

Planning Notes

Location: Sharon Town Hall

Date: September 10, 2007

Time: 6:30pm-8:30pm

Purpose: Comprehensive Plan

Present: Ray Parsons, Bernadetta Vrooman, Debora Cross, Gene Cechnicki, Pam Tichy Brian Fleury, and Lillian Bruno

Absent: Lori Nolfo and Bob Spohn

Notes:

Discussion regarding the survey: How are we going to disseminate the information given by the public during last month's public meeting?

Discussion regarding the SWOT analysis: Comparing the Public's SWOT analysis and the Committee's SWOT analysis.

Committee's/Public's strengths: The Committee felt agriculture was a strength and the public had loss of farmland as a threat. Take this as one in the same, open space and protection of farmland.

Committee's/ Public's Weaknesses: The Committee felt infrastructure, lack of technology, lack of community focus, especially with the school community. This was also felt and seen in the public commentary.

Committee's/ Public's Opportunities: The Committee felt existing business, open space, location, niche markets and second homes. The public felt spa development, current retail markets. Also, the public and the committee had tourism on opposite sides of the spectrum.

Committee's/Public's Threats: Loss of farmland and the public felt rapid, uncontrolled development. There was discussion that this was more a village concern and not a town concern. There was discussion regarding what affects the village does have an impact on the town (sprawl, annexation)

Discussion regarding water: The committees discussed finding out who has water, where are the aquifers? Discussion regarding without water you cannot have too much development. Discussion that possibly Peter Irwin may have data on wells to locate where possible development could occur in Sharon

Discussion regarding need to examine the public's desire for preparation for change: What does it exactly mean? The committee will try to pinpoint this through the survey.

Discussion regarding lack of municipal cooperation: A committee member felt that Town and Village work well together, differs from the public.

Discussion regarding alternative energy: There is a major gas line that runs through the town; the committee was surprised alternative energy wasn't suggested by the public.

Discussion regarding the Survey: That this is not a final form, there will be much discussion and need your input. The Committee discussed creating nine areas on the map:

Area One: Village of Sharon Springs

Area Two: Leesville

Area Three: Stanleyville

Area Four: Gilbert's Corner

Area Five: Argusville

Area Six: Sharon Hill

Area Seven: Reformed Church District

Area Eight: Engleville

Area Nine: Center Valley

This enables the committee to focus in on one region and examine if there are particular issues in one area

Discussion regarding changes to survey: Part One:

Question 2: Add "living" to the text more than/less than 6 months

Question 4: Change acreage to 2-5, 5-10, 10-25, 25-50, 50-100, and 100 +

Question 8: Add unemployed

Do Not Add Section on Income

Add question on Internet: Do you have internet? What type of access?

Dial-up, satellite, cable, and other

Discussion regarding changes to survey: Part Two:

Change Sewage to Septic

Add Activities for seniors?

Discussion regarding changes to survey: Part Three:

Add other types of alternative energies other than wind: heat exchange pumps, biodiesel, solar

Add landfills in the last section

Discussion regarding water and the survey: Are the wells hand dug or drilled? Water quality and quantity, do you have a cistern? Volume and Depth of well, Do you pull water from the creek? Include a cover letter to the survey explaining the data.

Discussion regarding outcome to the survey: These surveys generally have a 30% return and we will correlate answers in a database, discussion regarding postage (box holder, internet accessible, bulk mailing, door to door,) Registered voters and property owners, one per household, renters

Discussion regarding future presenters: Schoharie Land Trust, Scenic Byway, American Farmland Trust.

Discussion: Regarding cluster development, land trusts, farming and the loss of farmland. There was concern that residents cannot maintain there farms and there are no residents that want to rent farmland. Possibility to market the area (hay crops). Who is placing the value on the open space? Discussion regarding easements?

Discussion regarding Scenic Byways: The Town of Esperance and Sharon would like to meet to discuss scenic byways

County will place a legal add about the change of the dates for next meeting and include our regular meeting times

Next meeting is on October 9, 2007 at 6:30pm- 8:30 pm

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm
