

5.3 PUBLIC WORKSHOP SURVEY RESULTS

READFIELD OPEN SPACE WORKSHOP I (1/10/06)

Results of 30 received individual questionnaires and 4 valid group questionnaires.

1. How important are the following conservation objectives for Readfield?

Average scores for individuals (Table 1) and groups (Table 2) below are arranged highest importance (lowest #) to lowest importance (higher #), top to bottom.

Results: The top rated conservation objectives (~ the top 6 items) were consistent in both the group and individuals' questionnaires, which gives positive direction as to what the public sees as priorities. Notably, "protecting water quality" was rated "1" by every individual and every group. The lowest ranking items, "trails & facilities at the Readfield Fairgrounds" and "creating playgrounds" received more "3" and "4" scores from individuals and groups (57% of individuals rated the Fairgrounds as a 3 or 4 – this confirms the response to question #2 in this survey).

Table 1: Individual Questionnaires

Avg.	scores: 1=very important, 2=somewhat important, 3=low importance, 4=not important/disagree with
1.00	Protect the <u>water quality</u> in Readfield's lakes, ponds and streams, for people and for fisheries and wildlife. Bham's streams + rivers.
1.20	Maintain <u>active farmlands</u> .
1.23	Preserve unique <u>natural communities and habitats</u> important to rare or endangered wildlife species.
1.24	Increase connectivity between conservation properties, creating <u>blocks of contiguous conservation land</u> and connected/protected <u>trails</u> and open space corridors.
1.32	Secure permanent protection for lands important to the Town's open space network that are held by private entities (water district, schools, camp).
1.37	Preserve <u>large areas of forest</u> for recreation, wildlife habitat.
1.44	Off-set the <u>negative impacts of sprawl</u> on taxpayers (e.g., higher cost of town services) by conserving undeveloped land in rural areas (vs. growth areas).
1.47	Work with landowners to protect identified high-value scenic viewpoints and viewsheds.
1.48	Provide information to landowners on conservation options, including <u>current use tax programs</u> , conservation easements, and estate planning.
1.69	Leave a <u>legacy of parks</u> , open spaces, and natural lands for our children and grandchildren.
1.73	Protect <u>cultural and historic sites</u> . and support existing
1.90	Create a system of trails (both motorized and non-motorized) in town, linking to surrounding communities where possible.
2.10	Work with <u>neighboring towns</u> on regional open space opportunities and to maintain shared conservation lands.

Support high density areas as a means of protecting open space

2.47	Create playgrounds and other places where <u>children can play safely</u> .
2.70	Develop trails and facilities at the <u>Readfield Fairgrounds</u> for expanded/improved community use.

Table 2: Group Questionnaires

Avg.	scores: 1=very important, 2=somewhat important, 3=low importance, 4= <u>not</u> important/disagree with
1.00	Protect the <u>water quality</u> in Readfield's lakes, ponds and streams, for people and for fisheries and wildlife.
1.25	Maintain <u>active farmlands</u> .
1.25	Preserve unique <u>natural communities and habitats</u> important to rare or endangered wildlife species.
1.25	Increase connectivity between conservation properties, creating <u>blocks of contiguous conservation land</u> and connected/protected <u>trails</u> and open space corridors.
1.25	Secure <u>permanent protection</u> for lands important to the Town's open space network that are held by private entities (water district, schools, camps).
1.25	Preserve <u>large areas of forest</u> for recreation, wildlife habitat.
1.25	Provide information to landowners on conservation options, including <u>current use tax programs</u> , conservation easements, and estate planning.
1.33	Leave a <u>legacy of parks</u> , open spaces, and natural lands for our children and grandchildren.
1.50	Work with landowners to protect identified high-value <u>scenic viewpoints</u> and viewsheds.
1.67	Off-set the <u>negative impacts of sprawl</u> on taxpayers (e.g., higher cost of town services) by conserving undeveloped land in rural areas (vs. growth areas).
2.00	Protect <u>cultural and historic sites</u> .
2.00	Work with <u>neighboring towns</u> on regional open space opportunities and to maintain shared conservation lands.
2.00	Create a <u>system of trails</u> (both motorized and non-motorized) in town, linking to surrounding communities where possible.
2.25	Develop trails and facilities at the <u>Readfield Fairgrounds</u> for expanded/improved community use.
2.50	Create playgrounds and other places where <u>children can play safely</u> .

2. There is interest in making changes to the Readfield Fairgrounds for expanded community use. **What would you like to see the Town do on that property?**

Groups indicated:

- Quiet uses
- Mixed – don't overdevelop, leave it alone, trails only