

Master Plan Follow-Up Committee Meeting – Phase II
Committee Meeting #3
Meeting opened at 6:34 PM

7/10/2024

Members in attendance: Saren Goldner, Michal Baum, Brian Vanduser, Dean Depew and Cindy Hilbert.

Planning Professional: Dan Theobald, Barton and Loguidice (B&L)

Guest Attendees: Michael Lembo , and others

Mr. Theobald opened the meeting at 6:35. He stated that Phase II was being funded through a Department of State grant (DOS).

The committee will be holding its community outreach public meeting in August. There will be options online to be able to submit information as well.

The survey deadline was May 31, 2024, but it was reopened another two weeks for additional comments. The committee received another 28 online surveys and a total of 46 paper surveys since extending the deadline. We now have over 200 responses in total.

Since the last meeting Dan has revised the Preliminary Action worksheets to include responses from the committee and audience members. He is hoping to be able to put together the draft plan by September (along with the help from the sub-consultant – Ms. Harrington) for the committee’s review. Once reviewed he is hoping to hold the first of our public hearings in October and possibly a follow-up public hearing if needed in November. He would like to have the Town look at adopting the plan by the end of November so that we can move onto the next phase.

Some of the important responses that came out of the survey was to encourage small business in town, keep the rural characteristics of the town, and keep it non-suburbanized and encourage historical preservation. Some of the concerns that were listed was allowing the proposed warehouse; increasing taxes and environmental degradation.

The public workshop will be held at the Plattekill Fire Department. We will put out a flyer and advertise it in local papers.

Some of the changes we added to the Preliminary Action Worksheet under Economic Development are:

1. Encourage Zoning Code updates on definitions, uses and location;
2. Upgrade the power infrastructure throughout the Town with three-phase power;
3. Expand broadband internet access to support local businesses and attract new businesses;
4. Update zoning code to allow more multi-family housing within the hamlets.

Hamlets

The committee wants to look at the current sidewalk district and possibly expand it and look at the census data for Clintondale and Plattekill and create maps for the Towns' recreational properties. Part of the Towns' actions would be to expand the current Town facilities. Mr. Depew discussed the new proposed improvements to the park. Currently, there is a walking trail at the Town Park which is around 2.5 miles and the Boys Scouts maintain it. The committee would also recommend revising the Town Code to allow for more multi-family housing in the hamlet areas.

Infrastructure

Dan discussed upgrading and modernizing the Town Hall and other public facilities. Implementing green infrastructure initiatives to improve environmental sustainability and reduce long term maintenance. The Town should partner with the UCRRA on a residential composting program and supporting tax abatements for residential solar systems and green building codes. The Town should look into expanding the three-phase power grid within the Town to help promote more businesses and help with remote working.

Community Character

The Town needs to increase its commitment to protecting historical resources and create more hamlet identities. We should support our local farming operations and agricultural businesses and preserve our scenic views and open space. We need to work on promoting our community as an affordable place to live for everyone.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 14th at 6:30 at the Plattekill Fire Department. It will be our community visioning session to get some public input.

Meeting closed at 8:00 pm.