

## Blackford County – Visioning 2035

Thursday, November 14, 4:30-6:30pm ET (City Hall, 700 N. Walnut, Hartford City)

22 attended

### Guidepost

United community, we do things together

### Themes

- Youth engagement, development, and opportunity
- Downtowns: Beautification, preservation, creative reuse  
(*focused on specific themes/opportunities – place activation, history/glass, music, wood...*)
- Strategic, effective collaboration  
(*library collaboration, sustaining festival traditions (generations), municipalities see  $1 + 1 = 3$  v. zero sum*)
- Increase opportunities to address community needs  
(*mental health programs and well-being through recreation – trails, pickleball; small business development*)
- Implementation Leadership

### Emerging Values

- Unity
- Leadership
- Collaboration over competition
- Youth

### Barriers

- Inter-community competition
- Lack of leadership
- Loss of identity (of Montpelier school, of hospital, of golf course)
- Burn out (lack of volunteers)

### Brainstorm LIST

- Increased population
- Continue improvement and growth
- Small business development
- Diminished blight
- Beautification
- Mural on shipping container in Hartford City / beautification through public art
- Beautification & creative / authentic stores that are active
  - Storefront visioning
  - Pop ups to attract business
  - Retail
- Downtown
  - Artist studios / living space above Arts Place
  - Pictures on glass

- Restaurant with music that draws people in (culinary arts)
- More youth programs
- Enrollment in schools increase
- Kids Priority - particularly teens - need activities/things for them to do
  - Better internet
  - Partner with schools
  - E-sports potential opportunity students would be excited about
  - Hartford City has a youth ordinance to get them more involved
  - Potential for intern/training
  - Purdue Extension has a program that could be emulated (student driven activities)
- Brass Latch returns (or similar)
- Opportunity: Have a lot of woodworkers
- More places for arts to happen (e.g. jam session at Common Grounds)
- Organize effort to bring music as driver of activity (music making / shared about another city doing something that worked effectively particularly for hobbyists)
- History lecture series
- Programs that address mental health
- Help recovery community through arts-based interventions
- Theatre (built)
- Thriving museums
- Anchor institution or entity
- Trail along Salamonie
- Investigate Reserve for park/state park (was done in 2015, needs to be investigated again)
  - (side note: Blackford comprehensive plan is looking at agri-development)
- Recreational activity like pickleball (replace loss of golf course)
- Recreation center
- Community Competition is addressed
- Hartford City and Montpelier worked in a unified way
- Merge libraries or just directors to develop greater efficiency
- Creative thinking in how to sustain key events/activities (e.g. put under anchor group like chamber, extension, history org etc.)
  - Currently all events are "hanging by a thread" due to lack of volunteers and volunteer driven
- Leadership
  - need for structure to implement plan
  - need more people to help