

Sunapee/Southern Sullivan County Area Roundtable Discussion

In response to requests from several local officials (local leaders were invited from: Acworth, Croydon, Goshen, Grantham, Lempster, Newport, Newbury, New London, Springfield, Sunapee, Unity, Washington, and Wilmot), UVLSRPC facilitated a roundtable discussion on various planning issues on December 11, 2003.

Nature has blessed towns in the Sunapee area with two natural jewels: Lake Sunapee and Mt. Sunapee. Historically, the attraction of these and other natural features has generated business and year-round and seasonal residential growth. This growth continues to impact school and town services including road maintenance, traffic management, water and sewer utilities, fire and police emergency services, solid waste disposal, and recreation. As a result, communities in the area are motivated and challenged to find effective ways to conserve land, to protect water resources, and to retain the vitality and character of their town centers.

In advance of the meeting, local officials identified the following four priorities for discussion:

1. **Growth Generators :**
Lake Sunapee, Mt. Sunapee, and
Regional Employment Centers
2. **Town and Village Centers :**
Retaining vitality and character
3. **Land Conservation**
4. **Water Quality:**
Protection throughout on a watershed scale



UVLSRPC staff facilitated discussion on how communities can address these topics in concert with neighboring towns. The issues raised include:

- ◆ The impact of the Mt. Sunapee expansion plans on both business and residential growth and the projected traffic impacts should be evaluated as part of the M. Sunapee Master Plan. A corridor management plan for Route 103 should be considered.
- ◆ Continued diligence is needed to address the region's severe housing shortage and its effects on lower-income households.
- ◆ Communities must find ways to accommodate mixed-use and higher-density residential developments in and around village centers to combat sprawl. This would include investigating innovative wastewater treatment alternatives to serve small village centers.
- ◆ Local board members need ongoing training on technical aspects of topics such as stormwater management and wetland protection.
- ◆ Communities in the southern portion of our region need the services of a land trust.
- ◆ A watershed-wide approach with a strong land use component is needed to plan for and protect surface and ground water resources in the Lake Sunapee area.

Meeting participants agreed that additional subregional forums would be helpful so that communities can share successes and challenges, foster regional approaches to common issues, and gain information on topics of common interest.