NELSON, NH
COMMUNITY FORUM REPORT

September 17 & 18, 2010
available on line at www.movinginstep.org
TO:  *Nelson Community Forum Participants*

FROM:  *The Nelson Community Forum Steering Committee*

THANK YOU for participating in the Nelson Community Forum weekend on September 17 and 18, 2010. The exercise of identifying characteristics of our community provides both a vision for the future of Nelson and an action plan to implement that vision.

This report summarizes the work of the weekend and identifies aspects of our community that are worth preserving and those that we can work to change.

We believe that the weekend was successful in expressing different perspectives on and hopes for Nelson’s future. We look forward to your continued participation in implementing that vision.
Antioch New England Institute

To the Residents of Nelson –

The contents of this booklet reflect a compilation of the ideas and dreams that were developed and shared by the residents of your community who participated in the Nelson Community Forum on the weekend of Friday and Saturday, September 17 & 18, 2010. It was my pleasure to work with many fine people from Nelson who helped to make the event possible and who participated in the forum.

For the better part of two years a growing group of community members met to discuss ways in which people could be encouraged to come together to share concerns and more importantly discover areas of common interest and purpose. Responding to my constant prodding to increase the diversity of the group and the number of participants, a Steering Committee was formed in late 2009 and began to systematically and thoughtfully increase the outreach to more and more people in the community with an eye toward a Fall 2010 community forum.

In the winter months of 2010 the date was selected for the Nelson Community Forum and the Steering Committee began its work in earnest. The list of details required everything from finding a site for the event – the Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music; organizing food for the attendees; recruiting small group facilitators; publicity for the event; invitations to community members; arranging childcare; organizing clean-up details; raising funds – the list was seemingly endless, and the committee was up to the task.

Throughout the entire planning process I was especially aware that the growing number of people who volunteered to help the work of the Steering Committee was determined to do everything in their capacity to include as many diverse perspectives from the community as possible. This was not easy work; however, the Steering Committee is to be commended for their sincere efforts to include as many people and perspectives as possible.

Some things about the Nelson Community Forum stand out as memorable for me. In the twenty-five plus communities in which I have conducted similar forums, the quality of the small group facilitators in Nelson will stand out for me as a high water mark. Your community is blessed with a significant number of folks who are exceptionally effective at making sure that all the participants were heard at the forum. This was no small task for the facilitators, as countless numbers of folks had a lot of good thoughts and ideas, which is what the process was designed to accomplish. The challenge is always to distill the ideas down so that they can be realistically accomplished. The facilitators in Nelson were particularly effective with this work throughout the weekend.

A further thing that stands out is the flexibility of the people of Nelson. When the power on Apple Hill Road suddenly went off, people barely missed a beat as darkness fell. Quick action by those who retrieved flashlights and lanterns from home allowed the small groups to convene in what were
otherwise dark rooms in the Apple Hill Center’s rehearsal barn, and all the work for the evening was accomplished in spite of the lack of power. For me this “can do” attitude reflects what seems to be an underpinning of Nelson’s community character—a approach that is very much a “We can figure this out and address our challenges by working together, learning from others and using the talents and resources that we have here in our community.”

What is especially important about the forum is that it is not an end in itself, but rather a beginning for the community. It is a beginning because a series of ideas and possible projects that emerged during the forum event—and which are detailed from the beginning of the forum process in this document—are now the basis for on-going efforts by a series of ad hoc groups working in the community. Some of the ideas from the Nelson Community Forum will likely be developed very quickly, while others that are more complex technically and economically, and perhaps politically, will likely take longer.

What is important to remember throughout this work is that these are your ideas, and that the likelihood of them being fulfilled rests with the good people of Nelson. There are no guarantees, of course, but in the best sense the people who make up the community of Nelson are the ones controlling the process. What is especially encouraging about this sort of work is that it is not meant to be exclusive in the sense that if you didn’t participate in the September community forum you cannot have a role going forward.

I encourage everyone in Nelson to think of this process as rather like rolling a snowball. You start with a small core, and as you roll the ball along the ground it gets bigger and bigger. In this same sense the Nelson Community Forum represents a core effort to engage people in the future directions the community might pursue. There must be on-going attention to assuring that residents, who are interested in these efforts, even when they didn’t attend the forum, have a chance to participate in helping to make them a reality for the people of Nelson.

Again, it was an honor for me to work with the people of Nelson on this important work. While I fully appreciate the challenges—past, present and future—that such work provides, I also know from both personal and professional experience that it is precisely this kind of undertaking that enriches the sense of community in small towns.

As much as the projects identified at the forum are a basis for focusing people’s attention on the future, I also encourage everyone to celebrate the importance of the relationships that you develop with one another along the way. This is accomplished largely by listening to each other’s ideas, respecting your different points of view, seeking agreement on a common course of action, and celebrating your accomplishments along the way—something we all too often overlook.

I very much look forward to learning about the progress that your community makes going forward into the next decade.

All the best to the people of Nelson for the months and years ahead, and my thanks for a great experience.

Jack Calhoun,
Project Director

January 2011
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FRIDAY EVENING

OPENING COMMENTS
By Richard Church
September 17, 2010

Monadnock Number Six
Almost 260 years ago on December 6, 1751, the Masonian Proprietors granted Monadnock Number Six to a group of men who would have the direct responsibility of settling the town. The first settler, Breed Batchellor, arrived in 1767. There seem to have been at least three settlers that year. Batchellor built the first sawmill on the brook that empties Center Pond just downstream of the bridge on Center Pond Road. Daniel Woods was enticed to build a gristmill at the outlet of Pleasant Pond, later Breed Pond and now Silver Lake.

Packersfield
Monadnock Number Six was incorporated as Packersfield on February 22, 1774, named after Thomas Packer, high sheriff of New Hampshire and patron of Breed Batchellor. Batchellor declared himself a Tory during the Revolutionary War and was forced to flee to Canada. Packer died in 1771 and probably never visited the town that was named after him.

Revolutionary War
Many Packersfield men served in the Revolution and many more veterans settled here after it. They came from New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut. All were newcomers in those days. From 1767 to 1790 many miles of roads were built, as were many homes and a number of mills. The town was pretty self-sufficient. It could mill its own boards, grind its flour and tan its own leather. Fields were cleared and stonewalls were built. We had a 40’ x 60’ meetinghouse and a schoolhouse. We had our own doctor, cordwainer, housewright, cooper, blacksmith, tavern keeper, mortgage lender and potash maker, who also grew much of their own food. The town would soon build eight more schoolhouses. In 1790, the first US Census recorded 721 inhabitants including a family of three free blacks.

Nelson
Immediately we began to try to change our name. After trying for Sullivan, Groton and Troy, we became Nelson in 1814. And, some family names haven’t changed. The Tolmans are still here as are the Barkers (Walters), Farwells (Frenchs), Hardys (Struthers) and Robbins (Warners). Willie Guillow arrived in 1902 founding the community some still call Guillowville and the Hutchin’s family in Nelson.

Not everyone wanted to be part of Nelson. Sullivan left in 1787, but almost no one was living in that part of town anyway. Roxbury formed its own community from parts of Keene, Marlboro and Nelson in 1812. And Harrisville formed its own town out of parts of Nelson and Dublin. Harrisville was a manufacturing town with an interest in a railroad; differing from the farming communities to its north and south. The split came after both Dublin and Nelson refused to vote a substantial subsidy for the railroad.

However, it wasn’t all bad news. The Tarbox family felt more connected to Nelson, thus a small part of Stoddard was added to Nelson in 1835.
Munsonville
Munsonville was settled later, well after the Revolution, but its position astride the town’s most powerful fall of water soon made it Nelson’s economic engine. The Nelson Cotton and Woolen Company was founded at the outlet of Granite Lake in 1814 to make cotton cloth. Alvin Munson bought the mill in 1832 and, by 1850, twenty employees were producing 55,000 yards of cotton cloth. The name of that part of town soon changed from Nelson Factory to Munsonville.

A new road being constructed from Keene to Concord was built through the growing village in 1830. That road played a major role in the history and economy of the village from that time to the present. Downstream, Frederick Taylor employed four men in his chair shop where they made 8000 chairs. These two men were clearly shipping their products beyond the borders of Nelson.

Hill Farms
The hill farms established by the early settlers failed early. City Hill was first farmed in 1768, and, by the Revolution, ten families had settled there. By 1840, there was no one in residence. Most of those people had moved to New York state and Ohio for better land. Farmland, however, remained open for a while as abandoned farms were consolidated to graze sheep. In 1836, Nelson was the leading sheep-raising town in the state.

Town Common
The early center of things was the first town common where the Nelson Cemetery is now. It featured a meetinghouse, store, pound, tavern, cobbler shop and burying ground. A rival center was built in Munsonville around the mills and Union Hall (Chapel by the Lake). In the late 1830’s, Nelson village moved down the hill to its current location, and featured a new brick school, church, town hall, cobbler and blacksmith shops, the Melville-Nims brick store and most of the houses there today.

The Civil War
The Civil War saw a soldier representing virtually every family in town. Nelson ran up huge debts for bounties to encourage men to serve and to support the families of those serving. The few remaining turned out great quantities of wool to support the war effort. It was a time of great patriotism, economic vitality, but horrible human toll. Twenty-nine died and thirty-two were wounded. Nelson was approximately the same size then as it is now. Imagine the impact of so much loss. The post-Civil War era saw a dramatic decline in New Hampshire farming communities. Nelson’s population declined to 295 by 1900 – one third of its earlier peak.

Summer People
Summer people helped the town move forward. The telephone arrived early (1895) courtesy of William Henry Elliot who transformed the former Town Poor Farm (now Lead Mine Farm) into an elegant summer home. The line was run from the state road at Munsonville, through the village, out Lead Mine Road. Not to be outdone, the Tolmans of the day established the Tolman and Long Pond (Nubanusit Lake) Telephone Company to serve that end of town.

Summer residents began to build homes on the shores of, and overlooking, our lakes. At about the same time, Olivia Rodham (whose 165th birthday is today) brought a group of intellectual
friends from Pennsylvania to Nelson. Members of this group donated a public library in Ms. Rodham’s name; and some of their descendents still make Nelson their home.

**Art and Music**
Art and music have a long tradition in Nelson, as well. We think of artists like Albert Quigley and Margaret Redmond, and writers like May Sarton and Newt Tolman. We think of being nationally known for contributions to classical music by Monadnock Music and The Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music, where we meet today. And, we think of Ralph Page who helped revive square (aka contra) dancing in Nelson in the 1930’s and took it nationwide.

But, Ralph Page is probably less well known as a Nelson selectman who, in his 1935 diary, wrote:

> “Tuesday, March 13, Town Meeting Day. Very windy. Was elected selectman 33 to 28, defeating Harry R. Green, one of the “old guards” of the town. Marguerite was elected a member of the school board 43 to 11. Slowly but surely the defenses of the old conservatives are crumbling away before the attack of youth and progressivism.”

**Community**
Community has had times of greater and lesser emphasis in Nelson. In the early days the church was the town’s community focus when the meetinghouse was built by, and the minister paid by, the town. In 1819 that changed when the Tolerance Act was passed in New Hampshire requiring that churches be privately supported.

**Old Home Day**
In 1875 a Basket Picnic was held at the home of Noah Hardy. 1879 is remembered for the first Nelson Picnic, now known as Old Home Day. The Nelson Picnic Association was formed. As usual, Nelson led the way, for in 1899 the governor issued an Old Home Day Proclamation for the state. We had our 131st Old Home Day about a month ago.

**The Nelson Community Association**
In 1969 The Nelson Community Association was formed by Robbins Milbank and a number of others to “promote the good of the community”. Almost immediately it led the effort to re-establish a Planning Board and to establish a Conservation Commission. It helped the town figure out what to do about the town dump. Along the way it was responsible for starting our Grapevine newsletter. The language they used is instructive: their newsletter was addressed to “all friends in Nelson, members of the association or not”. They stated: “Membership of 166 is indeed gratifying, but far short of our potential. Your ideas are warmly welcomed.”

**Today**
We are a town whose roots go back 260 years. Some of our early founding families are still here and new ones have added their contributions since. We may be different from what we used to be, but we’ve always had a strong sense of community, as witnessed here tonight.
THE NELSON COMMUNITY FORUM AGENDA

Friday evening

5:30  Sign-In, Pot-Luck Supper

6:15  Welcome
      Opening Comments
      Nelson community profile and demographics

6:30  Overview of community Vision-to-Action process
      Who is here?

6:45  Mosaic and Vision
      What is Nelson like now?
      What do we want Nelson to be like in the future?

7:45  Presentation of Community Forum Components
      Effective Community Leadership: A Broader Definition
      Informed Citizen Participation: More Than Voter Turnout
      Inter-group Relations: Celebrating Diversity Within the Community
      Keeping Our Cultural Heritage Strong: Arts, Festivals and Celebrations
      Education and Social Services: Meeting Our Citizens' Needs
      Physical Infrastructure and Services: The Basics that Serve Our Needs
      Use of Natural Resources: Water, Energy and Materials
      How the Community Looks and Feels: Town, Farm and Forest
      Economic Vitality: Stability Through Diversity
      Growth and Development: Are We Planning Well?

8:00  Break

8:15  Small Group Discussions of Components  (small group facilitators)
      Random assignments to small groups, one component per group
      - Strengths of Nelson in the component area
      - Weaknesses
      - What would you like to see in the future?
      - What are the 5-7 key issues that need to be addressed?

9:30  Formal adjournment

Saturday

8:45  Coffee and check-in

9:00  Small group reports
      Each of the ten small groups report to the large group, five minutes each
9:50 Selection of Key Issues
Discussion to refine list of 50+ Key Issues down to about 10, based on consensus

10:25 Individual selection of Key Issues
Each participant selects small group/issue to work on

10:30 Break

10:45 Small groups meet for Key Issue discussion (small group facilitators)
- Define the problem or opportunity
- Project goals - identify what you want to accomplish
- Identify potential projects/solutions
- Evaluate potential projects using impact-feasibility grid
- Select 3-5 projects to bring to the full group

12:15 Lunch

1:00 Report Back from Small Groups

2:00 Project Selection
Which projects do you think we should move forward on?
Each participant selects four
Which are the most important projects for our town right now?
Based on results of selection, designate six projects to be developed

2:30 Break – Individual selection of project development groups

2:35 Project Development - Small Groups (small group facilitators)
- Principal leadership
- Resources needed
- Potential obstacles, solutions
- Action steps
- Timeline
- Coordinator, first step

4:00 Where do we go from here? - Full Group
- Action format - task forces or full body
- How to communicate with each other and the community
- Future meetings - Who should be included?

4:30 Adjournment
CREATING A COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Nelson Community Forum was held on Friday evening, September 17, and all day Saturday, September 18, 2010.

The event was a phenomenal show of community interest and support with well over 100 participants, many of whom also volunteered to help with the planning stages of the occasion. Thank you all.

The Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music was an ideal venue for accommodating the Forum, which was facilitated by Jack Calhoun of Antioch New England Institute. Thank you Apple Hill for your generosity, and thank you Jack for your many hours of guidance through this process.

We gathered Friday night for registration and a potluck supper. And then, with dessert barely digesting, as we were settling down to begin the facilitated work of the evening, the power went out! But the power of the participants surged on as we literally and figuratively lit our way through the rest of the evening.

We began with a couple of brief presentations: opening comments by Rick Church and current demographic information by Lisa Murphy of the Southwest Region Planning Commission, both accompanied by Warren Hammack on the flashlight.

We continued with an overview of the forum process upon which we were about to embark. Then with easels and flip charts at the ready, and by now with many flashlights and a back-up generator providing a wee bit of light, Jack led us through a calling-out from the floor so that we could learn a little more about each other: how long we had lived in town, where we worked, how many had children in school, etc.

We were then asked to describe what Nelson is like today and what we want Nelson to be like in the future. As we called out from the floor, our words were recorded on the flip charts and are included below, just as they were spoken. Thus, the forum process had begun.

THE MOSAIC

What is Nelson like today?
Forests
Community
Great place to raise children
Dirt roads
Outdoor activities
Music
Snowshoeing
Bright, funny, great neighbors who help during ice storms and other events
Peaceful
Neighbors
Welcoming
Churches
No traffic
Youth groups
Nothing to buy
Starry nights
Turkeys
Views
Sunsets
Moose
Feisty Town Meetings
Clean air
Rocks
Snow
Mud season
Graveyards
Apple Hill
Memorial Day parade
Nelson Church
4th of July
Elephant Rock
Wednesday Academy
New Year's Eve fireworks on Center Pond Road
Maple syrup
Elementary school that looks like a train
Boy Scout and Church suppers
Wonderful people
Lakes
Spiritual home
Wildlife
Potlucks
Contra dancing
Ice skating
Great library
Nice long power outages
Artists
Great school
Firefighters
Strong volunteerism
Historic town buildings
Cordwood
Sheep
Tomatoes
Eagles and loons
Scouting
Our own 5K
Lots of bugs
Creative people
Strong ties
Snow
History lovers
Old Home Day
Traditions
Nelson Town Band
Ice Cream Socials
Farmhouse
Library Summer Forums
Book groups
Summer residents
Pancake breakfasts
Great Meadows
Town Hall concerts

THE VISION

What do we want Nelson to be like in the future?
Just the same
Local store
Town beach
Dirt roads
Recreation
Transportation options
Recycling
A place for people to cross paths
More wildlife
Faster internet
Nature trails
More agriculture
Greenhouse
More things for kids to do
Movies in the Town Hall
Pay raise for the librarian
More kids
Local post office
Continued rural setting
Senior Assisted Living
More affordable housing
More volunteers to do wonderful things
Community Center for people to cross paths/Gathering place
Protected wildlife habitat
Conserved land
Continued clean lakes
TEN COMPONENTS

After we developed a mosaic of and vision for Nelson, Jack Calhoun, the Forum facilitator, began to see some patterns emerging. He introduced us to the idea of discussing Nelson within the framework of ten qualities which can be used to profile a community. These topics, drawn from the work of The National Civic League and adapted by Vital Communities, are important components of any successful community. These components make a community work well now and sustain the cultural, economic and environmental health and vitality for the long-term future. They are:

Civic Infrastructure
1. Effective Community Leadership: A Broader Definition
2. Informed Citizen Participation: More Than Voter Turnout
3. Inter-group Relations: Celebrating Diversity Within the Community

Community Infrastructure
4. Keeping Our Cultural Heritage Strong: Arts, Festivals and Celebrations
5. Education and Social Services: Meeting Our Citizens' Needs
6. Physical Infrastructure and Services: The Basics That Serve Our Needs

Environment
7. Use of Natural Resources: Water, Energy and Materials
8. How the Community Looks and Feels: Town, Farm and Forest

Economy
9. Economic Vitality: Stability through Diversity
10. Growth and Development: Are We Planning Well?

Small groups were formed by counting off by tens to discuss each of these components and to report their findings and conclusions back to the main body. The Steering Committee for the Forum had asked some twenty community members to act as facilitators for the small group sessions throughout the Forum. This group had been trained to ensure that everyone would get a chance to speak, the topic would be fully addressed, and notes would be accurately recorded. Each group, led by two facilitators, was asked to consider the definition and significance of its topic, how it impacted Nelson, the town’s strengths and weaknesses in this area, and the concerns and problems related to it. Relevant key issues in each component for the future were to be presented for consideration by the full assembly.

Following are transcriptions from each small group meeting:
1. EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP: A BROADER DEFINITION

Committee Response: Community Leadership Strengths
Internal training within nonprofits; unaffiliated (no sector) individual leadership which makes you feel part of the community (lots of potential)
Selectmen's Minutes now online
People in the community are leading, i.e. the Nelson Community Forum, etc.
The church is leading (barbecue, building, caring for people, welcome wagon, etc.)
Town Hall Floor Committee (very creative committee)
Opportunities for (young) leadership - confirmation, etc.
When the need is there, people step up

Committee Response: Community Leadership Concerns
Don't feel tied to the town leadership
No forum to/for residents to sit and just talk with the Town leadership
Need to 'pry' to find out what is happening in regard to public leadership
Lack of continuum/continuity in nonprofits (Packersfield, PTO, etc.)
Planning and connecting: a lack of organized communication
Lack of training/mentoring next generation of leaders in all sectors
Community leadership stronger than political leadership
Political leadership not very innovative
Not looking into regional solutions (innovation of political leaders)
Public 'jobs/positions' are huge and consume a great deal of time not designed to solve problems
Political positions come with a great deal of risk people don't want to take
Selectmen's job has no/little pre-training
Large goals/jobs can't get done due to minutia/and large day-to-day requirements

Committee Response: Community Leadership Vision for the Future
Study increasing the number of Selectmen
Create job descriptions for town officers and offices
Quantify the tasks and approaches
Transparency (helping people understand and cope with requirements)
Selectmen will have time to focus on the long-term goals of the town
Outreach to the community
Mediation rather than litigation
Community support network for town government - combine with wider community involvement
Identify, recognize, and integrate those individuals who are leading now
Create a Town Forum on what is involved in becoming a town leader
Expand the outreach (example - what the church currently provides)
Find ways to involve people in the church's outreach that aren't church members, create 'flexible circles'
Improve communication of needs so that everyone feels connected
Broaden communication, such as the Moving In Step website
Direct contact works better, it's more personal when it's face-to-face
Committee Response: Key Issues for Now and the Future
1. Communication:
   Between Leadership and Community
   Between groups
   Lack of Training / Lack of mentoring
2. Transparency and openness
3. Leadership support
4. Leadership recognition
5. Mediation

2. INFORMED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: MORE THAN VOTER TURNOUT

Committee Response: Strengths in Citizen Participation
Our bonds, although some people do not know people that others know
Town newspaper
Church/Library
Town website/Moving In Step
School, public meetings, etc. are posted
Town Meetings - we gather each year
Scouts participate in parade
Active Democratic Organization
Active "Independent" group
PTO/Packersfield Association
Friends of the Library/book clubs
1st Tuesday Teas and 2nd Wednesday NELLS luncheons published in 'Meeting House'
Youth Group - middle school and high school
Nelson Conservation Commission and roadside clean up
Ice cream socials
Town Band
Old Home Week
Church suppers
Weekly email from Candyce (Moving In Step Calendar of Events)
The group was then asked to think about what the current weaknesses may be. As each person spoke, the scribe wrote on the easel at the front of the room.

Committee Response: Concerns about Citizen Participation
Need wider participation on town boards
Need a way to communicate about going on
Need a welcoming committee (basket, etc)
Do something for newcomers ("12 Days of Christmas")
When people register their cars
No central place
We aren't using the new building
Lots going on but new people and old timers do not know
Some people choose not to be involved due to lack of interest
We need to get people using the town newsletter and the Moving In Step email
No way to know who has resources to share in the event of an emergency
No organized way to connect during an emergency
People do not know when meetings are
People are too busy to get involved

**Citizen Participation: Visions for the Future**
Town bulletin board
More organized town sports teams, i.e. softball, tennis - use the ball field more
Recreation committee
Solve problem of using the ball field: how do you get permission to use?

**Citizen Participation: Key Issues for Now and the Future**
1. Need improved ways to inform citizens about town events
2. Need a community bulletin board so town leaders can put up sign-up sheets for
   volunteers/projects (2-way)
3. Need a gathering place/public house
4. Need a recreation center
5. Need a welcoming committee

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3. **INTER-GROUP RELATIONS: CELEBRATING DIVERSITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY**

Our Diversity:
Long-timers/newcomers
Parents/non-parents
Full time/summer
Work/retired
Wealthy/not wealthy
‘Hermits’/community folk
Munsonville
Church, organized religion/non-church, secular
Local church/out of town church
Town Meeting/no Town Meeting
Hi-tech/low-tech

**Committee Response: Strengths in Intergroup Relations**
Fluidity between groups
Tradition of fluidity (communication)
Volunteerism cuts across lines
Mailboxes, Town equipment, roads, freedom of land use, School, milfoil/ponds, Silver Lake,
Granite Lake Community, cooperation
People who think for the group as a whole
Respect for differences (acceptance)
Mindfulness of Town (versus self-interest)
Slowness/calm
Never alone
Community outreach across groups

**Committee Response: Concerns about Intergroup Relations**
Hills/geographical barriers
No village well
Little in-town work (employment)
Time - travel - distance
Assumptions about others’ needs
Need for more mindful networking
Impact of the economy on Nelson

**Intergroup Relations: Visions for the Future**
Town-wide Pot Luck Suppers
Two Town Meetings per year
Radio station - locally supported
Posting/community bulletin board
Village store/pub
Volunteer bus service (coordinate with public transportation services)
Welcome Wagon - renew acquaintances
Designated store/commissary/coffee shop (brick church? - something with the bare essentials)
Community Center (perhaps at the school)
Building below Town Hall
Community Development Coordinator

**Intergroup Relations: Key Issues for Now and the Future**
1. Community structure/village well
2. Community Events:
   - Contra dances
   - Monthly Pot Luck Suppers
   - Open mike
   - Ping pong festival, etc.
3. Welcome Wagon
4. Communication: bulletin boards both physical and virtual
5. A Community organizer

**4. KEEPING OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE STRONG: ARTS, Festivals And Celebrations**

**Committee Response: Strengths in Cultural Areas**
Contra dance
Apple Hill
Old Home Days
Monadnock Music
Town Band
Ice Cream Socials
Monadnock Folklore
Library Forums
Individual artists and musicians
Memorial Day parade
Out of the Woodwork Concert
Nelson Solstice Party
Nelson "Marathon"
Bike race
Granite Lake 5K
Nubanusit sailboat races
May Day Celebration
Moving In Step meetings
Eagle Scout celebrations
Resident writers/craftspeople
Nelson History Roundtable
Christmas tree lighting/caroling
New Year's Eve on Center Pond
Tolman Pond July 4th
Church concerts
'Hotel Nelson'
Emergency Building
Daffodils Clean-Up Days

**Committee Response: Concerns about Cultural Areas**

Hard to know about events/no publicity
Much of the activity centers on the church
Geographical separation: Granite Lake, Nubanusit, Munsonville, Nelson, Hutchinsville, Silver Lake, etc.
No universal broadband
Poor integration of summer people
Same people volunteering
Need more opportunities for community participation: sing-a-long, readers’ theater, coffee house, etc.
Other types of dancing and lessons
Need more contra dance teachers
"Body work" opportunities: yoga, meditation instruction
More organized nature/history walks
How to allow children to participate in 'the arts' but not distract
Lost Artist Cooperative!
Usage fee for Town Hall

**Cultural Areas: Visions for the Future**

Have some theatre happening
Universal broadband
Opportunities to share/perform
History website
Coffee House
Re-establish the Artists Collaborative
More library hours
More kinds of dances
Encourage participation in regional choral groups and invite them to perform here
Space and a place for teenagers/kids
Improved concert hall at Apple Hill with access by other groups
Opportunities for a gathering place for seniors for arts, cards, gathering
Continue current offerings and strengthen them

**Cultural Areas: Key Issues for Now and the Future**
1. Communication and publicity (universal broadband)
2. Finding ways to make spaces more available and organizing events
3. Nurture and refresh our current strengths
4. Common gathering place that has NO MEMBERSHIP, like the Harrisville store
5. Program development and the space for the arts

**5. EDUCATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES: MEETING OUR CITIZENS’ NEEDS**

**Committee Response: Strengths in Education and Social Services**
Strong civic commitment/volunteerism
Small community school (K-6)
Students needs are known and met
Neighbors help some in need
Designated Select-person had been the 'Overseer of the Poor', (unsure of current status)
Master Plan: Attention being paid to delivery of social services, efficient, responsible town government
Strong visual and musical arts program
Afterschool clubs
Access to higher education

**Committee Response: Concerns about Education and Social Services**
Our small school has limited offerings
Very little racial diversity, although a great deal of socio-economic diversity exists
That we needed a town-wide forum
Available social services not widely known
Unclear how to access social services
Communication re: social services – County/Town
Lack of transportation for social services (getting to Keene)
Basic necessities are not available in town, i.e. groceries, prescriptions, etc.
Comprehensive services for eldercare do not exist in Nelson
Low number of school age children
Low number of affordable housing options (relates to above)
Zoning - restrictive (relates to above)
Zoning limits number of 'young families'

**Education and Social Services: Visions for the Future**
Better communication of social services available, education, and formalization of groups
Full hi-speed internet access
School Board strategic plan
Vibrant school community - full enrollment (60?) - K - 6
A shuttle bus to Keene for transportation
Expand the open hours of the Library and Town Offices
Community gathering place
Form a senior group: would have access to some Fed/State funding?
Nelson Forum - skills - year 'round bank

**Education and Social Services: Key Issues for Now and the Future**
1. Vitality of the school relates back to zoning
2. Formalization of community groups/gathering place
3. Improve communication/information dispersal of our town and county's social services
4. Transportation

6. PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES: **THE BASICS THAT SERVE OUR NEEDS**

**Committee Response: Strengths in Infrastructure**
Great buildings: multi-use Town Barn and Safety Building, Library, and Town Hall
Centralized village offices
Good roads, well-maintained dirt roads
Baseball field
School: has a sports area
Rules, supervision of septic systems and water supply
Lakes, waterfront, clean water
Maintenance of infrastructure (Road Agent)
Internet is available - Wivalley is locally owned
Rural environment and landscape
School board does long-range planning on school maintenance
Everyone has each other's back - informal security
You can leave your keys in your car

**Committee Response: Concerns about Infrastructure**
Individual maintenance of septic systems and wells
No housing for the elderly
No recycling facility
Competition for use of our public spaces: for meetings, etc.
The property tax system is not based on the ability to pay
No workforce housing, especially for young families
Public transportation is rather limited
Lack of affordable and accessible building sites
Fragile power grid
No place to informally convene: coffee shop, pub, post office, store
Two different telephone exchanges (lack of identity)
Roads in mud season
Cell phone reception is spotty
Whole town doesn't have broadband
State roads - frost heaves
No town beach that’s open to all
No swimming lessons for children
Most of the town buildings don't have generators
Few small businesses

**Infrastructure: Visions for the Future**
Town power company - local grid - wind turbines - Nelson as its own district
Micro-nuclear power
Community garden
Recycling center
Town beach
Energy-efficient town buildings
Use the library more as a civic meeting space (more open hours)
More volunteerism (library, town jobs, town offices)
Store and post office/community, etc.
Senior center
Efficient and easier use of existing public spaces
More usable physical public space
Strong agricultural commission
Keep more children in town
Incentives for families to live here
Rotating coffee houses
Transportation to Keene and Peterborough for shopping, appointments, movies, etc
Swap shop/borrowing library/a local tool co-op where you can sign out tools
A hardware store

**Infrastructure: Key Issues for Now and the Future**
1. Demographics: impact on school incentives for families to keep kids in town, elderly needs, taxes and tax structure, encourage small businesses and agriculture
2. Public space, including buildings: better utilization and access, ADA compliance, town beach, recreational access, community garden, food co-op
3. Utilities: power grid/district, cellphone reception, broadband, renewable energy, septic, and water, energy-efficient public buildings
4. Social environment: a place to meet, store, post office, community garden, food co-op, rotating coffee house
5. Services: public transportation, recycling/swap shop/tool-sharing, consolidation of services among small towns (emergency services, schools, town employees and inspectors, dumps)
7. USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES: WATER, ENERGY AND MATERIALS

Committee Response: Strengths in the Natural Resource Base
Ability to compost
Possibilities for wind farms?
Openness to alternative energy sources
Education
Wood (lots of it)
Open land
CSA interest
Water
Conservation land
Independence
Rocks
Own wells
Regular trips to larger towns (opportunity for carpooling)
Hiking trails (USGA maps)

Committee Response: Concerns about the Natural Resource Base
No local recycling
Surrounding towns have transfer stations
Where does our trash go? When someone picks it up, what becomes of it?
People aren't aware of packaging: when you buy things in small amounts there is packaging waste
Not hearing the 'Reduce/Reuse/Recycle' message regularly
Questions:
  - Are windmills feasible in Nelson?
  - Do we have enough sun for solar power?
Idea: Can we consolidate and leverage each other for wind/solar power?
Houses are old and converted summer camps -- sprawling/converted -- not energy efficient -- houses are free-standing
Town buildings are not energy efficient
A Town Energy Committee could promote energy education. We don't currently have one, although other communities have one
Some wood (woodlots?) have no use. Want to thin out but there is no market or need
Local sources of food (particularly meat) are limited
Questions:
  - Can we share water wealth?
  - Some wells have plenty - some low flow
  - No central water supply
Wells are expensive for a new family starting out
Transportation:
  - Long way to doctors, stores, work, schools
  - No public transportation
  - Carpool is ad hoc/informal
  - Opportunity to improve - how to publicize and coordinate
Opportunity for community to schedule a certain day/time or meeting location
Minivan route - has obstacles, but might be resolved
Could we partner with Harrisville or other towns?
Need maps of hiking trails, landmarks, conservation resources to publicize availability
Opportunity: Guided hikes sponsored by Conservation Commission - "Town Hikes"

**The Natural Resource Base: Visions for the Future**
Figure out how to implement solutions and still keep our small town character
Take advantage of progress, but not on such a big scale that we lose our rural feel
Windmills can be beautiful, but too many would be overwhelming
CSA with greenhouses and open fields --
  Heated
  Not heated
  Grow crops seasonally
  Meat/milk/eggs in addition to vegetables
  Could also be a meeting place
  Could do seasonal events, i.e. press apples, educational component, certified kitchen to process surplus
Start with education
Winter vacation camp for kids: teach Nature and Conservation
Hybrid electric minivan ~ carpooling; transportation for seniors, after school kids, and for people without cars
Transportation to special events:
  Red Sox games
  Boston
  Peterborough Players
  Apple Hill
  endless places
Find a model to fund:
  Grants/Highway Department repair & fuel
  Some would be paid by users/some would be subsidized
Collaboration with Harrisville for trash and recycling
Town Energy Committee

**The Natural Resource Base: Key Issues for Now and the Future**
1. CSA
2. Minivan, carpool, public transportation
3. Energy Commission
4. Shared transfer station with surrounding towns
5. Maintain the rural feel that we all love
8. HOW THE COMMUNITY LOOKS AND FEELS: TOWN, FARM AND FOREST

Committee Response: Strengths in Community Look and Feel
Lot of large tracts (of land) in conservation
Very quiet
Small
Beautiful lakes and ponds
Numerous streams
Lovely fall foliage
Mix of woodlands, pastures and houses
Looking from the air, nothing but trees
Great Meadows - healthy ecosystem
More wildlife than there was 20 years ago: raccoon, fox
Great aquifer in the Nubanusit, Tolman Pond area
Sounds of wildlife
Richness of the wildlife sounds: birds, coyotes, loons
Clean air - smells clean
Clean water - Nubanusit Lake is one of the cleanest lakes in New Hampshire. You can see 35 feet down
Granite Lake tests OK
Center Pond: same houses as 65 years ago
Bears: an indicator of a healthy environment
Vegetation in Great Meadows also is an indication of a healthy environment
No loosestrife in Great Meadows
Lots of scenic and functional roads
Strong interest in preserving these components. Those who move here have self-selected.

Committee Response: Concerns about Community Look and Feel
Loss of upland birds
No dairy cows
Loosestrife is on the move
Canada Geese increase in population on Center Pond: last year 2, this year 6
Roads: width of road creeps
Population: way more than 3 houses on lots of roads
Visible impact of driveways
More population equals more traffic, noise, road dust, and the need for speed limits
Taxes: pricing town out of reach, view tax
DSL is coming. Could make it easier to work anywhere - could shift our population
Zoning and price:
  Where can people build?
  Available land to absorb younger people moving in
viewed as both strengths and weaknesses
Wires obscure the beauty of the Town Common (electric spaghetti)
Employment opportunities
Communication about local hiring: no way to get the word out
  Just signs on trees
'Word of Mouth' needs a center
The old library - what is its future?

**Community Look and Feel: Visions for the Future**
Cluster housing: if there is to be growth, preserve open spaces
Hi-speed internet
Parks - preserve open space that people can use
More open space
Town beach
ID key visual points
Inventory and access public and private guide
Historic buildings: list or register
Quarry, brickyards
ID trails, Trail maps
Town forest with viewing points and trails
Forest habitat description: example
    Geo-caching special places with access and permission to use
Expansion of formally conserved lands
Communication vehicles:
    A local place to go (store)
    Improving them
    Make sure they hit everyone
    More than a virtual community
Inventories of:
    Trails
    Buildings
    Habitats
    Quarries
    Brickyards
    Natural and historic resources
    for preservation and access, living space for 15% growth (potential conflicts)
Internet can lessen community engagement
Town consensus on the value of aesthetics versus other values
    Private luxury
    How to achieve consensus
    Issue erupts through many venues
    Aesthetics - look & feel
    Maybe we need to take it on
    Hold discussions on the differences between aesthetics and practicality
    Recognize the tensions
    Discuss diverse opinions
    Practicality of aesthetics

**Community Look and Feel: Key Issues for Now and the Future**
1. Potential conflict between legally conserved lands and living space for 15% growth.
2. Improving communication vehicles, including a local place to go, making sure that everyone is reached.
3. Natural and historic resource inventory for preservation and public access information and location of trails, buildings, wildlife habitats, quarries, and brickyards.
4. Balance between value of aesthetics and value of practicality varies in town. We need to recognize differences and learn to discuss.
5. Internet/virtual community versus local community engagement.

9. ECONOMIC VITALITY: STABILITY THROUGH DIVERSITY

Committee Response: Strengths in Economic Vitality

Businesses/occupations in Nelson:
- Town of Nelson
- Tucker's
- Tolman Pond
- Maple syrup
- Logging
- Work at home
- Scanlans
- Artists
- Musicians
- Home repair
- Hutchins
- Apple Hill
- Single-person companies
- Teachers
- Cheshire Med
- Markem
- Keene State College
- Antioch
- NH Lake Association
- Horse lessons
- Farming
- Sawmill
- Home schools
- Construction
- Contractors
- Land developers
- Upholstery
- Childcare
- Consulting
- Yankee ingenuity

We are creative about how we make and spend our money
We are frugal as a town - we spend wisely - a lot is done with volunteers
Safe place to live, feel safe here
Lots of free or inexpensive stuff to do
Outdoors: lakes, forests, etc
Indoors: Apple Hill, contra dance, reading
Fresh air
Tourists and summer people
People who don't use our services like the school, but there's no place for them to spend money in our town
'Hotel Nelson' was great for community building
Our unique lifestyle is attractive

Committee Response: Concerns about Economic Vitality
Taxes cause families to leave town
No single employer
Environmentally sound?
Mostly Lake Associations help
Instability in local economy - very dependent on larger economy
Cottages on the lake - taxes may drive old-timers out
   Because property taxes are everything
   Don't want to go too far with biz tax incentives
What happened to the Artists' Collective?
   Existed for 5 years
   Hard to get volunteers to Gallery sit
   Had good traffic though
We also have writers
Can we get town revenue from the local artists/musicians/writers?
All business services are missing:
   No real estate agents/agencies
   No garages
   No eldercare
   No Friendly Meals
   No office (space)
   No copy shop
Use the Safety Barn for coffee shop
Wages: huge differential
Kids who (grow up here) and leave don't have a reason to come back
Housing is expensive now, and hard to buy if you don't already own
Better internet would help people live here and work elsewhere
No rental office or studio space
No business services
Taxes drive people away, especially the 'lake people'
Library has limited hours and not enough technology
Not all families use the Library
Library is 'old tech', is it going to be out-of-date
No place to have a meeting, either a business meeting or a town-type meeting
"Old" town families, especially on the lakes, are getting screwed by the tax system
Summer folk are willing to pay higher prices for lake property
Property taxes are unrelated to income (State Legislature has rules against this)
Does zoning limit cottage industries?
**Economic Vitality: Visions for the Future**
Preserve current economic diversity
Encourage cottage industries like Granite Lake Pottery, furniture makers, etc
Bed & Breakfast in town again
General store that supports itself
Post Office
Summer camp for kids (to employ teens)
Dance camp, music camp - traditional
Small, self-supporting office building
More farms/agriculture/CSA
Farmers' Market
No widening and straightening of the roads
Tax problem isn't worse than today

**Economic Vitality: Key Issues for Now and the Future**
1. Lack of a store/coffee shop/post office/place to sell local produce, etc
2. Increase and attract cottage industries:
   - Better internet
   - Small shared office complex
   - Place for artists to present and to teach
3. Need an affordable tax system to maintain economic diversity - long term residents/new arrivals
4. Need elder care and child care services
5. Encourage nonprofits to hire local people

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**10. GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT: ARE WE PLANNING WELL?**

**Committee Response: Strengths in Local Business**
Summer population
Welding/ironwork
Sawmill
Apple Hill
Rental property
Farmers/sheep
Maple syrup
Artists of all stripes
Music
Events: concerts, weddings, etc., at Town Hall
Church events: dinners, fundraisers
Trades people: Carpenters, electricians, etc.

**Committee Response: Concerns about Local Business**
Don't know who does what:
   - In town or work at a company (e.g. - Cushing)
Assume out of town/bigger companies are better
Lack of promotion/skills inventory of Nelson
Lack of a teenage Job Corps
Lack of a clearinghouse
Have to travel to buy anything
Lack of commercial zoning
Lack of high speed for everyone
Lack of affordable housing

**Local Business: Visions for the Future**
After these small group discussions each group selected one member to present five key issues to the full group the following morning. Each group entrusted their notes to one member who passed them on to the facilitator for safekeeping. We adjourned for the evening, to return in the morning to continue the good work we had begun.

**SATURDAY MORNING**

**KEY ISSUES**

Townspeople reassembled at the Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music bright and early Saturday morning and were greeted by hot coffee and tea and delicious baked goods contributed by Bagel Works of Keene.

There were a few folks there who had not been present Friday evening and they soon felt the enthusiasm of the rest of the group. Similarly, a few members of the Friday small groups were missing. However, most of the people were stalwarts who had signed on for both days.

Easels from the small groups of the night before were arrayed across the front of the room, each bearing a list of the five key issues for that topic area. Our working day began with short presentations from a member of each of the groups, explaining their group's list. Jack Calhoun, the Community Forum facilitator, then presented us with his version of a condensed list of the overarching issues that he felt had come up repeatedly in various ways in the small group lists.

1. Cooperatives
2. Taxation/Land Use
3. Communication Among Residents
4. Family Services
5. History & Natural Resources
6. Communication & Mentoring
7. Group Gathering & Community Gathering Spaces
8. Transportation
9. Shared Infrastructure
PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION

Next, participants chose which of the key issues they would like to discuss further and broke into small groups accordingly. The task of each group was to think about problems that existed in each area and then to brainstorm possible solutions/answers to the issue identified. We did this by thinking out loud for half an hour or so about "problems" and "goals" and then we suggested “solutions”, from practical to fanciful to idealistic. The next step was to evaluate the reality of each possible solution/project based on an impact/feasibility grid that included the following:

Impact: How much will it matter?
- High
- Moderate
- Low

Feasibility: How possible is it in our community?
- Low
- Moderate
- High

The group decided together what the feasibility and impact of each solution would be. Then we placed sticky notes in the appropriate box.

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

1. COOPERATIVES

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed
Lots of folks doing arts, crafts, agriculture, but no one helping with the learning and selling, or defining the infrastructure
Artists are isolated, and unorganized
People don’t know who is doing what in order to get feedback
Non-professionals need support, too
Performers need an audience
Agriculture needs a market, shared knowledge, shared tools and shared space
Folks who do crafts, as well as hobbyists, want to share knowledge and get connected. They want to learn and to pass their knowledge on
We don’t know about all of the skills we have
No unified forum to find out what’s available: teaching, listening, performing
Some things have existed, such as afterschool groups and an art gallery. We want to do things so that they are successful and on going
Some of our efforts have failed before
We need to find volunteers
Everything is segmented. Members of groups, or of multiple groups, get overwhelmed
Artists are not often good business people – organization could help
Craftspeople are good at creating, not selling
Performers need ways to get out there
All need business skills
Vermont has branded maple syrup – could we have branded “Nelson” arts, crafts, etc?
We don’t get to make connections with people outside Nelson
Agriculture in the Monadnock Region: it’s not about connecting to New York City, it’s about connecting locally with Cheshire County and the Monadnock Region
People would like to garden but do not have land
People work full-time and do not have time to grow veggies or raise animals
It’s hard to connect to the larger Nelson community about their ideas or products.
“Let all of us see, touch, smell, what we have here in Nelson.”

Goals
Nelson has a brand. Nelson has a reputation. We have character. We could use this to bring people to Nelson. Putting us ‘out there’ would bring people to Nelson, artists, etc., - a cultural exchange

Possible Solutions
Use town land for a community garden/greenhouse
Use smaller pieces of land for a garden, etc.
Find central land for garden/greenhouse
Find landowners who want to share space for a garden, etc
CSA
Publish a Directory of craftspeople, artists, resources
Find a recreation center with acoustically good rehearsal space for performers
Parley to share skills about a particular art or craft
Form an artists collective with retreats for specific arts
Develop Nelson’s artistic identity
Form a searchable online directory for resources for the arts as well as home skills
Bring in speakers with specific skills or knowledge
Form an artists’ collective that is loose that covers a lot of needs, with accountability to each other
Use public spaces, like the church kitchen, to can veggies together
Set up a way to share the ‘big’ items: wood planer, commercial kitchen
Directory of tangible resources: planer, etc.

Project Evaluations

High Impact/High Feasibility:
CSA
Develop Nelson Artistic Identity
Set up a way to share the big items: planer, commercial kitchen, etc
Farmer’s Market: art, sell veggies, crafts, like Harlow’s in Putney
**High Impact/Medium Feasibility:**
Form an Artists Collective with retreats for specific arts
Bring in artist speakers with specific skills or knowledge
Parley to share skills about a specific art or craft
Form a searchable online Directory for resources for arts, home skills
Find central land for garden/greenhouse
Use Town land for a community garden/greenhouse
One Directory
Resources and equipment
Skills, talents
Products and services
Perennials
Volunteering
Directory of tangible resources; wood planer, etc.
Find landowners who want to share space for gardens, etc.
Use small pieces of land for gardens
Directory of artists, craftspeople, resources
Recreation center with rehearsal space with good acoustics

**High Impact/Low Feasibility:**
Artists Collective that is loose, covers a lot of needs, with accountability to each other
Use public spaces, like the church kitchen, to can veggies together
Public Art shows and Tours

**Medium Impact/Medium Feasibility:**
Place to sell products online
Teach artists how to do it

**Proposals for Large Group**
One Directory:
Resources and equipment
Skills
Talents
Products
Services
Perennials
Volunteering
Place to sell products online
Public Art shows and tours
Barn with a café to show art, sell veggies, crafts, like Harlow’s in Putney
Farmers’ Market
Artists’ Collective that covers a lot of needs, like business skills and more, with accountability to each other
2. TAXATION/LAND USE

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed
Flexibility in zoning
Q – How much growth can Nelson absorb?
Cluster housing not currently possible
Current zoning – what is it and how/why is it?
Zoning too restrictive
There is not a clear definition what ‘rural character’ is
Cycles in population: we are in a down cycle. Fewer kids nationally
It’s a danger to associate zoning with tax structure
Town does not restrict partially completed houses
Demographics: no strategy plan as to population growth
Unless demographics shift, Nelson school would be unable to be sustained
No matter what zoning changes occur, local school is still too expensive

Possible Solutions
Do nothing
Develop growth management ordinance
Zoning examined in a different light
Citizens decide what growth they want
‘Master Plan’ may define these
Encourage lower and higher income housing
Lower taxes
Consolidate school with 50% of the savings to be put into a college school fund
Create info/education about zoning/demographics issues to increase awareness
Develop ways to keep $$$ in town, i.e. consolidated middle school
Zoning understood as a tool for community building

Project Evaluations

High Impact/High Feasibility:
Schools 50% savings in college funds

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility:
Consolidate school/lower taxes

High Impact/Low Feasibility:
Growth management plan – have/use Master Plan

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility:
Encourage lower income housing

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility:
Middle school to Nelson
Zoning understood as a tool for community building
Develop ways to keep $$$ in town
**Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility:**
Create information education awareness

**Low Impact/Low Feasibility:**
Do nothing
Zoning! Let evolve!

**Proposals for Large Group**
Have and use a Master plan and include a growth management plan
Consolidate schools to lower taxes
Education/Information in order to create awareness of impacts and the implications of change upon the ‘big picture’

### 3. COMMUNICATION AMONG RESIDENTS

**Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed**

**Centralized info:**
Physical: town has hubs, not just one place (ex. Brick Schoolhouse has bulletin board)
Good examples: signage this summer was good; website – sponsored by the library
Personal connections needed – outreach
Print: Grapevine (4x), NCC newsletter
Website: easy to find, more info, more timely, easy to use, Moving In Step email
Neighborhood associations

**What to communicate:**
Skills, services
Events and programs, clubs, groups
Jobs
Want/need
Activities, sign-ups, (volunteer, participate, fun, and fellowship)
Spontaneous things to do, help, join, enjoy
Public access to post items/chat
Nelson Facebook page – “Friend” everyone in town
Physical communication needed for those without computers
Phone trees
People with computers adopt those without
How to engage people to ask for help (emergency, ongoing)
Safety net needed
Neighborliness – how to enhance
How to find out about new people in town/get info (is it private?)
Welcome wagon
Facebook

**Goals**
Enhance existing communication
Grapevine
Signage
Website with link to Moving In Step and Newsletter
Search engine optimization
More use of the library
Establish new communication
Facebook
Pamphlet handed out by the Town to all new residents, available at the Library
Centralized information (pdf)
Increase face-to-face/personal connections
Phone tree
Neighborhood groups
People with computers ‘adopt’ those without
Coffee klatch
Safety net
Library – add hours

Possible Solutions
Pamphlet so people could have information, choose to participate
Hand out by Town when aware of new people
Grapevine – other sign-ups
Businesses in town, services, babysitters
Groups – contact info, times
Regular events/programs
Skills
Who to call in an emergency
School, town government contacts
Library hours
All information in one, concise place
Coffee shop

Project Evaluations

High Impact/High Feasibility:
Coffee shop
Personal outreach

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility:
Pamphlet
Easy to find and comprehensive website

High Impact/Low Feasibility:
Signs
Grapevine

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility:
Phone trees
Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility:
Neighborhood groups

Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility:
Facebook

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility:
Coffee klatch

Proposals for Large Group
Enhance existing communication; Grapevine/signage/website with link to Moving In Step newsletter, search engine optimization, more use of the library
Establish new communication:
Facebook, pamphlet to be handed out by the Town to new residents, available at the Library, centralized information, .pdf.
Increase face-to-face, personal communication:
Phone tree, neighborhood groups, people with computers adopt those without, coffee klatch, add Library hours, build citizens’ safety net

4. FAMILY SERVICES

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed
Nelson’s population is aging and those who are aging want to stay in their homes
There’s no assisted living, if people can’t stay in their homes
No child care
Young families can’t afford to live here
The cost of educating the children is going up; it’s a tax burden on the elderly
We need to re-think our ideas of community/family
Existing help isn’t formalized
People can’t drive at night when they get older
No ‘community house’ which could be used for after school/elderly care
We are spread out geographically

Goals
A community house
Adult day care
Respite care at night
After school care
Garden
Organized space for activities
Town/community minivan
Services organized to help people stay in their homes
Artists/musicians to offer after school programs
Formation of a group to:
Do a needs assessment survey
Find out what resources are available

Possible Solutions
Do nothing

Project Evaluations

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility:
Community house

High Impact/Low Feasibility:
Formation of a group to do a needs assessment survey

Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility:
Afterschool programs for ‘latch-key’ needs and Saturday programs
Town/community minivan

Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility:
Organize services for the elderly as they stay in their own homes

Proposals for Large Group
Community House
Organize services so that the elderly can remain in their homes
Develop afterschool and Saturday programs with artists, musicians, and craftspeople mentoring

5. HISTORY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed
Retain Nelson’s natural sense
Update natural/historical features resources
Consider your user
Due to expanding population there will be increased pressure on our natural resources
We have the opportunity to protect more open space
More opportunities to document and educate our historical/natural heritage for all generations
Reduce energy demand over all
Maximize energy resources
How to encourage the use of land for agriculture
Educate, motivate, “incentiate” voluntary simplicity
Concern for future generations
Quiétude and feng shui
How to get people to talk about Great Meadow outside of Town Meeting

Possible Solutions
Enforce town ordinances and state laws against noise, protecting natural features, stonewalls
Create a Field Guide to Nelson with maps, trails, cellar holes, etc.
Organize hikes to special places
Incorporate wildlife habitat protection in town planning
Consider feasibility of town forest and forest management plan
Educating us
Educating school-aged children
Support open space and open space committee with the Conservation Commission
Encourage citizens to contact US Congress to increase tax incentive

**Project Evaluations**

*High Impact/High Feasibility:*
Enforce town ordinances and State laws against noise; protecting natural features and stonewalls
Support open space and create open spaces committee with Conservation Commission

*High Impact/Moderate Feasibility:*
Educating school age children

*High Impact/Low Feasibility:*
Educating us
Form an Energy Commission
Support an Agricultural Commission

*Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility:*
Incorporate wildlife habitat protection in town planning
Consider feasibility of town forest and forest management plan

*Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility:*
Organize hikes to Nelson’s special places
Encourage citizens to contact the US Congress to increase tax incentives

*Low Impact/Moderate Feasibility:*
Create a field guide to Nelson with maps, trails, cellar holes, etc.

**Proposals for Large Group**
Establish a committee for the education of adults and children around our natural resources, preserving the ‘feel’ of Nelson (organizing a field guide, hikes, trail maps, etc.)
Establish an Energy Commission
Establish an Open Space Committee

**6. COMMUNICATION AND MENTORING**

**Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed**
Increase volunteerism and leadership in the community
Develop a Welcome Wagon to show newcomers ‘the ropes’ and make them feel welcome
Stakeholders:
Old timers
Reclusives
Commuters
Artisans
New people
Youth
Outgoing individuals
Entrepreneurs
Summer people
The elderly
Our leadership

How do we communicate everything to such a diverse population?

Resources:
Town Report
Church/Grapevine mailing list/‘Meeting House’ mailer
Yellow phone directory
Moving In Step list and email
Nelson School’s list of children and parents
Emergency plan list
Hope’s list
Bulletin boards in Munsonville and Nelson
Voter checklist
Dave Birchenough’s renters list
Web page
Word of mouth
Sentinel
Signs

What is important to communicate?
Events in town
Emergencies
School
Volunteer Opportunities
Skills and talents database
Point person for help/who to call

Possible Solutions
Identify potential projects/solutions
Welcome Wagon package
Town orientation
Skills list
Permits
Town offices hours
Coordinator of communications, voted upon or a hired position
Map
Calendar
Circle of caring with point person
Outreach
Database for skills
Communications committee
Professional/new leader training
Next generation mentoring

**Project Evaluations**

*High Impact/Low Feasibility:*
Circle of Caring group with point person
Calendar
Outreach committee: finding volunteers, cultivating leaders
Communications committee
Coordinator of communications
Welcome Wagon package
Skills list/database

*Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility:*
Annotated maps
Next generation mentoring
Professional development/new leadership training
Clerk/town’s checklist/master list

**Proposals for Large Group**
Form a Communications Committee/Welcome Wagon/Town ‘rules’ and regulations/Community Calendar
Build a Skills and Talents database/Circle of Caring/Neighbor to Neighbor: build a survey and Master List
Develop an education and awareness program to mentor the next generation/outreach

7. **GROUP GATHERING AND COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES**

**Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed**
Nelson does not have a ‘natural’ gathering place, such as:
- Town ‘dump’
- Post office
- Store
- Beach

Need a place to ‘hang out’
Nelson is organized into neighborhoods
- Granite Lake
- Village Green
- Tolman Pond
There’s no place to talk about day-to-day happenings
It’s difficult to get involved in networks
No place for card games
No playground in the village or some of the other neighborhoods
No place for children/teens to gather that also works for adults
Communication around what already exists

**Possible Solutions**
Community center with committee
Old Library building
Start weekly gatherings – perhaps at the Safety Building?
Coffee house
Gathering
Open mike
Store – economic need to keep it open – not dependent on volunteerism
Co-op run store for more viability
Town subsidized store
Paid position to organize gatherings
Bring other types of dancing to Nelson with instructors and classes
Additions on Town Hall or Brick Schoolhouse
Post office
Community meals/lunch
Mail building instead of outdoor boxes (woodstove and coffee)
Card house/game place
Games on the Green
Community/neighborhood playgrounds
Add Moving In Step to Nelson sign
School building as a community space (after hours)

**Project Evaluations**

*High Impact/High Feasibility:*
Post office in Nelson
Store (economics vs. volunteerism/Co-op?/Subsidized?)
Buy Granite Lake Pottery and convert it into a Community Center
Make the old Library into a Community Center

*High Impact/Moderate Feasibility:*
Community Center with a committee using existing space

*Moderate Impact/High Feasibility:*
Neighborhood playgrounds

*Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility:*
Paid part-time position to organize gatherings
Community playground
“Post Office” – move the boxes to the front of a building
**Moderate Impact/Low Feasibility:**
Other types of dance nights
Games on the green
Start weekly gatherings: cards, games, coffee house open mike/perhaps at the Safety Building
Community meals, community lunches

**Proposals for Large Group**
Open a store/cafe/co-op marketplace – a place people ‘need’ to go and will bump into others as a result
Establish a community playground/park – supports both children and parent needs for gathering (school as a community center after hours)

8. TRANSPORTATION

**Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed**
Elderly, driving difficulties
Young people, no license
Communication
Carbon footprint/environmental issues
Flexibility/timing

**Goals**
School bus, consistent weekdays
Keene to Concord bus line?
Trolley
Carpooling
Ride boards

**Possible Solutions**
Ride Boards (online community)
Carpools
Minivan service (with loops)
Special trips
Bus service
One-on-one dispatched ride service

**Project Evaluations**

*High Impact/High Feasibility:*
Minivan service (with loops)
Special trips

*High Impact/Low Feasibility:*
Ride boards (online community)
Car pools
**Moderate Impact/Moderate Feasibility:**
One-on-one dispatched ride service
Bus service from Keene to Concord with a line that would go through Nelson

**Proposals for Large Group**
Carpool, a ride board – either online or in community bulletin
One-on-one dispatched service (elderly can call for rides when needed)
Requires flexibility
Minibus, route around Nelson and Keene/Peterborough
Requires flexibility

9. **SHARED INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Clarification of the problem/issue to be addressed**
Spaces for gathering
Underutilized buildings
Need to preserve the Town Hall
Lack of shared resources with neighboring towns (transfer station: Harrisville)
How to share school
Resource sharing/weighing costs
Need to put community outreach somewhere
Utilization of public vs. private non-profit spaces
Need to share personal resources inter-town
Need for regionalization
Need for high-speed internet
Need for more public recreational spaces
Roads

**Goals**
Affordability
Better services/safety
Bringing people together
Preserving social fabric/rural identity

**Spaces**
School
Town Hall
Center Pond landing
Granite Lake boat landing
Safety building
Library
Old library
Town Offices
Town Barn
Fire Station
Possible Solutions
Regionalization of fire, rescue, police
Participation in the school forum on 11/13
Shared Nelson/Harrisville education system: K – 4 in Nelson; 5 – 8 in Harrisville
Hitch with Harrisville transfer
Road guidelines
Community use of school – after school and summers
Upgrade of safety building/room for special events
Extend/expand accessibility
Town beach
Expand internet through Warrant Article – subsidize rural internet

Project Evaluations

High Impact/Moderate Feasibility:
Shared Nelson/Harrisville educational system
Expand internet through Warrant Article/subsidize rural internet

High Impact/Low Feasibility:
Regionalization of fire/rescue/police
Extend and expand accessibility – hours, ease of use (non ADA)
After school/summer use and community use of the school building
Use of the safety building/room for social events
Upgrade library basement for community gatherings
High-speed internet committee to work with vendor
Hitch with Harrisville transfer
Participation in the School Forum on 11/13

Moderate Impact/High Feasibility:
Roads guidelines
Town beach

Proposals for Large Group
Form a committee to study the feasibility of regionalization of certain town services to improve efficiency and reduce costs: transfer station, town administrators, fire, rescue, schools, and roads
Investigate existing public spaces for expanded community use: school, library, safety building
Form a committee to assess internet need and negotiate with possible vendors
Use town spaces, both public and private for arts and agriculture (church kitchen to can veggies)
PROJECT SELECTION

Jack Calhoun, our facilitator, led a short discussion about how some of these projects overlapped, and how we might combine them into a final project directory upon which to vote. Once consolidated, participant then received four adhesive dots to select the projects he/she thought were important for Nelson. Each voter placed their four dots by dividing them as they pleased. The projects receiving the most votes would then be discussed in small groups.

The list of project ideas follows, and the number of votes each received is noted. Some of these ideas, even though receiving only a few votes, have further overlapped and fallen naturally into selected projects. While others, not receiving enough votes to make it to the top six, should not be forgotten, as they are welcome any time.

44  Create a directory/database that lists skills, talents, resources, equipment, products, services, perennials to share, available volunteers

42  Form a committee to study the feasibility of regionalization of certain town services to improve efficiency and reduce costs (transfer station/fire/rescue/school/roads)

41  Conduct an investigation of existing public and private spaces for expanded community use (school/library/safety building), for the arts and agriculture, rehearsal space, meetings, shared garden space, church kitchen to can veggies

37  Open a store/caf\é/co-op/marketplace – a place people need to go to and will “bump into” others as a result

26  Establish a committee for the education of adults and children around natural resources, preserving the “feel” of Nelson (field guide, hikes, trail maps, etc)

22  Have and use a Master Plan – include a Growth Management Plan

21  Structure and communicate regular community activities: cards, games, lunches, meals, movies, dances, etc. Incorporate a “Welcome Wagon”, a community calendar, a communications committee, a “rules and regulations” pamphlet, circle of caring/neighbor-to-neighbor

21  Create a carpool service, or a ‘ride board’, online in community bulletin, one-on-one dispatched service (elderly can call for rides when needed)

17  Organize services for the elderly to enable them to stay in their own homes

15  Enhance existing communications, such as the Grapevine, signage, link a website to Moving In Step newsletter with search engine optimization

12  Form a “Loose Artists” Collective (visual, writing, music, etc.) that covers a lot of needs like business skills and more, with accountability to each other

9  Create a community playground/park – support both the children and the parents’ need for gathering (school as a community center after hours)

6  Establish an Energy Commission

6  Establish new communications, such as Facebook, printed town pamphlet given to new arrivals, create centralized information – pdf

5  Establish an Open Space Committee

4  Create an education/awareness program to mentor the next generation (of leaders) to include an outreach program

4  Create a committee to educate and dispense information that builds awareness of the ‘Big Picture’ and the implications of change
3 Community House
2 Create a minibus route around Nelson and Keene and Peterborough
1 Form a committee to assess Internet need and negotiate with possible vendors
1 Organize after school and Saturday programs with Nelson artists, musicians, craftsmen, etc. (a mentoring program)
1 Increase face-to-face/personal communication using a phone tree, neighborhood groups, computer adoptees, coffee klatch, library hours, build a citizen safety net
1 Consolidate the schools, study effect on taxes to lower taxes

ACTION STEPS

As the group evaluated the results of their selections, they decided to focus on the six projects with the most votes. They also decided to combine some points from other groups with fewer votes in order to enhance the projects.

Participants once again self-selected themselves into small groups according to the topic that most interested them. These groups would function as a committee for the afternoon, brainstorming who else in the community might be interested in joining the group later, and who in town is already working on the issue and might be looking to collaborate.

Each group was asked to define the following:
- Critical Steps to Implementation
- Resources Needed
- Principal Leadership (group or individual)
- Potential Obstacles with Possible Strategies to Overcome Them
- Timeline for Implementation
- Action Step Coordinator

Some of the groups used these steps as a way to focus their discussions and notes, while others did not. Hence, the reports that follow are in a number of different formats:

1. CREATE A RESOURCE DIRECTORY

Critical Steps To Implementation
Definition of the Resource Directory:
Create an avenue where skills, talents, products, and services can be bought, sold, or bartered.

Goals of the Resource Directory:
Sharing of information, resources, networking, and community involvement.
To help facilitate connections between people with a centralized locus of information.
It needs to always be up-to-date, and updatable. It should be of a low cost to produce.

Who Would Benefit
People with something to sell
People who wish to add value to their lives and connect more with other people
People looking for services
Residents and non-residents
People with items to share
People looking for items to use for a short period of time
Educators
Town projects
Selectmen

**Resources Needed**
Leadership for this committee
Hardware and software
Funding, donations
Paper and pencil
Data collection points or portals
A budget
List of residents and new residents as they arrive in town (ask Terri Upton)
Volunteers
Information from people in other towns who have done this
Internet access

**Principal Leadership**
Linda Singer
John Zurich

Who Should We Get On Board?
Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larsen
Gordon Peery
Karen Tolman
Dave Birchenough

**Existing Examples**
Back page of the Grapevine
Word of mouth
MIS Phone Directory
Stonewall Farm Directory of Resources
NH Council on the Arts Directory
Service Link: Southwestern Community Services
Church directory
League of NH Craftsmen & Sharon Arts Center
Google maps – Search
Keene/Peterborough Chambers of Commerce
Town Report
Monadnock Art Tour

**Potential Obstacles**
Keeping it updated
Cost
Privacy Concerns
Tracking down the Nelson ‘hermits’
Tracking the summer people
Having the right equipment and having access to it
Question: who owns the data?
Liability
Figuring out the form fields and categorization
Remember that a lot of people don’t have internet access or don’t want to use the computer
Photos

Possible Solutions
Update the information yearly with an annual survey or phone call
Confirm privacy and accuracy before publication
Sell advertising
Sell the final document

Timeline
Create fields for a database
Decide if we want to keep the Directory just for the Nelson/Munsonville folk or for folks who live beyond the borders
Think about the privacy/liability issues
Create a budget
Find funding/sponsors
Contact a printer and get printing costs
Publicity
Make a decision: should the Directory be online, hard copy, or both?
Decide on distribution points
Get more people involved: recruitment
Create a prototype and conduct a test run

Action Step Coordinators
Linda Singer  singerlinda54@yahoo.com  847-3135
John Zurich  john.zurich@gmail.com  827-3849

First Meeting
Friday, October 01, 2010 @ 7:00 pm

2. A GATHERING PLACE

Critical Steps To Implementation
Goals & Objectives: To create a common place where you will ‘bump into’ others.
Identify a place where people need to go.
Define the parameters: co-op, ambience
Open for a gallery/exhibit place
Talent exchange – goods – resources
Meet tangible community needs
Post office
Place with: coffee, knitting area, NY Times, for all ages, pool table, ping pong, bulletin board

**Existing Examples**
Already have a feasibility study
List of standing groups
Master Plan
Church Study (NCC)

**Potential Obstacles**
Money, funding
Volunteers
Leadership
Sustainability

**Mission Statement**
To create a physical space that will serve as an exchange of goods, services and ideas in order to foster a sense of community.

**Principal Leadership**
Identify Town officials to involve (Trisha)
Solicit family involvement
Identify a cross-section of residents: seasonal, farmers, families, retired, youth, artists, recluses

**Action Step Coordinators**
Beth Williams

**Action Steps**
Schedule a meeting before November 10, 2010
Post the meeting date with Candyce, signage, and word of mouth
Investigate the feasibility of having a Post Office
Research existing venues like the Harrisville Store and others
Compile studies from the Town and the church (NCC)
Do a canvas of the residents to uncover needs and interests, focused on this particular space
Investigate possible space(s)

3. **ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE FOR NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION**

**Broad Goals and Outcome**
Combine the history of Nelson with walking and hiking
Learning and doing
Entice families into the community
Guidelines for public access to private land
Educate our children and ourselves on wise stewardship of natural resources
Help both adults and children appreciate natural resources
Natural history component – spreading knowledge – e.g. guided walks
Define the feel of Nelson – road width, tree coverage, retain measure of antiquity
Consensus around what the feel of Nelson is
What is the agenda behind the education effort?

**Objectives**
Provide a resource for natural and historical resources education
Preserve the rural character

**Action Steps**
Create a Trail Guide with guidelines for etiquette
Create a schedule of guided walks – a calendar – use Facebook
Create a Historic Sites Guide
Some signage, GPS coordinates, geocaches
Create an inventory of people with expertise
Identify special habitat locations
Mark the seasonal changes

**Who Would Benefit**
More people would use the woods
We would preserve what we have
Identify forest management resources

**Existing Initiatives**
Harris Center Guides and the Nelson School programs
Monday – Sunday Trail Guides
Old Roads
Lead Mine Tour materials
Ethan Tolman’s Brickyard Tour
Julie Tilden and Phil Brown’s Bird Walks
The Audubon Society
Jeff Littleton’s Great Meadows slide shows
The History Roundtable
Nelson School’s gardening themes
Sheep farmers

**Potential Obstacles**
Privacy
Landowner rights
Getting permission
Research
Labor-intensive project
Financing

**Possible Solutions**
Research Recreational Adjustment
There are good models out there – start with a small piece
Charge for the Guide download?
Grants?

**Resources Needed**
- Material
- Funding
- Printing
- Existing documents
- Source materials
- People:
  - Frankie Tolman, Barry Tolman, Bert Wingerson, Ethan Tolman, Harris Center,
  - Renn Tolman, Ted Lenk, Ann McBride, Marshall Davenson

**Action Steps**
- ID a small project – a Class 6 road or a trail
- Get related permissions
- Find good models: Sun – Mon Trail Guide? Francestown kiosk
- Define product: size, media, “Short Hikes in Nelson”
- Distribution: websites

**Timeline**
- Lead the first hike in the Spring
- Walk the Sun – Mon trail with the Guide and see how it works in the Fall of 2010
- Find good models and examine them

**First Steps**
- Organize a hike
- Invite Francestown and Chesterfield contacts to come and share process and guides

**First Meeting Agenda**
- Sunday, October 3, 2010 at 1:00 pm at the home of Linda Cates and Tom Murray
- Hike
- Meeting debrief

4. **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

**Goals and Objectives**
- Form an “Activities Committee”
- List current activities already available
- Conduct a survey for kinds of activities that have citizen value
- Build a plan and disseminate the information (clearing house)
- Establish “Welcome Nelson Newcomers” (WNN)
Planning
1. Gather committee representation form or a contact person from all demographics
2. List of existing initiatives/activities:
   a. Monday Nite Contra Dances
   b. NELLs Luncheon – held on Wednesday once a month in Keene
   c. First Tuesday Teas – rotates monthly on the first Tuesday in a Nelson/Munsonville residence
   d. Wednesday Academy – rotates homes weekly (Bonnie Riley)
   e. Two book groups: Library group, monthly on a Monday; Ladies’ Book Group, Sunday (rotates homes)
   f. Summer Nelson Forum at the library, Thursday evenings in July
   g. Moving In Step 1st Thursday Pot Luck suppers
   h. Saturday Night contra dances
   i. Monadnock Folklore Society (various)
   j. Old Home Day/Week
   k. Church suppers, Boy Scout suppers, PTO breakfasts and suppers
   l. Mock Drive-In movie
   m. 5K Run (Linda’s Closet)
   n. Apple Hill concerts every Tuesday in the summer
   o. Swimming group (Susan Kingsbury)
   p. Out-of-the-Woodwork concert
   q. Annual PTO Auction
3. Create a survey to list current activities
   a. Add a Committee List if possible
   b. Add space for additional suggestions
   c. “Calling All Volunteers” on survey
   d. Ask for times/days

Action Steps
Compile a list of current activities (per Forum notes)
Finalize survey criteria
Create and distribute survey ($$)
Identify “Welcoming Ambassadors”
Compile the survey results
Identify welcoming package ($$)

Leadership
Betsey Church betseyrick@gmail.com 847-3206
Anne McBride armcbride@gmail.com 847-3192

5. REGIONALIZATION

Existing Initiatives
Identify: SAU29; SW Regional Planning; Ambulance; Road equipment; legal assistance
Obstacles
Perception: that this would take away jobs, we would lose control, we would lose our own identity
Resistance from residents: (turf)
Perception that the loss of our school = loss of status
People make the assumption of loss rather than gain
Perception of the response times for fire and police
Nelson will become ‘nowhere’
State regulations and issues
Loss of autonomy
Many people want KMS and KHS for kids
Send elementary school kids to Keene? Parent objections?
How to overcome state tax structure/property tax

To Do
Compare costs/different scenarios
Have Harrisville representatives at the Nelson School Forum on 11/13

Questions
How to identify tipping point in population changes
How to get a handle on REAL cost savings
Idea: to stay here by doing K – 4 in Nelson and 5 – 8 in Harrisville (or vice versa) and bypass the middle school in Keene

Walk-Through
Join with Harrisville for use of the Transfer Station; Police Department
Share road equipment (with neighboring towns)
The school forum is coming 11/13
Discuss what to do with the empty buildings
Frame everything in a positive way

Goals
Consolidate relative Committees in Harrisville, Stoddard, and others
Form an unofficial committee
Talk to Harrisville Selectmen
Talk to Nelson Selectmen
Unofficial committee to look at:
  Costs, benefits, risks
  Interest in Harrisville
  Identify negative perceptions
  Gather information
Report to Nelson Selectmen (the findings)
Identify others in town who should be part of the Committee
Liaise with Planning and Zoning Boards

First Steps
Go to the Selectmen to form ad hoc committees
Broaden the existing participation – invite representatives from the police, etc.

**Leadership**
Sam Osherson  sam@osherson.com  827-3462
Sandy Mackenzie  kipsandy@gmail.com  847-3404
Russell Thomas  russindawoods@gmail.com  847-9715

6. EXPANDED USE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SPACES

**Goals and Objectives**
Get a list of spaces and their contact person; identify usage costs, utilities, etc
Do a space inventory
Provide a Directory: electronic, print
Make spaces more available (Library / Town Hall connector)
Reduce restrictions (upon use)
Expand (available) hours
Relocate functions, including town board meetings, flu shot clinics, etc

**Initiatives**
Safety Building accessibility
Build Directory of Spaces
Address Library connector issue
Increase use of outdoor space/recreation (school playground, ball field, Center Pond boat landing, cemetery [vacant], town-owned land)
Increase Library hours

**Action Plan**
Build a Directory of Spaces
Develop a worksheet that has all attributes of space usage
Delegate data collection
Collect data
Analyze/review limitations and capacity/usability
Meet with facility point person when timely
Publish Directory (ready for publication by Town Meeting)
Safety Building: meet with Selectmen to address concerns
Library Connector: meet with Selectmen
Space under the Library: meet with the Library Trustees and Selectmen
Outdoor spaces/Recreation: ball field; find out our limitations thru online registry of deeds
Increase the Library hours: discuss with Library Trustees and at Town Meeting

**Leadership**
Kathy Schillemat  kschillemat@yahoo.com  847-9785
Bruce McSheehy  brmcsheehy@yahoo.com  827-3263
CONCLUDING

Each small group reported their plans to the entire group. The full group discussed next steps to keep up momentum from the Forum, with each group appointing someone to represent them on the Moving In Step website. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.
APPENDIX 1: NELSON DEMOGRAPHICS

COMMUNITY PROFILE 2010

Presented by

Lisa Murphy, Senior Planner
Southwest Region Planning Commission
POPULATION CHANGE IN NELSON FROM 1990 TO 2009
# POPULATION COMPARISON

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<td>690</td>
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<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>1,109,252</td>
<td>1,235,786</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>1,420,000</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Data from 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census*
POPULATION RANKING
2009 ESTIMATES

- NELSON ranked 210 out of 234 towns in New Hampshire

- NELSON ranked 22 out of 23 towns in Cheshire County
BUILDING PERMITS
1990-2008

Housing Units Authorized by Permit

- Single Family
- Multi-family
- Mobile Home
COMMUTING PATTERNS

Top Ten Locations where People Living in Nelson Worked in 2000

Keene
Dublin
Peterborough
Harrisville
Nashua
Jaffrey
Greenfield
Westmoreland
Stoddard
Sullivan
INCOME LEVELS
2000 US Census

Households By Household Income

Source: US Census 2000
APPENDIX 2:
NELSON COMMUNITY FORUM VOLUNTEERS AND PARTICIPANTS*

Steering Committee:
Dave Birchenough, Joy Birdsey, Betsey Church, Maury Collins, Candyce Fulford, Susan Hansel, Karen Hersey, Tom Murray, Rich Popovic, Judith Putzel, Kathy Schillemat (chair), Karen Tolman, Priscilla Walter, Pamela White

Facilitators:
Patsy Beffa-Negrini, Lew Derby, Kelly French, Emily Hartshorne, Rick Church, Maury Collins, Sue Kingsbury, Julie Osherson, Sam Osherson, Susan Peery, Jan Perry, Anna Philbrick, Judith Putzel, Pat Rich, Poul Schillemat, Lisa Sieverts, Betsy Street, David Voymas, Pamela White (chair), Beth Williams (Trained: Dave Bower, Heather Bower, Candyce Fulford, Bruce McSheehy)

Fundraising:
Norman Barres, Joy Birdsey, Rick Church (chair), Maury Collins, Michael Cornog, Lew Derby, Susan Hansel, Karen Hersey, Mike Iselin, Judith Putzel, Ed Schillemat, Betsy Street, Karen Tolman, Pamela White

Publicity:
Linda Cates, Candyce Fulford, Rich Popovic, Kathy Schillemat, Karen Tolman (chair), Pamela White

Stakeholders:
Joy Birdsey, Betsey Church (chair), Rick Church, Ruth LeMay, Bruce McSheehy, Tom Murray, Karen Tolman

Set Up:
Richard Anderson, Jack Calhoun, Maury Collins (chair), Lenny Matczynski, Barry Tolman, George Warner, Jr., and Steering Committee Members

Registration:
Dave Birchenough, Anne McBride (chair), Patty Meneses, Cheryl Schillemat, Karen Tolman

Food:
Linda Cates, Betsey Church, Maury Collins, Susan Hansel (chair), Simone Lagace, Charlie Lang, Rita Schillemat, Priscilla Walter

Child Care:
Heather Scanlan, Sarah Scanlan

Parking:
Eric Bower, Samantha French, Elena Mednick, Tom Murray (chair), Geoffrey Schillemat, Barry Tolman
Flowers:
Linda Singer

Power Out Crew:
Richard Anderson, Tom Buttrick, Dave Hersey, Terry Mednick, Priscilla Williams

Clean Up:
Linda Cates, Rick Church, Anne McBride, Daryl Schillemat, Barry Tolman, Tom Tolman, and Steering Committee Members

Final Report:
Candyce Fulford, Karen Tolman, Pamela White

Special Thanks To:
Apple Hill Center for Chamber Music
Candyce Fulford
First Course Catering
Jack Calhoun and Antioch New England Institute
Olivia Rodham Memorial Library
Southwest Region Planning Commission
Ted Lenk and Susan Weaver
The Daryl and Cheryl Schillemat Family
The Works
Wells Memorial School

Participants:
David Beffa-Negrini, Patsy Beffa-Negrini, Larisa Belluscio, Barbara Bennett, Don Bennett, Ronda Berntsen, Dave Birchenough, Joy Birdsey, Margaret Buttrick, Tom Buttrick, Jack Calhoun, Linda Cates, Betsey Church, Rick Church, Martha Collins, Maury Collins, Mike Cornog, Sally Coughlin, William Coughlin, John Cucchi, Laurie Derby, Lewis Derby, Louise Dierker, Christopher Eachus, Kimberly Eachus, Kris Finnegan, Wally Francis, Kelly French, Mike French, Samantha French, Candyce Fulford, Rev. Dawn Garrett-Larson, Warren Hammack, Susan Hansel, Emily Hartshorne, Rebecca Henderson, David Hersey, John Huchra, Mike Iselin, Nina Iselin, Mare-Anne Jarvela, Patricia Jones, Sarah Kim, Susan Kingsbury, Maurice Lagace, Simone Lagace, Judi Lang, Ruth Lemay, Ted Lenk, Kip MacKenzie, Sandy MacKenzie, Lenny Matczynski, Judith Maule, Anne McBride, Anne McCune, Del McCune, Bruce McSheehy, Elena Mednick, Terry Mednick, Patricia Meneses, Kathryn Mullen, Tom Murray, Ian Nelson, Jessica Nelson, Sharon Oliver, Julie Osherson, Sam Osherson, Dave Patek, Susan Peery, Jan Perry, Anna Philbrick, Richard Popovic, Judith Putzel, Carolyn Rainer, Kim Rich, Pat Rich, Heather Scanlan, Linda Scanlan, Daryl Schillemat, Cheryl Schillemat, Duane Schillemat, Geoffrey Schillemat, Katharine Schillemat, Poul Schillemat, Rita Schillemat, Bronson Shonk, Mary Shonk, Lisa Sieverts, Sherry Sims, Linda Singer, Peter Smith, Betsy Street, Jeffrey Taylor, Russ Thomas, Barry Tolman, Karen Tolman, Stacia Tolman, Thomas Tolman, Patrick Troy, Troy Tucker, Katherine Tucker, Val Van Meier, Kathleen Vetter, Tynesha Vizcaino, David Voymas, Priscilla Walter, Susan Weaver, Pamela White, Beth Williams, Priscilla Williams, Bert Wingerson, John Zurich

*With apologies to anyone we may have overlooked.