

Monroe Visioning Committee Open House
March 29, 2025

Monroe Visioning Committee members present: Troy Moody, Lyndsey Marston, Rachel Norgang, Ashlie Stubbs, Eric Bunker, Andrea Stark.

Approximately 40 additional members of the community were in attendance.

A potluck and informational session was held from 11:00am to 12:00pm. During this time, informational stations were set up for each survey category. Attendees had the option of reviewing survey results and speaking with a Committee member at each station.

At noon, Troy Moody gave a brief presentation that outlined the work that the Committee had done to complete the survey. Questions and comments were then welcomed from the audience, which included:

1. What is the next step to make a comprehensive plan, and will it happen?
2. What are the demographics in Town as it relates to wanting a comprehensive plan (i.e. what percentage of the Town is under 18 and would not have voted)?
3. There is a noticeable conflict in some results, as the majority of respondents want a comprehensive plan but are happy with current zoning and current environmental protections.
4. There is also a disconnect between wanting to keep taxes low but wanting services
5. The survey indicates that knowing what the rules are in Town is an issue.
6. There are still lingering fears over how a comprehensive plan might impact residents, particularly farmers.
7. A lot of towns try to react quickly to prevent something they don't want (e.g. a solar farm), but don't have a comprehensive plan or ordinances in place, so it is too late.
8. What can we do today to confirm that we want a comprehensive plan?
9. Comprehensive plans are benign and do not include any ordinances, zoning, or regulations. Ordinances or action items recommended by a plan would need to be voted on individually. It's important to come to Town meetings where these votes take place.
10. Attendees appreciate survey results to show what is important to residents.
11. If the school closes, it will change the character of the Town and discourage people from living here.

The audience requested that the Committee review results from each topic area. In addition to the survey results, the following topics were discussed:

Education (presented by Rachel Norgang):

- Creating an Alternative Organizational Structure would be extremely complicated
- The school capacity is greater than what was noted in the last comprehensive plan
- Brooks, Jackson, and Monroe used to be their own entity in the 1960s

Recreation (presented by Ashlie Stubbs):

- CMLT will take over trail work at Basin Pond once the purchase is finalized.
- Workdays would be great for people who can't commit to joining a committee but want to help otherwise
- Gesner Park is leased by the Town on a rolling basis

General (presented by Andrea Stark):

- Earth day cleanup happening in April
- Volunteers are working on historical documentation and could use help

Town Communication and Services (presented by Eric Bunker):

- Road satisfaction may align with whether it is paved or gravel
- There is a DOT special phone number to request maintenance on State roads (Routes 139 and 141)

Environment & Natural Resources (presented by Lyndsey Marston):

- Residents strongly favored protecting natural resources and passing ordinances to protect water and air quality, soils, and wildlife in the 1993 survey.
- Survey respondents still favor protecting natural resources

Land Use and Zoning (presented by Troy Moody):

- Providing examples of potential challenges the Town faces could influence how people feel about zoning/ordinances.

Sign-up sheets were located at each informational station. Attendees were encouraged to provide contact information if they are interested in joining focus groups or helping to move forward with creating a comprehensive plan. The Open House concluded at approximately 2:00pm.