

Public Meeting 9/9/08
Youngsville High School Auditorium
7:00PM – 9:00PM
Sponsored by ROY
Attendance of community members

Prior to meeting John Mellenchamp's Small town Song was played with a PowerPoint of pictures taken of events in Youngsville sponsored by ROY.

Meeting began at 7PM with Barb Luce, ROY committee member welcoming those attending and stated the purpose of the meeting as an exchange of ideas and to learn the progress made and the next steps to be taken.

Barb Luce recapped the organizational structure of ROY. A PowerPoint explained why and how ROY was formed including the philosophy, mission statement, 4 point approach, and vision. All were asked to sign-in. Everyone was invited to ask questions and to offer suggestions so that the ROY committee would know what the community thinks of what is being done. Barb thanked all the volunteers for the work done to assist ROY.

Barb introduced Jim Farr Mayor of Youngsville. Jim stated that he was a life time resident and reviewed a brief history of Youngsville specific to the businesses that were in the town in the past i.e. 3 grocery stores, restaurants, banks, shoe store, jewelry, clothing store, and theater that are not here now. He stated that Youngsville has a bright new future and we should look forward not back. He said that this takes involvement of all and commended ROY on the job it is doing. The potential is to be: The biggest little town on the map.

Kathy Retinger, Regional Main Street coordinator said that now is the opportunity to revitalize the community. There is need for support, work, effort and dedication. This can be done by donating time and money. All need to be involved i.e. the youth – boy scouts, schools. Students are the future.

Barb introduced Rich Cleveland, planner and manager, and Sandy Ely, landscape architect from E.G. & G, Inc. design firm hired by ROY to design the streetscape. Rich Cleveland presented the preliminary design plan that is complete but will have some changes as specifics are decided and drawn. Next will be the financial plan including writing grants. A PowerPoint was shown that described the 4 gateways to Youngsville (West Main St., East Main St., North Main St. and Railroad St.). A grant has been submitted and awarded for the partial cost of the railroad silhouette at the entrance off Rt 6 at Railroad St. Illustrations were shown on the PowerPoint and preliminary considerations were addressed. A map outlining the streets for the construction of the project was projected. There will be phases for construction. Phase one would be the gateway entrance of Railroad St with the train silhouette and part of East Main from the Y at the bridge (excluding the bridge) to Bates St. Next would be Railroad St.; then North and West Main St.; and last the bridge. At this time cost estimates are being put together. An October meeting is planned with Mayor and Council of the borough of Youngsville. The estimated timeline for Phase One will be a year and a half with bidding in the spring of 2009 and construction completed by fall of 2010. Total project takes approximately 5 years if all goes according to plan.

Sandy Ely presented conceptual drawings from the engineering team with variations of brick and concrete usage for sidewalks and crosswalks. Ideas were to have no overhead utilities, no parking meters, trees, a directory for visitors, 4 sided street clock, and gazebo. The floor was opened for suggestions/ideas from those present. Questions were answered by Sandy or Rich.

A question was raised regarding trees. Only trees that are good for urban conditions are used and there is room for the roots to grow and low leaf fall. Each current tree would be evaluated for its health and would try to work around current healthy trees

Question about brick sidewalks and upkeep such as grass and snow removal. There is a concrete base then asphalt and granule material under the brick to prevent grass. Real bricks are used and they have held up to snow removal. Historically appropriate to use brick with the sidewalks.

Question regarding semi-traffic and need for wide intersections. There are curbing extensions and all intersections are engineered for turns.

Question if homeowners would have to pay for sidewalk improvements. There are federal and state grants that cover the costs of the project. Local input would be needed and there will be additional fundraising activities as well as capital assessment. No one in Youngsville has to pay for the upgrade.

Questions regarding underground utilities. Would all be put in place now? Current conditions would be evaluated. There could be a grant for this infrastructure and the Mayor and council would be involved with all this. The overhead utilities would need to work with Pena Lec and PenaLec should cover the cost. This will not change the utility boxes to the homeowner or the business. The underground would be to the downtown area and core areas.

Correction was made to the map that what was labeled as Woodward St should be Popular St.

Question: What economic stimulus to attract business? The idea of this project is to look at the use of space for people to come and to attract business and growth. Youngsville has been designated as on the Route 6 Heritage Corridor. Kathy Retinger stated that many businesses start small. There is potential in Youngsville with working with EOC. The idea is to have people move here and work here and have people interested in bringing business here.

When starting a business if all other things are equal, then whoever wants to start a business will look at the aesthetics of the community.

Question: What would be the base of the economy? Tourism? Technology? Industry? Need economic stimulus to help industry growth, need to keep youth here by increasing ability for technology. Currently the base is service and tourism. The baby boomers are starting businesses. ROY has a committee for economic development and welcomes suggestions or members.

Question: Would the tax base change with the façade improvement. This does not usually change the tax base since it enhances the buildings appearance.

Question: When do people get more involved? When the project starts and streets start to be dug up. Once it gets toward completion then people are more positive.

There were many comments made at Corn Fest when EG&G had the design.

Comment: This town has a lot of heart. It has donated for lots of projects in the past.

This area of the State has been a designated area and will be looked at more as this is the only Regional Main St program on this side of the State. The State will help with funding as much as it can.

Youngsville has been approved to be a Heritage Community. This means that when applying for grants we get an extra 10 points.

All present were asked to share this project with others in the community.

Pastor Rick Hamrick brought the discussion to a close and asked for money and support. He stated that Youngsville has great heart but is wearing shabby clothes. The first impression of the town is not that good. He discussed 3 generations. First if broke then fix; second if broke buy new; third if there is an upgrade then go for that. Let's be the ones who fix the town. There are 2 ways to support the project: financial and time.

When writing grants the State looks at how many are involved in the community.

\$68,000 was raised to hire and design the project and this is paid for. There is \$83,000 to start this phase of fundraising. Estimate the need for \$217,000 to be able to draw more State matches.

Frances Rhodes suggested a door to door campaign to raise money. Joanne Oviatt stated that prosperity breeds prosperity. She is the first to donate for the second phase. Her donation is in honor of Nancy Holmberg.

Pledge cards were available to those present and had been mailed to individuals and businesses.

John Shaughnesy sang the song he wrote for the town's success based on the tune 'I've been working on the railroad' with everyone joining.

Barb Hartmann closed the meeting by thanking all who attended and inviting them for coffee and cookies.

Respectfully submitted

Cheryl Gruber

ROY secretary