

**Village Core Planning Group
Organizational Meeting Minutes
July 31, 2007
5:00 PM**

Attendees: Chairman John Hettinger, Marilyn Sanderson, Ed Brisson, Paul Kasianchuk, Rick Kelley, Mike Sabourin, Brian McCarthy, Jay Polimeno, Russ Cooley, Mike Peloso, Tom Adams, Peter Moore, Ted Sutton, Susan Chenard

Chairman Hettinger started the meeting with a review of the scope of the plan and surveys done in 1993, and distributed a proposed agenda outlining some items to discuss. He read an email aloud from Dennis Ducharme, who could not attend. Mr. Ducharme wrote that he had a few comments after reading the 1993 report. For example, it would be very beneficial to the committee if we could get copies of the surveys and any other reports that came out of the committee back then. Mr. Ducharme wondered if there are there any site, landscaping, architectural, or recreational plans that came from the committee, who the professional firms involved were, who was on the 1993 advisory committee that could be interviewed, essentially as much info and plans as could be gathered to save time and money. He felt that Rick Kelley could be a good resource, and that the recent Main Street traffic recommendations could prevent unnecessary discussion on that end. Rick Kelley had been a part of that survey process and explained how the questions to locals and visitors were done, with a grant from North Country Council (NCC).

Jay Polimeno asked if the main thrust of this group should be the Riverside Park, or something else. Ed Brisson too inquired what we were trying to accomplish, whether it be for the economic benefit of the town, or its developers, or both, etc. He wondered why townspeople would vote to spend money for this project. Mr. Polimeno talked about the amount of bike path, and multi-purpose trail, interest he had discovered while researching the subject online. He felt the park could be a complement to what other resorts already offer, with the bike path as the connector.

Chairman Hettinger next handed out a drawing showing potential bike paths in blue, including one up to North Lincoln via Forest Ridge. The Forest Service wants to do something across the Kancamagus Highway and snowmobile Corridor 11, which goes through Franconia Notch and may be improved further for biking, etc. Rick Kelley also mentioned the new trail to Warren, via Route 175 and Seeley Mountain Trail. Our hub is the missing connector for mountain biking and snowmobiling. Jay Polimeno mentioned the need for street biking as well, to which Mr. Kelley replied that the Kanc is one of the top 20 roads to ride on a street bike, but that the road to Warren would certainly be more complicated.

Tom Adams next joined the group, and was introduced as the head of the Heritage Trial committee, which he is attempting to resurrect. He also explained that he is a land planner, landscaping architect, and former Lincoln Planning Board Chair after Rick Kelley's tenure. The Heritage Trial is proposed to run through the state from Seabrook to

the Canadian border. There is currently a gap from Plymouth to the Flume, with the towns of Lincoln, Woodstock, Thornton and Campton holding the gap. If Lincoln were to create this spur off that trail, it may pull in the other towns. Mr. Adams had also worked with Town Manager Sutton on the Penstock Trail. The Town Manager felt that Mr. Adams could attend the committee meetings as a representative for the Heritage Trail, but that it should remain separate from the trail(s) here in Lincoln, which could connect to the Heritage Trail eventually.

The group next looked at a snowmobile map which showed the trail from Campers World, near the Pemi Motor Court in North Lincoln, towards Forest Ridge, through which Rick Elliot would give us access towards the Common Man area, per Town Manager Sutton. (This currently terminates at a rock wall just north of several duplexes in Forest Ridge.) Tom Adams explained that joining this to the Penstock Trail had been Phase 4 of the old plan.

Rick Kelley suggested connecting with the local snowmobile club to see what they are doing with their trails so far. Mike Sabourin suggested getting a larger, more broad-based map, which Town Manager Sutton said that Steve LaFrance could provide. Chairman Hettinger remembered a large map that had been used at a Wildfire Mitigation meeting he had recently attended that could be useful too.

Mike Sabourin agreed that a trail system is a key component for the economic well-being of the town, but we need to keep in mind that it be available for multiple seasons. Ed Brisson concurred, but reminded us that snowmobilers and cross-country skiers don't easily share a trail, so maybe we should look at different trails or different ends of town for the two modes of travel, with hikers, bikers, and cross-country sharing one trail and ATVs and snowmobiles using another. Rick Kelley, as an avid snowmobiler, was in agreement and said that they just need trails to get through the community to the next section of trails, while the pedestrians were more likely to stay within town. TEA-21 funds, which provide for the transfer of federal gas tax money paid on fuel, used by off-highway vehicles for recreation via a competitive grant program, may be another funding option.

Ed Brisson suggested refocusing at this point. What should the trail system look like from Forest Ridge to the Visitor's Center? What do we have so far, and what would we really like it to look like? He recommended starting with a plan for pedestrian trails and then seeing how much could be used for snowmobiles. Then look at the core of town and how to connect to Woodstock. Mr. Brisson feels that the Route 3 portion of Lincoln is as much a part of town as along Route 112 and should be considered as well. Mr. Cooley pointed out that some families like a shorter, easier trail for children, versus a 20 mile tour.

Mike Sabourin then asked about the park. Rick Kelley said that two studies had shown that the townspeople wanted a community center, which we now have, and a place to recreate, such as a walk along the river, open land, trails in a park area and possibly a new skating rink. Chairman Hettinger reminded the group that the trails must serve the

town's economics, for locals and tourists. Jay Polimeno then brought up the need to think about parking, which Town Manager Sutton suggested could be near the current solid waste site, along Main Street. Brian McCarthy also pointed out that he had been asked about swimming holes. This section isn't deep, but could possibly be used for wading, etc.

Ed Brisson suggested getting a big map with Mylar to use as a dry erase board for the graphical thinkers. The focus of the next meeting should be just on the trail system and the following meeting should focus on the park, and how the two could mesh. He suggested everyone walk the current trails and proposed park area before those meetings, and to bring freelance ideas. The third meeting could then look at adding snowmobile and other trails.

Town Manager Sutton mentioned the possibility of moving the solid waste facility up towards the public works garage area to provide a nicer atmosphere in town. Ed Brisson asked about environmental issues, but was told that they had all been resolved by FCI and solid waste, even in the wetlands portion. There was also talk of putting up a nice fence with bushes along the sewer lagoons and such areas.

There was a short discussion regarding sidewalks. Locals had been hoping for two sides, with benches, lighting and crosswalks. This is a work in progress.

Chairman Hettinger then started a discussion regarding the next meeting, and beyond. It was decided to meet every two weeks for now, with the next meeting set for August 14th at 5pm. Ed Brisson will bring Mylar and tracing paper to use on the big map that would be provided by Steve LaFrance. Russ Cooley also said he had some PDF's of the area. Mr. Brisson suggested also thinking about interim trails, not necessarily paved, and to bring a list of ideas and an overlay of family oriented trails within the town already. Town Manager Sutton said that he would try to get all the easements together by the next meeting as well.

The meeting adjourned at 6pm.