

Steering Committee Meeting #5

MINUTES

APRIL 13, 2015

10:30-12:30 AM

VANDERBILT HOUSE

MEETING CALLED BY	Rob Holzman
ATTENDEES	See attached list

Agenda topics

DISCUSSION	Housekeeping & Updates
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rob Holzman opened the meeting• Rob informed the Committee that ETG has been developing the economic/market analysis component of the project and should be arriving very soon with some key finding• Rob informed the Committee that he is in communications with Ct Male regarding the "Special Studies". With the spring thaw, CT Male should be able to get started with their work at the Reservoir• Rob stated that he would like to get Lisa DeLeeuw at one of next meetings to discuss the Harlem Valley Rail Trail• Larry Ostrander let the Committee know that he would be updating the Village Board at the April 13 Board meeting	

DISCUSSION	Revise Draft Vision Statement
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Based on the March 30th Committee meeting, Rob Holzman developed a draft Vision Statement that was presented to the Committee• The Committee discussed the draft, proposed changes and the following was the final draft:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Philmont Waterfront District is an area of historic innovation that connects natural beauty, diversity and an entrepreneurial spirit. It is a place that fosters collaboration and partnerships for people to pursue healthy and active lives; a place that celebrates history, personal growth, and connection to our land and water resources, all with an eye to the future.	

DISCUSSION	Goals Development Exercise
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rob Holzman introduced a group exercise to develop goals for four topic areas:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Historic & Cultural Resources2. Nature & Recreation3. Housing & Neighborhood Development4. Business & Economic Development• The group was asked to develop goals for the "Historic & Cultural Resources" and "Nature & Recreation" topic areas• The following goals were developed by the Committee, and then revised as a group:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Historic & Cultural Resources<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make the Reservoir or Summit Lake a focal point of the Village• Connect High Falls a the "Lake" with a path/trail• Make use of Mill pond• Bring Mill District history into the public eye (i.e. walking tour, photo display, column on Village website• The Mills are re-used• The people have the chance to learn and be inspired by the history of Philmont• Public has access to waterfront and water resources• Continue to support the Philmont Public Library as a center for cultural activity• Virtual tour of Philmont mills and infrastructure• Recognition of Philmont as a Village connected to others by the Rail Trail, enhancing the region	

Philmont Waterfront District

- Grant program to upgrade public face of individual properties (facades, porches)
- Foster awareness of Philmont's mill history and infrastructure
- Nature & Recreation
 - Rail Trail to become a reality
 - Boating/fishing more accessible and vibrant
 - General hiking of different challenges
 - Preserve the Summit Hill woodland
 - Access to hiking upstream from Summit Reservoir
 - Create an emerald necklace with trails, major parks pocket parks, all connected
 - Clean up base of High Falls, north side of Agawamuck Creek
 - Discover source of reservoir sedimentation and mitigate
 - People can safely walk, bike to natural areas of Philmont, High Falls, Reservoir, Rail Trail, maybe other areas
 - Water resources managed sustainably
 - Assess areas most vulnerable to erosion, document and plan for mitigation
 - People take care of natural areas, High Falls, and other areas, streams
 - Reconnect the community to surrounding farmland
 - Develop the area as an expanded conservation district
 - Clean up banks of Agawamuck Creek below the dam
 - Develop open space and waterfront parks connected to trails and the HVRT
 - Foster safe rec activities
 - Pristine natural areas at the base of High Falls and north side of Agawamuck Creek (opp. Conservation area)
 - Erosion control of steep slopes down to Agawamuck Creek
 - Access to upstream area of Summitt Reservoir
- Based on Committee discussion, the following goals were determined as the "Preferred" for each topic area
 - Historic & Cultural Resources
 - Preserve, express and enhance the historic spaces and places of the Waterfront District
 - Showcase the historic life in the mills
 - Celebrate and preserve Philmont's history as a mill village
 - Strengthen the role of existing cultural resources as places of social and economic collaboration
 - Nature & Recreation
 - Reestablish Philmont's historic connection to neighboring communities
 - Prepare for climate change by increasing the resilience of Philmont's natural areas
 - Provide enhanced opportunity to explore and connect with the natural surroundings

DISCUSSION	Wrap Up
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Next meeting: 9:00 AM April 27, 2015 Vanderbilt House<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agenda will involve completion of goal statements (refine those started; begin "Housing & Neighborhood Development" and "Business & Economic Development") |
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