

## **CHAPTER FOUR: OUR TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES**

### **Margaretville Today<sup>85</sup>**

#### **Transportation and Circulation**

The Village of Margaretville's historical role as a regional hub is enhanced by its strategic location at the intersections of Routes 28 and 30. As a commercial focal point, it is important that access and safety over these main routes is maintained for foot, bicycle and auto traffic.

Time and the elements cause the need for repair of sidewalks, roads and bridges. In general the village-owned roads and sidewalks are in good repair. From time to time flooding causes damage to roads, bridges, and sidewalks as well as normal traffic and weather wear. The bridge over the Delaware River on Route 30 requires replacement. The Binnekill walking bridge may also require replacement. Some streets and sidewalks have been repaired or replaced, others await repair. The village policy of sharing costs of sidewalk repairs is not actively used by property owners. Plans are afoot with the NYSDOT for widening of sidewalks along Route 28 and developing sidewalks associated with the Arkville water district improvements.

The dominance of automobile and truck traffic on Routes 28 and 30 are a blessing and a concern. The Village has expressed the desire for an alternative truck route because tractor trailers routinely become wedged in the tight turn onto Main Street, blocking traffic and creating a dangerous situation. There are safety concerns for pedestrians and auto accidents due to unsafe speeding and traffic congestion.

Bicycling, hiking and sightseeing are important means for visitors and residents to enjoy Margaretville's natural beauty. Discussions are underway to develop a trail linking Margaretville and Arkville that can be used by bicyclists and pedestrians because riding and walking on Route 28 is dangerous. New York State Department of Transportation is interested in promoting bicycle use, trail heads and scenic parking along Routes 28 and 30.

If someone wants to use public transportation to get to or from Margaretville, options are lacking. As a result, automobile dependency is very high and residents without an automobile must rely on family or friends to transport them. The Delaware County Health Department reports that a lack of public transportation combined with the inability of many economically disadvantaged and elderly people to own automobiles creates serious transportation difficulties for a significant share of the population.<sup>87</sup>

#### **Water, Wastewater and Utilities**

Margaretville has a wide array of public services and facilities that residents depend upon to make life easier day to day. When residents turn on their tap water it is important to know that Margaretville's drinking water meets the standards of New York State. When toilets are flushed,

sewage is transported to the City-owned wastewater treatment plant. Both the wastewater treatment plant and the water system have substantial available capacity, but there are a few improvement needs in both systems.

The wastewater treatment plant owned by the City of New York Department of Environmental Protection was upgraded in 2000. Nearly half of the collection system, also owned by the City, was rehabilitated in the last five years. In spite of upgrades the plant continues to be compromised by chronic infiltration problems and the remaining collection system and house connections still require attention. DEP reports that water infiltration and inflow problems dilute the sewerage and sap the treatment capacity. Connected to the infiltration and overflow problems is the issue of sump pumps. To confront this issue the Village recently enacted a sewer law which authorizes inspection and enforcement by the code enforcement office for proper disposal of sump pump effluent. As a result of this action, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation lifted a Consent Order that placed a moratorium on building hookups to the system.

Other areas of concern are the places in the Village that are not connected to the wastewater system. Some of these properties may be relying on questionable systems. The DEP agreed to extend the sewer collection system to connect these properties. The Village is assisting to obtain permission from the property owners.<sup>80</sup>

Property owners depend upon a reliable electric supply and lighting. There are concerns for the aesthetics of lighting fixture design balanced with safety and efficiency in the downtown. Margaretville demonstrated concern for the environment within its utilities by adopting the Smart Energy Partnership 28 and the Margaretville Energy Program.

Margaretville offers most of the infrastructure needed for information. Telephone service is provided through an independent company, the Margaretville Telephone Company. There is cable service for television, including a local cable channel and access to the internet. There is newspaper coverage through the local paper. Cell phone use, however, is difficult - if not impossible.

### **Facilities and Services**

The Village of Margaretville has many lovely places for visitors and residents of all ages to meet and enjoy its character, such as the Amphitheater, skate park, and Village Park. Restrooms exist, but are in need of maintenance and supervision in order to be suitable amenities for Village events and activities. The village continues to upgrade these facilities by building a Park Pavilion and repairing structures such as the Gottfried Building, home to the Village Offices. The Village Garage is also in good repair. For a pleasant and sanitary village, Margaretville provides litter and garbage control, and cemetery service. Village-wide recycling is provided through the Town of Middletown.

Margaretville serves as the regional heart for acute, primary and specialty care through Margaretville Memorial Hospital (MMH) and its sister facility, Mountainside Residential Care. MMH Hospital is a dynamic institution currently in the process of expanding its facilities and

services to respond to a changing population and health care environment. The hospital and its affiliated services are part of a larger health care system that includes the Delaware County Rural Health Alliance.<sup>87</sup>

Regarding safety, concerns have been raised for greater law enforcement coverage. There is no local plan in place for potential local impact of a terrorist attack on New York City.

**A Vision for Our Transportation and Public Facilities**

The village, in cooperation with state and local agencies, supports and sustains:

- Public transportation
- Expanded and well-maintained public facilities
- Expanded public services that use the best available technology
- Well-maintained roads, bridges and sidewalks
- Ample and convenient parking
- A globally connected communication system
- A School
- A Hospital, Nursing Home, Family Health Center and Senior Living Options
- Several Churches

**I. Enhanced Transportation and Circulation**

*The transportation and circulation goal for Margaretville is:*

- *Ensuring a safe, accessible and comprehensive, multi-modal transportation system available to residents and visitors.*

**Recommendations:**

***Evaluate New York State's short and long term capital plans for the Route 28 Bridge.***

*The draft long range plan is over four years old and does not mention anything about the current capital projects plan for the Route 28 Bridge. There is inconsistency between correspondence and reports from DOT regarding the replacement of this bridge. Advocacy is needed. Immediate*

and continued follow up with Region 9 is essential in order for the community to participate in the planning and to obtain the landscaping and other complementary amenities associated with the bridge's access and egress arrangements, as well as community input on bridge design.

- ✓ Collaborate with NYS DOT to design and install landscaping and appropriate amenities (trees, sidewalks, lighting, curbs, handrails, benches, etc.) on the access and egress points to the new bridge.
- ✓ Consult the 2001 Village of Margaretville Revitalization and Recreational Use Plan<sup>8</sup> for suggested improvements for Bridge Street.



View of Bridge Street entrance  
Source: M-ARK

**Bridges, whether they move automobile or pedestrian traffic, should be repaired or replaced as part of a capital asset management plan that the Village routinely uses for all its capital assets.**

*The footbridge over the Binnekill is an important link in a Green Infrastructure Plan or a walking tour. Its upkeep or replacement is essential to maintaining Margaretville's walkability for residents and tourists alike.*

- ✓ Consider other footbridges across the Binnekill connecting the eastern end of Main Street with the Park, and connecting the Village Parking Lot with the River Walk.

**Develop a “Complete Streets”<sup>65</sup> Approach for Margaretville.**

*Develop a new mindset that embraces the “Complete Streets” approach. The proponents of this concept believe, “...The streets of our cities and towns ought to be for everyone, whether young or old, motorist or bicyclist, walker or wheelchair user, bus rider or shopkeeper.”*

- ✓ Complete Streets include, wherever appropriate and possible, sidewalks, bike lanes and trails, wide shoulders, plenty of crosswalks, raised crosswalks, audible pedestrian signals, and sidewalk bulb-outs.

- ✓ An effective complete streets policy should prompt transportation agencies to:
  - ☑ Restructure their procedures to accommodate all users on every project.
  - ☑ Re-write their design manuals to encompass the safety of all users.
  - ☑ Re-train planners and engineers in balancing the needs of diverse users.
  - ☑ Create new data collection procedures to track how well the streets are serving all users.

*Consult with Walkable Communities Program of the Smart Growth Network and NYS DOT to see what improvements can be made to Main Street and other areas of Margaretville to increase pedestrian safety and access. Utilize the exemplars provided by Walkable Communities at their web site to comparatively analyze Margaretville's streets and help determine the nature of improvements needed.<sup>77</sup>*

- ✓ Consider relocating the traffic light on Main Street so that footing does not obstruct the sidewalk.
- ✓ At the intersection of Bridge Street (Route 30) and Main Street, consult with NYS DOT to improve pedestrian safety at the crosswalk and traffic light, perhaps through a "Barne Dance".
- ✓ Ensure that pedestrians can walk point-to-point from Margaretville Community Hospital to, for example, Margaretville Central School or Post Office.<sup>35</sup>
- ✓ Design and develop a pedestrian and biking trail between Margaretville and Arkville.
  - ☑ Create a connection with the proposed Community Center and Pool and the Water Discovery Center as a loop route.
- ✓ Resolve the safety problems with truck usage of the Route 28 Bridge.
  - ☑ Go back to the table with NYSDOT and bring the legislative delegation to the table.
  - ☑ Evaluate what the mitigating factors are that will allow NYSDOT to say yes to alternative routes so that trucks can avoid using the Route 28 Bridge.
  - ☑ Address safety concerns of the Village entrance at Bridge Street and Routes 28 and 30.

**Organize a community transportation task force whose interest is to investigate improvements in transportation services for Margaretville.**

- ✓ Investigate whether county public transportation and/or private transportation services (Trailways/Greyhound) might consider making a permanent bus stop in Margaretville. Determine whether issues, such as providing adequate pull off or "turn around" facilities might be provided by the Village as part of a service arrangement.
- ✓ Investigate any and all forms of public transportation, including shuttle service.

- ✓ Evaluate the feasibility of starting dial-up public transportation services for medical or general purposes.

**Re-evaluate the Village cost-sharing policy to determine whether it hinders or helps efforts to present the community's public appearance as neat, caring, safe and clean.**

*If sidewalks remain in disrepair and the Village wants to promote walkable streets, safe conditions for pedestrians and improved appearance, then the policy may be working at cross purposes to the Village's goals.*

- ✓ If organizations, such as the Middletown Historical Society are encouraging tourists to take a walking tour of the Village and the sidewalks are in disrepair, then the organizations need to align their goals and activities to support each other's activities.
- ✓ Sidewalks need to be accessible and in good repair to protect the health and safety of Margaretville's aging population.
- ✓ Evaluate capital planning for sidewalk repair and replacement and determine how to arrange sidewalk replacement so that schedules can align and use identical materials and construction methods.<sup>35</sup>



This streetscape illustrates action by design, not default; so many important community goals integrated in one snapshot and one small space: pride in one's community that spills over from the private space into the public space, an appreciation of color, preservation and protection of historic storefronts, exemplary retail marketing, pedestrian friendliness, good signage, etc. Source: Village of Margaretville Web Site

### **Best Practices Cameo:**

#### **Newport Borough, Perry County:**

#### **Leveraging Success**

*In 1990, in Newport Borough, Perry County, a handful of residents established Newport Revitalization, Inc. (NRI) to combat the decline of downtown. After enlisting the help of a consultant to design a streetscape, NRI also helped the borough secure nearly \$800,000 in TEA-21 (Transportation Enhancement Act-21) funding from the state Department of Transportation's (PennDOT) Sustainable Streets Program. The money was earmarked to help reconstruct the main street by adding new crosswalks, lighting, and landscaping.<sup>56</sup>*

## II. Supportive Water and Wastewater Systems

*The water and wastewater goal for Margaretville is:*

- *Infrastructure in the Village supports the Village's sustainable development goals*

### **Recommendations:**

#### **Increase capacity at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.<sup>80</sup>**

- ✓ Develop an understanding that wastewater management is related to water consumption and conservation, storm water and water quality. Margaretville's ability to grow and serve its residents is dependent upon this understanding and the partnership between the Village of Margaretville, the surrounding communities and the DEP.
- ✓ Develop an enforcement program that specifies regular and periodic on-site inspections for sump pump activity.
- ✓ Support DEP's efforts to continue to make capital improvements to the collection system, service connections and treatment plant.
- ✓ Obtain easements to add on unsewered properties within the Village.
- ✓ Develop a storm water plan to mitigate infiltration into basements.
- ✓ Adopt a Village-wide water conservation program

#### **Continue to make improvements to the Village Water System.**

- ✓ Repair or replace distribution system and storage reservoir.
- ✓ Make improvements with energy efficiency and water conservation in mind.
- ✓ The Village of Margaretville Source Water Protection Plan identifies the following recommendations that are incorporated by reference into the Comprehensive Plan:
  - ☑ Review each of the land use laws of the Village to determine their ongoing ability to protect the Village's water supply. Adopt modifications based upon review, based upon current planning practice.
  - ☑ Adjust the Zoning Map to include the Source-Water Protection Area.
  - ☑ Protection Area with provisions for making the boundaries flexible based on potential future changes.
  - ☑ Install proper signage to delineate the Source-Water Protection Area.

- ☑ Devise a plan for future maintenance and inspection
- ☑ Devise a plan for phasing out potential sources of contamination that have been “grandfathered” into the protection area.
- ☑ Develop an education program informing the residents of types of contaminants associated with various land uses, the health effects associated with these contaminants, and ways to prevent the contamination of groundwater.
- ☑ Develop a plan to incorporate groundwater modeling techniques to ensure the proper areas have been delineated.
- ☑ To improve the soil information, a study needs to be conducted that determines the land use history for the Source Water Protection Areas. This will help identify any contaminants that may already be in the ground from past use.

### III. Energy Efficient Utilities

*The utilities goal for Margaretville is:*

- *Utilities support the Village's sustainable development goals.*

#### **Recommendations:**

*Evaluate downtown lighting and determine whether existing lighting would be more appropriately replaced with fixtures that complement the architectural character and scale of Main Street.<sup>8</sup>*

#### **Consider Lighting Ambience of Downtown.**

#### **Promote Energy Efficiency and Conservation.**

*The Village should participate in the Green Communities Technology Service provided by Yellow Wood Associates in St. Albans, Vermont ([www.yellowwood.org](http://www.yellowwood.org)) in order to evaluate its management and operation of its capital assets in the most energy efficient manner.*

**Continue to participate in the Margaretville Energy Smart Partnership sponsored by the Village and the Chamber.<sup>28</sup>**

- ✓ Support the development of the commercial and residential database to track energy costs and effectiveness.
- ✓ Promote business participation in the partnership's Energy Savings Analysis and NYSERDA low interest loan program.
- ✓ Monitor the progress of the partnership and ensure that the partnership's work is promoted throughout the county promoted throughout the community.

**Consider ways that the Village can develop its energy-independence by creating its own off-grid sources of renewable energy.**

### **Best Practices Cameo:**

#### **Adopt a Lamp Post**

#### **Enfield, New Hampshire**

*“Help to beautify Main Street by adding 2 decorative brackets, hanging baskets, flowers and an electrical outlet for lighted greens and decorations for the holidays. The cost for each lamp post is \$450 and you can “adopt” one in memory or in honor of a special person. We’ll be happy to add a small plaque to your lamp post to note the honoree. To see the prototype, please check out the lamp post on the corner of Shaker Hill and South Main Street. There are a total of 10 posts and 5 have been adopted already.”<sup>52</sup>*

## **IV. Advancing Communication**

***The communication goal for Margaretville is:***

- *Develop Margaretville's communications systems so they support the 21st century lifestyles and economy.*

**Recommendations:**

**Address the lack of cell phone service through creative means.**

*Discuss with Margaretville Telephone Company the options of a joint venture cell phone service.*

- ✓ If the Margaretville Telephone Company is not interested, evaluate the options of establishing a cooperative or private cell phone service. Discuss with the telephone company potential partnerships focused on telecommunications upgrades that capitalize upon transitioning
- ✓ Negotiate with MTC or another vendor, the installation of public telephone(s) at key locations on Main Street as a temporary measure in lieu of cell phone service.
- ✓ Evaluate "open access" systems where network infrastructure is owned and operated independently from the service provider (much like electricity).<sup>38</sup>

**V. Improved Facilities**

*The physical capital public assets goal for Margaretville is:*

- *Providing public facilities that meet the needs of the community.*

**Recommendations:**

**Develop indoor and outdoor public space for better use by citizens and visitors.**

*Take a thorough inventory of each public space in the Village.*

- ✓ Determine whether outdoor spaces promote pedestrian gathering, sitting and other passive activities that encourage residents and tourists to linger downtown.
  - ☑ For example, determine the presence, absence and condition of park furniture, artwork, lighting, bike racks, refuse containers, access to restrooms, landscaping, condition of walkways, trails and paths, parking, etc.
  - ☑ Encourage public art and monuments to honor and adorn these spaces.

- ✓ Determine whether there is sufficient indoor public space to accommodate various sized community functions.
  - ☑ Are the library, school, village offices, etc. available, accessible and suitable for community use?
  - ☑ Keep public restrooms open in the park daily during activities and busy tourist seasons. Keep them maintained and clean. Sponsor a “Friends of the Park” group to help with such efforts.
  - ☑ The Gottfried Building might benefit from the development of a long term schedule of capital improvements and maintenance so that the Village can set aside a capital budget from the rental income to offset the cost of capital improvements anticipated at specific time periods.<sup>46</sup>
- ✓ Promote complementary commerce, recreation and cultural activities (see these sections) that draw people to these public spaces.
- ✓ Encourage community groups to help improve public spaces.
- ✓ Promote the new Margaretville Village Park Pavilion as a facility for public gatherings, private events, cultural functions, and other uses.
- ✓ Continue revitalization and beautification efforts in the Village Park, including efforts to better showcase the watercourses that uniquely define the Village.

**Make a determination of the health care needs of the Margaretville area.**

*Work with area health care providers and the Delaware County Rural Health Alliance to develop the range of services to meet the identified needs*

- ✓ Cooperate with the hospital and other providers to support specialty clinics.
- ✓ Recruit and retain health care clinical staff.<sup>87</sup>
- ✓ Create a task force to evaluate the possibilities of shortages of fire and emergency personnel for volunteer squads.<sup>87</sup>
- ✓ Work with area health care and housing providers to evaluate whether there is sufficient continuum of care housing and support services for seniors who require independent or assisted living, nursing or home care as they age in place.
  - ☑ Once a needs assessment has been conducted, develop a strategy to build facilities and programs adjacent or nearby existing health care facilities.

**Best Practices Cameo:**

**Laceyville Borough, Wyoming County:**

**Persistence and Progress**

*Laceyville Borough, located between Route 6 and the Susquehanna River in northwestern Wyoming County, is home to approximately 450 residents. In 1997, the Laceyville Revitalization Association (LRA) set out to improve the appearance of the downtown. LRA also encouraged the borough to seek TEA-21 money for infrastructure improvements. Based on the borough's comprehensive plan (developed from a grant-financed consulting report), PennDOT awarded \$91,000 for curbing, sidewalks, trees, light posts and benches.<sup>56</sup>*

**VI. Responsive Services**

**The public services goal for Margaretville is:**

- *Providing public services that meet the needs of the community.*

**Recommendations:**

**Based on the County Emergency Management Plan, Prepare an Emergency Management Plan for the Village**

- ✓ Review the County Plan.
- ✓ The Village's plan should be regularly updated and clearly communicated to the involved emergency agencies and the general public.

**The Village should work with surrounding communities to increase law enforcement through a stronger police presence in and around the Village.**

*A stronger presence of state and local law enforcement personnel would enable road safety issues, such as speeding, to be addressed in a prompt and efficient manner and to deter such problems from interfering with the community's revitalization efforts.*

**Actively assist the fire department and other volunteer based public services, such as EMS to recruit and train members.**

*Consider ways to provide financial incentives to encourage participation.*

**Ensure that the Public Library has the funding it needs to provide expanded services and programs, including linking the community to other resources and programs through the regional library system.**

**Evaluate the comparative benefit of regional Community Trusts in lieu of establishing a local Community Foundation.**

*Evaluate whether local donors are utilizing the regional community trusts and what the giving patterns are relative to Margaretville area donors.*

- ✓ If the community is satisfied with the institutional arrangements through the regional community trust, then increase its use as a conduit for charitable donations focused on projects and programs that benefit Margaretville. If not, study the potential of creating a community foundation for the Margaretville area.
- ✓ Work with local donors to insure that funding can flow through the trust to support local projects.