

**COOPER COMMUNITY MEETING**

**Cathance Grange Hall - September 10, 2009**

**What are your connections to Cooper?**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Board Member (5)</li> <li>• Fire Department (4)</li> <li>• Selectman</li> <li>• Assessor (2)</li> <li>• Former Town officials (6)</li> <li>• Grange members (5)</li> <li>• Board of Local Food Bank</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road Commissioner</li> <li>• Constable</li> <li>• E911 Addressing officer</li> <li>• Marion Transfer Station representative</li> <li>• Cathance Lake Association (16)</li> <li>• Cooper Free Public Library (3)</li> </ul>
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**How long have you lived in/come to Cooper?**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1-5 years – 1 person</li> <li>▪ 6-10 years – 2 people</li> <li>▪ 11 to 20 years – 6 people</li> <li>▪ 21+ years – 9 people</li> </ul>
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**Attendees at the meeting live in Cooper:**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Year round: 2</li> <li>▪ Seasonally 16</li> </ul>
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**Why are you here tonight?**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To make the coffee</li> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Voice the needs in Cooper</li> <li>• Get the Comprehensive Plan finished</li> <li>• Curiosity</li> <li>• Determine our own destiny</li> <li>• Information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be part of the community</li> <li>• Be aware and part of the future of Cooper</li> <li>• Get an update on what is going on</li> <li>• Keep the quality of life we have here</li> <li>• Perfect attendance on Comp Plan committee</li> <li>• Chance to win \$100 of fuel oil</li> </ul>
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**What are Cooper’s “Treasures”...what makes Cooper, Cooper?**

(# VOTES for greatest significance)

<i>Natural</i>	<i>Built</i>
Cathance Lake (7 votes)	Cathance Grange Hall (11 votes)
Blueberry lands	Cooper Tower (1 vote)
Cooper Hill (4 votes)	Sand Pile (1 vote)
Marsh on Route 191 (1 vote)	Town Beach (5 votes)
The Ponderosa	Red School House (East Ridge) (3 votes)
Mill Pond (1 vote)	The Ponderosa
Vining Lake (1 vote)	Cemetery on East Ridge (1 vote)
Big Inlet	Cooper Cemetery
Little Inlet (2 votes)	Quest End
Howe Brook	The Store (7 votes)
Hoggs Neck	
Sandy Beach	

A required element in any local Comprehensive Plan is a **Vision Statement** that summarizes the community's desired future community character in terms of economic development, natural and cultural resource conservation, transportation systems, land use patterns and its role in the region.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee base their Vision Statement on the following notes from the visioning meeting:

**What would you like Cooper to be? Its future Community Character ...  
in terms of economic development?**

- Slow planned growth
- Support agricultural community
- Cottage industry
- No big box stores
- Need community building for gatherings, for suppers, the Grange is our only option but it needs water and bathrooms
- More access to broadband to make telecommuting from home feasible
- A country store (we miss the old one badly) it was a community hub

**What would you like Cooper to be? Its future Community Character ...  
in terms of natural and cultural conservation?**

- Better forest management especially around the lake
- Less intensive cutting
- Preserve/maintain lake water quality (we have a strong lake association now)
- Continued stewardship of the lake
- Restore/renovate the Grange (built 1911)
- Consolidate community efforts to the Grange and a Town/Community building
- Obtain \$\$ for Grange acquisition
- Establish Grange as a historic site
- Retain manual blueberry harvest
- Public hiking trails

**What would you like Cooper to be? Its future Community Character ...  
in terms of transportation systems?**

- Full construction of Route 191 (status is currently "un-built") including fully paved shoulders; to allow walking and biking on Route 191
- Reclassify Route 191 to obtain more State assistance
- Post Route 191 until it gets fixed
- Lobby representatives to get state funds to construct Route 191
- Hiking and cross country trails with landowner agreements for access over private land
- ATV/snowmobile and bike trails available on old gravel roads (no gates cutting off access)
- Retain trail connections to larger network of trails in the region

**What would you like Cooper to be? Its future Community Character ...  
in terms of land use patterns?**

- Better forest management
- Slow planning growth (stewardship)
- More clearing for blueberries
- More residences but retain open space around lake and other sensitive areas including streams (Vining), Mill Pond, the Cranberry Flowage
- Maintain public access to lake
- Encourage cluster subdivision
- Support private landowner stewardship
- Encourage residential development away from the lake
- Coordinate with the Land Use Regulatory Commission and participate in the updates to their Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Explore town assistance with land conservation using conservation easement technique
- Balance increase in the number of houses (for tax base support) with protection of lake water quality

**What would you like Cooper to be? Its future Community Character ...  
in terms of its role in the region?**

- Bedroom community to regional centers
- Agricultural base
- Recreational center
- Cleanest lake in the county/state
- Way-station (store; gas station) on Route 191
- Cottage industries
- Community center with cultural activities; a restaurant on the lake using local produce
- More of a community, more cohesion, spirit and community identification