

MECHANICVILLE REVITALIZATION PLAN – PHASE II BOA NOMINATION STUDY

CITY OF MECHANICVILLE
SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK



Steering Committee Meeting Summary

To: Mechanicville Revitalization Plan – Phase II Steering Committee
From: Chuck Voss, AICP
Re: Meeting Summary Notes – July 7th, 2011 - Meeting #3
Date: July 8th, 2011

Meeting Location: Mechanicville DPW
Meeting Time: 5:30pm – 6:45pm
Meeting Attendees: Mayor Sylvester, Mark Seber, Tom Richardson, Tom Salvador, Chuck Voss

Summary Notes:

This was the third meeting of the Mechanicville Revitalization Plan – Phase II Steering Committee (SC).

This meeting was primarily dedicated to the following agenda items:

- ✓ Study Area boundary & Sub-area boundary discussion
- ✓ Identification of Stakeholders for Interviews
- ✓ Vision Statement Discussion
- ✓ Next Steps, Schedule Next SC meeting

Discussion Items:

Discussion of Project Boundaries and Subareas

- Total BOA land area has been determined to be roughly 380 acres
- 2 subareas were defined and mapped
 - Waterfront/Downtown (125 acres)
 - Industrial/Railroad (67 acres)

Stakeholders Identification

- Committee revised preliminary stakeholder and determined that the following individuals and/or groups should be contacted for interviews:

City Officials
Saratoga Economic Development Corporation (SEDC)
Century Twenty One

Tom Roohan (Roohan Realty)
Greg Connors (Local Realtor who specializes in residential rental realty)
Logistics One (Esplanade Developer)
TD Bank
DC Sports
IDA/Chamber
Mike McCarthy (Mechanicville School District Superintendent)
Catholic & Methodist Churches

- B&L/Camoin will establish best way to communicate with stakeholders (i.e. group workshops, individual interviews)
- Interviews will be conducted during mid-late July/early August.

Vision Statement

- Copies of other Vision Statements from past plans for the City were distributed to the committee for review and discussion. B&L will synthesize these sample vision statements into a draft BOA vision statement for the committee to review at the next SC meeting in August.
- Excerpts of the prior vision statements are attached to the end of this summary for reference.

Action Items:

B&L to develop land use map, revised study area map, and blow-ups of subareas

B&L to continue updating project website with documents, notes, studies and link to City Website.

B&L and Camoin to establish process for stakeholder interviews/discussions and conduct interviews.

B&L to continue vacant/abandoned/underutilized parcel inventory

Next Meeting Date(s): Wednesday, August 17th, 2011 5:30-6:30 pm DPW Meeting Room

Sample Vision Statements From Prior City Planning Studies

A. From the 2008 BOA Pre-Nomination Study:

The following Vision Statement was developed for the 2006 Downtown Revitalization Plan:

Mechanicville is a charming small City nestled on the Hudson River with a family friendly, hometown atmosphere and strong sense of community. At the heart of the City is a railroad museum that displays its rich history and attracts visitors to its thriving commercial district. Mechanicville serves as "the downtown/center" for many residents located nearby in Stillwater, Halfmoon, and Schaghticoke, who frequently attend community events held in Mechanicville. The City is known for its great location, affordable housing and strong churches.

The City developed a set of goals and objectives during lively planning and design charettes held during the winter and spring of 2007. The charettes provided an opportunity to further refine redevelopment plans and resulted in a common vision for the future.

The simplified Vision Statement for Mechanicville developed in 2007 is:

We want to be your downtown!

B. From the 2009 Downtown and Waterfront Revitalization Plan:

Mechanicville's vision for the waterfront and downtown starts with an active community. Residents and visitors walk easily between shops, services, the waterfront, and the neighborhoods. The shop fronts downtown are occupied by a mix of local craftspeople, restaurants, and service-oriented businesses. There is something for everyone – families, seniors, teens, and young children have an array of activities at their disposal. People from surrounding communities like Halfmoon and Stillwater come downtown to patronize businesses, enjoy the nightlife, or take part in community events. The waterfront provides opportunities for local businesses to take advantage of the proximity to the River and creek. These downtown businesses are complemented and supported by other commercial types nearby, especially along Central Avenue.

The built environment of the waterfront and downtown reflect Mechanicville's strong historic heritage. This includes local history and events, as well as the community's role in the regional heritage of the Hudson River and Champlain Canal. Opportunities to interpret this heritage are readily available and add to the enjoyment of the waterfront and downtown. The streetscape, building design, and public amenities all work together visually to strengthen the identity of the community, with the City Dock as the centerpiece. The downtown is equally accessible by walking, cycling, or driving. The core downtown environment is attractive and welcoming, highlighted by public art. Physical links to the waterfront are located throughout the downtown and community.

Moving outward from the downtown, the waterfront offers varied forms of recreation and enjoyment. Residents and visitors alike can enjoy many activities which depend on the water, or are enhanced by views of the River and creek. Playgrounds, sports equipment, boat launches, and other amenities are plentiful and well-maintained. There are also areas for relaxation, quiet places to sit and enjoy the river. These add to the value of the neighborhoods and the community as a whole, making Mechanicville an even more desirable place to live.

The creek and river shore are able to support a healthy ecology and are an asset to the community. Civic groups, business owners, neighborhoods, and public agencies work together to maintain and improve the quality of the water. The quality of the water is unaffected by commercial or industrial activity in the City. Public amenities along the shoreline work with, not against, the natural processes of the river.