

Comprehensive Update Committee

Public Hearing

September 12, 2018

Members Present: Carla Jordan, Dave Parsons, Joann Rogers, Donna Beretta, Cat Cohen, Liz & Ron Smith, Bob Green, Sandra Riker

Excused: Justin Steinbach

Attendees: Marty Snyder, Fred Stresing, Ron Goodman, Jen VanHouten, Nick Cohen, Carol Hasenhauer, Lynn Cronise

Carla Jordan will be our moderator for this hearing as Justin Steinbach is not here due to a family emergency. She stated this is a draft of the Comprehensive Plan that has been worked on by this committee for the past two and half years and we would now like to present it to the public for their input.

It is a vision statement that acts as a guideline for the Town to use in making zoning and planning decisions in areas of importance to the Town and its future. Based on community input, review of previous planning documents, and the community profile, seven key topic areas were identified as important elements within the town:

- Agricultural Resources (AGR)
- Community Character, Facilities, and Services (CFS)
- Economic Development (ECD)
- Environment and Natural Resources (ENR)
- Housing (H)
- Infrastructure (INF)
- Recreational Resources (RRS)

Within these topics there are policy statements, objectives, and actions each having its own distinct and different purpose in the planning process?

The NYS Town Law specifies that a Town in the process of creating or updating a Comprehensive Plan must follow the following criteria:

Town Board decides it is time to create or update a plan; they appoint a special committee to identify issues, goals, objectives & priorities, collect & interpret data and prepare a draft plan to present for a public hearing. At the public hearing the special committee collects comments from interested parties. After taking the comments into consideration the group then makes a recommendation to the Town Board to adopt the plan. The Town Board in turn will review the plan and hold a second public hearing giving all including the County Planning Board and neighboring municipalities the chance to make additional comments. There will also be a full environmental review completed to ensure that there will

be no significant impacts or adverse effects to the health, safety, and welfare to the community created by the adoption of this plan. The Town Board at this point can decide if they will adopt by Resolution the final plan presented to them. The final step will be the implementation of the plan.

The public hearing was opened by Carla Jordan in order to allow input from the residents present.

Jennifer VanHouten of 4546 Egypt Road expressed her concerns:

- Under Housing concern of expansion of rental properties-
 - No pride of ownership
 - Transient population
 - Lack of investment in the Town's future
- Not in favor of Senior Living complex-
 - The town while scenic and rural is too isolated for seniors to live in
 - Senior Complex would put an increased burden on the fire department
 - Water table will also be affected with an increase in population
- Env 19- develop guidelines within the Open Space Plan for conservation and protection of critical habitats and locally rare plant communities infringes on a land owners rights to do as they wish with their property

Carla the Plan is trying to provide a balance between zoning and the environment and how best to determine the appropriate land uses.

Jen cont'd-

Not in favor of expanding the L-I district given the types of things allowed in that district such as strip clubs and slaughter houses

- Concern over the number of short term items listed-
 - Insurmountable task would make it difficult to get volunteers to help with the action items
 - Better to start with three or four that are attainable creating an interest from the community to help
- In favor of making it easier for people to provide in-law apartments for seniors to be able to age in their own town
- In favor of expansion of internet service to help home based businesses
- In favor of encouraging home based business

Liz Smith and Cat Cohen responded

- Infrastructure such as sewer, water, accessibility to services will need to be addressed before encouraging expansion of housing
- Need for an housing needs assessment to determine opportunities to expand housing options in the town

Ron Goodman 4159 State Route 64

- Agriculture-did you ever talk to farmers in the community? You talk about an agricultural committee, who will be on it?
- There is no input from the farmers in the final draft.
- In the action items talk of volunteers, for the number of projects you have proposed you will need a large number of volunteers or some that are willing to work on more than one project.- Where and how are you planning on finding them?
- Concern over the choice of verbs and adjectives in the action statements that have the potential to make the town liable if not addressed as stated.

Nick Cohen 7289 Ludlow Drive

This is a very large document and it would be good to have a summary for ease of access to its contents. An overview similar to what was provided this evening reflecting the main points of the plan would be helpful.

Lynn Cronise 7428 Red Tail Drive

- Likes the way the plan is written
- Why does the history stop in 1966, this could use an update
- The history does not include input as to why South Bristol seceded from the town of Bristol-this would be interesting information in the history

Response from Dave Parsons the original town was very large and the center was at Baptist Hill which is 7 or 8 miles from Bristol Springs making it very difficult for residents to get the services they would need, Sandra Riker also mentioned that at time the Counties were expanding to have a larger voice at the state level and many towns were splitting to create additional voices at the state level

- Parsons Organs and Bristol Valley Hardwoods are listed in chapter 2 under light industrial as the two largest employers and commercial businesses in the town. Why is Honeoye Storage not included? Or are they not considered light industrial?
- Under housing would it be possible to create an area where a tract of tiny homes could be encouraged?
- Infrastructure-does County Road 32 and State Route 64 have bus transportation available?

Carla Jordan responded that the bus transportation options have changed it is not under County control but now provided by a private enterprise and she is not sure that it is offered for our area.

Lynn Cronise-continued:

- She is still bothered that conventional drilling is allowed and the current limits are different than when first proposed.

- Concerns about the Right to Farm Law-
 - Is it true that if a farmer damages his neighbor's water system the farmer is not liable?

Joann Rogers replied that she does not know of any farmer damaging neighbor's wells and the DEC has regulations in place for monitoring

Cat added that is why under Environmental #18 it states: Promote improved surface water quality by ensuring best management practices for livestock grazing and agricultural tillage are followed.

Carol Hacknauer 4898 Fawn Ridge Drive

- Too the lengths of the document-Why are so many things addressed in this document that are already being addressed (ongoing)? The document should address more attainable goals and visions.
- There are too many short term items-unrealistic to think they can be accomplished-pick a few to start with.

Cat replied this is a Vision statement and should open opportunities for things that may not be relevant now but may be in the near future. If they are not included they will not be thought of as possible goals for the future.

Carla used the example that the previous plan did not address renewable energy and look at the changes that have been made in that direction.

Nick Cohen, Lynn Cronise, Jen VanHouten

- To the number of volunteers necessary and how to get them interested-recognition for their efforts,
- Advertise topics that will be of interest
- Encourage home based business, they are people that can make and find the time to help if the topic is something they are interested in.

Cat and Bob response: Sandy has started a newsletter that is available through email distribution and encourages continuing this avenue. Bob agreed very difficult to find willing volunteers unless they are directly affected by the issue being addressed.

Marty Snyder 3656 Esty Road

Concerned about the number of items including the ZBA for potential partners, we (zba) may not have the resources to handle so many goals, and it is unfair to ask the Board to overextend themselves to the point that they will burn out and walk away from the Board. There is not a long waiting list of people willing to join the Boards, so they are limited as well.

Carla wrapped up the meeting by reminding people if they have written concerns they are welcome to submit them to the group through the Town Hall and have to Monday at 4 pm to do so. She said that the information once gathered would be shared on the Town Webpage so they all should watch for the next steps to be taken by the Committee.

Bob as Supervisor Green extended his appreciation to the Committee for their hard work and efforts to provide this document for the Town. If the RFP (request for proposal) process would have been followed, there is no way the Town could have afforded to start and complete this Update. Times are changing and it is becoming necessary for small towns to reach out to larger entities such as County for assistance. Again thank you from the Town Board and Town's People.

Additional Comments submitted by Fred Stresing 6841 County Road 32:

Notes and comments on Comprehensive Plan

- Page 6, 3rd. paragraph: sentence is incomplete following Justin Steinbach
- Page 15, graphic: The legend is a mess. Might be better to use descriptive callouts
- Page 19: Household income graph splashes onto text
- Page 22: Pie charts need some kind of legend
- Page 46: Objectives D & E: Could these be reworded as "Do not discourage" instead of "Encourage"? I'm not sure it is the role of government to drive this development, but instead to support it as it comes up.
- Page 59, CFS-A 5: Maybe include a library of recorded interviews with "old-timers".
- Page 63, ECD-D 8: Should this be not-for-profit?