

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jackson Facilities Committee Public Forum Considers Current and Future Community Needs

On September 27, more than 50 residents attended the first public forum hosted by the Jackson Facilities Committee. This committee, established by Jackson voters at Town Meeting in March 2022, has the mission to educate the community, especially taxpayers, about the Town of Jackson's public facilities in order to determine the highest and best use of existing facilities as well as consideration for facilities which may be needed in the future.

North Country Council (NCC) Community Resiliency Planner Stacy Doll kicked off the evening with a presentation of the findings of NCC's North Country Rising Initiative, which provided residents with an overview of the challenges rural communities across northern NH are facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of these challenges include affordable housing for locals, access to child care, fair livable wages, climate change and the importance of encourage greater collaboration between organizations and services. The goal of this presentation was to provide Jackson residents and taxpayers with a better understanding of the issues that are underlying our Jackson community as well as the region as a whole as we consider the best uses of our town assets and facilities as we look to the future. Facilities Committee member Jen Pribble followed up with a presentation outlining Jackson's town-owned facilities and land assets. The intent of this document is to educate Jackson residents and taxpayers about the current facilities and services available to the community. An understanding of the resources is vital as we consider ways to best fund and support them to ensure Jackson remains a vibrant and resilient community into the future. The North Country Rising presentation and the informational Facilities document are available online at <https://www.jackson-nh.org/facilities-committee> . Feedback and updates to the informational Facilities document are welcome and may be sent to: jacksonfacilitiescommittee@gmail.com

Following the public forum, the Facilities Committee established the next steps and timeline to submit a final report to the Jackson Selectman on January 24, 2023. In November, a community survey will be sent to enable Jackson residents and taxpayers to share their ideas about the use of current facilities

and priorities for the future as well as sharing what they love about living in the town. Community members should review the Jackson Facilities Powerpoint on the town website to review facility information and current needs prior to taking the survey. Online and paper responses will be possible. Paper copies will also be available at the Whitney Community Center's Community Potluck on November 13. Responses must be submitted by November 30. Results will be shared at the second Public Forum that is scheduled for 6:30 PM on December 13 at the Whitney Community Center. The next meeting of the Facilities Committee will be at 4:00 PM on October 24 at the Old Library across from The Wentworth Resort.