

APPENDIX A

**Minutes from Community Wide Open Meeting
September 13, 2001**

Community Wide Open Meeting
September 13, 2001

The meeting was called to order by Selectmen's Representative to the Planning Board, John Matthews at 7:05 p.m. After a moment of silence for the victims of the terrorist acts, and the Salute to the Flag, the Head Table was introduced. At the Head Table was Jay Matthews, Chairman of the Planning Board, Nancy Johnson the Facilitator from the Lakes Region Planning Commission, her assistant, Kristen, and Jane Ramsay, Secretary to the Planning Board. Phil Twombly and Lee Alexander were recognized for their efforts to make the evening possible, and Betsy Twombly and Barbara Matthews were thanked for the refreshments they provided for all.

Jay Matthews introduced Nancy Johnson who explained the format of the evening's program and a description and purpose of a Master Plan. She quoted RSA674:2 which said , **The master plan shall generally be comprised of a report or set of statements (goals) and land use and development proposals with accompanying maps, diagrams, charts and descriptive matter designed to show as fully as possible and practical the planning board's recommendations for the desirable development of the territory legally and logically within its planning jurisdiction.** She said the Master Plan was a legal document and would provide a legal defense if zoning ordinances were challenged in Court. She said the meeting would ask the people what they liked about Hebron, what they disliked, and what important issues would have to be faced in the future. A report of the meeting would be written up by the Lakes region Planning Commission, and that information would be used to create a survey that would be sent out to all Hebron people, the results of that survey would help determine the goals in the Master Plan.

The demographics of Hebron was discussed. Since 1970, the population has grown from 234 to 459 in 2000. In 1990 there were 386 people and in 2000 there were 459. This reflects a 20% increase. It was brought out that the increase is only about 7 people a year, and perhaps, the real concern should be how many people the town can actually support and how many residents and seasonal homes could be built with the infrastructure in place now. It was felt by some that the existing roads and the development on them, as well as the possible development should be studied before a Master Plan can be developed.

Nancy Johnson asked what people liked best about Hebron and there was a wide range of responses that included:

1. A New England small town
2. Quiet
3. Beautiful
4. Respect for individuals/ privacy
5. Historic/Historical Society
6. Newfound Lake
7. Low level of lighting
8. Not commercial
9. Nice beach
10. Excellent fire and ambulance services
11. Near good educational facilities
12. No major highways running through center of Town
13. Lack of crime

14. Open spaces
15. Recreational opportunities
16. Town plowing of driveways
17. Private camps
18. Town Common
19. Dirt roads
20. No mobile home parks or junk yards
21. Audubon centers
22. Near hospitals and shopping
23. Friendly people

24. Lack of intense development around lake
25. Conservative spending by Town
26. Former low tax rate
28. Community spirit
29. Summer Gazebo programs

The people were asked what they liked least about Hebron, and again, there were many responses. Some of the items that people *liked*, others *disliked*.

1. Taxes/ being a Donor Town
2. The eroding of things that made Hebron a small town
3. Noise from Camps, from the Lake in summer and from snowmachines in winter
4. Lighting pollution from Camps and from outside security lights.
5. Dirt roads
6. Growth in general
7. No trespassing signs/lack of open land
8. Speed on the roads
9. Little traffic control on roads
10. Lack of safety for walkers, joggers and bicyclists on roads
11. Lack of safety on Lake due to boats, esp. Personal watercraft.

12. Too much litter
13. Frequent loss of electric power
14. Use of lawn additives near Lake/ violation of Shore Protection Act laws
15. Escalation of Town spending
16. Overdevelopment of ostentatious homes around Lake
17. Overnight commercial parking on Town Historic land
18. No summer maintenance of roads
19. Plowing of driveways by Town
20. Selling off of old farm land
21. State ruining the Lake by not building a wash station at Wellington Beach boat ramp
22. Threat of overdevelopment/ clear cutting of woodlands

It appeared that several issues were directly related to the State (school taxes, State roads, Newfound Lake, 911, and some of the noise issues) and as such should be taken up with the State representatives.

Nancy Johnson asked the audience to finish the sentence, "Hebron would be one of the best places to live if only it had..." the responses included:

1. Lower taxes
2. Nothing else
3. Jogging paths around the Lake and 3A
4. A water system and more grooming of trees and bushes on the Common
5. Younger people in Town
6. More people who would volunteer to serve as Town officers and to volunteer to help organizations
7. More frugality in Town government
8. Reopening the road from North Shore to West Shore in front of the old school house to make a complete road around the Common.

When it was asked what important issues would be facing Hebron's leaders and citizens in the future the following were stated:

1. Taxes
2. More active participation needed in State politics to address Lake, Tax, and road problems
3. Need to be fiscally conservative in short term until school funding issues and economy issues are resolved.
4. Urban (or country) sprawl
5. The future of the Marina
6. Support to keep the Hebron Store open as an essential part of the center of Town
7. Milfoil in Newfound Lake
8. Bridgewater-Hebron incinerator
9. Better communication in Town by way of more informal meetings/newsletters
10. Developing ways for people to gift land to Town/ land trust

The stated goals in the 1985 Hebron Master Plan were discussed to see if they still pertained to Hebron today. (see attached copy)

Goal #1 Yes

Goal #2 Should start with "Help" and reference should be made to the Shoreland Protection Act

Goal #3 Yes

Goal #4 Not pertinent now. There should be inspection of plumbing and writing if it is included

Goal #5 Yes

Goal #6 Yes It was suggested that there should be a permanent home for the Historical Society and its materials

Goal #7 Not pertinent

Goal # 8 It was suggested that “opportunities” and “area” rather than “activities” be included
Goal #9 Yes

The LRPC report will be sent to John Matthews.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Jane Ramsay, Secretary