

JEFFERSON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

March 21, 2006

The Jefferson Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting came to order at 7:00 PM. Members present were Linda Vroman, Diane Fischer, Bill Parker, Greg Sheehan, and Dan Singletary. Also present were: Alicia Terry and Jennifer Murray, Schoharie County Planning Board; Tom Shepstone, Shepstone Associates; and Dick Kuhn, Jefferson Town Supervisor. Members not in attendance were John Treadwell and Margie Hait.

Alicia introduced Jennifer Murray, our liaison with Schoharie County. She will be attending many town meetings in addition to the Comprehensive Plan meetings.

Dan gave a quick rundown of the tour. The objective was to give Tom and Jennifer a thorough understanding of the make-up of Jefferson. They saw farmland, sub-divisions, vacant land, the hamlet area, problem areas, and an idea of what has happened in the past and what appears to be happening now. Tom felt the tour was extremely worthwhile.

Tom explained the importance of how we interrupt the data compiled from the questionnaire. Some miscellaneous thoughts discussed were, although we all may like the way Jefferson is now, the last person in can't shut the door. We can't run rough shod over individual rights. How we put these bits of information together will make a diverse community. We have the Gilboa plan for reference and the Schoharie County Farmland Protection Plan. We have to plan how we can move into the future. We must remember that the census is based on the past and our plan must look towards the future.

Our proximity to Delaware County increases the probability of owner-occupied second homes, higher family income per capita and a higher number of professional individuals. We have to keep in mind that over time, seasonal homes become year round residences and will increase the demand for public services. A decrease in large farms could lead to an increase in small-scale nitch farming and/or development type housing. It is important to consider the breakup of large farms and the impact on the town. Should the town offer incentives to encourage small farming enterprises?

Tom handed out a questionnaire that he edited for Jefferson. The committee reviewed it, some changes were suggested and Tom agreed get a copy to Dan for review before our next meeting. Assuming that Dan gives a go ahead, the survey would be ready for folding and stuffing envelopes at our next meeting scheduled for 4/18/06.

There was discussion about how to get a really good response to the questionnaire. It was suggested that if people sign their names we could have a drawing for a basket filled with local products. It's important to get a strong response so that the results are a true indication of the needs and desires of the entire population of Jefferson. A public hearing will be scheduled for our May 16th meeting.

A motion to adjourn was made by Diane, seconded by Linda at 8:25 PM.