

MEETING SUMMARY – MAY 8, 2013 MEETING

TOWN OF LANSING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE

Members Present: Jase Baese; Larry Beck; Tom Butler; Dave Ferris; Gerald Friedman; Ruth Hopkins, Town Board; Kathy Miller, Supervisor; Susan Miller; Philip Snyder; Susan Tabrizi; Sarah Thomson.

Others Present: Jonathan Kanter, AICP, Planning Consultant.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Member Comments/Concerns/Announcements: Jonathan referred to an email from Maureen Cowen announcing the need for volunteers on May 11th to help plant trees on the town land across from Town Hall on Auburn Road.

Dave Ferris asked about feedback from residents at the public meetings regarding the proposed sewer project. Kathy indicated that there has been a mixed reaction – some in favor, some opposed, and that there appears to be much misinformation out there. Upcoming public meetings are scheduled for May 22nd and June 12th. Tom Butler suggested that to help promote the sewer proposal, there should be a one page summary of pluses and minuses, easily understandable. Philip Snyder added that there should be full disclosure to the public regarding the full details of the actual costs of the proposed sewer system. There was further discussion regarding the relation between the proposed sewer system and school district taxes, whether the schools have excess capacity to accommodate development that may bring additional school-age children, current and projected school enrollment, ways to preserve the quality of the schools in Lansing, and how the proposed conversion of the AES power plant to gas might affect the tax base in Lansing.

Susan Tabrizi asked what happened at the joint meeting of the Town Board and Village Board of Trustees that was held on April 29th. Ruth Hopkins mentioned that there was discussion about possible sharing of services, including highway maintenance and repairs. There was also discussion about cooperation on pathways. Village officials also expressed interest in how the south part of the Town will develop. Kathy indicated that New York State is interested in consolidation of municipalities.

Jase Baese announced that there will be a fund raiser at Crossroads restaurant on Saturday, May 11th at 1:00 p.m. to be held by the Lansing-Ithaca Rotary Club.

Philip Snyder brought up the State Forest proposal in North Lansing and asked whether Committee members who were not able to visit the site last time might be interested in visiting if another trip is set up. Kathy mentioned that the Town Board is holding off on a recommendation to the State until after the sewer referendum is held in September. Several

Committee members said they would be interested if another site visit is set up. Philip said that he would check with the Finger Lakes Land Trust and let the Committee know.

Draft Meeting Summary – April 10, 2013: The Committee had no corrections or revisions regarding the April 10, 2013 Meeting Summary.

Community Survey: Susan Tabrizi indicated that she and Jonathan met with Yasamin Miller at the Survey Research Institute (SRI) and discussed the content and format of the survey. Jonathan added that there was also a meeting of Town and Village representatives regarding the possibility of conducting a joint Town/Village survey. The timeframe is to complete the phone survey by the end of June. Susan indicated that the survey subcommittee will work on drafting questions for the survey. Jonathan suggested the possibility of a special Committee meeting to go over final survey questions if necessary and if time permits.

Review and Discussion of Transportation Goals and Objectives in 2006 Comprehensive Plan: Jonathan indicated that the Committee had decided at the last meeting to review the goals and objectives relating to transportation and traffic from the 2006 Town of Lansing Comprehensive Plan as a whole committee and to use that discussion as a model for each subcommittee when the other goal and objective subjects are reviewed. Another parameter would be to look at what was accomplished since the 2006 Plan and what was not.

Dave Ferris said that he reviewed the transportation section in the 2006 Plan and could not find anything that was actually done as a result. As an example, Dave pointed out that the 2006 Plan had recommended that certain improvements along Warren Road should be included if the County did work on Warren Road. It turned out that the County did a major reconstruction project on the south end of Warren Road, but did nothing on the north end of Warren Road. Sarah Thomson thought that the extension of the north end of Warren Road across the field at Benson Road, as recommended in the 2006 Plan, would be a bad idea because of the presence of a wetland in that area.

Kathy indicated that the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) wants to close off the Conlon Road intersection at Auburn Road and also to change the current intersection at Auburn Rd./Peruville Rd./Triphammer Rd. with the addition of a roundabout. Some Committee members felt that the Town may have little influence over things like this that are controlled by other jurisdictions. Jonathan suggested, however, that even though the Town might not have direct control, the other agencies would be required to consider the Town's adopted Comprehensive Plan and for projects such as these to be consistent with the Town's Plan.

Dave suggested that the Committee should focus on what is actually possible and what makes sense, and in particular, should focus on Town roads. Ruth said that she reviewed the transportation/traffic section of the 2006 Plan and had some specific comments and suggestions, such as being more specific with strategies, suggesting timeframes, and assigning responsibilities to agencies or individuals for implementing. Dave added that goals should be measurable, so that they can be reviewed later to see if they worked or not.

Gerry Friedman suggested that every road paving or improvement project should include a complete streets approach, and include consideration of pedestrian and bicycle accommodations.

Jonathan mentioned that he had reviewed several transportation sections of comprehensive plans in other communities and recommended that the Committee take a look at the Town of Ithaca Plan. It includes useful goals and objectives that were not covered by the 2006 Lansing Plan, such as addressing road preservation/road use. As an example, the Committee could consider something like the following goal: Protect Town roads from heavy truck use by heavy industry. A specific recommendation stemming from that goal could be: Adopt a road preservation law that will hold the user responsible for the cost of repairs necessitated by the use of the road. The responsible board would be the Town Board. The timeframe could be short-term/high priority.

Jonathan then read from a list of questions that had come to mind while reviewing transportation/traffic sections of the 2006 Plan, as follows:

- Does the Town have an Official Highway Map?
- Is there a map showing the functional roadway classifications in the town?
- Where are locations/concentrations of accidents?
- Where are segments where roads are congested with traffic at peak hours?
- Where are speeding issues a problem?
- Where are current bus routes?
- Where are current and planned trails and sidewalks?
- Where are current truck routes located, and what roads have high volumes of truck traffic?

Next Steps for Review of Goals and Objectives: It was agreed that subcommittees would get together as determined by the sign-up sheets that had been previously circulated to review the goal and objective sections using an approach similar to that just used by the Committee in reviewing the transportation/traffic section. Dave Ferris indicated that he would coordinate a meeting of the group looking at land use & development. Jonathan said that he would set up a meeting of the subgroup looking at the Town Center, hamlets, and design guidelines.

Other Business: None.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lansing Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Prepared by Jonathan Kanter, AICP