

## Ilion LWRP Update & Comprehensive Plan Project Advisory Committee Meeting #1 Kick-Off Meeting Summary

Meeting Date:	August 25, 2020
Location:	Ilion Village Hall
Committee Members Present:	Cory Albrecht, HCIDA Board Member Pat Brien, Local Businessman and Commercial Property Owner Bob Fletcher, Village Resident Bill Lennox, Former Business Owner / School Board Bob McDowell, Business Owner Bridget McKinley, Former Board Member Alan Robinson, Zoning Board Chair Ron Schoonmaker, Village Board Liaison
Committee Members Absent:	Marijo Thompson, Village Treasurer
Consultant Team:	Chris Lawton, P.E., Barton & Loguidice Bob Murphy Jr., AICP, Barton & Loguidice Nancy Pattarini, Paige Marketing Communications Group Carrie McMurray, Paige Marketing Communications Group

This was the first meeting of the Village of Ilion's LWRP Update/Comprehensive Plan Committee ("Committee"). The meeting was attended by members of the Committee and consultants from Barton & Loguidice (B&L) and Paige Marketing Communications Group (The Paige Group).

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss roles and expectations of the Committee. It also provided an opportunity to take an initial look at the Village's demographic trends and have the Committee participate in a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat (SWOT) brainstorming exercise to share their initial thoughts on key issues facing the Village.

## 1. Introductions

Mr. Murphy (B&L) kicked off and initiated a Powerpoint presentation. He welcomed the Committee members and introduced himself and Chris Lawton (B&L). The Committee then went around the room introducing themselves.

- Mr. Fletcher is a ten-year resident, a 31-year retired military veteran (Army, Navy) and a 38-year retired Federal employee last with DHS. Specialized in research & analysis.
- Mr. Schoonmaker is a native of Ilion, served in the armed forces for twenty-two (22) years, is currently retired but previously worked in health care, and is the Village Board liaison.
- Mr. McDowell is a native of Ilion and business owner (Beer Belly Bob's, Flower Barn).
- Mr. Brien is a Director of regional Insurance agency and commercial property owner.
- Mr. Lennox lives just outside the Village, worked in pharmacy/construction, owns property in the Village, is involved in local soccer and the YMCA, and was a part of the school merger.
- Ms. McKinley is finishing her last month as Village Trustee and is a health care professional.
- Mr. Robinson is originally from Charlotte, NC and serves as Chair on the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- Mr. Albrecht is a Mohawk native, a Village resident for 18 years, has a Director of Advanced Institute of Manufacturing at Mohawk Valley Community College, and a board member on the Herkimer County Industrial Development Agency.
- Ms. Thompson, the Village Treasurer, was absent.

## 2. LWRP/Comprehensive Plan Overview & Community Profile

Following Introductions, Mr. Murphy provided an overview of the State's LWRP, the local benefits of updating the Village's LWRP and the value of having a comprehensive plan. He then outlined the timeline for the project as follows:

Summer 2020

- Project Kick-Off Workshop

Fall 2020

- Public Information Meeting

Public Workshops

- Late Fall / Winter 2020
- Community Profile & Draft Vision Statement, Goals, & Recommendations

Spring 2021

- Final Vision Statement, Goals, Recommendations & LWRP Policies

Late Spring 2021

- Draft Plan

Summer 2021

- Public Hearings (2), SEQR Compliance, County/DOS Referral, & Final Plan

Next, Mr. Murphy presented on the Village of Ilion's community profile, covering its location, population demographics, housing trends, economic indicators and employment, vacant properties, and public/private property ownership in the Village.

### 3. SWOT Analysis

Following this, Dr. Nancy Pattarini and Ms. Carrie McMurray of The Paige Group went through a SWOT analysis with the Committee.

Purpose: Begin to identify and prioritize community assets and areas of focus for the LWRP and CPU in order to develop strategies to address gaps and maximize opportunities.

#### Preliminary Findings

- The marina is viewed as the premier marina in the area and improvements/enhancements would make it more accessible and increase 4-season use by both residents and visitors.
- The Ilion culture is a key asset — residents are hard-working, resilient, giving, and value family.
- The village is rich in resources – land, waterfront, green spaces, public safety, affordable utilities (new, quality water coming), school system.
- Regional growth and economic opportunities have created potential for the village to become a bedroom community to employees being recruited by new and expanding corporations in the Mohawk Valley.
- Improvement and growth have been hindered by real and/or perceived negative perceptions of the village caused by lackluster entrances, quality and breadth of housing options, and long-term effects of the urban renewal era (mall).

Summary of Outcomes: Participants first and foremost believe Ilion has the potential to capitalize on current economic development opportunities, as well as overcome challenges, to better position the village for growth. To do so, a comprehensive plan will need to articulate the essential building blocks that together will form the reimagined Ilion. From a bottom-up perspective, Ilion needs reliable infrastructure that will support the critical "avenues" of redevelopment, as well as facilitate the connectivity important to the live-work-play environment that will retain and attract new residents. Key factors include:

- Improved infrastructure to incentivize housing redevelopment along priority corridors
- Aesthetic features and amenities to draw people into and through a pleasing environment
- Park enhancements to create destinations and help connect different sectors of the village

#### 4. Next Steps & Adjournment

##### Consultant Team

- Meeting Summary Report
- Coordinate with DOS
- Coordinate with Herkimer County
- Complete Draft Community Outreach Plan

##### Planning Committee

- Submit list of stakeholder groups and representatives to consider

##### Next Meeting

- Thursday, September 24, 6pm @ Village Hall