

Meeting Summary



Date: December 15, 2016

Project: Marlborough LWRP and Comprehensive Plan

Topic: Community Forum 2: Housing, and Youth and Community Services

Attendees: Al Lanzetta, town supervisor; Howard Baker, town council; Cindy Lanzetta, Rosemary Wein, Jerry Wein, John DeMarco, James Garofalo, Mici Simonofsky, Joe Wiles, Mark Reynolds.

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

Location: Marlboro Elementary School Cafeteria – 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Agenda: Welcome and refreshments, Behan Planning and Design presentation, Round table discussion, wrap up and next steps.

John Behan from Behan Planning and Design Presents

- Overview of LWRP and Comprehensive Plan update
- Vision statement and study area
- Preliminary plan elements
- Overview of housing and community services

Group Discussion

Affordability:

- Taxes play a large role in the affordability of housing in Marlborough—in particular school and county taxes.
- Is there a story to tell with affordability/tax rates over time? This affordability issue has been affected by the redistribution of taxes after the valuation reduction given to the power plant in Newburgh after it was sold/shut down.
- There are not a lot of businesses in the town sharing the tax burden—adding to this tax assessment base would help.
- There are things the town can do to help with affordability issues (land use policies via the comprehensive plan, advocate to economic development, etc.)
- Town assessor says foreclosures are selling fast – can we look at foreclosure data? (town vs county vs state vs nation?).

Meeting Summary



Community Services

- There are a lot of activities for seniors like bingo and trips, but not active/ exercise activities.
- Transportation costs are an issue for seniors – e.g., cabs to grocery stores are expensive.
- Town sponsored activities at TOMVAC center (ZUMBA, martial arts, etc.), but the building is for sale. Discourages new activities/classes to locate here for fear the building would be sold.
- There was a discussion among the attendees that the TOMVAC is a good location for recreational activities.

Community Youth Services:

- High interest in a “drop-in” type facility for teens like that established in Woodstock – would give kids in town who don’t play sports a safe place to go.
- Location is a problem - Need a place to put it- preferably in a central location where kids can walk to it -- (near high school, library, in a hamlet).
- Doesn’t have to be huge—does not have to be a full service recreation center— more of a coffee house type of setting with places for activities, a place where kids can connect with a potential job (job board).
- Long term would need funding for employees (could be staffed initially with volunteers, high schoolers for National Honors Society who need volunteer hours). Funding could come from county youth bureau, department of social services, donors, etc.
- Different ages have different recreational needs, there is a need for services for younger kids also:
 - Some parents of younger kids go to Fishkill for play group type of space.
 - Frida’s upstairs has a play are for young kids, a lot of parents go there.
 - Library has programing for young kids.
- Youth population and enrollment in Marlboro Central School has been declining and is projected to continue to do so. What are the pros and cons of adding more students?
 - Unit cost per student
 - Can we find state-level enrollment projections to compare to local trends?
 - What would the effect on school taxes be if enrollment increased? Or if it continued to drop?

Meeting Summary



- How can we get school aged kids more involved in the LWRP/Comprehensive planning process? (Discussed setting up a meeting with HS students in January after school—perhaps in coordination with an honor society or student council meeting.

The Local Waterfront Revitalization Program is being prepared in cooperation with the New York State Department of State with funds provided under Title 11 of the NYS Environmental Protection Fund.