

September 19, 2003

MEETING MINUTES – September 18, 2003

SUBJECT: TONAWANDA COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC) Kick-Off Meeting

ATTENDANCE: Edward Umiker; George Melrose; Joseph Shiah; Roy Svensson; Robert Morris; Kenneth Swanekamp; Dave Johnson; Robert Mayer; Robert Dimmig; Drew Reilly; Ellen Parker

- I. Mr. Umiker made introductions and emphasized the importance of the project and the Committee's role.
- II. Mr. Reilly gave a brief overview of the project, the scope of services, and the schedule. Committee meetings will generally be held on Tuesday afternoons from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. The Committee will be taking an active role.
- III. The Committee was provided a preliminary list of data. It was noted that meetings with Department Heads and Town representatives will be an important source of information about relevant studies, data, concerns and issues.
- IV. Each Committee member was asked to list important issues the Town of Tonawanda faces:
 - There are no large residential building lots- need "step-up housing"
 - Need to be bicycle and pedestrian friendly
 - Need greater variety of housing types, including smaller homes for seniors
 - Libraries are important
 - Schools are neighborhood centers and big landowners in the Town
 - Need to prevent blight and degradation—there are many older homes, older businesses—need to ensure reinvestment
 - Transportation issues: for example, Kenmore Avenue
 - Tree maintenance and tree replacement policies—trees are important to community character, quality of life and property values
 - Economic development efforts to keep industries vital
 - The Plan needs to focus on "People" issues— look through the filter of how does the plan affect the residents—Tonawanda is a Community, not just a collection of physical features
 - Property maintenance is a difficult issue because of affordability problems
 - Kenmore is completing a Comprehensive Plan for the Business District, which Mr. Johnson will provide when it is done
 - Need to keep business districts vital—want a lot of activity
 - The streetscape project is resulting in more private investment in businesses
 - It is critical to consider the adjacent communities in the plan—especially Kenmore, but also City of Buffalo, City of Tonawanda
 - Kenmore wanted to participate, but had a funding problem
 - Pet peeves: bad smells, especially near the Grand Island Bridges; I-290 aesthetics
 - Bike and Pedestrian trail network is an important asset
 - Ellicott Creek is a major resource and deserves more attention
 - Could do more to promote the heritage and cultural aspects of the Erie Canal
 - Schools—could be better relationship between Town and School District(s)

- Resource protection—only a few stands of woods remaining, mostly in private hands
- Service clubs can provide good input
- Sidewalks are a big issue
- Terrorism and Homeland Security- how much should the plan address?
- Aqua Lane—being developed
- Post Offices- an issue (multiple zip codes, USPS had considered building a central facility, but nothing happened)
- Interagency cooperation is achieving positive results
- Quality of life is important
- Quality of education/ schools is important

V. The Committee identified neighborhoods on a map of the Town.

VI. The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 16 at 3:00 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

WENDEL DUCHSCHERER

Ellen L. Parker, AICP