

## **1. Topic Area: Community & Engagement**

**Session 1 or 2? 1**

**Facilitator:** Chris Gilbreath

**Scribe:** Kaili Roest

## **2. List of Participants:**

-Jane Mack

-Mary Gleysteen

-Beverly Godfrey

-Bill Beaudoin

-Kathryn Rahn

## **3. Descriptions of the issues, problems, or challenges facing our community. (Briefly describe the issues shared by each individual.)**

- Kingston Community News needs to do a better job of sharing Kingston-related news and events
- The local school board is not engaging in the community enough and vice versa how can the community become more engaged with the school district and show our support
- Collaboration instead of competition between different local organizations
- Get local organizations to talk/communicate more
- How do we all become more involved in the community and get connected
- People feel disconnected/and or disengaged and do not know how to connect with their neighbors and community
- Me vs. we thinking
- Bringing together retired community & non-retired community
- Community safety (dangerous roads & increased transit cause safety concerns)
- Rapid growth in a small community
- Differences in opinion but still being able to talk to each other (civil discourse)

## **4. What is the group's identified main issue or prioritized list of the groups three top issues:**

- Lack of communication/collaboration between community organizations
- Improving communication mechanisms

- Disconnected neighborhoods (how to connect with neighbors, mapping neighborhoods, emergency preparedness)
- Schools (knowing what is going on with the schools and how to support them)
- Civil discourse (having a difference in opinion and still communicating with others)

**5. What are some possible short-term solutions (1-3 years) to the problem(s)?**

- Why don't people participate in community events? Inconvenient times and lack of communication
- Social Media is not the only way of spreading information and not necessarily the best
- Kingston Community News needs to do a better job of sharing local information with the potential for a community calendar included
- Publicize the Chamber website calendar
- Practice more face-to-face communication and rely less on social media
- Be present, communicate, and engage

**6. What are some possible long-term solutions (4-10 years) to the problem(s)?**

- Building relationships in the community
- Discuss events that the community would be interested in together
- Mobility device rodeo in the Village Green where seniors can test out which device is best for them (great for an aging community)
- Utilizing the Chamber website calendar for these community events
- Potential new community newspaper?
- Identify the obstacles to these issues
- Emotionally breakthrough the barriers to be able to connect with the schools in our community

**7. How will the people and organizations represented here be involved in working on these solutions in 2023-2024?**

- The committee could write a letter to the school board and or the school principals about getting the community involved and be able to know what is going on with the school events included

- Publicize emergency management events and services to the community
- Meet our neighbors - start building those relationships
- Share information with community members