

VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE & LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

MEETING SUMMARY

Purpose: Comprehensive Plan Update (CPU) and LWRP Committee Meeting #6
Date and Time: May 3, 2023, 7:00 pm
Location: James Harmon Community Center, 44 Main Street, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706
Attendees: See Below

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
<p style="text-align: center;">Welcome & Introductions</p>	<p>Richard Bass, acting CPU & LWRP Committee Chair, welcomed Committee members, Village staff, consultants, and members of the public to the meeting.</p> <p>Members of the CPU & LWRP Committee in attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Beth Murphy • Trustee Drake • Chris Thomas • Edward Kuch • John Patrick Diggins • Meg Walker • David Gunton • Meghann Donahue • Natalie Barry • Richard Bass • Samantha Merton • Sarah Dupere Ostro <p>MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C., the lead consultants assisting the Village with the Comprehensive Plan Update & LWRP process, was represented at the meeting by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaclyn Hakes, AICP • Nora Culhane Friedel 	<p style="text-align: center;">N/A</p>

<p>Approval of Minutes/Meeting Summary</p>	<p>Richard Bass, the acting CPU/LWRP Committee Chair, initiated the approval of past meeting minutes and summaries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Summary for April 5, 2023, meeting approved <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Committee members that were not present at prior meeting abstained 	<p>Meeting Summary for April 5, 2023 meeting approved</p>
<p>Project Status Update</p>	<p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) provided an update of the project status.</p> <p>Key current/upcoming project milestones include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spring 2023 – Second round of public engagement, comp plan strategies and recommendations, LWRP proposed projects • Summer 2023 – Third round of public engagement, initiate Draft Comp Plan, and Draft LWRP • Fall 2023 – Public hearing, Draft Comp Plan, and Draft LWRP • Winter 2023 – Spring 2024 – Final Comp Plan, Final LWRP, Adoption 	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Public Engagement Update</p>	<p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) provided an update on Public Engagement.</p> <p>The Community Survey is now closed. The survey was 22 questions, available online through the project website, and also through hard copies available at key locations in the Village including Village Hall, the Library and the Community Center. 1,053 responses have been received. A Spanish language version was made available. Publicity for the survey included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village and Project Website • Village email • Survey cards • CPU/LWRP Committee • Flyers <p>The consultant team is preparing a robust summary but offered key highlights at the meeting.</p> <p>Q1-3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76% respondents are Village Residents • 53% respondents are property owners • Majority of respondents between ages 45-64 • 63% have at least one person in their household under the age of 18 	<p>N/A</p>

Q5 - What influenced you to move to Hastings-on-Hudson?

Select all that apply.

- 10% respondents are life-long residents
- Key reasons respondents moved to Village:
 - Proximity to NYC (72%)
 - Education/Schools (65%)
 - Location (57%)
 - Sense of Community/Neighborhood (56%)

Q8 - How long have you lived within the Village?

- Over half of respondents have lived in the Village at least 10 years
- 22% of respondents moved to the Village in the last 5 years

Q10 - Top Challenges/Concerns:

- Waterfront development –Remediation, need for redevelopment, waterfront access
- High property taxes –Concerns for those with fixed income, need for additional commercial tax base
- Need for affordable housing –Lack of quality affordable housing for seniors, low-income residents, and first-responders
- Climate change and environmental concerns such as flooding, erosion
- Need for stronger commercial base
- School system –concerns of crowding, funding

Q11- Top Opportunities:

- Waterfront development –Revitalize, create public access, commercial development
- Business Growth –More diverse food and shopping, attract new business and incentivize small business.
- Infrastructure –Improve parks, enhance non-vehicular travel (biking/walking)
- Affordable housing –Need for more, increase housing density in appropriate areas
- Community Character –Expand natural areas, foster sense of community, update downtown, engage youth
- Education –Support schools, increase funding, more opportunities for high schoolers

Q13

Land Uses to Encourage:

- Public outdoor recreation (97%)
- Protection of natural areas/ open space (97%)
- Restaurants (97%)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Redevelopment of vacant buildings/properties (95%) • Service businesses (i.e.dry cleaner, bakery) (93%) <p>Land Uses to Discourage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motels/Hotels (81%) • Light Industrial/Manufacturing (62%) • Convenience Stores (61%) • Residential –Condominiums, Apartments (42%) • Tourism based (39%) <p>Q16 - Which of the following activities do you like to do within public spaces in the Village? Select all that apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hiking/Walking (90%) ○ Dining (88%) ○ Exercise (69%) ○ Community Events (68%) ○ Shopping (67%) ○ Entertainment (55%) <p>Q17 - If additional recreational opportunities were added within the Village, what would you like to see more of? Select all that apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top responses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hudson River Public Access (83%) ○ Hiking/Walking Trails –unpaved (63%) ○ Boat Launch –Canoe, Kayak, SUP (57%) ○ Bike Trails (47%) ○ Public Amphitheatre (47%) ○ Playgrounds (39%) <p>Q19-20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 66% of respondents indicated that expanding public access and connections to the Hudson River is very important. • 51% of respondents indicated that expanding public access and connections to the Saw Mill River is somewhat important. <p>Q22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members submitted 59 photos through the survey • Photos are available to view through an online gallery on the project website: www.planhastings.org/survey <p>Committee member commented that they would have liked to see more survey responses from the youth of the Village. Consultant team has introduced themselves to the school district; reaching out to get input from students.</p>	
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	<p>Committee member commented that respondents did not want commercial development but did want to increase the tax base.</p> <p>Committee member asked if the survey can be broken down by demographics and how they relate the to the responses. Consultant team will get back to the committee.</p> <p>Committee member was surprised at the number of respondents that did not want to see apartment buildings. Consultant team will provide graphics/images when continuing the conversation to better illustrate what these types of housing could actually look like vs perceived ideas. Are the older contingent more interested in higher density?</p> <p>Committee member asked about percentage respondents that were in favor of affordable housing options within the Village – Consultant team will follow up with quantifiable data.</p> <p>Committee member commented that resiliency was not a more highlighted topic in the responses.</p> <p>Committee member commented that they were surprised that the Saw Mill river was not identified as something with a high level of importance. “What could be?”</p> <p>Committee member identified that the Saw Mill is sometimes overlooked because of its location and access points. Access is usually blocked and not well used.</p> <p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) then discussed Public Engagement #2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 24, from 6:00 –8:30 PM • In person, Open House Style • Participants can attend at their convenience to share input • Activity Stations deigned together specific input <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ About the LWRP/Comprehensive Plan Update ○ Community Profile ○ Places We Gather ○ Serving the Generations ○ Getting Around ○ Various Topic-based Idea Stations ○ Waterfront • Kids Corner 	<p>Consultant team will follow up with quantifiable data re: affordable housing question.</p>
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	<p>Committee member commented that this public meeting is an opportunity to introduce the images the committee had just discussed – “visual preference surveying”.</p> <p>Committee member suggested that this meeting dig deeper and get more specifics when questions are asked of the public. Can we creatively ask the questions about the future – less reactionary / more visionary?</p> <p>Committee member asked for clarification on physical room set up and activity stations. Consultant team walked through the specifics further and detailed the Participant Guide.</p> <p>Consultant team shared that following the public meeting all materials will be shared on the website along with a thorough summary.</p> <p>Committee member requested food be served. Consultant team needs to get together with Village staff to see if that can be covered.</p>	<p>Consultant team asked for committee members to assist with publicity for event.</p>
<p>Vision, Goals and Smart Growth Principles Discussion</p>	<p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) provided an update of the revised Vision and Goals.</p> <p>The consultant team drafted a community vision which incorporates themes from the previous Comprehensive Plan, Committee Feedback from the January Visioning session and Community feedback from the first Public Meeting.</p> <p>The Committee feedback received was throughout the month of March and feedback currently being incorporated into revised Draft Vision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Draft Vision presented at March Meeting • Committee feedback received throughout the months of March and April • Integrating feedback from the community survey • Will integrate additional public input from Public Open House 	

<p style="text-align: center;">Update of Demographics Existing Conditions</p>	<p>Nora Culhane Friedel (MJ) shared an updated overview of demographic data to set the stage for proposed projects. 2021 ACS data was used.</p> <p>Committee member shared that the new data shared provided questions about why the local schools are not overwhelmed?</p> <p>Committee member asked if college age people are classified by living at home or on campuses?</p> <p>Committee member asked if consultant team can provide previous years to compare the data to next?</p> <p>Committee member asked if percentage change could be provided as it relates to number of housing units over the years?</p> <p>Committee member asked for clarification on ACS classification on owner occupied vs renter occupied.</p> <p>Consultant team is still working on closer examination of the statistics on vacancy within the Village.</p>	<p>Consultant team will prepare further demographic data requested and collaborate with committee members to procure.</p> <p>Consultant team will prepare infographics where appropriate for public digestion.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Initial Discussion Of Comprehensive Plan Update Recommendations</p>	<p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) began Initial Discussion Of Comprehensive Plan Update Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations are action items that help to implement the goals • Proposed to be topic-based with possible Village-wide recommendations • Starting with subcommittee feedback on current Comprehensive Plan • Pull from initial LWRP projects list • Continue to build using feedback from the May Public Open House and our team expertise <p>Key Themes from Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waterfront • Transportation/Mobility • Placemaking • Economic Growth • Housing • Climate, Resilience, Sustainability • Infrastructure 	

<p>Subcommittee Tasks</p>	<p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) provided an overview of the upcoming tasks for the Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Engagement Assistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May 24th Open House ○ Publicize!! ○ Attend if available • Feedback on Initial Projects List • New thoughts/ideas on preliminary Comprehensive Plan Recommendations 	<p>Committee to complete tasks prior to the next CPU/LWRP meeting.</p>
<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) provided an overview of the next steps in the process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Open House: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May 24, 2023 from 6:00 –8:30 PM • Committee Tasks & Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Publicity for May Open House ○ Attend Open House if available • Feedback on Initial Project List • Next Committee Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ June 7, 2023 @ 7 pm 	<p>The next CPU & LWRP meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>There will be a dedicated time for public comment at each CPU & LWRP meeting.</p> <p>Member of public, Ted Andreasian, commented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Won't be in town for the May meeting and wants to participate • "don't draw people to you, go to the people" <p>Member of public, Arthur Riolo, commented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1970 census has Hastings at over 10,500 people living in it • Here on behalf of the Affordable Housing Committee – asking for the Village to be proactive in the development of public/private lands. Asked the Village to put out RFP for two particular lots • Town of Greenburgh changed housing tax laws that limit affordability significantly – "loophole rate" • Discussed 100 year flood plain issues and the view preservation laws as they relate to waterfront development <p>Member of public, Gal Yaguri, commented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requested the consultant team to introduce themselves next time at start of meeting • would like for this committee to be talking about the Graham school property and electric owl studio project, DPW yard as well • member of Hastings zero waste advisory task force 	<p>N/A</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recommend and support that the youth be engaged in this process and provide input <p>Member of public, David Skolnik, commented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissatisfied with the acoustics of meeting room – finds the space inaccessible • Finds fault in the upcoming public meeting format – would prefer a forum style with podium • Feels as though the committee is not reaching the real substance of what the committee must eventually decide – ref: 1 Warburton – feels as though the committee is not talking about real land use issues • Shared and summarized comments from Vanessa Merton: is this committee going to recommend to the village board as lead agency to conduct a full SEQRA review of electric owl studio proposal? Largest land use decision of this decade – rather than simply accept the developers proposal? <p>Richard Bass thanked all those in attendance and closed the meeting.</p>	
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This meeting summary conveys our understanding of the items discussed and agreements reached at this meeting. Please forward any additions, corrections and/or questions to my attention.

Submitted by:
 Nora Culhane Friedel, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.
 cc: Consultant Team, Comprehensive Plan Update Committee, Village, File

Comprehensive Plan Update & LWRP Committee

Name	Present
Ray Dovell	
Mary Beth Murphy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trustee Drake	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trustee Fleisig	
Chris Thomas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dave Gunton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Edward Kuch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
John Patrick Diggins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Meg Walker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meghann Donahue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Natalie Barry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Richard Bass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Samantha Merton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sarah Dupere Ostro	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Village Representatives & Planning Support

Name	Present
Fiona Mathews	

State Representatives

Name	Present
Joshua Hunn	

Consultant Team

Name	Affiliation	Present
Jaclyn Hakes, Project Manager	M.J. Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Nora Culhane Friedel	M.J. Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Members of the Public

The following members of the public were in attendance:

- Arthur Riolo
- Vanessa Merton
- Gal Yaguri
- David Skolnik
- Ted Andreasian