

## Plan Commission “Kicks-Off” Smart Growth Planning Process

**Wednesday, April 30, 2003** –  
The Town of Black Creek Plan Commission hosted a kick-off meeting to officially begin work on the Town of Comprehensive (Smart Growth) Plan.



Over the next 18 months, the Plan Commission will be working with Town residents, business owners and its planning consultant (OMNNI Associates), to develop a plan that will guide the Town over the next 20 years.

Town Chairman, Marv Samson, welcomed all in attendance and introduced Amy Emery of OMNNI Associates, the Town's planning consultant.

At this point, Ms. Emery gave a detailed presentation to answer the following questions:

- ? [What is Smart Growth?](#)
- ? [Why is the Town Developing a Plan?](#)
- ? [How can you get involved?](#)

The presentation also highlighted some of the key issues the Smart Growth Plan will need to address. These issues include:

- ? [Farmland Preservation](#)
- ? [Development at the STH 47/CTH A Interchange](#)
- ? [Population Growth](#)
- ? [Natural Resource Protection](#)

At this point, OMNNI asked participants to answer the following questions:

- ? [What do you value about the Town?](#)
- ? [What makes the Town special?](#)
- ? [What would you tell someone about the Town who is visiting for the first time?](#)

Everyone was provided a ½ sheet of paper to write down his or her answers. OMNNI asked for volunteers to share their answers. Generally, the answers reflected a great pride in the rural atmosphere of the community. A list of common answers will be provided in the *Plan Introduction Chapter* of the Town of Black Creek Smart Growth Plan.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to performing a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threats (SWOT) exercise. Everyone in attendance was asked to describe what he or she felt were the Town's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities to improve itself, and threats to its well-being.

After everyone had recorded their own ideas, participants worked in groups to discuss their answers and decide on the most important Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat facing the Town. Each group then shared their collective answers, while Amy Emery recorded the ideas. Individuals were then asked to vote on what they believe is the most important strengths and weakness. The results of this exercise will be incorporated into the "Issues and Opportunities" Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Plan Commission will meet on the first Tuesday of each month to work on the Smart Growth Plan. The **next meeting will be at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, May 6, 2003 at the Town Hall.** At this meeting the focus will be on discussing visions for the future. Residents are encouraged to attend any meeting.

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