

Community Engagement In-person Hearing #1—The Woods Lodge

May 31, 2022

5:00-6:00 pm

Present: John and Carolyn Stevens, Merry Kay Shernock, Clare O'Shaughnessy (note-taker), Deborah Zuaro, Shannon Doney, Julie Lombard,

Discussion began at 5:05 pm

Deborah: Make Nfld an attractive place to live and work; NRRR (ridge and river routes) plan (look at plan which includes ADA and safe sidewalks; RR crossing (although not town issue); town got big master planning grant which was to connect parks to town, village, center village and falls, parks to schools—made it into town plan. Some things “sitting on a shelf” which we should pay attention to

Norwich students were looking at implementing a off road path (mowed path from Wall Street to the campus) Natani's project; there is a grant already involved. A board walk;

A dam removal project (Cross Brother's dam) with the removal, have the opportunity to ask for a riverfront access, enhanced for amenities by the river...this is a state project; dam removal

Merry Kay: ARPA money to tag it onto other projects...; slaughterhouse bridge swimming there; other areas swimming holes (past 2nd bridge)

Shannon: gorgeous river where we don't have access to it (private property) ; it not accessible ; access after 1st bridge

Carolyn: a river walk or a path along the river; a trail or a park nearby

Example when they took out the dam at Cox Brook

Julie: example of Franklin NH trying to use the river flowing through town (making a white water park) as an attraction hub

Shannon: Use river to attract fisherman (how do you access it?); what happened to rentals; B & B's; the incursion of AirB&B?

Carolyn: If you attract people, where do they stay; shortage of lodging here in town.

Julie: people have visited via an airB&B and loved Northfield, moved here.

Shortage of homes to buy;

Businesses here—hard for start ups; hard for businesses to succeed now.

John: Alums want to build here; freightyard way; Chinese restaurant; what alums need is a commitment from the town (need sewer and water)

Carolyn--Freightyard way has been pointed out in studies as a site for mixed use development

Shannon: Loss of restaurants, a real need

John: Jeff wants to extend sewer out to protect the well field.....accident waiting to happen. Several houses along 12A....

Shortages of workers; raises for town employees

There is funding beyond ARPA

John: DeMasi says he can do water line, 50K; 6 in line now....depends on who does it; no money in water dept budget to do it this year. Spent some on economic dev position. Also spent to keep water rates down. How much is left? about 1.8million now.

Member discussion on various issues: [Splash Pad proposal to replace fountain on the common; 25 foot thing]

Deborah: Dog river park FEMA buyout; desire for play structures in Dog River Park; use town land across the street;

Merry Kay: take advantage of attractive spaces in our town; to make them attractive to people

Carolyn: Freightyard way needs to be developed for the economic vitality of the town.

Economic Development Position is being offered. We don't know anymore now.

Carolyn: Falls Connector to town: ridge and river routes idea for a path

Development grants (missed opportunities without the position);

Get a bike lane on 12 (widen it);

People have talked about a walking lane and an off road sidewalk; down route 12; there are right-of-way issues because already so close to houses already.

How to slow down traffic on route 12?

Plan for short-term and long-term to get some of these projects done.

What are we trying to grow into? Are there any towns we would like to emulate?

A little bit of Randolph? Rochester?

It is our natural resources (the mountains, the river, covered bridges); people come here for those things....

Don't forget the sense of community we have here in Northfield.....needs to be more official, from the town....not everyone gets welcomed (when groups try to sell the town)'

Businesses don't stay open on the common, not much of a draw in center of town....we don't have attractions down town to draw folks downtown. Support community so they don't have to leave town to get stuff.

Building up the schools, to attract families.....and keep families, especially around sports.....schools as the heart of the communities....

Attractions: winter-lude; like Labor Day; entertainment; rec committee that went away (used to have a theater and bowling alley); things to do....endowment to provide the human capital to work a business to attract folks.....family fun events/attractions. (Also came out of the NRRR suggestions)

Downtown area where people can walk....connecting the aspects of town for residents....

Using Labor Day as an example; aimed at residents or people from out of town;

Portable movie screens on the common; also need an indoor space for events...

Need public private partnership.....the Hall of the United Church being renovated.; baby group in a church....vaccines and 5 years olds...so important because of the need for care.

Discussion of child care and pandemic....

Vacant places....in town.

Public Private partnerships....endowments....that keep on going....(example of town of Milford, NH).

Arts and Music the bomb. Dirt Road Theater that meets in the church. Multi-age things so not to silo people...Concord Community Music School, example.

Bethel University as an example during summer (Susan Barnard used to do)

EV station at Norwich.

EV station and solar panels....

Camp Meade—Red Hen Bakery.

6:24 adjourned.