

NY Forward – Capital Region - Cambridge

Subject	MEETING SUMMARY LPC Meeting #2	Date	Tuesday, July 18, 2023
Place	Village Offices, 56 N Park St	Time	5:30-7:30pm
In Attendance	<u>Local Planning Committee</u> Carman Bogle, Mayor, Co-Chair Linda MacFarlane, Co-Chair Christina Becker Chris Crucetti Sue Preece Kathleen Quinn Renee Bouplon Alane Ball Chinian James Sweeney Laura Oswald <i>Connie Brooks (absent)</i> <i>Chris Callahan (absent)</i> <i>Scott Petell (absent)</i>	<u>State Team</u> Matthew Smith, NY DOS <u>Consultant Team</u> Ian Nicholson, Buro Happold Daniel D'Oca, Interboro <u>Public</u> Sarah Ashton Sara Kelly Donna Wyanbrandt Phil Moses Ken Gottry	

Meeting Summary:

Please see "CB_LPC Meeting 2_Slides_record" for the presentation shared during the meeting, which parallels the discussion summarized below.

Action items are called out in **bold-italic highlight**.

Opening Remarks

Mayor Bogle delivers brief opening remarks.

The public website (www.CambridgeNYF.com) and email address for comments and questions (CambridgeNYF@gmail.com) is shared.

The Agenda for the meeting is reviewed briefly.

Code of Conduct

Code of Conduct preamble is read. It is noted that no conflicts or recusals have been declared, but that some will likely need to be filed during or in advance of the 3rd LPC Meeting, as the Open Call will have closed and proposed Projects will be known.

Updates: Planning Process & Engagement Activities

Review of what's been done so far, and what is on the horizon.

Overview provided of Public Workshop #1 held on 6/27

- Review of agenda, format, participants, and comments received.
- Analysis of comments revealed thematic focus on
 - Improvements to parks and green spaces
 - Road and infrastructure improvements
 - Youth-centered amenities
 - Bolster recreational economy
 - Increase housing options
 - Historic preservation
- Observation from LPC member that demographic at workshop skewed older.

Brief review of results from similar outreach conducted during Farmer's Market on 7/16

Discussion of Vision and Goals to be included in Strategic Investment Plan and used as a basis in evaluating proposed Projects.

- Ian (BH) shows original vision included in NYF application as well as 2 proposed versions that condenses the language, while emphasizing the themes discussed in the Public Workshop. Invites LPC to discuss and provide feedback.
- LPC observation that Village should be considered within its region, not in isolation.
- LPC suggestion to stress diversity, inclusivity, need to attract young families in addition to retirees.
- Discussion about mentioning "Freight Yards" in vision – some LPC members have had unwelcoming experiences on the property
- Final Vision statement agreed to by consensus of those present is as follows:

"The revitalized 'Owkill Commons' aspires to create a thriving and accessible hub in the Village of Cambridge that will be a center of economic, social, and cultural activity for our rural region. Our community will be a place where commerce, industry, agriculture, nature, and the arts come together for the benefit of diverse people of all ages and abilities."

- Ian (BH) shows original Goals included in NYF application, a summary of priorities discovered at the Public Workshop, and a list of proposed goals that synthesize these sources. In asking for feedback, the LPC is reminded that these Goals will form the basis of 2-4 "revitalization strategies" each.
- LPC observation that housing availability is very limited, and affordability is an issue especially for seniors – need more diversity of housing options, include mix of incomes.
- LPC discussion about whether goals are for those here now, or newcomers – a way to include both.
- Observation that there are ZERO hotel rooms in Washington County (outside of short-term-rentals like AirBNB).
- Mayor shares that the Village won a Complete Streets planning grant.
- Final Goals agreed to by consensus of those present are as follows:
 - *Expand housing options*
 - *Encourage commerce and amenities that attract people of all ages*
 - *Foster the connections between our business district and recreational offerings*
 - *Create quality gathering and play spaces*
 - *Expand walkability of the village*
 - *Revitalize, enhance, and celebrate the unique historic fabric of the community*

Downtown Profile & Assessment

Ian (BH) presents initial outline of the Downtown Profile and Assessment that will be included in the Strategic Investment Plan, including the structure, some graphics and images, and some key information.

Observation that the JB Rice facility filled in what was historically a marsh.

Community Forest was purchased in 2019, opened in 2021, 140 acres.

History should include the Cambridge Patent

Thirsty Cat is at 14 employees

- Note from Ian (BH) that data at this scale geography is very challenging and unreliable.
- Observation from member of public that a PhD, Don Boyd, did a Cambridge-specific study to try to get accurate data – that's included in the NYF application, and offered to connect consultant team with him.
Consultant team will follow up on this.

Observation that 11 multi-family buildings seems much too low – although the data may be impacted with some issues around zoning enforcement.

Noted that Cambridge is not in the Adirondacks or Green Mountains, but rather close to and between them.

Public Comment

Expression of support for the term “resilient” in the vision, as well as looking to Freight Yards as a key precedent.

Suggestion that the “historic character” of the Village is crucial and shouldn't be lost in the shuffle.

Closing Remarks (LPC Co-Chairs)

Mayor thanks everyone for their time and commitment.

END OF SUMMARY