

Tarrytown Comprehensive Plan

Public Engagement Summary – September 17, 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Village of Tarrytown Public Engagement Report presents and explores comments received at the September 17, 2017 Public Workshop to inform the Village's comprehensive plan update process. The report documents the participants' goals, objectives, and vision for the Village. The consulting team consisting of WXY architecture + urban design, the Land Use Law Center, Regional Plan Association, and Westchester County Planning facilitated the public meeting.

To promote attendance at the meetings, consultants and Village staff solicited participation using several advertisement methods. At the meeting, facilitators asked participants for feedback regarding six land use discussion topics: Built Environment; Economy; Mobility; Community, Culture & Education; Natural Resources & Open Space; and Sustainability & Resiliency. For each discussion theme, facilitators asked: "What is good now, what is not working, and what are some strategies to overcome what is not working?" As participants discussed each topic, facilitators recorded exact responses on flipcharts. For each meeting, staff also collected private comment cards from participants. Once the meetings concluded, staff compiled all recorded comments and comment cards and organized them by discussion theme. The consulting staff examined these results to identify the participants' most significant concerns and planning strategies.

A few overall themes emerged from the public engagement process:

- Participants expressed a clear wish to maintain and protect the Village of Tarrytown's unique character, including its historic properties, recreational and natural spaces, and diversity of businesses and population.
- Participants also discussed economic sustainability, tourism opportunities, and ways to support local businesses.
- Participants focused their attention on the connections and mobility within Tarrytown. This included strategies to reduce traffic congestion, improve parking availability, and improve pedestrian safety and walkability. Participants wanted to find linkages and better connections between distinct areas of the Village.
- Participants also discussed improving downtown walkability, wayfinding, expanding parking availability in the downtown and at the train station, and shared mobility opportunities, including bikes, buses, and shuttles.
- Participants also focused on Tarrytown's community resources, including the opportunities and challenges to connect the downtown with the waterfront, and ways to connect Tarrytown's diverse resident population and maintain its Village-feel with increased development pressures.
- Participants finally focused on natural resource protection, trails and pathway enhancements, open space preservation and ways to make Tarrytown more sustainable and resilient in the coming years.