

The Tuesday, 06 February 2007 meeting of the Master Plan Committee was brought to order at 7:10 p.m. by Chairman Galvin. In attendance were members Jonathan Walters, Pete Nelson, Larry VanBrunt, John Fishman, Al Wassenhove, Gil Raab, Nick Tipple, Frank Mendelson, Jim Beal, Mark Clarke and Chairman Jim Galvin. Also in attendance were Town Counsel Ted Guterman, and Don Meltz of Don Meltz Planning & GIS.

Al Wassenhove and Mark Clarke spoke about survey-related issues such as accuracy, number of surveys and required information, in addition to data being collected by the various Sub Committees. There was a general discussion of the following issues: population trends, housing, the definition and availability of 'affordable housing,' specifics about lot sizes, housing for seniors and zoning versus subsidizing. The question was raised whether surveys are objective or subjective.

Gil Raab reported on the collection of local and regional history in relation to addressing the question of what is presently in place. He informed the meeting that a great amount of information is contained in the Town Master Plans from 1974 and 1994 and he is availing himself of it. Mr. Raab also mentioned that he has spoken with Town Highway Superintendent Mike Losa about various Town historical factors.

There was a general discussion of subjects such as museums, definition of utilities, businesses in the Columbia County Commerce Park, cultural and national historic sites, recreational facilities and currently protected open spaces.

Pete Nelson informed the meeting that Jim Galvin, John Fishman and he have been discussing affordable housing and will require information from the Town's Assessors.

It was agreed that all Sub Committees will forward their reports to Nan Stolzenburg who, in turn, will relay them onto other Committee members.

At next month's meeting, Don Meltz will give power point presentation regarding the workshop process. There was agreement that the workshops must be well advertised. Don Meltz will supply Jim Galvin with press release materials. Jim will have some fliers available at the March 2007 meeting. It was determined, contingent upon Nan Stolzenburg's availability, the weekday workshop be held the evening of Tuesday, 03 April 2007 and the weekend workshop be held either Saturday, 21 April or Saturday, 28 April. Don Meltz will confirm dates with Jim Galvin; Barbara Barrie will distribute this information to members. Larry VanBrunt will check availability of the VFW and the West Ghent Fire House, based upon Ms Stolzenburg's schedule.

There was a general discussion about setting up for the workshops, including: what the Committee will supply, sign-in sheets, time of day and duration, table set up and refreshments. When workshops are completed, the gathered data will be recorded and ranked.

There was a discussion of what segments of the Town of Ghent population will attend the workshops and complete a survey.

The meeting was reminded that Jonathan Walters is putting together an overview of the Town's previous Master Plans. Don Meltz informed members that the web site is ready for the Committee to post documents.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Master Plan Committee will be Tuesday, 06 March 2007.

The February 2007 meeting of the Ghent Master Plan Committee was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.