



## KEESEVILLE

# STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS SUMMARY

<b>Purpose:</b>	Stakeholder Meetings
<b>Date and Time:</b>	May 29, 2025, 2:30 – 3:30 PM May 30, 2025, 9:00 – 10:00 AM
<b>Location:</b>	Keeseville Elks Lodge, 1 Elk Street, NY 12944

### Stakeholder Group #1 – Community/ Non-Profit Organizations

#### Discussion

This discussion focused on the needs from a community/non-profit organization standpoint in Downtown. It began with a description of the NY Forward program and project selection process. Other topics and issues that came up include the following:

- Downtown Improvements
  - Improvements to the Streetscape
  - Enhancement of current accessibility measures
  - Water management - Groundwater flooding on Main Street and Ausable Street, including water intrusion in basements
  - Water management - Flooding impacts both foot traffic and during colder months freezes, posing safety concerns
- Downtown Utilization
  - People walk around downtown to places including the Grange, the post office and for events like the art festival
  - The Grange is a venue that attracts out-of-town visitors that organizations can rent, which includes a summer theater for youth
  - The Keeseville Community Arts Festival attracts visitors and residents alike
  - The Heritage House is a popular destination for Museum Days where all museums in Clinton County are open
  - Local museums also have tailored programs for the youth
  - The cemetery occasionally provides guided tours, and church tours are available every few years
  - There is a summer speakers series held at the fire department
  - Ausable Street is not pedestrian friendly even with the addition of a new park
  - Attendees agreed that benches, trees, and paved sidewalks would be beneficial for downtown
  - Walking across the pedestrian swing bridge is a strong asset especially during autumn when the leaves change

## Stakeholder Group #1 – Community/ Non-Profit Organizations

### Discussion

- Inquire if the funeral home would open some of their parking spaces for public use
- Mill Street is teeming with activity from people walking their dogs, but shifting trucks from the road as well as increasing parking for food trucks and other live events to improve future use of the road as a place for activities instead of exclusively transportation

### Attendance

- Sue Loomans, Ausable Valley Grange
- John Sokol, Ausable Valley Grange
- Jeff Dengler, Anderson Falls Heritage Society
- Garth J. Houde, Anderson Falls Heritage Society
- Joan Bettinger, Resident

## Stakeholder Group #2 – Municipal Staff and Parks & Recreation

### Discussion

This discussion focused on the needs of parks and recreation and from a Municipal standpoint within downtown. It began with a description of the NY Forward program and project selection process. Other topics and issues that came up include the following:

- Events
  - Bands play every Friday and Saturday on Mill Street including food trucks which bring in 40-100 attendees
  - The Arts festival brought in 500 visitors to the mill and downtown region over the span of two days
  - During the Solar Eclipse Keeseville saw an unprecedented number of visitors
  - The “Bike to Barn” biking event put on by a local brewery generated 1,200 participants
  - JC Park games is a large sporting event, but is only expected to bring in visitors for tournaments
- Streetscape
  - Streetscapes should be consistent throughout the downtown
  - There are many areas that require better parking facilities which is critical for visitors including NAPA and the cannabis store
  - The Town of Chesterfield is working to acquire property that could be used for additional parking in the downtown.
  - Additional public parking is provided through the park on the edge of the boundary allowed by the private owner
  - Murals can be a great motivator and positive community experience
  - Create safe transit corridors for any existing bike networks which provide smooth connections and accessibility between Keeseville and surrounding trails
  - Slowing of traffic through the town with proper signage

## Stakeholder Group #2 – Municipal Staff and Parks & Recreation

### Discussion

- Reconsidering restrictions on vehicle traffic on Mill Road, instead adding sidewalks and benches to improve upon the appeal of the stone arch bridge
- Opening up other bridges for pedestrian use, outside the NYF boundary
- Involvement of DOT in raising sidewalks throughout the area similar to Bolton Landing
- Drainage problems around the area at the bottom of Irish Hill
- Provide more wayfinding for assets within Keeseville including waterfalls, bike trails, and other popular destinations
- Other
  - Keeseville is a gateway to the north that provides an opportunity for greater exposure
  - The Town of Ausable received \$50,000 to invest in complete streets
  - Utilizing the “A Thoroughly Wide Awake Little Village” for future walking tours
  - To attract more visitors, additional store fronts and other amenities would need to be available
  - The local coffee shop was a huge improvement, but for other businesses it is a struggle to stay open outside the summer months because their prices are not affordable for a large portion of full-time residents
  - New Ausable town parks could be a possible spot for sledding and other winter activities
  - The area still struggles with a lack of cell phone service which could deter visitors and potential future residents
  - North County Camps bring in a lot of visitors and the question is, how does Keeseville attract these populations?
  - Future connections with the ballfields and surrounding trails to have better connections with downtown

### Attendance

- Nancy Gucker Birdsall, North Country Camps
- Adam Desantis, ROOST
- Bruce Bourgeois, Town of Chesterfield
- Tim Bresett, Town of Ausable Supervisor
- Andy Prescott, Town of Chesterfield Planning Board Chair
- Clayton Barber, Town of Chesterfield Supervisor

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:

Daniel Madigan, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.

cc: Consultant Team, State Team, Local Planning Committee

