



# Appendix



# Public Participation Report

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A Plan of Conservation and Development is supposed to reflect the collective aspirations of the residents of a given community. Public participation helps local government ensure that it is addressing the needs of its population adequately. Understanding the needs and concerns of a community often goes beyond simply listening to the opinions of vocal community members. To give as many people as possible the opportunity to express themselves, a multi-faceted public participation program was organized for this POCD update. The public input process had several components: public forums, focus groups and a community survey. Three public forums were organized to allow residents to share their issues and ideas about the town's opportunities; review goals and establish priorities; and comment on the draft Plan. They took place, respectively, on:

- February 4, 2009 at the JFK Public High School at 7:00 PM
- June 17, 2009 at Asnuntuck Community College at 7:00 PM
- September 24, 2009 at the Town Council Chamber at 7:00 PM

In addition, a survey was mailed to randomly selected households in Enfield as an effort to reach out to town residents beyond the forums.

Six focus groups were held on February 5, 2009 at Town Hall to obtain feedback from local leaders and experts in the fields of agriculture; conservation and environment; economic development, manufacturing and education; historic preservation, culture and arts; real estate and housing development; and transportation.

Throughout the entire process, there was a Steering Committee of town residents appointed by Town Council to oversee the project, guide the consultant to appropriate information sources, and provide more detailed comments of the Plan's findings and recommendations.

In this section, you will find a summary of the results of each public participation activity, samples of the materials distributed at each meeting, Steering Committee minutes.

## Interactive Public Forum #1: Identifying the Issues

The first public forum was held on February 4, 2009 at the JFK Public High School at 7:00 p.m. José Giner, Director of Enfield's Department of Planning and Zoning welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced Jocelyn Gordon, from peter j. smith & company, inc., the project consultant.

Jocelyn talked about role of the Plan of Conservation and Development as a tool for long range land use planning and as the basis of town zoning regulations. She outlined the topics that will be addressed by the inventory, the public participation program and the schedule for completing the project. She then explained the activities planned for the meeting and guided the public through each one.

The forum was used to collect individual and group input and to encourage town residents to share ideas and build consensus about town issues and priorities. This report summarizes the input received from the public during that forum.

*Sample Workbook*

Public Meeting – Issue Identification

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**WELCOME!**  
**Enfield, CT**  
**Plan of Conservation and Development**  
**Public Meeting – Issue Identification**  
**February 2009**



**Presented and To Be Collected By:**  
**peter j. smith & company, inc.**  
**Buffalo, NY and Fort Erie, ON**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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peter j. smith & company, inc.

Enfield Plan of Conservation and Development

Please rate the statements below on a scale of 1 to 5:  
1 – Strongly Agree      2 – Agree      3 – Neither Agree No

**Community Character**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Enfield has a distinct identity that makes the Town unique to Connecticut. AS A GROUP, please indicate on the map with a **GREEN U**, the physical elements that make this Town a unique place.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Without proactive planning, Enfield is in danger of losing its identity. AS A GROUP, please indicate areas on the map with a **GREEN I**, the areas that should be protected by a proactive municipal planning process.
- \_\_\_\_\_ There are adequate shopping opportunities in Enfield.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Adequate cultural activities are available in Enfield.

What best describes the Town’s character? Please complete the following sentence:

The Town of Enfield is ... \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Land Use**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Stricter land use regulations (zoning, sign, landscaping, etc.) should be developed & enforced to preserve and/or enhance our Town. AS A GROUP, please indicate on map with a **GREEN R**, areas where existing land use conflicts are evident.
- \_\_\_\_\_ There is a need to develop design standards or guidelines to preserve and/or enhance the overall look and quality of residential and commercial buildings in the Town. AS A GROUP, please indicate on the map with a **GREEN D**, areas where design standards would be beneficial.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mixed-use development that includes both commercial and residential components should be encouraged in Enfield. AS A GROUP, please indicate on the map with a **GREEN M** areas where mixed-use developments could be located.

**Circulation**

- \_\_\_\_\_ I am concerned with the volume of traffic and traffic safety in the Town. AS A GROUP, please indicate on the map with a **RED T** areas that are traffic volume and safety concerns.

February 2009

Disagree

4 – Disagree

5 – Strongly Disagree

\_\_\_\_\_ Pedestrian safety is an issue in Enfield and there is a need for more sidewalks in the Town of Enfield. AS A GROUP, please indicate on the map with a **RED S** areas in need of sidewalks.

\_\_\_\_\_ There is a need for official bike lanes in Enfield. AS A GROUP, please indicate on the map with a **RED B** which roads should have bike lanes.

\_\_\_\_\_ A comprehensive trail system for recreational and transportation purposes is needed in the Town. AS A GROUP, please indicate on the map with a **RED C** where trails can be located.

### *Economy*

\_\_\_\_\_ Enfield needs to identify land for commercial and/or light industrial development such as offices and high tech businesses. AS A GROUP, please indicate on the map with a **BLUE C** areas where new offices, light industry and high tech businesses could locate.

\_\_\_\_\_ Enfield has tourism destinations that have potential year-round appeal. AS A GROUP, please indicate potential year-round tourist destinations on the map with a **BLUE T**.

\_\_\_\_\_ Agriculture is a vital industry in Enfield and land should be protected and/or preserved to ensure its future. AS A GROUP, please indicate on the map with a **BLUE A** the most valuable agricultural land that should be considered for future protection.

### *Community Services*

\_\_\_\_\_ Enfield is doing a good job of keeping up with current and future infrastructure needs, including gas, electric, cable, storm water, sanitary sewer. AS A GROUP, please indicate on the map with a **BLACK E** (electric), **BLACK G** (gas), **BLACK C** (cable), **BLACK W** (stormwater), **BLACK S** (sewer) and **BLACK D** (drainage) to indicate areas you are aware of that have problems with capacity for these services.

\_\_\_\_\_ The Town should acquire land now for future parks, open space, schools and community facilities. AS A GROUP, please indicate on the map with a **BLACK A** areas that the Town should acquire for future needs.

\_\_\_\_\_ Adequate emergency services including fire, police rescue, animal control, etc., are available in Enfield. AS A GROUP, please indicate on the map with a **BLACK EM** areas you are aware of where emergency services are difficult to access.

peter j. smith & company, inc.

## Enfield Plan of Conservation and Development

**TOP THREE ISSUES**

**GROUP DELIBERATION** – When you have finished with all four sections, review your work and address the following: Of all of the marks you have made on your table's map this evening, which represent the highest priority issues that should be addressed in the Plan of Conservation and Development? AS A GROUP, Please use the **ORANGE DOTS** to identify the GROUP'S Top Three Issues. Feel free to make notations on the margins to explain your group's philosophy, thoughts, etc.

*Tell us about yourself ...*

What is your age?	18-34 <input type="checkbox"/>	35-49 <input type="checkbox"/>	50-64 <input type="checkbox"/>	65 plus <input type="checkbox"/>	
How long have you lived in Enfield?	0-2 years <input type="checkbox"/>	3-5 years <input type="checkbox"/>	6-10 years <input type="checkbox"/>	11-15 years <input type="checkbox"/>	Over 15 years <input type="checkbox"/>
Do you own your home or rent?	own <input type="checkbox"/>		rent <input type="checkbox"/>		
Are you a permanent or seasonal resident?	permanent <input type="checkbox"/>		seasonal <input type="checkbox"/>		
Are you planning on moving away?	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>	maybe <input type="checkbox"/>		
Why would you move?					
Where in Enfield do you live (neighborhood)?					
Do you work in Enfield?	yes <input type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>	n/a <input type="checkbox"/>		

Are there any other issues we should know about as we proceed with the Plan of Conservation and Development? Please list:

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Thank you for participating!

Public input is extremely important to the Enfield Plan of Conservation and Development!



February 2009

## Workbook Results Summary

### Community Character

Statement	1- Strongly Agree	2- Agree	3- Neither Agree nor Disagree	4- Disagree	5- Strongly Disagree	No Answer
Enfield has a distinct identity that makes the Town unique to Connecticut	14.71%	50%	11.76%	20.59%	2.94%	0%
Without proactive planning, Enfield is in danger of losing its identity	23.53%	44.12%	11.76%	8.82%	5.88%	5.88%
There are adequate shopping opportunities in Enfield	55.88%	35.29%	0%	8.82%	0%	0%
Adequate cultural activities are available in Enfield	2.94%	26.47%	26.47%	38.24%	5.88%	0%

### Land Use

Statement	1- Strongly Agree	2- Agree	3- Neither Agree nor Disagree	4- Disagree	5- Strongly Disagree	No Answer
Stricter land use regulations should be developed and enforced to preserve and/or enhance our Town	41.18%	35.29%	11.76%	2.94%	2.94%	5.88%
There is a need to develop design standards or guidelines to preserve and/or enhance the overall look and quality of residential and commercial buildings in the Town	32.35%	55.88%	5.88%	5.88%	0%	0%
Mixed-use development that includes both commercial and residential components should be encouraged in Enfield	17.65%	44.12%	23.53%	2.94%	8.82%	2.94%

*Circulation*

Statement	1- Strongly Agree	2- Agree	3- Neither Agree nor Disagree	4- Disagree	5- Strongly Disagree	No Answer
I am concerned with the volume of traffic and traffic safety in the Town	52.94%	29.41%	5.88%	5.88%	2.94%	2.94%
Pedestrian safety is an issue in Enfield and there is a need for more sidewalks in the Town of Enfield	23.53%	29.41%	17.65%	17.65%	8.82%	2.94%
There is a need for official bike lanes in Enfield	23.53%	29.41%	11.76%	11.76%	11.76%	5.88%
A comprehensive trail system for recreational and transportation purposes is needed in the Town	47.06%	29.41%	5.88%	8.82%	5.88%	2.94%

*Economy*

Statement	1- Strongly Agree	2- Agree	3- Neither Agree nor Disagree	4- Disagree	5- Strongly Disagree	No Answer
Enfield needs to identify land for commercial and/or light industrial development such as offices and high tech businesses	17.65%	41.18%	5.88%	23.53%	5.88%	5.88%
Enfield has tourism destinations that have potential year-round appeal	8.82%	17.65%	17.65%	32.35%	20.59%	2.94%
Agriculture is a vital industry in Enfield and land should be protected and/or preserved to ensure its future	67.65%	20.59%	2.94%	2.94%	2.94%	2.94%

Community Services

Statement	1- Strongly Agree	2- Agree	3- Neither Agree nor Disagree	4- Disagree	5- Strongly Disagree	No Answer
Enfield is doing a good job of keeping up with current and future infrastructure needs, including gas, electric, cable, stormwater, sanitary sewer	8.82%	32.35%	20.59%	17.65%	5.88%	14.71%
The Town should acquire land now for future parks, open space, schools and community facilities	38.24%	26.47%	8.82%	11.76%	5.88%	8.82%
Adequate emergency services including fire, police, animal control, etc., are available in Enfield	50%	29.41%	5.88%	0%	0%	14.71%

Participants' Characteristics

Tell us about yourself...						
What is your age?	<b>18 - 34</b>	<b>35 - 49</b>	<b>50 - 64</b>	<b>65 +</b>	<b>No Answer</b>	
	8.82%	32.35%	35.29%	17.65%	5.88%	
How long have you lived in Enfield?	<b>0 - 2 yrs</b>	<b>3 - 5 yrs</b>	<b>6 - 10 yrs</b>	<b>11 - 15 yrs</b>	<b>Over 15 yrs</b>	<b>No Answer</b>
	0%	2.94%	2.94%	14.71%	70.59%	8.82%
Do you own your home or rent?	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>		<b>No Answer</b>	
	88.24%		0%		11.76%	
Are you a permanent or seasonal resident?	<b>Permanent</b>		<b>Seasonal</b>		<b>No Answer</b>	
	88.24%		0%		11.76%	
Are you planning on moving away?	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	<b>Maybe</b>	<b>No Answer</b>	
	2.94%		67.65%	14.71%	14.71%	
Do you work in Enfield?	<b>Yes</b>		<b>No</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>No Answer</b>	
	41.18%		35.29%	8.82%	14.71%	

## Open-Ended Questions

People who responded to Question 1E of the workbook regarding the character of the Town of Enfield indicated that the Town is characterized by a blend of urban, suburban and rural areas, and its abundant natural resources. They also mentioned that there are many conveniences to living in Enfield, including shopping and dining areas and public services typically found in larger communities or in cities.

Character Defined By:	Times Mentioned
Blend of urban, suburban and rural areas	5
Natural resources / Convenience	4
Uniqueness / New England ambiance / Shopping / Historic resources / Diversity	3
Social classes / Sense of community / Family-friendliness / Use as a bedroom community / Appearance	2
Affordability / Fiscal irresponsibility	1
No answer	

When asked if they were considering moving from the Town of Enfield, participants mentioned a variety of reasons. The three reasons that were mentioned most often were economic reasons, decline in the quality of education, and deterioration of the Town's quality of life.

Reasons for moving from the Town	Times Mentioned
Various reasons	5
Economic reasons	4
Decline in quality of education system / decline in Town's quality of life	2
No answer	

Participants were asked to write down any additional issues that they were concerned with. The need for more opportunities for outdoor recreation and cultural programs was mentioned the most times. People also wrote about several land use concerns, particularly the need for more areas of mixed use and for better transitions or buffers between commercial or industrial areas and residential areas. A desire to protect and better utilize the town's natural resources for recreation was mentioned equally as much.

Comments about...	Times Mentioned
Culture and recreation programs	7
Natural resources / Land use	6
Transportation / Town governance / Education and Youth	3
Public safety / Identity / Historic preservation / Farmland preservation	2
Tourism / Economic development / Affordability	1
No Answer	

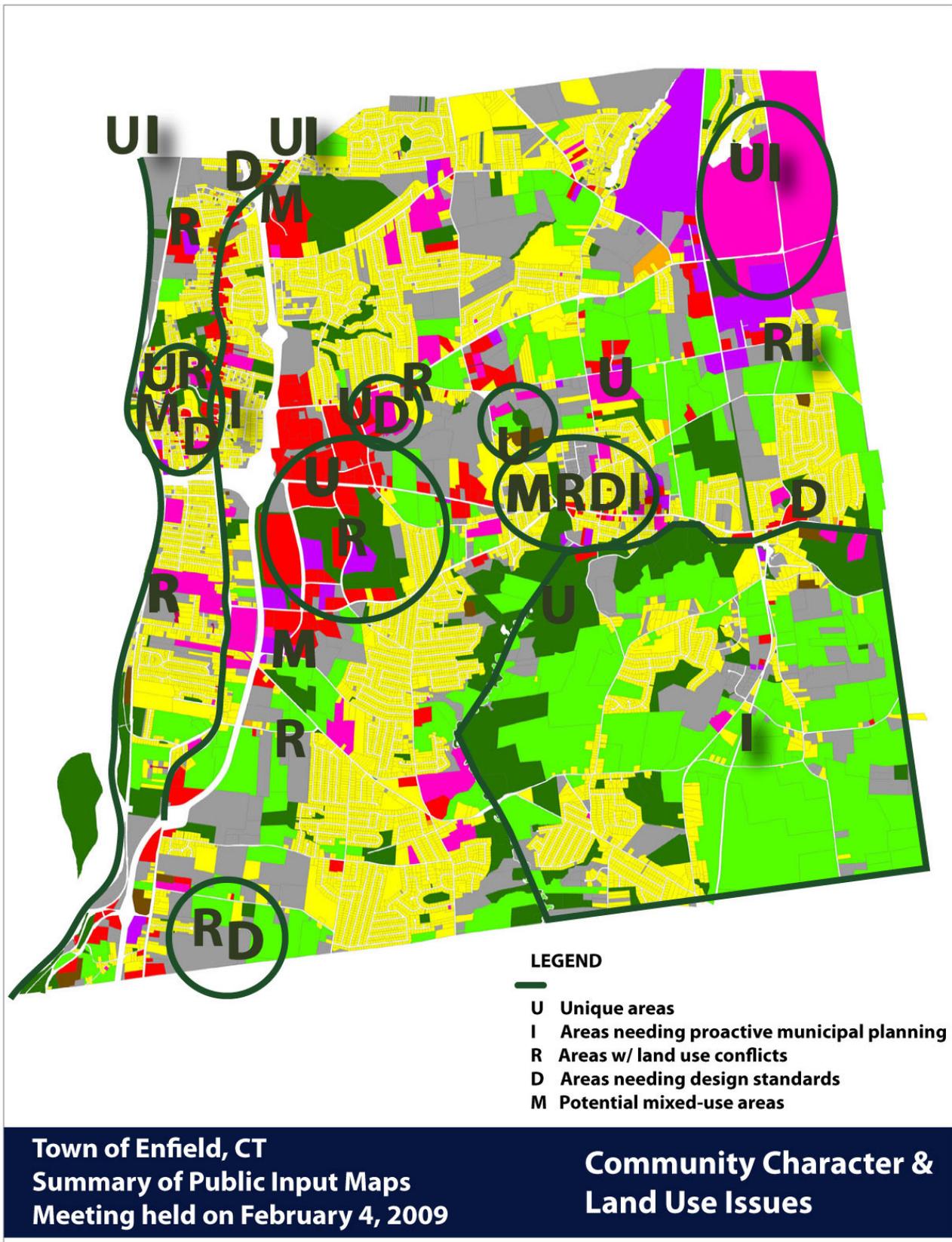
### *Group Discussion*

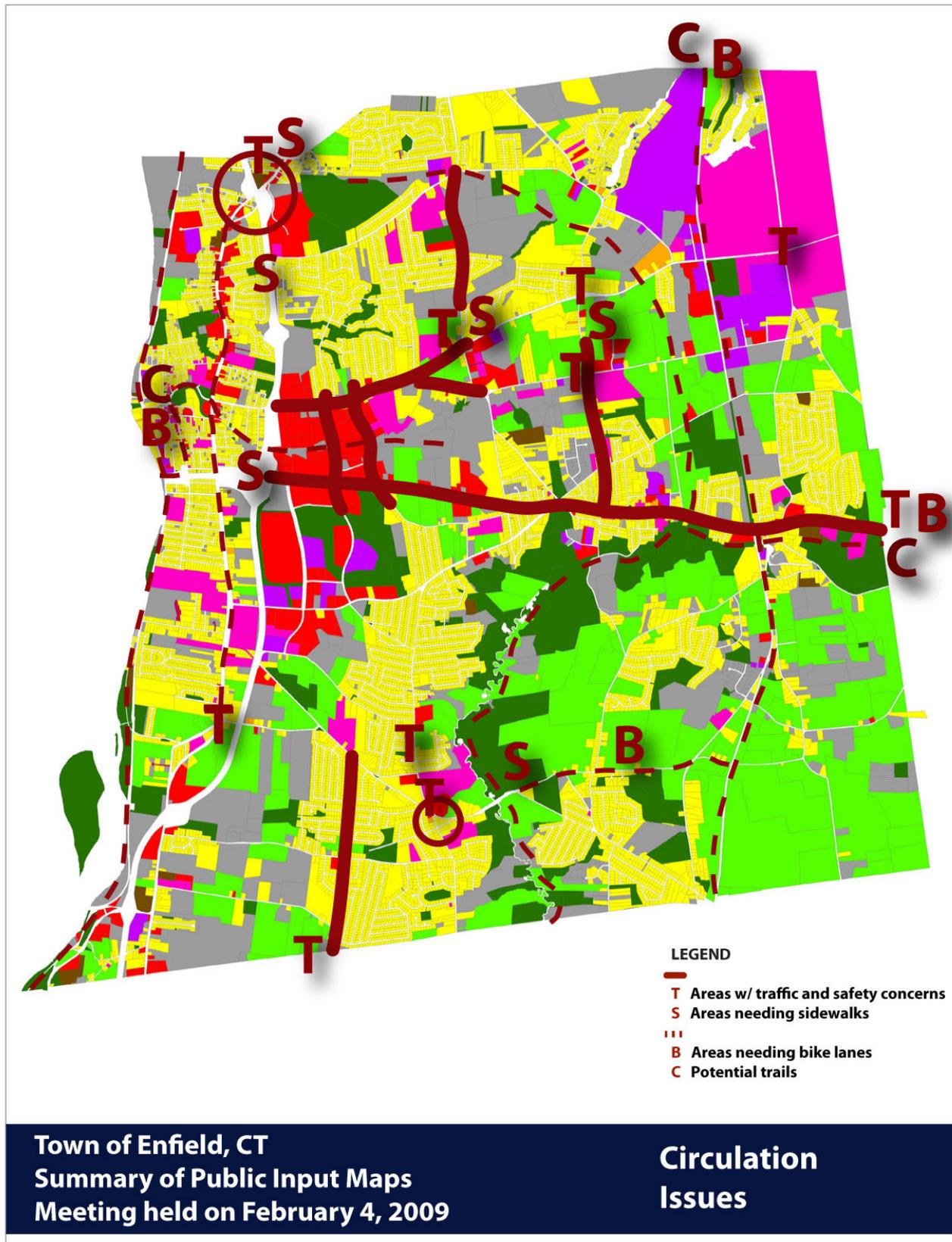
After completing the workbook individually, participants had the opportunity to discuss their answers with others seated at their table. Each group marked locations that needed attention on the group's map and then selected the three most important issues. Each group presented their work and their top three priorities.

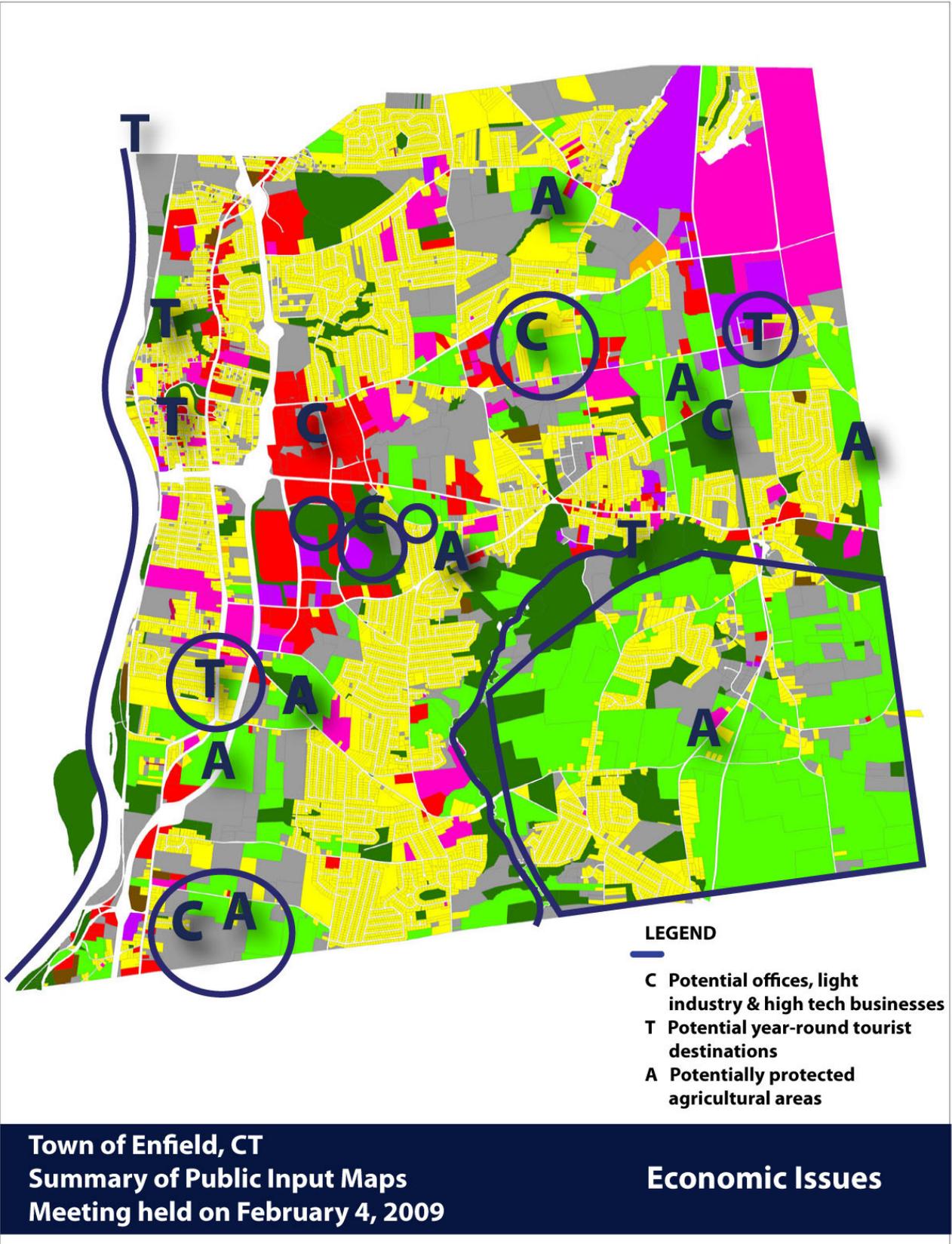
### *Map summaries*

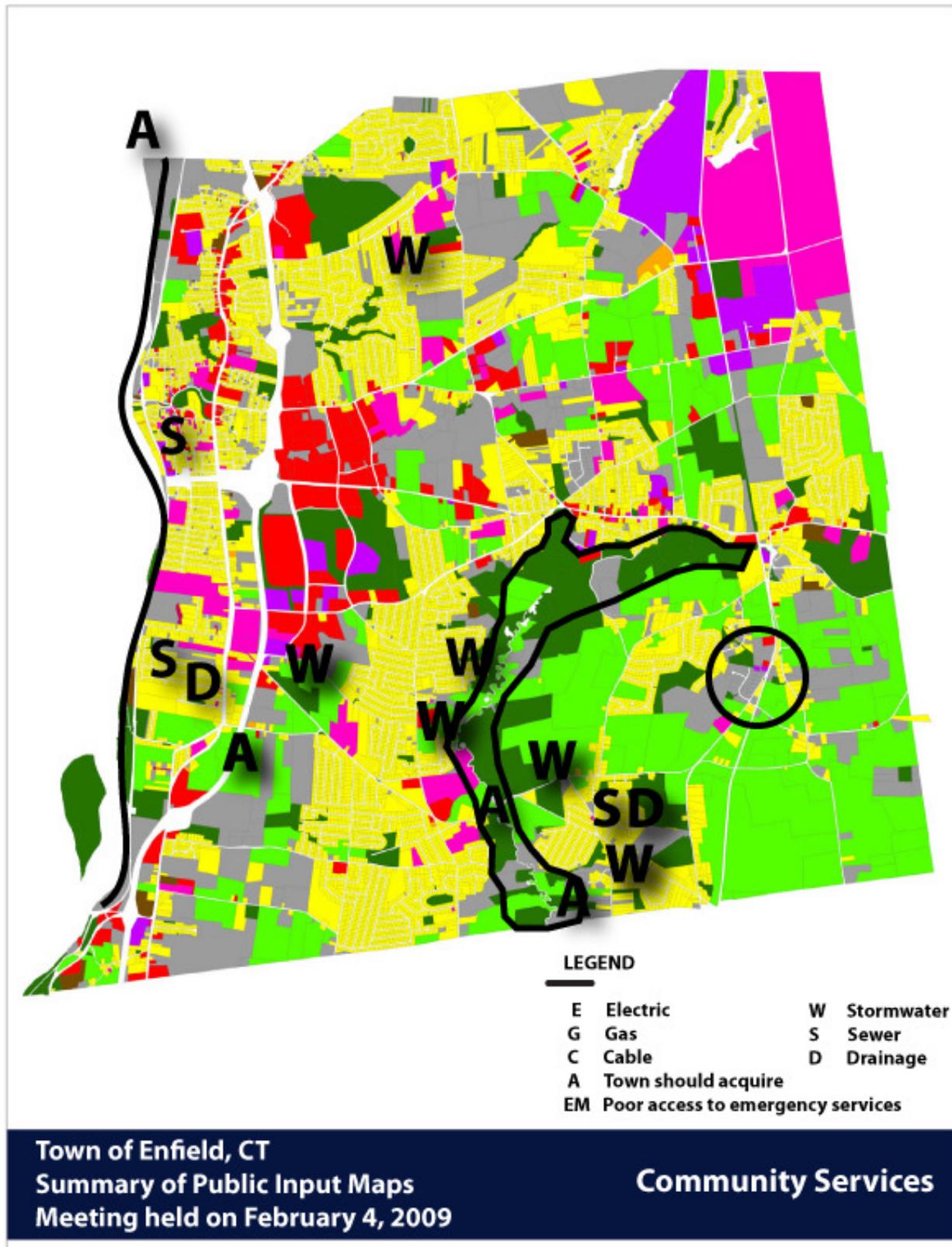
This section presents a topical summary of the maps made by each group. The most salient issues shown on all of the maps include:

- Recreation and tourism opportunities, such as trails, along the Connecticut and Scantic Rivers and Enfield St.
- Mixed-use and design standards for Thompsonville and Hazardville
- Traffic problems along Elm St. and Hazard Ave.
- Protecting agriculture in the southeastern corner of the town









*Comments from maps*

Participants made notes on the margins of their group's map. This section presents those comments.

**Table 1**

(3) Transportation- Traffic and safety issues on Route 5 and Elm Street, and along pedestrian path across from dump / the town farm; Railroad tracks add B and C across from BB to Longmeadow; Need a bridge and pedestrian walkway

Areas that should be protected by proactive municipal planning are: 1. Scantic River, 2. Shaker Pines, 3. Powder Hollow, 4. Hazard Institute, 5. Thompsonville Boat Launch (Burns), 6. Kings Island

Keep all current farms

Buildings- Higgins School and Strand Theater

Mixed-use in Thompsonville and Hazardville

Potential tourist destinations related to the Shakers, Thompsonville, and historic houses

**Table 2**

(6) Education- Education is in danger; Do not close the Alcorn School; H.B. Stowe- Do not close this school; Enfield High School is 1 of 2 high schools; We need schools kept open before we spend money on a bike path; Asnuntuck Community College; It should focus on the youth to perseve Enfield and build from our education for generations to come.

(3) Agriculture- Farmland tobacco; Trinity Dairy Farm; Retail vs. Farmland

(2) Waterfront- Non-utilization of waterfront; Waterfront use for recreational use

(2) Recreation- Future Park and playground similar to Brainard Park. Pool? Basketball, baseball, dog park- on property south of Oliver Road and east of I-91; No community center or multiplex (for teens and all ages)

Traffic problems at Freshwater, Hazard Avenue, Cranbrook

Stormwater and flooding on Post Road

Historic District

Fill existing building

**Table 3**

Unique areas- Farmland; Scantic River; Proximity to MA, HTSD and BDL; Railroad tracks and Mass. Transit; Diversity of neighborhoods

**Table 4**

Unique areas- Farmland; Availability of Tobacco Fields; Scantic River; Connecticut River; Downtown Thompsonville; Historic District on Enfield St.; Shopping district; Hazardville; Asnuntuck CC; Senior Center; Dept. of Corrections prisons

Tourism can build on Shakers, Riverfront, Scantic River, Parsons House and Historic District on Enfield St, Old Town Hall, the Hazardville Institute, etc.

Areas that should be protected by proactive municipal planning- Farms; Taylor/Moody Road area; Mancuso-Town Farm Road; Riverfront

Drainage/Erosion problems in: Lynch Ter.; O'Hear Ave.; Yale Dr.; Meadowlark; Gordon Lane; Sun St.

Traffic calming needed along Route 190 area corridor develop

Strong community- It's important to protect and preserve land (eg. Scantic, farmland, historic, etc.); allow sensible growth with limited conflict with residential uses; and capitalize on river

Riverfront development; Protection and preservation of the villages of Hazardville and Thompsonville; Land preservation and sensible business development

**Table 5**

No other comments

*Priorities Issues*

The following table shows each group's top three priorities.

<b>Priorities for Enfield</b>			
	<b>Priority Level</b>		
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
1	Farmland protection	Bike paths, walking areas and recreation areas along the Scantic River, and the Connecticut River.	Enfield's diverse commercial, farmland and historic district
2	Community center or multiplex for all ages	Maintaining the H.B. Stowe and Alcorn schools open	Traffic in Hazardville
3	Rivers	Mass Transit	Farms
4	Preservation of Hazardville and Thompsonville	Riverfront Development	Land preservation along the Scantic River and of farms
5	Agriculture and open space preservation	Mixed-use areas	Waterfronts preserve "natural resources"

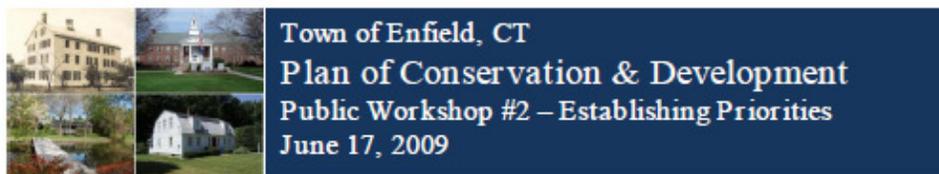
The next table ranks the priorities based on how many times they were mentioned in the meeting.

<b>Priority Level</b>	<b>Concern</b>	<b>Times Mentioned</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Priority	The Waterfronts	6
2 <sup>nd</sup> Priority	Farmland Preservation	5
3 <sup>rd</sup> Priority	Mixed Use	3

## Interactive Public Forum #2: Clarifying the Goals

The second public forum was held on June 17, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the cafeteria of Asnuntuck Community College. The purpose of this meeting was to allow the public to evaluate the draft goals and objectives of the Plan of Conservation and Development.

The meeting began with a brief description of the purpose and structure of the Plan of Conservation and Development, and continued with a brief summary of previous public input activities. A presentation of the top six issues from all the public input collected to date followed. Instructions to complete the evaluation workbook were given, as well as an example of how to fill out the workbook. The public had approximately 25 minutes to complete the exercise, after which people were invited to share some of their thoughts about the draft goals and objectives.



**WELCOME!**

**At the end of tonight's workshop, you will have helped us evaluate and personalize the draft goals and objectives for the Plan of Conservation & Development. These goals and objectives are based on the issues you identified as the most critical:**

- **Agriculture** - Agriculture is vital to the Town's economy; but local regulations don't treat agricultural land as an economic asset or agricultural activities as industrial uses. Incompatible land uses on or adjacent to agricultural land threaten the viability of agriculture in Enfield.
- **Open Space** - The Town has many natural areas with great ecological, scenic and recreational values; but they are inaccessible and inadequately protected from development.
- **Affordable Housing** - The Town of Enfield is affordable compared to neighboring towns, but not affordable enough to retain young families or the elderly.
- **Aquatic Resources** - The Connecticut and Scantic rivers are underused and lack sufficient public access. Wetlands are abundant, but they are perceived as a great burden for economic development.
- **Historic Resources** - The Town does not adequately protect its many historic resources, nor does it integrate historic preservation and heritage tourism into its overall economic development strategies.
- **Regulations** - Residents, town staff, and elected and appointed leaders do not have a good understanding of local, state and federal regulations. There is no single source of information about development regulations or the permits process, and enforcement of land use/development regulations is lax.
- **Transportation** - People who don't own cars, can't drive, or need a more affordable means to get around are increasingly limited by the Town's very few transportation options.

**Instructions:**

1. How well do the objectives address the issues?  
Mark **+** if the objective positively impacts an issue, or **-** if the objective negatively impacts an issue  
Leave blank if there are no impacts
2. Which objectives are most important to you?  
Rank each objective on a scale of 1 through 6, where 1 = Most Important
3. Rank the goals on a scale of 1 through 6, where 1 = Most Important

Presented and To Be Collected By:  
peter j. smith & company, inc.  
Buffalo, NY and Fort Erie, ON

**How well do these objectives address the issues? += Objective P**

<b>Governance &amp; Planning Goal:</b> <i>Use public policy as a tool for directing development in the Town of Enfield</i>		Issues						
		Agriculture	Open Space	Housing	Aquatic Resources	Historic Resources	Regulations	Transportation
Rank	Goal							
Rank	Objectives							
	Use the Plan of Conservation and Development as the policy foundation for assessing future development decisions							
	Assign responsibility and authority to appropriate levels of Town government to carry out the recommendations of the Plan of Conservation and Development							
	Promote cooperation, coordination and collaboration among local and regional levels of government in both Massachusetts and Connecticut							
	Bring local laws, zoning and other regulations into conformance with the Plan of Conservation and Development Update							
	Distribute the adopted Plan of Conservation and Development Update to regional governments and planning agencies to encourage consistency in future planning efforts							

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Neighborhood Development Goal:</b> <i>To encourage a pattern of development in Enfield that preserves, enhances, strengthens and unites its neighborhoods</i>		Issues						
		Agriculture	Open Space	Housing	Aquatic Resources	Historic Resources	Regulations	Transportation
Rank	Goal							
Rank	Objective							
	Encourage continued diversification of race, culture, socio-economic status, and age among the Town's residents							
	Promote a diverse array of housing and employment choices for all incomes and ages							
	Match housing and commercial development to neighborhood character							
	Recognize the importance of historical and cultural resources to development patterns in the Town							
	Prioritize revitalization of Thompsonville and Hazardville							
	Encourage the development of mixed-use neighborhoods							

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Positively Impacts Issue, – = Objective Negatively Impacts Issue

<b>Transportation Goal:</b> <i>To promote an efficient and intermodal circulation system</i>		Issues						
		Agriculture	Open Space	Housing	Aquatic Resources	Historic Resources	Regulations	Transportation
Rank	Goal							
Rank	Objective							
	Promote an increase in public transportation alternatives for Town residents							
	Develop additional transportation and circulation corridors with respect to natural resource and environmental protection							
	Use urban design principles to concentrate development and improve transportation and commuting choices							
	Address access and transportation issues and impacts regionally							
	Interconnect neighborhoods to establish better traffic and circulation patterns and encourage healthier, walkable neighborhoods							

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Environment Goal:</b> <i>To preserve and enhance the ecology and natural features of the Town of Enfield</i>		Issues						
		Agriculture	Open Space	Housing	Aquatic Resources	Historic Resources	Regulations	Transportation
Rank	Goal							
Rank	Objective							
	Address continuing needs for more open space & conservation areas							
	Enhance access to the Scantic and Connecticut River waterfronts while maintaining their pristine natural character							
	Recognize the importance of agricultural land and prioritize the protection of prime soils							
	Site future developments to avoid and mitigate potential adverse impacts							
	Recognize and preserve the quality of water and water resources							
	Develop and link greenways as a mainstay of Enfield's community design							
	Concentrate development away from steep slopes, wetlands, habitats and other critical natural areas							

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**+ = Objective Positively Impacts an Issue**  
**- = Objective Negatively Impacts an Issue**

<b>Economic Competitiveness Goal:</b> <i>To maintain and improve regional competitiveness through cooperative economic development ventures and strategies</i>		Issues						
		Agriculture	Open Space	Housing	Aquatic Resources	Historic Resources	Regulations	Transportation
Rank	Objective							
	Attract and retain high-quality jobs							
	Enhance the presence of Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield and encourage cooperative ventures between the school and the local business community							
	Maintain and enhance existing relationships with Enfield's major employers							
	Encourage the adoption of land use regulations encouraging mixed-use, "green" and live/work residential choices							

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Quality of Life Goal:</b> <i>To undertake and support activities which enhance the quality of life in the Town of Enfield</i>		Issues						
		Agriculture	Open Space	Housing	Aquatic Resources	Historic Resources	Regulations	Transportation
Rank	Objective							
	Develop, communicate and celebrate the identity of the Town of Enfield as a unique destination in the Hartford and Springfield regions							
	Maintain and enhance Enfield's reputation as a center for superior education in its public and private schools							
	Develop and maintain connections with communities throughout the region, including physical, social and cultural connections							
	Deliver services to Town residents in a cost-effective manner							

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*Workbook Results*

Goal 1: Use public policy as a tool for directing development in the Town of Enfield		Agriculture (%)			Open Space (%)			Housing (%)			Aquatic Resources (%)			Historic Resources (%)			Regulations (%)			Transportation (%)		
		+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0
Objective																						
1	Use the Plan of Conservation and Development as the policy foundation for assessing future development decisions	89	0	11	83	6	11	89	6	6	78	6	17	83	6	11	77.7	5.55	16.6	79	5	16
2	Assign responsibility and authority to appropriate levels of Town government to carry out the recommendations of the Plan of Conservation and Development	89	0	11	83	0	17	94	0	6	89	0	11	83	0	17	89	0	11	79	0	21
3	Promote cooperation, coordination and collaboration among local and regional levels of government in both Massachusetts and Connecticut	50	6	44	61	6	33	33	17	50	50	6	44	44	6	50	55.5	5.5	38.8	58	5	37
4	Bring local laws, zoning and other regulations into conformance with the Plan of Conservation and Development Update	61	0	39	56	0	44	72	0	28	56	0	44	56	0	44	72	0	28	53	0	47
5	Distribute the adopted Plan of Conservation and Development Update to regional governments and planning agencies to encourage consistency in future planning efforts	50	0	50	56	0	44	44	0	56	44	0	56	50	0	50	61	0	39	47	0	53

<b>Goal 2: To encourage a pattern of development in Enfield that preserves, enhances, strengthens and unites its neighborhoods</b>		Agriculture (%)			Open Space (%)			Housing (%)			Aquatic Resources (%)			Historic Resources (%)			Regulations (%)			Transportation (%)		
		+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0
6	Encourage continued diversification of race, culture, socio-economic status, and age among the Town's residents	33	0	67	39	0	61	72	6	22	28	6	67	33	0	67	44	11	44	37	5	58
7	Promote a diverse array of housing and employment choices for all incomes and ages	22	11	67	33	6	61	72	11	17	28	6	67	28	6	67	39	11	50	42	5	53
8	Match housing and commercial development to neighborhood character	33	6	61	33	6	61	72	6	22	33	6	61	44	6	50	56	6	39	42	5	53
9	Recognize the importance of historical and cultural resources to development patterns in the Town	50	0	50	50	0	50	50	6	44	44	0	56	78	0	22	50	0	50	42	0	58
10	Prioritize revitalization of Thompsonville and Hazardville	33	6	61	44	0	56	78	0	22	28	0	72	61	6	33	50	6	44	53	0	47
11	Encourage the development of mixed-use neighborhoods	28	11	61	28	11	61	72	11	17	33	6	61	44	6	50	56	6	39	47	5	47

Goal 3: To promote an efficient and intermodal circulation system		Agriculture (%)			Open Space (%)			Housing (%)			Aquatic Resources (%)			Historic Resources (%)			Regulations (%)			Transportation (%)		
		+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0
12	Promote an increase in public transportation alternatives for Town residents	33	6	61	22	17	61	83	0	17	28	11	61	22	17	61	28	11	61	95	0	5
13	Develop additional transportation and circulation corridors with respect to natural resource and environmental protection	39	6	56	50	11	39	22	11	67	56	6	39	33	6	61	28	11	61	68	0	32
14	Use urban design principles to concentrate development and improve transportation and commuting choices	33	6	61	33	6	61	56	6	39	33	0	67	28	6	67	39	0	61	58	0	42
15	Address access and transportation issues and impacts regionally	22	11	66	28	6	67	50	0	50	33	0	67	28	6	67	39	0	61	74	0	26
16	Interconnect neighborhoods to establish better traffic and circulation patterns and encourage healthier, walkable neighborhoods	39	0	61	44	6	50	61	0	39	33	6	61	33	6	61	28	6	67	63	0	37

Goal 4: To preserve and enhance the ecology and natural features of the Town of Enfield		Agriculture (%)			Open Space (%)			Housing (%)			Aquatic Resources (%)			Historic Resources (%)			Regulations (%)			Transportation (%)		
		+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0
17	Address continuing needs for more open space & conservation areas	50	11	39	83	6	11	39	11	50	72	6	22	44	6	50	39	6	56	32	11	58
18	Enhance access to the Scantic and Connecticut River waterfronts while maintaining their pristine natural character	39	11	50	61	11	28	28	17	56	72	11	17	50	11	39	28	6	67	26	10	63
19	Recognize the importance of agricultural land and prioritize the protection of prime soils	89	6	6	56	6	39	22	17	61	39	6	56	33	6	61	28	6	67	21	5	74
20	Site future developments to avoid and mitigate potential adverse impacts	56	0	44	67	0	33	50	0	50	61	0	39	44	0	56	39	6	56	21	0	79
21	Recognize and preserve the quality of water and water resources	33	0	67	44	0	56	28	0	72	78	0	22	22	0	78	33	6	61	16	5	79
22	Develop and link greenways as a mainstay of Enfield's community design	17	6	78	67	6	28	39	0	61	56	0	44	39	0	61	33	6	61	26	5	68
23	Concentrate development away from steep slopes, wetlands, habitats and other critical natural areas	39	0	61	61	0	39	33	11	56	56	6	39	22	0	78	33	11	56	11	5	84

Goal 5: To maintain and improve regional competitiveness through cooperative economic development ventures and strategies		Agriculture (%)			Open Space (%)			Housing (%)			Aquatic Resources (%)			Historic Resources (%)			Regulations (%)			Transportation (%)		
		+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0
24	Attract and retain high-quality jobs	16.6	5.5	77.7	16.6	5.5	77.7	50	0	44	16.6	5.5	77.7	22	0	78	33	0	67	37	0	63
25	Enhance the presence of Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield and encourage cooperative ventures between the school and the local business community	11	6	83	11	6	83	39	0	61	17	0	83	22	0	78	39	0	61	42	0	58
26	Maintain and enhance existing relationships with Enfield's major employers	22	11	67	11	6	83	50	0	50	22	0	78	28	0	72	56	0	44	53	0	47
27	Encourage the adoption of land use regulations encouraging mixed-use, "green" and live/work residential choices	33	6	61	39	11	50	38.8	5.5	55.5	33	0	67	22	0	78	39	0	61	26	0	74

Goal 6: To undertake and support activities which enhance the quality of life in the Town of Enfield		Agriculture (%)			Open Space (%)			Housing (%)			Aquatic Resources (%)			Historic Resources (%)			Regulations (%)			Transportation (%)		
		+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0	+	-	0
28	Develop, communicate and celebrate the identity of the Town of Enfield as a unique destination in the Hartford and Springfield regions	33	6	61	28	6	67	39	0	61	50	0	50	61	0	39	22	0	78	42	5	53
29	Maintain and enhance Enfield's reputation as a center for superior education in its public and private schools	11	6	83	11	6	83	39	0	61	17	0	83	16.6	5.5	77.7	22	0	78	26	0	74
30	Develop and maintain connections with communities throughout the region, including physical, social and cultural connections	22	6	72	27.7	5.5	66.6	22	0	78	28	0	72	44	0	56	33	0	67	32	0	68
31	Deliver services to Town residents in a cost-effective manner	22	0	78	27.7	0	72	56	0	44	28	0	72	22	0	78	44	0	56	47	0	53

Goals in order ranked:

1. Goal 1
2. Goal 4
3. Goal 5
4. Goal 2
5. Goal 3
6. Goal 6

Count of Rank Given to Each Goal							
Rank Given	Goal						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	3	1	1	3	2	0	
2	2	1	2	1	0	1	
3	2	2	0	1	2	0	
4	0	1	0	0	2	3	
5	0	1	1	1	1	2	
6	0	1	3	1	0	1	
<b>Average Rank Given</b>	1.86	3.43	4	2.71	3	4.29	

Top 7 Objectives:

1. Objective 18: Enhance access to the Scantic and Connecticut River waterfronts while maintaining their pristine natural character
2. Objective 12: Promote an increase in public transportation alternatives for Town residents
3. Objective 24: Attract and retain high-quality jobs
4. Objective 1: Use the Plan of Conservation and Development as the policy foundation for assessing future development decisions
5. Objective 14: Use urban design principles to concentrate development and improve transportation and commuting choices
6. Objective 7: Promote a diverse array of housing and employment choices for all incomes and ages AND Objective 27: Encourage adoption of land use regulations encouraging mixed-use, "green" and live/work residential choices

Count of Rank Given to Each Objective								
Objectives	Rank Given							Average Rank Given
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1	13	0	3	0	0	0	0	1.38
2	4	4	7	1	1	0	0	2.47
3	1	1	1	5	8	0	0	4.13
4	2	10	1	3	1	0	0	2.47
5	1	3	3	6	4	0	0	3.53
6	2	2	4	4	1	3	0	3.56
7	6	3	1	3	2	2	0	2.88
8	1	4	4	3	4	0	0	3.31
9	2	6	3	2	3	1	0	3.06
10	7	1	3	2	3	0	0	2.41
11	1	3	3	2	1	6	0	4.06
12	11	2	2	1	1	0	0	1.76
13	5	6	3	2	1	0	0	2.29
14	3	5	1	4	3	0	0	2.94
15	2	2	5	5	2	0	0	3.19
16	1	4	3	2	6	0	0	3.5
17	2	4	3	1	2	1	1	3.29
18	9	3	1	0	1	1	0	1.93
19	2	5	6	2	0	0	0	2.53
20	1	2	1	3	4	2	0	4
21	4	3	2	3	4	1	0	3.18
22	0	2	0	3	1	4	3	5.08
23	3	0	2	1	0	3	5	4.71
24	9	2	3	0	0	0	0	1.57
25	4	6	1	3	0	0	0	2.21
26	3	6	5	0	0	0	0	2.14
27	4	1	1	7	0	0	0	2.85
28	6	2	2	3	0	0	0	2.15
29	3	5	2	3	0	0	0	2.38
30	2	3	5	4	0	0	0	2.79
31	6	4	3	2	0	0	0	2.07

## *Analysis of Workbook Results*

As a means of evaluating the goals and objectives of the Plan for Conservation and Development for the Town of Enfield, public forum participants were given each of the six goals for their review. Five objectives were then given to achieve those goals. Participants were asked to rank each objective according to which was the most important for achieving the goal. Participants were also asked to evaluate whether each objective positively or negatively impacted the following issues:

- Agriculture
- Open Space
- Affordable Housing
- Aquatic Resources
- Historic Resources
- Regulations
- Transportation

Instances in which participants did not feel that the objective impacted an issue at all, the space was left blank. This exercise was done for each of the six goals. Finally, participants were then asked to rank each of the goals, one through six, to identify which were most important for the Town of Enfield.

**GOAL 1** - The first goal reviewed was Governance and Planning. The goal as stated is to *Use public policy as a tool for directing development in the Town of Enfield*. Objective 1 was viewed as the most important by participants, identifying that the most important objective for governance and planning was to use the Plan for Conservation and Development as the policy foundation for assessing future development decisions. On all issues, more than 75% of participants saw this objective as a positive impact. Objectives 2 and 4 were equally seen as the second and third most important for achieving the goal. Objective 3, promote cooperation, coordination and collaboration among local and regional levels of government in both Massachusetts and Connecticut, was regarded as the least important with an average ranking of 4.1 out of 5. Interestingly, in regards to governance and planning, participants expressed that housing issues should be addressed at the local level of government, with 94% believing assigning responsibility to appropriate levels of the Town government to carry out the Plan of conservation and Development will have a positive impact upon housing. Conversely, only 33% believe cooperation and coordination with regional levels of government will have a positive effect.

**GOAL 2** - Goal 2, the Neighborhood Development Goal was *to encourage a pattern of development in Enfield that preserves, enhances, strengthens and unites its neighborhoods*. Of the six objectives given, none were overwhelmingly considered the most important by forum participants. Participants ranked objective 10, revitalization of Thompsonville and Hazardville, the highest with an average ranking of 2.4. Promoting a diverse array of housing and employment choices for all incomes and ages (objective 7), recognizing the importance of historical and cultural resources (objective 9) and matching development to neighborhood character (objective 8) were the next three most important, each with an average ranking of approximately three. The encouragement of mixed use development was ranked as least important.

**GOAL 3** - The Transportation goal, *to promote an efficient and intermodal transportation system*, was given five objectives. With an average ranking of 1.7, objective 12, the promotion of increased public transportation options, was the most important, with 95% feeling that it would have a positive impact on transportation issues. However, 17% of participants feared that this objective would have a negative impact on open space as well as historic resources. Development of new corridors with respect to natural resources and environmental protection (objective 13), was ranked second most important.

Objective 15 ranked as the fourth most important, had the second highest percentage of participants (74%) viewing the objective as having a positive impact on transportation issues.

**GOAL 4** - The Environment goal is *to preserve and enhance the ecology and natural features of the Town of Enfield*. The most important objective for this goal is objective 18, to enhance access to the Connecticut River, while maintaining its natural character. Sixty one percent of participants said this would have a positive impact on open space and 72% felt it would enhance aquatic resources. The second most important objective was objective 19, with an average ranking of 2.5, was to recognize the importance of agricultural land and prioritize its protection. Clearly, Enfield residents value the conservation of agricultural lands and open space, with 89% feeling that this would have a positive impact upon agricultural issues. Preservation of water quality and resources was third and addressing the continuing needs for more open space and preservation areas was forth. Objective 22, develop and link greenways, was seen as a least important with an average ranking of 5.

**GOAL 5** - Four objectives were given for the Economic Competitiveness goal, *to maintain and improve regional competitiveness through cooperative economic development ventures and strategies*. Most important was objective 24, attracting and retaining high-quality jobs. Second, with an average rank of 2.1, participants felt the relationships of the town with Enfield's major employers was next most important (objective 26). On all issues, there was little to no fear that any of the objectives would have a negative impact.

**GOAL 6** - The sixth goal was the Quality of Life goal, followed by four objectives. The Quality of Life goal is *to undertake and support activities which enhance the quality of life in the Town of Enfield*. Each of the objectives were viewed as fairly equally important by the participants with the average ranking for all four being between 2.0 and 2.7. The most important objective was 31, to deliver services to town residents in a cost-effective manner. Just behind was objective 28, with an average ranking of 2.1, to development, communicate and celebrate the identity of the Town as a unique destination in the Hartford and Springfield Regions. This objective illustrates the desire of residents to increase marketing and tourism efforts to bring visitors to the Town. Least important was objective 30, to develop and maintain connections with regional communities. No major concern was expressed by participants about any of the objectives impacts upon the issues.

## Interactive Public Meeting #3: Presenting the Draft Plan

The meeting was held on September 24, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. at Town Hall in the Town Council Chamber. A 20-minute presentation provided attendees an update of the project's progress, an overview of the Plan of Conservation and Development, and an overview of the main concepts from the Plan. A total of 23 people attended the meeting.

The personal information appearing in the table below was requested from all who completed the Plan Evaluation sheet. This information was used to monitor attendance to the public meetings and ensure that participation is balanced.

Participant Characteristics									
10	What is your age?			18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Blank	
				10%	30%	50%	10%	0%	
11	Including yourself, how many adults live in your residence?			1	2	3-5	6 or more	Blank	
				10%	50%	20%	10%	10%	
12	How many children (under 18) live in your residence?		0	1	2	3-5	6 or more	Blank	
			60%	20%	10%	0%	0%	10%	
13	Do you own or rent the residence in which you live?			Own	Rent	Other	Blank		
				60%	10%	10%	20%		
14	What is your employment status?		Employed in Enfield	Employed Elsewhere	Student	Retired	Other	Blank	
			60%	20%	0%	0%	10%	10%	
15	What is your annual household income?	Less than \$10,000	\$10,000-29,999	\$30,000-49,999	\$50,000-74,999	\$75,000-99,999	\$100,000-149,999	\$150,000+	Blank
		0%	0%	10%	20%	0%	20%	20%	30%
16	What is your highest level of education?		Below High School	High School Diploma	Some college	Associate degree	Bachelor's degree	Post graduate degree	Blank
			0%	10%	20%	10%	30%	20%	10%

### Meeting Results

An evaluation sheet was given to participants to fill out and return after the presentation. The results are as follows:

Plan Evaluation Responses				
	Questions	Yes	No	Not Sure / No Opinion
1	If carried out, do you think Enfield's draft Plan of Conservation and Development has the potential to meet the needs of the community?	70%	0%	30%
2	Could we include in the Vision Statement any other ideas that capture what you value most about the town's identity?	30%	40%	30%
3	Are there additional goals and objectives that we could include in the Plan of Conservation and Development?	30%	30%	40%
4	Are there other important opportunities that exist, or could be developed, in Enfield?	30%	10%	60%
5	Is there anything else we could consider to protect or enhance the character of Enfield's different neighborhoods?	20%	20%	60%
6	Are there any other forms of development we could consider to encourage the variety of commercial and industrial activities needed to strengthen Enfield's economy?	20%	10%	70%
7	Do you see any potential conflicts with the Future Land Use Plan?	40%	0%	60%
8	Would you change anything about the proposed Future Land Use Plan?	10%	20%	70%
9	Do you have any other questions and concerns about the Plan of Conservation and Development that were not addressed in tonight's presentation?	10%	20%	70%

*Open-Ended Responses*

<b>Times Mentioned / Issue Mentions</b>	<b>Responses</b>
(1) Leadership/Implementation Issues	But the commissions must and council must believe in it and not say it is just a guide but doesn't have to be followed
(1) Village District	Village - include and connect along Hazard Ave.
(2) Availability of draft	I need to read it; I didn't have a chance to read it - there must be more printed copies available to review
(2) New CBD	Expand on new town center district as currently developing elsewhere in country; Mall ok for multi-level mixed use.
(3) Business potential in agricultural products processing	Farm product processing facilities - regional - possible. Co-op type of facility; Make Enfield more business friendly to encourage more investment and developers; Agricultural related business - Processing plants to help farmers market their produce
(4) Ag preservation	Preserve farmland, agrotourism; Agricultural preservation should be soil-based and coordinated with ecosystem connectivity; Open space and farmland preservation in the southeast corner!; Agricultural preservation outside designated area should also be considered based on soil types
(4) Comments about land use, zoning or mapping	Zoning borders should follow property lines; Proposed land use map is extremely over-simplified; Need to look at wetlands, use too much; More refined geographic areas, characteristics should be more diversified; Industrial on Shaker and Moody Rds. Should extend to George Washington Rd.
(4) Historic Preservation Priority	Again, more light on historic preservation; The mill pond is a treasure that should be utilized more; I agree- Connecting the historical areas would help; I think more energy and effort should be spent on historical preservation. Like agricultural space, once it's gone, it's gone.
(4) Open Space Preservation	Preservation of the CT River Corridor is critical. The intermodal station should not, must not impede this goal. I disagree w/ Mr. Levitz who has a problem with the 200 ft. greenway along the River; Open space and farmland preservation in the southeast corner!; R44 with more open space or a higher fee in lieu; Must reduce zone to R44 max
(5) Comments about the Plan in general or the Vision Statement	I think the plan has much potential and with further tweaking could be a very good thing for Enfield; Yes; It was okay but kind of fluffy; Sounds good; Can't think of any at this time;
(11) Comments about Culture & Arts District	Don't see "civic center" as a viable option; Thank you for paying attention to Thompsonville's needs; Mixed use along the River. Storefront with condos above; Less rental apts in Thompsonville, turn back multis back to single family homes - transient residents are killing Thompsonville; Keep midrise away from CT River, and only after extremely thorough consideration allowed elsewhere in Thompsonville; Intermodal station; Downtown Thompsonville - restaurants, small shops, cultural events - Not one big Fire Department Building; push for bus center east of 91, not in Thompsonville at train station; Intermodal station and open space/Access to River; Riverfront should not have 200 ft restriction and homes currently on riverfront shouldn't be too negatively impacted; No high rise developments in Thompsonville - keep cultural and arts district, restaurants, etc.

## Focus Group Sessions

### *Agriculture Focus Group*

The Agriculture Focus Group was held on Feb. 5, 2009. A total of 6 individuals participated in the session. The following is a summary of the discussion.

#### **Question 1: In one sentence, describe the character of Enfield, Connecticut and what makes this town unique.**

- Its people are hard working and compassionate
- Transient community and prison community – Enfield is only town that has rental property and only one that has 7 prisons other towns won't build it. School system is flooded with kids from prison. Renters use services and facilities, then leave. This has contributed to Thompsonville's decline over the years
- Rich in history, but sometimes forgotten within congestion and shopping. But town has asked for that kind of development; it has zoned for it.

#### **Question 2 and 3: What are the three most important opportunities/challenges for the future of Enfield?**

- Farmer's market is an opportunity,
- East Windsor is very farmer friendly; Enfield should emulate
- Green issues are opportunity, energy we could do things that have never been done before. Wind is not sustainable for large generation but it is ok for small operations.
- Inheritance breaks farm up; many don't want to continue family farm. Overlay district might curb impact of farmers' ability to get aid or other income. Tobacco has been unique to this part of the country. State has determined Conn river valley is best soil.
- We have to go back to the Boards. They proclaim they are farm friendly, but when you try to do something, you are brought "through the wringer". If you don't know the laws, you are at a disadvantage. The problems with the boards are: they charge many fees; the permits process is not streamlined. People serving on the boards may have good intentions, but no understanding of the laws they have to enforce or interpret. They do not receive any education about their task. The wetlands commission is a long term of office.
- High fees. Decisions difficult to applicant to understand. Some farmers don't understand that some farm activities do cause problems.
- Many farmers don't know what's going on. Farmers in Enfield don't know what other farmers are doing and growing. They are not organized.
- People don't seem to know that there are many kinds of farming not just dairy and crops.
- People purchase homes next to farms, and then they don't like farm operations.
- Public sentiment liked preservation, farmers have been taken advantage by town or speculators because they have ready cash. Not sure how beneficial is getting money for preservation of agriculture.

- It's very confusing to run farm because not sure who you need to talk to in requirements. Permit process has many layers but some towns allow farmers to lease open space, but you have to be careful because a lot of people don't want to see the sprays or manure.
- We feel that there have been times when the town has inflamed public opinion by portraying a proposed use on a property as harmful. Unfortunately, it doesn't seem like they do this due to a sincere concern. Often someone else shows up interested in farmland. If nothing changes, the future of agriculture in this town will dwindle, not so much for economic reasons, but do to the constraints on activities on agricultural land.
- People don't want to pay for keeping agriculture. Town lowers taxes not good for everyone.
- State laws allow farming to be exempt from certain requirements, but laws in Enfield are more restrictive. Also, the Town does not have laws in place to promote state programs and exemptions, etc.
- Many decision-makers in Enfield have no knowledge of stormwater regulations. Not everyone in the zoning office is familiar with all the laws. If the staff person that knows the laws is not there when you go, no one else can give you accurate information about the process or the regulations.
- Agribusiness is the largest growing industry in Connecticut. Many towns throughout the state are reinstituting agriculture boards to implement state right to farm laws. In Enfield there are no farmers on any of the boards.
- We need a processing plant somewhere in this area for vegetables. We can sell some produce easily, but others we can't get to the market quickly enough.

**Question 4: How can the completed Town of Enfield Plan of Conservation & Development best benefit the community?**

- Remove agriculture from the open space classification. Farming is a business, open space is not. Agricultural land is developed and it serves an urban purpose. Open space is undeveloped.

*Conservation & Environment Focus Group*

This meeting was held on Feb. 12, 2009. A total of 6 individuals participated in the session. The following is a summary of the discussion.

**Question 1: In one sentence, describe the character of Enfield, Connecticut and what makes it unique. Ex. "Our town is..."**

- An historic town that includes diverse communities, valuable natural resources, farmland and separate interests
- Great town with excellent infrastructure, shopping, natural resources, and history (Bigelow carpet and Hazard Gun Powder)
- Offers agriculture as open space
- CT and Scantic rivers are totally unique
- Centrally located between Boston and NYC, Hartford and Springfield
- A town with great potential that has not decided what it wants to be

- A socially, economically and ethnically diverse community, in between two larger cities, and feeling some of the problems of those cities (congestion, drugs, gangs)

**Question 2: What are the three most important opportunities for the future of Enfield?  
enhancement of natural resources**

- Preservation of farmland
- Protection of aquifers
- Scantic River State Park/greenway to Mancuso recreation area (connect bike paths to recreation area)
- Community gardens
- Preserve areas along CT river
- Promote and preserve farmland as open space/economic asset
- Water- CT and Scantic river
- Ponds in town
- Getting people to use natural resources
- Utility company properties along River

**Question 3 and 4: What are the three most important challenges the Town faces?**

- Provide a balance for diverse groups to be able to call Enfield home
- Preserving the Scantic river and CT river corridor and “riparian areas” while providing better access to the public and protect/clean the rivers
- Making these areas accessible to the public balancing passive recreation and organized sports activities
- Balancing development needs and the need to protect delicate and important natural resources
- Use of CT River Enfield shore area
- Establishing use of Thompsonville area that we can be proud of
- Creating Town ballfield/courts
- Creating central citizens group that coordinates public use and public purpose
- Need to get more walking/bike paths

**Question 5: What role could conservation & environmental stewardship play in the future development of the Town of Enfield?**

- Provide guidelines for protection of our natural resources
- Educational opportunities
- Open space and farming cost of services is less and provides intangible benefits as well as economic benefits.

- Encourage mixed use, commercial, residential and open space

**Question 5: How can the completed Town of Enfield Plan of Conservation and Development best benefit the community?**

- Provide distinct guidelines that clearly state the goals of the plan to avoid misunderstanding of the priorities.
- Must make community and land use boards “buy into it”. It must be well rounded and it is critical that all groups /interests in the town are a part of the process to develop the plan. It cannot be “hijacked” by one segment of the town administration.

*Economic Development, Manufacturing and Education Focus Group*

The Economic Development, Manufacturing and Education Focus Group was held on Feb. 12, 2009. A total of 8 individuals participated in the session. The following is a summary of the discussion.

**Question 1: In one sentence, describe the character of Enfield, Connecticut and what makes it unique. Ex. “Our town is...”**

- A magnet for shoppers and eaters, manufacturing and workforce
- A mature development
- Composed of a blend of residential, retail and business activities unique to region
- A town still coming to grips with its identity
- Eclectic both in its citizenry and business composition
- Working hard to preserve the past and respond to business opportunity to create jobs for the next generation
- A “gateway” to northern New England. We border an international airport
- Historic and a retail hub with many inter-related families
- A small town feel despite a population over 44,000.
- Extremely diverse, especially considering its size, in terms of the activities, and organizations in town which represent a variety of interests.

**Question 2: What are the three most important opportunities for the future of Enfield?**

- Enhance and improve Waterfront access; make Connecticut riverfront an attraction
- Multicultural
- Intermodal opportunities
- Redevelopment of existing properties
- Harness sense of place, welcome growth
- Blue collar identity- work ethic community feel
- Location

- Affordable housing
- Education system is good; community college should be expanded
- Technology
- Some manufacturing employment remains
- Greater use of proximity to I-91 and Hartford and Springfield
- Expansion of community college and mirror other institutions of higher education in similar communities such as Manchester and Farmington
- Services, manufacturing and health careers
- Supporting and appreciate the businesses we already have. Help them grow (workforce, taxes, regulation) grow some new locally
- Allowing more intense commercial development where you can (in light of severe wetlands and drainage)
- Riverfront development with public access
- Change land uses to add value
- Retain our students to work and live in Enfield
- Housing stock, while not “low income”, is affordable to many young families
- Surrounded by low crime
- Opportunity for a common sense of identity (family)

**Question 3: What are the three most important challenges the Town faces?**

- Workforce development
- Physical constraints (wetlands, etc.)
- Cost of remediation (Higgins) and redevelopment
- Inconsistency of visions
- Perception of safety in Thompsonville
- Small group of people have too much influence
- Unwillingness to invest – expense cost vs investment
- Marketing needed for the whole town
- Prisoner’s family and friends
- CT is not business friendly
- Full utilization of existing buildings and properties. Ie. Lego, hallmark and potentially the purchase of private properties for business development of growth
- Property tax arithmetic (cost up/value)
- Attracting a productive next generation
- Thompsonville development will be complicated

- Retain our students
- Lack of undeveloped property
- High proportion of absentee landowners
- Balancing growth and tradition
- Finding sources of new revenue/development to provide/maintain services while keeping control of taxes/spending
- Meeting needs of increasingly diverse population

**Question 4: What role could conservation & environmental stewardship play in the future development of the Town of Enfield?**

- Work together to educate for the jobs available; education needs to be represented in economic development initiatives
- Manufacturing industries need to continue, construct and find ways to contribute
- Pair patterns of growth and also reform roles in the marketing and future direction of the community
- Asnuntuck has an excellent welding program that manufacturers love. If we can expand the program, manufacturers have said there are jobs available, good jobs. The local schools partner with the community college. Also, Enfield has a strong elementary (1 to 8 grades) parochial school system.
- Collaboration among players for jobs and internships for students, study opportunities for workers, volunteer opportunities channeled to both coordinated by town entities
- Solve Enfield's identity crisis

**Question 5: How can the completed Town of Enfield Plan of Conservation and Development best benefit the community?**

- Reduce Town restrictions and make them more business-oriented
- Clearly describe the desires of the town and focus on making our plans and rules align townwide
- Function as a blue print
- Improve communication between Town Council, Boards, business and residents

***Historic Preservation, Culture & Arts Focus Group***

The Historic Preservation, Culture and Arts Focus Group Session was held on Feb. 5, 2009. A total of 8 individuals participated in the session. The following is a summary of the discussion.

**Question: In one sentence, describe the character of Enfield, Connecticut and what makes it unique. Ex. "Our town is..."**

- Village has many historic landmarks
- There are ties to the Civil War and textile manufacturing in Hazardville

- Riverfront is a unique asset
- Enfield has not done good job of preserving history. Shaker village could have been exploited, but it doesn't exist anymore. Certain parts have history of American Indians. Not moving in the proper direction for preservation
- Character is quaint and colonial. Area of little stores on Pearl street. Funeral home now a dance hall, Bigelow area needs a lot of help. Upkeep the area. Sidewalks are a mess.
- Riverfront: why haven't we done anything?
- Railroad cuts off river
- Thompsonville get bad rap. Perception is terrible, but crime is real there
- Character of Town is homey
- Gone from farmland going from quaint to too much shopping. We have lost a lot
- Colonial, 19<sup>th</sup> century industry, Victorian homes and modern ones shape character
- Enfield is inclusive and more diverse than surrounding communities. Not one type of culture or person. Even with our problems, Town has a history of problem solving. We're at a critical point, land use needs to be used wisely

**Question: What are the three most important opportunities/challenges for the future of Enfield?**

- True revitalization of Thompsonville, other townships have accomplished more. Thread its identity with carpet mills, lighting fixtures, smaller unique shops. Put back rail.
- Developing riverfront. Waterfront belongs to the public. It's a community feature. Make it a destination, food, shops, unique topography, opportunity for gardens.
- Green energy would make us progressive.
- Open land - we don't have any more land to keep developing with housing.
- Be more selective about who we let into Town, we don't need more industry, we have lots of empty buildings in the mall. Encourage reuse, not new buildings.
- Enfield is doing poorest in region with regard to marketing, we only brag about Parsons House. Strand Theater never had enough momentum or interest to be developed.
- Some historic sites have been abandoned, even those that are not as old. We don't stabilize vacant buildings that we remove a lot options from decision table.
- Train/bus station buy up more land along river with State funds.
- Wealthy developers develop in their own interest but do not create enough for the community.
- Preserving open space people to have something to do something especially for those who live in high density areas, such as condos.
- Enfield has problem keeping long-term vision. Staff has to constantly change direction when politics change.
- Attract people for more than shopping.

- Renters don't feel part of the community; others don't support projects because they are not tied to long-term vision.
- Open space could be used more efficiently. Some recreational areas are overused, and many sports fields have not been renovated until recently, and just because they had to when toxins were found there.
- People are still parochial, they don't want to travel or come across Town. Residents need to share resources. People need to understand that because we don't have enough staff.
- Open space is everywhere, but it should be available to the public.
- Many people in Town are under-informed. The Recreation Department is trying to reach out to the community house by house.
- Business should be enticed to come to Enfield with seasonal tax credits or such to fill out vacant lots temporarily and many industrial areas are surrounded by wonderful open space resources.
- Citizens are not aware of many issues.
- Lack of aesthetics, a lot of junky buildings. Mixed use would be great.
- Aesthetics are not pleasing. Developers dictated what they wanted and some decision makers have let them get away with it. Town can ask that developers conform to design guidelines.
- Ordinances exist, but they are not enforced. A lot of fault lies with the Town. They don't follow up with construction, they let things go, and don't think it's a big deal.
- Bridge on 159 does not provide positive impression to our Suffield neighbors. They hate it, but they still come here. Walkable areas are good here, but people get worried about where to put the car. A lot of library customers don't like parking on the street or don't know where they can park.
- Town is not a White Knight, we have to do a lot on our own. We can't wait for them.

**Question: How can the completed Town of Enfield Plan of Conservation and Development best benefit the community?**

- Tell town to ask how it can help developers rather than block everyone's efforts.
- Vision is necessary. Community and developers have to sit at the table and want to talk about what options are and what developer's aspirations are.
- Arts need a place to be housed in. Old Town Hall is leased to Historical Society. Library can't be used for a function unless it's a nonprofit function.

***Real Estate and Housing Development Focus Group***

The Real Estate and Housing Development Focus Group session was held on Feb. 12, 2009. A total of 5 individuals participated in the session. The following is a summary of the discussion.

**Question 1: In one sentence, describe the character of Enfield, Connecticut and what makes it unique. Ex. "Our town is..."**

- Location central, not really unique- difficult question

- Diverse, but a somewhat mature town with an abundance of residential and commercial development where future development needs to be coordinated harmoniously.
- Location, location and location, Enfield is located with great access to Hwy's, rail, and river. This should be built on.
- Enfield is a diverse community located between two medium sized cities. People seem to stay.
- Multicultural, with a historic flair and an eye on the future.

**Question 2: What are the three most important opportunities for the future of Enfield?**

- Can use the riverfronts, still have time
- Need more recreation
- Town needs to focus on areas and head in that direction
- Development of recreation / public space
- Affordable housing
- Development of existing natural resources
- Balancing growth with existing infrastructure. Do you want growth and all the expense and traffic that goes along with that thinking? How do you handle all of the farm land that is contaminated? How can Enfield comingle services with abutting towns?
- Location (Hartford/Springfield)
- Redevelopment
- More homeowner and landlords in Thompsonville, affordable housing
- Fostering the small town feel
- Recreational space, land, fields, pools, green space

**Question 3: What are the three most important challenges the Town faces?**

- Real estate housing- not enough starter homes/middle income/senior
- May need a mix use area, too many zones that were just all over
- Money/funds to do this
- Finding land for development
- Stagnant tax base, lack of federal, state funding
- Preservation of existing development (aging)
- Growing social service needs
- Wetlands impede development of many areas
- Thompsonville

**Question 4: What role could conservation & environmental stewardship play in the future development of the Town of Enfield?**

- Boards- wetland mitigation practices should make it easier to develop in areas for industrial sites
- Town and boards are resistant to developers' time and money issues. Development has been difficult in the past years, and Town wetland board has had a reputation for a decade
- Better use of Town-owned land to continue future development
- Provide affordable housing for residents to remain in Enfield as they mature and prosper
- Loosen setback requirements and mitigation of wetlands for development
- Redevelopment of existing stock
- Mixed use/mixed income development for Thompsonville
- Flexibility
- Housing development can make or break Enfield's future. More affordable housing as a whole and more owner occupied in Enfield

**Question 5: How can the completed Town of Enfield Plan of Conservation and Development best benefit the community?**

- Use it as a vision
- Encourage affordable development of housing and business needs in a more economical, land use and more attractive setting
- Loosen the wetland setback restrictions and allow mitigation to enhance development in appropriate circumstances.
- Implement the plan
- You don't plan to fail, but you fail to plan. Without an idea of where our community as a whole wants to be, we will sit stagnant and Enfield will begin to deteriorate.

*Transportation Focus Group*

The Transportation Focus Group session was held on Feb. 4, 2009. A total of 3 individuals participated in the meeting. The following is a summary of the discussion.

**Question: In one sentence, describe the character of Enfield, Connecticut and what makes this town unique.**

- Border location, access to CT and MA, has growth opportunities, but it has spillover issues from the border affecting the community. It's why we have retail locations here.
- Growth historically is as a bedroom community. Large industry used to be at center, but no longer.
- Depending on where you've come from and when you came, some people don't consider you as part of the community.

- Border creates certain barriers, ex. Cable TV limits access to local channels from Springfield, MA. Leaves people without connection to neighboring communities. There are constant references to the “knowledge corridor,” which extends up-river; but for Enfield, it stops at the state border.
- Historic, and a good place to bring up family. Center hub between Boston and NY - with bus and with train Enfield can eventually become a destination.

**Question: What are the three most important opportunities/challenges for the future of Enfield?**

- Transit station in Thompsonville with intermodal center, great opportunity for commuter traffic, alternative to cars.
- Multifamily housing was owner-occupied and now it’s only 30% owner occupied. With better support for transportation you could get that more ownership.
- Close to Boston, NYC and Hartford area. Partnership opportunities with Massachusetts
- Growth in retail and housing should happen together.
- Enfield has to care about Enfield. You’re only as strong as your weakest link. Thompsonville needs to be a destination again. Should be a place to be proud of living in.
- Waterfront should be identified and developed as a destination.
- Improve residential access to river for recreational purposes. Fishermen have gone there for years, but access is through Thompsonville and is seen as a barrier and not safe. A lot of land along development is owned by one person.
- Improve site of old power generation property. Owner has proposed doing residential development there. But Town’s should take opportunity to buy it and use it for more public purpose. Things seem to take a long time to be accomplished.
- Memorial Industrial Park- it bit the dust, there’s never been an attempt to plan for the rest of open space in town. Lost opportunities in park to support wildlife, including coyotes and deer. This park would bring all villages together.
- Need buses for local community, people cross the highway dangerously. No jobs in Thompsonville: residents can’t get to jobs without cars; and a bus comes once a day to Hartford only. Need a route looping from Thompsonville to Hazardville.
- Wetlands are challenging, but could be opportunity for passive recreational use.
- Money is a big constraint. State will be having problems. One of the challenges is getting everyone to agree; everyone has agendas and opinions. The Town is very supportive of us, so we bring things to their attention.
- Lack of public transportation funding is an issue. However, the culture was set on people having their own vehicles. People now need cars because of the size of the family and the age of family members; but they need options. Not everyone can drive.
- Enfield has more affordable housing than its neighbors. Feeling in community might be that there is sufficient affordable housing; however, while population #s have not changed, demographic composition has.

- Homeownership would help Thompsonville to bring it closer to middle class. If you deal with transportation, everything else will follow. Just give people the opportunity to go places from Thompsonville.
- Recreation in this community means sports, rather than arts. The Plan needs to be more balanced. Better access to recreational opportunities through transportation is needed.
- Save the Strand organization - they tried to do redevelopment, but there wasn't enough support to give it the money. The project still has potential, but it needs the town's support.
- In the past, there has been an anti-development aspect to the POCD. It's a challenge - people don't understand how taxes and economic development are linked. "NIMBY" attitudes are a problem.
- Getting more jobs and tax dollars.

## Community Survey

A community survey was created to obtain a representative sample of town residents' opinion on a variety of planning issues. The survey asked questions regarding public services, community identity and design, environment and sustainability, recreation, land use, transportation and circulation, and the local economy. There were a total of 38 questions and an additional nine questions related to participants' socioeconomic characteristics to ensure that responses were representative of a broad range of individuals.

The 1,000 participants were randomly selected using the Town's car ownership records. Only residential addresses from this database were selected. Commercial and incomplete addresses were excluded. The surveys were distributed by US Mail with an enclosed stamped and self-addressed envelope to make it easier for participants to return the survey. Participants were instructed to return the survey by April 20, 2009. Participants on the second round of surveys were instructed to return their surveys by May 22, 2009.

To date, a total of 236 completed surveys were returned. This is a response rate of 23%. A 30% response rate was the target to reduce the margin of error. Approximately, 5 surveys were returned by the Post Office due to problems with address.

In addition to random surveys, 100 self-select surveys were distributed at the Enfield Public Libraries and through the Town website. The intention of this was to get a better idea of the opinion of renters and other community groups that typically have a low participation rate in such surveys. None of these self-select surveys were included in the random survey results.

## Sample Survey



Town of Enfield, Connecticut  
Plan of Conservation & Development  
Community Survey



04-07-2009

Dear Enfield Resident:

We **need your help developing** the new Plan of Conservation and Development for the Town of Enfield. The Plan of Conservation and Development will define **the community's vision for the future of Enfield**. The vision will capture our community's identity and our relationship to neighboring communities, and shape the way Enfield will look and function over the next 20 years. The plan will address issues related to population changes, residential and business development, transportation and utility infrastructure, environmental protection, and facilities for recreation and other public services. The Plan of Conservation and Development is a critical tool to meet the community's needs, and your participation will affect the success of the plan.

We ask that you share your opinion about various issues in Enfield by taking a few minutes to answer the questions that follow. When you have completed the survey, please place it in the return box provided.

We appreciate your time and effort helping us plan for the future of Enfield. In addition to this survey, there will be a number of public forums throughout this planning process that will provide more opportunities for public input. We hope you will be able to attend these forums. Look for notices and advertisements in the local media and on the Town's website at <http://www.enfield-ct.gov>. To sign up for future email messages related to the Plan of Conservation and Development, please send a message to [jginer@enfield.org](mailto:jginer@enfield.org).

Sincerely,

José Giner, Director  
Department of Planning and Zoning  
Town of Enfield, CT

**INSTRUCTIONS: Please read the following statements, and 1**

		1	2	3	4	5
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<b>Public Services</b>						
1	I feel I am well informed about the Town's offices and services					
2	Preserving quality of life is a priority of Town leaders					
3	I am satisfied with the following public services:					
	a Police					
	b Fire					
	c Ambulance					
	d Road maintenance					
	e Public transportation					
	f Water and Sewer					
	g Recreation					
	h Public education					
4	I believe these services are prepared for the future					
5	I feel safe in Enfield					
	a Please list any issues you have with public safety in Enfield:					
6	In general, I am satisfied with the value of Town services I receive in return for taxes paid					
<b>Community Identity and Design</b>						
7	Enfield has a strong sense of identity					
8	The character and appearance of residential areas in Enfield is of high quality					
9	The character and appearance of commercial areas in Enfield is of high quality					
10	Historic resources should be protected through local, state and national landmark and district designations and regulations					
11	Historic preservation in the following areas is a Town priority					
	a Thompsonville					
	b Hazardville					
	c Scitico					
12	The best thing about living in Enfield is:					
13	The thing about Enfield that needs the most improvement is:					
<b>Environment and Sustainability</b>						
14	Energy and water conservation and waste reduction should be a priority of Town government					
15	The Town deals with flooding appropriately					
16	The Town has effective measures to address runoff, erosion, surface and ground water pollution					
17	Open and forested land should continue to be protected					
18	Steep slopes and wetlands should continue to be protected					
<b>Recreation</b>						
19	The Town of Enfield needs to create a network of paths and open spaces that will enable walking, hiking, biking, canoeing, birdwatching, fishing, etc.					
20	Additional sports facilities are needed in Enfield, including baseball, softball, soccer, pool, ice rink, etc.					
21	There is a need for more community and/or youth centers and cultural facilities, such as a theater, library, museum, etc.					
22	There is a need for a central park or open space area where all Enfield residents can gather as one community					
23	I am willing to pay more for more/better recreational and cultural facilities					

mark with an X the number that corresponds to your opinion.

		1	2	3	4	5
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<b>Land Use</b>						
24	I feel I am well-informed about Town land use and zoning regulations					
25	The existing zoning code is adequately enforced					
26	The existing zoning code effectively achieves Town goals					
27	The location and density of residential development is appropriate					
28	Industrial, commercial and retail uses are appropriately located					
29	The Town should encourage the following types of development:					
	a Single-family residential					
	b Multi-family residential					
	c Retirement communities					
	d Mixed use (residential/commercial in same building)					
	e "Main Street" retail					
	f Visitor accommodations					
	g Office parks					
	h Light industrial/technology parks					
	i Heavy industrial parks					
	j Recreation facilities/areas					
30	What type of development would be appropriate for the Thompsonville waterfront?					
	a Passive open space and trails only					
	b Mixed-use with trail access					
	c No development; current use and access are fine.					
<b>Transportation and Circulation</b>						
31	The Town road system is adequate for the current population and future growth					
32	Traffic is a significant issue/problem in Enfield					
	a Please list the roads and intersections where there are problems:					
33	Pedestrian safety is an issue/problem in Enfield					
	a Please list the roads and intersections where there are problems:					
34	Bicycle safety is an issue/problem in Enfield					
	a Please list the roads and intersections where there are problems:					
35	Of the locations you have listed above, which should be the top three priorities for improvement over the next 3 to 5 years?					
36	The Town is adequately served by public transportation (bus, train)					
37	I would use public transportation if it were provided in Enfield (bus, train)					
38	Funding should be increased for:					
	a Improving connectivity between Enfield's neighborhoods and commercial and open space uses					
	b Creating greenways and trails, including walking and biking trails					
	c Public transportation (bus and train)					
	d Other. Please specify:					

		1	2	3	4	5
		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
<b>Economy</b>						
39	The Town should support business development and entrepreneurs					
40	Agriculture in Enfield should be encouraged and protected					
41	More jobs in Enfield will help the Town retain families					
42	A new industrial/office park will attract light industry, research and technology businesses to Enfield					
43	Existing retail adequately serves Town residents					
	a What types of retail are needed?					
44	The Town of Enfield has potential as a tourist destination					
45	Enfield can market itself better as a destination for business and investment by:					
	a Making the Town more visually appealing					
	b Making the Town easier to get around					
	c Developing historic and cultural attractions					
	d Enhancing open space and recreation					
	e Other. Please specify:					
46	The Town offers a variety of housing types to meet current and prospective residents' needs					
47	The Town has sufficient housing that is affordable to all incomes					

<b>Personal Information</b>									
Please tell us about yourself...									
48	What is your age?				18 - 34	35 - 49	50 - 64	65 +	
49	Including yourself, how many adults live in your residence?				1	2	3 - 5	6 or more	
50	How many children (under 18) live in your residence?				0	1	2	3 - 5	6 or more
51	Do you own or rent the residence in which you live?					Own	Rent	Other	
52	What is your employment status?				Employed in Enfield	Employed elsewhere	Student	Retired	Other
53	What is your annual household income?	Less than \$ 10,000	\$ 10,000 - \$ 29,999	\$ 30,000 - \$ 49,999	\$ 50,000 - \$ 74,999	\$ 75,000 - \$ 99,999	\$ 100,000 - \$ 149,999	\$ 150,000 +	
54	What is your highest level of education?		Below High School	High School Diploma	Some College	Associate degree	Bachelor's degree	Post graduate degree	
55	Do you expect to move from Enfield in the near future?						Yes	No	
	a	If yes, why?							

Are there any other issues about which we should be aware? Please feel free to enclose additional thoughts!

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**You have completed the survey. Thank you very much!**

## Survey Results

A random sample of Enfield residents with a 5% margin of error was used to ensure that the results of this survey are representative of the opinion of most Enfield residents. Survey participants were asked to answer the questions shown on Table 1 to help us confirm that their demographic characteristics reflect the demographic characteristics of the Town of Enfield.

**Table 1 Personal Information**

48	What is your age?			<b>18 – 34</b>	<b>35 – 49</b>	<b>50 – 64</b>	<b>65 +</b>	
				7.3%	28.8%	31.3%	32.6%	
49	Including yourself, how many adults live in your residence?			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3 – 5</b>	<b>6 or more</b>	
				23%	61.3%	15.7%	0%	
50	How many children (under 18) live in your residence?		<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3 – 5</b>	<b>6 or more</b>	
			71.1%	13.2%	12.3%	3%	0.4%	
51	Do you own or rent the residence in which you live?			<b>Own</b>	<b>Rent</b>	<b>Other</b>		
				94.9%	5.1%	0%		
52	What is your employment status?			<b>Employed in Enfield</b>	<b>Employed elsewhere</b>	<b>Student</b>	<b>Retired</b>	
				13.6%	48.7%	0.8%	33.1%	
53	What is your annual household income?	<b>Less than \$10,000</b>	<b>\$10,000 – \$29,999</b>	<b>\$30,000 – \$49,999</b>	<b>\$50,000 – \$74,999</b>	<b>\$75,000 – \$99,999</b>	<b>\$100,000 – \$149,999</b>	<b>\$150,000 +</b>
		0.9%	9.7%	22.2%	24.1%	19%	18.1%	6%
54	What is your highest level of education?		<b>Below High School</b>	<b>High School Diploma</b>	<b>Some College</b>	<b>Associate degree</b>	<b>Bachelor's degree</b>	<b>Post graduate degree</b>
			2.1%	19.7%	25.2%	12.8%	26.1%	14.1%
55	Do you expect to move from Enfield in the near future?						<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
							21.1%	78.9%

The random sample was well-balanced across age, employment status, annual household income, and educational attainment. Demographic groups that dominated the survey were individuals that live in a two-person household, individuals living without children in their residence, and homeowners. Groups not adequately captured in the survey include individuals between the ages of 18 – 34, renters, students, individuals earning very low annual household income (under \$10,000), and individuals without a high school diploma or its equivalent.

Comparing these responses to the 2005-2007 ACS data presented throughout the Inventory is useful to understand how the random sample differs from the total population. The survey appears to have captured a slightly higher proportion of: individuals over 35 years of age; homeowners; employed individuals; and individuals with some college, an Associate's degree, a Bachelor's degree and post-graduate degrees. In contrast, the survey obtained a lower proportion of individuals between 18 – 34 years of age; renters; and individuals with and without a high school diploma.

**Table 2 Public Services**

		<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
1	I feel I am well informed about the Town's offices and services	4.9%	46.7%	25.8%	21.8%	0.9%
2	Preserving quality of life is a priority of Town leaders	11%	39.7%	37%	11%	1.4%
3	I am satisfied with the following public services:					
a	Police	28%	56.5%	7.8%	6%	1.7%
b	Fire	35.5%	54.5%	8.2%	0.9%	0.9%
c	Ambulance	32.9%	48.9%	13.4%	3%	1.7%
d	Road maintenance	5.2%	33%	21.7%	30.9%	9.1%
e	Public transportation	2.7%	23.8%	48%	18.4%	7.2%
f	Water and Sewer	10.3%	63.8%	19.2%	4.5%	2.2%
g	Recreation	5.2%	52.8%	27.5%	11.8%	2.6%
h	Public education	8.4%	46.7%	22.2%	16.9%	5.8%
4	I believe these services are prepared for the future	1.8%	34.4%	40.8%	20.2%	2.8%
5	I feel safe in Enfield	14.9%	69.8%	8.8%	6%	0.5%
6	In general, I am satisfied with the value of Town services I receive in return for taxes paid	6.3%	48.9%	19%	21.3%	4.5%

**Table 3 Community Identity and Design**

		<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
7	Enfield has a strong sense of identity	6.7%	40.8%	35.9%	14.8%	1.8%
8	The character and appearance of residential areas in Enfield is of high quality	3.1%	33.9%	30.8%	28.6%	3.5%
9	The character and appearance of commercial areas in Enfield is of high quality	3.5%	44.3%	30.4%	19.6%	2.2%
10	Historic resources should be protected through local, state and national landmark and district designations and regulations	22.9%	57.3%	14.5%	4.4%	0.9%
11	Historic preservation in the following areas is a Town priority					
a	Thompsonville	13.5%	42.8%	27.1%	11.8%	4.8%
b	Hazardville	11.6%	44%	34.7%	6.7%	3.1%
c	Scitico	7.8%	34.2%	42%	12.8%	3.2%

**Table 4 Environment and Sustainability**

		<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
14	Energy and water conservation and waste reduction should be a priority of Town government	29.3%	56.8%	11.4%	2.6%	0%
15	The Town deals with flooding appropriately	3.9%	36.4%	45.2%	11.8%	2.6%
16	The Town has effective measures to address runoff, erosion, surface and ground water pollution	3.1%	29.5%	51.5%	13.7%	2.2%
17	Open and forested land should continue to be protected	45.4%	48.5%	6.1%	0%	0%
18	Steep slopes and wetlands should continue to be protected	40.4%	48.7%	9.2%	1.3%	0.4%

**Table 5 Recreation**

		<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>
19	The Town of Enfield needs to create a network of paths and open spaces that will enable walking, hiking, biking, canoeing, birdwatching, fishing, etc.	44.6%	32.9%	16%	3.9%	2.6%
20	Additional sports facilities are needed in Enfield, including baseball, softball, soccer, pool, ice rink, etc.	20.8%	26%	25.5%	22.1%	5.6%
21	There is a need for more community and/or youth centers and cultural facilities, such as a theater, library, museum, etc.	21.1%	35.1%	27.6%	14.9%	1.3%
22	There is a need for a central park or open space area where all Enfield residents can gather as one community	22.2%	27.4%	28.3%	18.3%	3.9%
23	I am willing to pay more for more/better recreational and cultural facilities	11.3%	26%	20.8%	25.5%	16.5%

**Table 6 Land Use**

		<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	
24	I feel I am well-informed about Town land use and zoning regulations	5.2%	21%	36.7%	34.5%	2.6%	
25	The existing zoning code is adequately enforced	2.6%	21%	59.4%	14.4%	2.6%	
26	The existing zoning code effectively achieves Town goals	1.4%	20%	65.9%	9.5%	3.2%	
27	The location and density of residential development is appropriate	2.7%	49.1%	33.6%	13.3%	1.3%	
28	Industrial, commercial and retail uses are appropriately located	2.6%	66.1%	24.7%	5.7%	0.9%	
29	The Town should encourage the following types of development:						
	a	Single-family residential	14.3%	46.6%	23.3%	13%	2.7%
	b	Multi-family residential	3.7%	18.1%	29.3%	36.3%	12.6%
	c	Retirement communities	13.3%	40.4%	27.1%	13.8%	5.3%
	d	Mixed use (residential/commercial in same building)	4.6%	15.1%	29.2%	40.6%	10.5%
	e	“Main Street” retail	14.2%	44.9%	26.7%	12%	2.2%
	f	Visitor accommodations	5.9%	32.7%	34.1%	22.3%	5%
	g	Office parks	6.3%	36.9%	31.5%	20.3%	5%
	h	Light industrial/technology parks	8%	42.9%	26.3%	18.8%	4%
	i	Heavy industrial parks	5.4%	18.6%	27.6%	37.1%	11.3%
	j	Recreation facilities/areas	22.4%	42.9%	21%	10.5%	3.2%
30	What type of development would be appropriate for the Thompsonville waterfront?						
	a	Passive open space and trails only	17.6%	36.4%	32.1%	11.2%	2.7%
	b	Mixed-use with trail access	16.7%	43.3%	23.2%	14.8%	2%
	c	No development; current use and access are fine.	4.2%	17.2%	32.3%	31.3%	15.1%

<b>Table 7 Transportation and Circulation</b>							
		<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	
31	The Town road system is adequate for the current population and future growth	4.2%	43.1%	18.5%	28.2%	6%	
32	Traffic is a significant issue/problem in Enfield	14.9%	31.3%	24.9%	26.9%	2%	
33	Pedestrian safety is an issue/problem in Enfield	11.1%	18.5%	34.9%	33.3%	2.1%	
34	Bicycle safety is an issue/problem in Enfield	11.7%	23.4%	39.9%	23.4%	1.6%	
36	The Town is adequately served by public transportation (bus, train)	1.8%	16.7%	36.2%	32.1%	13.1%	
37	I would use public transportation if it were provided in Enfield (bus, train)	11.8%	33.9%	29%	17.6%	7.7%	
38	Funding should be increased for:						
	a	Improving connectivity between Enfield's neighborhoods and commercial and open space uses	6.5%	31%	30.1%	24.5%	7.9%
	b	Creating greenways and trails, including walking and biking trails	26.4%	38.8%	16.7%	13.7%	4.4%
	c	Public transportation (bus and train)	15.7%	37.8%	24.4%	17.1%	5.1%

<b>Table 8 Economy</b>							
		<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neither Agree Nor Disagree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	
39	The Town should support business development and entrepreneurs	23.3%	60.3%	10.3%	4.3%	1.7%	
40	Agriculture in Enfield should be encouraged and protected	34%	57%	7.7%	0.9%	0.4%	
41	More jobs in Enfield will help the Town retain families	37%	47.4%	10%	3.9%	1.7%	
42	A new industrial/office park will attract light industry, research and technology businesses to Enfield	12.8%	38%	32.5%	11.5%	5.1%	
43	Existing retail adequately serves Town residents	23%	55.4%	10.8%	9.5%	1.4%	
44	The Town of Enfield has potential as a tourist destination	2.7%	11.8%	30.8%	43.9%	10.9%	
45	Enfield can market itself better as a destination for business and investment by:						
	a	Making the Town more visually appealing	15.4%	52.9%	21.6%	9.1%	1%
	b	Making the Town easier to get around	8.6%	32.5%	39.2%	16.7%	2.9%
	c	Developing historic and cultural attractions	15.1%	46.6%	22.4%	15.1%	0.9%
	d	Enhancing open space and recreation	23.6%	45%	22.7%	7.7%	0.9%
46	The Town offers a variety of housing types to meet current and prospective residents' needs		9.2%	58.1%	20.1%	12.2%	0.4%
47	The Town has sufficient housing that is affordable to all incomes		9.1%	48.3%	22.2%	17.8%	2.6%

Issues on which public opinion was split:

- Satisfaction with road maintenance and public transportation
- Perception that public services are prepared for the future
- Quality of character and appearance of residential and commercial properties
- Willingness to pay for more/better recreational and cultural services
- Perception of being well-informed about Town land use and zoning regulations
- Perception that zoning code is well enforced and achieves Town goals
- Desire for Town to encourage development of visitor accommodations, office parks and heavy industrial parks
- Desire to leave the Thompsonville waterfront as it is
- Perception that the Town road system is adequate for current population and future growth

- Perception that there are problems for pedestrian and bicycle safety
- Desire to use public transportation if it were available
- Desire to increase funding for improving connectivity between Enfield's neighborhoods and open space uses

Issues on which there was overwhelming agreement (80%+):

- Satisfaction with police, fire and ambulance services
- Perception of safety in Enfield
- Desire to protect historic resources, open and forested land, and steep slopes and wetlands
- Desire to make energy and water conservation a priority
- Desire for Town to support business development and entrepreneurs
- Desire to encourage and protect agriculture
- Desire for Town to create more jobs to retain families

There was not any overwhelming disagreement with an issue.

## Steering Committee Meetings

### *Meeting #1 – November 19, 2009*

#### **Participants**

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##### **Steering Committee**

Martha McLeod, Chair

James Bailey Brislin

Charles A. Duren

Wendy Lavoie

Rob Sperrazza

Thomas Arnone

Alan Drinan

Mike Dynia

Jack Lopes

Fran Walenta

Elizabeth A. Ballard

Mike Dumont

Charles Ladd

Ken Nelson

Peter Yarum

##### **Town Staff**

José Giner

##### **Consultants**

Peter Smith

Jocelyn Gordon

Ana Hernández-Balzac

#### **Minutes**

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Meeting began at 7PM. All attendees introduced themselves. Committee Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the consultant. She described the consultant selection process and expressed expectation that the plan will be futurist and show many possibilities for the community.

Project Manager reviewed meeting agenda, then the project schedule. She explained that the project was planned as a year-long process, and suggested that it can be completed in six months, if there is cooperation and everything runs as planned. Committee was advised that it will receive drafts of public input and inventory before meetings in order to have time to review and prepare for meetings. Communication between the consultant and the committee will be by email through José Giner.

Project Manager discussed the purpose of focus groups and asked suggestions for topics and people that should be invited to participate. Group agreed to have 7 focus groups:

1. **Conservation and Environment-** This group will discuss issues related to open space conservation, wetlands protection, environmental quality (as it pertains to air, water, soil, etc.), and sustainability. Participants may include representatives from community organizations, advocacy groups, environmental professionals, researchers, Town staff, and State representatives
2. **Transportation-** This group will provide insight on local transportation issues such as traffic problem areas, safety concerns, pedestrian and cyclist access, intermodal connectivity, public transportation (bus and rail), and infrastructure considerations. Participants may include representatives from community organizations, advocacy groups, transportation planning and engineering professionals, researchers, Town staff, and State representatives
3. **Agriculture-** This group will provide insight on local issues related to the economic viability of farming in Enfield, the need for farm preservation, and any relevant environmental issues. Participants may include representatives from community organizations, advocacy groups, small and industrial farms, researchers, Town staff, and State representatives

4. **Economic Development, Manufacturing and Education-** This group will provide insight to the local economy, job availability, the needs of existing business and industry, infrastructure needs and the potential to attract new industries. The interaction between business, industry and local educational institutions will also be discussed. Participants may include representatives from community and trade organizations, major employers, school districts and higher education, Chamber of Commerce, researchers, Town staff, and State representatives
5. **Real Estate, Housing and Development-** This group will talk about the local housing market, affordable housing, infrastructure needs, and development processes. Participants may include representatives from neighborhood organizations, developers, lenders, real estate, planning and engineering professionals, researchers, Town staff, and State representatives
6. **Arts, Culture and Recreation-** This group will give us insight about local services, programs, and issues in the arts and culture industry. Issues related to parks and recreation services, facilities or opportunities will also be discussed. Participants may include representatives from community organizations, advocacy groups, sport clubs, museums, libraries, theaters, private studios and galleries, arts councils, researchers, Town staff, and State representatives
7. **Revitalization and Historic Preservation-** This group will discuss the need and opportunities to revitalize and preserve local historic and industrial properties in Thompsonville and Hazardville. The discussion may include issues such as impact of absentee landlords. Participants may include representatives from community organizations, advocacy groups, small businesses, Historical Society, Chamber of Commerce, developers, planning and preservation professionals, researchers, Town staff, and State representatives

Committee has up to two weeks to submit names and contact information for focus groups participants. Consultant will mail invitations and call to confirm participation in focus group sessions to be conducted in February.

The tentative date for the next committee meeting is Feb. 4, 2009. Public meetings will also be conducted during that week. The meeting venue will be either the high schools or community college cafeteria. This setting will allow sufficient space and tables on which the public will be able to sit in groups and work over large maps.

The business portion of the meeting was concluded, and Peter Smith led the committee through the visioning exercise. Meeting ended at 8PM.

## *Meeting #2 – February 3, 2009*

### **Participants**

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#### **Steering Committee**

Thomas Arnone  
Michael Dumont  
Wendy Lavoie

Elizabeth Ballard  
Mike Dynia  
Cynthia Mangiri

Alan Drinan  
Sue Lavelli-Hozempa  
William Resgna

#### **Town Staff**

José Giner

#### **Consultants**

Jocelyn Gordon

Ana Hernández-Balzac

## Minutes

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Jocelyn Gordon, from peter j. smith & company, began the meeting by reviewing the agenda, and by taking comments about the visioning session report. All committee members received a copy of this report via email. Only one person had a comment: the report did not reflect the emphasis given to the Connecticut River during the meeting.

The consultant then updated the committee on the project's status:

- Still in data gathering process, but began producing first drafts of inventory.
- Public input program- the general public will have its first opportunity to provide input to the plan at the public meeting on Wednesday night. Individuals with more specialized knowledge will provide input during this week's focus group sessions.

Samples of the public meeting and focus group workbooks were passed around.

The consultant explained that all focus group participants received a formal invitation by mail, and a follow up phone call to confirm attendance a week before the meeting. She then explained what the format for the focus group meetings will be like. The meetings were designed to guide a conversation, making sure participants are talking to each other and not just to the consultant. Committee members passed around and reviewed the list of people invited to the focus group sessions to determine if there were any other individuals who should be contacted due to their knowledge in one or more of the seven focus topics.

The format for the public meetings will not be like a typical public meeting, where people stand up and comment. The consultant has tried to make the meeting more productive, and avoid making it a gripe session. The meeting will begin with a 10-15 min. PowerPoint presentation that gives an overview of what the POCD is and why the public should engage in the process. The consultant will then guide the public through a workbook and mapping exercise that will allow participants to provide individual input and engage in a group discussion to decide as a group what the Town's priorities should be. Participants will also be able to mark up maps to show the location of problem and opportunity areas.

Committee members were invited to attend the meeting to help the consultant in case help would be needed managing the crowd. Three people said they would come. Assistance with the focus groups was declined. Individuals closely related to the project preferably should not attend focus group meetings to ensure that participants feel sufficiently comfortable talking about their issues.

### Comments on Public Input Materials

- Need to correct "Western New York" on the workbook.
- Some committee members expressed concern about participant's qualifications to make decisions about the issues to be addressed by the Plan due to their potential lack of knowledge on those issues. They were not sure what to expect from the meeting.
- The term "circulation" is not as broad as "transportation". The workbook did not specifically address public transit (ex. buses, train). The committee believed it necessary to understand public opinion regarding public transit. José Giner mentioned that there is a proposal to build a train and bus station near Bigelow Commons, and that the Town is waiting for the results of a transportation study.

### Community Survey

The consultant talked about a community survey to be sent in March. The consultant explained that the survey will provide an additional form of public input that is very different from the others. The community survey will sample public opinion. It will obtain a more accurate idea of what the average town resident thinks because survey participants will be chosen randomly. This will give people who

don't know of the project to share their opinion about local issues and services, balancing the influence of individuals who participate in the planning process to further an agenda. Participants will include both property owners and renters, and individuals whose home address is not in the Town of Enfield will not be selected.

The consultant further explained that the survey is designed to be filled out easily and quickly. A self addressed, stamped envelope is included in the survey to increase likelihood of returning the survey. The issues surveyed will be based on the most important issues identified through all prior meetings. Survey participants will be asked to state the degree to which they agree or disagree with a statement, and there are several open ended questions.

The consultant expressed interest in surveying renters, since there is a high proportion of renters in the community and they may have a different perspective of community. To avoid issues of statistical significance, these surveys will be printed in a different colored paper and tabulated separately.

Committee members suggested that the survey should be sent to everyone in town, rather than to 600 individuals. Survey distribution alternatives included:

- Purchased database that includes renters- consultant will report back to committee who offers this service
- Assessor's database
- Post office list- can be sent to "current resident"
- Voices of Thompsonville- to get renters to participate
- Rental complex managers- to get renters to participate and avoid hand delivery issues
- "The Reminder"- a newspaper that is free for residents and goes to every household. The only problem is that there are no restrictions on how many surveys people can obtain and fill out. There is a great potential to skew the results.

### **Comments about DRAFT Inventory:**

#### **Population**

- It would be helpful if the chapter clearly identifies what data pertains to the Capitol Region, the Hartford MSA, etc. It causes confusion as it is now. Regarding the section on Mobility- it would be helpful to explain better what MSA means in terms of where people are coming from.
- The school board just got a copy of a local demographer's school population projections. His study may be structured differently to this project, but it can be shown in the inventory for comparison. His projection stopped at 2018. The study showed that Enfield has a large aging population, but also that housing is the single largest attraction bringing new people into town. He warns that Enfield doesn't always follow the trend. His projections, however, have historically been pretty close. A copy will be sent electronically to the consultant.
- We have to account for the impact of the prison population. The prison population is often included in town figures, and it skews school enrolment and ethnic diversity figures for the town. Due to fluctuations in the prison population, the total community college enrollment is often reported as decreasing. However, when you consider the prison population separately, student enrollment is increasing. This is also important because prisoners don't go to campus; teachers are sent to them.
- Other sources of population data- Assessor's bills for cars and houses and school district data would give you a better idea of how many people there are. Board of Education has all its

information online. You can get current educational attainment figures from them as well as from the school district.

- Property taxes vary by district and by what is taxed. Ex. motor vehicles, fire districts are taxed different.

## **Housing**

- The Board of Realtors of Connecticut published a report in October 2008. It was a comprehensive review of all activity. The consultant will get a copy by email. The “Commercial Record” in Boston can be another good source of information because they cover the Town of Enfield.
- Current data for occupancy is critical because of foreclosures. Many people probably now live in apartments, reducing vacancies in rental properties.
- Prices may have remained the same, despite the greater demand for rental housing, because people don’t have the income. The quality of tenants may have gone up too.
- Workforce figures might also have been affected; we’ve heard there are 3,500 unemployed.

## **Parks, Recreation & Open Space**

- A list of parks with a description of site and how they are categorized would be helpful.
- Need to differentiate between sport parks and passive recreation parks, such as Powder Hollow, Lego Park, Brainerd Park. Some of these parks can’t really be used as a public park.
- There is a lack of dog parks.
- Overuse of parks is a big issue.
- Frank Mancuso Park, a former landfill, needs to be developed; but there is no money to support a park like that. There are also liability concerns.

## **Historic Preservation & Culture**

Corrections:

- 464 hazard is no longer there. The property will be a park.
- Wallop School is in Scitico, not Hazardville. It is on Abbey Road.

Properties that should be added to the list:

- The Gordon Mill
- Gordon Brothers building

Info. about the Enfield Powder Works, off of Bailey Road, is available from the Historical Society.

## **Other Business**

Next steering committee meeting was scheduled for April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Between now and the 23<sup>rd</sup>, committee members will receive meeting summaries, additional drafts of the inventory and a copy of the community survey results.

## *Meeting #3 - April 23, 2009*

### **Participants**

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#### **Steering Committee**

Martha McLeod, Chair

Jack Lopes

Karen LaPlante for Mike  
Dynia

Fran Walenta  
Elizabeth A. Ballard  
James Brislin

Peter Yarum  
Charles Ladd

Charles A. Duren  
Mike Dumont

#### **Town Staff**

José Giner

#### **Consultants**

Peter Smith

Ana Hernández-Balzac

#### **Other**

Lori Longhi, P&Z Commission

Kathleen Sarno, P&Z  
Commission

### **Minutes**

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Martha McLeod called the meeting to order. José Giner conducted the roll call. Peter Smith ensured that all committee members had an agenda, updated project schedule, public input report and draft Goals & Objectives; then he reviewed the evening's agenda.

Ana Hernández presented the results of the public input, starting with a discussion of the first public meeting held in February. This was followed by a summary of the focus group meetings held in February, and a discussion of the preliminary results of the community survey mailed to Town residents in April.

#### **Community Survey**

Committee members had questions about how survey participants were selected, and whether the sample size was adequate considering the Town's population. Consultants clarified that survey participants were randomly selected from the Town's vehicle tax record, which lists all Town residents that own a car and includes both homeowners and renters. A total of 654 surveys were mailed in April. This was a larger sample size than the recommended sample size of 321 for a population of 46,422. The sample size used had a margin of error of 3.49%, which is lower than the 5% margin of error of the recommended sample size. Ana Hernández mentioned that the margin of error should be even lower when an additional 346 random surveys are mailed in May. Peter Smith acknowledged the consultant's oversight that the contract specified 1,000 random surveys, and not 654. In addition to the random mail-out survey, 100 self-select surveys are available at the Enfield Public Library. These surveys were printed on paper of a different color and will be tabulated separately from the random survey.

#### **DRAFT Inventory**

##### **Population**

- A paragraph clarifying what the affordable housing index shown on Table 5 would help interpret the table. Also a base range or comparison to neighboring communities would help readers get an idea of how well the Town is doing.

### **Economic Vitality**

- The Town and the State’s budget situation is changing rapidly. The information on the section “Municipal Health & Stability” should reflect these changes, otherwise it would not be as useful.
- Additional information about Asnuntuck Community College’s economic impacts and partnerships with local business and industry should be included. A long-term strategic plan and enrollment projections will be forwarded to the consultant.
- Industry and commerce need to be the focus of this chapter. There are many large businesses closing down, such as WestVaco.

### **Infrastructure & Utilities**

- Pg. 1- The water report referred to in this section is titled the “Consumer Confidence Report”
- Pg. 1- The Hazardville Water Company is not controlled by the Connecticut DEP.
- There is an additional water company, Shaker Heights Water Company. It covers a very small area.
- Aquifer Protection Areas only protect certain types of areas. It gives a false sense of protection for wells, etc.
- The section on natural gas should address propane, which is prevalent in the area.
- Finding that recommends expanding sewer is contrary to previous comprehensive plans. It is not available south of the Scantic to prevent development in that area. However, the fact that there is development there now raises issues about pollution.

### **Community Facilities**

- Multitude of fire districts reflects the parochial attitude of Town residents.

### **Parks, Recreation & Open Space**

- Pg. 5- Need to clarify that the Scantic River is entirely navigable. In the past, logs on eastern portion of the river near blocked it, but they have since been cleared. The segment at South Maple Road is very shallow in the summer, but it is easy to portage. The section east of Broadbrook Road is also navigable.
- Not sure if Northeast Utilities owns land along the Scantic River any longer, although it is still used for utility.
- The Audubon Society in Longmeadow, MA has a property near Town that is used for birdwatching. Would there be a possibility that they could make that a gift to the Town?

### **Historic Preservation & Culture**

- Pg. 3- Delete and correct “The Town of New Paltz”.
- Several items on the historic resource tables are duplicates or placed on the wrong district. Create a single table for all resources and create a column to specify the district each resource is in. This will also start to communicate the idea that were are one town and not separate villages.
- Boundaries of Northern Enfield Street do not seem accurate.
- 464 Hazard Avenue was demolished by the state.

### **Land Use**

- There are multiple prisons in Town, not just the Osborn Prison.

- The Hallmark facility described under “Existing Land Use” is not a factory, but a warehouse.
- The State has PDRs for several farms. We need to verify which ones. Planning Department just got a new map that will be forwarded to consultant.
- Wetlands are the Town’s biggest constraint. They need to be included in the build-out analysis. They do not necessarily preclude development, just limit the type of industrial activity.
- Under what land use category would land designated for a greenway fall under?
- Is agricultural land included under the Industrial Zone in the Build-Out Potential Table?
- Pg. 6- “30 square feet” is too little, it probably should have said “30 million square feet”.

### **Draft Goals & Objectives**

Peter Smith read the goals and objectives that have been drafted to date based on the committee’s visioning session and public input. He asked committee members to review these and send any comments to José Giner. The Goals & Objectives will be presented to the public in June; they will have the opportunity to evaluate them.

### **Preliminary Futures Concept**

Peter Smith presented the preliminary concept for future development. The concept was described as the basis for the new land use plan. The graphic presented showed how the community should function, and how different neighborhoods should be linked together; and it contained both short and long-term changes.

- Q) Elm St. and Hazard Avenue are state roads, so the Town doesn’t not have much control over them. The state is hard to deal with and is very slow to take action. The Village of Hazardville is very constrictive and already has lots of traffic. A) The Town doesn’t have to take over their jurisdiction, just make sure that the state considers the local plan.
- The idea of recognizing wetlands as a resource of the community, rather than a constraint is a great idea. Other communities that have many wetlands, such as Tampa, use them much more. There is a variety of trails, boardwalks and signs about the area’s abundant wildlife.
- This concept represents a major change. The proposed facility exchange between the Town and the Community College is not realistic within the next 10 years. A lot has been invested in upgrade and maintenance of current college facility, and state funding is a hindrance. The waterfront campus is ideal, but perhaps as a 40-yr. vision. The college will need new space and that is an excellent location. It could create a learning community in Thompsonville, the real center of Town.
- High density buildings will be difficult to negotiate with the Fire Districts. The reason why we have so many 2-story buildings is because that’s what the fire departments like.

### **Other Business**

Next steering committee meeting was scheduled for June 16, 2009 at 7:00p.m. in Town Hall. A public input session will be conducted on June 17<sup>th</sup> at Asnuntuck Community College cafeteria.

## *Meeting #4 - June 17, 2009*

### **Participants**

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#### **Steering Committee**

Martha McLeod, Chair  
Alan Drinan  
Mike Dynia  
Jack Lopes

Elizabeth A. Ballard  
Mike Dumont  
Charles Ladd  
Susan Lavelli-Hozempa

James Bailey Brislin  
Charles A. Duren  
Lori Longhi

#### **Town Staff**

José Giner

#### **Consultants**

Peter Smith

Ana Hernández-Balzac

### **Minutes**

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Martha McLeod called the meeting to order. Committee members introduced themselves. Jocelyn Gordon ensured that all committee members had an agenda, updated inventory and maps, draft policy concepts and draft Futures Plan. She reviewed the agenda and updated the Committee on the project status.

Jocelyn explained that the project is at a critical point in the process, and that it is important for committee members to carefully review and discuss the draft goals, objectives and policies. She suggested that the Committee meet in 2 weeks and get everyone's comments together to send to her. By the next time the Committee meets with the consultant, the first draft of the plan will be completed.

José Giner gave Jocelyn a copy of the implementation plan of the current Plan of Conservation and Development. The plan was color-coded to indicate what has been accomplished, what is in progress, what has not been addressed. The Committee believed it necessary to make an evaluation of implementation and to ensure continuity with some of the goals and objectives in the updated Plan. The Consultant will review this document.

#### **DRAFT Inventory**

Ana Hernández gave a progress report of the inventory process. The following were questions and comments from the Committee:

#### **Parks, Recreation & Open Space**

- Need to clarify that the Scantic River is entirely navigable because the source of this information could be outdated.

#### **Historic Preservation & Culture**

- Comment that the section contains "too much information" and should be limited in scope with more accurate information. The existing information seems outdated and incorrect in many areas.
- The findings state that historic preservation regulations are not enforced, but some committee members feel it is over-enforced.
- The Cultural Arts Commission should provide information about the Town's cultural issues, facilities and activities. The Senior Center also conducts many cultural activities.

## **Transportation**

- Parking situation in Thompsonville is problematic. The Shapiro report should provide detailed information.
- The chapter says there are no problem areas, but this does not reflect reality. Clarification is needed about what information comes from outdated sources and what information reflects current conditions.
- Bus service throughout Enfield does not exist, only commuter service taking people in and out of Town. It is unclear whether anyone knows if local bus service is viable. An intermodal transportation study will be released this month.
- Hazardville used to have a trolley. It was what the road was originally built for.

## **Review of 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Meeting**

Jocelyn explained the procedure for the following evening's public meeting. The following are committee members' questions and comments about the issues:

- The working relationship with the State of Connecticut has been conflictive. The Town has handed over several projects to the State and they have not been advanced.
- Some people might be confused about the term "greenway" thinking that it specifically refers to the Town Greenway instead of to greenways in general.
- Some doubted that eliminating boards and changing the structure of the permits approvals process would be appropriate. Some suggested that there is a problem with how people get referred to each board, and that it might be necessary to modify or focus the function of each board/commission. Others mentioned that the current approvals process has "too many hoops to jump," and acts as a disincentive for developers.

## **Draft Policy Concepts**

Jocelyn read the concepts that will be used to create a draft of the policies for the Plan. She asked committee members to review these and send comments.

## **Preliminary Futures Concept**

Jocelyn updated the Committee on the changes that have been made to the Futures Plan.

## **Upcoming Meetings**

The next Steering Committee meeting was tentatively scheduled for September. The goal is to send the Committee a complete draft of the plan by the end of July so that everyone has ample time to review it. The Committee will meet independently on June 30, 2009 to review the draft goals, objectives and policy concepts. The Committee Chair would like to plan a public input session that includes college students.

## *Meeting #5 – September 23, 2009*

### **Participants**

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#### **Steering Committee**

Martha McLeod, Chair  
Mike Dynia  
Lori Longhi

Elizabeth A. Ballard  
Charles Ladd  
Jack Lopes

Mike Dumont  
Wendy Lavoie  
Ray Warren

#### **Town Staff**

José Giner

#### **Consultants**

Jocelyn Gordon

Ana Hernández-Balzac

### **Minutes**

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José Giner distributed meeting agendas and an outline of work completed by the consultant. Martha McLeod began the meeting by briefly describing the purpose of the night's meeting. Jocelyn Gordon reviewed the outline of the items or issues that were incorporated to the Plan based on previous comments from the Committee. The rest of the meeting was used to address questions and comments about the draft.

#### **Graphics**

- Quality of images, particularly maps, must be improved when saving to a format suitable for online distribution. Images on committee members' copies of the draft had poor resolution, making all graphics blurry and unreadable.
- The document needs a section that explains how to interpret the graphics presented in the Plan. The Committee was concerned that people may have a problem with the Plan if they see that their property falls within an area that has drawings or circles that refer to proposed development or redevelopment. It is not clear that the graphics refer to big picture concepts. Attention is needed on graphics involving Thompsonville; industrial areas that include wetlands (gives the impression of contradictory goals of industrial development and wetland conservation); and agricultural preservation area (not clear that existing residential densities will be maintained there).
- The Plan was missing graphics showing how new land use would impact the build-out of the town, particularly from a business and industry perspective. One of the reasons the consultant was hired was because in their interview they presented illustrations showing how the town would look 10 years from now depending on the scenario chosen.

#### **Transportation**

- The Plan should explain that it can be used to communicate the Town's objectives and preferences when state or federal projects could potentially change the character or the community. The State DOT has a right of way of 50ft on both sides of the road on Enfield Street. This right of way was acquired to give the State the option of expanding Route 5 in the future. The proposal to create a continuous sidewalk along the historic portion of Enfield Street is unrealistic if the State will not negotiate this with the Town. José Giner explained that, because this concept is in the Plan, the Town will have the ability to negotiate with ConnDOT if it ever comes up. With the Plan, the Town will have said ahead of time that it wants to maintain the current scale of the historic district rather than have a four lane highway. The Town can also go

to DOT, even if the agency has no existing plans for that street, express its interest in completing a historic corridor project and using state funding and technical assistance for that purpose.

- The Casket Factory building is currently owned by Dow Chemical, but the Town has the first option to buy.
- The document needs to explain certain planning terms, such as what is meant by “complete streets.”
- The Plan needs to idea state more strongly its intent to improve connectivity.

### **Economic Development**

- Consultant should verify that Town has ownership of the North School Small Business Incubator. Committee recalled that it was sold to Dave Burdock, but was not sure if he is still actively pursuing the project. If the Town does not control the facility, it might not be able to implement the action that concerns it.
- The Plan needs to make a better case for its economic development recommendations. The Town has suffered quite a bit from loss of major employers and those impacts are not well addressed in the Plan. The concept for the town’s industrial areas is not as well developed as the concepts for other areas. We need to have a better idea of how to deal with loss of jobs; we also need a statement that can really give us an advantage when we go to state and federal agencies, for example, when looking to use enterprise zone incentive programs.
- The employment situation is serious: More than 70% of the students in the Community College are concerned that they will get a job when they get out of college. They want to know what field of study will get them a job when they graduate.
- On pg. 113-121, text needs to be changed because West Vaco closed this summer and is not in town anymore. STR could be added because they are big employer; they have approximately 250 positions.
- The inventory should offer a balanced perspective about the 1992 Thompsonville Revitalization Strategy. The Plan’s recommendations should suggest revisiting the Strategy again to see what still makes sense today. The 2004 White Paper did not supplant the Strategy, but it did capture what the community thought was not going to work in Thompsonville.

### **Land Use and Zoning**

- The consultant should take a closer look at how current zoning regulations affect the community’s goals for each area, and offer recommendations about how to address those issues when the time comes to update the zoning ordinance. Committee members have heard complaints with regards to the R-33 zone, particularly in Thompsonville; but it is unclear what the problem is. There may be a conflict between the type of properties within this zone and the improvements allowed by the zoning code when the property does not conform to the code. There should be a recommendation to revisit zoning to make it more amenable to the changes needed in the town.
- The recommendation to prevent development along the Connecticut River by instituting a no-development zone 200 ft from the shoreline seems to be in conflict with another recommendation to develop high rise along the river. Clarification is needed regarding the actual intention of the Plan as to how to develop (or not) the Connecticut River waterfront.
- Clarification is also needed regarding what is meant by “waterfront development.” It is unclear if it refers to development along any waterway in the town, or if it refers only to development on Thompsonville’s waterfront.

## Historic Preservation

- Despite the fact that the inventory states that the Town will have design guidelines for certain historic areas, there has been no public discussion about these guidelines. There should be an action suggesting public discussion of this effort and its benefits before they are adopted.
- The community struggles with an issue of balance of power in regards to historic preservation. Some Committee Members were concerned that attaining Certified Local Government (CLG) status would create yet another historic preservation commission. Expanding the role of Historic Preservation Commission to decide issues in other parts of town will subject other areas to the Commission's restrictive handling of historic properties or of properties within a historic district. The consultant and Planning Director clarified some of the implications of CLG status and some of the benefits, which included commissioner training on different ways to treat historic properties and the limits of historic preservation regulations. The CLG application has been heard by Town Council at least on two occasions, but not many people are aware of it. The Committee suggested including a recommendation to have a public discussion to examine the implications and benefits of CLG designation.

## Housing

- Some Committee Members did not view the action suggesting consolidating the Town's housing agencies as a good idea. A better alternative is to get all agencies that deal with housing issues to coordinate their work.
- Actions should focus more on educating property owners about their responsibilities than on penalizing them. This is particularly important in Thompsonville. The action stating that people should be cited for code violations should be rewritten to make this point clearer.

## Implementation Strategy

- The action that talks about creating additional positions for planning and zoning should be rewritten as a broader statement that says more staff is needed at all levels of town government.
- The Committee explained that they would like to make sure the Plan works. They were concerned that people won't know where to begin when they see such a large document, and suggested creating an executive summary of the Plan. Ideally, the summary would outline the issues considered in the creation of the Plan and the solutions proposed.
- A stronger statement of policy 1.2 is needed to make sure each Town Department creates a "business plan" to help it carry out the actions that are relevant to its mission. It is not enough just to say which departments are accountable for each action. Each department has to figure out how to align their mission to the new priorities set by the Plan; and there has to be an internal process to identify and assign specific people to complete each project. Each department should also be responsible for figuring out the budget needed to complete those actions and the existing and potential funding sources.
- The Committee discussed the need to track progress implementing the Plan. Committee Members previously involved with Plan implementation mentioned that the Planning and Zoning Commission was able to monitor implementation during the first couple of years, but then lost momentum and never resumed regular meetings to track implementation. It was not clear why they lost momentum. The consultant suggested that this could have happened because many of the existing Plan's action strategies lacked specific recommendations, leaving unclear what to do next. The draft Plan tried to resolve this by ensuring that all goals, objectives and

policies had corresponding actions. The consultant strove to make sure that in every case, the Town would have a tangible product as a result of completing each action.

- The Committee suggested establishing a regular timetable for Town departments to report implementation progress to Town Council each year. The capital improvement plan, budget and Council goal-setting sessions are examples of formal procedures the Town uses to keep track of what needs to be done and what has been accomplished. Reporting every six months seemed like a reasonable schedule.
- The Committee suggested classifying actions as short, medium and long term actions, not just by the amount of time it takes to complete each action.
- The Committee also suggested that Town Council should appoint a totally independent person to evaluate progress. By being totally independent, the person would avoid finding excuses and or showing bias towards certain people or departments. It was unclear whether this should be a one person job.
- The Conservation Commission needs to be listed in action matrix where needed.

### **Public Input**

- The Committee mentioned that the public should have an opportunity to express what aspects of the Plan they think will work best. It decided to accept comments about the Plan until the end of October 2009. All the comments will be forwarded to the consultant through José Giner.

## Steering Committee Communications

**From:** McLeod, Martha  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2009 11:26 AM  
**To:** 'To:'; '[channdur@sbcglobal.net](mailto:channdur@sbcglobal.net)'; '[Cladd@cox.net](mailto:Cladd@cox.net)'; '[cman555499@aol.com](mailto:cman555499@aol.com)'; '[eab321@cox.net](mailto:eab321@cox.net)'; '[fwalenta@alliedgroup.org](mailto:fwalenta@alliedgroup.org)'; '[jginer@enfield.org](mailto:jginer@enfield.org)'; '[jacklo6@cox.net](mailto:jacklo6@cox.net)'; '[james.brislin@gmail.com](mailto:james.brislin@gmail.com)'; '[Joanne@usarecycle.com](mailto:Joanne@usarecycle.com)'; '[jgordon@piscompany.com](mailto:jgordon@piscompany.com)'; '[ukenown@aol.com](mailto:ukenown@aol.com)'; '[michaeldumont@cox.net](mailto:michaeldumont@cox.net)'; '[peteryarum@cox.net](mailto:peteryarum@cox.net)'; '[Lavelli@snet.net](mailto:Lavelli@snet.net)'; '[slhozempa@enfieldschools.org](mailto:slhozempa@enfieldschools.org)'; '[tomarnone@cox.net](mailto:tomarnone@cox.net)'; '[rwarren@enfield.org](mailto:rwarren@enfield.org)'; '[wendidarling@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wendidarling@sbcglobal.net)'; '[WRAGNO@ENFIELD.ORG](mailto:WRAGNO@ENFIELD.ORG)'  
**Cc:** 'Giner, Jose'; '[rwarren@enfield.org](mailto:rwarren@enfield.org)'  
**Subject:** Report Writing

Your attendance the meeting last night was appreciated. I believe that we all agree that the chapters/ reports from the consultant to date reflect “**any town**” and we need the reports on which we will base the POCD to reflect **Enfield**.

### **That will not happen without your input.**

I appreciate your ideas and concerns and repeat that **we need to get them to the consultants**. Whether you attended the meeting last night or not, **please** send your comments related to each chapter about which you have a concern or have important information and opinions that are needed to shape an effective POCD to Jose by **Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**.

I suggest that you use a simple format with a heading for each area you wish to address such as :

Economic Vitality

And write your comments below each heading.

Jose can then forward them **immediately** to the consultant .This will expose them to the breadth of our issues and concerns . He will also compile them for discussion at our next meeting in June where we can begin to focus on the most important issues identified to help shape our POCD.

Thank you for your interest and dedication to our town.

Dr. Martha McLeod

President

Asnuntuck Community College

170 Elm Street

Enfield, Ct 06082

(860) 253-3001

**From:** [McLeod, Martha](mailto:McLeod, Martha)

**To:** '[channdur@sbcglobal.net](mailto:channdur@sbcglobal.net)'; '[Cladd@cox.net](mailto:Cladd@cox.net)'; '[cman555499@aol.com](mailto:cman555499@aol.com)'; '[eab321@cox.net](mailto:eab321@cox.net)'; '[fwalenta@alliedgroup.org](mailto:fwalenta@alliedgroup.org)'; '[jginer@enfield.org](mailto:jginer@enfield.org)'; '[jacklo6@cox.net](mailto:jacklo6@cox.net)'; '[james.brislin@gmail.com](mailto:james.brislin@gmail.com)'; '[Joanne@usarecycle.com](mailto:Joanne@usarecycle.com)'; '[jgordon@piscompany.com](mailto:jgordon@piscompany.com)'; '[ukenown@aol.com](mailto:ukenown@aol.com)'; '[jginer@enfield.org](mailto:jginer@enfield.org)'; '[michaeldumont@cox.net](mailto:michaeldumont@cox.net)'; '[peteryarum@cox.net](mailto:peteryarum@cox.net)'; '[Lavelli@snet.net](mailto:Lavelli@snet.net)'; '[slhozempa@enfieldschools.org](mailto:slhozempa@enfieldschools.org)'; '[tomarnone@cox.net](mailto:tomarnone@cox.net)'; '[rwarren@enfield.org](mailto:rwarren@enfield.org)'; '[wendidarling@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wendidarling@sbcglobal.net)'; '[WRAGNO@ENFIELD.ORG](mailto:WRAGNO@ENFIELD.ORG)'; '[jginer@enfield.org](mailto:jginer@enfield.org)'; '[rwarren@enfield.org](mailto:rwarren@enfield.org)'

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2009 1:47 PM

**Subject:** FW: Report Writing

Hope your writing efforts are going well. Your knowledge and experience will help to shape a better plan for the future.

I would appreciate it if you would copy me as you send in your thoughts and concerns about the chapters so that I can read them in advance.

Thank you,

Martha

Dr. Martha McLeod

President

Asnuntuck Community College

170 Elm Street

Enfield, Ct 06082

(860) 253-3001

**From:** "Giner, Jose" <[jginer@enfield.org](mailto:jginer@enfield.org)>

**Date:** June 1, 2009 10:12:57 AM EDT

**To:** "Jocelyn Gordon" <[jgordon@pjscompany.com](mailto:jgordon@pjscompany.com)>

**Cc:** "McLeod, Martha" <[MMcLeod@acc.commnet.edu](mailto:MMcLeod@acc.commnet.edu)>

Jocelyn:

Attached are the various comments received to date from the Steering Committee members on the draft reports. I will forward any that come in late.

Regards,

José

*José Giner, AICP*

*Director of Planning*

*Town of Enfield*

*860-253-6356*

*[jginer@enfield.org](mailto:jginer@enfield.org)*

<<Comments to the Town of Enfield Plan of Conservation and Development>> <<Re: Report Writing>>  
<<Untitled>> <<Report Writing>> <<PC&D Writing Assignment>> <<POCD remarks>> <<Writing assignment  
Economic/Thompsonville>> <<Report Writing POCD Historic>> <<Comments on Drafts>> <<Enfield  
Conservation and Development Plan>>

Good morning,

Below are my comments to the Town of Enfield Plan of Conservation and Development.

### **1. Economic Vitality**

When a business wants to move into the town, we should encourage them to look at vacant buildings. Perhaps by assisting them in upgrading the site for their particular needs. We could use grants (local, state and federal), possible technical assistance and consulting. And, the town could possibly use town equipment and/or contractors for upgrading the site, if needed.

### **2. Land Use**

I would like to see a separate zone for the Connecticut Riverfront. It would have a blend of commercial, recreational and possibly upper floor residential. Also, a building height requirement of possibly 75 feet for hotels/restaurants to make use of the river scenery. Utilize interlocking pavers to cover some of the impervious surface requirements.

### **3. Park, Recreation and Open Spaces**

I am thinking that Mancuso Park could/should be developed as a passive use park (i.e. picnic areas, fishing, family ball games and possibly open air concerts, etc.). Also, the town should encourage the creation of more open space.

#### 4. Other comments

All development should meet some level green building standards.

If you should have any questions, please let me know.

Charles Ladd

JACK LOPES, 13 Cranberry Hollow, Enfield, CT. 06082

860-749-3465, [jacklo6@cox.net](mailto:jacklo6@cox.net)

Enfield Conservation and Development Plan

#### **Addition to Economic Vitality DRAFT dtd April 15, 2009. See “Economic Development Initiatives & Organizations” page 11**

Enfield Community Development Corporation, Inc.

This organization a non-profit/non-stock company, was incorporated in the State of Connecticut in 1985; to assist first time home buyers. However, the corporation has been inert since 1992. The Enfield Revitalization Strategy Committee (ERSC) has established a committee to study and recommend a reorganization plan to aid the Town's effort to financially support projects, by seeking grants from a wide variety of sources. The mission of the corporation will be altered to respond to all the community needs.

#### **Miscellaneous or Implementation Plan (to be added to completed Plan)**

An oversight committee shall be appointed by the Town Council. The mission and mandate of this committee shall be to insure efforts are being made to implement the intent of this plan and other town plans being pursued for the betterment of the Town of Enfield.

Jose,

Below are comments covering each of the following reports from the consultants:

#### **Population**

The U.S. census occurs every decade, this time, taking place in 2010. Is there any reason this state mandate for POCD cannot occur soon after the latest census findings are published? Given the census information shown in this report is already 9 years old I do not have the confidence 2005 – 2007 estimates will give us the latest trends. Therefore all the reports should be somewhat suspect.

#### **Economic Vitality**

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row, Enfield has not raised taxes, which is commendable. Unfortunately tax revenue is decreasing (people are not buying as many new autos as in years past) and the availability of aid from the state and federal government cannot be guaranteed. Two options are available: continue cutting expenses and/or find ways to increase revenues. Cutting expenses by cutting services can only go on for so long. With the thought of raising revenues the consultants are showing that in this economic recession businesses are closing, thus lowering revenues. As a result more citizens have joined the ranks of the unemployed. So how does the Enfield encourage new businesses to move to Enfield? Also, for those businesses remaining, what can Enfield do to insure they remain viable?

#### **Land Use**

How do we deal with the “not in by back yard” scenario? Based on the report we have a multitude of different possibilities given our diverse zoning in Enfield. But regardless of the opportunities, there are many in our community who will find fault with any possible land use in their neighborhood.

#### **Infrastructure and Utilities**

The consultant proposes an interesting concept; creating energy from the sludge produced at the waste treatment plant. Whether it's creating energy in the form of methane gas or a form of charcoal from dehydrated solids, this idea could prove to be a cost savings for Enfield. Since the consultant mentions this idea, they should give a rough order of magnitude of cost versus saving over time.

**Parks, Recreation and Open Space:**

Although Enfield has many parks and recreational areas, it seems that there are not enough soccer fields. Where can we add these fields?

**Housing:**

A major challenge is to improve the quality of housing in Thompsonville Village. Many of the rental units are in disrepair, most notably those units owned by absentee landlords. I hear and believe if these absentee owners live in the housing they own, their buildings will look better, thus leading to a reduction in blight, vandalism, vagrancy and even drug trafficking.

What will it take to increase the percentage of owner occupied housing in Thompsonville Village? Tax incentives are available for the owners who choose to live in housing, but these incentives do not seem to be able to entice these absentee owners. So what does it take? Consultants allude to entertaining the thought of improving public transportation which could increase owner occupied housing. Public transportation would at least get people out of the village to where the work is, thus giving them the opportunity to buy into the housing market.

**Public Participation Report**

Can enough be said about improving public transportation? It's all about getting the people to the jobs that are available. If so, these citizens stand a chance of saving money for their first home; which is still the American Dream. It becomes the responsibility of Enfield to encourage private enterprise to bring economic public transportation. If it can be done in the private sector can the consultants give suggestions on how to do it?

As you can see the lack of public transportation is my pet-peeve. With good affordable transportation, business will return to Thompsonville; and with businesses comes jobs.

**Economic /Thompsonville Revitalization**

The plan to revitalize downtown has several flaws that have not been addressed such as the increased steps for zoning approval, the high taxes, and the lack of people spending time in the downtown area. Once these issues are addressed, the revitalization of downtown might become a more reasonable goal.

Residents in Thompsonville that wish to get something approved through planning and zoning must also first get approval through the Thompsonville Revitalization board. This board adds an increased step to make improvements in downtown. Although this extra step does ensure that improvements keep with the vision of a revitalized downtown, it also slows down the process of making improvements and may deter some from making improvements in the first place. This extra step should be streamlined into the process to make it more efficient to help minimize the extra time taken for approval.

It is common knowledge that Thompsonville has the higher taxes than any other section of Enfield. These high taxes do not however give the residents of Thompsonville greater benefits than other town residents. Given that most people would consider that there are noneconomic costs to living in Thompsonville such as the bad reputation for crime, adding economic costs such as higher taxes increases the disincentive to move to Thompsonville or own property there. To combat these disincentives, the town of Enfield needs to lower the taxes in Thompsonville or increase the benefits the residents receive.

The last problem facing revitalization is that before anyone will want to live in Thompsonville, people must first have a reason to visit downtown, feel comfortable in, and enjoy spending time downtown. The only time of the year most people visit downtown is during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration. During the rest of the year, there is no incentive for people to leave the economic center of Enfield (mall area) to go into downtown. Some improvements could be made to make visiting downtown easier and more enjoyable such as increased parking, public bathrooms, vendor food carts, picnic tables and pond activities.

**Historic District**

The Historic District in Enfield along Route 5 currently does not serve a distinct purpose while it imposes many costs on the homeowners in this district. Although the historic district may provide some benefits to the residents, the costs seem to be much greater than these benefits.

The most popular current use in the historic district is walking due to the shade providing trees and well-kept sidewalks. It is unclear whether walkers in this area are historic district residents or residents from elsewhere.

Although there is a great amount of pedestrian traffic through the historic district it seems as though many pedestrians do not take note of the historical nature of the area. Although some homes are marked with the building dates, there is not information available to the public about these homes. Additionally, you will find that there are few visitors at the Martha Parsons House and the Old Town Hall—two historic buildings in the district that are open to the public. Thus the historic nature of this district seems to go unnoticed or unappreciated by the most frequent users of this area.

The majority of the costs imposed on the homeowners in the Historic District are due to the Historic District Commission. This commission acts like an excessive homeowners association but in this case the homeowners don't have any control over the rules and policies. The main policy this commission has that costs homeowners significant money is the requirement to maintain the historic integrity of the buildings by using only materials that they approve of which are original in nature. Although this policy might be ideal for homes that were built before the 1900's in order to maintain the historic presence of these homes, this policy does not make sense for homes that were built in the last century which are not historic. Unfortunately, the commission does not differentiate between truly historic buildings and simply old ones or even new ones.

If this policy had differentiated between historic homes and non-historic homes, more maintenance would be completed on the non-historic homes because the residents would be able to replace features such as porch spindles, siding, and exterior doors at a much lower cost. Usually the cost of replacing house features in the original style is much higher and many homeowners simply don't repair or maintain their homes because of that increased cost.

Aside from the additional cost to maintain the home, there is also additional time required. In order to make any change to an exterior feature of your property, you must first fill out an application, attend a public hearing with the Historic District Commission and present your case to see if your change or repair can be made. The commission can decide that your change although needed is not keeping with the interest of the Historic District. Even if the change is approved, the process has taken up to a month. This process creates many permanently un-repaired properties and many temporarily un-repaired properties. So people just don't make the repairs.

The number of properties in disrepair both temporarily and permanently negatively affect the property values of the homes in the area which is another cost borne by the property owners in the Historic District. In addition to all these problems, residents of the historic district must pay the same level of taxes all other residents in the town must pay even though they are forced to have higher levels of maintenance cost. The presence of the historic district actually decreases the appeal of historic homes in this area where as in other areas of Enfield, such as School Street, historic homes are sought after and well maintained.

**FYI- I only received a few of the sections the other night. I would have addressed the agriculture section but I did not get a copy of the draft report.**

### **Comments on Economic Vitality**

This section should put a more positive spin on the Town of Enfield as to what it has to offer to business and industries to stay or come to Enfield. It needs to point out the areas that may be good areas for new businesses to build or relocate such as the Moody & Shaker Road areas. It should mention the possible new transient center that is going to be built in Thompsonville that will include buses and light rail.

The town should look into attracting a portion of the new movie industry that is being attracted to CT because of the new tax breaks afforded to them.

This report talks too much about Hartford and not enough about what is happening in Enfield. The report needs to emphasize more with what Enfield can offer.

Page 8 should talk more about the programs that are offered at Asnuntuck CC.

Current development should emphasize that the downturn in development is due to the global economic recession taking place right now. The report needs to talk more about where the town wants to be in ten years and how it can be achieved.

### **Land Use Section**

First page – industrial –no mention of the current industrial park near the mall area off of 190.

Table 2 zoning categories - I would suggest that another zone be added. – Conservation zone or no development zone. The Town of Griswold, CT has done this in their plan. An area such as along a river or an important stream that no development would be allowed within 200 ft of such river or stream.

Zoning Ordinance Assessment – {agricultural uses while permitted are not protected from development} – more emphasis on preserving agriculture should be included in the plan. The Conservation Commission has a Farm land plan that should be a part of this document.

**Historic Preservation:**

The town of Enfield is applying for Certified Local Government not the town of New Platz.

Part of Bigelow not yet developed – these buildings could be used to attract an outlet Mall or stores area which would draw people into this part of town.

Tables 2 & 3 – Martha Parsons House should be located under Enfield Street Section

Hazardville Methodist Church – should be included in Hazardville Section.

Grange building – Broad Brook Rd. should be included. It was a Grammar School back at the turn of the century 1900's.

464 Hazard Ave. – no longer there. It was torn down by the State. It is now an access point for the Scantic River.

Strand Theater should be moved to Thompsonville Section.

**Parks, Recreation & Open Space**

Draft 2005 talks about the states plan should emphasize more of the plan for Enfield.

The Scantic River Watershed Association (SRWA) has been granted a Greenway status from CT DEP. along the Scantic River from the Somers, Ct border through Enfield to the border with East Windsor. The entire Scantic River in Enfield will have this status. The SWRA has proposed multi use trails along this Greenway and has started to mark trails along the Scantic for this purpose.

The last paragraph on that page remarks that other parts of the Scantic are not navigable. This is not true. The SRWA has started to clear the river from South Maple Street Bridge to the Bridge on Town Farm road. Once this section is cleared of fallen trees this section will be opened to canoes and kayaks and could be used year round. The river just needs to be cleared of the trees that have fallen in the river. The Goal of the SRWA is to open the river from Somers, CT to the CT River in South Windsor. This is a long range plan, but can be done. A canoe trail status would then be applied for with the State DEP.

**Community Facilities & Services**

Expansion of the library and a new Neighborhood Center should be a priority.

Under Community Services Agencies & Organizations should include Enfield Food Shelf, Loaves and Fishes, Enfield Garden Club and probably a few other important groups.

Section on library – to long do not need two pages on library. Should also include the New Enfield Senior Center, Angelo Lamagna Center (Neighborhood Center)

School – no school is being closed. Should not be part of plan at this time.

Should mention new fields at the high Schools to bring them up to a high standard

**Report Input**

Draft April 15,2009

The primary problem I have with the report is that it provides many statistics and demographics that we al have been involved with prior. The report doesn't focus on critical analysis as to How we should develop given our geographic and boundary restrictions or, How we should address our zoning especially, in the high traffic areas , i.e. Route I-190 and Route 220 corridors. Mere one line statements of findings are provided without any recommendations to any given area. I would like to see a more iled analysis with detailed recommendations provided.

**Population:**

I didn't see any mention of Asian and Middle Eastern population numbers. Just from my personal dealings in the community I can pretty clearly state that both population groups have been increasing witnessed by business ownership.

Are the State of Connecticut, Department of Corrections populations included in the population counts? The wasn't any mention as to this population group or its impact on the Town of Enfield.

Finally, I am not as optimistic as the Consultant in stating that Enfield's population "is expected to grow slowly in the next 10 years". Based on what? All indications are that we are losing businesses, homeowners, etc. I would really like to see much more explanation on this topic.

**Land Use:**

There is no mention as to Vertical expansion or change in zoning regulations to permit such an expansion in the report.

**Economic Vitality:**

Municipal Health & Stability – "responsibilities reside with the Town Council, which is comprised of ten members and the Mayor. " Should read ...comprised of 11 members of which one is designated Mayor.

Also, on page 2 the report states "as well as a freeze on spending for capital projects". This needs to be revised stating that due to deficits in the town budget, CIP projects have been funded to the maximum extent as possible given our revenue allocations for CIP projects.

Suggestions for the plan of conservation & community development

From Sue Lavelli-Hozempa due 5-29-09

**1.)CT River access and use**

The CT River has the potential to provide a rich source of renewable energy if the power of hydro-electric generation could be harnessed. If turbines were to be placed in strategic areas along the river the energy created could be used to offset the cost of running town buildings with reduced energy consumption costs for the municipal services. The resulting cost reduction would allow Enfield to hold the line on taxes making it a more attractive place to live and do business.

**2.) Cumbersome processes**

The fees, costs and regulation placed on land use in CT are staggering. It makes it unaffordable and inconvenient for land owners to come to Enfield and use the land they purchase for their own intent.

Businesses are restricted from altering their buildings for their business use. Some of the regulations must be repealed in order to make it attractive for business to locate in Enfield and there has to be tax incentives for businesses to come to Enfield and use existing empty industrial space for their needs. If it is made to be more flexible so that they can alter an existing building for their intended use there will be incentives for business to fill our ever increasing empty industrial spaces.

**3.) Sentimental value VS. Real value**

Enfield is a community of tradition and the people who live here like it that way. However the desire to not tear down existing buildings because of their historic or sentimental value is placing a strangle hold on our community and not allowing us to have the best possible land use. Case in point, the Higgins School and the Strand Theatre. Both of these dilapidated buildings have so much infrastructure damage that to clean them up of water damage and mold is insurmountable in its costs. Since parking space is at a premium in Thompsonville why not tear down the Strand and build the parking lot we actually need. If there was adequate parking and effective law enforcement that would do a whole lot more to help revitalize the Thompsonville section of town than leaving buildings standing that are unsafe and cost prohibitive to revitalize those structures

**3.) The future of education in Enfield**

With ever decreasing population schools must be reorganized and restructured to better service the needs of the existing students in Enfield. This means that more of these former school buildings will become available for

alternative uses and should be considered as Enfield looks to its future.

I wish I had time to put more thoughts to paper.

### **Historic Preservation & Culture Inventory**

#### *Findings*

*Historic resources abound in the Town of Enfield. Not all are protected by local or other historic preservation regulations, and funding is an issue to undertake the necessary restoration work to make them fully usable to the community. Many historic resources in Enfield are also not adequately marketed as attractions.*

***The Town of Enfield is situated within a highly visited region of the State of Connecticut.***

*[Findings will be completed after incorporating additional information]*

**Increase tourism** by offering Arts and Theater, local dining, etc in Thompsonville. Offer prospective businesses to T-ville discounts to promote influx of viable business opportunities.

#### **Documents that should be referenced in the 2009 PC&D:**

1992 Halcyon Thompsonville Revitalization Report

#### **Website resources for Historic Preservation of Thompsonville**

<http://www.preservationnation.org/about-us/>

<http://www.preservationnation.org/main-street/about-main-street/>

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/ric/ricpubs/preserve.html>

<http://www.america-the-beautiful.org>

<http://www.housingonline.com/>

#### **Suggestions for increasing owner occupancy in Thompsonville**

- Offer tax incentive for owner occupancy, based on single family or 2 or more dwelling
- Offer lower interest loan/grant programs through the town
- Change current TFD tax structure
- Protect Alcorn Elementary school from future talks of school closings

#### **Rehabilitate empty houses/buildings**

- Higgins School – use for education or town services!
- T-ville Fire dept – old building once they move
- Little Country Store – future fire station?? incorporate plans from 92 report to enhance exterior facade
- High street complex -
- Old post office –
- Etc.
- Abandoned houses throughout Thompsonville

#### **Enfield, CT Websites**

[www.enfield.org](http://www.enfield.org)

[www.enfieldschools.org](http://www.enfieldschools.org)

<http://www.enfieldkite.org/>

<http://home.att.net/~mkm-of-enfct/EHS/EHSaboutUs.html>

[www.voicesforthompsonville.org](http://www.voicesforthompsonville.org)

<http://www.thompsonvillefire.org/>

[http://discovery.wcgmf.org/community.php?community\\_id=1009](http://discovery.wcgmf.org/community.php?community_id=1009)

**Save the Strand Theatre!**

<http://lhat.org/RRManual/index.html>

Bring back/create 60 degree parking on North Main Street. Parking down by new inter-modal center can also help accommodate visitors to Thompsonville.

**Intermodal Station** – bussing (and future train transportation)

Have business in place that can profit from new influx of customers

Provide incentives to the Town Council for decreasing fiscal budget (NOT EDUCATION BUDGET). Consider rolling over unused budget to following year rather than decreasing and using 'extra' money in budget for enhancing community.

**Truckstop exit 46 next to Mobil Station**

- keeps trucks off of the sides of highway ramps and local parking lots
- creates place for truckers to pull off of road in CT
- Parking, diner, shopping, lodging?
- increases Enfield **tax revenue**

~Wendy~

"Nothing is impossible, we just don't know how to do it yet." -L.L. Larison Cudmore

"When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves." -Viktor Frankl

[www.voicesforthompsonville.org](http://www.voicesforthompsonville.org)

<<pocd remarks1.doc>>

Here's some remarks per our understanding. I have only read the Economic Vitality chapter so far.

If you need more, I'll try to be responsive.



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## TOWN OF ENFIELD

### Department of Development Services

Planning • Building Inspection • Economic and Community Development

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#### M E M O

To: Jose Giner, Martha McLeod  
From: Ray Warren  
Date: May 29, 2009  
Subject: POCD Observations

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The April 15, 2009 Economic Vitality chapter claims to provide an “assessment of the existing economy” and a “foundation upon which economic policy can be created to shape the future of Enfield”.

I think the draft chapter falls short of the stated claim.

The chapter makes mention of some of the strengths and weaknesses of the economy. But the “mentions” are without weight, strength, or tone.

For example: it takes until the bottom of page 10 to identify that the glut of 2 million vacant square feet of commercial and industrial space is “among major concerns held by local economic development officials”.

The prior 10 pages are dominated by demographic information on the labor force, industry types, occupations, income, educational attainment, major employers, etc. in Enfield and the region.

That information is readily available on 2 or 3 websites. The challenge is to condense and format the information so that it supports observations on economic conditions, not be the prominent element of the Economic Vitality section.

The economic chapter has a brief section entitled “Municipal Health & Stability”. It introduces Enfield’s bond rating as a measure of fiscal health. This section on municipal health and safety includes two statements that are given superficial treatment when they deserve examination.

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820 Enfield Street  
Enfield, Connecticut 06082

[www.enfield-ct.gov](http://www.enfield-ct.gov)

Economic Development  
(860) 253-6385

-2-

- a. "The Town has had to strongly consider the national economic recession of 2008 and 2009, as well as its significant impacts on the local economy". This simple statement begs analysis. More than 3,000 jobs have been lost in the Enfield LMA in the last 18 months. More than 7,300 jobs have been lost in the region. The job loss here has been disproportionate and severe. Even the data in the report does not reflect the current situation. I don't have time at this writing, but I ask: how can we discuss the town's economic vitality if we only tangentially discuss our glut of vacant space and severe job loss?
- b. The report begins to identify fiscal stress (Closed facilities reducing taxable base, decreases in tax revenues, budget shortfall, hiring freeze, etc.). The Town of Enfield has been able to amass a Grand List of \$2.8 billion. The problem is getting it to \$2.9 billion and beyond. How can we accept an "Economic Vitality" analysis without recognition of the imperative to grow the base?

The author of this section interviewed me to get my perspective on major issues in economic development. I told him about the on-going battle between those who think Enfield has grown too much and those who advocate more growth. This conflict plays itself out in land use board meetings and with numerous permit applications. The predominance of wetland soils and serious drainage problems make construction projects subject to strict regulation.

The author was good enough to state that determining "how (to) spur economic development while also preserving the high community character, environment..." My disappointment is that this notion was given a two sentence paragraph. In my view, this is the essential question of the POCD!

While the items mentioned above merited scant mention, a section on "Financial Business Incentive" received 2-1/2 pages in the chapter. Frankly, the information is of limited utility. I do have some experience with these programs. The easy thing to do is list them; the harder thing to do is to access them.

Enfield is one of 25 Distressed Communities in CT. Yet it is one of very few that is not also an Enterprise Zone community. The real issue in the area of business incentive is that Enfield needs new tools to be able to effectively compete for a share of the region's growth.

Let me pose a few questions:

1. How does Enfield continue to grow in order to fund the governmental operation that provides the level of service we expect?
2. In light of natural constraints (wetlands, drainage, escarpment soils), how do we best assemble developable sites for future growth?
3. Given high costs of doing business and highly regulated approval process, how do we best foster growth?

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4. Is the way forward more contentious growth vs. no growth or is there a smarter way to grow?
5. Which areas of town could absorb denser or higher development so as to add value?
6. Can the riverfront accommodate high value commercial development and provide public access?
7. Does our zoning allow for the types of housing that will allow the next generation of workers to reside in Enfield?
8. If the retail world is experiencing a fundamental shift and Enfield is a retail hub, how do we protect that tax base going forward?
9. One element of a good bond rating is having room for expansion. Enfield is increasingly developed. How do we meet the expansion requirement?
10. The increase in governmental costs has been funded by growth and rate increases. How do we fund public services when growth has flattened and fallen back and tax rate increases are stressing so many families?

I had hoped that the POCD exercise could be a collective time out and afford the chance to address the conservation and development issue of the day. In so doing, we can then come to some understanding of where we're going.

I'm not sure we're going to get where I had hoped.

## Comment Sheets

<b>Name</b>	<b>Carrie Robinson</b>
Address	83 Windsor St., Enfield, CT 06082
Phone	860-253-9951
Email	thompsonville_homeowner@yahoo.com
Do you want to be notified of future meetings?	Yes please
May we contact you by email	Sure
How did you hear about this meeting?	Voices for Thompsonville
Comments:	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Ly Khen</b>
Address	18 Bernardino Ave.
Phone	860-253-9708
Email	lykhen1966@hotmail.com
Do you want to be notified of future meetings?	Yes
May we contact you by email	Yes
How did you hear about this meeting?	Newspaper
Comments:	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Stangione</b>
Address	PO Box 942, 372 Geo. Washington Rd.
Phone	860-745-7707
Email	ralphct1@yahoo.com
Do you want to be notified of future meetings?	yes
May we contact you by email	yes
How did you hear about this meeting?	Journal Inquirer
Comments:	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Maureen Brennan</b>
Address	11 Sandpiper Rd, Enfield, CT 06082
Phone	860-749-7425
Email	4mbphotography@sbcglobal.net
Do you want to be notified of future meetings?	yes
May we contact you by email	yes
How did you hear about this meeting?	email
Comments:	<p>Education is directly related to many of the items you are looking at such as population, housing, and community character. Education is a line item on the town budget (55%). I believe it should be looked at when determining the "community's vision for the future of Enfield". If we don't look at education when considering the future I believe we're "missing the boat".</p> <p>I realize that a POCD cannot address specific concerns of a school system, however, I believe it could and should recognize the impact and importance of valuing education in a community.</p> <p>In Enfield there is much distrust and disdain between the BOE/School administrations and the TC/Town administration. I believe our town will have a much brighter future should this be addressed.</p>

On a side note, I would suggest not having a meeting when there is another major event in town (ie. Fermi High graduation is tonight).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Gretchen Pfeifer-Hall</b>
Address	4 Somers Rd., Enfield
Phone	749-6594
Email	gretchenph@snet.net
Do you want to be notified of future meetings?	yes
May we contact you by email	yes
How did you hear about this meeting?	newspaper, emails
Comments: ?	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Martin Levitz</b>
Address	869 Farmington Ave., Unit 307, West Hartford, CT 06119
Phone	80-236-2479
Email	mnlevitz@hotmail.com
Do you want to be notified of future meetings?	Yes
May we contact you by email	Yes
How did you hear about this meeting?	Online
Comments:	The plan is confusing and inconsistent with prior plans of the state and the Greater Hartford Transit District. The Plans seem to try to encourage development and at the same time encourage more restrictive zoning.