

Livingston County Sub-Regional Forum

Wednesday, March 11, 2015
Victor Town Hall, 9am - 12pm

Moderator: Greg Albert, Senior Planner, G/FLRPC

Notetaker: C.J. Randall, Planner, G/FLRPC

Attendees:

Paul J. Morrell, Small Business Development Center (SBDC), SUNY Geneseo

Louie (Bo) Freeman, Executive Director, CCE Livingston County

Angela Ellis, Livingston County Planning Department

Brownfields

- DEC Remediation: Former Wilcox Press Site is under county ownership now, site has been razed, went through subdivision process

Environmental/Water Resources

- Funding from DEC on invasive species has dropped out, PRISM funding also
- Conesus Lake invasive species are a huge priority, CCE Livingston does work through the lake association and workforce development has engaged DSS
- EPF funding for stream bank revitalization, they're doing an education series on property resiliency against inclement weather events

Waterfronts

- Mt. Morris Dam management is not in concert with local agriculture, USACE says their focus is managing the river for the benefit of Rochester and preserving the dam structure.

Tourism and Recreation

- Promote the Finger Lakes Opera at Wadsworth at SUNY Geneseo; Lisa Burns is marketing director there
- Caledonia considering local photography trail, tie into geocaching

Economic Distress

- CDPs, hamlet of Springwater could benefit from revitalization, tie in with tourism and recreation (also doing comp plan now)
- Considering a downtown coordinator to work with the villages, need to evaluate traffic calming and complete streets, truck traffic is heavy
- SUNY Geneseo SBDC entrepreneurship program has been successful with establishment of student incubator over the summer after graduation.
- County Economic Development study is in the works

Natural Resources/Energy

- Meeting next week to discuss NY Microgrid Prize program
- Need for lower utility costs to attract manufacturers
- Rural electrical lines not large enough to handle distribution of power back to the grid

Land Use

- SUNY Geneseo has a START UP NY plan; identifies structures for potential, they discuss this weekly at the university; they also have a student program in entrepreneurship and business development. Working with HTR for business incubator and video conferencing with the Region. They also serve City of Rochester and Wyoming County.
- G&W Railroad, improvements being made in the coming months, under grant contract now
- Dansville Commercial and Industrial Access Study being wrapped up now, trying to find users of the rail line
- Dansville Airport Plan researches extending the runway as per FAA interest
- County has property off of exit 4 in Dansville they would like to return to the tax rolls, focus has been light industrial but are considering commercial also
- Julie Marshall and Louise Wadsworth are working on downtown Dansville improvements
- Livonia Gateway Study, heavy on agriculture economic development
- County has been approached by developers for market-rate, affordable, specialized housing, and senior multi-family, townhomes, and single-family, which they have a need for (housing stock is quite old)
- Shared Kitchen Study, food safety training, shared cooking appliances/hoods, tie in with Cornell @ Geneva
- Cultural Resources Plan (Genesee Council on the Arts is preparing it) is wrapping up now, draft will be available from consultant in a couple week, focus is on renovating Auditorium Building 1 of the Mt Morris Campus, county-owned, focus now is on finding funding to repurpose it for arts events like plays, art exhibits, and other events the Council of the Arts wants to produce. The county has allocated \$800K in funding. Ties in with the Shared Kitchen Study economic development strategy.
- All of Mt Morris and Dansville and portions of Village of Geneseo are considered food deserts
- Continued support for PDR, just received \$1.9M for two farms
- Livingston County farmland is selling for \$12,000 an acre, hundreds of acres of prime soils kept as agricultural not land speculation
- Ryan Snyder at workforce development is staff to community initiatives council, runs CSGB
- CHIP analysis (Community Health Improvement Program) just completed, likely on Department of Health website or Genesee Valley Health Partnership website
- Need for research on precision agriculture, drones
- Agriculture remains a top priority for the County
- Village of Caledonia has started comprehensive plan, Barbara Johnston at LaBella

- Town of Springwater has started comprehensive plan, considering zoning
- Community Needs Assessment for CIC

Buildings/Housing

- Housing Task Force has completed SWOT analysis and county profile, mission statement and guiding principles
- Senior housing is a need
- Larger housing development is a focus, especially single family and multi-family housing.
- Limited opportunity for downsizing into small homes within the County.
- Housing is needed for new employees
- Vacant buildings need to be addressed
- In-fill development a priority

Infrastructure

- Seeking funding for map water and sewer, engineering firms will often not share their mapped information, considering it proprietary
- ECC study on broadband done in 2009 or 2010, county was hesitant to do anything to impinge private sector investment
- Opportunity to consider water, sewer, and fiber network infrastructure together, particularly with recent rural broadband initiatives
- Transmission lines are not properly sized to support sale of power back to the grid from farm anaerobic digesters

Preservation/Cultural

- Pioneer League trying to reinvigorate Dansville Spa; however, they do not own the castle, a developer from Buffalo does

Other Plans

- Public Safety – emergency communications upgrade, received Department of Homeland Security funding, Next Gen 911 tying in with broadband, installing 3 new towers in the county
- Always looking to find efficiencies for better government service quality, coordination, shared services
- Always seeking transparency for public engagement, working with SUNY Geneseo program that works on community engagement
- Preparing a grant readiness matrix
- Contract with Thomas Development for grant writing assistance
- Dansville has integrated CEDS into their implementation efforts