

Joint Implementable Comprehensive Plan Town of Chautauqua and Village of Mayville

Steering Committee No. 4 – Wed., November 6, 6:30 p.m.

Hybrid: Carlson Center and Zoom

Notes

WELCOME AND PURPOSE

The purpose of this meeting was to review the outcomes of the recent public meeting and discuss how to incorporate the insight into the Key Issues. After a brief overview of the public meeting feedback and a project progress update, the group shared reflections on the community's input and considered the next steps for refining the Key Issues. The group explored strategies for addressing these priorities, including the creation of targeted surveys to gain deeper insights into community opinions on specific topics. This meeting also marked the transition to Phase II, which will focus on directing research efforts, continuing to engage relevant stakeholders, and determining additional information needed to create an effective draft plan.

PUBLIC MEETING

Jenni thanked the group for their time and efforts that went into making the public meeting a success. She reviewed the meeting setup and reminded everyone of a PDF results summary that had been shared previously. If you need a copy of the summary, please email Jenni. The following summarizes the results and conversation by Key Issue.

Economic Vitality

- Main Street enhancements and connections were top priorities for economic vitality, according to meeting attendees, followed closely by supporting and attracting new local businesses and sustaining local agriculture. Additional suggestions included promoting year-round commerce, offering more lakeside activities and dining options, ensuring clean lake water and expanding broadband access.
- The group noted that successful businesses tend to meet essential community needs, emphasizing that it's up to businesses to offer something that resonates with residents. Local economics shift with changes to people's daily routines – for instance, shorter lunch hours for county employees reduced foot traffic in Mayville's business district, impacting local shops and restaurants.

- Membership numbers for the Chautauqua County Chamber of Commerce have been flat or declined across the Town and Village, though this group is an important convener and remains a vital voice in economic vitality conversations.

Community Livability

- Public meeting attendees ranked strengthening recreational assets and expanding the tree canopy as top priorities for enhancing community livability. The public was also interested in creating activities and spaces for kids and teens—a “third space” outside of home and school—addressing the broader goal of retaining young people. Additional topics included questions about land use at the park, a need for more community events and opportunities for CLCS students to engage in local initiatives as volunteers.
- The group discussed several ideas to improve communication and connectivity within the community. The Visitors Bureau is a valuable resource for advertising existing events. A community billboard in the Village and/or an online newspaper could further promote activities and keep residents informed.
- A public comment calling for “less restrictive” zoning was not specific. This comment may have come from a business/restaurant owner, possibly regarding something such as parking restrictions. The group considered adding this topic to a Key Issue survey to gain further insight on local sentiment on regulations.

Mobility + Access

- Public meeting participants ranked building out the trail network and identifying daily destinations for walking and biking as high priorities for mobility. While complete streets and traffic issues garnered less attention, other comments highlighted key concerns, including crosswalk safety, the width of Route 394 and the need to improve the boat launch while addressing invasive species.
- Committee members noted that enhancing pedestrian safety, particularly through the installation of flashing pedestrian beacons, is an important focus. Crosswalk safety is a major concern for parents whose children cross a high-volume roadway to reach school on foot.
- Some public meeting attendees shared concerns about a trail system going around the lake (along the old rail line) related to property easements.
- The group discussed concerns about aggressive driving that design could improve, such as painting the bike lane green for better visibility. Improvements to state-owned roads will require local lobbying, negotiation and collaboration, along with establishing a clear vision in the plan for where interventions are needed, what the communities wish to accomplish and how it could look. The plan might include concept sketches that can help advance future projects.
- Increasing pedestrian flow uptown is important to the community and ties into other issues such as economic vitality and community livability.

- The parking lot in the Village is underutilized; the plan should identify strategies to encourage both residents and visitors to make better use of it.

Land Use and Development

- The highest priority for land use and development among public meeting attendees was to create a future land use map that prioritizes preservation, natural and historic resources, future investment and Smart Growth principles. People also believe it is important to improve lake water quality.
- Other comments included a desire to maintain the natural, rural aesthetic and preserve the area's charm. Most of those who commented on commercial-scale solar panels were opposed to the idea. There was also opposition to the development of the former golf course, as well as strong support for protecting the waterfront, lake and land.
- Public meeting attendees shared concerns about the impact of development on sewage systems, including potential effects on air and water quality. The County is currently conducting capacity studies to determine the system's ability to support future growth, which is an important consideration especially for the Village.

Other general comments from the public included tensions between the Town/Village/County and the Institution, the need for lake amenities and events, the desire for a parks commission and a note to consider the needs of underrepresented populations, including the Amish, youth and teens.

In final takeaways, committee members noted the success of the strong effort to draw turnout, also acknowledging how busy students and their families are at this time of year. Future public events may need a larger space.

KEY ISSUES

Discussion turned to whether and how insight gained from public feedback should inform the draft Key Issues, their vision statements and/or what topics each includes.

- Housing is a complex topic with new challenges, such as given the dozen or so Airbnbs that have recently emerged, constrained housing supply making it increasingly difficult to find options and changes in school enrollment. The group agreed to reframe the "Community Livability" key issue section to emphasize housing.
- The Village has already initiated work toward Pro-Housing certification with the state. Both communities saw the advantage of work together on this front and will coordinate submitted required materials for consideration. While the Town and the Village would need separate certifications, working in coordination can be a natural outgrowth from collaboration on the land use and housing planning that continues during the Comprehensive Plan.

- The group highlighted the need for connectivity between different areas, such as the Town and the park, and the importance of smart growth principles.
- The committee discussed how the plan should address Lakeside Park and potential expansion opportunity, also whether and how specifically to ask the public about this topic in a new survey. The park is managed by the Village Board but falls under the oversight of NY State Parks and Recreation, limiting what can be done.
- The Comprehensive Plan offers a chance to establish and refine a clear vision for recreation with a holistic perspective rather than a parcel-by-parcel approach.
- The consultant team will draft a list of key questions for the committee to consider based on the evening's conversation, taking into account the master plan already completed for the park and the projects underway to implement it.

WHAT'S NEXT

- Pashek+MTR will generate a list of topic survey questions and circulate them for review and comment. When the topic survey is ready, a link will appear on *ChautauquaMayvilleFuture.com* and can be shared on the Town and Village websites and social media. It can also be sent via e-mail blast to the growing list of project contacts.
- The consultant team will continue building out the project website and adding content, including public meeting results, past meeting minutes, summaries and reference documents.
- Jenni and Jim will coordinate with the Town and Village to determine how elected officials would prefer to receive an update. It is important at this stage of the process to ensure that the plan's Key Issues are on the right track and ensure that Board members are informed and engaged.
- The next Steering Committee meeting will focus on Phase II progress and where each of the Key Issues is leading.