

## **Survey Results from the Public Focus Meeting - 11/18/09**

### **1. Biggest issue facing the Town**

Loss of agricultural property and activities  
Cost of infrastructure development  
Unbridled residential development in outlying areas  
Loss of open space  
Too much commercial zoning on Broadway  
Maintaining "small town" character  
Water  
Where and how much residential development should be allowed  
Balancing the views of the vocal minority with the opinions of others  
Lot size and density  
Aesthetics and community character  
It is illogical to have a separate village that plans separately for itself (should be planning together)

### **2. Where should growth occur in the Town?**

Within geographic limits of the Village  
Near the Village  
Broadway (Ames Plaza)  
Near Tops Market  
Walden Avenue, around the prison  
Walden Avenue, near Wilson Greatbatch  
Put senior housing near the Village or around Broadway  
Housing (condos, apts., single-family) in the Village  
Millgrove and Genesee Street  
Broadway, Walden Avenue and Genesee St. (manufacturing and commercial)

### **3. Where should commercial development be located?**

Broadway - 3  
Walden - 5  
Genesee - 3  
Near Village Boundary - 4

Broadway is already well zoned and properly developed  
Walden Avenue is the commercial backbone of the Town  
Keep the majority of businesses in the Village  
The Town needs a "big box" law  
Keep whatever goes on Broadway small in scale  
Do not make Broadway, Walden or Genesee another Transit Road  
Walden has infrastructure for industrial and commercial development  
Industrial areas should stay together  
No more commercial on Genesee in Millgrove  
Steer commercial development to Broadway, nearest the Village  
Don't sprawl commercial development out along highways; keep it in concentrated areas

#### **4. How can Village and Town better cooperate?**

Conduct joint meetings for economic development (regional planning for zoning and tax incentives)  
"Talk" - compare master plans and discover commonalities and then act on them  
Reconsider merging Town with Village  
Consolidate some services  
Hold a "Town Hall" meeting together  
Consolidate, consolidate, consolidate  
Village should contract for private garbage pickup and disposal with the Town  
Village should contract with the Town for snowplowing and brush pick up  
Eliminate duplication of services (economies of scale)  
Combine the Crittenden and Millgrove fire departments

#### **General comments:**

Fear that large landowners/farmers will be ignored in effort to become the next Town of Clarence  
Concern that the motives of the Committee are not aimed at the benefit of public (self serving)  
Town should develop a Right to Farm law with teeth  
Preserve prime farmland and farm soils  
Sort out the sex offenders in the prisons from what is listed for the Town of Alden (demographics)  
Town should enforce its property maintenance laws equally  
How can we encourage the redevelopment of vacant buildings?  
Residential subdivisions should include greenspace, parklands, etc. included within  
Turn the old Tops into a senior citizen housing project  
Develop landlocked parcels with housing  
The railroad bridge on Rte. 20 is a gateway/front door to the Village (it looks like a mudroom)  
Millgrove is perceived as a dumping ground filled with complaining people  
Define "rural"; what constitutes a farm?  
What about Crittenden and Town line hamlets?  
Creative zoning sounds dangerous for random development  
The Town should adopt a noise ordinance.  
Develop and adopt smart growth principles  
Ensure a safe and accessible food supply  
Apply appropriate size and scale to residential and commercial development  
Maintain and strengthen role of Town as supplier of agricultural products to the region  
Do not follow the failed practices and policies of Lancaster  
Productive farmland is one of Alden's greatest assets and should be used to guide prosperity  
The unspoken majority that does not attend meetings supports growth with limitations