

town government

Planning Commission Explores New Land Use Vision

By Elizabeth Catlin
Planning Commission

In late May, the planning commission sent out over 900 copies of *Planning For the Land We Love* to all Dummerston residents and homeowners. This brochure addresses the issues of land development and conservation in our town, a topic that has occupied much of the planning commission's time over the last few years. Acknowledging that the town is slowly changing its land use patterns, that further change/development is inevitable, and that our current zoning bylaw does not adequately guide us for the future, the planning

commission has developed a land use vision that preserves the beauty and rural character of our town while allowing housing to remain affordable and available. The vision also places a priority on protecting our remaining wildlife habitats and valuable conservation lands. The *Planning for the Land We Love* brochure lays out this generalized vision through maps, illustrations, and text. It is intended to further the dialogue between residents and the planning commission on how Dummerston should plan for its growth. The end goal of this dialogue is an updated land use element in the town plan and, eventually, an updated zoning bylaw.

A large group of residents came together

on June 7 to discuss the vision, asking good questions and making fine suggestions for improving the vision. Having this type of community feedback is extremely important, both because it allows the town to build consensus on its future direction and because it allows the planning commission to see whether it is on the right track! We thank everyone who took the time to come and share their views on June 7, and we encourage anyone else who would like to comment on the brochure to either e-mail their comments to townclerk@dummerston.org (write "DPC brochure comments" in the subject line) or mail them to the Dummerston Planning Commission, 1523 Middle Road, East Dummerston, VT 05346.

Land use was not the only subject of a community meeting this spring. The planning commission also hosted a discussion with town business owners on a revised home business section of the zoning bylaw. After struggling for a year to draft a revision that balanced the rights of business owners with the interests of the town, the planning commission brought its best effort to this group. Their bottom line response? This isn't good enough! So we will continue working on language that clarifies and improves the revision with the intention of bringing it back for public comment in the fall. As all involved will admit, this is a particularly tricky area of regulation, so if you have any great ideas, please feel free to share them with us.

It is very energizing for the planning commission to bring its ideas out into the community, as we did this spring, and your reactions are really important to our ongoing process. Our job is to develop a vision for Dummerston's future based on the concerns, desires, and needs of the town, and then to devise plans for achieving that vision. But we can only do this job with your help! So please don't be shy about contacting us and remember, you are always welcome to come to our regular meetings on the first Tuesday of every month at 5 p.m. in the town offices.

Christmas Comes to the Library

By Susan Dunnington

Librarian, Lydia Taft Pratt Library

While you are reading this article, lots of Dummerston residents are reading some of the new books that have arrived this summer (like an early Christmas) at the Lydia Taft Pratt Library from the Libri Foundation. Sixty-seven books total have come in the mail, and they include many of the 2007-2008 Dorothy Canfield Fisher and Red Clover nominees. The Libri Foundation was established in 1989 for the purpose of helping rural libraries acquire new, hardcover children's books. The foundation supports the idea that children who learn to enjoy reading at an early age continue to read throughout their lives. Thank you to the Libri Foundation!

Also this summer, kids of all ages participated in the summer program Get A Clue@ Your Library. We had all sorts of fun solving pirate, puzzle, and fingerprint mysteries. In addition, everyone played detective to help find the missing portrait of library founder Lydia Taft Pratt.

The book group will re-group in September. Our first meeting is Tuesday, September 18th at 6 p.m. We will start the first discussion with *To The Lighthouse* by Virginia Wolff. If you want to join us and need a copy of the book, please get in touch with me by the end of August and I can get you a copy through InterLibrary Loan.

The library is open Tuesdays 2:30-7, Thursdays 10-5 and Saturdays 9:30-12. Questions? Please call me at 258-9878; feel free to leave

a message.

Some of the new books at the library:

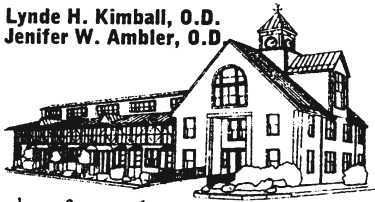
Green Mountain Book nominees (grades 9-12): *Come Back to Afghanistan* by Said Hyder Akbar; *Candyfreak* by Steve Almond; *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* by Jonathan Safran Foer; *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls; and *I Am The Messenger* by Marcus Zusak.

Dorothy Canfield Fisher nominees (grades 4-8): *The Clue of the Linoleum Lederhosen* by M.T. Anderson; *Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini* by Sid Fleischman; *The Adventures of Marco Polo* by Russell Freedman; *Owen & Mzee* by Isabella Hatkoff; *Weedflower* by Cynthia Kadohata; *Hattie Big Sky* by Kirby Larson; *Rules* by Cynthia Lord; *Gossamer* by Lois Lowry; *A Small White Scar* by K.A. Nazum; *Bread and Roses, Too* by Katherine Paterson; *The Higher Power of Lucky* by Susan Patron; and *Counting on Grace* by Elizabeth Winthrop.

Red Clover nominees (picture books): *The Terrible Hodag* by Caroline Arnold; *I Lost My Tooth in Africa* by Penda Diakite; *Uncle Peter's Amazing Chinese Wedding* by Lenore Look; *Theloniou Monster's Sky-High Fly-Pie* by Judy Sierra; *Max's Words* by Kate Banks; and *Flotsam* by David Wiesner.

Adult books: *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle* by Barbara Kingsolver; *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini; *Sea Lady* by Margaret Drabble; *The Sixth Target* by James Patterson; *Luncheon of the Boating Party* by Susan Vreeland; *Dream When You Are Feeling Blue* by Elizabeth Berg; and *Last Flag Down* by John Baldwin.

Lynde H. Kimball, O.D.
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