

Committee Attendance:

Edie Greenwood	Dianne Engleke	Patti VandeBogart	Absent: Debbie Middlebrook
John Crodelle	William Kish	Stephen Waite	
Dale Culver	John Midwood		
Ed Downey	Mimi Ramos		

Guests: George Kaye, Mary Lynn Kalogeras, Rachel Berg

Chairman Edie Greenwood opened the meeting by stating that planner Nan Stolzenburg has pulled together materials for the Community Profile. A committee of John Crodelle, Edie and Dianne was formed to edit the profile.

Ed has drafted a vision statement for comment. He outlined that the statement should accomplish three things: (1) create an umbrella-like statement; (2) be aspirational - to be an expression of where we want to go; and (3) inspirational - when someone reads it, they will want to do what the vision statement states.

Dianne felt the statement should mention a commitment to resiliency of the economy and environment to the basic climate change since we are a climate smart community.

Steve's vision statement: The town of North East and its village of Millerton is (remains) a pastoral community with sweeping scenic views, a vibrant, walkable business center, and exceptional recreation attractive to tourists and residents of all ages. Its natural beauty, thriving cultural and economic diversity, proximity to a major metropolitan area, and welcoming character make it the ideal place to visit, live or establish a business.

Edie: She followed Ed's statement but added "Our vision for our community is an entrepreneurial spirit applied to a resource rich landscape. Located with 100 miles of a major metropolitan area the historic community of North East and its village of Millerton will prioritize the protection of or be sensitive to protecting our natural resources and will utilize a climate smart approach in its themes to development and growth. By 2035, our community will have drawn on its social, cultural and economic and diversity in a forward-thinking way. We strive to enable our residents and visitors to experience a community proud of its heritage and committed to serving its current and future generations with creativity, sustainability and opportunities." She wondered if tolerance rather than compassion should be added at the end.

Mimi: Compassion is a kinder word than tolerance.

Dianne: Liked opportunity, said it's aspirational.

Bill: The first sentence of Edie's vision statement could be looked at in several different ways.

Ed: The first sentence was intended to summarize the history of our community. We were an iron ore community and an agricultural community. Our landscape and resources are going to have an impact on how we grow and develop. The role of planning is to manage that growth. That's why this is written in a very broad way. We're not intending to make policy decisions here. We're trying to sketch the view of where we've come from and what we have ahead of us.

Dianne: Perhaps we should be talking about the wise stewardship of resources and farmland.

Ed: That's what the word sustainability was in there for; to cover a broad group of environmental issues.

Dale: We are a spirited and inclusive community that encourages each member to thrive and grow. We are rich in our history of natural resources. Our hopes and desires to protect those resources celebrate our history and enhance our present and plan a brighter future for all.

Mimi: Liked Edie's shorter sentences and that North East and the village came sooner in the paragraph. She said Steve's had good phrases and maybe could be incorporated into Ed's statement. She liked the way Dale used the word "we."

Dale: One of the things that constantly comes across is that there is a divide, whether it's weekend, local, village, town. We must get the "we" into the statement and the divisibility out of it; we need to be inclusive.

Edie: Likes the point about diversity; that's what makes us special.

Steve: Need to find ways to express what's inside the plan in a narrow form.

Dale: A vision statement needs to be short enough and full enough to make the reader want to read the plan.

Ed: A vision statement is more poetry than prose; it's intended to be inspiring.

Steve: It shouldn't be any longer than what Ed wrote.

John C: It should be interesting so that the person reading will want to go further into the material.

Dale: Suggested adding six key points that should be mentioned in the statement.

Dale: By 2035, we should be sharing civic responsibilities because it's more economical and efficient.

John C: The state has encouraged municipalities to consolidate.

Edie: The idea of consolidation is not what we want to put into our Comprehensive Plan. Collaboration should be encouraged.

Dale: Mergers happen over time. The right kind of plan will bring people together.

George Kaye: The town and village have been cooperating much better than in the past. The highway project is bringing them closer.

Dale: The attitude of the town and village working together is a building block.

Bill: Things that should be included in a vision statement: (1) beautiful landscape, (2) agriculture, (3) diversity/people, (4) economic opportunity, (5) preservation and resiliency, (6) cultural and educational opportunities.

Ed: Sees a vision statement as a three-tiered way, being the broadest with general words that deal with a lot of issues. Goals are specific things that you want to accomplish, and strategies are how you are going to achieve those goals.

Bill: Would like to have the vision at the end.

Edie: Disagreed with Bill's statement. When we refer to the goals, we need to go back to the vision statement and the vision statement may be tweaked by the end of the process.

Bill: His concern is the vision statement becoming the limiting factor on discussion further down the road.

Dale: Vision should not create limitation. We develop the goals out of the vision.

Mimi: Suggested each member make a list to see what they had in common.

Edie: Referring to Ed's statement. She asked if Ed's phrase of "enduring themes of the development and the growth of North East and its Village of Millerton" was his way of saying opportunities.

Ed: I intended to explain our history in one sentence. Three recurring themes are: talented people (referring to the Winchells who were early settlers); so much of what happens here is a function of our landscape; proximity to New York City (railroad, Taconic State Parkway).

John C: The metropolitan area's interest in our area has greatly increased since September 11.

Dale: The city's economy has sustained this region.

Ed: Development is always a function of transportation networks and that can be seen here. Broadband is the next transportation network.

Dale: Improved technology makes it easier for people from the metropolitan area to stay here longer.

Edie: She and Bill were working on the Utilities section of the profile and she came across a study of 125 US cell service hubs. The Hudson Valley was the lowest ranked of the 125 hubs for the reliability of cell phones.

Edie: Asked Ed if he was willing to take a cut at his document.

Ed: Asked Edie if she was going to put together a document that expresses all the different ideas that people have.

Edie: Asked if there is someplace where we should state the creation of opportunities.

Steve: Asked if she meant opportunities for all different facets.

Dale: Creativity to him means opportunities and make it user-friendly to whoever is going to read it.

Mimi: Suggested taking a taking a tally of what everyone agrees on.

Dale: We want the vision statement to be what we come up with, but we want it to read in a way that everyone understands it.

Mimi: Came up with entrepreneurial spirit; preserve landscape; agricultural and economic diversity; vibrant walking village; forward-thinking community proud of its heritage; serving its future generations; proximity to NYC.

John Midwood: Mimi's vibrant walking village is important since the Pedestrian Plan is going to be part of the Comprehensive Plan.

Patti: Landscape, agriculture, history, heritage, diversity of the people.

Dianne: Any vision statement needs to have is a sense of place, so it doesn't seem generic. She likes Steven's sweeping vistas.

Dale: Emphasize being environmentally sensitive; that covers taking care of what's here. Highlighted enduring Main Street since Main Street is what captures you when you are here.

John M: Agrees with Dale.

Bill: Landscape and habitats; sustainable agriculture; people diversity and talent; opportunity and the economy; proximity to NYC.

John C: Likes Ed's draft. It's important to be brief and bring interest to go further. Added proximity to NYC.

Steve: Had nothing to add, he liked what Ed wrote.

John M: Suggested having an executive summary after the vision statement and adopting Ed's visions statement.

Ed's draft vision statement was modified and the resulting statement, agreed to by the Committee is:

An entrepreneurial spirit applied to a resource-rich landscape within 100 miles of a major metropolitan area has been, and will continue to be, the enduring theme of the development and growth of North East and its historic, vibrant Village of Millerton. By 2035, our community will have drawn on our social, cultural and economic diversity in a supportive, forward-thinking way to enable our residents and visitors to experience a community proud of its agricultural heritage and committed to providing our current and future generations with opportunities, creativity, sustainability and compassion.

Bill: Asked if there were any comments about chains and franchises. Does this include Four Brothers Restaurants, NAPA, Mavis Tire or is it referring to fast-food places, dollar stores, big box stores, etc.

Dale: Need to be careful here; we need to remember that we're losing young people and they want some of those chains. Need a way to balance.

Ed: Asked if people were saying "I don't want that type of good or service or I don't want that generic structure in my community." The latter could be dealt with land use regulations. Many of those stores sell goods that a significant part of our community needs to have access to.

Bill: It's a combination of the two. It's more of a feeling that a community can become strip-malled; people don't want to see Millerton turned into, or become like towns south of Route 22.

Dale: One of the key pieces we talk about is the beauty of our Main Street. He interprets the comments to be that they don't want a shopping mall. But we need to remember that lower-priced items are needed; we can't let access to goods get out of reach for one-third of our population.

Steve: Commented that the survey was underrepresented by young people and families with children in school that need affordable things and things that they can get to every day. Doesn't oppose chains if they are done properly. There are some that are already established here. The committee needs to figure out how that is defined.

Dale: We are discounting things that young people need and yet we say that we need to keep the young people here. We need to find a balance.

Dianne: A lot of the opposition is toward big box stores. Smaller stores can provide the needs of young people with families. McDonald's can fill the needs of teenagers and seniors.

Eddie: The seniors miss McDonald's.

Steve: Does not oppose chains if they are done properly.

Dianne: Big box stores do fill a niche.

John C: Pointed out that CVS that is a chain that does a great volume of business.

Dale: Land use can regulate building size and architecture.

Mimi: Pointed out that Hudson has a thriving center of local stores, yet close in proximity to big box/chains.

Bill: Wanted to remind everyone that what he compiled was objective; it's what people said. Said a Dunkin Donuts wouldn't work with only two tables, but we have a fast-food place that is empty, and it would be nice if it was re-opened. His subjective point is that one fast-food place is great but three of them means you are cleaning up the side of the road every couple of months. We need to balance the meaning of need with permitted use.

Mimi: It's not binary.

Dale: Vision statement, strategies, goals. Then the zoning gets looked at to be coherent.

John C: Zoning will be redone after the Comprehensive Plan is complete. We are working well and moving in the right direction.

Eddie: Asked for additional comments.

Meeting was adjourned at 7PM.

The next meeting will Monday June 18 at 4PM at The Annex.