Memorandum

To: Fremont-NROC meeting participants
From: Amanda J. Lindley Stone, UNH Cooperative Extension
Subject: Summary of June 12, 2006 NROC *Dealing with Growth in Fremont* Follow-up Discussion

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Dear Fremont-NROC participant,

Attached is a summary of the discussions held on June 12, 2006 after the NROC *Dealing with Growth in Fremont* presentation.

Please review the summary prior to the next meeting, and bring it with you to the next meeting on June 19, 2006 (see details below).

Anyone who was not able to attend the June 12 meeting is very welcome to attend the next meeting, so feel free to encourage others to join us. Community participation is key to the success of the Fremont-NROC program. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting!

NEXT FREMONT-NROC FOLLOW-UP MEETING:

Monday June 19, 7-9pm
Ellis School, Fremont - Gym

Meeting purpose:

- Identify the top 2-3 priorities for NROC assistance.
- Break into 2-3 groups (one for each priority) to start developing actions for each priority. Participants will be free to join whichever group best reflects their interests.

Preparation:

- Review the meeting items on the last page of this summary
- Bring this summary with you to the meeting

Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments.

Amanda Stone

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Natural Resources Outreach Coalition (NROC)
SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION HELD ON June 12, 2006 TO FOLLOW UP THE FREMONT *DEALING WITH GROWTH* PRESENTATION

Present: 22 Fremont Residents
NROC Team: Amanda Stone, Frank Mitchell (UNH Cooperative Extension), Steve Miller (Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve), and Carolyn Russell (NH Dept of Environmental Services).

1. Purpose & Expected Outcome of the Facilitated Discussion:
The purpose of this meeting was to brainstorm and begin to prioritize "outcomes" - i.e. what the group would like to see happen to manage growth and protect natural resources. Participants divided into three groups, each of which addressed the questions described below:

Facilitators:
GROUP 1 - Frank Mitchell (UNH Cooperative Extension)
GROUP 2 - Amanda Stone (UNH Cooperative Extension)
GROUP 3 - Steve Millerl (Great Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve) and Carolyn Russell (NH DES)

2. What do you love about Fremont/What are you concerned about?
Each person in the group introduced themselves, and responded to the above two questions. Below is a summary of that input. The responses to these questions provided the context for later discussion of "outcomes".

What Do You Love About Fremont?

GROUP 1
- Openness
- Meetinghouse
- Architecture
- History
- Landscape
- People – past and present
- Wildlife and plants
- Rural character

GROUP 2
- Quiet
- Wildlife
- Privacy
- Small town/rural character
- Great place to live – Fremont native
- Scribner Road and open farmland

GROUP 3

- Old character of older buildings in town
- Natural resources
- Growth to date has supported the small town feel
- Sense of community
- Scribner Road, near the river

What are your Concerns about Fremont (Natural Resources and Growth)

GROUP 1

- Noise
- Rape of land
- Unimaginative development
- Rate of growth
- Water quality and quantity
- Smell from heavy trucking
- Cookie-cutter building styles
- Lack of community cohesiveness
- People's lack of awareness of results of actions (short term view)
- Mental health effects of noise

GROUP 2

- Loss of aesthetic quality
- Loss of small town feel
- Loss of town's uniqueness
- Loss of wildlife habitat
- Increase in traffic
- Loss of "direction" /focus – need to keep the focus on preserving land

GROUP 3

- High housing costs are changing the community (e.g. longer commutes)
- Current residents won't be able to afford to continue to live here on their land (taxes)
- Don't want to mandate what landowners can/cannot do with their land
- Loss of habitat and natural resources
- Lack of overall plan (difficult to develop plan = vision; now have sprawl)

3. Brainstorming Outcomes – What We Want:

The next step for each group was to brainstorm a list of ideas for "outcomes" – what results you want to see happen – in the context of natural resources protection and managing the effects of growth. Each group then selected their top three priorities from the list of outcome ideas.

GROUP 1

Facilitator: Frank Mitchell

What Results (Outcomes) Would You Like to See Happen Through the NROC Process?

- More open space preserved
- "Smarter" zoning (grow wisely)
- Good town center planning
- People feel more connections with the land
- Preserve Loon Pond
- Water flowing out of town is as good as the water coming in
- Promoting the town's heritage

GROUP 1 PRIORITIES

- More open space
- Good town center planning
- Promoting the town's heritage

GROUP 2

Facilitator: Amanda Stone

What Results (Outcomes) Would You Like to See Happen through the NROC process?

- Planned growth (make development "liveable" – less noise etc.)
- Wildlife-sensitive development/wildlife corridors
- Using the bond money in the most efficient way possible for land conservation – get the biggest bang for the buck
- Have a concrete plan for land conservation
- More conserved land and better planned development that includes conservation planning
- Open space concepts and design for developments (conservation developments where appropriate)
- Know landowners needs (educated landowners who understand land conservation options)
- More informed community and more community participation
- Good working relationship with developers
- Updated natural resources section of the master plan
- Forest management plan (forestry products)

GROUP 2 PRIORITIES

- Planned growth that includes land conservation, with concerns for wildlife, open space, liveability, etc. taken into consideration
- Education of community, landowners and developers
- Using land conservation bond money with a plan for the best utilization of the funds, and obtaining matching funds from outside sources.

GROUP 3

Facilitators: Carolyn Russell and Steve Miller

What Results (Outcomes) Would You Like to See Happen through the NROC process?

- Protect cultural/heritage resources
- Build sense of community (people care)
- Community consensus around future land use
- Want to trust that open space subdivision will permanently protect the open space (will not be developed in the future)
- Protect land and natural resources in perpetuity
- Keep big pieces open, and connectivity

GROUP 3 PRIORITIES

- Protect land and natural resources (wildlife, water, agriculture, etc.) in perpetuity
  - Keep big pieces and connectivity
  - Trust open space subdivisions
- Build sense of community and develop concerns around future land use
- Protect cultural/heritage resources

PLEASE REFER TO THE NEXT PAGE FOR THE SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES AND PREPARATION STEPS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

PREPARATION FOR THE JUNE, 19 2006 MEETING

Using the lists of top priorities identified by each group, NROC staff compiled a master list that combined similar ideas into the categories below. Note that there is no ranked order of priorities. At the June 19, 2006 meeting, the Fremont NROC participants will decide on the top two-three items that Fremont will work on with assistance from NROC staff over the next year.

Please review the list below, and come to the meeting prepared for discussion, and any revisions to the list below. Any thoughts regarding the categories, and grouping of ideas in each category?

Combined List of Priorities:

Land Conservation

- More open space
- Use land conservation bond money with a plan for the best utilization of the funds, and obtaining matching funds from outside sources.
- Protect land and natural resources (wildlife, water, agriculture, etc.) in perpetuity
    - Keep big pieces and connectivity
    - Trust open space subdivisions
- Education of community, landowners and developers

Better Planning/Managing Growth

- Good town center planning
- Planned growth that includes land conservation, with concerns for wildlife, open space, liveability, etc. taken into consideration
- Build sense of community and develop concerns around future land use
- Education of community, landowners and developers

Cultural and Heritage Issues

- Promoting the town's heritage
- Protect cultural/heritage resources

Once the top 2-3 priorities have been identified, the next item on the agenda for the **Monday June 19** meeting will be for participants to develop specific action items to address each of the top three outcomes prioritized by the group.

Participants will break into 2-3 action groups (one for each prioritized outcome), with each participant joining the group that reflects their primary interests. Each group will develop a list of action items for their topic area.

An NROC staff member with appropriate expertise will facilitate each group discussion. NROC staff will then incorporate these actions into a draft one-year work plan for community members to implement with NROC assistance.