Part 2 – Second Stage Process and Results

Second Stage Process and Results
Workshop Results Posters
Second Stage Presentation
Student Design and Research Posters

Workshop Two
The second workshop was held at the Primary School multi-purpose room on July 10th, 2012 from 3 to 5 pm and from 7 to 9 pm.   Approximately 30 people from Oxford participated in the workshop. Many participants from the previous workshop were present as well as some new participants. The activities designed for the second workshop sought to clarify and confirm some of the findings from the first workshop. Activities were organized within four separate topic areas: the Route 12 corridor, the river corridor, care and maintenance and the downtown core. Each person chose one of the four focus groups in which to participate during one 40 minute time slots. Results are documented in a series of posters at the end of this section.

Workshop 1 Summary
The workshop began with a PowerPoint presentation of the information and results from the first workshop given by Maren King. A draft of the vision statement and goals were presented. (See full presentation is at the end of this section). Then the participants divided into four topic groups that emerged as most pressing in the first stage.

Care and Maintenance
During the first workshop community residents expressed concerns about the appearance and condition of certain properties and places in the Village and Town. This activity facilitated participant's thoughts about appearance, responsibility for maintaining or caring for properties and possible solutions to improve the identified places or buildings. The first series of questions focused on things that are positive and contributing to Oxford. The second series of questions delved into things that detract from the appearance of the Village of Oxford, the causes and what might be done to change or address the problems.

Summary Results: The primary concerns were the condition of the residential and commercial buildings downtown, the yards, and sidewalks, and in the. The causes identified by participants were age of structures, absentee landlords, money, time, neglect and poor maintenance.

The Route 12 Corridor

The participants were engaged in a group mapping activity to identify relationships, visual aspects, safety issues, opportunities, constraints of the Route 12 corridor by using the appropriate color dot to locate these areas as well as labeling. The comments were also recorded on the flipchart for later review by the planning team. The Purpose of the activity is to identify how the community uses and views the Route 12 corridor. Next participants used blue dots to locate areas of concern on the maps provided. Participants locate areas of opportunity using yellow dots to locate areas on the large maps as a group and prioritized their top three choices.

Summary Results: Are based on the prioritized data gathered from the 2nd workshop participants.

Concerns:
1) *Poor Pedestrian/Recreational Access*
2) *Lack of Village Identity and Entrance*
3) *Safety on Route 12 for Vehicles and Pedestrians*
4) *How to attract Visitors/Businesses to Village*

Opportunities:
1) *Create Village Identity and Entrance*
2) *Reuse Existing Buildings for New Purposes*
3) *Create a Pedestrian Oriented Village*
4) *Attract Visitors to the Village*

The Chenango River Corridor

The Purpose of the activity was to identify how the community currently interacts with the River Corridor and define character areas. Participants used Blue Dots to locate areas on the large maps they have existing interactions with the river and labeling what they are. Next participants used yellow dots to locate areas of concern on the maps provided and finally they listed opportunities as a group and prioritized their top three choices.

Summary Results: Are based on the prioritized data gathered from the 2nd workshop participants. Concerns:
1) The Flooding
2) Pollution in the river and
3) The lack of recreational access to the river.

Opportunities:
1) Better Recreational access to the River
2) River walk with Large Riverside Park in close proximity to the downtown
3) Clean the River of pollutants

The Downtown Core

The participants did a group mapping activity in which they listed and mapped what activities and uses currently took place in the downtown, concerns, underutilized resources, and what was felt to be missing or needed. The group members then went back to brainstorm new activities and uses they would like to see occurring downtown, how to use underutilized resources, and to implement what was thought to be missing.

Summary Results: The community participants generated a list of concerns and underutilized resources within the downtown core. The list was then analyzed and put into the following categories:
1. *Problems to Address*

2. *The Need of Revitalization/Re-use/ Replacement*
3. *New Business/ Operations/Organizations*
4. *New Recreation/Green Spaces*
5. *New Infrastructure*
6. *New Activities and Uses*

(See poster for full results)

Matrix

Participants made suggestions for actions strategies and brought forth new ideas for different places in the community based on the draft goals. The purpose of this activity was to think critically about Oxford's goals and how or where they could be achieved. Participants chose three goals they felt were most important and wrote one at the top of each index cards. They considered how such goals may be achieved in the places listed on the matrix. For each goal, the participants chose a location and wrote an explanation on the index card pertaining to how that particular goal might be achieved in that location. There was a "non-physical location" for the strategies that need not be tied to a physical location. Then the planning team attached them to the larger matrix on the wall for all of the community to view.

Summary Results of the Matrix: The community participants generated a list of strategies during the 2nd workshop and was then analyzed and put into the following categories:

1. *New Infrastructure*
2. *Economic Development*
3. *New Activities and Uses*
4. *Youth Engagement*
5. *Natural Resources*
6. *In Need of Revitalization*
7. *Connectivity*
8. *Re-Use/Replacement*
9. *New Businesses/Operation/Organizations*
10. *Recreational*

(See Poster for full results)

The Design Principles

The project team developed three design principles that should guide decisions related to physical design and development at the interface between the Village and the Town, or between the denser village settlement and the rural countryside. These principles were developed from the data shared by participants at the first community meeting in addition to the planning team's awareness of how design of the environment affects behavior, perception and aesthetics.

Design Principles at the interfaces between the Village and the Town

- Encourage entry and arrival sequences along Route 12 and other main routes that highlight the views and rural landscape and then encourage drivers to slow down and stop in the village core.

- Develop a pedestrian oriented village core that reflects the scale and detail of a traditional "main street" and downtown business district.

- Create stronger and positive visual and physical relationship with the Chenango River while acknowledging the challenges of flooding.