

**Organization River Area Council of Governments**

**Board Ad Hoc**

**Date and Time Tuesday, January 23 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

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To: ad hoc steering committee for Carthage/W. Carthage revitalization

From: Kathy Riches-Amyot, RACOG Circuit Rider

Date: January 25, 2001

Re: Minutes

January 23, 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 "Main Street" areas of the community. The communities will achieve this mission by focusing efforts, identifying and implementing cost effective cooperative programs, concentrating on image, and building on themes.***

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; Mike Bezanilla; Larry Gerber; Len Hamilton; Stephanie & Bruce Clemons; Joe Ferris; Kathy Riches-Amyot; John Coughlin; Russell H. Maurer; Bruce Armstrong; Terry Buckley; Maria Roche; Stefano Magro; Wayne McIlroy; Todd Simpson; Mark Keddy; Ron Roch; John Murphy; and Sean McHale.

- Mike Sligar brought the meeting to order at 6:10pm as convenor. Mike presented the ground rules for committee process and stated "Robert's Rules of Order" will be followed, to the extent understood by the group. In addition, Mike stated future meetings are expected to begin on time and end one hour later, for the most part.
- Russell H. Maurer moved to accept the minutes from the last meeting, seconded by Ron Roch and approved by committee.
- Mike opened the floor for nominations for the election of officers and suggested the officers elected be an odd number to avoid a tie in situations that call for a vote. In addition, the officers would also serve as the Executive Committee. The role of the Executive Committee will be to prepare the agenda, draft the minutes, provide information notices, and scribe the agenda. The suggested slate of officers would include a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Recorder, and two members at large.
- Walter Becker made the motion to accept a slate of officers as suggested by Mike Sligar, seconded by Larry Gerber and approved by the committee.
- Suggested names to serve as Chairperson were brought forth by the committee for consideration and include Mike Sligar, Mark Keddy, and Stephano Magro. Mark Keddy and Stephano Magro declined to accept a nomination due to conflicts associated with operating their businesses.
- Joe Ferris stated he envisioned the executive committee would be comprised of mostly business owners from "Main Street" and hoped they would step forth to serve as officers, recognizing their busy schedules and allow for such constraints in scheduling future meetings.
- Again Mark Keddy and Stephano Magro reiterated the responsibility associated with operating their businesses and the potential for conflicts associated with commitments to the serving as Chairperson of the ad hoc steering committee. However, Mark and Stephano stated their commitment to the process and support through ongoing participation, as responsibilities permit. Without having advanced knowledge of the time

commitment associated with the position they would have to decline any nomination for the position.

- Joe Ferris nominated Mike Sligar as Chairperson, Mike Bezanilla seconded and Mike was approved by the committee to be Chairperson of the ad hoc steering Carthage/W. Carthage revitalization initiative
- Maria Roche, Mark Keddy and Stephano Magro were suggested as candidates for the position of Vice Chairperson. Each declined due to previously stated reasons. The floor was opened to volunteers interested in serving as an officer of the committee; no one stepped forward to serve as the Vice-Chairperson.
- As the formation of the committee is an important consideration it was decided that the position for vice chairperson would be tabled until the next meeting to give careful consideration to the position.
- Joe Ferris nominated Kathy Riches-Amyot for the position of recorder, seconded by John Coughlin and approved by committee members.
- Stephanie Clemons nominated Ron Roch as a member at large, seconded by Walt Becker and approved by committee members.
- Sean McHale nominated Len Hamilton as the second member at large, seconded by Joe Ferris and approved by committee members.
- A mission statement formulated by the pre-planning committee was read and brought forth to the ad hoc steering committee for adoption. Amendments were made to the mission statement to use the generic term "Main Street" when referring to the respective areas of Broad, Bridge, and State Street.
- Discussion regarding the inclusion of the Riverfront in the initiative as it relates to the Quality Community Grant was brought forth by Joe Ferris and other members of the committee. Dave Zembiec suggested the riverfront is part of "Main Street" as the bridge crossing ties the two communities' together using "Main Street." Therefore, the inclusion of the Riverfront would be part of the initiative.
- Joe Ferris moved to accept the mission statement as amended, Stephano seconded the motion and committee members approved the motion.
- Committee members joined together in a "Brainstorming" session that listed projects for consideration in the initiative. The list includes the demolition of Condello's; Ornamental Street Lights; Trees and large planters along "Main Street;" Development of the Farmers Market; Awnings and Façade Improvements; Sidewalk along "Main Street;" Striped Parking; Window Displays; The Bridge; Specialty Shops; Park/Campers; development of River Banks; Improved Boat Launch; Gas Station on Carthage side of the river; thematic signage; Visitors Center w/Chamber of Commerce Office that includes space for an office for Circuit Rider; Bandstand for Concerts; Papermaking Museum; Historical Restoration of the Buckley Building; develop the Old Hotel along the river; construction of a Marina; Multiple use facility; develop the Railroad Depot Building; Restaurant; (DPW) Main street personnel; Bird Sanctuary; and garden area.
- The list will be organized into two categories and revisited at the next meeting in identifying short/long term goals. Suggested categories include:
  1. "How we look."
  - 2.) "What draws people into the community."
- Walt Becker recommended the committee also consider formulating a time line so the initiative doesn't get side tracked with other priorities.
- Stephanie Clemons suggested maps reflecting the proposed initiative as it relates to the Quality Community Grant reflect the most recent zoning information including designated wet lands.
- Kathy Riches-Amyot stated maps are currently being made by Tug Hill Commission to reflect zoning district, classification codes, and working map that reflects the "Main Street" area and one lot in from the street.
- ***Next Meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2001 at the Carthage Municipal Building at 6:00pm.***