

City of Binghamton

FIRST WARD BOA REDEVELOPMENT PLAN

MEETING MINUTES

Public Meeting #2
October 15, 2009

1. Introduction and Overview

Kimberly Baptiste opened the public meeting and welcomed attendees before moving on to a brief presentation of the project, including an introduction of the BOA program, program purpose, and an overview of the status of the First Ward Redevelopment Plan (Step 1).

2. Goals and Objectives

The overarching goal areas associated with the Plan were identified and a brief background of their intent and purpose was described.

3. Inventory and Key Findings

Bergmann Associates presented an overview of the Inventory and Key Findings that have been developed in association with the First Ward Redevelopment Plan. Topics that were covered in the presentation included:

- Boundary Description
- Community Overview
- Land Use
- Zoning
- Ownership
- Natural Resources
- Brownfield, Vacant, and Underutilized Sites

4. Opportunities

The preliminary opportunities identified as an outcome of the Inventory and Key Findings were presented.

5. Open House / Community Input

The second component of the Public Meeting provided meeting attendees with the opportunity to provide comments and feedback on various elements of the Plan in an interactive fashion. The preliminary recommendations and strategies were presented on boards for people to identify their level of agreement. Seven members of the public participated in this exercise. The only recommendations that received one or two “do not agree” votes were:

- Integrate recommendations for planning in the First Ward as presented in the City Comprehensive Plan (two “do not agree” votes); and

- Implement recommendations identified in the Broome County Greenway Plan (one “do not agree” vote).

All other recommendations presented received “Agree” votes from all contributing members of the public.

Attendees were also provided the opportunity to mark up an aerial map of the study area to indicate locations where they see future projects to be most desirable, or of highest priority. Highlights of input associated with this feedback opportunity include:

- Revitalization of the Clinton Hotel as a strategic building near the gateway of Clinton Street from Front Street and downtown. Current owners of the building were present at the meeting and are interested in working with the City to identify any potential opportunities for assistance in the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of this historic structure.
- Farmers market near the Charles Street business park, on north side of Phelps Street (vacant land).
- Opportunities for community gardens throughout the residential neighborhoods on City-owned land and small vacant parcels.
- Redevelopment of vacant parcel at the southeast corner of the intersection of Murray Street and Clinton Street.