

**Town of Milton
Board of Selectmen
Monday, April 28, 2014
Milton Town Hall**

In attendance: Chairman Tom Gray, Robert Bridges, Michael Beaulieu and Elizabeth Dionne Town Administrator. Also in attendance was Kimberly Ladisheff Recording Clerk.

Public in attendance: Bob Garnett, Barbara Berry, Susann Brown, Larry Brown, Michael Tursi, Lue Snyder, Charles Ek, Bob Carrier, John Katwick, Polly Katwick and David Levin.

Cynthia Copeland Executive Director of Strafford Regional Planning Commission and Shayna Sylvia Communications Outreach Specialist were here to present an outreach program with the Town of Milton. Cynthia gave a brief overview of SRPC and their data collection community outreach efforts. They have attended events, talked with 1250+ participants and their goal is to engage in equitable outreach efforts until they have heard from 1% of the region which is around 1500 individuals. A few of the positive responses of what people like about the Strafford Region are community, recreational opportunities, rural environment and conserved land. Some of the responses for what could be improved were education, taxes, affordable housing and jobs/economy.

There was a survey conducted where the attendees were given hand held clickers for their responses. The theme was “What does Milton want”?

Transportation – consensus that maintaining roads, highways and bridges was most important. Majority opposed using municipal funds to provide COAST North Bus service to residents in Milton.

Housing – majority felt housing in Milton for purchase was somewhat affordable. Considering most people present were homeowners, when asked how affordable is housing for rent in town, most answered “don’t know”. Growth in already developed areas is where the majority would want to see future development. The top choices for what is most important to have in town were quality schools and small business and retail.

Environmental Protection – the highest priority was protecting drinking water supplies. Consensus was attracting more non-polluting light industry should be encouraged/supported in town. Majority felt the town should allow the use of alternative energy generation and distribution by homeowners. Flooding was the biggest concern for weather related events in town. When asked how concerned you were about your community’s level of preparedness for severe weather and storm events, the majority answered very concerned.

The Milton Conservation Commission had submitted questions of their own. The majority of people are interested in utilizing trail networks on conserved properties for outdoor recreation. Majority of people support a designated Town Forest. It is very important to the people to preserve the rural character of Milton. Protecting lakes and drinking water through land conservation projects, shopping local farm stands and promoting infrastructure such as hotels and restaurants for tourism and agri-tourism were all supported. Everyone felt it was very important to make the village center more attractive and feels it is very detrimental the way it is now for encouraging desirable development of the town.

Workshop

Broadband – the majority of people have access at home and are happy with their current provider. All opposed using municipal funds to provide the broadband infrastructure to existing and potential development. Majority would not be willing to pay more for faster internet speeds.

Economic Development – Jerry Coogan, the Town's Planner submitted questions concerning economic development. Only 53% of the people in attendance were familiar with the Milton Economic Development Strategy. A few were familiar with the results for the design workshop for Exits 17 & 18. The majority of people were in favor of the type of development being proposed for Exits 17 % 18. Majority of people were also in favor of the town's encouragement of planned economic development.

Public Investment – the majority of people felt economic development was the number one priority for investment of federal dollars. The top priority for investment of state dollars was environmental protection or natural resources protection. The top priority for investment of local dollars was economic development followed by education.

There was a brief discussion with comments and questions by the public after the survey was concluded.

The Board of Selectmen thanked Cynthia and Shayna for coming out and sharing this outreach program with the residents. Meeting ended at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Ladisheff
Recording Clerk

Chairman Tom F. Gray

Robert L. Bridges

James Michael Beaulieu