



CITY OF PORT JERVIS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ZONING CODE UPDATE

CITY-WIDE PUBLIC MEETING
MAY 09, 2018, 7:00 PM

SUMMARY NOTES

Meeting Location: 134 Pike Street, 2nd Floor
Meeting Attendees: Valerie Maginsky, Director, Port Jervis Community Development Agency; Kristen Trovei, 3rd Ward Common Councilmember; and approximately 8 members of the public (sign-in sheets attached).
Consultants: Robert J. Murphy Jr., AICP (Barton & Loguidice), Chuck Voss (Barton & Loguidice), and Melissa Herreria (Courtney Strong, Inc.)

The goal of this workshop was to receive public input on the vision statement, the four goals drafted by the Steering Committee, and the recommended actions/objectives associated with each goal.

Presentation

After welcoming everyone, Robert J. Murphy Jr., (B&L) started the meeting with a presentation that included:

- Meeting Purpose and Agenda
- Introductions – Comprehensive Plan Update Committee and Project Team
- Project Update – Summary of the December 2017 public meeting and progress of the Steering Committee
- Description of the draft Vision, Goals, and Objectives

Brainstorm: Setting a Vision for Port Jervis

Following his presentation, Mr. Murphy facilitated a discussion with the audience to receive feedback on the four draft goals. Each goal and the recommended actions for each goal were presented and community members were asked to provide feedback on their preferences and priorities for each. The audience took turns providing suggestions. Their ideas were recorded on large easels.

The four draft goals described were:

1. A downtown with vibrant business activity and quality housing choices.
2. A small, urban community that is connected to its Delaware River Waterfront, has a strong relationship with the natural environment, and a unique sense of local identity.
3. Stabilized and strengthened neighborhoods that ensure safe and affordable housing with walkable access to parks, schools, neighborhood commercial establishments, and services as well as connections to downtown.
4. Efficiently and effectively maintained civic infrastructure that provides quality services, encourages economic development, and mitigates the effects of natural disasters.

Summary of Group Discussion for Each Goal

Goal #1 – A downtown with vibrant business activity and quality housing choices.

- Simplify and clarify the codes; clarify being the key word
- Address challenges to local small businesses
 - Customer base – increase residential occupancy downtown
 - As density rises, be mindful of increased noise concerns
 - Taxes on clothing (currently competing with NJ and PA taxes)
 - New York State-wide Cross-border Enterprise Zone
 - Been pursued before, but still merits inclusion in Comp Plan
- Encourage full-time businesses
- Need to utilize city's strengths and local assets
- Capitalize on Port Jervis' regional amenities
- Capitalize on Weekend and second home resources
 - A captive consumer base with disposable income
- Add "exurban" to the vision statement
- Welcome home-occupied businesses
 - Address explicitly in zoning code update

Goal #2 – A small, urban community that is connected to its Delaware River Waterfront, has a strong relationship with the natural environment, and a unique sense of local identity.

- Suggestion to make the connection between "assets of natural environment" to "unique local identity"
- Wording of goal #2 did not resonate with the group. They requested goal be rewritten to emphasize the natural amenities, beyond just Delaware River
- More developed public spaces in the natural areas combined with intentional business and commercial uses to compliment those areas
 - "Purposely-sited" public and private waterfront spaces, zoning code can perpetuate this
- Neversink River is an untapped and often overlooked resource
 - Needs more access
 - Delaware River is more "usable and accessible" at a human-scale than the Hudson River

- Utilize parks
 - In addition to vehicle access from Skyline Drive, Elks-Brox Memorial Park has pedestrian access that most people are unaware of
 - Hiking trail up the mountain behind St. Peter's Lutheran Church on West Main Street on Point Peter Trail
 - From parking lot on Reservoir Ave
 - Port Jervis has 27 miles of trails Watershed trails are up to approx. 40-miles, 6.5 – mile Heritage Trail, 2.25-mile Walking Loop, 0.9-mile D&H Linear Park
 - Laurel Grove Cemetery as a recreational resource, contemplative park space, approximate one-mile radius walking/ADA loop
- Asian tourists, immigrant communities and countries with I Love NY International offices. How can we better accommodate them?
 - Bus tour coordination
 - Provide that "American small town" experience, in the central business district in particular

Goal #3 – Stabilized and strengthened neighborhoods that ensure safe and affordable housing with walkable access to parks, schools, neighborhood commercial establishments, and services as well as connections to downtown.

- Queuing areas for buses, Uber, Lyft access to train station
- Adequate parking downtown to support people coming in from the neighborhoods
 - Shared parking opportunities
- Offer incentives for the redevelopment and homeownership of the city's housing stock
 - Expand the "home-ownership program"
 - Explore options like the City of Peekskill Artist's District
 - Artist housing with space for studio work
 - Enable in code and market its availability
- Maintain diversity of housing stock and population
 - Not only ensure the availability of a variety of housing options at various income levels, but maintain Port Jervis' position as a "Welcoming Community"
- Encourage industry that doesn't solely cater to tourism
- Availability of parking is a key concern of downtown property owners

Goal #4 – Efficiently and effectively maintained civic infrastructure that provides quality services, encourages economic development, and mitigates the effects of natural disasters.

- Master plan for sewer and water infrastructure upgrades
 - Concern over lead pipes in water system and sanitary sewer overflows
- Hide utilities underground or to the rear of properties
- Explore solar/green energy
- Need to add an Objective that describes the City's commitment to renewable energy and energy/natural resource conservation
- Become a Climate Smart Community. Pursue funding under this program as well as the Energize NY Program

Wrap-up comments and adjournment

- The Community Survey is available online until May 17th, 2018. The group was encouraged to share with their neighbors.
- Next Committee Meeting:
 - Tuesday, June 19, 2018, 7:00pm-9:00pm
 - Port Jervis Rec and Community Center, 134 Pike Street, 2nd Floor
- The meeting was completed and adjourned at about 9:15 PM.