

# MECHANICVILLE REVITALIZATION PLAN PHASE II

## NOMINATION STUDY

CITY OF MECHANICVILLE  
SARATOGA COUNTY, NEW YORK



### Visioning Workshop Meeting Summary

To: Mechanicville Revitalization BOA Steering Committee  
From: Chuck Voss, AICP  
Re: Visioning Workshop Summary Notes – May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012  
Date: May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012

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Meeting Location: Mechanicville Senior Citizen Center  
Meeting Time: 6:00-8:00 p.m.  
Meeting Attendees: ~20

#### Summary Notes:

This was the first visioning workshop of the Mechanicville Revitalization Plan study area.

1. This workshop was primarily dedicated to the following agenda items:
  - Presentation
    - Project Information
    - BOA Program Introduction
    - Project Specifics
  - Workshop Groups
  - Group Presentations
  - Wrap-up Statement
2. Groups were organized by subareas:
  - Group 1: Subarea A – Railroad
  - Group 2: Subareas B & C – South and North Central Avenue
  - Group 3: Main St / Waterfront

Community input was gathered from questions/discussion topics. Summaries are as follows:

## Area A: Railroad Area

### 1. Traffic

- Circulation and layout is major issue, no delineation
- Confusing intersection of many streets, high speeds make even more dangerous
  - Enforce Speed limit
- Don't want vehicular traffic to deter pedestrians and trail users
  - Need crosswalks, sidewalks and delineation to make safer for pedestrians
- Create mini circle?
  - May be too many streets/"stops"
  - How would fire trucks exit?
- Make some of the streets one way?
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave one way south (away from intersection)
  - Clement St is the least traveled at that intersection
- Delineate parking
  - People already park on vacant lot on corner of Clement/Elizabeth (Site #5)
    - Pave it and make official parking
  - Would serve museum visitors, trail users, and potential future workers at industrial parcel
- Traffic cutting through City via Viall Ave to Railroad St at high speeds
  - Add stop sign or speed hump on Viall?

### 2. Trail

- Intersection of future trails makes this a great trail hub and focus area
- Kiosk, benches, bike racks
- Museum will make good stopping point with bathrooms, shade, seating
- Make connection to Tenandaho River / create "river walk" or "nature trail"

### 3. General area-wide improvements

- Need signage and visual cues for trails, pedestrians and traffic
- Make strong connection between waterfront-rail-businesses
- Want people to see entire City, many things to offer in addition to Central Avenue
  - Nice residential neighborhoods
- Make visual and physical connection to creek
- Depot Square theme
  - Rail inspired signage and graphics
- Museum/Trailhead as a Trolley stop
- May need to buffer residential neighborhoods to the west of the train station depending on future development/traffic pattern changes

### 4. Potential for commercial use on Railroad St

- Small deli (like Debbie's before it closed), Coffee shop
- Hotel or B&B

### 5. Fire house would like to see pavilion behind their building

- Check survey to see where new property line is located
- Check ROD to see what environmental/clean up requirements are required

### 6. Look into Passenger Rail Study – Mechanicville probable future stop

## Areas **B & C**: South Central Ave and North Central Ave

### 1. General Ideas

- The group felt that North Central Avenue provided the greatest potential in the short term for high impact redevelopment.
- Add parcel Church of Assumption on Williams St as priority site, currently for sale
- The Opportunity to Relocate City Hall and Police to North Central was discussed.
  - The North Central site near the Tenendaho Creek would be a very attractive setting with potential recreation amenities along the creek
  - NYSEG Site #13 – possible new location for City Hall
  - Possibly relocate DiSienna and create City Hall site
- Emphasize that redevelopment of Central Avenue should be urban in appearance
- Make eastern side of North Central store fronts with upper level apartments
- Need sidewalks
- Make Anthony Kill more accessible
  - Currently hidden
  - Beautiful asset to City
  - Tie into Zim Smith
- Relocate incompatible land uses
- Create a connection to the Tenendaho Park and make improvements to the park.

### 2. Key Priority Projects (as identified in Matrix)

- Increase local spending in City!
- Develop Gateway and wayfinding signage
- Target sidewalk improvements
- Enforce Codes
- Establish Trail Corridor (tie into Anthony Kill)
- Anothny Kill Greenway
- Tenandaho Park Improvements
- Redevelopment of vacant parcels
- North gateway intersection improvements
- Address traffic deficiencies, manage access, improve pedestrian safety and streetscaping
- Improve Saratoga Ave intersection
- Establish Waterfont Mixed-Use (WMU) and Waterfront Commercial (WC) Zoning
- Establish Design Guidelines
- Update Zoning Ordinance

### Area D: Main St/Waterfront

1. Old School Site
  - Keep gym for civic events
  - Affordable condos on upper floors
  - Create public park on open southern portion of parcel, waterfront events
2. General Ideas
  - Restaurant district with residential base
  - Entertainment venues
  - Site #18 – Waterfront Restaurant and/or Micro Brewery
  - *Continuous* waterfront access is important, not just at a few locations
  - Priority – find places for people to live downtown
  - Need for restaurants and essential services
  - Multi-functioning entertainment facilities (ie ice skating)
  - Conduct survey of residents
3. Theme
  - Healthy
  - Walkable neighborhoods
  - Family oriented
  - Parks
  - Community
  - Entertainment

### Upcoming Meetings:

Monday May 7 <sup>th</sup>	Steering Committee Meeting	5:30	DPW
Tuesday May 15 <sup>th</sup>	Community Visioning Workshop II	6:00	Senior Center