

Chester Town Plan
Appendix B

Chester Community Values Workshop

October 29, 2008

The Chester Planning Commission, with the assistance of the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, conducted a community values workshop on October 29, 2008. The purpose of the workshop was to encourage public input to help inform the Town Plan update process. A public opinion survey was conducted in March 2008, which indicated strong support for protecting natural resources and recreational opportunities in Chester. This community values mapping workshop was developed to identify the approximate areas where these valuable resources are located.

Approximately 30 residents attended. Given a blank map of the town with roads and streams, small groups sketched on the map and listed those things that they love about Chester. The sketches were then compiled by the Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission to create one map. The resulting map represents a generalized inventory of special places or assets in Chester.

The following is a compiled list of what workshop attendees love about Chester:

Community Resources/Assets

- Town center / Village charm
- Arts & crafts
- Restaurants
- Shopping
- Schools, library, town hall, churches
- “Small shops” (local businesses, small scale, diversified, no chain stores)
- Village Green
- Railroad / train station
- Sidewalks
- Tourism
- Player’s Guild
- High speed internet / cable
- Ellsworth medical clinic
- CRT public bus services
- Community events sponsored by local businesses
- Sense of community

Historic Resources

- Stone Village / stone houses
- Historic buildings / architecture
- Cemeteries
- Academy Building
- Yosemite Fire House
- School houses

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Working Landscape

- Local farms (especially along the Williams River)
- Maple sugaring
- Forestry / forest products
- Mining / local building materials

Wildlife & Undeveloped Lands

- The Pinnacle
- Town Forest
- Ridge tops / scenic view sheds
- Large, contiguous blocks of forest lands
- Ponds, wetlands, streams, rivers
- Wildlife viewing in back yard
- Scenic open fields and forests / lack of built environment
- Dark sky at night
- Williams River
- Land in Current Use

Recreation

- Lost Mine & GMUHS trails
- Hiking, snow shoeing, cross country skiing, horseback riding
- Snowmobile trails
- Walking (Sidewalks and Church Street loop)
- Class 4 roads / dirt roads
- Hunting / Rod & Gun Club
- Swimming holes
- Fishing
- Recreational fields & facilities (Cobleigh, MacKenzie, Elementary & High School)
- Wyman's Falls