

TOWN OF ALDEN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PUBLIC FOCUS MEETING SUMMARY

Date of Meeting: November 18, 2008

Location: Alden Village Hall

Time: 6:30PM

Minutes Issued: December 19, 2008

I. Welcome and Introductions

Supervisor Smith welcomed everyone, provided a brief explanation of the project, introduced the members of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee who were present and then introduced the consultants from Wendel Duchscherer (WD) - - Wendy Salvati, Drew Reilly and Sarah DesJardin. Drew Reilly provided further information on Comprehensive Plan and a recap of the Public Information Meeting. He explained that the purpose of the Public Focus Meeting was to confirm what had been heard from the public at that meeting and to also gather consensus on the draft goals and objectives.

II. Overview of the Goals and Objectives

Preserve Rural Character

- Ensure that livestock can still be kept
- Develop transportation system within community for elderly and disabled
- Be more "specific"
- Better define agricultural use

Protect Important Cultural and Environmental Resources

- Historical society is not a museum
- Beacon Café is important
- Historic barns and older homes outside Village
- Churches and libraries are important for tourism

Encourage a Diversity of Economic Development Activity

- Problems with vacant storefronts
- Review the goals of neighboring communities (what is their zoning, desires, etc.)
- Consultation with Alden Merchant's Association
- No limit in Zoning Law regarding the amount of development
- Constraints of municipal infrastructure vs. adding more infrastructure

Encourage a Diversity of Housing Types

- Need more senior housing and transportation for seniors
- Condos/Patio homes
- Don't overburden the school district with residential housing

- Include pocket parks in residential areas

Provide Potable Water to Areas in Need

- The more water lines, the more pressure for development
- Must decide where water lines should go

Maintain and Promote Efficiency and Cooperation in Government

- Need cooperation between the Town and Village and between Town, Village and School district
- Need a financial plan for governments and consolidation of services

III. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

Farming

Strengths –

- School-aged kids / FFA
- Great soils – some still remain
- Close proximity to Genesee County, where farming is significant

Opportunities –

- Agricultural tourism
- Organic farming
- Community-supported agriculture

Threats –

- Increasing taxes
- Installation of public water lines
- Lack of Right-to-Farm law protection in areas outside agricultural districts
- Limits on hours of farming operations
- Loss of prime farm soils to development

Commercial Development

Strengths –

- Lots of commercial zoning
- Strong labor force
- Generates more in taxes (with less impacts)

Weaknesses –

- Decrease in advertising
- State prison
- Lack of public sewer
- People moving out of Town
- Need for health care facilities

Opportunities –

- Industrial development agency
- Village with a central business district
- Potential for development of health care facilities

Threats –

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Cooperation with the Village of Alden

Strengths –

- Ongoing collaboration for economic development
- Strong labor force
- Generates more in taxes (with less impacts)

Weaknesses –

- Duplication of services

Opportunities –

- Village and Town should merge
- Merge planning boards and zoning boards

- Merge snowplowing, refuse collection, etc.

Residential Development

Strengths –

- Lots of available land
- Large tracts of land for different kinds of residential development
- No development pressure (can be proactive rather than reactive)
- Generates more in taxes (with less impacts)

Opportunities –

- Flag lots

Meeting adjourned at 7:20PM.