



Warren County 2040  
Public Advisory Group Meeting Summary  
Project Number: 2231014

Location: Warrensburg Fire House

Date: December 5, 2024

Time: 3:30PM

	Name	Organization/Role
Attendees:	Ethan Gaddy	Warren County Planning
	Sarah Brugger	Warren County Planning
	Sara Frankenfeld	Warren County Planning/GIS
	Matthew Smith	Warren County Planning
	David Nelson	Warren County Planning
	Tammie DeLorenzo	Warren County
	Craig Leggett	Town of Chester resident
	Haley Gilligan	City of Glens Falls Ward 2 Supervisor
	Anna Bowers	Town of Johnsbury Town Council
	Nathan Etu	Town of Queensbury County Supervisor At-Large
	Paul Cummings	Town of Queensbury resident
	Molly McCarthy	Revolution Rail Co. General Manager
	Scott Sopczyk	City of Glens Falls resident, Former GGFT Director
	Norabelle Greenberger	LaBella Associates
	Devin Bulger	LaBella Associates
	Megan Wright	LaBella Associates

One member of the public was also in attendance.

Meeting Summary:

1. Public Engagement Update/Feedback, Comments on Vision Statement & Feedback on Draft Plan
  - PAG members noted the diverse feedback from the public engagement sessions. Public safety, a high-priority topic in the Public Survey, received several comments and suggestions. The group discussed various points, including adding language to highlight the value of a county-wide fire safety trainer and leveraging high school community service hours to strengthen the County's public safety workforce.



- Regarding Goal #3 in the draft Plan, the PAG has heard from the community that getting volunteer fire/emergency personnel has been a struggle and is of increasing concern. The County noted that this was a pervasive issue due to an aging population and the time and cost required to adequately staff emergency services. This challenge is particularly potent in smaller hamlets that tend to have more fire departments but less population to staff them. The PAG agreed that focusing on youth engagement, retention, and cost savings should be emphasized in the Plan.
  - The PAG discussed expanding on Action 1.7 in the draft Plan to emphasize this issue, and that it ties in with Action 1.6 as well. The group also noted the need to spell out specific incentives (i.e. tax credits, additional retirement time, paid time off, etc.) that could be implemented to encourage higher uptake in emergency service positions. These actions should also mention that, now that EMS services have transitioned to paid services, fire and other emergency services are likely to follow.
  - There have been shared services in municipalities across the County before (Glens Falls, Saratoga, Malta) that should be re-investigated. A PAG member noted that paramedic and emergency training is now based out of the University of Vermont, but that the single person providing this training is in Syracuse. The distance of both the program and the trainer leads the County to miss out on the benefits of inter-regional trainings and collaborations. The group discussed the benefits of engaging with SUNY Adirondack to create a similar program that is more local.
- The public also commented on the County's approach to solid waste management. Ethan Gaddy noted that they recently hired Matthew Smith to help with coordinating the County's solid waste management and climate resilience strategies. Once Matthew has a draft of his recommendations, they will be incorporated into the Plan's actions.
- The PAG's comments on the revised Vision Statement for the Plan was that it was too short and vague. The group discussed the differences between mission and vision statements and what the overarching purpose of the Vision should be. Members agreed that the detail included in the original statement was needed since it both aligns with specific actions in the Plan and dictates the County's goals for the environment, economy, people, and overall quality of life for residents. There were also comments that the Vision is meant to guide decision-making in the County and to get funding, necessitating the detail of the original statement. The group agreed that the best course of action is to bold the first sentence of the original Vision Statement to call attention to a shorter version of the statement, but to keep the rest of the content the same.
- The PAG felt that the draft Plan was good and that only minor typos and formatting edits need to be made. A County representative noted that the Recycling and Compost group requested more specific language and actions in the Plan. It was mentioned that Matthew would be incorporating some of this language into his recommendations.

## 2. Next Steps



- Norabelle provided an overview of the next steps required to complete edits and finalize the plan for presentation to supervisors. Public feedback and County Planning edits and comments will be incorporated into the plan in December and early January. The finalized plan will be presented to the Economic Growth and Development Committee at their January meeting. From there, the Economic Growth and Development Committee will recommend adoption of the plan to the full board.
  - A discussion ensued regarding the best approach for reviewing the final plan with the balance of supervisors. Plan sections and goals, objectives, and actions could be reviewed at the relevant committees based on the departmental action assignments and corresponding committee oversight. Alternatively, one comprehensive presentation could be made at a full Board of Supervisors meeting. Tammie also noted there will likely be changes in committee chairs in the new year, so there could be additional benefit to priming new leadership on their specific committee actions and implementation responsibilities. The County will continue to review options and select the best approach to adoption. PAG Members noted that as long as the plan is adopted prior to CFA season, which is generally late May, the plan can support grant applications in the 2025 cycle.
3. Public comments
- There was one representative of the public to attend the meeting.
  - Comments were made about whether the Plan addressed emergency preparedness or civil unrest.
  - Additional comments were regarding a stormwater management retrofit strategies and whether they are included in the current Plan. Specifically, a program for properties near lakes or other water bodies who are not regulated under the current strategy.
  - Comments were also made to encourage a strong climate action plan in the Comprehensive Plan, including a greenhouse gas inventory to put some urgency behind the actions and timeframe. The PAG recommended the language of Action 5.8 be clarified and the Action be modified to include existing opportunities for citizen-led action and direct people on where to go with questions.

The preceding minutes represent the author's understanding of the matters discussed and decisions reached. If there are any corrections, clarifications, or additions to be made to these minutes, please contact the sender at [mwright@labellapc.com](mailto:mwright@labellapc.com) within five business days of issuance.

Respectfully submitted,  
LABELLA ASSOCIATES, D.P.C.

*Megan Wright*

Cc: All Attendees