



**FAYETTE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE  
STEERING COMMITTEE  
Meeting Notes**

**July 24, 2023; 5:30 pm  
TOWN HALL**

**I. Review of Prior Meeting Notes**

**MRB Group**

*The Steering Committee received meeting notes as part of the agenda distribution. All members present concurred that the notes were accurate. The MRB Group team will send the July meeting minutes to the Town Clerk for posting on the Town's website.*

**II. Review Public Forum 1 Report**

**MRB Group**

*Ms. Falkenstein reviewed the findings from the Public Forum 1 Report. She noted how much of the feedback gathered from the forum mirrored steering committee discussions. She emphasized how the main themes of the data focused on Fayette's location within the Finger Lakes Region, the Town's natural resources, the desire for more vibrant hamlets, and the need for more access to green space. She stated that feedback on the Town's areas of concern/ areas for*

*improvement focused on concerns over short-term rentals and lakefront properties, blighted properties, lack of local stores & entertainment, and concerns over natural resource conservation.*

*The Steering Committee engaged in discussion on how the public forum findings intersect with the Comprehensive Plan's Priority Policy Areas.*

*Additionally, the Steering Committee engaged in discussion to choose a vision statement for the Comprehensive Plan. Steering Committee members expressed a desire for the vision statement to be concise yet provide enough detail to guide future boards and the general public.*

*Following discussion, the Steering Committee decided to go with the shortest vision statement and Ms. Falkenstein stated that she would edit the statement to incorporate language from the long and medium-length statements and send it to the committee for review.*

### **III. Review Community Survey Report**

**MRB Group**

*Ms. Falkenstein reviewed the findings from the Community Survey. She noted that the survey responses were overall fairly positive and that the Town received a total of 57 responses. Ms. Falkenstein emphasized how many of the survey responses had similar themes to feedback from the Public Forum, as well as prior Steering Committee discussions. She stated that the survey themes centered on natural resource conservation, a desire for more vibrant hamlets and green spaces, and a strong desire to maintain the Town's rural/agricultural character.*

*The Steering Committee engaged in discussion regarding areas of improvement for the Town, such as hamlet revitalization, natural resource conservation, housing, and enhancing agritourism opportunities. She*

*noted that the survey brought to light concerns regarding short-term rentals, blighted properties, concerns regarding traffic and noise from the stone quarry, concerns regarding population decline, natural resource degradation, and loss of productive farmland to solar energy farms.*

*Additionally, the Steering Committee engaged in discussion regarding what maintaining the Town's rural/agricultural character actually means. Mr. Tidball mentioned that there can be a disconnect for residents unfamiliar with farming practices, as newcomers to the area can be surprised regarding what it means to live next to a working farm such as the noise and smell. He emphasized how the beautiful rolling landscapes that constitute the Town's rural character wouldn't be possible without active agriculture. The Steering Committee engaged in discussion regarding how to preserve farmland and promote natural resource conservation.*

#### **IV. Key Initiatives Brainstorm**

#### **MRB Group**

*Following the review of the Public Forum Report 1 and the Community Survey Report, the Steering Committee engaged in discussion regarding how the findings from the public engagement efforts can be incorporated into the Priority Policy Area Action Items. In particular, Steering Committee members were interested in creating more green spaces such as a Town park, creating more community spaces, adding to the regional trail network, exploring housing development, and enhancing hamlet revitalization through mixed-use development. The Steering Committee engaged in a discussion regarding concerns over the stone quarry and the possibility of creating a public park in the remains of the quarry. The Steering Committee also discussed the need for sidewalk*

*enhancements to facilitate walkability in the hamlets and greater efforts to encourage natural resource conservation.*

*Mr. Trout and Mr. Tidball emphasized how the Cornell Design Connect Hamlet study would be a great starting place for action items relating to hamlet revitalization efforts.*

**V. Schedule Public Forum 2**

**MRB Group**

Mr. Horn stated that the consultant team is interested in holding a couple of pop-up events at already scheduled community events rather than holding a second public forum to gather additional feedback on the Comprehensive Plan. He emphasized how holding pop-up events at community events can be a great way to engage with more people. The Steering Committee discussed possible pop-up events, such as Rose Hill Family Day and a couple of chicken BBQs. The Steering Committee decided that representatives should attend the Rose Hill event, a Sunday music day at the Muranda Cheese Company, and potentially a few more events in the fall.

The Steering Committee also engaged in discussion regarding holding a few stakeholder interviews with the farming and Mennonite communities. Mr. Tidball stated that he knew a couple of people who might be of help regarding these topics.

**VI. Activity Prior to Next Meeting**

**MRB Group**

*The MRB Group team will finish drafting the first part of the comprehensive plan including the planning process and vision & values chapter and draft the implementation matrix. The MRB Group team will begin working on the Town's key initiatives and prepare materials for the Rose Hill pop-up event.*

**VII. Other Business**

**VIII. Next Meeting**

Steering Committee Meeting 8/28/23