

TOWN OF ONTARIO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Project Steering Committee Kick-Off Meeting | September 10, 2020

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Frank Robusto, Town Supervisor	Glenn Majewski
Bob Kelsch, Deputy Supervisor	John Evanowsky
Bill Riddell, Parks and Recreation Director	John Graziose
Matt Horn, MRB Group	Jenna Mausolf
Shaun Logue, MRB Group	Carol Schwartz-Mizelle
George Konstantinou	Susan Brown
Brian Natale	Edward Summers
Everett Taylor	Sylvia Ryndock
Joe Barone	Don Cedruly
	Joe Crestuk

Welcome + Introductions

Frank Robusto, Town Supervisor, welcomed the Steering Committee attendees and thanked them for their participation in the process. Each member introduced themselves and their interest in the project. The Supervisor introduced Matt Horn and Shaun Logue from MRB Group, whom will be providing technical assistance throughout the planning process.

Project Overview

Matt began the meeting with an overview of project roles, including the Consultants, Town Staff and leaders, and the Steering Committee. He explained that Shaun Logue would be serving as Project Manager, with support from himself and other MRB Group staff members.

MRB Group will be communicating primarily through e-mail regarding project announcements, meeting dates, and general correspondence. A DropBox file will be set up to share documents that exceed 20MB. The Committee agreed that a Zoom video meeting would work in the event of winter weather.

The Steering Committee established a regular meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Casey Park Recreation building.

Plan Elements

Shaun presented the key components of a Comprehensive Plan. The first step of the process, visioning, will reflect the community's overall goals and objectives.

Additional project elements include the following:

- Establishing the *why* in planning (aka – plan purpose);
- A community “snapshot” and existing conditions analysis, including but not limited to, land use and zoning, land ownership patterns, parks and open space, building inventory, historic/archaeological sites, transportation, infrastructure, and natural resources;
- Vision and core values, with supporting goals and objectives which define where the community is going;
- A future land use strategy grounded in policy, regulatory analysis, and community development types and preferences; and
- A strategic implementation plan that includes realistic and achievable action items.

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Public Engagement Strategy

Matt presented the community engagement activities associated with the planning process. He explained that a Public Participation Plan (PPP) would be developed that outlines key meetings and activities throughout the life of the plan, including:

- Steering Committee: 8 meetings
- Stakeholder meetings comprised of local businesses, institutions and organizations
- Public Meetings & Workshops: 2 Workshops/Open Houses
- An online survey – Will go live in October
- Unique and fun community engagement activities such as walking tours and special events
- Project Website
- Sidewalk Galleries: Town Center (Ridge Road)

Steering Committee members also brainstormed potential opportunities to promote the plan update, solicit feedback, and distribute information to the community. Additional opportunities include:

- October Newsletter
- Festivals and Community events
- Tabling at the Farmers' Market
- Planning in the classroom
- Community Center events
- Natural Heritage Museum

Discussion: Let's start planning!

Matt concluded the meeting with a "big picture" discussion to encourage Committee members to start thinking about '**what is working**' and '**what is not working**' in the Town of Ontario. A summary of the responses follows below.

What is Working in Ontario?

- Small town atmosphere
- Parks and open space for passive and active recreation
- Access to Lake Ontario (Minimal access points)
- Great library and Town Hall facility
- Great school district and community support
- Relaxed atmosphere
- Fruit and vegetable stands
- Attractive community ("like minds")
- Isolated Beh Industrial Park
- Rural/suburban feel
- Geographical location
- NYS Route 104: Curse and a blessing
- Rate of return on real estate

What is Not Working in Ontario?

- NYS Route 104 divides the Town
- Downtown is broken
- Cell phone service is spotty
- Pedestrian interconnectivity

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- Speed issues: NYS Route 104, NYS Route 350 and Furnace Road
- Ginna Nuclear Power Plant
- Business recognition (e.g. Intergrow, Optics, Greenspark, etc.)
- Commerce
- Diverse housing opportunities, due to current zoning standards
- Lack of public transit (e.g. RTS)
- Lack of health care facilities

Next Steps

The next meeting will start to bring these ideas together through a targeted visioning exercise which will be used to develop the Vision and Core Values.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.