



A MASTER PLAN
FOR
NORTHFIELD

APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC
INPUT

Northfield, Massachusetts
2014



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SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT: INTRODUCTION

Northfield's Master Plan is built on a foundation of significant public input as well as assessment of existing conditions and the opportunities and challenges that these pose. This document is a compilation of the input received and the materials used at the public forums to support the community conversation.

VENUES

The Master Plan Roundtable and Steering Committee made a concerted effort to invite Northfield's residents, business owners, and town officials to express their concerns and desires regarding the town's future. The following forums were held in order to solicit input from the public as well as to keep them updated on the process and progress of the master plan.

LIST OF VENUES

PUBLIC FORUMS

- March 6, 2013: Visioning: Town Hall Auditorium
- April 10, 2013: Mini-Visioning: Trinitarian Congregational Church
- April 14, 2013: Mini-Visioning: Private home
- April 16, 2013: Mini-Visioning: EMS
- May 22, 2013: Mini-Visioning: Middle School Students at PVRs
- June 13, 2013: Identifying Key Issues: Northfield Elementary School
- November 20, 2013: Presenting The Plan: Northfield Elementary School

NORTHFIELD VOICES

The Plan was developed with input from hundreds of residents, business owners, town officials, staff and volunteers, collected in a number of forums; these include:

- 12 Steering Committee meetings
- 3 Town-wide public forums
- 2 Roundtable discussions
- Mini-visioning forums
- Visioning with middle school students
- Interviews with department heads, committees & commissions
- Some discussion on Facebook page & I-Neighbors social media site

ROUNDTABLES (2)

Two Roundtable Discussions were held to further address key issues identified in the planning process. The purpose of these was to invite experts and interested parties to discuss the issues, identify specific strategies appropriate for Northfield and to begin to form partnerships to implement these.

- **TO PRESERVE AND REVITALIZE MAIN STREET: SEPTEMBER 25, 2013.** The Roundtable was organized around the following Goal Statement: **To Preserve the historic character and sense of place on Main Street while at the same time promoting greater economic diversity.**
- **TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TOWN-WIDE: OCTOBER 3, 2013.** The Roundtable was organized around the following Goal Statement: **To promote economic development town-wide by promoting a business-friendly environment and supporting local businesses.**

STEERING COMMITTEE AND ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS

The Consultant Team met with the Master Plan Steering Committee/Roundtable members twelve (12) times during the planning process:

- January 30, 2013
- February 6, 2013
- March 20, 2013
- April 17, 2013
- May 15, 2013
- June 5, 2013
- July 3, 2013
- August 7, 2013
- September 18, 2013
- October 16, 2013
- November 13, 2013
- January 8, 2014

OUTREACH MATERIALS

- **PUBLIC FORUM SUMMARIES.** The input from each of the public forums was compiled and summarized. The summaries were used to inform the vision and goals and objectives. They were also used to identify preliminary ideas for strategies for achieving the goals.
- **OUTREACH MATERIALS.** For each public forum flyers and other outreach materials were prepared. Also, at the forum summaries and other materials to help inform the discussion were prepared and disseminated.

The summaries of public input and the outreach materials used at these forums are provided in the pages that follow.

IMAGINE Northfield... sometime in the future, when...

The town's **natural and historic features** are preserved, even enhanced and enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. **Historic buildings along Main Street** are protected and restored, and the Town's natural beauty is made more accessible by preserving views, open fields, **farming** activity, and other characteristics that contribute to the Town's rural character. A bike path, marina and park are developed along the **River** that is enjoyed by all. The Town's history and **spiritual legacy** are showcased and appreciated.

The small town feeling is further enjoyed by residents due to the **additional opportunities for gathering** provided by **town-wide events** as well as a **community park** where people can meet spontaneously. The **town facilities** such as the library, good schools and the Tool Lending Library are also places where people continue to mingle. **Additional shops restaurants, and art and cultural activities**, provide needed goods and services as well as opportunities to run into people, as do the **sidewalks** that connect to trails and create a system of the open spaces, recreational facilities and connect to the downtown.

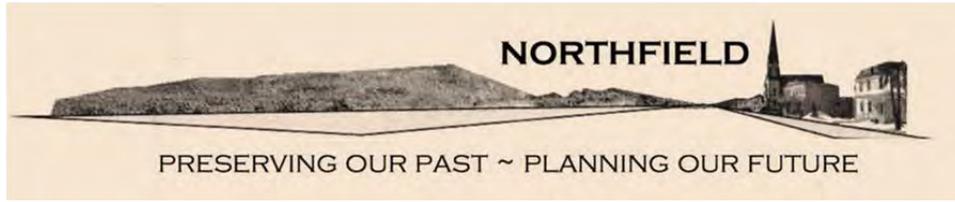
Northfield **supports its residents** and continues to be a **great place to raise children**, but also provides for the increasing **senior population**, and their specific needs are attended to as well as the needs of **young people** for more places to go, more to do. Both seniors and youth benefit from a **shuttle bus** that helps them to get around independently.

Communication between town government and residents is improved, both **technologically** as well as through increased outreach efforts and more effective dissemination of **information**. This inspires more residents to get involved in town affairs and therefore, the number of **volunteers** rises. The town continues to provide **adequate services** and **enforces by-laws** in an equitable manner such that it accomplishes what its residents expect of its government.

Getting around town is easier and more convenient. Main Street is converted to Town ownership and cars can park along its edges. Traffic is calmed and a gas station comes to town to service Northfield residents and visitors. The Schell Bridge is restored and the two sides of Town are thus better connected.

Northfield **campus** is bustling with activity. The new owner is compatible with the Town's values, has made an investment to protect the historic buildings, and provides recreational, art and cultural activities to which Town residents are welcome to participate. The additional population drawn to Northfield by the reuse of the campus has spurred **economic development** especially in the downtown where there are now more places to go and more to do. This attracts visitors to Town who not only enjoy the increased retail and dining options, but the also visit the Town's natural resources, making Northfield more of a complete destination. **Hiking and biking** are enjoyed by residents and visitors, and there are adequate **playgrounds** and **playing fields** for all.

COMMENTS:



ELEMENTS OF A VISION, PRELIMINARY GOALS, AND IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES FOR THE FUTURE OF NORTHFIELD

INTRODUCTION

Between March 6th and May 22nd a series of visioning meetings took place throughout Northfield. The meetings drew nearly 100 participants, including 65 attending the March 6th town-wide public forum, 32 participating in mini-forums. The purpose of the meetings was to define a shared vision for Northfield's future, and based on that vision, establish a series of goals and objectives with the aim of making Northfield a better place to live, work, and play.

Included in this document are (1) preliminary goals (based on public input); (2) preliminary objectives for the goals; (3) ideas for recommended strategies; and (4) for each goal, a “burning question” to provoke further discussion. These preliminary goals and objectives will be presented at a second town-wide public forum on June 13th. Forum attendees will be encouraged to discuss, develop and refine the goals and objectives.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT

WHAT PEOPLE MOST WANT TO PRESERVE

- Historic buildings along Main Street
- Natural beauty, including the river, farms, woods, open spaces, Rustic Ridge, views and vistas of these
- Farming tradition/Rural character
- Status as only town divided by the Connecticut River
- Lifestyle of a quiet, small town
- Dickinson Memorial Library
- Good schools
- Tool Library
- Local retail establishments
- History, including legacy of D. L. Moody/spiritual energy of the River valley

WHAT PEOPLE BELIEVE IS MOST IMPORTANT TO CHANGE

- Lack of community gathering opportunities
- Lack of citizen participation
- Lack of communication between town government and residents
- Existing form of town government
- Level of some town services
- Lack of by-law enforcement
- Condition of roads and traffic
- Lack of a gas station

WHAT MOST CONCERNS PEOPLE ABOUT THE NORTHFIELD CAMPUS REUSE

- Impact on town services including traffic and school system
- Size and scale of redevelopment
- Relationship between the town and new owners
- Impact on Northfield's history and values
- Impact on culture of Northfield
- Loss of potential tax revenue

WHAT PEOPLE BELIEVE ARE THE GREATEST POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF THE CAMPUS REUSE

- Source of tax revenue
- Job creator
- Stimulus to local economy
- Expanded opportunities for recreation, art and cultural activities
- Protection of historic buildings and landscape

DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS

- Community gathering space
- Preserved natural and historic features
- Increased access to the River/restoration of the Schell Bridge
- Increased recreational opportunities
- A gas station
- Public transportation
- Traffic, including trucks
- Land use regulation enforcement
- Environmental protection

- Government structure
- Communication between government and residents
- Opportunities for shopping and dining
- Expanded tax base
- Opportunities for art and cultural events
- Finding the “right” occupant for the Northfield campus

PRELIMINARY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND IDEAS FOR STRATEGIES

1. EXPAND COMMUNITY GATHERING OPPORTUNITIES

1.1 Organize/sponsor more events

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Draw residents from all geographic areas of town
- Promote interaction between old-timers and new-comers
- Expand information-sharing opportunities through the Town website.

1.2 Create more gathering spaces

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Establish a community center
- Build a public park (active and/or passive recreation)
- Create an arts/cultural center

BURNING QUESTION: WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING DO YOU THINK YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WOULD ENJOY? CHOOSE YOUR TOP THREE.

Town-Wide Events	Community Center	Passive Recreation Park (strolling, picnicking, sitting quietly, etc.)	Active Recreation Park (frisbee, soccer, football, baseball, basketball, swimming, etc.)	Arts/Cultural Center

2. PRESERVE NATURAL BEAUTY

2.1 Preserve farms and farmland

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Encourage owners of farmland to pursue Agricultural Preservation Restrictions (APR)

2.2 Preserve woodlands and open spaces

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Protect/preserve views and viewsheds
- Preserve Rustic Ridge

BURNING QUESTION: WHICH DO YOU CONSIDER THE MOST IMPORTANT NATURAL FEATURES TO PRESERVE? BE AS SPECIFIC AS YOU CAN.

3. PRESERVE AND ENHANCE HISTORIC CHARACTER

3.1 Enhance the Main Street streetscape

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Reconstruct the historic Main Street landscape and linear common

3.2 Promote stewardship of historic resources

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Preserve and protect historic landscapes and structures
 - along Main Street
 - the Stearns houses
 - the Schell Bridge
 - the Northfield campus
 - cemeteries and burying places

3.3 Broaden public understanding of and appreciation for Northfield's spiritual history

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Preserve, protect, and interpret Northfield's spiritual energy, including the legacy of D. L. Moody
- Preserve and interpret Northfield's Native American and 17th century history

BURNING QUESTION: WHICH ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT HISTORIC RESOURCES TO PRESERVE? BE SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE.

4. PRESERVE AND ENHANCE TOWN CHARACTER

4.1 Preserve the character of Main Street

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Maintain the scale, style and spacing of buildings along Main Street
- Better manage truck traffic along Main Street

4.2 Preserve open spaces

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Preserve and protect farmland
- Preserve and protect forest lands

4.3 Preserve the small town quality of life

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Maintain quality of schools

BURNING QUESTION: WHAT FEATURES DEFINE THE “CHARACTER” OF NORTHFIELD? BE SPECIFIC AS POSSIBLE.

5. PROACTIVELY PLAN FOR REUSE OF THE NORTHFIELD CAMPUS

5.1 Preserve the historic campus buildings and landscape

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Create development incentive(s), through local zoning, for prospective buyers to preserve the campus buildings and landscape
- Place preservation restrictions on campus buildings
- Nominate the campus for listing on the National Register of Historic Places

- Establish a Local Historic District to oversee physical changes to the campus

5.2 Promote a re-use that generates jobs and tax-revenues

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Extend public services (sewer) to the campus
- Establish a public/private partnership for redevelopment of all or a portion of the campus

BURNING QUESTION: WHAT SHOULD WE DO TO PRESERVE THE HISTORIC CAMPUS AND LANDSCAPE WHILE, AT THE SAME TIME ENCOURAGE DESIRABLE REUSE (E.G. ONE THAT BROADENS THE TAX BASE)?

6. INCREASE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

6.1 Encourage larger-scale economic activity at the edges of town

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Encourage the re-establishment of a gas/service station
- Organize a cooperative(?) similar to the Hanover (NH) Co-op - a member-owned food and service (gas) station
- Promote farming through APR programs
- Re-licensing agreement at Northfield Mountain?

6.2 Encourage small-scale retail and service businesses along Main Street

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Increase parking for businesses along Main Street
- Attract businesses selling American-made products
- Encourage a pub and dining establishments to locate in town

BURNING QUESTION: WHAT CAN WE DO TO ATTRACT MORE BUSINESSES TO NORTHFIELD?

7. MAINTAIN TOWN FACILITIES AND SERVICES AND IMPROVE COMMUNICATION

7.1 Continue to maintain town facilities

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Upgrade the police station, fire station, EMS facility
- Provide needed upgrades to the elementary school
- Renovate Town Hall

7.2 Provide adequate services

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

7.3 Improve communication between town government and residents

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Improve enforcement of land use regulations
- Amend the structure of town governance
- Encourage a greater diversity of residents to serve on town boards and committees.

BURNING QUESTION: WHAT CAN WE DO TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TOWN GOVERNMENT AND RESIDENTS?

8. INCREASE ACCESS TO THE RIVER

8.1 Open the River front through development of trails and boat launches

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Create a well-signed trail system connecting people to the River
- Open views to the river

8.2 Improve connections to the river

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Restore the Schell Bridge

BURNING QUESTION: WHAT KIND OF ACTIVITIES DO YOU THINK WOULD ATTRACT PEOPLE TO THE RIVER?

9. INCREASE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

9.1 Increase awareness of and access to existing recreational activities

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Maintain/expand hiking trails

9.2 Provide additional opportunities for recreation.

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Establish a community park for both passive and active recreation
- Expand sidewalks throughout town
- Construct a community pool
- Make Northfield a recreation destination

BURNING QUESTION: WHAT SHOULD A COMMUNITY PARK HAVE TO OFFER?

10. IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION IN AND AROUND TOWN

10.1 Support/provide alternative modes of transportation

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Purchase a senior van and provide expanded service for seniors
- Bring regional transit service (FRTA) to Northfield
- Expand network of sidewalks

10.2 Increase safety

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Re-route truck traffic away from Main Street
- Improve maintenance of unpaved roads
- Enforce speed limits along major roads

10.3 Beautify the Main Street corridor

SOME IDEAS REGARDING STRATEGIES

- Complete/expand Main Street enhancements
 - Bury overhead utilities

- Re-plant double row of shade trees
- Install period lighting

BURNING QUESTION: WHAT STREETS IN NORTHFIELD SHOULD HAVE SIDEWALKS? (OR WHAT ARE MAIN STREET'S MOST IMPORTANT PHYSICAL FEATURES?)



Attend Northfield's First Community Meeting

Sponsored by **Northfield Master Plan Committee & Roundtable**

When: Wednesday, March 6th 7 - 9 pm

Where: Town Hall Auditorium



You Speak / We Listen
Share Your Best Ideas for Northfield

- *What do you like most and want to preserve?
- *What would you change or improve?
- *What ideas do you have about the campus?
- *What should Northfield look like in 2023?

Refreshments * Raffle * Door Prizes

Help make Northfield an even better place to live, work and play!

Sponsored by
Northfield
Master Plan Roundtable



Northfield's F _ T _ RE?

What's missing? "U" are!

**You are invited to a town wide conversation to help make
Northfield a better place to live, work and play**

When: Wednesday, March 6th 7-9 pm

Where: Town Hall Auditorium

Hot Topics!

- ? What do you like most about Northfield and want to preserve?
- ? What would like to change or improve about Northfield?
- ? Do you have ideas about the campus?
- ? What would you like Northfield to look like in 2023?

**Come one ...Come All
with your
best ideas
for Northfield!**

**Refreshments
&
Door prizes**

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WHAT: A Town-wide Public Forum:

“You Speak/We Listen”

Purpose:

To invite the Northfield community to come together and generate ideas that will create a shared vision for the Town’s future. These will be used to develop goals and to identify steps to meet these goals. This will be the foundation of the master plan to guide decision-making regarding Northfield’s future over the next two decades.

WHERE: Town Hall Auditorium

WHEN: March 6, 2013

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

AGENDA

7:00 – 7:30	Welcome, Introductions
	PowerPoint Presentation
7:30 – 8:30	Small Group Discussions
8:30 - 9:00	Report Back
	Next Steps

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Summary of Public Input:

A Town-wide Public Workshop

(1st in a series of public forums to be held as part of the master planning process)



“You Speak/We Listen”

Northfield Town Hall

Wednesday, March 6, 2013

6:00 p.m.

Attendees: approximately 65 residents

Meeting Purpose and Process

Purpose

A town-wide public workshop was held at the Northfield Town Hall on Wednesday, March 6, 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to invite the Northfield community to come together and generate ideas that will create a shared vision for the Town’s future. These will be used to develop goals and to identify steps to meet these goals. This will be the foundation of the master plan to guide decision-making regarding Northfield’s future over the next two decades.

Process

Approximately 65 residents (based on sign-in sheets) and six (6) Northfield Steering Committee and Master Plan Roundtable members attended the public workshop. The Consultant Team presented a PowerPoint slide show summarizing the planning process, work completed to-date, and provided a brief overview of the visioning process.

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Participants were divided into six smaller groups where discussions were facilitated. Conversation was spirited and participants seemed significantly engaged in the process. Afterwards each group presented a brief summary of their group's discussion; there seemed to be a significant degree of consensus regarding resident desires as well as their concerns. Additionally, a Sign Up Sheet asked attendees whether they would be interested in further participation in the planning process; this was received with much enthusiasm evidenced by the large number of people who signed up.

During the small group discussions, participants were asked the following questions:

- ***“What are your MOST favorite things about Northfield (that you would want to ensure be preserved in the future)”?***
- ***“What are your LEAST favorite things about Northfield (that you feel are important to change in the future)”?***
- ***In thinking about the REUSE OF THE CAMPUS,***
 - ***What are the things that most concern you?***
 - ***What are the things that you see as potential benefits?***
- ***“If you could do one thing to IMPROVE Northfield, what would it be?”***
- ***“What makes Northfield Unique?”***

The following is a summary of these discussions.

DEVELOPING A SHARED VISION OF NORTHFIELD'S FUTURE

Crafting a vision statement is a way of understanding and describing the desired future as envisioned by a group of people. The input of those who participated in this visioning workshop will be combined with the input of residents gathered in other venues to craft a vision statement and goals for the future of Northfield. The following represent the key elements to include in the vision statement as identified by the participants of the workshop. An action plan will be developed at a later phase in the process; it will be based on this vision. The plan will outline steps necessary to reach the future desired state that is based on the community's common values as much as is possible.

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Highlights of Workshop Discussion

Underlying Themes:

- *A yearning for more opportunities for community gathering, places to go, places to feel a sense of belonging to Northfield and a sense of community related to a sense of place. People identified a range of possibilities including a town center, a community center, more recreational facilities and more shops and restaurants.*
- *A desire to preserve and enhance the natural and historic features of the town and the ambiance created by these with strong support for the preservation of Main Street, the restoration of Schell Bridge and increased access to the River.*
- *A concern that the campus reuse does not negatively impact the town's finances, character or culture, and that instead it is used as an opportunity to obtain a good neighbor that provides more opportunities to Town residents for recreation and arts and cultural activities as well as provides incentive for additional businesses that add to the tax base and offer more shopping and eating options. Additionally it is hoped that the new use might provide local jobs and revenue to the town.*

Northfield residents expressed a significant appreciation for their **FAVORITE THINGS about Northfield** especially with regard to the physical features of the town. There was much agreement regarding the elements that participants enjoyed, specifically the **historic buildings**, especially along Main Street and **natural beauty**, including the River, the farms, woods, and open spaces, Rustic Ridge, and views and vistas of these. The **farming tradition** as well farming activity and resultant **rural character** is much appreciated. Many enjoyed the Town's status as being the only Town with the **Connecticut River** running through it.

They also like the **lifestyle**, supported by a quiet and safe small town, where people know one another, that is a good place to bring up children. Town facilities such as the **library, good schools and the Tool library** at the Transfer Station were seen to reinforce this way of life. **Local establishments** such as Mim's, IGA, the outdoor movie theater, Creamie, the vegetable stands and the Farmer's Market also contribute to the uniqueness of the Town.

Additionally, many referred to **history and the "spiritual legacy"** of Moody and the "spiritual energy" of the River Valley as something to appreciate and preserve.

Workshop participants listed their **LEAST FAVORITE THINGS about Northfield** with an equivalent degree of consensus. The absolutely number one thing that people felt **missing are opportunities for community gathering**. Many expressed a yearning for this and listed possible solutions including having a town common, town center, community center, public gathering space, "third places" and more community events. Somewhat related to this was the observation that there seemed to be a relative **lack of citizen participation** but also relatively poor **communication between town government and residents**.

There was much discussion regarding what was seen as a need to review the existing **form of government** that was seen by many as not working well. Additionally, there was some discussion for the need to **improve some town services** and **better enforcement of by-laws**. The **traffic and condition of the roads** also received attention. Many lamented the fact that there is **no gas station**.

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POTENTIAL BENEFITS to campus reuse were seen as numerous and included the hope that it could be a **potential source of revenue for the Town** as well as possibly **providing jobs** to Town residents. Additionally, many participants expressed the hope that the reuse of the campus would provide a **stimulus to economic development** in the town resulting in creating desirable uses and a more vibrant community. All groups were especially interested in **additional opportunities for recreation and art and cultural activities**. Also, there was consensus regarding the hope that the new users **preserve the historic buildings and the campus**.

CONCERNS regarding the campus reuse revolved around several issues, but seemed to primarily focus on the **potential impacts (and related costs) to town services (especially traffic and school system)**, the **size and scale of the redevelopment** especially in relation to the town, the **relationship between the new owners and the town** (e.g. Will it be cooperative? Will the town have access to the campus?) and the **preservation of the history of Northfield and its values**. Additionally, many expressed concern that if the new owner is tax exempt, this would represent a **potential loss of opportunity for revenue for the town**. There was also concern regarding **impact on the culture** of Northfield and on the affects of having college-aged residents and all this implies.

In terms of **DESIRED IMPROVEMENTS**, the **NUMBER ONE improvement** identified by the workshop participants was for a **community gathering space**. Some saw this as occurring downtown, others in a community center, a park, recreational facility, town-owned, not town-owned – but all groups referred to the need for a place for the community to gather.

The appreciation of natural and historic features was further expressed in a **desire to preserve and enhance** these features; much enthusiasm was expressed for the **restoration of the Schell Bridge**, increasing access to the River, expanding opportunities for hiking and preserving open space, but also creating more park and playground areas.

There was significant support for **increased access to the River** (including ideas for a bike path, a Marina, and a park) and **more recreational opportunities** in general, especially for children. **Hiking and biking** seemed especially appealing.

Participants also expressed a desire for **public transportation** (including a pedi cab) and for a **gas station**. They also felt that there were **traffic improvements** to be made with much discussion regarding **truck traffic**.

Enforcing land use regulations, and creating better zoning and other guidelines to **protect Main Street** was also a majority concern. Additionally improved **environmental protection** was mentioned, specifically enforcing regulations prohibiting building on wetlands. Changing the **government structure** was a popular suggestion as was **improving communication** between town government and residents.

A desire to bring in **more businesses** was expressed in a number of ways for the dual purpose of **expanding the tax base** as well as for providing **more options for shopping and dining** (including at least one group's enthusiasm for a pub, an idea applauded by the larger group). Some also wished to attract **tourists** and to become more of a complete destination (citing the fact that there are natural features to attract outsiders to visit, but not many places for them to shop and eat). All agreed that additional opportunities for **art and cultural events** are desirable.

Finding the **right occupant for the campus** was identified as a priority. Interestingly, many of the potential benefits participants listed as possible positive impacts of the campus reuse are the very same improvements they would like for the Town, especially increased recreational opportunities and increased economic development specifically in terms of shops and restaurants and art and cultural activities.

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Key Elements for a Vision & Goals for Northfield's Future

The following is based on a compilation of participant discussions (see pages that follow) and is a listing of the top responses in ranked order.

Favorite features

Historic buildings on Main Street
Natural Beauty
Farm Land, agriculture
Rural setting
Connecticut River
Open Spaces
Small town feeling
Schools
Quiet
Cultural/spiritual/education legacy
Recreational resources
Railroad
Schell Bridge
Hiking Trails
Wonderful Library
NMH Campus
Low Crime
Great place to raise children
Good location and access

Least Favorite features

No "center" of town
Lack of sense of community
Existing government is not functioning well
No gas station
Traffic and Roads
Town Government services
Lack of access along River
Lack of communication/citizen participation
No public transportation
Tax base lacks diversity
Lack of opportunities for recreation
No retirement housing
Environmental damage
Uncertainty
Environmental damage
High property taxes
Lack of an occupant for the campus
That Schell Bridge is not fixed

Concerns Re: Reuse of the Campus

Loss of opportunity for revenue
Compatibility of Mission/Heritage
Size/Scale
Relationship between owners and town
Impacts on town services & infrastructure
Character
Condition of buildings
Impact of College kids
Financial Burden to the Town

Potential Benefits of Campus Reuse

Potential source of tax revenue
Economic stimulus to provide new and desirable uses
Potential job generation
Preservation of historic buildings and campus
Good neighbors
Opportunity to reuse for needed uses

If you could do 1 thing to improve Northfield what would it be?

Create a community gathering place
Save and restore Schell Bridge
Change government structure
Community park/recreation
Find the right occupant for the campus
Improved Land use regulations and enforcement
Expand the tax base
Transportation, alternative modes
Ameliorate traffic conditions
Enhance connections to the River
Preserve what we have
Increase local food production
Preserve open space
Pride in town buildings (like pride in ones home)
Pub
Gas station

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What Makes Northfield Unique?

Participants identified a wide range of features that make Northfield unique (see page 14 for a complete list). These fell into the following categories:

Physical Setting

- The river splits the town
- Historic houses
- Schell Bridge
- Northfield campus
- Farms, woods
- Dark night skies
- Open spaces
- Clean air
- Hiking trails
- Farm land
- Rustic Ridge
- Views and varied vistas
- Highland neighborhood
- Natural beauty
- The New England National Scenic Trail
- Mill River Conservation Area

Town Character

- No mass commercialism
- Quaint
- Small town feel
- Caring neighbors
- Friendly folks
- Quiet, safe, rural
- No fast food joints

Heritage

- Moody legacy
- Historical beginnings
- Colonial history
- Spiritual energy of River Valley

Lifestyle

- A good place to bring up children
- Active churches
- Knowing one's neighbors
- Walkable downtown

Town and other Facilities

- Tool library
- Railroad Station
- Library
- Good schools
- Golf course
- Pool

Local Establishments

- Mim's
- Farmer's Market
- IGA
- Creamie
- Vegetable stands
- Outdoor movie theater

A MASTER PLAN FOR NORTHFIELD

Detailed Documentation of Small Group Discussions

1. “What are your MOST favorite things about Northfield (that you would want to ensure be preserved in the future)?”

<i>Response</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i># of groups</i>	<i># of dots¹</i>
Historic buildings on Main Street	historical beginnings, architecture, 2-mile Main St. homes, restoration of historic properties	6	35
Natural Beauty	Rural environment, amount of wildlife, forest & scenery, country setting, variety of views, scenic, woodlands, landscape, varied geography	6	31
Farm Land, agriculture Rural setting	Right to Farm, agricultural integrity, history, rich soil, preserve farms along Main Street	5	28
Connecticut River	Running through the Town	5	27
Open Spaces		3	12
Small town feeling	Knowing one’s neighbors, Caring community Community cohesion around natural disasters/tragedy	3	9
Schools		4	9
Quiet		4	8
Cultural/spiritual/education legacy	DL Moody and the blending of these	2	8
Recreational resources	Pool, golf	2	7
Railroad		1	7
Schell Bridge		3	6
Hiking Trails		3	6
Wonderful Library		2	6
NMH Campus		3	5
Low Crime		1	5
Great place to raise children		1	5
Good location and access	Between Brattleboro, Keene, Greenfield Close to the Five-College area/cities Central with proximity to Boston, NH, VT	4	5
People	Social (low intensity), friendly	3	4
Walkable downtown		1	4
Rustic Ridge	Preserve it	2	3
Area Small Businesses, local cottage industries	Mim’s, The Northfield Drive-In, “The Notch” Restaurant	2	3
Dark Night Skies		1	3
Transfer Station	Tool library, etc.	2	2
Water Resources		1	2
World Christian reputation	And recognition	1	2
Vibrant Environment Committee		6	2
Town Hall Government		1	1
Clean Air		1	1
Greatness of the Town		1	1
Farmer’s Market		1	1
Economic Solvency		1	-
Hydro Plant	For economic reasons	1	-

¹ All participants were asked to respond to this question. Once all group members had contributed their ideas, each participant was given 5 dots and asked to get up from their seats and “vote” on which they felt was most important by placing the dots next to the words on the large pads. Each participant was requested to use all of their dots, but instructed not to place any more than 3 dots on any one item.

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Diverse opinion of residents		1	-
Northfield Mountain		1	-

2. "What are your LEAST favorite things about Northfield (that you feel are important to change in the future)?"

<i>Response</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i># of groups</i>	<i># of dots²</i>
No "center" of town Lack of sense of community	Lack of town common, central park or gathering place Community center, No "third place", Need more community events, lack of cohesive town spirit, missing a town common	6	41
Existing government is not functioning well	Dysfunctional, balkanization, partisanship Good Old Boy town government, not proactive	6	31
No gas station		6	27
Traffic and Roads	On Rt. 10/63 , Condition of the roads Through town, needs to be less Speed limits on rural roads too low* Truck traffic**, gravel pit & noise	4	25
Town Government services	Refuses to plow access to trails Lack of enforcement of bylaws/functioning bylaws, Special Permit process for businesses	5	14
Lack of access along River	No trails, no park	2	14
Lack of communication/citizen participation	Low power radio, weekly newsletter Improve communication from town government to residents, silent majority apathy, lack of volunteers	5	9
No public transportation		1	9
Tax base lacks diversity	Need more commercial taxes	3	9
Lack of opportunities for recreation	No large center playing fields, no parks*, no recreation for kids*	3	7
No retirement housing	Over 55	1	6
Environmental damage	Buildings on wetlands	1	6
Uncertainty		1	6
Environmental damage	Buildings on wetlands	1	6
High property taxes		1	6
Lack of an occupant for the campus		1	5
That Schell Bridge is not fixed		1	5
Existing zoning	More comprehensive zoning is needed	1	3
Lack of cohesive town spirit		1	3
Condition of the fire station	A new one is needed	1	3
Lack of maintenance of town properties		1	3
Missed opportunities	Over the last few years	1	3
Resistance to change		1	2

² All participants were asked to respond to this question. Once all group members had contributed their ideas, each participant was given 5 dots and asked to get up from their seats and "vote" on which they felt was most important by placing the dots next to the words on the large pads. Each participant was requested to use all of their dots, but instructed not to place any more than 3 dots on any one item.

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Unwillingness to fund town projects	On the part of some residents (e.g. reduction of CPA percentage, lack of support of capital expenditures)	1	2
No pharmacy		1	2
Lack of Veteran's Memorial	Civil War, War of 1812	1	2
too close to Vt. Yankee		1	2
Lack of internet capacity		1	1
Lack of parking to support businesses		1	1
Need to take back Main Street	From State	1	1
Lack of views	Lack of openness	1	1
No more bike shop		1	1
Short term memory of town's history		1	1
No pubs		1	1
Derelict properties		1	-
Lack of affordable housing		1	-



Small Group Discussions

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3. In thinking about the REUSE OF THE CAMPUS,
 A. What are the things that most concern you (up to 3 per person)?

<i>General Concern</i>	<i>Specific Concern</i>	<i># of groups</i>
Loss of opportunity for revenue	If the owner is tax exempt, PILOT payment in lieu of taxes If a 501C3 non-profit, the town would lose tax money	5
Compatibility of Mission/Heritage	Maintenance of education mission – focus on helping women; preservation of ecumenical heritage What if the new owner is not an educational institution Values promoted by college may be inconsistent with Northfield views; world view of new occupant	5
Size/Scale	Will it be too big? And lead to big industry problems How might it be subdivided? Unplanned development May be disproportionately large in relation to town and will therefore, overpower/overwhelm the town	5
Relationship between owners and town	Cooperation between the town and the new owners town access to the campus Town – Gown communication	5
Impacts on town services & infrastructure	Cost of town services; Strain on town infrastructure Traffic* Public safety issues School system* Water quality	5
Character	Concern to retain campus character	4
Condition of buildings	Nothing will happen and it will decay Concern about preservation of historic buildings Poor stewardship	4
Impact of College kids	Negative behavior exhibited by college students (e.g. drinking, drugs, etc.) Nothing for students (youth) to do in town High school vs. college kids (different needs/behaviors)	3
Financial Burden to the Town	Abandonment and ending up in the hands of the town	3
Ownership	Who will the owners be? Corporate takeover? The new owner will be “ultra conservative” in a liberal/progressive town	2
Use	Will it stay a school?	2
Decision-making	Town govt not sophisticated enough to protect our interests; decision made by people who do not appreciate the town or live here Town say or control over what happens	2
Impact on neighborhood	Lower property values	2
Impact on the environment	Including light pollution	1
Impact on town culture	Occupants will not integrate with the town	2
Temporary impacts	Construction	1
A common vision	Fear that the entire town will not be able to be pleased	1
No jobs for local population		1
Not concerned	The town needs to have a better educated population & a college at the Northfield site could help achieve this	1

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B. What are the things that you see as potential benefits (up to 3 per person)?

<i>General Comment</i>	<i>Specific Benefit</i>	<i># of groups</i>
Potential source of tax revenue		6
Economic stimulus to provide new and desirable uses	More vibrant community Expanded education, arts and culture (6) Opportunities for new uses for the town Possible use of pool, golf course Economic development Bakeries, restaurants	6
Potential job generation		5
Preservation of historic buildings and campus		4
Good neighbors		3
Opportunity to reuse for needed uses	Retirement housing (for over 55) Mixed use campus Retain as open space	3
Could generate a gas station!		2
Restore Northfield education reputation	Celebration of Northfield heritage	2
Livens up Main Street	Creates a destination for tourists	2
Creates a potential destination		2
Will support an increase in recreational opportunities		2
Expanded interest in Schell Bridge		1
Students may do community service		1
Increase in diversity		1
Community access to pool		1
Wider world impact	Depending on the new occupant	1
Reduced Water and Sewer user fees		1
Increase in property values		1

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4. "If you could do one thing to IMPROVE Northfield, what would it be?"

<i>Response</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i># of groups</i>	<i># of dots³</i>
Create a community gathering place	Town center, Main Street place/park For families, multi-generational Construct a larger senior center Not town-owned	5	40
Save and restore Schell Bridge	With a river park	5	34
Change government structure	Selectmen, Town Manager Create a 5-person Select board Create an elected zoning board	4	25
Community park/recreation	Recreation for children, playground Town access to golf course & pool	3	18
Find the right occupant for the campus		2	18
Improved Land use regulations and enforcement	Improve enforcement of bylaws ; Zoning, More detailed Land use guidelines Zoning to protect historic Main Street	4	18
Expand the tax base	Bring in more jobs and business Support & attract local business	3	22
Transportation, alternative modes	To rail, bus, in county, public pedi cab Railroad stops	3	14
Ameliorate traffic conditions	Obtain grant funding to improve roads Traffic calming, create a by-pass for truck traffic, Reduce speed limit	4	14
Enhance connections to the River	View of River from downtown Bicycle path to the River Create a Marina on the River	3	12
Preserve what we have	Clean up days in Spring and Fall; Identify historic spots	2	8
Increase local food production		1	7
Preserve open space	Encourage cluster development for housing	2	6
Pride in town buildings (like pride in ones home)	Renovate and expand town hall Auditorium and services; improve energy efficiency	2	6
Pub		1	6
Gas station		2	6
Improve communication between town government & residents	Through the use of technology, Strive for full community participation; Greater respect for diversity of opinion	1	5
More hiking/biking places	Improve existing, increase awareness	2	4
More support of personal communication technology	More high speed internet and wireless access hot spots; More cell phone coverage	1	2
Develop tourist industry	Northfield needs an Inn, Create a booster organization to promote Northfield	1	3
Control CT river erosion		1	2
Cultural umbrella	Like historic commission	1	-

³ All participants were asked to respond to this question. Once all group members had contributed their ideas, each participant was given 5 dots and asked to get up from their seats and "vote" on which they felt was most important by placing the dots next to the words on the large pads. Each participant was requested to use all of their dots, but instructed not to place any more than 3 dots on any one item.

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Back of the Agenda

Participants were asked to write down on the back of their agendas their response to the question: “*What makes Northfield Unique?*” . They were also given the opportunity to write down any “additional comments.” These are recorded on the following pages.



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What makes Northfield unique?

<i>No mass commercialism</i>	<i>Mim's</i>	<i>Walkable downtown</i>
<i>River splits the town</i>	<i>Quaint</i>	<i>No fast food joints</i>
<i>Moody legacy</i>	<i>Views and varied vistas</i>	<i>Caring neighbors</i>
<i>Schell Bridge</i>	<i>Small town feel</i>	<i>Friendly folks</i>
<i>Historic houses</i>	<i>Good schools</i>	<i>Mill River Conservation Area</i>
<i>Northfield campus</i>	<i>The Notch</i>	<i>Farming for 1500 years</i>
<i>Active churches</i>	<i>Rooster Bistro</i>	<i>Spiritual energy of River Valley</i>
<i>Forest hiking trails, ridges</i>	<i>Mim's</i>	<i>Place in American history</i>
<i>Knowing one's neighbors</i>	<i>IGA</i>	<i>Close to land</i>
<i>Historical beginnings</i>	<i>Creamie</i>	<i>Great neighborhoods</i>
<i>Farms, woods</i>	<i>Highland neighborhood</i>	<i>Diversity of opinions</i>
<i>Dark night skies, open spaces, clean air</i>	<i>Natural beauty</i>	<i>Centrally isolated</i>
<i>NMH campus</i>	<i>Vegetable stands</i>	<i>Spiritual and cultural legacy</i>
<i>Moody legacy</i>	<i>Rustic Ridge</i>	<i>Its setting in a river valley and hills all around.</i>
<i>Tool library</i>	<i>Outdoor movie theater</i>	<i>History that goes back to the founding of the US</i>
<i>Hiking trails</i>	<i>Friendly people</i>	<i>It's ability to stay small and unchanged over long periods of time.</i>
<i>Farmer's Market</i>	<i>The New England National Scenic Trail</i>	<i>A river divides us but it is beautiful.</i>
<i>CT River</i>	<i>Conservation land</i>	<i>Small but vibrant progressive/environmental community</i>
<i>Many animals live here</i>	<i>Quiet, safe, rural community</i>	<i>Very pretty with hills and river valley, wildlife</i>
<i>Railroad station</i>	<i>Rich history</i>	<i>Rural flavor</i>
<i>Fabulous farm land</i>	<i>Safe</i>	
<i>The mountain ridges</i>	<i>Gold course</i>	
<i>Wonderful library</i>	<i>Right-to-Farm community</i>	
<i>Schell Bridge</i>	<i>Location</i>	
<i>Main Street historic homes</i>	<i>The pool</i>	
<i>Colonial History</i>	<i>The golf course</i>	

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Northfield, of course, is the only town in three state to be spilt by the river. What a bonus.. two banks with farmland and hills. However, our kids have surprisingly few experiences on the river due to restricted access, unless the family specifically has boats and launches at Pachaugs. We drive over it daily, sometimes several times. We NEED a public gathering place with access to the river.

We need a gas station!

Get rid of the binders announcing Town Committee Meetings and post them on the official town website.

Northfield is a river town with a beautiful set of vistas and an historic campus/bridge.

No town center

No public transportation

No gas station

No bakery

Do not destroy the historical buildings

Restore Schell Bridge

By-laws related to earth removal around the gravel removal operations need to be enforced.

In W. Northfield we have a MAJOR aquifer which needs better protection as supply to the Regional school is affected.

Great need for recreational access to the River – trails, a park, rehabilitated Schell Bridge. The river is a potentially phenomenal town asset.

It's the center of the world!

Small town feel without all of the small town inconvenience.

The delightful mix of agriculture, wild land, river and a population made up of farmers and tradesmen with a healthy sprinkling of teachers and other professionals.

Work up a proper presentation and sales force to attract businesses, etc. to the town. The Town should be soliciting businesses or a good college to come rather than complaining.

Until the scare of the college Northfield was a rural community that time had passed by. We need controls to preserve its uniqueness, charm and rural setting before it's too late.

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Perks of Participation



Door prizes and refreshments offered to participants.

**Notes from Flip Chart/Notes of Private Student Responses
Middle School Student Mini-Forum at PVRs
Sue Ross facilitator
May 22, 2013**

21 Middle School students attended the session at PVRs this morning. Mr. Wherli, the Principal, was very helpful. With only 20 minutes available, I decided to do a Think-Pair-Share and we just finished when the bell rang. There were lots of thoughtful answers to the questions. I provided cards and pens for students to write down their thoughts for 5 min. Then, for 5 min.

they talked to a partner to share their ideas while I walked around checking. Then I conducted a 5 minute session where we collected all the answers/ ideas on the flip chart papers.

Flip Chart: What do you like best about Northfield?

The little shops on Main Street

The Location/ its Walkable

Everyone knows each other

The Library

The Creamie

The Size and Open Spaces

Safe

Quiet at Night

People are Nice

Friendly

Pioneer Valley Regional School

Food from Farms

Wildlife

**Notes from Flip Chart/Notes of Private Student Responses
Middle School Student Mini-Forum at PVRs
Sue Ross facilitator
May 22, 2013**

Flip Chart: What do you like least about Northfield?

PVRs Food

Roads are not bikeable

PVRs Track

The Old NMH Campus

PVRs Softball Equipment

No Dunkin Donuts

No Culture

REALLY small

No Gas Station

Flip Chart: What One Thing would make Northfield better?

A Gas Station

Better Roads for Biking

A Theater for Performances

A Better School System

A Restaurant for Family gatherings

Baseball Equipment

A Track

A School for the Northfield Campus

**Notes from Flip Chart/Notes of Private Student Responses
Middle School Student Mini-Forum at PVRs
Sue Ross facilitator
May 22, 2013**

Student private written responses before Flip Chart discussion began:

What do you like best about Northfield?

- 1) locally grown food, farms, a lot of wildlife and nature
- 2) Very open town. A lot of space
- 3) The thing I like most about Northfield is that everyone knows each other and we're always nice and friendly
- 4) I like that it's quiet
- 5) I like Pioneer the best
- 6) All of the biking trails, and the nice people, a bank
- 7) The center (Main) Street of Northfield has a lot of the necessities that many people need daily, or that are just convenient (IGA, MIMS, Bookstore, school, Antiques)
- 8) I like best that there is a Creamie and several small stores
- 9) The School district/ Northfield Sports people
- 10)The location because it's close to all the other local towns
- 11)I like Pioneer best
- 12)Stores that you can walk to and buy things
- 13)What I like best about Northfield is that it's a small town so I can walk everywhere or bike from my house to a friend's or the creamy or something
- 14)The people
- 15)Unlike most of the towns in the Pioneer Regional School District, Northfield actually has an economy.
- 16)The thing I like best about Northfield is how everyone in the community knows each other very well.
- 17)The thing I like most about Northfield is how clean it is.
- 18)I like that its nice and big, but also quiet and very pretty.
- 19)My favorite parts of Northfield are the schools, small businesses, and Library. My very favorite part is the community. We have many incredible people, students and adults in Northfield.
- 20)Creamy, side walks in the center, IGA
- 21)Pioneer

What do you like least about Northfield?

- 1) It' really small
- 2) I'm not sure because I am a Bernardston resident.

**Notes from Flip Chart/Notes of Private Student Responses
Middle School Student Mini-Forum at PVRs
Sue Ross facilitator
May 22, 2013**

- 3) No Gas Station
- 4) I don't like how there is almost nothing to do.
- 5) I live in Greenfield so I don't know much
- 6) There is no gas station; PVRs food
- 7) The highway coming down past the school doesn't really fit the small-town feeling that the rest of the town gives.
- 8) I like least that there is no gas station.
- 9) No gas station in Northfield
- 10) The amount of places to buy things
- 11) Pioneer's food is bad.
- 12) There is not really culture in Northfield so you can't learn new ideas.
- 13) I don't really have a least favorite thing about it.
- 14) The shortage of gas for grownups
- 15) There isn't any culture in Northfield. "Gift boutiques" are not culture.
- 16) The thing I like least about Northfield is how it can be difficult to find resources in the town. For example, people have to drive to Gill, Bernardston, or even Greenfield just to get gas.
- 17) The thing I don't like about Northfield. Well I don't think there is anything I don't like about it.
- 18) There's kind of a lot of forest between different parts making it take a little longer to get from one place to another.
- 19) I don't like all the forest development taking place in Northfield. I don't like the very small amount of crime in Northfield, or the fact that the old Northfield gas station building has not been put to use. I also don't like that the old NMH Campus is still empty
- 20) Small elementary school gym, have to drive to go most places
- 21) Pioneer's track it's not made of the best material.

What one thing would make Northfield better?

1. Make a Theater; more Art kind of things like music, art classes
2. Improve on homework load. Maybe give simpler assignments to save a few hours in the day for relaxation.
3. One thing that would make it better is a Dunkin Donuts, and a restaurant.
4. More places to hangout with friends.
5. If there was more things for kids to do outside
6. Build a gas station; b-ball equipment
7. Dunkin Donuts?

**Notes from Flip Chart/Notes of Private Student Responses
Middle School Student Mini-Forum at PVRs
Sue Ross facilitator
May 22, 2013**

8. Something that would make Northfield better is if there was a gas station within the town
9. Build a gas station
10. More restaurants and places to buy supplies and maybe a Dunkin Donuts so you don't have to go to Greenfield to get your caramel Iced coffee
11. Better food; Better wrestling mat!!
12. Introduce a chain restaurant such as dunkin donuts or subway
13. I wouldn't really change anything, I like it the way it is
14. If we had a gas station and better biking roads
15. Improve the elementary school until children that are born here have chance to learn, and possibly leave.
16. One thing that could positively impact Northfield is building a gas station on the Main St
17. Something that would make Northfield better is if they put Dunkin Donuts around town.
18. Add a candy store!
19. We need a gas station, and a school for the old NMH campus.
20. Dugouts at the elementary school.
21. A new track.

A MASTER PLAN FOR NORTHFIELD



Summary of Public Input:

A Series of Mini-Visioning Sessions Around Town

In an effort to expand the outreach effort related to the master planning process members of the Steering Committee and Roundtable held five mini-visioning sessions to augment the town-wide public workshop held on March 6, 2013. This resulted in including the input of 32 additional residents.

During the small group discussions, participants were asked the following questions:

- ***“What are your MOST favorite things about Northfield (that you would want to ensure be preserved in the future)”?***
- ***“What are your LEAST favorite things about Northfield (that you feel are important to change in the future)”?***
- ***In thinking about the REUSE OF THE CAMPUS,***
 - ***What are the things that most concern you?***
 - ***What are the things that you see as potential benefits?***
- ***“If you could do one thing to IMPROVE Northfield, what would it be?”***
- ***“What makes Northfield Unique?”***

The following forums were held for a total of five (5) small group discussions.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Location of Forum</i>	<i># of small groups</i>	<i>Total # of participants</i>
<i>April 10, 2013</i>	<i>Trinitarian Congregational Church</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>April 14, 2013</i>	<i>Loughreys Home</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>April 16, 2013</i>	<i>EMS</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>		<i>5</i>	<i>32</i>

The following is a summary of these discussions.

A MASTER PLAN FOR NORTHFIELD

Summary of Mini-visioning Participant Response

Favorite Features

Small town
Main Street/historic homes
Farming community
Library and programs
Good schools
Open spaces & views
Outstanding Highway Dept.
Schell Bridge
Trails, walking, hiking
Historical significance
Hunting
Access to river

Concerns Re: Reuse of the Campus

Lack of use
Historic preservation & upkeep of buildings
Impact on infrastructure & services
Size/scale
Lack of town control
501C-non profit
May not use of whole campus

Least Favorite Features

No gas station
Lack of economic stability
Select Board
Too many taxes
Over regulation
Lack of enforcement of regs
No "made in America" products in shops
No police station
Too many unregistered vehicles
Lack of jobs
Empty campus
Lack of swimming pool

Potential Benefits of Campus Reuse

Potential source of tax revenue
Economic growth in area
New jobs
Will bring new people to town
If educational institution, provide educational opportunities for young people in town

If you could do one thing to improve Northfield what would it be?

Gas station
Plan for future
Improved Board of Selectmen
A good restaurant
Make campus into a collaborative
Deep pocketed tenant for campus
Jobs

A MASTER PLAN FOR NORTHFIELD

Detailed Documentation of Mini-Visioning Sessions

1. "What are your MOST favorite things about Northfield (that you would want to ensure be preserved in the future)?"

Response	Comments	# of groups	# of dots¹
Small town	Helpful/caring, small town feel, friendships Peace and tranquility, sense of community, friendliness of neighbors, neighborhood	5	26
Main Street/historic homes		4	18
Farming community	Rural character, farms	3	12
Library and programs		2	11
Good schools		3	10
Open spaces & views	Including undeveloped wetlands	3	9
Outstanding Highway Dept.	Excellent town road maintenance	2	8
Schell Bridge	A bridge to connect W. Northfield to E. Northfield	2	7
Trails, walking, hiking	Village and trails, sidewalks, hiking, snowmobiling	4	6
Historical significance	Moody history and legacy	3	5
Hunting		2	5
Access to river		2	5
Churches	Choices	2	4
Scenic back roads		1	3
Low crime rate		1	3
Golf course		2	2
Campus	Reuse of campus	2	1
Dedicated /caring people in town government		1	1
Mim's front porch		1	-
Clubs		1	1
Outdoor theater		1	-
Recreation Commission		1	-
Low population density		1	-
Community service organizations		1	1
Post office hours expanded	For mailbox access	1	-
Participation in Fire Dept.		1	-
Water rescue team		1	1
Police Department		1	1

¹ All participants were asked to respond to this question. Once all group members had contributed their ideas, each participant was given 5 dots and asked to get up from their seats and "vote" on which they felt was most important by placing the dots next to the words on the large pads. Each participant was requested to use all of their dots, but instructed not to place any more than 3 dots on any one item.

A MASTER PLAN FOR NORTHFIELD

2. "What are your LEAST favorite things about Northfield (that you feel are important to change in the future)?"

<i>Response</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i># of groups</i>	<i># of dots²</i>
No gas station		5	32
Lack of economic stability	Businesses not encouraged, not enough businesses, not vision of economic growth Have to spend money out of town	4	18
Select Board	Having only 3-person board "Embarrassing meetings"; lack of decision making	3	14
Too many taxes	Disproportionate valuation for tax rates based on geographic location	2	6
Over regulation	Of personal property (permits)	1	6
Lack of enforcement of regs	On run down properties, of by-laws in general	2	5
No "made in America" products in shops		1	5
No police station		2	5
Too many unregistered vehicles		1	4
Lack of jobs		1	4
Empty campus		1	4
Lack of swimming pool	Place to swim	1	4
No town nurse		1	3
No place to ice skate		1	3
Communication with Police Depart.	"Some lack people skills"	1	3
Small number of people participating	In town government	1	3
Lack of capital plan for Town-owned buildings		1	2
Lack of youthful energy & new ideas		1	2
Lack of sustainability for Town		1	2
Not enough dinner restaurants		1	2
Schell bridge not useable		1	2
No term limits on town officials		1	2
Snow plows go too fast	Throw snow/salt onto property	1	2
Not enough street lights		1	1
Unorganized school bus stops	Too many	1	1
Not everyone has broadband	Can't see Town meeting	1	1
Lack of rules	As to who maintains crosswalks	1	1
No sidewalk on other busy streets		1	1

² All participants were asked to respond to this question. Once all group members had contributed their ideas, each participant was given 5 dots and asked to get up from their seats and "vote" on which they felt was most important by placing the dots next to the words on the large pads. Each participant was requested to use all of their dots, but instructed not to place any more than 3 dots on any one item.

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<i>Response</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i># of groups</i>	<i># of dots₂</i>
Difficulty accessing town services		1	1
Need senior housing		1	-
Need transportation		1	-
Main Street	Main St. is a state highway, too much traffic	1	-
Excessive water & sewer rates		1	-
Poor parking at the library		1	-
Finance committee		1	-

3. *In thinking about the REUSE OF THE CAMPUS,*
 A. *What are the things that most concern you (up to 3 per person)?*

<i>General Concern</i>	<i>Specific Concern</i>	<i># of groups</i>
Lack of use	May result in deteriorated buildings May not be able to find a taker	5
Historic preservation & upkeep of buildings	May tear down historic buildings	4
Impact on infrastructure & services	Impact on water & sewer system (1 groups) Potential crowding in the schools (2 groups) Increase in traffic (2 groups)	4
Size/scale	Too large a population, too much development Could be a large number of voters, increase in number of students	3
Lack of town control	Hobby Lobby & NCF have control of future use; lack of concern by NCF as to how use will affect town	2
501C-non profit	We need an owner who has to pay taxes	2
May not use of whole campus	May split up the campus	2
Lack of businesses to support large institution		1
Concern regarding possibility of hazardous waste on site		1
May build condominiums		1
Loss of legacy	Moody Buildings: homestead and birthplace	1
May not be a higher education use		1
Restrictions by townspeople that limit use		1

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B. What are the things that you see as potential benefits (up to 3 per person)?

<i>General Comment</i>	<i>Specific Benefit</i>	<i># of groups</i>
Potential source of tax revenue		5
Economic growth in area	Increased foot traffic to sustain businesses	5
New jobs		3
Will bring new people to town	To be involved in town activities with a positive attitude Will bring young people to town	2
If educational institution, provide educational opportunities for young people in town		2
Place for a senior center		1
Potential senior housing		1
Environmental “clean up”	Clean up any hazardous waste	1
Keep campus attractive		1
Potential benefit to town services	Police, fire, etc.	1
Increase in cultural activities		1

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4. *"If you could do one thing to IMPROVE Northfield, what would it be?"*

Response	Comments	# of groups	# of dots³
Gas station		5	31
Plan for future	Good attitude, by town government, forward vision More "positivity" Set realistic budgets & stay within them	4	22
Improved Board of Selectmen	Larger board of selectmen Less "self indulgent board"	2	10
A good restaurant		3	9
Make campus into a collaborative	Town-operated, arts, technical school	1	8
Deep pocketed tenant for campus		1	4
Jobs		1	4
Creation of a park		1	3
Youth hostel destination		1	3
Emphasize outdoor recreation	Maintenance of boat ramp	1	3
Indoor shooting rink		1	3
Turn on the street lights		1	2
More available public restrooms	Also need to be maintained	1	2
Businesses		1	2
Schell bridge renovation	For bike path across river	1	2
Town-owned buildings need upkeep and renovation	Public safety building	1	2
Main Street by-pass		1	2
Food pantry		1	1
Get rid of the empty gas station		1	1
Community paramedic program		1	1
Regulate Jake brakes		1	-
Improved communication with Police	"have them talk to us, not at us"	1	-

³ All participants were asked to respond to this question. Once all group members had contributed their ideas, each participant was given 5 dots and asked to get up from their seats and "vote" on which they felt was most important by placing the dots next to the words on the large pads. Each participant was requested to use all of their dots, but instructed not to place any more than 3 dots on any one item.

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What makes Northfield unique?

Historical preservation	Outdoor theater
Dedicated volunteers	A possible campus for mostly educational purposes
Elder population	DL Moody – birthplace
Opportunity to secure our future by selling or filling empty campus	Trails for hiking, skiing, snowmobiling
Excellent schools – elementary and Pioneer	Northeast Utilities – unique source of electric power
Size of town	-----
Both sides of river	Location
Three states meet – VT, NH, MA	History
Long town center	Main Street and new sidewalk
-----	Friendly people
It is a friendly town	Industrious people
Has a place to buy groceries and other items	Beautiful homes
There are places to buy food	Good schools plus other choices
Several churches to choose from	Beautiful and useful library
People are concerned for others	People willing to serve on many town boards
I came in 1947 to teach	-----
-----	Wide, beautiful Main Street
A main street with many historic houses	Sidewalks
A neighborly feeling between people	Mim's front porch
We have a magnificent library	Campus
We have nature trails galore	Historic homes
We have NO gas station	Library serves in many ways
Great organizations	Caring people – food pantry, Thanksgiving and Christmas meals
-----	No gas station
Old houses – history	Some churches work together

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 It is historic and has a beautiful Main Street

Town is friendly and I'm amazed at how many people know each other

Pioneer HS is a great place for young people to get their education – small enough but not too small

There are areas in town that have been preserved – no additional buildings there

Beautiful landscape has been preserved for future generations

 Small town

Old houses

River

 Main Street

Moody history

Natural beauty

River

Schell Bridge

Golf course

Open spaces and views

Old buildings

Churches

Preserve campus

Farmlands

Rural character

Excellent road maintenance

Community newsletter

Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture, LLC with Community Circle, Community Preservation Assoc. & AECOM Engineering

 History

CT River

Schell Bridge

Open space & views

Old buildings

Churches

Best use of campus

Farms/agriculture

Town newsletter

 History

Number of churches

Golf course

Campus

Size of town

Main Street

Library

 Beautiful walking town – thanks for the sidewalks!

Great facilities – library, schools

Friendliness of people and merchants

Giving community

Walking trails and sidewalks

 Lovely Main Street even though the wonderful elms are gone

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New sidewalks are very useful and the many blossoming trees are beautiful

We have no gas station to ruin the landscape

Hope to preserve old houses and roads in the hinterlands

NMH campus

Small population in rural area

Access to Boston, VT, Mts, ME beaches, RI shore in 2 hrs

Caring neighbors

Peace & quiet

Small

Nice people

Good schools

Lower taxes compared to area

Unbelievable opportunity to prosper with campus

Both sides of CT River

The sidewalks are set back from the road

Perfect size town – not too city/not too country

Small town atmosphere

Quiet

Trail system from back door

Rural area

Small population in rural area

Access to Boston, Vt. Mountains, Maine beaches and RI shores in 2 hours or less

Caring neighbors

Peace and quiet

Small

Nice people

Good schools

Lower taxes compared to area

Unbelievable opportunity to prosper with campus

It is on both sides of the Connecticut River

The sidewalks are set back from the road

Perfect size town. Not too city, not too country

Small town atmosphere, quiet

Trail system from back door

Rural area

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Additional Comments

No gas station

Gas station needed!

Police salary too high

Police do not make community safe

Good law-abiding citizens that raise their kids w/values make it a safe place

Very happy the way the town comes together to keep a beautiful town

Gas station

Improve boat ramp

Youth hostel

Schell Bridge – bike path

Be sure public places are handicap-accessible

We need a gas station

Retirement facility for seniors

Thank you!



Attend Northfield's Second Community Meeting

Sponsored by the Master Plan Roundtable

When: Thursday, June 13th , 7 to 9 pm

Where: Northfield Elementary School Cafeteria



Hear What We Have!

Northfield's Inventory of:

- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Natural Resources, Open Space and Recreation
- Land Use and Zoning
- Population, Households and Housing Resources
- Economic Development Resources
- Transportation Resources
- Public Facilities and Services

Discuss the Action Plan!

How do we get there?

- Our Opportunities
- Our Priorities
- Our Goals

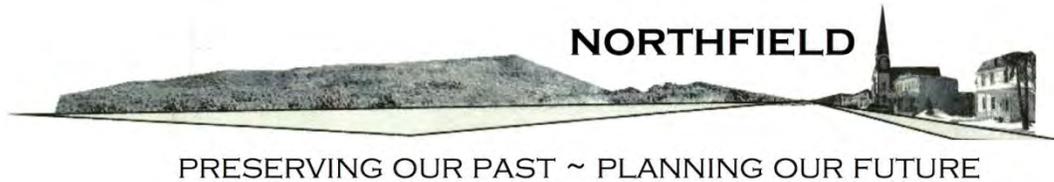
Help Decide

What's Most Important ?

**Let's Shape Northfield's
Future Together!**

Refreshments and Door Prizes!!

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SUMMARY OF PUBLIC INPUT

A Town-wide Public Forum: Community Meeting #2

On June 13, 2013 a town-wide forum was held at the Northfield Elementary School where a summary of the public input received to date along with the Consultant's key findings were presented and additional input was sought. Over fifty (50) people attended and participated in the discussions and provided their feedback and ideas.

Purpose. The purpose of the meeting was to invite the Northfield community to review the findings of the inventory of existing conditions and provide input into the set of goals developed to form the basis of the implementation plan. Ideas regarding strategies that will help achieve these goals were collected and compiled. Additionally, participants were asked to prioritize the strategies. A series of "burning questions" were asked of the participants with the purpose of taking the temperature regarding the thinking around specific issues identified in the process to date. The results presented in this summary represent the views and opinions of those who participated in this public forum.

Process. Participants were presented with an overview of the process to date as well as key findings from the inventory of existing conditions. Following the PowerPoint presentation, they were asked to visit eleven "goal stations" staffed by Roundtable members. At each station participants were asked to add their comments on post-it notes and adhere these to a large sheet where the Goal and Objectives and initial ideas regarding strategies were printed. They were also asked to answer a "burning question" at each station by writing their response on a post-it note and placing it onto the large sheet where the question was printed.

Once participants had visited all eleven (11) goal stations, they were given five small dot stickers with which to prioritize strategies within each goal, that is, they could place up to three stickers on any one strategy and by using all five stickers in this way they could indicate for each goal what they thought was the most important/effective ways of achieving it. Finally, participants were given five (5) large gold dot stickers with which to prioritize across goals, that is, these were used to indicate which of all the strategies in all the goals were most important to move forward on.

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GOAL STATIONS

The following are the eleven (11) the goal stations that were set up in the Northfield Elementary School cafeteria.

Goal Stations
1. Expand Community Gathering Opportunities
2. Preserve Natural Beauty
3. Preserve & Enhance Historic Character
4. Preserve & Enhance Town Character
5. Proactively Plan for Reuse of the Northfield Campus
6. Increase Economic Activity
7. Maintain Town Facilities & Services & Improve Communication
8. Increase Access to the River
9. Increase Recreational Activities/Facilities
10. Improve Transportation & Circulation in and around town
11. OTHER?

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OVERALL PRIORITIES

The following ideas received the most attention either in the frequency that they were brought up and/or in terms of the number of dots given to participants for the purpose of prioritizing.

- ❖ Preserve **OPEN SPACE**
- ❖ Reconstruct, rehab or replace the **SHELL BRIDGE**
- ❖ Protect **RIVER AND RIVERFRONT**, and increase access and provide more activities in and around the water.
- ❖ **PROTECT RUSTIC RIDGE** (NMH forest and summer cottages)
- ❖ Preserve **MILLBROOK CONSERVATION AREA**
- ❖ Celebrate **NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE**, protect sites
- ❖ **MAIN STREET**
 - Preserve and enhance historic buildings on
 - Reclaim a portion of Main Street under town control
 - Cluster stores on Main Street in specific locations
- ❖ Need a **TOWN COMMON** or Community Park
- ❖ Preserve and expand **FARMING**
- ❖ Obtain a **GAS STATION**
- ❖ Encourage **PUB** to locate in Town
- ❖ Support establishing **FARM TO TABLE RESTAURANTS**
- ❖ Promote hiking, rock climbing and other recreational opportunities based on the natural features to attract **eco-tourism**
- ❖ Enforce **SIGN-BY LAW**
- ❖ Be more pro-active about attracting economic development (form an EDIC, Economic Development Committee) and be **BUSINESS FRIENDLY**
- ❖ Most popular recreational facility desired: **PUBLIC SWIMMING**
- ❖ Close Vermont Yankee **NUCLEAR PLANT**
- ❖ Control **TRUCK TRAFFIC**
- ❖ Need for **SENIOR HOUSING** (over 55)
- ❖ Enforce existing **LAND USE REGULATIONS**
- ❖ Keep **OPEN CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION** between government and residents

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- ❖ Renovate **TOWN HALL**
- ❖ Consider **ALTERNATIVE GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE**
- ❖ Attract more and more diverse **VOLUNTEERS**
- ❖ Create opportunities for **NEIGHBORHOOD AND TOWN-WIDE EVENTS**
- ❖ Engage Fire Light in discussions to better **BALANCE THE NEEDS OF FARMERS AND RESIDENTS REGARDING USE OF THE RIVERFRONT**
- ❖ Create a **RIVERSIDE PARK** with opportunities for swimming, boating, hiking, biking, walking, etc.
- ❖ Create a **TOWN COLLECTION/DISTRIBUTION CENTER FOR LOCAL PRODUCE** (supply schools, restaurants, etc.)
- ❖ **PRESERVE SPECIAL NATURAL FEATURES** (e.g. woodlands with streams and vernal pools, wetlands around the golf course, Wanamaker Pond)
- ❖ Work with owners of historic structures to develop **HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN**
- ❖ Work to **PRESERVE THE CAMPUS BUILDINGS**
- ❖ Organize a **FOOD CO-OP**

Goal	# of gold dots ¹
Community Gathering	15
Natural Beauty	31
Historic Character	19
Campus Reuse	3
Economic Activity	25
Town Facilities & Services	12
Access to the River	20
Recreational Facilities	15
Transportation	9

Overall, it seems that the participant's **TOP THREE PRIORITIES** are:

- Preserving open space, special natural features and with special attention to farm land.
- Increasing access to the river and riverfront, connecting both sides of the river (Schell Bridge) and providing a variety of opportunities for enjoyment including views, swimming, biking, walking and boating
- Increasing economic development along Main Street with care taken to ensure that the type, look and location are compatible with the historic and town character of Northfield. There is a desire for the Town to explore reclaiming a portion of Main Street.

¹ Indicating highest priority strategies and action steps

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SUMMARY OF PRIORITIES BY GOAL

The following is a summary of the priorities as identified by participants in each goal.

GOAL 1: Expand Opportunities for Community Gathering

1.1. Organize and Sponsor more events

- Create opportunities for neighborhood events
- Local food festival
- Reskilling workshops/“How to Fair”
- Riverside park as part of Schell Bridge bikeway

1.2 Create more gathering spaces

- Acquire Millbrook conservation area. Use the Main Street portion of the property for a town park.
- Town Common
- Pub

BURNING QUESTION: Which do you think you and your family would enjoy. Top Three

- Passive Recreation Park
- Town wide events
- Active Recreation Park
- Arts/Cultural center

GOAL 2.: Preserve Natural Beauty

2.1. Preserve Farms and Farmland

- Encourage farm use in unutilized areas and protect valley farmland with zoning
- Vote to raise CPA surcharge to 3% to use state matching funds
- Create a center to drop off and ship local produce to schools, restaurants, etc.

2.2. Preserve Woodland and Open Space

- Develop Mill Brook area to nature preserve; preserve trails
- Close Vermont Yankee nuclear plan
- Preserve more woodlands with streams and vernal pools

BURNING QUESTION: What are the most important natural features to preserve?

- The river
- Wetlands, especially in Mill Brook area
- Farmland/open space
- Restore Wanamaker Pond
- Donate NMH forest land to Mt. Grace Land Trust

GOAL 3. Preserve & Enhance Historic Character

3.1. Enhance the Main Street Streetscape

- Cluster stores in certain areas
- Take local control
- Enforce sign by-law

3.2. Promote stewardship of historic resources

- Develop an historic preservation plan with owners of historic structures

3.3. Broaden public understanding of and appreciation for Northfield’s spiritual history

- Vote to bring CPA local % back to 3% for full match

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BURNING QUESTION: *What are the most important historical resources to preserve?*

- Schell bridge
- Campus buildings
- Native American sites
- Historic buildings on Main Street

GOAL 4. Preserve & Enhance Town Character

4.1. Preserve the character of Main Street

- More control over truck traffic; ban Jake brakes on trucks
- Need a Town Common

4.2. Preserve Open Space

- Create more specific bylaws to preserve open space and farms
- Preserve wetlands around the golf course

4.3 Preserve the small town quality of life

- Limit size of businesses and type (promote small, local)

BURNING QUESTION: *What features define the “character” of Northfield?*

- Historic and rural, small, quiet, sense of community
- Town concert series

GOAL 5. Proactively Plan for Reuse of the Northfield Campus

5.1. Preserve the historic campus buildings and landscapes

- Local historic district nominations to help preservation efforts

5.2. Promote a reuse that generates jobs and tax revenues

- use for senior/retirement housing

- a museum of native American heritage

BURNING QUESTION A: *Campus Reuse Considerations: Potential Negative Impacts*

- Fear that the user will be too conservative religiously
- Desire to have a voice in change

BURNING QUESTION B: *Campus Reuse Considerations: Potential Positive Impacts*

- Small technical college or small liberal art college
- Skill development, multi-faith, multi-cultural
- Employment opportunities and chance to take classes

GOAL 6. Increase Economic Activity

6.1. Encourage larger scale economic activity at the edges of town

- Promote farming through APR restrictions and agreements
- Food co-op like North Quabbin
- Gas station

6.2. Encourage small-scale retail and service businesses along Main Street

- Pub
- Restaurant (especially Farm to Table)

BURNING QUESTION: *What can we do to attract more business to Northfield?*

- Need to be more pro-active and be business friendly
- Reconstruct or rehab the Schell Bridge to encourage recreational tourism
- Clear and attractive sign by-law that is enforced
- Close Vermont Yankee nuclear plant
- Farm to Table restaurant

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- Promote hiking, climbing and recreation

GOAL 7. Maintain Town Facilities & Services & Improve Communication

7.1. Continue to maintain town facilities

- Renovate Town Hall

7.2. Provide adequate services

- Improve enforcement of land use regulations

7.3. Improve communication between town government and residents

- Amend the structure of town government
- Attract more and more diverse volunteers

Burning Question: What can we do to improve communication between town government and residents?

- Include more volunteers
- New form of government
- Maintain an open channel of communication

GOAL 8. Increase Access to the River

8.1. Open the Riverfront through the development of trails and boat launches

- Schell Bridge, in some form, with parks on both sides of the river
- Build a marina
- Develop a trail system

8.2. Improve connections to the river

- Connect the two sides of the river (i.e. Schell Bridge)

- Work with First Light to balance needs

BURNING QUESTION: What activities do you think would attract people to the river?

- Close Vermont Yankee
- Better access to the river in different locations
- Music festival

GOAL 9. Increase Recreational Activities/Facilities

9.1. Increase awareness of and access to existing recreational activities

- More river access including better boat launch
- Vote to restore CPA funding to 3%

9.2. Provide additional opportunities for recreation

- Create and sustain golf, tennis and swimming facilities

BURNING QUESTION A: How can we provide recreation opportunities for all members of the Northfield community and visitors?

- Create a historic walking trail or series of trails, with maps
- Promote rock climbing
- Increase river access and provide more activities along and in the water

BURNING QUESTION B: If Northfield created a community park, what amenities would it include?

- Public swimming

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GOAL 10. Improve Transportation & Circulation in and around town

10.1 Support/provide alternative modes of transportation

- Bike lanes on main roads
- Local bus service

10.2. Increase Safety

- Prohibit use of engine brakes
- Traffic calming (lower speed limit, speed bumps, etc.)

10.3. Beautify the Main Street Corridor

- Bury overhead utilities

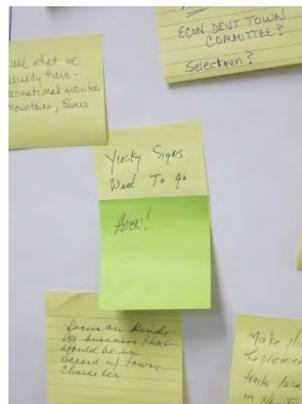
BURNING QUESTION: *Should Northfield own Main Street?*

The town should only own a portion of Main Street

GOAL 11. OTHER:

Are there any other goals, objectives or strategies that you would like to add?

- Retirement housing
- Make the town a leader in sustainability and energy conservation



A MASTER PLAN FOR NORTHFIELD

GOAL 1: EXPAND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY GATHERING

IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
1.1. ORGANIZE AND SPONSOR MORE EVENTS		
Expand information sharing through town web site; consider Town wide internet virtual gathering space		
Create opportunities for neighborhood events, e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yearly or more frequently neighborhood picnics/get togethers (mountain, Main St. West Northfield, farms etc.) Farms vs. Mountain vs West Northfield vs. Main Street: softball, poker, chili cook off etc. Summer Street Fair Promote interaction between old timers and newcomers 		
Local food festival		
Old Home Days		
Reskilling workshops: canning, bee keeping, etc ; "How To" Fair : practical knowledge about life without electricity or somewhere in between		
Reinstate arts festival		
Riverside park needed part of Schell Bridge bikeway		
Better use of parking for meetings and concerts and children's use		

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IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
1.2. CREATE MORE GATHERING SPACES		
Build a public park		
Create an art/cultural center		
Third place for gathering		
Acquire Millbrook conservation area. Use the Main Street portion of the property for a town park		
State, federal and private grants/ donations		
Town Common		
Utilize private property along the river; help us talk to landowners about selling or donating land for park		
Kiwanis park and town hall pavilion		
What happened to Alexander hall? It was taken once when the elementary school was expanded but never reinstated		
Activities for children after school hang out		
Pub		

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IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
Create bandshell		
Community center		
Obtain control of Main St and make use of green area between Main St and 63		

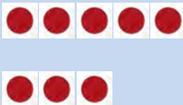
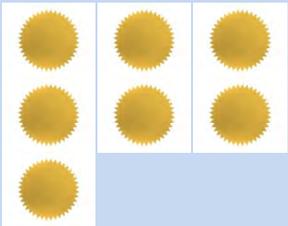
BURNING QUESTION: Which do you think you and your family would enjoy? Choose 3	NUMBER OF MARKS	NUMBER OF DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
Passive Recreation Park	22		
Town Wide Events	19		
Active Recreation Park	17		
Arts /Cultural Center	17		
Community Center	10		
Tennis (also pickle ball lines on B/B and tennis courts)	4		
Public swimming area with lessons River swimming (i.e. Area with life saving ring, perhaps roped off area for children)	2		

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GOAL 2: PRESERVE NATURAL BEAUTY

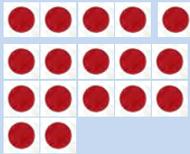
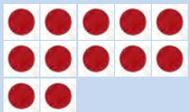
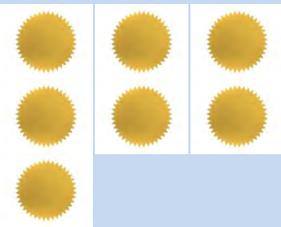
IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
2.1. Preserve Farms and Farmland		
Budget line item for APR Match		
Encourage farm use in unutilized areas Protect valley farmland with zoning regs; Use Chapter61/APR programs to protect undeveloped land		
Vote to raise CPA surcharge to 3% to use state matching funds		
Expand Farmer's Market		
Create a center to drop off and ship food, think schools, restaurants; Develop town collection/distribution of produce Break down barriers to supply local produce to our schools		
Be bolder marketing Northfield as agricultural town; Advertise farm friendly; Weekend to celebrate farms. Possibly include tours		
Start a local food coop		
Preserve Ridge & trails, protect watershed & wildlife, preserve farmland		

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IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
2.2. Preserve Woodland and Open Space		
Preserve Rustic Ridge		
Develop Mill Brook area to nature preserve; preserve Mill Brook trails		
Develop info about hiking trails and sweet spots Nature walks sponsored by Open Space Committee & Conservation Commission		
Survey species on Town Property/backyard survey with Audubon Society		
More visual access to Ct River		
Expand work with land trusts		
Close Vermont Yankee Nuke Plant		
Preserve more woodlands with streams and vernal pools; Special natural features should be protected		

OTHER COMMENTS: The name of the goal should say natural resources instead of beauty

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BURNING QUESTION:	NUMBER OF DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
What are the most important natural features to preserve?		
Preserve and protect the river and the river bank Stop First Light from damaging the CT River; Clean up CT River		
Wetlands, especially Mill Brook area; Mill Brook Trail, Protect water and streams from development		
Stone Seat, Balancing Rock		
Protect eastern ridgelines (limit building above a certain elevation), Preserve Crag Mountain		
Keep dirt roads		
Maintain land use trends		
Preserve unfragmented hardwood forests and woodlands		
Farmland/Open Space Protect our deep rich soils under valley farmland		
Develop Main St Historic District		
Restore Wanamaker Pond		

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BURNING QUESTION: What are the most important natural features to preserve?	NUMBER OF DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS										
Preserve views	● ●											
Protect ecological health by restraining development												
Donate NMH forest land to Mt Grace Land Trust	<table style="border: none;"> <tr> <td>●</td><td>●</td><td>●</td><td>●</td><td>●</td> </tr> <tr> <td>●</td><td>●</td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●				
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●	●											
Preserve roadside trees	● ● ●											



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GOAL 3: PRESERVE & ENHANCE HISTORIC CHARACTER

IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
3.1. Enhance the Main Street Streetscape		
Change street lights		
Cluster stores in certain area Stores behind houses		
Take local control		
Bury electric lines		
Restore buildings (especially NCF site, Nor trucks or cars		
Enforce signage by-law Too many signs that are not legal		
Reconstruct by landscape. Yes!		
Restore large stone where picnics & courting could take place		
Reduce traffic on the the main Road		
Add a town common along Main St		

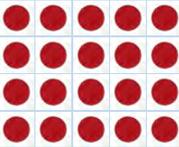
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IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
3.2 Promote stewardship of historic resources		
Some sort of tax break for improving Main St property with respect to a historic by-law		
Develop an historic preservation plan that will be acceptable to owners of historic structures or sites who may want to change or alter their properties! Town meeting voted down one preservation idea presented to them at last T.M.		
King Philips Hiss Garnet Rock Crag Mt as historic resources		
Other historic areas in Northfield –Mtn. area *Squakheag sites *walking tour; cemetery & burying		
Revive historic trails & views		
Along Main Street and "the Stearns houses		
Create a Moody Trust to support preservation of campus buildings		
Historical info at sites, Update historic markers & make 21 st C. Kiosks at sites like Nfld Inn, Chateau & other sites Label historic sites & areas (mills etc) with similar signs – Showcase Mill Sites on all the Brooks.		
Make better know the Native American Heritage. Take Pride in it.		

A MASTER PLAN FOR NORTHFIELD

IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE “GOLD” DOTS
Bikeway to town area – Schell, Main St or Birnam, Cemeteries, & all listed		
Memorial Roviche(??) walkway from Schell pavers connect to park or historic feature		
3.3 Broaden public understanding of and appreciation for Northfield’s spiritual history		
Promote walking tours with recordings		
<p>Appreciate diversity of spiritual ideas here—UU, DLM, catholic hone??, etc. Also – Indian heritage of spirituality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a trail & signs that follow the trail of the woman captured by Indians & brought across Nfld & river to Canada • Highlight D.L.Moody Legacy—Involved in NMH Founder’s Day—(improve NMH/Nfld connections) 		
Make it part of school curriculum		
Vote to bring CPA local % back to 3% for full match		
Make more of Round Top		
Native Amer Squakeag & Narragansetts Museum		

A MASTER PLAN FOR NORTHFIELD

BURNING QUESTION: What are the most important historical resources to preserve?	NUMBER OF DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
The Farm		
Schell Bridge		
Round Top Birthplace		
Natural, rural, "resources" Forest, trails, river		
Library, Town Hall, Schell Bridge		
Town Hall		
Campus buildings Moody Legacy Properties along Moody Street Moody Buildings, Birthplace, Homestead, Auditorium		
Older & architecturally important structures including cellar holes, cemeteries, etc. Cemeteries especially Center Cemetery		
Native American sites, - e.g. King Philip's Hill; Highlight ancient Squakeag artifacts & gathering places; Native American history and heritage- their views of caring for the earth		
The summer cottage nature of Rustic Ridge. It is in danger of morphing into a low-cost housing area		

A MASTER PLAN FOR NORTHFIELD

BURNING QUESTION: What are the most important historical resources to preserve?	NUMBER OF DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
<p>Historic building/homes on Main Street including green pastures, Revel, Homestead, last brick building at campus.</p> <p>Main St beauty (No big commercial businesses like Dunkin Donuts and McDonalds etc)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In order to maintain the streetscape allow houses on Main Street to be converted into small businesses and/or broken into apartments 		

OTHER COMMENTS:

- Need to define historic! Old age? Notable past presence? Distinctive? Was famous personage involved? where important event occurred? architectural site? WHAT DO WE INCLUDE?



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GOAL 4: PRESERVE & ENHANCE TOWN CHARACTER

IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
4.1. Preserve the character of Main Street		
More control over truck traffic; ban Jake Brakes on Trucks		
Take local control of Main St; protect Main St so the State won't widen it. I'd hate to have a four lane highway through town		
Route 10/63 bypass		
Create park on Main St by ensuring Mill Brook Cons. Area		
Continue streetscape by new sidewalk Parker Ave to historic Center Cemetery and other enhancements on Parker Ave		
Traffic calming on Main Street <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calm traffic on Main St by having a town flock of geese & hens • Enforce speed limits—maybe the police can make more of a presence.....some drivers go way too fast on Main St • Reduce speed limit 		
We need a Town Common		
As population ages out, critical of offer opps for home businesses so historic homes are affordable. Must be zoning		

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IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
4.2. Preserve Open Space		
Farms and Open Space are Huge! Create more specific bylaws for preservation		
Ridge trails and habitat \$ to NMH		
Preserve wetlands around the golf course; control invasives; protect habitat		
Maintain high water quality area is known for		
Develop local park with nature trails		
Control or prohibit motorized travel on woodland trails		
Assist farmers in making a living; help exiting farms stay in business		
Create more info markers on Native American side of pre-colonial history. This is unique to Northfield		
4.3. Preserve the small town quality of life		
Limit size of business & type. No McDonalds, CVS etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep out big box stores and businesses like Dunkin Donuts and MacDonal'd's; • Allow small local shops and stores; walk to buy milk 		

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IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
Our schools are the best; maintain and improve quality	● ● ● ●	
Teach respect for old pioneer ways of doing things	●	
Noise ordinances for Main St especially		
Promote community spirit, involvement, neighborhoods Have more town events; maybe have a welcome package for new people	● ●	
Preserve Farming we could serve much local food at schools	● ● ●	

BURNING QUESTION: What features define the "character of Northfield? Be specific as possible.	NUMBER OF DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
Town meeting, buildings, Native American relics, Past use/ferry, logging ++	● ● ●	
Historic rural beautiful Northfield <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The mix of historic buildings, farms, mountains, views, forests Serene, quiet, beautiful physical environment Historic Main Street houses with a backdrop of mountains and open fields Small, rural, clean, quiet, not much changing 	● ● ● ● ● ● ●	
Town concert series, Town wide events	● ● ● ● ●	
Being a small and friendly town; sense of community	●	

A MASTER PLAN FOR NORTHFIELD

BURNING QUESTION: What features define the “character of Northfield? Be specific as possible.	NUMBER OF DOTS	LARGE “GOLD” DOTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting neighbors as you go about your business all around town • A place where each is known and valued as an important person; Real life Grover’s Corners; • Democracy and respect for individuality 		

GOAL 5: PROACTIVELY PLAN FOR REUSE OF THE NORTHFIELD CAMPUS

IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE “GOLD” DOTS
5.1. Preserve the historic campus buildings and landscapes		
Have the Mass Film Commission list the site as an available film location	●	
Develop advertising campaign jointly with NCF to find a good steward	● ●	
Create bylaws that give Northfield a voice in construction, expansion, or change of use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve the town in the process – ensure that the town is part of the process 	●	
Local historic district nominations so they could be preserved	● ● ●	
Work into old buildings renewable forms and uses of energy i.e . solar, wind etc.	●	
Self guided walking tours of town and campus ie. Youth Hostel, Stearns houses, Moody campus	● ●	

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IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tours of campus with respect to Moody • Local public schools jobs for docents and guides 		
5.2. Promote a Re-Use that generates jobs and tax revenues		
Add IBM or Microsoft to the list		
Use a building on the campus for a Town community center		
Have a Baystate BHMC partnership		
Nice roomy retirement housing; cottages, townhouse/condo options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 55 housing; veterans services will be a source of federal \$ • Veteran housing, senior housing nonprofit options 		
Break it up but have one entity manage and raise \$ for repairs		
Private, public, and religious use		
A museum of native American heritage for this area		
Keep the campus in education with one entity		
Sustainability oriented; solar energy farming, training for life skills; Promote interaction with town; preserve woods & trails		
Museum of first and second great awakenings		

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Consider the possibility that NO organization can incur the expense of an upgrade
- Have protective bylaws in place so a 20 story building can't be built
- Involve the state in some future economic use
- Convince the foundation that they need local help—this is a complicated issue that cannot be solved at long distance



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BURNING QUESTION A: Campus Reuse Considerations Potential Negative Impacts	Dots
Too conservative religiously	
Too large for buildings as they are	
Bylaws to have a voice in change	
Use traffic calming techniques on streets near campus Too many people in cars Increase traffic on Main St. There already is congestion around elementary school. Some type of bypass should be considered	
Shift of town political views due to type of organization controlling campus	
Have noise bylaws in place to protect area neighborhoods	
Updating infrastructure/efficiency	

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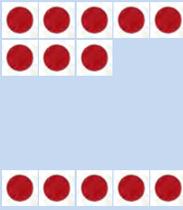
BURNING QUESTION B: Campus Reuse Considerations Potential Positive Impacts	Dots
Small technical college would be great Small liberal arts college would be great	 
Founded as a religious school—keep the spiritual education on the property	
Cultural attractions for local population Tanglewood	
Have campus managed cooperatively and used by smaller organizations like businesses	
Skill development humanitarian agrarian peace oriented Multi faith, multi cultural, international peace oriented	
Employment opportunities; chance to take classes; interaction between the school tenants and the town	
Buildings need to be used to preserve them. The campus is an historical landmark and needs to be a place of exceptional learning again.	

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GOAL 6: INCREASE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
6.1. Encourage Larger Scale Economic Activity at the Edges of Town		
Promote farming through APR Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve APR restrictions and agreements • Promote Northfield Farms. Promote & buy as a supportive Community network • Farming must be done profitably without federal or State interference 		
Organize a cooperative similar to the Hanover (NH) co-op- A member -owned food and service station		
Food Co-op like North Quabbin, Not like Hanover!		
Golf Course. Add restaurant and driving range		
Gas station <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Not chain or national enterprise) 1 locally owned gas station w/ Adam's Donuts, No Dunkin or Styrofoam • We need service station South of Jct. of 10 & 63 where There is less business 		
Northfield Newspaper; weekly or daily		
Bus/shuttle service to regional communities		
6.2. Encourage Small-Scale Retail and Service Businesses Along Main Street		
Increase parking for businesses along Main St. Create parking to the West of First Parish. Tear down open Garages		

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IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
Attract businesses selling American made products		
Encourage a pub and dining establishments to locate in town <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a local deli—a la NY Deli with eating opportunities More restaurant/bar licenses Encourage the building of an excellent restaurant at or near the golf course Farm to Table Restaurant 		
O.K. to sell "global " products		
Develop community "style" for store fronts		
Local business selling local goods		
Work with NATABA to survey residents about what goods and services they would buy here		
Encourage bed & breakfast development (A ZBA issue?)		
Winter Farmers' Market		
Calm traffic so we could have horse-drawn Carriage rides		
Find space in town for community theater. Big hall, high ceilings		
Encourage third place opportunities among & around The small businesses. Anyone is welcome to hang out		

- ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:**
 - Why should we encourage larger scale economic development at the edges of town? We should concentrate on smaller economic activity, including eco-tourism
 - Need to look beyond Main St.
 - Not at edge of town, put in middle so it can re-enforce Central business area. Use tight zoning to maintain aesthetics. Disease is not a business to be quarantined

A MASTER PLAN FOR NORTHFIELD

BURNING QUESTION: What can we do to attract more business to Northfield?	NUMBER OF DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
<p>Need to be more pro-active and business friendly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Development Town Committee? Selectmen? • Form an EDIC to attract/seek out businesses that might locate in Northfield • ZBA changes; more professional, friendly to new ideas • Make the rules clear and uniformly enforced • Get a grant for and write an attractive prospectus so that businesses know what the opportunities and regulations are here • Publish economic data for inclusion in a potential business Plan. For example: How many cars drive down Main St on a Weekday or weekend? Someone considering a new business Needs this info. If we want them to choose Northfield, we should Provide it. Pioneer students could do this as part of a business Class or entrepreneur program that teaches the steps to starting A business. Make a win-win-win program with citizens, Businesses, schools, community. 		
Gas station		
More restaurants/pub		
Public Common Concerts		
Reconstruct or rehab Schell Bridge to encourage recreational tourism		
Clear and attractive sign bylaw that is enforced		

A MASTER PLAN FOR NORTHFIELD

BURNING QUESTION: What can we do to attract more business to Northfield?	NUMBER OF DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
Develop destination businesses as anchors		
Close Vermont Yankee so we don't have that worry		
Extend sewer lines		
Seek state assistance with economic development		
The reoccupation of the campus is the key to increased Main St business. Retailers need more customers. If the Campus is thriving, they will come. SCHELL BRIDGE TOO!		
Keep taxes low		
Farm to Table		
Promote hiking and climbing in Northfield Make Northfield the premier trails location in New England Use what we already have: recreational activities, mountains, rivers		
REALLY a fast & reliable broadband service. Not "just as fast", But 10 times as fast as the next guy		
Offer tax incentives, and cheap rental agreements		

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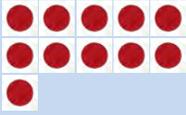
ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

- Be careful what you wish for! Large-scale economic activity=more houses=more students=less open space
- Focus on kinds of businesses that would be in accord with town character
- Encourage businesses with merchandise that local residents can afford
- Encourage small businesses to locate here, no malls
- When gasoline costs \$100/gal, we will have plenty of local business

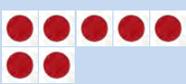


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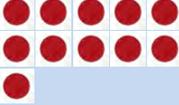
GOAL 7: MAINTAIN TOWN FACILITIES & SERVICES AND IMPROVE COMMUNICATION

IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
7.1. Continue to maintain town facilities		
Renovate town hall		
Get the old Mobil station back and develop it into a police station – right across from EMS!		
We should own our own water company in town		
Upgrade all deferred maintenance on town buildings		
New EMS Station looks great!		
If renovating town hall, reconfigure for better communication and services... between depts., between officials, between town hall and citizens		
Do more with less. 36K for a new cruiser! Could have repaired old one for 1/7 of the price		
7.2 Provide adequate services		
Improve enforcement of land use regulations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Convene the by-law committee and get things done Building inspector and SB point fingers at each other and nothing happens Regulations are a double edged sword – too many / too harsh prevents economic development Not enough checks by building inspector – we must complain in order to stop a person who is breaking the law 		

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IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforce existing by-laws regarding excessively messy properties 		
Why can't town Highway Dept plow parking lots for trails in winter?		
Public transport method around businesses in town		
7.3 Improve communication between town government and residents		
Amend the structure of town governance Enlarge the Selectboard. Increase diversity		
Attract more and more diverse volunteers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send volunteer recruitment form out with each town clerk mailing Get a list of resident skill sets. Offer qualified individuals chance to serve. "ask them for support and give them something to do" Communicate all board and committee exchange, ask and want residents to be involved, recognize contributors 		
In schools provide info re: our town gov't and if children participate we will too		
If a new school comes, a town administrator would be necessary		
Weekly / monthly newsletter put out by town hall		
Same info posted on sign in front of town hall needs to be posted in West Northfield		
Establish an evacuation plan for a VY accident		

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BURNING QUESTION: What can we do to improve communication between town government and residents?	NUMBER OF DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
<p>Include more volunteers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make newcomers welcome and to feel valued • Have gov't reach far into community for volunteers for boards and committees. Not same dozen people on every one 		
<p>Northfield has to come into the 21st century with a more centralized form of government, while retaining the New England tradition of Town Meeting;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New form of government • Have an accessible town manager and two more select people • Implement governance review committee findings 		
<p>People need to step forward and participate – it's their own responsibility</p>		
<p>Open communication channel :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the positive and negative comments to improve communication • Don't "diss" residents when they come to meetings and comment • Town Moderator should make town meetings more citizen friendly • The gov't should be more receptive to suggestion • More consultation with other committees by the Selectboard • Town officials should listen to its citizens and partnership with individuals and groups who want to do things to improve the town – like CPA. Stop viewing new ideas as "trouble"- 		

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BURNING QUESTION: What can we do to improve communication between town government and residents?	NUMBER OF DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
Community Newsletter entries from Board of Selectmen. Move the Board of Selectmen around to different locations E & W Northfield	● ●	
More mailings about key issues, esp town meeting warrants. Get postal permit	● ● ● ●	
Our current form of gov is very democratic. If you want to speak and be heard, you can. Maybe your opinion will not be followed but that's democracy	● ●	
Make communications a priority. Town Administrator's important task	● ●	
Bulletin board for conversations, blast emails from gov't, chat 1x/week with diff. reps	●	
Create more awareness of town website. Some sort of incentive to participate in town meetings	●	
Budget needs to be made easier to understand & more in depth explanations provided for large sums		

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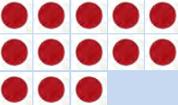
GOAL 8: INCREASE ACCESS TO THE RIVER



IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
8.1. Open the riverfront through development of trails and boat launches 		
Canoe access at Bennett Brook wildlife management area		
Build marina south of boat ramp (same parking lot) - connect to mouth of Mill Brook/CT River by walkway		
Trails - some existing; need well-designed system and maps to help connect people to the river		
First Light says we can't disturb the farmers' irrigation systems by having trails along river - well it's our river also		
Open views to the river		
Bike path in addition to boat use		
Restore ferry transit across the river		
Schell Bridge in some form, with parks on the other side as well		
Manage river shore for walking, swimming etc.		
8.1. Improve connections to the river		

A MASTER PLAN FOR NORTHFIELD

IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
Restore Schell Bridge		
Create a way to get from the river to downtown; get ideas into FERC recs for First Light		
Find place on riverbank, create a way for a trolley/horse wagon to run		
Maintain old style engineering which used concepts now forgotten		
Tell First Light to stop damaging the river		
Schell: connect two sides of town; bike/walking trails, interpretive signs re: species, river etc.; use the riverfront near the bridge <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Umass landscape design created a Schell Bridge and parkway vision (Pamela Lawdi, 2011) - check it out! stop debating the use of the bridge as a community and do something 		

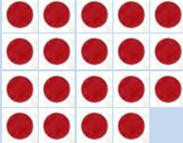
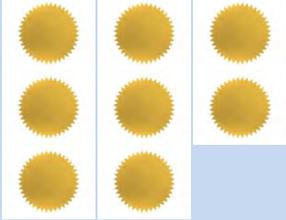
BURNING QUESTION: What kinds of activities do you think would attract people to the river?	NUMBER OF DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
Decrease river fluctuations - a major concern <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop Northfield Mountain from raising and lowering water level; ruins banks and makes access more difficult 		
Swimming access; opportunities for children to learn safely at the river; sandy area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> open space at river's edge for water access; swimming, wading, boating kayak, canoe, swimming, walk on shore 		

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BURNING QUESTION: What kinds of activities do you think would attract people to the river?	NUMBER OF DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
Bike path/walking path/trails along the river <ul style="list-style-type: none"> perhaps between Schell Bridge and Rte 10 		
A stopping point for the Turners Falls riverboat		
An open park with a structure similar to the Senior Center pavilion		
Close VT Yankee to get radiation out of the river		
"What radiation?"		
A designated dog walk along the river		
Better access to the river in different locations		
Schell Bridge music festival at the riverside park		
Show off the town from the river view; more views of the river		
Prevent vehicles from driving on the beach at Pauchaug		
Start thinking more aggressively about developing things there - the river is a major potential asset of Northfield and has hardly been tapped at all		

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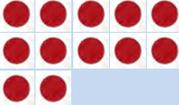
GOAL 9: INCREASE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES/FACILITIES

IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
9.1. Increase awareness of and access to existing recreational activities		
Maintain/expand hiking trails <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clearly marked trail heads and parking Select board won't allow DPW to plow trail parking areas in winter 		
Maintain/develop new facilities		
Develop waterfront walks and facilities		
Place for field games		
More river access, including better boat launch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Negotiate acquisition of the meadow - large park w/recreational facilities from boat ramp to Schell River access/river park/marina Trails along river 		
Publicize maps and trails for visitors Publicize Crag Mtn and hiking trail		
Vote to restore CPA funding to 3% to maximize full match		
Create summer jobs for high school students, like "civil corps of engineers"		
Museum of Native American culture for the Upper Valley		

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IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
9.2 Provide additional opportunities for recreation		
Establish a community park for both passive and active recreation	●	
Expand sidewalks throughout town, including South of Route 10	●	
Construct a community pool Keep the NMH pool Dam a local stream for swimming	● ●	
Make Northfield a recreation destination		
Negotiate for increased recreation amenities through the Northfield Mountain relicensing process		
Create and sustain golf/tennis/swimming facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sell golf course to an owner who will significantly improve facilities and amenities 	● ● ● ● ●	
Reconstruct or rehab Schell Bridge	●	
Rock climbing - Rose Ledge quarry	●	
Community garden and harvest	●	
Skating area on land between TCC and Mill Brook bridge	● ●	
Welcome horseback use of trails - provide adequate parking for trailers, trail map etc.	●	

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BURNING QUESTION A: How can we provide recreation opportunities for all members of the Northfield community and for visitors from outside Northfield?	NUMBER OF DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
<p>Create an historic walking trail or series of trails with maps for visitors who want to know more about Northfield</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilize hiking trails and rock climbing at rose Ledge • Trails. Publicize hiking opportunities similar to north Quabbin trails assoc, Westborough Trails & Northborough trails committees 		
<p>River access Schell Bridge, more access points along river More activities on water, at water</p>		
<p>Historical tours</p>		
<p>Bike lanes Weekly bike rides</p>		
<p>Community park</p>		

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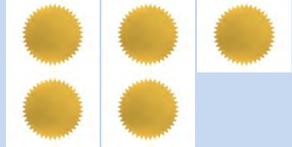
BURNING QUESTION B: If Northfield created a community park, what amenities would it include?	NUMBER OF DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
Space for walking dogs, including a huge pen to run w/o risk to others	●	
Simple fitness equipment like balance beams and chining bars		
Splash pool like Turners Falls; playground for little ones	●	
skateboarding		
basketball court	●	
public tennis courts	●	
walking trails for elderly		
horseshoe pits		
paddleball courts		
training circuit		
public swimming	●●●●●	
Boat dock	●	

OTHER FEATURES

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bathrooms • Shade as well as sun • Nice landscaping • Benches • Picnic tables • Walking paths, strolling • Biking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballparks • Next to river • Music shell • Internet connection • Place for games/sports • Connect to paths • Need to indoor facilities – gathering space, kitchen • Handicap accessibility |
|---|--|

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GOAL 10: IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION AND CIRCULATION IN AND AROUND TOWN

IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
10.1. Support/provide alternative modes of transportation		
Bike Lanes for Main Roads		
Local bus service for in-town and to Greenfield		
Provide local transportation service to Mountain		
Establish a volunteer ride service for seniors		
10.2. Increase safety		
Lower Speed Limits		
Retake Main Street and eliminate or restrict truck traffic		
Prohibit the use of engine brakes		
Paint center traffic lines on side streets		
Speed bumps		

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IDEA	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
10.3. Beautify the Main Street Corridor		
Replant double row of trees		
Bury overhead utilities		
Install period lighting that is solar		

BURNING QUESTION: Should Northfield own Main Street?		
YES	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
All of Main Street		
Only partial portion of Main Street		
Install benches and lights in common		
Regulate truck traffic and noise		
It is the only way to lower the speed limit		
Only if the budget allows		
NO		

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Can't afford the cost of maintenance		
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GOAL 11: OTHER?

Are there any other goals, objectives or strategies that you would like to add?	SMALL DOTS	LARGE "GOLD" DOTS
Help Rustic Ridge protect its unique and historic character.		
Make Town leader in sustainability and energy conservation.		
The Master Plan needs to take into account the fact that we live in a changing world. How can Northfield be sustainable in a future with fewer fossil fuels and a warming climate? How can we be interdependent on our neighbors and less dependent on foreign imports?		
Appreciate the heritage of people who lived here hundreds of years before it was "discovered"		
<p>Northfield has 5 communities. Need to apply to all five:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meadows • The Ridge • West Northfield • Main Street • "The Mountains" 		
Retirement Housing so people can stay in town when they no longer want or are able to maintain their own home.		

A MASTER PLAN FOR NORTHFIELD



Perks of Participation

Thank you to the following businesses and people for their door prize donations:

	Item Description	Donated by
1	Dozen cupcakes	Jilly Cakes
2	\$10 Gift Certificate	Northfield Coffee and Books
3	\$5 Gift Certificate	Northfield Coffee and Books
4	1 Hour Massage	Zo Z Massage Therapy
5	\$20 Gift Certificate	Mim's Market
6	\$25 Gift Certificate	Northfield Country Corner
7	\$15 Gift Certificate	The Notch
8	\$25 Gift Certificate	Northfield Food Mart (IGA)
9	Gift Certificates (small cone, hot fudge sundae	The Creamie
10	\$10 Gift Certificate	dala bird
11	Flower plant	Fairview Gardens
12	Flower plant	Fairview Gardens

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