

## What's Happening in the Cambridge Lumber Yard?

### Creating a Vision for the Lumber Yard

**Revitalization Initiative:** The Community Partnership asked community members what they would like to see in the lumber yard. They said:

- Eateries/a coffee house
- artist and business incubators
- affordable, innovative housing options
- connections among greenspaces
- expanded recreational opportunities
- celebrate the Owlkill
- engagement with the natural world
- building community
- young adults
- gathering spot

These insights are guiding the 2.6 acre site's transformation.

**Revitalizing 9 West Main Street:** *New York Main Street* support helped the Community Partnership partially revitalize 9 West Main Street. Contractors completely rehabilitated the charming second floor two-bedroom apartment (now occupied); made significant structural improvements to stabilize the 3,800 sq foot mixed-use building; and installed energy efficient HVAC systems including in Henry's famous Barber Shop.

Phase Two includes installing a new first floor roof, building out the first floor commercial spaces, and façade improvements—including constructing a porch on east of the building to expand leisure space and provide ADA accessibility. MOS Architects, which recently opened an office in Cambridge, developed architectural plans. We secured a special use permit to facilitate occupancy by a café.



### Celebrating the Natural Environment and Creating a Trail System:

Volunteers are removing dead trees and landscapers are cutting back tall grasses to expose the expansiveness of open space within the 2.6 acre property. Treasures have found new homes and debris has been removed from the 700 sq ft lean-to which will be deconstructed this Fall—improving access to the Owl Kill. Consultations with experts have begun to expand our understanding of the property's natural assets, the Owl Kill's hydrology, and approaches to stream stewardship.

**Donating VARAK Park:** We are grateful that 17 Mile VARAK is donating to the Community Partnership approximately 1.15 acres of open space (*including a section of the Owlkill over which the Village-owned Victorian Footbridge sits*).



**Footbridge Receives Award:** In May, the Washington County Historic Preservation Society selected the Victorian Footbridge Rehabilitation Initiative for its Community Pillar Award. Hurrah! Thanks to all those who contributed to the effort!



### Want to join the fun?

Contact Sarah  
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## **NY FORWARD: The Owlkill Commons**, a transformational neighborhood revitalization opportunity for the Village of Cambridge?

In August, NYS launched the NY Forward program which aims 'to invigorate and enliven downtowns in New York's smaller and rural communities.' The Community Partnership joined the Village, the public library and other neighbors and broader community to advance a vision for the Owlkill Commons—submitting a \$4.5 million grant request. This is a neighborhood filled with rich history and an abundance of natural, architectural and community resources.



### **The Village proposes to leverage the assets in this neighborhood to accomplish four goals:**

- Secure and advance the Village's role as an incubator for entrepreneurs and artists;
- Foster a recreation economy with connections to our Main Street economy;
- Expand housing and commercial options to attract residents and visitors;
- Improve quality of life.

With NY Forward support the Village would take a multi-pronged strategic approach to revitalizing/expanding historic structures and creating connections among natural resources.

Visit our website: [cambridgecommunitypartnership.org](http://cambridgecommunitypartnership.org) for more information