

## Planning Notes

**Location:** Sharon Town Hall

**Date:** April 14, 2008

**Time:** 6:30pm-8:30pm

**Purpose:** Comprehensive Plan

**Present:** Bernadetta Vrooman, Gene Cechnicki, Lori Nolfo, Sandra Manko, Ray Parsons, Pam Tichy, Debora Cross, Brian Fleury, Lillian Bruno, Ann Adams, Maureen Lotus, Mary Ann Larkin and Bob Augustern

**Absent:** Bob Spohn

**Notes:**

**Discussion regarding the survey:** There was a presentation by Bob Augustern regarding the survey results. Bob stated that this survey was a valid survey based on the results they received. Southern Tier mailed out 1488 surveys and received 292. Bob went over pages 3-7 and discussed the results in detail. Southern Tier East provided a Summary Report on the Community Survey for all present. (Please refer to this attached document). It was suggested by Bob Augustern that Schoharie County Planning and Development cross reference question one (1) with fifteen (15) and one (1) with four (4) to gather land use correlations.

**Discussion regarding the Comprehensive Plan Document:** Schoharie County Planning and Development Agency handed out a beginning draft of the Comprehensive Plan-this is a glimpse into how things will look. Sandra Manko provided the Schoharie County Planning and Development Agency with 75-80 pictures to utilize in the document and also provided a book entitled; "Reflections of the Town of Sharon" and this will provide background information for the plan. Sandra Manko stated that if necessary she will edit the historical background information.

**Discussion regarding two new topics:** There were two new topics brought to the attention of the Comprehensive Plan Committee. These topics are Businesses and snowmobiling in the Town of Sharon

- o **Businesses:** It was suggested that the Comprehensive Plan Committee invite the Town of Sharon Business Owners to discuss their impression of operating a business in the town.

The Committee felt this was an essential idea and would provide a wealth of information for the Comprehensive Plan. It was suggested that the Town of Sharon is not a "business friendly" town, unless you are a tourist related business. The Committee felt that the 30 year old zoning has created this situation because businesses have changed, while the town's zoning has not. There was discussion regarding parking requirements for businesses and the lack of public parking. It was recommended that after the Committee completes the Comprehensive Plan the Town of Sharon should also create a Zoning Rewrite Committee and to actively look for grant monies to do so. The Committee will hold an Open House for Town of Sharon Businesses on May 5, 2008 at the Town Hall. May Ann Larkin will provide the Planning and Development Agency with a list of all businesses and the Planning Department will create the advertisement. Gene Cechnicki will provide coffee and Lori Nolfo will bring cups. The Planning Department will contact the Village to reserve the conference room for this event

- o **Snowmobiles:** It was discussed that only about a dozen residents in the Town have a problem with snowmobiling. It was suggested by Maureen Lotus to create a "tourist" attraction for snowmobiling by including walking and hiking trails. Advertise the trails, have a concession stands and an official clubhouse. It was noted that the snowmobile club has acquired the "Old Creamery" in Seward as a rest stop for riders. The Town of Sharon has mapped snowmobile trails because they are apart of Otsego County's map. They will provide the Planning and Development Agency with a copy. It was mentioned that the Town of Sharon has an old railroad bed that could be used as a trail. However, each individual landowner owns the adjacent land.

**Discussion regarding examining the survey results:** It was mentioned that several Committee members would like to review the comments many residents stated in their survey to gather correlations and examine where the scenic areas, historic, etc. The Planning and Development Agency will look at the data provided by Southern Tier and will disseminate the information to the Committee. It was suggested that the Committee was surprised by "Low Crime Rate" as being the best feature about the Town of Sharon. It was also noted that the Town Board should be aware that 90% of respondents felt that the cost of public improvements should be considered when the Town reviews proposed development. It was also mentioned that the Town Board should become aware that agricultural land is very important to residents in Sharon and the Town Board decided to opt out of the NYS Ag and Farmland Protection Plan Grant.

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**Discussion regarding Presentation:** It was discussed that if Brian Fleury from the Planning and Development would hold a presentation from the survey results to the Town Board and recommend that the Comprehensive Plan is a step and should be continued by a zoning rewrite.

**Discussion regarding resolution:** It was discussed if the Town Board had a resolution to create the Comprehensive Plan Committee and there was also concern if the town has every received a budget for the grant monies that were spent by Southern Tier?

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM and the next meeting will be May 12, 2008

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