

MEETING RECORD

Village of Sleepy Hollow Comprehensive Plan and Waterfront Plan

Public Workshop #3

October 2, 2018, 7:00 pm, James F. Galgano Senior Center



On Tuesday October 2, 2018, BFJ Planning facilitated the third public workshop for the Sleepy Hollow Comprehensive Plan and Waterfront Plan at the James F. Galgano Senior Center. The focus of this event was to present an overview of key content on both the Waterfront Plan and the Comprehensive Plan to receive input from participants. The workshop was attended by nearly 60 people, including members of the steering committee, Board of Trustees, and the public. As in the previous workshops, Spanish translation was offered for participants who felt more comfortable reading, writing, or voicing ideas in Spanish.

Mayor Ken Wray welcomed the participants and encouraged their engagement in the planning process.

Susan Favate, Principal of BFJ Planning, began the presentation with a summary of the overall planning process and introduction of the Steering Committee and project team. The overview also included a description of the project timeline, public outreach updates, and an introduction on what the recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan are, and what the Policies and Projects of the Waterfront Plan are.

Valerie Monastra, Director of Planning of VHB, followed by describing in more detail what a Waterfront Plan is, how it is outlined, and how its Policies and Projects work. Ms. Monastra then described the proposed updates to the Policies and Projects of Sleepy Hollow's Waterfront Plan, with a list of removed and new Policies, and a map and a list of proposed Projects.

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Simon Kates, Senior Associate of BFJ Planning, continued by presenting the Comprehensive Plan, its outline, and in particular the 10 Action Areas that serve to organize the analysis of the existing conditions and the recommendations of the Plan. Mr. Kates concluded describing the activities planned for the rest of the workshop, including an interactive open house with five stations, each of which described first ideas for the recommendations, policies, and projects to be proposed in the Comprehensive Plan and in the Waterfront Plan. The stations were organized by the 10 Action Areas:

1. Economic Resources
2. Housing and Neighborhoods
3. Land Use and Zoning
4. Connectivity
5. Parks and Open Space
6. Natural Environment
7. Sustainability
8. Community Resources
9. Municipal Services
10. Governance, Communication, and Transparency

After the presentation, participants broke out to visit the stations around the room to read, discuss, and write ideas about the proposed recommendations. Each station had a board with a list of recommendations, large note pads, and a member of the consultant team to facilitate the discussion and to answer questions.



After the interactive open house, Ms. Favate concluded the workshop thanking the attendants for their participation.

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Summary of the Interactive Open House

In general, the ideas expressed by the workshop participants supported the recommendations in the boards, and the opinions expressed in prior workshops. The following bullet points summarize the feedback written in the boards and pads

Economic Resources

- Preserve and highlight the historic character and diversity qualities of the Village as part of Sleepy Hollow's economic resources.
- Integrate the Inner Village with historic sites and the waterfront.
- Connect zoning and land use to support the revitalization of the Inner Village, including bringing more people to live, work, and play in the area.

Connectivity

- Improve walkability and bikeability, specifically in Route 9, Beekman, Cortlandt Street, Valley Street, Wildey Street.
- Implement Complete Streets policy that includes green infrastructure
- Improved parking regulation with a long term perspective
- Reduction of Vehicle Miles Traveled in the Village
- Collaboration with Tarrytown to improve regional connectivity

Housing

- Study the numbers of affordable housing that needs to be provided.
- Promote more diverse housing stock.
- Encourage mixed-use
- Clarify definition of "workforce housing" and "accessory apartments" on regulation

Land Use

- Identify land to preserve as forest and natural habitats
- Densify the Inner Village.
 - Beekman Corridor: Encourage commercial use on street level. Allow for at least 4-5 stories.
 - Cortlandt and Valley Corridors: Zoning bonuses or Form Base Code Overlay to encourage redevelopment and improved retail.
 - Hudson Street: Protect residents and local businesses. Promote Mixed-use.
- Adopt historic preservation laws to save buildings that have historic value.

Parks and Open Space

- Improve access to Parks and Open Space (Kingsland Park, Brook Trail, Old Croton Aqueduct, Peabody Field). Better walkability, bikability, and connectivity, including DeVries bridge.
- Improve access to water related uses: Kayaking, paddle boarding, public beach,
- Promote the preservation of open spaces that are accessible to diverse sectors of the population

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Natural Environment

- Develop a long term resilience plan for riverfront parks and developments along the waterfront.
- Prohibit/regulate business that produce pollutants disposed into catchment basins (Automotive businesses).
- Adopt Stormwater impact fees
- Require soft shoreline treatments whenever feasible
- Preserve open space

Community Resources

- Provide a space that can host TaSH year round
- Consider the public library as a partner for health programs

Municipal Services

- Explore consolidating Municipal Services with Tarrytown
- Adopt a Zero Waste goal
- Improve facilities and equipment for the Fire Department (Fireboat), and provide more benefits to personnel
- Explore shifting to a more progressive tax structure

Sustainability

- Develop a comprehensive and long term waste management strategy
- Encourage community solar power system
- Adopt policies to reduce carbon emissions
- Improve sustainable transportation infrastructure (Eco-Shuttle, EV charging stations)
- Plan for the impact sea level rising will have on the Metro-North Hudson Line.
- Review the zoning code to allow and encourage energy efficiency

Governance, communication and Transparency

- Support the improvement of the Village Website and better management of municipal data.
- Increase transparency in regards to the work Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow are doing to improve the connections between Tarrytown train station and Sleepy Hollow's Inner Village.
- Explore the possibility of having a community-based budget process as in NYC.
- Improve communication with and among neighborhoods.