

Williamsville Community Plan Workshop #2, April 24, 2007

Group Discussion Notes

Topic Station 2: Spring Street and Williamsville Mill Concepts

- Ashville, NC as an example: Small residences converted into little stores, historic railroad
- Should Spring Street be open to vehicular traffic? Maybe it shouldn't be 2-way?
- One-story parking ramp may create convenient parking for Main & Spring Street
- Maybe a ramp could eliminate the need for a two-way street, due to access from Cayuga & Main
- Could Spring Street buildings be taller due to grade differences w/ Main Street?
- Near the mill, smaller shops (books, artists studios, etc.) may be desirable.
- The gateway into the park near Rock Street is important.
- Should the buildings just west of the mill be changed? E.g., B&B's vs. Apartments?
- Grand staircase into the park is very important (e.g., "The Approach" in Troy, NY)
- Mill should be functional but also provide power for "green" production. However, this may be a big job – or maybe not? This should be looked into or at least restoration to a working mill (at first)
- Spring Street could be a festival destination w/ street in front of shops closed to traffic, etc.
- Participants agreed that developing Spring Street was a good 1st step to "fatten" the Village, making it a more vibrant retail/business district
- Pedestrian signal crossing at Main near Cayuga is very important
- Archway/Gateway bridge in Village Center w/ entrance to park
- Need to ensure that the park is accessible to all via creative design

- Providing opportunities at the mill and along Spring for views
- How to pay for these things?
- Big/important changes can be made in the longterm. For example, Glen Park used to be a big parking lot! (servicing amusement park, casino)
- Can a parking facility be built on Rock Street east of Glen Park?
- Is additional parking necessary if the village reorganizes existing parking appropriately & provides ways to cross Main Street?
- Is it realistic to put buildings behind the Eagle House? It will take creative cooperation among businesses & the village. Shared parking space is very important for this area (Spring/Main)
- An important, attractive feature of the village is the ability to walk to stores & recreation & use public transportation to access Buffalo. It is very important to improve the design of pedestrian avenues (e.g., use of brick, bump-outs, etc.) to increase the walkability of the village. The lights (timing, phases) across Main should also be improved.
- Is there an opportunity to establish the park system as a national park due to historic & cultural significance?
- Main Street is dangerous for bike use.
- Interconnectivity of parks is very important, connects south of Main to Sheridan.
- Cayuga or Mill Race may serve as a park entrance.
- How to pay? A comprehensive plan helps to get grants from the Fed/State agencies.