

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Cooperstown was held at the Village Office Building, 22 Main Street, Cooperstown, New York on July 18, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. Members in attendance were Mayor Jeff Katz, Trustees Ellen Tillapaugh, Cynthia Falk James Dean, Bruce Maxson, and Louis W. Allstadt. Trustee Richard Sternberg was absent. Also in attendance were Village Treasurer Derek Bloomfield, and Village Clerk Teri Barown. There was one member of the public present.

Mayor Katz called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Mayor Katz introduced Sandy Mathes of Otsego Now and stated that he was here to provide some information regarding the potential submission of a CFA application under Otsego Now for economic development projects for the Village.

Mr. Mathes noted that both Oneonta and Cooperstown have similar issues regarding the need for year round housing and business development.

He stated that smaller communities need help with feasibility studies and comprehensive planning to create an environment for the private sector that would enable them to make money in the community. He noted that planning is critical to the front side.

He stated that a couple of development opportunities Cooperstown has are Railroad Avenue and Doubleday parking lot. He stated that Doubleday touches on public/private opportunities. He said that in speaking with Mayor Katz he understands the need to put investment into the Doubleday facility.

He noted that Cooperstown, in his mind, is similar to Saratoga Springs. He stated it is progressive, has the historic architecture aspect and high standards. He stated any project would need to be done right and this is the kind of vision he feels he can bring to the table.

He discussed the possibility of a parking structure in Doubleday that would encompass a partnership between the public property and private property ownerships. He said this would be an opportunity to enhance retail, coordinate a look, enhance pedestrian access to the field, provide green space in the lot and enhance the Chestnut Street entrance to Doubleday. He said the top of the structure could provide year round housing and parking could be leased to a private developer.

Mayor Katz noted that in previous applications rounds there have not been enough applications in the pipeline and this would be an opportunity for the Village to be in the mix. He stated that this is an extra \$50 million available this year.

Mr. Mathes discussed that the extra \$50 million would be allocated over 5 years, with 10 million allocated per year. He said strategic planning will receive first on the regional council level and then recipients can also apply for a second CFA. He said he would like to keep the momentum going on Railroad and Doubleday with planning money.

Mr. Dean stated he feels Otsego County is the key and that we need to attract young people to the County and felt there is a need for branding the County.

Mr. Mathes stated that there is need for places for people to work and live affordably.

Mr. Allstadt asked how we can ensure that housing will be year round.

Mr. Mathes felt it could be done through regulations.

He stated that Railroad Avenue has the potential for an entertainment area, micro-brewery, food-themed areas, professional office space and housing. He noted this could extend to the Grove Street area as well. He said it would be a way to bring the railroad back.

Dr. Falk stated that the Village needs starter homes, workforce housing, senior housing and stated that 1.3 million dollar condos won't suit this need. She stated that the Village needs a laundry-mat and lumber yard, which may not suit the vision Mr. Mathes noted for the Railroad Avenue area, but she feels it is a need.

Mr. Mathes stated control of that is local. He stated that there is an opportunity for mixed housing with a couple of condos, as there are subsidies available to developers for low income housing. He said there is a need for a multi-area housing study that would encompass, Oneonta, Milford, Cooperstown, Richfield Springs.

Mayor Katz stated that often change comes from the outside, i.e. Dreams Park and we are forced to react to it.

Mr. Mathes stated that we have to go out and attract mixed uses, retail, workers, homes and then find a developer.

Dr. Falk stated that the Village and Bassett could be working together to plan a parking garage.

Mr. Maxson stated that in Doubleday there needs to be a focus on the field and infrastructure needs to be remembered. He said he feels there are a lot of differences with Cooperstown and Saratoga.

Mayor Katz noted that there has been a lot of good work accomplished in the last few years, with a lot of money not being aggressively pursued in the past.

Mr. Bloomfield asked if there is the potential for the railroad to run between Oneonta and Cooperstown.

Mr. Mathes noted that the first phase would be between Milford and Cooperstown.

Mayor Katz thanked Mr. Mathes for addressing the Trustees and stated that he wanted a board discussion if Otsego Now was going to submit a CFA on behalf of the Village.

Other Business - Dr. Falk stated that due to vending on Induction Weekend, the Chamber has requested to move the "Music on Main" program to the flagpole area of Main and also the front lawn of 22 Main. Trustees present concurred with the request.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri L. Barown, RMC
Village Clerk
Village of Cooperstown