

Town of Corning
Master Plan Update Committee Meeting
February 8, 2012

Attendance:

Elijah Baity
Mike Donnelly
John MacMahon
Marianna Redner
Chelsea Robertson
Danielle Sally
Kenneth Uhl

Absent:

Kim Feehan
Dean Stuart
Doug Wicks

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 PM.

1. Approval of December Minutes – The January 11, 2012 minutes were approved on a motion by Elijah Baity, seconded by Kenneth Uhl and carried.
2. Writing of the Plan STC Update – Chelsea explained that she is still on track to have a good draft finished by June or July timeframe. She is trying to find a way to share digital copies with everyone because it is so many pages. It has been difficult because STCs FTP server is currently down, so she started using a new program called digital drop box and that is to email to all the members. To access it, they must download the program, but then will be able to access the digital files. Elijah said that he did it and it was working successfully, but is worried about getting spam. Danielle Sally said that she was also able to get all the drafts. They will continue to use this program and there seemed to be no complaints about it.
3. Review of Chapter recommendations – Chelsea presented the committee four master plan sections that include recommendations.
 - a. The committee first looked at the Retail Analysis and Growth for Route 352. When the committee talked about the flooding sections, talked about what flooded in the town in 1972. One of the questions that came up was - did Route 352 flood in 1972. Chelsea will look into this.

There was a discussion about camping and how that would be an awful place to camp because they are not sure what kind of camping would go there. This was one of the recommendations for one of the areas on Rt. 352 by the STC Economic Development Coordinator Victoria Ehlen. The discussion was that it is not a great place for camping, you may not end of getting the best kind of campground or cliental because it is so loud and right next to the highway. If a lot of work was done there, otherwise the land is pretty much useless. It is called labeled area 3 – Corning Campground.

That parcel on 352 does not have a whole lot of options because it of all the pipelines crossing it. Camping would cause a lot of trees to be placed on that lot and grow it. Maybe there are some other opportunities for some hiking trails and she feels that it has already been used for that purpose to some extent.

- b. Options for Section 4 – evaluated on Route 352 area south of the highway, near the Hickling Station. There are not a whole lot of suggestions. Possibly energy production and agriculture. It is really not suitable because of the flood plain. Suitable for residential, commercial, office or industrial area, but support structures like pump houses and broadcasting towers would be OK, but the options are very limited there as well.
- c. The third area that the group looked at was Section 1. This was the only good place for development. This would be to the west of the hospital site. This would be a reclamation plan for the Steel gravel pit. One side is finished there is discussion about possibly creating a recreation area, making that gravel pit into a nice pond, which it already is but connecting the ponds, making a boat launch and picnic area and then developing some residential town houses behind the pond and would have use of the water. This would involve the creation of a new road connecting Forest Hill Drive to Fairway Road and opportunities for some condos and small housing units. Most of the rest of the park is unbuildable due to the steep slopes or being too close to the ponds. This was a great recommendation, the group received it pretty well. They liked it and we don't know if it will ever happen, but will continue to pursue that option.
- d. The next thing reviewed was the renewable energy section. The group talked about wind and what windmills would mean to us. The consensus was to encourage the use of small scale wind for agricultural uses. There was a lot of questions about what does flicker mean, is there a way to avoid that and migration of birds concerning about them getting caught in the rotors. The group talked about renewable energy and what the goals are. It seemed like everyone was interested. There was a concern with timber, there is a timber law in place but it is hard to enforce due to DEC regulations. There was a question about whether the road use agreements and how they apply to timber and is it something that needs to be looked into.
- e. The group looked at the solar energy section. Everyone is interested in solar energy. They want to encourage it and want to get more information out about it and get the information in the hands of the homeowners about the tax credits and the NYSERDA contacts would be able to help with that. They would like the town to play a bigger role in getting that information to the residents.
- f. The group reviewed the section on water resources. The group went through the recommendations. Most were in favor of aquifer protection law but there was a concern about maybe it is appropriate to set a law that we must pass well, septic at a house before the transfer of any property regardless of sale or mortgage company being involved. It was noted that the town does

periodically do testing of septic and well systems. The group discussed the elimination of the Corning Manor aquifer protection overlay district. Currently it does not make a lot of sense, so the committee would like to protect the entire aquifer or eliminate it altogether. This will be discussed at future meetings.

4. Other - Kim was not present at this meeting but, they still don't think that Dean Stuart has not been removed by the town board as a member of this board, so it is being asked that he be removed.
4. Next meeting – the next meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2012 at 5:30 PM. Four members noted that they will not be available for this meeting and asked if it could be moved to another date. The meeting has been moved to the third Wednesday, March 21, 2012 at 5:30 PM. Everyone was in favor of this.
5. Adjourn – the meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea Robertson