

PLAN COMMISSION BEGINS LAND USE ELEMENT

On **Tuesday, January 27, 2004**, the Town of Winchester Plan Commission started its work on the Land Use Element at tonight's meeting. In the plan, the Land Use Element will be divided between two chapters (existing land use and future land use). The focus of tonight's meeting was on the Existing Land Use.

To begin the discussion, OMNNI Associates presented a draft of the Existing Land Use Chapter. This chapter is very basic in nature and includes only that information that is required by the comprehensive planning law. Specifically, it includes a description of existing land uses, zoning, and other existing regulations. The chapter concludes with a basic analysis related to development trends and opportunities for redevelopment. A copy of the draft chapter is posted to this web page.

Much of the meeting was spent reviewing the Draft Existing Land Use and Zoning Maps. These maps were prepared by OMNNI using data available from Winnebago County. The Plan Commission and residents in attendance noted several changes that are needed. OMNNI will be working on these changes and presenting revised maps at the next meeting.

The rest of the meeting was spent discussing the format of the Mid-Course Meeting, which is scheduled for February 5, 2004. The Plan Commission is hopeful that many residents will attend to provide their ideas about Land Use in the Town.

The next Element **Meeting with OMNNI will be on February 24, 2004 at 7pm.** At the meeting, discussion will focus on the results of the Mid-Course Meeting and the Draft Future Land Use Chapter. All residents are encouraged to attend the comprehensive planning meeting to learn more about the process and provide input.

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