

**PUBLIC HEARING FOR SMART GROWTH PLAN
TOWN OF BRIGHTON - FRANKLIN COUNTY, NY**

July 23, 2009

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A Public Hearing for the final Smart Growth Plan was held on Thursday, July 23, 2009 at 6 p.m. at the Brighton Town Hall, 12 County Road 31 (a.k.a. Jones Pond Road) in Paul Smiths, NY, with the following:

CALL TO ORDER:

The Public Hearing was Called to Order by Supervisor David Knapp at 6:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF TOWN OFFICERS

PRESENT: Supervisor David Knapp, Council Members: Sheila Delarm, Jeffrey Leavitt and Steve Tucker

ABSENT: Council Members: Lydia Wright

OTHERS PRESENT: Elaine Sater - Town Clerk, 13 other interested people

The "Pledge to the Flag" was recited.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: Notice of this hearing was posted Thursday, July 9, on the Town Clerk's Sign Board and at three post offices and businesses in the Town. Notice was published twice in the Adirondack Daily Enterprise on Thursday, July 9 and 16, 2009.

Supervisor David Knapp stated that the purpose of this public hearing was for Rebecca Buerkett, of FX Browne, Inc., to describe the Smart Growth Plan she created with the help of Town residents and other businesses. The Plan (98 pages) is available to review at the Town Hall and on the Town's website at "townofbrighton.net" under Smart Growth Plan.

Rebecca Buerkett of FX Browne, Inc., and a resident described the different aspects about the Town she discovered while working on this project. The Town obtained a "Smart Growth" Grant in the amount of \$46,400 through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to hire FX Browne, Inc., Point of View Studios, and the Wildlife Conservation Society to look at the Town's potential for growth and create a plan for sustainable economic development. The key issues facing Brighton are addressed in the Executive Summary attached to these minutes.

Leslie Karasin, Program Manager for the Wildlife Conservation Society, explained the GIS mapping provided by Michael Martin of Cedar Eden Environmental, LLC. There are several unique features in the Town pertaining to the environment, such as rare plant and animal species, boreal birds, large aquifer, watersheds, wetlands, and large core forest habitats. Currently there is no invasive species detected in the Town's waterways, except in Lake Meacham.

The floor was opened for public comments.

1. Telecommunications:

- a. A resident said a company called "Adirondack Broadband" is getting broadband to the St. Regis lakes area from Paul Smith's College.
- b. CBN Connect, Julie West, is working with DANC to get broadband into the area. The three highspeed internet companies in the area are not interested in providing any service to some areas since the population is so small.
- c. Wireless transmitters were discussed. One may be going in at the Adirondack Regional Airport and would cover part of Brighton.
- d. Common Ground Alliance is another organization trying to move the broadband highspeed access issue forward in the region.
- e. Residents said it was expensive to get a cable line from the main road to their houses.

2. Business development/Brighton Connections Brochure: Diane Leifheit of Point of View Studio, created a brochure that was printed with funds from businesses that advertised in the brochure. The brochure is available at businesses around the Town and on the Town's website at "townofbrighton.net".

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3. Reuse of Camp Gabriels

- a. The Department of Corrections was not very forthcoming with information. They have a deadline of September 30, 2009, to present a plan for reuse of the Camp. When the Camp was opened the Town Board contracted them to discuss hiring local people. The Town may need to be more proactive in contracting the Legislatures concerning this issue.
- b. One suggestion is to make it a historical tour site because of the historical buildings. Whatever goes in should have year- round jobs for local people. Ideas are needed as to what the residents would like to see in the Town. Local people stay year-round and need more than just summer jobs.
- c. **Robert Ross, CEO of St. Joseph's Addiction and Recovery Center** said he was interested in providing services to the inmates if it had stayed opened, but did not have the resources to use the Camp without the inmates. He would be interested in being part of a larger coalition to look at the use of the facility. He is not sure of the condition of the buildings. Senator Betty Little has been very helpful to him and she has contacts to obtains funds available from the federal "stimulus package" for drug addiction centers.

4. Transitory visitors: There are a lot of visitors to the area but there are very few places to eat or stay, the areas where people already live and work could be built up with businesses.

5. Planning: A resident asked what the Town could do without planning to prevent people from building. Currently the Town has no say in any building proposed by people who own property in the Town. The "sand pit" on the Rainbow Lake Road was used as a good example. The APA and DEC did not deny the application. The land owner withdrew the application because of the peoples's concern voiced at a public hearing.

6. Jobs: A resident said he would like to see more jobs for the local people so younger people stay in the area. The census shows that the median age of residents is getting higher each decade.

7. Action Plan of the most pressing needs was presented and is included in the Executive Summary. Local planning is an issue the Town should investigate if the Town wants to have control over where building takes place in the future. The Town Board does not have the time to attend all the meetings available in the area. If the Town hired a "Town planner or manager", that person could pursue grants and attend the meetings that discuss issues that affect the Town. The grant funds could cover some of the person's salary. Rebecca Buerkett's purpose is to open the dialogue so the residents can start talking about what is important to the Town. She is not telling the Town what it has to do, but she is making recommendations for residents to start thinking about the future of the Town's economic growth.

There were no further comments from the floor.

The Board thanked Rebecca Buerkett for her great effort in putting this Smart Growth Plan together.

Motion to Adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:53 p.m. made by Supervisor David Knapp, Second by Jeffrey Leavitt, Aye 4 (Delarm, Knapp, Leavitt, Tucker), Nay 0, Absent 1 (Wright)

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Sater
Brighton Town Clerk