

**VISION GROUP STATEMENTS FOR MASTER PLAN UPDATE**  
**September 2010**

**GROUP 1: FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY**

“Sustaining Hebron’s excellent history of fiscal responsibility to taxpayers and minimizing tax increases.”

**Participants:** Lee Knight, Dick Keller, Ron Ward, Bruce Barnard, Roger LaFontaine, Bill Nobles (Leader)

We recommend replacing 2005 Hebron Master Plan Vision statement:

*The stewardship of Hebron has always included fiscal responsibility to its taxpayers. This will continue.*

with:

*To sustain Hebron’s strong reputation for fiscal responsibility in a worsened economic environment, we envision town budgeting and capital improvement planning including:*

- *establishing a new basis for operational efficiency by a year of “zero base budgeting” which challenges each department head to reduce expenditures by 10%;*
- *using part-time employees to avoid costly new hires;*
- *setting a goal of limiting any increase in local spending and taxes to no more than rate of inflation (CPI);*
- *setting a goal of no new long term debt; consider using \$300,000 fund for new town hall to reduce current \$2 million debt, and refinancing to reduce cost of servicing bond;*
- *evaluating “regionalization” of critical services to address volunteer shortage and improve efficiency;*
- *setting a goal of “no new town buildings for five years and satisfying needs for more space with existing town, church, camp, or Bridgewater/Hebron school facilities.”*

**SUPPORTING BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**Economic impacts on Town**

- Between 2004 and 2009 Town of Hebron spending grew \$278,000 (42%), and was funded by a constant local tax rate combined with

rising appraised property values. Appraised values are now growing more slowly (0.2% between 2008 and 2009), and could decline if real estate prices drop.

- Revenues from the state have declined and are likely to continue to drop.

### **Economic impacts on Hebron taxpayers**

- Working taxpayers have suffered in recent years and jobs are still scarce, especially in the building trades.
- A high proportion of Hebron taxpayers are seniors who rely on investment returns and capital gains as incomes. Low interest rates have reduced investment returns and the Federal Government is likely to increase capital gains and other taxes in 2011.
- Taxpayers face large increases in county taxes (new jail) and state donor town school taxes.

### **Comments on Capital Improvement Program/Budgets**

The “New Town Hall/Senior Center” combines two separable issues:

- Senior Center: In this environment the Town clearly cannot afford \$1 million for a new Senior Center which would also add maintenance and heating costs to the annual budget. Alternatives are available at church, Camp Berea, and the Bridgewater/Hebron school.
- New Town Hall The new Safety Building seems adequate for Town meetings and if Town offices are inadequate we recommend refurbishing.

The Fire Department budget proposes a new dock at the Town Beach to service fire/safety boat.

- We understand Bristol has a fire/safety boat and question why Hebron needs one supported by a new dock on the Town beach.
- We are unaware of any “uncovered” boating fires or emergencies in the past decade; selling the boat could generate revenue to pay for other Fire Department needs.

## **GROUP 2. HISTORICAL PRESERVATION**

**Participants:** Barbara Brooks, Ralph McQuilkin, Sue Jackson, Bruce Barnard, Ron Collins (Leader)

*The Town will promote the preservation of historical buildings, sites and roads. In particular, the Town will reclaim the highway called Range Road as a Class VI town highway, and obtain easement rights to the Nathaniel Ball and Stephen Ordway cellar holes. The Town will, through its Heritage Commission, collect, catalogue, preserve and display historical documents, photographs and artifacts where they can be viewed by the public. To this end, the Town will develop the existing library through expansion or relocation so that a museum section can be attached or added to the library that will contain all historical documents, photographs and artifacts in such a manner that they can be studied and/or viewed under the supervision of a Town Archivist. The Town will appoint an unpaid volunteer to be the Town Archivist and will supply a small annual budget not to exceed \$2,500 annually to the Archivist for acquisition, cataloguing, preservation and display of historical documents, photographs and artifacts. The said Archivist will be a member of the Heritage Commission.*

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### **GROUP 3. Community Interaction Opportunities**

**Participants:** Arthur Cummings, Tom Gumpp, Elaine Gumpp, Nancy Howard, Jane Ramsay, Paula Cummings, Sandra Cummings (Leader)

*Continue to provide handicapped accessible space, whether as part of an existing building or a new Community Hall, where citizens of all ages and interests can gather to interact with one another. Other Town facilities such as the Forest, Beach, and Common need to remain readily available to Hebron's citizens. Activities should include, but not be limited to, civic, recreational, cultural and community events.*

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## **GROUP 4. AFFORDABLE SENIOR HOUSING and ALL THINGS GREEN**

**Participants:** Sue Appleton, Beth Geever, Pat Vandenberg, Allan Kent, Don Franklin, Suzanne Smith, Enid Reed, Chuck Beno, Sheila Oranch (Leader)

### **Affordable Senior Housing**

*The Town will be receptive to a small, six-to-ten unit, low-to-moderate income senior housing development centrally located within walking distance of Hebron center. Any such development will be constructed to LEED standards and ideally will be owned and operated by a community not-for-profit land trust.*

### **All Things Green**

*The Town will establish policies banning use of phosphorous-based fertilizer and persistent pesticide on all municipal and public lands and will require vendors and contractors to sign agreements of compliance with the policies. Furthermore, the Town will encourage resolutions and declarations to help educate affiliated institutions, residents and visitors to follow similar guidelines to help protect the lake, the watershed and regional ecosystems.*

**GROUP 5. BEACH & RECREATIONAL LAND**

**Please see Terry O'Brien's file:**

**Mstr plan rec land vision 18 Aug 10.doc**

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## **Group 6. EDUCATIONAL and OTHER OPPORTUNITIES for CHILDREN**

**Participants:** Sarah Steenbergen, Abigail Mooney, Danee Morrison, Mary Campbell, Suzanne Smith, Jennifer Larochelle, Kathleen Connor, Derry Riddle (Leader)

*Quality opportunities (both academic and social) for our children will remain paramount. Continued support of the Bridgewater-Hebron Village District and the Newfound Area School District will continue to be encouraged. Active parent and community involvement and communication regarding the development of our children will be maintained.*

*Enhancements to our Town Library will include upgrading the facility, expanding the hours, and increasing the access to online computers for community use. A more welcoming environment for children with creative activities, such as movie nights for middle school students, will be established. A children's evening from 5 to 8 p.m. once a week is recommended. Volunteers should be utilized for these special programs and for increasing library hours.*

*The children's playground on the Town Common will be replaced with safer, environmentally appropriate and more durable equipment, basically utilizing the existing footprint, and enhancing community events held there. Encouraging family-oriented programs such as the Gazebo Program will continue. Establishing an ice skating rink on Town property will be investigated. Adding a playground on the Rogers Property, while not duplicating the equipment on the Town Common, is recommended, especially coupled with other multi-age recreational facilities such as basketball, tennis and/or bocce courts. A committee to investigate Hebron's overall recreational facilities, as well as alternate sources of funding, will be established.*

*Supporting children's activities by the Newfound Audubon Society, the Newfound Lake Region Association and other non-profit organizations is encouraged.*

*A bike/walking path will be established (whether along current roads or through an alternate route) to increase our children's ability for safe, independent transportation throughout our town. Better signage alerting*

*drivers of pedestrian and bike traffic will be posted on our roads.*

*The creation of a par course (a walking path with simple physical fitness stations) in the Town Forest is recommended, promoting physical fitness for all ages.*

*Special events, such as a beach party for children at the Town Beach, will be created. Improving communication and advertising regarding various family-oriented and children's activities will include posting them on the Town Kiosk, Town Website, and changing room wall at the Town Beach; listing them in local newspapers and newsletters; plus phoning and emailing notices of these events.*

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## **GROUP 7. PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE SAFETY VISION GROUP**

**Participants:** Bruce Barnard, Ron Ward, Carol LaFontaine, Beth Geever, Dian West, Linda Shaw, Suzanne Smith, Sue Appleton, Sheila Oranch, Maryanne O'Brien, Bob Brooks, Barbara Nicholson, Jan Collins (Leader)

*Provide more safe and convenient choices for bicyclists and pedestrians.*

*Provide ways to exercise recreate and connect with neighbors by a non-motorized means of transportation.*

*Improve the safe opportunities for healthy lifestyle choices for our Hebron residents while allowing users to enjoy the splendor and vistas (aurora) of the Newfound Lake Watershed.*

*Provide a safe venue for the pursuit of healthy recreation and support local commerce, the historical and recreational heritage of Newfound Lake and Hebron and the overall health of the residents of the Hebron community.*

*Continue to work with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation and the Lakes Region Planning Commission to make improvements on NH 3A, North Shore Road, West Shore Road and Groton Road to improve vehicular and pedestrian safety.*

*Continue to control and lower speeds for safety of pedestrians using the roadways in the Hebron Area.*

*Lower the speed at the entrance of North Shore road and Mayhew Turnpike in Hebron to make this intersection safer, and add crosswalks at condo and camp crossings.*

*Provide for safety of residents, visitors, motorists, cyclists and pedestrians along Route 3A through increased traffic surveillance to include police presence and installation of monitoring equipment.*

*Curb increased noise pollution from trucks using West Shore Road, North Shore Road and Route 3A by prohibiting use of the truck engine to slow the vehicle on hills.*

*Provide signage and devices on the road and beside the road to encourage sharing of the road with pedestrians as “SHARE THE ROAD WITH PEDESTRIANS” and Radar signs.*

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