

**Board of Selectmen
Listening Tour
Rockville
September 12, 2012**

Select Board

Charlton Ames
Tracy Murphy
Robert Peabody, Town Manager

Geoff Parker
Ken McKinley

Public

Roy Bennett
Don Frye
Alice Frye
Will Gartley
Carol Gartley
Kathleen Meil
Joan Welsh, Representative
Candace Arau

Martha Morrison
Maurice Payson
Marjorie Payson
Fran Hart
Kate Chapman
Vernon Hunter
Linda Clancy

Mr. Ames opened the Listening Tour at 7:03 p.m.

- A. The Rockville Community Chapel (originally the Free Baptist Church) was erected in 1851. Many of the original features of the chapel are still in existence: the wood stove in the rear of the chapel was constructed in 1876 in New Hampshire; books in the library date from 1869 to 1923; the organ manufactured in Philadelphia in 1891 continues to work; the overhead brass lights with etched glass globes are dated April 17, 1887. Originally fueled by kerosene, the lights were electrified in the 1940's. Carpeting has been replaced and new windows installed. The inside and outside of the chapel has been painted and the roof has been rebuilt.

The project for June of 2013 will be the replacement of the steeple which was torn down in 1905 due to ill repair. The Town Planner recommends waiving fees for this project.

The goal of Rockville Community Chapel Association has been the preservation of the chapel. Leroy Bennett stepped forward as the benefactor for the repair of the chapel after many years of fund raising and work by the Rockville Community Chapel Association.

- B. A rental agent works on behalf of the Town to rent space at the Rockport Opera House and parks within Rockport. The agent could possibly refer interested parties to the Chapel as well. The Association would like the Chapel to become self-sufficient and is in hopes of renting the chapel for weddings and other gatherings during warm months since the chapel does not have a heating system. The Association would also like to hold monthly church services at the chapel.

- C. A representative from each of the five (5) villages of Town served on the Select Board when the Town went to a Town Manager form of government. This agreement was in effect until residents in the villages did not want to run for office.
- D. The City of Rockland and Town of Rockport are currently working together to plan for the Wal-Mart move from Rockland to Thomaston in 18 months and what will happen to the current building. The meetings have addressed the possible impact of traffic on streets and roads leading to the new facility. The mobility corridor (Route 1) no longer goes through the individual villages.
- E. Mr. Parker mentioned celebrating “Rockport Day” where the original villages of Rockport could be represented. Informational tables/kiosks, photographs, and speakers/stories could be shared at that time. It is important that residents volunteer their time and become involved with this endeavor. Select Board members could become liaisons to the individual villages.
- F. The Select Board, Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals meetings are televised on Channel 22.
- G. Mr. Peabody informed the residents of the Tax Club that has been in effect for three (3) years. The voter approved tax club is paid in monthly installments at no interest. Anyone interested should contact Town Clerk Linda Greenlaw.

1. What makes Rockville a special place to live in?

- “my home for over 50 years and very proud of it”
- “my wife and I were married in the chapel 55 years ago”
- Rockville had the first 4th of July celebration in the area (1940’s)
- Residents could slide from Gurney Street to Chickawaukie Pond on the icy roads in winter
- Sense of pride in community
- Rockville was the third largest town after Camden and Rockport in 1959
- “Came late to the party in Rockville feels nostalgic ... vibrant Rockville community.”
- Chapel is the focal point
- Rockville originally had its own fire department, town hall, one room school, and post office
- Residents complimented Steve Beveridge and the Public Works crew. One resident said that he “couldn’t ask for a better job” to be done on the roadways.
- Rockville residents are concerned with the intersection of Rockville Street and Route 17 (near the Green Thumb). It is difficult for drivers to cross Route 17 from Old Rockland Road to Rockville Street since the intersection is somewhat “blind.” Several accidents, some with fatalities, have occurred at the location.

2. How could Rockville be brought back?

- Bring back sidewalks
- Better streets
- More police presence to help deter speeders. More speed limit signs are needed The speed limit sign on Gurney Street has been missing for over 2 years
- Have pride in Rockville but need help
- Stop littering in Rockville
- Create more of a “community” feeling

3. **When you meet someone do you say Rockville instead of Rockport?**

- “Yes”

4. **How do you feel Rockville fits in with Rockport?**

- “As a stepchild.”

5. **What Town facilities do residents of Rockville use?**

- Library
- Picnics at Marine Park and Glen Cove
- Attend events at the Masonic Hall
- Walk on Beauchamp Point
- Transfer station
- Rockport Opera House

6. **How could we revitalize Rockville?**

- Create more of a community feeling
- Bring back the sidewalks
- Establish what is allowed in the zoning district
- Realize what is here now and what could be in the future

7. **How would you feel about development in Rockville?**

- small, locally owned entities (i.e. market where people could congregate)

8. **How do you feel about the razing of the RES buildings?** (The 7.5 acre parcel is zoned for mixed use and will not be paved).

- Unique piece of property
- Do not rush any decisions. Take any time necessary
- Leave some open green space – this makes it pleasant for everyone
- Park
- Library

9. **Would you like the sewer to be extended to Rockville?**

- Where would the money come from?
- Some properties in Rockville have public water.
- The water pressure is “awful.”
- The main line runs under the brook.
- Petitions previously submitted to the water company have not brought any resolutions.

10. **Would you like signage identifying this area as Rockville?**

- Yes
- “Historical Village of Rockville”
- Have signs with historic photos installed

Mr. Ames thanked all present for attending the meeting and invited any interested person(s) to contact the town or a board member with any additional concerns or ideas. E-mail addresses for Select Board members are on the Town's website.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27

Respectfully submitted,

Melody Sainio
Recording Secretary