



# Local Planning Committee (LPC) Meeting 1

Wednesday, May 31, 5:30 to 7:30 pm

## Meeting Summary

The meeting began with opening remarks from the New York State Department of State (DOS) project manager Susan Landfried and LPC Co-Chairs Mayor James Gagliano, Supervisor Joshua Wojehowski, and Maureen Halahan. Mayor Gagliano then read through the LPC Code of Conduct, and no disclosures were made. Jill Gallant (VHB) then introduced the meeting agenda.

Next members of the LPC briefly introduced themselves. Ms. Gallant then talked through the roles and responsibilities of the LPC, followed by an introduction of the State team and their roles and responsibilities. Ms. Gallant then introduced the consultant team which consists of VHB, Kevin Dwarka, LLC, WXY, SharpLens Photography, Karp Strategies and Trophy Point as well as their roles and responsibilities.

Ms. Gallant provided a quote expressing the purpose of the New York Forward (NYF) from the NYF guidebook. Ms. Gallant then outlined the goals of the NYF Program and talked through the planning process of the NYF through the general deliverables and milestones of the project. Ms. Gallant then presented the timeline of the process, including the months in which five Local Planning Committee (LPC) and two Public Workshops would take place. It was explained that process would take around six-months and would end with the development of the Final Strategic Investment Plan in November. Ms. Gallant then paused and asked the LPC if they had any questions about the information presented thus far, and the LPC had no questions.

Next, Ms. Gallant discussed the contents of Cornwall NYF application that ultimately lead to Cornwall winning the NYF award. This application included a boundary of the downtown area where the future projects would be located and other pertinent information including a vision statement for the program in Cornwall. Supervisor Wojehowski and Mayor Gagliano then talked through the rationale for the NYF boundary that was included in the application. In doing so, Supervisor Wojehowski questioned if it would be feasible to extend the boundary to connect the New York Military Academy (NYMA) from Main Street and Academy Avenue. Both the Mayor and Supervisor, as well as a few LPC members, identified that people could get to the downtown from Route 9W at this point as it serves as a gateway into both the Town and Village. The Supervisor then brought up the fact that there is a presence of sidewalks within the boundary connecting people from Cornwall downtown to the Cornwall-on-Hudson downtown.

While continuing the conversation of the NYF boundary, Mayor Gagliano spoke about the two miles within the boundary and its relation to connectivity and walkability. Mayor Gagliano also brought up the presence of Donahue Farm within the established boundary as well as Donahue Park along the Hudson waterfront. He also highlighted that there are sidewalks throughout the majority of the NYF boundary providing pedestrian connections throughout, but that Dock Hill Road within the Village does not have sidewalks limiting pedestrian access to the waterfront from downtown.

It was also suggested to extend the NYF boundary to include the proposed Vet Rep Theater property on Angola Road (formerly known as the Chadeayne Homestead). The LPC was in consensus to extend the NYF boundary to include NYMA as well as the proposed Vet Rep Theater property on Angola Road.

Next, Ms. Gallant began an activity regarding the opportunities and challenges associated with revitalizing Cornwall's downtown. Through the discussion activity, LPC members brought up many positive qualities of the area that they believe provides opportunity for revitalization including open space, proximity to New York City, mountainous land, and the large amount of green space. Continuing with this, members brought up locations such as the Storm King Art Center, Donahue Farm, waterfront locations, and the surrounding hiking trails that contribute to the possibility of the area. LPC members discussed tourism from the surrounding military academies and the growing film industry in the area. In addition, the LPC noted the two central business districts and the walkability as two positive traits of the NYF boundary. Finally, LPC members brought up the prospect of concise branding of Cornwall to the address of the area's unique characteristics.

Following, members of the LPC brought up qualities of the area they believe are current challenges that impede revitalization and development of Cornwall. Some of these concerns included the winter months and lack of available activities and opportunities for residents, lack of parking, aesthetic challenges and the scale of Main Street, lack of tourist information and signage, pedestrian safety and connections, lack of street trees, and other sentiments regarding the existing challenges facing the downtown.

Christiana Kastalek (VHB) presented an activity prompting LPC members to share what their vision of downtown Cornwall is. Ms. Landfried added that this is an opportunity for the LPC to refine the vision that was in their application. The vision will also be presented to the public at the first workshop, which will then be presented back to the LPC for further refinement. To capture feedback on the vision, VHB asked the LPC, "What words come to mind when you envision the future of downtown Cornwall?" Ms. Gallant indicated that VHB would revise the vision statement to reflect the resultant Word Cloud (see below).

## What words come to mind when you envision the future of downtown Cornwall?



In regard to the vision, it was indicated that with the current large influx of young families moving into Cornwall, it is important that Cornwall keeps true to its roots while adjusting to accommodate new growth. Ms. Kastalek then presented the current Cornwall NYF vision from Cornwall's application. Mayor Gagliano then read the vision aloud for the LPC and members of the public to hear. Next, both the Mayor and Supervisor presented

Cornwall's application projects. The Supervisor noted that some of the projects discussed would come off the list, as the Town further reviews them.

Next, Ms. Gallant presented the project requirements which included eligible and ineligible project types and activities. Ms. Gallant, along with Ms. Landfried, introduced the concept of project match and that under the NYF the LPC has the right to determine if project matches should be required for public, private, and non-for-profit projects. If the LPC decides to include a project match, the LPC would then have to set the requirement amount as well. The LPC discussed the matching policy for awarded projects and came to consensus that they did not want to require project matches for public, private, or non-profit projects, and would rather include it as project evaluation criteria for the LPC when deciding on the ultimate slate of projects. During this conversation, members of the LPC had general questions regarding the small project fund and private projects. Following this conversation, it was decided that a link to past Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) awarded projects and Strategic Investment Plans would be posted on the Cornwall NYF website for public access to give a more detailed picture of past awarded projects.

Ms. Gallant continued the conversation regarding projects by introducing the Open Call for Projects and the application. The Open Call for Projects opens June 16 and closes July 21. VHB and DOS will host office hours to answer any questions regarding project submissions. The consultant team will rely on the LPC to help get the word out to members of the community regarding the Open Call for Projects and other important reminders.

Next, Ms. Kastalek presented the proposed outreach strategies and the importance of public engagement for the process. Ms. Kastalek then inquired about any other outreach and public engagement approaches that the LPC has noticed works well in the community. The Supervisor noted that the school district could serve as a tool for pushing out messages to engage students and parents alike. He also stated that the Town currently does not have an Instagram so there is a room to expand the social media presence. A LPC member addressed the importance of considering groups that cannot come to these meetings and other underrepresented groups throughout the process. VHB addressed their concerns by indicating that all materials for the public's use will be posted online as well as put throughout important, highly visited locations within both the Village and Town. Lastly, the Mayor added that the Town and Village have a strong faith network and several religious institutions that could serve as additional ways to spread information regarding this process. He indicated that the Interfaith Council should be utilized in this process.

The dates and goals of the upcoming Public Workshops and public outreach activity were introduced. Additionally, the dates and goals of the next four LPC meetings were presented. The next LPC meeting, scheduled for June 28, will be hybrid because at least four members of the LPC will be out of town. Every LPC meeting will be at 5:30 pm, and the location of the meetings will alternate between the Town Hall and Village Hall.

Finally, the meeting was opened to the public for comments. Public comments are summarized below:

- Are there examples of applications and things that we can look at as this is our first time looking at this material?
- Will there be a centralized location to find this information?
- One thing to be conscious of, is that we put together a robust public engagement process and a lot of people are asking why we are doing this again? It will be good to say upfront why this is different.