



KEESEVILLE

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1 SUMMARY

Purpose:	Public Open House #1
Date and Time:	May 29, 2025, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Location:	Keeseville Elks Lodge #2072, 1 Elk Street, Keeseville, NY 12944

Station #1. Project Overview

Discussion

This public open house-style session included interactive activity stations which provided an overview of the NY Forward Process, Area Boundary, Existing Conditions, Goals, Vision, Opportunities and Challenges, and where to find further information. New York State Department of State (DOS) representatives and MJ Engineering and Land Surveying team members were available to answer questions and discuss ideas with the public. Attendees were provided with a participant guide for the following activity stations.

- **Station #1 - Project Overview:** The what, why, who and how of NY Forward
- **Station #2 – Downtown Profile:** Highlights of existing conditions
- **Station #3 – Downtown Vision & Goals:** Use the sticky notes to share what you want downtown Keeseville to look like in 5-7 years, and which downtowns you enjoy and why.
- **Station #4 – Challenges & Opportunities:** Share your concerns for Keeseville and identify opportunities.
- **Station #5 – Take the Survey:** Take the online downtown survey!
- **Station #6 – Other Thoughts and Ideas:** Have more to share? Write it down at this station!
- **Station #7 – Call for Projects:** The open call for projects is coming soon. Get information about the steps to propose a project for funding consideration.
- **Station #8 – Kids Table:** This is a place for kids to be creative and share their ideas.



Station #2. Downtown Profile

Discussion

This station provided an overview of Keeseville's demographics, growth trends, income, education, and employment. Village population, population growth, and age group percentages were displayed in tables and graphs. Income, education, and employment data was also displayed in tables and graphs, accompanied by a brief narrative highlighting notable data.

Six (6) maps were displayed at this station:

- The median age is 43.9 years old, this is lower than the median age of Essex County and slightly higher than Clinton County.
- 21% of Keeseville's population is 65 or older.
- The population is 2,867, most of which are homeowners, and the population has increased since 2000.
- Over a quarter of Keeseville's residents has a bachelor's degree or higher
- The boundary of the Keeseville NY Forward is centered along the Ausable River and bridges the Towns of Chesterfield and Ausable, focusing on the key business corridor in the downtown. The boundary encompasses Main, Front, and Ausable Streets, which is linked by a pedestrian bridge over the River.

Station #3. Downtown Vision & Goals

Discussion

The Draft Downtown Vision station provided an opportunity for participants to share their Vision for what they want downtown to look like in 5-7 years and what other downtowns they enjoy and why.

Common themes included:

- Shift downtown to a more walkable environment including an emphasis on pedestrian-focused infrastructure
- Establish more local businesses (restaurants, delis, etc.) and retail options to attract and occupy visitors
- Creating places where people can come to spend the day

Ideas expressed through this exercise include (in no particular order):

- Creating a walkable sustainable community to attract more activity to the area
- A main street comfortable for pedestrians and terracing
- Activities to keep people downtown for an afternoon

Map Comments:

- More parking along Main Street in underutilized spaces
- Future bus stops along Front Street across from the Keeseville library
- Future murals between the Keeseville Pharmacy, the Keeseville library and Town Hall
- Changing the materials for the crosswalk that traverses the intersection of Front Street and Main Street
- Parallel to Front Street is the River Overlook which starts by Main Street and ends next to Mill Road
- Utilizing the vacant space next to Swing Bridge as a public park
- Ausable Street would benefit from having a sidewalk

Station #4. Challenges & Opportunities

Discussion

This station encouraged participants to share their insights about challenges and opportunities for downtown Keeseville.

Themes in challenges and concerns raised included:

- Insufficient investments in community spaces
- Lack of reliable cell phone service

Challenges identified by participants (in no particular order):

- Stone wall in front of the civic center
- Poor cell phone service

Themes in opportunities and strengths raised included:

- Proximity to the border of Canada and the inflow of Canadian visitors

Opportunities and strengths identified by participants include (in no particular order):

- Canadian visitors/ tourists

Themes in challenges and opportunities regarding public spaces included:

- Emphasize the assets of the hamlet through proper signage directing visitors to possible areas of appeal
- Improve walkability and add safe sidewalks to the downtown
- Creating space for public events including concerts
- Improve the downtown area by enhancing streets, eliminating vacant storefronts, and maintaining public amenities

Challenges and opportunities regarding public spaces included (in no particular order):

- Removing blight
- Band Building (Gazebo)
- Clean the Riverview patio next to the park
- Sidewalk repair/replacement
- Enjoyable area for concerts through a public performance venue
- Fix the tennis courts – something for the teens in town
- More separation between pedestrian and motorist space on the street
- Lighting on Front Street
- Signage – Directions to out of town / nearby areas of interest
- Slower/quieter main street
- Plants “Greenscapes” for downtown
- Seasonal decorations (Christmas, 4th of July etc.)

Station #5. Take the Survey

Discussion

This station included a board enabling participants to take the online community survey which is available at www.KeesevilleNYForward.com . Paper copies were also available upon request.

Station #6. Other Thoughts and Ideas

Discussion

This station included an opportunity for any additional thoughts and ideas. The thoughts shared are listed below:

- There is a need for a downtown parking lot located near Front Street
- Addition of a splash park within the new park
- A walking path around Front Street through Mill Hill Bridge

Station #7. Call for Projects

Discussion

- Participants were able to discuss the Open Call for Projects with MJ Team members
- The submission period for projects will be open to the public for at least 4 weeks
- Open Call for Project opens June 12, 2025
- Applicants must complete a submission form with the required information (available online or in hard copy at accessible locations) by July 25, 2025 at 5:00 PM
- Similar, parallel process for Small Project Fund

Station #8. Kids Table

Discussion

This was a place for kids to be creative and share their ideas.

This meeting summary conveys our understanding of the items discussed and agreements reached at this meeting. Please forward any additions, corrections and/or questions to my attention.

Submitted by:

Melia Hema, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.

cc: Consultant Team, State Team, Local Planning Committee

