

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 3rd, 2012
Date: May 7th, 2012

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?
 - 2nd 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)
- Another 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 Waterfront 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 th	Steering Committee Meeting	5:30	DPW
Tuesday May 15 th	Community Visioning Workshop II	6:00	Senior Center