



ALEXANDRIA BAY

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #1 SUMMARY

Purpose:	Public Open House #1
Date and Time:	May 28, 2024, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Location:	Community Meeting Room, 110 Walton Street, Alexandria Bay

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. A New York State Department of State (DOS) representative 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 Alex Bay to look like in 5-7 years.
- **Station #4 – Challenges & Opportunities:** Share your concerns for Alex Bay and identify opportunities.
- **Station #5 – Take the Survey:** Take the online community 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 Alex Bay's demographics, growth trends, income, education, and employment. Town 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.

Seven (7) maps were displayed at this station:

- The median age of the 1,006 residents is 51, and 25.5% of the population is 65 or older
- The population size has decreased since 2000
- The government is the largest employer of Alexandria Bay residents, employing 35% of residents
- Healthcare is the second-largest employer in Alexandria Bay, employing 23% of residents
- The NY Forward boundary for Alexandria Bay includes much of the Village's waterfront, Casino Island, the primary downtown business corridor, and marina district

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.

Common themes included:

- Infrastructure Development: building new sidewalks, reconstructing restrooms, and improving roads
- Building more attractions along the waterfront and improving current attractions
- More waterfront activities for children
- Beautification of the downtown area such as by adding trees and shrubs, as well as removing weeds from storefronts
- Technological improvements: information kiosks with TVs, fixing streetlamp posts

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

- Cohesive sidewalks and beautification. Businesses need to remove weeds in front of their business.
- New sidewalks
- Reconstruct restrooms on village dock and old chamber building
- Farmer's market at upper James St and dock area
- New sidewalks, road improvement
- Shuttle for traffic relief
- Streetlamp posts

Map Comments:

- Really tall sightseeing tower
- Water activities, diving platform (port off Fuller Street)
- Add another dock (end of James Street port)
- Family bathroom (near the area where another dock was proposed)
- Move the hospital (off Fuller Street) somewhere else



Station #3. Downtown Vision & Goals

Discussion

- Kids splash pad
- Waterpark
- No Billboards in town
- Enclose rooftop HVAC & Exhaust like Lake Placid: fence around
- Rooftop bars (one on each side of James Street near the intersection with Market Street)
- Antique signage (on James Street) is great and cool, but it needs to be fixed
- Beach improved (end of Fuller Street)
- Key location waterfront connection (near Southwest end of town)
- Trees should be added (West end of James Street)
- Parking kiosks
- Focus on fixing James Street (pointing to the Southwest side of James Street)
- Farmers market pavilion
- Pedestrian access only
- Dock, bathrooms with showers, and stage on top for entertainment
- Need info kiosks with TVs about what to do here!
- “Back to the American dream”
- Drybags

Station #4. Challenges & Opportunities

Discussion

This station encouraged participants to share their insights about challenges and opportunities for the Downtown.

Themes in challenges and concerns raised included:

- Traffic flow needs to be studied further because it is dangerous to navigate the downtown area whether driving or walking
- The look of the town right now leaves some to be desired, the empty parking lot near the dock needs to be eliminated, while the bathrooms need renovation, and the village needs to have a more cohesive look with its paint and siding
- Signs and old parking meters need to be updated or changed

Challenges identified by participants (in no particular order):

- Conduct traffic and pedestrian study similar to Clayton to improve traffic flow and pedestrian safety. Possibly make Church St. one way in
- Move bathroom on the dock to the site before it on the left. Empty parking lot now looks terrible!
- More cohesive look with paint and siding. Let’s look proud!
- Enclose rooftop HVAC to blend in with building
- The hospital needs to be moved somewhere else
- It’s stressful to drive the village + its stressful to walk in the village

Station #4. Challenges & Opportunities

Discussion

- New + improved bathrooms. Not just painted over.
- No billboards in Village area
- Food trucks at pavilion
- Parking
- Improved parking + eliminate antiquated meters!
- Better signage at riverwalk especially between the old chamber building and Cornwall store

Themes in opportunities and strengths raised included:

- Improve the family friendliness of the town
- Improve the quality and quantity of local businesses, both food-related and otherwise

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

- Move the public bathrooms on the dock
- Kiosk signage along the riverwalk, more signage explaining history
- Family friendly
- Getting higher quality merchants in Downtown
- Higher quality higher “quantity” of food establishments

Themes in challenges and opportunities regarding public spaces included:

- Improve parking, maybe add a parking garage
- Move the bathroom off the dock

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

- Get the bathroom off the docks
- Better parking / parking garage

Station #5. Take the Survey

Discussion

This station included a board enabling participants to take the online community survey which is available at www.alexbaynyforward.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:

- Food truck at pavilion
- Farmer’s Market at pavilion
- Floating restaurants
- Back to the American Dream!



Station #6. Other Thoughts and Ideas

Discussion

- Lazy River by Casino Island
- Really high diving platforms
- Art festival in the pavilion
- Really high sightseeing tower
- Updated information center with TVs and drone videos
- Improve and upgrade the beach so more girls come

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
- Applicants must complete a submission form with the required information (available online or in hard copy at accessible locations)

Station #8. Kids Table

Discussion

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

Input Provided on Written Comment Cards

Discussion

In addition to gathering input via maps and station boards, participants had the opportunity to provide input on written comment forms. Below is a list of written comments received:

- No additional comments received

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

