

POSSIBLE DREAMS 2012: “Bridge to Bridge and Beyond”

Emerging Ideas That Have Come in Since the Meeting

February 8, 2012

Restaurant Week: “I have had a few conversations with Alan Boisvert of Keon’s who is very interested in putting together a Restaurant Week event. I have had a lot of community event experience as a Chamber Executive prior to my fundraising role. I would like to work with others (agriculture, arts) to put together a full week of festivities around a Restaurant Week. The restaurants are a huge asset and it would be of mutual benefit to put together an event to support them and to highlight what we currently have in the city. I have contacts with most of the restaurants through my Taste of Spring event—I can easily poll them to find out what dates would be good for them, ideally when they need business. Let me know if there is anyone that you have come across that would like to work on an event like this.” [Thanks to Pam McGrath] Here’s a good website if we go in this direction: <http://www.nhfarmtorestaurant.com/> [Thanks to Lisa Marzilli]

A Merrimack River Museum: “Create a Merrimack River Museum...making the Haverhill home to the only museum dedicated to the river! I envision the museum having many exhibits rooms, each dedicated to a different aspect of the river. For example:

- Exhibits focused on the river's role throughout history as the city was being built
- Exhibits focused on the many famous poets, writers, and other artists and their works inspired by the Merrimack
- Exhibits focused on the river's biodiversity, including its critical role as spawning habitat for the short-bosed sturgeon, the annual river herring and shad migrations, etc.
- Exhibits about the river's watershed, the ways we are connected by this watershed, and the many ways our everyday decisions and actions affect the health of this watershed
- Exhibits for all ages, making the museum a destination for everyone.

With its positioning at the furthest navigable point upriver along the Merrimack, Haverhill is perfectly positioned for this. Further, there seem to be some existing structures large enough to house this museum and with nearby parking able to handle buses (school groups and tour groups). Maybe a perfect use for the Woolworth building? Regardless of the building's location, it could also be connected to the "bridge-to-bridge" area through a "walking exhibit"... an outreach extension consisting of a series of interpretive signs along this walking/cycling circuit. These educational, illustrated signs would provide highlights covering the rivers' cultural and environmental aspects listed above.” [Thanks to Rob Gough]

Urban Land Institute Report: The final report to the City from the November 29 design charrette (focused on the “bridge to bridge” area) is now available in PDF format. [Thanks to Community Development Director Andrew Herlihy for providing a copy to share.] A link to the report is included in Team Haverhill’s February 2 Newsletter. Or visit www.boston.uli.org; the report should be posted soon.

Youth Involvement: “I personally will vote for the creation of a Performing Arts Center by taking advantage of the Woolworth building. The location will be prime for the arts. We can have a theater and a performing center. We could encourage people of all ages to participate at different levels. What it concerns me is the fact that besides the Boys and Girls Club and the YMCA, there are no opportunities for free after-school programs for the youth. I'd love to invite young minds to discuss ideas...[If anyone has] contacts at the school department or...names of teachers who know students that care about the future of Haverhill, we can invite them to the next meetings and listen to them.” [Thanks to Carmenza Bruff]

Sustainability Ideas: “I would like to share some things I've found in my research that could be valuable when thinking about how we should continue to develop the city. I'm currently reading, "Plan B 4.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization". It gives valuable insights into many coming changes and how cities

(section 6) like Haverhill can take steps to adapt to them. Personally, I like to think about how we can embrace them and thrive. Here it is free online.

http://www.earth-policy.org/books/pb4/pb4_table_of_contents.

I would also like to share this presentation on the economy, energy, and the environment...a very thorough and evidence-based breakdown of some of the big challenges the world and our city are going to be facing in the next 20 years. I'm making business and personal decisions with them in mind. We need to have them in mind as we continue to develop the city."

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8WBiTnBwSWc&list=FLph3oypJrsaZZ6PN3wYgOBw>.

[Thanks to Donnie Cox]

Have You Seen the New Rail Trail Logo? Here is the winning image from the recent design competition. [Thanks to Larry Olasky]



Blog the Ideas that are Emerging: “[Let’s] keep the energy going...let’s share what happened with each of our circle of friends, and on our social networks etc to increase awareness and input...For example, I put a nice blog post on my blogsite, facebook, linkedin, etc. Use the link below to see [what I posted.] www.primepropertyteam.com” [Thanks to Ron Carpenito]

Haverhill Promotional Video: Downtown businesses form a collaborative to produce a 30-minute video—15 minutes focusing on what’s coming in next 30 days, 15 minutes on overall Haverhill history, recreation and activities. Run it 6 or 7 times a day on HCTV, especially during unprogrammed hours; combine with a marketing campaign that refers people to the video; ongoing ad in the Trib for it.

Citywide Outreach by Downtown Collaborative: Show interest in the neighborhoods by adopting a park or offering packages of donated items for people burned out of a home. **Multi-Museum:** One floor a children’s museum; one floor a comic museum; one a history of the Merrimack Valley; one about shoes. Promote access by train, school trips from schools up and down Merrimack Valley to provide daytime traffic. [Thanks to Ron Carpenito, reporting on discussion at his table.]

Store Window Display Contest: Regarding revitalization of the Merrimack Street end of downtown, esthetically pleasing storefronts would be very beneficial. I'm thinking most specifically of Newman's furniture which is always an eyesore. My idea is to have a contest for local artists or art students to produce displays for those businesses inclined to participate. The display would be have to relevant to the store/business. The prize is just the opportunity for an artist to very publicly display their work. [Thanks to Julie Herget]

Farm for Veterans, Alternative Bakery: I have been creating programs for 23 years in California www.thegreenteamsite.com. I want to create a Farm For Veterans and an Alternative Bakery. I am looking for interested people to be part of it. [Thanks to James Helliwell, new resident of Haverhill.]

2012 Possible Dreams—Full List of Ideas Transcribed from Table Placemats

1. Community Garden at Tattersall Farm
2. Summer Trolleys
3. Tourist signage with what there is to see in Haverhill
4. Maintain late night train/bus
5. Downtown coffee shop/meeting place (open after 5PM)
6. Beautify the back of old buildings
7. Convert bus station into park/playground area for kids-candy store/ice cream shop
8. Bookstore/coffee shop
9. Whittier trail to cultural sites
10. Bradford Country Store/food coop
11. Skateboard area for Rail Trail
12. Expand Farmers Market
13. Create a multi-modal station
14. Better sidewalks, walk ways and lighting
15. Downtown too dark
16. Theme for Merrimack St-flowerboxes, brick sidewalks, etc
17. Renovate barn at Winnekinni Park
18. Coffee shop with art gallery
19. Support mini-farms in Haverhill
20. Movie theatre (like Davis Square)
21. Landmark Building as children's museum
22. Have long term goal for Merrimack st (10-15 yrs)
23. Bike bath to link all the way to Boston
24. Archway to water on Merrimack St
25. More diverse businesses downtown
26. Art galleries to visit after dinner
27. PPS: project for public spaces
28. An actual train station
29. Work with MVRTA to increase bus service between NECC and downtown
30. Bike program similar to Hub Bike
31. Information Kiosk
32. Boating lessons/rental/sailing/kayaking/paddle boats on MBTA land
33. High school and NECC to downtown
34. Native American History
35. Post office square: dancing fountain for family fun
36. More sculptures along river walk and rail trail
37. Solar panels on roofs
38. Food network test kitchen
39. More use of backsides of buildings on river-more restaurant seating
40. Farm tours and local restaurant connection
41. Restaurant week (with farms)
42. Old fashioned soda fountain/Penny candy store
43. Safety in downtown-remote police station
44. Art spaces for live and work
45. Eagle tours like North Andover (viewing stations)

46. Sculpture park on Rail Trail
47. Sculpture Symposium to bring New England sculptors to Haverhill to make public sculpture for rail trail
48. Gateway signage off highway to promote cultural corridors
49. Promote tap brewery to Amtrak for a brew pub tour along train route*
50. Haverhill needs marketing plan
51. Dinner and show deals (New Moon coffee house and dinner)*
52. Downtown bike racks
53. Post office square-incentive for second location?
54. Streetscape: window boxes, whiskey barrels and flowers, hanging plants
55. No desirable destination for kids/no attractive retail
56. Pedi-cabs
57. Advertise in the train parking lot
58. Archie Days
59. A giant moving origami sculpture
60. Water Fire (Providence RI)
61. Dale Rodgers sculpture theme
62. Clean and light Merrimack street
63. Main street program like Beverly
64. Find successful business to open second location downtown
65. Temporary business space for incubators
66. Food market with local foods
67. Small museum downtown-history of the sturgeon
68. More antique markets downtown (shops with new and old together)
69. City Hall auditorium not used!
70. Brand-what is Haverhill?
71. Connect with Whittier vocational tech to do real projects with the city (kids waiting to do things)
72. Connect with NECC students (culinary students prepare a farm to table dinner...get food at Farmers Market, prepare, and serve at vineyard)
73. Build a environmental and cultural "sense of place"
74. Interpretive signage: natural and cultural resources associated with river (endangered sturgeon, Whittier poetry, Thoreau's writings on Merrimack)
75. Clean parking garages
76. Stone wall along Rail trail
77. Need a downtown map/visitor center
78. Ban neon lights
79. Hostel/boutique hotel/B&B
80. Dance studios-have pick up classes along water in old buildings
81. Beer and book tour
82. Townie discounts
83. Farming and/or Science Museum
84. Haverhill Pass (to give you discounts at area stores/restaurants)
85. Taste of Haverhill Festivals
86. Friday night Antique car show downtown in summer
87. Connect a restaurant with a local treasure
88. Multi-recycling containers (paper, cans, bottles) in downtown
89. More family restaurants

90. Make sure all trees are trimmed/keep up with graffiti
91. Landscape downtown
92. Increase DPW budget to better maintain city
93. WEBSITE!!!! What is going on in Haverhill, parks, update with pictures
94. Farms to restaurants
95. Help restaurants be more kid-friendly
96. More walk able community
97. Riverboat floating restaurant/ dinner cruise
98. Beach water taxi
99. New parks, fix old ones
100. Permanent attraction map
101. Need bigger boats in river/more boat docks
102. GAR park music
103. Haverhill cleanup day more than once a year
104. Kayak/canoe launch from Rt 110 rest area to crescent yacht club
105. Ice cream push cart on Rail Trail
106. Community gardens
107. Beautify Basiliere Bridge
108. Lights across street /trees (Like Lowell)
109. Pop up shops
110. Fix up area at corner of Rail Trail (old gas station is located)
111. Live stream Met performances at City Hall Auditorium
112. Coop store (with handmade goods)
113. Open area performing arts at GAR Park
114. Friday night outdoor movies
115. NECC annex to downtown
116. Art Festival
117. Aquarium for kids/Lego store
118. A nightclub for seniors/elderly work out center
119. Work Haverhill history into school curriculum
120. More donated, dedicated benches
121. Protect historic areas and buildings
122. Road races
123. Downtown playground
124. Bring a Trader Joes to old Saturn Dealership
125. Historical trail like Freedom Trail
126. Something like Essex Art center in Lawrence
127. Agriculture tourism
128. Haverhill Rap song