

**Village of Williamsville**  
**Start-Up Meeting and Visioning Session**  
**May 24, 2005**

Attendance:

**Community Plan Members**

Thomas Claxton  
Victor Paquet  
Mary Carr  
Pastor Timothy Madsen  
Todd Nelson  
Carolyn Schlifke  
Paul B. Iskalo  
Douglas Adema  
Nancy Delo  
Brian J. Geary  
Wesley Stone  
Edward Zabel

**Technical Committee**

Jeffrey Adriam  
Adam Ploetz  
John Moslow  
Dan Howard  
Lynda Juul  
Paul Bowers  
Ron Daniels

**Additional Attendees**

F. Ray Hazlett, Mayor  
Sally A. Kuzon  
Jocelyn Gordon  
Wendy DaCosta  
Allison Dubie

- Mayor Ray Hazlett provided a welcome to the Technical and Advisory Committees and the Project Consultant
- Jocelyn Gordon, Project Manager introduced the consultant team, provided a Project Overview, explained the responsibilities of each Committee, and explained the format of the Visioning Session.
- Both committees participated in the Visioning Session (see attached for results of Session).
- Jocelyn Gordon reviewed the project schedule, proposed meeting dates, and requested assistance from both Committees to provide themes, names and contact information for three (3) Focus Groups to be held as a part of the public input process. Committee members are to respond via e-mail or telephone to Sally Kuzon, Village Administrator by Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> with their responses. An e-mail will be sent to all Committee members requesting this information again.
- Next Meeting of the Community Plan Committee set for July 26, 2005 at 7pm in Village Hall Auditorium.

# Williamsville Visioning Session Statements

## May 24, 2005

### Participants:

#### Community Plan Committee

Thomas Claxton  
Victor Paquet  
Mary Carr  
Pastor Timothy Madsen  
Todd Nelson  
Carolyn Schlifke  
Paul B. Iskalo  
Douglas Adema  
Nancy Delo  
Brian J. Geary  
Wesley Stone  
Edward Zabel

#### Technical Advisory Committee

Jeffrey C. Adriam  
Adam Ploetz  
John Moslow  
Dan Howard  
Lynda Juul  
Paul M. Bowers  
R. Daniels

### Question 1:

*Barring all constraints, how do you envision the Village 20 years from today?*

*What role should Main Street play in Western New York?*

- A pedestrian friendly Village
- Satellite parking areas for parking off Main Street
- Different mix of businesses, not just hairdressers
- Maintain Village atmosphere
- Don't want to be a big city
- Feeling of community
- Family oriented
- Preservation of parks
- Preserve the history of Williamsville
- Preserve the building stock
- Reduce traffic
- Increase in parking
- Retain the mix of businesses in Williamsville
- Retain the quality and care of businesses
- Lose out on transient businesses because people driving through don't stop to shop because there is no place to park
- A place where generations can act together
- More festivals to bring different generations together
- Meeting place where older residence can find access to things they need
- An inter-faith community – meeting place for different cultural traditions

- Williamsville as a vibrant, sustainable and unique place
- Housing choice through all stages of live
- Mixed uses
- Mixed economic base
- Maintain natural resources
- Maintain Main Street
- Preserve the strong historic character
- Special place in Western NY
- Buildings that need to accommodate for modern uses
- Use written architectural standards
- Use design guidelines that are clear to allow for predictability in development projects
- Context sensitive signage standards
- Value of property
- Vibrant town center
- Traffic calming across Main Street
- Design a change in surfacing on Main Street
- Gateway to Williamsville
- Make parking behind buildings
- Reduce cars on the street
- Create a focus on Glen Park Water Mill
- Livable green, energy efficient Village
- Williamsville is a function of how Main Street develops
- Speed limit reduction, traffic in 20 years will affect the Village
- Traffic needs to slow upon entry
- Focus on pedestrian traffic
- Linkage with the city and points east
- Main Street as a local economic and educational area
- Vibrant gathering place on Main Street
- Take cars off Main Street to increase visibility
- Build aesthetically pleasing parking ramps
- Bring visitors from all over to see historic Williamsville
- NYC central park feeling of Glen Park
- Concerts in the park
- Bring specialty restaurants to Williamsville
- Walkable Williamsville
- Look at the past to get what Williamsville wants in the future
- Encourage building closer to sidewalk
- Williamsville as a place for tourists and people to come
- Shopping district needs to be improved
- Improve conditions for commuter traffic, problems with too much side street parking
- Recognized regionally and internationally for history, architecture, parks and people
- A safe community
- Encourage enjoyable pedestrian excursions

- Residents able to enjoy all parts of the Village, now it is divided into four sections because of busy streets
- Desirability of business sector
- Attractive schools in Williamsville
- Create something like Olmstead model of parks tied together in Williamsville
- Make Williamsville a tree city especially along Main Street
- Better mix of shops and businesses on Main Street
- Safety issues from traffic
- Traffic dust and dirt from Main Street is an issue
- Turn Main Street into more than a cut through corridor
- In the future the Village will be busier, there will be a mix of residence, the Town Hall will be gone and the Village government will be absorbed by the Town
- The County, State and Thruway need to be involved in the planning process
- Williamsville as a destination instead of place to drive through
- Connection of parks
- As Main Street goes the rest of the Village will go
- Slow down traffic
- Maintain architectural look
- Make a garden way where feasible
- Define that you're coming into a different area
- More use of the waterways: even Island Park, extending a deck on the water
- Should still be reflective and respectful of past
- Integrity of commercial and residential buildings- means of helping owners with some of these problems
- Guidelines for people to look at to analyze so that they know what to do
- Sufficient parking for businesses
- Use of waterways with park lookouts and boat launches
- Wider sidewalks with more grass and gardens
- Reduce Main Street to two lanes with parking on both sides of the street as well as bike lanes and tree lining of the street
- Quaint Village with professional offices and small retail with eating establishments and specialty stores
- Main Street will plan an integral part in the future: The business sector and everything else evolves around this district

## **Question 2:**

*What are Williamsville's Primary Strengths?*

- Natural Resources
- Small Government
- Strong Community
- Parks
- Architecture in the Village
- Williamsville's History

- Reputation as a good place to live
- Playgrounds
- Social environment, spirit of Williamsville
- Historic character
- Regional historic efforts to comprise a package of places to visit
- Proximity to the University at Buffalo
- Concentration of educated people
- Quality of life
- Talent pool
- Reputation
- Sense of place, differentiates from the rest of suburbia
- Social aspect of place, tables outside of coffee shop
- Accessible location, right off of the I - 290
- Vibrant Main Street
- Identity
- Environment
- Residential and business base
- Walkability
- Schools
- Historical presence
- Neighborhoods
- Not intimidating, small comfortable, easy to talk to people
- Friendly
- Connection between residence and businesses
- Acquaintances with businesses
- Falls and green areas
- Identifiable, standout from urban sprawl
- Attractive presence
- Historic Presence
- Old Village
- Multiple services
- Housing
- Desirable community
- Sense of community
- Local government does it the best
- Amherst employs a lot of people

*What are some of the constraints and/or obstacles facing the Village that will need to be addressed as the Plan is completed?*

- Parking
- Traffic
- Pedestrian safety
- NYS DOT

- Not having a precise vision
- Dollars
- Competition with big box retail, are small business going to be able to compete?
- Lack of parks system
- Lack of expertise
- Competing political agendas
- Lack of plan to have funding
- Main Street transportation
- Functionally obsolete buildings, lack of useable space
- Regional population loss
- Brain drain
- Perception of parking issues
- Regional economic decline
- Peripheral growth
- Technical capacity to develop small businesses, there is no direct assistance for groups like Williamsville Business Association
- Can't compare Williamsville with places like East Aurora or Niagara On the Lake, those places are destinations
- Difficult to make Williamsville an oasis in the town
- Main Street is a major road
- Williamsville is never going to be rural
- Encourage less traffic without discouraging people from wanting to go to Williamsville because traffic goes to slow
- Calm traffic on Main Street
- Reduce traffic in a matter that is psychological: show that you are in the Village
- Outdated properties in need of restoration
- Can't be turning businesses away because there aren't that many businesses coming
- Village codes need to be enforced
- Main Street is a barrier in the Village
- Existing zoning needs to be updated
- Impact from adjacent areas using Main Street
- Need for signage and walkways through traffic
- Need for off street parking
- Need for signage that says there is off street parking
- Need to know whom the Main Street shops are serving
- Infrastructure redevelopment, costly and it needs be done right
- Need for code revisions
- Difficulty crossing Main Street
- Challenge to maintain Main Street
- Some areas that have a historic presence will not allow change – is that a good thing or a bad thing?
- Make the community viable through codes
- Need for employee parking
- Older deteriorated building stock

- Concerns about ageing population
- Loss of village identity and community for younger generations
- Competing visions of future: realistic vs. idealistic
- Want make speeding down Main Street a grievous act
- Maintain autonomy