

NY Forward – Capital Region - Kinderhook

Subject	MEETING SUMMARY LPC Meeting #2	Date	Thursday, July 13, 2023
Place	Van Buren Hall, 6 Chatham St	Time	6:00-8:00pm
In Attendance	<u>Local Planning Committee</u> Mike Abrams, Mayor, Co-Chair Matthew Nelson, Co-Chair Kenneth Neilson Kevin Monahan Julia Joseph Ann Birckmayer Brad Lohrenz Gert Doriot Tracey Pratt Darren Waterston <i>Bill Laraway (absent)</i> <i>Michael Tucker (absent)</i>	<u>State Team</u> Matthew Smith, NY DOS Michael Yevoli, NY ESD <u>Consultant Team</u> Ian Nicholson, Buro Happold Daniel D'Oca, Interboro <u>Public</u> Alexander Anderson (?) Stephen Lang Grace Lang Ramiro Davaro-Comas Paul Greene Wendy & Dan Bopp Tim Hasband Richard Byrne Joe Wildermuth <i>(and others who did not sign in)</i>	

Meeting Summary:

Please see "KH_LPC Meeting 2_Slides_record" for the presentation shared during the meeting, which parallels the discussion summarized below.

Action items are called out in **bold-italic highlight**.

Opening Remarks

Mayor Abrams (LPC) delivers brief opening remarks.

The public website (www.KinderhookNYF.com) and email address for comments and questions (KinderhookNYF@gmail.com) is shared.

The Agenda for the meeting is reviewed briefly.

Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct preamble is read. It is noted that no conflicts or recusals have been declared, but that some will likely need to be filed during or in advance of the 3rd LPC Meeting, as the Open Call will have closed and proposed Projects will be known.

Updates: Planning Process & Engagement Activities

Review of what's been done so far, and what is on the horizon.

Overview provided of Public Workshop #1 held on 6/21

- Review of agenda, format, participants, and comments received.
- Analysis of comments revealed thematic focus on
 - Parks and open space
 - Village infrastructure
 - Community gathering spaces
 - Walk and bike-ability
 - Parking

Question about pushing the Open Call due date as some people seem to be concerned that they're missing info for their applications. Answer from Matt (DOS) and Mike (ESD) is that the due date is pretty firm and that sponsors are encouraged to submit the best application they can by that date, and the LPC will work with them to fill any gaps.

Discussion of Vision and Goals to be included in Strategic Investment Plan and used as a basis in evaluating proposed Projects.

- Ian (BH) shows original vision included in NYF application as well as a 2 proposed versions that condenses the language, while emphasizing the themes discussed in the Public Workshop. Invites LPC to discuss and provide feedback.
- Discussion about the historic significance of the Village, above and beyond any superficial charm – largely in tact historic fabric relatively unique.
- Discussion about rural vs agricultural.
- Discussion about arts vs culture.
- Final Vision statement agreed to by consensus of those present is as follows:

"The Village of Kinderhook's downtown will build on its natural beauty and significant historic, cultural, and recreational assets to attract residents and visitors from across the region. The vibrant Village Green will be the center of our unique and diverse community."

- Ian (BH) shows original Goals included in NYF application, a summary of priorities discovered at the Public Workshop, and a list of proposed goals that synthesize these sources. In asking for feedback, the LPC is reminded that these Goals will form the basis of 2-4 "revitalization strategies" each.
- Discussion about whether and how to include tourism in the goals.
- Discussion about whether and how to directly address job creation or business support.
- Observation that sustainability was missing from the language.
- Final Goals agreed to by consensus of those present are as follows:

"With an eye towards preservation, resilience, and sustainability:

- *Enhance the vibrancy of the historic downtown.*
- *Make our streets more comfortable and inviting for pedestrians and bicyclists.*
- *Provide community gathering and recreation spaces for all ages and backgrounds.*
- *Expand our role as a rural tourism destination."*

Special note: during the vision and goals exercise, the meeting was interrupted for about 10 minutes by a tornado warning, during which the group sheltered in a stairwell (meeting room is upstairs with large windows). High winds knocked over numerous trees and power lines in the area, including right in front of 2 Chatham St just next door to the meeting location. After re-convening, the Mayor was absent for another 10-15 minutes dealing with the weather emergency.

Downtown Profile & Assessment

Ian (BH) presents initial outline of the Downtown Profile and Assessment that will be included in the Strategic Investment Plan, including the structure, some graphics and images, and some key information.

Observed that the youth/family population seems to have exploded in the last couple years – data presented stops at 2021, so it would miss this emerging trend.

Observed that there is a lot of multi-family in Valatie, although most of it is senior housing. Generally observed that situating the NYF area within the larger Kinderhook-Valatie setting would be helpful to get a fuller picture.

Public Comment

Observed that the word “agriculture” encompasses many types of operations, some of which can be challenging for neighbors, including a local farm whose trucks frequently carry manure thru the Village, creating quite a nuisance. We may want to be more specific when we say things like “support agriculture” and the like.

Another observation that the House of History land is a huge opportunity to connect the Trail to the center of the Village.

Closing Remarks (LPC Co-Chairs)

Mayor thanks everyone for their time and commitment.

END OF SUMMARY