

Route 9D Corridor Management Plan
Steering Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: March 20, 2006
Time: 7:00 – 9:00 PM
Location: Garrison Union Free School
Attendees: Sarah Geer, Steering Committee Chair
Fred Osborn, Resident
Hank Osborn, Resident
Gloria Colucci, School Superintendent
Anita Prentice, School Board President
Sandra Jobson, NYSDOT
Paul LoGallo, NYSDOT
Kirby Brown, Resident
Martha North, Resident
David Lilburne, Emergency Services
Liz Nussbaum, Resident
Terry Polhemus, Resident
Gretchen Teal, NYSDOT

Meeting Summary:

I. Introductions

Sandra Jobson, NYSDOT, welcomed meeting attendees. The meeting attendees introduced themselves. Sandra Jobson, NYSDOT, informed the group of this year's Federal Highway Administration Scenic Byway grants that were awarded to various Scenic Byway applicants in New York State. Grants were provided to Scenic Byway Committees and their Town sponsors for projects such as updating existing Corridor Management Plans, building interpretive/visitor centers, developing marketing material and more.

II. Vehicle Accident History Summary, Route 9

Sandra Jobson, NYSDOT, distributed a Vehicle Accident History Summary for Route 9. This information was requested at the previous Steering Committee Meeting. In summary, between June 1, 1999 and May 31, 2002, 224 accidents were reported along Route 9 in the Town of Philipstown. Twenty two of the 224 accidents involved trucks.

Anita Prentice, School Board President, mentioned the public involvement sessions that led to the Philipstown Comprehensive Plan highlighted seven areas requiring attention, and Route 9 was one of the seven.

Frank Osborn, Resident, let everyone know that the Philipstown Comprehensive Plan was adopted last week.

Terry Polhemus, Resident, shared with the group a roadrage experience she and her daughter had while driving on Route 9D involving a local delivery truck.

III. Accident Rates & Statewide Average

Sandra Jobson, NYSDOT, distributed an "Accident Rates & Statewide Average" handout. This information was requested by Steering Committee members at the previous committee meeting. In summary, during the period from June 1, 1999 through May 31, 2002, there were 2.4 accidents per million vehicle miles on Route 9D and 1.8 accidents per million vehicle miles on Route 9. Both rates are below the statewide average of 2.8 accidents per million vehicle miles for a 2-lane, undivided, rural, free access roadway, similar to Route 9D and Route 9.

IV. Review of Consolidated "Goals and Objectives"

Sandra Jobson, NYSDOT, distributed the draft consolidated "Goals and Objectives". Comments were as follows:

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- Add “safety” to the introductory paragraph.

Goal: “Encourage the preservation and enhancement of the scenic, natural and historic resources along the Route 9D Scenic Byway.”

- Shared Driveways: Applies to commercial driveways more so than residential driveways.
- Scenic and Historic Overlay District: “Design Guidelines” can be incorporated into the Town’s zoning and building codes.
- Scenic and Historic Overlay District: Since the Town already has a Zoning Board and a Planning Board, it was decided that a “Design Advisory Committee” would be redundant and, therefore, unnecessary. The Town’s Zoning Board and Planning Board could provide guidance instead.
- Scenic and Historic Overlay District: Compare the Scenic and Historic Overlay District to the zoning in the Comprehensive Plan, committee members will follow up on this item.
- Increased Setback and Tree Preservation: Add information on roadway setbacks for mailboxes and decorative stones to the Increased Setback and Tree Preservation section.
- Community Stewardship: The “Byway Beautification Day” could be incorporated into the Annual April Cleanup.
- Scenic Byway Marketing/Tourism/Interpretation: The vacant Garrison Deli is for lease and could be a potential site for a visitor center and/or trolley turnaround.
- Signs: Move this section below the Scenic and Historic Overlay District section.
- Roadside Vegetation Management /Invasive Plant Control: The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation could be contacted for resources as well.
- Roadside Vegetation Management /Invasive Plant Control: Again, the “Byway Beautification Day” could be incorporated into the Annual April Cleanup.
- Historical Resources: Move this section below the Scenic and Historic Overlay District section.
- Stormwater Management: Move this section below the Roadside Vegetation Management /Invasive Plant Control section.

Goal: “Develop a safe, separated, multi-use path for non-motorized transportation and recreation along the Route 9D Scenic Byway.”

- No comments on this section.

Goal: “Develop improved, safe access to hiking trails and historic sites along the Route 9D Scenic Byway.”

- Feasibility Study: The vacant Garrison Deli is for lease and could be a potential site for a roadside pull-off/parking area.

Goal: “Promote vehicular safety along the Route 9D Scenic Byway.”

- Speed/Passing Zones: reduce the speed limit to a 30mph along Route 9D from Route 403 to Snake Hill Road (i.e., in the “Hamlet” of Garrison). The speed limit in the Garrison Union Free School zone is already 25mph.

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Goal: “Develop a Strategy for the restriction of 18-wheeler, through trucks along the Route 9D Scenic Byway.”

- Terry Polhemus, Resident and Business Owner, stated that the NYSDOT restricted class 1, class 1A, class 2, class 4, and class 5 truck permits along Route 9D approximately one month ago. Sandra Jobson, NYSDOT, will follow up on this new information and report back to the committee.
- Add “conduct periodic truck safety inspections along corridor to encourage safe truck traffic”.

Goal: “Evaluate potential consequences of restricting 18-wheeler, through trucks from the Route 9D Scenic Byway.”

- This section is relevant only if the Town/County decides it will take ownership of the Route 9D corridor to restrict through trucks.

It was decided that the order of the “Goals and Objectives” be rearranged. The preservation and recreation goals should follow the goals dealing with safety.

V. Next Steps

Sandra Jobson, NYSDOT, passed out a “Route 9D Corridor Management Plan Schedule”. A number of dates were adjusted to accommodate the week Garrison Union Free School is closed in April. An updated schedule would be forwarded to committee members by NYSDOT.

Several names for the Route 9D Scenic Byway were suggested, they include:

- Castles on the Hudson Scenic Byway
- Castles in the Highlands Scenic Byway
- Hudson Highlands Castles

Hank Osborn, Resident, will work on creating a logo that incorporates the castle theme.

Sandra Jobson, NYSDOT, will distribute, via e-mail, the draft Corridor Management Plan Chapter I. “Intrinsic Qualities” and Chapter IV. “Implementation Strategy” on Wednesday, March 29, 2006.

The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Monday, April 3, 2006, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Garrison Union Free School and the purpose of the meeting will be to review draft Corridor Management Plan Chapters I and IV.