

TOWN OF OVID COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
Steering Committee MEETING #12
Notes- July 27, 2017

Committee Members Present: Chairman John Hubbard, William Dalrymple, Paul Engineri, Carrie Smalser, Pam Armitage, Jean Currie, MRB Group/EDR Team: Diana Smith/ Connie Sowards, Jane Rice/ Erica Tauzer

Meeting began at 6:00 PM.

Notes from the #11 June 28, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved.

No new communications were received through the website portal.

The committee reviewed the key points of the survey results, after reviewing the results at home. Key findings included a town-wide support of small farms, low taxes, and a perception that growth may sacrifice the small-town character of Ovid. The committee discussed that perhaps there was a need for education and information related to ways revenues could be generated for infrastructure and other improvement projects (e.g., grant programs, shared services or revolving fund loans).

The committee also discussed assets of the community and potential opportunities to leverage sustainable development and the betterment of Ovid. One such asset was the collection of small businesses in people's private homes and an economy of working remotely. Another opportunity that existed was a recent effort to designate the Finger Lakes region as a National Heritage Area, as an effort to increase regional tourism. Ideas generated from this conversation included creation of a Learning Center for agriculturalists and small business owners as well as increasing hospitality options for Finger Lakes travelers (capitalizing on Ovid's central location).

Additionally, the committee discussed land use concerns related to public health and welfare. Issues discussed included Ovid's remote location and lack of business interest, road and other infrastructure maintenance costs, lack of high-speed internet and small quantity of tourism destinations.

Next steps of the project are to hold a public workshop to keep the public engaged with the process. The committee discussed goals of this public meeting. In addition to presenting the survey and census research results, one of the goals decided was to educate the public on zoning, local land regulations and processes, site plan review and capacity of city services. Another goal was to collect insights from the public on the role of sustainable development in Ovid (e.g., strengths, opportunities, challenges, and concerns).

The date for this Open House style public meeting was selected. The Open House will occur on Saturday morning, October 7th at 9:30 am at the Ovid Firehouse.

A week prior to that, the steering committee will meet to identify meeting logistics, including reviewing all information to be presented and volunteering for stations overseeing the various informational and interactive boards.

EDR will verify availability of the training room for that date and notify the committee.