

A workshop of the Town Board of the Town of Moreau was held on October 28, 2019 in the Town of Moreau Municipal building, 351 Reynolds Road, Moreau, New York for the purpose of hearing from the public during a Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership SWOT exercise.

The Supervisor called the workshop to order at 6:33 p.m.

Town Board Members Present

John Hogan	Councilman
Alan VanTassel	Councilman
Gina LeClair	Councilwoman
Kyle Noonan	Councilman
Theodore T. Kusnierz, Jr.	Supervisor

Town Board Members Absent

None

Also present: Leeann McCabe, Town Clerk; Saratoga Prosperity Partnership: Marty Vanags, Shelby Schneider and Jenny Kelley; Planning Board Member, Reed Antis; Alternate Planning Board Member, Ann Purdue; Members of the public: Vince Sporrer, Cindy Kennedy, and Tina Ovitt

The Supervisor welcomed everyone and stated that the purpose of this workshop was to gain public input. He stated that Marty Vanags was present from the Saratoga County Prosperity Partnership and that he had been working with the Town to come up with an economic development plan. He turned the meeting over to Mr. Vanags.

Mr. Vanags introduced Shelby Schneider and Jenny Kelley. He stated that the purpose of the workshop was to do a SWOT exercise. He asked that everyone divide into three groups.

Group #1: Councilman VanTassel, Councilman Hogan, Reed Antis and Cindy Kennedy

Group #2: Councilwoman LeClair, Vince Sporrer and Tina Ovitt

Group #3: Supervisor Kusnierz, Councilman Noonan and Tracy Clothier

Mr. Vanags stated that each group would be having discussion amongst themselves, to come up with two to three really good examples for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats, with 5-6 minutes given for each topic. He asked that each group select a spokesperson.

The first topic was Strengths. Following a six minute discussion, the following group determinations were given:

Group #1: Recreation Facilities
Major Highway Corridor
Available Infrastructure

Group #2: Education – Reputable School System with access to higher learning facilities close by
Leadership - Having a Supervisor who can lead the Town Board through the process
Green Space

Group #3: McGregor Prison
Industrial Park
Moreau Lake State Park

The second topic was Weaknesses. Following a six minute discussion, the following group determinations were given:

Group #2: Traffic Congestion
Too many apartments – not a stable population. Need a community where people belong and want to make improvements.
Need more sewer

Group #3: Dated Town Code: (Planning, Zoning, Building)

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Not enough anchor businesses
To Town Center

Group #1: Lack of reliable broadband
Town needs to be easier to work. Need to streamline the permitting process
Lack of affordable housing – not apartments. Need a better mix

The third topic was Opportunities – external forces. Following a six minute discussion, the following group determinations were given:

Group #3: Growth in communities around the Town of Moreau
Opportunities for enhancing transportation, including freight line
Gateway for retail & outdoor activities

Group #1: Congestion north and south of Moreau - enhances the Moreau Rte. 9 corridor
Industrial Park is a great opportunity – has power, water, sewer and rail
Have a great opportunity to enhance the Town's communications through marketing

Group #2: Opportunity for smaller businesses
Location – Close to the Adirondacks, Catskills, Vermont and Massachusetts

The fourth topic was Threats – external factors that we have no control over. Following a six minute discussion, the following group determinations were given:

Group #1: Traffic congestion – the exit 17 project (State project) will have an effect on the Town but will be out of our control to remedy the current congestion.
New technologies – having to deal with
The Town is not easy to do business with

Group #2: Children go off to college and don't return. Need to grow the community so children will want to stay. We're losing generational families.
Resiliency – Is the Town prepared in the case of a natural or economic disaster?
Cost of living very high in New York State – difficult to keep people in the State

Group #3: National climate for industry is declining
External threats to the agricultural districts – Tariffs, housing
Population is aging

Mr. Vanags put the post-it sheets up on the wall and Shelby Schneider went over each, asking if anything had been left out.

Under the Weaknesses category, there were a few added suggestions:

Lack of community interest
Community identity. It was suggested that Moreau become South Glens Falls. It was stated that having three different zip codes is a hindrance.
Concerns with air pollution in the surrounding areas. And, pollution of the Hudson River

Under Strengths, the following suggestions were added:

Taxes are low in Saratoga County.
Enormous capacity for public water and sewer

Under Opportunities, the following suggestion was added:

Sewer and water brings in business.

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Mr. Vanags stated that he would get all of the information typed up and get a copy to the Town Board. The Board should take the time to look it over and then rank the ideas. Mr. Vanags stated that the Plan will be a series of recommendations based on what the Town wants and needs. After that they'll provide recommendations and outline the implementation.

Mr. Sporrer asked if there would be a public hearing on the plan before it's finalized. Mr. Vanags replied no. Once the plan is delivered to the Town, it will be a finalized product.

The meeting concluded at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Leeann McCabe
Town Clerk