

Summary of the Results of Community Engagement Sessions for the Comprehensive Plan

Summary of Planning-related Suggestions from Stakeholder Meetings

Merchants 8/2/21

Public restrooms are necessary due to the many visitors in the Village

Parking has issues: there is confusion about when/how to feed the meters—the message at the meters needs to be clearer

There should be support for bricks and mortar stores over food trucks (How is BBQ allowed?)

The signage directing shoppers to businesses off of Main Street needs to be improved.

Priorities:

- Maintain the intact streetscape
- More parking—maybe a parking deck
- A visitor welcome center is needed
- More events should be encouraged—Downtown concerts on Friday and Saturday nights, eg
- A Business Improvement District was recommended in last plan. Does it still make sense?
- Purchasing a building is a big step to solidify a downtown business. Can there be assistance with this for merchants?
- Additional parking would be helpful: Chase Bank parking lot? Kuiken Lumberyard?
- Should parking meter time limits be increased to 3 hours?
- Merchants/downtowns stakeholders should meet regularly
- Is it possible to take traffic calming to the next level with streetscape improvements?

POWER August 6, 2021

We need diversity among volunteers that assist in the governance of the Village: would it be possible to create a BiPoC committee that would meet regularly with the Mayor to discuss issues affecting that community and also be a vehicle that the Village could use to recruit BiPoC volunteers?

Warwick Historical Society August 9, 2021

Should there be a design manual for historic district?

Create flexibility for renovations so that historic properties can be improved without worrying about having to bring the entire structure up to code if you exceed 50% of the value with improvements

Look as ways to provide financial incentives/support for local property owners through a local version of historic tax credits or other options

Summary of the Results of Community Engagement Sessions for the Comprehensive Plan

The Comprehensive Plan need to identify the critical resources/assets that contribute to the Village's sense of place

There need to be public restroom facilities in the Village (beyond Deming Park)

Civic Organizations 8/19/21 (Rotary, Knights of Columbus, POWER, Lions)

Is Village prepared to host festivals? Parking can be a problem. Access to water and electric power can be a problem for Railroad Green.

We need gathering spaces for fund-raisers and civic events in general.

There is a drug problem in Warwick. Could crisis counseling become more visible? Is there space available for that?

It may be helpful to have an annual meeting of Civic Groups to coordinate activity calendars. This could be a face-to- face meeting or via media such as Facebook.

Walkways to the Village could be stronger. Oakland Avenue's sidewalks are unsafe and unsightly.

Artists/Art Groups September 15, 2021 (Wickham Works, the Warwick Arts League, Warwick Center for Performing Arts, Hudson Valley Jazz Festival)

Affordable indoor venues for events

- Performance stage (portable/truck bed?)
- Co-op gallery space
- Live music venues
- Art Fair
- Other venues for shows/performance

Cultural overlay zone to foster studios/performance spaces/"backyard" venues

Incentives for landlords to renovate, or builders to develop buildings to Shared list of under-utilized spaces that can work as performance & exhibition spaces

Arts organizations collaborate on an annual/seasonal calendar

Collaboration on an umbrella organization to bring together a Summer Season Arts Festival

Opportunities to connect artists with audience and each other

- Social event to meet artists new to town
- Piggyback with other events that are not arts-related eg. Farmers Market/Art on the Green
- Take advantage of summer evening street closing to provide "pop-up" vendor spaces for artists

Summary of the Results of Community Engagement Sessions for the Comprehensive Plan

- to display and sell or paid performers to entertain. (Wickham Works could facilitate)
- Public art - murals, rotating exhibitions

include live/work artist spaces

Improve funding for the arts

- Central Village fund for arts programs - competitive
- The Village as a partner going to bat with the County for Tax monies & funding opportunities.
- Recognition by State/ County that the arts are an economic driver in the form of financial support - competitive funds/grants etc.
- Dedicated paid arts person

Summary of Meeting with Hispanic Community Members, October 13, 2021

The meeting was organized by Judy Battista of POWER. In addition to Ms. Battista, Mayor Newhard, Trustee Cheney and Peter Fairweather, there were 11 attendees. The discussion was organized around identifying strengths and weaknesses in living in the Village.

Economic Opportunity

Hispanics want to start small businesses and need assistance. There is no ability to translate legal documents in the village. How could we provide that service here?

We have to work hard to make the rent payments, but when we are hired it is at a low wage, while the rents are always high.

Housing prices are up and this has affected Latinos. Renting and leasing is expensive with needs for credit checks in three months security. This is increasing problem to secure rentals due to the use of credit checks and multi-month security deposit.

We are looking for skills training.

Maybe a new cleaning service could be organized among Latinas in the village.

Quality of Life

There is a lot of noise on West Street near Halligan's

It can be difficult to get medical insurance

The hospital has limited bilingual capacity to serve Hispanic patients

Are there people to help parents get involved with the school in the community
That would be helpful.

Summary of the Results of Community Engagement Sessions for the Comprehensive Plan

Should we have bilingual signage in the village?

Overall Recommendations:

A comprehensive plan should be comprehensive -- for everybody.

It is important to keep the dialogue going. The village must send a clear sign to the community. It must include diversity on the website. We need to create an environment where we all can play, where we all can participate. We work hard and we want to taste justice and opportunity.

Every day things matter -- making sure the parents feel comfortable sends a clear sign to all citizens that they are all welcome.

We need more education. Many people are not aware of the diversity in the Latino community in Warwick.

Should there be an Hispanic committee to coordinate these efforts?

Maybe a monthly meeting?

It would be helpful to have a leaflet for new residents with information about how to get services and the various opportunities in the village.

The police relationship is improving. We need someone to speak Spanish on the force.

There should be a sign in Spanish for public restrooms, to make it easier for Hispanic visitors and others to find them?

Summary of the Results of Community Engagement Sessions for the Comprehensive Plan

Responses Written on Posters Displayed at the Library, Farmers Market and Sidewalk Sale

Business & Economic Development

Have a good bakery like Bread Alone/First

Modernize the bowling alley

Turn Main Street into a pedestrian mall (at least some days)

Flex space

Pancho's restaurant & burritos

Community Food Court

Community pool

Controlled Development

We love the village concerts (concerts on the green)

Clean up town a little more & road work is needed

Limit chains/franchises—No more chains

No commercial development at village entrances

Continue outdoor dining on main street

Space for pop up stores

Steak house

Community Center Huge

Expand farmers market – to include winter market—indoor farmers market

Really good 3rd wave coffee shop

Bookstore

LSY (Local Yarn Store)

Art House Movie Theater on Forester

Help local businesses transition to fossil-fuel-free practices/business

Boat and kayak rental at tech park

Spread out at Applefest to make it less crowded

Renovate and bring back Doc Fry

More parking for shoppers

Have portable bathrooms

Add dining and entertainment to Wickham Woodlands

No more ugly urban sprawl (County Route 1 and Sandfordville)

Climate Change & Resilience

Wildlife corridor education for homeowner/community

Add a compost station—compost collection bins—local composting program

Protect waterways

Add identical well-labeled garbage recycling bins around town. Do a program educating people about what goes in each

Build “greener” and smaller homes

More uber/lyft rides available

More bike lanes-- Bike paths and routes for cyclist safety—connect to Orange County Heritage Trail—Bike paths throughout the TOWN of Warwick

EV charging stations in resident housing complex parking spots

Community Greenhouse

Sidewalks on West Street

Nature and survival courses for adults, too

Sustainable/alternative housing—micyleum fungi bricks

Summary of the Results of Community Engagement Sessions for the Comprehensive Plan

Increase green spaces

Environmental stewardship programs

“eco brick” collection bins

Mitigate all new impervious surfaces

No more plastic bags

Study greenhouse gas emissions from the Village and make a mitigation strategy

Study stormwater mitigation and educate residents about vulnerabilities/climate change

More incentives for renewable energy

More tree-shading for hotter summers

Rooftop bar on RR avenue downtown

Expand farmers market and open space downtown in that we have on Friday/Saturday PM

Improved Internet service

Better sidewalks

Look at Newton, NJ for failed one way experiment on Main Street

Keep the “Mayberry” feel and character

Summer sprinklers for kids at Stanley Deming Park

More “no dogs” signs at farmers market: cover all entrances

Multi-use spaces

Downtown Warwick

No chains/big box stores

More family style shops/restaurants

Cheaper rents for business owners—residents who are also business owners

Keep open spaces open

Add green spaces

Find a way to limit vehicular noise

Encourage ride share, public transportation, walking, etc.

Badly needed retail space

More stuff for tweens/teens to do: nifty old-school arcade, small, affordable movie house, soda/ice cream shoppe

More small venues for music

Local grocer downtown

Do not let commercial development into residential areas

Housing & Neighborhoods

Affordable Housing—Yes—No

Smaller homes

Doubles—two homes on one lot

No cramming in houses

3-4 apartments instead of McMansions

Tiny house Village (affordable)

Affordable apartment complex

More mix use Zones

Limit on multi-family: no more than 2 apartments per house.

Keep it the way it is: civilized

Prioritize open space

Affordable housing increases rent and and [illegible] cost of building: Read Thomas Sowell Economist

Expand retail zones: more stores

Summary of the Results of Community Engagement Sessions for the Comprehensive Plan

No Village View Complex, please

Mitigate the building of housing developments on farmland—preserve more land—Save our farms, please

New homes must include adequate offstreet parking for residents

Walkable neighborhoods and communities

Housing that is affordable for people who hope to live here.

No farms, no food.

Make all trails horse friendly

Inclusive Community

Affordable housing—priced between Warwick Grove and Homestead

Youth programs (educate acceptance)

Available spaces to serve the special needs community (especially children educated out of district)

Wildlife corridors/habitat restoration/preservation (Humans aren't the only community members)

Outreach programs

Food/farm programs

Support pollinators

Tiny house development for affordability

Youth yoga classes

Change farmers market management

Weekly outdoors tai chi classes in central Warwick

In addition to meditation/wellness classes

Dog park please--Fenced in dog run in village, please

A lifetime supply of candy

Ice cream shop

Opportunities for kids and families to volunteer in/around the community

Don't limit parks/rec to town residents only. Think about how many families in the WVCD who live in Sugar Loaf/Chester. Those kids would like to enjoy a community park/pool with their friends

A service/product bartering program

Places for teens to gather and thrive (i.e., teen play space)

Senior health through pickleball courts

Traveling by Walking or Bicycle

Need a bike share/program

And more bike racks in town

Greenbelt around village (walkable)

The concept of a heritage trail for Warwick: a multi modal dedicated route linking key points in the Village: ideally ending up in the Town

Sidewalks on County Route 1

Enforce/repair sidewalk maintenance throughout the Village: including tree trimming

Even sidewalks for easier stroller/wheeled use—more stroller accessible sidewalks throughout the Village

Bike paths—Community wide bike trail connectivity—absolutely need bike trails throughout Warwick

Increase driver awareness as to bicycle safety and sharing the road

Add sidewalks all over the Village: especially fixing Forester's

Summary of the Results of Community Engagement Sessions for the Comprehensive Plan

Kayak/boat rentals at tech park	Sidewalks everywhere
Keep municipal open space	Bring back the live bands
No pump track in our parks	Kutz Camp Food Court
Pump tracks are excellent for families as well as drawing visitors into town. Ask Port Jervis West Milford	Reading through these ideas, it looks like Kutz Camp can really be development with the needs of the Community: space for composting, pools, other recreation
Extend bike paths to Greenwood Lake—more connectivity to GWL	Close the bars earlier
Safe bike paths to grocery stores	Mandatory shade trees for parking lots
More affordable utility option than O&R	Solar installation required over parking lots and commercial large rooftops
Park sprinklers	Overnight camps and a place for parents
Install rental bike locking storage boxes at NJ Transit Park & Ride	Rebuild Town Park dam
Should be able to walk/bike to all basic needs from anywhere in the Village	Rebuild Cascade Lake Culvert (upstream)
Walkability of Galloway	Art classes for adults, too
Need a crosswalk at Hawthorne across Galloway	More Town events
Speed bumps in neighborhoods across Galloway	Keep out big developers
Need sidewalks that are even to avoid tripping	Bocce courts
Bike lanes on Route 94	Funding for skatepark
Bikes	History of Warwick walking tour (we have amazing old buildings)
<u>Other Ideas/Issues</u>	International foods
Improved sidewalks, currently crumbling and uneven	Art Park
Community pickleball courts	Sidewalk or dedicated pedestrian walkway along 1A for runners
Community pool	Sidewalk extension to the high school on West Street” the graded area is still dangerous for walkers and poses no barriers or protection from cars
Crosswalk @ Colonial, it is so hard to cross to get downtown	Redevelopment/revitalization along Forester
Kutz Camp amphitheater	Can we put a mural along the telephone building to make it more attractive?
Wildlife Corridors	

Summary of the Results of Community Engagement Sessions for the Comprehensive Plan

Performing arts hub