

City of Newburgh Sustainable Master Plan
LAND USE & NATURAL ENVIRONMENT FOCUS GROUP
Meeting summary for 11/09/2005

Attendees: Betsy McKean, Dieter Bussigel, Sara Pasti, John F. Caruso, Gail Fulton, Erica Powers, Ricardo Tegni, Alejandro Dron, Deb Cahill, Ian MacDougall

Meeting was held at City Hall at 6:30 PM in the third floor conference room.

It was discussed that we will reach out to adjacent communities and groups along the Hudson regarding natural environment and land use planning which will enable us to speak the same language and communicate better.

Database of members was updated. Following each meeting, minutes/summaries will be posted on the website.

The Local Coordination team that has been established so far includes Logan Miller, Sara Pasti, Juana Rocha, Betsy Mckean, Gwen Hallsmith and Ian MacDougall. Betsy and Ian are going to work with our focus group on regular basis. A Steering Committee of Key Stakeholders has been established to orchestrate the outreach in order to ensure community-wide coverage and participation.

John Caruso agreed to continue as our Group Facilitator. His responsibilities will include encouraging members to attend each meeting, running meetings and following-up with members on agreed action tasks.

Deb Cahill agreed to take notes, and it was discussed that this could become a rotating task. Duties include taking notes and maintaining current list of group members & contact information.

Future meetings will continue to be held at City Hall in the third floor conference room on the 2nd Wed of each month at 6:30 pm.

While reviewing the Visioning Questionnaire it was stated that those who choose to fill out this questionnaire have the choice of stating only their street and cross-street; a name is not required. Some funding is based upon location of needs. Other ideas will be discussed to help make the questionnaire more inviting. Betsy stated that we have a three month deadline goal on the questionnaire, with a public presentation of the results tentatively in March.

A draft list of Outreach Agencies was distributed to attendees and any one with additional information, comments or questions could E-mail Betsy.

HOMEWORK *Focus group members will approach one or two people with questionnaire and return it to the November 21st meeting to share experiences and participate in role-playing for approaching the community.*

Gwen's idea of an asset-based inventory was confirmed, and our group was given its Asset Inventory list. The purpose of inventory list is to decide strategy for each item listed. Several ideas were discussed:

- More community gardens or rooftop gardens to help reduce the importing of food and cut the cost of purchasing food. A volunteer will be needed to check building codes in reference to rooftop gardening;
- What various incentives can we use to bring services to Newburgh for example a cobbler;
- Urge community to use local grocers/services;
- Examine public spaces for land use either as residential, commercial, or open space;
- Address people living in storefronts – Beacon's zoning had transitional provisions for storefronts from dwelling space back into commercial;
- "Vision" needs to be further discussed in regard to Zoning and the Code;
- Establishing Community is the plan, and Zoning is one tool to achieve this plan;
- We would like intergovernmental agencies to communicate;
- Comprehensive plans are not a template, and each community is unique;
- More attention is needed for our Green Spaces and Viewsheds;
- Dieter introduced us to "Google Earth" topographical website which is free of charge [but requires a well-powered computer-ed];
- Necessary tools such as transportation, topographical, zoning, infrastructure and land use maps will be acquired, as well as possibly an aerial photo;
- Transportation Group will provide information regarding the various modes of transportation;
- Discussion of connecting the new ferry to Broadway to Stewart Airport and where "new" Route 84 connection will be;
- The use of mountain tops and tall buildings for tourism opportunities;
- We welcome Shade Tree Commission input: The Shade Tree Commission has jurisdiction over trees on public land; there are ordinances in other communities that protect trees throughout the community;
- Concerns for the protection of Mr. Downing Vaux's Broadway park;
- John recommended Scenic Hudson as a resource for waterfront questions;
- A Farmer's market location was discussed.

Meeting ended at approximately 8:15 PM and although members agreed to meet every 2nd Wed, we also agreed to meet at the next Stakeholders Combined Meeting on Nov 21st.