

Leadership New Hampshire

Building a Community of Informed Leaders

KEENE CHAT

Peter Howe's (Office) Living Room, Keene, NH, Dec. 12, 2006 – 6:00pm

WHERE THE MOUNTAIN STANDS ALONE

Presenters: John Harris, Jerry Burns and Howard Mansfield

Attending: Peter Howe and Liz Brown (hosts), Tom Ewing, Sue Chollet, Jack Calhoun, Mike Hoefler, Susan Newcomer, Jeff Newcomer, Lynn Barofski, David Bulgar, Michael Redmond, Sylvia McBeth, Edda Cantor (LNH Executive Director) and Melanie Waldvogel (LNH Director of Outreach)

The History, Organization and Stories of the Monadnock Region

Peter Howe, who has lived in the Monadnock Region for 38 years, introduced John Harris, the original driver of the "Where the Mountain Stands" project. The project began as a desire to produce something with a "theme of place;" talks initially began in 1997. Eventual funding sped up the collection of stories, with story circles and actual writers creating the pieces. The project grew from there into the story, photo and color anthology it is today. The book is organized with essays, oral histories, photographs, maps and other items that characterize the region. Since this project has so closely identified with community vitality and regional identity, a similar project (pending funds) will be planned for the North Country.

The past, pride and lots of planning are needed to create a sense of place. Mount Monadnock has created a sense of sense of place as a watershed in the 35 towns that make up the Monadnock region; there is a common history, literary background, environmental focus and heritage of the mountain. As NH ages, the book will ideally be used in local Monadnock high schools and invest the younger generation in their own sense of place. A sense of place could convince the younger Monadnock generation to come back to a state with high housing costs and low salaries (and to a region that is not as entrepreneur friendly as it once was). Ideas at the Chat around this subject included: figuring out zoning for smaller homes on parental properties (a lesson from the past that may need to be introduced again), and co-housing/village concepts. Not only would this keep the younger generation in the region, but also help to control the sprawl affecting NH's sense of place (highways, condos, etc.). Church and Main is an excellent example of a city using its own resources, such as the conversion of old mill buildings into offices. City centers are important for building community. School funding may also be to blame for creating sprawl in NH, and the Keene area may want to look towards to Upper Valley for guidance.

The theme of pride of place was readily evident in the LNH class of 2006, where all of the "Monadnockers" carpooled on a regular basis to the session days, and remained close long after the program ended.

For further information, and to purchase "Where the Mountain Stands Alone," please visit:
<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~upne/1-58465-556-9.html>