

Western Orleans

Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee Kick-off Meeting

MINUTES

Wednesday, September 21, 7:00 PM
Shelby Town Hall

4062 Salt Works Road
Medina, NY 14103

1. Attendance

Charles Covell	Chris Goyette	Gary Watts	James Bensley
Dorothy Covell	Gabrielle Barone	Linda Fisk	Sarah Gatti
Katie Whipple	William Bacon	Mark Hughes	Rocky Navarro
Terry Fearby	Kirk Myhill	Jim Simon	Legislator Bill Eick

2. Presentation

Below is a summary of the Orleans County Department of Planning and Development's presentation beginning at 7:07 p.m. and recorded by Sarah Gatti.

3. Introductions

Jim Bensley, Director of the Orleans County Department of Planning and Development (OCPD), introduced himself and staff to the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC). Mr. Bensley explained the OCPD staff was present to facilitate the update process of the Western Orleans Comprehensive Plan (WOCP) using goals and recommendations as provided by members of the CPAC. Members of the CPAC proceeded to introduce themselves.

4. Overview of the Comprehensive Plan Process

Rocky Navarro, Planner of the OCPD, provided an overview of what a Comprehensive Plan is. This overview detailed the "big picture" aspect of Comprehensive Planning as well as its broad nature. James Bensley explained why the preparation of a Comprehensive Plan is necessary. This included the need to establish a community vision, to ensure economic stability and predictability, to better a community's ability to secure grant monies, and to attract the right future and avoid the wrong future. Rocky Navarro added that a "good" Plan is one that is long-range, comprehensive, and can act as a decision-making guide for local officials.

5. Overview of Existing Conditions

Rocky Navarro detailed how conditions have changed in the interim from 2001 to 2016 citing the increase of worldwide Internet users and the local increase of agricultural land value. Sarah Gatti, Planner of the OCPD, provided demographic data regarding population, median age, median income, and educational attainment for the three towns and two villages under examination. Included in this segment were details on the overall population decline and median age increase shared throughout Western Orleans. Additionally, it was noted that median income has risen alongside inflation throughout the study area. The presentation then analyzed the percent change in total assessed property value from 2005-2015.

6. Communication, Procedure Protocol and Other Housekeeping Items

Rocky Navarro provided a description of the project timeline, indicating it to be tentative and somewhat fluid. Sarah Gatti then noted that all documents would be posted on the OCPD's webpage and asked CPAC members to stay abreast of current information by checking the webpage frequently and prior to every meeting. Jim Bensley asked members of the CPAC to consider, for next meeting, appointing a Chairperson to be the point-of-contact between the OCPD and CPAC.

7. CPAC Activity

The presentation proceeded with a Strengths and Weakness analysis exercise where each CPAC member listed one strength and one weakness relevant to the community they represent. These strengths and weaknesses were shared among CPAC members and Planning staff. OCPD Planners indicated this master list would be expanded upon next meeting when Opportunities and Threats would be considered.

8. Closing Remarks

"Homework" for next meeting includes reviewing the survey sent out during the drafting of the WOCP in 2001 and also to decide what method the CPAC should undertake for a housing survey. Housing survey options are as follows: windshield survey undertaken by CPAC members or conversely, using data obtained by Code Enforcement Officers to gauge condition of housing in the Villages. The limitations of using secondary data versus primary data were also presented. Members of the CPAC expressed their preference to conduct a windshield survey and obtain primary data. It was agreed upon that the Shelby Town Hall is adequate for future meetings and that the 7:00 pm start time shall remain intact.

9. Meeting End

Meeting concluded at 8:30 p.m.

