

OSRP Update 2nd Meeting

July 24, 2017 7:30PM

Leverett Town Hall

TASKS FOR NEXT MEETING:

Review this section and suggest edits/updates as needed:

- **Conservation Commission:** "A.2 Natural Resources Context"
- **Zoning Board:** "D.3 Long-Term Development Patterns"
- **Historical Commission:** Review "B. History of the Community"
- **Board of Health:** "D.2.2 Water Supply" and "D.2.3 Sewage Disposal"
- **Planning Board:** "D.1 Land Use Patterns and Trends"
- **Council on Aging:** "C. Population Characteristics"

Attendance:

- Miho Connolly (Conservation Commission, Leverett Trails Committee)
- Michael Fair (Board of Health)
- Eva Gibavic (Rattlesnake Gutter Trust)
- Susan Lynton (Historical Commission)
- Tom Maczka (Board of Assessors)
- Susan Mareneck (Historical Commission)
- Richard Nathhorst (Planning Board)
- Isaiah Robison (Conservation Commission)
- Patricia Smith (Franklin Regional Council of Governments)
- Mary Alice Wilson (Leverett Trails Committee)

General Discussion:

- The Historical Commission is putting together a strategic plan for historical assets
 - We could include preliminary OSRP questions with their survey
- Why have an OSRP?
 - Referencing a project or priority listed in an OSRP boosts the status of a grant application; an OSRP is an example of a planning process that includes public input and an action plan.
 - Conservation Restrictions require that the purchase of the CR meets the needs of the most recent OSRP
 - DCS small community grant provides funding for purchase of conservation land as well as for the completion of a OSRP
 - Is there land that we would like to buy?
- Public Input:
 - DCS requires surveys to be no more than 3 yrs old to approve an OSRP (therefore, surveys should not be started at the beginning of the OSRP process)
 - Set up a public forum (for the fall?) to air public input
- We need wish-list items for next seven years to be built into the plan
 - We should include plans for handicap-accessible trail
 - We will invite Margot of LES to join us for the OSRP
- Action Item: Should we be putting CRs on Town-owned land?
 - Eva will go through and check status. We need to identify the parcels we're talking about.

FIRST DRAFT: Open Space Map

- The current state is just a visualization of the data that was received; corrections and additions need to be made.
- MassGIS data has not been added yet
- Ch61, 61A, 61B will be added to the map
- Laurel Hill: shared ownership. ~95% owned by Rattlesnake Gutter Trust. “Protected common land” . Should be updated in map
- Include divisions for land and owned by / CRs owned by Conservation agencies, other non-profits, private (residential)
- Tricky subjects:
 - Cemeteries: undevelopable, and can apply to “recreation”
 - Some of Leverett’s cemeteries are privately owned by cemetery associations
 - Ownership status of cemeteries are being reviewed in the Historical Commission’s upcoming strategic plan
 - Snowmobiling: needs to be mentioned as a recreational activity, but cannot be mapped since many trails cross private land
 - Public-private partnerships
 - If approval for public access is granted and widely known, these lands and trails can be included in the OSRP (e.g. The Trustees of Reservations land)
 - Land owned by Cows experiences a lot of access, but mapping of trails is expressly disallowed.
 - Historical Preservation restrictions could be shown on a separate, Unique Resources Map.
 - Do we want Insets for village centers for greater detail?
 - What do we want shown on the map? Brainstorm

FIRST DRAFT: Section 3. Community Setting

- To be added: Zoning information (since updates were made this year), building permit data, updated transit system info
- Add fiber optic to Regional Context and to Infrastructure sections
- B. History of the Community
 - Should this mention the Coke Kilns? The owner does not seem to want people to know about them.
 - Update with information from Foster’s report about historical mills. Maps from the report can be found on <http://www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org/>
 - Some information may be available in the digitized Town Meeting minutes, which date from the 1700s. <<https://archive.org/details/townofleverett>>
 - Needs updates on recent developments
 - Do we want to keep the “Town Government” section?
 - Historical context map?
- C.2 Economic Wealth of Residents and Community
 - There is a high poverty rate among the elderly (40%), even though overall (averaged) income is high in Leverett (Susan Mareneck)
 - Pat will look into age-based income data
 - Richard: % of individuals below poverty level is ~% of residents not subscribed to LeverettNet.

- We should include info on Affordable Housing (first time buyer + down payment assistance loan) (Franklin County Regional Housing) - Isaiah
 - Talk to Jenna Day at FCRH
 - This is an effort to diversify Town demographics, bring in younger families (demonstrates the importance of intentional programs)
- One reason for the Trails Committee is to provide natural scenery to the people who don't have private land of their own to explore
 - => handicap accessible trail
- Include education rate of population - very high!
- C.3 Employment Statistics
 - Village Co-Op only has 13 employees (Richard)
 - Include businesses in town: e.g., The Whole Tree, Grass Roots Landscaping Group, LNF Construction?, RH Robert Excavating, Kittredge?
 - Include in OSRP survey: Do you have a business? If so, do you want to be identified in the OSRP?
 - What percentage of income in Leverett comes from Five Colleges ?
 - What kind of work is being done in Five Colleges? (professors? staff?)
 - Probably can't find data on this, but maybe someone can find info
 - Can we figure this out by paychecks to households?
- D.1 Land Use Patterns and Trends
 - Data is based on aerial photos
 - No APRs are possible in Leverett because the right soil types do not exist in quantity in Leverett. (MAW)
 - Table 3-7, Summary of Leverett Land Use, 2005
 - 25 acres of "recreation"--?? School + Moore's Hill recreation area? (what is it?)
 - Pat: Please put this data on a map to see what's where
- D.2.4 Solid Waste Management
 - E Leverett Plume from closed landfill should be kept updated
 - "Friends of Rattlesnake Gutter Trust" => "Rattlesnake Gutter Trust"
- D.3 Long-Term Development Patterns
 - Cluster zoning (Laurel hill, Hannabrooke, Ryan hill) - decision to hold backland and encourage building along the road
 - Very few new homes are built in town. And low vacancy rate.
 - Include solar developments? (we were not part of solarize mass)
 - FRCOG has Zoning map (PDF and data)
- *Succinctly put, Leverett is "a bunch of academics and professionals pretending to be farmers"*

What to accomplish before the end of the year?

- Work with maps!
- Open space forum?

Next meeting: Wednesday, 9/27 at 7:30pm