

Village of Essex Junction Train Station Redesign Community Meeting 2/18/2012

On February 18, 2012, the Village of Essex Junction, RR Ave Recess and the Brownell Library hosted a meeting to gather feedback about plans to renovate the train station. This meeting was attended by over forty citizens. While participants expressed some very diverse views, there were some elements that all in attendance could agree on. Following is a summary of the key themes from participants.

- The current station design is not meeting the needs of either the community or travelers;
- It is important for the new building design to fit in with the historical New England style buildings surrounding it;
- The style of the roof is important, and many citizens believe that a pitched roof is the most aesthetically pleasing;
- A brick structure is desired by many residents;
- The train station should be used for more than just boarding a train, it is an important community center for Essex Junction and needs to be designed as such;
- Safety features are important to maintain in the new design;
- The incorporation of greenspace in the design is necessary;
- Any future design should take into consideration the needs of bicyclists;
- Distinctive architectural details, such as buttresses, cupolas, and pillars, are important to include in any station design.

Some of our comments include:

- In reference to the current station: *My dream is that folks won't recognize a single element of this structure when the project is complete.*
- In reference to a proposed design: *I would like to keep the "old-time" look and incorporate other historic features.*
- In reference to a proposed pitched roof design: *I love the roof design [of the Champlain Fairgrounds entrance], it really gives character. It looks like a train station and fits with the historic Village feel.*
- In reference to the design process: *Be sure to understand the role of the train station beyond train passengers. Think community development in the broadest sense.*
- *Remember-Essex is the second largest municipality in Vermont so we need to act like it and have a train station we can be proud of!*

We would like to thank all who attended and provided their feedback to Village and Amtrak staff, as well as the UVM engineering students who are helping to make this project possible. If you would like a copy of all of the comments or have additional questions or feedback, please send it to Darby Brazoski at darby@essexjunction.org.