

Minutes
Weare Center Advisory Group
September 19, 2006

Present: Paul Doscher, Thomas Clow (Co-chairs), Heleen Kurk, Ruth Jones, Diane Lamb, George Malette, Ian McSweeney, Fred Ventresco

The Weare Center Advisory Group met for the first time in more than 18 months. The group was established as a result of the Community Profile Meeting in the spring of 2004 at John Stark Regional High School. Its original purpose was to make recommendations on the use of the Weare Middle School land and buildings when the school moved to a different site. The group decided to take a more global view of Weare Center; however, when it was learned that a new school would be built on the present site, the Weare Center Advisory Group suspended further meetings. Recent discussions concerning the intersection of Route 114, East Road, and Memorial Drive renewed interest in the need for an advisory group on issues concerning the town center.

The September 19th meeting focused first on a review of the committee's previous actions. The following is a proposed vision statement created in 2004 and reviewed at the meeting:

We envision an invigorated Weare Town Center that will become a daily center of town life for the citizens of Weare. It will meet their needs by providing improved town offices, a Community Center for social and recreational programs and activities, ball fields, and a village green as a gathering place for community activities.

The Center will cherish its history through the preservation and continued use of the Town Hall, Library, Stone Building, Old High School, and other historic buildings both privately and publicly owned.

It will have new buildings and facilities that are in keeping with the historic character and scale of the Center. New uses could include small scale retail, office and service businesses, designed in a way to enhance the safe, small, New England village quality of the Center.

The vision statement was created from a list of consensus items agreed to by the group in the fall of 2004 and a list of items that needed further discussion. The lists were as follows:

Consensus

Town Office Facility
Multipurpose Community Center - youth/senior/civic
Village Green – including park and gazebo
Athletic Fields
Better Traffic Control
Safer Walkways
Adequate (aesthetically pleasing) Parking Areas
Library

To Discuss Further

Public Toilets
Small Scale Retail
Restaurant
Office Space
Housing (Senior)

Following the review of the committee's past actions a discussion ensued concerning the boundaries of the town center. Questions that arose included: What are the boundaries of the town center? Should we look at only Route 114 north and south? Should North Weare Village and Chase Village be included since the Master Plan suggests future connectivity?

In a discussion of the future space needs of the town, Paul Doscher pointed out that any planning for new buildings should include a plan of what will happen to the old buildings they are replacing.

George Malette said that the Conservation Commission is creating an inventory of natural resources, and that any planning should include protecting those natural resources. He added that industry coming to Weare should be industry that will not harm our natural resources.

Upcoming Meetings

The group decided that meetings on the third Wednesday of each month would be least likely to conflict with other meetings in town. Two meetings were scheduled: **October 18 and November 15 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Office Building, BOS meeting room.**

The October 18th meeting will focus on the boundaries of the town center. Paul Doscher will bring a base map of the area for the group to work from. George Malette will go through the Master Plan to identify those sections that relate to the town center.

The November 15th meeting will focus on landscaping. Paul Doscher will contact the School Board concerning landscaping plans for the new middle school.

Ruth Jones and Tom Clow will contact previous members of the group who were not at the September 19th meeting to see if they still want to be involved.

TC