

Meeting Summary



Date: October 20, 2016

Project: Marlborough LWRP and Comprehensive Plan

Topic: Committee Meeting

Attendees: John DeMarco, deputy supervisor, Chip Kent, Daniel Pinnavaia, Rosemary Wein, Vivian Lanzarone

Consultant: John Behan, Allison Hargrave, Behan Planning and Design

Location: Milton on Hudson Train Station

Agenda: John Behan will give PowerPoint presentation on where we are to date with LWRP: goals and objectives, draft inventory and analysis; and issues and opportunities with discussion and input from committee. Review of upcoming town meeting and community forums.

John Behan gives presentation on progress of LWRP

Suggestions include: Highlight the town's assets: River, Farms, 9W. Marlborough is a small town that is in close proximity to many attractions (NYC, Walkway over the Hudson, Mountains, etc.), it is culturally rich.

Vision Statement: Attendees felt the draft vision statement fit the town well.

Goals:

1. Strengthen Connections with the River -

Discussion: Opinions towards the river have changed as waterfront uses have changed, but many people in the town believe the river is inaccessible due to lack of development and private ownership of waterfront property. Attendees felt the access that does exist at both hamlets is not as widely known by townspeople as it could/should be and that the plan could include actions to improve awareness of the river access in addition to physical access improvements.

2. Hamlet Revitalization -

Discussion: A lot of people walk around Milton hamlet, but people drive too fast, sidewalks are a great addition. Sidewalks could also be an attraction, to encourage folks to visit the hamlet and walk between attractions. There's more going on in the town that we think and the more walkable it can be made the better. Improving lighting should be part of this.

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It was mentioned that ideal places for sidewalks in Milton would be from the firehouse to Buttermilk Falls and from Milton at 9W to the waterfront. Visualizations of what this might look like will help people understand the project better.

Discussed property tax situation—important to work on increasing NYS aid for the school district and increase tax base of town—and also recognize the town share of Marlboro School District is shared with other towns by almost 50% (once state/other aid is figured in.)

3. NYS Route 9W Corridor Improvements –

Discussion: State and Federal Investment. Study will look at future design and safety. Better design to reduce speeds through hamlets. Coordinate this project with sidewalks and lighting. Look into state program for LED lights. JD noted that the replacement of existing high pressure sodium bulbs with LEDs on pedestrian-scaled fixtures would save money over the years.

4. Celebrate and protect natural and cultural resources –

Discussion: Highlight the landscape of the town – uplands, mountains, vineyards and farms. This is a really important part of Marlborough. Vivian can take pictures of some of the “landscapes of Marlborough” and Meet Me in Marlborough is working with aerial photographers on a video.

5. Enhance agricultural uses –

Discussion: Look at strategies that combine all of the town’s strengths. Expand agritourism in the town – farm stays, B&Bs that are associated with farms/vineyards. Explore funding options for conservation easements/purchase of development rights (PDR). Look at the agricultural commons approach to development. Consider food, dining establishments—e.g. farm to table restaurants as a growth opportunity for town.

Upcoming Meetings:

5:30 time slot works moving forward for committee members.

Town Meeting – proposed date: **November 17th** (this would replace scheduled committee meeting).

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Preliminary Agenda:

- 15 minute overview of plan/process
- Describe the grants that have been awarded to the town for previous projects and for the LWRP. Explain to people where the money for these plans is coming from. Howard Baker has an inventory of grants received by the town thus far.
- Breakout groups if there are enough people with a committee member to take notes.

Community Forums (December- dates not yet set)

1. Economic Development, Hamlet Revitalization and Waterfront Access
2. Housing and Community Services