

Public Workshop #1 Synthesis

Event Date: June 15, 2023
Subject: Cornwall NY Forward - Public Workshop #1 Synthesis
Prepared by: Karp Strategies

The first Public Workshop for the Town of Cornwall and Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson took place on Thursday, June 15, 2023 from 5:30–7:30pm at the Munger Cottage Senior Center. The following memo provides an event summary, general observations, and key themes that arose from the community opportunities & challenges activity.

Event Summary

The meeting began with opening remarks from Town of Cornwall Supervisor, Joshua Wojehowski, and Village of Cornwall-on-Hudson Mayor, James Gagliano, followed by a brief overview of the NY Forward planning process and the Open Call for Projects presented by VHB. Afterward, participants took part in a Community Opportunities & Challenges Activity that tasked community members to cycle between five stations, each with its own unique theme, including:

- Station 1: General Vision for Cornwall
- Station 2: Pedestrian and Roadway Connection
- Station 3: Open Space, Parks, and Recreation
- Station 4: Community Attractions and Cultural Assets
- Station 5: Business Development

Each of the five stations featured a corresponding map or board and a set of prompting questions. Participants were asked to respond to these prompting questions and share feedback using post-it notes and markers; every 14 minutes, they were prompted to rotate to a new station to ensure they had the opportunity to share feedback on all themes. Members of the consultant team were assigned to each of the stations, with others floating between stations to help drive conversation and to capture feedback in real-time.

Approximately 22 members of the community attended the first public workshop. Attendance was robust and represented a diverse set of perspectives – participants were eager to learn more about the project and share feedback and ideas for potential projects throughout their community. Several Local Planning Committee (LPC) members also joined the workshop as well to help facilitate conversation with the community. In addition to the in-person workshop, an [online survey](#) was posted on the project website to provide additional opportunities for community members to share feedback. The survey mirrored the format of the in-person activity, with each of the five categories represented. Feedback collected from both the in-person workshop and the online survey was used to prepare the key themes below. The survey will remain open until July 14, 2023.

Next Steps in the NY Forward Process

At the upcoming LPC Meeting #2, scheduled for Wednesday, June 28, the consultant team will review general observations, lessons learned, and goal-specific themes that arose from Public Workshop #1 and how these takeaways will inform the Vision, Goals, and Strategies. In addition, the consultant team will share highlights from the Downtown profile and assessment draft, and review project selection criteria and planning process and engagement updates, before ending with a call for public comment.

The community members will have additional opportunities to provide their feedback and participate through the Call for Projects, upcoming Local Planning Commission (LPC) meetings, and a workshop [scheduled](#) for September.

Key Themes

We have used the feedback collected from both the in-person workshop and the online survey to identify key themes below. These themes will shape Cornwall's Vision, Goals, and Revitalizations Strategies that will guide NY Forward's Strategic Investment Plan. For a full list of comments, please see Exhibit A below.

Station 1: General Vision for Cornwall

Participants reviewed the vision statement Cornwall included in its NYF application, and were invited to suggest additional priorities and ideas. We identified the following themes based on community feedback:

- Make Cornwall more beautiful and vibrant
- Increase opportunities for economic development and tourism
- Encourage diversity and inclusiveness
- Expand and activate public spaces
- Prioritize sustainable and resilient growth
- Tell the Cornwall story
- Expand amenities and services that improve the quality of life
- Create and improve safe, cohesive, and accessible connections

Station 2: Pedestrian and Roadway Connection

We identified the following themes based on community feedback:

- Increase parking
- Improve pedestrian experience and walkability
- Expand bike infrastructure
- Redesign roadways to prioritize safety
- Improve the streetscape with more amenities and beautification

- Expand public transportation options

Station 3: Open Space, Parks, and Recreation

We identified the following themes based on community feedback:

- Increase amenities
- Add new recreational spaces
- Repair or maintain existing recreational spaces
- Expand or improve bike and pedestrian infrastructure
- Expand public transportation options
- Activate and beautify parks and public spaces

Station 4: Community Attractions and Cultural Assets

We identified the following themes based on community feedback:

- Increase parking
- Create tours and walks with signage
- Add new cultural spaces
- Add festivals and community events
- Create better connections to nearby attractions

Station 5: Business Development

We identified the following themes based on community feedback:

- Beautify public spaces and storefronts
- Redevelop underutilized properties
- Add more attractions, events spaces, and hospitality businesses
- Increase food and beverage options
- Expand affordable housing
- Introduce consistent signage and advertising
- Make pedestrian improvements

Appendix A: Community Opportunities & Challenges Activity Comments

| Comment | Count |
|---|-------|
| Station 1: General Vision for Cornwall | |
| <i>Make Cornwall more beautiful and vibrant</i> | 5 |
| Vibrant | |
| Trees and curated lighting on Main Street | |
| Meeting place is not warm, cozy, or inviting. Change to "vibrant community" | |
| Refreshed and denser building stack | |
| Place for people to want to come, walk and visit | |
| <i>Increase opportunities for economic development and tourism</i> | 9 |
| Want outdoor outfitters store | |
| Businesses that provide for the community, not just visitors | |
| Dine-able | |
| Welcoming of new and exciting opportunities/businesses | |
| Economic strength, diverse businesses | |
| Shopping, dining, and all walkable | |
| A couple of Food trucks at the river | |
| A grocery store in the plaza and small shops | |
| Quality restaurants, brand name retailers, higher end grovery store, and accommodations | |
| <i>Encourage diversity and inclusiveness</i> | 8 |
| Inclusiveness | |
| More events to bring diverse communities together | |
| Engaged, present, mindful in the community now | |
| Diversity and marriage of viewpoints | |
| Inclusive, accessible | |
| Add family oriented senior community | |
| Multi generational | |
| Community close-knit, supportive | |

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| <i>Expand and activate public space</i> | 9 |
| Outdoor recreation part is really important | |
| Parks, lots of activity, welcoming | |
| More emphasis on nature, outdoor recreation, trails hiking | |
| Outdoor recreation opportunities | |
| Scenic assets and recreation | |
| More emphasis on environmental aspects of the community | |
| Welcoming, accessible, pride/proud | |
| A safe walkway to the river | |
| More benches in the town | |
| <i>Prioritize sustainable growth</i> | 3 |
| Sustainable growth | |
| Climate smart | |
| Preserving small town character | |
| <i>Tell the Cornwall story through art and history/tradition</i> | 7 |
| Cultural destinations | |
| Art = culture | |
| High concentration of artists | |
| Bringing history to life | |
| Acknowledging and preserving historic assets | |
| Tradition | |
| Need to work with historic museums; have better understanding of history | |
| <i>Expand amenities, services, and education that improve the quality of life</i> | 5 |
| Education system strength | |
| Strong school library | |
| Educational system is the entry point for young families | |
| Parking, need a place for people to come | |
| Essential services and amenities are needed | |
| <i>Create and improve safe, cohesive, and accessible connections</i> | 13 |

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| Safer for walking and biking | |
| Make Main Street more pedestrian friendly | |
| Connect the assets, create a synergy between assets | |
| Walking path down to river | |
| Walkable | |
| Access to NYC transit | |
| walkable | |
| Ferry to Beacon train station | |
| Village and town are not central | |
| Less space for cars, the better we could be | |
| Wide sidewalks could be plazas | |
| Micro-mobility options, bikes | |
| Safe and enjoyable to walk | |
| Station 2: Pedestrian and Roadway Connection | |
| <i>Increase parking</i> | 8 |
| Buy CHASE parking lot and change it into public parking lot | |
| Add parking at CHASE Bank | |
| Parking at ambulance corps lot | |
| Sportfields parking overflow | |
| Add parking on weekends to school business office | |
| Could lose some parking on Main St but would need parking elsewhere | |
| Town could solicit homeowners to sell their properties for parking | |
| More parking | |
| <i>Improve pedestrian experience and walkability</i> | 21 |
| Walkable access to shops, restaurants, and homes in town | |
| Sidewalks | |
| Need sidewalks | |
| Create footbridge near river to cross to Dock Hill Road | |
| Trails along river | |

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| Add sidewalks on Angola road | |
| Need pedestrian crosswalk at town hall | |
| Use Alleyways for pedestrian connections | |
| Sidewalks need revamp | |
| Old through road could be used for pedestrians | |
| Crosswalks in village | |
| Accessible sidewalks | |
| Pathway on Idlewild creek shore road | |
| Elevate crosswalks to stop pedestrian conflict | |
| Sidewalk to river | |
| Make sidewalks ADA Accessible in all locations | |
| Sidewalks need repair to make safe for kids and seniors | |
| Need bridge over creek back to Dock Hill Rd | |
| Pedestrian access, walkable park to river | |
| Refurbish pathway of Dock Hill Rd | |
| Easy to pass with sidewalks | |
| <i>Expand bike infrastructure</i> | 9 |
| Bike safety | |
| More bikeable | |
| Bike lanes | |
| Bike lanes | |
| Bike lanes | |
| Divert bicycle traffic to Bridge St | |
| Connect to Orange County Rail Trail (Would require bridge repairs) | |
| Bike lanes or other bike infrastructure | |
| Draw bike groups into town and village | |
| <i>Redesign roadways to prioritize safety</i> | 18 |

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| One side/close parking along Main Street (too narrow for two-way traffic) | |
| Add traffic circle at Veteran monument | |
| Streets too narrow | |
| Add roundabouts at Duncan intersection | |
| Can't see people on crosswalks at roundabout | |
| Traffic calming and enforcement | |
| Speed bumps in the village | |
| Slow drivers on Main Street with bump outs | |
| Traffic mirrors at Duncan and Hudson by post office | |
| Traffic circle is a barrier to getting to plaza or strip mall | |
| Connect strip mall to main St | |
| Improve separation of traffic and pedestrians at roundabout | |
| Left turns are dangerous | |
| Speed bumps | |
| Main St too narrow | |
| Connect cul de sacs | |
| Traffic calming down to the river | |
| Add a new exit off the thruway | |
| <i>Improve the streetscape with more amenities and beautification</i> | 13 |
| Connect historic points to corridors | |
| Power/Build Public Renewables Act - for removing power and telephone poles | |
| Better lighting on Mill St and Laurel Crest Park | |
| Public restrooms | |
| Public pool rehab | |
| Bury light and power line | |
| Add park area to middle of roundabout (gathering area) | |

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| Bury electric lines | |
| Street trees | |
| Beautifying Main St with decorative lamp posts | |
| Trashcans, light poles (dark sky compliant), benches, and trees | |
| Unified aesthetic between village and town | |
| Beautifying | |
| <i>Expand public transportation options</i> | 5 |
| Increased public transportation for visually impaired and physical disabilities | |
| Trolley for transportation | |
| Shuttle service from Storm King Arts to Cornwall and other attractions | |
| Trolley from Cornwall plaza to Storm King and Donahue Memorial Park | |
| Embrace mass transit options for future growth of the Hudson Valley | |
| Station 3: Open Space, Parks, and Recreation | |
| <i>Increase amenities</i> | 17 |
| Add more benches to Sands Ring Park | |
| Add storage for garden club at Donahue Farm | |
| Kayak Storage rental space at river | |
| More pavilions at Donahue Memorial Park | |
| EV Charging stations | |
| Water bottle refilling stations | |
| BBQs | |
| Public bathrooms | |
| BBQs with shade and picnic tables | |
| Public bathroom | |
| Water bottle stations | |
| Waterfill stations | |
| Poop scoop bag dispensers | |

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| Recycling stations | |
| Wifi hotspots at parks | |
| Better lighting | |
| Add benches and picnic tables | |
| <i>Add new recreational spaces</i> | <i>15</i> |
| Add river pool in Donahue Memorial Park | |
| Construct recreation center | |
| Soccer and softball fields with turf | |
| Disc golf | |
| Skate park | |
| Dog Park | |
| Splash pads | |
| Skatepark | |
| Community kitchen | |
| Lacrosse, softball and soccer fields | |
| Increase green space / more parks | |
| Need more pickleball | |
| Community garden | |
| Exercise station with yoga platforms | |
| Pickleball | |
| <i>Repair or maintain existing recreational spaces</i> | <i>16</i> |
| Clean up pond in River Light Park | |
| Repair public dock | |
| Upgrade the pavilion | |
| Expand the pool to make it an all-day activity | |
| Larger pool | |
| Pool | |
| Repair dock and boat launch | |
| Geese need to go | |

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| Sustainable projects: Maintenance cost | |
| Repair and renovate playgrounds | |
| Renovate paths in all parks | |
| Repair Bridge at Bridge street park | |
| Clean pond at River Light Park | |
| Need better tick management | |
| Improve dock (dredging and marine wall) for Clearwater boat | |
| Fix the pool. Upgrade the playground | |
| <i>Expand or improve bike and pedestrian infrastructure</i> | 12 |
| Bike racks | |
| Bike lanes | |
| Bike lanes | |
| Complete streets | |
| Safer walking/pedestrian space on Dock Hill Road | |
| Connect State land trails | |
| Extend Donahue Memorial Park trails North and South | |
| Build out path at Sands Ring Park | |
| Renovate paths to be ADA + Stroller compliant in all parks | |
| Better bike lane connections to school campus | |
| Complete streets | |
| Create green ribbon between parks | |
| <i>Expand public transportation options</i> | 4 |
| Local shuttles/trolley | |
| Bike rentals | |
| Bike share | |
| Bike rentals between waterfront and town | |
| <i>Activate parks and public space</i> | 18 |
| Art/mural/sculptures | |

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| Capitalize on proximity to Storm King | |
| Tourism booth at Bridge Street | |
| Outdoor movies | |
| Need more fun activities at Donahue Memorial Park | |
| Concessions at Donahue Memorial Park | |
| Public playground at Donahue Memorial Park | |
| Food trucks at river | |
| Need activities for 11-13 year olds | |
| Portable band stands for events (Boston Pops) | |
| Stage for summer concerts | |
| Need Kid friendly activities at parks | |
| Better programming at Bridge Street Park | |
| Plant more flowers in public spaces | |
| Locations for food trucks at parks | |
| Plant perennial gardens | |
| More pollinator friendly environments | |
| More spaces like Bridge Street Park would be welcomed | |
| Station 4: Community Attractions & Cultural Assets | |
| <i>Increase parking</i> | 2 |
| Need pull-in parking along Main Street | |
| Need parking between Quaker and Willow | |
| <i>Create tours and walks with signage</i> | 9 |
| Art walk | |
| History walk | |
| NYC Aqueduct history walk | |
| Donahue Farm history walk | |
| Olmstead designed properties tour | |
| Pub crawl | |
| Candle light tour | |

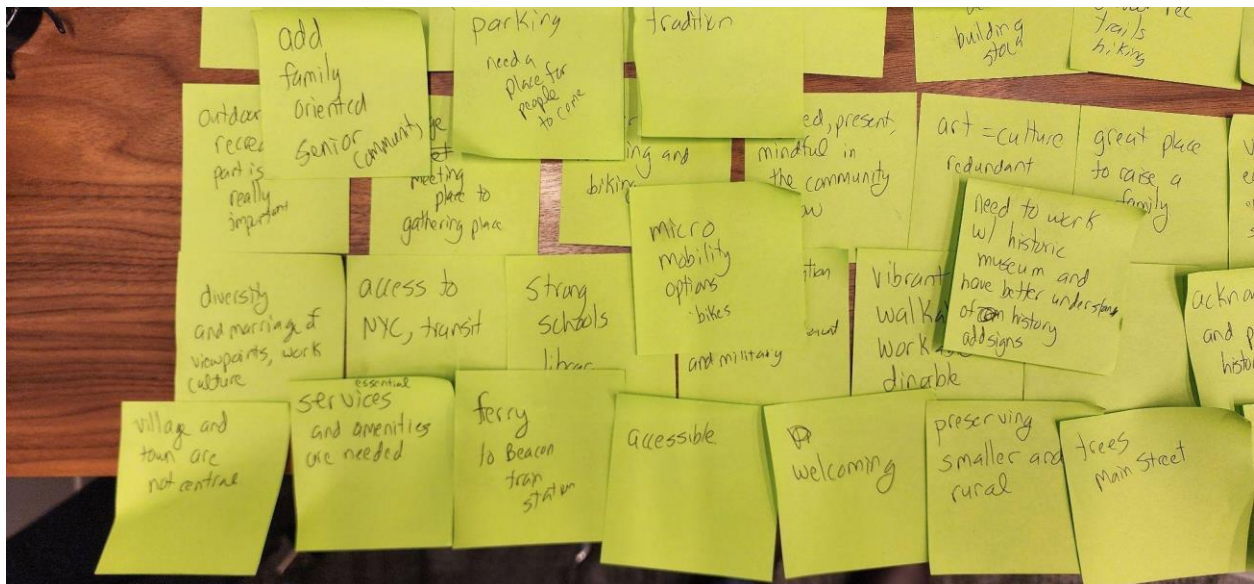
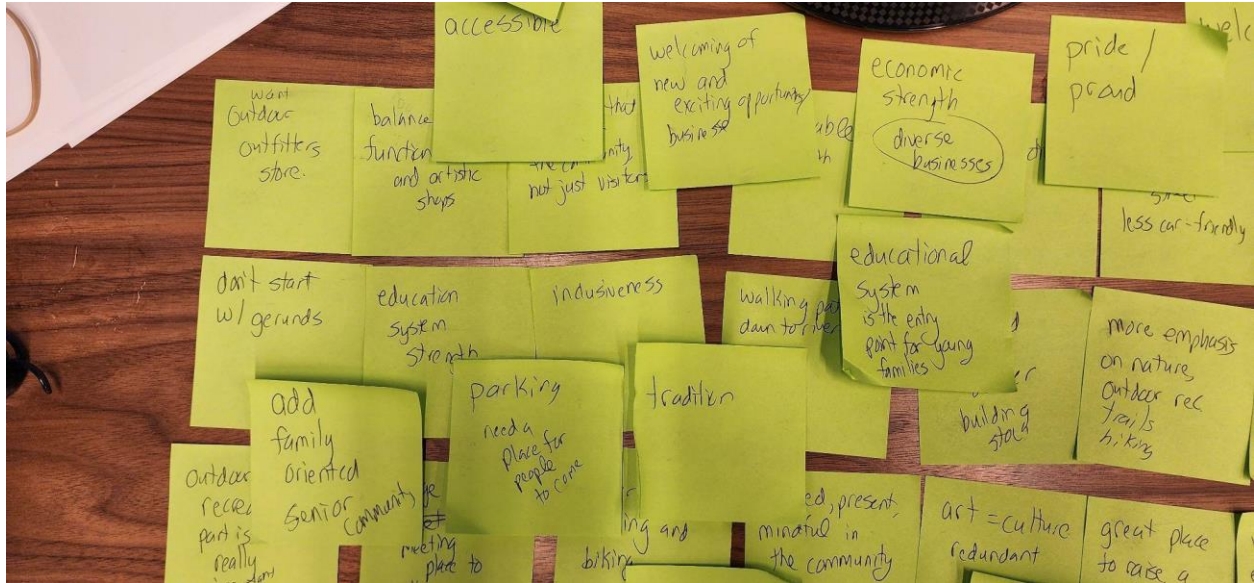
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| Add QR signage for self-guided tours of Cornwall history | |
| Need more branded signage to display cultural assets to visitors | |
| <i>Add new cultural spaces</i> | <i>19</i> |
| New movie theater | |
| Botanical garden | |
| Beer garden | |
| Dance schools | |
| Golf course | |
| Dog park by river | |
| Nature museum | |
| Book stores | |
| Historical society | |
| Beer garden | |
| Ice skating rink at pond | |
| Add disc golf | |
| Add mini golf | |
| Reopen the golf course | |
| Make town pool a destination | |
| Visitor center geared towards adventure tourism | |
| Movie theater or museum or art type shops to learn and make projects | |
| More adult recreation, more supervised recreation for kids | |
| Something equivalent to the Bergen County Zoo | |
| <i>Add festivals and community events</i> | <i>7</i> |
| Rock concerts | |
| More events - seniors are ready to volunteer for staffing | |
| Spooktacular | |
| Winter Fest | |
| Fourth of July | |

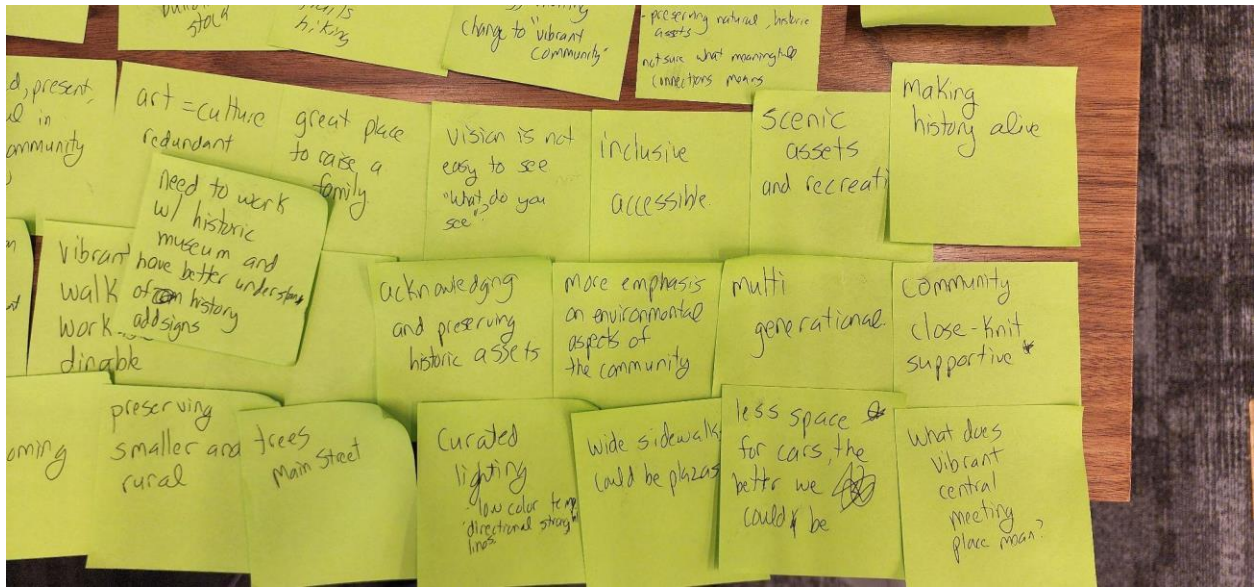
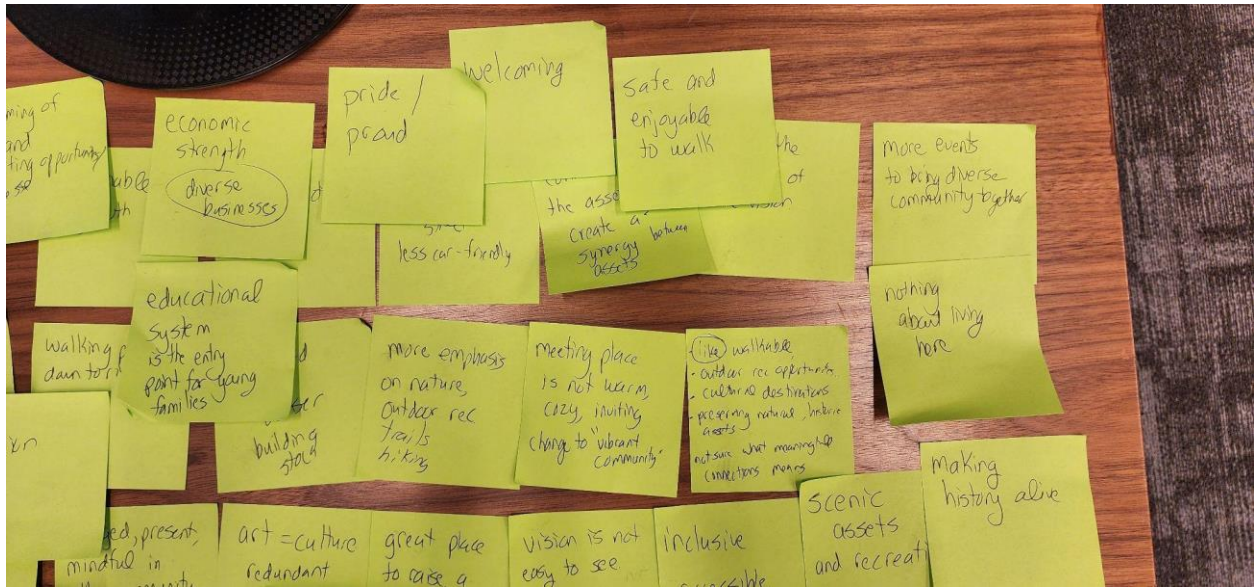
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| Music festival at Bridge Street Park | |
| Fix public dock so Cornwall can partake in Clearwater Festival | |
| <i>Create better connections to nearby attractions</i> | 10 |
| Shuttles to and from Storm King | |
| Make Storm King more present in downtown | |
| Storm King museum storefront | |
| Storm King museum booth in downtown | |
| Trolley to connect to Storm King | |
| Connect to popular local hiking routes with better signage and paths | |
| Connect to waterfall | |
| Close 218 for hiking and biking | |
| Need sidewalk from dog park to traffic circle | |
| Public restrooms for hikers | |
| Station 5: Business Development | |
| <i>Beautify public spaces & storefronts</i> | 4 |
| Facade improvements | |
| There needs to be visual consistency, blending, and pleasing | |
| Attractive | |
| Add Main and Hudson Street power lines underground, or behind buildings providing more room for trees | |
| <i>Redevelop underutilized properties</i> | 6 |
| NYMA improvements | |
| Redevelop CHASE bank into beer garden | |
| Move or redevelop Verizon Building | |
| Food bank building - Redevelop | |
| Properties that are not developed (eg. Security store) | |
| Vet Rep needs to be up and running | |
| Grail purchase by Ministries | |
| <i>Add more attractions, event spaces, and hospitality businesses</i> | 11 |

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| Decline of malls is good for the local businesses | |
| Return of golf course | |
| Designing retail stores next to each other, and storefronts used as retail | |
| Creating an event space like the old golf club, with an indoor-outdoor space | |
| Hard for businesses to get approval, and it requires a lot of money | |
| Wider range of price points among businesses | |
| Painters | |
| How do I spend a full afternoon in Cornwall? | |
| Need for a good grocery store | |
| Add some small shops | |
| Introduce more brand name retail options along 9W | |
| <i>Increase food and beverage options</i> | 4 |
| Wider range of price points among restaurants | |
| Lack good bakery and butcher shop | |
| Main Street is an ideal location for quality restaurants | |
| Challenge: Restaurants - more casual options, like golf club | |
| <i>Expand affordable housing</i> | 1 |
| Affordable housing | |
| <i>Introduce consistent signage and advertising</i> | 2 |
| Signage and wayfindings are important for local businesses | |
| Ad campaign to tell our story | |
| <i>Make pedestrian improvements</i> | 1 |
| Path to river - walking, uninterrupted, through dog park | |

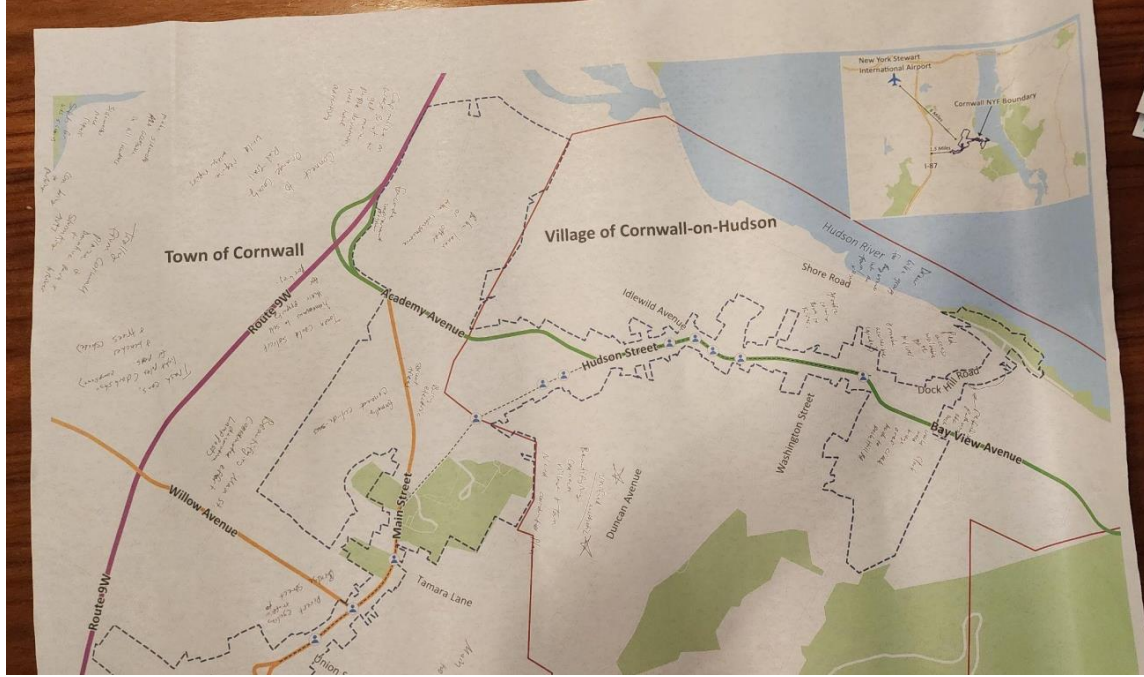
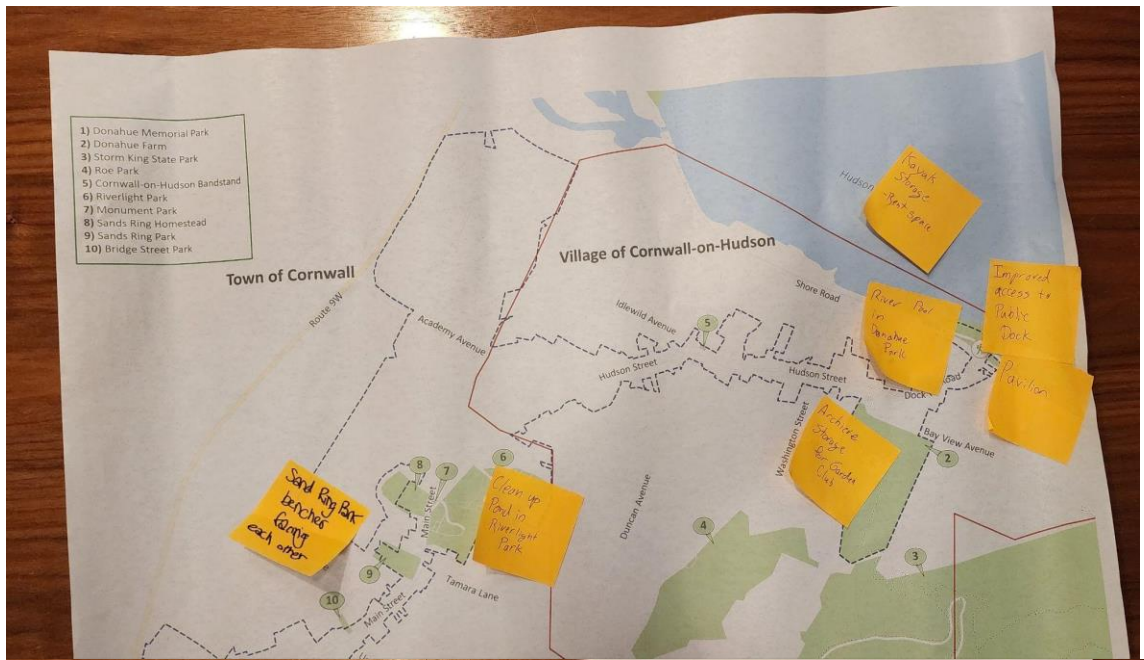
Appendix B: Community Opportunities & Challenges Activity Photos

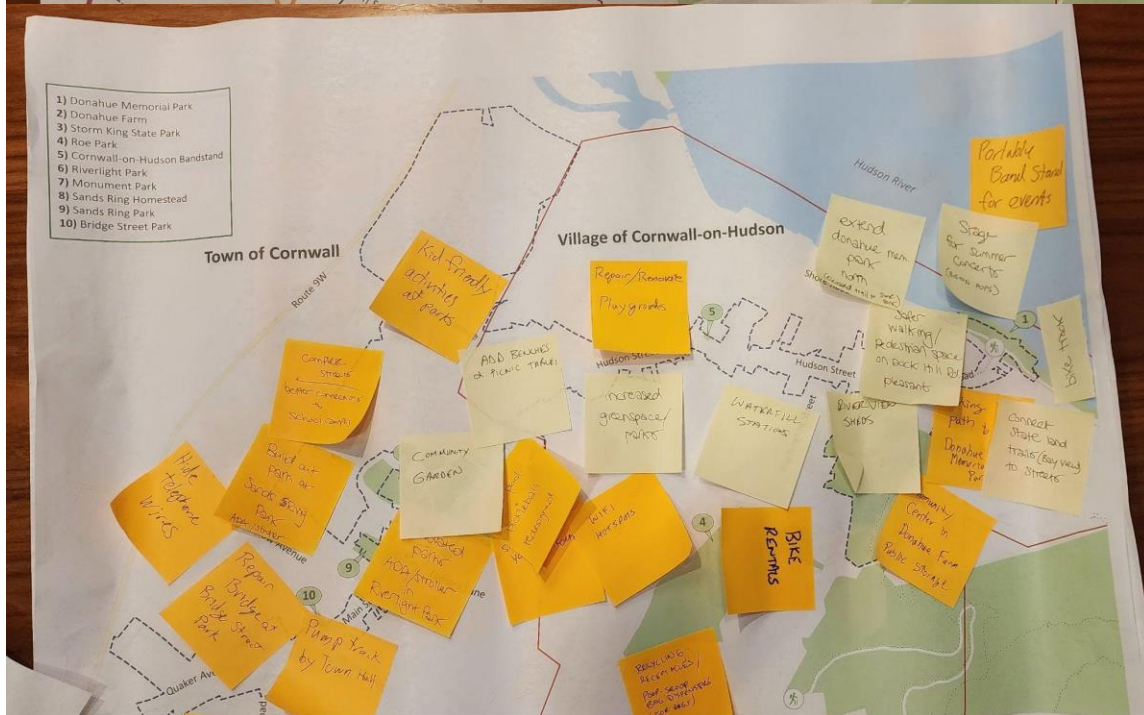
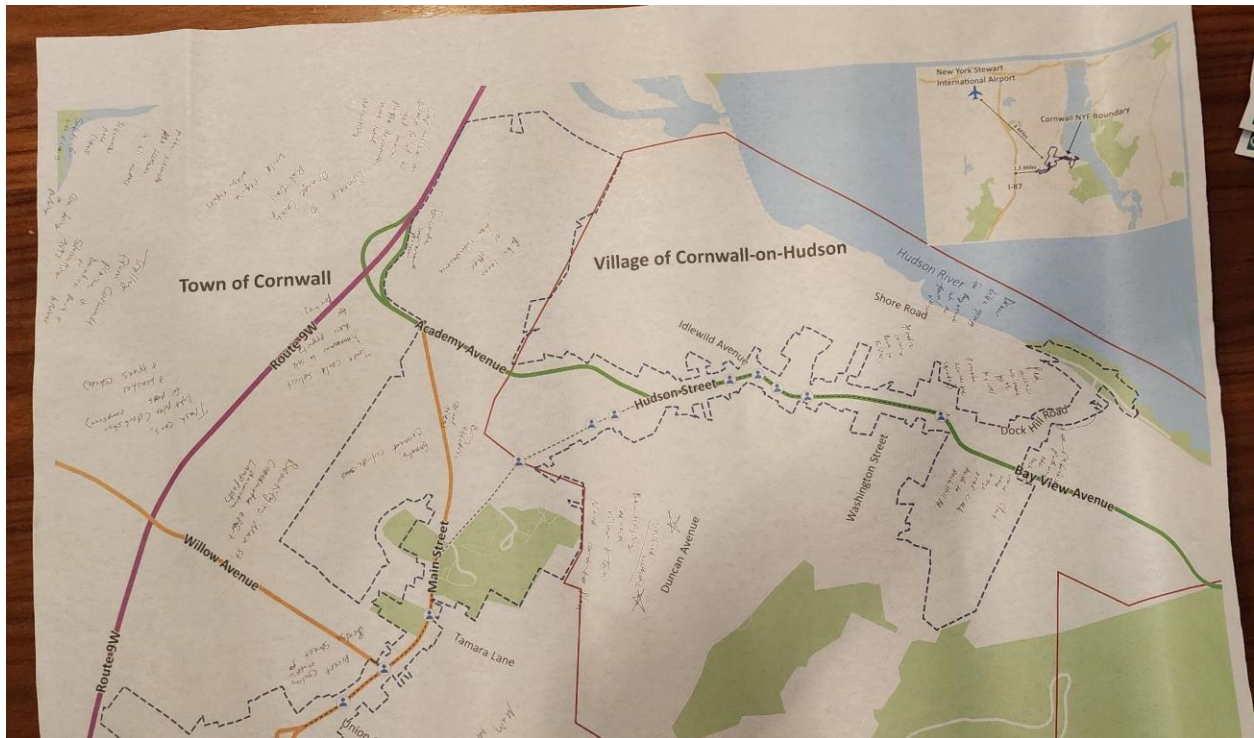
Station 1: General Vision for Cornwall





Station 2: Pedestrian and Roadway Connection





Station 4: Community Attractions and Cultural Assets

