

ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

The steering committee, at its initial meeting, shared their ideas about Norwich and the “Village” and posed a number of questions for us to think about as we draft a scope of work for the consultants:

- What does each member of the committee see as the future 10 years down the road for Norwich Village?
- Will you be living in the Town of Norwich? Will you be living in the Village “Center”? Why? Why not?
- What is the Village History? Is it important to future planning?
- Would pedestrian paths and trails help connect the area identified?
- What kind of additional data do you need to help guide a Master Plan of the Village?
- What is missing from the Town Plan or needs updating?
- Where do you want to see new housing? And what type of Housing? (your present town plan has a large section on this topic!)
- Where do you want to see additional economic development and what kind? (see Town Plan Section 5 for initial ideas)
- What public activities are there now in the Village area and what would you like to see? What’s missing?
- What is the role of the Fire District? What is the Prudential committee?
- How do you plan to deal with the lack of wastewater?
- What does Resilience Planning mean? (see Town Plan Chapter 9 checklists)
- What kind of Master Plans have other towns found useful?
- Identify Indicators of Stress or tension - e.g. higher property taxes relative to income. Is Norwich becoming gentrified as less well-off move out of town? What are the demographics? Is there high turnover in population? Is Norwich Town government, and its committees, functioning well enough to help your ideas move beyond wishful thinking?
- What are the Challenges and Opportunities? (Lot of useful data in Town Plan)