

## **Historic Valley Falls BOA Nomination Study**

**PUBLIC WORKSHOP #2 | December 8, 2023 @ 5:00-7:00PM**

Valley Falls Community Hall

### **FACILITATORS**

- Lesley Zlatev – NYS DOS
- Liz Podowski King – Bergmann (Consultant)
- John Steinmetz – Bergmann (Consultant)

### **ATTENDEES**

Approximately 20 people from the community were in attendance.

### **FORMAT**

This was the second public workshop of the planning process, and it was formatted as an open house. Attendees were invited to review large format goals summarizing the draft community vision and goals and the proposed improvements at each strategic site. Each board included a prompt for attendees to respond and provide feedback. Project team members were available to answer questions.



### **PUBLIC FEEDBACK**

This section summarizes the public feedback gathered during the public open house.

#### **1. Draft Vision, Goals, and Strategies**

Attendees were asked to identify the goals that they most strongly supported. The most frequently selected goals included:

- Upgrade and maintain the Village's public infrastructure (11 votes)
- Preserve and maintain the Village's quaint character (5 votes)
- Celebrate the Village's beauty by expanding recreational resources (5 votes)

Attendees were also asked to identify and goals that were missing; however, no additional goals were suggested.

## **2. Strategic Site: The Thompson Mill and the NY-67/State Street Intersection**

Two different concept alternatives were presented illustrating proposed improvements at the former Thompson Mill site and the adjacent NY-67/State Street intersection. Attendees were asked the following questions:

***If the Library were to rent out items for use at the waterfront park, which items would you want offered?*** Attendees selected the following options, which are listed below with the most preferred at the top and least preferred at the bottom:

- Fishing poles and binoculars (4 votes each)
- Maps (3 votes)
- Compass (2 votes)
- Hammocks (1 vote)
- Other suggestions:
  - Kayaks
  - Clinics on how to fish
  - Birding
  - Classes on how to use compass/maps

***How would you like to use flex spaces in the waterfront park?*** Attendees selected the following options, which are listed below with the most preferred at the top and least preferred at the bottom:

- Seating / hammocks (4 votes)
- Yoga / fitness and outdoor classroom (3 votes each)
- Youth activities (2 votes)
- Plein air painting (1 vote)
- Other suggestions:
  - Skatepark – lots of kids skate/bike around

***Feedback on the NY-67/State Street Intersection Alternatives.*** Two alternatives were presented for reconfiguring the NY-67/State Street intersection. One alternative included a round-a-bout and the second alternative shifted Poplar Avenue farther south on State Street to make the NY-67/State Street intersection a three-way intersection. Public comments on these alternatives included:

- Consider truck access with the round-a-out option as many trucks travel from NY-67 to State Street to Bader Manufacturing.
- Love the entryway and round-a-bout idea!
- Improve NY-67 westbound sightlines to turn into Village.

## **3. Strategic Site: State Street Corridor**

Attendees were asked the following question: ***Which stormwater management method would you prefer on State Street?*** Attendees selected the following options, which are listed below with the most preferred at the top and least preferred at the bottom:

- A combination of open/closed drainage (3 votes)
- Closed drainage (2 votes)
- Open drainage / green infrastructure (1 vote)
- Other suggestions:
  - Prefer whichever option is completed most quickly!
  - Need to find a way to prevent people from parking cars on the grass adjacent to the roadway

#### **4. Strategic Site: Village Hall + Fire Department**

Attendees were asked the following question: ***What amenities would you like to see at the rehabilitated Village Hall and former Fire Department?*** Attendees selected the following options, which are listed below with the most preferred at the top and least preferred at the bottom:

- Community room (5 votes)
- Community garden and recreation room (3 votes each)
- Kitchen and youth programming (2 votes each)
- Other suggestions:
  - Ping-pong tables in the community room
  - Free kitchen access/use
  - Pickleball courts

#### **5. Strategic Site: Alley Improvements**

Attendees were asked the following question: ***What activities would you like to see take place in the alley periodically?*** Attendees selected the following options, which are listed below with the most preferred at the top and least preferred at the bottom:

- Barn quilt display (6 votes)
- Community art show and historic walking tours (5 votes each)
- Barn sale (3 votes)
- Other suggestions:
  - Halloween events/activities
  - Road races
  - Community garden and demonstrations
  - Display of the old fire truck

#### **6. Strategic Site: Village Playground**

Attendees were asked the following question: ***In the future, what are you most looking forward to doing in the Village Park?*** Attendees selected the following options, which are listed below with the most preferred at the top and least preferred at the bottom:

- Social gatherings (5 votes)
- Skateboarding (4 votes)
- Walking (3 votes)
- Playing on the playground (2 votes)

#### **7. Strategic Site: Rail to Trail**

Attendees were asked the following question: ***How would you like to use the nature trail?*** Attendees selected the following options, which are listed below with the most preferred at the top and least preferred at the bottom:

- Cycling (4 votes)
- Walking (3 votes)
- Birding (2 votes)
- Cross-country skiing (1 vote)

**8. Strategic Site: Former Church**

Attendees were asked the following question: **What types of events would you like to see hosted in the Village?** Attendees selected the following options, which are listed below with the most preferred at the top and least preferred at the bottom:

- Live music (4 votes)
- Markets (3 votes)
- Conferences (2 votes)
- Weddings (1 vote)
- Other suggestions:
  - Garden tours
  - Concern that recommendations are being considered for this site due to the fact that its privately owned

**9. Other Ideas / Feedback**

- Long-term: Construct senior housing (e.g., condos, apartments) on the site of the former Thompson Mill with parking nearby and possibly a convenience store on the first floor.
- The railroad crossing is a major obstacle.
- If a railroad overpass crossing isn't feasible, consider a pedestrian bridge from Noth Street on the old abutments to the south side, with parking at the bridgehead on the north side. The main challenge with this recommendation is possible interference with the hydro station property.

**SIGN-IN SHEET:**

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Public Open House at the Valley Falls Community Hall

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