

## **Comprehensive Planning Meeting Minutes (10/14/2008)**

Minutes for Town of Concord Comprehensive Planning Meeting  
October 14, 2008

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with 13 citizens including Town Chairman Bill Ingersoll present. The agenda was continued discussion of non-consensus points and finalizing the citizen questionnaire. The initial discussion centered around whether or not the questionnaire was really necessary. There was some feeling that the 3 meetings spent developing the questionnaire had been a waste of time and that the direction that town residents want to go is clear from previous surveys. Others felt that the questionnaire was necessary to make sure that the final plan reflects what the majority of the town wants. It was pointed out that at the onset of the planning process, the Public Participation Plan clearly stated that issues which the volunteer planning group could not agree on would be identified throughout the planning process and be communicated to all town residents for broader public input. A vote was taken as to whether or not to proceed with the questionnaire. The vote was 10 – 3 to proceed with the questionnaire.

Discussion of cover page: It was decided that survey responses should be returned by December 5. An informational meeting for those desiring further information or discussion was set for December 2. Residents can return their questionnaire to the Town Clerk by mail. An envelope addressed to the Town Clerk in which residents may return the questionnaire will be included in the mailing. Residents may also fax their answers to the Town Clerk, drop them off on election day (November 4) at the Community Center, or bring them to the informational meeting and return them then. This information will be included on the cover page.

Park & Ride: Information that the previous maintenance agreements proposed by the state were for 15 years will be included in the background information. Mia Rathkamp did not like the wording of response choice “c. I support the Park & Ride only if the Town is not responsible for maintenance or the costs of maintenance.” She felt that the wording was ambiguous and misleading as in her mind, if a Park and Ride were present, the Town would have to be responsible for it. The majority of those present felt the wording was fine and so it was left as is.

Hamlet expansion: Larry Oliverson had spoken to the county regarding the hamlet issue. Information from the county was that the hamlet is not a simple square of 160 acres. Rather, it has an irregular shape because wetlands are excluded from the hamlet area. Based on this information, the hamlet is only about 120 acres (not 160 acres as previously thought). This information will be changed in the questionnaire and a new map drawn to reflect the true hamlet area. Various other minor changes were made to the text of the question.

Land splits: Minor wording changes were discussed and will be incorporated into the questionnaire. The final discussion centered around who should be able to respond to the questionnaire – town residents only, or all land owners. By a vote of 11 – 2, it was decided that only town residents could respond to the questionnaire, but that landowners who lived outside the town would be made aware that a questionnaire was being sent out. Residents will receive one questionnaire per household. Answer sheets for the questionnaire will be randomly numbered to ensure each household responds only once.

A date of October 28 @ 7:00 was set to meet in order to compile the mailing.