

**MEETING SUMMARY – NOVEMBER 13, 2013 MEETING**

**TOWN OF LANSING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE**

**Members Present:** Jase Baese; Tom Butler; Maureen Cowen; Ruth Hopkins, Town Board; Kathy Miller, Supervisor; Susan Miller; Susan Tabrizi; Sarah Thomson.

**Others Present:** Jonathan Kanter, AICP, Planning Consultant.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

**Member Comments/Concerns/Announcements:** Jonathan announced that he and his wife, Ann, would be moving downstate in the Spring of 2014 and that he would, therefore, have to end his consulting work with the Town of Lansing probably at the end of March. Jonathan said that he would help the Town transition with whatever the Town Board decides to do about a Planner position. The approved 2014 Town Budget includes funds for a full-time planner position, but there may not be agreement on the Town Board that a full-time planner is needed. Several Committee members indicated concern that the Committee will need staff support to complete work on the Comprehensive Plan Update and that they hope that the Town Board will provide the necessary support for this effort. There was further discussion about the planner position and the Committee's needs as it moves ahead to complete the Plan update.

**Survey Analysis:** Susan Tabrizi indicated that the Survey sub-committee had met to discuss the survey results. Susan stated that she would prepare an analysis of the survey data, which is now public information, highlighting the major findings of the survey, and she plans to have a draft presentation ready to give to the Committee at the December 11<sup>th</sup> Committee meeting. Jonathan suggested the possibility of doing a presentation at a joint Town Board/Planning Board meeting as well, and that a possible date for this joint meeting could be on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

Susan mentioned that the survey showed what residents are thinking and what they support and what they do not support, such as (1) in the proposed Town Center, residents support small shops and services; (2) there appears to be overwhelming opposition to fracking; (3) there is support for the preservation of historic structures, scenic views and rural character of the town; (4) residents are excited about possibilities for tourism in the town; and (5) there is support for mixed-use and a variety of housing types for all income levels. Susan added that the survey shows some perceived problems with the government providing the information that residents need. It also appears that residents would support light industry in the town, but there is not as much support for heavy industry. There is also strong support for trails in the town, even if it means spending tax dollars on trails. Residents also support lakeside development for restaurants, lodging, boating, camping, etc.

Susan indicated that we did not receive specific cross-tabulations based on the north-south split that the Town had requested, and Susan will ask Yasamin Miller at the Survey Research Institute (SRI) if we can get that breakdown.

**Demographic Update Report:** Susan Miller indicated that the school enrollment data taken from the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) conflicts with the Lansing School District enrollment data on page 6 of the Demographic Update report that Nishant had prepared. Because the conflicting data causes confusion, it was suggested that the ACS data table on page 5 be deleted from the report.

Ruth Hopkins suggested that percentages should be added to the Income chart in Figure 10. It was also suggested that examples of poverty levels as set by the U.S. Census Bureau be added to the notes on page 11 of the report. Ruth suggested that actual numbers be added to the population – age distribution table in Figure 2 on page 2.

**Draft Meeting Summary – October 9, 2013:** Susan Miller stated that she was concerned that several comments were made by Committee members at the last meeting regarding the draft Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan and how the Plan could impact residential neighbors in the proposed Agricultural Zone. Jonathan mentioned that the Agriculture Plan would be presented to the Planning Board at the meeting on November 25th, after which there would be a public information meeting and then it would go to the Town Board for approval, which would require a public hearing. Jonathan added that the Town Board would have to approve any zoning changes recommended in the Agriculture Plan. Subsequent to this discussion, the Committee had no corrections or revisions regarding the October 9, 2013 Meeting Summary.

**Review of Parks, Recreation and Trails Goals and Objectives:** Maureen Cowen explained the draft section on Parks, Recreation and Trails that had been distributed. Maureen mentioned that Jonathan had already edited the section and that she would incorporate his suggestions. Maureen referred to the new inventory chart of park and recreation facilities in the town and indicated that this is the first time that an inventory like this has been done – it was done with the help of Steve Colt in the Parks and Recreation Office. A map of park locations is also being prepared. The Committee liked these additions. It was suggested that trails for snowmobiles and horseback riding be added to the chart.

Maureen stated that the section on trails includes information about the need and rationale for a trail system in the town. It includes references to State laws that provide a basis for requiring that land be set aside for parks and trails when residential development proposals are being reviewed by the Planning Board. Ruth added that the State law allows Planning Boards to require that up to 10 percent of the land area in a proposed residential development be reserved for park, trail and recreation purposes. Susan Tabrizi added that the survey shows that residents support the addition of trails in the town and that a reference to the survey could be added to the section.

The section also includes a description of the work of the Pathways Committee over the past few years. Maureen indicated that the Pathways concept map of possible trails in the town will be added to the section. Maureen mentioned that the section talks about the importance of trails for safety and transportation options for pedestrians and bicyclists, and that the Town is now talking with developers about reserving areas for trails when they come in at the early stages of proposals. Maureen added that with a town planner available in Town Hall, the need for trails is being brought up with developers more regularly, and hopefully that will continue. Some developers are actually planning to build trails as part of their developments (e.g., Village

Circle/Village Solar Apartments). It was suggested that these planned trails in developments could be shown on a map.

Maureen indicated that more formatting will be done with this section, including highlighting the goals and recommendations for parks, recreation and trails. Maureen referred to a color map of protected natural areas in the town and that Jonas Falls could be added to that map. Ruth said that there is a need for more bicycle trails in the town. Jase mentioned that Tompkins County has prepared a map showing potential bike routes and that it would be good to coordinate the Town's planning of trails with the County map. Ruth suggested that the protection of significant natural areas should be emphasized.

**Other Business:** None.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lansing Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Prepared by Jonathan Kanter, AICP