

Planning Committee Begins “Smart Growth”



Tuesday, April 23, 2002 –The Town of Oconto Falls Planning Committee officially started its Comprehensive (Smart Growth) Planning program this month with a special Kick-Off Meeting. Over the next 18 months, the Planning Committee will be working with town residents and its planning consultant (OMNNI Associates), to develop the plan that will guide the town over the next 20 years.

To begin the Kick-Off Meeting, OMNNI Associates distributed binders and calendars to the committee for their use during the planning program. At this point, the Planning Committee provided general contact information to OMNNI Associates and decided that all meetings will be held on the 4th Tuesday of any month the committee needs to meet.

OMNNI then presented the Planning Committee with a DRAFT copy of the Town of Oconto Falls Public Participation Plan and Adoption Procedures. This document describes the activities that will be undertaken to keep the public informed about the planning process, and the procedures that will be followed in adopting the plan. The Planning Committee reviewed the document and recommended that the Town Board adopt it as presented. Once approved, this document will serve as a guide for the committee. A complete copy of the document can be reviewed by [clicking here](#). The document will be included in the *Town of Oconto Falls Comprehensive Plan*.

Following this action, OMNNI reviewed the schedule of planning activities for 2002 and 2003 in detail. A copy of the schedule is available by [clicking here](#). During 2002, the Planning Committee will be focused on vision development activities. The year will culminate with the completion of the Issues and Opportunities and Housing Elements of the Comprehensive Plan. In the 2003, the program momentum will increase significantly. The committee will meet monthly to review draft plan chapters and information with OMNNI Associates.

Prior to adjourning, OMNNI asked the Planning Committee to share their perspective on town values. To do this, the committee members were asked to answer the following questions:

- Why do people live in the Town of Oconto Falls?
- What do residents value about Oconto Falls?
- What makes the Town of Oconto Falls a special community?

The responses to these questions will appear in the Issues and Opportunities Element, which will be completed later this year.