

TOWN OF SCHROON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Project Number: 2233700

MEETING #1 SUMMARY NOTES

Location: Town Hall
Date: September 27, 2023
Time: 6:00 pm

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Committee Members

Roger Friedman, Committee Chair
Jessica Deslauriers, Essex County
Laura Donaldson, Business Owner
Lynn Donaldson, Town Council
Rick Gero, Town Council
Lisa Hess Marks, Business Owner
Pam Ireland, Resident
Joan Lawless, Town Library
Steve Miller, Town Council
Bruce Murdock, Planning Board
Sue Palisano, Chamber of commerce

David Peterson, Mountainside Church
Jenny Pitkin, Resident
Joe Steiniger, Adirondack Foundation
Ethan Thompson, Town of Schroon
Leanna Welch, Town Council
Meg Wood, Town Supervisor
Darren Woods, Seagle Music Colony

Consulting Team

Tracey Clothier, Clothier Planning & Consulting
Jamie Konkoski, LaBella Associates
Matthew Rogers, LaBella Associates

SUMMARY NOTES

1. Committee & Team Introductions

The Committee and Project Team introduced themselves. Roger listed the committee members who were unable to attend the meeting.

2. Project Scope and Timeline

Matt provided an overview of the project scope and timeline. The scope lays out the steps to get to the final comprehensive plan. Matt also reviewed some meeting logistics:

- Committee will meet monthly for the first few months (except on holidays). Meeting frequency will change as project progresses.
- LaBella will provide meeting materials one week in advance (or earlier for larger documents).
- There will be both in-person and online opportunities for public input.

3. Open Discussion of Town/Committee Priorities, Issues, Concerns

Tracey summarized some of the input that committee members provided on the Worksheets that were sent out before the meeting and then facilitated an open discussion of Attributes, Challenges and Desired Improvements/Projects. Committee members provided input:

Attributes:

- Supportive community
- Significant amenities for a small town
- Compact Main Street
- Lodge at Schroon Lake
- Word of Life
- North Country Scenic Trail
- Proximity to capital region & high peaks; Northway
- Plethora of arts and cultural activities, including Seagle Festival
- Linkages between school and seniors
- SLCS and school arts programs
- Quality restaurants

Challenges:

- Housing - affordable housing for middle class/workforce; lack of rentals; lack of options for first-time buyers
- Lack of quality childcare
- Outdated playground equipment at the beach
- Difficult to get info about community news/events; not everyone has access to digital media
- Business development & retention – need support for small businesses; lack of economic development strategy
- Climate changes & impact on both winter and summer tourism
- Diversification of the economy (more than tourism)
- Downtown parking – lack of and congestion which makes it difficult for boat trailers
- Internet dead zones (~35-36 homes)

Desired Improvements/Projects:

- 3-phase electric service up the hill for new Seagle theatre
- Parking and infrastructure upgrades
- Tour boat with food and bathrooms
- Upgrade boat docks (renovations planned for next summer)
- Provide the trail link from Schroon Lake to the North Country Scenic Trail which will locally traverse the Hoffman Notch Wilderness by North Pond and Big Pond and then exit near the Northway underpass near Schroon Falls.
- Wastewater collection system upgrades – a portion of the system is at capacity
- Hire a constable

4. Public Outreach Discussion

A Community Outreach Memo was shared with the committee. Jamie summarized the proposed outreach strategies. The Committee confirmed the general approach. The plan will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

- The Project Team will coordinate with Sue to upload information to the website.
- The Project Team will coordinate with David to post announcements and survey links on the Schroon Facebook page
- Outreach strategy will include a minimum of 2 public workshops, a survey, 4 newsletters, and stakeholder interviews.
- The Project Team will prepare press releases for public input events and submit to Sun Community News

5. Next Steps:

- Meeting Schedule – Committees will be held on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6pm. Next meeting is **October 25th** at the Town Hall.
- The Project Team will:
 - Draft a Community Engagement Plan to review at the next meeting
 - Compile the Community Profile
 - Review and summarize existing plans, studies and regulations

ITEM	ACTION ITEM	OWNER
1	Complete Worksheets	Committee Members
2	Amend the project schedule	LaBella
3	Draft Community Outreach Plan	LaBella
4	Draft Community Profile	LaBella
5	Review & Summary of existing plans, studies, and regulations	LaBella

Adjourned: 7:30 pm

The preceding minutes represent the author's understanding of the items discussed and decisions reached. The Committee will determine completeness and accuracy at their next scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
 LABELLA ASSOCIATES, D.P.C.
Jamie Konkoski, Senior Planner, LaBella Associates

Cc: All Attendees