

Notes from “Town Meeting” Portion of Possible Dreams 2010

Questions: What is emerging (in this conversation)?
What “possible dreams” for 2010 do we share?
What new relationships are emerging that could help Haverhill to accomplish big things in 2010?

- Get single stream (citywide) accomplished this year.
- Beautifying, especially downtown riverwalk and rail trail
- Bigger, better, more organized Earth Day
- Safety and beauty have improved—city still has bad reputation in the region—need to promote our city, get new folks here for great bars and restaurants—tourism kiosk
- More entertainment downtown
 - Summer stroll—week-long event
 - Riverfest—from the boardwalk to the stadium
- Farmers Market was incredible! Could be even more a gathering place, more vendors, more children’s activities
- Create a cultural/arts center downtown—multiple activities—performance space—Spotlight Theater company—-independent film venue
- Bookstore on Merrimack Street
- Getting more young professionals involved in activities
- Meet young people on the train going to chef school in Boston—have a community event with restaurants, Whittier students
 - Local produce
 - Involve Keon’s—widely recognized for excellence
- Reach out to young professionals on commuter rail—provide them with ways to give back to the community
- “This is the year to get rid of (do something about) the Woolworth building!”
 - “Port of Haverhill” concept
 - Make that parcel part of an overall development concept
 - Capitalize on Woolworth association with soda fountain and Archie connection—create a “Chocolate Shop” attraction
 - Put cinema there
 - Children’s opportunities, such as a Children’s Museum (street crossing problem would have to be addressed—build an overpass? (After the meeting someone suggested that a stoplight and walkway at the parking deck entrance would help a lot)
- Build relationship with Scott Brown
- Community participation in Haverhill HS athletics—new athletic director—involve more people as tutors, donors, mentors
 - Comedy night at Michael’s March 12 to raise money for sports fees
 - Event at Renaissance Golf Club May

- Conservation-oriented items that emerged:
 - More tree-planting—“grassroots” impetus
 - Rail trail
 - Rain barrels
 - Environment Summit last year—led to reinvigoration of Brightside—building as a partnership among Brightside, Team Haverhill, Winnekenni—perhaps a quarterly gathering needed to co-ordinate efforts
- New relationships visible in the city
 - City groups
 - Service groups
 - Citizen volunteers
- One important example happening right now
 - City’s 5 cultural entities joining together as the “Cultural Treasures”—advertising together
- Broader issue of unified promotion of city’s assets, activities, opportunities
 - Hear frequently: “I didn’t know that existed”
 - Would be great to have one site to consult
 - Chamber of Commerce Calendar already in place—not yet seen by all groups as the central place to post listings or by all residents as place to find an activity
 - “Welcome Wagon” function is missing
 - Would like to see a directly of all city services and activities—not only online—many don’t have/use computers
 - Third grade curriculum in schools include a study of the city—this is one vehicle to inform families, especially about free events—multi-lingual resources would be needed
 - Shoe-city map was great—how about a map of businesses and attractions—kiosk where people get off the train—businesses could put coupons on maps as a way to pay for printing. Firefighter Museum (example?)
- Other wishes that surfaced
 - Dog park
 - Another skate park downtown so youngsters don’t use parking deck
 - Neighborhood coalitions
 - We have imagined many new downtown businesses we’d like to see—how could we provide incentives to college students/young entrepreneurs to pioneer those businesses—provide start-up advice and other help
- Councilor Michael Young reminded people that he is committed to donate his salary—groups can apply to receive \$500 per month.