

New Durham Community Forum

Saturday, June 1, 2024

Community Discussion Notes

What do we like about New Durham?

- Tranquility
- No congestion
- Low Crime
- Quiet
- Neighbors/community
- Small town feel
- Feeling empowered to talk to neighbors
- Middle class/demographic mix (not posed for gentrification)
- Places with services/big box are still easy to get to
 - urgent care Alton
 - medical care Dover/Portsmouth/Boston
 - recreation/leisure Wolfeboro
- Small town = town officials/decision making is more accessible

Favorite space?

- Backyard
- General Store
- Lake

Potential Future Strategies for New Durham

- Continued land trusts/conservation areas
- Planning for aging-in-place needs
- Lake protections
- Need for grocery store/restaurants
- Age friendly housing + amenities that fit a small town
- Individual, select pockets/nodes in place of a proper downtown/village center
- Commercial tax balance-what businesses bring in \$\$ without burdening town services
- Route 11
- Variety of housing types that prevent out-migration
- Price points even for new-construction housing
- Taxes
- Investigate uses for the northern tip of town?

Who are we like? Why?

- Lyme
- Littleton
 - village center
 - main street
 - walkable local businesses vs. national brands removed from center
- Franklin
 - recreation-based economy
- Dublin
- Wolfeboro

Who are we not like?

- Salem
- Rochester

Recreational Economy

1. What does New Durham have to support the Outdoor Recreation Economy?

- Partner with schools-community trail to school, promoting ski school, using the ballfield for events, Birchridge, lowering barriers to use with recreation rentals at library.
- Develop existing assets with a focus on residents and property owners.
- Hiking trails, snowmobiling, and hunting.
- Additional ramp that charges for service not related to full-time town citizens, and vacation rentals.
- Elder hostel.
- Campgrounds with camp hosts, snowmobile trails, using Facebook to promote outdoor events, strong Rec Director.
- Trails, ballpark, Club Pond, Outdoor Outfitters shop, lake, river, fishery, SELT, campgrounds.
- Recreation Department.
- Club Pond Sponsors scouts and other groups.
- Seasonal campgrounds, eco-tourism focus, hiking, outdoor education, elder hostel.

- Outdoor education programs for children and adults, like Prescott Farm in Laconia.

2. What does New Durham need to better support the Outdoor Recreation Economy?

- Promote natural features that are already well known. Follow the model of Mount Major to use natural features to attract seasonal businesses/business competition for outdoor recreation.
- Meal tax does not come back 1-for-1 to town. Foxy Johnny's, eco-tourism, homestead education, historic sites, and the Elder Hostel are underutilized.
- Food trucks, town maps, maintenance of logging roads, paid parking for town rec department to offset costs.
- Keep promotions local. Overpopulation is the problem.
- Meeting house events, farmers market, snowmobile club.

**What do you see as an asset to both seasonal and
year-round residents in New Durham?**

- Peace and quiet. No city.
- The lake and surroundings.
- Protecting environmental assets.
- We do not want to become Salem, Manchester, or Rochester!!
- No short-term rentals Vrbo-Airbnb.