

Town of Richfield / Village of Richfield Springs Joint Comprehensive Plan

Focus Group Recreation Development October 27, 2015

Question 1: What kinds of recreation activities are most prevalent today in the Town, Village and region?

Baseball –summer

Soccer – fall

Sports can change attitudes

Football has faded locally

Sports can build community pride

Snowmobiling

Fishing - Town draws 6-8 tournaments a year

- Approx. 6 K_+ boats
- Run by various clubs

Private pontoon boat rentals being explored

Lake is approx.. 40 feet deep

Question 2: Are there any local facilities that you would like to see built, improved, or open to recreation?

Need soccer fields (using fields in Warren – Diamond Dreams) (Town Village has approx. 100 athletes / sport)

*Need combined facility and dedicated softball / baseball fields – currently use field behind H.S. but flooded. Look for land near downtown.

*Richfield Youth Sports looking for land (3rd – 6th grade).

Sports facility was once located within town
Cullen Road – Mercury Field (soccer and football)

Richfield is a center hub for snowmobiling
-Richfield has about 150 miles
-Some people unload at Baker's Beach

Old trolley tracks – develop as trail
-NYSEG may own some control

Need a campground
-Can accommodate RV travelling community
Truck stop

Bakers Beach
-Building pavilion Wayne L. King Memorial Pavilion
-Covered cooking area
-5 picnic tables
-ADA accessible

Market to motorcycle

Sportsman Club: target shooting, indoor shooting
Make more well known

Question 3: Are there specific programs that you would like to see offered that currently are not here?

*No free access to Lake.
-Need access for canoes and kayaks

County sheriffs do not regularly patrol
-NEED a permanent location to store boat
-Boat launch dockage is too windy and worn out
-Maybe location for boat @ Bakers Beach

Need formal training program for youth to operate boats on the Lake
State paid trainer can come

Summer program for youth

Trail from Spring Park to Bakers Beach

Bring more arts to community – Arts as recreation

Bakers Beach

- build playground
- volley ball improvements
- public bathroom good
- needs a snack bar

Land Trust

- educational programming for kids

Encourage bicycle tours

- provide road standards for bike lanes, i.e. Tour de Farm

Sponsor festivals

Marketing opportunities

- Hunting season is big business
- Maintain healthy lake for fishing

Question 4: How could the Town and Village make recreation experiences better for both residents and visitors?

Find sports complex facility property

Develop rec tournaments around water: triathlon, pond hockey, swimming races

MORE BIKE TRAILS throughout town

Bike trail around the Lake

- *Develop standards to accommodate bike lanes

Protect Chesapeake Watershed

\$ Opportunity

*Buffer zones to protect sensitive areas

- incorporate green infrastructure principles

Boat launch brings in a lot of outsiders

- Lake Stewards?
- Boat washing station
- Need to keep invasive plants and fish out of lake
 - maintain ecology of the Lake

Fairgrounds for a variety of activities

- fair, demo derby, car races

Move Route 28 away from the Lake

- convert to trail

Put speed cameras along Route 28

Develop a Town/Village Trail Master Plan

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Focus Group Agricultural Resources October 27, 2015

Question 1: What are the essential building blocks for successful agricultural operations in the region?

Community support: accepting of ag operations

Buying local

Educated community re: Ag – foods programs

Ag in classroom (old program through Cornell Coop)

-Connect food with classroom – teach who's doing what

*Schools do not have FFA programs

Need Ag teacher at schools

Workforce

Getting product to market

Farm succession

Labor pool to pick hops and barley

Rich soils

-need to be protected

-glaciers stopped here; rock broken at right rate

-riches soils in region and county

-focus development into downtown

-sweet soils

Promote soil education

Question 2: What are the principal stressors affecting agricultural production in the region?

Local grocery stores should sell local products

Nightmare paperwork to be designated “organic”

Possibility if wind mills

-not sure how it could impact dairy operations

Possibility of pipeline

*Housing development potential (deteriorating housing but still building new with declining populations)

*Need someone to take over family farms

Question 3: What are the opportunities for agricultural production in the Town?

EDUCATE students about farming

Possible beef cattle – particularly grass fed

Organic hay

Selling to NYC

*Lots of “Family” farms – not necessarily corporate farms
-NEED for succession planning

Develop mailing operation facility to meet new NYS hops and barley regs (need to process within 48 hours?)
(Buchanan used to hops facility)

Primary dairy farming within Town

Dairy farm size approx. 80 in Richfield

Satellite Regional Food Hub

Grain, dairy, beef are largest products in Richfield

Development should be focused on downtown & the Village
-PROTECT ag soils!

Question 4: Identify specific actions or programs that would lead to a more sustainable future for the Town's agricultural economy.

Develop "Buy Local" program

Reintroduce FFA in to schools

Create "Brand" image for family farm operations

Protect prime farmland for future

*Create an Ag Farmland Protection Plan

Consider introducing Conservation Easements to protect farmland

Field trips to farms

*Summer intern program at farms

*Get Ag teacher at school

-Verona as an example / model

-BOCES program?

*Social event to promote Ag

i.e. Harvest Festival, Farm Tours (promote B & Bs, motels)

*Promote Agtourism opportunity

-promote to Cooperstown visitors, baseball camps & tournaments

E.D. program to promote Ag opportunities

Weston Price Foundation

Miles of Smiles – Route 28

Guide to NYS Ag (Cornell)

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Focus Group Business and Economic Development October 27, 2015

Question 1: What do you feel are the essential building blocks of a healthy economy?

Motivation

Intact downtown; integrated

Not empty

Utilize existing resources

Efficient, effective infrastructure:

- water, sewer, technology, natural gas

Skilled workforce – education in consistency with “new economy”

Question 2: Which building blocks are present in the Town and Village?

Town / Village being left with “left overs”

Affordable rents for both commercial and residential

Question 3: Which building blocks are missing in the Town and Village?

Internet connectivity – biggest detriment

- More than 50% do not have connectivity beyond dial-up (no high speed)

Need for entrepreneurial training

A sense of opportunity for have a future here

*Promotion of the Ag & Historic Resources

Opportunity for bars and restaurants (retail has a very weak environment)

*Connect to Marcy Nanotech, Bassett Health

Curb appeal isn't up to snuff in the Village

*Attract Route 20 users with agritourism and historic resources

Attract not next gen but family age people

Made in New York State Route 20 store

*COLLABORATION

Many stores are not handicapped accessible

Concern about Section 8 housing within Village

Richfield people do not support local businesses

Needed:

- Lumberyard

- Senior housing

- Specialty restaurant

- Clothing store

- Connection with Lake – biofield station with SUNY

- Movie theater

- Performing space

- Coffee house

- Soft ice cream

- Sports shop

- Dunkin Donuts

- *Bookstore

Question 4: How can the Town and Village better collaborate to use their assets to stimulate economic growth? What kind of opportunities should be pursued?

Create a small business / entrepreneurship ed. Program (in H.S.)

- (TREP\$) take program into H.S.

- Bring SBA in to teach H.S. students

Need a change in federal policies to maintain jobs

Showoff & market resources here

Otsego County: 8th lowest in State's property taxes

Buffer zones to protect sensitive areas

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Focus Group Historic and Cultural Resources October 27, 2015

Question 1: What are the “undocumented” historic and cultural resources available in the Town and Village?

Servants quarters for demolished Earlington Hotel (Bloomfield Hotel)

- next to hotel
- now the James St. storage

Many locations of historic hotels

Need to recognize “culturally sensitive” locations

- i.e. Canadarago Park

*Historic RR stop to Buffalo – id old RR row

- stopped approx. 12 times a day
- Delaware, Lackawanna & Susquehanna

1893 Republican convention

Historic Native American foot paths

Community is a series of smaller hamlet areas i.e. Chepachet

Several small cemeteries spotted throughout the Town

Several old school houses that are undocumented throughout the Town

Indians called area “stinking water”

*Headwater of the Chesapeake

- *Chesapeake starts here

Hops houses

Question 2: Are there opportunities to enhance these resources? Should we be thinking about protecting other resources?

West side of Town is lower \$

Roundtop Hill – horse trotting track

Boss Family Farm (Co. Route 25) – Monticello Rd.

- Used to have a track to run horses

Protect Ag. Landscapes

- Look at barns as “unique”

Village Park is extremely underutilized

Many genuine elements still in place

- need to figure out how to organize to tell the story

Question 3: How can we integrate the areas historic and cultural resources into the Comprehensive Plan recommendations?

Recognition of Native American foot trails

Need to make history a stronger, more visible attraction for residents and visitors

Develop a cemetery tour

Create stronger historical districts

- develop zoning regs to protect historic properties / areas/ landscapes

Establish an Historic Preservation Advisory Board

- to advise ZBA & Planning Boards

Need to make historic resources more visible

*Look into becoming a designated Certified Local Government

Partner with Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank

Educate local students about local and regional history

- via Richfield Museum

- develop “hands on” museum components

- window displays

Town and Village web page should “celebrate” local history

“Sulphur water tours”

Create an “historian intern” program

Drums Along the Mohawk

- Native American Trail movie

Lyn Butterfield – paper about Native Americans and Otsego County