

Local Planning Committee (LPC) Meeting #6

Thursday, November 7, 2024, 6:00 to 8:00 pm | Montgomery Senior Center, 32 Bridge St, Montgomery, NY

Meeting Summary

Tommy Boston, Project Manager from VHB – the consulting firm that is leading the state and subconsultant project team, opened the meeting with the LPC Code of Conduct and provided a recap of the timeline for the process. Christie Kastalek, Deputy Project Manager from VHB then provided a recap of Public Workshop #2 that took place on Wednesday, October 16th. Christie noted that close to 60 people attended the second workshop, with the supplemental online survey bringing in just over 75 responses. In general, members of the public are eager to preserve the historical character and heritage of Montgomery as many comments looked favorably upon projects that include façade improvements, desire to fund projects that will benefit the entire Montgomery community, and support creating more housing and retail opportunities to accommodate the growth of Montgomery.

Christie then summarized where the LPC is in the project evaluation process, noting that for this LPC meeting, she and Tommy would present updates for all projects based on coordination with project sponsors that had occurred since LPC Meeting 5 and Public Workshop #2. The LPC was tasked with evaluating projects based on the final two evaluation criteria – Cost Effectiveness and Public Support. Christie also updated the LPC on 76 Union Street and Overhiser Funeral Home, noting that the projects had been consolidated under the Overhiser project, bringing the total number of projects down to nine.

The project team presented each project, which included updates received from the project sponsors regarding scopes of work, with a special focus on detailed project budgets and how each project fared during General Montgomery Day and Public Workshop #2 based on level of public support in regard to the project's potential to transform downtown.

Based on the results of the project updates, the LPC deliberated and weighed removing projects for consideration for NY Forward funding based on how each scored on Catalytic Effect and the level of Public Support. LPC members discussed the importance of being certain that they are confident in recommending all of these proposed projects for NY Forward funding. Ultimately, the LPC came to a consensus on submitting a slate of nine projects – four public, four private, and one not-for-profit.

- Create and Establish Cohesive Wayfinding Signage Throughout the Downtown
- Foster a Walkable Downtown Montgomery Through Streetscaping and Enhanced Connections
- Redesign and Upgrade Veterans Memorial Park to Meet the Needs of All Residents and Visitors
- Establish a Small Project Fund to Provide Funding Opportunities for Capital Improvements and Small Business Assistance
- Expand Montgomery Nursery School to Meet the Demand for Additional Students
- Renovate and Expand Historic 63 Clinton Street to Accommodate Additional Commercial Space and Residential Apartments
- Construct a Mixed-Use Development on an Underutilized Parking Lot at 71-73 Clinton Street

- Restore Historic Façade Components of 110 Clinton Street and Ensure its Structural Integrity
- Expand Overhiser Funeral Home to Create an Accessible Entryway and Additional Space for Gathering

Prior to the close of the LPC meeting, the public comment portion was opened. Public comments are summarized below:

- A majority of the public comments were folks thanking everyone involved – the LPC, the Core Team, and the project team – for their dedication, commitment, and hard work to get to this point.
- It was noted that the village will continue to explore ways to dedicate funding to support the public projects.
- A question was asked if external grants be coupled with the small project fund, to which Susan Landfried, Project Manager from the Department of State (DOS) confirmed that yes, other grant funding can be used to fund portions of projects applying for the small project fund to leverage additional funding.
- Another comment expressed support for 110 Clinton being restored and stabilized as the “crown of the Village”.
- Montgomery Little League noted the impact of losing field 5 and the importance of the new plan for Veteran’s Memorial Park dedicating one of the fields getting repurposed to be sized for junior/senior league.

Following the public comment period, the LPC completed their ballots to vote on the final slate of projects. The project team then introduced the roadmap for revitalization, which was prepared based on conversations with the LPC and Core Team throughout the process, with input from the project team. The roadmap is intended to serve as a pathway forward for the Village to continue its progress in transforming and revitalizing the downtown, as the NY Forward program only built upon its existing efforts and is not an end-all process for revitalization. Following discussions pertaining to the future of the downtown, the project team concluded the meeting with providing important dates and next steps, identifying that the Strategic Investment Plan will be submitted to the State in December 2024, the State will select the NY Forward projects in approximately Spring 2025, and contracting for selected projects to occur in Winter 2025.