

9/5/2007

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE UPDATE

Nearly a year ago, the current Comprehensive Plan Committee (the Committee) was charged with updating the Genoa Township Comprehensive Plan (Plan), approved in 1999. Updating the Plan was becoming increasingly important since less than 15% of the Township area remained undeveloped, and the opportunities to pursue Township priorities that involve land acquisition or controlled usage had become limited. After reviewing the Plan (and an unapproved 2004 draft version), the Committee determined that it would be prudent to seek input from Township residents on what “Visions” they had for their township.

The Committee proposed a “visioning process” to the Trustees, who approved a \$15,000 budget to accomplish this task. The process included a series of 10 resident meetings in various locations and a mail-in survey utilizing the Township Newsletter and Website. The Committee thanks everyone who took the time to become involved, specifically the approximately 350 residents who responded and all of the sub-committee members who contributed their time. The information gathered in the Visioning Sessions will be considered when drafting revisions to the Plan.

Professors John Ludlum and Karyl Sabbath of Otterbein College conducted the resident meetings, the data gathering and the analysis of the data. They have prepared a Visioning Final Report that is now being reviewed by the Committee. It will be presented soon to the Trustees and then released to the public in late September

The Visioning Final Report covers a wide range of topics. Participants were asked to identify favorite features of the Township, changes they would like to see made, words that described the Township and Township needs. Responses included preserving the “rural feel” of the Township, creating a Township identity with a community/town center, improving traffic conditions, preserving and creating green space, parks and recreational opportunities and limiting large-scale commercial development among others. These, and much more, will be discussed in detail in the Visioning Final Report.

Many of the issues and concerns that surfaced during the Visioning process are more distantly related to the update of the Comprehensive Plan, but may be very important to the Township (e.g., a library, a swimming pool or splash pad, a State Route 3 pedestrian overpass, improved communications with residents, taxes). The Committee believes that a number of these items deserve follow-up and recommends their future consideration.

With the receipt of the Visioning Final Report, the Committee is now in a position to complete draft revisions to the Comprehensive Plan with a target date of December 2007. After completion, the Draft Comprehensive Plan will be presented, as required by law, to the Zoning Commission, the Delaware County Regional Planning Commission, and the Trustees. The Draft Comprehensive Plan will be available for review on the Township Website for other Township Officials and the general public. Residents are also

encouraged to submit written comments at any time during the drafting and review process via email or regular mail to the Comprehensive Plan Committee, the Zoning Commission and the Trustees.

Once they are posted, residents may read the Visioning Report and keep in touch with progress on the draft revisions to the Comprehensive Plan by checking the Township Website at www.genoatwp.com.