

Topic: Economic Vitality – March 19, 2022

Facilitator: Nancy Langwith

Note-taker: Mary McClure

Participants: Kate Joncas

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Introductory Remarks: Facilitator Nancy Langwith began the discussion: “In the preceding sessions we have talked about the issues with infrastructure, traffic, communication, services and parking associated with growth. We have also talked about a vision for Kingston using words like small town feel, closeness to nature, safety, community calendar, long term sustainability. This session is entitled Economic Vitality. Rather than trying to define them, I would like to start with a proposed definition of downtown: *Shopping, dining and entertainment in a pedestrian-friendly, intimate setting*”.

The Problem To Solve: How do we increase the vitality of our downtown?

Kingston residents need to pay attention and make input *e.g.*:

County Sub-Area Plan

Port of Kingston Strategic Plan for Development

SR 104 Working Group

Do businesses understand their needs/customers in a tough retail environment?

County design standard/permitting are burdensome. No developer incentives.

Leadership is key; now fractured, ineffective and without adequate community input.

There are no Kingston resident champions bringing the community.

What Can We do?

The Port of Kingston and Kitsap County must work together.

Kitsap Cty grow from 3 -> 5 Commissioners: more effective / representative?

Get people involved! Provide information to the community *e.g.* ferry traffic projects.

Community voices must advocate together with one voice. Needs leadership.

Understand / Consider eventual incorporation.

Provide tools to local businesses *e.g.*

Incubators (location and support services *e.g.* legal, accounting).

Describe customer base: current and potential. Essential online customers.

Barriers to Solving:

COVID pandemic has exacerbated lack of communication. We need:

Re-convene Annual Community Open House.

Utilize communications channels available to reach new and long-time residents.

Coordinated inclusive community calendar.

Where do find the passionate, skilled, trusted champion for Kingston?

Resources Available:

The human resources we have in Kingston!

“Pockets of Passion”, though not focused / working together.