Candia Community Profile
2016

Candia 2026

April 15 & 16

University of New Hampshire
Cooperative Extension

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UNH Cooperative Extension brings information and education into the communities of the Granite State to help make New Hampshire's individuals, businesses, and communities more successful and its natural resources healthy and productive. For 100 years, our specialists have been tailoring contemporary, practical education to regional needs, helping create a well-informed citizenry while strengthening key economic sectors.

Our Focus Areas:

Food & Agriculture

Natural Resources

4-H Youth & Families

Community & Economic Development

The Community Profile is a process by which communities take stock of where they are today and develop an action plan for how they want to operate in the future. The process provides a method for citizens to affirm community strengths, find collaborative approaches to meet challenges creatively, and manage change. One of the major outcomes of the Community Profile is increased citizen participation in the community.

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Acknowledgements

Thank you!

Thank you to all who made the Candia 2026 Community Profile such a huge success.

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LOCAL MERCHANTS AND BUSINESSES

Ace Hardware
Andria Hansen
Boy Scout Troop 120
Candia Board of Selectmen
Candia Cruise Night
Candia DC Mobil Gas
Candia First Stoppe / Irving Gas
Candia Garden Club
Candia Homemakers
Candia House of Pizza
Candia Planning Board
Candia Post Office
Candia Village Store
Candia Volunteer Fire Department
Candia Women's Club
Coppola Physical Therapy & Fitness Gym
Dean Young Carpentry
Girl Scout Troop 20928
Granite State Credit Union
Happiness is Homemade
Henry W. Moore School
Jesse Remington High School
Videography Class
Maria Gleason
Painted Souls Tattoo & Art Studio
Pasquale's Ristorante
Showoffs Hair and Tanning Salon
Smyth Public Library
Severino Trucking
Stonyfield Yogurt
Stubby's Place

Summary

The Candia Steering Committee for the Community Profile was formed in September 2015 with the charge of planning the Community Profile event and engaging community members prior to the event. Initial committee volunteers met with UNH Cooperative Extension staff to learn about the Community Profile and discuss ways to attract committee volunteers representing a variety of town interests, such as youth, seniors, business community, natural resources community, town officials, etc. The Community Profile event date was set for April 15 and 16, 2016 and the 6-member Steering Committee met monthly or twice a month for the next six months to plan, prepare and market the event with UNH Cooperative Extension providing staff support.

The Steering Committee adopted a format using the 10 Components of a Vibrant Community as drawn from the National Civic League and adapted by UNH Cooperative Extension. These components are important to any successful community. These components make a community work well now and sustain the cultural, economic and environmental health and vitality for the long-term future. The 10 components are economic vitality; education and lifelong learning; healthy living and wellness; history and culture; housing, neighborhoods and community spaces; leadership and community engagement; natural resources, climate and energy; recreation; sense of community; utilities, facilities, transportation and broadband internet.

The Community Profile – Candia 2026 was promoted throughout the town with posters, signs, fliers to every household, press release, town website, presentations and word of mouth. The Steering Committee arranged for the location; conducted community engagement activities; organized the food and beverages; arranged for childcare and transportation and set up the sessions.

The Steering Committee received a two-hour training led by UNH Cooperative Extension on the basics of facilitation and recording or scribing and on the specific facilitation role for the Community Profile. Community members were also invited and participated in the training. The Community Profile small group discussions were facilitated by these trained community volunteers. The Community Profile process included the following components:

- Mosaic and Vision developed by all participants gathered together
- 10 Components of a vibrant community were presented
- 5 Key Issues: Small group facilitated discussion on each of the 10 component areas where the groups brainstormed the strengths, challenges and future. (Friday evening)
- 7 Key Themes: All participants worked to review the 50 keys issues and agreed on common themes. (Saturday morning)
- 3 Priority Projects or Opportunities: Participants selected a theme they wanted to discuss in small groups where they defined the problem, identified solutions and selected 3 priority projects or opportunities.
- Voting: All participants were given the opportunity to *vote* for their priority within each theme.
- Action Groups: Once opportunities and projects were chosen, participants started the process of putting plans into action by defining the project, determining contact person, and brainstorming others to invite to the Action Groups meeting.

Outcome

- **62** Candia community members participated in the Friday or Saturday session, or both sessions
- **37** community members committed to working on five new action groups which will begin to implement the projects or opportunities identified
- **6** Steering Committee members learned new leadership skills and put them into action by organizing the Community Profile
- **10** Community members received training on facilitation skills which can be used in other community settings.

The community issues, opportunities, and priorities for Candia are detailed in this report. Candia participants demonstrated a strong commitment to their community, creating a vision and working together to address opportunities and fulfill the vision.

Voting Results: Priority Projects and Solutions

The Community Profile process was successful at identifying priority projects in Candia, based on input and voting of all Profile participants. The following projects are ranked in order of priority:

- Establish Village Center District (include pedestrian accommodation)
- Communicating town information to community members. Ex: through existing mailings, message boards, social media
- Get Smyth Memorial Building online (senior or community center)
- Create economic development committee
- Mapping trails and historical resources. Build communication to engage and educate.
- Investigate opportunities for a town administrator **or** define leadership team for transportation issues
- Zoning review
- Broadcasting public meetings
- Fix dangerous intersections and review town speed limits
- Create committee to identify grants and private funds to address community space needs, and identify person to write grants / obtain donations.
- Information packets for new residents
- Work with Smyth Public Library, Candia Youth Athletic Association, and Boy Scouts to use their physical space
- Make and use good signage to identify historic locations and recreational opportunities. Find creative funding sources.

Action Groups

Action Groups made up of Candia volunteers were identified to work on the above priority projects.

1. Natural Resources, Recreation and Cultural Heritage
2. Communication, Leadership and Engagement
3. Community Spaces
4. Balancing Economic Growth and Quality of Life
5. Transportation and Infrastructure

Publicity and Marketing

The Steering Committee for the Candia Community Profile was responsible for the publicity, marketing and outreach for the event. All committee members were responsible for planning the outreach efforts, publicizing the event and promoting it to their neighbors, co-workers, family and friends in Candia.

The Marketing Subcommittee was formed to develop the flier. The flier was distributed throughout the Town of Candia on public boards and at local businesses and sent to each address in the Town of Candia. A press release was developed and sent to local media. The Community Profile was publicized on the town website and through a Facebook page.

Facilitation of the Community Profile

Facilitation is an important component of the Community Profile. Trained facilitators are used in the small group discussions to help the group meet its objectives by guiding it through the Community Profile process. This allows the participants to focus on the issues they came to discuss. The facilitator is trained to provide neutral guidance and helps the group arrive at decisions related to the topic discussed.

The Steering Committee received a two-hour training lead by UNH Cooperative Extension on the basics of facilitation and recording or scribing and on the specific facilitation role for the Community Profile. Community members were also invited and participated in the training.

Steering Committee members and trained community member volunteers facilitated and recorded the small group discussions (Friday evening and Saturday early morning). The facilitators established the ground rules for participants; created a collaborative working environment; ensured everyone had the opportunity to participate and brought closure to each topic so the process could move ahead. Scribes recorded all responses on easel paper for the group to see and as the record for the discussion.

Community Engagement

The Steering Committee was also tasked with planning activities to gather input from community members **prior** to the Community Profile event. The Community Engagement Subcommittee was formed to plan these events, which were planned to engage a broad and diverse population of residents. The subcommittee chose to engage youth through art, engage seniors and high school students through storytelling circles, and the general public with posters at elections and around town.

> The Steering Committee gathered input from **405** community members!

Student Artwork Project

Forty fourth graders at the Henry W. Moore School participated in a youth art project in which they drew pictures and wrote stories about why they liked living in Candia and how they would like Candia to change in the future. The artwork varied and included topics such as fishing, bike riding on trails, hiking, sledding, organized sports at Candia Youth Athletic Association (CYAA), Old Home Day, Wilderness Camp, church, the fire station, and the Henry W. Moore School. Artwork was posted at the Henry W. Moore School so Profile participants could see and take time to learn about the views of local youth.
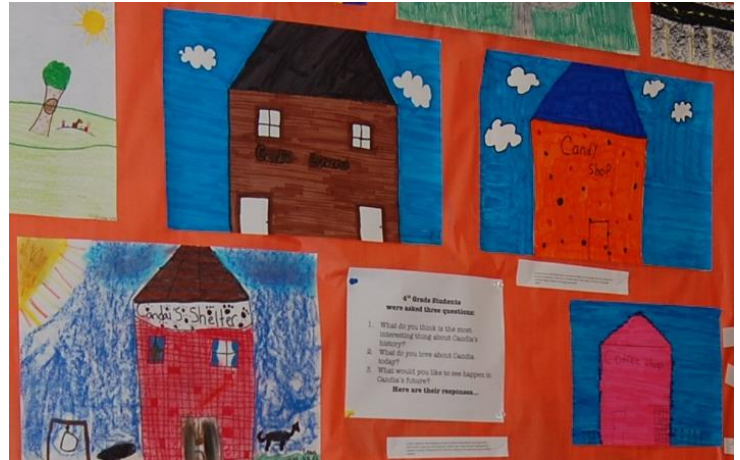
Storytelling Circles

Two storytelling circles engaged fourteen longtime residents to speak about what they valued about the town and how they would like to see Candia in the future. High school students also filmed the storytelling circles and produced a video

highlighting the conversations that was shown at the Community Profile event. Residents shared memories of well-loved Dr. Sanders, the annual Fourth of July Celebration, Saturday night dances at the Fireman's Hall, trips to Philips General Store in East Candia, and growing up riding bikes with other kids in the neighborhood. It was evident in the conversations that Candia is an enjoyable place to live: Candia was referred to as a "rural retreat" from neighboring cities and described as quiet and peaceful. The group also discussed what they would like to see in Candia in the future. Many participants shared similar desires, such as encouraging social connections, bringing back well-attended community events, and increasing volunteerism.

Posters

Steering Committee members also attended the New Hampshire Primary Elections in February and Town Meeting in March to provide information about the Community Profile and invite community members to the event. Steering Committee members also brought posters to these events to gather input. The first poster had community members use sticky dots to prioritize their top three issues in Candia out of the 10 Components of a Vibrant Community. The second poster invited community members to write their vision for Candia in 2026 as it pertained to the 10 Components of a Vibrant Community. Following Town Meeting, these posters were also displayed around Candia at the library, Post Office, and Candia Youth Athletic Association (CYAA) for others to share their thoughts. This feedback gathered on the posters is consistent with information obtained at the Community Profile and is detailed on the following page.

Community Engagement

Community Engagement activities are designed to gather input from a wide range of community members. This is done by using a variety of engagement tools to involve the community.

Poster Results:
Vision for Candia in 2026

Economic Vitality
- More small businesses on Route 26 to Raymond
- Store such as Trader Joe's at Exit 3 (4x)
- Food store somewhere in town
- Attract new businesses

Education & Lifelong Learning
- Education for real life – budgeting, cooking… (evening & weekend briefs)
- Community center where lectures and social events can happen
- Facilities / Senior center for elderly
- New gym with a real stage
- SRO
- Senior courses
- Seminars and guest speakers

Healthy Living & Wellness
- Senior transportation (2x)
- Hiking and biking trails
- Adult fitness at CYAA
- Identify trails

History & Culture
- Finalize a plan for the old Smyth Building

Housing, Neighborhoods & Community Spaces
- Over 50 community housing
- Bike safe roads
- More sidewalks

Leadership & Community Engagement
- Bring Pro-Pinkerton people together in other ways
- Online videos of Select Board, School Board and other board meetings

Natural Resources, Climate & Energy
- Preserve them
- Make sure to protect water resources
- Increase use of solar panels

Recreation
- Keep our hiking trails (make more!)
- Continue CYAA activities
- Advertise Coppola gym more
- Keep trails open for multi-use
- Hiking, biking, snowmobile trails
- Sign to locate trails
- Bike paths
- CYAA "field days" for Candia youth

Sense of Community
- Community events
- Create community gathering places – coffee shop with LIVE music!
- As the town get more people this is important what direction we want to grow

Utilities, Facilities, Transportation & Broadband Internet
- Transportation for seniors
- Community support for apartments
- Transportation for housebound
- Sidewalks

At the Primary Election, **308** community members participated and prioritized their top three issues in Candia:
1. Economic Vitality
2. Education & Lifelong Learning
3. Housing, Neighborhoods & Community Spaces

Agenda/

Friday, April 15, 2016
5:30 – 9:00 p.m.

5:30   Sign In and Community Supper
6:00   **Welcome**
• Overview of Community Profile Process
Carol Jordan & UNH Cooperative
Extension
• Resident Storytelling Circles Video
Susan Wilderman
Mosaic and Vision
7:30   Presentation of Components of a Vibrant
Community
7:40   Move into small groups
7:50   Small group discussions
9:00   Back in Gymnasium: What to expect
Saturday and Adjournment

Saturday, April 16, 2016
8:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

8:45   Sign In and Light Breakfast
9:00   Small group reports
• Each of the ten small groups report to the
large group
10:15 Small groups meet for key issue discussion
11:50 Large group: report back from small groups
12:10 Lunch and Voting
12:45 Large group: Results of voting and Selection of
Action Groups
1:00   Action Groups Initial Meetings
1:30   Adjournment

Action Groups Meeting: May 31, 2016 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Candia Town Hall

Mosaic

## Candia 2016 - How we see our community NOW.

- Decline in population
- Easy to be disconnected
- Are many organizations in town but is a challenge as people are spread thin
- Great place to meet is at Mason's Sunday breakfast
- One of few places with land available to put in conservation
- Rural but engaging – can be engaged
- 3 churches in town
- People want to live here
- Bedroom town
- Green town – fields, farms, trees, gardens
- Close to highways and cities
- Vision for Candia is different – people are divided over topics
- Aging community
- Town in transition – people involved in different things
- Nice peaceful place
- Many retired
- "Island of tranquility in sea of madness"
- A lot of water
- Candia is a group of individuals cooperating
- Small town but not immune to outside issues
- Low traffic, low crime, good neighbors
- Last bastion of quality of life and good education
- Cruise night! Thursday nights
- Limited opportunities to bump into people in town
- Outside of school, not lots of opportunities to be social – lack of central meeting place
- Safe community – police, fire
- Very well run library with great programs
- Town looking for a place to be

The Mosaic

We spent a few minutes meeting each other, learning how long we lived in town, some history and current demographics. We were then asked to offer descriptions of what our town was like right now and what we would like it to be like in the future. Adjectives and phrases were called out and recorded on easels at the front of the room labeled **NOW and FUTURE**.

Candia 2026 - How we envision our FUTURE.

- Want it to be the same!
- Candia to be independent to be able to afford the taxes allow it to grow to support citizens
- Retain passion and channel toward common ground
- Candia is poised for growth – schools are better
- How do we keep our children in the town (re: expensive housing)
- Build Rick's chicken coop
- Growth and balance
- Find a way to help businesses come, stay and succeed
- More investment in our children – schools
- Increase in affordable housing
- Keeps kids in NH
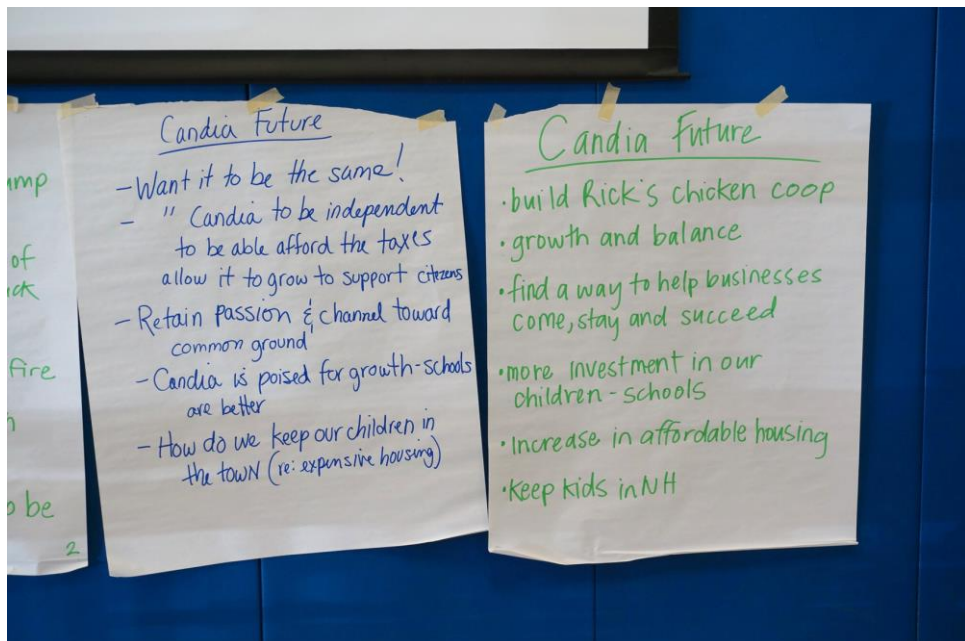
10 Components of a Vibrant Community

After we developed a mosaic for Candia, Charlie French of UNH Cooperative Extension introduced us to the idea of discussing Candia within the framework of 10 qualities which can be used to profile a community. These topics, drawn from the work of the National Civic League and adapted by UNH Cooperative Extension, are important components of any successful community. These components make a community work well now and sustain the cultural, economic and environmental health and vitality for the long-term future.

1 Economic Vitality

2 Education & Lifelong Learning

3 Healthy Living & Wellness

4 History & Culture

5 Housing Neighborhoods & Community Spaces

6 Leadership & Community Engagement

7 Natural Resources, Climate & Energy

8 Recreation

9 Sense of Community

10 Utilities, Facilities, Transportation & Broadband Internet
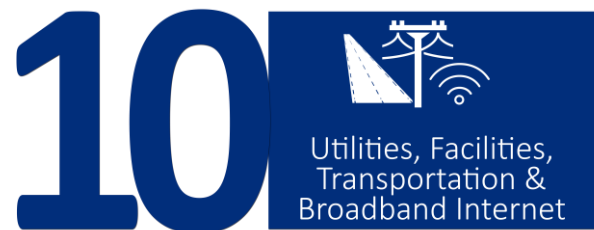
Participants were assigned to one of the 10 component groups and had a facilitated discussion on the strengths, challenges and future of each topic as related to Candia. Transcribed notes for each group follow.

Economic Vitality

Small Group Facilitator:
Henry Herndon
Recorder:
Pattie Davis
Group spokesperson:
Mike Santa

Friday Night Brainstorming

A vibrant community includes access to a variety of environmentally friendly businesses, industries, and institutions that provide reasonable wages and benefits to workers, engage in family-friendly policies, provide workers with opportunities to develop marketable skills, and contribute to the overall well-being of the community.

Statements a community should consider:

- We have a diverse economic base. A variety of businesses, industries, and institutions make up the economic base of the community and the region. No one sector or one employer dominates.

- Local government works well with the local businesses to enhance the economic vitality of the community.

- Main Street, downtown business and commercial areas are known and supported. Community members patronize businesses on a regular basis and value the local businesses.

- There are locally available educational opportunities to provide residents with skills that match the needs of local businesses.

- There are many types of jobs available to residents in terms of security, wage levels, skill levels, and benefits.

- Wages allow the majority of the population to enjoy a reasonable lifestyle.

- The community's zoning and planning regulations are updated regularly and reflect a broad spectrum of residents' vision of the community in 5, 10, and 20 years.

- There are opportunities and support for beginning entrepreneurs, such as a business incubator space or program at a local community college.

- Built environment and structures exist to support economic development such as commercial space, industrial parks, food hubs and locations for production, distribution and warehousing.

Friday Night Brainstorming

Strengths

- Severino – employer
- Location – get there from here, right off NH 101 Exit 3
- Proximity to highway
- Post office
- Small businesses – 1st Stoppe, Pasquale's, CHP
- Ace Hardware

Challenges

- No town center
- Charette report
- Resistance to planning, to CHANGE
- Opposition to Master Plan
- Use Master Plan / decisions discussed here
- Missed opportunities land where FW is
- Divided about future
- Respect voice of the people
- Minority speaking for majority
- Water – wells, sewer system
- Planning board / Select Board
    - People in power not following will
- Fear to end up like Hooksett
- 3 acre lots putting in a road $$$$$
- Lack of affordable housing because of above
- Zoning

Vision for the Future

- Encourage commercial development planning
- Develop economic plan
- Use Economic Planner (selectperson) to facilitate future businesses to come to town
- Community Center – 4 corners & walking paths
- Tavern – meeting hall, park land
- Transportation – bypass, roundabout
- Free-lance grant writer
- Revenue from commercial
- Zoning to allow affordable housing
- Opportunities for young families
- Adjust zoning for future growth
- Develop Master Plan
    - Open space
    - Cluster space
    - Village district
- Protect rural character while allowing for historic density in centers of town
- Walkable community

Education & Lifelong Learning

Small Group Facilitator:
Trevor Mattera
Recorder:
Christine Dupere
Group spokesperson:
Gayle Santa

Friday Night Brainstorming

Education is a lifelong endeavor, much more extensive than just the K-12 school system. Lifelong learning starts at home, continues through childhood and the teen years, and progresses throughout adult life. People of all ages need to develop new knowledge and skills in order to improve the quality of their own lives and those of their families, and to contribute more effectively to community life.

Lifelong learning allows citizens to respond to a changing economy and participate in increasingly complex community issues with greater knowledge and skill.

Statements a community should consider:

- Educational and training opportunities are high quality, easily accessible, affordable and provided equitably.

- Education and training opportunities, including formal and informal academic, vocational, artistic, and spiritual, meet the community's needs.

- School planning is evidence based and open to local and regional solutions; school planning engages the community and includes input from community members.

- There is a plentiful pool of skilled labor for local employers to draw from.

- The level and quality of adult literacy programming in the community reflect the needs of community members.

- The public school facilities adequately meet the needs of students and community members.

- Early childhood education and daycare options in the community are high quality, affordable and meet the needs of all families and their children.

- There is good communication and cooperation between the municipal government, the local public school board, local employers, and the larger community.

- The community supports and values high quality K-12 public school education.

- There is a support network for community members who home-school their children.

- The community is connected to a local community college, college or university.

- Schools and other education and training opportunities accommodate the needs of a diverse citizenry in terms of race, culture, ethnic group, disability, age, gender, and sexual orientation.

Strengths

- Pinkerton Academy – community came together
- Library offers classes, lectures
- Keeps up with technology at school
- Moore School teachers
- Nurturing teachers
- Board involvement – communication
- Community members are heard
- Location for access to higher education – adults and students
- Home schooling
- Supportive to students speaking other languages
- Good anti-bullying policy

Challenges

- Adult education – lack of
- Classes for parents – new math
- Lack of respect at school
- No adult literacy program
- School enrollment is dropping
- Funding for schools – lack of
- Not many employment opportunities
    - Job fair in Candia
- Daycare high priced
- Affordable housing for young families
- Lack of community network for home schooling

Vision for the Future

- Tavern
- Continuing education for all ages
- Annual job fair with local businesses
- Condos or cluster development with green space – affordable for new families
- Keep Candia rural – small enough for one school

Healthy Living & Wellness

Small Group Facilitator:
Emily Biolwas
Recorder:
Emily Melhorn
Group spokesperson:
Sean James

Friday Night Brainstorming

The overall wellness of a community is a reflection of the physical, social and emotional health of its citizens. Individuals, families and communities must have the knowledge that enables them to make good decisions with regard to their health and well-being. Health and well-being encompasses access to health care, as well as preventative measures such as healthy eating and active living.

Most communities face a variety of challenging social issues, such as substance abuse, domestic abuse, poverty, obesity, and other concerns related to the elderly, youth, and families. Addressing these concerns effectively takes the coordinated efforts of the public, private, and nonprofit sectors.

Statements a community should consider:

- Generally speaking, the community is a healthy place to grow up and raise children.
- There is adequate access to healthy food options, including fresh fruits and vegetables for all within a reasonable distance.
- There are recreational opportunities available to encourage active living for residents of all ages.
- There are community efforts to address the issues of our youth, teens, seniors, parents, and families.
- There is access for all community members to a range of health services. Access includes consideration of both geographic and financial barriers.
- There is adequate information about the available services and many community members utilize them.
- Community services are "cradle to grave", addressing the entire age spectrum of the community.
- The community is safe for community members to walk/bike.
- Local government and community organizations are responsive to the emerging needs of community members.

Strengths

- Clean air and water
- Not a lot of power lines running through the town
- Outdoor recreation – rail trails, conservation
- Lots of "hidden" trails for hiking and walking
- Tower Hill pond – well kept
- Snowmobile trails
- Good hospitals / healthcare nearby
- Location – access to medical care is good
- Excellent local surgeons
- Access to farms, fresh food, organics
- Farmer's market in town
- Physical therapy and exercise facility in town
- Open space = more ways to exercise

Challenges

- No good place for seniors to be active (example: town dances)
- No community center
- Not safe to ride bikes on the roads in town (too narrow)
- Roads in general need to be safer
- Unsafe intersections
- Lack of growth, which affects our health
- Lack of public transportation – prohibits people from accessing medical care
- No medical transportation service (especially for seniors)

Vision for the Future

- Volunteer transportation for seniors
- Vulnerability checklist
    - For people who live alone and might need help
    - A call list to check in on people during storms and emergencies
- Change the standards for newer, wider roads
- Make intersections less dangerous
- More community involvement in town boards
- Community center – refurbish old library

History & Culture

Friday Night Brainstorming

Arts, historical, and cultural activities are the soul of a community – arts, history, music, dance, theater, holidays, festivals and celebrations. These formal and informal community activities and events create community vibrancy. Cultural activities reflect and build a community's positive sense of itself and strengthen the fabric of social interactions within the community.

Statements a community should consider:

- Our community celebrates itself in many different ways.

- There are special cultural centers, events and festivals within the community. These events are well known within and outside the community.

- Our cultural events bring together and celebrate the community's diverse population.

- The community preserves and enhances what is special and unique about its cultural heritage.

- Children, youth, and seniors are encouraged to participate in cultural events.

- Citizens are part of larger regional cultural events.

- There is an active Arts Council that promotes, cultivates and sustains art in the community.

- Our community houses a museum, historical site(s), theatre, etc, that serves local community members and draws visitors and tourists.

- The historic areas of our community are taken care of and well known and respected.

- Youth and new community members are encouraged to learn about community history, historic areas and properties.

- Public art is encouraged, respected and maintained.

Strengths

- Library: historical documents, educational classes, cultural events
- Farm stand: concerts, free tastings, food
- Fitts Museum: conserve artifacts, events, story day, demonstrations, encampments
- Old library – restore
- Civil War Statue
- Old Home days: old cars, kids activities
- Cruise night
- Rich history
- Recreation fields
  - Opportunities to play, gather on fields
  - Woods, open space, fishing, skating
- Abandoned rail bed
  - Walk, bike, horses, snow shoe, cross country skiing, snowmobile
- Lights on the Hill
- Stubby's convention center
- Sense of community

Challenges

- Loss of historic structures: Old Town Hall, B&M Rail Depot, Marker at rail bed, shoe factory
  - No acknowledgment that those things were there
- People with stories, history – need to record these stories
- Community so spread out that we don't meet to plan events
- Engage new residents to get involved and aware of history
- Loss of events: 4th of July event
- Money, volunteers, conflicting events
- Time limitations: to manage and attend, communicate value, generational value
- Communication to residents events and value
- Use technology
- Understand that opinions matter – value
- State regulations and oversight conflict with town desires

Vision for the Future

- Expand Old Home Days
- Bring back 4th of July event
- Increase participation
- Welcome to Candia packet
- Historic regulations / zoning to preserve and protect historic properties
- Identify and mark sites
- Historic points of interest signage consistent

Housing, Neighborhoods & Community Spaces

Small Group Facilitator:
Susan Wilderman
Recorder:
Emma Tutein
Group spokesperson:
Jeremy Gill

Friday Night Brainstorming

The quality and availability of housing, neighborhoods, and community spaces is an important factor in a vibrant community. Housing encompasses the availability, affordability, and location of homes for sale and for rent. This directly affects the lives of community members, especially the elderly, disabled, and low-income families. In a vibrant community, neighborhoods are welcoming and safe, and there are a variety of public spaces available for the community to gather.

Statements a community should consider:

- There is adequate and affordable housing for the elderly, disabled, local workforce, young families and/or single-parent families.

- There is adequate rental housing in the community.

- Neighborhood character is respected and neighborhoods are welcoming and safe.

- Current zoning regulations consider protecting the character of key sections of the community when considering new commercial development.

- Zoning regulations are designed to counteract sprawl.

- Municipal government works well with landowners to consider the importance of natural resources and land features while respecting private property rights.

- Residential housing is planned so that negative effects on traffic, public schools, sewer and water systems, and wildlife habitats are minimized.

- There are indoor and outdoor spaces for the community to gather to connect, play, share, communicate, be creative and simply enjoy.

- Public spaces in schools, libraries and local government buildings are readily made available to community residents as welcoming spaces to meet.

- Neighborhood identity is supported and celebrated.

Strengths

- There are conservation areas set aside
- Neighborhoods character is respected and neighborhoods are safe
- Public spaces in schools, library, town, buildings- readily available to use
- Still have a lot of green space and no strip mall in the middle of town
- Pinkerton Academy
- Overall tax rate low
- Location proximity to mountains, beach, NH 101
- Zoning helps to preserve current character of Candia

Challenges

- Community spaces far apart
- No town center
- No town building/space is big enough
- Capacity is limited (space)
- No town center even for social gathering
- Keeping things affordable
- "We want it all but we don't want to pay for it"
- Affordable housing for elderly, disabled, local workforce, young families, single parents
- Soils and topography limit the level of growth Candia can sustain
- 2001 Master Plan – big challenge to growth
- Need a realistic goal for Candia
- Attracting families to participate in town (community center)
- Difficult to know how to engage in the town, especially without children
- Understanding how good we have it is hard for all to understand (especially if you have lived here your whole life)
- Zoning regulations impede business and expensive
- Proximity to 101 brings drugs, crime, also brings desire for commercial development
- No water treatment and no public water significantly impedes growth and development
- To define actually what we want in Candia is a challenge
- When we bring in more families also costs more (police, fire, school)
- Need more students
- Town-wide community communication

Vision for the Future

- Public spaces facelift for the school
- Realistic modest goals
- Preservation, beautification
- Building town consensus and community involvement
- Find better ways to communicate in town
- Maintain rural character

Leadership and Community Engagement

Small Group Facilitator:
Dan Reidy
Recorder:
Mark Laliberte
Group spokesperson:
Donna Becker

Friday Night Brainstorming

Healthy communities have and develop public leaders who work together to enhance the long-term future of the community. Community leadership must be responsive, honest, efficient, enlightened, fair and accountable. It should have the ability to bring the community together to participate in open, neutral dialogue on important issues. In a vibrant community, citizens actively participate through voting in local elections, serving on local boards, attending public hearings, and being involved in civic organizations and community activities.

Statements a community should consider:

- Leadership represents diverse community interests (age and gender groups, length of time they have resided in the community, culture, etc.).

- Community leadership demonstrates knowledge, accountability, professionalism, innovation, and is results-oriented.

- Our leadership actively recruits, trains, and empowers new leaders. Citizens volunteer to serve on local boards and committees.

- Leaders involve local citizens in identifying community goals and resolving community issues.

- Leadership seeks out opportunities to exchange information with citizens about community issues.

- Community leadership and citizen participation is proactive, dealing with community issues before they become crises.

- Leaders demonstrate long range (20+ years) thinking. They understand the impacts of their actions on the long term health and vitality of the community.

- Leaders are willing to consider and use creative methods for addressing challenges, and look for regional solutions where appropriate.

- Citizens know how the system works and it is easy for newcomers to learn how to get involved in the community.

- Citizens have the information they need to make good decisions.

- Local committees and boards communicate well with each other, the public, and with boards and committees throughout the region.

- Local citizens are actively involved in civic and business organizations and clubs that involve interaction with residents of neighboring communities.

Strengths

- Involved residents
- Good mix of long time residents / new people
- Passionate about community
- Engaged police department
- People come from a place of caring
- Neighbors keep an eye on neighbors and will come together in crisis
- Lights on the Hill (Dec.)
- Music at library
- Old Home Day

Challenges

- Not enough candidates for office
- New residents without children find it difficult to connect with community and participate
- Feel intimidated to speak out (less anonymity in a 4,000 person town)
- Few places to gather to develop community especially those with no kids in school
- Barriers to volunteering (i.e. join club to help food pantry)
- Generational divide (not finding common ground)
- Lack of Candia events and lack of continuing engagements
- Personal agendas on town boards
- Group of residents choose not to be involved
- Participation without planning (i.e. too busy to volunteer)
- Lack of communication (came up in 2001); see the need to get the message out
- Same people do everything

Vision for the Future

- Community center / gathering place with Candia information
- Town activity fair community groups / town boards gather to people know what groups do
- Place to "hang out" more pubs, cafes, etc.
- Continued efforts by Heritage and Conservation Commissions to mark trails
- All boards get together to work for the good of the community (lay personal agendas aside)
- Return to town meeting and school district meeting

Natural Resources, Climate & Energy

Small Group Facilitator:
Wendy Ducharme
Recorder:
Jack Munn
Group spokesperson:
Diane Philbrick

Natural resources contribute significantly to quality of life and community character. Natural resources include streams, rivers, walking trails, working farms, forests, clean air, wildlife, and undeveloped land. Climate change and energy usage are major stressors on natural resources. A vibrant community recognizes the importance of protecting their natural resources through plans, projects, and practices.

Statements a community may consider for conversation:

- Our community recently conducted a natural resource inventory. This may include an updated record of conservation lands and open space, wetlands, as well as rare plant and animal species.

- There is broad community interest and participation in protecting key natural resources.

- Steps have been taken for long-term land protection to assure functioning natural resources.

- Businesses in our community use environmentally friendly practices, such as water and energy efficiency.

- Our community has been recently impacted by extreme weather. We need solutions that enable us to better return to normal operations or become more "resilient" to these disturbances.

- Our community considers climate change impacts in short- and long-term planning (e.g., changing flood plains, water availability, siting, infrastructure).

- Natural resources play an important role in our community's economy.

- Our community protects natural resources at the watershed scale or across town boundaries.

- Our community protects the land around waterways (i.e., there is a "riparian buffer" ordinance or regulation to reduce development at the water's edge).

- Our community reduces urban sprawl via mixed-use development (combining two or more types of compatible land uses, such as apartments and businesses, in the same building or in close proximity).

Friday Night Brainstorming

Strengths

- Green town
  - Lots of forest land still intact, housing not forced together - open space
- Water
  - Lots of "good" water – good drinking water
- Preserving open space
  - Great job – how do we continue to protect?
- Fantastic trails horses / bikes
- Controlled growth
- Project to map the trails already in progress
- Used to be a lot of "line roads"
  - Access to forests – past roads
  - Logging roads on private land
- 99.9% of property owners allow use of private land
- Air is clean – forests help keep land, air, water clean
- Watersheds are clean
- Aquifers – holding up?
  - Use / amount of H2O?
- Candia has some of best aquifers - largest in state
- Wells are not very deep
- Tower Hill Pond
- Water park river runs by it saved all around it- natural springs
- North Branch Lamprey River
- Candia feeds – Massabesic Lake, Merrimack and Lamprey rivers
- Merrill Road – Horizon Drive
- RR beds – tower hill (do not know where "unmarked" trails are)
- Class VI Roads
- Audubon "Abe Emerson Marsh Society"
- Business which respects natural resources – Charmingfare Farm
- Candia Golf Club / Winery
- Candia Youth Athletic Association
- Encouraging solar energy
- Pristine climate
- Town's emergency management is good (people aren't conscious)
- Storms have not been too severe compared to rest of US (snow not a big issue)
- NH is more adaptive / resourceful to disasters
- Generators — people are installing more
- Candia is ideal for small farms
- Farm to table — great opportunities
- Farm stands – zoning supports – is farm friendly
- Balance needed between business / residential
- Utilities are required to be buried

Challenges

- Candia doesn't use conservation land well, can only walk on it
- Is the town ready for the next phase of residential growth and to continue to protect natural resources
- Rt 43/101 all future business growth, concentrate and do not let impact resources
- Highland Drive problems with road
- Compact housing
- Residential development needs better planning
- Wind power is minimal in Candia
- Cost of solar
- Lack of awareness about shelters in storm events
- Library lacks a generator
- Natural resource inventory – protecting priority areas
- Not at or near the 25% goal of overall town acres in conservation / open space
- No working farms anymore
- No more pick your own agriculture, berry farms, etc.
- Need better tax base
- Existing zoning does not match land use / land use does not match zoning
- "Paint ball" no town services needed and place for kids to work

Vision for the Future

- Candia is a crossroads, concentrate business at exit 3 to protect the natural resources of town
- If exit 3 developed, would need services, water, sewer
- Lighter business toward Raymond
- Few owners in town own a lot of land
- Encourage conservation to reach 25% goal
- Golf site – sublease to subsidy of Eversource for truck repairs, vision to install 55,000 square foot building
- Do we want more truck repair shops / business?
- Need to attract "attractive business"
- Focus on green businesses
- Need more managed tree farm businesses, better use of lands
- Agritourism/ farm to table
- Fish farm

Recreation

Friday Night Brainstorming

Parks and recreational activities enhance the quality of life for residents and contribute to creating healthy, safe neighborhoods. Recreational activities include individual and team sports, outdoor activities, trails, and community facilities such as recreation centers, swimming pools, public parks, basketball and tennis courts, and athletic fields. Through recreation programs, community members improve their health and wellness, learn to compete and cooperate, build relationships, and become more involved in community life.

Statements a community should consider:

- There are a wide array of recreation activities and facilities available to all community members.

- Recreational opportunities are widely promoted and there is a high level of awareness of these opportunities.

- There are a variety of year-round recreational opportunities.

- Recreational facilities are appropriately and efficiently maintained for community members to enjoy.

- Recreational opportunities are designed and provided for community members of all abilities, ages and socioeconomic status.

- Trails connect parks, schools and other community areas providing safe biking and walking.

- There are a variety of parks, including: pocket parks found at intersections or small spaces; parks with playground equipment for children; parks located in neighborhoods; public parks focused on meeting community needs; school parks and athletic fields.

- Recreational opportunities allow community members to experience and appreciate the diversity of natural resources.

Strengths

- Lots of woods, trails, etc.
- Candia HAS space
- Candia Youth Athletic Association facility
- Irving is like "public park"
- Water Park
- Bear Brook State Park
- FOMLA Friends of the Massabesic Lake Association
- Candia Woods
- Waterworks property (Tower Hill)
- Conservation Lands
- Moore Park – playground, basketball court, skateboarding, baseball, soccer
- Pond by the library
- Library concerts
- School playground
- Website helps communication
- Hunting
- Fishing
- Bird watching
- Wildlife galore
- Freedom to use your own land (horses, chickens, etc.)
- Athletic opportunities (5k etc.)
- Garden Club
- Don't need to reinvent?

Challenges

- Funding, funding, funding
- Maintaining (poison ivy, bathrooms, etc.)
- Access (physical, financial, info)
- Volunteers?
- Public relations
- Awareness
- Disinterest… unaware
- Deferred maintenance
- Lack Parks and Rec plan
- Senior citizens activities center
- Community center (multigenerational)
- Communications
- Lack of long term vision
- Misinformation
- Pest control (EEE, ticks, Lyme disease, etc.)
- Roadside bike / walk trail space
- Town lacks sidewalks

Vision for the Future

- Proper controls, managed growth
- Recreation department / Chair / staff
- Recreation needs its own department
- Dedicated community center
- Pursue grants for recreation
- Old library? Possible community center
- Town wide interconnected hiking / trails
- Roadside biking / sidewalks
- Assets are maintained and modernized
- Stable dedicated funding
- Need a Town administrator

Sense of Community

Small Group Facilitator:
Betty Sabean
Recorder:
Mason Twombly
Group spokesperson:
Micah Fultz

A sense of community is an intangible yet vital component of a vibrant community. It encompasses elements such as image, spirit, character and pride, along with processes such as communication, inter-group relations, and networking. A community is made up of different people with different interests, experiences and backgrounds. These characteristics may divide a community into natural groups but there must be cooperation among them if the community is to work well as a unit. Increased communication and understanding of different perspectives among groups and within the community as a whole is an important factor in establishing a sense of community.

Statements a community should consider:

- There is adequate communication among diverse groups in the community such as natives/newcomers, summer/year round residents, young parents/retirees, as well as business community, commuters, etc.
- Residents have a strong sense of pride in their neighborhoods and community.
- The community recognizes and celebrates its diversity and inclusiveness (age, ethnicity, race, gender, culture, religion, income level, abilities and sexual orientation and expression).
- Groups are involved in identifying community goals and in resolving community issues.
- The community's heritage is celebrated regularly.
- People can find out easily what is going on in the community. All groups know how to become involved in the community.
- Formal and informal forums exist for sharing ideas and resolving public issues.
- There is a common vision for our community among members.
- Community members often put aside their differences to work for the common good of the community.
- The self-image of the community is a positive one.
- Community members are proud of the community's character.

Friday Night Brainstorming

Strengths

- Stability, longevity
- School community
- Library
- Candia Youth Athletic Association
- Caring and support
- Women's club
- Formal community groups
- Wilderness Camp
- Town History; homes; museum
- Jesse Remington High School
- Rural nature
- Volunteerism
- Traditions
- Return of Old Home Day
- Agricultural community
- Trail network
- Conservation land
- Private land access for recreation
- Water park
- Stable business center
- Recycling Center / Swap Shop
- Lights on the Hill
- Town conserved land
- Soldiers memorial
- Boy Scouts
- Excellent town services
- Road Agent
- Small business networking
- The Masons / Mason's Hall
- The First Stoppe / Irving
- Youth Employment

Challenges

- Communications
- Not everyone is linked in
- How do we get there? What is the end result?
- Push notifications
- Need way to mass notify about events
- Candia / Auburn Post
- Means of working with State on roads
- There is no town center
- No large gathering facilities
- Ebb and flow of infrastructure funding; Public facilities; Parks
- Traffic at Moore School Rt 43

- Fragmented neighborhoods
- Distant from neighbors
- Having to drive everywhere
- Difficult to trick or treat; have to drive for Halloween
- Both parents working
- Lack of meeting space
- School sports require transportation in town
- Information overload / modern society
- How do people want to be communicated with?

Vision for the Future

- Define a Community Center
- Improve traffic flow
- Business Plan for town / school – 5 year plan
- School facility we can be proud of
- Keep pace with technology
- Cohesive and comprehensive communication method
- Invite business into town
- Better engaged community

Utilities, Facilities, Transportation & Broadband Internet

Small Group Facilitator:: Karen Reis
Recorder: Jill Ulenhake
Group spokesperson:: Carmelle Druchniak

Friday Night Brainstorming

A community can more effectively manage its growth through the prudent use of local zoning ordinances and planning regulations that guide how land is divided, used, and developed. These tools allow the community to regulate the development of residential areas, commercial districts, and the town center. These are key considerations in managing growth while maintaining community character.

Another important factor in the development of a healthy community is the diversity of housing. This encompasses availability, affordability, and location, all of which affect the lives of community members, especially the elderly, disabled, and low-income families.

Statements a community should consider:

- The community's zoning and planning regulations are updated regularly and reflect a broad spectrum of residents' vision of the community in 5, 10, and 20 years.
- There is adequate affordable housing for the elderly and disabled.
- There is adequate rental housing in the community.
- Land use regulations and land protection efforts are preserving an adequate amount of open space in the community.
- Current zoning regulations favor protecting the character of key sections of the community over new commercial development.
- There is adequate housing for young families and/or single-parent families.
- Our zoning regulations are designed to counteract sprawl.
- Municipal government works well with landowners to promote land protection and sustainable development while respecting private property rights.
- Residential housing is planned so that negative effects on traffic, public schools, sewer and water systems, and wildlife habitats are minimized.
- Areas of natural beauty and historic importance are well protected by zoning regulations and land protection efforts.
- Our community commits financial resources toward protecting valuable natural resources.

Strengths

- Location; easy access highway
- Road maintenance and road agent
- Recycling / transfer center
- Responsive / organized / well trained police and fire
- Historical buildings; appreciation of homes
- Willingness to explore alternative energy (i.e. solar)

Challenges

- Transportation
- Future Maintenance; funding availability to account for growth
- Lack of public water / sewer
- Upgrade pedestrian ways
- Town wide water testing
- No "center" of town; no community center
- Poor cell coverage "dead zone"
- Better utilization of Candia Youth Athletic Association building
- Utility maintenance, i.e., tree trimming
- Need for public safety complex
- Modernization of school
- Lack professional administration; manage current / future town facilities (potential share with other towns)

Vision for the Future

- Organize shopping trips
- Preservation of town character, charm via creation of historic district building codes, architecture
- Creation Main St local owned business / retail; pedestrian friendly business

5 Key Issues

5
Key Issues

10 small groups were randomly formed, one group for each of the components. The small groups adjourned to various rooms where community trained facilitators led the groups in their discussions and recorders made notes on large tablets. Each group considered the definition of their component and examined the statements to be considered for their component to begin the discussion. Participants were asked to list the strengths of Candia as they saw them, and then to list its challenges. Next the groups gave some thought to the problems and issues they thought were important to the town's future. Finally, each group was asked to identify five key issues that need to be addressed by the town. These were brought back to the whole group and highlighted in three-minute summations presented by a member of each small group Saturday morning.

5 Key Issues

Group 1
Economic Vitality

1. Exit 3 Commercial Development
2. Create Village Center at 4 Corners (walkable)
3. Create zoning strategies to stimulate planning strategies, economic growth and affordable housing
4. Do above while protecting rural character
5. None of above matters if elected officials do not respect will (vote) of people

Group 2
Education & Lifelong Learning

1. Affordable housing for young families so more students would go to Moore School
2. Job fair run by local businesses to bring more young and mature skilled labor
3. Adult Education – continuing education for all ages
4. Keeping up with technology
5. Community participation in open government

Group 3
Healthy Living & Wellness

1. Preserve open spaces
2. Volunteer transportation
3. Review of roadways
4. Maintain/improve access to roadways
5. Opportunities for social interaction

Group 4
History & Culture

1. Collect / Preservation / Dissemination of history by citizens understood and known by current residents
2. Develop a plan to promote culture / history to residents
3. Develop a plan to attract community to cultural events, create desire for community to participate

No other key issues reported

Group 5
Housing, Neighborhoods & Community Spaces

1. Focus on what we have and practice stewardship of existing infrastructure
2. Defining a realistic goal for Candia as it relates to housing and development
3. Zoning ordinance preserved current character while allowing for reasonable growth (consider natural resources)
4. Preparing / planning for potential boom (Pinkerton) while welcoming newcomers
5. Community communication (multi-media)

Group 6
Leadership & Community Engagement

1. Identify next leaders and have metrics to determine them
2. Engagement of those identified
3. Engaged, committed and available public officials
4. Communication process (i.e., packet about the town, what boards and groups do; contact info)
5. Community gathering place

Group 7
Natural Resources, Climate & Energy

1. Controlled growth & balance in land use
2. Candia is blessed in natural resources – protection; use needs to be improved
3. Encourage small farms; agritourism
4. Make Candia a vacation destination
5. Encourage solar on public buildings

Group 8
Recreation

1. Have open space / facilities to access recreational needs of the town. They need to be maintained, promoted, utilized.
2. Lack of multi-generational community center is a hindrance to community recreation
3. Dedicated and stable funding to support long-term care of spaces, facilities, programs & staff
4. Investigate / explore all sources of funding to support (grants, partnerships, etc.)
   No other key issues reported

Group 9
Sense of Community

1. Comprehensive communication about community events/issues
2. Community needs short term goals (5 year plan)
3. No geographic focal point (town center)
4. Nurture town history/heritage
5. Traffic flow concerns/rural town issues

Group 10
Utilities, Facilities, Transportation & Broadband Internet

1. Community Center
2. Poorly planned traffic patterns and traffic controls – Rt 43/27/Main
3. Upgrade pedestrian ways – school – Candia Youth Athletic Association (Safe cross walks)
4. Supportive infrastructure for growth (water, sewer)
5. Lack of tax dollars to support and improve: quality of life – business friendly environment

Saturday morning opened with 10 easels from the Friday night small groups displayed across the front of the room, each bearing a list of the key issues or opportunities for that topic area. This portion of the day began with short presentations from spokesperson from each group, explaining their group's list of 5 key issues. The 50 key issues or opportunities were reviewed by the entire group who worked together to evaluate and refine this list as there were common themes. This led to setting the 5 small group sessions with participants freely choosing the group they wanted to participate in.

7 Key Themes

Seven Key Themes emerged:

1. **Preserving Land for Natural and Recreational Uses**

2. **Culture and Heritage**

3. **Leadership and Engagement**

4. **Communication**

5. **Community Spaces**

6. **Balancing Economic Growth and Quality of Life**

7. **Transportation and Infrastructure**

Community Profile participants voted to combine the first two themes to one group: Natural Resources, Recreation, and Cultural Heritage. Participants also voted to combine the themes 3 and 4 to one group: Communication, Leadership and Engagement. This led to the development of 5 small group sessions in which participants could choose the group they wanted to participate in.

Five Small Groups:

1. **Natural Resources, Recreation and Cultural Heritage**

2. **Communication, Leadership and Engagement**

3. **Community Spaces**

4. **Balancing Economic Growth and Quality of Life**

5. **Transportation and Infrastructure**
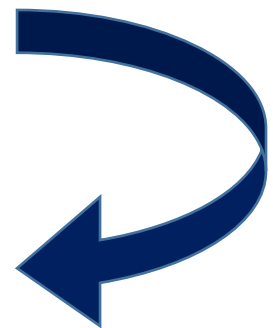
Natural Resources, Recreation & Cultural Heritage

Small Group Facilitator:
Susan Wilderman
Recorder:
Emma Tutein
Group spokesperson:
Laura Puderbaugh

Saturday Morning Discussion

Brainstorming

Saturday Morning Discussion

- Information not easily found / disseminated (where are trails? where are other natural resources?)
- Finding new ways to distribute
- Signage (town and state properties) – natural resources, cultural, historical
- Where are things and what's available?
- Tension between preserving rural character and affordable housing
- Challenge to preserve natural resources
- Maintaining resources – no parks and recreation department. Need a way to be sustainable
- Volunteer groups maintain now – good and bad; Candia Youth Athletic Association; Conservation Commission and Boy Scouts; Heritage Commission
- Database of recreational resources with defined ways of distributing the information
- Maintain and expand recreational facilities
- Clearly identify locations (historical and recreational sites) that need signs
- Engage more volunteers (people in community) to steward existing and new recreational, historical, culture resources
- Increased resources to purchase additional conservation easements

Projects and Solutions

- Database of recreational resources in progress; easy way to do some mapping of existing trails. Need volunteers to help with the effort
- Explore/research how to map
- Mapping trails and historical resources – learning more, engaging more people in the effort
- Use good signage to identify historical locations and recreational opportunities (with distances)
- Making signs – Eagle Scout, volunteers, fundraiser, grants – use local sign makers, activities to raise money
- Build communication around recreation, Natural Resources, historical, etc., get the name out
- Town-wide river/trail clean-up day (annual)
- Education and engagement around existing conservation lands
- Explore additional funding sources to protect open space

Communication, Leadership & Engagement

Small Group Facilitator:
Casey Hancock
Recorder:
Mason Twombly
Group spokesperson:
Katrina Langlois

Saturday Morning Discussion

Brainstorming

- How to communicate with everyone
- No central place for info
- What tool is the best to communicate?
- Asking how people want information
- Change the culture to more engagement
- Word of mouth is most commonly used today
- Where to find information?
- Having to read meeting minutes; possible summaries of these
- Indexing of meeting minutes or video
- Informing residents of what is going on and engaging them in issues
- Simplifying and identifying where people go to find information
- Increasing transparency of public meetings
- Packet for new people; volunteers; supplies, financial impact
- Identifying new residents

Projects and Solutions

- How to use existing organizations and sites to reach others
- Who wants to know information?
- Find out how people want to be communicated with
- Survey / questionnaire at town clerks or other places to ask residents about communication preferences
- Summary of public meeting minutes; main topics/themes
- Packet for new people about Candia
- Teaming up with realtors to disseminate information
- Examine current communication; how to piggy back build on it
- Establish list of websites and physical sites
- Merging emergency notification systems
- Streaming / recording public meetings; more information; better transparency; engaging with cable companies / web
- Creating message boards to share information
- Community wide survey: how to communicate, what people want to know

Community
Spaces

Small Group Facilitator:
Betty Sabean
Recorder:
Mark Laliberte
Group spokesperson:

Saturday Morning Discussion

Brainstorming

- Common place is different and more than a learning place
- Common place – (learn, socialize…)
- Identify locations (Smyth Building)
- Smyth Building – support effort to address challenges there (i.e., septic, water, ADA)
- Designate use of building (senior center, community center)
- How much to repair Smyth Memorial Building?
- Cub Scouts facility?
- Teen centers being combined with senior centers – similar goals
- Other spaces at Smyth Memorial Building vs Cub Scout space
- Current librarian engaging youth
- Smyth Memorial Building (springboard / annex for community center)
- Genealogy family research
- Coffee Klatch (chit-chat a.m.) at library
- Partnership with Candia Youth Athletic Association
- Newsletter (how often?)
- Matching grant for larger projects
- Communication: Candia-Auburn post only goes to non-UL subscribers
- Seniors don't connect online and may not want to
- Lack of common communication device (i.e., newsletter)
- Donors to projects
- Recreation point of contact – director? (facilities, upkeep, etc.)
- Smyth Memorial Building point of contact if goes online
- Finding grant money for projects
- What is public perception of efforts?

Projects and Solutions

- Seek out matching funds (state, federal grants; private companies)
- Matching funds from voters
- Determine expertise of people and get them involved (i.e., grant writing)
- Newsletter
- How much work can be done in house (barn raising)
- Smyth Memorial Building home of community center
- More partnerships with Smyth Public Library, Candia Youth Athletic Association, Boy Scouts for community spaces
- Develop an inviting gateway
- Continued "hope" for Four Corners

Balancing Economic Growth & Quality of Life

Small Group Facilitator:
Laura Scott
Recorder:
Emily Melhorn
Group spokesperson:

Saturday Morning Discussion

Brainstorming

- Overcoming fear of growth
- Reluctance to fund new initiatives
- Communicate and educate
- Not aware of the decline in the community
- Lack of evidence that growth = prosperity
- No economic development group /committee that is "official"
- Lack of mix of uses – types, size, scale, diversity
- How do we overcome lack of infrastructure (water / sewer)
- Lack of town / retail centers and public safety
- No good "first impression" of town
- How do we greet visitors so that they want to be here?
- Is there land available?
- No local economy, money isn't spent in town
- Town doesn't control privately owned land
- Finding the right balance
- Selling Candia to business owners is a hard sell
- Decaying and unsightly buildings in visible places
- Make four corners/village district more aesthetically pleasing
- Exit 3 – more welcoming
- Create identifiable town center
- Look at work that's been done and take info that's relevant
- Offer additional services
- Positive cash flow
- Work with infrastructure you have
- Information booth
- Attracting a mix of business; small, medium large

Project and Solutions

- Create economic development committee that is stable, ongoing and representative of community
- Comprehensive review of zoning
- Creating business districts; buffer between commercial and prior residential use
- Talk to private property owners
- Support home based businesses through regulation support
- Work with DOT to review dangerous intersections; aesthetics and future development opportunities
- Public information board
- More outward communication
- Building public support
- Proper architectural controls and design regulations
- Establish a village center district
- Maximize Exit 3 opportunity

Transportation and Infrastructure

Small Group Facilitator:
Tom Cronin
Recorder:
Sue Young
Group spokesperson:

Saturday Morning Discussion

Brainstorming

- Solar; traffic (vehicle / pedestrian); utilities; flow, safety, volume)
- Cooperation with State of NH
- Leadership – revolving
- Traffic through Candia
- Physical Infrastructure
- Safety Center
- Moore Park back to a Park
- Highway Department Facilities
- Exit 3 – School

Projects and Solutions

- Modify subdivision rules
- Fix / review hazardous intersections; speed limits
- Investigate opportunities for town administrator; focus on state relationships
- Speed limit awareness sign (enforcement)
- Review of town speed limits (30 mph)
- Encourage competition in broadband
- Investigate access / availability of community's infrastructure
- Define decision makers for transportation projects
- Review of "right" focus areas in town and plan for now and future
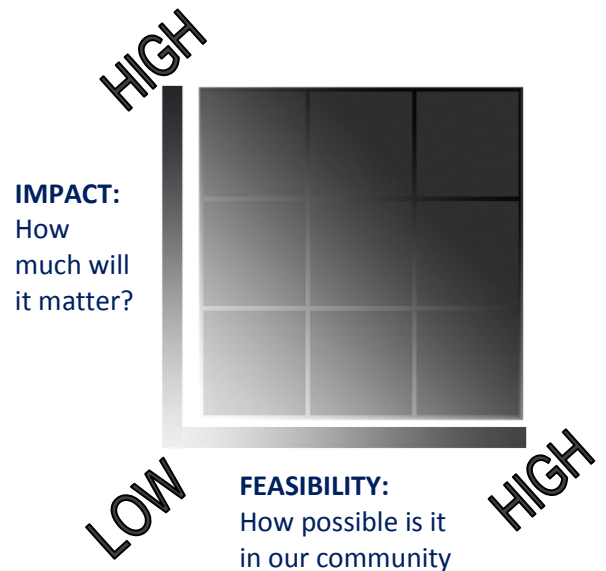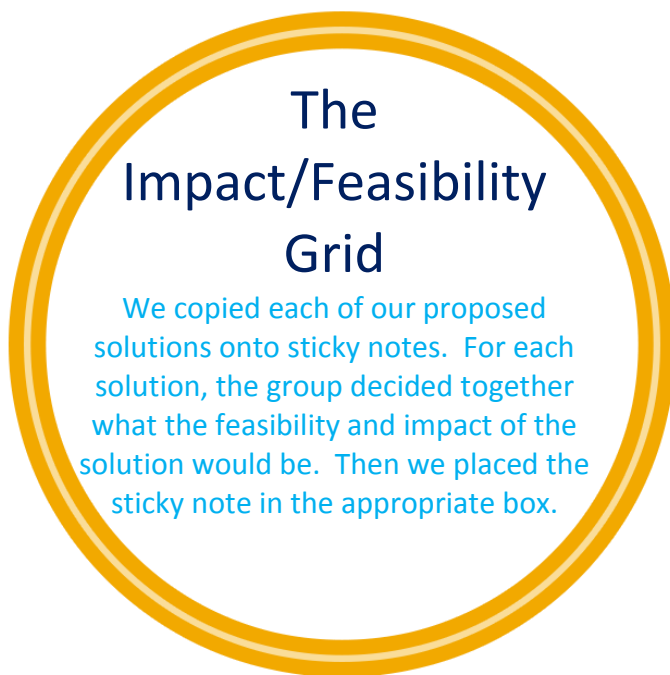- Improved interaction process / liaison between town and state DOT

Project Identification and Evaluation

Participants each chose which of the 5 key themes they would like to discuss further and broke into small groups accordingly. Each topic attracted enough people to form a small working group.

The task of each group was to think about problems that existed in each theme and then to brainstorm possible solutions/answers to the issue identified. We did that by thinking out loud for half an hour or so about "problems" and "goals." Then we suggested solutions, from practical to fanciful to idealistic. The next step was to evaluate the reality of each possible solution/project using the following impact/feasibility grid.

The
Impact/Feasibility
Grid

We copied each of our proposed solutions onto sticky notes. For each solution, the group decided together what the feasibility and impact of the solution would be. Then we placed the sticky note in the appropriate box.

HIGH

IMPACT:
How much will it matter?

LOW

FEASIBILITY:
How possible is it in our community

HIGH

Based on the grid, each group chose three solutions and wrote them up as proposals on their easel to be presented to the large group. Some groups chose only proposals with high impact/feasibility ratings, while others chose projects from a variety of ratings. Small projects, which were highly feasible but of low impact, were favored by those who wanted to start small and accomplish something quickly. Long term, difficult projects had advocates who were willing to commit to longer struggles with high rewards. Many of the groups proposed a combination of proposals.

3

Projects or Solutions

Each of the 5 small groups retreated to their rooms and following self-introductions the group went to work to more clearly define the issue or opportunity. Next, they identified goals and what they wished to accomplish, followed by a list of potential projects or solutions. These potential projects were then listed individually on sticky notes, and one-by-one were evaluated, and following consensus, were placed on a grid indicating their potential impact as well as their feasibility. Finally, again through consensus, the top 3 goals or opportunities were listed for presentation to and voting by the entire group of participants.

3 Projects or Solutions

Group 1
Natural Resources, Recreation and Cultural Heritage

1. Mapping trails and historical resources. Build communication to engage and educate.
2. Make and use good signage to identify historic locations and recreational opportunities. Find creative funding sources.
3. Explore additional funding sources to protect open spaces.

Group 2
Communication, Leadership and Engagement

1. Communicating town information to community members. Ex: through existing mailings, message boards, social media
2. Information packets for new residents
3. Broadcasting public meetings

Group 3
Community Spaces

1. Get Smyth Memorial Building online (senior or community center).
2. Work with Smyth Public Library, Candia Youth Athletic Association, Boy Scouts, to use their physical space.
3. Create committee to identify grants and private funds to address community space needs, and identify person to write grants / obtain donations.

Group 4
Balancing Economic Growth and Quality of Life

1. Create economic development committee.
2. Establish village center district (include pedestrian accommodation).
3. Zoning review.

Group 5
Transportation and Infrastructure

1. Investigate opportunities for a town administrator or define leadership team for transportation issues.
2. Fix dangerous intersections and review town speed limits.
3. Create a plan for pedestrian accommodation in the high-density portion of town.

WHICH ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PROJECTS/OPPORTUNITIES/SOLUTIONS FOR CANDIA RIGHT NOW?

Voting: Most Important Projects or Solutions

We returned to the large group to hear from a member of each small group who presented the 3 goals, opportunities or projects that their group had come up with.

Each participant was given 3 sticky dots to represent their vote for the opportunity they identified with most under each of the five groups. The large group facilitator inquired with participants to determine if any of the goals/opportunities/projects could be combined. The participants were ready to make individual choices and they voted!

VOTING

VOTING RESULTS: PRIORITY PROJECTS AND SOLUTIONS

# of votes

32   Establish Village Center District (include pedestrian accommodation)

21   Communicating town information to community members. Ex: through existing mailings, message boards, social media

19   Get Smyth Memorial Building online (senior or community center)

17   Create economic development committee

15   Mapping trails and historical resources. Build communication to engage and educate.

10   Investigate opportunities for a town administrator **or** define leadership team for transportation issues

9   Zoning review

7   Broadcasting public meetings

4   Fix dangerous intersections and review town speed limits

3   Create committee to identify grants and private funds to address community space needs, and identify person to write grants / obtain donations.

3   Information packets for new residents

1   Work with Smyth Public Library, Candia Youth Athletic Association, and Boy Scouts to use their physical space

0   Make and use good signage to identify historic locations and recreational opportunities. Find creative funding sources.

ACTION GROUPS

Action Groups

After the voting, the groups were to focus in on the top project from each topic. Participants were asked to volunteer to work on Action Groups for each topic area and consider the top priority as identified through the Community Profile. Participants self-selected into Action Groups of interest to them. Action Groups met to exchange contact information, identify a group leader, and identify who else might be involved.

There will be an Action Groups meeting with all interested community members on May 31, 2016.
The participants below signed up for Action Groups at the Community Profile event. For an updated list, contact the Town of Candia.

Group 1 – Natural Resources, Recreation, and Cultural Heritage
Contact: Susan Wilderman

Laura Puderbaugh	Rob Jones	Micah Fultz
Jeremy Gill	Dennis Lewis	Betty Sabean
Jack Munn	Lynn Chivers	Susan Wilderman

Group 2 – Communication, Leadership and Engagement
Contact: Christine Dupere

Judi Lindsey	Linda Thomas
Katrina Langlois	Becky Sarra
Paul LeBlond	Christine Dupere

Group 3 – Community Spaces
Contact: Tram Fultz

Ellie Davidson	Karen Reis
Dr. Scott Tierno	Pattie Davis
Jill Uhlenhake	Tram Fultz

Group 4 – Balancing Economic Growth and Quality of Life
Contact: Rudy Cartier

Scott Komisarek	Carmelle Druchniak	Irene Roby
Colleen Bolton	Nicky Herbert	Felix Shepard
Boyd Chivers	Greg Herbert	Susan Gill
		Rudy Cartier

Group 5 – Transportation and Infrastructure
Contact: Sean James

Al Couch	Micah Fultz
R.H. Snow	Mike Santa
Amy Komisarek	Sean James

Candia 2026 - Community Profile

Participants

Note: There were 62 participants – some participated on just Friday or just Saturday and some for both.

Donna Becker	Deb LeBlond
Jerry Becker	Paul LeBlond
Colleen Bolton	Dennis Lewis
Lorraine M. Briand	Judi Lindsey
Dana Buckley	Linda Maxwell
Rudy Cartier	Dave Murray
Cindy Castanino	Scott Parker
Boyd Chivers	Hope Pearson
Lynn Chivers	Carl Pearson
Al Couch	Carla Penfield
Dwayne Critchett	Diane Philbrick
Russ Dann	Deb Puderbaugh
Ellie Davidson	Steve Puderbaugh
Carmelle Druchniak	Laura Puderbaugh
Ed Fowler	Elizabeth Sanborn
Jodie Frost	Arthur Sanborn
Micah Fultz	Mary Sandler
Tram Fultz	Craig Sandler
Jeremy Gill	Amy Sandler Komisarek
Susan Gill	Gayle Santa
Al Hall	Michael Santa
Paul Hammerstrom	Becky Sarra
Lynn Hammerstrom	John Seidner
Dennis Herbert	Felix Shepard
Nicky Herbert	Richard Snow
Greg Herbert	Judith Szot
Sean James	Linda Thomas
Karrie James	Scott Tierno
Rob Jones	Matthew Woodrow
Scott Komisarek	Dean Young
Katrina Langlois	Rick Zang

* This list was derived from Community Profile event sign in sheets.

A final copy of this report was completed and given to the Town of Candia on May 9, 2016.

The Action Groups meeting will be held May 31, 2016 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. at the Candia Town Hall.

For more information, please contact: Candia Town Hall
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Candia, NH 03034
info@candianh.org