

# Planning Commission Hosts Mid-Course Meeting

Thursday, March 27, 2003 –The Town of Center Planning Commission hosted a “Mid-Course” Meeting at 7:00 pm at the Town of Center Hall. This meeting represented the halfway point of the planning effort. Prior to the meeting, an announcement about the event was published in the Town Newsletter. Nearly 50 residents attended.

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 Bob Stadel and Amy Emery of OMNNI Associates, the town’s planning consultant. Ms. Emery presented information about the Smart Growth Law and what has been done in the planning process so far.

Next, Bob Stadel asked residents to write down what they value about the Town of Center. What makes the Town of Center a Special Place to Work? Responses received are available on this web page by clicking on the [WHY IS CENTER SPECIAL](#) item from the main page.

Following the value exercise, Mr. Stadel had residents working to identify the town’s strengths and weaknesses. During this exercise residents were seated in groups. After individuals wrote down their ideas, each group discussed the answers to select the 3 most important strengths and 3 most important weaknesses.

At this point, each group shared their answers with everyone in attendance. OMNNI Associates recorded the answers. After all the group answers were recorded, everyone was given the opportunity to vote for what they believed was the most important strength and weakness of the Town of Center.

The complete list and vote tallies is provided in the table below:

<b>Strengths</b>	▪ Great Local Fire Department/Fire Protection	3
	▪ Quality Single Family Housing	2
	▪ Local Government	2
	▪ Roads	
	▪ First responders	3
	▪ The People – Service Minded	7
	▪ Ability to Plan and Control the Future	3
	▪ Location	12
	▪ Low Crime Rate	
	▪ Good Farmland	2
	▪ Low Taxes	

<b>Weaknesses</b>	▪ Arsenic-Wells	10
	▪ Old Landfill (Dump)	
	▪ No Public Sewer/Water Available	
	▪ Threat of Annexation	12
	▪ Low Taxes as a Potential to Increase Development and Cause Congestion	
	▪ Quarries	8
	▪ Widening of Roads will lead to more travel and crime	2
	▪ Lack of Light Commercial Businesses	2

The final activity of the evening allowed everyone to create his or her own Future Land Use Map of the Town of Center. OMNNI Associates collected all of the individual maps created. OMNNI will be working with these maps to create a Majority Opinion Map. This Majority Opinion Map will be an important tool to create the final Future Land Use Maps in the Town of Center Smart Growth Plan.

The next meeting of the Planning Commission is scheduled for April 24, 2003. At this meeting, the Planning Commission is scheduled to review DRAFTS of the Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources Element as well as the Economic Development Element. Both of these drafts were distributed earlier this year and are posted on this web page. Residents are welcome to attend and provide feedback.

The next meeting with OMNNI is scheduled for May 22, 2003. At that meeting, OMNNI will present the Majority Opinion Map and the DRAFT Existing Land Use Chapter of the Plan.

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