

NY Forward – Capital Region - Schuylerville

Subject	AGENDA LPC Meeting #2	Date	Tuesday, July 16, 2024
Place	Saratoga Town Hall 12 Spring St, Schuylerville	Time	12:00-2:00pm
Distribution	<u>Local Planning Committee</u> Dan Carpenter, Mayor (co-chair) Michael Lyons (co-chair) Pam Pradachith-Demler Jamie Rock Todd Shimkus Greg Connors Caitlin Johnson Lori Schultz Cindy Wian Alex Zuis Nathan Kocak	<u>State Team</u> Matthew Smith, DOS	<u>Consultant Team</u> Ian Nicholson, Buro Happold Isabel Mulay, Buro Happold Daniel D'Oca, Interboro
		<u>Public</u> 6 individuals	

Meeting Summary:

Please see 'SV_LPC Meeting 2_Slides_record' for the presentation shared during the meeting, which parallels the discussion summarized below.

*Action items are called out in ***bold-italic highlight****

Welcome and Agenda

Ian (BH) welcomes the group to the second New York Forward LPC meeting. He reminds the room that these meetings are open to the public, but not intended to be public interactive workshops.

He then briefly overviews the meeting agenda.

Opening Remarks

Mayor Carpenter (LPC Co-Chair) welcomes the LPC and thanks everyone for being there to contribute to the New York Forward process.

Code of Conduct

Ian (BH) reads the Code of Conduct preamble, and reviews key points from the Code of Conduct that LPC members are expected to abide by.

Guidance is delivered regarding conflicts of interest and recusal, although emphasis is placed on the importance of recusal during the third LPC meeting when potential projects are discussed. LPC members are reminded to sign and return their Code of Conduct form if they have not done so already.

Planning Process Updates

Ian (BH) reviews the NYF timeline of actions since May 27th, including the website going live, the first LPC meeting, and the first public workshop. He also informs the LPC that only 2 sponsors have attended technical sessions with him and Matt Smith (DOS) to discuss potential projects. He then outlines the upcoming steps in the planning process, the next of which is the deadline for projects to be submitted on Aug 2nd.

Ian also shares a calendar illustrating the vision of how the NYF program will proceed, placing today's meeting in context of the overall process.

The LPC shares concerns about the number of project proposals that will be submitted.

- One member asks what would happen if the submissions did not meet the grant total. Matt (DOS) says that has not happened before, but if it occurred in Schuylerville, they could potentially reopen the call for projects.

There is also concern regarding the August 2nd deadline.

- Community perception is that projects included in the application will be the ones selected, leaving no room for other sponsors who may be interested in the grant.
- There is also a barrier to entry for small businesses – both financial and administrative. Many of the small businesses in Schuylerville have difficulty finding cash flow to fund projects.
- The consultant team suggests that this grant provides an opportunity to partially fund projects, and stack other grant opportunities on top. The team reminds LPC members to continue to encourage potential sponsors to apply before the deadline, regardless of funds.
- The LPC also asks about the small projects fund, and Ian (BH) says that property owners should submit an interest letter to prove that the fund would be utilized.

Schuylerville's NYF Boundaries / Map

Ian (BH) presents a map of Schuylerville's current NYF boundaries for LPC members to comment on. He informs members that they can extend boundaries during the next LPC meeting as well, while

reviewing project submissions. The LPC discusses the various businesses that are not currently included in the NYF boundary. They decide to move the boundary from Burgoyne Street to the Y where Horicon Avenue splits from Broad Street, and to include the commercial properties up Spring St.

Consultant team to adjust NYF boundary and maps

Public Workshop #1 Overview

Dan (Interboro) provides a brief overview of the first workshop for the LPC members who were not in attendance. He explains the breakout activity, where participants wrote observations and thoughts on comment and dream bubbles and placed them spatially on a map. He also shares the number of participants (24 community members) and the consultant team that attended the workshop. Photos from the workshop are shared.

The team received 77 comments from the workshop participants, with the top three focused on pedestrian experience, public recreation infrastructure, and a senior center. The accompanying map showing where the comments were concentrated is shared, zooming in on the locations with the top three categories of comments.

Consultant team to provide LPC with raw data from workshop

Dan presents the key themes synthesized from the activity: improving walkability of downtown, infrastructure and public amenities, and new development.

Feedback on the preliminary goals is also presented. Community members were split in deciding which goal to select; six chose renovate downtown buildings, five selected promote tourism along the trails and Hudson River, four picked preserve historic and cultural resources, and four chose conserve environmental resources for outdoor recreation. There were also a few additional goals that were proposed by community members.

Visions and Goals

Ian (BH) presents the preliminary downtown vision from the NYF application. He presents four alternative vision statements for the LPC to discuss and workshop. Members agree that the third alternative is the most viable but appreciate the condensed nature of option four. The LPC decides, after some tweaking, that the modified third alternative will be the final vision:

"Anchored in history, the Village of Schuylerville embraces its legacy and picturesque setting to foster an environmentally resilient and vibrant community. Nestled along the Hudson River, Schuylerville will offer a walkable, family-friendly environment with a variety of outdoor recreation, housing, and job opportunities to support year-round tourism, small business owners, and a diverse community of families, workers, and artists."

They also decided that a modified option four should be used as a tagline for marketing purposes:

“Nestled along the Hudson River and anchored in history, downtown Schuylerville offers a walkable and vibrant community in which to raise a family, start a business, experience the arts, and enjoy the beautiful outdoors.”

Ian (BH) presents the preliminary downtown goals adapted from the NYF application. He highlights the top three selected by the community at the workshop. The goals are compared to key themes identified at the workshop. Using this information, LPC members discuss alterations to the existing goals. Finalized goals are drafted from this discussion:

- **Improve infrastructure for pedestrians and bicyclists**
- **Expand public amenities for outdoor recreation and gathering along the trail and river**
- **Embrace infill development and renovations focused on local businesses and workforce housing**
- **Craft a welcoming identity through promotion of the arts and placemaking**

Topics discussed include:

- History and culture
 - Should not be as emphasized in the goals – maybe as a strategy instead
- Infill development
 - Should be explicitly mentioned
- Pedestrian and bike infrastructure
 - Wayfinding / connectivity / signage
- Tourism
 - Hotels are not at full capacity, maybe tourism should not be part of the village goals

Downtown Profile and Assessment

Isabel (BH) presents research done for the downtown profile. She explains the purpose of the downtown profile section.

Review of history & trajectory, recent plans and investments, alignment with REDC, geography & ecology, architecture & urban form, streets, circulation & parking, parks & open spaces, land use & zoning, socio-economic conditions, employment & commuting, and real estate market.

Isabel (BH) discusses key observations drawn from the downtown assessment, emphasizing opportunities and challenges.

LPC members provide additional insight about the downtown profile. Note that more than zero residents walk to work – especially small business owners. Additionally, the LPC makes clear that businesses do not all have dedicated parking. One LPC member emphasizes the rich small business narrative that should be captured by the downtown profile.

LPC Q&A / Discussion

- Question regarding the workshop: did the consultant team take stock of who the participants were? Dan (Interboro) clarified that they did not, but that the survey community members can take has an optional question regarding identity. Those who attended the workshop agreed that seniors and business owners were well represented.
- Discussion about Schuylerville capturing Saratoga County's growth. There is opportunity here, as the village has a good school district, booming industries nearby, and cheaper housing compared to nearby communities. Potential to expand as a bedroom community.
- Discussion about Schuylerville small businesses. Many are struggling to survive, with very few employees and a customer base traveling from up to an hour away. These businesses need a denser community to stay afloat.
- Discussion about housing. Ultimate problem is that there's not many housing options. However, municipal water cannot take a large expansion outside of the village boundary. Apartments are probably the only viable option to draw in the younger generations.
- Discussion about Fort Hardy Park. Sports fields have the potential to bring in tournament families that could support the commercial corridor. The community center must be built first and will serve the youth and seniors. LPC members discuss which aspects of the master plan should be prioritized.
- Discussion about short-term rentals/hotels.
 - **Consultant team to conduct a high-level Airbnb / overnight hospitality review**

Public Comment

N/A

Closing Remarks

Mayor and consultant team thanks everyone for their time and commitment.

END OF SUMMARY