



**FAYETTE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE
STEERING COMMITTEE
MEETING NOTES**

**December 19, 2022; 5:30p
TOWN HALL**

I. Review of Prior Meeting Notes

The committee received meeting notes as part of the agenda distribution. All members present concurred that the notes were accurate. Mr. Horn advised that he would distribute to the Town Clerk for posting on the Town website.

II. Develop Public Engagement Strategy

Mr. Horn noted that, while tools for engaging the public are similar from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, each engagement strategy must be tailored to the individual community in order for it to be effective.

The committee brainstormed the best methods for reaching the public. A draft of the engagement strategy discussed is attached.

III. Opportunity Definition Exercise

Steering Committee members engaged in a discussion surrounding priority policy areas for potential consideration during the comprehensive plan update.

The discussion yielded the following findings:

Strengths of Fayette:

- Strategic focus of current leadership
- The lakes (water quality, recreational opportunities)
- Farmland
- Wineries and breweries
- Historic and cultural attractions
- Small town vibe
- Location (crossroads of the Finger Lakes)
- Viewsheds (lakes, farmland, etc.)
- The Mennonite and Amish communities
- Engaged residents
- Wildlife
- Fresh water (springs)
- Friendly people
- Strong sense of community
- Productive soils
- Stone quarry (employment/economic impact)

Challenges on Our Current Path:

- Abandoned/Blighted properties
- Unkept properties
- Attitudes about property maintenance
- Misinformed opinions regarding taxes / property values
- Power infrastructure resilience
- Speeding and traffic impacts (particularly in hamlets)
- Property value and income inequity (lake vs. highland)
- Slow growth/population decline
- Housing availability/diversity
- Limited services
- Limited water and sewer infrastructure
- Stone quarry operational impacts (environment and land use)
- Absentee landlords
- Pollution (nitrogen and phosphorous)
- Invasive species (lake)

Opportunities to Accelerate our Vision:

- Stone quarry (future use)
- New housing

- Family activities
- Parks
- Cyclist amenities
- Small-scale retail
- Controlled development
- Gasoline and EV service
- Rehabilitation and reuse of underutilized properties
- Public access to the lakes
- Water/sewer/electric/broadband capacity enhancements

Threats to our Quality of Life:

- Development pressure on agricultural property

As the lists were completed, members were asked to identify their top priorities. Priorities included:

- Capitalize on strategic location
- Protect lake and other viewsheds
- Address property conditions
- Identify opportunities to develop new housing
- Enhance parks and cycling amenities
- Attract small scale retail
- Expand development while protecting agriculture and community feel
- Identify opportunities for adaptive reuse of historic and other structures
- Protect farmland from development encroachment

These issues will be further discussed as plan elements evolve.

IV. Activity Prior to Next Meeting

The MRB Group team anticipates developing an initial data set for steering committee review. At the next meeting, we will report on that progress, and calibrate initial findings with the committee. We will also review findings of a stakeholder survey regarding implementation of the 2006 comprehensive plan. Additionally, expect early action on the public engagement strategy.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for January 23rd at 5:30p at Town Hall.