

## Legion baseball season under way

Sudbury-based team off to 3-0 start.

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## The results are in!

The voting is tallied and the results of this year's Readers Choice awards are inside this week, from the best beaches to the best dry cleaners.

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## LONG RANGE PLAN

# Taking the long view

By Geoff Moore

Correspondent

It was a night of questions rather than answers for more than 100 residents who sat in an uncomfortably hot Bemis Hall last Tuesday evening for the first public meeting organized by the Comprehensive Long Range Planning Committee (CLRPC).

In his opening introduction, Noah Eckhouse summed up the need for long range planning using words he attributed to Selectmen, and CLRPC member, Sarah Cannon Holden.

"What got us here won't get us there," Eckhouse said.

The purpose of the CLRPC, Eckhouse said, is to provide guidance for the future in a coordinated manner, where decisions are not made in a vacuum and accountability is clear. The outcome of the 16-month process will be a plan that provides guidance for the next five, 10 and 20 years, and which will be put to a town for vote in the fall of 2008.

Residents heard brief overviews from five sub-committee chairs covering: housing/built environment; cultural and historic resources and governance; natural resources/open space; land use/economic development; services and facilities/circulation, and

transportation.

Speaking on the subject of town roads, Eckhouse recounted being run off the road while cycling in town. When challenged about the incident, the motorist said, "You come to Lincoln to ride your bike and you think you own the place," Eckhouse recalled to laughter and knowing nods from residents in the audience.

Following the formal presentations, the audience had an opportunity to interact by placing yellow dots on charts of the topics and questions that they considered to be of most significance. Then, armed with a limited number of green dots, they were asked to indicate which of the items they were willing to spend dollars on.

Residents took advantage of a blank chart to add their own views on what else should be considered. These included such items as wildlife and deer management, health and Lyme disease, water conservation, global warming, and safe disposal of invasive plant species.

Based on the number of yellow and green dots attached to specific questions on the sub-committee topic sheets, residents considered that two areas

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# Long Range Plan not yet in focus

## Plan, from Page 1

required both high priority and expenditure: Housing/built environment — covering topics such as the ideal size of the town, type, size and exclusivity of housing, and further teardown restrictions — and natural resources/open space — covering funds for stewardship, land management practices, and maximizing recreation and conservation opportunities.

Several other topics had a similar number of yellow dots indicating that attendees considered the scope important, but they had many fewer green dots suggesting a reluctance to spend money on them.

“We’re not looking for definitive data today,” said Town Administrator Tim Higgins, “but a sense of the town attendees, to see if we’re on the right track and to stimulate conversation.”

*‘What got us here won’t get us there,’*

**Noah Eckhouse**

Long Range Planning Committee

In his closing remarks, Higgins said that what happened tonight was “a microcosm of what the planning effort is going to be.”

The plan requires that we transform good thinking into an actionable and affordable plan and not a wish list that does not recognize

constraints, Higgins said.

Last spring, Town Meeting voted an appropriation of \$95,000 to hire a consultant who was familiar with both the long-range planning process and activities in communities adjacent to Lincoln. A request for a proposal (RFP) is expected to be sent out next month, with hiring to be completed shortly afterwards.

The efforts of the 50 or so subcommittee volunteers will ramp

up again after the summer break and any inputs or offers of assistance should be sent by email to Town Planner Mark Whitehead at [whiteheadm@lincolntown.org](mailto:whiteheadm@lincolntown.org).

A number of other public meetings and surveys are planned, and, Higgins said, results of the public input on the night would be available on the town Web site over the next two weeks.