

IX. COMMUNITY FACILITIES, UTILITIES, AND SERVICES

A. Introduction

Cabot's government offices, facilities, services, and utilities play an important role in the health and well-being of Cabot residents. All residents depend, to some extent, on solid waste disposal, police and fire protection, health services, schools, parks, electric power, and the public water supply system. The location and capacity of such systems and services can significantly influence quality of life and where and to what extent growth occurs in the Town. The thoughtful placement, development, and maintenance of infrastructure ~~can help direct~~ may guide residential and commercial growth to the most suitable locations in Town, and away from areas where such development may have undesirable impacts.

The following section identifies existing resources and needs.

B. Existing Conditions

1. Town Buildings

The primary Town-owned buildings that directly serve Cabot residents are:
(From north to south)

- Town Garage, the new facility is located at 2691 South Walden Road, the old grader shed will be used for equipment storage and some equipment will remain at the sawmill road facility.
- Town Recreation Building, located on the recreation fields on the west side of South Walden Road at its intersection with Main Street (Rte. 215)
- ~~lot located on the southeast side of Main Street (Rte. 215) at its intersection with South Walden Road~~
Town Garage, located to the rear of a house
- Masonic Hall, located on the northwest side of Main Street (Rte. 215) a few hundred feet south of its intersection with South Walden Road
- Cabot School Buildings (seven), located on the southwest side of Main Street just north of the Town Common
- Willey Building, located on the southeast side of Main Street (Rte. 215) between Danville Hill and Glinka Roads

- Firehouse, located on the northwest side of Main Street (Rte. 215) just southwest of its intersection with Elm Street
- Wastewater Treatment Building, located on the north side of Saw Mill Road
- ~~Sawmill Rd storage facility, includes s~~ Solid Waste Collection- and storage Building, located on the north side of Saw Mill Road
- Old Mill House on Saw Mill Road, currently not in use

2. Town Government

Cabot's Town government offices are located in the Willey Building on Main Street. The Town of Cabot conducts much of its business at Town Meeting in March. The Town Clerk and Treasurer, ~~Selectmen~~ Selectpersons, Justices of the Peace, and School Directors are elected by Australian Ballot: all other town officers are nominated and elected at the meeting.

Selectboard.

Cabot has a five-member Selectboard, which is responsible for the general supervision of Town affairs. Among its duties are the enactment of local ordinances, the preparation of an annual budget, the maintenance of Town Roads, real estate and equipment; the appointment of all non-elected positions, and the hiring of all Town employees except the Assistant Town Clerk and the Librarian. The Selectboard also operates the ~~village-Town~~ wastewater and water systems ~~and has consolidated the operation of the two systems under~~ are operated by a single contractor.

~~In January 2011 the town voted to consolidate the Village District with the Town. The Village Trustees' responsibilities were transferred to the Selectboard.~~

Town Clerk/Treasurer. The offices of Town Clerk and Treasurer are held by a single individual in Cabot, with the help of an assistant. Among the duties of the Town Clerk/Treasurer are recording proceedings of Selectboard meetings, issuing various licenses, recording land records, and keeping account of monies received and paid out by the Town.

Planning Commission. The Planning Commission is a five-member board. Its responsibilities include preparation of the Town Plan and its update every ~~five~~ eight years, the preparation and presentation to the Selectboard of bylaws based on the Town Plan, and the review of site plans. The Planning Commission also has a duty to review and approve Planned Residential Developments (see Land Use section for a description of this type of development). The Planning Commission may also prepare and present to the Selectboard a recommended capital budget and program for a period of ~~five~~ eight years.

Since the time of the last adopted Town Plan in ~~2003~~2012, the Planning Commission has developed an ~~interim-revised zoning bylaw-s for the Town which were defeated in a town vote in 2016~~relating to setbacks in the village. The Planning Commission also prepared draft revisions to the local zoning regulations will look at reviewing and revising the zoning bylaws in sections based on community input. The Town plan and Hazard mitigation plan will also be reviewed and amended as necessary. ~~, which were put on hold until the 2011 draft Town Plan is completed, it is adopted by the Town Selectboard, and the Plan is confirmed by the Regional Planning Commission. In 2011, the Planning Commission reviewed and approved two Planned Unit Developments in Cabot, the first of their kind in Cabot.~~

Zoning Board of Adjustment. The Zoning Board of Adjustment consists of seven members and its duties include the review of applications for conditional uses and variances.

Members on both the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment are appointed by the Selectboard.

Zoning Administrator. The position of Zoning Administrator is nominated by the Planning Commission and appointed by the Selectboard. The Zoning Administrator's duties are to approve or deny applications for zoning permits, literally administer the municipal bylaws and enforce the zoning regulations.

Road Commission. Town roads are maintained by a Road Commissioner, appointed by the Selectboard, and a Road Foreman who supervises ~~four~~three employees. The duties of the road crew are to maintain the roads and the road equipment. The Highway Fund budget includes an equipment replacement schedule and a sinking fund which is intended to minimize fluctuations in tax revenue caused by the occasional replacement of plow trucks. The Highway Budget also includes a paving reserve fund that serves as a matching fund for state highway grants.

There are various additional committees and commissions in town that take on particular tasks, including the Conservation Committee (see Natural Resources section) the Recreation Committee (see Recreation subsection below), the Senior Citizens Committee, the UDAG Committee (see Economic Development section), the Willey Building Committee, and the Cemetery Commission.

Challenges/Needs Related to Town Government

~~The Town garage is presently located at the north end of Cabot's Main Street. All road equipment and the stockpile of sand is stored at this facility; however, space is limited and the building is aging. The relocation of this facility was identified as a need at the time of the last Town Plan in 2005. Four or five sites have been considered, a purchase agreement was entered into by the Selectboard to purchase one of them, but the plan was not approved at Town~~

~~Meeting. Since then, the Selectboard has used space at the wastewater plant to alleviate crowding at the Town Garage. The Selectboard is presently considering a ten-acre site on West Hill Pond Road.~~

The Highway Fund budget contains an equipment replacement schedule through ~~2015~~2026. The Town has ~~few~~created written plans for the long term maintenance, replacement, or improvement of its municipal infrastructure. A long-range plan for the improvement and maintenance of the Town's transportation infrastructure, ~~including the re-location of the Town garage, can be included in the development of~~ a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and budget to implement the program. The required content of a capital budget and program is spelled out in 24 V.S.A. Chapter 117. The capital budget and program is a ~~six~~ten-year document: year one is the capital budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and years two through ~~six~~ten are the capital program, or schedule of investments, for the following ~~five~~nine years. ~~A committee appointed by the Selectboard may take the lead in developing a capital improvement program for consideration by the legislative body.~~ The Planning Commission should review and submit annual project recommendations for inclusion in the CIP.

In order to efficiently manage the Town's facilities and departments, undertake the preparation of a CIP, and secure grants to aid in the implementation of a CIP, it is recommended that the Town adopt a Town Manager form of government, and conduct a vote at the next Town Meeting. State statute 24 V.S.A., sections 1235 through 1238 specify the duties of a Town Manager, which include performing most Selectperson's duties, serve as the general purchasing agent, maintain Town buildings and facilities, and act as Road Commissioner, among other duties. It is expected that the efficiencies realized in the management of Town facilities and the grants that could be secured by such an individual would pay for the cost of establishing and maintaining this position.

While Cabot benefits from a privately-maintained website at <http://cabotvt.us/>, the Town's key information services would be best served through a dedicated, up-to-date and user-friendly site. With that is a need for a system to assure that scheduled meetings of the Selectboard and various town committees are accurately noticed, and that the most recent versions of important Town documents are posted. This will aid in the transparency of, and participation in, local government.

The Town ~~should explore~~is considering the feasibility and advantages of creating a Development Review Board (DRB) to replace the existing Zoning Board of Adjustment. ~~Such a change would move development review functions of the Planning Commission to a DRB and allow the Planning Commission to focus on planning functions. This change would eliminate certain redundancies of project review that overlap and occur by two separate boards. Many towns, including several neighboring towns have made the change to a DRB.~~

3. Ambulance Services, Fire Protection, and Emergency Planning

Cabot Emergency Ambulance Service, Inc. is an independent non-profit ambulance service that serves Cabot and Marshfield, and on occasion Walden and Plainfield. The Ambulance Service is housed with the Cabot Fire Department in the firehouse on Main Street. In 2010 there were 175 calls for service. Most patients are transferred to the Central Vermont Medical Center. The Ambulance Service is supported with donations, fund raisers, appropriations from the towns of Cabot and Marshfield, and insurance reimbursements for services. There is currently one ambulance in service.

The Ambulance Service depends on volunteers. As of March 2011, the roster comprised eight Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) at the basic level, 6 at the intermediate level, two EMT B, and two administrative staff.

The Cabot Fire Department is overseen by a Fire Chief, who manages 18 volunteer firefighters, who are on call at all times to respond to fire emergencies. Cabot is a member of the Capitol Fire Mutual Aid System, which includes all of the towns in Washington County and some surrounding communities. Cabot has automatic response agreements with Marshfield, Plainfield and Walden. Currently ten members of the department are certified in State of Vermont Fire Training. In a typical year, the Fire Department responds to around eighty calls, less than half of which are for Cabot emergencies, with the remainder being mutual aid calls. Generally, more than half of the calls are fire-related, with the rest related to traffic accidents.

In addition to responding to emergencies, the Fire Chief provides guidance to the Selectboard, the Planning Commission, and other Town committees on fire safety matters. This includes site review for new residential and commercial developments.

The Cabot Fire Station was constructed in 1962 with two bays; a lean-to section was added in 1970. Two additional bays were added in 1992, making a total of four bays. ~~The lean-to was converted into a training room and office. A new furnace system was added in 1998. A hydrant fill (located inside the building to fill trucks in cold weather) was added in 1999. An emergency backup generator was added as well as a cascade system for refilling air packs. Inefficient lighting has been replaced in the bays with T5 high-output fixtures. LED exterior building lights have been installed to help cut down on energy usage and light pollution.~~ The Cabot Ambulance is housed in one of the four bays. The Fire department is actively searching for a new site to allow for expansion of the facility to meet current needs.

The Department is I.S.O. certified (at the present time “8,” with “1” being the best and “10” the worst.) The fire department’s goal is to get the rating down to a “3” which would result in

structures within a three-mile radius of the qualifying for reduced fire insurance rates. One of the Strategies to lower this rating is to install more dry hydrants in Cabot. New hydrants have been installed at the new Town garage on South Walden RD and ?????

~~There are 11 dry hydrants in Cabot: Urban Road (Smith), Bolton Road (Baharian), Coits Pond Road (West Hill Pond), South Walden Road (Pinette), Route 2 in East Cabot (Payne), Coits Pond Road (Houston), Ducharme Road (Ameden), Thistle Hill (Walker), Houghton Road (Covenant Hills), Bricketts Crossing, and Rte. 215 North (Greaves).~~

~~The Fire Department recently updated its bylaws to specify provisions for a junior membership program that would accept students 16 years and older into the department. Junior members would have limited responsibilities, and would be required to maintain a minimum grade point average. There is also provision in the bylaws for associate members who can volunteer for non firefighting responsibilities.~~

~~The Town has developed is revising the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan with the assistance of the Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission to assure that the Town is capable of responding and protecting the public in the event of a natural disaster. These plans are subject to FEMA approval. The town has a current five year plan that identifies the types of natural disasters that Cabot is most vulnerable to and action steps that will be taken over the next five years to enhance to response to such disasters. The Town is most vulnerable to issues such as dam failure, flood/flash flood/fluvial erosion, hurricanes/severe storms/tropical storms, structure fire, and extreme cold/winter storm/ice storms.~~

Challenges /Needs:

The Cabot Fire Department has identified several issues relating to the Fire Department building, water availability, membership, radio equipment, road access and other issues which are noted below.

Building needs are:

- ~~● Improve storage of equipment and gear~~
- ~~● Increase space for training and meeting~~
- ~~● Expand space for work and service of vehicles and equipment~~
- Become ADA compliantThe Fire department is actively exploring alternative locations for a new facility. The current location cannot be updated in a way that allows the department to increase space for training and equipment.

~~The following emergency response issues have been identified:~~

- In regard to water, the Fire Department is currently looking for additional locations for dry hydrants on Bothfeld Hill Road, and West Hill Road, and will utilize state funding when available. ~~Water supply availability to fight fires in remote areas of Town where new residential construction has occurred is also a challenge.~~
- ~~Additional volunteers are needed to insure adequate response, especially during the day. As a greater number of residents find employment outside of town, the challenge of adequate fire coverage by a volunteer squad becomes a greater concern that needs to be addressed.~~
- ~~Visibility of house numbers is critical for emergency responders.E-911~~ The numbers should be displayed where they are easily seen from the public road.
- Road access ~~has been identified as a major concern, as well~~ on private drives is a major concern. Adequate road width and turnaround areas are needed to permit tanker trucks and other apparatus to reach fires.
- ~~Although significant improvements have been made to improve communication via radio and pager, repeater (signal booster) locations may be necessary in Cabot to obtain 100 percent coverage.~~
- ~~In order to better assure the safety of fire department personnel as well as property owners, the Cabot Fire Department supports integrating the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards into Town building standards, and suggests that a Certificate of Occupancy system be established to ensure consistency of new construction and renovations with established standards.~~

The Cabot Ambulance has identified the following challenges:

- When the Cabot Ambulance is unable to respond to emergency calls because of personnel shortages, the Barre Town Ambulance is dispatched, adding fifteen to thirty minutes of travel time to the hospital. Cabot Ambulance has a contract with Barre and pays per use. Weekdays, when many people work out of town, are a critical time of volunteer shortage. The Cabot Ambulance has discussed this concern with the Selectboard and has offered other options if volunteers cannot be found: (1) Pay up to two trained persons to be on-call with the Cabot Ambulance for at least 8 hours per day, or (2) contract out ambulance services. These options are both significantly more expensive than the current system.
- Legislation passed in 2010 requires a significant increase in training hours for all EMS providers. The expected result is that it will be considerably harder to find local volunteers that can commit to this service.

~~In regard to Cabot's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, a challenge will be to find resources to implement the measures identified in the plan to enhance the response to natural disasters.~~

4. Cabot School

The Cabot School is comprised of the High School and Middle School classroom building (constructed in 1938), the gymnasium and four satellite elementary/integrated arts classroom buildings (constructed in 1971), all located on a single campus site in the center of Cabot Village. In 1997, the High School and Middle School building was thoroughly upgraded, and a dining room was added to the gymnasium. Satellite renovations included heating system upgrades, expanded space in kindergarten and pre-school and the addition of mudrooms in each elementary building. In 2009, the school's performing art center (CSPAC) and a wood chip heating plant were completed.

During the 2010-2011 school year, groundwater seepage and flooding in the elementary and high school buildings necessitated foundation, waterproofing, and excavation work as well as interior renovations. In 2011, the Cabot School Directors received a thorough report on the condition of the school's various buildings, and the report was updated in 2014. The report concluded that the high school building was in good condition structurally, but that the school gymnasium was in need of extensive renovation as a result of roof leaks and resulting decay. In addition, the report recommended that the buildings comprising the elementary campus be extensively renovated or rebuilt.

During early 2015 a facilities committee comprised of Cabot School staff, school board and community members met for several months to develop a plan to renovate the school's elementary campus. During May and June of 2015 the committee shared the layout and potential costs of two different plans with the public in two separate community forums. Although a good deal of valuable feedback and discussion resulted from these events, the Cabot School Board of Directors decided to shelve these plans until discussions concerning potential consolidation with neighboring school districts are completed. If Cabot chooses to join into a larger, merged school district with other school districts, the size of the educational campus needed in Cabot may change. It seemed reasonable to hold off on further planning for renovations to Cabot's present campus until a firm idea of the number of grades and students that will in the future need to be educated in Cabot is determined.~~The Cabot School is comprised of the High School and Middle School classroom building (constructed in 1938), the gymnasium and four satellite elementary/integrated arts classroom buildings (constructed in 1971), all located on a single campus site in the center of Cabot Village. In 1997, the high High School and Middle School building was thoroughly upgraded, and a dining room was added to the gymnasium. Satellite renovations included heating system upgrades, expanded space in kindergarten and pre-school and the addition of mudrooms in each elementary building. In 2009, the school's performing art center (CSPAC) and a wood chip heating plant were completed.~~

During the 2010-2011 school year, groundwater seepage and flooding in the elementary and high

school buildings necessitated foundation, waterproofing, and excavation work as well as interior renovations. In 2011, the Cabot School Directors began a general assessment of the condition of the school buildings, which will serve as a guide for future repairs and renovations.

In an effort to increase communication, three community forums were held in 2010 in Cabot. Among the issues discussed were strengths and weaknesses of the Cabot School, the concept of merging with other school districts, and ways to reduce spending. The school directors used the input received at these forums in making decisions about the future of the Cabot School.

The Cabot School Directors have decided not to move ahead with governance merger with other school districts, but have looked at ways to enhance opportunities for Cabot students by collaborating with the neighboring school districts of Twinfield and Danville. The Washington Northeast Supervisory Union has commissioned a Collaboration Study to investigate ways to share operational, administrative and educational functions.

Rather than make cuts to the high school staff in order to reduce the budget, the Cabot School Directors requested the principal and staff to undertake an assessment and redesign of the high school curriculum with the intention of using the improvements to attract additional high school students in future years.

Cabot School buses transport students to and from school and to various co-curricular activities and events, including the Barre Vocational Technical Program. Buses are replaced on a planned cycle, anticipating about ten years of service per bus.

Enrollment and Staffing

There were 13 students in the graduating class of 2016, and total student enrollment (Pre-K through 12) in the 2015 -2016 school year was 180: 9 in Pre-K, 90 in K-6, 21 in the middle school, and 57 in grades 9-12. Of the total students enrolled in 2015-16 year, seven came from outside the district. Enrollment over the past five years has declined from a high of 223 in 2011-2012 to a low of 180 in 2015-2016.

Based on information available from the State Department of Education for fiscal year 2015, Cabot had the following faculty and staff (paraprofessional) full time teaching equivalents (FTE):

<u>Direct Instruction:</u>	<u>20.9</u>
<u>Teacher Aides:</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Student Support</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Instructional Staff Support</u>	<u>1</u>

Expenditures

Total expenditures for Cabot School operational costs for fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017, as

reported in annual report for 2015 was as follows:

FY15 Actual: \$3,682,717

FY16 Budget: \$3,702,958

FY17 Budget: \$3,708,161

Of these totals, approximately 10% were used for operations and maintenance, and 2-3% were used for student transportation.

Cabot School as a Community Resource

There is a very strong link between the Cabot community and the Cabot School. Many activities primarily presented for the School are open to the public and are often attended by community members. The completion of the Performing Arts Center in 2009 has helped to accommodate community functions, including concerts and lectures by guest authors.

The School is frequently used by various community groups for recreational and organizational functions. The gym is used after school and on weekends both by adults and students for sports activities and other events such as auctions and craft shows. Cabot residents are able to take part in early-morning fitness programs in the gym throughout the year. The school kitchen is used throughout the year by many organizations for fund raising dinners, community celebrations, and food sales. Community groups utilize school facilities for activities and events. Organizations such as Girl Scouts, Vermont Rural Partnership, the Athletic Committee, and the Parent-Teacher-Student Organization (PTSO) make frequent use of the meeting spaces after school hours. In addition, the art teacher has offered instructional courses for community members.

Educational Opportunities Available to Cabot Residents

The Cabot School arranges learning opportunities with other educational institutions in Vocational and Continuing Education. Besides the Central Vermont Career Center (formerly known as the Barre Technical Center or BTC) in Barre, there are several post-secondary schools in the region. Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC), Adult Basic Education, and Cabot's Wellness Director work closely with community individuals and families to inform them about academic and skills-based program application processes, costs, and scholarship opportunities and the availability of financial aid. On average, 70-80% of Cabot graduates go on to post-secondary education following graduation.

Challenges/Needs

As noted above in this report, major parts of the Cabot School campus (including the gymnasium and elementary campus) are in need of extensive renovation. Clearly, a major goal for the school in the near future is to address this issue: the cost of school building projects increase every year. However, the size of the investment needed in Cabot School's facilities will depend on whether or not the school continues to operate as it has in the past: educating Cabot students from pre-kindergarten through high school here in Cabot.

To that end, members of the Cabot School Board joined with representatives from Danville and Twinfield in the late summer of 2016 to form a “706” study committee to research the potential benefits of together forming a consolidated school district. If this committee develops a plan for a new, consolidated school district, voters in the districts involved will be asked to approve or reject the merger plan before July 31, 2017. Planning for needed renovations to the Cabot School campus will resume only after the results of these discussions (and potential vote) serve to clarify how many students will need to be educated on our school campus in the future.

Progress on meeting challenges identified in the previous Town Plan:

The Washington Northeast Supervisory Union (composed of Cabot School and Twinfield Union School) conducted a Collaboration Study in 2011 to investigate ways that increased collaboration among these two schools could improve student learning and use resources more efficiently. In the years since, the schools have collaborated on professional development activities for teachers, and now have a single maintenance supervisor coordinating facilities work at both campuses. In addition, special education services for students at Cabot and Twinfield are coordinated at the supervisory union level. During the 2015-16 school year, high school students at Cabot and Twinfield began sharing in elective course opportunities one day a week at both campuses.

~~There were 16 students in the graduating class of 2010, and total student enrollment (Pre-K through 12) in the 2010–2011 school year was 221: 20 in Pre-K, 101 in K-6, 35 in the middle school, and 65 in grades 9-12. Of the total students enrolled in 2010–11 year, 12 came from outside the district. Enrollment over the past five years has varied with a high of 230 in 2008–2009 and a low of 200 in 2006–2007.~~

~~Based on information available from the State Department of Education for fiscal year 2011, Cabot had the following faculty and staff (paraprofessional) full time teaching equivalents (FTE):~~

~~Direct Instruction: _____ 23.9
Teacher Aides: _____ 7
Student Support _____ 2
Instructional Staff Support _____ 2~~

Expenditures

~~Total expenditures for Cabot School operational costs for fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012, as reported in annual report for 2010–2011 was as follows:~~

~~FY10 Actual: \$3,469,135
FY11 Budget: \$3,310,607
FY12 Budget: \$3,398,289~~

~~Of these totals, between 8% and 9% were for operations and maintenance, and 4% were for student transportation.~~

Cabot School as a Community Resource

There is a very strong link between the Cabot community and the School. Many activities primarily presented for the School are open to the public and are often attended by community members. The completion of the Performing Arts Center in 2009 has helped to accommodate community functions, including concerts and lectures by guest authors.

The School is frequently used by various community groups for recreational and organizational functions. The gym is used after school and on weekends both by adults and students for sports activities and other events such as auctions and craft shows. Cabot residents are able to walk in the gym each morning during winter. The school kitchen is used throughout the year by many organizations for fund-raising dinners and food sales. Community groups utilize school facilities for activities and events. Organizations such as Girl Scouts, Vermont Rural Partnership, the Athletic Committee, and the Parent Teacher Student Organization (PTSO) make frequent use of the meeting spaces after school hours. In addition, the art teacher has offered instructional courses for community members.

Educational Opportunities Available to Cabot Residents

The Cabot School arranges learning opportunities with other educational institutions in Vocational and Continuing Education. Besides the Barre Vocational Technical School, there are several post-secondary schools in the region. Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC), Adult Basic Education, and Cabot's Wellness Director work closely with community individuals and families to inform them about academic and skills-based program application processes, costs, and scholarship opportunities and the availability of financial aid. On average, 60-70% of Cabot graduates go on to post-secondary education following graduation.

Challenges/Needs

Although the Cabot, Twinfield, and WNESU Boards decided not to move ahead with governance merger, they have recognized that collaboration is a way to improve student learning and make more efficient use of resources. The Collaboration Study commissioned by the WNESU Board will investigate possible ways to share operational, administrative and educational functions.

5. Cabot Public Library

The library facility occupies two rooms, approximately 1,300 square feet, on the second floor of the Willey Building and is ADA accessible. The library is open 25 hours per week, and is staffed by ~~a two-ee~~ two directors and six substitutes. It has a five-member Board of Trustees.

The library provides Internet access as well as connection to the Vermont Automated Library System (VALS), affording access to inter-library loan programs. The library participates in

Listen Up! Vermont, a website where library patrons can download free audio books. The library provides three computers for public use serviced with DSL, a high speed Internet access.

Services and programs include Preschool Story Time, after school Game Club, Vermont Humanities Council adult book discussions, Summer Reading Programs, and special monthly programs. The number of volumes is approximately 8,000. In 2010, over 9700 items circulated, with 56% apportioned to adults, and 44% to juveniles.

Challenges/Needs

Renovations to library shelving were completed in 2010. However, there is a need for more space, evidenced by overflowing shelves that require culling of the collection.

6. Cabot Masonic Hall

~~The 2003 Town Plan noted that although the School and Church had long been the hub of activities for education, arts, and community meetings, a community center was needed. This need was established as a high priority through community input. In 2006 the Masonic Hall was donated to purchased by the Town by from the Masons, and it now is available for public and private use most evenings and weekends. Faith in Action Northern Communities Partnership rents the space for its day to day operations.~~

~~Renovations, including weatherization, are underway.~~

7. Recreation

A variety of recreational programs and activities are available in Cabot. Many are offered by the recreational committee.

~~The Cabot School provides a vital component to recreation through its middle and high school sports programs. Many non-student residents use school gym facilities. Many parents volunteer to coach the school's basketball, soccer, and little league teams. Local residents also contribute time to support summer soccer camp, adult basketball, bicycling, ice skating and the beginnings of a community trail system.~~

Public lands in Cabot are available for hiking, swimming and boating access for fishing, and other low-impact recreation. These include our town forest, town rights-of-way, and class IV roads, which may be used for skiing, biking, jogging, horseback riding, and walking. (See Transportation section for issues relating to maintenance of Class IV roads.)

Cabot owns the recreation field at the north end of village, with its two ball fields, basketball court, storage buildings, and picnic area and leases additional land at the south end of Town.

A new state park has been established at what was formerly land owned by Green Mountain Power. This 625.4 acre parcel of land accesses a 402 acre reservoir. The state is currently developing a long term management plan for operations and activities that will be available. Community input during this process. This has long been an active boating and fishing site.

The Lamoille Rail Trail has opened sections up thru Danville at Joes pond, establishing and developing connections to this trail network will provide a year round recreational experience. The trail system will eventually extend 93 miles long from Swanton to St Johnsbury.

The Recreation Committee actively promotes, maintains, and raises funds for recreational improvements and equipment purchases. These efforts have contributed significantly to improvements at the recreation field ~~including construction of the shelter facilities, drainage improvements at the adjacent baseball/soccer fields and a new guardrail at the parking area.~~

A privately owned facility, Larry and Son Field, is leased and is used for soccer, baseball & softball. ~~There have been recent improvements which include the construction of two dugouts, concessions stand and storage room as well as installation of improved material for the baselines and break-away bases.~~

Public boating access for fishing is available at West Hill Pond, Joe's Pond, Coits Pond and the Molly's Falls Reservoir. All access points are on State land. Recreational activities at Joe's Pond include boating, fishing, and swimming. There is one state park in Cabot: Molly's Falls Pond State Park. The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation purchased the 1064 acres, including the 411-acre reservoir in 2015 guaranteeing continued recreational access to the reservoir and surrounding lands for Cabot residents, Vermonters and visitors to Vermont. Currently, recreational activities include boating, paddling, fishing, picnicking, swimming, and limited camping.~~Public boating access for fishing is available at West Hill Pond, Joe's Pond, Coits Pond and the Molly's Falls Reservoir. All access points are on State land. Recreational activities at Joe's Pond include boating, fishing, and swimming.~~

The Skylighter's Snowmobile Club maintains trails in Cabot. Approximately fifty miles of trails, primarily on privately owned land, interconnect with the Vermont Association of Snowmobile Travelers (V.A.S.T.) system and is enjoyed by snowmobile operators and cross country skiers.

The Recreation Committee has been instrumental in obtaining permission from property owners to maintain both a winter trail system and a four-season trail for hikers, skiers, joggers, snowshoers and, in some cases, horseback riders and cyclists. The Cabot Recreation Committee maintains maps of the trails, and updates them periodically. Current work is underway to expand the trail system and keep the maps up to date with changes. ~~The Recreation Committee also recently acquired a grant for recreational equipment.~~

Challenges/Needs

It is clear that the network of trails and town rights-of-way are currently used extensively by the residents of Cabot. The preservation of these rights-of-way and continued cooperation between users and landowners is critical if we are to maintain the privilege of the safe and respectful use of these resources.

There is significant interest in bicycling in town. Several town rights-of-way and class IV roads might be considered as bike trails. Speeding and narrow shoulders on Cabot roads can be problems for bikers and pedestrians. A significant need can be demonstrated for trails that are independent of the main thoroughfares and for safe wide shoulders/sidewalks/bike lanes for safe recreational bike use along town roads. This is especially important between Lower Cabot and Cabot Village.

~~Over the years, the Recreation Committee has been a recipient of federal funds for improvements at the recreation field facilities.~~ The Recreation Committee has traditionally requested funds at Town Meeting to supplement its own fund raising activities ~~such as concession sales at sporting events, bingo nights, and an annual sports equipment swap/sale.~~ Maintenance of the recreation field facilities is currently accomplished through the efforts of the Town maintenance personnel with some assistance from Recreation Committee volunteers.

~~Over 50% of Cabot School students participate in interscholastic athletic activities. Team sports and adult and non-student uses of the gym often compete for valuable gym time. Given the age of the school gym, there are maintenance issues in need of review. While team sports are important to the Cabot community, there has been declining interest, and the Recreation Committee is evaluating alternative sports activities.~~

8. Solid Waste

~~Cabot is now~~ a member of the Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD) ~~having previously been a member of the Central Vermont Solid Waste Management District (CVSWMD) since 1989.~~

~~Each of the member towns in the NEKWMD is represented by at least one Supervisor. The Board of Supervisors is the primary authority over the NEKWMD.~~

Solid waste collection and disposal is not provided to residents as a municipal service. Residents have several options for trash disposal: self-haul to a transfer station; private hauler pick-up; or bag drop off to a private trash hauler. ~~Transport and disposal is provided through private firms to a limited number of large landfills. There is currently adequate landfill capacity in the private sector.~~ A private trash hauling service is available at the town recycling center where recycling

can be dropped off free of charge. ~~A roll-off container for free scrap metal disposal is provided. Household hazardous waste collection is offered periodically.~~ The recycling center is located on Saw Mill Road adjacent to the Town Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Challenges / Needs

New state recycling laws and volume of recycling require the incremental expansion of recycling available at the current recycling center, staffing requirements will need to be reviewed and modified to meet expanded need.

9. Water Supply

Ground water resources and their protection are of extreme importance to the town. The Cabot community is completely dependent upon groundwater for domestic water supply and industrial uses.

Wellhead source protection areas have been delineated for the two well sites that serve as sources for the Town Water system that provides public water ~~to the area of the former Cabot Village~~. The source protection areas serve to directly “recharge” or replenish the groundwater aquifer. Both source protection areas are characterized by low-density agricultural/residential development in proximity to town and state highways.

The Danville Hill Well provides the primary source of public water for those within the water service area of Cabot, it was drilled in 1968. It is located about a half mile east of the village center before the intersection with Menard/Old Center Road and is drilled to a depth of 295 feet. The step flow tested yield of this well ~~is estimated to be between 300 and 500~~ 259.5 gallons per minute (GPM).

The Walden Road Well, also known as the Bond Hill Well, provides a secondary source of water for Cabot, and is located on Route 215 north of its intersection with Main Street, and less than half a mile from the intersection with Garney Road. The well was drilled in 1949 at a depth of 225 feet. The ~~static~~ step flow tested yield ~~is estimated to be of this well is 30~~ 21.9 gallons per minute GPM.

Utility Partners currently manages both the water supply and wastewater systems. There are currently 104 water users, ~~with a three year allocation pending for an additional seven units to be constructed on Danville Hill Road. The water system is rated at 50,000 gallons per day and current usage is currently at almost half of capacity. Once water usage is at 80 percent of capacity an engineering study must be performed.~~

Challenges/Needs

The primary water supply for the Town of Cabot comes from the Danville Hill Well. This water supply connects to the main system with a 3” pvc line. Several breaks and leaks over the years have impacted the service to the Town, replacement of this line is an important system need.

Maintaining capital budgeting to improve and replace system components is a long term need.

~~A number of residential wells in Lower Cabot were contaminated by volatile petroleum compounds as a result of a petroleum leak from the buried fuel tanks at the former Derek’s Country Store (the tanks were removed in 1998). Bottled water was previously provided to the owners of these contaminated wells by the State of Vermont. Based on the latest available report provided to the Department of Environmental Conservation by Ross Environmental Associates, sampling was conducted in November 2009 on 13 monitoring wells, the drinking water supply well serving one of the residences, and the carbon treatment system serving the on-site supply well. Three areas of concern were noted at that time, in which contaminant concentrations remained above the Vermont Groundwater Enforcement Standards. Originally, four residences had point-of-use carbon treatment systems installed. The contamination has dissipated, and currently only one residence remains eligible to receive bottled water.~~

A water line extension to lower Cabot was explored and rejected by residents. Water drawn from many wells and springs in Lower Cabot tends toward a sulfur flavor, although this has not been linked to any outside source of contamination. This condition has existed at least prior to 1900, according to several sources.

10. Sewage and Municipal Wastewater

The Cabot Wastewater Treatment Facility, located on Sawmill Road in Cabot, was completed in fall of 2001. ~~The area of the former Cabot Village and Lower Cabot is in the service area of the municipal wastewater system~~Refer to map in Appendix B for service area. (See Map 3 in Appendix B) The facility is managed by Utility Partners, and is under the direct authority of the Selectboard. All daily operations and plant management decisions are made by the Selectboard or its designee, the waste water Superintendent including but not limited to: -~~Since the Wastewater Commission dissolved in 2010, budgeting, budgeting, ,~~rate-setting and capacity allocation ~~is the responsibility of the Selectboard.~~

Cabot’s sewage treatment facility has a design capacity of 50,000 gallons per day (GPD), with a daily flow of 20,000 to 25,000 GPD. There are currently 114 connections and 17634.5~~17634~~ Equivalent Residential Units (ERU) on the system. ~~An additional 7 ERUs have been committed for a proposed development on Danville Hill Road.~~

All residences in Cabot outside of the wastewater treatment facility service area have individual on-site wastewater systems. The construction or replacement of on-site systems requires a permit from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation.

Challenges/Needs

~~A capital budget needs to be developed to deal with the depreciation and inevitable failure of major plant components. The Selectboard has developed a plan to restore and grow investment funds that were depleted in prior years.~~

A careful prioritization of the allocation of reserve capacity will necessarily define the scope of potential development within the wastewater service area. The Wastewater Ordinance sets forth mechanisms for the distribution of capacity for different user classifications. The Selectboard is charged with setting annual limits for each user classification. ~~However, long term management of the reserve capacity is not addressed in detail.~~ The Selectboard should determine, with input from the Planning Commission, School Board, the local business community and the UDAG committee, whether uses such as elderly housing, restaurants, or other commercial uses should be favored over increased residential development, and if some capacity should be reserved for future expansion of the school. Maintaining capital budgeting to improve and replace system components is a long term need.

11. Electric Service

Cabot residents along Route 2 and Route 215 receive electricity from Green Mountain Power Corporation (GMP). Others along back roads are served primarily by the Washington Electric Cooperative.

~~Green Mountain Power maintains hydroelectric generating facilities at the Marshfield Reservoir and Joe's Pond. According to GMP's data, only two percent of the power it sold to customers in 2010 came directly from fossil fuels. 40% came from nuclear power, 46% from hydropower, 3% from biomass, 1% from wood, methane and wind, and 8% from unspecified market purchases.~~

~~The Washington Electric Cooperative owns and operates the Wrightsville hydroelectric generating station, which is a store and release plant located at the Wrightsville Dam on the North Branch of the Winooski River. It also operates an electric generating facility at Vermont's largest landfill in Coventry. This facility powered by landfill methane is estimated to provide about two-thirds of WEC's members' electricity needs. (See also "Energy" section of Plan)~~

12. Communications

Telephone service for the 563 and 426 telephone exchanges are provided by Fairpoint Communications. Wireless, satellite, DSL and cable internet access and cable television service

is provided in ~~some-most~~ areas of the town by ~~Charter and Fairpoint~~ many companies. Two ATT cell antennae are located in Town providing cell service to portions of the Town. The town adopted an ordinance governing telecommunication facilities and towers (Article V) in 1998.

The Cabot Library provides free wireless Internet access. In addition, a privately managed town website (<http://cabotvt.us>) – with the support of the Selectboard and Town Clerk – provides useful information about key activities in the civic life of the town, from election results to upcoming events and public meeting minutes. At the same time, a free but private email list Front Porch Forum (<http://frontporchforum.com/>) serves to share important announcements and provides a community calendar for events and requests among Cabot residents. Finally, a growing town paper, the Cabot Chronicle (<http://cabotchronicle.org>), provides a useful point of reference for town news and local perspective.

At the same time, many Cabot residents and associations are taking to social networking resources such as Facebook and Twitter, where social chatter along with news and information upcoming events are shared regularly. The Town of Cabot maintains a Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Town-of-Cabot>.

Internet access can help Cabot residents’ met needs in the areas of local government transparency and accountability; information sharing and coordination support for voluntary action; economic development support through promotion in the areas of tourism as well as access to information about grants, loans, and awards that can benefit Cabot business owners, entrepreneurs, and artists.

Challenges/Needs

The town’s telecommunications zoning regulations need to be reviewed to ensure they ~~are consistent with current technological changes and advancements in the industry and recent changes to State statutes. They should also provide direction regarding the siting of facilities~~keep pace with changes in the industry.

The general public and businesses depend on adequate telecommunications services. Cell phone service and high-speed internet access is ~~not~~ available in ~~all-most~~ parts of Town, and, as noted previously, wireless/-communications for emergency services are not adequate in some locations in town. Additional exploration for cell service expansion along route 2 is a need for the community and public safety.

13. Law Enforcement

The County Sheriff is engaged periodically to monitor and ticket speeders on town and village roads. Currently, enforcement of the dog ordinance is being accomplished through a contract

with a certified enforcement officer in Danville. None of Cabot's recent constables have been certified law enforcement officers, but they work closely with the State Police on local calls.

Challenges/Needs

~~Vandalism is always a concern throughout Town. With limited law enforcement presence, it is beneficial to maintain vigilance throughout the community. A neighborhood/ community watch should be explored.~~

Speeding through the village has been identified as a major issue. See Transportation section further discussion of speed limit issues and concerns.

14. Health and Human Services

Health Care services within the Town of Cabot are limited to Cabot Health Services, a branch of The Health Center in Plainfield. The Health Center and Hardwick Area Health Center are the closest available healthcare facilities. Central Vermont Hospital in Berlin, Copley Hospital in Morrisville, and Northeast Vermont Regional Hospital in St. Johnsbury are the nearest hospitals. Most patients in need of emergency services are transported to Central Vermont Hospital.

The United Church of Cabot plays a valuable supportive role in the community. ~~The Twin Town Homemakers~~ Various organizations, ~~which~~ meets at the church and other community facilities, ~~donates to school and community-based agencies~~, and provides social events for its members. The Church is also home to a weekly Alcoholics Anonymous meeting.

Faith In Action Northern Communities Partnership, Inc., a non-profit established in 2004, currently leases space in the Masonic Hall and also maintains an office in Lyndonville. The organization provides free services to the elderly and disabled through a network of local volunteers. Programs include a twice monthly Food Share program, community dinners and a monthly Senior's Adventure Morning.

Cabot Community Association

The Cabot Community Association is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization with a **mission** to enhance the quality of community life for those residing, doing business, and visiting Cabot, VT. In partnership with its citizens, businesses and service organizations, the Cabot Community Association will work to:

1. Maintain and enhance our inviting, healthy and safe community;
2. Empower Cabot residents to participate in the governance and management of our town;
3. Provide a forum for individuals and organizations to network and share resources;
4. Promote community service;
5. Foster community pride;
6. Enhance educational and recreational opportunities;
7. Develop a vibrant, diversified economy;
8. Represent Cabot's interests in local and regional partnerships;

9. Monitor data and trends to plan for the future health and wellbeing of residents of all ages;
10. Preserve and enhance the working landscape and the natural beauty of our environment; and
11. Support such other charitable and educational activities, consistent with the above-stated purposes and with the provisions of Sections 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding provisions of subsequently enacted Federal Law, as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

Current Activities

Cabot Community Association website to provide local residents with quick access to various resources, to provide a gateway for local businesses, and provide information for tourists and other visitors to the Cabot area.

The Cabot Chronicle - The CCA has created a task force to develop a business plan that might secure the future of the paper.

Cabot Community Fund allows the CCA to support community based projects and events that further the mission of the CCA. The CCF is funded by the generous support of the Cabot Creamery and other donations.

Working Landscape Network (formerly Agricultural Network) that invites everyone who works with or cares about the land in Cabot – farmers, homesteaders, surveyors, loggers, conservationists, trail groomers, sugar makers, landscapers, hunters, nurseries, food processors, crafters who use natural materials- to meet and discuss common interests and challenges and organize activities.

Cabot Arts which brings artists and crafts people together on a regular basis, and has an on-going concert series.
Cabot Coalition

~~The Cabot Coalition is a community-based grassroots organization, including parents, school staff, youth, business owners, senior citizens and members of the faith community, who identify issues, create strategies, and implement solutions to enhance Cabot's overall quality of life, community health and economic development. The coalition began in 1998 in response to a series of crimes committed by juvenile offenders. The Cabot Coalition's membership has grown to include more than 200 community volunteers.~~

~~The Cabot Coalition has been awarded grants from the federal and state government for its work and receives significant local support from area businesses and taxpayers through an annual town appropriation.~~

~~The Cabot Coalition implements and oversees five key programs:~~

- ~~● Cabot Connects: A community-based mentor program that matches an adult volunteer and a young person (ages 9-17) with the expectation that a caring and supportive relationship will develop. More than 30 adults are matched with youth in our community. Fifteen percent (15%) of eligible youth in Cabot have a mentor.~~
- ~~● The Cabot Chronicle: When town and school communication became an issue for the community, the Coalition gathered 30 key players together and created a community-based town newspaper. In 2008, The Cabot Chronicle debuted and continues as a~~

vibrant, reliable, monthly publication that brings relevant news to every Cabot resident's mailbox.

- ~~Community Leadership Development: In addition to our work with adult community members, the coalition sponsors middle and high school student action groups. These groups each meet once a week to discuss current issues, make plans to deal with these issues, and organize healthy recreational activities.~~
- ~~Community / Economic Development: Earlier in 2011, the coalition brought together community leaders to improve collaboration. The result of that meeting was the creation of a Community and Economic Development Committee. There is tremendous momentum to move this discussion into action and the group was unanimous in selecting the Cabot Coalition, with demonstrated leadership and successful follow-through, be the organization to drive this effort.~~
- ~~Health Promotion: The coalition works with our Cabot School partners to ensure that classroom time is dedicated to teaching skills to guide youth towards making healthy decisions. The coalition also implements parent outreach strategies and uses The Cabot Chronicle to share emerging information with our readers about health and wellness issues.~~

~~One of our most successful strategies is identifying future leaders (adults who are not yet fully engaged in community life) and providing opportunities for them to build and/or use their skills where they live. Once involved these folks bring new ideas, energy and connections that expands our reach and capacity. Many of our current coalition leaders previously considered Cabot just a place to sleep since they commuted elsewhere to work each day, but now these volunteers have found ways to be meaningfully engaged in their community.~~

~~An independent evaluation report found that “The Cabot Coalition has connected community participants, board members, school staff, volunteers, and businesses in a comprehensive effort to benefit young people. If isolation contributes to human problems, then the coalition is doing its best to promote connection, health and resilience among its constituents. The Cabot Coalition harnesses human and financial capital as well as information and material goods to put power behind an effort aimed at the health of its community.”~~

Child Care

The availability of safe and affordable child care services is critical to Cabot. Quality child care benefits families by preparing children for schooling and social interaction while enabling parents to work and provide income. It benefits businesses by expanding the workforce and creating more reliable, productive employees. Furthermore, child care facilities are businesses

themselves and their existence expands local and regional economies directly through the hiring of workers and purchase of goods and services.

In ~~2011~~2016, Cabot had four registered ~~home-based~~ child care providers. The Cabot Preschool is a licensed child care facility, providing a pre-kindergarten program for 4-year-olds. In addition, there is a summer camp for school-aged children in Cabot that is a licensed child care facility.

A home child-care facility that serves no more than six children full-time and four children part-time, which is protected under State statute as an allowed use of a single-family dwelling, and falls under the further statutory protections for home occupations. Although all day care facilities are required to be registered or licensed with the state (depending on size), they are considered by right to constitute a permitted single family residential use of property. As such, municipal regulations cannot unduly burden or restrict such facilities. Daycare facilities may be subject to safety access requirements if and when the Town adopts such standards for new structures.

It is likely that many Cabot residents use providers located in proximity to their places of employment. In Central Vermont, there are approximately 90 registered home care providers and 20 licensed care providers, with the majority located in the Region's employment and population centers (i.e., Barre, Montpelier, and Waterbury.)

Currently Cabot School's afterschool program, TLC, a licensed daycare facility, provides a safe, educational and enriching blend of activities for students in grades 1-6. TLC is open Monday-Thursday until 5:30 p.m. whenever school is in session. TLC offers a sliding fee scale and needs-based scholarships.

Challenges/Needs

~~An updated list of all registered and licensed day care facilities in Town would help residents in need connect with these services. This list should also be made available to the Ambulance and Fire Departments (see: http://def.vermont.gov/child_care) In addition, fire safety building standards for all residential uses will help insure the safety of children in home-based day care facilities.~~

15. Civic and Cultural Activities

A. Introduction

Cabot can boast significant civic, cultural and artistic richness. The broad array of public and private institutions and resources that support the civic and cultural life of Cabot reflect an important tradition of investment, participation, and patronage. From a town meeting tradition

that persists today, to numerous festivities throughout the year, Cabot is a vibrant community that nourishes its residents and its visitors. And we cannot take these opportunities for granted. Rooted in traditions and passed-along knowledge, these resources require ongoing investment of time, attention, and money by Cabot residents – from volunteer time to visitor attendance to private contributions and budget appropriations. To manage these resources well, and accommodate the growth of new opportunities in a dynamic cultural environment, requires generous stewardship and diligent management.

B. Existing Conditions

Civic Life

Civic life in Cabot is defined by the voluntary associations, organizations, and institutions along with social networks that comprise society outside government and private life. There are many dimensions to Cabot’s civic life; we’ll focus on a few here: town meeting, voluntary associations, and Internet resources.

1. Town Meeting

Like roughly 31 percent of Vermont towns and cities where the town meeting tradition continues, Cabot’s civic life reaches its climax on the first Tuesday of March each year. During Town meeting, roughly 20% of Cabot’s eligible voters gather to discuss the Town’s business and pass important decisions – some (such as the election of town officials) by Australian Ballot and many others (~~such as the town’s \$1.2m budget~~) through discussion and voice, hand, or paper ballot. In a sense, this is our single greatest opportunity to learn where our shared and individual priorities and interests in the town lie and to plan our investments in the future.

~~Cabot can pride itself in having an excellent Town meeting moderator and the benefit of civil—if at times lively and tense—discourse on town business. In 2010 Cabot’s Town meeting took place over two days: a meeting on the School budget Monday evening, and other town matters the following day. Both meetings took place in the Cabot School gymnasium. Town meeting is an important opportunity to hear how our preferences stack up against those of others, and to hear the voices in favor or opposed to various discussion items. While there has been some movement over the years to move toward Australian Ballot (which is used by 69 percent of Vermont towns to conduct most business), so far most voters prefer to come together to learn about town matters and make decisions regarding specific articles together.~~

~~During Town meeting, town voters are able to learn more about the people and the institutions that support well-being in Cabot. In 2010 Cabot voters elected to support a striking range of groups that benefit Cabot’s roughly 1,200 residents—more than 25 civic organizations received funding from Cabot in 2011, including local organizations (such as the Cabot Coalition and the Aquatic Nuisance Control Project at Joe’s Pond) to regional and state-wide organizations (such as the Washington County Youth Services Bureau and Green Up Vermont).~~

2. Voluntary Associations

Cabot is a healthy, thriving community that aligns well with the State of Vermont's major indicators of well-being (see Vermont Indicators Online project at www.vegi.org/indicators). Part of this success is due to the quality of services provided by the many voluntary and civic associations that have a strong presence in town. These include local organizations like the Cabot Coalition, regional associations like the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District, and state-wide associations like Green Up Vermont. Long-standing organizations with a physical presence in Cabot—from Cabot United Church, the Cabot Library, and new civic resources like the Cabot School Performing Arts Center—contribute significantly to the civic health of Cabot—they host public functions and welcome other groups to hold meetings in their space while providing their own programs and services to the public.

Overall, the organizations most active in support of Cabot's civic life are of four kinds:

- Human services, including educational, social, and well-being support for children, families, and the elderly
- The environment, including conservation and stewardship efforts
- Recreation, including after school and social programming
- Cultural, including historical, craft, and arts oriented programming

Many of these organizations provide essential stop-gap services where government and private support is insufficient. While the dollar value of these services can be calculated as a series of Town investments totaling roughly \$25,000 for FY2011, the return on that investment in terms of tangible benefits (food provided to hard-up families), as well as intangible benefits (awareness, sense of security, social capital, connectedness) are invaluable and Cabot residents who support these programs have good reason for pride.

3. Internet Resources

The ability of citizens to access, interpret, make use of, and produce useful information is a hallmark of our time. Cabot is not immune to these pressures. As more and more residents gain access to the Internet, expectations are likely to change. This is an opportunity for growth in some interesting ways.

Already, the Cabot Library provides free wireless Internet access. In addition, a privately managed town website (<http://cabotvt.us>)—with the support of the Selectboard and Town Clerk—provides useful information about key activities in the civic life of the town, from election results to upcoming events and public meeting minutes. At the same time, a free but private email list (GeneralPublic@cabotvt.us) serves to share important announcements and requests among Cabot residents. Finally, a new and growing town paper, the Cabot Chronicle (<http://cabotchronicle.org>), provides a useful point of reference for town news and local perspective.

~~At the same time, many Cabot residents and associations are taking to social networking resources such as Facebook and Twitter, where social chatter along with news and information upcoming events are shared regularly. The Town of Cabot maintains a Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Town-of-Cabot>.~~

~~Internet access can help Cabot residents' met needs in the areas of local government transparency and accountability; information sharing and coordination support for voluntary action; economic development support through promotion in the areas of tourism as well as access to information about grants, loans, and awards that can benefit Cabot business owners, entrepreneurs, and artists.~~

The Arts and Culture

~~Straddling the areas~~Cabot is served by both the Vermont Council for the Arts and the Catamount Center for the Arts, Cabot is well positioned to leverage its store of cultural and creative capital.

Cultural and artistic life in Cabot is punctuated by a few important events throughout the year:

~~- Maple Fest occurs in March as spring begins to break artisans set up and maple sysrup~~

~~The Fireman's pancake breakfast Memorial Day weekend in May~~

~~-. The annual Fourth of July parade attracts thousands of spectators who pack Main Street, coming to see the train of floats, dancers, antique and farm equipment, and other displays of local cultural and civic life each year. The parade traditionally has ended at the recreation field where the Cabot School PTSO puts together an afternoon of games, food, entertainment and a flea market.~~

~~Ride the ridges in September is a series of adventure bike rides thru the town of Cabot ranging from 10K to 100K with a barbecue lunch on the common after the ride event. Hosted by the Mentoring program and CCA.~~

~~Fall foliage festival in Cabot is either the end of September or beginning of October yearly as the leaves begin to change. A series ov events thru local communities includes tours breakfast lunch and dinner events highlighting local scenery and driving tours.~~

~~The fall Apple Pie Festival in October, hosted annually by the Historical Society since 1999, has grown into a profitable fund raiser. It is held in the Cabot school gymnasium where dozens of apple pies baked by community members are tasted and judged for their baking accomplishment. Hundreds of other pies are sold in an atmosphere of fall celebration.~~

~~Other notable activities throughout the year include Fall Foliage Week during which tours, hikes, and arts and crafts are available; Old Home Week in August, during which homes of historical interest are opened to the public for tour; the Maple Festival (the third Saturday in March); the annual Garden Tour hosted by Friends of the Cabot Library in June; the Fireman's Breakfast; Joe's Pond Association's Fourth of July Fireworks; and the Joes Pond Ice Out raffle each spring.~~

CSPAC Community Arts Facilities

~~Since the 2003 Town Plan, the goal of creating a performing space has been realized with the construction of the Cabot School Performing Arts Center, and the acquisition of the Masonic Hall. Cabot United Church and Willey Building by the Town also provides additional space for community gatherings. Completed in 2009, CSPAC is used for school music rehearsals and performances as well as community events such as the Cabot Community Theater, talent shows, and film screenings.~~

Historical Society

The Cabot Historical Society was formally founded in 1965 and currently maintains two historic properties in Town, the Main Street Museum (acquired in 1978) and the West Hill School (acquired in 1970). ~~Both buildings have been restored, and the Main Street Museum (a.k.a. the Brimblecombe Shop) houses a collection of historical artifacts. The collections grew out of earlier collections of the Old Home Week Committee, begun in 1901. The Museum is open on selected dates, including the 4th of July, from mid-May 1 through October.~~ The Main Street Museum also houses an intact and well-preserved second story theater. The Historical Society has also published collections of oral histories, a local family history, and a collection of early Cabot photographs. The Historical Society has ~~recently launched~~ a new website, cabothistory.com.

Cabot United Church

The Cabot United Church, ~~as well as other churches in town,~~ make an important contribution to the social and cultural life in Cabot. In addition to hosting numerous community dinners and occasional public concerts throughout the year, the church enables community members to exercise their love for music through song, a choral group, and weekly worship services.

The Willey Building

Long a venue for theater, dance, puppet shows, and other forms of public gathering such as weddings and meetings, the Willey Building houses an entire theater on its third floor, complete with a balcony level. In addition to a theater the Willey Building hosts a community kitchen and meeting room that is available for public use at a nominal fee.

Other arts and culture resources in Cabot include:

- ~~• Cabot Creamery, which hosts regular introductions to Cabot's dairy roots;~~
- ~~• Cabot Community Theater, which held its first series of children's plays in 2010~~
- ~~• Old Crow Craft Farm, offers artisan crafts, dolls and carved wood sculptures;~~

- ~~Birdman Woodcarving, featuring sculptural works;~~
- ~~Klingler's Woodcarving, featuring fine woodcarving and custom woodworking;~~
- ~~The Gallery at Loon Cove (Joe's Pond), which features nature photography;~~
- ~~Vermont Floorecloths, featuring finely decorated traditional floorecloths~~

Challenges, Needs

There are a number of opportunities to expand strengthen artistic and cultural life in Cabot.

Increase visibility

As it stands, too many Cabot's residents and visitors are unaware of existing civic and cultural opportunities. ~~We can increase~~ Connecting the public to community and exploring ways to increase -visibility of these assets, ~~through:~~

- ~~Improved village and road signage to key points of interest around town~~
- ~~Distribution of regularly produced print material in high traffic locations like the Cabot Creamery and the General Store~~
- ~~Develop standards for, and maintain, a robust presence for civic and cultural activities on the town website~~
- ~~Expand the access and utility of email announcements through use of online tools like FrontPorchForum.com~~

Broaden participation

Many of the boards, committees, and planning groups that enable a thriving civic and cultural life in Cabot require a frequent replenishment rate of rank and file volunteers as well as leadership. Town offices and resources can be leveraged to expand the visibility of these positions and play an active part in helping to fill them.

At the same time, expanded arts marketing and promotion efforts will bring in larger numbers of participants, supporting everything from donations and sales to word-of-mouth advertising to business traffic in town. Key partners in this effort could include UDAG and the Community and Economic Development Task Force of the Cabot Coalition.

Invest in Facilities

While Cabot boasts a plethora of venues for live performance, there is no venue to bring the visual arts and crafts into downtown Cabot. Not only could such a resource entertain visitors, it could provide local artists with a centralized, shared space in the heart of the village where they can exhibit and sell their work. ~~Potential locations could include:~~

- ~~The old church/school gymnasium, once the proposed site for a dairy museum~~
- ~~The former Goldie's Gathering and Cabot Inn, now privately owned and vacant~~

Support Youth

Through increased coordination, fundraising, and resource-sharing, Cabot could significantly improve the out-of-school resources available to students interested in exploring the arts, technology, and culture. ~~Areas for growth might include:~~

- ~~Film making, including animation~~

- Website design
- Audio production, including a local radio station
- Community theater and writing workshops

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At a minimum, the town should consider the creation of a youth/teen center where young people can gather. From there, needs and interests can be identified and an agenda of activities developed.

I-C. Goals and Implementation Strategies

Goal	Implementation Strategy	Key Implementer(s)	Future Measures of Progress
IX.1 Continue to provide Cabot with excellent ambulance services and fire protection with trained volunteers and well-maintained equipment. Protect residents and businesses to the extent feasible from natural disasters.	IX.1(a) Use available opportunities (Cabot Chronicle, Town email list) to publicize/advertise the need for volunteers.	Cabot Ambulance/Fire Dept.	Volunteers increase
	IX.1(b) Explore options for meeting requirements for training/ costs/mutual aid.	Cabot Ambulance	Options reviewed
	IX.1(c) Develop public information campaign with the goal of having all residents ensure their house numbers are visible from the road to aid in quick response during an emergency.	Cabot Ambulance/Fire Department	House numbering improved
	IX.1(d) Continue to maintain and implement a Local Hazard Mitigation Plan .	Selectboard, Fire Department, Planning Commission	Mitigation Plan updated every 5 years and after any natural disaster
IX.2 Maintain the Cabot public library as an important community resource.	IX.2(a) Library directors will develop and implement a detailed plan to forward this goal, supported by a yearly Town appropriation and supplemented by private donations.	Cabot Library Trustees	Plan developed
IX.3 The Cabot School will continue to be a source of vitality to the Cabot community and a resource for the community as a whole.	IX.3(a) The School and Town will explore opportunities to engage the community as a whole in educational enrichment programs.	School Board/Selectboard/ Planning Commission	School events publicized
	IX.3(b) The School will continue to explore and implement methods to publicize school events and activities to all town residents and other methods to improve communication with the community as a whole.	School Board/Selectboard/ Planning Commission	Educational enrichment programs developed
	IX.3(c) The School will be encouraged to explore methods to engage students in meaningful community service and involvement	School Board/Selectboard	Town Events involving students organized

Goal	Implementation Strategy	Key Implementer(s)	Future Measures of Progress
	in town government.		
<p>IX.4 Ensure effective town governance and ensure that all Town facilities, and infrastructure, including water supply and wastewater facilities, are properly maintained and appropriately located.</p>	<p>IX.4(a) The Planning Commission and Selectboard will begin discussions on the development of a review Capital Improvement Plan and budget for maintaining the Town’s infrastructure.</p> <p>IX.4(b) Identify and Secure an appropriate site for the relocation of the Town Fire Departmentgarage.</p> <p>IX.4(c) Evaluate benefits of co-locating Fire/ Emergency Services with the Town Garage and Recycling Center.</p> <p>IX.4(d) Evaluate the benefits of establishing the position of Town Administrator.</p> <p>IX.4(e) Explore the feasibility and advantages of creating a Development Review Board (DRB) to replace the existing Zoning Board of Adjustment</p> <p>IX 4 (e) Explore opportunities for rehabilitating the old saw mill buildings and completion of expansion at the recycling center</p> <p>IX 4 (f) Continue development of plans to purchase and remove the Saw mill dam.</p>	<p>Planning Commission/ Selectboard</p> <p>Selectboard</p> <p>Selectboard/Planning Commission</p> <p>Selectboard/Planning Commission</p> <p>Select Board/Board of Adjustment/ Planning Commission</p> <p>Selectboard/ Town Planner</p>	<p>CIP discussions occur</p> <p>Sites for relocation assessed</p> <p>Sites for relocation assessed</p> <p>Decision on Town Administrator made</p> <p>Decision made on whether to propose the creation of a DRB</p>
<p>IX.5 Cabot’s high ground water quality is maintained and citizens are aware of preventative measures to protect water quality.</p>	<p>IX.5(a) Implement <u>Maintain</u> the Source Protection Plan for the Cabot Water System and update every three years as required.</p> <p>IX.5(b) Evaluate these source protection plans for implications to the zoning regulations and propose any amendments to protect the public water supply, including the establishment of a source protection overlay district.</p>	<p>Selectboard/contract operator</p> <p>Planning Commission</p>	<p>Report up to date</p> <p>Zoning regulations reviewed and revised as necessary</p>

Goal	Implementation Strategy	Key Implementer(s)	Future Measures of Progress
<p>IX.6 Ensure that potable water is available to Lower Cabot residents with contaminated wells. Upgrade and maintain water system as necessary, plan for replacement of Danville Hill water service main.</p>	<p>IX.6(a) The Selectboard explores the feasibility of extending the village water supply to Lower Cabot and Water superintendent will complete a system management plan which will include identification of a location for a new water line. .</p>	<p>Selectboard, <u>Water superintendent</u></p>	<p>Feasibility study completed CIP updated</p>
<p>IX.7 Regulate future development within the wastewater service area.</p>	<p>IX.7(a) The Selectboard, in cooperation with the Planning Commission, shall maintain discuss and develop clear allocation formulas to insure a fair and beneficial distribution of reserve capacity consistent with the objectives of the Town Plan and other ordinances or regulations of the Town.</p>	<p>Selectboard/Planning Commission/ <u>Wastewater Superintendent</u></p>	<p>Allocation schedule adopted on a yearly basis</p>
<p>IX.8 Educate new residents in Town on all available Town services, facilities, and cultural and historic resources.</p>	<p>IX.8(a) Establish an informal “welcome wagon” program for newcomers to the community, to acquaint them with services, events, programs, community organizations, health care availability, etc. in town.</p>	<p>Community and Economic Development Committee</p>	<p>Program established</p>
<p>IX.9 Ensure the availability of safe and affordable child care in Town.</p>	<p>IX.9(a) Review zoning regulations to ensure safe and accessible child care facilities.</p>	<p>Planning Commission</p>	<p>Zoning regulations revised as needed</p>
<p>IX.10 Identify and ensure access to resources for various recreational activities.</p>	<p>IX.10(a) Continue to develop and maintain a trail system in town for recreational use.</p> <p>IX.10(b) Identify through signs, maps, and other means, Cabot’s trail facilities, land trust lands, town forests, historical resources, and other desirable areas warranting public access.</p> <p>IX.10(c) Study the compatibility of motorized and non-motorized recreational use of trails, identify trails which might be safely used by both and, where appropriate, make recommendations for the separation of uses.</p>	<p>Conservation and Recreation Committees</p> <p>Community and Economic Development Committee/ Recreation Committee</p> <p>Planning Commission/ Recreation Committee</p>	<p>Permissions secured, trails cut</p> <p>Signs created, GPS identifiers collected , maps available at Town Hall/ kiosks/ web pages</p> <p>Development of recommendations</p>
<p>IX.11 Minimize the impact of telecommunications facilities on the scenic,</p>	<p>IX.11(a) The town should periodically update its telecommunications zoning regulations to keep abreast of</p>	<p>Planning Commission/ Selectboard</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

Goal	Implementation Strategy	Key Implementer(s)	Future Measures of Progress
historic, environmental, natural, and human resources of Cabot, and on property values, while allowing adequate telecommunications services to be developed.	<p>technological changes and advancements in the industry.</p> <p>IX.11(b) Encourage co-location of antennae on existing structures to the extent practicable.</p>	Planning Commission	Revise zoning regulations as needed
IX.12 Increase visibility of civics and culture in Cabot.	<p>IX.12(a) Improve village and road signage to key points of interest around town.</p> <p>IX.12(b) Regularly distribute produced print material in high-traffic locations like the Cabot Creamery, village store, and hardware store.</p> <p>IX.12(c) Develop standards for, and maintain, a robust presence for civic and cultural activities on the town website and expand the access and utility of email announcements through use of online tools like FrontPorchForum.com</p>	<p>Planning Commission/ Selectboard /</p> <p>Community and Economic Development Committee</p> <p>Selectboard/ Community and Economic Development Committee</p>	<p>Enhance road signs installed</p> <p>Print materials produced and distributed</p> <p>Town Website enhancement strategy developed</p>
IX.13 Broaden public participation in civic and cultural life.	<p>IX.13(a) Sponsor an “open house” event to familiarize Cabot residents with Town offices, services, and community groups that comprise civic life.</p> <p>IX.13(b) Regularly promote ongoing volunteer opportunities in civic organizations (for example: Town website and Cabot Chronicle).</p> <p>IX.13(c) Coordinated promotion of civic activities by maintaining a calendar of events.</p>	Planning Commission/ Selectboard / Community and Economic Development Committee	<p>Open house created</p> <p>Record of promotion</p> <p>Calendar of events created</p>
IX.14 Encourage a venue to bring the visual arts and crafts into downtown Cabot.	IX.14(a) Conduct a feasibility study to maintain a year-round venue for arts and crafts in downtown Cabot.	Planning Commission/ Community and Economic Development Committee	Feasibility study conducted and report drafted
IX.15 Increase the out-of-school arts resources available to Cabot youth.	IX.15(a) Explore feasibility of establishing a youth/teen center.	Planning Commission/ Cabot Coalition	Feasibility study conducted and report drafted