



Summary of Public Input Town-wide PUBLIC FORUM

Meeting Purpose and Process

Purpose: To invite the Derry community to come together and generate ideas that will create a shared vision for Derry's future. This in turn will be used as the foundation for an action plan that will outline the steps necessary to attain this vision.



Process:

The public forum was held on Wednesday, November 28, 2018 from 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM at the Freshman Auditorium at the Pinkerton Academy. Approximately 70 people attended and participated at the meeting, including 15 high school students who also gave their input.

Following a brief presentation participants were divided into five (5) discussion groups (plus the student group) of approximately 8-10 persons facilitated by the Consultant Team and Planning Department staff. Participants were engaged and conversations were focused. Afterwards, each group presented a brief summary of their group's discussion; there was a significant degree of consensus regarding residents' desires as well as their concerns.

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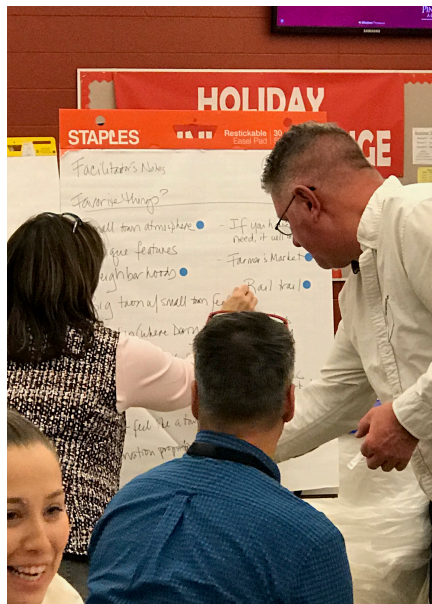
During the small group discussions, participants were asked the following questions:

- 1. What are your FAVORITE things about Derry (that you would want to ensure be preserved in the future)?**
- 2. What are your LEAST favorite things about Derry (that you feel are important to change in the future)?**
- 3. What is MISSING from Derry?**
- 4. What would you predict to be some important ISSUES to take into account when planning for Derry's future?**
 - A. Opportunities**
 - B. Challenges**
- 5. If you could do ONE THING to improve Derry, what would it be?**

Additionally, participants were asked to respond in writing to the following two questions:

What makes Derry unique?

What are some examples of community features you enjoy today that didn't exist 5-10 years ago?

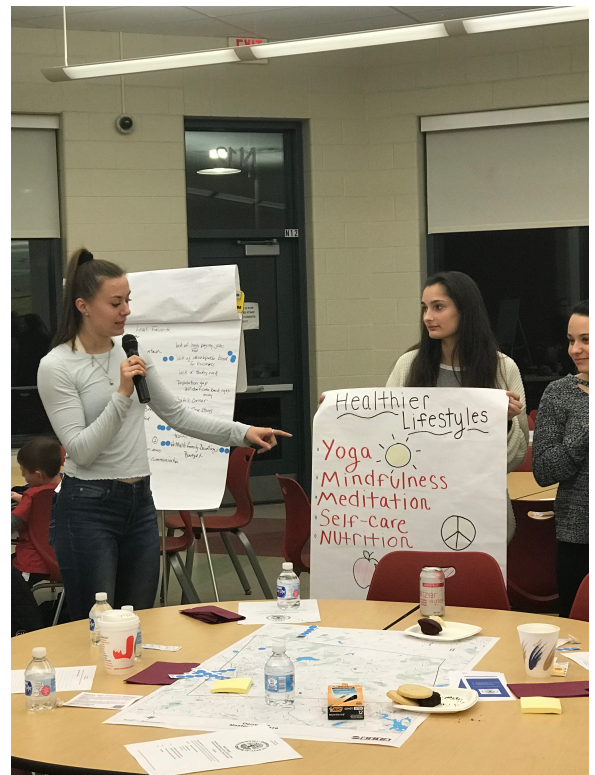
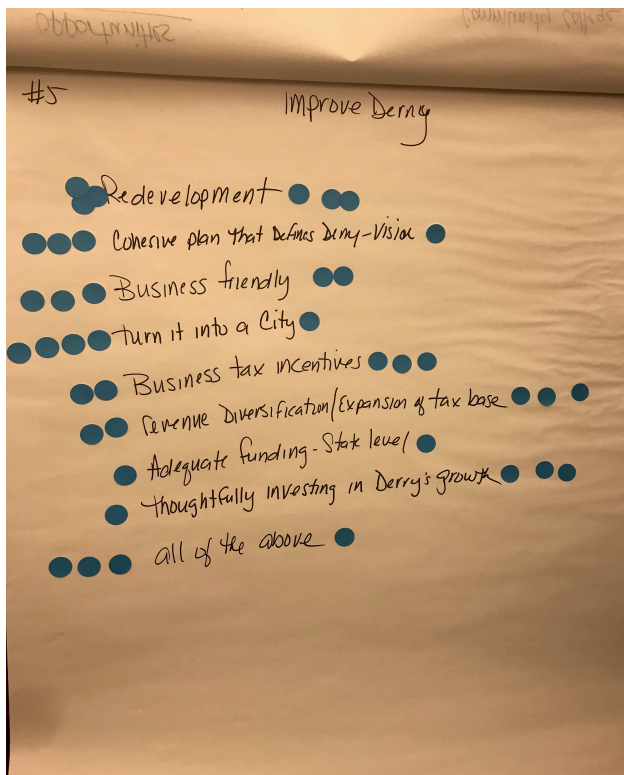


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DEVELOPING A SHARED VISION OF DERRY'S FUTURE

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 stakeholders gathered in other forums to craft a vision statement and goals for the future of Derry.

The following represent the key elements to include in the vision statement as identified by the participants of the public forum. 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.



HIGHLIGHTS OF FORUM DISCUSSION

KEY THEMES AND ELEMENTS FOR A VISION AND GOALS FOR DERRY'S FUTURE

Participants appreciate Derry's **small town feeling** and community spirit. Many spoke of the caring citizenry and community connections. Some mentioned the low crime rate, the fact that people know and help one another and the variety of community-oriented activities as features they very much appreciate. Some referred to a positive energy and philanthropic spirit. The teens participating in the public forum felt the "homey feel" was one of the things that made Derry special. They also expressed a desire for a "closer community" and felt this could be accomplished by holding more festivals and events and by using social media.

"Derry is a big town with a small town feel."

Residents appreciate Derry's **location** and its easy access to Interstate 93, Boston, Concord, Manchester, the mountains and the coast.

"We are so close to the mountains and beaches; we are able to get anywhere so easily."

Participants had a lot to say about Derry's **downtown**. They both appreciated that the town has a downtown and some of its features, specifically, the restaurants, coffee shops and breweries, that it is somewhat walkable and that it is welcoming during the holidays. Participants also felt that there is a lot of room for improvement, desire that the downtown become more of a destination, and had a variety of suggestions on how to accomplish this, these included:

"Downtown is our backbone to build off of. If we have a vibrant downtown, we can expand off of there."

- Encouraging **mixed-use**, that is office space and owner-occupied housing to provide a market for the downtown businesses
- Improving the **streetscape** by providing places to sit, flowers, lighting, etc.
- Encouraging more unique, independent retail and **destination businesses**
- Improving the **parking**
- Improving **walkability**
- Dealing with **absentee landlords**
- Making **Abbott Court** a destination
- **Marketing** the downtown

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Some expressed a desire for Derry overall to become a **destination** (not just the downtown) and to work on **marketing** the Town and improving its lingering negative **reputation**. A few participants felt that a **vision** for making Derry unique is an important first step. Participants also identified the **lack of connectivity between districts** and neighborhoods as contributing to a lack of cohesive image. The lack of connectivity between the downtown and surrounding neighborhoods was most frequently cited. Additionally mentioned was the need for **way-finding** to destinations.

"Derry lacks an identity."

A majority of residents are very supportive of additional **economic development** both for **job creation**, but primarily for **expanding the economic base**. Related to this is what many participants expressed and that is their perception that the **taxes** are too high. Exit 4A and Route 28 were seen as future opportunities with potential for some economic development. Some ideas included an "anchor business", hotel or Bed and Breakfast, research/office park, high tech park, and business incubators. Many mentioned a need to become more **business-friendly** and to implement business retention strategies. Some felt the town needs to **invest in infrastructure** that supports the growth of business, such as internet, data lines, water and sewer; a parking garage was also mentioned. Also supporting the ability for individuals to **work from home** was mentioned (e.g. lay the conduits for future electronic connections). Planned development in Londonderry was seen as an opportunity to Derry's economic development. Also potential was seen in the **expansion of medical facilities** and ancillary services (e.g. expansion of the Parkland Hospital and its ripple effects on the economy). The teens participating in the forum felt that having job opportunities was among the top challenges facing the Town in the future.

"Derry has a lot of hidden resources like band width, space and support systems to attract more commercial businesses and office space."

"While Derry has some great things, we need to be ourselves and fill the holes that Londonderry and Salem leave behind."

In terms of **housing**, there were a number of comments relating to the need for **affordable** housing, but also some expressed a desire to limit the number of **multi-family** apartments. Additional thoughts included providing **micro-apartments** for young people, live-work units, and affordable housing and ancillary services for **special needs** individuals. The need for a **Homeless** Shelter was also mentioned.

Participants were very appreciative of the Town's **open spaces, lakes, and trails**. They listed among their favorite features the conservation lands, hiking trails and Rail Trail, but would like the Rail Trail to be completed and an increase in access to conservation lands by adding more parking and signage.

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Residents appreciate the **recreational opportunities** available in Derry including the golf course, public boat ramps, lakes, and parks and recreation programs. They also noted their desire for additional programs and facilities, especially for young people. Additional information regarding existing opportunities and facilities are also desired. The teens participating in the forum would like *“more things to do such as a park and places to go and relax/chill.”* They also felt that some of the parks and trails were “dirty” and thought parks should be used for fairs and festivals.

Some participants cited Derry’s **history** and historic structures as being important features of the town. These included the legacies of Robert Frost, Alan Shepherd and the first potato planting.

Many participants very much appreciate Derry’s **schools**. A few participants would like the Pinkerton Academy to better communicate with town government, yet others would like the Town to have its own high school. Some participants thought that having some sort of **higher education presence** (e.g. community college, satellite college) would be beneficial to the Town.

“Pinkerton brings kids from all different towns – makes us feel like we are a connected family.”

–Teen Voice

Many participants very much appreciate the opportunities for **community gathering** whether through various **family activities** such as Derryfest and Derry After Dark or the Farmer’s Market and the Marion Gerrish Community Center. Some residents expressed a desire for additional family entertainment options and **events**. A few identified a need for a **senior center** to meet the needs of Derry’s growing elder population. The teens participating in the forum said that what Derry is missing is *“a hang out that offers live music, a place to study, something for everyone.”*

Residents are very enthusiastically supportive of the vibrant and growing **arts community** and the **cultural opportunities** offered at the Tupelo Music Hall and the Stockbridge Theater. They would welcome more both visual and performing arts.

There were several comments related to issues of **transportation**, these include:

- commuter traffic in the downtown as well as at the Derry Village traffic circle
- the fact that there is “no safe way” for kids to walk/bike to school
- a desire for public transportation options
- a desire for bike lanes to be created, especially when roadways are redone
- more sidewalks and crosswalks (teen voice)

Some residents referred to issues related to **health** as being important for the future of the Town. Specifically the **opioid epidemic** and other mental health issues needing services. The interest in

“Healthier Lifestyles for Derry: yoga, mindfulness, meditation, self-care, nutrition.”

– Teen Voice

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recreation, walking and biking was also in part related to a desire for healthy lifestyles. The students who participated were especially interested in promoting health and wellness and expressed concern for what they saw as an increase in drug use.

Participants appreciate the Town's efforts to be **resilient** by setting net zero goals and supporting the **use of renewable energy**. A policy regarding net metering¹ was mentioned by one group as a way of supporting the use of renewable energy sources. Related to the future resilience of the Town is what many identified as the need to **attract younger people to live in town**. While many identified this as desirable, not many ideas were offered as to how to accomplish this objective.

"I like being environmentally friendly"

Additionally, residents felt a need for **Town government** to be more **transparent**, improved **communication**, and recruit more volunteers. Some felt that zoning is not enforced consistently. Additionally, some participants called for a consideration of converting the municipality to a **City**. Looking for ways to make government more efficient by **regionalizing some services** was also mentioned.



¹ "Net metering allows consumers who generate some or all of their own electricity to use that electricity anytime, instead of when it is generated. This is particularly important with renewable energy sources like wind and solar, which are non-dispatchable."
(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Net_metering)

SUMMARY OF PARTICIPANT TOP RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS

The following summarizes participants top responses to the small group discussion questions. “Teen Voice” are the responses given by the 15 high school students participating in the public forum.

Favorite Things

- Open space and trails
- Downtown
- School system

Also:

- *Natural resources*
- *Small town feel*
- *Community activities*
- *Location*
- *Microbreweries*

Favorite Things (Teen Voice)

- The community – Rail Trail Café, restaurants
- Pinkerton – brings a ton of different towns together
- The Grind, The Juice Bar, Mary Ann’s

Least Favorite Things

- Lack of activities for youth
- Taxes
- Downtown

Also:

- *Not attracting young people*
- *Traffic*
- *Lack of commercial development*

Least Favorite Things (Teen Voice)

- Not enough sidewalks, crosswalks, plowing
- Senior lot at Pinkerton – lots of traffic

What is missing in Derry?

- Vibrant downtown
- Connectivity between districts
- Industry/commerce
- Family entertainment options
- Higher education

Also:

- *Youth activities*
- *A vision that makes Derry unique*
- *Hotel*
- *Senior center*
- *Infrastructure to support business growth*
- *Local investment in properties*
- *Wider range of housing types*

Teen Voice

Problem: Pollution/dirty parks

Solutions: street/trail clean up – use parks for fairs and festivals

Problem: Need a closer community

Solutions: More festivals and events, social media

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Future Opportunities

- Exit 4A
- Improve the downtown
- Rt. 28 South development

Also:

- *Technology*
- *Improve overall planning*

Future Challenges

- Limited potential for development
- Attract and keep younger people
- Taxes
- Increasing economic base

Also:

- *Zoning for Exit 4A*
- *Aging population*
- *Need for a vision*
- *Need for more volunteers*
- *Opioid epidemic*
- *Disparity in income levels*
- *Enforcement of zoning*

One thing to improve Derry

- Make downtown a destination
- Improve commercial base
- Cohesive plan that defines Derry

Also:

- *Expand funding sources*
- *Market Derry*
- *Improve access to conservation areas*
- *Become a City*
- *Transportation improvements*



Challenges (Teen Voice)

- Job opportunities
- Increase in drug use

What would make Derry better for kids/teens? (Teen Voice)

- A hang out that offers live music, a place to study, something for everyone
- More small businesses
- *"Inspire us kids to create and contribute to the community"*
- Start businesses , like the Juice Bar, run by Pinkerton Alumni
- More things to do such as a park and places to go and relax/chill

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What Makes Derry Unique?

Small town feel

Close knit community
It's wonderful people
Community connections – caring citizens
Community spirit

Open space and recreation

Gorgeous conservation land
Open space, Beaver Lake,
Rail Trail
Community garden
Boys and Girls Club
Golf course

Resilience

Net zero goals
“green” mentality
pro-renewable energy

Vibrant arts community

Cultural opportunities
Tupelo Music Hall
Stockbridge

Opportunities for community gathering

Family activities
Marion Gerrish Community Center
Farmer's Market
Derry After Dark
Derryfest

History

Alan Shepherd
Robert Frost
Potatoes

Vibrant, walkable authentic downtown

Craft breweries and distilleries
Coffee shops
Good restaurants
“Old style”

Great location

Convenient access to 93
Easy access to mountains, beaches, Boston

Great schools

Pinkerton Academy
School programs and opportunities

Hospital
Affordability
Various housing options
Workforce housing

What are some examples of community features you enjoy today that didn't exist 5-10 years ago?

Improved and Vibrant downtown

Coffee shops
Tupelo Music Hall for local entertainment
Great venues for musical arts
Adams Memorial/Opera House
Awesome breweries
New restaurants
Farmer's Market
Growing arts
SuperWalmart

Rail Trail
Heritage Trail
Expanded conservation lands
Splash pad

Renewable Energy

Solar – green focus
“I like being environmentally friendly”

Municipal Center

“Events that engage”

Derry After Dark
Derryfest
Christmas Tree Lighting
Spud crows

Quality of healthcare/medical facilities

Other Comments

Derry still lacks an identity...

Derry has a lot of hidden resources...

We need to be ourselves ...

Downtown is our backbone to build off of.

Derry needs a better base of businesses.

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Detailed Documentation of Small Group Discussion

1. "WHAT ARE YOUR **FAVORITE** THINGS ABOUT DERRY (THAT YOU WOULD WANT TO ENSURE BE PRESERVED IN THE FUTURE)?"

FAVORITE FEATURES: Response	Comments	# of groups	# of dots²
Open space and trails	Hiking trails, conservation lands Rail Trail	5	23
Downtown	That we have one Inviting during the holiday season Good variety of restaurants Room for improvement	3	20
School system	Pinkerton Academy and other schools too	5	19
Natural resources	Lakes (2) Conservation lands (10)	3	12
Small town feel	Sense of community The people Neighborhoods Big town with small feel (doesn't feel like a town of 30,000) Everyone knows everyone	4	12
Community Activities	Farmer's Market Derry After Dark Community Center (Marion Gerrish)	4	12
Location	Access to major roadways Access to Manchester, Concord and Boston Access to job market	3	11
Microbreweries	Craft beverage industries	2	10
Recreation	Golf, Hockey rink Public boat ramps Greater Derry Track Club The Sports Zone Parks and recreation programs	4	7
Positive energy and spirit	Philanthropic spirit- Both civic and private Service clubs such as the Rotary Town has energy	2	7
Historic aspects	History and historic structures	3	6
Opportunity to make improvements		1	6
Infrastructure	Roads	2	5

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 "prioritize" 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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FAVORITE FEATURES: Response	Comments	# of groups	# of dots²
Performing arts venues	<i>Tupelo Music Hall/Opera House Stockbridge Theater</i>	2	4
Special education services		1	3
Destination retail	<i>Revived Furniture</i>	1	3
Decent parks for the kids	Splash Pad at Don Ball Park	1	3
Coffee shops		1	3
Medical facilities		2	3
Low crime rate		1	2
Small businesses		1	2
Emergency services	<i>Full time</i>	2	1
Commitment to green energy		1	1
Nice grocery stores		1	1
Veteran's Memorial		1	0
Parades		1	0
Farms		1	0
It you have a need, it will be met		1	0
Unique features		1	0

2. "WHAT ARE YOUR **LEAST FAVORITE** THINGS ABOUT DERRY (THAT YOU FEEL ARE IMPORTANT TO CHANGE IN THE FUTURE)?"

LEAST FAVORITE FEATURES: Response	Comments	# of groups	# of dots³
Lack of activities for youth	<i>Lack of facilities and lack of information regarding existing opportunities/facilities Difficult to get to, not affordable Private sports for kids (5)</i>	4	30
Taxes	<i>Misinterpretations about renters (when taxes increase)</i>	4	21
Downtown	<i>Absentee landlords (14) Lack of clothing stores / retail (1) Lack of shoe stores Lack of parking (4)</i>	3	19
Not attracting young people	<i>Need a vision and resources towards this goal People in their 20s do not come back to town until they have children resulting in a population gap</i>	2	10
Traffic	<i>Commuter traffic in the downtown</i>	3	10

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 "prioritize" 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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LEAST FAVORITE FEATURES: Response	Comments	# of groups	# of dots³
Lack of commercial development	<i>Need more diversity in commercial development</i> <i>Lack of developable land for business</i> <i>Ratio of residential to commercial</i>	2	9
Electricity	<i>Unreliable (5)</i> <i>Cost (3)</i>	1	8
Town not known for anything	<i>Not a destination</i>	1	7
Access to conservation lands	<i>Lack of parking and signage</i>	1	7
The number of multi-family dwellings	Too many apartments Size of apartment complexes	2	6
Rotary	<i>Derry Village traffic circle</i>	3	6
Zoning	<i>Restricted in some areas of Town</i> <i>Variances that are granted</i> <i>Need tighter zoning</i>	2	5
Undesirable uses	<i>Used car dealerships</i> <i>Mini-storage</i>	2	5
Need for Infrastructure (water/sewer)	<i>Route 28, Ryans Hill</i>	2	5
Public participation		1	5
Lack of starter homes	<i>Affordable housing</i>	2	4
Disconnect between town and school	<i>Lack of communication between high school and town government</i> <i>Lack of tax cap for the school budget</i>	2	4
Disjointed business corridors	<i>The areas do not connect</i>	1	3
Tractor trailers going to the transfer station at odd hours		1	3
No safe way for kids to walk/bike to school		1	3
Need for democratic process and patience	<i>The old guard making all the decisions</i> <i>Lack of consistency in decision-making</i> <i>Lack of patience to make planning process happen</i>	2	3
No senior center		1	2
Lack of transportation system		1	1
Lack of garbage removal	<i>But really good transfer station</i>	1	1
Need for improved communication	<i>Need central communication to inform residents of activities, results in conflicts on calendar</i> <i>Lack of use of social media for communication for larger events</i> <i>Overwhelming social media</i> <i>Lack of an information hub</i>	2	0
Need to improve recreation facilities	<i>Beaver lake - Needs a better beach</i> <i>Hood Park</i> <i>Lack of hockey rink</i>	1	0
Lack of mid to high paying jobs		1	0
Shute's Corner		1	0
Budget		1	0

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LEAST FAVORITE FEATURES: Response	Comments	# of groups	# of dots³
Rail Trail – not completed		1	0
Lack of trades		1	0

3. WHAT IS MISSING IN DERRY?

WHAT IS MISSING? Response	Comments	# of groups
Vibrant downtown	<i>Downtown office space - To take advantage of shops and restaurants at lunch time Upscale restaurants Downtown streetscape: Places to sit, flowers Retail, unique independent shops; destination businesses Parking for retail Lighting especially along side streets off the main strip Lack of commitment to make downtown accessible Ability for large amount of people to park Walkability Connection between downtown businesses & economic development Owner occupied housing downtown</i>	5
Connectivity between districts	<i>Sidewalks outside of downtown Lack of cohesive streetscape – zones A section of the Rail Trail is missing Pedestrian walkways, More walkability The downtown and adjacent areas are not cohesive</i>	5
Industry/commerce	<i>Research/office park, High tech park Business friendliness and retention Medium-sized businesses (need incentives) Need business incubators An anchor enterprise</i>	4
Family entertainment options	<i>Affordable More events</i>	3
Higher education	<i>College, trade schools Community college, Satellite college</i>	3
Youth activities	<i>More for teens to do</i>	2
A vision that makes Derry unique	<i>Destinations Way-finding Public awareness of where we could make improvements</i>	2
Hotel		2

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WHAT IS MISSING? Response	Comments	# of groups
Senior center	<i>And activities for seniors</i>	2
Infrastructure to support business growth	<i>Internet/data lines, water/sewer Parking garage</i>	2
Local investment in properties	<i>Place-making/redevelopment , reinvestment</i>	2
Wider range of housing types	<i>Affordable micro-apartments for young people Affordable housing and support services for special needs individuals Live-work units</i>	2
Adequate State funding		1
Homeless shelter		1
Farms		1
Inexpensive land		1
Incentives for land preservation		1
Modern public facilities	<i>Education and municipal</i>	1
Bike lanes	<i>Especially when roadways are redone</i>	1
A local radio station		1
More to do	<i>More events More visual arts/venues for exposure of artists' work</i>	1
Public transportation		1
Hockey rink		1

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4. **LOOKING AHEAD, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY WILL BE SOME OF THE IMPORTANT ISSUES TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHEN PLANNING FOR DERRY'S FUTURE?**

A. **OPPORTUNITIES AND HOW SHOULD WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE?**

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES: Response	Comments	# of groups
Exit 4A	<i>And surrounding Planned Unit Development (PUDs) Future selling points</i>	4
Improve the downtown	<i>Market the downtown (including history and proximity to airport) Rethink parking downtown by making better use of empty lots such as Abbott Court Develop under-utilized commercial space downtown including space that isn't being used Attract local people to become downtown business owners Capitalize on the fact that Derry is the first downtown off I-93 over the Mass. Line Make Abbott Court a destination Accessibility/walkability of downtown</i>	3
Rt. 28 south development	<i>Redevelopment of commercial/industrial space Infrastructure (roadways, electronic connections, water/sewer) Bed and Breakfast, lodging</i>	3
Technology	<i>Further develop the Low Center of Technology (CTE)</i>	2
Improve overall planning	<i>Build on an energy that has been growing</i>	2
Work from home	<i>Electronic connection infrastructure (lay conduit for future connections)</i>	1
Green energy	<i>Solar</i>	1
Assuring self-sufficient infrastructure		1
Regionalization of services	<i>of emergency services Southern NH Water project- creates tax stabilization, water/sewer expansion</i>	1
Legalization of marijuana	<i>Leads to increase in tax base</i>	1
To become a City		1
Capitalize on trades programs at		1

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<i>FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES: Response</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i># of groups</i>
Pinkerton		
Attract more young people to Derry		1
Development in Londonderry		1
Location		1

**B. LOOKING AHEAD, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY WILL BE SOME OF THE
IMPORTANT CHALLENGES AND HOW SHOULD WE ADDRESS THESE?**

<i>FUTURE CHALLENGES: Response</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i># of groups</i>
Limited potential for development	<i>Limited amount of developable land, large tracts of land Town is not in control of private property Open spaces</i>	3
Attract and keep younger people		2
Taxes		2
Increasing economic base	<i>Financial resources needed to make changes</i>	2
Surrounding Planned Unit Developments		1
Expanding medical facilities and ancillary services	<i>Expanding Parkland Hospital - Trauma Level I – ancillary benefits Enhancements /building of medical community to include medical devices</i>	1
Zoning enforcement	<i>Variances granted to new regulations – negates purpose of the change – zoning rules need to be followed</i>	1
Zoning for Exit 4A		1
State philosophy about net metering		1
EMS – territorial oversight	<i>Departments are territorial about their borders/don't want to share</i>	1

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<i>FUTURE CHALLENGES: Response</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i># of groups</i>
Available workforce		1
Consolidating the school system		1
Hiring		1
Crime		1
Aging population		1
Cost of an education		1
Need a vision	<i>And buy-in to the vision The American Dream story has been lost Multiple opportunities are needed to get people involved</i>	1
Need for more volunteers	<i>Apathy The same people get involved and do everything Make volunteering rewarding and fun Relationships need to be developed between those who participate and those who don't</i>	1
Improving downtown		1
Affordable housing	<i>High rent</i>	1
Opioid epidemic	<i>And other mental health issues – not enough services</i>	1
Communication		1
Technology	<i>Including cell service</i>	1
Disparity in income levels		

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5. "IF YOU COULD DO ONE THING TO IMPROVE DERRY, WHAT WOULD IT BE?"

IF YOU COULD DO 1 THING... Response	Comments	# of groups	# of dots⁴
Make downtown a destination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> craft a vision for the downtown grow downtown according to vision expand downtown microbrewery in downtown establish sensible zoning to support redevelopment continue to improve downtown 	3	44
Improve commercial base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> redevelop business friendly provide tax incentives to businesses diversify revenue sources 	3	37
Cohesive plan that defines Derry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Vision Improve the sense of community Making people aware of what they can do for community /engagement 	4	20
Expand funding sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adequate State funding Establish public/private partnerships 	2	16
Market Derry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the reasons to come here upgrade the town's image; no "Dirty Derry" anymore 	2	10
Improve access to conservation areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finish Rail Trail 	2	9
Become a City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	1	9
Transportation improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public transportation 	2	9
Lower residential taxes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	1	8
Expand natural gas pipelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	1	6
Turn Derry into a City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	1	5
Thoughtful investing in Derry's growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	1	4
All of the above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase tax base, vision for the future of Derry 	1	4
Bury copper/fiberoptic lines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	1	4
Recreation Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	1	4
Remove old multi-family housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	1	0

⁴ 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 "prioritize" 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.

MASTER PLAN
Derry, New Hampshire

DERRY YOUTH VOICE

Approximately 15 high school students attended the forum and formed their own self-facilitated small group discussion. The following are their responses.

1. What makes Derry SPECIAL?

- Small businesses that really build a sense of community
- small town business
- homey feel
- Pinkerton brings kids from all different towns – makes us feel like we are connected family
- Small businesses such as The Grind and The Juice Bar – we gather here after school
- We don't want Derry industrialized because it takes away from the small-town feel

Problem: Pollution/Dirty Parks

Solutions: Street/trail clean up – use parks for fairs and festivals

Problem: Need a closer community

Solution: More festivals and event social media

2. What are your FAVORITE things about Derry?

- The community – Rail Trail Café, restaurants
- Pinkerton – brings a ton of different towns together
- The Grind, The Juice Bar, Mary Ann's

3. What are your LEAST FAVORITE things about Derry?

- Not enough sidewalks, crosswalks, plowing
- Senior lot at Pinkerton - has a lot of traffic
- Sidewalks and plowing for kids
- Traffic in the Senior lot in the morning affects everybody

4. What do you think are CHALLENGES Derry might face in the future?

- Job opportunity
- Increase in drug use

5. What is Derry missing? What would make Derry BETTER FOR KIDS/TEENS?

- Need a hang out that offers live music, a place to study, something for everyone
- Promote more small businesses
- Inspire us kids to create and contribute to the community
- Start businesses for example The Juice Bar, run by Pinkerton Alumni
- More things to do such as a park and paces to go and relax/chill at

MASTER PLAN
Derry, New Hampshire

What makes Derry unique?

Participants were asked to respond to two questions in writing. Their responses are documented below.

Downtown area, history, school system, community recreation, good restaurants, Pinkerton Academy, Theater and the Arts

Small town feel with historical aspects but large opportunities

*We have a real downtown
We have gorgeous conservation land!
Tupelo and the Stockbridge!!
Location, location , location #NOMASOMA!*

*Pinkerton
Net zero goals*

*Pro Small business
“green” mentality – pro renewable energy
solid craft brew scene
leader in growing the rail trail and family activities*

*great location
great schools*

*location
community connections – caring citizens
downtown
good neighborhood schools
cultural opportunities
open space, Beaver Lake, Rail Trail,
community garden*

*Location
Small town feel
Close knit community
Diversity of neighborhoods, i.e. downtown,
East Derry, Beaver Lake*

*It is one of the few towns with a traditional
iconic downtowns in southern New*

*Hampshire. It has an excellent school system.
It has a vibrant arts community. The
community is fairly tight knit and there are
now a great deal of fun social events taking
place like the Farmer’s Market, Derry After
Dark, Derryfest.*

Great schools

*It’s wonderful people
Downtown*

*Open spaces
History*

*Walkable downtown
Craft breweries/distilleries*

Location, location, location

Community spirit

Schools

*Marion Gerrish Community Center
School system*

*Small town atmosphere
Location*

Convenient access to 93

History of Derry:

- *Alan Shepherd*
- *Robert Frost*
- *Potatoes*

Wonderful schools

*Walkable downtown
Large town but small community
Pinkerton Academy
Location (mountains, beach, city in less than
1 hour)
community*

MASTER PLAN Derry, New Hampshire

Location

Small town feel/community strength

Great high school (opportunities)

Investments in open space/conservation

Has a hospital

Has a golf course

Has Boys and Girls Club

Stability in Police Department

Craft breweries – 3 breweries, 1 winery, 1 distillery

School programs and adjunct service

Historical properties

Old style downtown

Proximity to Boston, Coast, Mountains

Pinkerton Academy

Location to mountains, beaches, Boston

Our residential mix and how close we are to 93 and able to get anywhere

Great schools

It's location/proximity

Juxtaposition between "city" and "country" or actually the proximity of the two to other events

Flipside is that Derry is not viewed as a destination.

Infrastructure

- *Fiber backbones – how can we enable ?*
- *Renewable energy – early deployment of 5G*
- *Major road repairs include conduits for fiber?*
- *Sewer and water – large segments of businesses have to have it (e.g. breweries, manufacturing)*
- *Good roads*
- *Recreation – trails, parks, lakes*
- *Near 93*

- *Workforce housing (affordable)*
- *Talent (schools)*
- *Affordability*

Social responsibility by encouraging workforce housing for decades

Residents seem to truly enjoy their community, honest and ??

Myriad of different communities with various housing options

Community spirit

Location with regards to Boston

An actual, historic, real downtown

Sense of community amongst "most" of downtown stakeholders

Pinkerton Academy

What are some examples of community features you enjoy today that didn't exist 5-10 years ago?

Vibrant downtown, Tupelo Hall for music, Municipal Center, new restaurants

Rail trail recreational

Coffee shops

Tupelo Music Hall for local entertainment

A thriving downtown!

Great venues for musical arts!

Awesome breweries!

Coffee shops/cross fit

Rail Trail

Solar

Tupelo

Farmer's Market

Growth of small business that promote each other

MASTER PLAN

Derry, New Hampshire

Walmart redevelopment

- Derry After Dark

Revitalized downtown

Tupelo

Tupelo, Adams building/Opera House

Spud crows

Open space preservation

Growing arts

Farmer's Market

Farmer's Market

Rail Trail

Derry After Dark

Derry Fest

More culture

More community activities

Great restaurants and breweries

Upscale restaurants

Derry After Dark

Tupelo Music Hall

Farmer's Market

Farmer's Market

Tree lighting event

Rail Trail, Derry After Dark

Movie theater

New restaurants, Tupelo Hall

Medical facilities

Farmer's Market, Heritage Trail

La Carreta

An event space – Tupelo Hall

Farmer's Market

Nicer townhall

Rail Trail

Craft Brewery Industry

Derry After Dark, DUAF

Rail Trail

Christmas Tree Lighting

Some new restaurants

Rail Trail

Improved public safety capacity

Good restaurants

Quality of health care

Expanded conservation lands

Breweries and improved restaurant scene

Coffee shops and restaurant diversity

More Rail Trail

Breweries

Tupelo Music Hall

Splash Pad

SuperWalmart

All the coffee shops and all the extra amenities for being social

Tupelo

The push to solar and the transfer

New and improved Farmer's Market

station/solar use. I like being environmentally friendly.

Rail Trail

The Grind

Rail Trail

Rail Trail

Improved downtown

Tupelo

Farmer's Market

Lots of Breweries

Tupelo

Business owners that have made a community effort:

Stable Town Council

Events that engage – the downtown

- Movies at Opera House

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Brew pubs, restaurant downtown

Rail trail, recreation

Lakes

Solar in town – green focus

Rejuvenation of downtown

Tupelo Music Hall

Rail Trail

Farmer's Market

Coffee shops

Breweries

Arts

Derry still lacks an identity that medium businesses can grow. There is no anchor business identity. This is needed to grow. Salem and Londonderry are growing at a fast pace with vision which Derry lacks.

As a young family with children we'd love to see our sports teams be competitive with surrounding towns.

Great place to live.

While Derry has some great things we need to be ourselves and fill the holes that Londonderry and Salem leave behind.

The Derry "Cabal" has done nothing to help Derry's situation.

Downtown is our backbone to build off of. If we have a vibrant downtown, we can expand off there.

Other Comments

Derry has a lot of hidden resources like band width, space and support systems to attract more commercial businesses and office space

Derry needs a better base of businesses – high tech or medical would help bring "new opportunities"



Perks of Participation

A big thank you to the culinary students and their Chef from Pinkerton Academy for providing dinner!

For more information please see: <https://www.derrynh.org/planning/master-plan-update>