

Town of Durham Workshop Results from October 3, 2018

Challenges Identified	No. of Priority Stickers Received
1. Blight - dilapidated properties & businesses	6
2. Section 8 housing – too much coming in	6
3. Individual property rights	6
4. Loss of elementary school - reopen	4
5. Elementary school – loss of identity	3
6. Youth programs/ organizations needed (4-H)/ No offering for children/teens to keep them here	3
7. Neighborly, community belonging needed	3
8. Need to recognize town has changed	3
9. Broadband, high speed internet needed	3
10. Laws & regulation to preserve home rule	3
11. Encourage a wider demographic	2
12. View second home-owners as an asset	2
13. Removal of no residence law for assistance	2
14. Improve town communication to residents	2
15. New residents vs old – cooperation needed	2
16. Improve parking for businesses	2
17. Drug use problem	2
18. Need restaurants (not chains)	1
19. Code enforcement needed for clean up	1
20. Senior services needed – age in place	1
21. Encourage agriculture/ specialized farming	1
22. Enforce Right to Farm	1
23. Industrial waste dumped into creek	1
24. Funding support & expenses of the town needed	1
25. Speeding through town	1
26. Snow plowing – on property, drifting	1
27. Road crews - tarmac on roads & lawns	1
28. Personal freedom	1
29. Aesthetic improvements needed	1
30. Sidewalks & street lamps needed	1
31. Jobs for youth needed, above minimum wage	1
32. Employment opportunity needed	
33. Need to keep people (age 30-50) in the area	
34. No sense of community	
35. Loss of community events (dances, potluck)	
36. Volunteers needed	
37. Influx of people with different culture/ values	
38. Need a welcoming committee	
39. Future depends on second home owners	
40. Preserve peace & quiet	

41. Meals on wheels needed	
42 Swimming hole loss – bring it back	
43. Parks needed	
44. Recreation needs	
45. Walking trail needed	
46. Abandoned cars on properties	
47. Weight limits on roads/ tractor trailers	
48. Be business friendly	
49. More signage for business districts	
50. Need more tourism – attract people here	
51. Get rid of NIMBY's	
52. Revitalize churches	
53. No health care close by, no doctors	
54. Motorcycle noise	

Ideas to address challenges

Blight - dilapidated properties & businesses:
Code enforcement needed, impose fines

Youth programs/ organizations needed (4-H)/No offering for children/teens to keep them here:
Community center – use empty building that isn't being used. Increase our summer rec program to throughout the year

Employment opportunity needed:
Create job opportunities/ Increase broadband for telecommuters/ Attract industry that can afford water & sewer infrastructure

Loss of elementary school – reopen:
Committee to start process/ Hire a consultant worked in other areas where this was needed/ tax basis- increased/ Need more info on money savings for closing the school- full disclosure (consultant get reasons and compare cost savings, negative impact on Durham/ Apply for grants- find local grant writer

Loss of community events (dances, potluck):
Have a community wide event that offers food

Encourage a wider demographic
Encourage new residents to move here

Second home-owners are an asset
Be more inclusionary

Section 8 housing – too much coming in

Removal of no residence law for assistance/ Zoning/ Good legal team/ Moratorium on building or limiting certain types of housing

Improve town communication to residents

Expand town website with more local info/ Once a year send newsletter to second homeowners with info (re: elected officials)

Senior services needed – age in place

Encourage assisted living/ transportation service

Individual property rights

Don't make policies, laws that infringe on personal freedoms/ no zoning

Laws & regulation to preserve home rule

Recognize what town is. Laws & process to change. Creative legislation – our people have a say, not just people coming to make a venue/ building

Industrial waste dumped into creek

Code enforcement

Ideas to Update Vision and Goals

New Topics to be Addressed in Updated Vision Statement

Economic business development (Route 145 – Oak Hill and East Durham)	3x
Implementation of goals from 2008	2x
Improve quality of public services	2x
Safe and legal access to Catskill Creek	2x
Financial support to maintain expenses for elementary school recreation activities	2x
List certain things to promote economic development	
We do not yet have “ <i>appropriate technology and amenities to compete</i> ”	
Local government working with community	
Strong sense of community	
Use elementary school building as a community center	
Durham store to offer the essentials for town living	
Introduce term limits to local officials	
Work on well-maintained properties	
Work on friendly neighbors	
Change the tense of the vision statement	
Fist line should say, “Durham <i>strives to</i> offer the best in small town living.”	
Paragraph 2 - should say <i>farmland</i> in place of <i>active farms</i>	
Paragraph 3 - delete last line	
Last paragraph - “ <i>appropriate housing</i> ” not available now, offerings to senior citizens	

New Goals to be Added to Plan

Expand senior housing as assisted living

Encourage businesses that can afford to provide infrastructure

Need to get GSK more input into the community

How are other companies contributing to their community?

Talk to the Foundation of the big company

Town quarterly newsletter