

APPENDIX I

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

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During the early spring of 2009 the Effingham Planning Board directed that the Effingham Master Plan 2003 be updated. The Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) was formed and Mike Cauble and Steve Zelewski became co-chairs. The committee was aided by Michele Gagnon (Craig) from the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Program.

Twenty-seven people attended the first meeting of the MPAC. At that and subsequent meetings, Goals and Objectives were discussed, along with which sections of the RSA should be covered. It became an important objective to include as many of our citizens as possible in all phases of developing the Master Plan. To that end, two subcommittees were formed. The Public Forum Subcommittee was headed by Lori Lenart and the Public Survey Subcommittee was headed by Jim Morris.

The Forum Committee created a photo contest so children could select and photograph their favorite places in town. This contest helped give visibility to the process of creating a Master Plan. Further to that end, the Forum Subcommittee set up a booth at the 2009 Celebrate Effingham Day, and encouraged citizens to "vote" on issues of importance in Effingham's future development.

In August, 2009 the Forum Committee planned and executed a Public Forum at which the results of the Celebrate Effingham Day "vote" were presented. Participants then broke into small groups, built around the results of the "vote", to discuss and provide input on the various topics which had been identified. This gathering was well attended and provided the Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) with valuable information and direction.

The Survey Committee spent the winter of 2009/2010 examining surveys from other towns in the state and then debating the merits of adding any of several hundred questions to its own survey. The net result, which included issues raised at the August 2009 Public Forum, was completed and sent to the Planning Board for review. A lively debate resulted in a comprehensive survey which was distributed to the citizens of Effingham. The MPAC provided two ways for citizens to respond. The survey was placed online via the Cooperative Extension at UNH, and notice that the survey was available in hard copy at both the Town Hall and the Effingham Public Library was advertised publicly.

There were 110 responses to the survey, which MPAC felt was a very good representation considering the town's population. A Public Meeting was held to review the survey results and receive input from the attendees. Following that Meeting, a presentation was made to the Effingham Planning Board and it was decided that two of the chapters would be contracted out to the Lakes Region Planning Commission and the other chapters would be written by volunteer residents. The survey responses were then distributed to each group responsible for preparing the Master Plan chapters.

Draft chapters were produced and presented for review and comment at a Public Forum which was held in May, 2011. Every chapter was presented to the Forum by the group which had

drafted it, including representatives from the Lakes Region Planning Commission and the Effingham Conservation Commission. Public attendance and participation were good, and comments were taken back to the drafting groups and incorporated into their respective chapters. Thus, every chapter of the Master Plan benefitted from the input and guidance of the citizens of Effingham.

As of this date (October 2011) roughly half of the expected chapters have been written and are herein presented to the Planning Committee for their deliberation. The next two steps are public comment on the written chapters and the beginning of the writing of the remaining chapters.

Respectfully submitted by
Jim Morris, Co-Chair MPAC