



Meeting Summary

Suffern Public Engagement Meeting #1

July 22, 2014, 6 to 8 PM

Suffern Community Center, Suffern NY

Attendance:

Planning Committee: Beth Barone, James Lyons, Bruce McClintlock, Dina Schmidt, Bruce Simon and Roy Tschudy

Attendees: Frank Hagen, Lois Hagen, Richard Karpp, Bob Morris, Charles Sawicki, Jeffery Frediani, Joseph Cestone, Jerry Levitus, Maureen Danzig, Francis Rogn, Nancy Vasilik, Linda Nash, Ed Markunas, Jim Giannettino, Robert Wiater, Jack Meehan, Lucille W., Barbara O'Neill, Aurel Licatia, Dan Coviella, Alyssa Nordhaus, John Kunzmann, Brian Waldman, Christine Waldman, Jim O'Mem, Lynn Connery, Richie O'Neill, Lucy Bahoosh, Blas Gonzalez, Caroline Gonzalez, Carol Ann B., Darcy Casteleiro, Anthony Mondella, H. Tatapur, Christine Schnabel, Sam Krutchick, Adele Krutchick, Lois Tschudy, Sam Jannarone, Louis Ciaccio, Sandy Stead, Sulaiman Jalloh, Khadija Jalloh & Robert Bacci

Press: Rockland Times

GOSR Regional Lead: Suzanne Barclay & Lori DuBord

NYS DOS State Planner: Barbara Kendall

Consultant Team: Chris Robbins (AKRF), Flaam Hardy (AKRF), Elizabeth Matamoros (AKRF), James Duffy (ASC) & Allie Zamow (ASC)

Agenda Item: Committee Introduction

Presenter: Beth Barone

Summary of discussion: Beth Barone opened the meeting by introducing herself and welcoming the members of the public. Beth discussed the progress made by the committee thus far and introduced each member.

Agenda Item: Program Overview/Overall Project Goals

Presenter: Suzanne Barclay

Suzanne Barclay explained the background of the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program and the grass-roots initiative to help communities affected by Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee build back better. Suzanne discussed the source of the program funding. She also presented the steps of the planning process moving forward as well as the layout and components of the NYRCR Plan and the role of the community in this process.

Agenda Item: Project Schedule and Milestones, Report on Project Progress

Presenter: Chris Robbins

Summary of Discussion: Chris discussed the public engagement timeline of the NYRCR planning process and how the public can continue to stay involved and spread the word about the program. Chris outlined the goals

of the meeting: to present the geographic scope, and to gain further input on the vision and goals, storm damage and critical issues assessments, and asset inventory. Chris explained that the geographic scope was developed by the Committee and would encompass the entire Village as well as a small zone over the New Jersey border at the intersection of Ramapo Valley Road and Orange Ave near the underpass. He discussed the draft vision and goals and the purpose they serve at the onset of the planning process. Chris outlined the six different asset classes, or recovery support functions, which include economic development, housing, natural and cultural resources, infrastructure systems, health and social services, and socially vulnerable populations. He presented examples of each and listed the assets that the NYRCR Committee had already suggested. Chris concluded the presentation by outlining the critical issues and storm damage areas already identified and by explaining the community break-out stations that followed.

Agenda Item: Breakout Stations

Presenter: Project Team Members

Summary of Discussion: Members of the public visited each of the three breakout stations to learn more about the project and to provide input on the vision statement, asset inventory, critical issues and storm damage. The public could provide comments by filling out the handouts at each station, drawing on the maps, or using post-its provided at each station and sticking them to the boards. A fourth station was setup as a “Photo Booth” where the public could provide additional input. General information on the NYRCR Program and how to stay involved was provided at the welcome table.

Station #1 – Vision Statement: The public was asked to fill out a worksheet to provide comments on the vision statement and list of goals for the NYRCR planning process to ensure that the community’s values and vision for the future are accurately portrayed.

Station #2 – Storm Damage & Critical Issues: Members of the public were invited to provide input on the list of critical issues and areas susceptible to storm damage and flooding already developed by the NYRCR Committee.

Station #3 – Asset Inventory: The public was encouraged to view the Suffern asset map and to provide further clarification on additional assets. Attendees were also asked to assess the community value of each of the assets listed.

Station #4 – Photo Booth: A photo booth was set up where attendees could answer one of the questions listed below on a white board and have their photograph taken holding the board. This provided a visual representation of the community values and vision for the future.

- One word that describes Suffern...
- My Vision for Suffern is...
- What does “Building Back Better” mean to you?