

Town of Freeman Planning Committee Minutes

Comprehensive Plan Kick-off Meeting

April 7, 2008

Sugar Creek Camp

The Comprehensive Plan Kick-off Meeting was held at the Sugar Creek Camp in the Town of Freeman on April 7, 2008 at 7 PM. Meeting notices were published / posted per Town requirements; in addition, notices were mailed to all land owners in the Town of Freeman.

The meeting started at 7 PM with introductory comments and welcomes were given by David Olson, Town Chair, Dick Iverson, Camp Director, & Paul Sampson, Planning Committee Chair. Paul also introduced all members of the Freeman Planning Committee and our planning consultant & facilitator for the evening, Jeff Sanders. Fifty people were in attendance (list given at end of minutes).

Jeff opening the meeting with a summary of the comprehensive planning process, a discussion of the state requirement for such a plan, a discussion of the plan elements and content, a synopsis of the plan status of neighboring communities, and the planning schedule / timeline – an 18 month process for the Town of Freeman with completion and approval by the Town Board by 1 January 2010. Jeff also discussed the need for intergovernmental involvement in the Town of Freeman plan from neighboring towns, Crawford County, the DNR, and etc.. Jeff concluded his introductory comments by discussing the “visioning process” and the work product which would be produced by him as a result of this kick-off meeting. He also indicated that draft copies of at least chapters 1, 2, & 3 of the plan would be available for the next Town planning committee meeting on May 5th. At this time, he expects the planning committee, and those in attendance, to review the material and provide him with modification and/or revision language and data. He reminded all in attendance that the planning process is always on-going and that updates and revisions are a natural part of the process, even after the plan has been adopted.

Jeff next discussed the preliminary demographic data he had collected for Freeman Town in comparison to other Towns, Crawford County and the state of Wisconsin. The demographic data will be updated as the planning process continues. Considerable discussion occurred in understanding the demographic data. It was noted that nearly 68% of the land owners of the Town of Freeman are non-residents and that this per cent is higher than some surrounding Towns. The attendees expressed the need to ensure that the future demographic projections reflect the current conditions in the town based on the most current data and/or knowledge.

After the demographic discussion, those in attendance were divided into working groups and asked to complete a SWOT (strength, weakness, opportunity, threat) worksheet for the Town of Freeman.

Healthy discussions occurred within each work group as a part of this exercise. Jeff then facilitated a discussion of SWOT categories. A detail list of these SWOT items will appear in Jeff's draft material .

The meeting concluded with Jeff facilitating the "visioning exercise" – what does the community desire the Town of Freeman to look like in 20 – 30 years. Those in attendance were extremely active in expressing their ideas and views of what Freeman should be in that time period. A large number of ideas were generated for a variety of visioning categories. (Jeff will supply these items with his draft chapter 2). The meeting concluded with each attendee selecting their 3 most important items from those listed on the visioning board. (These items will be included in Jeff's draft material.).

The meeting concluded at 9: 40 PM.

List of attendees: Kay & Ken Duehler, Doug Fuhrman, Dale Natwick, Leon Lester, Marvin Christenianson, Verlin Glick, Fran & Steve Johnson, David Olson, Armund Bartz, Mark Kvigne, Stephen Peck, Larry & Sandra Anderson, Mary Heath, Paul Sampson, Bob Severson, Shelia Chapman, Jeff Sanders, Cece Caron, Tony Erb, Edie Ehlert, Norvin Mikkelson, Thomas A Sampson, Don Collier, Chris Couley, David Zach, Dave Rodgers, Paul Franzen, James F Nau, Robert Streeter, Allen Adam, June & Leslie Lerimo, Wanda Collier, Ken Freedman, Kirk Holliday, John Hosemann, Cheryl & Gary Pinkham, Linda Lied, Jarry & Dawn Brotzm, David K(?), Merlin Kvigne, David Leirimo, Gloria & David Kerksen, & Gerry Roesler.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Severson, Secretary