

APPENDIX F

Ideas and Inspiration for the Future

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The citizens of the Monadnock Region and the City of Keene provided tremendous input throughout the planning process. Due to the sheer volume of information, it is not feasible to put all of it in one document – hence, the inclusion of this appendix.

In all, nearly 2,000 pages of notes were generated from the Visioning Conversations and Keene Voices sessions, describing hundreds of ideas to achieve the community's vision. Many of these ideas appear below. This appendix also includes actions from previous plans that are still relevant and support the achievement of the community's vision.

The ideas noted here are not prioritized and are in addition to the strategies included in the plan. They should also inspire other ideas as the community works toward achieving the vision.

For ease of use and to illustrate how actions can achieve more than one goal, they have been identified by the six vision focus areas. The six vision focus areas are:

1. A Quality, Built Environment
2. A Unique, Natural Environment
3. A Vibrant Economy
4. A Strong Citizenship & Proactive Leadership
5. A Creative Learning Culture
6. A Healthy Community

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1. Perform annual pedestrian amenity inventories to examine the condition of crosswalks, sidewalks, and bicyclist amenities and store the information in the municipal Geographic Information System (GIS). Utilize students and interested volunteers in this program. (1, 2, 4,6)
2. Schedule regular updates Cheshire Medical Center with Planning Board, City Council, Parks and Recreation and Planning staff regarding progress with the Vision 2020 process. (4, 6)
3. Work with local organizations to identify an accessible space for a local year-round farmers market. (1, 2,6)
4. Work with local economic development organizations to identify vacant and underutilized buildings within the city and identify possible re-use options and tenants for them. (1,3,4)
5. Create a Pedestrian, Bicyclist, and Driver Safety Education program with Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC), Bicycle Path Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPPAC), and other community organizations to educate

- these user groups on how to share the road and the responsibility for safe commuting. (4,5,6)
6. Create new, or expand upon existing, festivals to draw different audiences to the community. (2,4,5)
 7. Expand the Historic District from lower Main Street to Route 101. (1,3)
 8. Develop illustrated architectural design guidelines for the downtown districts that can be used to guide the planning process for access management, provision of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and site and building design. (1,2,6)
 9. Adopt standards/guidelines for redevelopment along Gilbo Avenue that will result in similar densities, land uses and overall look and feel as Main Street. (1,3,6)
 10. Create a multi-stakeholder Housing Commission charged with creating a city-wide housing plan that addresses the needs of housing within the community. (1,3,6)
 11. Revise conservation residential design (CRD) subdivision regulations to create incentive for greater densities and the provision of community amenities within a CRD development, especially those that provide natural resource protection. (1,2,3,6)
 12. Streamline permitting for housing developments that are environmentally innovative and support more sustainable lifestyles. (1,2,3,4,6)
 13. Establish a revolving-loan fund or other innovative program to assist homeowners in financing green building projects. (1,2,3,4,6)
 14. Develop local and regional benchmarks to measure how energy efficient and sustainable Keene's housing stock is. Use these to identify further actions, develop programs, and incorporate these ideas into the Regional Housing Needs Assessment and the Cool Monadnock initiative. (1, 2, 3, 4,6)
 15. Create a design competition to showcase affordable, green building within a neighborhood surrounding the downtown. (1,2,3,4,5,6)
 16. Work with local banks and underwriters to provide local mortgage incentives for housing that is more energy efficient and located within existing developed areas. (1,3)
 17. Create a landlord/rental property owners group to provide education and communication opportunities between the city, neighborhood associations, and other community stakeholders. (1,4,6)
 18. Create a landlord/student renter education program that establishes community expectations for proper management of student housing and proper behavior to minimize negative impacts within neighborhoods. (1,4,6)
 19. Create architectural guidelines to promote high quality, attractive design that balances the elements of modern architecture within an historical context. (1,4)
 20. Increase public awareness of the Historic District by creating educational information and opportunities that clearly explains the district, plainly illustrates its guidelines, and achieves appropriate treatments of historic structures. (1,4)

21. Work with education providers to incorporate biodiesel into the school bus fleet to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce pollutants that contribute to poor air quality. (1,2,4,6)
22. Propose water conservation programs that will reduce the need for energy-intensive water treatment processes. (1,2,4)
23. Apply for additional flood mitigation funds to finish flood proofing or other feasible mitigation strategies for the remaining Krif Road and Krif Court commercial and industrial properties. (1,2,3)
24. Develop and implement a mitigation plan to protect Kingsbury Corporation facility, which is partially located in the flood way and entirely in the 100 year floodplain. (1,2,3)
25. Develop a program to mitigate risks and secondary hazards associated with flooding at Tanglewood Estates Manufactured Home Park. (1,2,3)
26. Acquire adequate rights-of-way to allow multi-purpose use of flood control facilities. (1,2,3,6)
27. Strive to create programs to retrofit existing flood channels and detentions basins with trails and other recreational amenities. (1,2)
28. Work with education providers to create a self-perpetuating school recycling program that can also be integrated as part of the curriculum. (2,4,5,6)
29. Re-establish the recycling calendar as an education tool. (2,4,5)
30. Explore the feasibility of creating accessible composting facilities throughout the city. (1,2,3,4,5,6)
31. Create an “ambassador program” consisting of local people to attract regional, national, and international businesses to locate within the city by innovative marketing techniques. (3,4)
32. Work strategically with Keene State College, Antioch New England Graduate School, River Valley Community College, Cheshire Medical Group and other area businesses to develop research oriented business opportunities within the city. (3,4)
33. Expand capacity/programs at the Cheshire Center for vocational trades with a particular focus on needs and desired employee skills of area businesses. (3,4,5)
34. Develop a formal centralized communications network to connect local businesses, non-profits, educational entities, arts and cultural organizations, and others to share information, connect students to internships, provide networking opportunities and create employer-to-skilled worker connections. (3,4,5)
35. Develop partnerships between the Community College, municipal economic development staff, the Chamber of Commerce and education providers to identify emerging educational needs, knowledge areas, skill sets and job opportunities. (3,4,5)
36. Work with economic development and tourism organizations to develop a “brand” for Keene that markets the city as a regional economic engine that is stable, innovative and proactive and has the necessary resources. (3,4)

37. Create a weekly or bi-weekly alternative magazine or newspaper of “things to do” that includes commentary on civic life, arts and culture and political happenings (similar to Burlington’s 7 Days). (3,4,5)
38. Work with Home, Healthcare Hospice and Community Services (HCS) to achieve an expanded and enhanced level of transit service city-wide by creating incentives to increase ridership, allow for walk-bike-ride trips, and by increasing the number of stops throughout the city. Provide increased transit service during the workweek rush-hour times and aim to reduce transit headway, or the time between buses, during rush hour times to 10 minutes or less. (1,2,3,4,6)
39. Work with New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT), Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC), and other transportation providers to strategically locate park and ride facilities, designed to serve commuters working in Keene and other destinations within the region, including transportation to other municipalities (Nashua, Manchester, Concord). (1,2,3,4,6)
40. Create a more formal review process for developments of regional impact that addresses multi-modal transportation issues. (1,3,4)
41. Provide public education regarding non-point source pollution sources, impacts and solutions. (2,4,6)
42. Identify appropriate locations for access to rivers and other water bodies for non-motorized recreational purposes. (1,2,4,6)
43. Building on the natural resources inventory (NRI), develop maps using the City Geographic Information System (GIS) resources that identify existing and potential wildlife corridors. Reference these maps in regulatory processes and open space protection programs to protect and restore wildlife corridors. (1,2,4)
44. Coordinate with other jurisdictions in the Monadnock Region on developing regional standards and plans for regional parks, trails, and open space. (1,2,3,4,6)
45. Develop a long-term plant community inventory program. (1,2,4)
46. Preserve lands essential to maintaining regional ecosystem functions. (1,2,4)
47. Create and adopt an effective surface water ordinance. (1,2,4,6)
48. Create a set of regularly reported on community sustainability indicators. (1,2,3,4,5,6)
49. Explore the creation of a park in the downtown area that seamlessly blends active and passive recreation opportunities (e.g., a park that provides areas to sit, grassy multi-use areas, incorporates skate spots, etc.) (1,2,4,6)
50. Create a comprehensive skatepark system, which includes a network of skate alternatives, such as skate spots, skate paths and skateparks. Utilize the City of Seattle as an example for how to create, design and implement this kind of system. (1,2,4,6)
51. Explore the creation of a Keene Agricultural Commission. (2,6)
52. Identify areas for food storage, processing, and distribution facilities and businesses. (1,2,6)

53. Use the City Geographic Information System GIS system to identify possible sites for neighborhood based community gardens. (2,4,6)
54. Research and identify municipal policies and strategies that could enhance access to the farmers' market (e.g. parking, bicycle access, reduced rates for City Express passengers, etc.). (1,2,4,5,6)
55. Work with local agricultural groups to promote farming of unused or underused lands. (2,6)
56. Incorporate urban food production as a use in commercial and industrial districts. (1,2,6)
57. Introduce urban agriculture as part of housing development or neighborhood revitalization. (1,2,6)
58. Work with mainstream food stores to provide a certain percentage of locally produced foods. (1,2,6)
59. Form a Community Recreational Amenities Committee to ensure implementation of the following:
 - a. Identify and purchase the appropriate software for the Parks and Recreation Department to: (1) track membership in local programs; (2) assess demand for facilities; and (3) help manage and prioritize project renovations and replacements.
 - b. Develop a recreation plan for land at the convergence of White and Black Brooks.
 - c. Improve conditions at the ice skating facility at Wheelock Park including enclosure of the skating area.
 - d. Site, design, and construct a permanent skate park.
 - e. Provide up-to-date signage on all trail networks to include the length of the trails and level of difficulty. (1,2,3,4,5,6)
60. Create a hotline and website for residents and business owners to easily communicate infrastructure problems directly to City officials. (1,4)
61. Update the All Hazard Mitigation Plan to incorporate new data related to climate change. (1,2,3,4,6)
62. Continue to update the City Emergency Operations Plan and incorporate new data related to climate change. (1,2,3,4,6)
63. Continue development of the City Pandemic Continuity Plan and incorporate new data related to climate change. (1,2,3,4,6)
64. Establish a reverse 911 automated call-back system in the community to notify residents of evacuation routes or other information in the event of an emergency or disaster. (1,4,6)
65. Enhance the interactive quality of the City's website through social media networking tools (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, Linked-In). (1,4)
66. Organize periodic workshops for education providers, City Council or other boards and committees. These would involve a compelling speaker on a topic of interest, allowing opportunity for officials and board members to interact outside of a formal business meeting. (4,5)
67. Identify student liaisons between local government and student groups and seek to involve these students in civic activities. (4,5)

68. Continue to identify police officer liaisons to neighborhood groups as more groups emerge. (1,4,6)
69. Expand the use and access to online government services throughout the city. (4,5)
70. Create citizen awards to recognize businesses and individuals who work to strengthen their community through positive action. (4,5)
71. Publish GIS maps and data to the City's public website. (4,5)
72. Identify opportunities in the local media to highlight success stories of citizen engagement. Highlight through the city's website as well. (4,5)
73. Establish a "state of our people" report that reports measured respect and support levels related to meaning, purpose and connectedness and the ways that citizens care for one another. This could be achieved in collaboration with Cheshire Medical Group as part of measuring progress for Vision 2020. (1,2,3,4,5,6)
74. Begin a regular annual survey of high school students that will help gauge their interests relative to community issues and identify ways to get them involved. (4,5)
75. Continue to build capacity within the senior community to engage in community issues through library training programs, CALL , and volunteer-matching programs, etc. (4,5)
76. Increase the use of public art to assist with the growth of a culturally informed public. (1,3,4,5,6)
77. Coordinate infrastructure improvements (sidewalks, parks, etc.) with opportunities to create public art. Identify a liaison between the City and the arts community to ensure there is a discussion about public improvements and arts opportunities. (1,3,4,5,6)
78. Host a university design competition in which students develop a "Public Art Strategy" for the community. (1,3,4,5,6)
79. Work with local arts, tourism, and economic development organizations to develop media to promote local art and also brand the city as one of New England's artistic hubs. (1,3,4,5,6)
80. Provide arts and cultural events targeted for different age groups, including youth and young adults. (1,3,4,5,6)
81. Ensure local and regional artists are recognized for their excellence, to honor the important roles they play in encouraging other citizens' to participate in and value creative self-expression. (1,3,4,5,6)
82. Continue to collaborate with local colleges/universities and other education providers to conduct service-learning projects (e.g. raising salmon and releasing them into Beaver Brook or long-term macro-invertebrate monitoring program) and incorporate environmental conservation into school curricula. (2,4,5,6)
83. Work to create broad participation on boards and commissions that are representative of Keene's diversity. (4,5)
84. Partner with Southwest Community Services (SCS) and other organizations to enhance childcare options for single parent or working family households. (4,5)

85. Work with the Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) and other organizations to commission a resource based evaluation of local codes and policies within the ten municipalities that steward the Ashuelot River Watershed to enhance planning, protection, recreation and education initiatives. (1,2,4)
86. Examine potential for “re-subdividing” the remaining vacant and underutilized parcels in the Corporate Business Park to allow for more efficient development. (1,2,3)
87. Support further expansion of River Valley Community College campus in Keene. (1,5)
88. Explore the potential use of excess land on existing commercial and/or industrial land for agricultural production as an interim use. (1,2,6)
89. Create a bicycle share program. (1,2,3,6)
90. Establish zipcar or another similar type of car share program (1,2,3,6)
91. Assess public knowledge of governance and issues. Identify new ways of disseminating news and notice about local government. (4,5)