NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TOWN OF DANVILLE
PLANNING COMMISSION

Will hold a public hearing
At 7:00 PM on Thursday, June 16, 2016
(during a regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting)
at the
Danville Town Hall Conference Room
in accordance with Title 24, Section 4384 Vermont Statutes Annotated.
This meeting is to solicit public input
on the proposed updates to the Town Plan.

Town of Danville

P.O. Box 183
36 Route 2 West
Danville, VT 05828
802.694.3352

May 19, 2016

We are contacting you today to correct an error in correspondence recently sent to you.

On May 16th, we sent a draft copy of our revised Town Plan and a Warning for a Public Hearing. In error, the warning referenced Chapter 24, Section 4441. That should have referenced Chapter 24, Section 4384 (Preparation of Plan, Hearings by Planning Commission).

The date and time of the Public Hearing remain the same.
We simply wanted to correct this error and notify you as soon as possible.

Thank-you!

Town of Danville
Planning Commission

RECEIVED
MAY 27 2016
Agency of Commerce and Community Development

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

RECEIVED
MAY 18 2016
Department of Housing
and Community Development

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DANVILLE TOWN PLAN

"We can either be victims of change or we can plan for it, shape it, and emerge stronger from it."

- Ed McMahon, Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities

Revised by:

Danville Planning Commission:
Jim Ashley
Phil Chadderdon
Vince Foy
Jill Kelleher
Jeffrey Paquet
Walt Smith
Kate Whitehead

June, 2016

Original Plan Adopted by the Danville Selectboard December 8, 2005
Revised by the Danville Selectboard May 5, 2011 and June 15, 2016

Special thank you to:

Laural Ruggles
Glenn Herrin

George Cahoon for contributing photos.

Danville Conservation Commission

Residents and property owners who provided the feedback and guidance through the surveys and public review meetings.

The volunteers who contributed their time to support the community activities and services essential to our Town.

Northeastern Vermont Development Association

Revisions		
Page	Changed Item	Notes

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I. Introduction

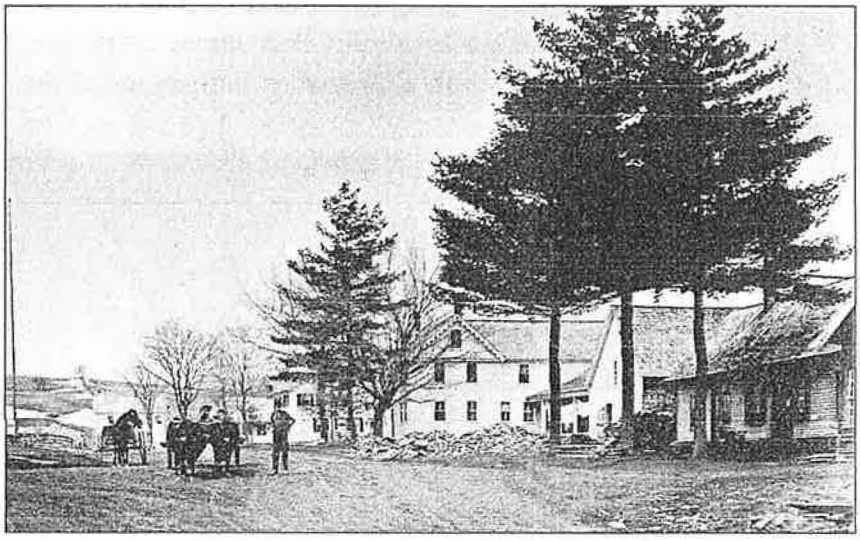
Historical Perspective

by Tobias Belivet

Every town has its distinct character. Often, the defining traits are imprinted during its earliest years of development, and the sources subsequently lost to local memory. This is true of Danville.

This area of northern Vermont was under constant settlement pressure from the older British colonies to the south, from the mid-1700s on. War interrupted the in-migration, the French and Indian War from 1754 to 1760, and the American Revolution from 1775 to 1783. In each instance, native Abenaki alliances with a European enemy to the north made frontier life dangerous. At the same time, military service brought an ever-increasing awareness of the potential of the North Country each time peace was restored.

"Danville's quiet and enduring charm belies the modest role it has played in the state and nation... In recent years a new and promising role for Danville has been emerging... the environment is proving a major asset. People are realizing that the town is a wonderful place to visit and live."



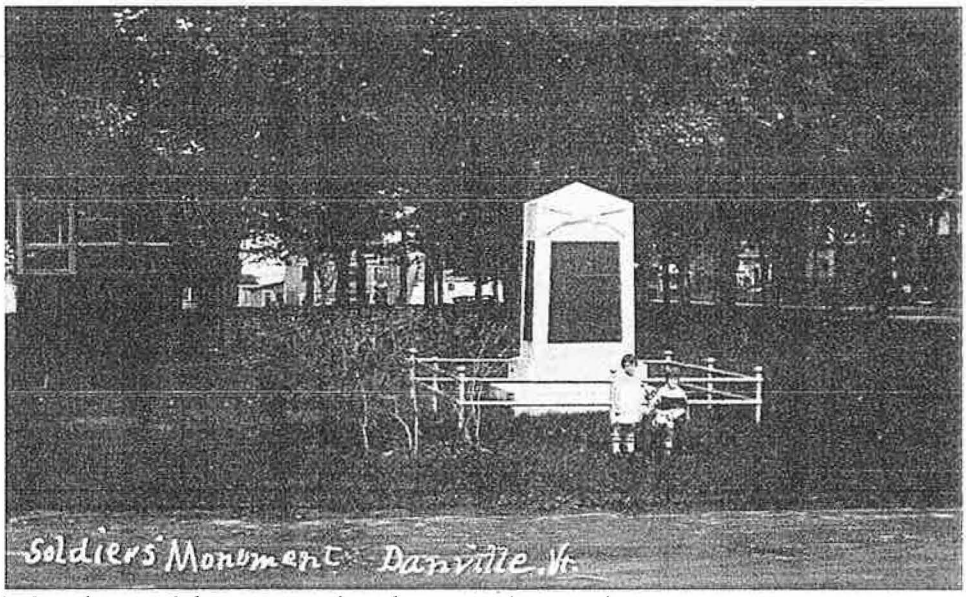
Locally, Peacham, Ryegate, Barnet, and Newbury were all settled before the Revolution. Danville, Cabot, St. Johnsbury, and Waterford were among the towns that came afterward. But preliminary development of Danville began early, with a petition for a New York royal charter under the name of Hillsborough in October 1765 by Elias Bland and associates. Survey work was undertaken between 1770 and 1774. Upon cessation of hostilities, settlement of the town, as Hillsborough, began immediately, in 1783-85.

"We shall not attain to cities and villages that are beautiful until we learn artistically how to plan them. Transformation may help us greatly, as London and Paris and some examples at home show; but a mended article is never as good as one well made at first."

Charles Mulford Robison, The Improvement of Towns and Cities, 1907

Vermont had been a part of the royal province of New York before the Revolution. But the high-handedness and remote indifference of the New York authorities, and the exorbitance of their chartering fees, allowed a faction led by the Allen brothers from the western side of Vermont to keep alive a set of claims based on illegal chartering activity by the province of New Hampshire between 1749 and 1764. The resolution of the competing New York and New Hampshire claims became the price of Vermont's admission as the 14th state. And they were resolved, upon the payment of $30,000 Spanish dollars by Vermont to New York, extinguishing the New York claims, and validating the New Hampshire claims. The Hillsborough settlers now had to obtain a new Vermont town charter, which they did, under the name of Danville, in 1786.

Before the Revolution, Vermont was divided into four counties, of which northeastern Vermont was designated Gloucester County. The new State of Vermont adopted the same political subdivisions, re-naming Gloucester County as Orange County. By the early 1790s, settlement was so rapid it became apparent to the Legislature the northern part of the State would have to be further subdivided. In 1792, the two northern counties of Orange and Chittenden were broken up, with the addition of Caledonia, Essex, Franklin and Orleans. Caledonia initially extended westerly to include, for example, Montpelier, Marshfield, Cabot, Woodbury, and Calais.



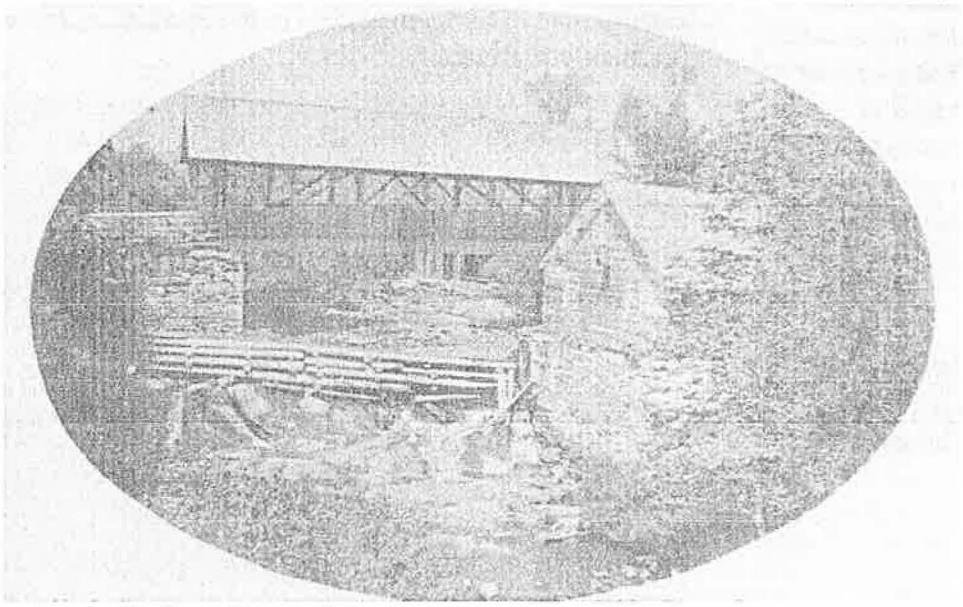
In 1795, the Legislature appointed a committee to locate a county seat. In 1796, the Legislature determined that the Caledonia county seat would be in Danville, "if the inhabitants … shall … within two years … build and

"The image people have of Vermont is not beyond its reality. The descriptions of wild beauty interspersed with the purity of northern New England villages need not be exaggerated. Residents of the state have always been proud of these attributes and are protective of their territory, and for outsiders who visit at any time of year, Vermont is a release from the intensity and sameness that grip many other parts of America."

Charles Johnson
The Nature of Vermont

complete a good and sufficient courthouse and goal … free of expense" to the county. The choice of Danville for county seat, or shire town, held perfect logic. It was geographically dead center in the new county, and had rapidly become the largest town. In the 1791 census, Danville, after no more than seven years of development, had out-stripped the older pre-Revolutionary towns, and, with 574 citizens, held 25% of the entire population of the new county.

While size and location gave Danville the role of county seat, and later consequences flowed from that, this begs the question why it was the town had grown so rapidly to begin with. The answer is not clear. Was it perceived as well-blessed with potential mill sites, on Joes Brook and Sleeper's River? Was the access easy because of traditional native trails, or proximity to the pre-Revolutionary towns of Peacham and Barnet? Was it the marketing strategy of the particular land jobbers whose speculations drove the settlement of this township, as they drove the settlement of every other uninhabited spot in the new territory? Or were Danville's earliest settlers taken, as we remain, by the almost uniquely gorgeous view of the White Mountains that frames our lives from sun up to sun down today?



Greenbanks Hollow Covered Bridge

In any event, politics and geography combined to give the town what is today arguably its dominant feature by human hand, U.S. Route 2. Upon the designation of a four-acre green on which to locate the county buildings in 1796, the village of Danville Green sprang up, nearly overnight, shifting development from the previously settled community around Dole Hill. Major new roads radiated outward, a county road from Danville Green to Chelsea, one to Wheelock, to Greensboro, to Montpelier. The road to Chelsea has now atrophied to an idyllic country lane, recommended for fall foliage tours and

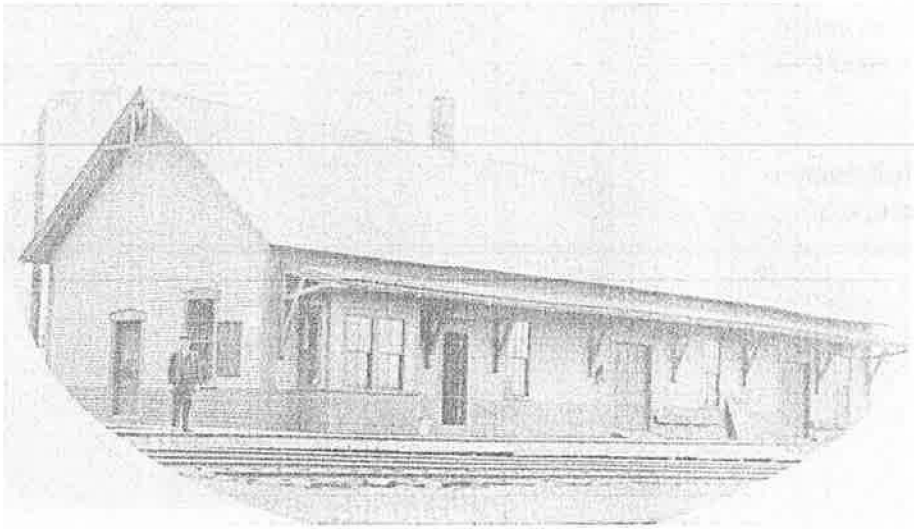
Sunday drives. But the road to Montpelier has grown into a major east-west artery.

In a geography scraped into north-south ruts by the retreating glaciers, the development of the east-west passage assumes critical importance. Nowhere to the north, and nowhere to the south until the Wells River is there a cut through the ridge of hills defining the edge of the Connecticut basin as suitable as that created at Joes Pond and its outlet. To the west, Route 2 follows the river bottom of the Winooski, forcing river road and village to the bottom of the ravine to the extent that the road dominates the communities through which it passes. But in Danville, Route 2 passes over open hillside, and the relationship is more symbiotic; the traffic slows to acknowledge the community as much as the community acknowledges the highway.

"What Vermont has to offer the world is a fabric, human and natural, of astonishing integrity and beauty. Any piecemeal changes can, little by little, rend a fabric, pull its stitches out and destroy it .... if we care about places like the Northeast Kingdom, we must commit to a rate of change that is slow and exercise great care in the changes we accept."

Tom Slayton,
Editor, Vermont
Life Magazine

When St. Johnsbury sought and won the role of county seat in 1856, it was based on that town's ascendancy as a manufacturing, and therefore rail transport, center. Danville's primacy had been based on agriculture. Danville in the 19th century, and at times in the 20th, along with several other local townships, was famed for its livestock. And it remains a primarily agrarian society, leavened by an openness to the market, and to change, represented by the east-west highway.



Railroad Station

Danville missed the county seat status, but did not dwell on it. By 1856, an internal motor of self-confidence governed its response to this and other changes. And it was selective about how much it truly gave up. County offices to this day have often been dominated by citizens of Danville, like the Southern officer tradition in the U.S. military corps. In the late 1950s, the federal government considered locating the interchange of I-91 and I-93 in

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

Danville, until a campaign seeking its benefits shifted the interchange eastward, for better or worse. Had we fought harder at times for political primacy, it would be us, rather than our sister community to the east, who would be debating the merits of "big box" retail centers, and the consequences to the economy and society of hosting a regional correctional Mcenter.

Danville is more likely to choose to go forward than back, to grow than retrench. We have chosen to expand our schools, and not tuition away our youth. We have maintained public libraries and community centers, renovated our town hall, and held fundraisers to operate a free public beach at Joes Pond. We gave birth to the Dowsers society in the early 1960s, helped it go national, and sent it on its way. We have supported old traditions like Danville Fair, and church suppers, year after year, and created new traditions.

Visions of the Future

"If we do not know where we are going it will be hard to know if we are there."

Danville resident, Town of Danville 2003 Landowner's Survey

Danville "the village in the hills" is a small rural community defined by several distinct compact historical villages surrounded by farmland, forests and scenic vistas with a strong connection to the land. Its citizens cherish the traditional values of volunteerism, dedication to service, self-sufficiency, independence, education, community pride, family, and neighbor helping neighbor. Citizens overwhelmingly want Danville to maintain its current small-scale rural character and way of life well into the future preserving the attributes that makes living and recreating here so unique and special.

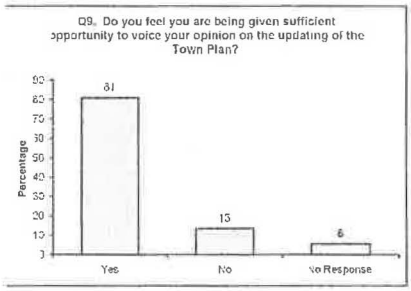
Importance of Planning

Danville has so far largely avoided the adverse impacts of unplanned growth and development in our rural areas, but development has continued to spread along the U.S. Rte. 2 corridor and will continue along adjacent roads and corridors if left unchecked. We must identify and encourage changes that will result in the overall benefit to the community and conversely, identify what changes will be detrimental to the health and vitality of the town and what should be done to avoid these types of changes. We must plan for future growth patterns while positively addressing both individual concerns and community interests.

A Town Plan should be considered a living document that takes snapshots in time and tries to provide a five to ten year framework of guidance and focused direction that reflects the hopes and wishes of a large majority of its citizens. Legally, town plans need to be readopted every five years, but in reality need to

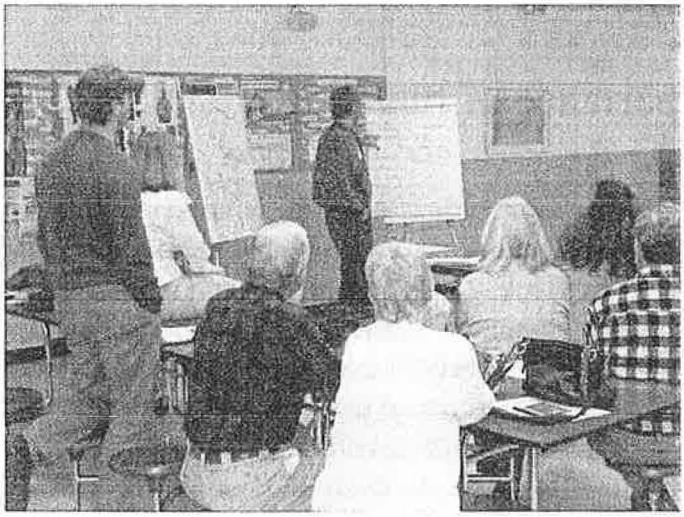
be revisited periodically to keep in step with the fast pace of change and the new issues that arise that were not even understood or considered only a few years ago. We must set long term objectives and develop plans to address known challenges to our community such as controlling the rising costs of providing education and essential services, degradation of our natural resources and scenic vistas and the long term viability of our agricultural and forest resource industries. At the same time, we must be open to new technologies, plan for environmentally friendly businesses and support economic development that will provide livable wage jobs for our children and the community.

Public Involvement



Town Meeting Day Survey, 2004

Replace chart at left with something from current surveyThe Danville Planning Commission has relied on public involvement and feedback to provide the focus and vision of how the residents and landowners of Danville want their town to be over the next decade. The Danville Planning Commission met with the NVDA Regional Planning Commission for guidance on how to undertake the task and involve the community. Various approaches were used to solicit input for initial drafts and obtaining critical feedback on the draft sections. Written surveys provided over 200 responses from the "2003 Danville Landowners Survey", and similar numbers to spot surveys handed out at Town Meeting Day through 2009.



Team members work together at the Danville Community Workshop to answer questions related to the 10 planning elements

An effort was made to invite as many of the town's resident experts to either draft or review sections where their expertise would benefit the process.

Input from the Chamber, the Conservation Commission, the Danville Historical Society, The NVDA and members of planning commissions from surrounding towns was essential in providing input to the process.

Additional community engagement methods to capture the local vision and voice should continue to be explored in Danville. Opportunties to engage Danville's youth in community planning efforts (such as conducting local needs assessments, volunteering on a town board or participating in a community visioning exercise) should also be strongly encouraged and included as an equally important contributing perspective of our Town's future.

Since 2009, with input from focus groups and surveys, the town has adopted new zoning bylaws recognizing historical core villages, historic residential and Route 2 corridor districts. Continued work is planned with residents of North Danville and Joe's Pond updating bylaws to recognize and conserve the assets of those communities.

II. Housing & Population

Overview

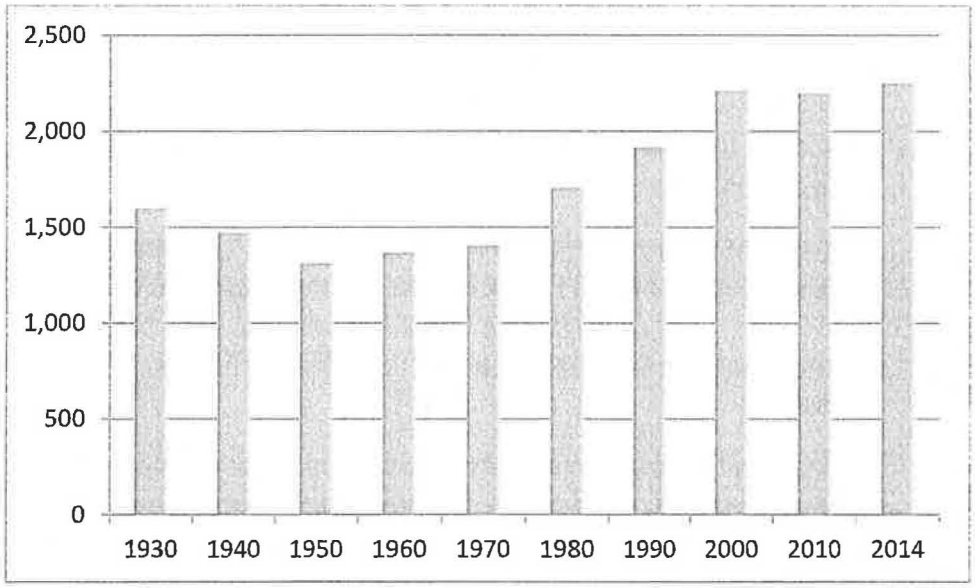
Danville is primarily a rural residential and agricultural community. Our town is home to a wealth of different terrains that support wildlife, promote a sense of well-being, provide the backdrop for our quaint villages and contribute to the pastoral character which we value. As we continue into the 21st Century we must strive to blend the rural character and tranquility, which we cherish with controlled development to accommodate an increase in population.

Selected Demographic Statistics, *Town of Danville*

Estimated Population, 2014 *	2,247
Census Population, 2010	2,196
Census Population, 2000	2,211
Population Density (Persons per Sq. Mi.), 2010	36.07
Absolute Population Change, 2000-2010	-15
Percent Population Change, 2000-2010	-0.68%
Number of Families, 2010	639
Average Family Size, 2010	2.78
Average Household Size, 2010	2.37
Unmarried Partner Households, 2010	77
Total Children in Single Parent Families, 2010	68
Total Group Quarters Population (Non-Inst. and Inst.), 2010	0
Total Households, 2010	928
Total Housing Units, 2010	1,268
Owner-Occupied Housing Units, 2010	784
Renter-Occupied Housing Units, 2010	144
Seasonal Housing Units, 2010	270

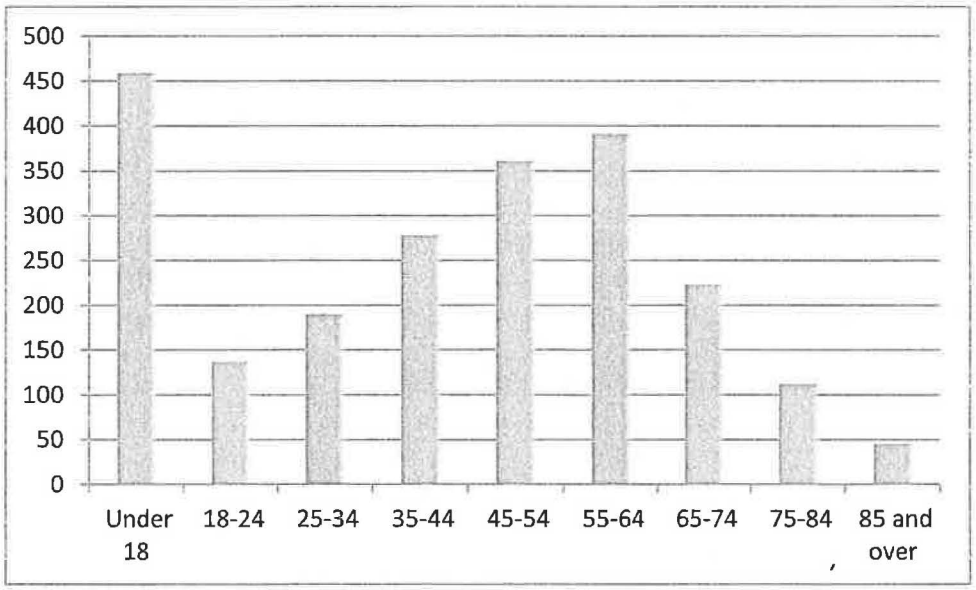
All data from 2010 US Census, except
** 2010-2015 ACS 5-year Estimate*

Historic Population Trend, *Danville 1930-2014*



US Census and 2010-2015 ACS 5-year Estimate

Age Distribution, *Danville 2010*



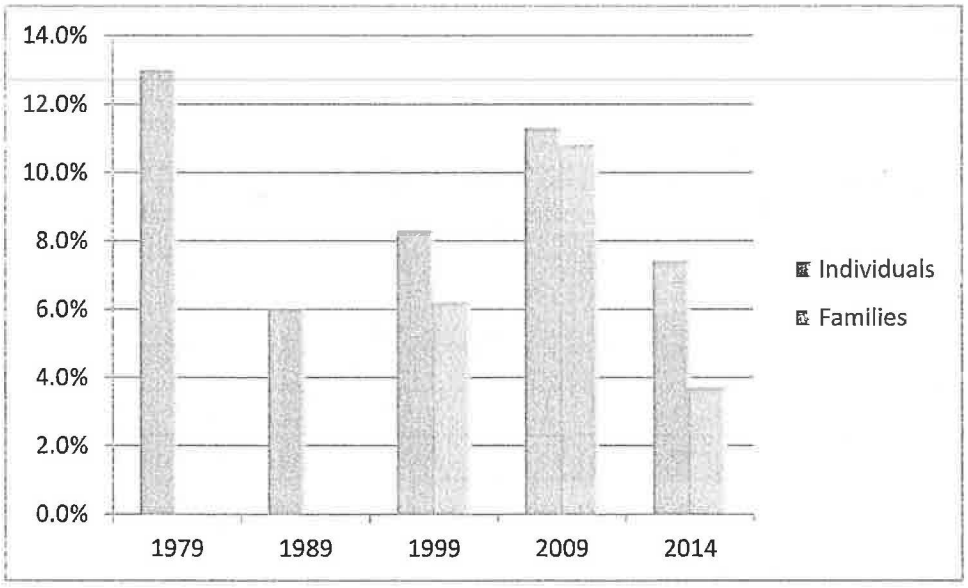
US Census Bureau, 2010 Census

Our community acknowledges its civic responsibility to assure that affordable housing is available to all. As of 2014, an estimated 27% of Danville's residents were age 62 or over; this is up 9% from the estimate in the 2011 Town Plan, and this percentage may continue to increase. Provisions must be made to assure that the senior members of our community have access to affordable housing and easy access to services. A variety of housing types/situations should be considered.

A diverse citizenry is paramount to the vitality of our community. Diversity lends dimension and new perspectives to the discourse that will take Danville into this new century. Assuring affordable housing for a broad cross-section of people who wish to share in our quality of life will foster socio-economic diversity.

The citizens of Danville wish to preserve those aspects of the town which kept us here or brought us here - those features of our community that will most certainly attract others. Therefore, we must plan for growth while doing our best to maintain the beauty of our landscape and the charm of our villages.

Poverty Rate, *Danville 1979-2014*



American Community Surveys, 5-year Estimates

Goal

Support initiatives to provide safe, affordable housing and to simultaneously preserve the rural character of our community.

Objectives

1. Foster socioeconomic diversity by encouraging a variety of affordable housing.
2. Assure that safe, affordable housing is available for the elderly. A range of living situations including but not limited to independent and assisted living should be considered.
3. Encourage mixed use residential development in villages that is in keeping with the village character.
4. Encourage open space zoning as a means of providing attractive, quality housing while minimizing sprawl in order to preserve the rural landscape.
5. Stipulate that development be rural in character such that structures integrate with their natural environment. Homes should be designed to fit the site rather than the site altered to fit the home.
6. Promote the establishment of small-scale lodging facilities such as B&B's, inns, youth hostels and farm-stays (agritourism) to provide short-term accommodations for tourists.
7. Encourage the use of local renewable energy resources for powering residential electricity needs.

Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks, & Programs)

1. Require that 25% of all new developer-built dwelling units be VHFA eligible. Development, by definition, entails a subdivision of multiple lots with construction, by a single building firm, which occurs concurrently or consecutively over time.
2. Assess data for families living below the poverty line to direct planning of low-income housing.

3. Support owners of multi-unit dwellings to comply with HUD Section 8 housing requirements, based on town/regional statistics.
4. Promote construction of affordable housing for seniors through HUD section 202.
5. Establish a definitive zoning bylaw which delineates standards for new construction and exterior renovation for specific districts. These standards must assure that the structure be in context with surrounding structures and/or blend with natural land formations. Points to consider might include design controls, location in an historic site or district, scale, placement on parcel, etc.
6. Include in zoning bylaws a provision that favors planned development as a means of accommodating population growth.
7. Establish a zoning bylaw that clearly outlines minimum lot sizes and requirements associated with common space in areas with open space zoning.
8. Require homes and outbuildings be located on the most appropriate sites in order to minimize impact on habitat preservation, public safety, view sheds (outside village areas), etc.
9. Set a maximum number of dwellings for areas based on the district objectives.
10. Do not encumber rural home sites with typical urban/suburban appointments such as curbs, sidewalks, street lighting, and blend in with the landscape.
11. Restrict new residential construction within 100 vertical feet of mapped ridgelines.
12. Homes and outbuildings constructed on high elevations and throughout the town should have non-polluting lights and naturalistic landscaping should be promoted.
13. Require homes and outbuildings constructed at high elevations be finished in subdued colors/tones that are derived from the local, natural environment.
14. Create "slope criteria" which prohibits grading of slopes over 35% to site new residences or outbuildings. On existing lots with no potential building sites having less than a 35% slope earth berm construction should be promoted as the primary option.
15. Recommend and support initiatives that houses be constructed to maximum energy efficiency as outlined by Efficiency Vermont.
16. Promote education on new energy technologies that harness local renewable energy sources for residential electric use.
17. Investigate and pursue mechanisms to give incentives to residents and businesses to use local renewable energy sources for residential electric and heating use.
18. Provide information regarding low-emission building materials and encourage "Healthy Home" construction.

Responsibility for Implementation

Zoning administrator, Development Review Board, Planning Commission, Selectboard.

III. Jobs & Economic Development

Overview

Danville was chartered in 1786. In the early years, Danville experienced rapid growth of industry along its brooks and rivers and was the most populous town in the area. By the 1840's, Danville's industrial edge in water power gave way to towns along rivers that offered better transportation of goods, but Danville continued to possess a mixed economy of light industry, farming and trade.

The arrival of the railroad and advances in machinery allowed farmers to see better profits, and the town experienced an influx of tourists escaping from summer heat. The town survived the depressions of the 1890s and 1930s, as well as two world wars. In the last part of the century, it was transformed into more of a suburban community, though it still retains working farms.

In recent years, a new role for Danville has emerged. The rural environment featuring scenic vistas of mountains and rolling fields, historical village settings, commercial businesses and community spirit is proving an asset to those who live here, visit, or start a business.

Danville needs to be pro-active in balancing economic growth with quality of life. A comprehensive economic development plan and the regulatory framework to implement it fosters a sense of community. Such a plan curtails random development that can negatively impact property values, municipal resources and permanently detract from the rural character of the Town.

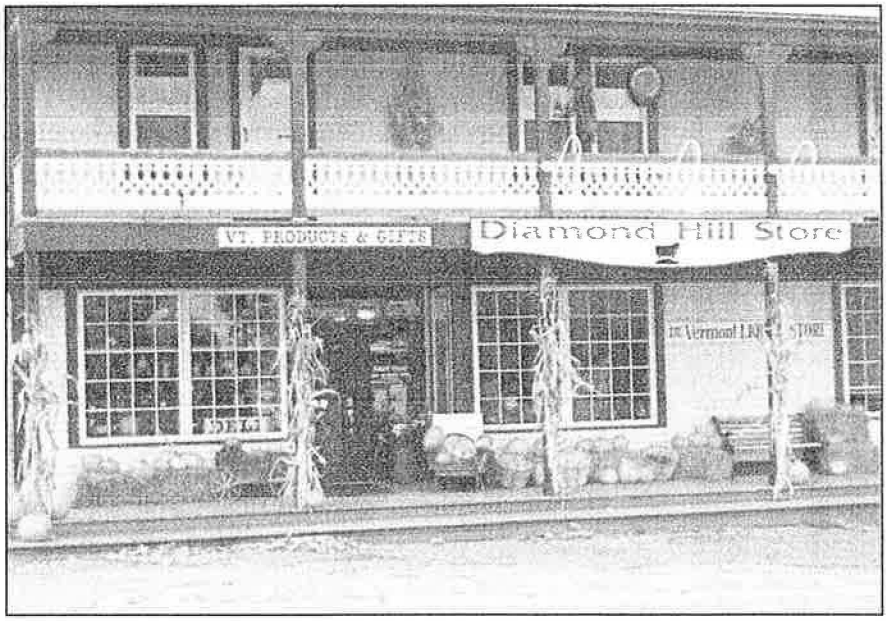
Like other rural communities in Vermont, Danville strives to balance growth and development with the best possible economic, social, environmental, and public health outcomes; to retain farmland and natural landscapes, small town traditions, and rural character while still benefiting from economic development.

Most Danville residents work outside of the town. Job creation relies heavily on regional, state and federal initiatives or the entrepreneurial spirit and investments of individuals with little or no local support. An economic plan and regulatory framework is necessary to make Danville an attractive location for businesses.

Today, the major employers in town are the school, the Town, small retail and service companies - many focused on hospitality and tourism - and many small entrepreneurial and home based businesses. There is a local need to promote the benefits of Danville as a place to locate or expand business and provide quality jobs for its residents.

Current zoning bylaws (adopted 2009) outline eight districts within the town: Village Core, Historical Neighborhoods, Village Residential, Route 2, Medium Density Residential (MDR) I, MDR II, Low Density Residential, and Conservation. Permitted uses, conditional uses, and area and dimensional requirements, parking requirements, loading and service areas are specifically defined for each district. The bylaws stipulate that no land development may commence without a zoning permit issued by the Administrative officer.

Danville received designation as a "Village Center". Vermont law defines a village center as "the core of a traditional settlement, typically comprised of a cohesive mix of residential, civic, religious, commercial, and mixed use buildings, arranged along a main street and intersecting streets that are within walking distance for residents who live within and surrounding the core." Village Center designation supports local revitalization and comes with several opportunities for tax credits and priority status for grants. The designation is intended to promote a vibrant mix of uses in the heart of Danville Village(s).



Goal

To promote a diverse economic climate that encourages job growth while having a low impact on the Town's infrastructure and rural character.

Objectives

1. Attract and encourage small to mid-size businesses, while supporting existing businesses, that are compatible with the rural character of the Town.
2. Designate economic and commercial development of tourism, recreational, and agri-tourism businesses that utilize the local labor market and enhance the economic potential of agriculture and renewable natural resources, while remaining compatable with the rural setting of Danville and preserving farmland.
3. Ensure that new business development is compatible with existing land use planning.
4. Facilitate the development of high-speed broadband and cellular access as necessary for low-impact small to mid-size and home based businesses.
5. Support agricultural enterprises and businesses, including new food retailers and local food producers and distributors.
6. Capitalize on existing recreational resources e.g. the Lamoille Valley Rail Trail and Joe's Pond, by supporting businesses providing services to local and tourist users.
7. Work with regional, state and federal agencies to promote agricultural, forestry and tourism related commerce.
8. Limit commercial development at the gateways to the village area to manage traffic.
9. Follow Smart Growth Principles in economic development: *Support the rural landscape* by creating an economic climate that enhances the viability of working lands and conserves natural lands; *Help existing places thrive* by taking care of assets and investments such as existing infrastructure, and places that the community values; and *Create great new places* by building vibrant, enduring neighborhoods and communities that people, especially young people, don't want to leave

Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks, & Programs)

1. Continue to review and revise zoning bylaws that apply to the village centers, including identifying areas of the Town most suited to business development that do not adversely impact residential neighborhoods, sensitive areas and the rural character of the Town.
2. Assess fully the ability of the Town's infrastructure to accommodate businesses. This includes such services as water, sewer access and fire protection. Continue to refine a plan to upgrade infrastructure for commercial and residential growth needs. Establish a capital budget to facilitate funding of infrastructure improvements.
3. Encourage the preservation and continued use of agricultural and forestry land through zoning, economic incentives and tax relief.
4. Maintain the Village Center designation as a tax incentive to revitalize the village area.
5. Limit the size of the impervious surface footprint of new and established commercial enterprises slated for expansion. Industrial and commercial enterprises of this magnitude must be located in a commercial area to be determined.
6. Update landscaping and signage controls as needed. Businesses and residents must use non-polluting lights and signage of reasonable scale throughout the town. Internally lit plastic, marquee-type signs will not be permitted.
7. Educate local entrepreneurs about the availability of small businesses development services and funds.
8. Collaborate with interested parties to identify existing access and future opportunities to increase access to local foods while promoting local food business e.g. EBT access at the Danville Farmers' Market.
9. Identify funding sources to facilitate the development of high-speed broadband and cellular e.g. USDA Rural Development, Northern Borders Regional Community grants.
10. Maintain and promote the Danville Green as a location for commerce (Farmers' Market, Danville Fair, Autumn on the Green) as allowed under the bylaws. Investigate options for increasing parking along the Green.
11. Other as identified by the Selectboard & Chamber

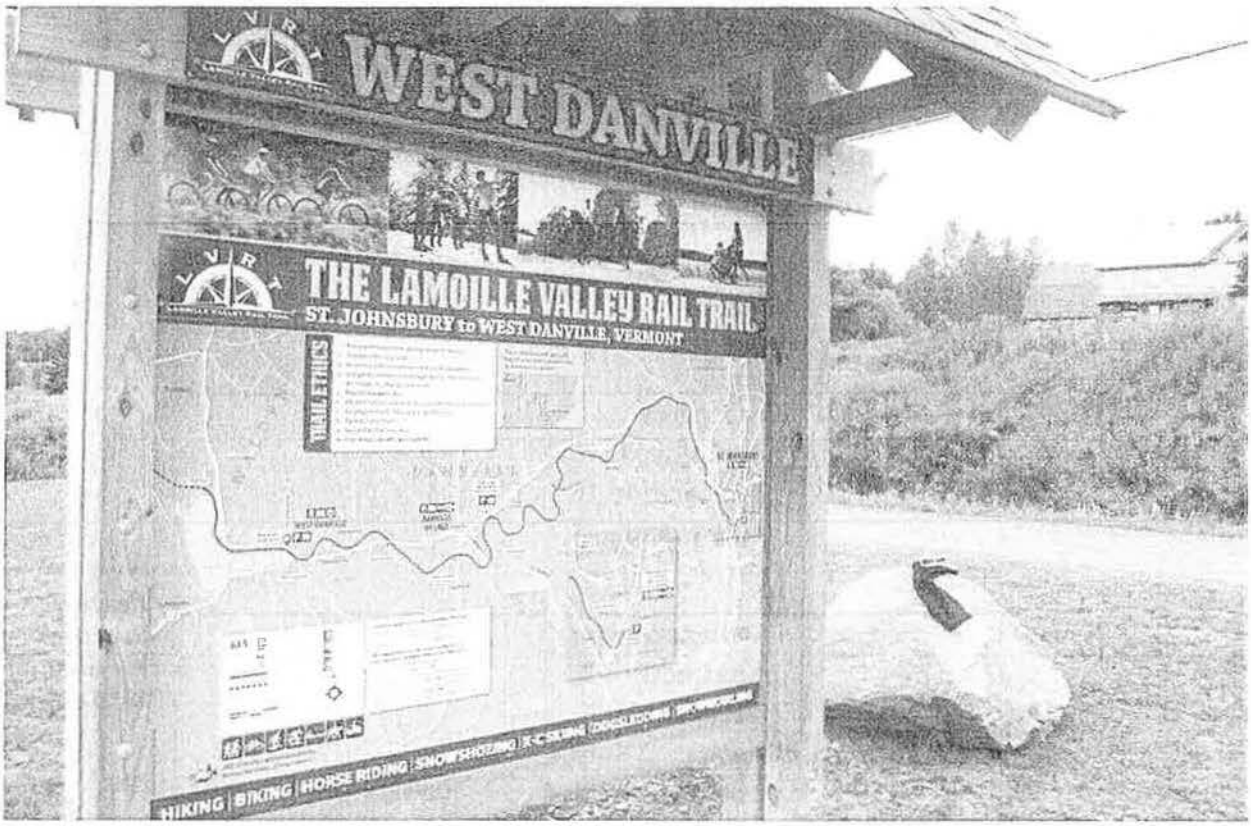
Responsibility for Implementation

The Planning Commission and the Development Review Board shall be responsible for all recommendations related to zoning, re-zoning and identification of development and preservation areas. All recommendations shall be submitted to the Select Board.

Economics, Town of Danville

Median Family Income	$73,611
Mean Family Income	$81,132
OCCUPATION	
Civilian employed population 16 years and over	1,122
Management, business, science, and arts occupations	452
Service occupations	148
Sales and office occupations	249
Natural resources, construction, and maintenance occupations	184
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	89

From the American Community Survey 2014; NVDA website

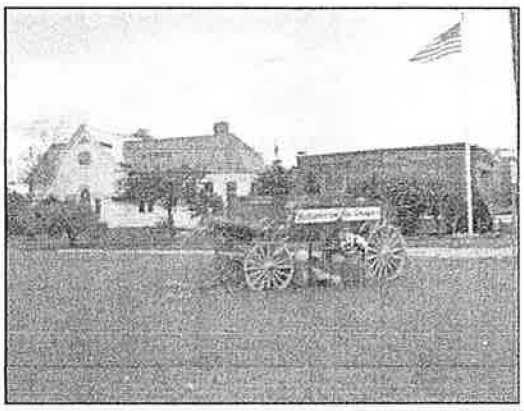

WEST DANVILLE
THE LAMOILLE VALLEY RAIL TRAIL
ST. JOHNSBURY to WEST DANVILLE, VERMONT
TRAIL ETHICS
HIKING | BIKING | HORSE RIDING | SNOWSHOEING | X-C SKIING

IV. Community Resources

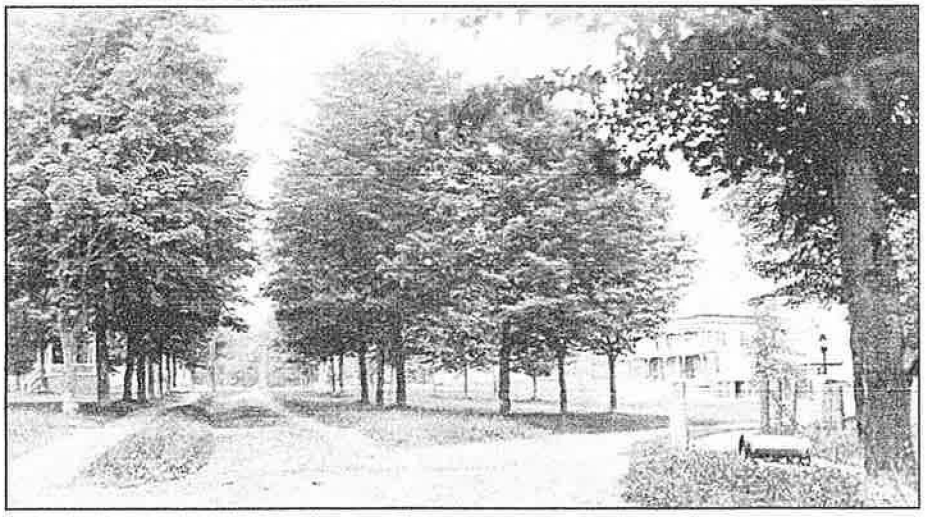
A. Facilities & Services

Overview

The town of Danville requires and depends on a variety of public, volunteer and private services for safety, utilities, access (roads), town management, etc. The citizens of Danville have a responsibility and an interest in assuring that the required services and facilities are available as needed and will continue to be available. Additionally the citizens of Danville have a responsibility and an interest that future needs in the area of services and facilities will be met.



Quilting classes and Autumn on the Green are just a few of the activities offered in the Town.



Historic Photo of the Village Green

Inventory

Municipal Buildings:
Danville School
Town Hall
Sewer Plant
North Danville School
Railroad Station (Recycle Center)
Fire Station
Town Garage and Sheds (Davis Lot)
New Town Garage
Town Farm
North Danville Fire Station
North Danville Tool Shed

Danville Town Hall and Offices

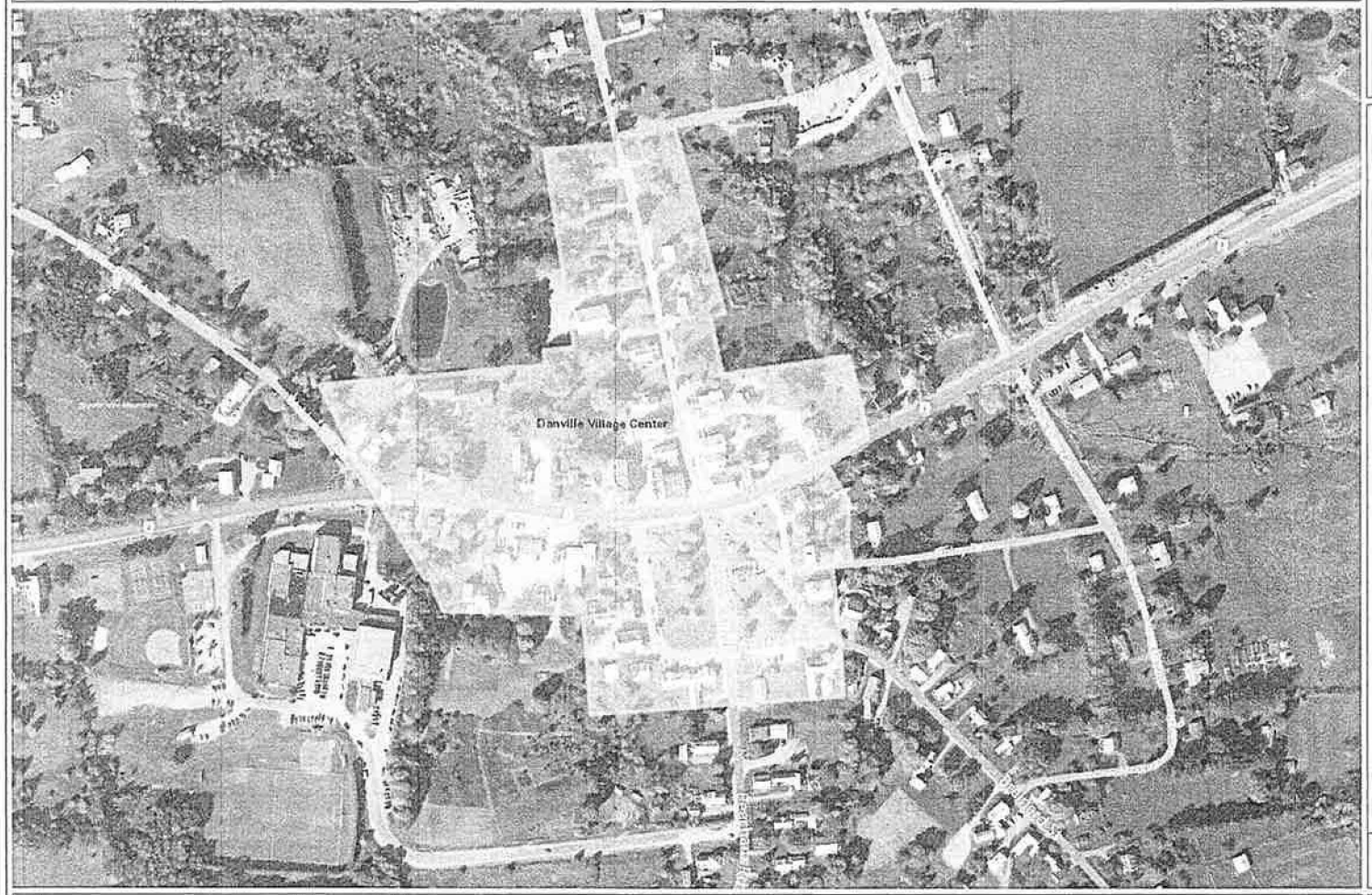
Land:
Merton Rodger Lot
Town Pound Lot
Land for roadway – North Danville
Danville Cemeteries and associated land
Town Forests
Village Green
Greenbanks Hollow
Hill Street Park
Joes Pond Beach

VERMONT

Danville's Village Center Designation

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources

vermont.gov



LEGEND

- Parcels (where available)
- Downtown District Boundaries
- Neighborhood Development Areas
- Growth Center Boundaries
- Village Boundaries
- New Town Center Boundaries
- Town Boundary

1: 2,800

1in = 233 ft

1cm = 28 meters

142.0 0 71.00 142.0 Meters

WGS_1984_Web_Mercator_Auxiliary_Sphere

© Vermont Agency of Natural Resources July 14, 2015

DISCLAIMER: This map is for general reference only. Data layers that appear on this map may or may not be accurate, current, or otherwise reliable. ANR and the State of Vermont make no representations of any kind, including but not limited to, the warranties of merchantability, or fitness for a particular use, nor are any such warranties to be implied with respect to the data on this map.

THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR NAVIGATION

Notes

Map created using ANR's Natural Resources Atlas

Village Green & Gazebo

Goal

To provide, maintain and improve adequate public safety, services and facilities for the community.

Objectives

1. Assure that services provided by the Town of Danville are well managed and town facilities are properly maintained and continue to be available to the citizens.
2. Assure that services and utilities provided by groups and organizations other than the Town are properly maintained and continue to be available to the citizens.
3. Support the volunteer organizations that provide essential services that are vital to the life and safety of the community.

Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks & Programs)

1. Ensure adequate police protection concurrent with town growth including the periodic evaluation of the effectiveness of the contracted hours from the Sheriff's Department.

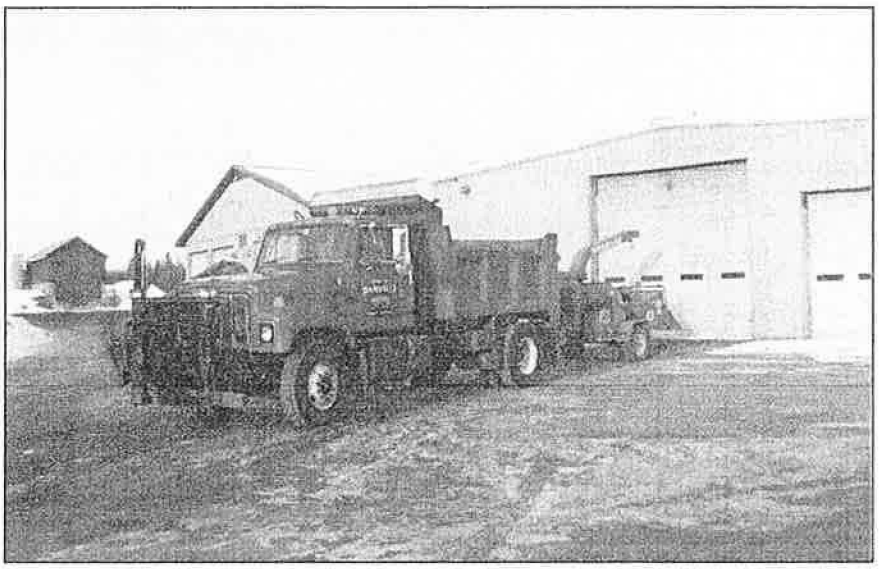
"Planned growth is a must because of pressure on town services."

Danville resident,
Town of Danville 2003
Landowners Survey

2. Maintain a capital budget and program for purchasing/replacing the town's fire and road maintenance equipment and other capital budget needs.
3. Develop a long-term plan for funding, use and maintenance of Town owned buildings. Increase their viability and the community's involvement in the care of the buildings.
4. Develop a long-range plan to maximize the public use of Town buildings such as the Town Hall, Schools, Railroad Station, etc.
5. Create a volunteer organization to help the EMS and Fire Department with non-core activities such as fund raising, administration, education, etc.
6. Support volunteer organizations such as the fire and rescue squads to work with businesses and the community for their need to recruit volunteers and to develop a plan to increase coverage, allowing workers to leave during work hours on a limited basis where appropriate.
7. Ensure public facilities, services and infrastructure are functional, safe and in working order. Review emergency shelter locations for essential service requirements such as electrical generators, water supply, heating, medical supplies, radio communication, etc. Apply for grants through Homeland Security Program.
8. Develop and maintain management plans for the Town Forests and other Town lands.
9. Review parking requirements at the Town Hall, Town recreation fields, Village area and other public buildings and increase as required.
10. Utilize a Town building to distribute commercial and tourist information.

Responsibility for Implementation

The Select Board shall be responsible for ensuring that all services provided by either the Town or independent organizations considered essential to the citizens of Danville are sufficient to meet current and future needs. This includes the necessary support for volunteer organizations that may include funding where appropriate.



Town garage and shed

B. Emergency Services

Overview

Emergency services are made up of 3 parts: Law, Fire, and Rescue. The Vermont State Police in St. Johnsbury serve as law enforcement for all residents in Danville. Danville is served by a Volunteer fire department that has been in place for more than 100 years. The fire department is located at 296 Peacham Road and has a total of 4 fire trucks, one stationed in North Danville, one rescue vehicle, one UTV Remote Rescue Vehicle. Danville Rescue Squad, Inc. is a nonprofit rescue organization that had its first year of service in 1968. It is a mostly-volunteer organization with 3 paid staff. Danville Rescue has its own building located at 379 Brainerd Street and has 4 rescue vehicles in its fleet including a snowmobile and an amphibious unit.

Danville Rescue

Danville Fire Station

Danville Medical Center

Goal

Provide the best possible service in safety, fire, and rescue.

Objective

1. Provide timely response to all emergencies.
2. Have all roads clearly marked.
3. Buildings should have locatable addresses that are clearly displayed.
4. Follow and enforce Vermont Enhanced 911 standards.
5. Training and emergency contingency plans should be up to date.
6. Town should ensure sufficient support and funding for emergency services.

Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks & Programs)

1. Town will ensure all roads continue to be posted with standard road signs.
2. Road naming issues will be resolved in a timely manner by the Select Board.
3. Write policies that encourage the posting of locatable emergency numbers in visible locations.
4. Recommendations should be made so ensure all building locations are accessible by emergency vehicles.
5. Town should ensure funding for Fire and Rescue to have up to date training on all required courses.
6. Education regarding volunteer services provided by Danville Rescue and Fire departments should be supported financially by the residents.
7. Establish plan for maintenance of all emergency service equipment.
8. Maintain alternate route plans created in the case of main routes being blocked.

Responsibility for Implementation

Selectboard, Rescue and Fire Departments

C. Education

Overview

To Thaddeus Stevens "education was the best means afforded to humanity to obtain equal opportunity in life."

Thomas F. Woodley

The Danville School District belongs to the Caledonia Central Supervisory Union. Children in grades Pre K-12 attend the Danville School, which offers elementary, middle, and high school instruction to all students within the regular classroom setting. The Danville community places a high value on education, and has high expectations for school programs and student achievement. This is evidenced by the Town's annual support of school budgets, and by a high level of parent involvement in the school. During the 2008-2009 school year, the Danville School served 349 students. In addition to Pre K-12, approximately 30 students are enrolled in pre-school. A strategic plan is developed every 5 years (by the School and each year when they draft the budget they have to match the plan. The challenge, as always, is how to provide a high-quality educational experience that remains affordable to the taxpayers.

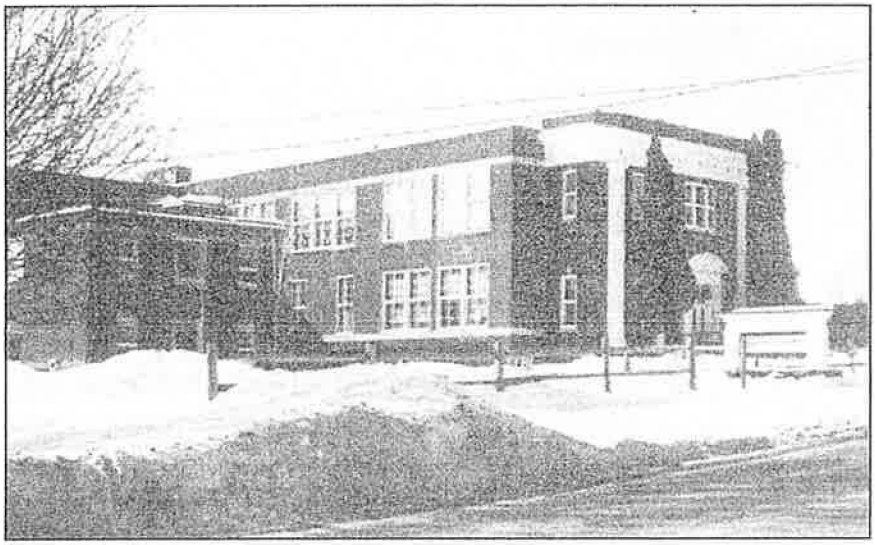
The Danville School also provides community uses, such as town meeting day and supervised community recreational events. The school is welcoming to the community and is lucky to have an active parent-teacher organization, alumni and boosters group. In 2010-2011, school will be participating in a grant to become a 21st Century Community Learning Center.

"I would like my children to live here with a decent job."

Danville resident. Town of Danville 2003 Landowners Survey

Educational issues and concerns are not limited to the Pre K-12 years. For example, access to affordable, high-quality day care for young children is a continuing concern for both single- and two-parent families. Given the need for childcare in today's society, the Town shall ensure that its policies and bylaws encourage, rather than impede, provision of these services. It is important that these facilities are integrated appropriately into residential neighborhoods, especially with regard to traffic, parking, noise, and other potential impacts.

The Danville school can establish a partnership between the public and private sectors to identify residents' needs, and explore opportunities for new programming and utilizing interactive resources of the school. An example of where other towns have developed such partnerships is through the continuing education program called the Academy for Lifelong Learning.



Danville School

Education, Town of Danville

% Pop. 25 Years +, Less than 9th grade education, 2000	3.5%
% Pop. 25 Years +, 9th-12th grade education, no diploma, 2000	6.4%
% Pop. 25 Years +, High School Graduate (includes equivalency), 2000	34.6%
% Pop. 25 Years +, Having Some College, no degree, 2000	21.9%
% Pop. 25 Years +, Holding Associate degree, 2000	7.3%
% Pop. 25 Years +, Holding Bachelor's degree, 2000	16.1%
% Pop. 25 Years +, Holding Graduate or Professional degree, 2000	10.3%

Vermont Indicators Online, last updated November 14, 2002

Goal

To provide high quality, broad-based educational services for the people of the community through the public school system and promotion of other public and private educational programs.

Objectives

"In New England free schools plant the seeds and the desire of knowledge in every mind, without regard to wealth of the parent, or the texture of the pupil's garment."

Thaddeus Stevens (Vermonter born in Danville)

1. To maintain a quality school system for both present and future residents that is essential to the quality of life, and provides the Town with a community focus and sense of pride.
2. To keep quality education affordable requiring a continued balance between expenditures and what the tax base can support.
3. Continue the shared use of school to maximize use by community members providing the community with a sense of ownership and appreciation of this resource.
4. Encourage participation in the governance and support of the school and facilities by the community.
5. Support use of town lands for broad based educational experiences.
6. Provide adequate funding, using all available sources, to achieve the highest possible standards.
7. Ensure rapid development will not inflict undue impacts and hardships upon the ability of the town to provide quality educational services.
8. Broaden access to educational and vocational training opportunities.
9. Town shall support the establishment of child care (after school) facilities integrated appropriately into surrounding neighborhoods.

Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks & Programs)

1. Continue soliciting support from the business, government and academic communities to enrich educational and other programs.
2. Stimulate an exchange of information and viewpoints among the School Board, the Select Board and the townspeople.
3. Broaden access to a diversity of course offerings at the High School level.
4. Aid the school in obtaining the materials necessary to train students for the technological diversity of our current and future economy.
5. Ensure that both motorized and pedestrian access is safe and convenient in the vicinity of the school.
6. Plan land use near the school that ensures options to adequately adapt its facilities to changes in enrollment, population and community needs.
7. Seek to obtain outside sources of program-specific funding.

8. Support the promotion of fundraising activities to sponsor programs within the school.
9. Address basic community needs, to the extent possible, through curricular and extracurricular enrichment programs.
10. Costs associated with increased use of the school facilities for community use should be monitored to ensure they do not overburden the school.
11. Develop a budget that is fiscally responsible and affordable by the taxpayers.
12. Review the communication process between the school, school board and the community and identify opportunities to improve the budget information, review and proposal process.

Responsibility for Implementation

School Board, Select Board, Townspeople and Community Organizations.

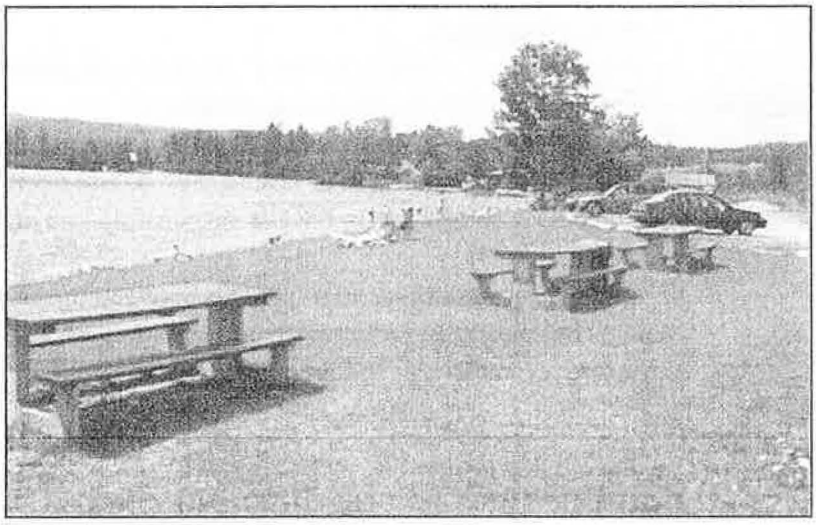
D. Recreation

Overview

Most of the residents of Danville value the outdoors and the recreational opportunities that have been traditionally part of living in Northern Vermont. The Town should facilitate the creation and maintenance of recreational possibilities as part of an effort to keep the quality of life in Danville. A strong recreation base can be an opportunity for local commerce as tourism is a key business in Northern Vermont.

A town plan is important for the good of all. Only thinking ahead can preserve the best of what we have."

Danville resident,
Town of Danville
2003 Landowners
Survey



Joe's Pond Beach

Goal

To maintain and expand the local recreational opportunities for citizens and visitors.

Objectives

1. Maintain, enhance and expand, where appropriate, existing public recreational facilities.
2. Encourage low intensity outdoor activities such as skiing, snowshoeing and hiking on both private and public lands/waters.
3. Encourage development of private, low impact recreational enterprises, and recreation opportunities on private lands.
4. Support a recreation committee officially charged with bringing together existing activities and the development, and support of municipal recreation facilities on behalf of the community.
5. Protect Joes' Pond town beach access and water quality.

Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks, & Programs

1. Ensure access to Danville School and other town public properties and facilities to maximize public use.
2. Appoint a Recreation Committee that is responsible to the Select Board. The primary focus of the Recreation Committee should be the development of new recreation activities and facilities as well as to manage existing activities and facilities.
3. Expansion of town recreational facilities should be self-supporting through assessment of user-fees.
4. Support the Rails to Trails or similar programs.
5. Support North Danville Community Club maintenance of North Danville School and playground.
6. Support maintenance and enhancement of Joe's Pond Beach.
7. Promote usage of Fish and Wildlife fishing access areas.
8. Recognize and support alternate forms of recreation such as gardening, landscaping and beautification projects on both public and private property represent recreational activities important to residents.
9. Expand recreational usage of public lands including Steam Mill Brook WMA, town forests, Fire District watershed and Danville Green through development of a recreation plan appropriate and compatible with desirable uses.
10. Retain all Town Roads as shown on the official Vermont Highway Map of the Town Of Danville. Add any roads that are found not to be on this map, and retain any unused or ancient roads as public trails.
11. Develop a comprehensive map delineating recreational opportunities throughout the town. Include trail locations, suitability for types of activity, parks and playgrounds, public access areas and any private commercial recreational enterprises. Make available for public distribution.
12. Promote alternative uses of existing trail systems.
13. Encourage access to private lands for appropriate recreational usage and promote awareness of public liability protection. Inform residents of the impact and consequences of posting land.
14. Consider adoption of local ordinance creating hunting safety zones around the village areas. Consider other measures designed to encourage landowner/recreational user cooperation and understanding.
15. Periodically review existing snowmobile and ATV Town Ordinance.
16. Encourage development of low impact commercial recreational development through the zoning by-laws.

17. Work towards providing a teen activity center.

Responsibility for Implementation

Recreation Committee, Planning Commission, Selectboard

E. Solid Waste

Overview

In 1991 Danville joined the Northeast Kingdom Solid Waste District that serves its member towns by providing the planning, hazardous waste collection, education, State compliance reporting, facility certification application, grant application, recycling material possessing, and other activities which would otherwise have to be carried out by each individual town.

The Town of Danville, for its part, operates a volunteer staffed recycling center in the former train station, and operates at least two bulky and categorical waste days each year. During summer months the Town operates a stump dump for yard waste limited to Danville residents. Danville School and one business also participate in the community recycling effort and food waste composting effort.

Goal

To minimize the impact of solid waste on the citizens and businesses of Danville and to conserve the natural resources of the planet.

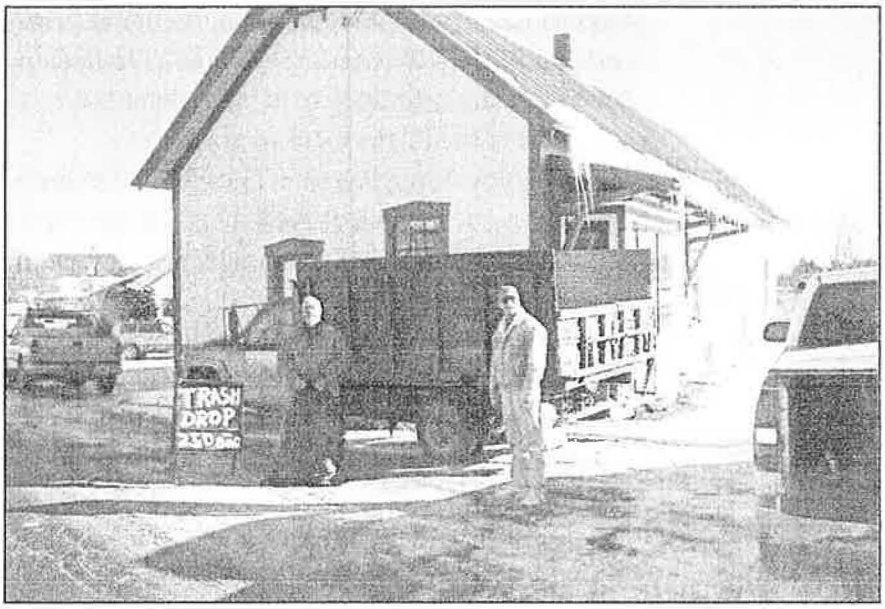
Objectives

1. To encourage the citizens and businesses of Danville to minimize the production of municipal solid waste, hazardous and other wastes.

2. To make available for reuse unwanted or unneeded items; and through recycling and composting to further reduce the disposal of wastes.

Danville Recycling Center

Sorting of recyclables at the center



Danville "Fast Trash"

Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks, & Programs)

1. Remain an active member of the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District and support their adopted plan.
2. Continuously work to educate all residents and businesses on the vital importance of conservation, reduction, reuse, and recycling.

3. Continue to operate, maintain, and improve the recycling / reusable operation at the old train station. Auxiliary sites should also be considered if the need is demonstrated.
4. Promote a system of organized composting for yard wastes generated in the town.
5. Continue to promote a local or regionalized system for composting commercial, private and school food wastes generated in the town.
6. Promote and facilitate proper hazardous waste and universal waste disposal through the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District.
7. Continue to rely on independent waste haulers supplemented by special collection events, and a town supervised fast trash collection.
8. Encourage the citizens and businesses to comply with state burning laws, and with the proper recycling or disposal of waste durable goods such as junk cars and appliances, particularly where these goods are stored outside and where they contain hazardous or universal wastes. Develop a town ordinance to limit the number of unlicensed non-agricultural vehicles stored on a property.
9. Institute recycling programs in commercial businesses and municipal operations such as paper recycling at Danville School, and town offices, waste oil at the town garage, and composting of food waste from Danville School.
10. Encourage the utilization of recycled materials in private, commercial, town or school operations such as procuring paper products produced from recycled paper.
11. Review current sewage sludge disposal contracts and develop long-term agreements.
12. Develop a policy on the handling and disposal of medical waste. Businesses that generate biohazardous wastes should have a plan of disposal that complies with state and federal regulations.

Responsibility for Implementation

Select Board, Waste District Town Supervisor, Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District, Conservation Commission.

F. Sewage Disposal

Overview

The Town of Danville undertook a major project for the collection and treatment of sewerage in Danville Village. The old "Creamery Sewer System" was totally replaced and additional residents with failed private septic systems were also connected to this new system. A double aerated lagoon was constructed next to Water Andric, to which the treated effluent is discharged. Recent improvements in the treatment system have helped retain the high quality of the effluent. However due to the small watershed of the Water Andric above the discharge point, the amount of the treated effluent which may be discharged is particularly limited at times of low flow.

The Agency of Natural Resources, has established the maximum capacity for the waste water treatment plant. They continually monitor the discharge flow and treatment level of the effluent to ensure proper operation of the plant. Based on the flow and capacity of the plant they have established an unused capacity that limits the future connections to the system.

Goal

To provide and maintain a sanitary solution to sewage disposal, not only in the village area but in all areas of the town.

Objectives

1. To maintain the waste treatment plant, pumping station and sewer system in good operating condition, to retain a high level of treatment of all waste
2. To provide for potential expansion of this system to support growth of the village area.
3. To ensure all private septic systems meet state standards and are fully operational

Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks, & Programs)

Continue a current maintenance plan for the sewage treatment plant that is adequately funded to make improvements and upgrades to maintain a very high quality effluent.

Educate users of the importance of excluding heavy metals, pesticides and other impropriate substances from their waste stream.

To accommodate future growth, continually monitor new technology and implement improvements to increase the efficiency of the plant to allow the ANR to increase the allowable capacity of the plant.

Ensure acceptable sewerage disposal is operational prior to occupancy permit for all new construction and rental properties prior to occupancy under local zoning bylaw.

Responsibility for Implementation

Select Board, Planning Commission

G. Water Systems

Overview

In 1898 Danville Fire District No. 1 was formed with the purchase of a watershed and construction of a spring and open reservoir supply system with a pipeline to Danville village to supply drinking water and fire protection to its residents. In 1999 a high yield rock well, enclosed reservoir, and new larger pipeline to the village service area was constructed. This work significantly improved the quantity, quality, and reliability of this water supply, and provides significant capacity for growth.

The Prudential Committee of the Fire District has set a goal to replace and upgrade many of the water mains and fire hydrants throughout the District's service area. A major upgrade of water lines along roads in the village north

of US Route #2 was completed in 2010. The Prudential Committee also plans to eventually drill a well and construct a reservoir at the north end of its distribution system. This well and reservoir will serve to back up the current supply.

Goal

To provide sufficient and reliable high quality water supply for drinking and sufficient water for fighting fires.

Objectives

1. Maintain the new portions of the water system and upgrade the remainder of the system.
2. Continue to work on a high quality backup supply.
3. Identify potential funding from federal, state, and local sources to assist in carrying out needed improvements.

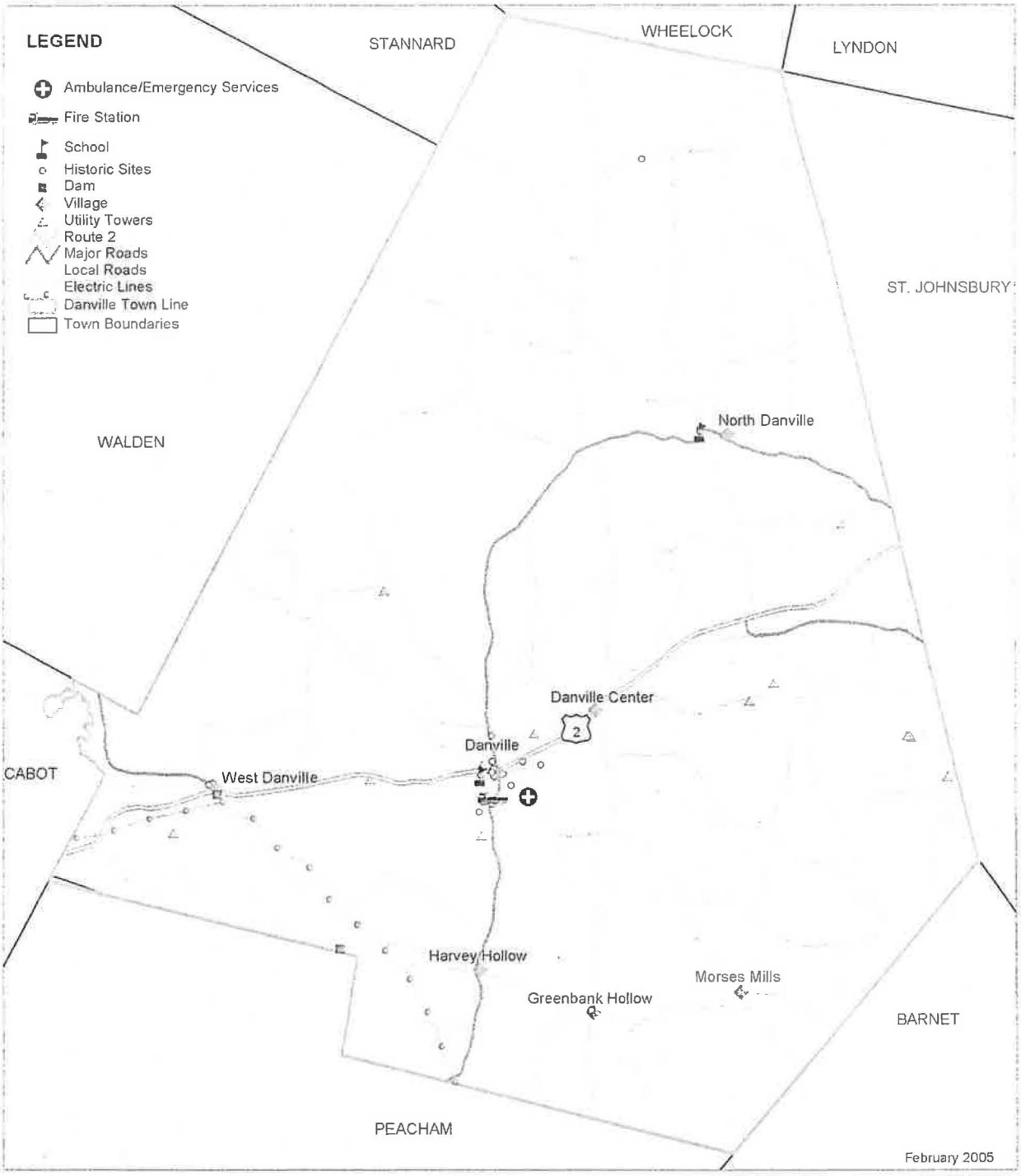
Recommended Actions (Programs, Tasks, & Policies)

1. Follow state recommendations for water testing of all public drinking water sources.
2. Establish an occupancy permit process for all new construction and rental properties. Protect the town water system, particularly the well and the reservoir, from contamination or other threats.
3. Provide for an emergency power source and connection to the town water system.
4. Develop an inspection and maintenance program for all critical fire hydrants, and replace as necessary.
5. Develop funding scenarios for system upgrades should state and/or federal monies not become available. Review the benefits of funding the town water system based on water usage monitored by meters.
6. Ensure there is sufficient funding to maintain the town water system.

7. Identify the current boundaries of the town water system and develop an expansion plan to increase capacity of the system in preparation for growth in Danville village.
8. Develop a town ordinance that requires the financial participation and proportional sharing of costs of the town water system for every new construction within the town water district.
9. Set up a committee to review the benefits of the town taking over the management and ownership of the town water system from the Prudential Committee.
10. Preserve the backup reservoir for public use should a transfer occur.

Responsibility for Implementation

Select Board, Prudential Committee, Planning Commission



TOWN OF DANVILLE

Utilities and Facilities

DRAFT

N

Basemap data from VCGI and NVDA. All locations are approximate. Data is only as accurate as the original source. LandWorks does not guarantee the accuracy of this data.

1 0 1 2 Miles

LandWorks

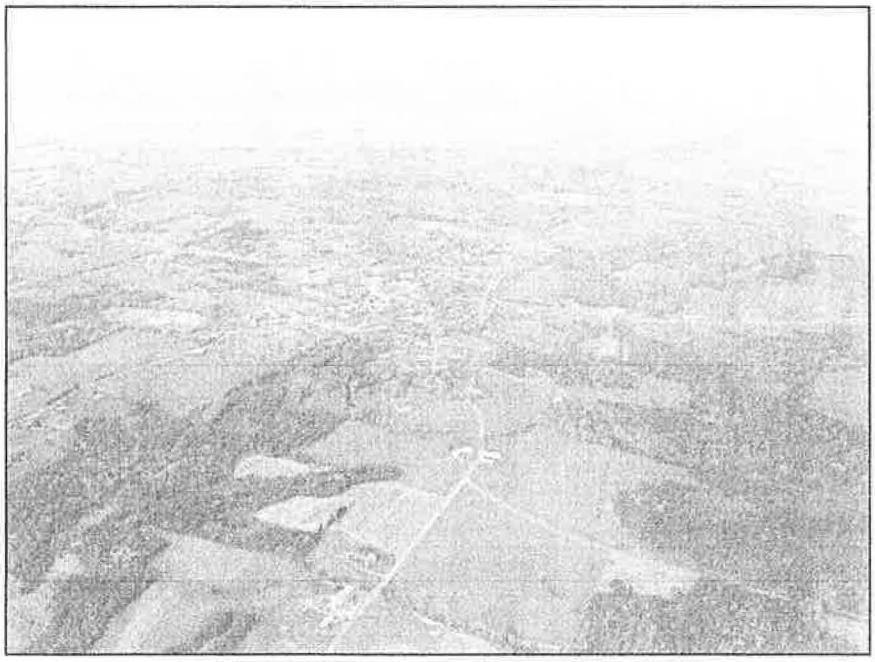
V. Land Use & Development

Overview

Danville is located in the geographic region known as the Piedmont that encompasses rolling hills and valleys between the Green Mountain and White Mountain ranges. The topography was conducive to agriculture and as a result, Danville evolved into a rural community reliant on a working landscape that featured farming and other rural related industries. Today, many of the farms have gone out of business and much of the land has either reverted back to forest or has been sold off and subdivided for residential and second home development.

"Once an area becomes overdeveloped it can not be returned to rural again."

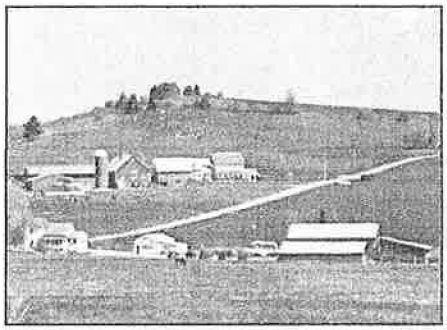
Danville Resident,
Town of Danville
2003 Landowners
Survey



Danville cherishes its rural landscape and pastoral views

If we truly wish to preserve our rural village centers, slow down developmental sprawl and subsequent carving up of our contiguous forests and agricultural lands, then we need to reflect back and understand what shaped the Town of Danville that we cherish and want to preserve. We must pursue zoning options that do not reflect the typical post World War II concepts of symmetrical lots and generous set back requirements reflected in our neighborhoods along Highland Avenue and Mountain View Drive.

Danville is fortunate to have magnificent pastoral scenery with long-range vistas and unspoiled ridgelines; however, this is also the Town's challenge as more people migrate to the area creating a demand for land development.



Webster Century Farm

Langmaid Century Farm

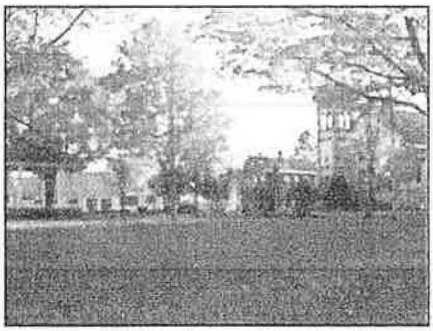
Results from the "2003 Danville Landowners Survey" overwhelmingly reflected the desire and support to preserve the Town's rural character and limit developmental sprawl. A major concern is the commercial development of US Route 2 and the continued subdivision of larger tracts of land. However, landowners struggle with the property tax burden and see their properties as investments that can be subdivided and sold off in parcels to help pay for current expenditures and retirement planning needs.

On December 3rd, 2009, Project 1 (Village District Updates) was completed and incorporated into the zoning bylaws. The revisions created four new zoning districts for Danville Village and the immediate surrounding area. From the center out, the districts included:

1. A village core district surrounding the Green, where a vibrant mix of homes, businesses, and civic uses are encouraged
2. A historic residential district along Peacham, Hill, and Brainerd streets whose purpose is to promote historically compatible infill close to the village core
3. A commercial district that extends east and west a short distance from the village along Route 2, with the goal of encouraging compact,

walkable commercial development A new residential district that surrounds the other districts, providing flexible opportunities for building new neighborhoods that follow the traditional village pattern of smaller lots on an interconnected network of quiet streets

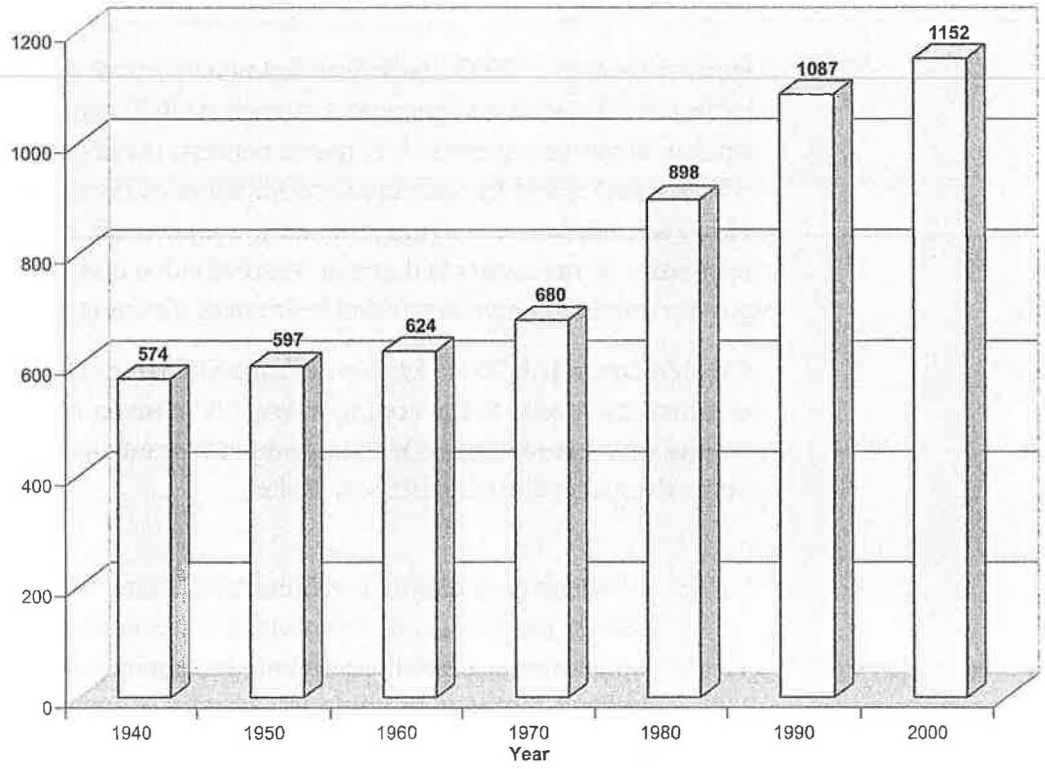
A 2010 municipal planning grant provided funding to facilitate additional public input meetings. Information gathered at these meetings will be incorporated into future bylaw changes addressing the remaining rural areas of Danville.



Danville's classic village center

North Danville Village

Total Housing Units, *Danville 1940-2000*



Vermont Indicators Online, last updated November 14, 2002

Natural Resources, *Town of Danville*

Area of Land, Sq. Miles, 2000	60.88
Area of Water, Sq. Miles, 2000	0.28
Percent Private & Public Conserved Lands, 1999	2.0%
Total Private & Public Conserved Lands, Acres, 1999	777
Federal Administered Conserved Lands, Acres, 1999	0
State Administered Conserved Lands, Acres, 1999	101
Change in Forest Land to Developed Land, Acres, 1970-90	170.6
Change in Forest Land to Non-Forested Land, Acres, 1970-1990	114.3
Change in Non-Forested Land to Developed Land, Acres, 19701990	13.1

Vermont Indicators Online, last updated November 14th, 2002

Property Tax Valuation, *Town of Danville, 2009*

Effective Property Tax Rate (Per $100), Homestead	1.53
Effective Property Tax Rate, Non-residential	1.71
School Tax Rate, Homestead	1.2281
School Tax Rate (Rate per $100), nonresidential FY200	1.4239
Municipal Tax Rate	.4457
Average Equalized Value:	
R1 Residential	$185,990.52
R2 Residential	$257,987.89
V1 Vacation	254,440.70
V2 Vacation	$173,961.44
Landed Mobile Home	$106,932.47
Unlanded Mobile Home	$35,095.89
Commercial	$297,224.09
Commercial Apt.	$217,263.00
Electric Utilities	$2,582,209.96
Farm	$385,041.313
Woodland	$126,924.90
Miscellaneous	$80,112.75

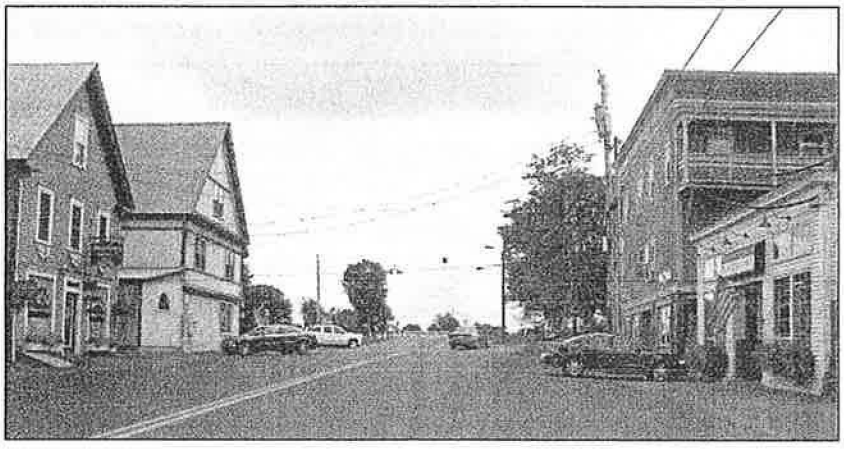
2010 Annual Report, VT Department of Taxes

Goal

To maintain and enhance the town's rural and agricultural character, beautiful environment, and strong sense of community while providing appropriate locations for residential, commercial and light industrial development.

Objectives

1. Designate commercial and light industrial development areas that do not impact the rural character of the Town. Establish residential areas with lot sizes and sub-division requirements that meet resident needs while complying with planning criteria that supports the preservation of rural characteristics.
2. Identify and establish conservation and sensitive areas that protect scenic vistas, natural resources and wildlife. Encourage voluntary land conservation through land trusts and easements.
3. Manage the scale of development so as not to exceed town resources and infrastructure. Support traditional village center growth and discourage developmental sprawl.
4. Establish zoning bylaws that support development plans and provide protection against uncontrolled growth and pollution.



Support Danville's traditional village center

Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks & Programs)

"Planning consists of a careful balancing of community protection versus individual freedoms."

Danville Resident, Town of Danville 2003 Landowners Survey

1. Update the rural land use map that defines areas with important agricultural land, forestland, wetlands and critical wildlife habitat that should be protected from development. Development standards that protect these defined areas.
2. Defines current areas of commercial and light industrial development that include minimum lot sizes, building sizes, adequate parking, infrastructure requirements, landscaping, noise and light control.
3. Establish zoning ordinances that define current residential development. Establish development standards that include lot sizes determined by; 1) planned use of the site, 2) density characteristics appropriate to the area, 3) sound sewage, water, and air quality considerations 4) capability to support more than one dwelling on a lot. Define certain residential areas to be zoned free of any commercial uses.
4. Adopt subdivision regulations to shape orderly development consistent with the town's rural small town character. Continue to revise setback and lot size requirements to accommodate development in character with traditional village, recreational, and rural land uses (including agricultural applications). Establish shoreline and riparian buffer zones consistent with state recommendations.
5. Support agri-tourism as an effective light commercial endeavor that promotes successful business with a secondary benefit of maintaining open farmland.
6. Modify conditional use categories that protect residential areas against incompatible commercial development and place the burden of proof on the applicant that such uses will not degrade or adversely affect neighboring properties.
7. Village centers should be reviewed for specific characteristics and protected from incompatible development.
8. Support state and non-governmental agencies to obtain assistance for local farms on improving farming efficiencies and accessing tax abatement programs. Explore land trust and conservation easement options.
9. Maintain and update tax maps as necessary.
10. Support the Conservation Commission to make recommendations on land conservation, wildlife habitat preservation, natural resource protection, etc. Establish conservation priorities that preserve

farmland, undeveloped stream and lake frontage, critical wildlife and wetlands habitat and scenic vistas and ridgelines.

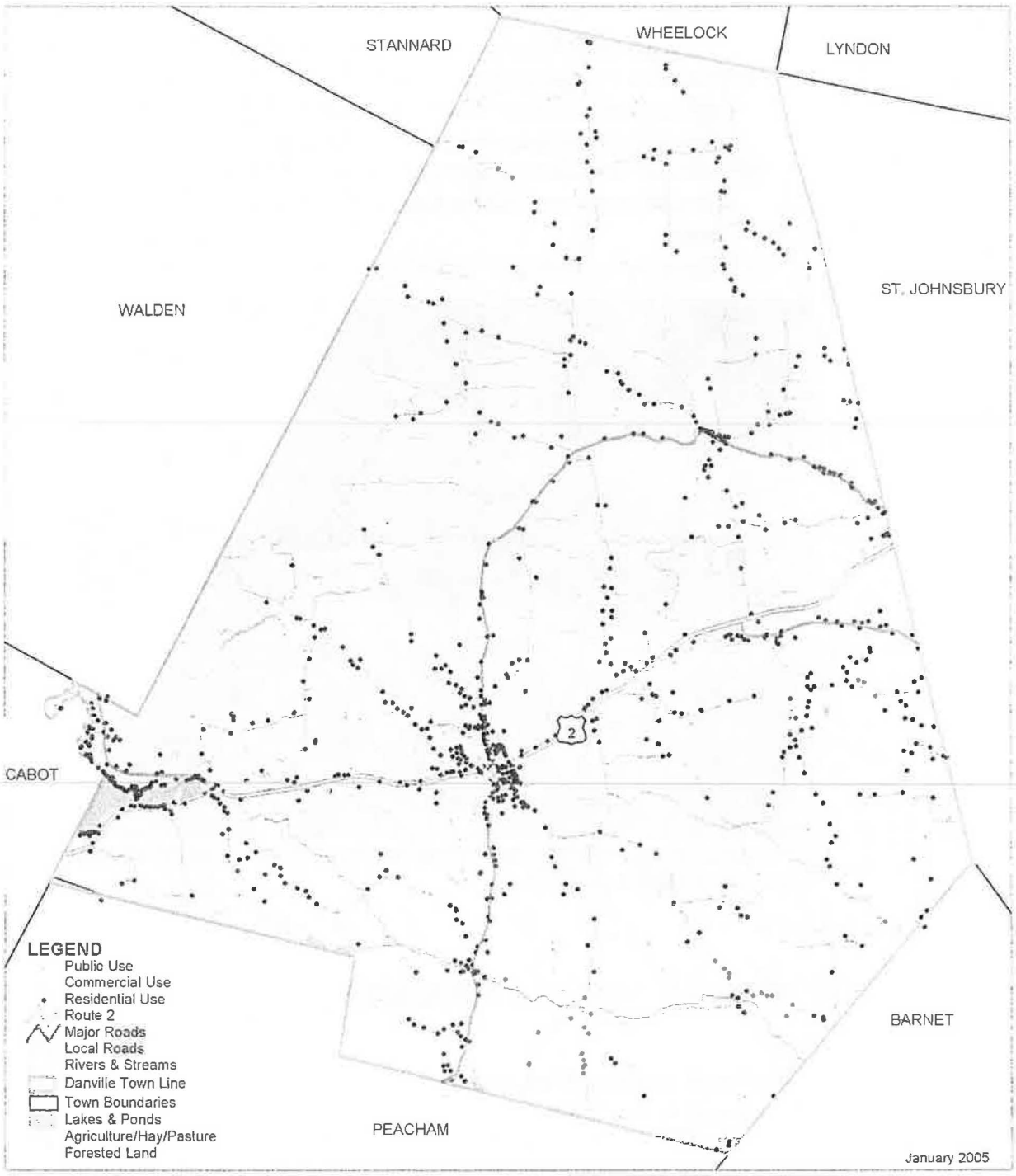
11. Establish a policy with supporting ordinances that addresses visual detractions from the rural character of the Town such as signage, inappropriate structures, transfer stations, etc.
12. Review the possibilities of establishing a local land trust or working with an established land trust to acquire properties considered significant to the Town.
13. Town should consider the plan objectives when setting tax policies.

Commercial and Light Industrial Development - Calkins Excavating and Larrabees Building Supply

Responsibility for Implementation

The Select Board shall be responsible for ensuring the operation of a Conservation Commission. The Conservation Commission shall also be responsible for ensuring progress is being made by establishing regularly scheduled reporting mechanisms.

The Planning Commission supported by the Development Review Board must take the responsibility to establish plans and maps and draft the applicable zoning bylaws supporting the planning initiatives.



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Basemap data from VCGI and NVDA. All locations are approximate. Data is only as accurate as the original source. LandWorks does not guarantee the accuracy of this data.

TOWN OF DANVILLE

Land Use

DRAFT

1 0 1 2 Miles

LandWorks

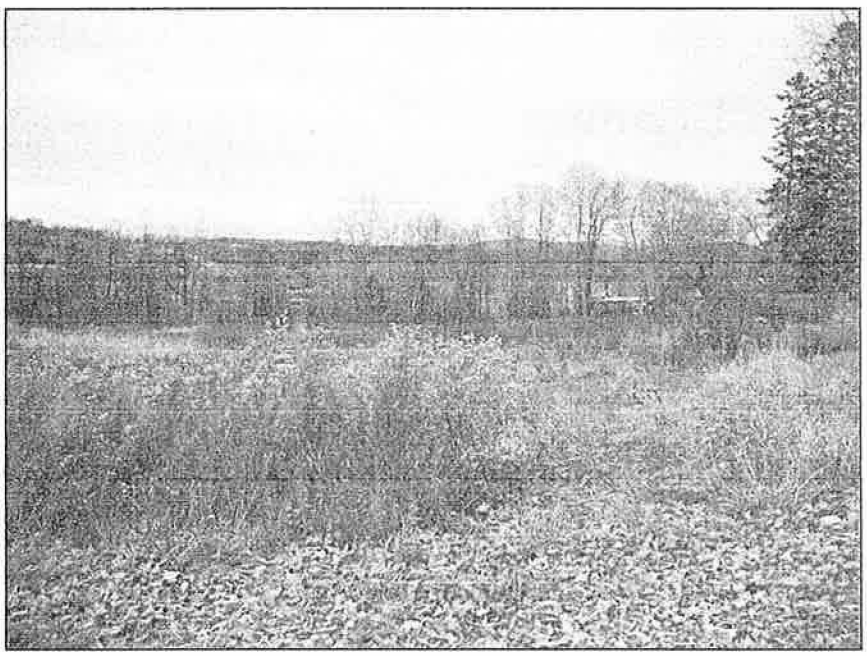
VI. Natural Heritage

Overview

Danville, located in the northern Vermont Piedmont, an area of calcium rich soils combined with a cool climate, supports mixed forests, cedar swamps, wetlands and other interesting natural communities. The uplands have fine agricultural soils and a short growing season. Danville has been fortunate to retain its rural character, traditional working landscapes, wildlife and scenic vistas while our population has grown. Wildlife, scenic beauty and the traditional landscapes are highly valued by Danville's residents, vacation homeowners and visiting tourists.

"We need to encourage and create a reasonable balance between the needs for development and conservation of our natural resources."

Danville resident, Town of Danville 2003 Landowners Survey



Meadows like this one provide habitat for a variety of species

Danville's "natural heritage" includes the natural resources that we refer to as forests, clean waters, vibrant fisheries, healthy wildlife populations, rare species, significant natural communities and a working landscape that provides the opportunities to hike, hunt, fish, trap, bird watch and work the land. Natural heritage also includes the concept of biodiversity, which is the variety of life in all forms and all interactions between living things and their

environment. To sustain our natural heritage for present and future generations, it is imperative that conservation be one of our highest priorities. This means protecting our fish, wildlife, plants, natural communities and the ecological processes and landscapes that allow them to exist. Natural heritage is degraded by development through loss of diversity, destruction and fragmentation of habitat, disruption of movement and migration patterns, introduction of invasive species, degradation of water quality and aquatic habitats and the loss of public appreciation for the environment.

Danville has to determine how we can continue to grow as a community while protecting our natural heritage for future generations.

"I think we have to lean in the direction of land management and conservation. It is critical to the health of the town and community."

Danville resident, Town of Danville 2003 Landowners Survey

Goals

Protect and manage the town's natural heritage and biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations.

Objectives

1. Identify and understand the natural heritage elements within the Town and their regional significance to the surrounding landscape.
2. Conserve the natural heritage elements through local conservation planning and land stewardship by establishing strategies and goals.
3. Establish goals and strategies for protecting and conserving the natural heritage elements.
4. Encourage opportunities to raise community awareness and activism through education.
5. Municipal lands, the Town Forests and fire districts should be managed as models of land stewardship.

Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks, & Programs)

1. Support the Conservation Commission to make recommendations on land conservation, wildlife habitat preservation, natural resource protection, etc. Establish conservation priorities that preserve agricultural and forest land, undeveloped stream and lake frontage including shoreline and

riparian buffer zones, critical wildlife and wetlands habitat and scenic vistas and ridgelines consistent with state recommendations.

2. Utilize maps and other data to identify the bedrock, surface geology and topography to understand the makeup of our soils and those areas that are valued for conservation and not suitable for development
3. Utilize maps of surface waters, wetlands, key watersheds and riparian habitats that should be protected or conserved to support habitat for fish, aquatic plants, aquatic invertebrates and other organisms important to our natural heritage. Support EPA water standards with respect to contamination from development run-off.
4. Update the map on land use patterns to understand current agricultural areas, contiguous forestland and residential / commercial development that may be used for zoning conservation /development decisions. Use the Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) and Forest Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (FLESA) programs.
5. Update the map and provide long term stewardship of known deeryards, bear production areas, natural communities and vernal pools. Work with regional and state agencies and private organizations to support natural heritage protection and conservation of these areas.
6. Support the Conservation Commission for continued management of the Town Forests and other municipal lands according to sustainable forestry practices with guidance and participation by the County Forester.
7. The Town recognizes the value of working lands to the regional forest products economy and will support sustainable forestry practices. To that end, all logging jobs should meet the standards as outlined by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation in "Voluntary Harvesting Guidelines for Vermont Landowners" adopted January 15, 2015. These guidelines are not regulations and are not intended to be used to regulate land use or management. The guidelines do, however, incorporate and refer to regulatory provisions that landowners and loggers must comply with as outlined in "Chapter I, Section 1.3 Legal Requirements".
8. Create a Danville Tree Ordinance to prioritize procedures for tree plantings, removals, and protection on town-owned lands and right-of-ways and to establish procedures for the prevention and control of damage from forest pests and invasive plants. The Tree Ordinance shall be followed by a Management Plan to establish guidelines in the event of a major pest infestation, tree destruction and the ultimate need to dispose of infested material. Recommend that the Town contribute to a fund for the removal and disposal of diseased and hazardous trees.

9. Identify locations along Town and state roads where wildlife is known to frequently cross. Important wildlife corridors will be protected from

encroaching development and incompatible activities such as road expansion or development of new roads and natural landscapes will be maintained along the roads in these areas.

10. Conserve and provide stewardship for contiguous and relatively un-fragmented forest habitat by encouraging adjacent landowners to protect aspects of the natural heritage such as deer yards or wildlife corridors. Support and promote those lands that meet any of the following criteria:
    a. Enrolled in the Vermont Current Use program.
    b. Owned by persons willing to consider conservation easements being managed in accordance with a forest management plan reviewed and approved by a professional forester.
    c. Owned by persons willing to consider other non-regulatory mechanisms that promote sustainable forest management or seek to conserve the lands.
11. Encourage and provide education to landowners on best agricultural and forestry practices utilizing Best Management Practices as defined by the USDA and Natural Resource Conservation Service.
12. Encourage the establishment of a Land Conservation Trust and accompanying land conservation plan for the purchase or donation of lands or development rights within the Town when certain important parcels become available. Coordinate with the various state and private conservation groups to concentrate efforts to preserve the more desirable and endangered lands of the town.
13. Work with the Danville School to include natural heritage issues in the academic curriculum.
14. Develop a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Vermont Department of Parks and Forests and the Town that will ensure plan objectives and recommendations are considered prior to approval of any forest harvest permits. MOU to include protection for the Town for any damages to Town property such as roads and bridges.

Responsibility for Implementation

The Select Board shall maintain a Planning Commission to draft development plans and maps. The Select Board shall also maintain a Development Review Board to review permit applications. The Conservation Commission shall continue to assist and advise the Selectboard and Planning Commission on natural heritage issues.

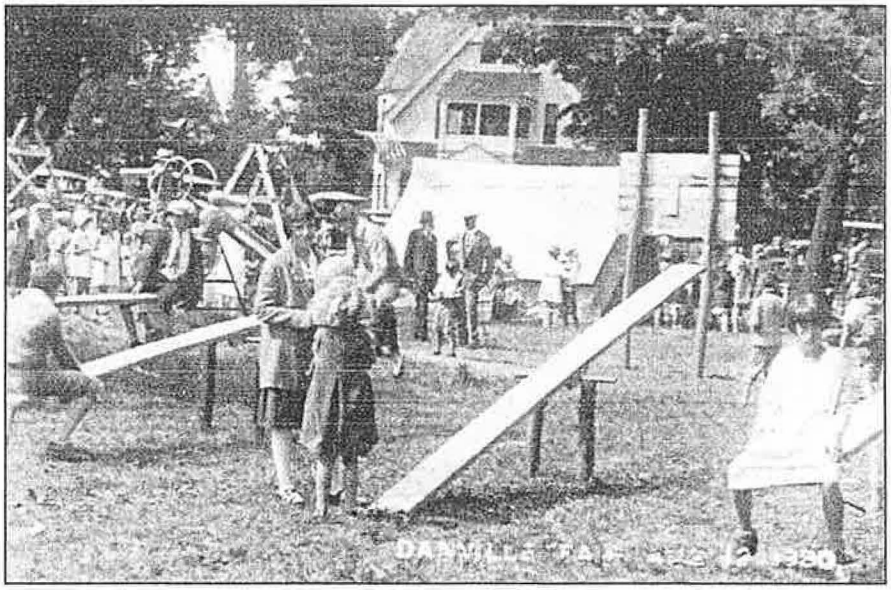
VII. Historic, Scenic and Cultural Resources

Overview

"I hope we can preserve the great sense of community."

Danville Resident, when asked how they would like to see Danville 10 years from today, Town of Danville 2003 Landowners Survey

The Town of Danville is the product of its history, past, and present culture as well as its rural setting and land use patterns. Preserving and understanding the historic past is key to any efforts in managing the inevitable changes to the Town. "Keeping Danville as it is" with unencumbered scenic vistas near and far, historic village settlements, open agricultural land and forested areas is a consistent theme voiced by its residents. Danville culture is rooted in agriculture, forestry and village life and exhibited by the Danville Fair held each year in the scenic and historic village center. It features both a children's and a Grand Street parade, music, socializing, tents selling food and crafts to support local church and volunteer organizations, horse pulling contests, agricultural exhibits, and the many other activities.

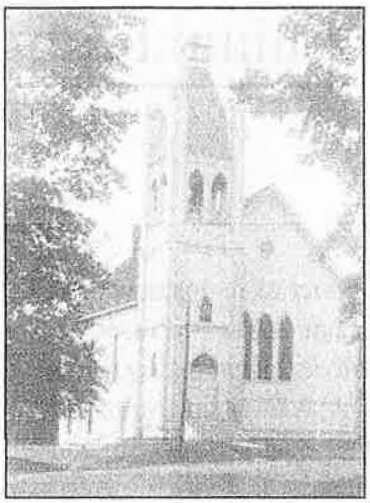


Danville Fair circa 1930

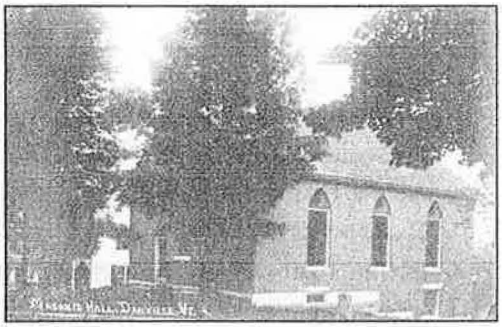
The Danville Green is the hub of the community and radiates outward to connect the rest of the town and the distinct communities of North Danville, West Danville, Harvey's Hollow, Greenbank's Hollow and at one time, Morses Mill. Preservation of our historic buildings, cultural events and significant scenic areas is essential in preserving the town's character and guaranteeing the vision of its residents and landowners.

"Pay attention to the early architecture of Danville."

Danville resident, Town of Danville 2003 Landowners Survey



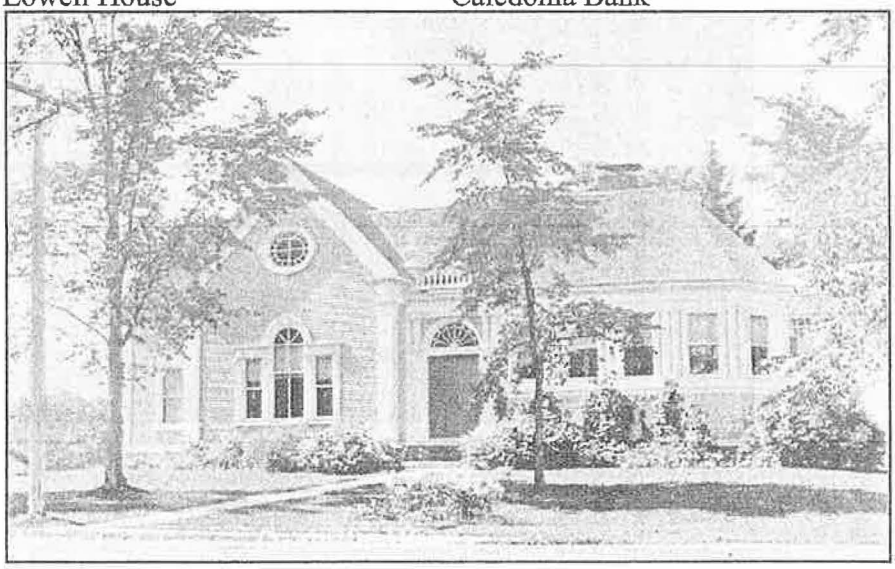
United Methodist Church



Masonic Hall

Lowell House

Caledonia Bank



Inventory

National Register of Historic Places: Whittier-Lowell House

Designated Historic Sites:

Danville Town Hall

Danville School

Caledonia National Bank Building

West Danville United Methodist Church

Danville United Church of Christ

Danville United Methodist Church

Queen of Peace Catholic Church

North Danville Baptist Church

Greenbanks Hollow Bridge

Historical Society building

Knights of Phythias Hall

Old North Church

West Danville Covered Footbridge

Masonic Hall

Railroad Station

Pope Library

Danville Town Hall

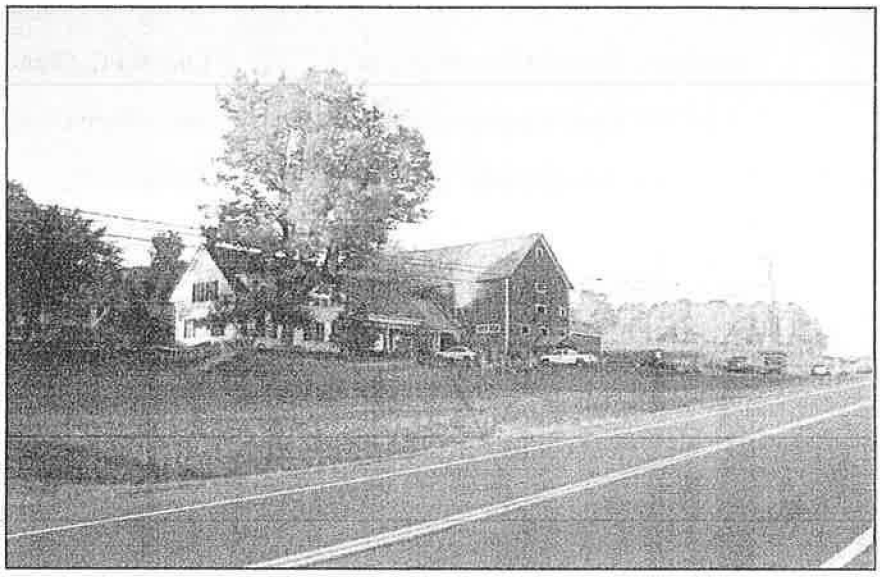
Knights of Phythias Hall

Scott & Hugh Langmaid Farm

Old North Church

Designated Century Farms:

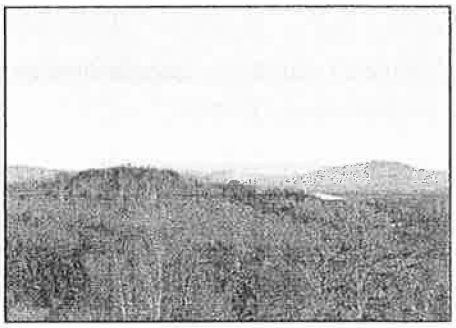
- Catherine Beattie Farm (McDonald Farm)
- Joel Currier Farm
- David Currier Farm
- Ward Family Farm
- Scott & Hugh Langmaid Farm
- Harold A. Webster Farm
- Clifton Langmaid Farm



Catherine Beattie Farm

Some Designated Areas of Special Scenic Interest:

- Area at the height of land on the Coles Pond Road above the Scott & Hugh Langmaid farm
- Overlook at the Route 2 Diamond Hill scenic pullout looking east
- Area behind the Joe Peck farm looking east
- Area extending along Brainerd Street onto Greenbanks Hollow Road to Greenbanks Hollow
- Various North Danville distant views
- Walden Hill Road

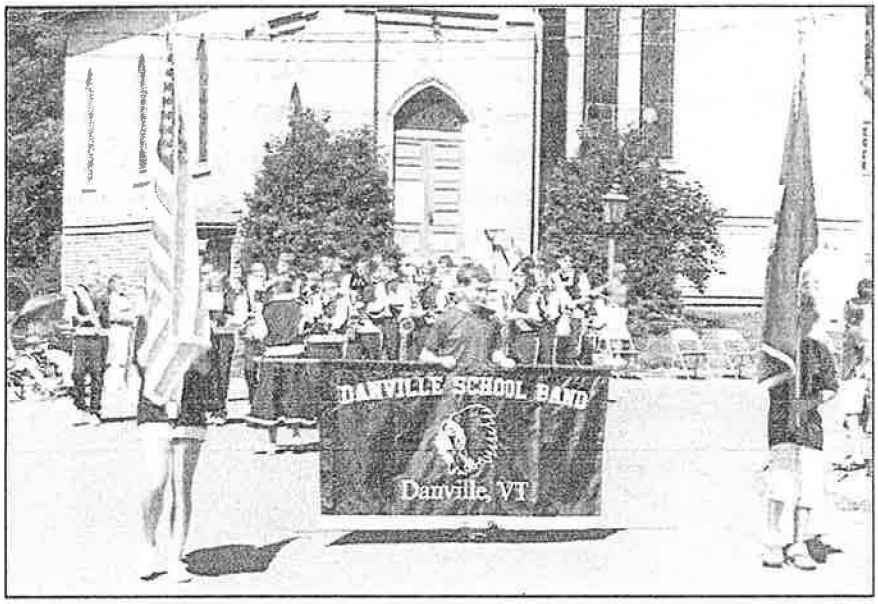


Diamond Hill

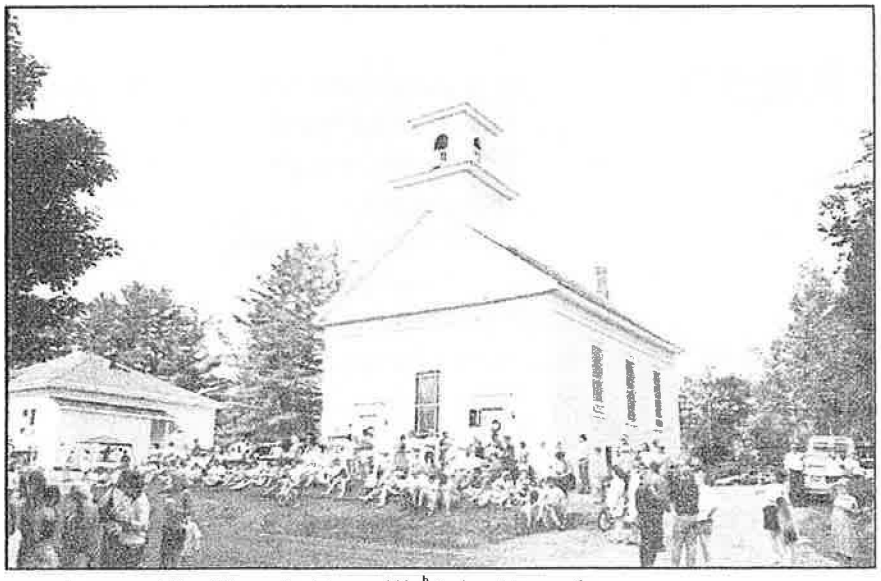
Greenbanks Hollow

"Danville is frequently identified as an excellent example of a thriving, attractive New England village. We should do everything to preserve our heritage."

Danville resident,
Town of Danville
2003 Landowners
Survev



Danville School Band, Danville Fair Parade



North Danville Church, Danville July 4 Parade

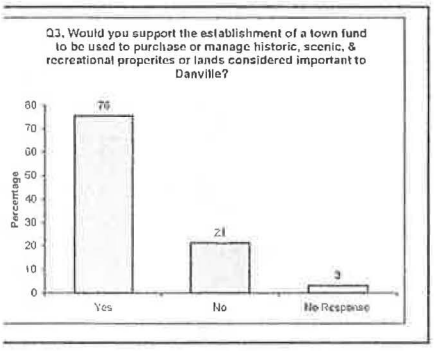
Goal

To preserve Danville's rural character, scenic resources, cultural heritage, historic structures and settlement patterns.

Objectives

1. Leverage the Historical Society & Conservation Commission to establish town guidelines that would preserve historical, scenic, cultural and other significant properties important to the community.
2. Designate historic districts worthy of preservation and identify other properties important to the community for preservation consideration.
3. Establish a policy that supports the voluntary preservation of significant private properties including forest and agricultural lands.
4. Support community cultural events.

Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks & Programs)



1. Maintain current designated Historic District areas and historic districts / sites, Designate additional areas as deemed necessary by the town;
    a. Danville Green and portions of the major routes that intersect the Green (north end of Brainerd Street, north end of the Peacham Road, Hill Street and Route 2 east and west through the village),
    b. North Danville village, Greenbanks Hollow, Harvey's Hollow,
    c. Town cemeteries.
2. Form a committee to review whether portions of West Danville should be considered for historic designation; Work with the West Danville Historical Subcommittee
3. Survey all town residents and property owners to determine what properties are important to them, which ones they would like to see preserved by priority and what level of preservation restrictions would be acceptable.

4. Establish design standards for the historic districts with clear and enforceable guidelines that would address signage, lighting, acceptable new construction and renovations, and landscaping suitable for those districts.
5. Identify, map and mark all public buildings or sites with historical, scenic or cultural significance.
6. Identify and work with private property owners to gain voluntary support to preserve and protect private properties with significant community importance including participation in the State and National Register.
7. Identify opportunities to fund the town conservation fund that can be used to purchase land or development rights of properties or adjoining properties to existing protected sites considered important to the community.
8. Locate and identify the most scenic views, ridgelines and roads on the town base map and establish development control standards that would address impacts to scenic views, ridgelines and roads.
9. Ensure there is sufficient town support to continue cultural events such as Fair Day, Autumn on the Green, Concerts and other public events that provide community involvement and celebration.
10. Develop a plan to maintain existing cemeteries and plan for future growth requirements.

Responsibility for Implementation

Select Board, Planning Commission, Conservation Commission, Design Review Board, Historical Society and volunteer organizations

VIII. Energy Conservation

Overview

"As population increases, we will encounter issues like sprawl, demand increases for electricity, town services, etc. Without a town plan, those issues could turn Danville into a poorly planned mess that would ruin its wonderful rural community feel."

Danville resident,
Town of Danville
2003 Landowners
Survey

Energy conservation should be considered in any comprehensive land use planning process. Homes and businesses use a variety of energy sources for heating like fuel oil, gas, wood, electricity, the sun, and coal. With a heating season that generally lasts seven months of the year, it is clear that energy consumption is a significant issue for everyone. Substantial economic savings can be realized through energy conservation. Every dollar not spent on energy is available for local investment or saving, and to meet other basic needs. Reducing energy usage also reduces the adverse environmental impacts of energy production, transport, and use. Energy conservation can be facilitated through effective land use planning, building standards and design, and improved transportation efficiency.

Effective land use planning can promote energy conservation. Development densities should be highest toward the center of Town, which is also served by municipal water and sewer, with lower densities in the outlying areas. By directing new development in this manner, we limit the potential for costly and energy-inefficient scattered development. By allowing customary home occupations, the Zoning Ordinance also helps support energy efficiency by reducing the need for some residents to commute to work. Decisions concerning public capital expenditures on roads and other municipal infrastructure should be mindful of energy conservation.

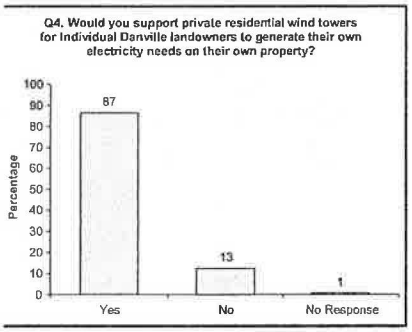
The siting, design, and construction of buildings strongly influences the amount of energy needed for heating and cooling, as well as the amount of electricity needed for lighting. Proper subdivision design, building orientation, construction, and landscaping provide opportunities for energy conservation measures such as less vehicular travel, passive solar space and domestic hot water heating, natural lighting, and photovoltaic electricity production. Additional energy savings can be realized by retrofitting existing buildings with insulation, more efficient doors and windows, weather stripping, compact fluorescent lights, and more efficient appliances.

Renewable energy resources offer long-term advantages over non-renewable sources. Solar, wind, hydro, geothermal and wood or wood gasification may become more prominent in the Town's energy mix. The Town should support efforts to research and develop these and other alternative, ecologically sound energy sources.

Goals

To encourage energy conservation and maximize community independence from nonrenewable energy resources.

Objectives



Town Meeting Day Survey, 2004

1. Site and building design, and construction practices that promote energy conservation should become recommended components for all new building construction and for existing building renovations.
2. Encourage and develop renewable energy systems in residential, commercial and municipal applications.
3. Facilitate energy conservation as related to local transportation needs.
4. Raise community awareness of the importance of energy conservation.
5. Promote community self-sufficiency and independence with respect to energy needs and encourage the use of the least environmentally damaging sources of energy.
6. The Town should make an effort to minimize its own energy consumption by using appropriate conservation and efficiency practices.
7. Land use planning should encourage energy efficiency.

Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks & Programs)

1. Revise zoning by-law to encourage energy conservation.
    a. Protect access to solar, wind and other renewable energy resources for existing buildings.
    b. Provide materials for applicants when they pick up a permit application that illustrate how to build efficiently, such as those offered by Efficiency Vermont.
    c. All applications for new building construction and additions and renovations should be accompanied by a plan and statement regarding how energy conservation will be addressed within the proposed project. Examples of energy conservation

principles include but are not restricted to insulation, building orientation, landscaping, glazing type and location, earth sheltering, measures to reduce infiltration, and heating and ventilation.

   d. Discourage the use of electric heat during peak periods.
   e. The approval of residential developments should be made conditional on meeting standards noted in item 'c' above. Major development proposals should fully and effectively address energy conservation and efficiency concerns.

2. Provide information on and work with local lenders and institutions to offer financing incentives, such as the Energy Efficient Mortgage Program, which will encourage energy conservation in new building construction and building improvements.
3. Modify design control, setback, and aesthetic restrictions to promote utilization renewable energy resources such as installation of solar panels on a rooftop in the design control district or the construction of a greenhouse subject to reduced setback requirements.
4. Consider reduction of property tax assessments on property improvements, which are designed primarily to take advantage of renewable energy resources.
5. Attract small business(es), which specialize in renewable energy related services to locate in town.
6. Actively manage town forestlands for firewood production for local use and encourage management of private forestlands through the state current use program.
7. Facilitate carpooling by maintaining and creating designated park and ride sites at appropriate locations such as in village areas and on US Route 2. Funded by federal or State Grants
8. Create and maintain a ride sharing bulletin board at a public location such as the town hall and on the town website.
9. Through the zoning by-laws, promote compact village growth, cluster development and encourage settlement patterns that reduce travel requirements for work, services, shopping and recreation. Suggested by-law changes include:
   a. Reduce minimum lot size and set back minimums within the village area,
   b. Emphasize or assign priority to service related or municipal projects within the village sewer service area,
   c. Encourage a diversity of commercial, recreational, health and other services to locate and remain in town,
   d. Local transportation projects should plan for and encourage alternative modes of transport, which are of greater energy efficiency.

"Energy efficiency is a state of mind and not just a love affair with State-of-the-Art Technology."

Author unknown

"...Man, who even now finds scarce breathing room on this vast globe, cannot retire from the Old World to some yet undiscovered continent, and wait for the slow action of such causes to replace, by a new creation, the Eden he has wasted"

George Perkins Marsh
1864

10. Promote use of local raw materials to maximize energy efficiency.
11. Town highway maintenance decisions should consider the energy savings of using gravel in lieu of asphalt road surfaces.
12. Support the creation of a Town Energy Committee with specific responsibilities to address energy conservation goals and to increase public understanding and offer cost saving suggestions for individuals, businesses and the community as a whole.
13. Energy conservation should be made a part of Danville elementary and high school curricula.
14. Energy conservation related information sharing should be facilitated through workshops for local builders and homeowners by dedicating an area of the Pope Memorial Library to energy conservation resources.
15. Planning grants for energy conservation related issues should be actively sought.
16. Investigate the feasibility of running school buses and town trucks off of bio-diesel or another less polluting and more sustainable fuel source.
17. All efforts at energy reduction should be used when constructing, maintaining or retrofitting public facilities.
18. Promote pedestrian, bicycle and public transit opportunities.
19. Encourage installation of highly efficient heating systems and maintain and operate existing heating systems to maximum efficiency possible. For example wood-heating systems should be designed and operated to achieve efficient and thorough combustion to minimize polluting emissions.
20. Residents shall be encouraged to acquire and use high efficiency lighting equipment and modern high efficiency appliances.
21. Heat loss analysis should be performed, where possible, on existing heated structures and recommendations to improve existing conditions should be made.
22. Inventory current energy usage in Town buildings and identify and incorporate energy conservation opportunities.
23. School and other public buildings should consider renewable resources for heating.

Responsibility for Implementation

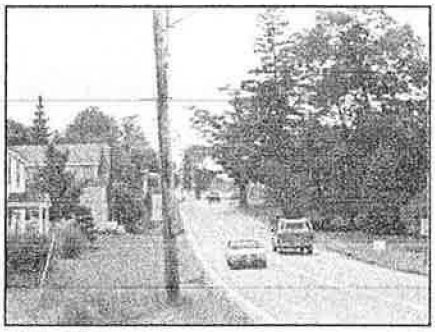
Town officers, employees and appointees as well as Public and Private Institutions and interested individuals.

IX. Transportation

Overview

Danville has a highly developed network of roads including Federal, State, Town and Private roads. The network was originally built to accommodate transportation for farms, mills, schools, churches and access to village centers. This use of transportation infrastructure has evolved over the years and now is required to accommodate greater traffic. This network once included a passenger rail service, which is now exempt. The diversified interest groups who travel these roads now vary from local commuters, commuters from surrounding towns, freight transport, farm vehicles, tourists, and others.

Traffic is an issue of increasing concern since Danville is bisected by Route 2 and situated near I-91. Travelers entering the area provide a large source of Danville's income but the increased volume in recent years has created bottleneck areas and increased both roadside and noise pollution.



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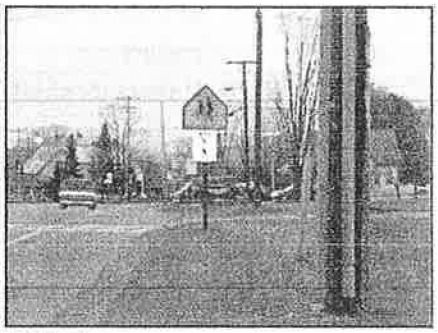


Re2inlevlge

We need to address the issue of traffic growth before development and infrastructure have grown to a point that prevents the town from addressing the issue in a coordinated manner.

The nearby airports, Pudding Hill (Lyndon) and Knapp (Berlin), do not handle regularly scheduled freight or passenger air traffic. Charter service is available from either airport. Burlington International Airport and Lebanon Airport are both located approximately 65 miles from town. Both provide regularly scheduled passenger and freight service.

Aggregate Travel Time to Work (in minutes), 2000	24,580
Vehicle Miles Traveled for (non-Interstate) State Highways, 2000	58,312.7
Total Property Damage caused by Automobile Accidents, 1997	$11,600
Number of Injuries caused by Automobile Accidents, 2001	0
Number of Accidents involving fatalities, 2001	0
Involving property damage only	1
Lane Highway Mileage, 2001	0
Class 1 Highway Mileage, 2001	0
Class 2 Highway Mileage, 2001	14.81
Class 3 Highway Mileage, 2001	83.28
Class 4 Highway Mileage, 2001	22.8
State Highway Mileage, 2001	12.812
Scenic Highway Mileage, 2001	0
% Population, which drive alone to work, 2000	77.96%
% Population, which carpooled to work, 2000	11.3%
% Population, using public transportation to work, 2000	0.0%
% Population, which motorcycle to work, 2000	0.0%
% Population, which bike to work, 2000	0.0%
% Population, walking to work, 2000	2.87%
% Population, using other means to work, 2000	0.0%
% Population, worked at home, 2000	7.87%

Vermont Indicators Online, last updated November 14, 2002

Town Garage

Goal

Maintain and improve on the Towns road network systems and resources that meet the need for local and through movement of people and goods.

Objectives

1. Provide for safe, convenient, economic and energy efficient transportation systems that respect the integrity of the natural environment, including public transit options. Encourage development of paths for pedestrians, bicyclers, snowmobiles, all terrain vehicles, etc.
2. Create and maintain a detailed inventory in digital format, of all transportation related resources, including: roads, and roads classification, bridges, culverts, high-voltage crossings, water crossings, signage, etc.
3. Regulate usage and access to town roads to protect public interest and safety. Details such as weight limits, ATV use, curb cuts, etc. need to be considered.
4. Be proactive in locating bottleneck and other problem areas such as curb cuts and seasonal road closings.
5. Aggressively support the Route 2 Project as a safety measure in an effort to relieve traffic congestion in the village.
6. Coordinate residential development with road development to assure new residents access to services while judiciously limiting road development. New roads should be constructed to a minimum Class III at the expense of the builder, and deeded to the town.
7. With cooperation of landowners, establish road-less areas to preserve natural heritage.
8. Avoid development along all roads in the Town that create dangerous intersections and stop and go traffic.
9. Ensure safe pedestrian movement within specific village areas with a strong network of sidewalks, crosswalks and adequate parking.
10. Implement ways to assure that the town has consistent road naming and addressing standards that abide by the State Enhanced 911 rule.
11. Identify alternate emergency transportation routes for inaccessible and congested areas.

12. Proposed business development must include a parking plan for employees to avoid parking on public highways and use of metered parking intended for patrons.

Recommended Actions (Policies, Tasks & Programs)

1. Support carpooling incentives.
2. Continue to support public transportation such as Rural Community Transport (RCT).
3. Support and\or encourage energy efficient transportation.
4. Create park and ride areas separate of town parking. Provide funding for development, maintenance and infrastructure that supports a safe while unobtrusive environment, such as lighting in commuter parking areas
5. Provide educational material that detail and encourage environmentally responsible vehicles.=
6. Submit necessary documents and applications to all required parties to turn rails to trails. Work with local representatives to fast track this effort.
7. Create policies regarding these shared trails for the Town to adopt. Gain local input on desired use of these trails.
8. Preserve all old town roads and public right of ways.
9. All Danville town roads should be presumed to be three rods in width unless originally established or deeded to the town with a width specified.
10. Review classification of town roads and town maintenance responsibilities.
11. Support all other private local trails that provide economical gain and recreational use.
12. Provide funding to purchase and use propriety software to keep an up-to-date inventory of all road networks, road classification, road conditions and maintain a priority list and an inventory that tracks the condition of all roads, bridges, culverts, etc.
13. Look to Vermont Agency of Transportation studies to identify ways to avoid bottleneck areas. If these studies are inadequate, initiate new studies that proactively avoid development in potentially congested areas.
14. Arterial road and parking lot lighting should be non-polluting while creating a safe travel environment for pedestrians and

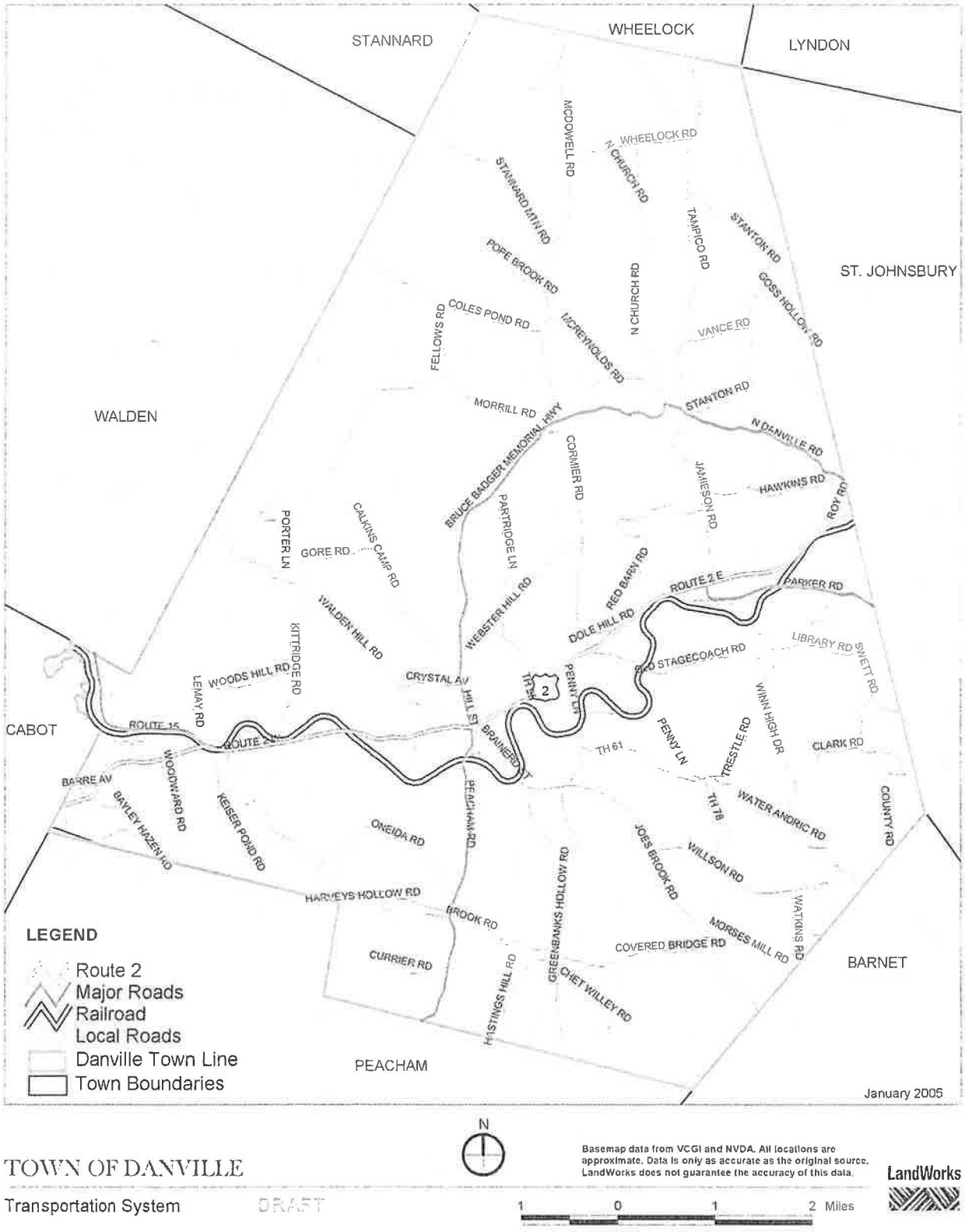
vehicles. Use low light polluting lights, (downward illuminating), for these areas

15. Create policies that enforce the link between land use, natural heritage and transportation, coordinate their planning and development.
16. Create zoning bylaws that provide sufficient setbacks and adequate parking to encourage combined access for multiple businesses in commercially zoned areas.
17. Support the construction of a network of sidewalks and cross walks to enable pedestrians (schoolchildren and shoppers) to walk safely around the village.
18. Enforce the State of Vermont's E911 Road naming and signage conventions.
19. All public road access must be reviewed by the Road Foreman and signed off on by the Select Board

Responsibility for Implementation

Select Board, Road Foreman, and Vermont Agency of Transportation

Map of Danville Vermont



TOWN OF DANVILLE

Transportation System DRAFT

X. Compatibility with the Region

Chapter 117 of Title 24, V.S.A.", the State Planning Act, Section 4383(a) requires that a plan for a municipality be compatible with approved plans of other municipalities in the region and with the regional plan. Furthermore, it is specified the plan shall contain a statement indicating how the plan relates to development trends and plans for adjacent municipalities and the region.

"Greed and ignorance are poor managers."

Danville resident, Town of Danville 2003 Landowners Survey

The Town of Danville is bordered by the towns of Barnet, Cabot, Lyndon, Peacham, St. Johnsbury, Stannard, Walden and Wheelock. Of those adjoining towns, two, Walden and Wheelock, do not have an approved plan.

Following is a brief analysis of how the Danville town plan relates to plans and growth trends of adjacent municipalities and the region.

SECTION II: Housing & Population

Recommendations to provide VHFA eligible housing and promotion of affordable housing for seniors will provide needed housing opportunities to all residents of the region. Cluster development and promotion of traditional village center growth will support regional initiatives to prevent sprawl. Zoning recommendations to protect higher elevations and ridgelines from development will support the Northeast Kingdom rural character.

SECTION III: Jobs & Economic Development

Danville's decision to encourage small to mid-size environmentally clean businesses that are compatible with the rural character of the Town will provide local job growth and services for surrounding towns without the impact of large industry or commercial development and major traffic increases associated with large scale development. The encouragement of traditional agricultural and forestry based businesses support existing regional business and development planning goals.

SECTION IV: Community Resources

Town supported resources provide services and benefits to many residents of the region.

The Danville school system offers educational opportunities to community members of all ages and provides the diversity of choice for towns' without their own school systems.

Recreation opportunities available within the Town of Danville such as Joes Pond Beach, Steam Mill Brook WMA, Keiser Pond, the Town Forest and

future Lamoille Valley Railroad recreation trail are available for use by all residents of the region. The town plan recommends enhancement of local recreation opportunities including open access to private lands for hunting, hiking, fishing and other types of low impact outdoor recreation thereby helping answer a regional demand.

The plan encourages and supports a regional approach to deal with waste management and continued interaction with other towns of the region through membership in a waste management district.

SECTION V: Land Use & Development

Village center growth promoted in this section is compatible with the regional plan designation of Danville as a secondary growth center primarily offering residential opportunities with small commercial business activity. Other recommendations of this section would appear to represent little effect on growth trends of adjoining towns.

This plan strongly emphasizes the need to encourage and support the agriculture and forest products industries, basic to the economic vitality of the region.

SECTION VI: Natural Heritage

The protection of the town's natural heritage and biodiversity provides benefits to all current and future residents of the region. Hunting, fishing, sightseeing and other natural resource based recreational opportunities are important to the economy of the region and surrounding communities. The values of wildlife resources do not recognize political boundaries. The Danville town plan commitment to preserve critical habitats, wildlife and plant diversity, a scenic landscape and the town's historic legacy will be of benefit to all who travel through the town.

Pollution, whether airborne or waterborne, like wildlife, knows no political boundaries. A commitment to promoting a strong land ethic and to discourage land uses incompatible with the capacity of the land to ecologically support that use will protect the residents of adjoining towns.

SECTION VII: Historic, Scenic & Cultural Resources

This section recognizes the importance of historic, scenic and cultural resources and their value to the region. The plan seeks to identify and preserve these resources. Scenic resources, like hillsides and ridgelines, are visible from surrounding towns and their development would have an impact on the entire region.

SECTION VIII: Energy Conservation

Energy conservation practiced diligently benefits the world community and not just a region. The plan encourages the Town to be proactive in looking at new renewable sources of energy, opportunities to better utilize and maximize the benefits of existing energy sources and raise community awareness on the importance of being energy efficient.

SECTION IX: Transportation

The support of the "Route 2 Project", a major regional commuter traffic corridor that passes through the center of Danville will provide both safety and congestion improvements for all residents of the region. The plan commits Danville to ensuring that all of its public roads and recreational paths both existing and future construction, are utilized and maintained with safety in mind.