

Organization River Area Council of Governments

Board Ad Hoc

Date and Time Tuesday, January 9 2001 at 7:00 PM

Place Village of Carthage Municipal Building, 120 S Mechanic St., Carthage NY 13619

Contact [Chris Vargulick](#) Town Clerk Phone (315) 493-3240 Fax(315) 493-2900

Minutes

January 9, 2001 the ad hoc steering committee representing Carthage/W. Carthage revitalization initiative met at the Carthage Municipal Building at 6:00:pm to discuss the next steps associated with the \$30,000 Quality Communities Development Grant.

Mission: to improve the environment for investment and growth in the Broad, Bridge, and State Street ("Main Street") areas of the community. By focusing efforts, by identifying and implementing cost effective cooperative programs, by concentrating on image, and by building on themes, the communities plan on achieving this mission.

Through professional analysis of resources and through deliberate involvement of community and downtown property owners the initiative will identify:

1. Recommendations for public improvements that are essential to revitalization;
2. Specific redevelopment recommendations for key properties;
3. General suggestions for improving image and building on themes;
4. Strategies for attracting federal and state financial assistance;
5. Staffing recommendations for continuation of the revitalization initiative.

Attendees: Mike Sligar; Walter Becker; Dave Zembiec; Kevin Smith; Mike Bezanilla; Lawrence Hasseler; Mike Astafan; Len Hamilton; Stephanie & Bruce Clemons; Ron Blinebry; Joe Ferris; Kathy Amyot; John Coughlin; Russell H. Maurer; Don Canfield; Terry Buckley; Mary Ann Higby; Maria Roche; Stephano Magro; Wayne McIlroy; Sean Mchale; Todd Simpson; Mark Keddy; Ron Roch; John Murphy; and Mike Britton.

- Mike Sligar served to convene the meeting and in this capacity introduced representatives from Jefferson County Planning Department and the Tug Hill Commission with general introductions of local members and representatives of the ad hoc committee and community businesses through individual identity.
- Mike identified the purpose of the newly formed committee by stating it is the "Work Horse" of the River Area Council of Government (RACOG) for the purpose of the revitalization initiative of the Carthage/W. Carthage area and beginning with the Quality Communities Grant.
- Kevin Smith reviewed background information associated with the management study, retention of staffing to point out opportunities and leverage resources to the area, and the formation of the River Area Council of Government (RACOG) Cooperative.
- Kevin stated that the Quality Community Opportunity begins with planning, design, and organizing economic development by identifying strategies for key parcel/s. In addition, Kevin announced a simultaneous RACOG planning committee meeting that was concurrently gathering this evening to continue their review and development of consistent land use controls, to be used by planning and zoning boards for future development in the four municipalities as part of the Quality Communities Grant.
- Dave Zembiec suggested the use of an outline other communities have used in successful application for Grant funding, known as DOPE (D-Design, O-Organization, P-Promotion, E-Economic Development).
- Kevin emphasized the need for pre-development work for ongoing funding opportunities associated with competitive application process (Examples of pre-development work include buildings inventory, customer survey, and needs identification).
- Stephanie Clemons and Walter Becker recognized local businesses and expertise and suggested these entities be incorporated in the planning and design phase of revitalization to the extent that is possible.
- Attendees voiced frustration and concern regarding past initiatives that funnel financial resources to consultants from outside the area and have nothing to show for the efforts but a report/Study that sits on a shelf gathering dust.
- Kevin reassured attendees that the revitalization initiative currently under way begins with local expertise from Jefferson County and will utilize outside consultants to provide services that enhance opportunities to advance the process.
- Ron Roch shared pictures of other communities he has traveled to that have successfully applied for various grants for revitalization and suggested that Carthage/W. Carthage can be among the communities that are successful in their efforts.

- Kevin suggested that the next meeting be a meeting in which the community brainstorms ideas for revitalization and prioritizes a list in which to begin the process that will lead them in the direction they want to towards in revitalization.
- Ron Blinebry emphasized the importance of identifying short-term goals that lead to a long-term goal in maintaining community focus and direction for optimum outcomes in revitalization initiatives.
- Mark Keddy suggested a review of the Qualities Community Grant to ensure the task of the committee is inline with the expectations of the grant application and the assignment of tasks associated with the initiative that will maximize local resources through community expertise.
- Mike Sligar agreed with Mark and presented an outline to move forward with the task of organizing and establishing a list of tasks to prioritize in preparation for the next round of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application.
 1. Organize by electing/appointing a chairman/convenor as well as filling related positions that allow for organization;
 2. Identify short/long term goals;
 3. Identify and assign tasks associated with accomplishing the goal/s;
 4. Establish a manageable time line for applying for a CDBG (suggested date is 4/1/01).
- Don Canfield placed emphasis on the fact there is much to do prior to applying for a CDBG by 4/1/01 and the importance of meticulously being prepared to apply.
- Next meeting is scheduled for 6:00pm at the Carthage Municipal Building on January 23, 2001. Minutes of the meeting and an assigned task list will be forwarded through the mail. All attendees are encouraged to attend the next meeting with a list or project proposals that have been either identified in the past or newly conceived that would fit the perceived mission of this newly formed "ad hoc" group. Priorities can be assigned by consensus of the group once the list of projects is "on the table."
- Following the meeting Len Hamilton stated that he would like to be considered for the position of manager of the RACOG web site. He also pledged his support for the efforts being put forth by RACOG and stated he would provide ongoing and extensive media coverage of future events through his position as reporter at the Carthage Republican Tribune.