

## Village “Kicks-Off” Smart Growth Planning Process

**Thursday, June 5, 2003** –The Village of Black Creek Plan Commission hosted a kick-off meeting to officially begin work on the Town and Village of Black Creek Comprehensive (Smart Growth) Plan.



Over the next 22-30 months, the Plan Commission will be working with Town of Black Creek, area residents, local business owners and its planning consultant (OMNNI Associates), to develop a plan that will guide area over the next 20 years.

OMNNI Associates gave a detailed presentation to answer the following questions:

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

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

- [Downtown Business Development](#)
- [Natural Resource Protection/Stormwater Issues](#)
- [STH 47 Bypass Potential](#)

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

- [What do you value about the Village?](#)
- [What makes the Village special?](#)
- [What would you tell someone about the Village 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 and Village 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 two groups to discuss their answers and decide on the most important Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat facing the Village. Each group then shared their collective answers, while OMNNI recorded the ideas. Individuals were then asked to vote on what they believe is the most important strength and weakness. The results of this exercise will be incorporated into the "Issues and Opportunities" Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

The Village Smart Growth Meeting will be on Thursday, June 12, 2003 in the Village Community Room at 7pm. At this meeting the focus will be on discussing visions for the future. Residents are encouraged to attend any meeting.