

## **A Vision for Unity, the “Garden of Waldo County”**

We the People of Unity envision a future where we thrive in a vibrant community that treasures our environment, supports and celebrates our citizens, and welcomes all.

In the 1800s, Unity was known as the garden spot of Waldo County. We envision a future Unity that is a flourishing garden—a place of beauty that nurtures life in multiple ways: growing good food; enhancing our health; fostering our economic prosperity; and enabling us to lead safe and fulfilling lives.

We see Unity in the future as a community that has:

- Retained our small town character, historic downtown, and identity as a farming community, while carefully growing as an economic hub for surrounding towns.
- Improved our economic future by building off our many strengths—including being a crossroads location, home to Unity College, and a growing center for sustainable agriculture.
- Attracted businesses, employers, and organizations that fit our character and identity, and that pay living wages which attract young families and enable all residents to thrive.
- Adapted to more complex demands on local government, like road maintenance and municipal services, while retaining Town Meeting as our chosen form of governance.
- Engaged more of our citizens in civic and community activities by enhancing and nurturing volunteer culture.
- Improved public access to existing recreational and cultural activities, identified new activities, and encouraged participation.
- Done all things possible to dramatically improve the water quality of Lake Winnecook and protect and preserve the local aquifer.
- Created a compact and vibrant downtown with a critical mass of services, recreational opportunities, and entertainment where people want to shop, dine, play, and socialize; with well-maintained buildings; and all-weather sidewalks and trails that provide easy walking, biking and wheelchair access.