

**MINUTES** of the Village of Montgomery Master Plan Committee meeting held in the Conference Room of the Village Hall, Clinton Street, on Thursday, July 17, 2014 at 7:30 pm.

**ATTENDANCE:** Chrm. Conero, Mbr. Blake, Mbr. Wallace, Mbr. Daley, Mbr. Steed, Alan Sorenson

**OPEN:** Chrm. Conero opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chrm. Conero began the discussion with the possibility of the casino coming to the Town of Montgomery, bringing the promises of money for the Village. The Chrm. feels they may have been too conservative for what they have been asking, such as burying the overhead cables downtown; that they should be practical and visionary. Should they create an addendum to the Master Plan? Should they create another document with ideas, if the casino does materialize?

Mr. Sorenson is familiar with the casino process, as he is a legislator in Sullivan County. There are pros and cons to the casino prospect. Genting, the company that is representing the casino, has offered a community benefit to the Village. Nothing may happen. It is premature to plan changes based on promises; although, within the context of the plan, there are things that could be prioritized, such as burying the overhead utilities and completing the sidewalks. One advantage is that the Village is far enough away from the impact of traffic. The need for rental and residential housing will increase, so hopefully, the Village will not be overwhelmed.

The Chrm. asked if the Committee should make decisions based around the casino. Mr. Sorenson said they should discuss it. There will be growth pressure and they can shape the type of development they want to occur; not be forced into what developers want. The Clinton Street Redevelopment Program matching grants-NY Main St-it has changed since they originally applied for it-they could be more successful now.

Mbr. Wallace asked if solar panels could help with alternative energy and if it could be free-standing so not to interfere with the Historic District. Mbr. Daley said that the Senior Center could benefit from them.

The Chrm. asked if there was anything in the plan regarding communication/cell towers. Mr. Sorenson said they could address cell towers; it was limited to the Industrial Park District-it needs to be updated (section 11.8).

Chrm. Conero asked if there were incentive programs for the downtown area, and if they should incorporate anything for revitalization. Mr. Sorenson said there is a new source of funding (section 10.2 is no longer relevant), such as Startup NY.

There is discussion regarding the telephone pole on the corner of Clinton and Wallkill.

Mr. Sorenson suggested they look through Chapter 9, page 80. He asks if there is any progress on the Business Directory; ie: if you go to the Woodbury Commons or the mall, you can navigate your way around with a directory. Right now, if you're visiting the Village, you don't know what establishments there are but if you had a central point to take a look at a map, it would make it easier.

Chrm. Conero asked if there was a way the Village can keep businesses from leaving or attract new businesses. Mr. Sorenson said that the Chamber of Commerce, and other businesses such as them, would be more responsible for this. They promote business as a single entity and work to

compliment other businesses. The Village could reach out to them (the Chamber of Commerce). It can help through the creation of renovation programs, incentive programs for building renovations, doing street-scape improvements-these are all things to support business expansion. Investments like the bandstand, help to facilitate economic development in the downtown business district. On the regulatory side, ensuring that renovations are sentiment to historic architecture of the Village-not allowing the fabric of the historic buildings be compromised. The developers directory/guide came up, again, to navigate where to go first, and in sequence, for approvals.

The Chrm. asked that since the sign was in the objectives/goals, they make it a point to present it to the Village Board, that they think that should happen; this will help encourage businesses. There used to be low-interest loans for façade improvements. The Chrm. said that all infill is relevant-that buildings need to blend in.

Mr. Sorenson said that a transportation grant for a safe route to school or a bus stop shelter, can be used to build a case of a more walkable community and access multiple modes of transportation (through these improvements). The Chrm. feels that presenting their ideas and the grant to the Village Board will help. A lot of items in the Master Plan were not implemented due to cost and oversight.

Mbr. Wallace asked what happened when the Master Plan Committee presented to the Village Board in the past. They are spending their time to do this, is it being looked at? Referred to? The Chrm. said that is why they are reconvened-to make it an active committee; to assist the Village Board with certain things. Newer members of the Board do not know about this and they will now. The Planning Board does revert back to the Master Plan, when something isn't right or to reinforce what they are trying to say. They need to use Alan's grant writing service to help satisfy items in the Plan.

The next meeting will be Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 7:30 pm.

**RE: ADJOURNMENT**

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting by Chrm. Conero at 9:02 pm.

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Tina Murphy  
Deputy Village Clerk