

Community Foundation
Listening Learning Partnerships
Ulysses Town Hall
Thursday, May 18, 2011
Meeting Notes

12 Ulysses residents (Deborah Nottke, Karen Powers, Wayne Bertelsen, Kris Bertelsen, Douglas Ann Land, Deirdre Cunningham, Sue Henniger, Lucia Tyler, Molly Foust, Jim Dennis, Liz Thomas, John Ullberg)

**What are two or three of the most pressing current issues for your community?
Which of these issues have emerged within the last year?**

Water, potable water, well water quality

Hydrofracking

Community center, for youth, multipurpose for all, larger gathering space for winter time community activities

Opportunities for youth, especially summer employment, post high school and college employment for young adults as well

Demand on use of library facilities, as hours are limited, circulation is increasing, use of meeting room tied up for weeks with library book sale, need another space for this event

Need to reinvent the library space use possibilities because of the impact of technology, expand hours

As public funding is cut, youth recreation activities are going away, county level cuts, local impact

Need a swimming pool

Encourage denser living and development, use of 2nd and 3rd floor spaces in village downtown

Need to do things comprehensively, not just taking targets of opportunity, to be able to be flexible and make moves when the timing and funds are right

Better housing 2009 grant helped 20 homeowners with major home repairs

Promote nodal development in the village of Trumansburg and the hamlet of Jacksonville

There is an overall shortage of housing at all price levels throughout the county

Emerging new concerns, such as hydrofracking and taking lots of staff time and money at the village and town level away from business as usual for things such as attorney fees

Protection of important green spaces

Funding to complete development of the Black Diamond Trail, a long-term multi-municipality project

Sharing and collaboration among school and town and village on services, building and materials, pride of what has already been accomplished and need to encourage more

Trumansburg Fire Department sponsored an EMT class with 30 people participating generating more volunteers at the fire department

There is support for local CSAs and local livestock producers, though some residents still experience a lack of food and homelessness

Food stamps are not fully enrolled at the level of eligibility, old time farming families seem too proud to apply for food stamps

Farmers market is a treasured strength and asset

Need more nutrition education

There are 6-8 homeless families known in Ulysses at this time

Available volunteer labor and leadership for projects such as the mini-village and for on-going sidewalk construction projects involving public-private support

Would like to see a car share expansion to the village

Looking more into alternative energy, need to be more visible, not easy

Some liquid propane opportunities including buses due to leadership of Ehrhart Propane (a local family-owned company)

Trumansburg Phone Co (now Fingerlakes Technologies) good, not great, with internet connectivity, non-existent on the lakeshore, especially relative to rural towns in the southern portion of the county

Still some people may not be able to afford to pay for internet connection and the library sees increased demand on its internet services

Trumansburg School district is trifurcated drawing students from Tompkins, Seneca, and Schuyler counties making after-school youth activities challenging

Have the current economic conditions led you to think differently about your community's future than you have in the past?

Are you exploring any alternatives which you might not have considered before now?

Have conditions caused any change in strategic direction? Mission?

What is the most effective grant received that assisted the people of Ulysses? What made it different from others?

Main street community engagement, better lighting, activated Main Street for pedestrian use

Taking care of Trumansburg, trash pick up, bringing people together

Farmers market, mini village, like use of Tompkins County room tax tourism grants

If you were to describe the "ideal" grant from the Community Foundation in the next 3 - 6 months, how would it be structured? What would it be for?

To whom does the leadership in your community look for help in difficult times - both for assistance in planning for the future, fundraising ideas, operational assistance?

Are there sufficient resources in the community to assist you? In what ways could the Community Foundation be more helpful?

Ulysses residents know who they are, and they know when something is a success, it is evident and recognized

1. Two or Three main issues/concerns:
 - Water: well water quality not good in general, concerned with potable water some concern with the hydrofracking and what that will do with the already low quality drinking water in the area.
 - Community Center/Place for teens: In winter, no real place to “hang out” and do activities. Youth activities funding has been cut by the government. The kids that need the most community support don’t have places to go, constructive things to do.
 - Library is a place for teens but hours and space are limited. People will hang outside when it’s closed to get internet access.
 - Looking to utilize a vacant building in the town center but no funds to act on this idea.
 - A general Community Center for all ages especially in the winter time for events and community building.
 - Schools are now charging for use of school spaces for after hours/weekend events usage.
 - There is a housing shortage and creating affordable and close to town center was important. Most affordable housing is remote
 - Lead Paint in the aging homes of the town. Most of the houses are old and aging, the cost to address the lead paint issue is expensive.
2. Given the funding issues/economy, what is the town exploring?
 - Sharing of basic resources between the town and school such as plowing, gas, general equipment for building projects, share buildings and structures on a continuous basis.
 - Fire department able to get funding to increase the number of volunteers with a sponsored EMT course.
 - Would like to address access of the local foods in the town/area to people in the town/area who are in need of healthy and nutritional foods. Some families don’t have enough food. 6 to 8 families have been identified in the village of Trumansburg as homeless.
 - Nutrition classes for youth: Library makes the effort during summer programming to provide more nutritious snacks.
 - Hard to know what data is “real” on the free and reduced lunch stats as this is a farming community and farmers don’t share that type of information or admit they need assistance in that way.
 - The Town is looking into a car share spur out this way: the town was surveyed and there was interest but not a large enough level of commitment to follow thru. Though a “light truck” share for hauling, moving, etc. would be beneficial.
 - Concerns with all the protesting of hydro fracking but no really looking into/investing into alternative forms of energy. Some changes with the schools

using 10 propane buses and local propane company to help promote this alternative to natural gas drilling.

Have a strong community sense and level of volunteer/civil engagement: Main Street Project and beautification of the village of Tburg.

Access to broad band not really an issue in most parts of the town, however affordable by families to its use is a very real issue.

Would like to see more green energy project that are very visual to promote youth engagement/awareness of green alternatives. Want to connect more with Cornell Coop Ext on their green building tours.

3. Grants that the village/town found to be important/good?

Anything where the tasks were accomplished and citizens felt a good sense of it and the project was used.

Most had a strong level of community engagement and folks were happy to get funds for materials and some expertise/equipment usage and then use volunteers to accomplish the projects.

4. When asked if given a \$10,000 grant what would they do with it? Wasn't really an answer.