

Organization River Area Council of Governments

Board Ad Hoc

Date and Time Tuesday, February 6 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

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

From: Kathy Riches-Amyot, RACOG Circuit Rider

Date: February 6, 2001

Re: Minutes

February 6, 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; Don Canfield; John Coughlin; Len & Joy Hamilton; Stephanie & Bruce Clemons; Joe Ferris; Kathy Riches-Amyot; Lawrence Hasseler; David Lanpher; Henry Watkins; Laura Prievo; Stefano Magro; Wayne McIlroy; Todd & Sophia Simpson; Mike Astafan; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ely; Mark Keddy; and Ron Roch.

- Mike Sligar brought the meeting to order at 6:10pm as convenor and reiterated the intent of the chairperson is to begin the meetings promptly at 6:00pm and end promptly at 7:00pm.
- The meeting began with the viewing of the "Four Point Approach" a National Trust for Historic Preservation videotape, reflecting an approach to downtown revitalization other communities have successfully used.
- Joe Ferris moved to accept the minutes from the last meeting, seconded by John Coughlin and approved by committee.
- Mike opened the floor for nominations for the position of vice-chair to the committee. Ron Roch nominated Joan Gleason, Manager of HSBC, for the position. As she was not present to accept the nomination, the decision was tabled until the next meeting to confirm her interest in serving as vice-chair was confirmed.
- Mike Sligar presented a **Drafted** version of a time line for consideration by the committee in working towards an overall time frame of one year with short/long-term goals that would be reflected in a comprehensive plan that would incorporate the laundry list of projects identified through the process.
- The committee moved, seconded and passed a motion to accept the formation of the two sub-committees as proposed.
- Walt Becker moved to accept the drafted time line as a working document with Stephanie Clemons seconding the motion and approval by the committee.
- Mike Sligar suggested the next order of business was to form two sub-committees that would begin working on tasks associated with a grant application. Group 1 would be responsible for working to identify a package of short-term goals that would be presented to the committee. Group 1 would be comprised of business people & planners. Group 2 will conduct an inventory of structures along the "Main Street" Corridor. Information gathered from the inventory would be used to identify long-term goals. Together these two committees would

be instrumental in packaging a comprehensive plan that will serve to maintain a steady pace towards enhancement & revitalization.

- Stephanie Clemons suggested much of the inventory is available through the local assessor. The best way to approach this is to compile and synthesize existing information that can be accessed through these sources before moving forward in attaining information that is absent.
- Dave Zembiec suggests the committee form a 3rd group for hiring a consultant to work with them in the process. Group 3 would be asked to interview consultants who respond to RFQ's and then select the consultant from the list of applicants. Pro formas on key buildings/structures will need to be part of the plan. For example you may select structures such as the Buckley Building, Jubilee Building, and/or the Abyss Building, I suggest you move forward on that by hiring a landscape architecture. The purpose of beginning the process of hiring the consultant in coordination with the other sub-committees is to ensure it all comes together at the same time. Time will not be lost in waiting for another key element in the steps needed to apply for a grant.
- Stephanie stated she would like to wait to hire the consultant until the committee can identify what their needs are. The committee agreed to delay the hiring of a consultant for now.
- Mike Sligar stated he envisioned the composition of the two committees would reflect interest from both business and planners but that Group 1 would have more heavily influenced by business representation and Group 2 would be concentrated with planners.
- Walt Becker declined the nomination of head of Group 1, put forth by Ron Roch.
- Stephanie Clemons nominated Ron Roch as head of Group 1 who would be assisted by Stephanie Clemons, Len Hamilton, Walt Becker, and Mark Keddy.
- Todd Simpson and Mike Astafan will serve as Group 2. A comprehensive mailing, follow-up calls to landowners of relevant structures and parcels, as well as personal visits to attain information relevant to the survey.
- Mike Astafan inquired about how the costs associated with completing the tasks of Group 2 would be incurred.
- Mike Sligar stated he would get back to Mike Astafan about this matter.
- Organizing and prioritizing the list of projects was tabled for the next meeting due to the commitment of concluding the meeting promptly at 7:00pm.
- The committee agreed to maintain the bi-weekly meeting schedule at the same location with a half-hour delay in time of calling the meeting to order.
- Len Hamilton inquired about the development of the RACOG web site.
- Kathy Riches-Amyot stated that the web site is online and is under construction, however, in the next couple of weeks the address will be released and ready for preliminary review by the public.
- Stephanie Clemons directed the attention of the committee to a form organizations can complete to have their event added to a local and regional "Calendar of Events." She stated a local "Calendar of Events" will be included with the Thousand Island Authority regional "Calendar of Events," which will then be incorporated into the data base of the Thousand Island Council and in turn be included in the "I Love New York" campaign.
- Walt Becker suggested the committee consider the word "Renaissance," meaning new beginning, when renaming the committee.
- Stephano Magro suggested future events such as the "Winter Fest" be held in the business section of the villages as it is an opportunity to bring people into the downtown area to also promote economic benefits to businesses which in turn benefits local community.
- A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joe Ferris and seconded by Ron Roch and approved by the committee.
- ***Next Meeting will be held March 1, 2001 at the Carthage Municipal Building at 6:30pm. (viewing of "Main Street" video will begin at 6:15pm)***