



DRAFT RAW RESULTS OF PHASE TWO PUBLIC INPUT MEETING: FOCUS AREA CHARETTE

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INTRODUCTION

On September 15th 2016 at 7:00 PM, the Town of Mamakating Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee held a meeting for the purpose of collecting background data, views and opinions from community residents and stakeholders. This was the second public meeting throughout the Comprehensive Planning Process. The purpose of this meeting was to gather public and stakeholder input, observations, and opinions regarding four (4) selected focus areas within the Town of Mamakating. Appropriately, this public meeting was referred to as a Focus Area Charette, in order to distinguish it from the previous meeting at which a SWOT analysis was utilized as part of a visioning workshop to help shape the crafting of a Vision Statement, Goals and Objectives for the Comprehensive Plan update.

To accomplish this, Turner Miller Group - the Comprehensive Plan consultants - coordinated with the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee to design a meeting that would consist of four break-out groups, respective to the four areas of focus in the Town that the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee had previously selected at their regular meetings. These focus areas, largely characterized as existing community centers with specified ideas to guide future growth or conceptual development within the Town, were exhibited throughout the introductory presentation by Turner Miller Group. The four (4) focus areas were then listed:

- Wurtsboro Village Center & Surrounding Areas
- Bloomingburg Village Center & Surrounding Areas
- Summitville-Phillipsport Historic Hamlet Concept
- Westbrookville Eco-Tourism Hamlet Center Concept

This meeting was well-attended by roughly fifty members of the public and local media. The meeting began with introductions and a welcome by the Chairman of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee – Andy Weil. Andy provided a short description of what a Comprehensive Plan was and why the Town was undertaking its update. Max Stach, AICP explained the purpose of the focus area charette, and discussed the elements of a community which are typically examined and considered throughout the course of a charette. Matthew Ryan, AICP, described the process and existing conditions research that the consultant team had undertaken thus far, reported on the progress of the Steering Committee in developing and finalizing a Vision Statement, Goals and Objectives as a framework for the Comprehensive Plan Update, introduced the four focus areas for discussion, and provided instruction on the procedure for the focus area charette. Additional background was also provided as to the results of the first public meeting at which a SWOT Visioning workshop was conducted; paper copies of the Raw Results Report which compiled and summarized the findings of the initial Visioning workshop were made available to those interested, while the consultant team guided members of the public to visit the Town’s website to view and obtain copies of the document as



Andy Weil’s opening remarks at the Charette: September 15, 2016



well as other relevant documents developed throughout the process of the Comprehensive Plan Update.

METHOD

Prior to the meeting, a number of tables had been set up around the Town Hall meeting room. As attendees entered the meeting room, they chose places at various tables. It was explained, that attendees interested in discussion pertaining to one particular focus area were also free to rotate among the other tables at which the three other focus areas were being discussed. While many members of the public chose to discuss one focus area due to familiarity, residency and/or knowledge of the locale, several individuals made their way from one breakout table to another.

One member of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee was assigned to each group as a facilitator, while another was assigned to each group as a note taker. The majority of the breakout groups were additionally assisted by members of the consulting team. The facilitators began the breakout discussions by introducing themselves and having each member present at the group introduce themselves and provide a brief statement as to their interest or familiarity with the particular focus area. Ground rules for respectful conduct were given and enforced. In order to avoid groups from being "steered" by members of the Comprehensive Plan Committee, facilitators were asked not to contribute their own opinions to the group discussion.

The facilitators then led their group through the Charette and solicited public input, opinion, and feedback on the selected focus areas. This exercise had facilitators both prompting group discussion on the conceptual ideas and visions developed by the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee for the particular focus area, as well as gathering additional public comments pertaining to other major community needs, concerns, or ideas within that focus area. In order to gather and record all input, the note takers at each breakout table utilized large post-it pads upon which each public comment was written as it was received.



Bloomingsburg Break-out Group: September 15, 2016

Each of the focus area breakout tables was also provided with two (2) large 30" X 42" maps of the focus area, specifically a base map with the most recent aerial orthoimagery, and a community asset map which labeled and depicted major community facilities and establishments. Participants at each breakout table were encouraged to mark up and write on these maps as a means of communicating any location-specific comments or knowledge related to streetscapes and roadway conditions, protected open space and parks, pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, trail corridors, parking lots, existing and/or proposed businesses, stores, and emergency services. Many of the graphic mark-ups on the maps, explained below, were crucial towards accurately assessing and documenting existing conditions in the focus areas as

well as the potential to develop or integrate site-specific examples and locations at which particular visions for the focus area could be implemented.

Groups were given approximately five minutes for introductions and roughly forty-five minutes to review and gather input on their specific focus area. Time periods were not strictly enforced. With some groups proceeding more slowly than others, an additional five minutes was added at the end of the process to allow groups to finish.

Following the group discussions, the consultant team instructed each breakout table to report on the recorded notes and input received throughout the charette. Each focus area breakout table was given approximately eight minutes to explain the findings that were gathered throughout the exercise. With some groups taking slightly longer to report on the vast amount of ideas and concerns gathered, the facilitators and note takers at each breakout table made an effort to summarize each point as quickly as possible.

Upon completion of the charette exercise and the reporting of the focus area breakout discussions, the consultant team provided a brief outline of the next steps involving the Comprehensive Plan Update process, announced the close of the meeting, and reminded the group of the availability of Existing Conditions and SWOT Visioning documents on the Town website. A suggestion box on the website was also advertised for those that wished to provide more input. It was announced that the results of the charette workshop would be posted once they were compiled. There was also time for attendants to engage members of the steering committee one-on-one informally.

Lastly, Chairman Weil thanked all attendees for coming and closed the meeting. It is noted that the responses set forth below are paraphrased notes of more robust discussions held at the meeting. Since the Steering Committee members and consultant team were directly involved as facilitators, these discussions will be reflected by the continuing involvement of the group facilitators as Steering Committee members.



Participants Reporting on Focus Area Findings: September 15, 2016

RESULTS

These are the raw results from the exercise and no analysis of results is offered at this time. The comments provided for each focus area were reported at the respective breakout table. It is important to note that some public comments and observations reported for one focus area were likewise reported in one or more additional focus areas; while topically these comments were similar, many comments were also accompanied by graphic illustration or marking of the maps which indicated specific locations at which the provided comments were intended to reference.

Bloomingsburg Village Center & Surrounding Areas

Accessibility Beyond Vehicles

- Wider Roads
- Sidewalks needed along South Road / Winterton Road
- Sidewalks needed from Bloomingsburg Village to Town Park
- Crosswalks, Signaling, and Re-Paving for Pedestrian Linkages
- Lighting for pedestrians is needed

Residential Support

- Bicycle Racks as an amenity
- Walking Path Around the (Mamakating Town) Park
- Dog Park
- Workout Stations in Mamakating Town Park

Proposed Development and Community Character

- Stick to Current Zoning around Bloomingsburg – surrounding land uses are suitable
- Keep the community as a rural place with crossroads

Community Facilities and Public Places

- Access to Firehouse for large / community meetings
- Re-invigorate Bloomingsburg restoration

Parks and Recreation

- Walking Paths
- Dog Park
- Farmers Market at park
- Access for Water Recreation & Fishing on the Shawangunk Kill
- Revitalize Tunnel as part of Rail Trail Development between Bloomingsburg and Wurtsboro
- Lookout and Picnic Areas

Infrastructure

- Fix Roads, Better Signage, Wider Roads
- Full Interchange for Exit 115 on Route 17 (Quickway)
- Fix bridges off of Winterton Road, Bronner & Winters Lane
- Weight Restrictions for local roads
- Internet and Broadband services are needed for the Village and surrounding areas

Historic Structures and Landmarks

- Historic House signage needed, e.g. Fort Rosa
- Rosa Historic Zoe
- Methodist Church

Westbrookville Eco-Tourism Hamlet Center Concept

Sense of Community

- Rural Character
- Institutions, Post Office & Fire Company
- Post Office is already a Center – how can we expand upon this role / magnitude?



- Historic Buildings; e.g. Church, Fort
- Recreation Opportunities: Trails, Boating, Parks are all adjacent to the hamlet

How do we make Westbrookville a Center?

- Concessions for bike & boat rentals
- Provision of additional parking areas
- Visitor Center
- Fishing “dock” lane on Haven Road to unblock the bridge
- Nature and Bird Watching as a marketable amenity
- Provide Critical Kiosks that are informational and updated
- Addition of a Bed & Breakfast to retain visitors
- Create some sort of festival that is unique to Westbrookville
- Create a Town Park in the Hamlet

Economic Niche

- Bicycle Shop to purchase, repair and rent
- Boat Shop to purchase and rent
- Bait Shop and Fishing Equipment
- Eateries, Ice Cream & Candy Shop to strengthen the economic core of the Center
- Set Up South Road / Haven Road Visitor Center:
- Information displays, videos, maps, community room, workshops
- Larger, more welcoming signs at the gateways to the hamlet: “Welcome to Westbrookville”
- Signs that list the attractions of the hamlet
- Deli Sign: “Welcome Birders/Bird Watchers”

Transportation

- Potential for Parking Area with Shuttle to Basha Kill?
- Upgrade trails to be bicycle friendly
- Provide designated bike lanes on Route 209 and South Road
- Consistent Signage for Motorists, Cyclists and Pedestrians
- Lower Speed Limits on Route 209, especially at Hamlets and Intersections
- Make maps available at local businesses
- Other Options:
 - Taxis; Park & Ride for Tourist Bus; Connection with Metro North Railroad

Business

- Organize Home Businesses (community website or Facebook)
- Create a Survey for Community Input (e.g. SurveyMonkey)
- Places for Stopping to eat while biking, hiking or kayaking
- Zoning needs to facilitate Ecotourism to allow B&B, eateries, other businesses, etc.
- Chamber of Commerce / Board of Trade (expand on Wurtsboro BoT)
- Technological Integration (apps for what’s available in area)
- Address light pollution from businesses
- Need for a Healthcare Facility in the Hamlet (Urgent Care)



Wurtsboro Village Center & Surrounding Areas

- Wurtsboro is the Town Center / Crossroads
- Year-Round Business Cycle (varying needs throughout the year)
- Strengthen Youth & Senior Activity Centers
- Need for a Town Park on the Wurtsboro side of the Shawangunk Ridge
- Organic Gathering Places
 - Library
 - Stewart’s (AM)
 - Danny’s (PM)
- Need for a Community Garden
- Local Development Corporation: would facilitate obtaining grants to preserve downtown structures and other improvements, including low interest loans
- More Senior Housing, but within Walking Distance of the downtown core
- Town-Wide Transportation – is this feasible / possible?
- Good Walkable Downtown is Essential – sidewalk and crosswalk amenities
- Trail Hub for Hiking and Biking – could this benefit from a picnic / camping area?
- Encourage Eco-Tourism will help both the Town and the Village
- More parking opportunities and a sidewalk near ballfields – for pedestrian safety
- Look at role and needs of New Town Park along the Heritage Corridor
- Boat, Bike, Canoe and Kayak Rental Opportunities are needed to serve the Village and Town

Summitville-Phillipsport Historic Hamlet Concept

Existing Historic Resources

- O&W Railroad (Trail)
- D&H Canal
- Mamakating Historical Society
- Phillipsport Community Center
- Two Historic Methodist Churches (circa 19th Century)
- Historic Cemetery
- Individual Historic Homes
- Canal Museum at Bova Road
- Homowack Kill / Weir Boothroyd’s Boat Basin
- Handbuilt Stone Locks & Aqueduct
- Horse Training Track

Recommendations

- Restore Pleasure Lake
- Create Inventory of Historic Places in Phillipsport and Summitville
- Develop Support to encourage commercial properties such as general store for residents and tourists to use (currently there is no store)
- Designation of a Historic District
- Create a Trail Map for the hamlet
- Creation of a bungalow museum – show life in the 1930’s – 10950’s
- Build Canal Boat



- Encourage hospitality for people to stay over (e.g. Homowack, B&B's etc.)
- Enhance Mamakating Historical Society usage, including commercial use (Café, etc.)
- Improve and Add Parking Areas for Trails and Trail Access
- Railroad Museum (O&W)
- Encourage interesting activities for young people
- "Haunted History" to add to concert at Cemetery
- Bicycle rental areas at Summitville (parking area), at Hotel, and in Wurtsboro
- Signage: ask Cornell Cooperative Extension for financial assistance
- Create a Pictorial Guide of the Canal and the history of it

