

**TOWN OF GHENT
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

06 MAY 2008

Chairman Jim Galvin called the 06 May 2008 meeting to order at 7:10 pm. In attendance were members Peter Nelson, Aaron Groom, John Fishman, Frank Mendelson, Gil Raab, Nick Tipple, Al Wassenhove, and Janice Fingar. Absent were members Jonathan Walters, Larry Van Brunt, Jim Beal, Phil Trowbridge and Kyle Wilber. Also in attendance were Town Attorney Ted Guterman, and Nan Stolzenburg of Community Planning and Environmental Associates.

There were two members of the public in attendance. These members were recognized to make comment but both deferred such comment for a later time.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the April 2008 meeting and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Frank Mendelson had prepared a draft of a new Vision Statement. He indicated that he would like to see more specific information in the Vision Statement as to what the Town should look like in the future. The Town Attorney and the Town Consultant both indicated that the committee should be careful not to be too specific and that perhaps some of the language for the proposed Vision Statement could be incorporated as strategies. The Committee will continue to review the proposed Vision Statement and provide comments at the next meeting.

Copies of revised Goal 7 were handed out to Committee members.

The Committee then proceeded to continue review of Goal 5. A discussion was had regarding the recommendation of proposed pavement widths for local streets. The Town Attorney indicated that the Town Engineer, Town Highway Superintendent and one of the Town Board members to review the proposed new road specifications, recently held a meeting. At that meeting, it was recommended the width for the paved portion of a roadway should be 22 feet. Some Committee members felt that this was too wide. The Committee decided that it wanted the input from the Town Highway Superintendent on this issue. The suggestion was made that perhaps road pavement width could be defined by volume of use.

With regard to paragraph 3 of Goal 5, a discussion was had regarding the affect of shared driveways. It was pointed out that this was not mandatory but was a tool to use, where appropriate.

Paragraph 4 of Goal 5 was approved.

Paragraph 5 of Goal 5 (formerly paragraph 7) was changed to read, "Develop mechanisms to slow vehicular speed where necessary and appropriate." Part (a) of this point was changed to read, "Where appropriate, new roads should be built in a grid or a modified grid pattern...."

With respect to Point 5 (b) the Committee felt that it would be helpful to have input from Town Highway Superintendent Mike Losa. Also, with respect to this Point 5 (b) the Committee indicated that the text beginning with "some of the techniques that may be appropriate..." through the end of that point should be deleted.

New Point 6 of Goal 5 (formerly 8) was approved.

New Point 7 (formerly 9) was changed to read, "For hamlets, development standards should be different from standards in rural-residential areas. New hamlet streets should be required to be constructed with sidewalks (at least on one side), street trees, and traditionally styled streetlights."

Point 8 (formerly Point 10) was approved.

Point 9 (formerly Point 11) was changed to read, "Evaluate traffic access and drainage issues on Town roadways and establish a plan to implement repairs or changes as necessary."

Points 10, 11, 12 and 13 (formerly Points 12, 13, 14 and 15) were approved. Point 14 (formerly Point 16) was deleted.

Member Nick Tipple then presented information to the Committee regarding what public transportation is available to residents of Ghent. He mentioned Cossackie Transport providing ambulance and bus services, service to the airport, shopping shuttles and a taxi service. He also spoke about the Health Care Consortium, taxi availability, RSVP and ride programs, Folmsbee Transportation and Busy Bee Errand Service. It was suggested that the Committee compile this information and that the Town should act as a conduit to provide this information to its residents. Perhaps this information could be made available on the Town website.

The Committee then proceeded to review proposed Goal 6. Points 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 were approved. A discussion took place with respect to Point 3 and the language regarding the sidewalk fund. The paragraph was amended to read, "Provide for the construction of new sidewalks or maintain and improve existing sidewalks in the hamlets. Subdivision and site plan laws should include standards for provision of sidewalks, bike paths or other pathways as appropriate." With respect to Point 6, it was agreed that this should be expanded to provide more information regarding what ride services could be available.

Copies of Goal 8 were distributed to members so they can come prepared to discuss this goal at the next meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for 03 June 2008 at 7:00 pm. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm.