

JEFFERSON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm. Committee members present were Dan Singletary, Bill Parker, Diane Fischer, Margie Hait, Gregg Sheehan. Also present were: Jennifer Murray; Schoharie County Planning Board, Tom Shepstone, Shepstone Associates, and Dick Kuhn, Jefferson Town Supervisor. Members not in attendance were John Treadwell and Linda Vroman. Members of the community present were Hank Fischer, Mike Schwarzkopf, Alice Singletary, Joe & Sarah Henry and Bob Gloss.

Dan made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes, seconded by Gregg, passed unanimously

There was discussion about the duplicity of surveys if people send in the one received via the mail, pick one up from Town Hall and get one off the internet.

We reviewed the letter Jennifer prepared to include with the survey. Minor modifications were made.

We reviewed what Tom had prepared as the news release for the public hearing. He also handed out the outline for the actual plan, including the table of contents and appendices. We can add more appendices, as we feel necessary to cover additional topics of concern for Jefferson. Tom wanted a source for history of the Town. We directed him to Walter Ruland, the Maple Festival book, the Historical Committee and the Fire Department. We gave him a copy of the Heritage Day 2005 booklet, which has history of the town in it also.

There was discussion about population vs. housing increases and also problems that Roxbury experienced. We also discussed subdivision vs. conservative subdivision. Open space serves many different purposes – recreation, environmental, historical/cultural, social, economic, functional and esthetic.

Then there was discussion about cluster developments vs. conservation development. Conservation plans the open space, amount and quality and then builds to what is left. Cluster, builds and then plans the conservation space with what is left over. Our plan should include the ability for us to work and negotiate with builders, sub-dividers and developers. Open space should not be what is left over after development. Focus on density, not lot size. Connected open space serves more individuals. Open space should be incorporated into the subdivision plan.

Dan would like to see the planning board be more educated about the options available. Should we address moratoriums on development, wind towers, etc. Tom says no because there becomes a pent up demand for action.

Everyone broke up into groups to fold and stuff envelopes. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.