

Committee Attendance:

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

Guests: George Kaye, Chris Kennan, Kaitlyn Lyle

Chair Edie Greenwood opened the meeting at 6PM.

Planning Consultant Nan Stolzenburg suggested putting more in the vision statement to cover environmental protection and maintenance of its rural and historic character.

Edits made to revised Draft Comprehensive Plan Part 1 - February 2019:

Page 18 - The following statement represents a shared consensus of North East and Millerton's vision for the future

- Change the statement to "The enduring theme of North East and its historic, vibrant Village of Millerton is its entrepreneurial spirit that benefits from its location within 100 miles of a major metropolitan area and its resource-rich landscape guided by a strong commitment to preserve the environment and ecosystems. By 2035, we will have drawn on our social, cultural and economic diversity in a supportive, creative, and forward-thinking way to enable our residents and visitors to experience a community proud of its agricultural heritage and supportive of its future. We are committed to providing our current and future generations with opportunities, sustainability and compassion."

Page 20 – North East and Millerton's Community Goals:

Discussion of first bullet under Community Goals: Maintain, *restore* (suggested addition) and protect the natural beauty, rural character and scenic resources of the community."

Edie: Asked what Bill meant by adding restore to the goal.

Bill: In many cases, the eco-systems and the natural environments that we have here are degraded; invasive species are taking over in many places. He mentioned multi-flora rose and bittersweet. Wherever possible, we should try to return the natural environment to a state of their native integrity.

Ed: How do we know that that is? Hasn't it evolved historically?

Bill: When a new species is introduced to the environment, it is not always a good thing.

Edie: Her question is do we know how to restore.

Bill: We want open spaces to be kept free of invasive species as much as possible as a way to restore.

Nan: Asked if "restore" was better suited to the third goal of "Protect the natural environment, ecosystems and open spaces in a resilient and sustainable way." (Third bullet on page 20 under North East and Millerton's Community Goals). Suggested taking "restore" from the aesthetic realm and incorporate it into the natural environment goal.

Bill: Agreed to Nan's suggestion.

- First bulleted goal left as: "Maintain and protect the natural beauty, rural character and scenic resources of the community."
- Third bulleted goal changed to "Protect the natural environment, ecosystems and open spaces in a resilient and sustainable way and restore where feasible."

Edie: Second bullet on page 21 (Provide for safe and efficient pedestrian and vehicular transportation networks, etc.) is just a switch of priorities (putting pedestrian before vehicular transportation).

- Fourth bulleted goal changed to: "Encourage accessible recreational, cultural and educational opportunities...." Second sentence to read "Continuing education in particular, is critical for ensuring that residents obtain access to well-paying jobs."

Page 25 – Continuation of C. Regulatory Actions to Meet Economic Vibrancy Goals (from page 24):

Ed: Asked if there was a particular reason why the Strategies and Recommendations were listed in the order they were.

Nan: We had previously talked about putting them in some sort of order; they are mentioned in the beginning of the Comprehensive Plan that they are presented in no particular order.

Ed: Thinks there are some things that are more universally significant and impact the community more broadly than others. Economic vibrancy, housing, and protection of farmland and support agriculture should be the top three.

Nan: They could be cut and paste to that order.

Ed: Mentioned a point that Sam Busselle made (at Feb. 6 meeting), to put in another strategy and called “Seek Regional Solutions.” It starts locally with the village and town dealing with issues. He mentions an ambulance funding problem; it’s just a matter of time before that same problem arises with fire service; the Rail Trail is central to economic and recreational aspects of our region. It’s in everybody’s interest to protect the viewshed from the Rail Trail because it’s critical to the success of the Trail. There’s a lot of funding now that thinks well of people working regionally to solve problems. It’s a good thing to have in a comprehensive plan to speak to that goal.

John Crodelle: Sam Busselle also talked about a regional sewer.

Ed: There are three communities that need it that could work together.

Nan: Asked if “Seeking Regional Solutions” was a strategy for each goal.

Ed: Suggested listing it as a strategy.

Nan: It could be listed as a strategy under each goal; it could be added under “Civic Involvement, Volunteerism and Local Government” or it could go to the “Action Plan/Implementation (page 58). Maybe the section on Implementation Partners should be expanded to talk about regional solutions.

Ed: The important thing is that it stands out as an aspiration so people begin to think how they can work with somebody else to solve these problems because the resources are going to be continually pressed.

Edie: Asked what the first three community goals (North East and Millerton’s goals on page 20) should be.

- Encourage development of a thriving, vibrant, stable and diverse economic base that offers ample employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for all.
- Promote a variety of housing alternatives to meet the needs of all residents. Recognize and encourage the Village of Millerton and the areas immediately adjacent to it as the primary location for higher density residential development.
- Recognize and support the Village of Millerton’s charming character, its role as the primary center for commerce, culture and social interaction in the Town, and a place where businesses are prosperous and meet the needs of both residents and visitors.

There was discussion of how to put them in order since they are all interrelated.

Nan: The goal levels are all the same but there are some strategies that are more important than others. She suggested mentioning why they are not in any specific order, but the strategies will be prioritized.

Ed: There are strategies that are more critical than others and it starts with a central sewer system (talking about strategies). The strategies should be listed in order of their significance.

New order of sections of Strategies & Recommendations (starting on page 22):

- Economic Vibrancy
- Role of Millerton in the Town
- Housing
- Protection of Farmland and Support Agriculture
- Protection of the Natural Environment
- Protection of Rural Character and Scenic Resources
- Infrastructure and Transportation
- Cultural, Educational and Recreational Opportunities
- Maintain the historic character of the community
- Civic Involvement, Volunteerism and Local Government

Page 24 - b. Develop promotional materials to market the Town and Village to local residents

Bill suggested having the Main Street magazine promote the Town and Village instead of hiring someone to create promotional materials.

Ed: Suggested not having an Economic Development Committee (page 24, B-1b) member be a member of the planning board, zoning board, CAC since it would be a conflict of interest. He would like to replace those with “representative of cross section of the community.”

Bill: We should specify which style of architecture for new development on Main Street.

Nan: You should specify which side of the street and have pictures that you want to emulate for consistent character.

Page 49 – Last paragraph dealing with conservation subdivisions.

Nan: The concern was that in a conservation subdivision you’re left with X number of acres that are preserved and if you don’t manage them, you’re going to get invasive species take over. It goes back to how the conservation subdivision regulations are written where it talks about the type of open space and how it’s supposed to be preserved. The terms of the easement and the condition for approval would be that the open space has to be maintained as outlined in the conditions.

Nan: We mentioned conservation subdivision in several places. In the box on page 49 (Maintenance of Open Space in a Conservation Subdivision), we need to expand on the last sentence “Regardless of the mechanism used to create and preserve the open space lot, the owner(s) or easement holders are responsible for maintaining that lot in the condition and for uses it was approved of by the Planning Board,” so that people understand what it means. We need to clarify that when the conservation subdivision technique gets memorialized and that needs to be stated in your regulations.

Dale: Suggested bolding the heading in the box (Maintenance of Open Space....).

Boulevard District discussion:

Bill: We don’t really have a plan for the Boulevard District.

Dale: It’s a significant part of the future of the town since it already exists.

(Discussion of what the community wanted to see in the BD).

Nan: To say “address the boulevard” is not enough. You can add that the uses need to be reevaluated, the siting and design standards need to be reevaluated; make a broader statement that paints the picture of what you hope it will be in the future. Address the uses, the lot sizes, the setbacks and the design standards. Put into words what you hope for the vision of that area.

Debbie: We should redesign the boulevard to have the same look (parking to the back and the side).

Dale: The zoning code will provide the implementation tools.

Nan: She understands the committee wants to have the boulevard district to be an extension of Main Street’s aesthetic streetscape, and that the buildings take on the character of a Victorian village. It could be zoned as a village; there is nothing preventing it being zoned as a village.

It was discussed to put this in the Economic Vibrancy section.

Edie: Asked if it should be a point in Section b on page 23 (Projects and Programs to Meet Economic Vibrancy Goal) or under the Regulatory Actions section.

Nan: Regulatory because it’s a change in zoning. She’ll discuss that in the Economic Vibrancy under the Zoning Regulatory section.

Bill: Talks about the FCC changes that take away a lot of local control of over anything that might be considered 5G infrastructure. The Association of Towns recommends that all communities adopt their own zoning.

Nan: It’s to take advantage of the crumbs that they give to the local communities to make sure of your position so you can control what you can. If you don’t say anything, they will control it for you. To make sure your regulations are in order because the shot clock that has been established for the Federal government permitting of 5G is absolute. If you don’t meet it, you’re not going to get anywhere. It’s the newest hot-button item. You want to position yourself and control what you can, within the confines of what the Federal government allows you to control.

Debbie: Asked how we can protect ourselves.

Nan: If you don't have cell tower rules, you should and the 5G stuff should be part of that.

Chris Kennan: He referenced the recent article in the Association of Towns magazine, and it suggests that towns should look at this quickly. He suggests looking at this faster than what the Comprehensive Plan will get to.

Dale: Asked if any towns in Dutchess County have addressed the 5G legislation that we might be able to look at.

Nan: Doesn't know about any in Dutchess County but it has been addressed in Albany County.

Bill: He's planning on having two appendix documents. He envisions the Comprehensive Plan document, the Appendix that will have most of the background information that's in the first draft of the Appendix and an additional digital Appendix. This supplementary appendix, which is never intended to be printed in its entirety, will contain all of the reference material that will be discussed in the Comprehensive Plan and the first Appendix in one place. That will be a file that could be on the website for people to download.

Eddie: We've talked about having a page of acronyms. We need to be disciplined throughout the document; the first reference should be fully written out. She envisions in the first document a page of listing of links.

Bill: Thinks the links are going to be useless.

Eddie: She mentioned the Dark Sky policy.

Bill: He wants to take the Dark Sky collection and put it in the supplementary appendix.

Nan: The links will only be good as long as someone keeps them in the same spot over time.

Eddie: Asked for comments on the executive summary for Nan on how she's approached this.

Dianne: It's not too long.

Nan: Asked members to send her their edits. She said some plans put the executive summary in the plan and asked if that's what the committee wants to do.

It was agreed to put it at the beginning.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

The next meeting will be Tuesday March 26, 2019 at the Village Hall at 6:30PM.