

Town of Goshen, Connecticut
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Community Values

A common theme heard from Goshen Citizens attending the previous public forums was “Goshen has a strong tradition of community spirit and this must be supported and strengthened in the Town Plan.” There was much discussion and differing emphasis among citizens over specific Town Plan policies. But there is universal agreement that Goshen’s “volunteer spirit” is the quality that makes the Town an exceptional community to live in.

Citizens united in the aim that Goshen should build upon the high level of community involvement by its citizens, its volunteer services and neighborliness. Accordingly the recommendations in this plan encourage volunteer action and aim to sustain community spirit.

It is recommended that the Town continue to develop a variety of avenues for stimulating community involvement to achieve the objectives of this plan and to carry out town programs. The following are some suggestions:

-Keep the lines of communication open between citizens and the local board and commissions,

-Over the years local volunteer groups have supported Town programs. Such Town – local volunteer cooperative efforts should be encouraged and expanded especially where it benefits both.

-Continue the “Goshen Town Topics” and institute other means of improving timely communications with the Town’s residents. Make this a high priority.

-Identify and support land use policies that will help retain Goshen’s pool of volunteers available for critical local services. Especially important are day-time volunteers for the Goshen Volunteer Fire Company and its Emergency Medical Services.

-The Town Plan of Conservation of Development should be reviewed and revised as conditions and need demand. For this purpose it is recommended that the Town encourage the Board of Selectmen to convene an annual discussion session among local Boards and Commissions. The Selectmen and the Planning and Zoning Commission should sponsor an annual “ State of the Town” public forum inviting representatives of the Town’s Boards and Commissions and its many volunteer groups to discuss the progress on the Town Plan, identify cooperative projects and issues and opportunities to be addressed in revisions to the Town Plan.

This plan encourages local volunteer organizations to identify elements of the plan that they can support and help carry out. For example, the Goshen Historical Society Inc. can help inform townspeople, especially local school children, about Goshen’s rich historic heritage and the Goshen Land Trust can help identify and protect the type of land that meets the Plan of Conservation and Development’s conservation objectives.