

Community Visioning Summary

The weekend event was well attended on both days. One hundred-ten dedicated community members were served dinner on the first night and eighty-five attended on Saturday. Introductory speakers on Friday set the tone for the weekend with thoughtful and informative comments on changes in the community, its history, and the rich diversity of the land and its inhabitants. Delia Clark did an excellent job leading and managing the event. The discussions that took place on both days provided information and ideas on many subjects familiar to the Steering Committee. After listening to several group discussions, reading the group notes, and viewing a tape of the event I've identified a few broad themes that developed over the weekend and the community suggestions associated with them.

Valley Vision Themes

Community Connectivity/ Building Social Capital:

- Develop a Valley wide on-line calendar to provide information for community members on events, meetings, and opportunities;
- support the creation of a multi-generational community center that would include, wellness programs, activities for all ages, meeting rooms, opportunities for socializing, etc;
- support the local Arts community and organizations;
- extend the Mad River Path from Warren to Moretown;
- provide citizen education programs to promote civic participation;
- promote school board cooperation and resource sharing.

Environmental and Economic Sustainability:

- Support regional cooperation, mixed use growth centers and compact village centers;
- encourage staged growth, look at build out scenarios;
- work on a housing plan for the Valley;
- find suitable places to locate business development;
- sustain the character of the Valley by protecting the river, mountains, open space, villages, and scenic quality;
- promote the use of local foods in schools;
- encourage inter-town cooperation and sharing of resources;
- broaden the scope of the MRVPD to include other towns in the Watershed;
- conserve resources by lowering energy use;
- Consider creating a Valley-wide master plan.

Six big ideas (in order of preference) and group leaders

- **Mad River Plan:** Develop a positive vision of what the Valley could become over the next 20 years, sustain key pieces of the Valley including- river, mountains, villages, open space, scenic quality; manage the growth that is inevitable.
contact: Burt Bauchner
- **Community Center:** Create a multi-generational, multi purpose facility that includes a variety of resources for the community. The Open Hearth group is holding a charette on 11/19 and 20.
Contact: Bobbi Rood
- **Reorganize the MRVPD:** Expand the MRVPD to include other towns in the Watershed; look at possibility of broadening the Steering Committee; reinvent-reinvigorate- empower the MRVPD.
- **Mad River Path:** Connect the path Warren to Moretown.
Contact: Richard Hiscock
- **School Board Cooperation:** Encourage more cooperation, sharing of resources, consider consolidation of facilities.
Contact: Charlie Hosford
- **Community Events Calendar:** provide online information on meetings, recreation and arts events in the Valley.
Contact: Jennifer Howard-arts, Ken Felderman-recreation
- **Food Fight:** provide more local food to Valley schools.
Contact: Molly Geiger
- **Selectboard Communication**
Promote dialogue between Watershed communities; identify common challenges, consider sharing resources.
Contact:

There were many ideas generated in small group discussions. The notes are being organized into a report by Jennifer Peterson . Several groups are already planning follow up meetings. The MRVPD will provide information as needed.