

Genoa Comprehensive Planning Group Notes Monday 8 February 2010

Present: Maria Bachich, Peggy Bradley, Sjana McClure-Berry, Charlotte Reeves, Dave Stilwell, Susan Tosto, Karin Wikoff.

1. Approval of Minutes for 11 January Meeting: Approved.

2. Approval of Minutes for 14 January Meeting: Remove stray question marks; correct amount of money leaving community via King Ferry Western Union –Approved with those corrections.

3. Feedback from Agricultural Panel: Overall, the feedback has been very positive. The event was very well attended – with nearly 50 people in attendance we had 5 times more attendees than Ledyard and Scipio have been getting. We have enough interest in the environmental part that we can have another panel. The format worked very well and we can use it as a model for future events. One audience member indicated that she had not known one could call the Soil and Water Conservation and found this information useful, as she had not been able to get any response from the DEC. There was discussion at our meeting tonight that there were 3 people from Genoa in the room at the panel each of whom personally called in complaints to the Soil and Water Conservation in 2009, (two of them Planning Committee members), yet John Fraser had stated during his presentation that there had been no complaints from Genoa in 2009. This was disturbing to the individuals, but they did not feel it was the appropriate forum to call him on it in public.

4. Development: One other question which came up at the panel was how much development is an issue in Genoa. One of the panelists asserted that it isn't much of an issue, but some of the committee members disagree. Many building permits were issued 2-3 years ago for projects which are only now getting started. It was noted that there is much going on south from the intersection of Route 34 and Route 90. It was also noted that Mick Piechuta is our compliance officer and issues the building permits. The committee realized that we have not included land use planning in our discussions and we should add it to the inventory. It was noted that there is a lot of sentiment in the town against "zoning." – the perception is that "zoning" is about giving the government oversight over what a property owner may do on his/her own land, though of course, zoning may be used for many other purposes, including protecting some parts of the town from some kinds of development. We can ask what is it that we value, and how do we protect that? Land use management is one way. This could be another panel discussion.

5. Business: The date of 8 March was set for our open house for community business leaders. We would like to get as many as possible to come to a meeting to talk with us. We would like to have a conversation and get input on what issues are faced by businesses in Genoa. Someone noted that Cayuga Lake National Bank handles the Town of Genoa money – what is their commitment to our Town? Can we get them to come to our business meeting? How do we get them to come? We will put an invitation to all in the paper, put up flyers, and send some personal invitations. Susan will write up a paragraph for an advertisement and/or calendar entry in the Pennysaver. The format for this meeting will be to ask some general questions to get

things started. If we have very few attendees, we'll ask each person to speak. If we have lots of attendees, we'll just throw the questions out to the room. Some ideas include: What keeps you up at night? What keeps you here in Genoa? If you know of a business which left, do you know why they left? All committee members will think about some questions we can ask and send them to Susan.

6. Environmental Panel: Wednesday 7 April was selected as the best date for the panel. The format will be similar to the agricultural panel. Potential panelists might come from the DEC, the Cayuga County Planning and Development Department (Bruce Natale was mentioned), the Finger Lakes Land Trust (Andy Zepp was mentioned), the Cayuga Lake Watershed group (Hilary was mentioned), and the Sierra Club. There was also a mention of asking someone from Montezuma Wildlife Refuge, as well as a teacher at Southern Cayuga by the name of Brennan. Karin will get the contact info for the Sierra Club, and Dave will put the rest together.

7. Open Spaces/Recreation: We will tentatively slate this issue for May 10. We discussed what it would take to have a public park in Genoa – it takes space and money. Some work could be done by volunteers, some money could be raised with donations. Insurance might be a big expense. It would take a champion to coordinate the effort. Baltimore Woods (<http://www.baltimorewoods.org/>) in Marcellus was mentioned as an example. They have a Nature Center, a playground and an area for older folks and was built with no public funding. Sjana will get us more information. As for Genoa, the question would be to look at our demographics to see how many families with young children live in the town.

8. Miscellaneous comments: Bill Hecht and Phil Dann were mentioned as sources for demographic trends. Someone noted that New York is called the “Moocher State” – which is part of why people leave. We should look at the Niles plan for more input. Someone noted that 70% of our taxes are school taxes. Peggy noted that the Town is still waiting to hear about grant money for better Internet access (RUS).

9. New Action Items (See previous notes for older action items):

March 8 Business Open House:

- Susan will create the flyer and take care of the advertisements.
- Maria and Ralph will distribute the flyers.
- Peggy will send a mass e-mail.
- Someone should contact CLNB to see if they can send someone to our meeting.
- Everyone will send question ideas to Susan.

April 7 Environmental Panel:

- Dave will arrange the speakers
- Karin will get contact info for the Sierra Club

May 10 Open Space Discussion:

- Sjana will get information on Baltimore Woods.

- Peggy will touch base with Jeannie Gleisner to see if/when she is available to help us with the

writing of the plan.

--Karin will send electronic copies of the most recent notes to her supervisor e-mail address.

--Susan will send Karin Tonya's address; Karin will send corrected and approved notes to Tonya for posting on the Town website.

Respectfully submitted,

Karin Wikoff, Secretary, Town of Genoa Comprehensive Planning Committee