

LaFayette Community Development Committee News

This is another article in a series of articles about the Hamlet Revitalization. To read previous articles, visit the LaFayette Community Development Committee (LCDC) [webpage](#). The LCDC is responsible for the implementation of Goal 1, *Hamlet Revitalization*, of the LaFayette Comprehensive Plan updated last year. Action Item 5 of Goal 1 calls for the *restoration and/or revitalization the old hotel at the Four Corners so that it positively contributes to the economic base and character of the Town.*

Our last article notified readers that a public meeting would be held on May 10 to present two options for the old hotel property:

- 1) Raze the building and replace it with park/greenspace or
- 2) Renovate the building and repurpose it for community and commercial benefits

Renderings of both options, including three versions of the building renovation, were presented. A community-wide survey was launched shortly after the meeting and ended June 12. The purpose of the survey was to give the Town Board an indication of the community's interest in the park option versus pursuing grant funding of the building's renovation.

At the June 14 Town Board meeting, the results of the survey were presented. The full results can be downloaded at this [link](#). The response rate of the survey (496 respondents) was high, given typical response rates and that the announcement of the survey availability to the Town was not able to be put in the Town's quarterly newsletter. The response rate was approximately 20% of the Town's adult population. Typical response rates of community surveys are 10-12%. Thank you to all who responded! Your voice has been heard.

The results presentation concluded that:

1. 68% of respondents prefer the building renovation, if no taxpayer funding is required
2. 59% of respondents prefer the building renovation to keep the north-facing porches

The LCDC sees this response as a solid indication that the representative majority of residents would like the Town to pursue grant funding for the building renovation. Applying for grants is the only way to know what the cost to taxpayers, if any, will be. At the July 12 Town Board meeting, the LCDC will ask the Town Board to approve a resolution to submit grant applications for the building renovation. As mentioned in our last article, there will be no cost to the Town for the grant application preparation and submittal.

Funding that the Town currently has in hand for either option, renovation or park, is a \$500,000 grant from the County Hamlet Main Street Revitalization Program. Additional grants are not available for the park option, therefore to know the cost to taxpayers to raze the building and construct a park, the Town will need to hire engineers to plan the demolition and landscape architects to design the park so that construction bids can be sought and received. In addition to or instead of the renovation grant applications, the Town Board may vote on July 12 to proceed with the process of developing costs for the park.

To be clear, the July 12 vote is a vote to begin the process of developing costs to taxpayers for both or either option, renovation or park. The Town Board will have several other votes along the way to approve expenditures associated with either process, and thus can at those times decide to change paths or put the processes on hold. But the Town Board, with the initiative of the LCDC, will continue to work toward a revitalized Hamlet, as it committed to by its adoption of the Comprehensive Plan in December 2021.

Mark Distler, Deputy Supervisor