

Comprehensive Plan Committee Minutes
December 18, 2019

The meeting was called to order by chairman Dave Lendrum at 7 PM at the Westerlo Town Hall.

Members in attendance: Dave Lendrum, John Sefcik, Dotty Verch, Tom Della Rocco, Steve Cornell, Jill Henck, Bill Scrafford.

The November minutes were approved (1 abstain, all others voting aye).

The main area of discussion for this meeting was to develop the topics for the first community workshop scheduled for January 15, 2020 at 7 PM. The committee decided on 4 tables, and that the topics for the tables would be: Agriculture, Development, Environment, and Planning and Zoning.

The committee then assigned each of our Comprehensive Plan guiding principles to one of the 4 tables. The guiding principles assigned to each table are:

Table 1 - Agriculture

- Preserve and maintain the character and beauty of the rural landscape of Westerlo.
- Protects and promotes agricultural operations and farmlands within the Town of Westerlo, pursuant to Albany County's 'Right to Farm Law'.

Table 2 - Development

- Provides for orderly and sustainable growth on a suitable scale conducive to local roads, utilities, water and waste systems, and infrastructure conditions.
- Promotes continued recreational opportunities.
- Improve and expand municipal infrastructure to support new development and encourage state of the art telecommunications infrastructure to spark business development and technology growth.
- Address the financial stability/sustainability of the town.

Table 3- Environment

- Protects and preserves existing open space and forested lands, and preserves existing water resources.
- Plan for climate resiliency.
- Address siting and planning of renewable and non-renewable energy sources.

Table 4 -Planning and Zoning

- Adequately and sufficiently protects neighboring land uses from potentially objectionable aspects of new development through the use of Site Plan Review and Special Use Permitting processes.
- Promote commercial expansion, niche retail and specialty farming, along with small

technology companies, which will flourish with enhanced telecommunications infrastructure.

The committee members that will be at each table are:

- Table 1 – Agriculture: Tom Della Rocco and Sue Fancher (Sue was not in attendance tonight, but with her background and experience it was thought she was a good match for this table).
- Table 2 -Development: Bill Scrafford and Steve Cornell.
- Table 3 – Environment: John Sefcik and Jill Henck.
- Table 4- Planning and Zoning: Dotty Verch and Kelley Keefe (Kelley was not in attendance tonight).

Dave will do the introduction, move from table to table, and try to keep us on schedule. It was determined that the residents should spend around 15 minutes at each table then rotate to the next table.

Before the Jan 15th community workshop meeting, the people working each table will develop their own private list of “topics or questions to bring up” in case they need to stimulate or redirect the conversation during the meeting.

Dave will make the flyer and leave printed copies at Town Hall for pickup and distribution by the committee members throughout the Town of Westerlo and into areas of Greenville. We identified numerous good locations for posting. The flyer info will also be put on the town website and the event advertised in the newspaper. We could also have a table and flyers at the Fireman's Breakfast on Saturday Jan 11th. (Check with Kelley.)

There was additional discussion on the Jan 15th meeting.

- Each table should have a sign-in sheet so that the attendees can provide their email address and cell number for future news or notification.
- At the start of the workshop, take a few minutes to welcome them and explain the process to the attendees.
- Each table will have “sticky notes” that the attendee will write their comments on and then put them on either the “What are we doing well?” or “Where can we improve?” sheets of paper. This will provide a basis for conversation with the attendees.
- At the end of the meeting, the committee members at each table will take the 2 sheets of papers with the sticky notes and compile the info for review and discussion at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Submitted by,

John Sefcik