

Visions of the Ideal Cabot of the Year 2030, organized by theme (as identified in public planning forum on September 13, 2010)

Program: After initial presentations about the planning process, planning survey, and demographics, about 40 Cabot residents were presented with the critical vision question: *It is the year 2030. You as a group of citizens have successfully created the ideal and desired Cabot. Describe what the community is like. This is not a description of the strategies used to get where we are in 2030, but a description of what we have become.*

Attendees broke into four groups, each with a facilitator/recorder. Each person wrote down his or her response to the vision question, and then shared their visions around the table. As each person expressed their vision, it was written down on a large sheet of paper displayed on an easel. The individual vision statements from each of the four groups took up several large sheets.

Everyone then reconvened and a representative from each group shared the multiple vision statements that emerged from that group. As each group reported, recorders wrote down the statements on large sheets set up at the front of the meeting room. An attempt was made to combine statements that were essentially the same. However, the combined vision statements still took up 14 sheets of large paper.

These written statements were then examined, and the attendees, working as a large group, began to identify themes, or categories, that were evident in the statements. The themes identified were: **Affordability (A), Education (E), Governance (GV), Growth/non-growth (G), Health and Well-being (HW), Housing (H), Self-sustainable community (SS), and Social/Cultural fabric of Town (SC).**

The attendees, aided by the facilitators, then identified each of the statements as corresponding to certain themes, and the abbreviation of the theme was written next to the statement. Most of the statements were identified as belonging to multiple themes.

Below is a transcription of these sheets. Since many of the statements were identified as belonging to several themes, they appear under each theme with which they were identified.

Affordability (A)

- Source more locally and regionally
- More cell and internet access
- Comfortable and accommodating to diverse population
- All housing needs met
- Everyone has enough to eat

- Bartering system for skills/goods
- Free broadband
- Increase and diversify farms
- Local renewable energy projects
- As little government as possible involved in property rights
- Local and alternative medical care
- Self-sustaining Cabot where everyone is healthy and happy
- Lower taxes (so we can retain small agriculture)
- Land affordable to young people
- General store

Education (E)

- Retain school for young people
- High-quality education at reasonable cost
- Everyone graduates with skill they feel proud of
- Time for learning outside school building and schedule
- Keep school in town and rethink education
- Cabot makes school decisions, not State/S.U.
- Consolidated school district – learning facility
- Intact and funded library
- Oral History of Cabot gathered from elders
- People volunteering to teach skilled trades/skills mentoring program (ag., arts, etc.)
- Dairy museum to complement Cabot Creamery
- Young people much more involved, working side by side with leaders
- Schools geared toward development of children (not the reverse) and supports different types of learners
- Strong, enviable school system
- Competitive High School Course offerings
- A school exists and enrollment increases
- Have necessary resources for youth
- More alternative education/life skills for non-college bound
- Unique culinary
- Larger school, more families
- Quality education (pre-K – 12)available to all

Governance (GV)

- Strict adherence to zoning
- Pedestrian resource and access
- Cabot tolerate diverse, healthy attitudes toward land use
- Consolidated school district – learning facility

- Zoning regulations will be pulled forward
- More police patrols through town
- Fair and balanced zoning
- Transparent government operations we can all be proud of
- Protect historic real estate and enhance to be income-generating
- Waste Water Treatment Plant paid off
- Shooting is banned in agricultural areas
- Australian Ballot
- Council of Wise Women to decide all matters of justice
- More police patrols through town
- Improve parking rather than wider roads
- Increase number of conservation easements
- Full-time law enforcement, paid fire staff
- Modern Town Garage for town resources built for everyone, with recycling center
- Cabot makes school decisions, not State/S.U.
- Friendly to small businesses
- Keeping traditional uses of land open (logging, hunting, fishing, trapping)
- People able to have more rights with their property -- fewer “hoops”
- As little government as possible involved in property rights
- Everyone is able to retain property – no one is pushed out

Growth/non-growth (G)

- More cell and internet access
- Rethink location of Cabot Creamery
- No large housing developments
- Community bus service-improve public transportation
- Fair and balanced zoning
- Free broadband
- More organic farming
- Integrate farms and community
- Tourist destination beyond Creamery (eatery, B&B, etc.)
- Increase and diversify farms
- Local renewable energy projects
- Continue to include farms in addition to small business
- A safe and vibrant center of town with successful farms and cottage industry surrounding it
- More local manufacturing
- A school exists and enrollment increases
- Increased population with city dwellers to enjoy Cabot
- Remain a real Vermont town instead of a tourist town
- Unique culinary
- Protect Joe’s Pond

- Brewery and restaurant
- General store
- Vibrant village
- Larger school, more families
- Population of 4,000
- Cabot tolerate diverse, healthy attitudes toward land use

Health and Well-being (HW)

- Source more locally and regionally
- Cross-country ski trails on private land maintained by public funds
- Bike path that is well lit, safe
- Pedestrian resource and access
- Cabot tolerate diverse, healthy attitudes toward land use
- World peace
- Decrease animal and dairy consumption, move to veggie diet to reduce carbon
- Everyone has enough to eat
- Healthful lifestyles (food avail. promotes health)
- Improved playground in rec. area
- More sporting events – biking, etc. More family events
- Bartering system for skills/goods
- Keeping traditional uses of land open (logging, hunting, fishing, trapping)
- Local renewable energy projects
- Continue to include farms in addition to small business
- Local and alternative medical care
- Self-sustaining Cabot where everyone is healthy and happy
- Community where individual interests recognized and common goals that satisfy most
- More alternative education/life skills for non-college bound
- Local food resources

Housing (H)

- No large housing developments
- All housing needs met
- Diverse housing options (seasonal, rentals, yurts)
- Local renewable energy projects
- A safe and vibrant center of town with successful farms and cottage industry surrounding it
- Repurposing downtown buildings
- People able to have more rights with their property -- fewer “hoops”

Self-sustainable community (SS)

- Source more locally and regionally
- Unique culinary
- Everyone graduates with skill they feel proud of
- Supports manufacturing industry in an environmentally and economically –friendly way
- More UDAG funds
- No large housing developments
- Community bus service-improve public transportation
- Decrease animal and dairy consumption, move to veggie diet to reduce carbon
- Community greenhouse for year-round food
- Controlled development
- More jobs in town
- Successful farmers' market in town
- Integrated transportation
- Everyone has enough to eat
- Full-time law enforcement, paid fire staff
- Healthful lifestyles (food avail. promotes health)
- Annual Apple Pie and Maple Festivals thrive
- Modern Town Garage for town resources built for everyone, with recycling center
- Shared resources of residents: combines, tractors, tools, etc.
- Bartering system for skills/goods
- More energy self-reliant
- Friendly to small businesses
- More work on energy efficiency in town buildings and individual homes
- More goods produced locally
- Local food resources
- Keeping traditional uses of land open (logging, hunting, fishing, trapping)
- Farms offering CSAs
- Carbon-free town where all aspects of life co-mingle as a harmonious community
- Free broadband
- More organic farming
- Integrate farms and community
- Intact and funded library
- Increase and diversify farms (beans, rice, flax, etc.)
- Local renewable energy projects
- Continue to include farms in addition to small business
- A safe and vibrant center of town with successful farms and cottage industry surrounding it
- Self-sustaining Cabot where everyone is healthy and happy
- Dairy museum to complement Cabot Creamery
- Bank in Village (a VT State bank)
- Vibrant, big local businesses and pedestrian-friendly Main Street
- Bakery

- Taking advantage of soil and energy resources
- Lower taxes (so we can retain small agriculture)
- Local power – wind, animal power, bio-diesel
- More local manufacturing
- Improve Main Street
- Access to lakes and ponds
- Business with diverse skills, employment
- Self-sufficient with food and energy
- Land affordable to young people
- Increased population with city dwellers to enjoy Cabot
- Cabot is a net exporter of goods
- People volunteering to teach skilled trades/skills mentoring program(ag., arts, etc.)
- More alternative education/life skills for non-college bound
- General store
- Vibrant village

Social/Cultural fabric of Town (SC)

- A good sledding place in Town
- Bandstand on Common
- Activities to stay connected – not just “virtual”
- Community that places as much value on elders as youth
- More cell and internet access
- Rethink location of Cabot Creamery
- More UDAG funds
- No large housing developments
- Council of Wise Women to decide all matters of justice
- Community bus service-improve public transportation
- Time for learning outside school building and schedule
- Cross-country ski trails on private land maintained by public funds
- More arts and cultural opportunities in Town
- Bike path that is well lit, safe
- Comfortable and accommodating to diverse population
- Community greenhouse for year-round food
- Revitalize dead spaces: entry point to village, green space, underutilized space around commons
- Active senior center
- Larger town-base community
- Successful farmers’ market in town
- Everyone has enough to eat
- Community performing arts center
- Annual Apple Pie and Maple Festivals thrive
- Improved playground in rec. area

- More sporting events – biking, etc. More family events
- Modern Town Garage for town resources built for everyone, with recycling center
- Shared resources of residents: combines, tractors, tools, etc.
- Bartering system for skills/goods
- Diverse housing options (seasonal, rentals, yurts)
- People able to have more rights with their property -- fewer “hoops”
- Carbon-free town where all aspects of life co-mingle as a harmonious community
- Steadfast devotion to Tribe of Cabot
- Local recreation
- Integrate farms and community
- Tourist destination beyond creamery (eatery, B&B, etc.)
- Oral History of Cabot gathered from elders
- Continue to include farms in addition to small business
- People volunteering to teach skilled trades/skills mentoring program(ag., arts, etc.)
- A safe and vibrant center of town with successful farms and cottage industry surrounding it
- Self-sustaining Cabot where everyone is healthy and happy
- Dairy museum to complement Cabot Creamery
- Young people much more involved, working side by side with leaders
- Vibrant, big local businesses and pedestrian-friendly Main Street
- Pedestrian resource and access
- Bakery
- Continues to be welcoming, close-knit
- Repurposing downtown buildings
- Improve Main Street
- Business with diverse skills, employment
- Beautify community – more cohesive
- Everyone is able to retain property – no one is pushed out
- Land affordable to young people
- Increased population with city dwellers to enjoy Cabot
- Remain a real Vermont town instead of a tourist town
- Community where individual interests recognized and common goals that satisfy most
- Have necessary resources for youth
- More alternative education/life skills for non-college bound
- Historical Society
- Brewery and restaurant
- Vibrant village
- Cabot tolerate diverse, healthy attitudes toward land use