

Implementation Program, Woodbury Town Plan

Discussion Points

- **Do the goals and objectives meet statutory requirements and address the wishes of town residents?** Do the goals and objectives capture what we want to accomplish over this planning period? Is there a need for additional goals/objectives or re-wording any of those presented below? We are at the brainstorming stage so there will be ample opportunity for adjustments going forward.
- I have included **possible actions** Michael's input on my first shot at actions and added some from the Village Plan but I have not yet looked through the state planning manual to identify other possibilities. Folks with more experience in town government are in a better position to judge which actions make sense, what more could be done in some areas, and which would simply be too difficult for the town to tackle. The actions will require more thought and discussion going forward to flesh out the details of how each will be accomplished. Each action must be assigned to a specific town body or organization, given a deadline for completion, and required resources identified. Actions should be achievable with the human and financial resources and legal authority available to the town. On a positive note, more funding will be available from the state from Federal Covid recovery funding (although I expect that there will be competition among towns for those resources).

Proposed Goals and Objectives

Economic Development

Goal: Support expanded business and employment opportunities in Woodbury by encouraging provision of services needed by local businesses and home workers.

Objective 1 - Make high speed internet connections available to all Woodbury homes and businesses to fulfill a basic requirement of modern life and commerce.

Possible Actions:

- **Retain** a representative to the regional internet group.
- Form a town level internet committee (?)

Objective 2 - Encourage and support home-based businesses and workers to attract new residents and reduce the need to commute by existing residents.

Possible Actions:

- Create a workspace in a town-owned building with high-speed connections for home workers to use during the day.
- ~~Use social media to try to attract new residents and workers.~~
- ~~Create a stronger~~ Explore a Woodbury 'brand' built on the Lakes and Ponds or other themes
- ~~Create an informal~~ Facilitate the formation of a group of home business owners and workers to provide mutual support (as suggested by a survey respondent).

Objective 3 - Explore and promote economic development opportunities in Woodbury.

Possible Actions:

- Develop an economic profile of Woodbury to identify existing businesses and possible opportunities for new business. **Reach out to ACCD; Washington County Chamber of Commerce;**
- Engage the community to get ideas for economic development and promoting Woodbury. **Reach out to ACCD; Washington County Chamber of Commerce;**
- Identify short- and long-term strategies for business development including an Economic Development prospectus and Woodbury Promotional Plan. **Reach out to ACCD; Washington County Chamber of Commerce;**

Objective 4 - Encourage and strengthen agriculture and forest-based industries including manufacture and marketing of value added agricultural and forest products.

Possible Actions: *This is a tough one given the limited role of commercial agriculture in Woodbury and the fact that logs are sent elsewhere for processing (other than firewood). Any thoughts? Use future land use map as a resource. Reach out to Woodbury forest based or agriculture businesses to determine what support they may need.*

Community Development

Goal: Increase the vitality of our village centers, South Woodbury and Woodbury Village, to benefit the existing community and attract new residents.

Objective 1 - Develop the village centers as the centerpieces of community life and economic development. *This objective is largely built on the results of the village planning project. How far is it reasonable to go in developing the village giving flooding issues?*

Possible Actions:

- Apply for village center designation (*which can be done after the town plan is adopted*).
- Develop and adopt Planning and Design Guidelines for future village development in accordance with the *Woodbury Community Planning Project - Final Report* and incorporate into zoning ordinance.

- Identify streetscape layout preferences based on preliminary design concepts from community planning project
- Hire consultant to conduct detailed study to identify future water supply and wastewater options and related implementation budget.
- Develop final schematic plans including recommendations for future village water supply, sewage, and stormwater design enhancements.
- Apply for grants to implement identified infrastructure needs;
- Create an outdoor area for farmer's markets and community events;
- Make the village area more pedestrian and bicycle friendly;

Objective 2 – Facilitate the creation of public and/or commercial gathering places.

Possible Actions:

- Encourage the opening of a store or café (*apply for grant funding?*);
- Create a meeting place in a town owned building that is open at regular times and for special community events.

Objective 3 – Facilitate the creation of a childcare facility in town

Possible Actions:

- Make space available in a town owned building for a daycare center?
- Support parents to form a group to formulate a plan to address childcare needs?
- Apply for a grant to start a daycare center?

Natural Resources

Goal: Protect and conserve Woodbury's forests, lakes, ponds, and wetlands to maintain and improve ecological functions, recreational opportunities, and scenic values.

Objective 1: Maintain and improve ecological integrity of forest blocks and the habitat connectors between them by minimizing fragmentation and improving management.

Possible Actions:

- Include measures in the Future Land Use Map and revised zoning ordinance to protect forest blocks and habitat connectors from fragmentation and degradation.
- Encourage landowners of large forest blocks and connectors to manage these blocks to maintain their ecological values (*should we specifically mention establishing a close working relationship with the Meyers family?*).
- Educate forest owners and other town residents about the ecological importance of forest blocks and habitat connectors.
- Consider adopting a cross-cutting town policy on forest fragmentation.
- **Act in accordance with State and Federal statutes. (or inserting a footnote stating our intentions)**
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Objective 2: Maintain and improve, where necessary, water quality and protect shorelines of lakes, ponds, and brooks.

Possible Actions:

- Incorporate provisions of the Shoreline Protection Act into the revised Zoning Ordinance.
- Educate lakeshore landowners aware of Shoreline Protection Act provisions and strengthen enforcement.
- Include provisions in the zoning ordinance and Future Land Use plan to protect shorelines.
- Work with the state Lakes and Ponds Program and lake associations to ensure that each major lake has volunteer water quality monitors and invasive aquatic weed patrollers
- Apply for a grant to fund Lake Watershed Action Plans and Lake Wise Program projects for priority lakes.

Objective 3: Protect wetlands, ecologically fragile areas, and rare habitat from disturbance.

Possible Actions: Map these resources and Include their protection in the revised zoning ordinance and Future Land Use Plan. *Are they already mapped? We need input from the Conservation Commission for additional actions.*

Objective 4: Designate and encourage the value of scenic views and other scenic resources.

Possible Actions: *Need additional ideas for this*

- Create a scenic resources map for Woodbury
- Determine what actions are needed to protect these resources.

Transportation

Goal: Maintain Woodbury's roads at a high standard and make them safe and inviting for bicyclists and pedestrians, particularly in the Village Centers and the Route 14 corridor.

Objective 1: Maintain and improve the town road system for all-season safety.

Possible Actions:

- Continue to participate in the Municipal General Roads Permit (MGRP) program to ensure road system improvements.
- Maintain a record of road improvements.
- Continue to work with VTrans for technical support
- Take advantage of road signage (VTrans on Rt 14) Road Commissioner on gravel and class 3 roads. Example: Share the road signage..

Objective 2: Establish bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the Village Centers and connecting to other prominent locations in town (e.g. South Woodbury, town forest, Woodbury Lake)

Possible Actions:

- Work with VTrans to restripe Rt 14 for bike lanes.
- Apply for a grant to design and build necessary infrastructure.
- **Design, plan, map bike trails and hiking trails (RPC-Non-Profit)**
- **Class 3 Road Map with points of interest-Maverick M??**

Recreation

Goal: Increase recreational opportunities afforded by Woodbury's lakes, ponds, and forests for residents and non-residents.

Objective 1: Create a town beach on one of the lakes to provide a public swimming area. *Is this really feasible financially?*

Possible Actions:

- Form a committee to recommend possible sites and funding sources (*Does this make sense as a way to approach it?*) **Yes**
- **Approach the State to determine feasibility for residents to use Buck Lake beach and boat access when the CC is not in use. Contact state reps and senators.**
- **Cranberry Meadow Pond? North end of Greenwood Lake, Nichols Pond Dam?**

Objective 2: Expand hiking, biking, skiing, and snowshoeing opportunities on public and private lands.

Possible Actions:

- Encourage Maverick Murphy to complete the trail map she is working on and make it widely available to the public.
- Explore opportunities for expanding the trail system including on private land (such as a Trans-Woodbury Trail) and seek owner permission.
- Map out bicycle touring routes on Woodbury's back roads and publicize these.
- **Form a committee to recommend possible sites for a winter trail system in town for hiking, snowshoeing, x-country skiing. Example: Hardwick Trails**
- **Bird watching initiative..Example Hardwick Bird Trail..See WDBY Conservation Commission**

Objective 3: Maintain and improve town recreation facilities including the town forest, baseball field at school, and ice rink.

Possible Actions:

- ~~Build a parking area at the town forest trailhead and expand trail network to connect with trails on adjacent land. Happening summer of 2021.~~
- Low hanging fruit. Complete trail in the Town Forest.
- Establish outdoor classroom building at the Woodbury Elementary School.
- Enhance the public skating rink by installing a roof over the ice surface.
- Assist in the installation and funding of a teaching platform in the school wetlands.
- *Does anyone know of specific maintenance or improvement needs for other town facilities?*

Public Facilities and Services

Goal: Maintain town-owned facilities and provide basic public services, while seeking opportunities to make improvements.

Objective 1: Maintain and improve town-owned buildings, wastewater systems, and water supplies and make public space more available for community use.

Possible Actions:

- Form an ad-hoc committee to explore upgrades to the Town Hall.
- Increase annual funding to the Town Building Fund a Reserve Fund
- Perform energy audits on all town owned buildings
- Establish a feasibility study for wastewater treatment in the Village; ARPA Funds??
- *Does anyone know of specific maintenance or improvement needs for existing buildings or water and wastewater systems?*
- Increase availability of public facilities for civic and cultural events. *Can we say something more specific?*

Objective 2: Continue funding the operations of the Woodbury Volunteer Department for fire protection and Hardwick Rescue for emergency medical response by trained local volunteers using well-maintained equipment.

Possible Actions: **See Objective 2!** *Any thoughts on what might be done in light of failure of vote for a new fire house? Continue to continue funding both organizations.*

Objective 3: Provide police protection on a contractual basis.

Possible Actions: *Should we just say that we'll continue to use the state police or are there other options to explore?*

- Explore contract with Hardwick PD to enhance coverage; if successful terminate contract with Washington County Sheriff.

Objective 4: Collaborate with the OSUESD in keeping Woodbury School functioning as a school and community hub.

Possible Actions:

- Encourage community involvement with and support of the school through Friends of the Woodbury Elementary School
- Support strengthening the natural science curriculum and outdoor education program to increase the educational value and viability of the school.

Objective 5: Maintain the Woodbury Community Library as an important community resource.

Possible Actions:

- Support the library trustees to develop and implement a new long-range plan for the library.
- **Post locations of WiFi “hotspots”**

Energy

Append the energy plan to the town plan

Historic and Cultural Resources

Goal: Protect and preserve important historic and cultural resources and make information about these resources available.

Objective 1: Identify, map, and designate historic and cultural resources

Possible Activities:

- Identify, map, and describe structures, sites, and districts (Maverick Murphy’s work will help with historic landmarks). *To what extent has this already been done.*
- Make this information available on the town website and hold public educational events such as talks and tours.
- **Support talks at Woodbury Community Library and Town Hall and activities in the Town Forest.**

Objective 2: Minimize the impact of telecommunications and other large infrastructure projects on the historic and natural resources of Woodbury.

Possible Activities: Include a provision in the revised zoning ordinance addressing scenic, historic, and natural resource considerations in telecommunications and other large

infrastructure siting. *To be legally enforceable the resources would have to be clearly identified and specific wording used such as elevation limitations or within identified forest blocks.*

- Continue support of CV Fiber or other contractor(s) in the deployment of high-speed broadband connectivity.
- Incorporate into the new zoning ordinance.

Objective 3: Highlight the role of the granite quarries in Woodbury's history and landscape. ~~to make them a strong part of the Woodbury brand.~~ Further discussion needed!

Possible Activities: *This is a research project for the Historical Society or an interested person but may not be something we want in the town plan? Is this actually needed or is the information already out there?*

- Engage the historical society for information regarding the quarry's history.
- Add markers along the trail regarding the structure/quarry.

Housing

Goal: Increase the diversity of housing options to meet the needs of a wide range of income levels and tastes.

Objective 1: Encourage housing development to fill market gaps, especially for lower income residents.

Possible Actions:

- Inventory current housing stock and determine which categories are insufficient (*is this needed or practicable?*) **Census bureau or listers?**
- Encourage multi-family dwellings to be built or created in existing structures
- Remove zoning and other legal barriers to ancillary structures **once town plan is accepted and zoning ordinance is updated. Planning Commissioners & Zoning Administrator.**
- Catalyze construction of needed categories through zoning or inviting an organization such as Habitat for Humanity?

Flood Resilience and Hazard Mitigation

Goal: To increase Woodbury's flood resilience and improve the town's ability to mitigate natural hazards.

Woodbury already has an approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP) approved in 2019 under a federal statute. Town plans are required to include a Flood Resilience Plan (FRP) which may 'reference' the LHMP. *Perhaps it should also be appended. And key actions included in the plan?*

- Apply for FEMA grant monies to alleviate flooding in the Village
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Land Use

Goal: Guide land use to maintain Woodbury’s rural character, preserve working landscapes, maintain the ecological values of its natural resources, and protect its historic and scenic resources.

Objective 1: Protect large forest blocks and habitat connectors from fragmentation and development. See ACT 171 as well.

Possible Activities:

- Design Future Land Use Map and revise zoning ordinance to guide development away from forest blocks and corridors. Elicit help from the CVRPC.
- ~~Need to look at manual~~

Objective 2: Protect the shores of lakes, ponds, wetlands, and brooks from development that would impair water quality and/or scenic values.

Possible Activities: *Not clear if this should be repeated from natural resources section*

- Incorporate the shoreland protection act in the town plan
- Add provisions of the shoreland protection plan in the zoning ordinance. Zoning administrator and planning commission.
- Enforcement issues

Objectives 3: Encourage denser development in the Village Center and South Woodbury where practical and ecologically feasible.

Possible Activities:

- Make this a key feature of Village Center Designation
- Determine where development should not be allowed to mitigate flood hazard
- zone for smaller lots?
- Seek public additional input. Planning Commission.

Objective 4: Maintain working agricultural and forest landscapes.

Possible Activities: Ensure that the zoning ordinance and Future Land Use Map contain provisions that encourage maintenance of working forest and agricultural landscapes.

Part of the land use plan?