



**Damariscotta Planning Advisory Committee
Summary of Comments from Breakfast BIZ
June 3, 2009**

This report summarizes the Breakfast BIZ meeting held on June 3, 2009, hosted by the Damariscotta Planning Advisory Committee and the Damariscotta Region Chamber of Commerce. The morning meeting format included an introduction by DPAC chair David Atwater, a viewing of the DPAC video on story-telling and a summary of activities and goals of DPAC by Project Coordinator Jane Lafleur. Approximately 20 people attended, most who had not attended a previous DPAC forum.

Additional survey work, community conversations and public forums will be held to further collect and define the public opinion about future growth and development.

The following questions and responses were collected at the forum:

What do you like most about Damariscotta that you hope will be included as we grow?

- Small town feel; a closeness and willingness to help each other
- Vibrant Main Street
- Working business community
- Service center for surrounding towns
- Oyster festival in back parking lot (gone now)
- Friendly and welcoming
- No big box stores
- Small town charm
- Non-profit community
- Small businesses
- Pet friendly
- Sense of community and sense of place
- Rural landscape
- open spaces
- spirit of volunteers

What community needs or opportunities would you like to see addressed through future growth?

- More parking
- New business growth should combine and complement downtown such as services, industry and complementary retail mix
- Connect to existing downtown
- Pathways/traffic patterns/parking
- Shuttles
- Public restrooms
- Bike paths
- Walking paths

- Bike racks
- Off-road trails
- Grow retail, not competitive businesses, add more diversity
- Preserve river access and water quality
- Improve signage and way-finding
- Protect viewscape from bridge and from US Rte 1
- Strengthen shore and harbor so Piper Village does not suck energy from downtown
- Improve view from northern end of business Rte 1
- Improve walkability and bikeability on Church Street
- Focus on connections
- Maintain the long view across Round Top property to the River.
- Add independent living for elderly and make it affordable
- Include a mix of perspectives in the planning
- Have common space for activities, perhaps behind the gully. Add a deck and span over gully. Add picnic tables for people to use.
- Include a mix of housing
- Do not have just houses that are isolated; have a mix of houses and neighborhood retail such as a corner store.
- Have public gardens and plots
- A public commons
- Play areas for kids: playground, sledding hill, ball fields
- A train stop
- Decking and boardwalks along waterfront in downtown
- Clean industry in Piper Village
- After hours businesses
- Winter activities outdoor (x-c skiing, snow-shoeing, ice skating) and indoor activities for winter for mothers with kids
- Family entertainment, bowling alley
- More seasonal festivals downtown
- Attract young families
- Have some parking areas for longer than 3 hours
- Sustainable development, energy and water
- Conservation or greenspace development
- Need improved sidewalks from hospital/schooner to downtown and from Yellowfront and beyond to downtown
- Greenspace for children's play
- Space for teens
- Community garden
- Bike and walking paths
- Living wages and benefits for workers
- Enhance views, biking and boardwalks
- Links to complementary services, non-profits, diversity
- Green energy
- Community centers and gathering spaces

- Recreation areas, center for all ages
- Enhance and maintain working waterfront
- Foster small business growth
- Village concept
- Mixed use growth complementary to downtown
- Non-car connecting paths for walking and biking to downtown
- Bike paths and racks and off-road trails
- Areas and places for aging population
- Train station
- Public “green” transportation
- Maintain habitat corridors
- Walking and connecting paths
- Town face lift that fits with shore and harbor and piper village
- Indoor arena, sports development, baseball, lacrosse practice, improves the schools
- A town face lift will not cause competition with Piper Village. Both areas are attractive and people will want to be in both areas.
- A parking garage
- Cluster housing
- Communal gardens
- Walking trails
- Mixed housing
- What will make Piper Village a neighborhood?

Is there anything you would not like to see in future growth?

- No big boxes
- No wal-mart
- No sucking consumers away from downtown village
- Do not worsen parking problems
- Do not make Damariscotta a Nantucket or a Santa Fe where we are frozen in time
- Do not have above ground utilities
- Out of character and uncomplementary services or businesses
- reducing consumers or businesses in current downtown
- gated communities
- cookie cutter houses or businesses
- large asphalt parking lots
- all the trees cut down
- structures that are out of character with town
- polluting, negative environmental impact
- sprawl
- formula restaurants
- big box stores

In response to written questions handed out at the same event, the following responses were received. Only three people turned in their written responses.

1. What do you like most about Damariscotta that you hope will be part of the community as we grow?

- 2 responses ___ Connectivity to downtown and schools
 - 2 responses ___ Mixed use village
 - 1 response ___ Historic compatibility
 - 1 response ___ Small local businesses
 - 1 response ___ Friendly, welcoming and safe
 - 1 response ___ Support of the arts
 - 2 response ___ Recreation/open space
 - 2 response ___ Mix of housing
 - 2 response ___ Diversity of income and ages
 - ___ Other “conservation (green space) development, sustainable (power and water) development”
-

2. What community needs or opportunities do you hope will be addressed as the community continues to grow?

CHOOSE THREE (3) USES BELOW

- 3 responses_ Well paying jobs
- 2 responses_ community gathering/town common
- 1 response_ hotel/conference center
- 1 response_ art gallery/performance space
- 2 responses_ workforce housing/affordable housing
- 1 response_ public transportation
- 3 response_ walkability/connectivity
- 3 responses _ recreation facilities
- 2 responses ___ family entertainment
- 2 responses ___ green building/design
- 2 responses _ mixed use
- 2 response _ density/cluster
- 2 responses_ water access
- 2 responses_ buried utilities
- 2 responses_ public restrooms
- 3 responses_ downtown connectivity
- 3 responses_ safety
- 3 responses_ maintaining local character
- 1 response_ green industry
- 1 response_ small business
- 1 response_ local owned
- 1 response_ complimentary businesses
- 0 responses_ boat building
- 0 response_ new businesses
- 3 response _ business incubator
- ___ Other “more in-town celebrations, pumpkin festival, oyster festival, etc”

3. What things would you **not** like to see as the community continues to grow? CHOOSE THREE (3)

- 1 response__ chain stores
- 1 response __ big box development
- 1 response _ strip mall
- 1 response _ large industries
- 1 response _ McMansions
- 1 response _ high rises
- 1 response _ gated/high income
- 1 response _ too much low income
- 1 response _ too much senior
- 1 response_ sprawl
- 1 response _ development out of scale
- 1 response _ cookie cutter development
- 0 responses_ too much parking
- 1 response _ decreased water quality
- 1 response _ light pollution
- 1 response _ too much loss of habitat
- 1 response _ pace of development too fast
- 1 response _ traffic congestion

For more information about this event and future events, visit www.damariscottame.com or call the Damariscotta Heart and Soul project coordinator at (207) 380-4802.