

**Town of Gordonsville
Community Meeting Results
October 27, 2011 – GVFC Fire Hall**

Four citizens attended this community meeting and, along with all five members of the Planning Commission and one member of Council, provided the following input for the Town's comprehensive plan update.

The items identified are town-wide and are not specific to any neighborhood.

Strengths

- Rich history, neat (freight) depot
- Sense of community – friendly and welcoming
- Great place to raise children
- Racially diverse yet cohesive community
- Safe place to walk
- Location in the region
- Nice park area (Verling Park) – easily accessible
- Government openness
- Awesome Public Works Department and Police Department
- Businesses (Exchange Hotel, BBQ Exchange, Pomme, other shops on Main Street)
- Dedicated and progressive Town Council

Weaknesses

- Need to work on being a more blended community
- Loss of downtown mid-retail businesses (Dollar General) – not much downtown for the average Town citizen to purchase (more retail is in Zion Crossroads)
- 18-24 age group – smallest segment of population, no employment for them here
- 25% high school dropout rate – need technical education center
- Not enough sidewalks in Town (or crosswalks across major streets)
- Lack of involvement from Town citizens

Opportunities

("If you build it, they will come...")

- Another or expanded commercial area in Town – focusing retail on long-term sustainable businesses
- Next generation of e-commerce
- Grants for developing high-speed internet and developing hot-spots at various convenient locations in Town
- Creating a telecommuting community
- Segment of population that could benefit from a technical education center (like one proposed for Orange County Schools)
- Town is centrally located in the region for technical education center and other similar facilities, such as a central business center for telecommuting (use vacant American Press building?)

- Train stop in Town for passenger rail
- Rebuilding significant historic structures

Threats

- Truck traffic in Town
- Losing our history/identity/significant historic structures
- Traffic on Main Street (volume and speed)
- Lack of a truck route
- No rescue squad station in Town
- Lack of young people moving to Town – no opportunities for young people in Town
- High pregnancy rate in secondary schools
- Lack of our own water source

Goals, objectives and strategies identified by the participants:

Housing

- Need to control/limit development to make use of existing housing stock
- Require/encourage % of new development to be affordable housing
- Need starter homes for young families
- Encourage above-retail housing downtown – which is attractive for young singles/couples
- Encourage mixed-use development/walkable communities
- Data should drive decisions regarding development of new housing

Recreation and Open Space

- Develop family fitness/community center in or near Town
- Develop trail network around Town (multi-use trail)
- Develop link to regional trail network (equestrian)
- Set aside park land in new development
- Establish movie nights at Verling Park or other suitable areas in Town
- Renovate Dix Memorial Pool (offer Mommy & Me swim lessons)
- Create a park at Cedar Run

Beautification

- Pursue streetscape plan and lighting

Public Facilities – Capital Improvement Projects

- Develop an independent Town water source
- Provide for stormwater management/improved drainage
- Provide restroom facilities at Verling Park

Historical

- Continue to seek grants/funding for historic preservation

- Work to expand the boundaries of the Historic Overlay District
- Explore re-construction of significant historic structures (Gordon Inn, Passenger depot, etc.)

Boundary Adjustment (land use)

- Provide for responsible land use
- Continue to work to expand the Town's boundaries to provide for mixed use development and an additional commercial center

Public Safety

- Create higher wages for police officers
- Put brighter lights on emergency vehicles
- Work to bring a rescue station back to Town

Economic Development

- Bring in electronic industries (e-commerce)
- Create more cohesiveness between Town businesses and Town Council
- Create a farmer's market in Town and work to promote development of other cultural events and festivals – create a venue for same
- Put on another street festival
- Bring carnival back to Town
- Develop center for telecommuting or center business center
- Work with providers to expand bandwidth for internet in Town
- Provide for adaptive reuse of vacant commercial/industrial buildings in Town

Transportation

- Support and develop a truck route around the Town
- Encourage TOOT link with Town of Charlottesville
- Airport runway is insufficient – extend to better accommodate general aviation
- Rebuild runway at the airport
- Work to develop multi-modal trails through Town and to connect to the region
- Work to improve sight-distance at key intersections in Town (determine where those are)
- Improve northern and southern intersections of High Street

Environment

- Work with VDOT to improve drainage on their streets
- Work to establish a recycling program in Town
- Develop floodplain protections in Town ordinances
- Examine areas in Town prone to flooding to determine potential drainage solutions or improvements