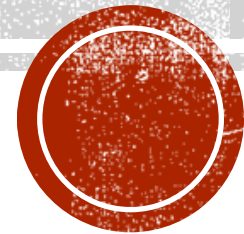


**JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
VISIONING COMMITTEE/PHELPS FORWARD GRANT COMMITTEE
NY FORWARD AND DRI PUBLIC MEETING**

10/2/2024

Visioning Members- Jed Brandow, Christy Howard, Samantha Minns, Patrick Ryan, David Lord, Keith Childs, Chelsea DeBoover

Phelps Forward Members- Bill Wellman, James Cheney, Janie Burgess, Christy Howard, Sarah Landschoot, Hannah Williams, Rayne Hammond-Benz



WHAT IS THE VISIONING COMMITTEE AND WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE

- The Visioning Committee is an independent group, appointed by the Town Supervisor and Village Mayor. It is made up of dedicated community members from both the Town and Village of Phelps. Together, we are collaborating with the broader community to understand and address the wants and needs of residents. We rely on community input to help shape a future vision that continues to make Phelps a great place to live.



WHY DO WE NEED A VISION FOR PHELPS

- **Guide Future Growth:** A clear vision provides direction for the future, ensuring Phelps grows in a way that aligns with community values and priorities.
- **Strengthen the Local Economy:** By identifying key development areas, a vision can help attract new businesses, create jobs, and boost tourism, contributing to long-term economic health.
- **Improve Quality of Life:** A strategic plan will enhance public spaces, improve infrastructure, and make Phelps an even better place to live, work, and visit.
- **Preserve Local Heritage:** A vision helps balance progress with the preservation of Phelps' historic character, ensuring we honor our past while planning for the future.
- **Secure Funding and Investment:** A well-defined vision strengthens grant applications (like NY Forward and DRI) and attracts private investment, providing the resources needed for revitalization.
- **Unite the Community:** Engaging residents and stakeholders in shaping Phelps' future fosters a sense of pride and ownership, leading to a more cohesive and vibrant community.



VISIONING COMMITTEE GOALS

- The Phelps Visioning Committee is dedicated to shaping the future of the Town and Village of Phelps, NY, through meaningful community engagement and strategic planning. The committee's goals include:
 - Developing a unified vision for Phelps that reflects the needs and aspirations of residents, businesses, and stakeholders.
 - Facilitating community outreach efforts, including public surveys and public meetings.
 - Partnering with local commissions, such as the Historic Commission and Beautification Committee, to guide downtown revitalization.
 - Identifying funding opportunities and working on grant applications to support community-driven projects.



ACHIEVING OUR GOALS

We've taken key steps toward realizing our community's vision through:

- **Community & High School Surveys**
 - Launched surveys for residents and high school students to gather diverse perspectives on the future of Phelps.
- **Public Meetings**
 - Hosting an open forum to engage with residents and stakeholders for direct input and collaboration on our shared goals
- **Visioning Process for NY Forward & DRI Applications**
 - We are in the process of completing a comprehensive vision of the town and village of Phelps, NY to secure funding through the NY Forward and DRI programs, focusing on downtown revitalization and community development.



NY FORWARD AND DRI

- **NY Forward Grant:** A grant program aimed at smaller and rural communities to support downtown revitalization and economic development. Focuses on improving local infrastructure, creating vibrant public spaces, and boosting small businesses.
- **Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI):** A larger, competitive grant program that invests significant funds into downtowns across New York State, targeting comprehensive improvements in infrastructure, business growth, public spaces, and community assets to create vibrant, walkable, and thriving town centers
- **Both grants support Phelps' efforts to grow, develop, and attract future investments**



HOW THE NY FORWARD AND DRI SUPPORTS THE VISION FOR PHELPS

- **Funding for Downtown Revitalization**

- These grants provide critical financial resources to enhance the look and feel of Phelps' downtown, making it a more vibrant, attractive, and welcoming space for residents and visitors.

- **Support for Small Businesses**

- By investing in local businesses and encouraging entrepreneurship, the grants help create a stronger, more sustainable local economy, aligned with the community's long-term vision for growth.

- **Improving Public Spaces & Infrastructure**

- The grants fund projects that enhance public areas, such as parks, streetscapes, and walking paths, making Phelps a more livable and enjoyable place to be.

- **Historic Preservation**

- They support efforts to preserve and revitalize historic buildings and landmarks, ensuring that Phelps' rich history remains an integral part of its future.

- **Attracting New Investments**

- The improvements funded by these grants make Phelps more attractive to developers and investors, fostering continued growth and development in line with our vision.

- **Strengthening Community Engagement**

- By involving the community in the visioning process and grant applications, these programs ensure that Phelps' development reflects the desires and aspirations of its residents.



SURVEYS

Surveys are still in progress. Some of the responses we've received so far include:

- **What People Love About Phelps**

- **Safety & Security:** By far the most valued aspect of living in Phelps, respondents consistently noted feeling safe in the community.
- **Friendly Community:** Phelps' strong sense of community and welcoming atmosphere was another top highlight, with many praising the supportive environment.

- **Areas for Improvement**

- **Job Opportunities:** A need for more local employment options was a common concern, with many respondents wanting to see economic growth.
- **Enhanced Parks & Recreation:** Residents expressed a desire for improved parks, recreational spaces, and outdoor activities.
- **Restaurants & Entertainment:** an increase in demand for more dining options and entertainment venues in the area.
- **Lack of housing diversity:** Feedback suggests a need for more varied housing types, including affordable single-family homes, apartments, townhouses, and senior living options.

- **Key Written Feedback**

- Many respondents left comments about **improving Main Street** and **upgrading storefronts**, reflecting a desire to revitalize the downtown area and enhance its appeal.



TRANSFORMATIVE PROJECTS

- The transformative projects here tonight have been identified based on the community's input through surveys and community meetings and discussions
- **These projects aim to improve areas such as job opportunities, parks, restaurants, entertainment and the revitalization of Main Street**
- Today we have vision boards on display with some of the transformative project ideas and they are presented on easels for the public to view. These boards are representative of potential improvements to downtown, infrastructure and community spaces.
- **You are encouraged to voice new ideas or suggest improvements with sticky notes or through additional feedback channels.**
- This will ensure that the final project reflects the true vision of the community



WHY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- **Shaping the Future of Phelps**
 - Community input ensures that the vision and development of Phelps reflects the real needs, priorities, and desires of its residents.
- **Creating a Shared Vision**
 - By gathering diverse perspectives, we can build a unified plan that resonates with all parts of the community, from long-time residents to new families and local businesses.
- **Informed Decision-Making**
 - Feedback helps guide town officials, planners, and stakeholders in making decisions that align with what the community values most, ensuring resources are directed where they are most needed.
- **Building Community Trust**
 - Listening to and acting on community input fosters trust and transparency, ensuring that residents feel involved in shaping their town's future.
- **Driving Meaningful Change**
 - Engaged residents help identify key areas for improvement, whether it's enhancing public spaces, boosting economic development, or revitalizing downtown Phelps.
- **Sustaining Long-Term Growth**
 - By incorporating community feedback, we can create a long-term plan that not only addresses current challenges but also prepares Phelps for future success.



HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED TO DO TO HELP

- **Attend Public Meetings**
- **Spread the Word**
- **Support Local Businesses**
- **Volunteer for Local Initiatives**
- **Stay Connected**
- **Voice Your Ideas**
- **Take the Survey**



QUESTIONS



THANK YOU

- We thank everyone for attending today and encourage your ongoing involvement in our community. We look forward to working together to gather diverse perspectives as we shape the future of our beloved home!

