



Niagara Communities Comprehensive Plan

Public Information Meeting #3 Meeting Notes

DATE: June 25, 2008
PLACE: Niagara County Community College, Faculty Dining Room, G212
TIME: 7:00 – 9:00PM

ATTENDEES: Clough Harbour & Associates planners, County staff and members of the general public.

PURPOSE: To provide an update on the planning process. The first portion of the meeting consisted of a presentation by Walt Kalina, Project Manager, on the Comprehensive Plan's progress to date and next steps. The second portion of the meeting was an "open house" in the Niagara County Community College cafeteria, where meeting attendees were able to ask questions and provide input on issues and opportunities by annotating maps of the County's subregions.

MINUTES:

- 1. Project Status Update:** Project Manager Walt Kalina provided an update on the status of the Comprehensive Plan. This included a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of this presentation is attached to these minutes. Achievements of note since the previous public meeting include:
 - Issues and opportunities identified by Stakeholder Steering Committee members pertaining to land use, the natural environment, economic development, and County facilities, services and infrastructure have been compiled in a single document.
 - A map of the County's "growth centers" has been developed, utilizing information from the Niagara communities' planning documents. This map is being circulated by way of the Steering Committee, in order to generate feedback from the municipalities. Growth center locations will be used in the analysis of impacts of various growth scenarios, using CommunityViz software.
 - Population projections from the Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council (GBNRTC) were utilized as the basis for "stepping down" countywide population projections to 2030 from Cornell University. This provides an alternative to the GBNRTC's projections, which anticipate an upward growth trend over the next 20 years. Cornell University's projections are in line with the trend from 1990 to 2000: population loss. Using CommunityViz modeling software, a "slider bar" can be used to show various growth rates between these two estimates.

2. Next Steps:

- **Goals and Objectives:** Issues and opportunities identified by members of the Stakeholder Communities Steering Committee will be used as the basis for a set of goals and objectives for each of the five elements of the Comprehensive Plan. These will be tailored to each of the County's sub-regions, as necessary.
 - **Countywide Vision:** Steering committee members and the general public are invited to contribute suggestions for the County's vision statement.
 - **CommunityViz** software will be used to evaluate the impacts of various growth scenarios on environmental resources and County services.
 - The **next public meeting** will be held on **August 27, 2008** at Niagara County Community College.
 - A **public hearing** is tentatively scheduled for **October 1st, 2008** at Niagara County Community College.
3. **Open House Session:** After the formal presentations, the meeting adjourned to the cafeteria, where visual stations were available for public review. Visual stations consisted of maps of the County sub-regions showing municipal boundaries, major roads, parks and environmental resources (e.g., wetlands, hydric soils, water bodies, etc.).
4. The two-page comment sheet / questionnaire introduced at the previous public meeting was again available for meeting attendees to fill out, as a means of providing feedback on the planning process.

The meeting ended at approximately 8:30PM.