

## **Genoa Comprehensive Planning Group Notes**

Friday 1 May 2009

Present: John Berry, Ralph Nettleton, Dave Stilwell, Dan Thayer, Karin Wikoff

1. Previous meeting minutes were reviewed and approved.

2. Reports from Subcommittees:

A. Survey 2 (Ralph for Maria): The Survey committee has not met since our last full committee meeting. He indicated that they will not be reiterating the same questions again, but working on questions focusing on the areas of concern from the first survey. They also want to work in questions on general health and on skills and services which are available locally. Their next meeting is TBA, but they will meet again between now and our next full meeting in June.

B. Inventory (Dave): Dave first reported on his individual meeting with Geoff Milz at the County Planning Dept. Geoff gave Dave a list of typical information for a comprehensive plan, indicating which ones the County can usually provide. The first things he will be able to give us include 911 maps, road information and tax assessment information. Additionally, the County has a library of local laws which we can consult to see how the plans of other communities are supported by laws passed locally. For example, one town has laws concerning development in areas where there are steep slopes, which have implications for all the people with property below the slope.

Dave also reported on the Inventory Subcommittee meeting of the night before. That group went over the break-outs of kinds of information to see which of the items we have to find for ourselves we might be able to gather first.

Historical: Dave will talk with Peggy and/or Sue to find out if the town has a list of historic sites in the Town of Genoa. John will talk with Marilyn Mann (and possibly also Hans Pecher, as Town Historian and Katherine Stachniewitz (sp?)) about coming to a small Inventory Subcommittee meeting esp. just to meet with them to discuss ways in which we can help each other. We can use that time to plan more effectively what to cover if they can come to a whole committee meeting along with any of the general public who are interested.

Housing: Most of this info we hope to get from the County, but we may be able to ask follow-up questions seeking more detail. For example, several of us were visited by U.S. Census workers making GPS readings on our front steps – will any of that information be available and useful to us? Also, Ralph asked if the information on agriculture is broken down to indicate how much of it is organic farming and where that is located. We will have to wait to see how finely the info is broken down, and ask if more is available; if not, this may be something we have to figure out for ourselves.

Public Services: Dan Thayer will have a conversation with Sue Moss to find out what public services are available in the Town of Genoa, who pays for them, who is served and what percentage of the population is served by the services. In particular, we noted water, electric, internet, highway, fire department, and schools – some are from the Town, some are independent, some are entirely private businesses. Dave will ask a fella he knows who works for

the USGS and who should be able to tell us if there has been a Water Resource Survey. Karin agreed to locate more information on the Right to Clean Water Act, which can be found on Answers.com, which supplies a nice overview of both the original and more recent clean water acts and surrounding issues: <http://www.answers.com/topic/clean-water-act> This document also includes a bibliography and some links to further resources. The most recent version is available from the EPA at: <http://www.epa.gov/oecaagct/lcwa.html>

Population and demographics: Most of this info we hope to get from the County, by Karin will consult with the reference librarians with whom she works to see how much is easily available from [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

Dave also reiterated the plan to have the inventory group coordinate with the survey group. The inventory group can supply the factual information the survey group can present before asking a question on the same topic. Both groups will coordinate with the marketing group, who can also use this information for writing up articles for the paper, at the bottom of which we could include a carefully focused and neutrally-worded survey question. We may get more response if we ask just a few focused questions at a time, rather than hitting people with a whole long survey.

Also, all members of the Inventory Subcommittee will read the Town of Dryden plan as a potential model from which to work for our plan.

The next meeting of the Inventory Subcommittee is set for 1 June 2009 at 7 PM at the Town Hall. We also hope to have a special focus meeting with Marilyn Mann (and possibly Hans Pecher and Katherine Stachniewitz) some time between 2-10 June, if they are available and amenable.

C. Marketing (Susan): Susan was unable to attend, but sent a note to Karin to share with all. It's happily clear from the note (text below) that the Marketing Subcommittee is very much on the same page with the rest of us.

If possible, you could present my idea for articles for publication as we talked about at the last meeting. I think the first one should be a general informational discussion of what a comprehensive plan *is* using language borrowed from the disc you distributed such as,

"A strategy to analyze community needs and growth"

"...formulates the backbone of local zoning laws."

and what a comp plan contains - statements of goals, objectives, principles and policies *and* what a comp plan may address - land uses, agricultural uses transportation facilities, etc.

Also, I am trying to formulate a time frame for a series of articles that follow the overview and perhaps the inventory committee would be helpful on this as, in my view, the next few would be disseminating information about the Town to stimulate discussion among residents. So, I am thinking maybe June, August, October, December but that would be dependent on when the survey might be ready to go out.

I am also considering other ways to reach out to residents and the Shopper will mail a flyer (one page sheet) to targeted residences for as little as 6.5 cents each.

I had hoped to have the article at least fleshed out to email to you but ran out of time this week. Please feel free to distribute my email to the others if they have comments or suggestions.

Date of the next Marketing Subcommittee meeting is TBA, but we hope they will meet again between now and our next full meeting in June. Additional interested persons are certainly welcome.

3. Selection of our Representative for the Town of Genoa to the Cayuga County Planning Board was discussed, but no vote was taken because there were only 3 people besides the 2 candidates present. John and Dave are both still interested, but each has concerns about missing a meeting, and would like to know from Peggy if an alternate or back-up representative would be allowed. The decision is delayed pending an answer to that question.

#### 4. Other / New Business:

A: Committee Chair: Someone mentioned that while Dan DalCais is happy to continue as our chair, he might also be just as happy to step aside if someone else wanted the duties. We could not make any decisions on this subject since Dan could not make the meeting because he is out of town, but we will check with him to confirm before speculating any further, though Dave did indicate he might be interested, depending how Dan feels about it when we ask.

B: Idea for Marketing Subcommittee: Would it be possible for us to get a table or booth at the Wheat Festival in August? We only have a couple monthly meetings before that event takes place the first weekend in August, so we will want to be sure that planning for it is on our next agenda. Does anyone know whom we need to contact to get a space at this event?

5. Next Meeting: The next meeting of the full Town of Genoa Comprehensive Planning Committee is set for Monday 15 June 2009.

#### 6. Action items:

-- Survey Subcommittee will set a date and meet before 15 June.

--Inventory Subcommittee will meet 1 June, plus an additional tentative meeting with the historical experts in our community

--Marketing Subcommittee will set a date and meet before 15 June.

--Dave Stilwell will ask Peggy Bradley or Sue Moss if the Town has a list of historical places

--John Berry will talk with Marilyn Mann (and possibly also Hans Pecher and/or Katherine Stachniewitz) to set up a time when they can meet with the Inventory Subcommittee in early June.

--Dan Thayer will have a conversation with Sue Moss about public services.

--Dave will ask his colleague at the USGS about a Water Resource Survey for the area.

--Karin Wikoff will locate information on the Clean Water Act (done – see above)

- Karin Wikoff will consult with reference librarians for assistance quickly finding what information is readily available from the US Census website and share it with the group.
- Dave Stilwell will contact Maria Bachich and Susan Tosto to coordinate the work of the Inventory Subcommittee with the work of the Survey Subcommittee and the Marketing Subcommittee.
- Susan Tosto will continue to develop ideas for articles in the local newspapers, with some input and assistance from the other two subcommittees.
- Karin Wikoff will ask Peggy Bradley about the possibility of alternates to the County Planning Board so we can reach a decision about our representative, hopefully before the 12 May meeting/training.
- Someone will talk with Dan DalCais about his interest in continuing as Chair when he returns from Florida. (Date unknown)
- Karin Wikoff will include planning for the Wheat Festival on the agenda for the 15 June meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Wikoff  
Secretary, Town of Genoa Comprehensive Planning Committee