

TOWN OF NORTH HARMONY  
PLANNING BOARD  
Tuesday June 12th , 2008 7:00

PLANNING BOARD: WALTER GEIST, RICHARD JOHNSON, JULIE LESCYNski, PATRICK RICE,  
RICHARD SENA, STEVE SENSKE

OTHERS PRESENT: Don McCord, Sally Carlson, Brad Lawson

Tonight's meeting was concerning the sketches of Dudley Breeds, and what steps should follow next. The last town meeting was held for the public and the sketches were explained and available to be viewed.

Don McCord was present to help develop a planning process. The planning process will help the town plan for the future. It was decided to make a small comprehensive plan. Mr. McCord suggested an appointed committee to work on getting input from the town's people. Mr. Rice would rather the board work on getting a public survey out by mail. The survey will be made specifically for North Harmony. The board would like to also have return envelopes sent with the survey, creating a drop box would also encourage people to actually return the surveys.

Mr. Johnson would like to find the most efficient way to compile the returned surveys and maybe have some volunteers to help with this particular process. Mr. McCord suggests also having some groups of people answer a few questions to get an idea of what should be asked on the survey. Public participation provides positive feedback from the community. This would take some advertising to make the town aware of the meetings and ideas. Mr. McCord tells the board that if 75% of the public does not feel included in the comprehensive plan the ideas will be ignored and opposed.

Mr. McCord suggests the town look at the population of the town, and see how and where it has grown. In the last few months there has been discussion of playgrounds. 50% of the population is between the ages of 25 and 59, but the largest bulk is 25 and under. A big part of the population today also have home occupations. Transportation is very important for those who have to travel early to get to their jobs. Making sure roads are getting plowed early enough for this to happen.

Mr. Senske would like to find 10 or 15 questions for the survey that would be relevant to most of the population. Mr. Sena would like the compressive plan to include subdivisions. Mr. Sena and Mrs. Carlson agree that with gas prices rise people would like to have services closer to them. The board agreed that having some kind of destination in mind for the community would be a good idea for the survey. The questions may be slightly different in Stow, Steadman, and Ashville. It was also suggested to include asking the town if they feel they want sewer and water.

The board feels that the lake is what brings in a lot of tax revenue for our town and cleaning up the lake is very important.

Mr. Senske tells the board that effective in January 2009 lake front property owners wanting to add a bedroom on to their home will first have to undergo a sanitation inspection.

Mr. McCord said to first do some problem identification and envisioning so you can begin to craft a survey. Second is to actually craft the survey. That takes quite a bit of time to get it out to the public and to have it returned. Mr. McCord suggests a return date of 30 days after the public receives the survey. Using a bright colored paper would also help people to notice the survey and it would be less likely to be misplaced. After reviewing the material a more permanent solution can be written up. Then the board will need more public interaction. At that time the public can notify the board what it is they like and dislike about the plans. Mr. McCord reminds the group that a time line is necessary. Timing is important to make sure most people are able to complete the survey.

The board also discussed creating a floating district for windmill farms. Mr. McCord explains this is important because not all people would agree with a windmill being in eyesight. Mr. Lawson said suggests that something legal be written for this specifically so there will be no confusion.

Mr. Rice asks how the group like to meet in the future with having more of an agenda. The group decides that at the next meeting there will be a brainstorming session.

The next meeting will be Tuesday July 8 at 7:00.

Bonnie Coulter, P.B clerk