

Committee Attendance:

Edie Greenwood	John Midwood	John Crodelle
Dale Culver	Debbie Middlebrook	Ed Downey
Lance Middlebrook	Dianne Engleke	

Guest: George Kaye

Edie: First, we need to define the scope of our review. Second, we need to determine how much a planner will cost. Third, we need to conduct an open process with as much community involvement as possible.

Possible planners to consider: Ted Fink, Art Brod, Bonnie Franson, Nan Stolzenburg who has worked with Pine Plains and the Town of Ancram. Dale mentioned Will Agresta, the Planning Board planner who he has found to be very thorough and comprehensive.

Ed and Dianne agreed to help formulate questions for the planners we invite to meet with our Committee.

Edie lead a discussion of the Assets and Challenges/Needs of our community.

Ed mentioned the positive impact high-speed broadband internet access would have on businesses and schools.

Dale said all schools are electronically behind; they don't have the infrastructure.

Lance said it is in the makings; Wi-Fi boxes are on the telephone poles. Dale said the time frame for access is a concern; our area usually seems to be last on the list for improvements. John Midwood said it is on the Governor's radar. The Governor's plan is to have every community have access to high-speed broadband.

Lance said he will talk to Ken McLaughlin about wireless broadband and what the time line will be.

Edie asked John Midwood if he can circulate information about where the NYS is with broadband expansion.

Ed asked what areas are not served by high-speed broadband.

Lance brought up the topic of trash disposal and asked if anyone has spoken to someone from the Salisbury Transfer Station. George Kaye spoke up and said people have tried to coordinate with the new Salisbury Transfer Station and were turned away as it is in a different state.

Dale spoke about the possibility of shared services. Dianne said the North East Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) was discussing the possibility of having a shared transfer station with Pine Plains as the Pine Plains CAC is working on providing a transfer station. John Crodelle mentioned that Amenia has a transfer station. Dale said we need to identify the needs for shared services and work on cost-effective projects. George Kaye said the highway garage plans could include a transfer station.

Debbie Middlebrook stated the need to map the existing water lines in Millerton. Debbie said if it is mentioned in the Comprehensive Plan, it is easier to get funding. John Midwood has prioritized Millerton's water system needs with Assemblywoman Didi Barrett.

Dale mentioned that we should identify the village components. He noted a large influx of artists into the village.

Edie listed active civic organizations: The Millerton Business Association, North East Historical Society, Friends of Iroindale Schoolhouse, Townscape, Fire Department and the Harlem Valley Rail Trail.

Edie said she would like to get together with Dick Hermans and get his take on the community's assets and needs.

John Crodelle volunteered to go with Edie to meet with Dick Hermans of Oblong Books.

George Kaye talked about the EMS situation explaining that the service is expensive because there are so few calls. He said there are no subsidies currently available. John Midwood said there is discussion about setting up a regional

authority as a possible long-term solution and that such an authority would need NYS legislative approval. He said an intermediate solution would be the establishment of a citizen advisory committee. George said the county has created a study group for EMS needs.

Edie asked what rural communities will do when volunteer fire departments don't exist anymore. Dale said we need local jobs to keep people in the community and that would increase volunteers.

Dale said affordable housing and job opportunities go hand in hand. Edie pointed out that our population is aging and not growing. Dale mentioned the decline in school population. Fifteen years ago Webutuck had 1010 students and now has 700 even though pre-K has been added. Debbie Middlebrook wondered if the decline was because more parents were sending their children to private schools. Dale said that numbers in percentage terms has not changed much over the last five year period.

Edie said there is a need for housing appropriate for seniors. She also noted that Town and Village government buildings are in need of major repairs. Edie mentioned that there is no emergency shelter available.

Dale said there were numerous buildings used for agricultural purposes and thinks there should be a way to repurpose these buildings. He said the price to build buildings of this size would not be affordable. He mentioned that in central NY, some farm buildings have been repurposed and there is subsidized rent for people that live and work there. Lance mentioned the idea of an adaptive reuse ordinance and the possibility of converting churches into housing.

John Crodelle asked what the general feeling was about affordable housing funded by private individuals and subsidized. He also pointed out that the lack of a sewer system in Millerton is a serious problem. He said both Amenia and Millerton are in dire need of sewer systems. John said the septic runoff into the stream in the village and the aquifer are environmental issues that need to be addressed.

John Crodelle asked if there any grants to facilitate sewer construction. Ed said in the 1970s, there was a very active program that matched federal with state money. Forty years is considered the useful life of a septic; these systems have now aged out and he foresees there will be more funding available for sewer.

Dale asked Ed Downey about data available from the Dutchess County Wastewater Authority.

Dale said everything rotates around infrastructure. What we have has not been maintained. We should look at the possibility of putting electric, water and sewer underground in a way that could easily access when the need arises.

Meeting recap:

- Edie, Ed and Dianne will come up with questions for planners and will set up interviews.
- Lance will talk to Ken McLaughlin about wireless options.
- John Midwood will send us NYS plans for broadband and their timetable. Also any information he can find on State water and sewer system funding opportunities.
- John Crodelle and Edie will meet with Dick Hermans.
- Invite the Dutchess County agricultural navigator to the next meeting which will be held on April 27 at 4:00 PM.
- A digitized copy of the current Comprehensive Plan will be provided to each Committee member.

John Midwood mentioned that ride sharing Uber and Lyft will be brought upstate soon which would provide jobs and transportation.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.