

**Planning Board Workshop
City Wide Survey
October 11, 1994**

Chairman Ron Cole introduced himself. He said there have been many changes in the community since the 1988 City of Dover Master Plan was completed. He said the NH Survey Center was chosen to do a scientific survey of Dover citizens. They will be randomly contacting 500 citizens by phone. Ron said what we want to find out what questions should be asked.

Steve Stancel said that a Master Plan is essential. It answers the following questions:

1. Where are we now as a City?
2. Where do we want to go as a City?
3. How do we get there?

He said that public input is most important. He handed out copies of the questionnaire that was sent to every household in 1988.

Kelly Myers, of the UNH Survey Center said that he would doing a scientific survey of Dover. He explained that a mailed survey has a very low response rate. He said you get people who have extreme views. With a scientific survey everyone in town has the same chance of getting picked as everyone else. He said unlisted numbers are also included. They have no idea who they are calling, the computer generates the telephone numbers. He explained that the interviewer sits at a computer terminal which eliminates errors. The survey center is a non-profit organization so there are no long distance charges. He said that the questions should be at an 8th Grade level. He added that questions that are vague are usually not very useful. Specific questions should be asked about a specific project. He said that once you determine what questions you want answered, he can help by phrasing them for the questionnaire. He said that they will not be asking open ended question.

Jack Story asked if we would have any kind of information of the people who are being polled?

Kelly answered that in the back of the survey there will be demographics such as education, age, income bracket, gender, do they own or rent, do they have children in school, etc.,.

Steve Stancel said that in 1988 they chose the mailed survey to give every household a chance to respond. He said they received 1,000 responses out of 11,000.

Kelly said they will contact 600 household if we have to get 500 responses. He said that he recommends a survey that requires no more than 10 to 12 minutes on the phone. Kelly said that results will be available 20 to 25 days after they have a questionnaire. He said that weekends are the most productive shifts. He said to distinguish themselves from solicitors, they may start out by saying they are calling from UNH on behalf of the City of Dover.

Steve Stancel said that it would help to get the publicity out there prior to the survey.

Kelly said that the responses are completely confidential.

Bob Belmore asked if people could pick up a questionnaire at City Hall if they were kept separate from the phone questionnaire.

Kelly said there may be some extra cost to do the data entry.

Ron Cole said it would be interesting to see the difference in the scientific survey and the survey picked up and answered by anyone at City Hall.

Dana Lynch said he was particularly interested in waterfront development and the use of the City's property on the waterfront, particularly the Cochecho River. Also, how the City views a need for rail transportation in the downtown area and priorities in using City money in the use of the railroad. He would like to know how desirable that service is to everyone.

Lee Martel said he would like to see how the citizens feel about the City owning industrial land.

Bob Belmore said he would like transportation questions, such as routing traffic and where to have traffic lights.

Brian Preston said he would like questions on downtown traffic and crosswalks.

Jack Story said rezoning questions should be asked. He said if too many areas are left residential, more homes and children come in.

Dean Trefethen said he would like to see commercial development in the south end of town. He said they have to travel to the north end for shopping.

Lee Martel said that Second Street was made one way and works well. He spoke about angle parking on the numbered streets.

Ron Cole said it could be asked, if there were more spaces, would you shop downtown?

Ernie Clark said that he feels people should be allowed to be directly involved when it negatively affects their property in a rezoning.

Steve Stancel said that the development of the north end makes sense in terms of traffic patterns.

Ernie Clark said that the Knox Marsh Road citizens were not in agreement with the rezoning there.

Jack Story said we are taking into account 50 neighbors versus 25,000 citizens. Some neighbors end up on the short end but were they asked if they would want rezoning or keep the tax rate, what would they reply?.

Dana Lynch said that we should get an idea of where growth should take place. He added that it is important to lay out a few areas.

Bob Corsetti said that rezoning is a volatile issue. He said that school enrollment has leveled off.

Lee Martel said that people do not get displaced by rezoning.

Steve Stancel said that the citizens could be asked if they are satisfied with the tax rate and Dover's rate of growth.

Bob Belmore said the question of whether the citizenry would favor anything on a regional basis, and would they be willing to go to the County building for these services? Also, are they satisfied with the City Hall hours?

Dana Lynch felt that the City should have a sense of what their waterfront property is worth.

Ernie Clark stated we are always putting in new parks and not maintaining others.

Dan Markey said that we should ask whether they are in favor of tying Rochester into the sewer.

The following categories are a result of the meeting:

1. Waterfront development of City property.
2. Should the City be involved in renewing rail service.
Service/rate importance
3. Should the City be owners of industrial development facilities versus private.
4. Transportation, traffic lights, downtown parking.
5. Shopping - where - why - how increase.
6. Commercial development
108/Mast Rd.

Zoning
Rezone Now - Attract Commercial/Industrial areas

7. City Services

Satellite Areas

City Hall hours

Expand-refine

Technology infrastructure

1 area of City services changed - what would it be

8. Tax Rate

Trade offs

See: Industrial Development

Services

Satisfaction

Regionalization

Travel further for services (lower taxes)

8. Schools

New

Rate system

Kindergarten

Senior Centers

9. Housing

Sufficient value

Amount

10. Demographics

a. location in town

b.

11. Tie into sewer (Rochester)

Rate effect