer requirements so people not afraid to commit
- Spread word and culture of volunteerism

Low Impact/High Feasibility

None noted

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility

- Promote more participation in civic groups opportunities for whole families to volunteer
- NEC community service
- Use H.S. community service as a resource

Low Impact/Low Feasibility

- Welcome committee get people involved right away in events and volunteering
- Find leaders without an agenda

PROJECT SELECTION

We returned to the large group to hear from a member of each small group who presented the projects that their group had come up with.

Every participant voted with on dot for each group for the project to work on first. The projects receiving the most votes were then to be discussed in small groups to prepare for the follow-up meeting scheduled for May 4th. The list of project ideas follows.

Meeting Needs of All People in Town

- Comprehensive Facility (CF) – researching and look at other towns re: CF. A centralized facility that coordinates many programs now in separate locations, e.g., after-school, health, education, recreation, athletics for all members/ages of community **(24 votes)**
- Director of Community Programs. Paid person who oversees and coordinates the various activities, opportunities, programs, volunteering in town that presently exist in town. This will include recreational programs, after-school programs, wellness programs, international programs. Central force – not volunteer based. **(11 votes)**
- Welcoming Committee – welcoming packet; new neighbor’s potluck; people to visit new people in town and follow-up visit; welcome basket. **(20 votes)**

Improve Village Vitality

- Create a Chamber of Commerce **(23 votes)**
- Pursue a Main Street USA Grant **(20 votes)**
- Create a riverwalk/project **(27 votes)**

Natural Resources/Rural Character

- Conduct a study that shows the socio-economic potential of the natural resources and maintaining the rural character that will define the town’s natural resources; and how to promote/market for town benefit. **(27 votes)**
- Investigate ways to promote and preserve local farming (tax incentives, working farms, farmer’s market and community gardens) **(7 votes)**
- Develop aesthetic standards for development and historic preservation **(23 votes)**
- Promote and encourage current use, land conservation and land donation **(4 votes)**

Communication (Improved Website)

- Improved Website **(38 votes)**
 - Central calendar – ALL community events
 - Destination: Henniker
 - Easy navigation/user friendly
 - Professionally developed and maintained
- Improved communication with Henniker & NEC **(7 votes)**
 - Leadership meetings/forum

- Promoting NEC events
- Partnership programs
- Improve low-tech communication (**2 votes**)
 - Bulletin board available to everyone at all times
 - Welcome wagon
 - Frequent newsletter
- Communication/Recreation (**4 votes**)
 - Coordinator (cultural, events, recreational, community center)

5 Volunteerism, Citizen Participation, & Leadership

- Recognition for volunteers; event such as dinner; tax credit (**3 votes**)
- Improve communication about volunteer opportunities and what is required of volunteer by: personal contact; outlook more frequently; e-newsletter (**36 votes**)
- Make better use of high school and NEC community service volunteers (**17 votes**)

ACTION GROUPS

After the voting, the groups were to focus in on the top project from each group. These are listed below with information each group pulled together to prepare for the May 4th follow-up meeting.

#1 – Meeting Needs of All People in Town

- Comprehensive Facility (CF) – researching and look at other towns re: CF. A centralized facility that coordinates many programs now in separate locations, e.g., after-school, health, education, recreation, athletics for all members/ages of community (**24 votes**)

#2 – Improve Village Vitality

- Create a Chamber of Commerce (**23 votes**)

Riverwalk – Who Needs to be involved:

- Army Corps
- Selectmen
- Conservation Commission/DES
- Planning and Zoning Board
- Professional planner – to decipher restraints on riverside land
- Landscape architect/contractor
- Forest Society to work with private landowners
- Community volunteers
- Grant writer
- Youth to gain ownership
- A project manager

- Representative from college as well as other landowners
- Trout Unlimited/kayakers, etc.
- Whoever will be in charge of maintaining the park
- Trail Rights Club
- People involved previously in park efforts

What Resources are Needed:

- Floodplain map
- Grant \$
- Volunteers
- Community input – survey or other
- Donations of materials
- Photographer

Prior to May 4th

- Talk with Army Corps of Engineers – Jim McElroy
- Lot map and list of owners – Martha Sunderland
- Research on grant possibilities – Bob Stamps

#3 Natural Resources/Rural Character

- Conduct a study that shows the socio-economic potential of the natural resources and maintaining the rural character that will define the town's natural resources; and how to promote/market for town benefit. **(27 votes)**

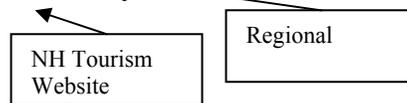
Who will be Involved?

- Planning Board
- Peter Flynn
- Conservation Committee
- Selectman
- Grant Writer
- Historical Society
- Business Owners – Restaurants, Pats Peak
- Rotary/Lions/Civic organizations
- College – research; student involvement; stakeholder
- Cooperative Extension
- Fish & Game
- Corps of Engineers
- OEP
- Division of Tourism
- Citizen Involvement
- Henniker Paddlers
- ATV/snowmobiles – Henniker Trail Travelers

- Trout Unlimited

Resources

- Town map – Holly, Terry
- Town natural resource inventory – Holly
- People
- History of Henniker – Joan, Jen
- Laws/zoning regs } Hold
- State/Federal laws }
- Laptop (no internet connection) – Jen
- Office of Regional Planning; marketing examples – Jen, Terry



Who Conducts Study?

- Students
- Local
- Professional

Spokesperson

- Terry Stamps
 - Barbara
 - Joan
 - Holly
 - Jen
 - David

#4 Communication (Improved Website)

- Improved Website (**38 votes**)
 - Central calendar – ALL community events
 - Destination: Henniker
 - Easy navigation/user friendly
 - Professionally developed and maintained

5 Volunteerism, Citizen Participation, & Leadership

- Improve communication about volunteer opportunities and what is required of volunteer by: personal contact; outlook more frequently; e-newsletter (**36 votes**)

CONCLUSION

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

APPENDIX

Community Profile Participants

Lia Houk	Ruth Zax	Jeannie Ackerman
Erling Jorgensen	Joel Begin	Cynthia Martin
Nicole Gage	Julie Fuller	Yolanda McNair
Richard Conde	Jack Bopp	Mark Mitch
Holly Green	Jean Lewis	Doug White
David Reid	Deb Dow	Martin Ferreira
Joan O'Connor	Nicole Girardet	Michael Moynihan
Barbara C French	Neal Martin	Kath Mullholand
Terry Stamps	Ron Taylor	Lori Zaniboni
Dale Jennings	Martha Taylor	Pat Fisher
Gerry Scala	Mike Cyr	Amanda Gilman
Nina Morse	Angela Robinson	Greg Goldberry
Peter Flynn	Bernadette Crane	Theresa Maier
Gail Kennedy	Brian Mazerski	Janice McElroy
Bob Stamps	Jim McElroy	Lori Bergeron
Jay Zax	Robert Galster	Susan Murray
Heidi Galster	Jakan Kaan Hastal	Jennifer Parker
Linda Connor	Ken Carr	
Lisa Hustis	Stephanie Brown	
Beth Allen	Karen Jorgensen	

Community Profile Facilitators/Recorders

Louise Cyr	Thom Linehan	Garrett (UNH)
Stephanie Lesperance	Ashley James	Dan (UNH)
Martha Sunderland	Michael Koski	Laura Scott
Rebecca Warner Maccini	Tim Fleury	Cheryl Morse
Jim Crane	Theo (UNH)	Steve (UNH)
Amanda Landry	Erling Jorgensen	

Community Profile Steering Committee

Louise Cyr	Jim Crane
Martha Sunderland	Lori Runksmeir
Rebecca Warner Maccini	Chad Carter
Jim O'Rourke	Lia Houk

**Henniker Community Profile
Follow-up Meeting Agenda
May 4, 2009**

7:00 PM – 7:20 PM: Groups convene for a Profile recap.

- a. Introduction from steering committee chair(s)
- b. Overview of the Profile process and reason for follow-up meeting
- c. Distribute/discuss priority projects

7:20 PM – 8:10 PM: Individual action committees meet

- a. Committees define action-planning steps
- b. Committees determine resource needs and how to involve other potential collaborators.
- c. Next steps

8:10 PM – 8:30 PM: Action Committees reconvene as a large group

- a. Group Reports
- b. Potential collaborations
- c. Next steps

Henniker Community Profile Follow-up Meeting Minutes May 4, 2009

Community Facility

Members: Julie Fuller Julie.fuller@tds.net, Jack Bopp rsa@tds.net, Jim O'Rourke jorourke@gleasonlawpllc.com, Joel Begin joel@jbfitness.biz, Lia Houk liahouk@gmail.com, Rebecca Werner Maccini revrwm@tds.net, Jean Lewis jeanlewis@tds.net, Nicole Girardet benikki@comcast.net, Deb Dow dgdow2000@yahoo.com

Goals: This group met between April 18 and May 4 with some of the members to determine what existing resources there are in the community and what made sense for the future of this project. They are looking to a public/private partnership with the hopes of the final facility being a self-sustaining non-profit with buy-in from the town.

Next meeting: TBD

Riverwalk

Beth Allen beth.allen1@comcast.net, Bob Stamps hennikerbob@yahoo.com, Heidi Galster heidigalster@comcast.net, Jay Zax colbubba@comcast.net, Peter Flynn pflynn1022@aol.com, Martha Sunderland msunderland@conknet.com, Linda Connor slconnor@mettelecom.com, Lisa Hustin 428-3241, Cheryl Morse rcmorse@comcast.net
Gail Kennedy gailpkennedy@gmail.com, Joan O'Connor joconnornh@yahoo.com

Goals: This group will have a downtown focus with the goal of river enjoyment enhancement and the connection of trails around town.

Next meeting: sitewalk Saturday May 9th @ 4pm at the Grange

Socioeconomic Study of Natural Resources

David Reid 2weird@tds.net, Terry Stamps terrystamps@yahoo.com, Holly Green hgreen.nh@gmail.com, Nina Morse morsenc@msn.com, Jen Connor jnilyn@comcast.net
Dale Jennings dalej@aisc.com, Gerry Scala 23gscala@tds.net, Barbara French barbaracfrench@gmail.com, Joan O'Connor joconnornh@yahoo.com, Richard Comden 428-7267, Erling Jorgensen kmjorgensen2000@yahoo.com, Charlie French (UNHCE) charlie.french@unh.edu

Goals: This group sees it's initial work in two steps: 1) inventorying what already exists (i.e. promotable resources like kayak sites) to include existing infrastructure that supports the resources available and 2) promote what exists for natural resources. They will identify contact people in the community to help to inventory these existing resources like town resource people and business owners to see what their dreams are for future infrastructure need. This should be done by keeping a connection between all of the Community Profile project groups.

Next meeting: May 13th @ 5:30pm at the Town Hall

Improve Website

Nicole Gage Nicole.gage@gmail.com, Craig Blouin cblouin@comcast.net, Chad Carter chadlcarter@yahoo.com, Lori Runksmeier lrunksmeir@nec.edu, Ruth Zax zaxr@cfsnh.org, Holly Green hgreen@des.state.nh.us, Eleanor Kjellman Eleanor@kjellman.net, Jim Crane jgcrane@comcast.net, John Kjellman johnk@voctorex.com, Stephanie Lesperance lesperance@nhcuc.org, Martha Taylor momtay@mcttelecom.com, Neal Martin hpdbnmartin@tds.net, John Kjellman johnk@victorex.com, Ron Taylor 428-7037, Louise Cyr lcyr@umext.maine.edu

Goals: This group is working to recruit more members of the community where they will create a community calendar, a community-wide email list, a simple look/feel of current town website and finally will work with NEC to combine resources for the future.

Next meeting: June 1st @ 6pm at the Community Center

Chamber of Commerce

Heidi Galster 428-6212 heidigalster@comcast.net, Louise Cyr 748-1091 lcyr@umext.maine.edu, Cheryl Morse 428-3365 rcmorse@comcast.net, Amanda Gilman 428-3812 amanda.gilman@yahoo.com, Mary Ellen Schule 428-756 maryellenschule@hotmail.com, Lia Houk 344-5459 liahouk@gmail.com, Nina Morse 428-7761 morsenc@msm.com, Jen Connor 428-3165 jennifer@whitemountains.com, Beth Allen 428-3036 beth.allen1@comcast.net

Goals: Group will investigate Hillsborough, Weare, Peterborough and New London's Chambers. Additionally, they will talk to the Henniker Business Association to determine what they are working on as well as with the Rotary to determine what the relationships should be between the groups. Examination of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce will also be done to look at guidelines for local Chambers as well as the U.S.A. Main Street program to see if it's a possibility to apply for.

Next meeting: September 15th @ 6:30pm at White Birch Community Center