

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORTHEAST RAMAPO STRATEGIC PLAN DESIGN CHARRETTE – PUBLIC ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27 THROUGH FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30

For More Information Contact: planning@rampo.org

The Town of Ramapo invites the community to participate in several upcoming public events that aim to share ideas and help plan for future development of Northeast Ramapo. Laberge Group and Dover, Kohl & Partners will be leading this public planning effort to create a Strategic Plan for Northeast Ramapo.

In order for the plan to reflect a shared community vision, public participation is vital. Everyone who wishes to participate – residents, students, property/ business owners, and Town staff and officials – are encouraged to attend the week’s presentations, design sessions, and to visit the open design studio, where each day’s progress can be viewed and participants can immediately check on the project’s status.

The schedule of events to be conducted at Rockland Boulder’s Baseball Stadium - 1 Palisades Credit Union Park Drive includes:

CHARRETTE KICK-OFF & HANDS-ON DESIGN SESSION

When: Tuesday, November 27 | 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Join us for an informative presentation on town planning & community revitalization. Following the presentation, work alongside your neighbors to draw your vision for the future of Northeast Ramapo.

OPEN DESIGN STUDIO

When: Wednesday, November 28 – Friday, November 30 | 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Drop-in at the studio any time to talk with the design team and provide input as the plan evolves. This will be a unique opportunity to provide feedback as initial plan ideas are being developed.

OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, November 29 | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Review the community ideas, draft plans and illustrations for the future of Northeast Ramapo. Give your feedback to the planning team!

WORK-IN-PROGRESS PRESENTATION (Event Location: To Be Determined – stay tuned)

Wednesday, December 19 | 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

See all of the work completed during and after the Charrette week of the draft ideas for Northeast Ramapo's future at the "wrap-up" presentation.

The Charettee is all part of a larger planning effort for the Town of Ramapo. Through the Northeast Ramapo Strategic Plan the Town will consider a vision, goals and a strategic land use plan and program for future development in the northeast part of the Town. This will include identification of mitigation that can preserve the Town's quality of life and appealing character. The planning process will generate understanding of current conditions and future trends. By examining the character of different neighborhoods and areas, plus alternative potential land uses, the project will package strategic recommendations for land use and development of infrastructure and community and economic development in northeast Ramapo and town-wide. The Plan offers an opportunity to consider application of complete street design principles and a variety of factors influencing community livability. It will explore integrating neighborhoods, transit, retail offerings, new residential and commercial infill, as well as needs for open space and recreation and the establishment of sensitive land uses such as schools and places of worship. This project will be completed in direct response to the needs of the Town and its residents. Additional meetings will be held in early 2019 to focus on the Monsey and Western Ramapo areas.

About the team:

- Since 1964, **Laberge Group** has worked with a wide range of communities and private clients providing engineering, architectural, planning, surveying, and grants and funding services. A diverse portfolio of successfully completed projects and community plans, coupled with an experienced core of project management and design staff, provides clients with creative, integrated, and distinctive solutions. Since 2000, Laberge Group has secured over \$213 million in grant money for clients, including funding for water treatment, distribution, and storage. With over 50 years of experience, we have established an excellent record for completing work on time and in budget, achieving project milestones efficiently, economically, and with the best possible service.
- **Dover, Kohl & Partners** is a nationally recognized town planning firm based in Coral Gables, Florida. Applying principles of traditional town planning, the firm's work encompasses restoring existing urban centers and towns, reconfiguring sprawling suburbs into communities of real neighborhoods, conserving natural environments, and preserving our built legacy. They are best known for conducting collaborative, public design processes, known as charrettes, and for illustrative master plans and form-based codes that emphasize complete neighborhoods as the basis for sound communities.

What is a Charrette? - A charrette is an intensive planning session where citizens, designers and others collaborate on a vision for development. It provides a forum for ideas and offers the

unique advantage of giving immediate feedback to the designers. More importantly, it allows everyone who participates to be a mutual author of the plan.

What does a Charrette accomplish? - The Charrette team will assemble a cross-section of residents, stakeholders, public interest groups, government staff, and elected officials to participate in creating a vision for the future of Northeast Ramapo. Meetings with groups and individuals will be scheduled to gather and generate ideas for the plan. In an open design studio set up at the Rockland Boulders Stadium, our multi-disciplinary design team will work rapidly over several days evaluating data, creating strategies, and refining overall ideas to establish consensus on what form the future development should take.

Design details of the conceptual strategic plan will be documented in sketches, photos, hand-drawn renderings, computer simulations, and highly accurate computer images. The conceptual plan will be graphically illustrated, and together with other illustrated documents, it will provide the foundation for revising existing land development regulations to direct reliable implementation of the plan.

Why is the Charrette process preferred? - The power of the Charrette is in getting busy people to focus long enough to establish a lasting consensus. The Charrette typically generates publicity and media attention that stimulates broad community support and participation. The process works best when everyone with an interest, from regulators to neighbors to business decision-makers, is available to participate. The shared excitement and enthusiasm generated among participants, public and private alike, creates community goodwill and support.

Why should you participate? - Participating in the Charrette will give you a chance to express your vision for the future of Northeast Ramapo. Your participation will make the difference between a good plan and a great one.

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