

Summary of Report on Squam Watershed Interviews – Spring 2016

16 interviews with identified stakeholders. Interviews conducted by two graduate students as part of “Environmental Planning Seminar” at Plymouth State University.

8 themes emerged:

1. Water quality:

Water quality is a primary concern. Tributaries & upland areas are important. Management should focus on watershed as whole.

Need to consider how we define water quality – include aquatic invasive species, how do address new contaminants?

2. Usage:

Encompasses uses of lake, land, & watershed resources. Frequency & intensity are issues.

Concerns about: Amount of use, Who is able to use the resource(s), Impacts on wildlife

Land issues: Hiking trails – erosion, litter; In general land resources are being used appropriately; Multiple use is important

3. Access:

Ability to access resources is issue. Balance is important. Encourage access in sustainable way.

Parking (or lack of parking) relates to access.

Fee for launching boat is possible solution.

4. Development

Development = development of land for residential & business uses.

Relates to water quality. Need high amount of conserved land in watershed. Maintain natural, wild, forested character

Economic development – improve economic well-being & quality of life through job creation & growing income

5. Community

Implementation of plan will determine if watershed plan is success. Need common community understanding.

All five towns in watershed need to be involved. Need dialog between communities.

Engage lots of people - All ages

6. Watershed Plan

Complete in timely manner & don't take too long to create it.

Implement the new plan. Plan needs to be used. Should be realistic with accomplishable goals. Old plan had too many recommendations (149) – new plan should have 40-50 recommendations.

7. Education

Goal is to help people use resource in sustainable way. Good education will reduce need for regulation.

Formal education vs. informal education (signage, verbal communication, workshops, presentations)

Topics that need more education: Best management practices, Aquatic invasive species

8. Data

Need more data. Specific areas of data needed:

- Carrying capacity for boats
- What is sustainable level of fishing tournaments
- Employment in watershed
- Use of trails
- Use of boat launches

Summary: Interviews validate the issues. Provides evidence for issues to address in the plan.

- *Plan will be opportunity to find balance on:*
 - Access to the lake & impacts that come from the accessibility
 - Fishing tournaments – plan presents opportunity to work on this issue
 - Concerns about development & need to grow the economy
- Prevent deterioration of water quality
- Squam Watershed Plan should be everyone's plan – don't make it too cumbersome
- Education is important for success of the plan

Next steps:

- Finalize report & share with committee, local towns