

# CARROLL COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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Editorials, while unsigned, represent a consensus of the  
views of the editorial board of the Granite State News and  
Carroll County Independent.

## We're in this together

As we have reported recently, many towns within our county are hosting community visioning sessions, updating old master plans or creating new ones, and generally, looking for a way to work together and plan their futures.

Skeptics may see these efforts as futile, pie-in-the-sky brainstorming sessions that may generate a lot of good ideas that don't materialize. The best of intentions ultimately dissipate in the light of day and realities of turf wars and funding limits. Many people want to encourage tourism, attract restaurants and bring jobs to the towns, but they do not want added development to negatively impact their communities. Hmmm. Can towns have it both ways? New businesses (insert your own wish list here: car wash, nice restaurant, hotel, clean industry, etc..) should certainly attract customers and customers drive cars, use the roads and public facilities, commit crimes, get into accidents as well as spend money. There's no way around it, development brings change but change is not a bad thing, if you plan for it properly and with a global - or at least, regional - view.

Towns within southern Carroll County each have their own personalities, attributes and problems. The demographics and physical layouts of, say, Ossipee, Wakefield, and Tamworth all differ. But that should not stop community members for trying to work together without regard for town lines. We share similar goals and aspirations. Major roadways, such as Routes 16, 25 and 171, connect us. We have our lakes, rivers and mountains. We share a love for our rural landscape and quiet lifestyle. We are perhaps more alike than different after all.

The most recent brainstorming session, an "aspirations forum," was held in Ossipee this week on Tuesday, and in Wolfeboro on Wednesday. Hosted by the Carroll County Collaborative, the sessions sought to bring stakeholders together to identify and work together on common goals. At the Ossipee forum, resident Josh Arnold made an excellent point or two. He said that his group saw community where people come together for a common purpose. As for an aspiration, Arnold said his group would like to see people from different towns work together more often. "We really saw the inability of towns to collaborate on projects as an obstacle," he said. Another resident called for a countywide protocol for sharing resources so that agencies can "check their egos at the door." Tamworth Select Board Chair Willie Farnum, who attended the session, hit the nail on the head when he said, "No goal is achieved in isolation."

Collaborating on goals and dreams may not only be good for community, it may benefit the pocketbook with cost savings if towns work together on project. We're all in this together.