Comprehensive Plan Work Group

Town of North Dansville & Village of Dansville

14 Clara Barton Street

Dansville, NY 14437

Minutes for Monday, May 19, 2025

Meeting was called to order by Nancy Nice at 6:00pm

Work Group members:	Chairperson, Nancy Nice (Planning Board)	Present
	Co-Chair, Quinn Golden (Community)	Present
	Katie Infantino, Secretary (Planning Board)	Present
	Ann Lafford (Community)	Present
	Karen Schleyer (ZBA)	Absent
	Marcia Miller (Community)	Present
	Chuck Infantino (ZBA)	Present
	Susan DeMuth (Community)	Present
	Kathy Button (Village Board)	Present
	Jeff Weidrick (Village Board)	Absent
	Bob Infantino (Town Board)	Present
	David Luce (Town Board)	Present
	Jared Bridge (Planning Board)	Absent

Guests: Rob Falkevitz, Jeff Cappello, Margaret Cappello, Megan Komula, Mary Ellen Arena

Minutes: A motion was made by No discussion Marcia Miller. **2nd by** Ann Lafford. All in favor 10 AYE, 0 NAY, 0 ABSTAIN, **motion passed.**

Old Business

Grant Process

Sue DeMuth

- Spoke with Laurie Bennett and she is interested in working with us on the grant. We need to have the correct wording in our Comprehensive Plan which will help the municipalities get grants.
- Sue will set up a conference call with Laurie Bennett, Nancy, and herself.
- Laurie Bennett thought she could be competitive.
- Quinn asked if she would come to a meeting. Sue will see if she can get Laurie Bennett and Chris (her associate) to come to a CPWG meeting.
- Ann asked if she would write grants. Nancy explained she will help us with the grant that would get us someone to write the Comprehensive Plan. We need to have the correct wording in our Comprehensive Plan which will help the municipalities get grants.
- Ann asked if Livingston County could do the same thing. Nancy said they had offered, they have suggested we get a consultant.
- Nancy: We are asking MRB, Livingston County, and Laurie Bennett to present to the CPWG.

- Ann clarified that our plan is to get three quotes from people who will write a grant for our Comprehensive Plan. Nancy will contact MRB, Sue will contact Laurie Bennett, and Katie will contact Bill Waterhouse at the county.

Kathy Button

- The mayor met with a group on Monday regarding the church on West Liberty St. (very close to the Historical Society House) and the old St. Mary's School. Kathy said they want to see if they can assist in taking the two structures down.
- Roof is in danger of caving in.
- Katie asked if anyone knows who owns the church on West Liberty. Someone said it is owned by the Assembly of God. No one knows if the Assembly of God is responsible for upkeep.
- Kathy thought that the St. Mary's school sale had fallen through and it was still owned by the church.
- Marcia said that 45 Elizabeth Street is owned by a company called Best of all Connection, from Buffalo, NY. Back taxes are owed on the building. It isn't owned by the church anymore.

Review of Survey

- We looked at the survey and listed some of our assets:
    - Parks
    - Concerts
    - Health Care
    - Community residences
    - Restaurants
    - YMCA
    - Good Schools
    - NYS Park Stony Brook
    - Whitemans Gully - Nature Conservancy
    - Letchworth SP
    - Library
    - Attractive Main Street area
    - Historic Downtown
    - Movie Theater- single screen
    - Airport
    - Rail Access
    - Industrial Park
    - Two exits off 390
    - State route coming into the village
    - Historical Museum
    - GCC Community College
    - Historic Golf Course
    - Gun Club
    - Hospital
    - DMV
    - Soaring Club/School

    - Red Cross Chapter #1
    - Murals
    - Campsites
    - Good access to food/ fresh produce and meat
    - 2nd Saturday events
    - Alternative medicine
    - Gliders Baseball
    - CASA
    - Only NA group in Livingston County meets in Dansville
    - Tractor Pulls
    - Fly-In Breakfast
    - Centrally located in NYS
    - This year there will be a women's soaring seminar this year at the airport.

- We need:
    - Hotel/Motels
    - Housing
    - Farmer's Market
    - East Hill Trail on railroad- no tracks left
    - Concerts at the airport (this may be on the agenda for this year). Bob said they would do the concert for free and would give the money back to the community. Lions club may donate their time for parking. Because of all the things that need to be done it may not happen this year.
    - Airshow at airport

- The Free Methodist Minister asked how we can change the local narrative? The attitudes of the community members tend to be negative. How do we promote the greatness of the future?
- Quinn - Can we market ourselves to our own people and how would we do that? We need to market internally and externally. In the Communications portion of the Comprehensive Plan we should include marketing.
- We have to change their experience. It is hard to overcome their old ideas.
- Nancy suggested we do an online campaign and to posters up about our assets.
- Quinn - encourage Main Street to advertise on the community Facebook pages.
- The Discover Dansville Facebook page highlights local business and activities.
- Sue had tenants who were looking for a place to live and they loved what they saw online, ie - coffee shops, Main Street, healthcare, etc.
- Ann - Online marketing is extremely important. Getting more of our assets out on the internet.
- The guest book at The Loft of Main Street has glowing testimonials about Dansville. Maybe they should publish a few of those. The locals would be able to see Dansville through another lens.
- Kathy said the Santa Hat organization is another wonderful organization here in Dansville.
- Nancy concurred that Dansville is a giving place.
- A member of the audience talked about not giving up the Balloon Festival.
- The Rally "Round the Valley is still working to keep local activities here in the village on the weekend.
- Car Show at the Rally 'Round the Valley

- Oktoberfest is back at the Rally 'Round the Valley.
- Marcia reminded people that the festival was not on Main Street and the visitors left their money down at the airport. The current festival is trying to get the Main Street businesses involved.
- Bob said the money for parking and vendors didn't stay in the community.
- Ann mentioned that any event needs passionate organizers and things do cycle through and changes need to be made.
- Ann said the Soaring Club offered free glider rides to the first 20 kids who visited on the Saturday of Dogwood and they didn't have anyone show up.
- Quinn suggested a community event page.
- The pastor said that there are ways to schedule Facebook posts so they show up at specific times of day and do share to other platforms. The page can be set up to limit comments. The program is called Buffer.
- This would be similar to the community events announcements on WDNY.
- We could do a campaign to try to attract younger folks who work from home. We have very good high speed access.
- Katie asked if LivCo would help us market. The Chamber of Commerce Marketing Committee could also help. Who are the members of the Marketing Committee?
- Sue said the Finger Lakes Magazine could be contacted to come down and do an article. Finger Lakes Magazine also has an electronic newsletter.
- The pastor said that marketing videos are becoming more popular.
- Marcia will contact Ally Burns regarding online marketing.
- Katie and Nancy will send a letter to Tom Acomb to come and talk about the plan for the Castle-on-the-Hill.

Girl Scout House

- Mary Ellen Arena asked if there was a grant for the Girl Scout House.
- Kathy said the village owns it and that the village board will connect with the Girl Scouts before anything is done. Kathy said the grant for Williams Park is not in the budget this year but it may include the Girl Scout House when they apply for it.
- GS House was moved there about 70 years ago from the old Junior High School.
- Kathy said the playground equipment is no longer safe and the grant would allow for an upgrade of equipment.
- Someone asked what age level would the playground be geared toward because the Babcock Park playground is for 8-12 year olds.
- Mary Ellen said the Girl Scouts need projects to learn about leadership. They need to take on some responsibility. Kathy also noted that she would like the community to be involved in the planning for that park and she would love to see the young scouts involved on that committee.

Misc.

- Quinn said the lack of a long-term plan is a problem for the village. In the Comprehensive Plan we need to include a request to the village that it needs to have a 5 or 10 year plan. There is no vision and we must mention it in the plan.
- A privately led program was used to raise money for the Clara Barton statue.

- Ann likes Avon's Comprehensive Plan. They have an action plan and a person who is in charge of that action. It might be a good model for our plan.
- Quinn suggested that the committee doesn't dissolve when the plan is complete. We should meet and review the document on a regular basis to make sure things are getting done and acknowledge the work that has been completed.

Next Meeting: Jun 16, 2025 at 6PM in the North Dansville Town Hall.
Motion by Quinn Golden to adjourn, 2nd by Ann Lafford. No discussion. All in favor 10 AYE, 0 NAY, 0 .
Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm
Respectfully Submitted,
Katie Infantino, Secretary Comprehensive Plan Work Group (CPWG)