

MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE

06 MARCH

2007

TOWN OF GHENT

Chairman Galvin called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. In attendance were John Fishman, Pete Nelson, Aaron Groom, Larry VanBrunt, Jonathan Walters, Nick Tipple, Frank Mendelson, Janice Fingar, Jim Beal and Jim Galvin, along with Town Counsel Ted Guterman, and Nan Stolzenburg of Community Planning & Environmental Associates.

The status of information been gathered by the following subcommittees was addressed

LOCAL AND REGIONAL HISTORY

Gil Raab, Nick Tipple, Larry VanBrunt

CULTURAL, NATURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCE PROTECTION /

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Jonathan Walters, Larry VanBrunt, Jim Beal

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT / FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

Jim Galvin, Pete Nelson

AGRICULTURE / OPEN SPACE / LAND MANAGEMENT / LAND USE

Frank Mendelson, Mark Clarke, Jonathan Walters, Phil Trowbridge

HOUSING

Pete Nelson, Jim Galvin, John Fishman, Al Wassenhove

TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES / UTILITIES

Nick Tipple, Gil Raab, Larry VanBrunt

PUBLIC SERVICES, INCL SCHOOLS AND EMERGENCY

Jonathan Walters, Jim Beal

SURVEY

Al Wassenhove, Janice Fingar, Mark Clarke

Verbal updates were given regarding historical properties and the West Ghent Fire Department. The subject of conservation easements was raised.

Mr. Beal observed that perhaps it would be more effective to develop a specific data-collection format; members of the Committee agreed.

The issue of having data available on a Town web site was raised. A concern voiced by several members was the determination of specific materials to be made available.

Water service provided by the Village of Chatham to some Hamlet of Ghent businesses and residents was briefly discussed

It was agreed that Jim Galvin will prepare a press release that includes the dates and times of the two public workshops. The first workshop will be held at seven o'clock on Tuesday, 03 April 2007, at the Ghent Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) building and the second workshop will be held at the West Ghent Fire Hall on Saturday, 28 April 2007, beginning at ten o'clock. Mr. Tipple will confirm the date with the West Ghent Fire Hall Chief. There was a discussion of which newspapers to contact, and where to place notice posters. It was noted that Mr. Wassenhove had previously suggested that only Ghent residents be allowed to attend the workshops.

Ms Stolzenburg reviewed the workshop procedure. Individuals will be assigned a table number. There will be at least one committee member at each table to take notes and ensure there is no 'soap boxing.' Attendees will identify

both negative and positive issues, provide material for a vision statement and identify goals of the Master Plan. Additionally, people will be asked to identify places on a map of Ghent that are important to them.

Members of the Housing Committee raised the point of terminology to be used by the Survey Committee in the development of the survey. The examples of 'low income housing,' 'cluster housing' and 'rural character' were given.

Town Attorney Guterman noted it is important to have input from workshop attendees to aid the development of the survey/questionnaire. Mr. Galvin addressed the issue of survey wording.

When questioned, Ms Stolzenburg noted that normally, a survey is 4 to 5 pages in length and will cover issues such as density/growth in town, town populations increasing/decreasing, historical data, available housing in relation to populations growth/decline.

Mr. Fishman pointed out that timing plays an important role in the success of a survey. It was determined that early June would be the first window of opportunity to distribute surveys. He also noted the Committee hired Ms Stolzenburg to develop and act upon a survey to best serve the needs of the Town of Ghent.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.