

## **Ferrisburgh Open House Feedback from Activity Tables – October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013**

The public open house was attended by 19 Ferrisburgh residents, the Ferrisburgh PC, Claire Tebbs ACRPC Planner and Tim Bouton ACRPC Emergency Management Planner. For more questions please contact Claire Tebbs at ACRPC: 388-3141

### **1. TOWN PLAN TOPIC-SPECIFIC ACTIVITY**

*Things participants were concerned about, by town-plan topic.*

#### **Housing**

Less sprawl

#### **Transportations**

- Bike lanes to keep bikers safe and lines on the center of the roads to keep drivers on right side
- Trail around Ferrisburgh
- Traffic too fast on sand rd.
- Preserve the rural character of our gravel roads

#### **Recreation**

- Encourage visitors to take advantage of opportunities for biking, fishing, kayaking, hiking etc.
- Outreach necessary to make sure folks are aware
- Town hall should be used freely for community activities
- Grange Hall – once a month open-mic like the Ripton Coffee House, things like this

#### **Energy**

- How about generating hydro-power at Lewis Creek in the Hollow where there once were mills
- Hydro power at Little Otter Creek?
- Energy Independence
- Encourage community solar

#### **Utilities and Facilities**

Require that town buildings be built to be energy efficient (low operating cost) and environmentally sound

#### **Child Care**

Early childhood education is vital. FCS needs to provide preschool for children 3 and 4 yrs. old.

### **Education**

- FCS is great and needs to be recognized by all in the community and be a part of the town center
- Rokeby, maritime museum, K-bay and Button Bay
- Kids in FCS need to have annual trips to town places to create a deep rooted sense of place

### **Natural Resources**

- Adopt shorelands protection rules, along lines of proposed state law now being considered in legislature (H.526)
- Conserve wildlife habitat

### **Other**

- The Town Office Community Center needs to be more accessible to the public to utilize. Not very 'user friendly'
- Concentrate a mix of small businesses and residences around town center
- We need more business
- How about a multi-generation center with childcare/seniors
- Town Plan needs to be supported by town leaders and rules and regs-zoning

### **Hazard Mitigation**

Shoulders on roads to support safe walking and biking

### **Econ Dev.**

Casino

### **Land use**

- Encourage continues agricultural use of the farmland town
- More localvore foods
- Preserve farms and scenic vistas
- Group houses together
- Make the town plan and zoning conducive to small and medium scale agriculture (vineyards and other localvore farms)
- Simplify zoning – make it clear to understand and follow

## **2. FERRISBURGH IN THE HEADLINES ACTIVITY**

*In 20 years, why is Ferrisburgh the best place to live in Vermont/what are the headlines saying?*

- ..great combination of agricultural land and residential. Historical buildings and new growth. Public lands to play on, office to work in.
- ...the development was all but inevitable, so close to Chittenden County, but by planning for growth that suited the rural community, the town center has grown into a welcome hub of town activity and the layout of the residential villages leaves large tracks of the town that retain their rural character. The Vermont farming revolution/evolution is thriving on that land to the benefit of all!
- ...A quiet and involved community with great access to Burlington and Middlebury, stunning valley setting with mountains and lake
- ...Ferrisburgh somehow dodged the bullet and put in place zoning that led to a beautiful, thriving community.
- ...a place you want to come home to.
- ...beautiful tree-lined areas on Route 7
- ...home to some of the best biking in New England
- ...in the Atlantic flyway, great migratory birds.
- ...ospreys and bald eagles in Hawkins Bay
- ...awesome sailing and biking
- ...focused development in the village centers
- ...community center/town hall used for music, poetry, movies-free or for fee (fundraising)
- ...great access to the lake via Kingsland Bay
- ...celebrating a town that offers all kinds of recreational opportunities, farm-to-table dining, and walkable town center that attracts residents and visitors

## **3. MAP IT! ACTIVITY –ideas and concerns**

*In this activity, participants identified areas of concern on an aerial photograph/map of Ferrisburgh.*

### **Village area, north and south of Little Chicago Road/Rt 7**

- “wouldn’t it be great if the rest of Route 7 running through town received as much thought and care and creativity as the Grange/Town Office Building”

- “help me! it would be awful if in 30 years they say “didn’t they learn from Williston and So. Burlington???”
- “General store for town center”
- Community sewer
- “dumpy look at town center – burned and vacant buildings
- No change
- Deal with dilapidated building on Rt 7 in our town

### **Route 7**

Tighten regs. along route

### **Otter Creek**

- Build walking, bike and horse trail along Otter Creek towpath.
- An aid to navigation on Otter Creek at Rock Landing
- Otter Creek Wildlife Management Area is great

### **Lewis Creek in Hollow**

Hydro Power

### **Shellhouse Mountain**

Access to town land on Shellhouse Mountain for trails

### **Stage Road/Long Point Rd Intersection**

- Light needed
- Retail mix
- Encourage development

### **Trails**

- Bike trail from RR park and ride/tupper crossing rd/Vergennes falls connection
- Trail around Ferrisburgh like Midd TAM
- Bike trail around Ferrisburgh

### **Vergennes**

Vergennes is our town center.

### **Town Forest**

Public access

### **Roads**

Enforce single land biking for VT bike tours

## **Kingsland Bay**

How about a town mooring area at Kingsland Bay

## **4. THINGS I WOULD CHANGE ABOUT YOU, FERRISBURGH**

*Drop box comments:*

- It would be great to have a center of town around a green. Since Ferrisburgh is linear, we need to beautiful Route 7 south of grange to Little Otter Creek (can burned bldg. be condemned and torn down?) We need to be open to attracting small businesses to town, locally owned.
- The town needs to be more pro-active about what Rt 7's future will be. We need to revise the town plan and bylaws so that development is done at a small scale and in a way that respects our history and village aesthetic. But we should also pursue the kinds of development that would enhance our community –businesses that are co nested to local agriculture, that are locally owned. We need to be aggressive in this rather than wait and see what comes our way. A couple examples of appropriate development might be a restaurant along the lines of the new pub in Hinesburg; or the King Arthur Flour shop/café/school in Norwich, VT; or a shop that sells local produce/crafts/foods etc.

## **5. THINGS I LOVE ABOUT YOU, FERRISBURGH**

*Drop box comments:*

- Amount of open land
- Amount of wildlife
- Mt biking Kingsland Bay and Canoe trail across the bay
- Access to Lake
- The land along Lewis Creek, from the Hollow Road Bridge where it goes under Route 7 – it should be preserved
- The amount of lake front, there should be more public access to it.
- The Lake
- The farms
- The views
- The state park
- The people
- Most of all, the people