

## **HAGUE 2024 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE**

### **Advisory Committee Meeting Summary for August 7, 2024**

The Town of Hague aspires to initiate the implementation of the Master Plan for Hague Town Park completed in 2020. The first phase of the plan is to rebuild the current Visitor Center and provide an improved space for outdoor performances. The Town will outline the program needs, assess the feasibility, and identify potential funding sources for phase 1.

The Town intends to replace the current visitor center with a new multi-purpose building to be located in the same location. Funds to plan the facility will be utilized by a \$25,000 grant (NYS DEC Smart Growth Grant), a town match of \$5,000, and \$15,000 from a grant awarded from the Glens Falls Foundation (originally awarded for a stand-alone pavilion that was not implemented in 2022).

Two grant applications through the CFA (Consolidated Funding Application) were submitted by the Town of Hague before the deadline of July 31.

- Development of visitor center construction drawings: \$120,000 (grant 60K if awarded through OPRHP or 90K if awarded through DOS).
- Development of a LWRP (Local Waterfront Redevelopment Plan): \$76,000 (grant 57K + match \$19K).

The Town is currently working with the Adirondack Park Agency who is providing technical support through their *Vision Adirondacks Initiative* program to create a conceptual plan for the new visitor center on a no cost basis. This drawing would be useful in public communications and in applications for future funding.

The Smart Growth Grant (active August 1, 2024) includes the cost of updating the 2017 Comprehensive Plan and moving forward with the implementation of the Master Plan for Hague Town Park (2020).

The Town envisions the year-round building to serve as a joint community and visitor center. The community center would provide a year-round meeting venue for community gatherings and small events. The visitor center would be a hybrid space for greeting visitors, providing information such as trail maps, lodging, campgrounds, and identifying recreation venues etc. To introduce visitors to the Town itself, the space will also contain educational exhibits about natural or cultural history, and exhibit space for historical information. The new facility would incorporate space for accessible public restrooms, caterer's kitchen, meeting room, and storage. New performance space may be incorporated into the building, or it may be a stand-alone structure located between the current location and the playground, or potentially in the northeast corner of the park. The Town seeks to address flooding, stormwater and erosion control issues as it rebuilds the visitor center site.

Proposal received from Tene Casaccio of JMZ Architects & Planners guide the committee and public through the programming and design process and to complete the schematic drawings. Approval of the proposal was made at the 8/13/24 Town Board meeting. Meeting with JMZ anticipated for September 11 at 10:30am.

### **List of Tasks for the Comprehensive Plan Update**

The state has signed the final contract with the Town so we can now begin officially meeting on a regular basis. Here are the general tasks that the committee and consultant will be addressing:

- Public Outreach Plan: Public Meetings, Town Website, Newsletters
- Committee Meetings (4-5)
  - Meeting 1: Review Conceptual Plan for New Visitor Center (8/7/24)
  - Meeting 2: Develop Public Outreach Plan (8/7/24)
  - Meeting 3: Review Goals & Recommendations in 2017 Plan (8/7/24)
  - Meeting 4: Identify Current Goals and Issues
  - Meeting 5: Review Schematic Drawings for New Visitor Center
  - Meeting 6: Review Public Comments and Recommendations
  - Meeting 7: Develop Recommended Actions and Funding Strategy
- Public Meetings (2 plus 1 public hearing)
  - Meeting 1: Public Workshop on Issues and Opportunities
  - Meeting 2: Presentation & Public Review of Plan
- Draft Vision and Goals: Began at 8/7/24 meeting.
- Community Profile of Existing Conditions: Tracey developing independently.
- Recommended Actions, Funding Sources and Grant Strategy
- Draft and Final 2024 Comprehensive Plan Update
- Adirondack Park Agency and Warren County Planning Review
- Town Board Public Hearing, SEQR and Plan Adoption