

4.0 Public Meeting

An interactive public meeting was held on December 8, 2005 with 23 participants. The meeting was facilitated by peter j. smith & company, inc. and included an explanation of the planning process, presentation of inventory findings to date and an interactive segment.

During the interactive segment, attendees used workbooks and maps to identify issues of concern within four general categories: Land Use, Circulation, Economic and Community Services. The following summarizes information received from questionnaires and group exercises.

4.1 Land Use

In response to land use questions, the majority of respondents indicated that there should be stricter land use regulations (72%) and that design standards/guidelines should be developed (73%). There was also general agreement on the need to preserve unique natural features and or agricultural land (94%) and for additional low-cost housing (75%).

Public Input Meeting: Land Use Questionnaire Results

Land Use	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Stricter land use regulations (zoning, signage, landscaping etc.) should be -developed to enhance the Town.	44%	28%	22%	6%	0%
There is a need to develop design standards or guidelines to improve the overall look and quality of residential and commercial design in the Town.	53%	20%	27%	0%	0%
The Town should consider preserving unique natural features and/or natural agricultural land in New Hartford to protect open space and agricultural areas.	82%	12%	6%	0%	0%
Additional low-cost housing should be developed in New Hartford.	50%	25%	19%	6%	0%
Land use conflicts exist at certain location within New Hartford.	11%	44%	22%	11%	11%

4.2 Circulation

Most respondents strongly agreed that they were concerned about the volume of traffic in the Town. There was general agreement that a comprehensive trail system was needed in the Town (75%) as well as more sidewalks (64%) and official bike lanes (61%).

Public Input Meeting: Circulation

Circulation	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I am concerned with the volume of traffic in the Town.	69%	19%	6%	6%	0%
There is a need for more sidewalks in the Town of New Hartford.	53%	12%	18%	18%	0%
There is a need for official bike lanes in Town of New Hartford.	50%	11%	33%	6%	0%
Traffic conflict and safety is an issue in the Town.	50%	50%	0%	0%	0%
A comprehensive trail system is needed in the Town.	56%	19%	19%	6%	0%
Additional roads are needed in the Town.	29%	18%	24%	6%	24%

4.3 Economic

When asked if additional commercial development was needed, 73% of respondents disagreed. However, a majority agreed that the town has identifiable town centers/hubs (86%), that tourism should be developed (63%) and additional development was needed (53%).

Public Input Meeting: Economic

Economic	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
There is a need for additional commercial development .	11%	6%	11%	17%	56%
There is a need for additional industrial development .	18%	35%	12%	35%	0%
Opportunities for tourism development should be identified and pursued.	25%	38%	31%	6%	0%
The Town of New Hartford is characterized by identifiable town center(s) or hub(s) .	29%	57%	7%	7%	0%

4.4 Community Services

Over 75% of respondents agreed that the Town should identify areas for parks and open spaces. There was also general agreement on the need to address maintenance issues (59%) and to preserve the Town’s distinct neighborhoods (75%).

Public Input Meeting: Community Service

Community Service	Strongly Agree	Agree	No Opinion	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The Town of New Hartford should identify areas for parks and open space.	43%	36%	14%	0%	7%
There are maintenance issues that need to be addressed by the Town.	17%	42%	33%	8%	0%
Infrastructure facilities (sewer, water, drainage) in the Town are adequate for current and future needs.	17%	25%	33%	17%	8%
The Town of New Hartford has distinct neighborhoods that should be preserved.	50%	25%	25%	0%	0%

4.5 Priority Issues

Each group of participants was asked to identify the group's three priority issues. The following is a list of the identified priorities.

- Town Center - Consolidated Administration, Police, Fire, Highway (2 groups)
- Trail System Connecting Open Space
- Maintain tax levels - Consolidate with county services
- Fill in Road ditches with culvert pipes
- Encourage Industrial Growth, curtail retail development until growth in population supports
- Preserve Sauquoit Creek Watershed
- Content sensitive commercial development - Think of how it fits into the community
- Preserve Agriculture- Limit sprawl - utilize existing structures
- More Green Space
- Traffic on Seneca Turnpike
- Commercial Hub around Sangertown Mall

Participants were also asked to indicate their preference for the future of New Hartford by ranking four statements on a scale of 1-4, where 1 is most important and 4 is the least important the following. The statement "Limit residential/commercial/industrial development and maintain existing character" received the highest percentage (69%) of number 1 rankings.

	Ranked 1	Ranked 2	Ranked 3	Ranked 4
In the future, I would like New Hartford to:				
Encourage only residential development	31%	38%	0%	19%
Encourage more commercial development in appropriate locations	0%	13%	44%	31%
Encourage more industrial development in appropriate locations	13%	25%	44%	13%
Limit residential/commercial/industrial development and maintain existing character through the acquisition of open space	69%	6%	6%	19%

The map on the following page is a synthesis of the input received by residents.



