

Balancing Economic Development & Environmental Stewardship Meeting Notes November 16, 2010

Team Goal: Community members steward both a vibrant economy and our human and natural resources so that all generations thrive.

Next meeting: Tuesday, December 14 at 8:00 am (Tri-County CAP Resource Center)

Attendance: Pat Jones, Ray O'Brien, Noreen Downs, Cyndi Paulin (Dorothy Solomon had time conflict)

- The Team looked through the information that has come back from the towns. We have at least some information back from 15 of 17 towns (just need Sandwich & Hart's Location).
 - Identified 3 key bullets for each topic. The team will review and firm these up at the next meeting and identify actions to go with these.
- Towns are interested in what other towns are doing.
- The team agrees it is important to:
 - Report information learned back to the towns.
 - Post survey results on the website.
 - Have more team members at the next meeting to discuss actions. The diverse input from members over the months has been a key strength of this team.

Broadband

Key observations:

- All towns are serviced by Time Warner except for Wolfeboro (Metrocast) and Chatham (no cable).
- Long span of contracts seems detrimental. Lose knowledge because town representatives turn over and technology changes so fast. Awareness of what contracts contain seems generally low unless towns are in the process of renewing contracts or residents are rallying to get access.
- Having requirements in contracts for expanding service – many towns were unclear if they had any requirements in their contract.
- Providers have communicated that density is the driving factor for expanding services. Identifying broad band coverage within a town seemed like guess work for most – lots of questions.

*Potential Actions-

- Promote I want broadband NH-speed test (maps speeds in NH-See where pockets & holes are).
- Report information back to the towns – towns are interested in what other towns are doing.
- Would the towns likely get better services if they band together? Ask Carol Miller anything other counties doing?
- What if everyone supported Tuftonboro would helping them help others?

- Get representation from each town to get together
- Follow up on Tuftonboro (Noreen), Wolfeboro (Noreen) and Conway (Chuck or Marletta?) to see where they are with their contracts.

Discussion

- Speeds - what are people & businesses looking for?
 - Download and upload speeds are different
- Would people or businesses pay more to expand access?

Master plan

- Encouraging that all towns have Master Plans, 11 of them updated within the past 5 years. It is positive to see towns are playing attention. Would like to see them on-line.
- Eight have a Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) and two are working on them.
- $\frac{3}{4}$ of towns have their regulations available on-line-over (13 of 17)

Discussion

- Is the cost of maintaining a website a barrier to putting a Master Plan or regulations on line?
- It was noted that Fish & Game has high priority natural areas identified and mapped throughout the state with information available on the town level (click [here](#)). There was a question of whether this could substitute for a town individually doing a natural resources inventory?
- Is a NRI something conservation commissions do?
- Opportunity for town workshop-what each town is doing.
- Ossipee Watershed Groundwater Protection Meeting is December 7th at Runnells Hall in Chocorua. The meeting will feature updates on ground water protection ordinances across the 6 towns and a Natural Resources Report Card. This meeting is an example of the kind of cross-town work that Team 4 might look at.
- Follow-up: Look at economic chapters and NRI's?

Business Incentives

- No towns offer business incentives in Carroll County.
- No know state incentives offered to any businesses in Carroll County.
- One known federal "incentive" - grant for workforce housing project in Wolfeboro.

Discussion:

- It is probably a positive that no towns are offering business incentives because:
 - Towns are not competing against one another
 - Research on the effectiveness of incentives shows that they are often not effective in the long-term (businesses that come for incentives may then leave for incentives elsewhere, may cost towns more than they get in return).
- Possible opportunity - if individuals or businesses put in energy efficient systems would towns consider not increasing tax or delaying that increase as an incentive for more people to put energy efficient systems in - double benefit for the

environment and increased business for installers. May be difficult for town's to consider since they are all looking for revenues.

Energy

- 9 towns have completed energy audits and 4 are in progress
- Looks like team needs to reach out to schools to see if they have had energy audits since town contacts often don't know
- Looks like there is an opportunity for towns & schools to work together on energy – perhaps a town wide energy commission that includes town and school representatives.
- Looks like there is an opportunity here for towns to work together

Discussion:

LRPC is working on energy audit project

To do: follow up with schools

Waste & Recycling

MSW=municipal solid waste (Not recycled)

This area is proving to be harder analyze; it is difficult to know if the information that has been gathered is 'parallel' information. Are the budget numbers provided the overall gross budget including staff? Are they cost minus revenue figures?

Goals for this information were to

- 1) come out with a cost per capita figure to share back with the communities so that they could use that information to help them look at their waste & recycling programs.
- 2) look for possible areas of cooperation among towns to potentially reduce costs.

Ray will look through the data we have for a beginning assessment of whether it seems to be on the right track.

Then, need a follow-up conversation with the larger team of what the priorities and objectives are and whether further pursuing this area at this time looks productive.

For next agenda:

- Look at bulleted observations – review and finalize with team
 - What strategies, actions might they logically lead to?
- Broadband – where are Conway, Wolfeboro, Tufonboro with their contracts?
 - Anything team can do to help?
- Decide on waste data team wants and next steps
- Update action plans
- Broadband report to towns – which reports next?