

Village of Monroe Comprehensive Plan 4/19/12 Public Meeting SWOT Analysis Summary

Meeting Overview

On April 19th, residents, business owners and other interested parties were invited to the Smith Clove Park Community Center to participate in the first public information meeting for the Village's Comprehensive Plan. In addition to updating those that came on the status of the plan, a S.W.O.T. Analysis was undertaken to better understand the issues that matter most to the local population. A S.W.O.T. analysis identifies Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to a community. Below is the summary of the responses provided. At the end of the meeting, participants were asked to identify their most important issues. The number of people that chose a particular issue as their most important is provided in parentheses. We appreciate all of the input we received hope that everyone continues to stay involved in the process.

In the next week we will be developing a website to post this and other earlier reports for the public. These responses will be utilized in developing the vision statement, goals and objectives of the plan in the coming weeks. We hope to discuss these topics at our next steering committee meeting, tentatively scheduled for May 17th (3rd Thursday). At that meeting we would also like to discuss the design charrette that we briefly mentioned at last night's meeting.

Strengths

Scenic views (2)
Mixed use, concentrated downtown (2)
Millponds and walkway (2)
Local businesses (1)
Proximity to Woodbury common (1)
School district (1)
Religious community/ diversity (1)
Heritage Trail (1)
Excellent water quality (1)
Location, highway access and proximity to NYC
Concentrated Village Center
Public transportation options
Beauty
Sophisticated, well educated population
Good environment to raise a family
YMCA
Cheesefest
Police / Fire

Weaknesses

Lack of sidewalk connectivity (11)
Lack of senior housing (9)
Parking (6)
Downtown vacant stores (6)
Parks only available to residents (6)
Not enough activities for teens/ young adults (6)
Traffic (5)
Lighting (5)
Need architectural guidelines (4)
Historic resources not supported (3)
High taxes (3)
Roads and curbs in disrepair (2)
Lack of active adult housing (2)
Difficult ingress and egress (1)
Deterioration of housing/ multi-family buildings (1)
No auto dealers (1)
Lack of public interest/ civic responsibility in community (1)
Need to upgrade parks (1)
No entrance/ gateway to Village
No right turn on red from 105 to Spring Street
Lack of inter-municipal cooperation / excessive duplication of services
Lack of cohesion
Lack of multi-story downtown buildings
Competition from outlying shopping centers
Library could be larger
No train station
Need better downtown marketing
Large deer population
Lack of senior activities
Crane Park deed restrictions

Opportunities

Better use of/ Opportunity for more events in parks, ponds and open space (14)
Heritage trail (9)
Strengthen chamber of commerce (9)
Improve access to downtown (8)
Re-use of movie theater (8)
Mapping/ better marketing of parks, businesses and historic resources (7)
Redevelopment of vacant / underutilized properties (4)
Development of condos and rental units in downtown (4)
Main Street grants (4)
Entertainment (3)

Farmers market (2)
Museum (2)
Piggy back off of Woodbury common visitors/ tourism (2)
Design guidelines / better urban design (1)
Development of vehicle related business (1)
Improve walkability
Diversify housing stock
Use of smart code
Encourage local businesses
Connect trails to racetrack park
Race track
Strengthen / revise zoning

Threats

Traffic (7)
Algae in ponds (3)
Lack of funding for parks (3)
Lack of starter housing (2)
Vacant commercial properties (3)
Parking meters (3)
Taxes (3)
Affordability for seniors (2)
Cultural differences
High commercial rents
Big box stores
Outward migration
Bureaucracy and lack of inter governmental communication / SEQR process
Cost of business start up
Absentee landlords
Direction of street lights
Crystal Run medical building
Potential for flooding
Lack of communication between village and town
Misinformation