

Millbrook Village Meeting
January 16, 2008 Village Hall 7 PM-8:30 PM

Open Meeting to discuss items to be addressed in comprehensive Plan, esp. Assets

Items Comprehensive Plan Committee should consider:

consolidation of Village (with Town), dissolution of Village, work with Town of Washington comprehensive plan

Eliminate same services as Town provides such as garbage, court and Highway Dept.
Advantages to keeping separate services is tradition, have more control over local issues and Village future

Important Village Assets to be protected:

RE: Stream areas: both visual aspects, environmental, and walking right of ways

RE: Public Right of ways for walking and dog parks: protect and increase

Some specific paths:

Linden Lane, North and South, to Creamery, to Condos

RR right of way

Running Trail

Note: Walking paths help generate traffic to businesses in village,(good)

Walkway in Bennett to 44 (Old 44 roadbed)

Pilgrim Lane from Reardon Briggs to Thorne Building

Sidewalk from Anton (?near Ciferri) to Elm Drive

RE: Roads

Please address deterioration. Increase the walking areas, sidewalks and bike paths.

Make them more walkable, especially Route 44/lower Franklin

RE: Parking

Need better/more parking. Especially at Post Office and on Franklin Ave & Church St

But caution: Extra parking can turn residential areas in to expanding business district. Open permit uses for business district vs. current multifamily

RE: Business District

Where businesses already exist, make that into a business district. Make sure our planning and permitting policies are not used to slow down business development, develop a list of approved uses of business district that will not require months of applications and red tape causing property owner to loose out on revenue.

Make plan business-friendly

RE: Growth

Express hurdles. Streamline the red tape that businesses and property owners encounter, to encourage business growth. Suggestions such as amending the planning procedures while maintaining control and preventing interested parties from looking elsewhere to set up business. Minor changes needed especially regarding parking requirements.

Suggestion to hold another meeting to focus on streamlining planning/permitting procedures for businesses. Make a list of approved property usages and permitted businesses.

Need to revitalize business center, business district. Goal is a vibrant and profitable downtown.

Consult with neighbors as to positive attributes, policies and guidelines in effect attracting diverse businesses. Check what Millerton and Rhinebeck have done to develop downtown. Duplicate the best practices they have in effect.

Survey consumers: what type of stores and businesses do they want, what hours of operation would be beneficial to them. Utilize youth, neighborhood meetings.

Town/Village commercial leads to housing options (ie. Help support business on first floor due to revenue generated from second floor tenants, housing or offices) Encourage mixed use.

RE: Thorne Building

1. Develop into two small "black box" movie theaters in the basement. These will be dedicated to movies but can also be used for other performances (ie. Radio, performing arts) About 75 seats each. Use movies to bring people into the village after 5 pm, generate positive evening activity.

2. Develop rental space for artists from around the county, and look for grants to support them and the conversion. Become incubator for Arts in area. Conference center. Home for small organizations.

Stability of current residents

Eclectic homes and store front façade from different time periods.

Keep our community unique, sprawling and quaint.

Reach out

Architectural integrity and growth must fit current nature of architecture.

AAC property owner rights vs. government

Have property owners and community on common ground

Who decides best practices?

Millbrook Restoration

Water source availability and safety, think forward as with new technology, expansion

Schools: Public and private

Churches

Cardinal Hayes

Important View Sheds to be saved: Franklin/Thorndale, Valley Farm Rd, Golf Course, High School. View of village from Route 82 in TOW on Dyson's farm, locate benches for optimum viewing. Make a list/slide show of the views and hold a voter for the top 10 views?

RE: technology available...we have good cable and fiber optics, but maybe could improve cell phone service

List important individual trees, ponds and swamps to be considered in all construction plans; inventory and look into construction effects on them

Future economic viability and tax base

Condo tax effect: try to offset it

Add Historical society inventory of Historical assets in Master Plan? (ie. Property, documents, photos) ongoing inventory because it is constantly changing

Consider Handicapped accessibility in businesses, government offices and sidewalks.

Think of community first.

Be ruthless in evaluating ourselves.