



What's Next Middlesex?

A Community Vision-to-Action Forum

October 26-27, 2018

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Welcome! *to the*
Fall Harvest Dinner and
“What’s Next Middlesex?”
October 26-27, 2018 • Rumney School

• **Friday October 26**

Arrivals and hellos. Check out Silent Auction and the slide shows!

5:30 Sign-in and Middlesex’s 12th Annual Fall Harvest Dinner

6:30 Dessert and Introduction

- Welcome *Susan Clark, “What’s Next Middlesex?” planning team*
- Keynote: The Value of Community Collaboration *Paul Costello, Executive Director, Vermont Council on Rural Development*
- Overview of Vision to Action Process *Delia Clark, Lead Facilitator*
- Tell Us A Story *Rumney Student/Middlesex Elders video*
- Full Group Activities *Led by Delia Clark*
 - Who Is Here?
 - Mosaic and Vision

7:30 Presentation of Ten Components of Successful Communities, and Small-Group Discussions

9:00 *Adjourn*

• **Saturday October 27**

8:45 *Coffee/teas, homemade baked goods, check-in*

9:00 Welcome and Small Group Reports

10:00 Full Group Selection of Key Issues

10:25 Individual Selection of Key Issue (which are *you* most interested in?)

10:30 *Break, homemade treats*

10:45 Small Group Discussions on Key Issues

12:15 *Lunch—Sandwich Buffet*

1:00 Report Back from Small Groups

1:45 Project selection

2:00 Project development—Small groups

2:45 Where do we go from here?
Full group discussion

3:00 *Adjourn*





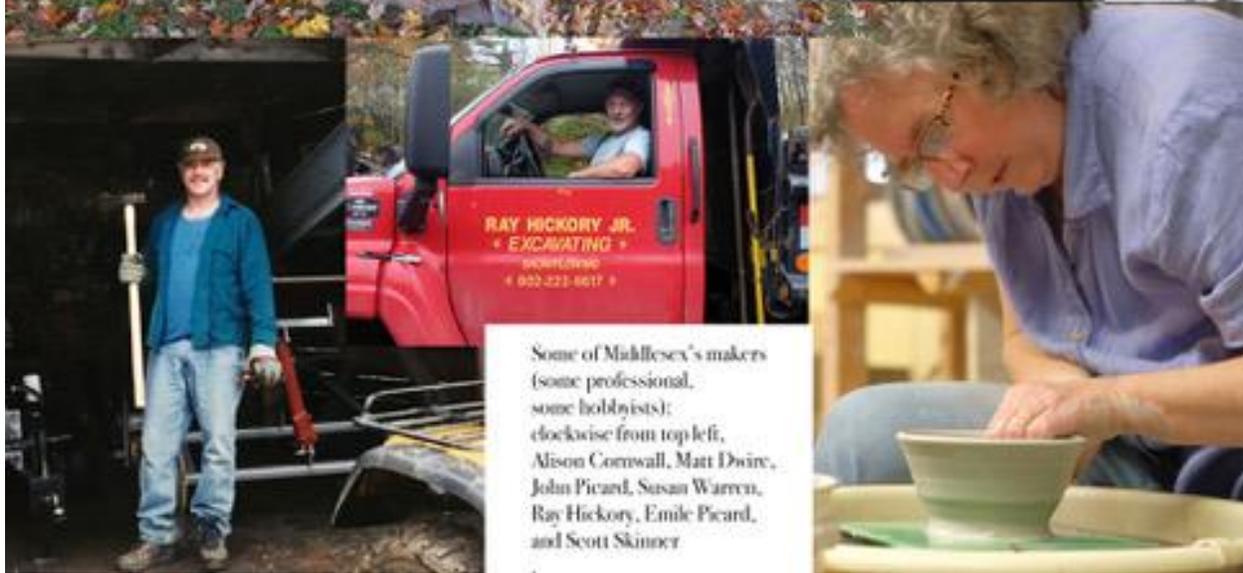
Middlesex residents discuss their vision and priorities



Friday night Harvest Dinner and small-group discussions



The Middlesex Makers event at Camp Meade in the village:



Some of Middlesex's makers (some professional, some hobbyists); clockwise from top left, Alison Cornwall, Matt Dwire, John Picard, Susan Warren, Ray Hickory, Emile Picard, and Scott Skinner

Creating “What’s Next Middlesex?”

The Beginning

The idea for “What’s Next Middlesex?” originated with the Middlesex Town Meeting Solutions Committee, with the goal of strengthening and diversifying community engagement. Three factors made Fall 2018 an especially valuable time for a “vision to action” forum: 1) Our town plan was overdue for an update, and planners were seeking a wide range of opinions; 2) Rumney Memorial School had been experiencing significant tensions (including a change in principal, divisive school board elections, and conflict over the Act 46 school district merger law) and many felt it would be useful to view school topics as part of a holistic community discussion; 3) the Camp Meade property anchoring Middlesex Village had recently changed hands and important transformations were being discussed. In all cases, local leaders were interested in strong two-way communication with community members. After discussions with the Middlesex Selectboard, Planning Commission, School Board, and other local leaders, the Solutions Committee put out an invitation to all community members to help plan the fall forum.

The “Vision-to-Action” Model

“What’s Next Middlesex?” was run with the Vision-to-Action model developed by Vital Communities of the Upper Valley (White River Jct., Vt.) and Antioch New England Institute (Keene, N.H.). Professional facilitator Delia Clark led our event; she has facilitated over 70 vision-to-action forums around Vermont, New England, and other locations.



Organization

A diverse group of Middlesex volunteers met about seven times as a full group (with additional time in smaller committees) between May-October 2018 to plan this event, with guidance from lead facilitator Delia Clark. An active volunteer planning team ensured that the event came together through their extensive work on these committees: Promotion and Publicity; Neighbor Outreach; Food; Site Logistics; Youth and Senior Involvement; Child Care; Small-Group Facilitators; Creative Engagement (Middlesex Makers); Fundraising/Budget.

Active planning participants included: Sorsha Anderson, Honi Bean Barrett, Joanne Breidenstein, Barbara Buckley, Mark Bushnell, Susan Clark, Dorinda Crowell, Jill Drury, Vic Dwire, Randy George, Kimberly Jessup, Mike Kline, Dave Lawrence, Michael Levine, Sandy Levine, Adrienne Magida, Chris McVeigh, Tim Murphy, Mitch Osiecki, Mike Pelchar, Nancy Reilly, Lauri Scharf, Liz Scharf, Sarah Seidman, Janette Shaffer, Dave Shepard, Dave Smith, Emily Smith, Ursula Stanley, Aimee Toth, Susan Warren. Thanks also for participation from

Dexter Lefavour, Jeff Koonz, Sandra Bettis, Steve Melamed, Howard Morse, Linda Morse, and others.

Participant Recruitment

The planning team worked to raise interest in this event through as many different means as possible. Volunteers staffed a booth and talked with neighbors at many Middlesex Bandstand and Camp Meade concerts throughout the summer, on Primary Day at Town Hall, and at multiple Rumney events. Volunteers Janette Schaffer and Lauri Scharf created a high-quality, informative website www.whatsnextmiddlesex.org which was publicized widely and linked to the town website. The team distributed posters to all public bulletin boards in town, and posted regular updates and invitations through Front Porch Forum and the Rumney newsletter/calendar. Planning team members met with existing town committees to keep them informed on event planning, and initiated conversations with as diverse an array of neighbors as possible, to help spread the word with as wide a group as possible. In the week preceding the events (both WNM and “Middlesex Makers”), thanks to a loan of five sandwich boards from the Middlesex Bandstand committee, we placed signage at key Middlesex intersections reminding all passersby of the upcoming weekend events. Volunteer designer Sarah Birgé worked with the planning team to create a colorful event flyer featuring a wide array of Middlesex faces, which was mailed, courtesy of the selectboard, to every household.

To raise interest in registering (either online or by mail), all registrants were entered in a raffle to win a grocery store gift card and other prizes (“must be present to win”). To allow young families to participate, planners used grant funds to arrange with Community Connections to offer free child care for the entire event.

Food

No Middlesex event is complete without great food, and Honi Bean Barrett led the team organizing Friday’s Harvest Dinner and Silent Auction. Thanks to grants, the Harvest Dinner could be offered for free this year, while still raising funds for its causes. (Celebrating its 12th year, the Harvest Dinner traditionally raises funds for the Middlesex Food Shelf and Rumney healthy foods program; it is its own event, with an extensive list of business sponsors, contributors, and volunteers separate from this report.) April Davis led the kitchen crew. To ensure that all Middlesex residents who wished to could participate in the WNM discussions, the planning team enlisted volunteers from other communities; thanks to Tom and Susannah Blachly and Jim and Sue Allen Picone (Calais), Jane Knight (E. Montpelier), Priscilla White (Waterbury), and Barre Girl Scout Troop 30568. The Food Committee also organized lunch and snacks for Saturday, including donations from area businesses, and muffins and fresh cookies baked by a team of volunteers and Girl Scouts. The entire event including meals and snacks were provided at no cost to participants.

Facilitation

Over twenty Middlesex residents were trained as facilitators and scribes by lead facilitator Delia Clark, in order to lead and keep notes on the many small-group sessions. These volunteers included: Susan Warren, George Longenecker, Kelly Ault, Ansley Bloomer, Julie Moore, Jen Carbee, Susan Clark, Hal Cohen, Todd Daloz, Beth Holtzman, Sandy Levine, Mitch Osieki, Nicole Sorrell, Patrick Wood, Elias Gardner, Troy Sumner, Maureen McCracken (Waterbury), Tim Murphy, Jennifer Murray, Adrienne Magida, Emily Potter, Cathie Pelchat, Chris Meehan.

Creative Engagement

Several additional efforts added to the array of engagement leading up to “What’s Next Middlesex?”:

- **“The Makers of Middlesex”: A Partner Event** To celebrate all aspects of our community including artists and businesses, and to ensure that all Middlesex residents were included—even those who don’t like meetings!—the planning team organized a partner event focusing on the makers and creators of Middlesex. Over 40 “Middlesex Makers” (both professionals and hobbyists), from builders and excavators to quilters and poets, shared their work in this well attended community celebration. See Appendix 1.

- **Elder/Youth Oral History Project** What are some of the favorite memories (happy? scary? hilarious?) of long-time Middlesex family members and community elders about growing up in our town? What has changed, and what do they hope will stay the same into the future? Fifty-four Rumney students (grades 3-6) interviewed Middlesex seniors and filmed, edited, and presented excerpts of the resulting film for an enthusiastic audience at the WNM Friday dinner and Saturday lunch. The project was organized by Rumney School principal Aimee Toth and faculty and staff Diana Costello, Linda Emmons, and Chip Hedler. Middlesex residents who kindly agreed to share their memories were Ada Alger, Joan Carlson, Susan Hayward, Virginia Macey-Schuetz, Gloria and Adrian Murphy, Joe Picard, and Helen Weed.

- **Story Pot:** Conceived by Rumney Art Teacher Jen Campbell, the Middlesex Story Pot project allowed children and adults to participate in a creative community-building activity leading up to the fall forum. Working on a 1’x 1’ clay cylinder, students were invited to tell their “story” of Middlesex by creating small sculptures representing what Middlesex means to them, and attaching them to the pot. The pot then travelled to the “Middlesex Makers and Creators” event at Camp Meade, where adults added to it. The resulting whimsical pot is planned to be unveiled and presented to the town in winter along with the final “What’s Next Middlesex?” report. It will be displayed at Town Hall, Rumney School, and at various town events.

Funding Support

Many thanks for support from: Vermont Community Foundation “Spark” grant; Washington Electric Coop Community Fund; Capitol Copy to create flyers and an event banner; and Red Hen Bakery and Nutty Steps for donating event refreshments. The WNM planning team is very grateful to lead facilitator Delia Clark for the significant contribution of her time and expertise to this event pro bono.

Follow Up

Action Committees: Four action committees emerged from the “What’s Next Middlesex?” event (listed at the end of this report). All four have been meeting and keeping the community apprised of their efforts.

Final Report: The extensive flip-chart notes from the “What’s Next Middlesex?” large- and small-group discussions were transcribed and organized for this report by Joanne Breidenstein, with help from Linda Belt-Burnier and Kim Sturgis. Photos by Mark Bushnell. Final report editing and production by Susan Clark.

The www.whatsnextmiddlesex.org website will be maintained for at least a year to serve as a follow-up tool and information clearinghouse as needed.

“What’s Next Middlesex?” Event Summary

The “What’s Next Middlesex?” vision-to-action forum was conducted at Rumney Memorial School over two days, Friday evening, October 26 and all day Saturday, October, 27, 2018. Approximately 200 people attended the dinner, with 90 people staying to participate in the small group sessions. Forty people returned to complete the work on Saturday, with four community action groups convening to carry on work after the event.

Friday Evening

The event began with a community dinner, a version of a long-standing annual tradition in Middlesex, the Fall Harvest Dinner. Unlike in past years, the dinner was free of charge. As in past years, it featured donated and community-made selections of soup, bread, salad, and gingerbread with ice cream. Thanks to the silent auction, sponsorships, and grant funding, the event still raised funds as in past years for the Middlesex Food Shelf and the



Rumney healthy foods program.

A special feature of the Harvest Dinner was a video showing of selected interviews conducted by Rumney students, in which Middlesex elders told tales and answered students’ questions about elders’ memories of Middlesex. This oral history project was a

joint venture of “What’s Next Middlesex?” and Rumney teachers, staff, and students. Following dinner, participants heard a keynote address by Paul Costello, Executive Director of the Vermont Council for Rural Development, and were given an overview of the agenda and goals for that evening and the following day.

“What’s Next Middlesex?” lead facilitator Delia Clark led the first full-group activity where we spent a few minutes meeting each other and learning how long we had lived in town, where we worked, how many of us had attended or had children or grandchildren at Rumney or U32, where we got our local news, and other connections.

In the “Mosaic” activity, we were asked to offer descriptions of what our town is like right now; then in the “Vision” activity,” how we would Middlesex it to be in the future. Volunteers including two Middlesex teens served as scribes as we called out descriptive phrases that were recorded on easels at the front of the room. The results are listed (in random order) below:

The Mosaic: What is Middlesex like today?

- Spread out
- Great school
- Shitty internet
- Summer concerts
- Barns
- Cross-country skiing/snowshoeing
- Good friends
- Close to Montpelier
- Winooski
- Local firewood
- Hunting camps
- Settlement Farm
- Disc golf
- Need a disco!
- Pie Breakfast
- Volunteer Fire Department
- Local foods for school lunches
- Accessible politicians
- Help from neighbors with plowing, etc.
- Heaven
- Friendly
- Beautiful views
- Too quiet
- Community
- Pretty safe
- Great kids
- Politically engaged
- Fearful of school merger
- Harvest Dinner
- Trusted neighbors
- Near the mountains
- Rural
- Heavily forested
- Sunny and cool
- Neighbors
- Wildlife
- Great coffee shop
- Engaged
- Deer
- "Makers"
- Dirt roads
- Town Hall
- Need a Post Office
- Good quality roads
- Close ski mountains
- Good neighbors
- Sally's thrift shop (Sally's Second Act)
- Bear Swamp Vet
- Riverside park
- Close to state capital
- Bears
- Food shelf
- Far from ocean (close?)
- Chocolate shop (Nuttly Steph's)
- Lack of accessible trails
- Peace and quiet
- Salamander crossing
- Interstate access
- No town green
- The bear swamps
- Good vet
- Pease Farm and therapeutic riding
- Bears
- Lots of turkeys
- Near Montpelier
- Near the mountains
- Fast drivers
- Walkers
- Bikers
- Hilly
- Expensive
- Turkeys
- Potholes
- Many ponds
- Slow internet
- Poor cell service
- Home
- Beautiful
- New homes
- Mud season
- No gas stations
- No grocery stores
- Hunger Mountain
- Sugaring at school
- Wrightsville Beach
- Class IV roads
- E911 signs
- Kayaking
- Wood stoves
- Swimming holes
- Rumney
- Sugaring

- Feels supportive
- Feels peaceful
- Discarded trash on roadways
- Not racially diverse
- Lacking public transportation
- Great parents/grandparents
- Independent
- Politically engaged
- Town hall meeting

- Generous
- Will live here forever
- Spacious
- No shared community space
- Lots of posted land
- Deep-rooted Vermont native families
- Cultural division
- Great Rumney theater productions

The Vision: What do we want Middlesex to be like in the future?

- Business space
- Fiber internet
- Local control of our school
- Youth in leadership roles
- An ultimate Frisbee team
- Local jobs
- Rural
- Global warming has reversed itself
- Intact forests
- Ash trees
- Public shooting range
- Ordinance against noise pollution in our own yards
- More moose
- Fewer porcupines
- No lost cats
- Strengthened communication between neighbors
- Tolerance

- Diversity
- Public transportation
- Woods, and lots of 'em!
- It still snows
- Sidewalks/crosswalks in village
- Affordable childcare
- Late-night coffee
- Bike paths connecting school
- Community center with outdoor spaces
- Successful farms
- Great healthcare
- Affordable healthcare
- Progressive care center
- Good cell coverage
- Secure wetlands
- Post Office
- Local train stop in village
- More time!



- More childcare
- Community trails
- Community garden
- Non-polluting cars
- Community speaker series
- More meat raised in town
- Preserved farm land
- Downhill ski area
- Community sledding hill
- Affordable co-working
- Safe dirt roads
- Independent schools
- Help for young families
- Community pool
- Trails

- Combination community space (music venue, coffee shop, Post Office)
- Young helping old/old helping young
- Kids coming home to raise families
- More free community events
- Clearinghouse for home services
- Local Vermont brewery with pub
- Protect Worcester Range
- No hungry neighbors
- Support for teachers and staff
- High-speed internet
- Lower property tax
- Rumney gym converted to concert space
- Preserve land surrounding Hunger Mountain trails
- Paved roads
- Rumney open to community after school hours
- Pizza pub
- Gas station and convenience store
- Community art projects
- More possums (to eat ticks)
- Dark night sky
- Freedom for the dogs!
- Continued traditional uses of our woods

Ten Components of Successful Communities

After we completed the “Mosaic and Vision” activities for Middlesex, Delia Clark introduced us to the idea of discussing our town within the framework of ten qualities that can be used to profile a community. These topics are based on work from the National Civic League and the Delia’s experience with over 70 vision-to-action forums, and were fine-tuned by the “What’s Next Middlesex?” planning committee. The components describe communities that are working well and that sustain the cultural, economic, and environmental health and vitality for the long-term future.

Participants were divided randomly into their groups. Each group was offered a statement of purpose describing their topic, and optional “questions to think about.” The group then discussed their topic in relation to Middlesex: strengths, concerns/weaknesses, vision for the future, and Middlesex’s five key issues in this topic area. The ten components were:

1. Effective Community Leadership
2. Informed Citizen Participation
3. Strong Social Capital
4. Vibrant Arts, Cultural Heritage, and Recreation
5. High Quality Educational Opportunities for All Ages
6. Adequate Physical Infrastructure (roads, public buildings, etc.)
7. Equitable and Adequate Social Services and Health Care
8. High Quality Environment and Natural Resources
9. Strong and Stable Local Economy
10. Planned Growth and Development

Group 1: Community Leadership

Facilitators: Todd Daloz, Thea Schwarz

Participants: John Thouron, Aimee Sumner, Dave Shepard, Nicholas Hecht, Craig Strachan, Josie Haley

Statement of purpose: *Business leaders, elected officials, non-profits...*

The public, private and non-governmental organizations sectors must all develop leaders who can cooperate with each other in enhancing the long-term future of the community. Leadership must 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 take advantage of opportunities and to solve problems of the community by fostering communication and cooperation within the community's various groups and populations, as well as partnering with neighboring communities.

Questions to think about:

- Is there active leadership in all three sectors of the community: public, private and non-governmental organizations (whether the organization is in Middlesex or is an organization that serves Middlesex)?
- Do leaders seek out the interests and ideas of local citizens?
- Do they represent diverse community interests (age and gender groups, length of time they have resided in the community, etc.)
- Do leaders demonstrate knowledge, accountability, professionalism, and innovation?
- Is leadership results-oriented?
- Are leaders willing to take appropriate risks?
- Do leaders demonstrate long-range (20+ years) thinking? Do they understand the impacts of their actions on the long-term health and vitality of the community?
- Are leaders willing to consider and utilize alternative methods for delivering services, and to undertake regional solutions where appropriate?
- Do all three sectors actively recruit, train and empower new leaders?
- Do leaders have a common forum to discuss issues with other leaders in the region? How do region-wide policy conflicts get resolved?

Group Response: Community Leadership—STRENGTHS

- Engaged, effective school board
- Active Town Clerk; crux of communication
- Historical Society
- Band concert/committee
- Town sports: parents volunteering
- PTO field trips, other
- Select Board
- Front Porch Forum
- Children - Community leaders and becoming leaders
- Teachers
- Town Meeting in a traditional sense
- Local businesses

- Village revitalization
- Arts
- Community garden
- Leadership in land conservation
- Rumney
- Rumney kids leading in arts and sports at U32

Group Response: Community Leadership—CONCERNS/WEAKNESSES

- Poor community engagement
- Lack of new ideas
- New residents - communication and engagement
- Disparate information sources w/incomplete information
- No “Welcome to Middlesex” packet
- Informal information channels
- No Rumney, no info: people with no children in school=cut out of town info loop
- Overreliance on certain modes of communication
- Weak information-sharing
- Limited info-sharing events
- Unclear leader results
- Lack of people running for office
- Unclear outcomes from leaders
- Disengaged: long-time residents, newcomers, post-Rumney families
- Competing interests
- Hard to share opinions - where to share for kids to contribute?

Group Response: Community Leadership—VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- Culture committee - combines leaders in town (connected to town newspaper)
- Increase collaborative leadership among boards, commissions, committees
- Town newspaper - What is going on at Rumney? At U32? In our community? Kids’ section/designed by kids
- Revive Operators Manual
- Improve website
- Create centralized communication hub
- Electronic suggestion box (but who takes care of it)
- Community leadership for village development “Route 2”
- Maintain low-key community leadership?
- Improved law-enforcement response/resources
- What do we want for leadership?
 - Town leader could be more than one person
 - A town leader who brings in millions of \$\$?
 - Or one who keeps things the way they are because people say they are happy?
 - Do we need change? What is effective community leadership?

Group 2: Informed Citizen Participation

Facilitators: Ed Canty, Tim Murphy

Participants: Susie Walsh Daloz, Anthony Pollina, Matisse Bustos-Hawkes, Jan Heyman Houron, Troy Sumner, MaryLynne Strachan, Cynthia Webster, Anna Blackburn

Statement of purpose: *Involving community members of all ages...*

If a community is to be strong, citizens must participate through voting in local elections, serving on government boards, attending public hearings and being active in civic and non-governmental organizations. Philanthropy and volunteerism are very important elements in meeting community needs. All citizens need to develop knowledge and skills to contribute to community life. All sectors within a community--private, public and non-governmental organizations--must each take responsibility for the community's civic education and generate and share information with the public. Sharing in problem solving and planning together for the future increases pride in the community and can result in an ethic of giving and sharing as a way of life.

Questions to think about:

- Do citizens know how the system works?
- Is it easy for newcomers to learn how to get involved in the community?
- How do people find out what is going on in the community?
- What is the level of volunteerism and philanthropy in the community? Which are the best areas and which are the weaker areas?
- Do citizens volunteer to serve on local boards and committees?
- Is participation pro-active or reactive?
- Do civic organizations and local businesses actively contribute to community functions?
- Do citizens have the information they need to make good decisions?
- Is there both adequate and balanced media coverage of local events and issues?
- How well do local committees and boards communicate with each other and the public and with other boards and committees throughout the region?
- Do civic education efforts involve the entire community?

Group Response: Informed Citizen Participation—STRENGTHS

- Community voice at town meeting
- Great facilitation at town meeting
- Solutions committee
- Strong school system (Rumney)
 - Civic hub
 - Rumney, better parent involvement
- Front Porch Forum
- Town is open to participation
- At school community involves the students
- Corn roast
- Other events

Group Response: Informed Citizen Participation—CONCERNS/ WEAKNESSES

- Community is split
- School closed off
- Annual calendar
- Time and flexibility
- No place to gather
- Technical and geographic isolation, disjointed
- Empowerment
- Accessibility
 - Staying invisible
- Middlesex Food Shelf - Nobody from town uses it
- Need more involvement
 - Response to surveys
- Better communication from committee
- Better info on what committees do

Group Response: Informed Citizen Participation—VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- Optimize Exit 9
- Town Directory of skills
- Talk series
- Better published GMT schedules
- Improved, multifaceted communications; Agenda, minutes; Welcome Packet-New Residents
- Improve school facility
- Ability to hold community events - maybe other facility

Committee Response:

Informed Citizen Participation in Middlesex—KEY ISSUES

1. Connecting Middlesex's various communities
2. Bring governance to the community through events
3. Better outreach
4. Multifaceted forms of communication
5. Rumney as a community hub during non-school hours

Group 3: Strong Social Capital

Facilitators: Patrick Wood and Cathie Pelchat

Participants: Honi Bean Barrett, Kimberly Jessup, Meg Ostrum, Joanne Mankoff, Tammy Picard, Mark Bushnell

Statement of purpose: Friendliness, neighbors helping neighbors, cooperation, trust...

A community is made up of many different people with different interests, experiences and backgrounds. These characteristics may divide a community into natural groups but there must be communication and cooperation among them if the community is to work well. Increasing social complexity present challenges to reaching consensus or resolving conflicts but also provide opportunities for cultural enrichment. As disagreements arise, neutral forums and processes are needed where all opinions can be heard and consensus encouraged. In addition, diverse formal and informal cultural, recreational, social and civic opportunities are needed to increase communication and understanding of different perspectives among groups and within the community as a whole.

Questions to think about:

- How much communication is there among diverse interest groups in the community?
- Are such groups involved in identifying community goals and in resolving community issues?
- Do all groups have the skills to become involved in the community?
- Do formal and informal forums exist for sharing ideas and resolving public issues?
- Are collective decisions which represent broad input reached and implemented?
- Do groups cooperate in resolving broad disputes?
- Does the community deal with critical issues before they become crises? How is this done?
- How would you define the self-image of the community? Is it a positive one? Does the community have a strong “sense of place”?
- Are there ample opportunities for people to come together informally to share ideas, such as sports clubs, cafés, choirs and parks?

Group Response: Strong Social Capital—STRENGTHS

- Front Porch Forum keeping people updated and informed and feel connected to and learn from people (diversity)
 - Community dialog and understanding
 - Gives voice to people who might not speak up otherwise
- Facebook group: Culver Hill gang
- Wrightsville Reservoir
- Pie breakfast and Harvest dinner bring people together + summer concerts + Red Hen Bakery (food)
- Red Hen meeting and working space
- Micro-communities that get together in Middlesex (like Putnamville)
- Roads connect people + facilitate communication
- Rumney/through school network
- Middlesex families Facebook page
- People with lots of skill, knowledge, experience

Group Response: Strong Social Capital—CONCERNS/WEAKNESSES

- Speaking up at Town Meeting can be challenging, people speak past each other
- Lack of cross-pollination, except for at school
- Front Porch Forum conversation etiquette is not always practiced/divisive
- Main form of communication is electronic so less opportunity for civil dialogue
- Fewer community hubs to keep various community segments connected- age especially, people not connected to school are more isolated
- Confusion about how to use school

- Lack of geographic cohesion, no town center
- Hard to make friends
- No play groups for infants
- People don't take time to meet and speak with neighbors, especially new neighbors - no "welcome"
- Bedroom community
- Houses are set back from road

Group Response: Strong Social Capital—VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- Play group
- Kim's "Welcome Wagon" to greet new neighbors
- More people involved in Neighborhood Watch
- Have more events at Rumney or another (neutral) space: tea time, corn roast, etc. (not just for Rumney families)
- Use Town Hall for art, music events, etc.
- Initiative that encourages people to know immediate neighbors/micro neighbors
- Vibrant Exit 9, with amenities
- A way to pick up phone and get everyone together
- Secret pop-up parties at Camp Meade
- "Middlesex University" - free classes offered by community members
- Annual Makers of Middlesex
- Facebook page to share photos, etc. - "scenes of Middlesex" plus good things (not advertising forum)
- Social services: Meals on Wheels, library, family center programs, etc.
- Meetings at school to resource-share: "Summit of Hope" (help finding solutions to small barriers) or "Care Fair"
- Health care at the school
- Better use of Middlesex Food Shelf
- Healthier food at Food Shelf
- Volunteers for anything: PTO, public office, Food Shelf
- Mentoring
- Community center on North side of town

Committee Response: Strong Social Capital in Middlesex—KEY ISSUES

1. Establishing communication links beyond FPF
2. Promoting volunteerism and town-wide involvement
3. Lack of geographic cohesion and need to build central community hub(s)
4. Challenge of building relationships with immediate neighborhood
5. Need for more community events and opportunities for engagement year-round

Group 4: Vibrant Arts, Cultural Heritage, and Recreation

Facilitators: Chris Meehan and Beth Holtzman

Participants: Tom Latham, Chris Blackburn), Elliot Burg, Emily Smith, Kate Reilly

Statement of purpose: *Celebrations, arts, athletics, our local traditions...*

The cultural life of a community can be a strong source of pride for citizens. Arts, theater, makers and creators, local festivals and celebrations all reflect and build a community's positive sense of itself and strengthen the fabric of all social interactions within the community. Provision of opportunities for healthful, satisfying, positive recreation and leisure time activities serving all groups and interests in the community can help to define the character and general ambiance of a community, build a sense of place, and can help to build respect, cooperation and neighborliness.

Questions to think about:

- What is the community's self-image?
- What ways does the community celebrate itself?
- What are the special cultural centers, events and festivals within the community?
- Are these events well known within the community? Outside the community?
- Does the community preserve and enhance what is special and unique about its cultural heritage?
- Are children encouraged to participate in cultural events?
- Are citizens part of larger regional cultural events?
- Are there suitable recreation programs for all groups, young and old, athletic and non-athletic, outdoor and indoor?
- Are there publicly accessible outdoor parks and recreation areas?

Group Response: Vibrant Arts, Cultural Heritage, and Recreation—*STRENGTHS*

- Outdoor activities
- Summer concerts (Bandstand and Camp Meade)
- Citizen musicians: show up and play
- Deep reservoir of artistic skills revealed at “Makers” event (writers, musicians, builders, artists)
- Hunger Mountain trail/Wrightsville
- Shady Rill park
- School play
- Pie breakfast
- Harvest dinner
- Rumney staff are making connections to cultural heritage
- Regular group that plays basketball
- Rumney makes space available for free
- Red Hen
- School sports, Little League/basketball
- Middlesex Historical Society and book
- Have makers but need buyers

- People who stop at Camp Meade because they know there are things they want to buy
- Pease Farm
- Rumney facility
- Network of snow machine trails could also be used for snowshoe/ski (People appreciate being asked permission)
- U32 has strong sports/theater, music—sets a “goal” for people
- Feeder programs
- U32 students as mentors
- Town Hall
- Camp Meade interest in space as community center
- RR station development potential
- Network of people supporting kids
- Mud Studio

Group Response: Vibrant Arts, Cultural Heritage, and Recreation—CONCERNS/WEAKNESSES

- No town center - geographically split
- No indoor performance space
- No knowledge of snow machine trails - no promotion
- Lack of access to trails - postings and road issues on one side of Hunger Mtn
- Communication gaps (i.e., Rumney gym access, when you don't have kids in school you lose that connection to information)
- Pedestrians don't feel safe - lack of shoulder and people speed
- Yankee “stinginess”
- Tennis and outdoor basketball courts in bad/horrible shape
- Lack of money, perceived lack of money
- Some residents are well-off, some are struggling
- Lack of adequate arts and recreation opportunities for older Middlesex residents
- Lack of transportation from Middlesex to Montpelier (where there are classes and services)
- Potentially available transportation solutions not widely publicized
- Being adjacent to Montpelier - almost too close to the resources but too far to really access
- Small population in Middlesex
- Lack of “buyers/consumers” in town
- We could do more to capture cultural heritage of Middlesex
- Maybe we aren't providing opportunities (arts, rec, culture) for everyone across the spectrum of age and ability, interest, socioeconomics
- Some of our residents are isolated and not able to share their knowledge and stories
- We don't bridge the community involvement from Rumney to U32
- We may lose local control of school - arts, culture, recreation at Rumney

Group Response: Vibrant Arts, Cultural Heritage, and Recreation—VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- More pie

- Coffee until 10 pm
- Public/private network of well-marked trails that are open
- Rumney is a hub of artistic and recreation activity to the full community (beyond kids)
 - Classes - music art, quilting (?), yoga
 - Recreation - volleyball, bb
 - Over 150 people on email list for pickle ball (40/50), indoor/outdoor
- Retrofit gym into performance space: lighting, acoustics, seating
- How can we bring U32 kids back into the town?
- How can we have community among middle and high school students here in Middlesex?
- Could there be a space at Camp Meade where makers can sell/show their work? (like an Artisans Hand or gallery)
- Once we have our network of trails - have a winter “tasting of Middlesex”
- In the summer, mountain bike stops and different places for different food

Committee Response: Vibrant Arts, Cultural Heritage, and Recreation for Middlesex—KEY ISSUES

1. Community spaces: Use of Rumney and need for other gathering spaces-café, performance, learning spaces (local control?)
2. Trail networks, access, events, celebrating
3. Economic support for “makers”
4. Transportation so all Middlesex residents have access to arts, culture, and recreation
5. Communication and connection: To support access to and engagement with other people around arts, culture, recreation (like when you’re a Rumney parent)

Group 5: Education

Facilitators: Sandy Levine, George Longenecker

Participants: Kyle Landis-Marinello, Hugo Liepmann, Sorsha Anderson, Katy Chabot, Barbara Buckley, Jane Tucker, Michelle Morse, Ursula Stanley

Statement of purpose: *Little kids, big kids, young adults, seniors, all want to learn...*

All citizens have a need for the education of their children. In addition, life-long learning opportunities for adults can help increase the capacity of the local work force and contribute to a positive quality of life. Things like pre-school programs, after-school extracurricular youth programs, professional and technological training and leisure time

heritage, arts and crafts programs help to strengthen the social foundations of a community.

Questions to think about:

- What schools and other public educational facilities exist in the community?
- What educational facilities or services are needed?
- Are educational opportunities provided equitably?
- Are school programs adequate for the community's needs?
- Is school planning forward thinking, open to collaborations, and interested in all possible solutions?
- Does the towns have a plan for financing the maintenance, expansion and replacement of its public schools and social service facilities?
- Are public educational facilities and buildings such as schools and parks adequate for our needs? Are they accessible to people with disabilities? Are they energy efficient?
- Are appropriate physical connections being made, such as public transportation between housing and schools?

Group Response: Education—STRENGTHS

- Rumney's a great school: hands-on education (from 3 years ago)
- U-32 good at advanced classes
- Mentoring
- Amazing teachers
- Good remedial support
- Early pre-K
- After school support
- Community cares
- Support for Kellogg-Hubbard Library & Montpelier Senior Activity Center
- Community in the school
- Winter wellness
- Outdoor activities
- Improvement of facility
- Library (school)
- U-32 vocational

Group Response: Education—CONCERNS/WEAKNESSES

- Vocational students too "light"; home at 12:00
- Activities for kids not into sports
- Lack of space for teens
- U-32 remedial lacking for many
- U-32 short-changing remedial learners
- School shift to test drives curriculum, teach to test
- Reduce arts/outside
- Big curricular changes top down, lack of discussion
- Community shut out
- Top-down directives
- Proficiency-based grading
 - U-32 students suffer growing pains

- not geared to college admission
 - not as strong as Montpelier
- Poor leadership school administration
- Poor evaluation of school administration and SU office
- Low math proficiency
- Poor support for math proficiency
- Programs for advanced students lacking at Rumney
- Advanced Rumney students not challenged
- Information provided to community—better communication needed
- Newsletter lacking
- Lack of use of web news
- No principal's column
- School board divided
- Not healed from rifts of past years
- Lack of opportunity for community to talk about events of past years
- Unhappy teachers and staff
- Lost good teachers
- Limited (no) local educational opportunities after U-32 (adult & beyond)

Group Response: Education—VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- State Board of Education have forums with teachers prior to major changes with implementation plan (Dumb? Don't do it)
- Parents should be welcome into school at day's end
- 5-day pre-K free or based on need
- Early pre-K support
- Enough high school paraeducators and special education teachers
- Human-directed learning
- No iPads K-2
- Teacher and community input on administration evaluations
- More parent volunteers
- More community volunteers
- Elder-student reading/lunch
- "Stop Rumney free fall"
- Teach environmental respect
 - Access for all U-32 students for community-based programs and more staff for this
- Local, healthy school food
- Community meeting place
- Wonderful school kids love to come to w/good lunch
- Allied arts support
- More arts time
- More science
- More social studies
- Better U-32 scheduling system
- Each student's education to his/her ability w/challenge
- U-32 teaching method seminar-based, human interactive
- Free college
- Teachers see students as themselves

- Ultimate Frisbee teams

Committee Response: Education in Middlesex—KEY ISSUES

1. Lack of teacher input on policy/curriculum and evaluation
2. Communication with community about school matters, including undealt-with wounds at Rumney
3. Not meeting educational needs of all students/learners
4. Interactive hands-on education with human-focused involvement
5. The absence of opportunity for those not in the pre-K to 12 system to be involved, including volunteer and cross-generation involvement in education

Group 6: Adequate Physical Infrastructure

Facilitators: Hal Cohen, Mitch Osiecki

Participants: Jocelyn Haley, Kevin Thompson, Nancy Reilly, Chris Stanley, Mike Kline, Linda Helms, Dina Bahrawy

Statement of purpose: Town buildings, schools, roads... how are we doing in our community?

Public buildings, schools, sidewalks, sewers, roads, and the public water supply--are basic to the existence of a community. They absorb many municipal dollars and strongly influence the community's quality of life.

Questions to think about:

- What roads, buildings and other public facilities exist in the community?
- What facilities or services are needed?
- Are public water sources protected?
- How does the community handle disposal of its wastes?
- Does the community address storm water runoff and toxic water pollutants?
- Does the town have a plan for financing the maintenance, expansion and replacement of its public facilities? Is it open to partnerships, collaborations, or regional solutions for future infrastructural needs? Do we plan for long-term resilience and sustainability?
- Is there adequate housing available for elderly or disabled individuals? For people of lower income?
- Do we have the public buildings that are adequate for our needs? Are those we do have accessible to people with disabilities? Are they energy efficient?

- Are officials professional and entrepreneurial in meeting public facility needs?
- Are appropriate physical connections being made, such as public transportation between housing and job (or shopping) sites?

Group Response: Adequate Physical Infrastructure—STRENGTHS

- Well-maintained dirt roads
- School facility
- Volunteer fire house
- Hiking trails
- Park and ride
- Wrightsville Beach
- Adequate water resources
- Camp Meade
- Bandstand
- Cemeteries
- Town forest
- Gravel pit
- Shady Rill park
- Hunger Mountain headwaters
- Dirt road connections to nearby towns
- Class 4 roads

Group Response: Adequate Physical Infrastructure—CONCERNS/ WEAKNESSES

- Utilization of school
- Town Hall (underutilized/septic)
- Town Hall vault
- No geographical town center
- Some roads susceptible to flood damage
- Traffic patterns/growth concerns at Center Rd/Route 2 intersection
- Mud season
- Inadequate walking/biking options
- Village sewer system
- School water and septic capacity
- Lack of quality high-speed internet
- Cell coverage/service
- Recent school upgrade limits ability to take on additional debt (financial and emotional strain)

Group Response: Adequate Physical Infrastructure—VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- Emergency shelter
- Telecommunication cooperative
- Colby property development (near interstate)
 - community center/intergenerational facility
 - recreation facility
 - gardens
- Community Development director
- Grant-writing position
- Trail system Wrightsville to town of Worcester
- Biking trails
- General store
- Solar/electrical co-op
- Roundabouts
 - Route 2/100B
 - Route 2/Center Rd
- EV charging station
- Gas station

Committee Response: Physical Infrastructure in Middlesex—KEY ISSUES

1. Outdoor recreation
2. Telecommunications (internet/cell service)
3. Underutilization of town resources
4. Social community center
5. Middlesex village/economic center/infrastructure to support this

Group 7: Social Services

Facilitators: Julie Moore, Susan Warren

Participants: André Burnier, Paul Zabriskie, Lynne Walther, Elyse Glück, Mike Pelchar, Nancy Murphy, Lauri Scharf, Victor Dwire

Statement of purpose: *Food, clothing, shelter, health care, safety...*

Local residents need decent food, clothing, shelter, social services, and personal and public safety. Although state or federal programs meet some needs, caring communities still keep a neighborly eye on fellow citizens. Community vitality and resilience benefits from youth services, affordable housing, after-school extracurricular youth programs, preventative health and substance abuse and other programs that serve social needs, as well as police, fire and rescue, emergency shelters and other personal and public safety programs.

Questions to think about:

- What services does the community provide to its neediest citizens?
- Are social services provided equitably?
- Does the community, through its schools or other programs, offer counseling on parenting or family relationships?
- Is there adequate, decent housing available for elderly or disabled individuals? For people of lower income?
- What local or regional programs/services are offered and utilized? What are needed?
- Does local government address qualitative concerns about service?
- Does government consider and utilize alternative methods of service delivery?

Group Response: Social Services—STRENGTHS

- Excellent schools
- Great first responders and fire department
- Good Meals on Wheels
- Local food shelf
- Good communication from local government
- Front Porch Forum (FPF)
- Vital mentoring program
- Community connections—before and after school

- County-level services
 - food, fuel, housing
 - medical
- Home hospice
- County mental health services (Washington County Mental Health)
- Washington County Family Center—playgroups, early intervention
- State Police barracks in town
- 911
- Central Vermont Medical Center community health services
- Volunteer coaches for sports teams
- People pitch in to help neighbors when they know there is a need, especially FPF
- Informal network helping those in need; this “carries the community”
- Watch each other’s houses when folks are away
- Neighborhood Watch programs
 - Community infrastructure helps keep us safe

Group Response: Social Services—CONCERNS/WEAKNESSES

- People in need may not ask for help
- Neighbors willing to help is an untapped resource
- Transportation needed to access services—some may not have adequate transportation
- Lack of housing for elderly disabled or low income
- Want to help but don’t know how to find out about services. Town Clerk not equipped to know
- Formal services not reaching out proactively to community
- Some don’t want to admit they need help—FPF not private enough; physical and technological isolation
- Uses of FPF: lack of internet access and economic constraints to getting good service
 - “digital divide”; can’t assume everyone is connected
- Emergency shelter—lack of awareness of where it is
- Can’t “age in place” in Middlesex
- Services access is inequitable because you need transportation and you need to know what is available and you have to ask
- Aging population—demographics changing
- Limited childcare options in town, longer travel required

Group Response: Social Services—QUESTIONS

- ❖ Are people accessing services they need?
- ❖ What % make use of FPF?
- ❖ What services are available for medical care? What are the gaps?
- ❖ Town Resources Officer?

Group Response: Social Services—VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- Every kid in school could connect with an elder
 - companionship
 - assistance
 - two-way benefit

- “Grandparents Day” at school
- enriching for kids
- Same transportation system that takes kids to school could take elders to town; kids and elders come in contact
- Closer social services
- School in tandem with community services center and daycare services
- Mobile health clinic to visit schools to ensure kids getting adequate care
- Mobile unit could help connect Meals on Wheels with other services, could help find help (e.g., stacking wood)
- FPF used to disseminate information proactively
- Middlesex town website with more services information
- Intentional and accessible dissemination of information
- “Town resource officer”

Committee Response: Middlesex Social Services—KEY ISSUES

1. Ensuring people with needs have knowledge of and access to available resources
2. Minimizing physical and technological isolation, including lack of mobility
3. Expanding high-quality affordable housing opportunities
4. Centralizing services and activities at Rumney for the whole of the community
5. Providing sufficient service resources to allow people to age in place in Middlesex

Group 8: High-Quality Environmental and Natural Resources

Facilitators: Adrienne Magida, Elias Gardner

Participants: Linda Belt-Burnier, Cynthia Martin, August Burns, Marsha Bancroft, Chris McVeigh, Chris Reilly, Ross Lieblappen, Steph Lieblappen, Debbie Goodwin

Statement of purpose: *Rivers, farms, forests, trails, energy, waste management...*

Natural resources are materials from nature that maintain and enhance a community. This includes food, fuel, and materials used in everyday life. The natural assets of a community also include the places of natural beauty and the working landscapes that contribute significantly to the quality of life of the residents and help determine a community's personality such as streams, rivers, forests, walking trails, working farms, clear air, pastures and open space. A sustainable community attempts to balance the rate at which renewable resources are consumed with the rate at which they are renewed. Dependence on

nonrenewable resources is minimized as much as is feasible. A sustainable community attempts to rely on local sources of food and materials and also attempts to reduce the amount of waste and emissions produced by increasing energy efficiency, and tries to minimize the effect of wastes that are created.

Questions to think about:

- What are your community's special water and land assets?
- Is there broad community interest and participation in maintaining these?
- Are water supplies sufficient and are they used efficiently? Are they protected?
- What percent of the energy used by the community is renewable versus nonrenewable?
- What opportunities exist for local sources of renewable energy?
- What problems are associated with existing patterns of energy use?
- Do energy conservation programs exist within the community?
- To what extent does the local community rely on local sources of food, fuel, and materials?
- How does the community handle disposal of its wastes?
- What percent of waste generated is recyclable and recycled?
- What opportunities exist for reducing that amount of waste generated to begin with?
- Does the community address storm water runoff and toxic water pollutants?

Group Response: Environment/Natural Resources—STRENGTHS

- Town forest
- Working farms
- Mount Hunger
- North Branch River, Martins Brook, Wrightsville, Shady Rill
- Unimpeded views of Hunger
- Wilderness of Worcester Range and newly protected headwaters area
- Spectacular natural beauty
- EV charging (Rumney, Red Hen, park & ride)
- Cooperation
- Recreation (hiking, biking, boating, swimming, snowshoeing, winter recreation, X-country)
- Connected wilderness (corridor to larger wilderness)
- Green-up Day
- Not much development at high elevations
- Good development density
- Not many paved roads
- Farms
- No large pollution source
- Train whistle

Group Response: Environment/Natural Resources—CONCERNS/ WEAKNESSES

- Lack of public transportation
- No local waste disposal or recycling, composting
- Not enough awareness of protecting our roads from trash
- Old dumps
- No community ride-sharing
- No shared public recreational area (other than Wrightsville)

- No adequate bathroom facilities at Shady Rill Park
- Not enough trails, not accessible
- Non-motorized trails in winter
- No flat areas for bicycling
- Pollution, noise, salt from 89
- No water quality monitoring (nitrogen, etc.)
- Lack of data
- Impact and oversight of logging

Group Response: Environment/Natural Resources—VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- Community-based recreation organizations (Hunger, ski trails, biking, etc.)
- Electronic coordination for recreation events
- Electronic ride share (town and Rumney websites)
- Reduce car usage (commuter rail, electric scooters)
- Local renewable energy resource
- Compost depot, transfer station
- Farmers' market
- Conserve existing farmlands
- Smart development planned
- Cluster development
- Town green
- Centrally located and town-controlled natural resource and recreation area
- Litter-free dirt roads
- Town forest trail: place to walk, hike, ski
- Town-wide trail network on public and private land
- Trail from Hunger to Burnt Mountain
- Skyline trail all the way
- Camping and cabins
- Tow rope and sledding hill
- Better communication about available resources (maps, website)
- Protect landowners who leave land open (what are the rules?)

Committee Response:

Middlesex Environment/Natural Resources—KEY ISSUES

1. Developing and communicating knowledge of current assets and opportunities
2. Conservation of existing resources (open spaces, farms, forests, rivers, mountains) and conservational development
3. Sustainable household consumption and waste
4. Community recreation, organization and facilities
5. Sustainable public and shared transportation

Group 9: Local Economy

Facilitators: Kelly Ault and Jennifer Murray

Participants: Deb Wolf, Wendy Freundlich, Dave Magida, Sarah Crisp, Ben Jessup, Michael Levine

Statement of purpose: *Supporting diverse businesses, entrepreneurs, workers, skills and wages...*

The need to maintain flourishing workplaces is of great importance to communities. A sustainable community includes a variety of businesses, industries, and institutions which are environmentally sound, financially viable, provide reasonable wages and benefits to workers, and provides those workers with opportunities to develop their skills through training, education, and other forms of assistance to prepare for the community's future needs. Government, businesses and public service organizations are all important in attracting new investment and in developing new businesses that suit the character of the community.

Questions to think about:

- What types of businesses, industries and institutions make up the economic base of the community? of the region?
- How diverse is the economic base? Is one sector or one employer dominant or is there a wide variety of sectors and employers?
- Are the existing businesses environmentally sound?
- Are there locally available education opportunities to provide residents with skills that match the needs of local businesses?
- What business services are lacking in the community?
- What types of jobs are available to residents in terms of security, wage levels, skill levels, and benefits?
- Do wages allow the majority of the population to enjoy a reasonable lifestyle?
- What can be done to improve the economic climate of the community?

Group Response: Local Economy—STRENGTHS

- Natural resources
- Coffee shop: great meeting spot, some groceries, local bakery, community-minded
- Great location near 89 for diverse businesses while retaining beautiful for homes
- Good support network to recommend local business and other advertising
- Community support for creative projects
- Bakery creates central location to build up around, including the playground
- Infrastructure for trains
- Arts—Camp Meade supports arts and economic development
- Terrific schools—first thing people and businesses look at to move; asset for business, home business, families
- Town ordinances support home business
- Home-based businesses exist
- Lots of commuters—centrally located
- Location ideal
- Diverse small businesses
- Sense of community with Rumney

Group Response: Local Economy—CONCERNS/WEAKNESSES

- No business space to rent
- Outside of village transportation might be challenging for customers, supplies
- No organization to plan/recruit economic development
- Town doesn't sing its own praises
- Lack of diversity
- No large tax-paying business
- Insufficient local, affordable childcare
- No high-speed internet
- Poor cell structure
- No capacity to monitor business for environmental practices
- Do we want to grow? Resistance to development
- Spread out geographically. Different "centers" (i.e. school or village); fractured community
- Small business "good" but have to pay wages/health care; hard to make opportunities for apprentices
- Not small business—micro-business
- Affordable housing

Group Response: Local Economy—VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- High-functioning internet to support business
- More town income through business to support our current assets/treasures (i.e., several medium-sized businesses); diverse quality and quantity
- Create opportunities for networking and economic partnerships within Middlesex
- Incubator space
- Business opportunities grow up around trails and recreation
- Organized economic development "entity" to lead development plans and also to evaluate cost/benefit of new businesses. Town committee? Volunteer?
- Compete for federal, state, and regional grants—increase capacity to pursue
- Middlesex is positioned and marketed as a good place to do business
- Attract new residents and increase tax base
- Sufficient affordable housing
- Clean water, air to attract and keep people here to invest in community
- Safe non-car transportation

Committee Response: Middlesex's Local Economy—KEY ISSUES

1. Develop infrastructure to bring business to the village
2. Plan and implement economic development for town overall, and in regional collaboration
3. Need for high-speed internet and reliable cell service
4. Increase tax base by attracting diverse new residents (and employees)
5. Balance between economic development as we are now and what could be with changes

Group 10: Planned Growth and Development

Facilitators: Jen Carbee and Joanne Breidenstein

Participants: Lee Rosberg, Jen Campbell, Dave Lawrence

Statement of purpose: *Our land, village centers, housing, transportation, Regulations... How well do we plan for our community's future?*

Regulations affect how a town develops. They are meant to be a tool, not a set of restrictions. With them, you can guide how and where housing is developed, how and where commercial districts are developed and expanded, how the towns center is utilized. These are all important topics when trying to allow for growth while maintaining the positive characteristics of the community.

Questions to think about:

- How do our regulations successfully guide how our housing is laid out?
- Is the density and placement of housing in keeping with the character we want to preserve?
- Are there parts of the towns that should be encouraged to be duplicated?
- Does it encourage open space in ways that we want? In ways that are beneficial to preserving the character of the town?
- Do our methods of housing development and subdivision of land encourage patterns of transportation that seem in character with what we want for our towns, and that are in keeping with sustainable practices?
- Is our business district successful? Does it provide for a sense of community? Does it provide for our community in the ways that we want?
- Does it encourage patterns of transportation that are in character with what we want?
- Are our business districts appropriately placed? Are they an appropriate size?
- Do we want the old center(s) of town to remain active and pivotal center(s) of town?

Group Response: Planned Growth and Development—STRENGTHS

- Active conservation commission
- Planning Commission has reached out with a survey
- Zoning guides development. We have a town plan (i.e., Kingsbury located by the interstate and is doing so in the right way)
- Rural residential vs. industrial zoning is working
- Zoning laws tend to encourage housing development closer to roads to keep forests intact
- Zoning laws tend to prevent larger parcels from being divided. Adds to rural character
- Our Historical Society is interested in preservation projects but needs resources
- The Hive development is well done (Camp Meade complex) as a commercial space that works
- Doesn't seem to be a heavy burden of zoning regulations
- Structure of regulations doesn't discourage businesses from entering
- Conservation initiatives are supported financially
- Current zoning of large parcel near interstate allows for lots of different uses
- We do a pretty good job on road maintenance
- Dirt roads keep rural character of town

Group Response: Planned Growth and Development—CONCERNS/ WEAKNESSES

- No one is “doing” anything, although there is a framework to guide growth
- No one taking the initiative to actually develop things
- 40-mph highway enters town. Hard to feel that the Camp Meade complex is a “town center” with cars and road set up for speed
- No development in town other than near the interstate
- Things very spread out. No place close to Rumney to gather
- Two separate sides of town
- Preservation initiatives are not financially supported
- “Seniors” have the time and interest in preservation but they don’t have funding
- (Poor) internet access is tied to zoning (i.e., rights of way, tower placement)
- Aging population (statewide problem)
- State incentives not enough, especially considering the poor internet in town
- Dirt roads can impede development

Group Response: Planned Growth and Development—VISIONS FOR THE FUTURE

- Community center centrally located for art exhibits, music, coffee shop
- Village developed more as a traditional town center (store, town square)
- Zone to preclude certain things?
- Preservation of Middlesex Center School House (Center Rd) and train station
- People will be involved in conservation and preservation initiatives
- Zone for continuous care facility; more support for elderly
- Road crew can spend more time on traditional maintenance rather than mud season “mitigation”

Committee Response:

Planned Growth and Development for Middlesex—KEY ISSUES

1. How to create a needed community center
2. Preservation initiatives need more support—both financial and participatory
3. Improve internet access through appropriate regulation
4. How to support our aging population
5. Consider the effect zoning has on things like encouraging population growth and attracting businesses, and how to actively achieve the growth we want

Saturday Morning

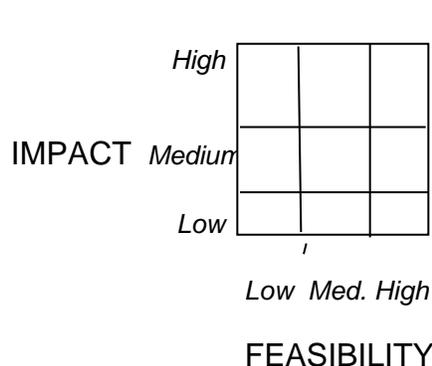
Townpeople reassembled in the Rumney gym Saturday morning and were treated to coffee, tea, and muffins that had been made by community members and the local Girl Scout troop. The ten easels from the previous evening were arrayed across the front of the room, each bearing a list of the FIVE KEY ISSUES for that topic area, for a total of fifty. Our working day began with short presentations from a member of each group explaining their list. Delia Clark then presented her distillation of these fifty key issues into the common themes she and the group of facilitator/scribes had noticed across all groups. She also elicited feedback from the entire group until we honed the list and identified seven focus areas reflecting the most important issues facing Middlesex today. Participants chose the topic that interested them most and gathered in their area of interest; at this point, due to group size, two groups were merged, leaving six discussion groups. Facilitators and scribes then led all interested participants to six breakout rooms to conduct the discussions.

KEY ISSUES FOR MIDDLESEX

- 1. Communication**
- 2. Community Engagement and Social Supports**
- 3. Community Spaces and Events**
- 4. Recreation**
- 5. Economic Development**
- 6. Planned Infrastructure**

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

Participants chose which key issue felt most important to them personally, and joined that group's discussion. The mission of these groups was to formulate a goal statement and identify concerns/issues, then brainstorm possible solutions. Each group evaluated its list of solutions based on potential impact (how much will it matter?) and feasibility (how possible is it?), plotting them on an "Impact-Feasibility grid (below). They then identified 2-3 specific projects that they felt would support the group's goals best.



Group 1. Communication

Facilitators: Todd Daloz and Jennifer Murray

Participants: Dina Bahrawy, Kimberly Jessup, Lee Rosberg, Michelle Morse, Ursula Stanley, Mark Bushnell, Kyle Landis-Marinello

Goal statement: Create accessible [communication] vehicle(s) in different formats for diverse populations

Issues to be considered:

- Vehicle with different formats reaching the largest population in Middlesex
- Consolidating connections
- Diverse media modes: technology, physical, and intangible
- True cross-section with multiple demographics
- Broad use of established vehicle(s)
- Accessible style of communication (attention to educational levels, jargon-free, visual/graphics, plain-spoken)
- Many sizes for fit
- Opportunity to learn
- Need volunteers and funds for printing

Possible solutions/projects:

- Model a newsletter on East Montpelier' Signpost every two months
- On-line newsletter - (related to next item) can publish more often/ongoing
- Paper newsletter (one publication in 2 formats) - fewer issues?
- Involve people in Commission/government work
- Interactive map (related to next item)
- Physical kiosk (with maps) at sites
- Regular face-to-face events with opportunity to talk 1:1. Use events and add experience; 1:1 delivery of newsletter to those who want to receive it
- Team-building/teamwork
- Name tags at events
- Build in opportunities to meet new people at events
- Committee shares information at public events (posters/slideshows) and meeting minutes made easily available
- Thematic information
- Include opportunities for action
- Shared calendar of events (consolidated)
- Methods of formalizing informal pop-up communication (coffee meetings)
- Renew Middlesex Operator's Manual
- Repository of information to define where to go when we experience transitions, ie. New residents, leaving school, etc.
- Town-accessible computer
- School Board updates regularly

Project Evaluations:

Low Impact/Low Feasibility None identified

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility None identified

Low Impact/High Feasibility None identified

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

Publicly accessible computer

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Physical kiosks at sites with maps

New regular face-to-face events with opportunities to talk 1:1

Coffee/pub gatherings

Paper newsletter

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility None identified

High Impact/Low Feasibility

Large community gatherings

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

On-line newsletter

Shared calendar of events

High Impact/High Feasibility

Electronic reposting of information

On-line renewal of Middlesex Operator's Manual

Interactive maps

Name tags at events

Committee share information at public events

Opportunity to meet new people at new events

Regular School board updates

Group 2. Community Engagement and Social Supports

Facilitators: Elias Gardner, Jen Carbee, Tim Murphy

Participants: Marsha Bancroft, Nicole Sorrell, Mitch Osieski, Hugo Liepmann, Nancy Reilly, Honi Bean Barrett, MaryLynne Strachan

Goal statement: All Middlesex residents have opportunities to engage with the community, feel connected to the community, and know how to access local social supports.

Issues to be considered:

- School issues - how to come and talk about school issues, School board availability
- PTO - no members

- Social support outside of Town Meeting
- Improve community engagement to all Middlesex residents through volunteerism



Possible solutions/projects:

- Welcome packet (push), delivered by a community member
- Community event planning committee (all ages, interests)
- Calendar of events
- Community Coordinator (Middlesex Volunteer Coordinator) Bridge the gap between different organizations
- Care Fair for social support
- Ride sharing
- Micro-community
- Outreach Team

Project Evaluations:

Low Impact/Low Feasibility None identified

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility None identified

Low Impact/High Feasibility None identified

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility None identified

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Care Fair for social services

Ride Share program

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility None identified

High Impact/Low Feasibility None identified

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Middlesex Volunteer Coordinator

Micro-community

Outreach Team

Community Event Committee

High Impact/High Feasibility

Calendar of events

Welcome packet

Newsletter

Group 3. Community Spaces and Events

Facilitators: Beth Holtzman and Chris Meehan

Participants: Patrick Wood, August Burns, Nancy Murphy, Sally Cavanagh, Elliot Burg, Nicholas Hecht, Linda Belt-Burnier, Chris McVeigh, Ben Jessup, Joanne Breidenstein

Goal statement: Vibrant community spaces with diverse activities and inclusive access for diverse groups and uses across all geographic hubs (Route 2 Village, Shady Rill area, Middlesex Center)

Issues to be considered:

- Community gathering
- Geographic cohesion
- Community center (hub)
- All ages
- Village Center
- Maximize public and private assets
- Activities that engage as many people as possible
- Developing physical spaces that can be used year-round
- Assessing and informing about what's already available and how to access it
- Span generations in thinking
- Transportation for folks to get to facilities (ie Ride Share)
- Access (broadly) - facilities are where as many people as possible can reach them

Possible solutions/projects:

- Inventory and mapping of spaces Middlesex already has and assessing limitations/barriers and potential for re-purposing. Include an inventory of current uses of spaces.
- The use of Rumney for classes, recreation (indoor and outdoor), performance space
- Develop a vision for both "halves" or "hubs" of our town
- Make connections between hubs
- Build/develop/define a community center
- The Baptist Church on Shady Rill (owned by a larger Baptist organization) - create a public/private partnership? Church could be a community center/performance space
- Café/Post Office/gathering space - new use of a space that already exists
- Develop old Fire Station/general store/Town Hall
- Develop Route 2 Village Center - the spaces that are there (what would we need to do to bring current spaces up to "acceptable" and "usable" condition?)

- Wrightsville Reservoir - year-round use -developing the facility there for all seasons
- Transportation/accessibility for those without means of transportation (teens, kids, older adults, etc.)
- Research/inventory possible funding sources beyond taxes
- Create a group of people who are interested, available, have knowledge

Project Evaluations:

Low Impact/Low Feasibility None identified

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility None identified

Low Impact/High Feasibility None identified

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility None identified

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility None identified

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility None identified

High Impact/Low Feasibility

Transportation available: teens/kids/elders/those without cars

Connecting the hubs via transportation

Build/develop Community Center that is open/available to all

Retrofit Rumney gym as a performance space

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Develop cohesive vision for all hubs in town

Café/Post Office could serve as Community Center

High Impact/High Feasibility

Investigate Shady Rill Baptist Church (ownership?)—public/private partnership (is plumbing a barrier?) could be (one of) the Community Center(s)

Investigate/inventory/map what we have in town already. Contact current owners to assess limitations. Inventory current uses/availability. Seek funding options beyond taxes. Use spaces that exist in Village Center (Rt 2 area) including Methodist Church (improvements needed?) Can the facilities at Wrightsville Reservoir be developed for year-round use? Gather people with expertise and interest in doing all these things. Use Rumney for class-based and recreational (indoor/outdoor) and performance activities.

Group 4. Recreation

Facilitators: Adrienne Magida and Emily S.

Participants: Katy Chabot, Emily Smith, Chris Stanley, Joanne Mankoff, George Longenecker, Michael Levine, Dave Shepard, Linda Helms

Goal statement: We will increase community connectivity by creating accessible opportunities to nurture all residents, young and old, through art, nature, learning, and healthy lifestyles.

Issues to be considered:

- Trails
- Art
- Outdoor recreation
- Conservation of land
- Life-long learning opportunities

Possible solutions/projects:

- “Middlesex University”: Community organized and led classes covering any and all topics, drawing on expertise we have locally (lecture series, indoor/outdoor learning, cross-generational exchange of ideas)
- Bringing in outside resources: satellite center for other agencies and institutions
- Map of trail network(s) in Middlesex
- Identify future trails to increase connectivity
- Road maintenance schedule
- Determining use rights/develop trail network
- Building multi-use trails with landowner approval: connecting town forest to Hunger Mt, expanding trails at Wrightsville connecting to Worcester, connect trails into Montpelier and Calais trail systems, access to Hubbard park via trails, town forest to Perry Hill
- Fat biking
- Creating transportation corridors not using roads: village to town forest, Rumney, Wrightsville, Putnamville, Hubbard Park
- Using existing roadways to create pedestrian corridors
- Shooting range
- Access to land for hunting

Project Evaluations:

Low Impact/Low Feasibility None identified

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility None identified

Low Impact/High Feasibility None identified

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility

Shooting range

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Middlesex University - community organized and led

Map of trail network(s) in Middlesex

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

Hunting access

High Impact/Low Feasibility

Create trail corridor not on the roads

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Determine user rights

Trail development network

Use existing roadways to create pedestrian corridors

High Impact/High Feasibility

Create non-motorized transportation trail/corridor

Build trail corridors purely for recreation

Group 5. Economic Development

Facilitators: Sandy Levine and Susan Warren

Participants: Kelly Ault, Thea Schwartz, Theo Kennedy, Mike Pelchar, Dave Smith, Dave Lawrence, Charles Larkin

Goal statement:

Issues to be considered:

- How do we proactively identify types of businesses we would like to see
- Diversify
- Village is where opportunity exists
- Locations
- Consider types of businesses that support residents (market) and grow tax base
- How to address diversity in opinions of residents as to what businesses
- What is the legal ability to do this?
- Also looking at where it leads
- Flood resiliency needs to be a consideration
- Put forward realistic ideas and “all ships will rise”
- Need to consider private property rights vs. community desires
- Use existing resources (e.g. Planning Commission)
- Need an entity to promote town and Middlesex businesses “brand” and assets
- Business needs good infrastructure, roads, internet

Possible solutions/projects:

- Business forum for all based here (residents and others as well)
- We are a “bedroom community.” We should also think about transportation. We also have many entrepreneurs.
- Inventory (and accounting) business assets as a way to plan a business forum
- Support inter-generational housing and home-based work
- Thoughtful process (need to define “thoughtful”) to identify businesses that are already here and Middlesex assets to attract other businesses
- Form or find a Middlesex economic development committee or group to define and assess businesses and create a report on current status and potential
- Inventory and publicize existing businesses and services
- Comprehensive Village Development Plan

- Make economic development of businesses an integral part of many discussions
- An attractive village would help bring in other new businesses
- Find out what grants are available to assist us
- Pragmatic considerations need to be part of everything to make sure it's useful to people looking for information (citizens would develop metrics)
- Attend CVI meetings - get actively involved

Project Evaluations:

Low Impact/Low Feasibility None identified

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility None identified

Low Impact/High Feasibility

Incorporate economic development in many discussions

Inventory existing businesses

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility None identified

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Grants

Comprehensive Village Development Plan

Inter-generational housing

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

Attend CVI meetings

Business forum

Develop metrics

High Impact/Low Feasibility

Improving transportation

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Attractive village

Home-based work (home businesses or "work from home")

High Impact/High Feasibility

Economic Development Committee

Group 6. Planned Infrastructure

Facilitators: Julie Moore and Maureen McCracken

Participants: Vic Dwire, Mike Kline, Sorsha Anderson, Paul Zabriskie, Ben Morton

Goal statement: Middlesex will have an Infrastructure Plan that identifies and prioritizes infrastructure needs, engenders community, and supports implementation.

Issues to be considered:

- Transportation
- Roads/bridges are vital. Town supports these in general. In 99% of recent conversations, roads came up. Decision making is unclear. Programmatic approach?
- Planning/decision-making
- Preservation
- Telecommunications/cell service/internet: this item was identified as very important, but was transferred to the Economic Development group for consideration
- Autonomous vehicles/new technology re: transportation on dirt roads
- Communications (emerging response)
- We don't have a centralized place for composting
- Lack of waste water treatment limits development opportunity
- School buses are the primary town transit expense. Can we use school buses (or bus funding) more efficiently or for other populations? What are the rules?
- Hard to use GMTA (Green Mt Transit Authority) - not accessible. Disperse locations make this difficult.
- Storm issues/trees going down
- Land use planning
- Groups to help implement
- Infrastructure Plan would need capital
- Existing road maintenance plan seems inconsistently implemented. Changes are made due to emerging issues and are not communicated adequately.

Possible solutions/projects:

- Establish a solid waste depot: recycling, compost, trash, other
- Form a committee to create an infrastructure plan (with periodic updates). This committee will start the infrastructure inventory.
- Ensure adequate waste water and water capacity to serve development in Village
- Create infrastructure to support transportation hubs (identify hubs/locations, identify emerging technologies)
- Re-envision transportation at a regional scale
- Integrate bridge and culvert inventory data into Town Plan and get on the state transportation funding list
- Conduct a bridge and culvert inventory
- Electricity infrastructure - reach out to utilities and foster attention to Middlesex (2 utilities)

Project Evaluations:

Low Impact/Low Feasibility None identified

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility None identified

Low Impact/High Feasibility None identified

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility None identified

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Integrating bridge and culvert inventory into Town Plan

Reach out to utilities

Behind-the-meter storage

Form a committee to work on an infrastructure plan with periodic updates

Clear trees from culverts

Bridge and culvert inventory

Mapping infrastructure (detailed understanding of resources)

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility

Prioritize infrastructure upgrades based on transit needs

Get on state transportation funding list

High Impact/Low Feasibility

Establish infrastructure hubs to support transit

Work to re-envision regional transit

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility

Ensure adequate waste water and water capacity in Village

High Impact/High Feasibility

Establish a solid waste depot in town



Saturday Afternoon

Project Selection

We returned to the large group for lunch and were treated to another video of Middlesex youth/elders interviews. Volunteers from each morning group described the projects generated by the morning discussions and facilitator Delia Clark led a short session where we looked for overlapping or closely related ideas, and combined them where appropriate. Once the final project list was determined, each participant received three colored dots to place beside the projects of their first, second, and third choice/preference (red, green and yellow, respectively.) Red dots were worth 3 points, green were worth 2 points, and yellow were worth 1 point. Here are the results of the voting:

Group 1: Communication

1. Community Newsletter Calendar, Committee/Board updates, paper and/or on-line versions, ex: East Montpelier's *Signposts* [This project was consolidated with Communication # 3 (1.3) and voted on there.]

2. Enhance Public Events Event coordinator, planning, name tags at events, create opportunities to meet news people at all events; committee/school/groups share info at existing events, face-to-face, 1:1 opportunities, explore new community events, decrease cost [5 red, 4 green, 4 yellow; 27 points]

3. Update and Provide Access to Middlesex Operator's Manual Electronic repository, interactive maps, Newsletter (see #1), outreach team, calendar [7 red, 7 green, 6 yellow; 41 points]

Group 2: Community Engagement and Social Support

1. Middlesex Volunteer Coordinator Ride sharing, identify and access needs, pairing volunteers, PTO, Food Shelf, Mentoring, Meals on Wheels [2 red, 1 green; 8 points]

2. Middlesex Outreach Team Welcome Wagon (packet), calendar of events, newsletter, micro-communities [This project was consolidated with Communication #3 (1.3) and voted on there.]

3. Community Event Planning and Coordination Plan events for all ages and interests, coordinate with regional events [This project was consolidated with Communication #2 (3.2) and voted on there.]

Group 3: Community Spaces and Events

1. Create a Committee that, within one year, will identify, investigate, and propose uses and access for: Rumney, existing buildings/spaces, community center(s) [8 red, 3 green, 7 yellow; 37 points]

2. Pilot a Middlesex Community Series (education/meals/recreation, etc.) at Rumney in 2019 [This project was consolidated with Recreation #3 (4.3) and voted on there.]

Group 4: Recreation

1. Building Trails Pure recreation, town forest and other trail networks [8 red, 4 green, 4 yellow; 39 points]

2. Mapping the Trails Map existing network, identify future trails to increase connectivity, review road maintenance schedule [This project was consolidated with Infrastructure #1 (6.1) and voted on there.]

3. Middlesex University Local residents planning and offering workshops/classes, indoor/outdoor, any/all topics, cross-generational exchange of ideas [1 red, 5 green, 3 yellow; 18 points]

4. Maintaining Hunting Access [1yellow; 1 point]

Group 5: Economic Development

1. Create an Economic Development Committee Host a business forum, apply for grants, develop metrics, inventory [2 red, 5 green; 16 points]

2. Advance Internet Connectivity Attend CVI meetings [3 red, 5 green, 9 yellow; 28 points]

3. Comprehensive Village Plan Including visually attractive and attractive to other businesses [4 red, 6 green, 5 yellow; 29 points]



Group 6: Planned Infrastructure

1. Form a Committee to Create an Infrastructure Plan Start with an inventory: bridges/culverts, tree-mapping, utility connection, electrical bottlenecks, transportation hubs [5 red, 6 green, 8 yellow; 38 points]

2. Ensure that Wastewater Capacity is Keeping in Step with Economic Development Specific to Village [This project was consolidated with Economic Development #3 (5.3) and voted on there.]

3. Establish a Solid Waste Depot in Middlesex Include composting, recycling (transfer station) [1 red; 3 points]

Saturday Afternoon

Action Groups

After the points were tallied, the group discussed those with the most interest, and consolidated the ideas into four “projects” that would begin immediate work through the formation of committees drawn from those present. Those receiving the highest number of points were:

- ❖ **Middlesex Outreach Team**—Update and provide access to Middlesex Operator’s Manual, Community Newsletter [41 points]
- ❖ **Trails**—Build trails for recreation [39 points]
- ❖ **Infrastructure**—Plan/map bridges, culverts, utilities, trails [38 points]
- ❖ **Community Spaces and Events**—Identify, investigate, and propose uses and access for: Rumney, existing buildings/spaces, community center(s) [37 points]

Participants again self-selected which action group held the most interest for them and reconvened for a final session, where they were charged with planning viable action steps, including one concrete action to be completed before the first meeting. A meeting time within a few weeks, the meeting location, and a volunteer “convener” were to be specified to build on the momentum created by “What’s Next Middlesex?”.

Action Group 1: Middlesex Outreach Team

Participants: Jennifer Carbee (facilitator), Elias Gardner (facilitator), Kyle Landis-Marinello, Michelle Morse, Ursula Stanley, Dina Bahrawy, Marsha Bancroft, Mark Bushnell, Kimberly Jessup, Susan Clark

Action step to be completed before the first meeting:

Meeting: Thursday, November 29, 6:00 PM at Rumney School. Dina will schedule with Rumney; convener will be Elias Gardner

Issues to consider at first meeting:

- Find a method/format/template for a community newsletter (similar to East Montpelier’s *Signpost*) [Kimberly Jessup]
- Print limited paper copies
- Face-to-face “welcome” group—look at how other towns do this [Michelle Morse]
- Middlesex Operator’s Manual: active not passive, bring information to community, Middlesex website (existing? Or start new?), include Calendar and determine a point person to contact on each committee (WNM action groups) [Elias Gardner]
- People to contact: Neely Washington [Dina Bahrawy], Woden Teachout?, Alison Cornwall [Jen Carbee]
- Everyone think of groups in town

Action Group 2: Trails

Participants: Adrienne Magida (facilitator), Emily Potter (facilitator), Mitch Osiecki, Linda Helms, Dave Shepard, Lee Rosberg, Nancy Murphy, George Longenecker, Joanne Mankoff, Emily Smith, Sorsha Anderson, Chris Stanley, Michael Levine

Action step to be completed before the first meeting:

Meeting: Thursday, November 1, 6:00 PM at Town Hall (separate from the Conservation Committee meeting at 7:00 also at Town Hall); convener will be Mitch Osiecki

Issues to consider at first meeting:

- Identify trails
- Plan a walk in the Town Forest
- Identify types of trails wanted/needed
- Challenges
- Announce broadly on FPF

Action Group 3: Economic Development and Infrastructure

Participants: Sandy Levine (facilitator), Julie Moore (facilitator), Paul Zabriskie, Theo Kennedy, Ben Carlson, Mike Kline, Vic Dwire, Nancy Reilly, Mike Pelchar, Dave Smith, Dave Lawrence

Action step to be completed before the first meeting:

Meeting: Thursday, November 15, 6:00 PM at Rumney School; convener will be Theo Kennedy

Issues to consider at first meeting:

- Our vision: a comprehensive Village plan including mapping and inventory
- What resources do we need—existing info on road plans, Village ?
- What is our timeline?
- Who are the willing participants?
- Meet to discuss inventory and identify deliverables
- Develop teams to implement/fulfill/prioritize deliverables
- Who are we missing? Phil Hyek, Elias Gardner, road commissioner, Steve Martin

(Note: Originally dubbed “Infrastructure,” when this group convened it renamed itself the Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee.)

Action Group 4: Community Spaces and Events

Participants: Beth Holtzman (facilitator), Jennifer Murray (facilitator), Joanne Breidenstein (facilitator), Susan Warren, Linda Belt-Burnier, MaryLynne Strachan, Timothy Murphy, Bekah Mandell, Elliot Burg, August Burns, Sally Cavanagh, Patrick Wood

Action step to be completed before the first meeting: Create a spreadsheet to inventory existing spaces in Middlesex

Meeting time TBD, but prior to early December. Beth will create a Doodle Poll. Meeting will be at Town Hall. Convener: MaryLynne Strachan

Issues to consider at first meeting:

- Spaces inventory should include size, facilities, allowed uses, ownership status
- Start with spaces we know first
- Community questionnaire, perhaps at Town Meeting? What types of events do they want?
- Identify viable spaces after the inventory
- Let entire community know about all events
- Meet with Rumney School Board to find out about access and potential for upgrades to Rumney as a community/performance space
- Create a spreadsheet for all events and needs
- Create a separate spreadsheet for needs of various events and characteristics of spaces to house them
- Spreadsheets will be designed by committee member Tim Murphy on Google Sheet
- Once meeting time/date is finalized by Doodle Poll, it will be publicized on Front Porch Forum

The groups gathered for one final share out of meeting plans and priorities and What’s Next Middlesex was adjourned at 3:00 PM.



APPENDIX I:

The Makers of Middlesex:

A Partner Event to “What’s Next, Middlesex?”

As the “What’s Next Middlesex?” planning group met between May-October, the most pressing question was how to make sure all Middlesex residents felt invited and included.

The planning committee felt sure that for some folks, even the most inviting meeting was still a “meeting,” and many in Middlesex would prefer to participate in the community by “doing.” How could we open up participation even further?

The idea of a Middlesex “makers and creators” event was born.

The call went out, via informal artists and crafters networks; The Hive gallery; announcements through Front Porch Forum and the Rumney School newsletter; flyers at Town Hall, Rumney, and Camp Meade; and many, many visits, phone calls and one-to-one conversations. With organizing led by Hive owner Ryan Geary and ceramics artist Susan Warren, the event was described this way:

Makers and Creators of Middlesex

A Celebration of Community Talent and Creativity

Middlesex has got talent! Let’s explore the crafts, art, construction, food, landscapes, music, writing and other projects our neighbors have built or made in Middlesex.

Do you live, work, or create in Middlesex? You’re invited to participate!

The Makers and Creators event is a lead-up to “What’s Next Middlesex?,” the gathering that will take place October 26-27, 2018 (see www.whatsnextmiddlesex.org).

What: Open House: Displays, demonstrations, tastings, music, readings, enjoying our neighbors’ talents

Refreshments, maybe a winetasting

When: Friday October 12, 2018 – 6:30-9:30 pm

Some work may remain on display for 2 weeks, depending on space and participants’ interests. You can choose whether you’d like to simply show your work, or offer it for sale.

Where: Camp Meade in Middlesex Village

Red Hen Bakery, The Hive, Nutty Steph’s and the Mud Studio have all generously agreed to host us.

Who: Anyone who lives, works, or is inspired by Middlesex

This show is intended to celebrate Middlesex creators of every sort, from experienced professionals to folks who simply enjoy working with their hands. Surprise us! Do you have a quilt your grandmother

