

Organized notes from Table Discussions at SLA's January 20, 2016, Watershed Plan Kickoff Meeting

Environment

- Land Use
 - Towns should work together to implement consistent land use regulations across the watershed:
 - Zoning setbacks should be consistent & related to water body size, depth
 - Squam Watershed Overlay Zoning District?
 - Historic Preservation is important, as is allowing for concentrated development to avoid sprawl.
 - Downtown revitalization
 - National Register project
 - Relationship of land use regulations to environmental conditions
 - Protect higher elevations and fragile land.
 - Land conservation protects the watershed
 - Shoreline Water Quality Protection Act
 - Limit overdevelopment & sprawl
 - Sustainable development
 - Impacts on uplands
- Water Quality
 - Septic systems are an issue and need to be assessed
 - Expand water quality monitoring to include more parameters such as toxic substances, bioaccumulative substances, cyanobacteria, road runoff, stormwater (culverts), gas spills, road salt
 - Public health & water quality
 - Other water quality issues:
 - Erosion from trails on water's edge
 - Pet waste
- Climate change
 - Climate resilience in watershed
 - Vulnerabilities related to extreme precipitation, drought, increasing lake temperature
 - Planning for storm events
- Invasive species
 - clean, drain and dry boats after boating and before entering a water body.
 - Wash/decontamination stations present.
 - Expand aquatic invasive species of attention beyond milfoil and invasive plants to aquatic invasive animals
 - Roadside invasive terrestrial plants
 - Lake hosts and educating public
- Wildlife
 - priority habitat

Culture

- aging population
- support young families
- historic preservation
- Maintain local culture
 - analysis of culture resources
- Maintain the scenic landscape and visual character
- Foster conservation ethos on Squam
- Generational continuity
- Relationship of water quality & scenic landscape to culture.
- Calm Squam
- Sustainability (buildings, local foods, lifestyle, businesses)
- Exclusiveness
- Social carrying capacity

Recreation

- Access
 - Winter activities and summer activities need to be included in plan
 - snowmobile, skiing, skating
 - carrying capacity of recreation--what is the line between use and misuse?
It is important to balance access and overuse. Should use be concentrated or spread out? The quiet Squam culture is important and exclusivity and limited access contributes to this.
 - more public access is needed
- more diverse recreation activities (biking, bike paths) and events, but are there types of recreation that are not suitable (ie jetskis)
- Carrying capacity at public access ramps, number of boats and docks. Types of boats and usage of boats
- Trail management - distribute or concentrate trail use?
- Accessibility to all, including those with disabilities

Land Conservation

- working forests

Economy

- business
 - sustainable
 - local food
 - working forests
 - How many businesses rely on the lake? what percentage?
 - create an environment that fosters local business
- support young families in the watershed

- maintain & improve tax base
- Communicate the importance of water quality and shorefront properties to the tax base of the towns, and tax rate of nonshorefront properties.
- employment
- Relationship between tax base and water quality - good water quality maintains shoreline property values

Outreach

- Identify the connections that affect people
- Bring together a group of leaders to form smaller working groups
- Need ambassadors to each town
- Engage:
 - youth
 - non-shoreline residents to strengthen connection to uplands
 - Schools including Holderness School, Holderness Central School, high school science clubs
 - User groups (bass tournaments, other fishing people, pond hockey, ice fishing)
 - Realtors
 - Town Recreation Departments (watershed towns and surrounding towns)
 - Fish & Game
 - Camps-Hale, RDC, Deerwood
- Group events such as Lake Kayakers, Mountain Bikers, Rowing & Sailing, summer watershed camps
- Personal invitations to events
- Photo and painting contests
- Art Show, Art workshop
- Magnets with mailer
- Promote the Squam Book
- information passed out with town facility passes (dump passes, beach passes)
- new homeowners (realtor distributed information?)

Education

- education about NPS
- local school research engagement (ie monitoring task assigned to a school, summer camp)
- merit badges in conservation & conservation planning

Events

- NEFFA clean-up walks to clean up the trails
- races, festivals generate advocacy and stakeholders
- self propelled sports events--water, land
- fewer "events" more quiet activities

Communication Ideas

- Need to communicate & explain purpose of Watershed Plan, how it will be used, & what it can accomplish
- Town officials should meet regularly together.
- Need towns to buy in on the Watershed Plan
- Presentations at libraries, Rockywold Deephaven, Camp Deerwood, Camp Hale, Church Island, town meetings, other public places
- Workshops on best practices related to problems residents experience
- Joint Lecture series with all organizations (SLA, SLNSC, LPC, etc)
- Communication channels: newsletters, brochures, progress reports, WMUR, press releases, publicity
- Social media: Facebook, link to town websites, develop an app
- Signage: information at boat ramps and with Lake Hosts; trail heads; on islands
 - Local students could design posters, brochures
 - Signage showing where you enter Squam Watershed
 - Trailheads and kiosks
- more webcams in watershed for PR

other things from table notes

- local, regional, and global changes since 1991:
 - technology
 - shoreline protection acts
 - population age
 - # of active farms and managed forests
 - size of residences, # of toilets, size of septic areas
 - acid rain pressure
 - LUCT funds in watershed conservation funds

Things not included in table notes, but should be included in plan and things that were mentioned but need more detail and information

- terrestrial invasives (more detail)
- viewshed
- wildlife
- recreation plan-trails
- steep slopes
- wetlands
- land conservation