

TOWN OF GOSHEN
PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC FORUM
FINAL MINUTES
DECEMBER 7, 2010

PLANNING BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Allen Howe, Vice Chairman John Wirkkala, Rich Moen, Jonathan Purick, Alternate Board member Bob Bell, Select Board Representative Ed Andersen, Sr., and Sue Peacock, Secretary

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike McCrory, UVLSRPC, Gigi Schendler, Peta Brennan, Kim Gaddes, TC Cutter, Bea Jillette, Mary Wirkkala, and Dan Peterson.

DRAFT COMMUNITY REPORTS FOR THE GOSHEN MASTER PLAN UPDATE

HOUSING

According to the housing trends for Goshen there has been modest growth. There was also a slight decline in average household size in the year 2000. There was also a decrease in seasonal housing units between 1990 and 2000, possibly due to conversion to full time residences.

POPULATION

There has been consistent growth as a trend. In December the county wide survey of the population in the year 2010 will be released.

Mr. McCrory's reports stated that Goshen is a residential community, and there is a value in that fact.

Mr. McCrory stated that such a community may be able to have housing growth that outweighs the costs and services and provides tax benefits. A real effort in land use should be to focus growth close to infrastructure, and leave backlands conserved. In Goshen there is a limited infrastructure. Mr. McCrory said that since there is no strong large employment base and that the employment is disbursed throughout the region around Goshen, therefore it has become a residential community.

GOSHEN TRANSPORTATION

There is a simple transportation network with very fundamental roads. Goshen has 28 plus miles of roads with about half of them being town maintained highways.

The major town costs are maintaining roads and the transportation network.

Scenic roads

The candidates of the scenic roads came from comments of the Planning Board and also the public which include Center Road, Lempster Coach Road, and Mill Village Road.

GOSHEN ECONOMIC TRENDS

The Goshen workforce makes up 50 to 60% of the overall population. There has been a modest increase in income in the community. The unemployment in this region has fared better than the national statistics.

The home sales and new home construction is currently unstable.

There probably will not be a sharp jump in commercial development, although there are some stable businesses in Goshen.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Mr. McCrory talked about the Town Buildings and received feedback from the public. The feedback regarding the Town Hall included statements that the building is antiquated, historical, and provides only small office space. Mr. Andersen stated that in the Town Office downstairs there should be more security for the workers behind the counter. The public comments also were that they would like to see the Boards move their Board meetings into the Grange Hall.

Mr. Peterson said that the Fire Department Building needs some major repairs also.

SUBMITTED BY:

Sue Peacock

Planning Board Secretary