

Local Planning Committee Meeting 1 | October 31, 2017, 8:30a to 10:30a
Hicksville Community Center | 28 Carl Street, Hicksville, NY 11801

ATTENDEES: HKS – Randy Morton, Erik Wood, Cecil Bakalor
Zetlin Strategic Communications – Patrick Jordan
4ward Planning – Todd Poole

NYS – David Ashton, Dominic Martello
Town of Oyster Bay – Colin Bell, Jim McCaffery

Local Planning Committee

Joseph Saladino; Oyster Bay Town Supervisor	JS
Gregory Carmen JR; Co-Chair	GC
Dave Kapell; Co-Chair	DK
Hon. Rose Walker	RW
Hon. Rebecca Alesia	RA
John Sarcone	JS
Daniel Chun	DC
Frank Ruggiero	FR
Paul Molinari	PM
Phil Heckler	PH
Sunita Manjrekar	SM
Jerry Kohli	JK
Ryan Coyne	RC
Lionel Chitty	LC
Rizwan Qureshi	RQ
Linda Armyn	LA
Anthony Widzinski	AW
Anthony Macagnone	AM

1. Meeting Start at 8:30a

2. Opening Remarks

Joseph Saladino: Emphasis on a community -based vision that is a balance of economics and desirability. Transportation accessibility is a driver for a major renaissance. Transform downtown into a vibrant place.

Dave Kapell: Even though a lot of work has been done it is important to be open to new ideas. We want to be able to leverage private investment.

3. Introductions

4. Overview of DRI program

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5. Review responsibilities of LPC members
6. Overview of planning process and community engagement
7. Project ideas –

LPC comments:

- Traffic mitigation is a key issue to deal with, followed by the ‘highline’, the pedestrian plazas with opportunities for a farmer’s market.
- Opportunities for community congregation, need a parking solution. How do we bring more people and not make the place worse than it is?
- Pedestrian plaza with attractive events, farmer’s market, which needs another chance, and the need for more parking.
- Traffic mitigation, need for the Town of Oyster Bay parking garage to be open on weekends.
- Liked the ‘highline’ idea, pedestrian plazas, play space without the threat of traffic. Wants Hicksville to be part of a pilot program for driverless cars; this will solve the congestion problem. Wants to see opportunities for start-ups with environments like WeWork. Believes that narrowing the traffic lanes from 14’ to 11’ will slow through traffic and make people drive more carefully.
- Live, work and play; how downtown is to be measured. Pedestrian plazas are a good idea.
- Interested in downtown paths, pedestrian plazas, ‘highline’
- Traffic mitigation, can’t get from one side of Hicksville to the other. Interested in pedestrian plazas and a place for the farmer’s market. Visitors feel that local signage is confusing, unclear. Interested to investigate the idea of a downtown trolley, something that would appeal to kids and family.

Question: What do people think about living Downtown?

- Want a reliable bus service, people going to Jericho, Syosset all drive because of no reliable public transit.
- Want to be sure that any traffic mitigation does not result in more traffic in residential areas.
- Want more traffic at night; will make a big difference to the feel of downtown.
- There are 3 colleges north of Downtown, no students coming down to Hicksville. Residential development will make a big difference to this.
- Feeling of downtown as vacant and desolate.

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- The truck traffic is going through at high speed.
- Parking structure will help with this. Need to change the strategy that has produced parking on every piece of vacant land.
- Residential tax support for schools is growing relative to commercial tax. Opportunities for housing should address the market for 'boomers', especially the value of walkability in senior housing.
- Housing for young people too.
- A little something for everyone is needed.
- Want the young to move here and not leave Hicksville. Hicksville has great infrastructure to work with: (17 ways to get home from the Broadway Mall). The third track being built will improve accessibility.
- Farmingdale is a good example of the kind of scale that the people of Hicksville like. People don't want to be Mineola. They want more of a suburban feel.
- Hicksville cannot attract business because of the lack of housing products.
- Downtown needs to have a more urban feel, maybe 6 stories or higher. Want to improve the street conditions to encourage walking. (Disagreement)
- The widening of Broadway (Rt. 107) and Newbridge (Rt. 106) got rid of the pedestrian feel. Used to have retail at street level with residences above, want to bring back that feel.
- Long Beach is a good example of the feel of place that Hicksville does not have.
- The Sweet Shop is a destination, but then one cannot walk from one place to another. There are no nice walks anymore. No pedestrian area in downtown.

Public Comments:

- A lot of what was thought to be cutting edge and appropriate to solving a problem some time ago, doesn't work today and this must be acknowledged. W
- Need to look at opportunities that match the needs of the community today. We need to reinvent downtown.
- The people of Hicksville must be listened to and they want a 4- story maximum, not 5 stories.
- People are not happy with the downtown, and are expecting things to change.
- Housing is essential for growth. Give millennials a place in the equation. Hicksville has a lot to offer, but the downtown is perceived as an unattractive place., there are no trees and it feels dirty.

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- Traffic is a real problem. Maybe traffic light coordination will help speed up through traffic. Perhaps we should think of bridged crosswalks over the roads.
 - Open spaces at ground level that one can see, are a better draw for families.
9. Regular LPC meetings: set for the third Thursday of each month starting at 7p
Nov 16
Dec 21* (or Dec 14)
Jan 18
Feb 15
Mar 15

10. Meeting ended at 10:30a

End of Memorandum

cc: Dave Kapell
Gregory Carman
Colin Bell
Jim McCaffery
Dominic Martello