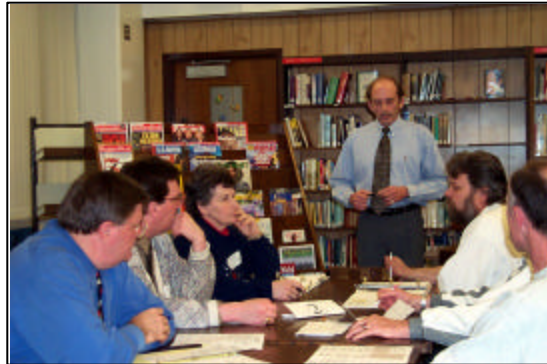


Progress on Comprehensive Plan Continues

City and Town of Brillion Plan Selected as Pilot Project

Since September of 2000 the City and Town of Brillion have been working together to develop a Coordinated Comprehensive Plan in accordance with Wisconsin's "Smart Growth" Law.

City and Town representatives have been meeting regularly to discuss and develop common planning issues, goals and objectives. Over the winter months, the committee has been developing a vision for the City and Town of Brillion. This vision represents what is desired for both the Town and the City in 2020. The vision will serve as a driving force in the planning efforts, providing a clear direction and focus for planning activities. During the summer



months the committee will be working to finalize the vision and develop a draft survey to get resident input about planning and development issues for use in the plan.

The planning effort by the City and Town of Brillion has had the honor of being selected by the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) as one of two national pilot projects. In this capacity, the NRCS will be providing the City and Town with additional planning and mapping services free of charge. Moreover, the planning program used in the City and Town of Brillion will serve as a model for other communities across the country. In May, the NRCS has hosted a community issues identification and conflict management training seminar for representatives of the committee. In June, the NRCS facilitated a mapping exercise with the committee to identify areas of concern and help to further develop the vision. Specific NRCS program elements include:

Leadership Training Modules

In May of 2001, Jeff Kenyon, a sociologist/anthropologist from the NRCS Social Sciences Institute in Madison facilitated a day long leadership training seminar in the Town of Brillion Municipal Services Building. The seminar consisted of three training modules: community issues identification, addressing community issues, and conflict management. Representatives from the Coordinated Plan Committee, City and Town officials, OMNNI Associates, and Calumet County Planning staff participated in the seminar. The purpose of this training was to assist local leaders with future planning challenges. The strategies and techniques outlined by Mr. Kenyon will likely prove most useful during the implementation of the Coordinated Comprehensive Plan.

Cognitive Mapping

On June 5, 2001, Dr. Thomas Greene, Gains Professor of Psychology from St. Lawrence University in New York, and several of his students facilitated the first of two meetings with the Coordinated Plan Committee to develop a series of cognitive, or mental, maps. At this meeting, committee members were asked to color three maps of the City and Town of Brillion to identify areas of concern, travel paths and areas that are aesthetically pleasing.



In September of 2001, Dr. Greene will return to present the findings of the cognitive mapping exercise. The information gained from this exercise will be very important to the development of the Land Use Plan Maps and to finalizing the collective vision for the City and Town of Brillion.

GIS Mapping

Currently, Calumet County is working to complete GIS-based maps for all portions of Calumet County. Given their funding and staff limitations, the county estimates that all mapping work could be completed by 2003. However, now that the NRCS has selected the City and Town of Brillion as a pilot project, the University of Wisconsin-Madison Land Information and Computer Graphics Facility will be working to expedite completion of a series of GIS-based land use, soils, and physical features maps for the City and Town of Brillion by the fall of this year. All maps developed under the NRCS pilot will be made available to Calumet County.

Attitude Survey

The NRCS needs to conduct a survey of City and Town residents to assess their attitudes about land use and development issues. Likewise, the Coordinated Plan Committee needs to complete a similar survey of residents. Through the NRCS pilot project the two surveys will be combined and expert sociologists will be responsible for collecting and analyzing the survey data.

For additional information about the planning process, please look for articles in the Brillion News, Town of Brillion Newsletter, City of Brillion Newsletter, and at this website. The Coordinated Plan Committee meets on the first Tuesday at 7:30 pm of every other month. The next meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2001. All meetings are open to the public.