

What's our Next Step?

THINK

PLAN

ACT

2. Identify resources to be protected

Ask residents: What places in Worcester are important to you?

- **Important natural resources**
- **Scenic roads and views**
- **Historic resources**
- **Farms**
- **Woodlands**

Public Participation Meeting

In November 2004 we held a township meeting in Community Hall to ask members of the public to help us identify important places in Worcester



November 2004 Public Meeting

- # Over 50 residents joined Open Space Committee members to help us identify:
 - Historic properties
 - Working farms
 - Natural resources
 - Scenic roads and views
- # We had five large display maps for residents to use

What are our priorities?

**Residents told us:
Preserve Worcester's rural character!**

Farmland



Scenic roads and views



Historic buildings



The Open Space Committee's Goals

*1. Preserve our most important
open space lands*

*2. Protect at least 50 percent of
the remaining undeveloped
land in the township*

HOW?

3. Identify protection strategies



Own the Best

Join the Rest

4. Implement strategies

How do we “own the best”?

- 1. Purchase the land**
- 2. Purchase a conservation easement on the land**
 - 1. Less cost = money goes further**
 - 2. Landowner can still own the land**

Funding Options for Preservation

#Farmland preservation

- State farm program
- County nontraditional farm program
- Township program
- **Donations**

Funding Options for Preservation

Open space preservation

- County open space program
- County parks expansion program
- County private organization matching grant
- County grants to townships
- Township program
- **Donations**

Funding Options for Preservation

Historic preservation

- County private organization matching grant
- County historic site expansion program
- Private grants
- Township program
- **Donations**



Reality Check



We can't buy everything we want.

There's not enough money to do it all.

These projects take time.

BUT the rewards are great!

4. Implement strategies

**How do we
“zone the rest”?**

Preservation zoning -- Strategies

- # Natural resource protection
- # Historic preservation
- # Village commercial
- # Conservation development

Natural resource protection ordinances

- Floodplains and wetlands
- Steep slopes
- Stream corridors



Historic preservation



Heritage Resources



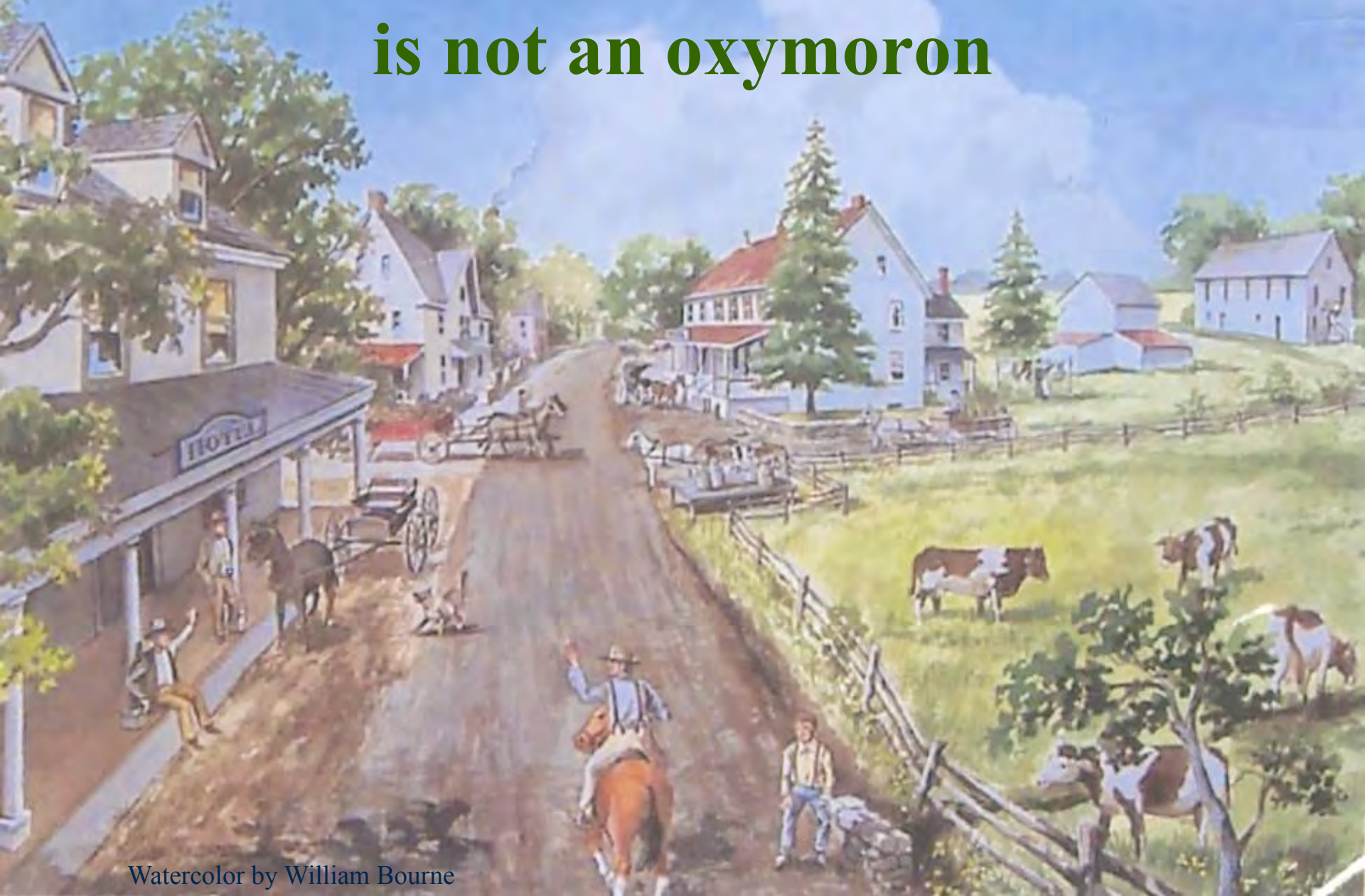
Historic Structures

Village/Commercial



Watercolor by William Bourne

Conservation development is not an oxymoron



Conservation Development ...

- # Preserves at least 50 percent of the parcel as open space
- # Protects important natural resources
- # Allows the township to work with the developer to decide the best place for houses on the site

... Is the Way To Go

YOU can make a difference!

- # Communicate your view on open space preservation
- # Support funding initiatives
- # Get involved – support groups that are preserving open space
 - Worcester Historical Society
 - Friends of Worcester
 - Open Space Committee
- # Landowners -- participate in programs, donate an easement
- # Talk to your neighbors -- spread the word that Saving Land Saves Money

This is a farm that could be preserved.

Can we save it in time?

Thank you for listening!

Friends of Worcester

Discussion time