

Lake Luzerne Comprehensive Plan Update
DRAFT Summary Meeting Notes from Public Open House 9.1.22

1. Welcome and Introductions: Attended by approximately 70 persons including those on Zoom.
2. Project Description: Tracey described the parts and pieces of the comp plan update, the process of developing the plan, and the end product.
3. Creating a Vision: A discussion was held about the following questions in order to begin to establish the foundation for a long-term vision for the community.
 - Described how the vision for the community is developed.
 - Can the Town adjust to demographic changes while staying economically viable and true to their character?
 - Does Lake Luzerne have a strong sense of place?
 - Which characteristics do you relate to Luzerne?
 - Is there a community would you like to be more like?
 - What distinguishes and differentiates Lake Luzerne from these other places?
 - What is the story of Lake Luzerne you want to tell?

Tracey described the major assets of the community and how they could be spun together to develop a modern brand for Lake Luzerne with the goal of growing the year-round residential community and attracting visitors for outdoor recreation. What are the activities and places that visitors to the Adirondack Folk School, Luzerne Music Camp, Nettle Meadow, Huttoopia, and other places want to go and want to do? Build on these success stories and develop a unique brand for Luzerne that can be marketed by Warren County Tourism and I Love NY.

4. Poster Review and Comments: The group reviewed the posters and provided good verbal responses. A limited number of responses were collected on the posters themselves. The verbal and written comments are outlined below:

QUALITY OF LIFE

Questions:

1. Is Lake Luzerne a good place to live? **Yes-3**
2. Are services adequate for:
 - Basic health care? **Yes-2**
 - Emergency & fire response? **Yes-2**
 - Senior services? **Yes-1**
 - Youth Services? **Yes-1, No-2**
 - Childcare? **No-1**
 - Education? **Yes-1**

Public Comments:

- Need reliable internet throughout Luzerne to round out community.
- The 2010 Plan was good but not much was done – will this happen again?
- How attract young people to community: add/market Revolution Bikes, Potash Trail, and other active outdoor recreation from region.
- “We only need everybody”

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TOURISM

Questions:

1. Is Lake Luzerne a good place to visit? **Yes-1**
2. Families? **Yes-1** Singles? Young People? Retirees? **Yes-1**
3. Do visitor destinations, amenities, or services need improvement? **Yes-1**
4. What do visitors need to come or stay longer on a regular basis? **Yes-1**
5. How can the seasonal workforce be bolstered?
6. Is the community “welcoming”? **Yes-1**

Public Comments:

- Ambassador Program is a great welcoming tool.
- Could use welcome wagon committee.
- Hotels/motels needed.
- Restaurants , small businesses, and stores needed.
- Need to modernize the way we do tourism through social networking, wayside information, and a welcome center.
- Stay in Luzerne and tie the experience to the outdoor opportunities of the Region

RECREATION, HISTORY, CULTURE

Questions:

1. Is the community recreation-friendly? **Yes-1**
2. Are there enough places for all ages and abilities to recreate? **Yes-1, No-1**
3. Is the Town a year-round visitor destination for recreation? **Yes-1**
4. Do the museums & interpretive signage tell the story of Lake Luzerne effectively? **No-2**
5. How can this story be improved for visitors & residents?

Public Comments:

- Permanent high-resolution photos of interpretive signs
- Get the Schoolhouse on the National Historic Register
- Add an overlook to Rockwell Falls
- More interpretive signage is needed
- Utilize old postcards in interpretive messaging
- Develop a Timeline Poster that describes and illustrates how the town developed
- Decide how to tell the stories of places that are no longer physically there
- The Tannery and Schoolhouse need interpretive signage
- Need a trails map with potential challenge sites

LOCAL ECONOMY, COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITIES

Questions:

1. Is the local economy currently stable?
2. What kinds of businesses should the Town try to attract?
3. What is preventing business owners from starting up a new business in Town? **No-1**
4. Should the Town invest in the revitalization of the downtown area? **Yes-2**
5. Is the community business friendly? **No-1, Yes-2**
6. What are the new business start-ups?

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7. Are they consistent with the rest of the business community?

Public Comments:

- State regulations need tax credit for start-up businesses.
- Need of a breakfast, lunch, and dinner year-round restaurant with menu and pricing that suits both residents and visitors.

HAMLET IMPROVEMENTS

Questions:

1. Does the streetscape along Main Street need improvements?
2. Suggestions:
3. Does the Route 9N streetscape need improvements? Yes-1
4. Does the walkability in the hamlet need to be improved? Yes-2
5. Does the community provide reasonable access to buildings and crosswalks for the physically challenged? Yes-1, No-2
6. Are there known issues with the retaining walls?

Public Comments:

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Questions:

1. Do town roads need improvements? Specific roads? No-1
2. Are improvements required for municipal water service?
3. Is there a need for a municipal sewer? No-1
4. Are there problems with stormwater collection or flooding basements?
5. Does cell service need improvement? Yes-2
6. Is the Internet available throughout the community? Yes-1

Public Comments:

- Very little to no growth can happen without cell & internet . We need to pressure the state and private funding.
- Cell & internet needs improvement throughout the town.
- I just spent last 3 weeks waiting for service for residential internet.
- Improvements in the system are driven by number of users or potential users
- Are there grants available?
- Is there a strategy to get the utilities to pay attention to the town's cell & Internet needs?

NATURAL RESOURCES

1. Is protection of natural resources and open spaces strong enough? No-1
2. Where is better protection needed?
3. Are there flooding issues related to climate change that need to be addressed?
4. Is there a need to improve the control of invasive species? Yes-1
5. The water quality of local lakes is:
 - Exceptional – Yes-2

Public Comments:

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- All lakes in town should be working together.
- People accessing the river with kids behind tennis courts.
- Signage needed for dangerous currents to help control those jumping off the bridge for a thrill

LAND USE AND ZONING

Questions:

1. Does current zoning respond to changing conditions? **No-1**
2. Is there a need to revise zoning to encourage more commercial development? **No-1**
3. Should it be directed to certain areas along Route 9N?
4. Is there a need to revise zoning to encourage residential development? **Yes-1, No-1**

Public Comments:

- There should be a designated Heritage District.
- Zoning is too restrictive for restaurants
- Address the management of short-term rentals
- Address the management of RVs and campers on residential properties

HOUSING

Questions

1. Are there enough housing choices for all ages and financial abilities? Yes-1, No-1
2. Would the Town benefit from a publicly funded program to assist homeowners with home improvements? **Yes-1**
3. Would the Town benefit from a Mobile Home Replacement Program? **Yes-1**
4. Are there seniors or disabled residents that need accessibility improvements? **Yes-1**
5. Where should new housing be located?
6. Is an increasing short-term rental market (Air BnB, etc.) reducing permanent residential housing options? No-1

Public Comments

- Air BB allows too many people who have no investment in keeping Luzerne clean in body and soul.
- Address and market programs for first time homebuyers
- Address the management of short-term rentals
- Need of senior housing. Review of plans to construct behind Town Hall

Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday, September 13th