

HAGUE'S 20/20 VISION PUBLIC FORUM

Meeting Summary

1. Introduction

Fifteen years has passed since Hague developed its first Comprehensive Plan and, although many of the goals set forth in that plan have been achieved, others are still awaiting action. In response to community interest, the Hague Town Board sponsored a public meeting on Thursday, August 18th at the Hague Community Center to begin laying out a community roadmap that sets the future direction for Hague. The workshop was organized and facilitated by professional land use planners from the LA Group of Saratoga Springs. Planners presented a summary of the goals and actions proposed in the 2001 Comprehensive Plan and a list of accomplishments by the Town since 2000. The meeting then broke out into workshop tables where old and new initiatives were discussed. Approximately 92 attendees then broke into working groups to address two questions - What are the needs and challenges? - What are some solutions and actions? - for the following topics:

- Economic Development
- Planning, Land Use and Zoning
- Environmental Quality and Natural Resources
- Transportation
- Community Services
- Infrastructure
- Community Appearance
- Parks and Recreation

Workshop leaders then shared the answers to these questions with the entire group. A short discussion of next steps ended the public meeting. The outcome was that the Town Board will consider recommendations for next steps as recommended by the LA Group.

2. Summary Workshop Findings

Economic Development

Workshop participants found Hague has its own distinctive identity apart from the hamlet of Bolton Landing or Village of Lake George. The north end of the lake tends to attract residents and visitors that place a higher value on a lower concentration of people and activities on the lake. However, this preference acts to repress the economic development of the immediate region. In addition, the lack or reliability of basic utilities such as cell, Wi-Fi, Internet, cable services and power will continue to impede new people from moving into Hague and new businesses from developing. The lack of significant local or regional employment contributes to a circumstance where young residents move out of town and young families do not move into Hague.

The issue of economics centers on both stabilizing the year round population and growing the seasonal visitor base. A three-pronged approach was suggested to address these issues: Attract more winter tourists; convert the current seasonal visitors into year round residents, and become a center for active retirees. To reach these goals the community would need to greatly improve the telecommunication services and develop easy to intermediate hiking areas/pedestrian pathways that that are inter-linked to each other and to the regional trail network. To the extent possible these pathways should be dedicated and off-road. The recruitment of a year round convenient store would also be a stabilizing factor in the community.

Participants recognized that even though Hague is unique, there are small towns around the country that are experiencing similar issues and are addressing solutions in new and innovative ways. The Town should research such communities and consider ideas that are successful. The Town Board should also appoint a working committee that will consistently and continually work on economic development issues.

Planning, Land Use and Zoning

Workshop participants found that there is a strong relationship between land use practices and environmental quality. They recommended a more in-depth review of applications, careful evaluation of variances, educational workshops for board members and residents, and checklists for applicants may lead to the best results. Preventing the conversion of commercial properties to residential should be avoided in the hamlet so that growth can be accommodated in the future. The Town can access future funds for the next planning phase by applying for a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) Grant through NYS Department of State. With a LWRP (presently only Bolton has one) substantially completed, the Town may apply for implementation funding for project-specific planning, feasibility, design or to construct projects recommended in the LWRP.

Environmental Quality and Natural Resources

Workshop participants responded that water quality degradation was mostly due to overloaded septic systems and stormwater runoff. Potential solutions include extending municipal sewer lines, enforcing renting laws to relieve septic issues, and developing a regulation that requires an inspection of the septic system upon every real estate transfer of property. To address stormwater issues, the Town could limit the amount of salt utilized through the use of salt alternatives, create more permeable surfaces, and upgrade salt and snowplow equipment. The Town could also survey and maintain the existing catch basins, and add basins or other stormwater features where warranted. Both land and water invasive species control should be supported by the Town.

Transportation and Infrastructure

Workshop participants found with more pedestrians actively using Route 9N there are more chances for pedestrian-vehicle accidents. To minimize the risk they recommend more pedestrian crossings and consistent speed limits with electronic signage. Parking issues include trailers parked along Route 9N; and a lack of adequate public parking in the hamlet. Potential

responses to these concerns include providing designated parking on the west side of the Hague Community Center; consideration of a townwide garbage collection service; and exploring the feasibility of applying for grants for expanding the municipal sewer lines.

Community Services and Appearance

Workshop participants found that the quality of police, fire and EMS services may be at risk due to declining numbers of volunteers, increased response times, and a population that has increasing demands for these services. Potential solutions include the further investigation of shared emergency services; improved medical and social services for all, especially the sick and disabled; improved cell services; and the feasibility of a senior center. The appearance of the town is compromised by too many signs, roadside trash, and concern of the future of the mountain ridgelines.

Parks and Recreation

Workshop participants found there is a significant need for safe bicycle and walking paths; provide additional public docking; and develop a multi-use park on the "Darrin Property". Potential solutions include appointing a Trails Committee to explore new trails and trail connectors; explore methods of providing safer shoulders along 9N for pedestrians; and provide maps and other ways of promoting Hague as a recreational destination. Recommendations at the Town Park include extending the hours at boat launch utilizing youth volunteers; explore getting a vendor for kayak/paddleboard rentals.

3. Alternative Actions for Future Planning Initiatives

Set up a series of three public workshops that focus on specific priority topics that move the development of a new Comprehensive Plan forward including:

- *Economic Development*: Business and tourism development.
- *Community Services*: Emergency services, planning/zoning, parks/trails and infrastructure.

The agenda for each workshop would include:

1. LA Group presentation of case studies of successful growth and development strategies from other communities.
2. Workshops on economic development and community services designed to continue where first workshop left off by providing details for future projects and strategies to implement those projects.
3. Revise the Comprehensive Plan and present for adoption.
4. Develop a tailored approach for implementation and assist with implementation of action steps.

Submitted By Tracey Clothier & Jim Martin, the LA Group on August 31, 2016

Public Forum to Advance HAGUE'S 20/20 VISION

Verbatim Comments from Individual Workshop Groups

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Needs and Challenges

- Perception of staying the same or being Bolton Landing
- Short season – or summer community only
- Need for younger people
- Business properties are converging to residential use
- No incentives to attract businesses
- Need for more support from the town (e.g. parking)
- Poor and unreliable utilities/power/sewer
- No availability of business capital/gap financing
- Links to snowmobile trails for winter tourism are limited & not known
- Hard to know how to make a living in Hague
- Need more revenue to come into town
- Unreliable telecommunication internet/Wi-Fi/broadband/ cell service
- Maintaining Lake George water quality
- Bad appearance coming into town/poor road conditions

Solutions and Actions

- Bring in winter tourists
- Convert tourists into residents
- Look for similar communities that were failing and now successful – Talkeetna, AK
- Capitalize on older population by becoming a retirement community
- Improved infrastructure as a broad-based solution
- Broaden road shoulders for hiking, biking, etc.
- Develop trail systems with strategic links
- Recruit a Stewart's Store
- Development should complement existing businesses
- Town Board appoint a working committee on economic development
- Continue monthly progress on planning groups by letting individuals contribute ideas to other workshop groups

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Needs and Challenges

- Number of permit agencies
- More in-depth review of applications to environmental reduce impacts
- Careful evaluation of variances
- Educate residents on the state of the lake
- Preserve commercial properties in hamlet

Solutions and Actions

- Application checklists and flowcharts
- Calculate the amount of buildable land
- Board workshops and training
- Education on environmental quality: floating classroom, Low Impact Design
- Zoning amendments to encourage hamlet business
- Apply for Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Grant

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ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & NATURAL RESOURCES

Needs and Challenges

- Upland protection
- Land and water invasive species
- Road salt
- Run-off
- Shoreline protection
- Overloaded septic systems

Solutions and Actions

- Catch basin survey and clean out
- More catch basins
- Conservation easements
- Alternate to salt (see Lake Tahoe)
- Monitor rate of salt use on roads
- New plow blade
- Permeable surfaces
- Create buffers for all
- Low cost native plant market
- Extend municipal sewer lines
- Enforce renting laws to relieve septic
- Require septic inspection upon transfer of property

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Needs and Challenges

No answers given by work group.

Solutions and Actions

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TRANSPORTATION

Needs and Challenges

- Trailers parked along Route 9N
- Speed inconsistent throughout Route 9N
- More pedestrian crossings needed
- Poor maintenance on Tongue Mountain Road
- Lacking of public parking

Solutions and Actions

- Move all trailers off Route 9N and provide parking at Community Center
- Add crosswalk to parking lot across the street at Dockside Marina
- Review speed limits for consistency (Work with Ticonderoga)
- Add a second "Your Speed" electronic sign
- Equalize benefits for Hague with rest of Warren County
- Blacktop Route 9N along Tongue Mountain Road
- Provide additional parking at Darrin or former garage property
- Add speed sign approaching town from Route 8
- Re-engineer Island Harbor Curve

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Needs and Challenges

No answers given by work group.

Solutions and Actions

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COMMUNITY SERVICES

Needs and Challenges

- Address aging and response time issues for HVFD
- Need town constable or shared police services
- Townwide garbage pickup
- Improve services & awareness of Medical/Social services (also for sick/disabled)
- Senior Center
- Cell Service
- Hague Historical Museum needs more space

Solutions and Actions

- Cell – Town Board investigate providing service list for visitors of where service is good (Black Mountain?)
- Senior Center – address whether there further need
- Police – Explore shared service grants & opportunities with Ticonderoga and Warren County
- Medical/Social Service – Awareness, Chronicle, Sr. Club, website, small group website meetings
- Emergency services – potentially seek outside governance
- Stand alone Historic Museum

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Needs and Challenges

- Garbage pickup
- Sidewalks
- Road repair & clearing along roadsides
- Expand & maintain sewer system
- Systematic process for clearing storm drains

Solutions and Actions

- Garbage – Ask Casella for cost town-wide
- Sewer system – Explore grants to expand

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COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

Needs and Challenges

- Ridgeline appearance
- Too many signs
- Parking – cars, boat trailers on roadside

Solutions and Actions

- Change ordinance
- Clean up trash
- Create more public parking
- Conservation easements

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PARKS & RECREATION

Needs and Challenges

- Accomplishments: Oren Swim, Triathlon, Snowmobile Club, Oktoberfest, Memorial Day Parade
- Boat Docking
- Safe bike & walking paths
- Too many signs
- Speeding on Route 9N

Solutions and Actions

- Develop multi use park – pavilion, grills on “Darrin Property”
- Connect county snowmobile trails to lake, beach and Silver Bay
- Extend hours at boat launch & man public docks with youth volunteers
- Provide kayak/paddleboard rentals at the beach
- Appoint a Trails Committee to explore: Trails connecting Hague with Silver Bay (landowner permission)
- Place speed sign at Bass Bay
- Develop safe shoulder margins along 9N
- Improve advertisement of Hague as a recreational destination (maps of land and water sites)
- Promote tours of the Graphite Mines

Hague Town Forum - August 18, 2016

Name	Address	Phone	email	Would you be willing to participate in future sessions?
Judy Larter	Delaware Avenue	543-6315	none	Maybe
Renee Swinton	63 New Hague Road	543-8035	swintonrenee@yahoo.com	Yes
Annette Wells	23 Pine Orchard Road	543-6619	amlw26@yahoo.com	Yes
Bill Wells	23 Pine Orchard Road	543-6619	amlw26@yahoo.com	Yes
Mimi Scully	19 Bass Bay Road	543-8865	mimiscully@icloud.com	Yes
Judy Stock	9042 Graphite Mtn Rd.	543-6517	haguejudy@nycap.rr.com	Yes
Andrew Thompson	19 Lakeshore Terrace	543-6983	athompson_2000@hotmail.com	Yes
Seddon Beaty	9250 Lakeshore Dr.	543-6121	seddon@thejbeatys.com	Yes
Jim Beaty	9250 Lakeshore Dr.	543-6121	jim@thejbeatys.com	Yes
Pat McDonough	8980 Lakeshore Dr.	543-6725	patmcdathome@gmail.com	Yes
Donna Wotton	12 Overlook Lane	543-6782	dwotton@unconventional.com	Yes
Art Hatfield	20 Pine Cove Road	586-02691	achatfield@yahoo.com	Yes
Chris Richard	9568 Lakeshore Dr.	508 867 6733	chris@promracing.co	Yes
Mike Strutz	9222 Lakeshore Dr.	802 236 1608	hague3@yahoo.com	Yes
Rose Regimbald	9565 Graphite Mtn Rd	543-6159	none	Blank
Gene Moran	53 Pine Orchard Rd.	543-6145	emoran1065@aol.com ????	Yes
Todd Sager & family	305 Custis Rd. Glenside, PA 19038	215-272-4172	todd@awe-tuning.com	Yes
Bruce Rust	90 Overbrook	543-6530	none	Yes
Sandra Rust	90 Overbrook	543-6530	none	Yes
Linda Mury	PO Box 552	543-6550	lmury2@yahoo.com	Yes
Mary Behr	PO Box 725	260-8166	marybehr@hotmail.com	Yes
David Darrin	PO Box 1877 Bolton Landing, NY	518 240 6125	none	Yes
Al Rider	Hague	518-636-6326	alsupra@nycap.rr.com	Yes
Robert Whitaker	PO Box 2597, Silver Bay	543-6826	whit65@nycap.rr.com	Yes
Donna Trudeau	9065 Graphite Mtn Rd	543-6926	donnat@yahoo.com	Yes

Joey Trudeau	9065 Graphite Mtn Rd	543-6926	Blank	Blank
David Snow	108 Decker Hill Rd	543-8859	Blank	Blank
Kathe Allen	97 Friends Pt. No. Dr.	543-6639	kbaadk@gmail.com	Yes
Rolly Allen	97 Friends Pt. No. Dr.	543-6639		
Karen Costello	264 Summit Dr.	543-6590	Blank	Unsure
Sally Markert	9685 Lakeshore Dr. 751 Cty Rd 579 Flemington, NJ 08822	908 399 0853	smarkert@hcrhs.org	Yes
David Dunn	23 Terrace Road, SB	543-6185	Blank	Blank
Chattie Van Wert	PO Box 107 Ticonderoga	593-9093	Blank	No
Wini Conant	8371 Lakeshore Dr. PO Box 2624	543-8060	wini_conant@yahoo.com	Blank
Ken Engler	32 Forest Bay Rd.	543-6003	englerken@gmail.com	Yes
Enid Engler	32 Forest Bay Rd.	585-7703		Yes
Judith Gourley	209 Decker Hill Rd	543-6817	billjudynav@wildblue.net	?
Maureen Cherubini	138 West Hague Rd	543-6463	mmcherubini@aol.com	Blank
Mike Cherubini	138 West Hague Rd	543-6463	mmcherubini@aol.com	Blank
Ginger Kuenzel	PO Box 666	543-6798	ginger@utopianstate.com	Yes
Richard Stout	PO Box 778	543-8884	rhstout816@nycap.rr.com	Blank
Jim Henderson	8976 Lakeshore Dr.	543-6068	jimkhenderson@comcast.net	If here
Cathy Clark		543-6648	zoning@townofhague.org	Yes
Pat Hintze	157 West Hague Rd	543-6502	patg107@aol.com	
Sue Maltese	51 Overbrook Rd	543-2016	smaltese5@optonline.net	Here only summers until retirement
Ellen Wright	9051 Lakeshore Dr.	543-6918	wright@vsac.org	?
Pam Peterson	9165 Lakeshore Dr.	543-6512	Blank	Blank
Dick Berls	33 Springmeyer Hill	543-6467	Blank	Blank
Jan Berls	33 Springmeyer Hill	543-6467	Blank	Blank
Albert "Sandy" Mitchell	8471 Lakeshore	543-6033	nutmeg96@msn.com	?
Julie McPartlin	34 Sentinel Pines	543-6150	Blank	Blank
Ro Meeker	15 Pine Orchard Rd	973-227-0406	Blank	Blank
??? Auerbach	7947 Lakeshore Dr.	543-6363	Blank	Blank

Art Steitz	9837 Graphite Mt Rd	543-6156	Blank	Blank
Chuck Lioi	20 Lakeshore Terrace	818-641-6142	Blank	Blank
Keith Tamlyn	80 Hollow Road	845-462-4912	Blank	Blank
Lois Radke	8713 Lakeshore Dr.	543-6293	Blank	Blank
Mary Lorenson	25 Pine Cove	543-6427	lorensons@hotmail.com	Yes
Karl Johnston	8746 Lakeshore Dr.	543-6576 610 357 1981	karljohnston@hotmail.com	Yes
Trish Johnston	8746 Lakeshore Dr.	543-6576 610 357 1981	karljohnston@hotmail.com	Yes
Ann Shakeshaft	8932 Lakeshore Dr.	543-6529	Blank	Blank
Michael Tobey	8932 Lakeshore Dr.	543-6529	Blank	Blank
Carolyn Close	P.O. Box 2553, SB	543-8873 x 211	cclose@silverbay.org	Yes
Ken Beiser	29 Red Fox Ln, SB	917-459-8902	kenbeiser@gmail.com	Yes
Meg Haskell	448 New Hague Rd	543-2015	mhaskell14@yahoo.com	Yes
Tom Haskett	448 New Hague Rd	543-2015	mhaskell14@yahoo.com	Yes
Maureen O'Rourke	30 Pine Orchard Rd	543-3040	Blank	Blank
Chris Navitsky	7763 Lakeshore Dr, SB	543-6929	cnavitsky@lakegeorgewaterkeeper.org	Yes
Wesley Masten	11 Lakeshore Terrace	543-6952	awmasten@gmail.com	Yes
Anita Masten	11 Lakeshore Terrace	543-6952	awmasten@gmail.com	Yes
Ted Conant	8371 Lakeshore Dr., SB	543-8060		Yes
Bobbi Bryant Taylor	63 Pine Cove Rd.	543-6346	taylorbobbilynn@gmail.com	Yes
Sheri Delarm	8979 Lakeshore Dr.	543-6723		Yes
Chris Ginn	8979 Lakeshore Dr.	543-6723	watercars@hotmail.com ?????	Yes
Lauren Parlin	The Uptown, Hague		laurenuptown@gmail.com	Yes
Lance Clark	9657 Lakeshore Dr.	503-5357	lanceclark49@gmail.com	Yes
Nancy Archer	9657 Lakeshore Dr.	503-5357	Blank	Blank
Mike Beneduce	7776 Lakeshore Rd	543-6501	Blank	Blank
Casey Beneduce	7776 Lakeshore Rd	543-6501	Blank	Blank
Lu Megow	11 Bay Berry Lane	543 6658	Blank	Blank
Lee Ann Modestino	55 Red Fox Lane	543-6599	leeannmod@aol.com	Yes
Sally Rypkema	234 Split Rock Rd.	543-6807	sallyryp@gmail.com	Yes
John & Karen Beekley	51 Pine Cove Rd.	543-8037	karenbeekley@yahoo.com	Yes
Linda Fish Megow	11 Bayberry Lane	543-6658		Yes

Crystal Dan Staepel	16 Lakeshore Terrace	260-9011	staepelc@gmail.com	Yes
Sandy Rypkema	7942 Lakeshore Dr.	543-6527		??
Neil Rypkema	7942 Lakeshore Dr.	543-6527	neilryp@yahoo.com	??
Janet Hanna	36 Sabbath Day Point Rd	543-6451	janet.m.hanna@gmail.com	Yes
Anthony DeFranco	234 Dodd Hill Rd.	791-9816	defranco73@gmail.com	Yes

The following did not attend but asked to be added to the mailing list

Bob and Holly deBuys		543-8863	aibholly@aol.com rrdebuys@aol.com	Yes
Pat Pengitore		543-3004	ppengitore@gmail.com	Yes
Linda Toner	4 Forest Bay Road, North,	543-6617	Lindatoner21@gmail.com	from mid-May to mid-October
Alice Patchett		543-6088	alice.patchett60@gmail.com	