

MEETING RECORD

Village of Sleepy Hollow Comprehensive Plan and Waterfront Plan

Public Workshop #2

June 14, 2018, 7:15 pm, James F. Galgano Senior Center



On Thursday June 14, 2018, BFJ Planning facilitated the second public workshop for the Sleepy Hollow Comprehensive Plan and Waterfront Plan at the James F. Galgano Senior Center. The focus of this event was the downtown area of Sleepy Hollow and included a presentation on the overall process, a small group discussion to gather public feedback, and a report-back at the end to summarize input from participants. The workshop was attended by nearly 70 participants, including members of the steering committee, Board of Trustees, and the public. As in the first workshop, Spanish translation was offered in case members of the community felt more comfortable voicing ideas in Spanish.

Susan Favate, Principal of BFJ Planning, began the presentation with an overview of the comprehensive plan process and introduction of the Steering Committee and project team. The overview also included a description of the project timeline, with additional public workshops to be held in the fall of 2018. Ms. Favate then described the proposed structure of the Comprehensive Plan.

Simon Kates, Associate of BFJ Planning, followed by presenting the outreach process for both plans, and summarizing the input received from the community during the first workshop in May.

Lucia de la Mora, Urban Designer and Planner at BFJ Planning, presented an analysis of key elements of the downtown area based on the comments received in the first workshop and on-site surveys. The purpose of this analysis was to open the discussion to be held in small groups after the presentation in five proposed topics:

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- Boosting the Retail Market;
- Traffic, Parking and Circulation;
- Urban Design and Streetscape;
- Housing; and
- Quality of Life, Programming, and Activities.

Ms. Favate concluded the presentation by inviting members of the public to join one of the five small group discussions and announced the future public workshops to be held during the fall (dates to be determined), as well as the website where everyone can follow the project's development.

After the presentation, participants broke out into five tables to discuss issues and opportunities related to the topics discussed above. Each table included a member of the consultant team or steering committee to facilitate the discussion and a volunteer to summarize the discussion at each table.

Each table was provided with a large-scale map and a set of starter questions related to the discussion topic, a zoning map, an aerial view, large note pads, pens, and stickers. The objective at the small group discussions was to document the opinion of the participants with regard to the issues and opportunities of downtown Sleepy Hollow. All of the materials were available in English and Spanish.



After the small group discussions, Ms. Favate moderated a report-back discussion in which the volunteer from each table summarized the conversations held at the five tables, including each group's top two issues and opportunities.

Summary of Small Group Discussions

A few ideas were raised at multiple tables, indicating that many issues and potential solutions cut across several different topic areas. For example, many of the small groups discussed the need to improve connectivity between both the Tarrytown and Philipse Manor train stations and downtown Sleepy Hollow. Most of the tables also proposed a trolley to connect Tarrytown train station to key locations in Sleepy Hollow, including downtown, Edge-on-Hudson, and points to the north end of the Village (Kendal on Hudson and Phelps Memorial Hospital). It was noted by Mayor Ken Wray that a

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shuttle bus is required in the approvals for Edge-on-Hudson, so there may be an opportunity to expand that service to include other locations in the Village. In addition, attendants expressed their interest in denoting gateways at key entry points to downtown (Broadway and Beekman Avenue, Cortlandt Street and Wildey Sreet, and Valley Street and Wildey Street). Wayfinding signage and an information kiosk at the train stations were also mentioned as resources to attract and guide visitors. Improving walkability, bikeability and parking efficiency were discussed at different tables as well as enhancing access to the waterfront and parks, increasing the number of street trees, maintaining affordability to decrease overcrowding, and organizing walking tours with a historical perspective.

Following general discussion in the small groups, participants were asked to reach a consensus on their top two issues and opportunities in each topic area. The following summarizes the discussion at each of the small group discussions and the top issues and opportunities identified by each group.

Boosting the Retail Market

Most important issues to address:

- Disconnection of retail areas.
- Retail vacancies in downtown.
- Need for streetscape and façade improvements

Opportunities to build on:

- Increase density in downtown.
- Diversify retail businesses.
- Publicize local restaurants and shops to attract more visitors.

Traffic, Parking, and Circulation

Most important issues to address:

- Improving pedestrian conditions at problem intersections (Broadway and Bedford Road, Broadway and Pocantico Street).
- Speeding and traffic congestion at certain locations.
- Narrow streets and limited capacity of streets that will connect to Edge-on-Hudson (e.g., Continental Street).

Opportunities to build on:

- Improve connectivity to the regional context.
- Increase frequency of bus service.
- Reprogram traffic lights to coordinate with surrounding municipalities.

Urban Design and Streetscape

Most important issues to address:

- Uninviting and unclear connections between the train stations and downtown.
- Need to improve downtown cleanup with more public garbage cans and recycling bins.
- Improved maintenance of green space.

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Opportunities to build on:

- Improve the Village main corridors with complete streets design that includes rain gardens, art installations, street trees, wayfinding and improved gateways to upgrade the streetscape downtown.

Housing

Most important issues to address:

- Need to provide enough affordable housing in order to avoid overcrowding.
- Barriers in the zoning/building code prevent development.

Opportunities to build on:

- Diverse housing types support the multiplicity of cultures in the Village.
- Expedited permitting processes could ease the way for development that the community wants to see.
- The Village could engage school children in the planning process to promote civic engagement.

Quality of Life, Programming and Activities

Most important issues to address:

- Accessibility of activities for all ages, abilities, and economic brackets.
- Difficulties accessing public and open spaces within the Village.

Opportunities to build on:

- Potential to create walking tours, organized programming, and outdoor events in downtown.
- Opportunity to highlight Sleepy Hollow as a destination for festivals and food events.