**Zone CEDS Public Input Sessions**

**Round 2- Wilmington, September 24th**

Are people over 65 moving in?  Or is that range growing from within?

Where are these people going that are leaving the wf?

Are people leaving because of the public schools?

Trailing spouses - don't get drawn into another community or job

Vision statement and values comments:

How would the person on the street know if the vision was achieved?

Why will we be seen as a model instead of be a model?

Maybe there's a better word then "exceptional"?

Maybe a comparison to some place like Holyoke?

Exceptional quality of life

What makes Southern Vermont culturally awesome?

Quality of life is subjective to what life you are living?

Affordable and sustainable are missing from the values statements

What did we love enough to leave where we were and stay here and make our lives here?

It can be hard to get to know people here

We are attracting a lot of aging people because their kids are here or they ski - they panic when they realize what it can take to get over the mountains every day for care

Goals are simplified

No mention of schools in growing population

Young people participating

Choice

We agree that we share a workforce - we don't agree that we share an education system

Can we add elder care with childcare?

Agriculture and tourism are important in this area

Perhaps we can talk with zoar outdoor

Is anyone interested in bringing young people here to farm?

There is someone in Townsend giving away four acre plots to grow organize food - millennia LS aren't interested in buying into the mortgage and car payment economy

I wish Bennington would get a coop

Policy is going to need to be a part of the plan

We need politicians to deal with homeless issues

* Is the increase in 65+ cohort due to migration, aging, or both?
* Does the increase in 65+ and decrease in 35-54 represent a resulting net increase in regional wealth/assets/income due to relative financial positions of people moving in to retire and people moving out for better wages?
* Is income data available by town?
* Do declining workforce numbers represent people leaving VT altogether or leaving region?
  + - * [JC question: are we talking about residents of SoVT who may be working in NY/MA/NH/rest of VT, or SoVT workers who may reside in NY/MA/NH/rest of VT? Not sure if the general conversation and the data points are on the same topic.]
      * College-age kids have moved out, and they and their friends aren't moving back.
* Where do we address the trailing spouse/partner issue and its impacts?
* Vision: why prioritize "being seen as a model" over simply "being a model?"
  + - * Is "exceptional" a bridge too far? How about livable, desirable, or vibrant?
      * Why not "affordable" or "sustainable?"
      * How will the average citizen even know that a successful CEDS is happening?
* Goals: simple, supportable: "I like 'em."
  + - * No mention of schools
      * Act 46 etc impacts to communities without schools.
      * Quality issues vs consistency issues.
      * Funding model penalizes rural schools, we need to advocate for adjustment.
      * Advocacy needs extend to water and sewer regulations as well.
* Succession planning for businesses in agricultural sector?
* Add "elder care" as complement to efforts in "child care," it is a relevant issue and there is demand.