

Genoa Comprehensive Planning Group Notes Monday 12 October 2009

Present: Maria Bachich, John Berry, Peggy Bradley, Anto Parseghian, Charlotte Reeves, Dave Stilwell, Dan Thayer, Susan Tosto, Karin Wikoff.

1. Approval of Minutes for July Meeting: After much discussion, agreement was reached on the wording for the July Meeting notes. The committee wishes to maintain a careful balance, being both inclusive and as neutral as possible. Minutes were approved with corrections as discussed and will be sent to Peggy Bradley to be posted on the website.

2. Approval of Minutes for August Meeting: Approved as submitted, and will be sent to Peggy to be posted on the website.

3. Contact List: The committee called for updated contact information and confirmation of officially committed members. Charlotte Reeves indicated her willingness to serve as a committed member. Karin Wikoff will update the contact sheet and e-mail it to the committee members.

4. Religious Community Reports:

A. Karin Wikoff reported on her interview with Bob Godbout of the First Presbyterian Church of King Ferry, whose concerns echoed those of other churches in the area:

- young people are leaving, congregations are aging and/or dwindling
- there's a feeling people don't want to stay in the community, largely for a sense of lack of opportunities
- we need to be sure new members to the community feel welcome if we wish to grow the community
- employment opportunities, particularly jobs with room for advancement, are needed
- drugs and alcohol play a negative role in families and the community in the area
- as our older members pass away, the community loses a lot of history

B. Anto Parseghian read us his draft-to-date of issues facing the religious community as a whole in the Town of Genoa. His report is informed by interviews with representatives of several churches in the town. Points on which he touched included:

- Religion as the center of a community
- Welcoming newcomers and businesses
- Isolated individuals who feel self-sufficient and like community is not needed
- Dwindling membership in churches
- Jobs besides agriculture with opportunities for advancement
- Taxes, esp. property taxes (Anto noted that people saw the local government as responsible with our tax money)
- Outreach to youth – facilities, programs and intergenerational activities
- Accessibility (sidewalks, etc.)
- Lack of a banquet hall or other large rental/meeting place
- Appearance of hamlets
- Need for a monthly dump day
- Think local – the community market is a great step in the right direction

5. Website Review:

- Praise was given for getting the website implemented.
- Susan Tosto will send a copy of the article which appeared in the Genoa/King Ferry Tribune to Peggy to have it posted on the website.
- Karin will send an updated list of committee members to Peggy to be posted, along with the most recent minutes as noted above.
- The question of the missing 4th bullet point was discussed and will be examined.

[Note: It has since been found that the 4th bullet point was largely redundant with the introductory text. So as not to be missed by readers who are skimming, the bullet point will be restored and the introductory text shortened, as per discussions via e-mail in the days following the meeting].

6. County Planning Department:

Dave Stilwell shared the new tax maps we received from the County Planning Department, along with a small table of the amounts of Town Tax, County Tax, Community College Tax, School Tax and Total Taxes paid by various groups in the community (Agriculture, Residential, Vacant, Commercial, etc.) As a follow-up, Dave will ask Geoff Milz for a definition of the groups.

When reviewing the information we have so far, we note that we have very little information on air/water/landscapes/habitat/conservation, nor on open space/vistas/"viewshed plans."

Dave will ask Geoff if there is anything else for which we should be asking, for example, what do other towns request which we haven't requested yet?

7. Inventory Areas:

A. Water: Maria will look into finding out from where people get their water: drilled wells, dug wells, lake water, etc.

B. Fire Department: Peggy will find out if we should try to meet up with the Fire Chiefs at one of their meetings, and if so, when and where.

C. Emergency Services: Anto can arrange for his daughter, Kezia Sullivan, to come meet with us at any of our next few meetings, possibly in December, depending if we want to have Fire, Police and Emergency Services all at one meeting, or spread across several. Peggy will call Kim Bennett and some other police contacts to see who could be available to speak to us and when.

D. Businesses: Peggy will arrange for an Open House for businesses in the community to come meet with us some time in January. Karin will work with Peggy to draft an invitation letter, and we will ask for an RSVP so we know how many are coming. The listing on the website was discussed, with a note that the community should not be seen as advertising any particular businesses, but rather, that there would be a standard entry with basic information for each.

E. Agriculture: Dave will call Rhonda Fessenden to set a Saturday morning date for members of the committee to come tour their farm. John Berry will talk to Judy Wright from the Farmland Trust to see if she could come talk with us in December.

F. Recreation and Open Spaces: Charlotte will look at other communities' plans to see how they deal with open spaces and recreation. Maria and Dave will be available to help with the exploration of this area.

G. Water and Environmental Resources Inventory: Maria and Dave will visit Andy of the Cayuga Watershed and perhaps also contact someone at the DEC.

8. Review Progress to Date: There was some discussion of when to have meetings with which groups.

9. Action Items:

- Susan Tosto will send her article to be mounted on the website.
- Karin Wikoff will send an updated committee member list to the website.
- Karin will find missing text from website and line it up with what was kept for review.
- Dave Stilwell will ask Geoff Milz for the definitions used on the new tax maps we just received.
- Dave will also ask Geoff if there is anything else for which we should be asking – are there things other communities request for which we have not yet asked?
- Karin will update survey comments and redistribute them.
- Karin will update contact list and redistribute it.
- Maria Bachich will try to find out if information is available on where people get their water – from the lake, drilled wells, dug wells, etc.
- Maria and Dave will begin an exploration of the open space issue.
- Peggy Bradley will call Kim Bennett to ask about our meeting with representative(s) from law enforcement as part of our outreach and inventory of emergency services available in Genoa.
- Peggy will find out if we should try to meet up with the Fire Chiefs at one of their meetings, and if so, when and where.
- Anto will make arrangements for us to meet with Kezia Sullivan of Southern Cayuga Ambulance service.
- Karin and Peggy will work on a letter inviting businesses in town to an Open House with the committee in January; the letter will include a request for an RSVP so we have some idea who is coming.
- Dave will call Rhonda Fessenden to set a Saturday morning tour of the Fessenden farm for members of the committee.
- John Berry will talk to Judy Wright of Farmland Trust to set a meeting time in December.
- Dave will get copies of the disks with other community plans to Charlotte Reeves.
- Charlotte will look over other plans to see how they deal with open spaces and recreation.
- Maria and Dave will contact Andy from the Cayuga Watershed group as well as the DEC
- Karin will update July notes as decided at meeting and get them, along with the August meeting notes, to Peggy to be uploaded to the website.
- Karin will share notes of meeting with Bob Godbout of the First Presbyterian Church of King Ferry with Anto for his write up on the religious community in Genoa.
- When time allows, Karin will gather historical census data to try to track trends in population changes.
- Karin will type up action items first and distribute them.
- Karin will type up meeting notes when time allows and distribute advance copies to make it easier to approve them at the next meeting.

10. Next Meeting: Monday 9 November 2009 -- 7:00 PM Genoa Town Hall, unless otherwise notified.

Respectfully submitted,
Karin Wikoff
Secretary, Town of Genoa Comprehensive Planning Committee