

Village of Owego
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AND ADVANCEMENT (BOAA)
Public Visioning Workshop Summary - DRAFT
June 15, 2010



On Tuesday, June 15, 2010, a public Visioning Workshop was held in the 4-H Youth Building at the Tioga County Fairgrounds. The purpose of this initial public workshop was to gather thoughts and ideas from residents, business owners and stakeholders regarding the opportunities and challenges of the proposed project area. The following input was received.

Visioning Summary:

Question #1: What does the study area mean to you?

- Beauty of the rural area is sometimes overlooked
- Access to creek
- Recreational opportunities
- Potential for new development and jobs

Question #2: What should happen within this study area?

- A wildlife and fish themed interactive education center
 - Related to the rural area.
 - Use local talent and skilled craftsman.
 - Use former school for classes, childcare, snack shop, etc.
 - Make attractive to those with a variety of interests.
 - Attract visitors from beyond the region.
- Implement Marvin Park Master Plan.
 - More activity at park will lead to less vandalism.
- Create a themed area with connections to residential neighborhoods, Marvin Park and downtown through a trolley.
- Draw from the significant rail history in the area.
- Encourage jobs and tax revenue producing opportunities, especially on east edge of study area
- Identify a higher utilization of the former school building.

Question #3: How can access to and within the study area be improved?

- Additional truck traffic (existing) impacts Main Street.
- Potential truck traffic from new development would continue to impact Main Street, particularly if natural gas and supporting businesses come into the area.
- The access from McMaster Street is problematic for trucks and trailers and impacts the residential neighborhood.
- Stakmore Lane is key to providing better access to site.
- Improvements to Elm Street are needed.

Question #4: What are your thoughts about existing pedestrian and bike paths? Should there be more? Would you use them?

- There are unlimited bicycling opportunities on-street (wide shoulders, etc).
- There is an opportunity for rails-to-trails from Owego to Ithaca with an interactive trail system connecting communities.
- This area could be the base of operation for seasonal recreation activities such as hiking, biking, snowmobiling.
- Additional horse trails should be created.
- More walking trails not necessary because of Owego Creek walk and paths in Marvin Park.
- The skate park could be improved.
- Walking on Main Street is difficult. Most use other options, like the Riverwalk, for walking.

Question #5: What is the one item you would like to see enhanced or added in this area?

- See responses to Question #2 above.