



*Housing with compassion...
Development with a vision*



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**COMMUNITY RESIDENTS GATHER TO DETERMINE PRIORITIES
FOR MAIN STREET REVITALIZATION**

Poughkeepsie, NY – On Wednesday, June 9th, about twenty Poughkeepsie community residents gathered to help determine priorities for Main Street revitalization projects in the coming year. The meeting was organized as part of Hudson River Housing’s Middle Main Revitalization initiative. Middle Main Revitalization is a community development effort designed to build investment in the section of Main Street between Academy Street and Pershing Avenue.

Three major themes guided the evening’s discussion: how to create a thriving business community; how to improve public amenities; and how to support the neighborhood’s cultural and artistic assets. Participants were asked to think concretely about ways the group could advocate for improvement in each of those areas over the coming year. Participants included neighborhood residents, business owners, nonprofit representatives, students and faculty from local colleges, members of the art community, and municipal employees. “We had a good cross-section of stakeholders from this neighborhood,” said Elizabeth Celaya, community relations manager at Hudson River Housing. “People came up with some innovative ideas about activities the Middle Main group can take on over the coming year. Importantly, they were also realistic and actionable.” Some of the ideas included facilitating meetings among business owners in the neighborhood, developing a community event that showcases the neighborhood’s diversity and helps promote businesses, and working with city government to clean up streets and provide basic amenities such as garbage cans.

Middle Main Revitalization, which was established last June, has had several accomplishments over the past year, including an asset inventory of the Middle Main neighborhood, resident and property owner surveys, staging of community meetings and networking nights, a clean-up of the Fall Kill Creek, and the development of a local business map. Upcoming projects include a two-week art and culture exposition along Main Street beginning July 16th called OpenHouse Poughkeepsie, which will include art installations in storefronts, film screenings, and music and dance performances.

Tomorrow, the group will be presenting at the Community Preservation Corporation’s bi-annual Hudson Valley Main Street Summit. This free half-day conference will take place at the Public Safety Building located at 505 Main Street, and will include presentations by various community development experts.

Middle Main Revitalization holds community meetings every second Wednesday of the month at various locations along the Main Street corridor. Those interested in learning more should contact Elizabeth Celaya at (845) 454-5176 or visit the initiative’s website at www.middlemain.ning.com.

About Hudson River Housing, Inc.

Hudson River Housing (HRH) has substantial experience developing and managing affordable housing in the community. HRH was created in 1982 to address the emerging homeless problem in Dutchess County, and is now a large, multi-service provider of housing and other services to a wide range of populations. The expertise of Hudson River Housing is increasingly relied upon to inform local planning related to housing, community development and homelessness. Since its formation, Hudson River Housing has developed 37 affordable homeownership opportunities, nearly 300 apartments and 9 commercial spaces. For more information, please call (845) 454-5176 or visit www.hudsonriverhousing.org.

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