

Moultonborough Planning Board and Master Plan Committee Work Session  
Vision and Goals for the New Master Plan  
Summarized Notes – DRAFT 1

Town Hall January, 29, 2014 6:00pm – 8:00pm

In Attendance:

Josh, Paul, Peter, Joanne, Keith, Tom, Chris, Rich, Scott, Russ, Kevin, Bruce Woodruff – Town Planner, Steve Pesci –Facilitator, Cassie Mullen and Casey Wolf (UNH student assistants)

The group expressed consensus to begin the session from a blank slate and not work off the existing pages 4-6 of 2008 Master Plan Chapter 2 (although this did not mean that there was not a respect for the processes and content in that Plan). There was agreement that next Master Plan should have concise language, more positive framing and clearer language that avoids vague or multiple meaning buzzwords. The first hour of the session began with facilitated roundtable soliciting topics/content to be edited/changed/added to adapt the new Master Plan to existing conditions and revised future view. The group was asked to begin with big picture thoughts – **Vision Statement** topics and issues – What are shared priorities for Moultonborough?

*Roundtable elicited the following summarized points to be wordsmithed into 1p Vision:*

1. Moultonborough's character, quaintness and geographic context attract residents and visitors to this special place. Town heritage includes a strong respect and concern for agricultural and rural areas and a culture of respect for historical sites, attractions and recreational areas.
2. The Town seeks to balance adopted regulations, ordinances, policies and permitted development with a fundamental respect for private property and property rights. The Town encourages a diverse spectrum of economic activities and populations.
3. The Town has a traditional and commitment to conserve, sustain and wisely manage natural resources (such as the lakes and forests) which are fundamental to the intrinsic character of town. Residents maintain a fundamental understanding that jobs, low taxes, quality schools and quality of life and quality of environment are key principles in our shared vision of Moultonborough. These aspects of the Town are enhanced by the unique natural environment, which draws residents, employers and visitors alike.
4. The Town is committed to provide effective, efficient and appropriate services to the community while maintaining local control balanced with a tradition of playing a proactive role in the region. Moultonborough is unique and residents want to avoid it becoming a cookie-cutter town.
5. Moultonborough's Plan needs to focus on the people – not just the physical conditions of the community. When issues of balance are discussed a stronger effort should be made to incorporate cultural demographics (including the year round and seasonal residents and visitors) as opposed to just quantitative statistics.

6. A broad consensus vision for Moultonborough includes and encourages a diverse balance of rural community character, including a variety of land uses, economic activities, development patterns and demographics. Development is always in balance with community character, natural resources, rural and agricultural land protection and done in a way to enhance the Town as a vibrant, unique destination community.
7. As a healthy and unique rural community the town will evolve and modernize while maintaining its heritage, historical features and “New England” town center. This balance will require wise (cost-effective, beneficial, appropriately sized) infrastructure investments (water, sewer, transportation, public safety, recreation and public spaces).
8. The Town shall use good ordinances, planning practices and other adopted policies to encourage and **attract 21<sup>st</sup> century growth while maintaining 19<sup>th</sup> century character.** It is likely that the Town will be best suited for knowledge-based, creative cottage industries and small business and should be welcoming to such. In a traditional New England village this means permitting compatible mixes of land uses which meet community expectations expressed through transparent public process and frequent public dialog. Ideally, Moultonborough will stitch this growth into our rural landscape creating a vibrant economy and a high quality of life.
9. A majority of Town tax revenue is associated with our lakes, watersheds and water resources. It is of paramount importance that Moultonborough continue to work proactively, and collaboratively with watershed neighbors to protect and enhance these resources.
10. The Master Plan is a multi-decade document. It will build upon the 2008 Plan’s enumeration of clear and discrete short, mid and long-term goals with justifications and rationales. Town leaders, staff and appointed working groups will track progress and suggest ongoing implementation needs. As such, the Plan is foundation of a process which requires transparency and ongoing active public participation. The Town will encourage and embrace dialog and work to forge a common consensus while respecting a healthy diversity of constructive opinions.

**Final thoughts from Vision Roundtable: Other detail topics to be enunciated in the Plan Chapters with upcoming public dialog.**

- *The Master Plan and the final vision and statements of principle should directly incorporate input from recent listening sessions and town-wide survey results. It is important that the document include rationale (the 'why') to principles and assumptions. A successful plan will be the result of frequent community conversations on all the components of the plan.*
- Recreation and Community Center issues need to be addressed more transparently and with direction as well as Safety Plans/needs
- More specific on 21<sup>st</sup> century growth and where it will be allowed.
- This plan needs a much greater emphasis on water resources...
- There needs to be a clear respect for visitors and tourists in our Plan and our attitude... We need to welcome them
- Village Investment and Clarity... Different views on specifics but shared embrace of need for general improvements on both the corridor and in the immediate village.....constructive areas for shared incremental steps?
- More language to encourage a Community Stewardship and Social responsibility (citizenship). This was referred to as a 'caring community'. How Can the Master Plan process elicit conversation and discussion on this topic – especially given the elderly community in town?
- Use caution attaching documents that aren't part of plan. Issues need to be on the table as part of the discussion and process.
- Adequately represent entire town of Moultonborough in master plan. Clarify. Integrate different districts/neighborhoods of town better. Is there a need for specific neighborhood sections/goals?
- Recognize that large tracks of land are becoming more and more scarce. This reinforces the Town to look more closely at integrated, neighborhood and small scale development ordinances and opportunities.

**What makes Moultonborough unique?**

- Low tax rate
- Low density
- Massive amount of lake frontage
- Friendly people
- Exercise local control
- Views and people
- Independent school district
- Public access to water
- Dealing with issues proactively
- Financial control
- Toastmasters club
- Community garden

See Attached Lightning Round (2008 Plan Edits Document)

End of meeting 8:10pm