



Gorham Village Alliance Community Workshop Responses March 11, 2019

The following results are from the community workshop hosted by the Gorham Village Alliance at the Gorham Middle School on March 11, 2019. The responses were collected from over 85 residents in attendance, ranging in ages from 11-90+. Nearly a third of the attendants were residents of Gorham Village. All responses below are captured as written, and in relationship to the goal area where they were posted.

The Gorham Village Alliance will use this document to guide their work.

Strategy: Create Engaging Experiences

GOALS:

- 1. Diversify and increase the number of locally-owned business and dining options**
- 2. Diversify and increase the number of seasonal activities and events in the Village**

Strategy: Develop Safe, Accessible, and Pleasing Ways to Move Around the Village

GOALS:

- 1. Integrate options for healthy lifestyles and physical activity in the Village**
- 2. Enhance and add pedestrian pathways**
- 3. Identify and add central, intentional parking options**
- 4. Address the volume and speed of large trucks and drive-through traffic in the Village**

Strategy: Create Engaging Experiences



GOAL: Diversify and increase the number of locally-owned business and dining options

Potential Actions:

- Add a bakery, coffee, and teashop that serve as a community space
- Add ethnic dining options, including Sushi and Mexican
- Add businesses that provide residents with local options to purchase regularly needed items, including clothing boutiques, bikes, arts and crafts, and books
- Add businesses that serve as community spaces for working, studying and connecting people, including a small-scale cinema and hosting mom-groups
- Add full-time daycare options for local families

Things to consider:

- Add more housing rentals within walking distance to increase business's clientele
- Review and modify zoning and ordinances to ensure the village is business and resident friendly, and mixed-use buildings (businesses/apartments/condo structures) can be built
- Support adding new businesses and entrepreneurs by promoting pop-up shops!
- Recognize new businesses, including those added recently: Hops n' Vine, Grit and Grace CrossFit
- Village residents



GOAL: Diversify and increase the number of seasonal activities and events in the Village

Potential Actions:

- Create places for events and activities with tables or flexible seating, public restrooms, performance spaces and warming huts for the winter
- Add seasonal activities, including Ice Castles, pumpkin carving and Halloween window painting, outdoor movies, and art in the park
- Add fairs and festivals, including music, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)
- Enhance or expand current activities; make Taste Walk quarterly, add food trucks to the Farmer's Market
- Celebrate our history with historical tours, a Gorham history day/weekend, and Maine bicentennial events

Things to consider:

- Ensure people can find their way with a central events page, site markers and signs, and guided tours or trails
- Ensure it is easy and pleasant to attend, integrate the new bus service and biking; and remove snow consistently
- Ensure events and activities are open or held on weekends

Strategy: Develop Safe, Accessible, and Pleasing Ways to Move Around the Village

 **GOAL: Integrate options for healthy lifestyles and physical activity in the Village**

Potential Actions:

- Provide outdoor spaces to be active, including an ice-skating rink; more parks; and hiking, biking and cross-country skiing trails
- Enhance outdoor spaces to ensure frequent use by people of all ages, including adding sledding hills to parks, warming huts to ice rinks, mile markers and exercise stations to trails and parks
- Maintain public spaces and trails by removing snow and grooming in winter, managing pests in summer, providing trash receptacles, and providing cover from weather
- Provide co-located indoor options in a community center with space for a pool, courts and workshops

Things to consider:

- Ensure opportunities for all residents; consider hours for working individuals, events for kids and seniors, options that are pet-friendly, and affordability
- Integrate new and existing opportunities with connected and safe pedestrian pathways; extending sidewalks, dedicating bike paths on roads and trails, and parking central to trails
- Support active lifestyles with programming; consider races and 5ks, organized sports, yoga in the park, borrow-a-bike, community health education and clinics, and a book walk
- Support healthy lifestyles by integrating edible planting and pollinator gardens into pathways and public spaces



GOAL: Enhance and add pedestrian pathways

Potential Actions:

- Design with pedestrians in mind; integrating bike lanes on roadways, lighting and signage at crosswalks, adding curb extensions, providing bike racks, and adding pedestrian crossings over the ravine
- Integrate different modes of transportation; crosswalks and sidewalks to bus stops, bike racks at businesses, bike lanes to the METRO, and central parking with shuttles and pathways to all destinations. Consider thru-trails connecting Buxton, the village and Westbrook
- Ensure safe passage for people; add crossing guards at busy intersections, enforce speed limits in the village, ensure ample time to cross the street with pedestrian timed lights

Things to consider:

- Make the pathways beautiful; consider brick sidewalks and sculptures, signage for trails and historic areas, more banners and flags, trash receptacles to reduce litter, and landscaping with flowers, additional trees, and native plants
- Add places to pause; benches, pocket parks, and small flower or edible gardens
- Maintain pedestrian pathways; clearing snow and sanding in the winter, keeping paths trash and debris free, and managing storm water run-off and pooling
- Ensure paths are easy to find; provide maps or signage of paths and trails, note parking and sited or historical or architectural significance

Strategy: Develop Safe, Accessible, and Pleasing Ways to Move Around the Village



GOAL: Identify and add central, intentional parking options

Potential Actions:

- Utilize existing parking areas fully; consider the Robie Gym, area behind the Post Office, after-hours parking in the municipal and existing business lots, and new parking design along South and Main streets
- Add parking options with the addition of new lots, without losing greenspace or historic buildings
- Encourage other forms of transportation by providing park and ride spots for the METRO, bus stop shelter(s), electric charging stations, additional sidewalks and walking paths, and bike racks throughout the village

Things to consider:

- Ensure additional well-maintained sidewalks and bike lanes to reduce demand for parking space
- Use technology; parking apps can show unused space(s)



GOAL: Address the volume and speed of large trucks and drive-through traffic in the Village

Potential Actions:

- Create connections and integrated central parking options to the Turnpike, existing arterials, and end-point destinations that divert thru traffic away from the village and residential streets
- Use traffic calming measures, including visually narrowed streets with trees and curb extension, esplanades and pedestrian islands in multi-lane roadways, and the use of brick or other materials

Things to consider:

- Limits to the time and speed of thru traffic, and the size or weight of trucks
- Increase police presence, including speed enforcement, and individual officers at intersections and cross walks at times of events or festivals