

Jobs, tax base, charitable foundation promised

Mount Washington Resort expansion

By Edith Tucker

TWIN MOUNTAIN — At the third of four public information sessions put on by the Mount Washington Resort on Nov. 27, representatives of the Grande Dame's new owners and its associated land development company promised not only that they would create solid jobs for those in the area — many of which will be salaried — but also a solid tax base for the town of Carroll, generated by the construction and sale of nearly 1,000 housing units.

These new condo and homeowners will spend additional dollars in the area for both direct and indirect services, explained Resort development manager Matt Dieterich, who grew up in Whitefield.

Resort consultant Dr. Ross Gittell, who holds the James R. Carter chair at UNH's Whittemore School of Business and Economics, is working on an economic impact study that is expected to be ready for public presentation in January,

range from \$350,000 to \$650,000 in today's dollars. When ever possible, the Resort will choose to use local vendors as contractors, keeping dollars circulating in the local economy, Mr. Dieterich said, noting that he is pleased to have been able to return to his roots because of the opportunities the Resort has opened up.

The Resort also plans to set up a nonprofit 501(c)3 charitable foundation, funded by two percent of gross real estate sales, expected to total about \$4.6 million over the next 15 years. One per-

cent of the sale price of resold properties would also be used to fund the foundation, likely generating an annual income of \$200,000 to \$300,000. Preliminary ideas for use of the Foundation's funds would have it pay for projects or activities that would enhance the environment, support arts and traditional North Country culture and recreation, strengthen community and organizational connections, and open up educational opportunities to residents of all

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ages.

At the brainstorming session, which ended the evening, the 30 residents on hand who are not Resort employees quickly came up with a variety of ideas of how Foundation monies could add to the community's sense of wellbeing.

Discussions also took place on how the yawning gap between the villages of Twin and Bretton Woods could be closed so that the Town of Carroll could be more nearly unified.

Suggestions ranged from building workforce housing to reviving the Valley Cleanup Day to holding a work session to hear an expla-

nation of Ross Gittell's economic impact study to holding the regional Special Olympic ski trials at the Bretton Woods Ski Area, and once again to holding an open house and bus tours at the Resort.

Earlier in the evening, Resort CEO Patrick Corso said the Resort plans to continue to emphasize its sense of place and to become the "best of the best" in New England, eschewing an institutional "cookie-cutter" approach to hospitality.

"There's a spiritual connection — not a religious connection — with the pioneer Crawford family, the ill-fated Willey family who members were lost in the Slide, and the courageous Evans widow

and her family who lived by the side of the railroad tracks in the Notch," Mr. Corso said. "We're connected to the people and the culture, the spirit and the geography of New England, which is something we want to articulate to our guests. We want to tell this region's story through the architecture and through the Resort experience, so people will create memories and return again and again to this place. That's our niche — we want to capture the area's essence. We want someone else to spontaneously say, 'This is New England's quintessential resort.'"

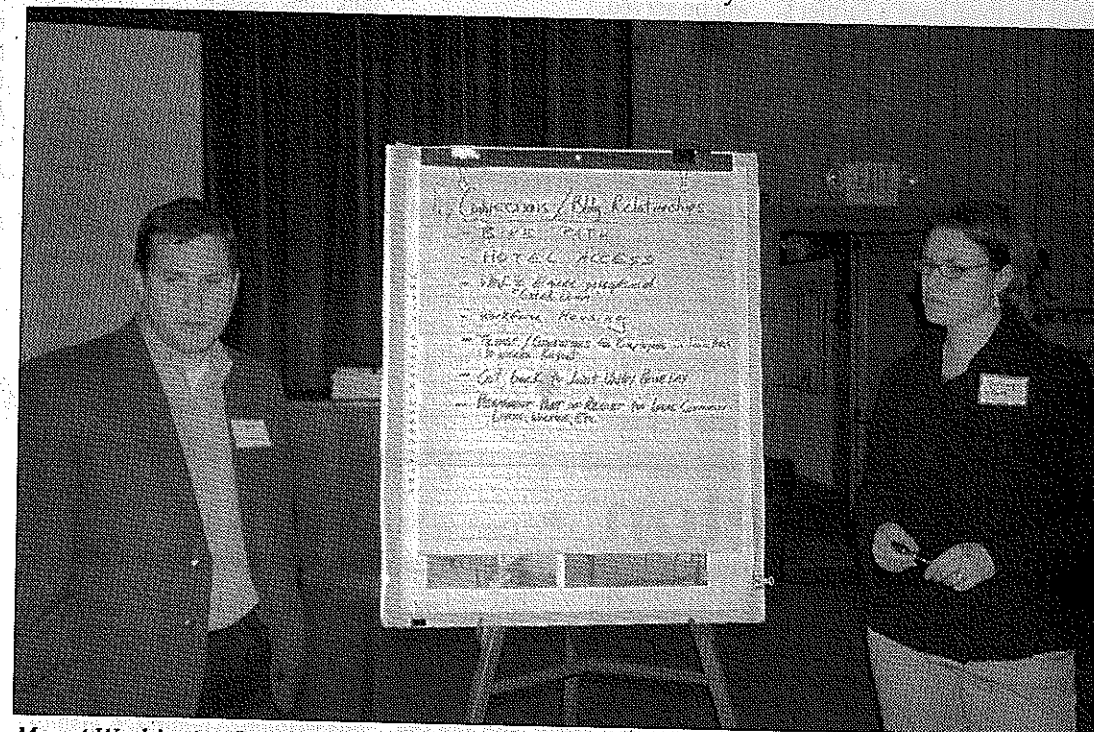
In addition to Charles Adams

of Celebration Associates of Hot Springs, other Resort employees on hand in the Town Hall gym included its organizer, property owners' association (POA) and Foundation coordinator Stacy Doll and director of development

Mike Brunetti, Alpine Club membership coordinator Ellen Savage, security chief and former selectman Fred Hollis, and director of marketing and communications Candra Canning, who is a founding member of the North Country

Boys and Girls Club and a Pemi Valley Search and Rescue Team volunteer.

The final in this series of informational evenings will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 11.



Mount Washington Resort development manager Matt Dieterich, left, and property owners association and Foundation manager Stacy Doll, a professional planner, recorded ideas on Nov. 27 in a brainstorming session held at the end of the Resort's third public information session in the town hall. The final session is planned on Dec. 11, at which the planned pedestrian village is on the evening's agenda.

(Photo by Edith Tucker)