Barrington Community Profile

2014

April 11 & 12

Envision Barrington: Charting a Course for the Future of our Town

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements 2
Summary 3
Mosaic 6
Strong Community: 11 Components 8
Friday Night Brainstorming ..... 9 - 33
5 Key Issues 34
6 Key Themes 36
Saturday Morning Discussion 37-42
Project Identification and Evaluation 43
3 Projects or Solutions 44
Voting: Most Important Projects or Solutions 46
Action Groups 47
Participants 48

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UNH Cooperative Extension

UNH Cooperative Extension brings information and education into the communities of the Granite State to help make New Hampshire's individuals, businesses, and communities more successful and its natural resources healthy and productive. For 100 years, our specialists have been tailoring contemporary, practical education to regional needs, helping create a well-informed citizenry while strengthening key economic sectors.

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Our Focus Areas:

Food & Agriculture

Natural Resources

4-H Youth & Families

Community & Economic Development

The Community Profile is a process by which communities take stock of where they are today and develop an action plan for how they want to operate in the future. The process provides a method for citizens to affirm community strengths, find collaborative approaches to meet challenges creatively, and manage change. One of the major outcomes of the Community Profile is increased citizen participation in the community.

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Acknowledgements

Thank you!

Thank you to all who made the Community Profile - Envision Barrington such a huge success.

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LOCAL MERCHANTS AND BUSINESSES
Town of Barrington
Stonehouse Baking Company
Millo's Pizza
Kozy's Pizza
Barrington Elementary School
Barrington Middle School
Ready Rides

Ron St. Jean
Ron St. Jean Photography
for photos taken during the Community Profile and used in this report.

The Community Profile model was developed with the assistance of:

University of Vermont Cooperative Extension; University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension; Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs; Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission; Tufts University, Center for Environmental Management, Consortium for Regional Sustainability; New Hampshire Charitable Foundation; Vermont Community Foundation; Sustainable Seattle; University of Vermont Center for Rural Studies; Community Innovations; The Upper Valley: 2001 & Beyond Steering Committee.

Summary

The Barrington Steering Committee for the Community Profile was formed in October 2013 with the charge of planning the Community Profile event. Initial committee volunteers met with UNH Cooperative Extension staff to learn about the Community Profile and discuss ways to attract committee volunteers representing a variety of town interests such as youth, seniors, business community, natural resources community, town officials, etc. The Community Profile event date was set for April 11 and 12, 2014 and the 15-member Steering Committee met monthly or twice a month for the next six months to plan, prepare and market the event with UNH Cooperative Extension providing staff support.

The Steering Committee adopted a format using the 11 components of a strong community as drawn from the National Civic League and adapted by UNH Cooperative Extension. These components are important to 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. The 11 components are effective community leadership; informed citizen participation; sense of community; fostering healthy families, individuals and youth; lifelong education and learnings; community services, facilities and utilities; recreation and cultural heritage; natural resources and the environment; economic vitality; growth and development and transportation.

The Community Profile - Envision Barrington was promoted throughout the town with posters, signs, postcards to every household, press release, town website, presentation and word of mouth. The Steering Committee arranged for the location; organized the food and beverages; arranged for childcare and transportation and set up the sessions.

The Steering Committee received a two-hour training lead by UNH Cooperative Extension on the basics of facilitation and recording or scribing and on the specific facilitation role for the Community Profile. Community members were also invited and participated in the training. The Community Profile small group discussions were facilitated by these trained community volunteers. The Community Profile process included the following components:

- Mosaic and Vision developed by all participants gathered together
- 11 Components of a successful community were presented
- 5 Key Issues: Small group facilitated discussion on each of the 11 component areas where the groups brainstormed the strengths, challenges and future.(Friday evening)
- 6 Key Themes: All participants worked to review the 55 keys issues and agreed on common themes. (Saturday morning)
- 3 Priority Projects or Opportunities: Participants select a theme they want to discuss in small groups where they defined the problem, identified solutions and selected 3 priority projects or opportunities.
- Voting: All participants were given the opportunity to *vote* for their priority within each theme.
- Action Groups: Once opportunities and projects were chosen, participants started the process of putting plans into action by defining the project, determine contact process and planning the next meeting date and time

Outcome: 110 Barrington community members participated in the Friday or Saturday session and 55 people attended both sessions for a total of 165 participants. 57 community members committed to working on six new action groups which will begin to implement the projects or opportunities identified. 15 Steering Committee members learned new leadership skills and put them into action by organizing the Community Profile. 24 Community members received training on facilitation skills which can be used in other community settings. The community issues, opportunities and priorities for Barrington are detailed in this report. Barrington participants demonstrated a strong commitment to their community, creating a vision and working together to address opportunities and fulfill the vision.

Publicity and Marketing

The Steering Committee for the Barrington Community Profile was responsible for the publicity, marketing and outreach for the event. All committee members were responsible for planning the outreach efforts, publicizing the event and promoting it to their neighbors, co-workers, family and friends in Barrington.

The Marketing Subcommittee was formed to develop the flier and postcard. The flier was distributed throughout the Town of Barrington on public boards and at local businesses and the post card sent to each address in the Town of Barrington. A press release was developed and sent to local media. The Community Profile was publicized on the town website and through a Facebook page. The town planner played a role in these efforts and provided support.

Steering Committee members attended the Deliberative Sessions for the Town and School in March and set a table with information and were available to talk to people. They also did the same at Town Meeting in March in an effort to invite as many people as possible to the Community Profile.

Facilitation of the Community Profile

Facilitation is an important component to the Community Profile. Trained facilitators are used in the small group discussions to help the group meets its objectives by guiding it through the Community Profile process. This allows the participants to focus on the issues they came to discuss. The facilitator is trained to provide neutral guidance and helps the group arrive at decisions related to the topic discussed.

The Steering Committee received a two-hour training lead by UNH Cooperative Extension on the basics of facilitation and recording or scribing and on the specific facilitation role for the Community Profile. Community members were also invited and participated in the training.

Steering Committee members and trained community member volunteers facilitated and recorded the small group discussions (Friday evening, Saturday early morning and late morning). The facilitators established the ground rules for participants; created a collaborative working environment; ensured everyone had the opportunity to participate and brought closure to each topic so the process could move ahead. Scribes recorded all responses on easel paper for the group to see and as the record for the discussion.

Agenda

Friday, April 11, 2014, 5:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

5:30 Sign-in. Buffet provided
6:30 Welcome John Huckins, Steering Committee Chair
• Overview of Community Profile Process

Mosaic and Vision
• What is Barrington like now
• What do we want Barrington to be like in the future

Community Overview Dawn Hatch and Dennis Malloy

7:45 Presentation of Community Profile components
1. Effective Community Leadership
2. Informed Citizen Participation
3. Sense of Community
4. Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals and Youth
5. Lifelong Education and Learning
6. Community Services, Facilities, and Utilities
7. Recreation and Cultural Heritage
8. Natural Resources & the Environment
9. Economic Vitality
10. Growth and Development
11. Transportation

8:15 Small group discussions of components
• Strengths of Barrington in the component area
• Challenges of Barrington in the component area
• What would you like to see in the future
• What are the five key issues that need to be addressed

9:30 Formal adjournment

Saturday, April 12, 2014, 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

8:00 Coffee and check-in
8:30 Small group reports
• Each of the 10 small groups report to the large group

9:15 Selection of key issues - participants select small group/issues

10:00 Small groups meet for key issue discussion
• 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 three projects to bring to the full group

11:30 Full Group: Report back from small groups

12:00 Voting
• Which projects do you think we should move forward on
• Most important project for Barrington right now

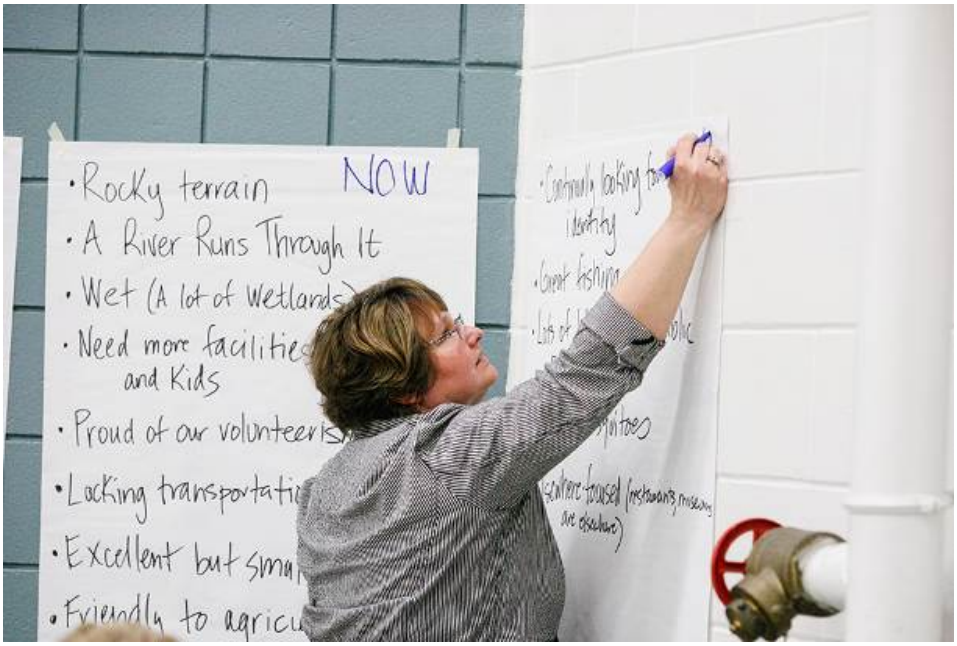
12:15 Individual selection of project action groups
Project development: small groups
• Who needs to be involved (agencies/individuals)
• Resources needed
• Other things needed to be done

1:00 Formal adjournment: Cookout Celebration

MOSAIC

Barrington 2014 - How we see our community NOW.

- Quiet & Rural
- Pleasant yet disconnected
- Growing
- Rural
- Open to new ideas
- Family-centered
- Child-friendly
- Getting more crowded & dangerous
- Rocky terrain
- A river runs through it
- Wet (A lot of wetlands)
- Need more facilities for seniors and kids
- Proud of our volunteerism
- Lacking transportation
- Excellent but small library
- Friendly to agriculture
- Continually looking for its identity
- Great fishing
- Lots of lakes, but no public place to swim
- Lots of mosquitos
- Elsewhere – focused (restaurants, museums are elsewhere)
- Warm, friendly, helpful
- Changing
- Scattered pockets, no central area
- Ideally situated geographically
- Natural resources, lakes, ponds
- Not to overrun with businesses
- Quiet but getting more expensive
- White-lack of diversity
- Large house lots
- Route 125 is getting too busy
- Community that is historically invested in resources
- Large lots & trailer courts (inequity)
- Lots of people with private gardens
- Lacking a downtown
- Pro-environment
- Lots of roadside litter
- Displaced wildlife
- Lacking public transportation
- Lots of lakes but no place to swim
- Lack of central communication
- Lots of wildlife/birds
- Great water & septic



Barrington– How we envision our FUTURE.

- Quiet & rural
- Taxes less expensive
- Financially stable
- Quaint
- A well-planned downtown area
- Rational economic development
- An engaged & active community
- More meeting places for us to meet (hold more people)
- Better protected resources
- Un-fragmented Natural Areas
- Valued schools
- Ahead of the curve on the housing mismatch issue
- More self-sufficient
- Supportive of alternative energy such as solar, wind, water
- Food or Farm co-op
- Bowling alley
  Natural resources still protected
- More jobs & businesses in town to help pay for taxes
- A clear plan for sustainable economic development
- To better manage & maintain the Isenglass River corridor for future
- As we grow, our own high school
- Interconnected trails
- Low taxes
- Diversity & mix of housing
- Supports local agriculture
- Same size as today
- At least 2 acre house lots
- Well planned – well thought out
- Strong schools
- Rural so we each have our own well & septic
- Different types of housing so kids can stay
- More young family friendly
- Town newsletter
- Retirement center & assisted living
- Center with walkable town
- Library that meets need of growing community
- Green burial opportunities
- Safe bike paths or walkways
- The best library in state
- Utilities options, cable etc.
- Discussion that's larger than just taxes
- Continue strong volunteer activity
- Comm. Connection to N. Resource/beach
- Protection of personal property rights
- Less reliance on private cars
- Bicycle path
- Diversity in types of businesses in town
- Fishing tournament
- Annual road clean-up day
- Fines for littering
- A means to pay for all of the above

The Mosaic

We spent a few minutes meeting each other, learning how long we lived in town, some history and current demographics. We were then asked to offer descriptions of what our town was like right now and what we would like it to be like in the future. Adjectives and phrases were called out and recorded on easels at the front of the room labeled **NOW and FUTURE**.

11 Components of a Strong Community

After we developed a mosaic for Barrington and digested some of the history, Charlie French of UNH Cooperative Extension introduced us to the idea of discussing Barrington within the framework of 11 qualities which can be used to profile a community. These topics, drawn from the work of the National Civic League and adapted by UNH Cooperative Extension, 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.

Participants were assigned to one of the 11 component groups and had a facilitated discussion on the strengths, challenges and future of each topic as related to Barrington. Transcribed notes for each group follow.

Effective Community Leadership

Small Group Facilitator:
Diane St. Jean
Recorder:
Ruth Henderson
Group spokesperson:
Liz Dorsett

Friday Night Brainstorming

Group 1 – Effective Community Leadership

Brainstorm Frame:

Healthy communities have, and develop, public leaders who work together to enhance the long-term future of the community. Community leadership must be responsive, honest, efficient, enlightened, fair and accountable. It should have the ability to bring the community together to participate in open, neutral dialogue on important issues.

Leaders should be representative of their community and be able to envision an economically secure, environmentally sound and socially viable future. Leaders should understand the challenges facing the community and be able to take advantage of opportunities within the community and in cooperation with neighboring ones. Leadership should empower community members to assist in resolving community issues.

Statements a community should consider:

- Our leadership actively recruits, trains, and empowers new leaders.
- Leadership represents diverse community interests (age and gender groups, length of time they have resided in the community, culture, etc.).
- Community leadership demonstrates knowledge, accountability, professionalism, innovation, and is results-oriented.
- Leaders involve local citizens in identifying community goals and resolving community issues.
- Leadership seeks out opportunities to exchange information with citizens about community issues.
- Community leadership is proactive, dealing with critical issues before they become crises.
- Leaders demonstrate long range (20+ years) thinking. They understand the impacts of their actions on the long term health and vitality of the community.
- Leaders share the responsibilities of the community with its members and empower others to help find solutions.
- Leaders are willing to consider and use creative methods for addressing challenges, and look for regional solutions where appropriate.
- Leaders discuss issues with other leaders in the region.

Strengths

- -Made up of department heads
- -Better communications between school and town working together
- -Broader opinions → new ideas enhanced by new people coming into town
- -Multiple leaders in town
- -School
- -Municipality
- -Fire department
- -Scouts
- -Recreation department
- -Youth groups
- -Welcoming and warm acceptance of new people
- -Easy to access leaders
- -Many community leaders have long history in Barrington
- -Past → closed, present → open and accessible
- -Strong library director
- -Open to hear what you have to offer – Recreation department
- -Creativity
- -Leaders empower residents (volunteers)
- -Many leaders know residents on a personal level
- -Willingness to listen to others
- -History of sustainable management
- -Learn from past mistakes
- -Respect
- -Recognition of when go off course
- -In control on budget

Challenges

- -Police department – ineffective communication i.e. crime
- -Effective Listening
- -Overall communication
- -Meeting dates and agenda need to be posted on website a week before meeting
- -Multiple communication channels
- -Post meeting minutes in a timely manner
- -Make "draft" minutes available immediately
- -Small group can have greater impact and not necessarily representative of majority of residents
- -Keep an open mind
- -Challenge → satisfying diverse groups
- -Transparency
- -Diverse economic groups
- -Challenged to get diverse population involved
- -Time management for leaders and residents
- -Fire department staffing is short
- -Soliciting volunteers

Vision for the Future

- -Widespread timely communication
- -"Global connect" → automated calling
  - -For town issues
  - -Emergency management
  - -Disasters
- -Outreach for more depth of volunteerism
  - -Increase uses
  - -Encourage different age groups
- -Selection – training – monitoring – recruiting
- -Civics education – including local government
- -List of volunteer positions
- Targeted outreach

Informed Citizen Participation

Small Group Facilitator::
Kate Wilcox
Recorder:
Jim Farnham
Group spokesperson::
Pat Gingrich

Friday Night Brainstorming

Group 2 - Informed Citizen Participation

Brainstorm Frame:

In a healthy community, citizens actively participate through voting in local elections, serving on local boards, attending public hearings, and being involved in civic organizations and community activities. The increasing complexity of municipal operations is limiting the ability of government to meet community needs, escalating the importance of active citizen involvement and volunteerism.

All sectors within a community -- private, public, and nonprofit -- must each take responsibility for the community's civic education and exchange information with the public. All citizens need to develop knowledge and skills to contribute to community life. Shared problem solving and planning for the future as a community increases local pride and commitment.

Statements a community should consider:

- Citizens know how the system works and it is easy for newcomers to learn how to get involved in the community.
- People can find out easily what is going on in the community.
- We have a _____ level of volunteerism and philanthropy in the community.
- Civic education efforts involve the entire community.
- Schools, churches, youth and civic groups provide citizen education and promote community service.
- Citizens are actively recruited and involved in major projects.
- Citizens volunteer to serve on local boards and committees.
- Participation is proactive instead of reactive, facing community issues before they become crises.
- Civic organizations and local businesses actively contribute to community functions.
- Citizens have the information they need to make good decisions.
- There is both adequate and balanced media coverage of local events and issues.
- Local committees and boards communicate well with each other, the public, and with boards and committees throughout the region.
- Local citizens are actively involved in civic and business organizations and clubs that involve interaction with residents of neighboring communities.

Group 2 - Informed Citizen Participation

Strengths

- -Active library despite the existence of modern electronic communications
- -Library functions as a primary means and place for meetings
- -Some good, targeted information presented by town without which special interest groups will fill the void
- -There are school and community groups that encourage community service
- -While imperfect the website has made progress
- -Recreation department is listening

Challenges

- -Better means of communication
- -Better dissemination of impartial information
- -Foster article describing profile event included incorrect information
- -Online bulletin board
- -More friendly, functional, comprehensive and inclusive town website and/or print option
- -Simplify/clarify voting issues difficult to understand
- -Pros and cons (nonbiased) presentation of voting issues
- -Lack of community meeting place
- -Better promotion of community service projects
- -Not enough diversity in demographics of volunteers (i.e. with small children and retirees….what about others?)
- -Folks would be more involved if they knew about volunteer opportunities
- -We always learn about things at the “solution” stage and its too late at that point
- -Lack of communication between local committees and boards and citizens (e.g. how will others know about profile results)
- -How to encourage a more diverse group of individuals to become involved
- -Not enough business involvement in community events
- -Lack of inter-community communication and cooperation
- -Finding ways to become more proactive than reactive

Vision for the Future

- -Barrington needs a means to disseminate information electronically in addition to hard copies
- -Community center to provide a place to meet
- -Encourage businesses to offer meeting facilities
- -Community service requirement for school aged (younger) children
- -Welcome component contribution by town/businesses (encourage R.E. community to participate)
- -Maybe a “new to town” tab
- -Find a means (e.g. a scribe) to encapsulate town meetings to facilitate a better understanding

Sense Of Community

Small Group Facilitator:
Liz Rivet
Recorder:
Susan Gaudiello
Group spokesperson:
Mike Joyce

Friday Night Brainstorming

Group 3 - Sense of Community

Brainstorm Frame:

A sense of community is an intangible yet vital component of a healthy community. It encompasses elements such as image, spirit, character and pride, along with processes such as communication, inter-group relations, and networking.

A community is made up of different people with different interests, experiences and backgrounds. These characteristics may divide a community into natural groups but there must be cooperation among them if the community is to work well as a unit. Increased communication and understanding of different perspectives among groups and within the community as a whole is an important factor in establishing a sense of community.

Villages, towns, and cities with a sense of community include those wherein all members: contribute to and hold a common vision for the future; respect and celebrate their heritage, diversity, and resources; share information, and; develop and sustain an abundance of social networks and relationships.

Statements a community should consider:

- There is adequate communication among diverse groups in the community such as natives/newcomers, summer/year round residents, young parents/retirees, as well as business community, commuters, etc.
- Groups like the above are involved in identifying community goals and in resolving community issues.
- The community's heritage is celebrated regularly.
- There is a common vision for our community among members.
- Community members often put aside their differences to work for the common good of the community.
- All groups know how to become involved in the community.
- Formal and informal forums exist for sharing ideas and resolving public issues.
- Collective decisions which represent broad input are reached and implemented.
- The self- image of the community is a positive one.
- Social and cultural diversity are celebrated in the community.
- Local government is inclusive of all groups in its long-term planning and visioning efforts.
- Community members are proud of the community's character.

Strengths

- -Schools – we have good, caring teachers
- -Some dedicated, long-time residents who are involved
- -Good mix of new and Long-Time residents are involved
- -Recognition and value of natural resources
- -Example of good collaboration is the USA Springs Advocacy
- -Excellent fire and police departments
- -Safe
- -Strong landmarks – e.g. Calef's, Dove
- -Library, recreation, playground

Challenges

- -Sense of divisiveness – "if you don't agree with me, you're the bad guy"
- -Not tolerant enough of our neighbors
- Too much time spent talking, not enough listening
- -Officials need to be more transparent with the community
- -Lack of community newspaper, reporter
- -Divisiveness and animosity – need to see the highest good for all concerned
- -Lack of community events – need more like the farm tour, to bring community together
- -Lack of a community center where adult education and multi-generational events can occur
- -Where residents can share their knowledge and expertise with others
- -Lack of involvement with teens
- -Competing with technology (iPhones, iPads, social media, etc.)
- -Communications – underutilized town website
- -Lack of town composting center
- -Lack of swap shop at transfer station
- -Lack of high school – not as many school-based events

Vision for the Future

- -Respect and consideration for everyone's needs, wants, ideas
- -No geographic focal point, no real "town center" (vision is to have a town center.)
- -Diverse businesses (not strip malls) – small and local, in town center
- -Community center with adult education and other activities
- -Having ordinances to keep the look of (new) businesses quaint, in keeping with desired aesthetics
- -Town/common events, projects – e.g. town gardens; conservation community hikes
- -More volunteerism, more involvement to raise money to support the goals/facilities/services we want
- -We are able to generate resources other than property taxes
- -Find balance between retaining rural character and bringing in new businesses

Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals and Youth

Small Group Facilitator:
John Huckins
Recorder:
Michele Holt Shannon
Group spokesperson:
Julien Olivier

Friday Night Brainstorming

Group 4 - Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals and Youth

Brainstorm Frame:

Most communities face a variety of challenging social issues, such as substance abuse, domestic abuse, poverty, and other concerns related to the elderly, youth, and families. Addressing these concerns effectively takes the coordinated efforts of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

Support services such as adequate child day care, comprehensive after-school, youth, teen, and senior programs, preventative health and substance abuse programs, parenting and family support programs, and effective human service networks help strengthen the social fabric of a community. Aided by effective communication, compassionate leadership, active citizen participation, and inter-group cooperation, a comprehensive package of supportive services will enable a community to nurture healthy community members.

Statements a community should consider:

- There are _____local and/or regional programs available addressing the social issues of our youth, teens, seniors, parents, and families.
- The health and social services are accessible, adequate, and provided in an equitable manner.
- The three sectors work together to provide a comprehensive package of programs.
- The majority of programs are of _____ quality.
- Community services are “cradle to grave”, addressing the entire age spectrum of the community.
- Local government provides an array of services for the community’s neediest members.
- There is adequate information about the available services and many community members utilize them.
- Many of the services allow families to participate together.
- Local government is responsive to emerging needs of community members.
- Local government considers and utilizes alternative methods of service delivery.

Strengths

- We are thinking already about family issues and support youth of all ages
- -Good schools and good teachers
- -Strong summer program
- -Good library
- -Safe; people can be out and about and walk along most roads
- -Elderly (?) not sure?
- -Very concerned about the environment and protecting them (for kids/families, good trails, fishing activities)
- -Kids like to be here and return home to visit
- -Adult recreation
- -Like that there are lots of choices for what to do
- -Healthcare nearby (even for our pets!)
- -Local (health, education, family) services
- -Still small, things are accessible and close by
- -Emergency services are a strength
- -Lots of people volunteering

Challenges

- Not sure what is available re: substance abuse
- -Disjointed communication, would help us be involved more
- -We don't all know our neighbors
- -Transportation needs (rides to opportunities and services)
- -Need a better town website – more links and more interactive
- -More for seniors – activities, meeting places
- -Opportunities for young people
- -Making things happen – more volunteers? -That is how things happen here
- -Pressure of growth and paying for things and still keeping taxes low
- -Substance abuse?
- -Domestic abuse?
- -Childcare?
- -Youth, teen programs?
- -Poverty?
- -We are not sure what exists?
- -Not sure what problems we see
- -Ticks

Vision for the Future

- -Robust communication system – interactive/website etc. re: town video meetings, chat > to be more informed
- -More volunteers. Also helps to have a professional person and town → collaboration leverage volunteers
- -Community center to foster healthy community will support infrastructure for lots of things
- -Helps to have a professional facilitator coordinating volunteers
- -Largest body of water is Swain's Lake → it needs to be cleaned up for healthy family fun
- -Clean up mercury
- -Need to be able to get around in more ways (trails, bus, walking, zip-cars, bikes)
- -Class 5 roads are disappearing – getting less walkable
- -Need options for transportation for people with disabilities
- -More focus on priorities
- -Appreciation for volunteers and growing a bigger volunteer base
- -Improve community communication – two way between town and people
- -We need a better understanding of the social needs and issues ($, gaps) – study group on this
- -Communication for available services and information
- -Environment -Clean water/Protected water/Swimming, fishing, recreation/Land use choices
- -Infrastructure -Community center/-Safe walking/biking-Town beach/water access

Lifelong Education and Learning

Small Group Facilitator:
Sam Boduck
Recorder:
Malin Clyde
Group spokesperson:
Heather Totty

Friday Night Brainstorming

Group 5 - Lifelong Education and Learning

Brainstorm Frame:

Education is a lifelong endeavor, much more extensive than just the K-12 school system. It starts at home, continues through childhood and the teen years, and progresses throughout adult life. People of all ages need to develop knowledge and skills in order to improve the quality of their own lives and those of their families, and to contribute more effectively to community life.

Programs of higher education and lifelong learning provide local businesses with a pool of trained employees. Other formal and informal learning opportunities allow community members to discover hidden talents and develop an array of interests and skills. Lifelong learning allows citizens to manage their lives more effectively in a changing economy and to participate in increasingly complex municipal operations with greater knowledge and skill.

Statements a community should consider:

- Educational opportunities are easily accessible and provided equitably.
- Lifelong educational opportunities, including formal and informal academic, vocational, artistic, and spiritual, meet the community's needs.
- School planning is forward-thinking and open to regional solutions.
- There is a plentiful pool of skilled labor for local businesses to draw from.
- The level and quality of adult literacy programming in the community is _____.
- The public school facilities adequately meet community members' needs.
- There is a(n) _____ level of quality preschool and daycare opportunities in the community.
- There is good communication and cooperation between the municipal government and the local public school board.
- Local and regional employers actively support and are involved in the local K-12 public schools.
- The community supports and values high quality K-12 public school education.
- There is a support network for community members who home-school their children.

Strengths

- -Middle-school – combined age (multi-age) classes and teams (currently in 7th and 8th)
- -Close proximity to UNH
- -Many people connected to UNH (work there)
- -Different high school options (Dover, Coe-Brown, ORHS)
- -High School is part of on-going community conversation (because of not having own high school)
- -Barrington School Foundation – supporting early literacy (send a book to every kid)
- -Recreation department and good library (for its size) – great community center ("not much to look at, but good community center and staff")
- -Library staff and trustees very committed to life-long education
- -Hiking and outdoor events thru Conservation Commission and Natural Heritage Group
- -Nearby community colleges
- -Potential for UNH teacher interns
- -Great Bay Community College job training (in Lilac Mall)
- -Strong community/civic participation (positive to see this Profile and its turn-out)
- -Barrington people talk initiative
- -Improvements in communication between town government and the schools
- -Our teachers want to be here (since we don't pay them much compared to a lot of other communities); recently voted teacher pay increase (people turned out to vote → 1600/5000)
- -Teachers truly do care about our students
- -Rumpus room – great place to meet other young families (0 – 5 age)
- -Our high schools have tech programs (alternatives to college)
- -Farm day/open house was great – good opportunity to learn where food comes from
- -Strong historical society, youth association (BYA), recreation program
- -Active political groups that educate the public
- -Small town promotes local entertainment and community events (cheap and enriching) and creates community connection
- -Early childhood learning center – having it is a strength (3 – K)
- -Good library Facebook page
- -Recreation department – Zumba, yoga, pilates (hard to hear about) with cheap childcare!

Challenges

- -Don't pay our teachers well – third from the bottom; affects teacher retention
- -Lack of communication; hard to find out about things & what's going on. Word-of-mouth is challenging & limited
- -Don't have great facilities. Library too small to host a community meeting, talks-Need a community center
- -More structures for community education opportunities (larger library)
- -Need to get townspeople (all) to buy-in to supporting education
- -Curriculum standards limit educational flexibility (field trips, etc.)
- -Education system challenged because of entities outside of Barrington (federal, state, etc.)
- -Without a town high school, children and parents don't have as much a sense of community and support
- -Lack of vehicles for cohesive communication about events
- -No senior center (or community center)
- -We are somewhat isolated from continuing education opportunities
- -Funding for education is always a challenge
- -Need to diversify funding options

Vision for the Future

- -A bigger library
- -A community center
- -Own high school
- -Valuing all education – kids, high school, adults-Not just parents and teachers – whole teach approach
- -Better way to know what's going on -Newspaper, better town website, social media, new resident handbook (welcome to town), town newsletter
- -Coordination of our communication (library, recreation department, town offices, schools, town businesses, chamber of commerce)
- -Public transport to community events, schools, classes (van? Coach bus?)
- -Better options for supporting schools such as good business development (Route 125 and Route 9 can be better used); village center idea
- -Less tension over cost of education (for all ages)
- -Capacity to write grants for schools
- -Well-paid teachers
- -Restoration of support staff in schools
- -Small class-sizes in schools
- -Students love living in Barrington and want to stay here

Community Services, Facilities, and Utilities

Small Group Facilitator:
Chris Keeley
Recorder:
Anne Melvin
Group spokesperson:
Karulinen Bodner

Friday Night Brainstorming

Group 6 - Community Services, Facilities, and Utilities

Brainstorm Frame:

A community provides many essential facilities and services to its members - public facilities such as municipal buildings, schools, sidewalks, roads, libraries, a recycling center, and cemeteries, and services and utilities such as police, fire, ambulance, highway maintenance, water, and sewer. These key functions consume the majority of tax dollars and sharply influence the community's quality of life.

Statements a community should consider:

- Public facilities and services such as _____ are needed in our community.
- The community's road system is adequate and well-maintained. The use of traffic controls (signs, lights, speed limits, police, etc.) is well-planned and coordinated.
- Our public water sources are protected.
- Our community does a great job of reducing, recycling and handling disposal of its wastes.
- The town has a plan for financing the maintenance, expansion and replacement of its public facilities.
- The community is open to regional solutions for future infrastructural needs.
- Public buildings such as schools and town offices are adequate for our needs.
- Our public buildings are accessible to people with disabilities and are energy efficient.
- The community is easy to travel around by foot and bicycle.
- Officials address qualitative concerns about facilities and systems and utilize alternative methods of service delivery.
- Our officials are professional in meeting public facility, service, and utility needs.
- Appropriate physical connections exist, such as public transportation between housing and job sites.
- The levels and quality of emergency services - fire, police, and ambulance - are_____.

Strengths

- -Highway department has plans for road maintenance
- -Plenty of police
- -Single-stream recycling
- -Fantastic staff at transfer station
- -Town does good job at snow removal
- -Library is terrific
- -Nice, new facilities → fire and police complex and middle school
- -Options for high school education
- -Responsive town officials
- -Police, fire, ambulance services
- -Committed volunteers
- -Improved power supply (fewer outages)
- -Recreation center
- -Well researched information from boards, commissions and committees to inform the public
- -Well organized community events including voting days

Challenges

- -Library needs to be bigger
- -Library needs to be in a central location
- -Lack of town center and public spaces
- -Lack of town plan that would bring people together due to lack of funding to implement one
- -Lack of intergenerational community center
- -Need for more hiking trails, biking trails
- -Lack of town beach
- -No sidewalks, pedestrian pathways
- -Mixture of state and town roads
- -Route 125 a dangerous road
- -It is dangerous to bike on Barrington roads → no shoulders
- -Motorized wheelchairs could not use Barrington roads
- -Poor road maintenance due to budget restraints
- -Many roads and small tax base
- -Challenging terrain adds to problem with road maintenance
- -Lack of town parks and picnic areas
- -Lack of public health protection against mosquitos and associated health problems
- -Monopoly of one Cable Company and internet

Vision for the Future

- -Full implementation of town plan – new library and town offices, recreation/community center
- -Shops in town center
- -More balanced tax base/clean industry
- -Better infrastructure for fiber optic and more choices
- -In town center elderly cluster housing with walking trails
- -Town beach and biking trails
- -Underground utilities
- -Town water and sewer for town center
- -Natural gas service
- -Community garden
- -Community greenhouse and solar energy production
- -Solar collection at transfer station
- -Proper road shoulders for biking and walking
- -Better coordination between town and state around roads

Recreation and Cultural Heritage

Small Group Facilitator:
Dennis Malloy
Recorder:
Laura Williford
Group spokesperson:
Dorothy Johnsen

Friday Night Brainstorming

Group 7 - Recreation and Cultural Heritage

Brainstorm Frame:

Recreational and cultural activities nurture the body and soul of a community - individual and team sports, outdoor activities, art, crafts, music, dance, theater, holidays, festivals, and celebrations. Recreational opportunities allow community members to experience and appreciate the community's diversity of natural and human resources. Cultural activities reflect and build a community's positive sense of itself and strengthen the fabric of social interactions within the community.

Statements a community should consider:

- Our community celebrates itself in many different ways, including _____.
- There is a wide array of recreational opportunities available to community members.
- There are special cultural centers, events and festivals within the community.
- These events are well known within and outside the community.
- There is a high level of awareness about and accessibility to available recreational opportunities.
- Our cultural events bring together and celebrate the community's diverse population.
- Many of the recreational opportunities allow community members to experience the community's natural resources.
- The community preserves and enhances what is special and unique about its cultural heritage.
- Children, youth, and seniors are encouraged to participate in cultural events.
- Citizens are part of larger regional cultural events.

Strengths

- -T-ball, baseball program, softball
- -The recreation playground
- -Area lakes, rivers and streams
- -NE passage program – available to Barrington thru UNH
- -Winter sports on private and conservation land
- -Barrington bloomers
- -Friends of the library
- -Truck meet, xmas soire
- -Pepper fest
- -Clusters of residents that take care of community recreation assents
- -Library
- -The recreation department
- -Fire department's pancake breakfast
- -Historical society
- -Food pantry – neighbor helping neighbor
- -Community garden start-up
- -Trails of Barrington
- -Farmers market, local food
- -Conservation group (hikes, plant ID, land incorporation)
- -Higher interest in volunteering
- -Residents are more kind and patient
- -More desire to be a part of community and culture
- -Advocates for a better Barrington, Barrington Tax Payers Association
- -Live music and Dante's
- -Local campgrounds
- -Historical preservation
- -People have given property to town
- -Transfer station

Challenges

- More recognition of historical structures – national registry
- -Not enough education about Barrington's history
- -Not enough recognition of history of native American history
- -Need more school investigation of historical and conservation assets
- -Too much pressure on lake boat ramps
- -How well are we managing natural resources
- -Define rural – community acceptance of definition
- -How do we balance use with overuse and access
- -What is our diversity in our community?
- -Find ways to celebrate the diversity that is in our community
- -How do we attract more ethnic diversity?
- -Recreation for the young at heart (elderly)
- -Transportation and access to recreation for the elder
- -Elderly community center
- -Connecting trails to parks to town center to recreation and library

Vision for the Future

- -Vibrant community with recreation activities for all
- -Attractive town identity - what is the pulse of heartbeat of Barrington?
- -Community gathering place
- -Town center tied in with access to recreational opportunities
- -Sustainable town center plan
- -Improve the community infrastructure improvement process
- -Use planning existing documents?
- -Better communication of our recreational and community plans
- -Bike paths

Natural Resources and Environment

Small Group Facilitator:
Chuck Spinale
Recorder:
Sarah Smith
Group spokesperson:

Friday Night Brainstorming

Group 8 - Natural Resources and Environment

Brainstorm Frame:

Natural resources and historical assets of a community contribute significantly to the quality of life for residents and play an integral part in defining community character. Streams, rivers, walking trails, working farms, forests, clean air, historic buildings and bridges, wildlife, and open land help determine a community's personality and contribute to the everyday pleasures of community life. A sustainable community recognizes the importance of these assets and takes appropriate measures to assure their continuance.

Statements a community should consider:

- The community has recently inventoried its natural resource base.
- There is broad community interest and participation in protecting key natural resources and historical assets.
- Steps have been taken to provide long term land protection to assure functioning natural resource systems.
- The local economy and population are putting stresses on those natural resource systems.
- There are ways to increase the resilience of the local natural resources systems to allow them to respond to diverse or changing conditions, such as _____.
- Current systems, such as waste management, are handled in a way that preserves the integrity of natural systems in the community without damaging the integrity of natural systems elsewhere.
- Existing businesses are environmentally sound.
- Public water sources are protected.
- Some of these natural resource features are unique or some way important regionally or statewide.
- Natural resources and open space play an important economic role in the community.
- Critical resources are being negatively impacted by competing land uses.
- Steps have been taken to establish regulatory controls and promote voluntary actions to assure the continued availability of natural resources.
- The community has addressed regional natural resource features and issues with surrounding communities.

Strengths

- -Lots of conservation land
- -Walking and hiking trails
- -Town forest
- -Conservation land
- -Many lakes and ponds
- -Good water quality
- -Knowledgeable Conservation Committee
- -Well thought-out planning
- -Well forested
- -Single-stream recycling – encourage more
- -Beautiful stone/rock walls
- -Garden club near intersection of Rt 9 & Rt 125
- -No public water and sewer
- -Challenge – water table is rising
- -Industry not a problem for environment
- -Calef's Store
- -Rural nature of town
- -Snowmobile trails
- -Union Lake Farm (peaches)
- -Warren Farm, Ayers Lake Farm, Boodey Farm
- -Historic homes
- -Playground
- -No town center (strength)
- -Vernal pools
- -Wetlands

Challenges

- -Encourage more recycling
- -No town center
- -Wetlands (to development)
- -Keeping roads clear of trash and mowing the median strip
- -Christmas decorations (9 + 125) -Tattered flags – who is in charge?
- -No public water and sewer
- -Farms, encouraging them local production
- -Tough economics to afford land – where is food produced?
- -Funding
- -Beach access (communication about)
- -Not turning it into a city – don't urbanize
- -No town commons (future)
- -Church (Congo on Route 9) has land that the community can use. Trying to connect with other churches and community
- -Letting folks know about the natural resources and conservation lands (maps and on website and library)
- -Climate change and how it affects plants
- -Economic diversity – Rite aid, McDonalds
- -Needs to be managed, can have active, meaningful input
- -People to show up!
- -Participation
- -Get a list of volunteer opportunities in town and communicate them

Vision for the Future

- Clean up Barrington day
- -Stewardship of conservation land (forest management)
- -Continue to be proactive in conserving land
- -A water (and perhaps sewer) system to support business development
- -No water or sewer to support business development (control growth, too much cost)
- -Waste becomes economic development opportunity (paper, glass, recycling)
- -Proper controls, managed growth
- -A library near town
- -Town park
- -Walking paths to center
- -Use of volunteers that are here
- -Paths that connect
- -No dumping
- -Conservation land is mapped, parking areas,

promoted, a value to town's folks, add to quality of life

- -Use our forests and lakes to our economic advantage
- -Portray Barrington's natural resources – appearance, marketing, personality – rural nature, management
  -Communication – maps, resources
- -Thoughtful management of resources (conservation land), stewardship and economic development, rural character, water quality, pollution, volunteers
- -Centers of activity (center, 9/125, activity), deciding what it is
- -Inventory volunteers and volunteer opportunities (natural resource cleanups)
- -Encourage farms

Economic Vitality

Small Group Facilitator:
David Ranson
Recorder:
Cheryl Huckins
Group spokesperson:

Friday Night Brainstorming

Group 9 - Economic Vitality

Brainstorm Frame:

The private, public and non-profit sectors are all important in attracting new investment and in developing new businesses that suit the character of the community and meet its needs. The need to sustain successful workplaces is an important factor to the health of a community. The more often money circulates within the community before leaving, the more the community benefits.

A healthy community includes access to a variety of environmentally sound businesses, industries, and institutions that provide reasonable wages and benefits to workers, engage in family-friendly policies, provide workers with opportunities to develop marketable skills, and contribute to the overall well-being of the community.

Statements a community should consider:

- A variety of businesses, industries, and institutions make up the economic base of the community and the region, such as _____.
- We have a diverse economic base. No one sector or one employer dominates; there is a wide variety of sectors and employers.
- Existing businesses are environmentally sound.
- There are locally available educational opportunities to provide residents with skills that match the needs of local businesses.
- Local government works well with the local businesses to enhance the economic vitality of the community.
- There are business services lacking in the community, such as _____.
- There are many types of jobs available to residents in terms of security, wage levels, skill levels, and benefits, examples _____.
- Community members patronize downtown businesses on a regular basis and value the local businesses.
- Wages allow the majority of the population to enjoy a reasonable lifestyle.
- Local government supports and promotes local businesses.

Strengths

- -High income per household
- -Long-term businesses (Barnz, Calef, Christmas Dove,
- -Businesses tend to support each other. “We’re all in it together”
- -Individual recognition – friend and business association
- -Good road access – central location
- -Good ice cream shops
- -We attract tourism – lakes, campgrounds, Calef, Christmas Dove
- -Fairly active police force – good protection
- -Turbocam – large employer – good corporate citizen helps our tax base – foundational strength
- -Residents like to shop local when possible
- -Active and support Chamber of Commerce
- Chamber-Focus on education – scholarships
- -Businesses support activities – sponsor events
- -Barrington location – lots of commuter traffic
- Healthcare facilities
- -Much land available for potential development – not overbuilt on Route 125
- -This event participation is part of our strength

Challenges

- -Outdated library, too small
- -Youth involvement – younger residents/homeowners not getting involved in the community decisions
- -Aquifer (along with other natural resources) – needs to be protected as we add business
- -Need to plan for future and population growth
- -Concern about businesses coming in that provide quality jobs (well-paid)
- -Lacks of infrastructure – and impact on schools and services – don’t want quality of life or sense of community compromised. Road repair is a big issue/expense
- -Need to keep economic balance so property values don’t escalate beyond what residents can afford
- -Maintain cultural integrity and what makes us unique
- -Village/walkable area – elders and child friendly
- -Need – grocery store, drug store, restaurants
- -Keep crime out – don’t allow businesses that attract crime (gambling, strip clubs, etc.)
- -Senior citizens – how do we keep them here and get them involved in town government
- -Retain open space and wildlife corridors while growing business base
- -Elderly housing and retaining our young people in town jobs – affordable housing
- -2 acre zoning is causing fragmentation of land and limiting wildlife corridors and contiguous open space
- -Lack of community well/central water in village district

Vision for the Future

- Village center
- -Self- supporting grocery store as main supporting business with others growing up around it
- -State of art communication system (town permitting this)
- -Central place for children and seniors
- -Green spaces
- -Old railroad bed turned into trail
- -Maintain our small town traditions
- -Reliable sources of power that is safe
- -Alternative energy sources – renewable
- -Entertainment choices (TV, internet, etc.)
- -Central municipal and community space built in a way (a municipal center) to help retain our history and looks like it fits in Barrington

Growth and Development

Small Group Facilitator:
Matt Towne
Recorder:
Eric Kilens
Group spokesperson:
Rebekah Thacker

Friday Night Brainstorming

Group 10 - Growth and Development

Brainstorm Frame:

A community can more effectively manage its growth through the prudent use of local zoning ordinances and planning regulations that guide how land is divided, used, and developed. These tools allow the community to regulate the development of residential areas, commercial districts, and the town center. These are key considerations in managing growth while maintaining community character.

Another important factor in the development of a healthy community is the diversity of housing. This encompasses availability, affordability, and location, all of which affect the lives of community members, especially the elderly, disabled, and low-income families.

Statements a community should consider:

- The community's zoning and planning regulations are updated regularly and reflect a broad spectrum of residents' vision of the community in 5, 10, and 20 years.
- There is adequate affordable housing for the elderly and disabled.
- There is adequate rental housing in the community.
- Land use regulations and land protection efforts are preserving an adequate amount of open space in the community.
- Current zoning regulations favor protecting the character of key sections of the community over new commercial development.
- There is adequate housing for young families and/or single-parent families.
- Our zoning regulations are designed to counteract sprawl.
- Municipal government works well with landowners to promote land protection and sustainable development while respecting private property rights.
- Residential housing is planned so that negative effects on traffic, public schools, sewer and water systems, and wildlife habitats are minimized.
- Areas of natural beauty and historic importance are well protected by zoning regulations and land protection efforts.
- Our community commits financial resources toward protecting valuable natural resources.

Strengths

- -Ownership of large tracts of land
- -Minimal building lot size
- -Cluster development
- -Current use
- -No big-box stores
- -Locally owned and operated stores
- -Access to outside big-box stores
- -Industrial development for tax purposes
- -Purchase of land from Svenson's
- -Architectural design standards
- -Library
- -Police, fire, EMS
- -Development of new neighborhoods
- -Proactive, willing to take on additional burdens
- -Road and bridge maintenance-preventative
- -Road plowing during winter season
- -Active Conservation Commission
- -Natural resources preservation
- -Historic homes and barns
- -Advocates for a better Barrington

Challenges

- -Major roadways are congested
- -Lack of mid-range houses
- -Insufficient workforce, low-income housing
- -Insufficient retirement housing
- -Congested development along main corridor
- -Fragmentation of large pieces of land
- -Lack of a town center
- -No public swimming
- -Lack of recreational opportunities
- -Lakes, rivers, streams are at risk
- -No type of lodging – i.e. bed and breakfasts

Vision for the Future

- -Town center
- -Community center/building
- -Walking paths
- -Commercial development/center
- -Walkable
- -Keep architectural design standards
- -Park, green area, walking paths
- -Agricultural land
- -Slow population growth
- -Industrial growth to build tax base
- -Selected commercial development and industrial development
- -Do things to ease traffic congestion at intersection of 202/9
- -Sale of Goodwill land
- -Exceed state energy standards
- -Meet national energy standards
- -Renewable forms of energy
- -More sustainable food sources
- -Robust farmer's market
- -Mosaic range of housing options
- -High school
- -Increase teacher retention
- -Maintain high school choice
- -Cultural events
- -Improve cooperative relationship with surrounding towns
- -Preserve natural corridor

Transportation

Small Group Facilitator:
Ashlee Iber
Recorder:
Sue Cagle
Group spokesperson:
Jackie Cilley

Friday Night Brainstorming

Group 11 - Transportation

Brainstorm Frame:

A community's strategic location and economic importance bring many people to live, work, and shop here. Roads get most of us where we need and want to go, and most people drive their own cars for convenience. However, more vehicles sharing the roads results in increased highway maintenance, air pollution, and traffic congestion. Alternatives to automobile travel include pedestrian and bicycle travel, and bus and rail transportation.

Statements our community should consider:

- Our current road system is adequate and meets the needs of the residents and visitors.
- The use of traffic controls (signs, lights, speed limits, police, etc.) is adequate throughout residential and commercial areas.
- It is easy to get around on foot and by bicycle in our community.
- The community encourages carpooling, and helps make it work for people by providing information and accessible parking areas.
- Parking is adequate in the commercial areas.
- Tradeoffs, such as maintenance, pollution, and congestion are considered when widening main roads or building new roads.
- Public transportation would ease some of the traffic problems.
- Residents and visitors would use public transportation if it was available.

Strengths

- Geographically spread rather than concentrated; not congested
- Able to get around if you have a car
- -Roads are reasonably well maintained both in warm weather and winter
- Traffic light – 125 + 9
- New traffic light in dangerous area – Green Hill Road
- -Close proximity to main routes -access
- -Options – many routes
- -Wildcat transportation
- -Walking trail systems -flexible use (horses)
- -Parking – available
- -Park and rides in town
- -Ready ride transportation system -medical appointments

Challenges

- More park and ride!
- More spread out around town
- More public transportation -long distance to get to necessities
- Larger breakdown lanes to allow for bicycles – special bike lanes
- Public transportation – population aging -need to adapt to aging population
- Volunteers for rides – not just medical -i.e. voting
- Taxi service needed
- Need to plan alternate routes to get through town-away from traffic
- Not developing all cul-de-sacs
- Villages Place – spur road was there to connect
- Need larger vision or plan to map out roads for next 20/30 years
- Highway systems will not be able to handle long-term changes-Need alternate routes
- Elementary school bottleneck-Parents picking up – rear entrance is closed
- Why parents picking up kids – not using public buses
- Many class 6 privately maintained roads -Many not maintained properly, creates safety hazard accessing in emergency, difficult and expensive to maintain
- Population that lives on private roads is small but would be very expensive for town to maintain-cannot mandate private maintenance of road but town must respond to emergencies
- How do you balance public transportation without impacting “rural” feel
- Need safe places for walking
- Need publication of walking trails that exist now - -all types trails: horses, snowmobiles, cross-country
- Landowners more educated aware of need for walking trails
- Need to keep areas where houses can be

Vision for the Future

- Clear plan for the future -ongoing planning
- Areas of concentration for housing would make public transit areas
- Downtown with sidewalks-Crosswalks (no crosswalks in 125 area/town)-Tunnel/convert cow tunnel on 125
- Smaller/accessible/van sited buses or trolley with a regular schedule
- Allow businesses ample parking without parking meters and garages (free)
- In design of future transport and parking -Balancing impervious and permeable surfaces
- Air cans (Jetsons)
- Can water be used for transportation routes?
- Bike lanes and trails -Safe to bike
- People walking together – social -Scenic areas to walk
- Transportation to larger cities and airport
- Sightings of horses are common

- Publication of trail systems and distribution to general public
- Wish there was a way for all hikers/canoers/bikers/etc. could all contribute financially for maintenance-Would foster more agreement
- Planning future development – housing/highway and road use-change regulations to reflect needs-conscious effort to protect wildlife in planning

5 Key Issues

11 small groups were randomly formed, one group for each of the components. The small groups adjourned to various rooms where community trained facilitators led the groups in their discussions and recorders made notes on large tablets. Each group considered the definition of their component and examined the statements to be considered for their component to begin the discussion. Participants were asked to list the strengths of Barrington as they saw them, and then to list its challenges. Next the groups gave some thought to the problems and issues they thought were important to the town's future. Finally, each group was asked to identify five key issues that need to be addressed by the town. These were brought back to the whole group and highlighted in three-minute summations presented by a member of each small group Saturday morning.

Group 1
Community Leadership

1. Communication: minutes, agenda, alerts, news, website, comprehensive – reach all segments of population
2. Volunteerism – leadership to utilize and promote
3. Representation of entire community
4. Transparency
5. Balance rural character with growth

Group 2
Informed Citizen Participation

1. Interactive website allowing/encouraging communication
2. A welcome component for new citizens of Barrington
3. Simplify/clarify voting issues without bias
4. Community meeting space
5. Encourage business entities to participate in civic activities

Group 3
Sense of Community

1. Sense of divisiveness
2. Communication – no effective device to communicate
3. Community Center (incl. library) – a physical place with events for teens, adults, seniors, intergenerational
4. Central gathering place – Town Common
5. Untapped volunteerism – more involvement to raise $$ to support the facilities & services we want

Group 4
Recreation and Cultural Resources

1. Access and opportunity
   - Transportation, networked trails, bike lanes, Better attention to the needs of different demographics
2. Education & communication
   - Library, awareness of available rec. & heritage resources, school involvement, communication - community/town center
3. Preservation and balance

Note: only 3 issues presented

Group 5
Lifelong Education & Learning

1. Improved communication among town residents & organizations
2. Appropriate funding for schools & other educational opportunities
3. The importance & value of a good education for all ages
4. Better facilities for community education and enrichment
5. Strengthen non-formal educational opportunities (e.g. farm days, hikes, talks)

Group 6
Community Services, Facilities & Utilities

1. Town center with library, town offices, community center, businesses elderly affordable housing
2. Roads – road condition, shoulders, town/state cooperation
3. Utilities – more choices, upgraded infrastructure
4. Public areas – town, fishing, public access, public parks, bike/walking trails,
5. Preventative health, e.g. Mosquito/tick control

Group 7
Fostering Healthy Families, Individuals & Youth

1. Improve communication about services and information.
2. We need a better understanding of social needs & issues (gaps, $)
3. Better transportation
4. Protect Environment - clean water, protected water (wells), swimming, fishing & recreation, land use choices, ticks
5. Improve Infrastructure; community center (all ages); walking/biking; water access/beach

Group 8
Natural Resources

1. Portray Barrington's natural resources - appearance, marketing, personality, rural, nature, communication
2. Thoughtful management of resources – conservation land, stewardship, economic development, water quality and use of volunteers
3. Center of Activity in town; define what they are, e.g., Route 9/125
4. Encourage Farms (agriculture & preserve them)

Note: only 4 issues presented

Group 9
Economic Vitality of Barrington

1. Walkable Village Center with small town atmosphere including municipal facilities, shops, grocery & drug stores & library
2. Modernizing communication system and power sources
3. Attract businesses by providing some infrastructure & commercial development areas.
4. Maintain contiguous green spaces & natural beauty
5. Retain seniors and support youth with affordable housing and gathering place

Group 10
Growth and Development

1. Mindful development - town Center, commercial, industrial
2. Preservation: Natural areas/resources, historic areas and buildings, agriculture
3. Broader range of housing opportunities with limited expansion
4. Recreational opportunities

Note: only 4 issues presented

Group 11
Transportation

1. Need a clear vision & plan for residential & economic development and the transportation system to sustain it.
2. Develop a plan for non-motorized traffic in town including town center: walking trails, waterways, horses, recreation trails, etc.
3. Increasing public transportation while maintain rural character & protecting naturel resources & wildlife
4. Continue to prioritize maintenance of roads in all seasons
5. Create well developed & maintained park & ride system

6 Key Themes

Saturday morning opened with 11 easels from the Friday night small groups displayed across the front of the room, each bearing a list of the key issues or opportunities for that topic area. This portion of the day began with short presentations from a member of each of the groups, explaining their group's list. The 55 key issues or opportunities were reviewed by the entire group who worked together to evaluate and refine this list as there were common themes. After some discussion, 6 themes emerged as important to study for the future of Barrington. This lead to setting the 6 small group sessions with participants freely choosing the group they wanted to participate in.

1. **Natural Resources**
2. **Community Gathering Space**
3. **Transportation and Roads**
4. **Life Long Education**
5. **Growth and Development**
6. **Communication**

Natural Resources

Small Group Facilitator::
Julie Coleman
Recorder:
Eric Kilens
Group spokesperson::

Saturday Morning Discussion

Group 1 - Natural Resources

Brainstorming

- -Quality of water
- -Sustainability about our natural resources -limit the impact
- -Protection of land
- -Land management
- -Sustainable agriculture for economic growth
- -Define rural character
- -Composting
- -Encourage recycling
- -Ensuring access for hunting/fishing
- -Connected walking trails both public/private
- -Volunteering for trail maintenance
- -Bike trails
- -Town beach
- -Using our resources wisely
- -Renewable forms of energy
- -Limiting exploitation of natural resources
- -Encourage environmentally sustainable practices
- -Wildlife management

Projects and Solutions

- -Community rights ordinance -Education about the ordinance
- -Participation with town government
- -Proactive with town planning and growth
- -Add the option of composting at various locations within the town
- -Community garden/food co-op
- -Balance between walking and biking trails
- -Having connected recreational trails to town center
- -Expanding and coordinating recreational trails
- -Preservation of existing farm land
- -Re-examining existing zoning
- -Developing renewable forms of energy
- -Developing a town beach

Community Gathering Space

Small Group Facilitator::
Ashlee Iber
Recorder:
Jim Farnham
Group spokesperson::
Matt Towne/Jess

Saturday Morning Discussion

Group 2 - Community Gathering Space

Brainstorming

Identify Groups - -Organizations -Seniors-Youth groups-Families-Town offices-Agricultural groups-Medical - Recreation -Large town meeting space

- -Create aesthetically pleasing inside/outside spaces that bring the community together
- -Make better use of existing spaces/ Revitalization of existing facilities
- -Identification of existing/yet-to-exist spaces
- -Public outside spaces (e.g. park, gazebo)
- -New library/community center include meeting spaces and internet café
- -Town center near Christmas Dove
- -Identification of optimal location of municipal facilities
- -Focus on mixed-use space

Projects and Solutions

- -Utilization of Ramsdell space/ Ramsdell is a geographic center
- -Union/community building
- -Ensure optimal utilization of existing spaces
- -Larger library/community center
- -Swap shop at transfer station
- -Private partnership and state funding opportunities
- -Working with churches for utilization of space
- -Utilization of old town hall
- -Better signage and identification for all
- -Invest in new town center revisiting existing plan
- -Appropriate design
- -Consider reality of funding/ Price cap
- --Public spaces and green spaces
- -Cooperative senior housing/center
- -Community picnic area
- -Gazebo
- -Internet café
- -New library and community center with meeting spaces (e.g. internet café) and optimal location of municipal facilities
- -Effective utilization of existing structures
- - Identify/evaluate/enhance/promote existing and yet-to-exist prospective outdoor spaces

Transportation and Roads

Small Group Facilitator:
John Huckins
Recorder:
Anne Melvin
Group spokesperson:
Cavanagh Michael

Saturday Morning Discussion

Group 3 - Transportation and Roads

Brainstorming:

- Sustainable self-provision of energy
  -Individuals
  -Community
- Dependable power
- Town to facilitate public/private partnership for alternative energy
- Long term plan for road development and maintenance

Projects and Solutions

- Develop road shoulders for walking, biking and alternative transportation
- Increase communication options
- Coast bus stop
- Shared transportation
  -Park and rides
  -Zip car
- Underground facilities
- Bicycle lanes + paths
- Thoughtful development of roads in relation to proposed town center
- Connect to 10 year highway plan and good design for major highways “good roads” design

Life Long Education

Small Group Facilitator:
Laura Williford
Recorder:
Susan Gaudiello
Group spokesperson:
Kaethe Huast

Saturday Morning Discussion

Group 4 - Life Long Education

Brainstorming

- Education = lifelong journey, not a final destination
- Developing skills to keep on learning journey
- Beyond book learning
- Peer learning – learning/sharing our knowledge with one another (cooking, gardening,etc.)
- By product – connecting
- How do we show that value lifelong learning?
- Issue: Peer-learning – learning
- Share our knowledge with one another (cooking, gardening, etc.)
- Issue: How do we as a town show that we value lifelong learning?
- Issue: Education is a lifelong journey, not a final destination. Develop skills to keep on learning journey beyond book learning.

Project and Solutions

- Ongoing program for all ages
- The importance & value of a good education for all ages
- Place to offer the education/programs
- Better pre-school screening
- Better facilities for community education & enrichment
- More pre-school activities/program
- Communication of existing programs/solutions
- Survey/inventories of how people want to learn & what they want to learn
- Strengthen non-formal education opportunities (e.g. farm days, hikes, talks)
- Find the knowledgeable people willing to share in our town
- Create non-traditional, non-formal opportunities, skill shares (knowledge)
- Education & communication
- Library
- Awareness of available recreation & heritage resources
- Work with Chamber of Commerce
- Improve networking around educational opportunities
- Work with realtors to inform new residents
- Tap into civic & religious groups to communicate
- Create a community listserve, weblink to inform about programs
- Create multiple community bulletin boards (physical as well as electronic)

Growth and Development

Small Group Facilitator::
Dennis Malloy
Recorder:
Liz Dorsett, Tracy Ramsey
Group spokesperson::
George Calef

Saturday Morning Discussion

Group 5 - Growth and Development

Brainstorming

- Lack of economic opportunities; local employment opportunities
- Business Park
- Space – 100 acres
- Balanced w/ environment
- Tax base issue – how it affects us
- Model after Stratham

Projects and Solutions

- Local sustainable electricity
- Identify sites (transportation, environmental & residential concerns) & zone
- Geothermal solutions – new developments
- Control & regulation septic & water. Don't want polluted water
- Housing – variety
- Need proportional growth between business & residential
- Make Barrington attractive. Residents/business; sense of community
- Buy existing homes instead of building new
- Marketing new business opportunities
- Home businesses need to be acknowledged
- Back to basic – Listing of local businesses
- New welcome packets to advertise local businesses
- Internet & TV diversity

Communication

Small Group Facilitator:
Sam Boduch
Recorder:
Diane St. Jean
Group spokesperson:

Saturday Morning Discussion

Group 6 - Communication

Brainstorming

- Lack of communication – no central place for communication
- Town website – new people to town button on first page
- Many people don't use computers
- Affects elections – people don't have enough info w/o bias
- No newspaper/newsletter – one could generate revenue
- Town Common print edition was not sustainable
- Work-of-mouth is a limited tool
- No vehicle for 2-way communication
- Communicate need, opportunities for volunteers
- Lack of communication creates an atmosphere of animosity
- Tax rate change communication

Projects and Solutions

- Electronic (video) list of town announcements, activities place in public places
- Weekly/bi-weekly newspaper announcements
- Appropriate/variety of sources or vehicles for info.
- Differentiate between announcements and information
- Better flow of communication to Fosters correspondent
- Dedicated contact(s) for that correspondent or to other(s)
- Communications Czar
- Make town website more user-friendly
- Communicate/coordinate with Barrington Chamber
- Welcome package to begin communication with new residents. Also utilize website
- Town forum online
- Town interest group forums online
- Volunteer Czar to coordinate
- Community Center as a place to gather and have conversations
- Better use of cable public access
- Town website: comprehensive lists or directory of contacts/links to local & state
- Reach out to other towns who have used visioning process
- Expanded community events that tie-in Ex: Calef soiree w/ tree lighting
- Town Common expanded distribution – opt for email distribution. Pick up at local businesses
- Barrington Listens – in – person forums once a week/once a month

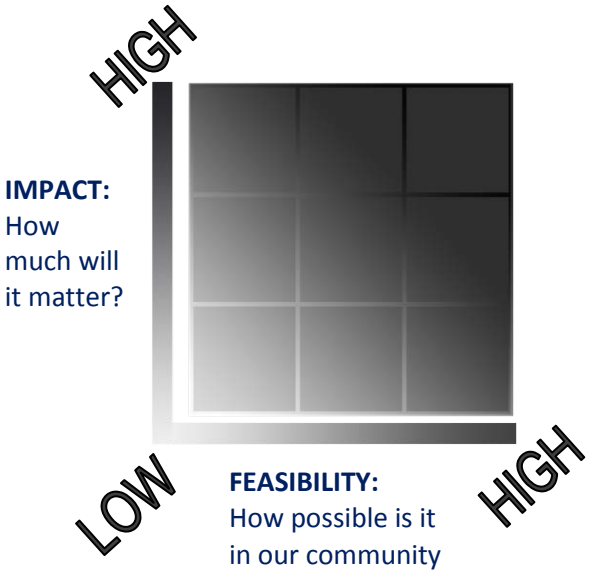
PROJECT IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION:

Participants each chose which of the 6 key themes they would like to discuss further and broke into small groups accordingly. Each topic attracted enough people to form a small working group.

The task of each group was to think about problems that existed in each theme and then to brainstorm possible solutions/answers to the issue identified. We did that by thinking out loud for half an hour or so about "problems" and "goals." Then we suggested solutions, from practical to fanciful to idealistic. The next step was to evaluate the reality of each possible solution/project using the following impact/feasibility grid.

The Impact/Feasibility Grid

We copied each of our proposed solutions onto sticky notes. For each solution, the group decided together what the feasibility and impact of the solution would be. Then we placed the sticky note in the appropriate box.



Based on the grid, each group chose three solutions and wrote them up as proposals on their easel 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, which 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.

3 Projects or Solutions

Each of the 8 small groups retreated to their rooms and following self-introductions the group went to work to more clearly defining the issue or opportunity. Next, they identified goals and what they wished to accomplish, followed by a list of potential projects or solutions. These potential projects were then listed individually on sticky notes, and one-by-one were evaluated, and following consensus, were placed on a grid indicating their potential impact as well as their feasibility. Finally, again through consensus, the top 3 goals or opportunities were listed for presentation to and voting by the entire group of participants.

Group #1 – Natural Resources

1. Proactive town planning and growth/re-examining existing zoning
2. Add option of composting at various locations within the town
3. Environmental and community rights ordinance – limit types of exploitation, education about ordinance

Group #2 – Community Gathering Spaces

1. Identify/create aesthetically pleasing inside and outside spaces that bring the community together for events, activities and services.
2. New library/community center with meeting spaces (e.g. internet café) and optimal location of municipal facilities.
3. Effective utilization of existing structures. Identify, evaluate, enhance and promote existing and prospective outdoor spaces

Group #3 – Transportation, Roads & Utilities

1. Alternative transportation
2. Long term plan for road development and maintenance
3. Increase communication option – copper-wire, fiber-optic, wireless

Group #4 – Lifelong Learning

1. Creating non-traditional, non-formal educational opportunities for all ages
2. Inventory town residents to identify what (skills/interests/topics) people are interested in receiving and providing
3. Work with chamber of commerce and community groups, communicate programs, network
4. Identify sites to offer educational programs – existing sites and businesses, school, town

Group #5 – Growth and Development

1. Identify sites and look at zoning – need proportional growth between business and residential (find balance).
2. Welcome packages to new residents to advertise local businesses and town resources.
3. Marketing new business opportunities (to businesses and towns people)

Group #6 – Communication

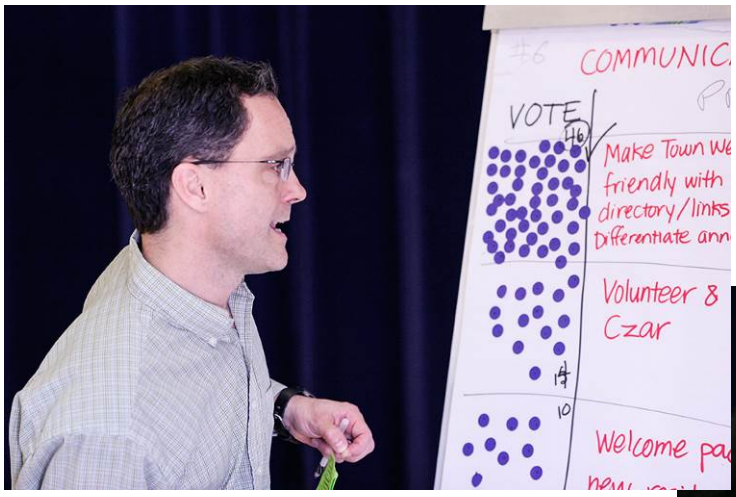
1. Make town website more user-friendly with comprehensive directory/links, differentiate announcements/information
2. Volunteer and communication czar
3. Welcome package for new residents

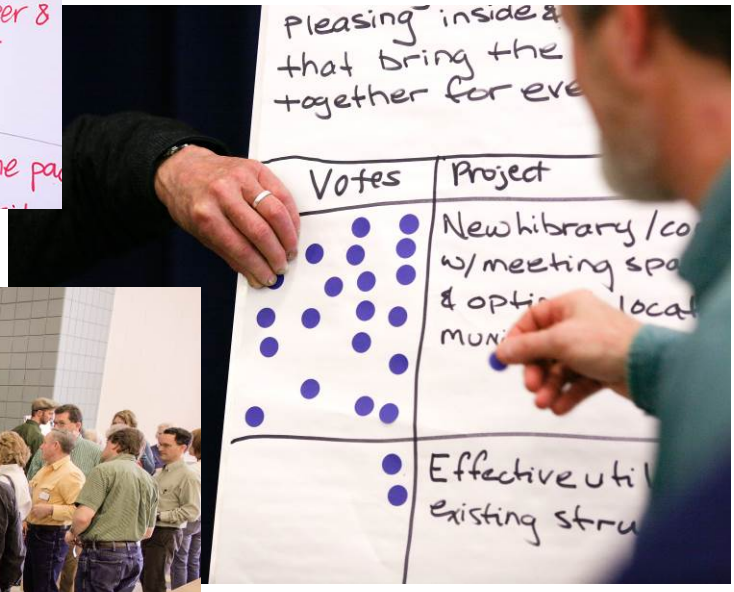
WHICH ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PROJECTS/OPPORTUNITIES/SOLUTIONS FOR BARRINGTON RIGHT NOW?

We returned to the large group to hear from a member of each small group who presented the 3 projects or solutions that their group had come up with.

Each participant was given 6 sticky dots to represent their vote for the opportunity they identified with most under each of the six categories. The large group facilitator inquired with participants to determine if any of the projects or solutions could be combined. The participants were ready to make individual choices and they voted!

VOTING





VOTING RESULTS: PRIORITY PROJECTS AND SOLUTIONS

# of votes	
48	Identify sites and look at zoning – need proportional growth between business and residential (find balance)
46	Make town website more user-friendly with comprehensive directory/links, differentiate announcements/information
44	Proactive town planning and growth/re-examining existing zoning
41	New library/community center with meeting spaces (e.g. internet café) and optimal location of municipal facilities
35	Long term plan for road development and maintenance
29	Inventory town residents to identify what (skills/interests/topics) people are interested in receiving and providing
29	Alternative transportation
23	Work with Chamber of Commerce and community groups, communicate programs, network
19	Identify sites to offer educational programs – existing sites and businesses, school, town facilities/new meeting space in community center
17	Effective utilization of existing structures
14	Welcome packages to new residents to advertise local businesses and town resources
14	Volunteer and communication czar
12	Identify, evaluate, enhance and promote existing and prospective outdoor spaces
11	Marketing new business opportunities (to businesses and towns people)
10	Add option of composting at various locations within the town
10	Welcome package for new residents
7	Environmental and community rights ordinance – limit types of exploitation, education about ordinance
5	Increase communication option – copper-wire, fiber-optic, wireless

ACTION GROUPS

After the voting, the groups were to focus in on the top project from each topic. Participants were asked to volunteer to work on Action Groups for each topic area and consider the top priority as identified through the Community Profile. Participants self-selected into Action Groups of interest to them. Action Groups met to exchange contact information, identify a group leader, identify who else might be involved with the topic and to plan a first meeting.

Action groups began to meeting in April and May, 2014. Action groups met with the Steering Committee on June 5, 2014 to discuss their progress and share next steps. The participants below signed up for Action Groups at the Community Profile event. For an updated list contact the Town of Barrington.

Group 1 – Natural Resources and Rural Character

Contact: Sam Boduch

Sam Boduch	Doug Bogen	Jim Farnham	Pat Lenzi	Jena Brown
Joyce Capiello	Robert Anderson	Tony Gaudiello	Amy Antonucci	Julie Coleman

Group 2 – Community Development or Community Gather Space

Contact: Jill Hilfiker

Liz Rivet	Cheryl Huckins	Stephanie Dimke	Anne Melvin	Fran DiTursi
Michael Joyce	Jill Hilfiker	Margaret Mausteller	Matt Towne	Maureen Sawicki
				Ron St. Jean

Group 3 – Transportation, Roads, Utilities

Contact: Julien Olivier

Jessie Jacques	Julien Olivier
Michael Cavanagh	

Group 4 – Life Long Learning

Contact: Pat Gingrich

Pat Keravich	Karoline Bodner	Pat Gingrich	Kaethe Houst
Dorothy Johnsen	Nola Joyce	Bob DiTursi	Diane St. Jean

Group 5 – ID Sites/Zoning/Business Development

Contact: John Huckins

Sarah Berry	Dan Cappiello	John Huckins	James Sunderland	Dennis Malloy
Rebekah Thacker	Caryn Ranson	Franx Becker	Tracy Ramsey	Ashlee Iber
Fred Bussiere	George Calef	Steve Saunders	Lynne Macdonald	David Ranson
			Linda Sunderland	

Group 6 – Communication

Contact: Jacki Saunders

Susan Frankel	George Dorsett	Michael D. Houst	Dawn Hatch	Jacki Saunders
Liz Dorsett	Steven Diamond	Laruen Katz	David Mincin	Heather Totty

Community Profile - Envision Barrington Participants

John Allard
Marlene Allard
Robert Anderson
Amy Antonucci
Dan Ayer
Denis Beaulieu
Frank Becker
Karolina Bodner
Sam Boduch
Doug Bogen
Jena Brown
Lynda Brushett
Fred Bussiere
George Calef
Sarah Calitri
Joyce Cappiello
Dan Cappiello
Ginger Carbaugh
Michael Cavanagh
Jackie Cilley
Deb Clough
Cynthia Cohen
Julie Coleman
Steve Diamond
Stephanie Dimke
Bob Ditursi
Fran Ditursi
George Dorsett
Liz Dorsett
Pam Farling
Jim Farnham
Susan Frankel
Shawn Gage
Melissa Gagne
Marcia Gasses
Susan Gaudiello
Tony Gaudiello
Roger Gingrich
Patty Gingrich
Ken Grossman
Holly Grossman
Marie Harris
Dawn Hatch
Ruth Henderson
Jill Hilfiker
Betsy Hippensteel
Alyssa Holdeman
Jed Holderman
Kaethe Houst
Michael Houst
John Huckins
Cheryl Huckins
Ashlee Iber
Dorothy Johnsen
Nola Joyce
Michael Joyce
Lauren Katz
Pat Keravich
Duane Kimball
Kathleen Kimball
Heidi Kuell
Ed Lemos
Maureen Lemos
Brian Lenzi
Pat Lenzi
Becky Lenzi
Stacy Libby
Kristopher Libby
Sharon Lovejoy
Megan Lyons
Lynne Macdonald
Dennis Malloy
Mary Ann Marchi
Henry Marchi
Margaret Mausteller
Paul Mausteller
Anne Melvin
David Mincin
Michael Montgomery
Ashlee Montgomery
Kate Moore
Ann Morgan
Fred Nichols
Julien Olivier
Jane Olivier
Tracy Ramsey
David Ranson
Caryn Ranson
Linda Reeves
Jim Rivet
Liz Rivet
Jacki Saunders
Steve Saunders
Maureen Sawicki
Darren Scopel
Melinda Shofner
Betty Spinale
Chuck Spinale
Diane St. Jean
Ron St. Jean
Robert Stock
Linda Sunderland
Jim Sunderland
Rebekah Thacker
David Totty
Heather Totty
Matt Towne
Helene Traill
John Wallace
David Watters
Charter Weeks
Kate Wilcox
Marika Wilde
Laura Williford
Sandy Woodcock

*This list was derived from Community Profile event sign-in sheets.

A final copy of this report was completed and given to the Town of Barrington on June 24, 2014.