

Main Street Revitalization Committee

"In 1995, Main Street business people and concerned citizens realized that we needed to pull together to improve conditions in Liberty's center," says Dianne Brady. "We formed the Liberty Main Street Revitalization Committee, under the Greater Liberty Chamber of Commerce, and we've worked together ever since."

With the Chamber's support, the Revitalization Committee applied for a REAP grant to hire the LA Group of professional town planners. The Group studied Liberty's Main Street utilities, facades, signage, and identity issues, and formulated a clear set of needs, and how to go about meeting them. In May, The LA group presented a draft report of its findings to the Revitalization Committee, and its study will be presented to the public.

"We believe that the LA Group report will help build consensus about the major revitalization issues facing Liberty, and about the direction for successful future development," says Brady.

Under Brady's leadership, and aided by her strategic behind-the-scene efforts, the Revitalization Committee also formed three subcommittees.

One helps Main Street start-ups and existing business people

find financial support for visual and other improvements. Helping with these efforts are Marc Baez, of the Sullivan County Partnership, and Shari Drolinger, the Village of Liberty grant writer and community development coordinator.

A second subcommittee focuses on the retention of Main Street businesses. It offers new business owners guidance about how to deal with day-to-day management issues, and suggests success strategies. Brady and other subcommittee members welcome new business owners to Main Street and make sure they know that advice is available.

A third subcommittee focuses on façade, sign, and streetscape design issues. It has been discussing how to encourage visual enhancements of Liberty's Main Street that will build on its traditional assets to make present businesses more successful. This subcommittee works closely with interested members of ALIVE, Liberty's grass roots community revitalization group.

For information, leave message for Dianne Brady at 845 292-1878

by Jonathan Ned Katz



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