

Town of Center Kicks-Off Planning Program At Special Meeting

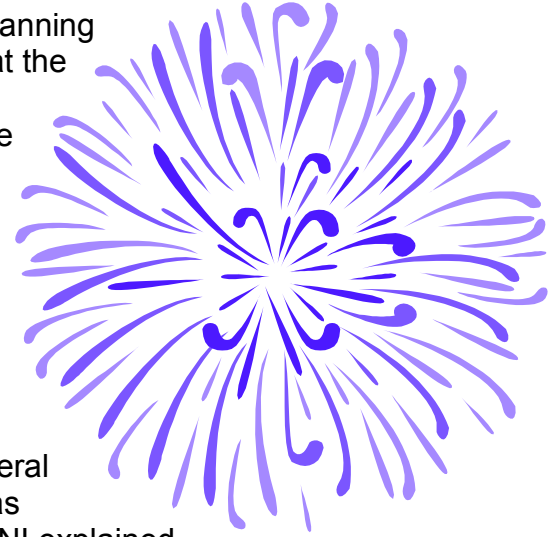
Monday, February 25, 2002 –The Town of Center Planning Commission hosted a “Kick-Off” Meeting at 7:00 pm at the Town of Center Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to provide residents with general information about the Smart Growth Law and the Town of Center comprehensive planning process.

Dennis Buschke, Chair of the Planning Commission, welcomed all in attendance and introduced Bill Elman and Amy Emery of OMNNI Associates, the town’s planning consultant.

To begin the presentation, Bill and Amy provided general information about the Smart Growth Law – when it was enacted, what it is intended to accomplish, etc. OMNNI explained how the *Town of Center Comprehensive Plan* must address the nine required plan elements ([click here for more information](#)) in order to comply with the Smart Growth Law. Each element will include an overall vision, an inventory of current conditions/resources, and a series of goals and objectives the town will use in its effort to achieve its vision.

After a break for questions, OMNNI presented background information about the Town of Center. This information was based on a review of existing information (including 2000 U.S. Census data). Highlights of the background information included:

- The Town of Center population has been steadily growing. Between 1970 and 2000 the population increased by 71%. The 2000 U.S. Census population for the town was 3,163.
- The town has many important County and State Corridors, including: STH 47, CTH S, and CTH A.
- Mackville and Center Valley provide unique focus areas for planning.
- The Town of Center enjoys a prime location north of Appleton.



Bill and Amy then discussed some of the important issues that the plan will address, including: land development, farmland protection, the expansion of STH 47 and intergovernmental cooperation.

OMNNI presented information about how residents can become involved in the planning program by:

- Participating at the Mid-Course, Map Forum and Public Hearing meetings;
- Attending the Planning Commission meetings;
- Look for articles in the Town Newsletter; and
- Following Plan Progress and Providing Feedback on the Internet

Discussion was then held on other ways to keep the public informed and participating in the planning process. Suggestions included:



- Keeping a message board at the Town Hall
- Distributing a survey
- Sending a letter to all residents

Prior to adjourning, participants were asked to share their ideas about important town values. Specifically, participants were asked to explain why they live in the Town of Center and describe what makes Center a special place. Comments included:

- Open Spaces and Large Spaces
- Open Lots
- Ability to Ride Bicycles on Town Roads
- 5-Minutes from Good Hospitals
- Low Crime Rate
- Great Eating Establishments
- Good Transportation – CTH S, CTH A, STH 47, Ballard Road

The next Smart Growth Meeting is scheduled for April 22, 2002 at 7:00 pm. All residents are urged to attend.

Please check this site again for updates!!!!!!!!!!