

**TOWN OF GHENT
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE**

02 OCTOBER 2007

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Galvin at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were members John Fishman, Jonathan Walters, Aaron Groom, Jim Beal, Nick Tipple, Gil Raab, Peter Nelson, along with Town Attorney Ted Guterman and Don Meltz of Don Meltz Planning & GIS. Absent were members Janice Fingar, Frank Mendelson, Larry VanBrunt, Al Wassenhove, Mark Clarke*, Phil Trowbridge and Kyle Wilber.

PUBLIC INPUT

According to Chairman Galvin, Mrs. Nicolette Booream had contacted him and Town Attorney Guterman regarding her concerns with the survey. The survey, contrary to the Committee's decision, had been printed and posted without the requested sequential numbering. Chairman Galvin described this as a printing error, which had been brought to his attention by Nan Stolzenburg, Community Planning & Environmental Associates; and his decision to issue the survey in a timely manner, versus waiting for a reprinting and the subsequent delays. Apparently Mrs. Booream also questioned the surveys being returned to the Town Hall which would allow for possible tampering. It was re-affirmed the envelopes containing the survey are not being opened by Town Hall personnel, but rather, are being held in a locked box, for the consultants to pick up and handle.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Chairman Galvin reported that the Comprehensive Plan Committee table at the Ghent Community Day event received minimal interest from attendees. Press releases, relating to the survey, were discussed. Members Walters and Mendelson are handling this subject. Don Meltz reported that a standard of returned surveys is $\pm 20\%$; a 30% return would be great. It was noted that approximately 1,800 surveys had been mailed. Committee members reviewed the material contained in the 'Town of Ghent Profile and Inventory (v1) of 02 October 2007' which had been e-mailed to members on 28 September 2007. Subjects were reviewed. Discussion included, but was not limited to: forestry, the Columbia County airport, rental costs, topographical definitions, appropriate commercial development, commercial zoning, non-profit services, future of refuse removal, schools, and the need to factor in of school and property taxes.

IDENTIFY MILESTONES

A second draft of the demographic information, discussed this evening, will be prepared. Mr. Meltz will work at mapping the survey data. Town Attorney Guterman will write a letter to the editor discussing the Town's survey.

NEXT MEETING

The Committee will next meet on Tuesday, 30 October 2007, at the Ghent Town Hall, beginning at 7 o'clock. A representative of the Columbia County Department of Health will speak.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

- * It was noted that Mr. Clarke submitted a letter of resignation to the Town Board sometime in August, 2007.