Town of Enfield: Listening & Learning

Enfield Community Center, 182 Enfield Main Road, Ithaca.

Monday, April 16, 2012, 6:30-7:30PM

Organized by staff and board members of Community Foundation of Tompkins County, and

Ann Rider, member, Town of Enfield Board.

Attendees:

Ann Rider, Enfield town board member; president, Enfield Community Council

Jen Gabriel, CFTC board member and Enfield resident

Vera Howe Strait, Enfield town board member

Alice Linton, Town Clerk

Mimi Mehaffey, Enfield Neighbors for Safe Air & water

Art Howser, Chief, Enfield Volunteer Fire Company

Martha Fisher, Cooperative Extension-Home Energy; Enfield resident

Barbara Sadovnic

Nancy Spiro, school nurse, Enfield resident

John Brooks, Enfield Elementary School teacher, Enfield resident

George Ferrari, executive director, CFTC

Mary Berens, board member, CFTC

Amy Yale-Loehr, board member, CFTC

Bob Jewel, CFTC board member

Ann Rider provided refreshments and copies of current quarterly newsletters: Town of Enfield and *Enfield Community Currents*.

Following self-introductions, George opened the discussion by asking residents to identify issues and needs in the area.

1. Programs for school age children are facing financial issues, e.g., they almost shut down in November-December 2011 due to lack of funds. The After School program, 2:00-5:30PM includes provision of 2 snacks. There’s been a decline in number of parents able to enroll their children. 80% of school age children are eligible for free or reduced school lunches; this is the highest percentage of any ICSD school.

2. Public transportation is a problem, i.e., TCAT bus schedule is too limited in terms of schedule and extent of route/coverage in town of Enfield.

 a. Way2Go and Zimride online were mentioned as two alternatives.

b. County housing has brought Ithaca residents to Enfield, but not provided adequate TCAT service for transportation to jobs, school, shopping, etc.

3. Town. Town officials have not pushed for this. Elementary School is pushing for high speed internet.

4. Youth (pre-teens, teens) have nothing to do.

a. Enfield Fire Department is attracting some interest, starting at age 14; sustaining interest among teenagers is a challenge.

b. Survey of 5th graders and older: what would they like to see in community. Answers include a) someplace to buy snacks; b) counselors.

5. Transition from Enfield Elementary School to Boynton Middle School is difficult. Many teens are opting to get a GED, rather than attend Ithaca High School

6. A multi-use, user friendly, fee free building/space for general community use (meetings, events, etc.) is urgently needed. Would like to include library, internet connections.

a. Enfield elementary school is only available weekday evenings; there’s no custodian on duty on the weekends. Very good about providing space, when possible.

 b. Grange Hall is available for a fee

c. Fire company (which recently moved into spacious new space) is not legally able to operate as a public building.

 d. Town of Enfield board has discussed this idea; it’s in a long range plan.

e. Funding is needed for this project; Leadership is needed to move project forward.

f. Enfield Community Center, 182 Enfield Main Rd., is available at no charge; it has its limitations.

7. Signage for public buildings is an issue, e.g., Enfield Community Center has none.

8. Low family participation, in general, at community events.

a. school concerts, pancake breakfasts and BBQs have high participation.

b. Enfield is split among 4 school districts: Ithaca, Trumansburg, Newfield, Odessa-Montour.

9. Greater aware of environment and energy issues needed.

 a. Town needs to do an aquifer study

 b. Enfield Neighbors for Safe Air & Water (ENSAW) is a new focus

Comments on demographics

1. Seeing an influx of younger residents (20s, 30s). Property costs are low.
2. There are activities for seniors; they meet at the Grange. Seniors organize trips to various destinations. Most of the volunteers at Enfield Food Pantry are seniors.
3. There is a middle class population, households with 1 or 2 full-time salaries

Funding sources for Enfield community programs

1. Tompkins County
2. Town of Enfield
3. United Way
4. Fees for programs
5. Enfield Community Council (501(c)3) applies for grants from multiple sources. Ann Rider is currently the prime grant writer.

Follow Up

1. George invited all at the meeting to attend CFTC Annual Meeting on May 22nd
2. George reminded all at the meeting that CFTC has 3 types of grants in addition to funding opportunities from CFTC donor advised funds.
3. Ann Rider will forward a copy of the 2011 Enfield Community Council annual report to George.
4. A copy of the Enfield Survey of 5th graders and older will be sent to George.