

VALUES MAPPING REPORT 1-19-11  
LIONS CLUB IN WESTFIELD  
Bob Hawk

The goal of this meeting was to start a dialogue among members of the Lions Club in Westfield, VT about what they value in the place they call home, and to mention how the SCI could be a resource of information and tools to empower local individuals, groups and municipalities in maintaining those values.

Twelve members attended from the 30+ membership: Phil Gonyaw (president) from Westfield, Real Gauvin (Lowell), Denny Lyster (Westfield), Kay Courson (Westfield), Carol Currier (Troy), Rene Desautels (N.Troy), Tammy Desautels (N.Troy), Diane Simpson (Newport), Alice Gonyaw (Westfield), Yvan LaPlume (Westfield), Connie LaPlume (Town Clerk, Westfield), Louise Handy (Troy).

The evening was divided into two parts: collect the responses to 6 questions, and inviting participants to circle those areas on a map that are important to them. The 6 questions were:

1. What do you love about where you live/this particular region/particular property?
2. What is your vision for it for the future of your real or imagined great grandchildren?
3. What do you see as threats to that vision?
4. What do you see as solutions?
5. Who would you need to BE to fulfill the vision? This is a quality or value – not having to be Bill Gates to provide the cash...! It takes something to have folks get present to this. You can explain and give examples – i.e., “more involved”, “accepting of others’ opinions”, “willing to speak up”, “able to see other viewpoints”...like that!
6. What are three actions you can take now? Have them write them down on file cards and read them to the group.

The answers:

1. Recreation, the proposed Lowell wind towers (lower rates, green energy), fresh air & water, motor biking on RT100, fishing, jobs, and four seasons.
2. Jobs in the area to be able to choose to live here, livable wages, history (old buildings, barns), fresh air & water, undeveloped land, open land, diversified agriculture, 4 Corners swimming hole, Big Falls, access to Balance Rock which the current landowner has closed, freedom.
3. Over development, unplanned development, lack of zoning, over regulation by State, too much pollution (diesel trucks on RT 100 on way to Newport dump), smelly mega-farms, clear cutting of forests without replanting which leads to erosion.
4. Regulated zoning by towns, not the State!, riparian buffers, strict local regulations of loggers to ensure sustainable forests and no erosion, more foresters.
5. (People remained silent on this one).
6. Contact State Representative, State needs to listen to the people.

The mapping: a few, but not many participated in circling areas that were important to them

Specific Outcomes:

- List of commonly held conservation values
- Awareness of conservation community resources offered by project partners

General Outcomes:

- Relationship building. The atmosphere was very relaxed, with a lot of friendly banter between participants, and the participants and the Linkage Coordinator.
- A dialogue about shared values and how to protect them was started.
- Increased awareness that SCI information, tools and resources are available if the individual, group or municipality chooses to employ them, i.e. local directed.