

NEPEUSKUN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROCESS IS UNDERWAY

The Town of Nepeuskun has started the process to prepare its Comprehensive Plan, with the assistance of Crispell-Snyder Consulting. This will be a year- long project and will involve extensive public involvement. The result will be a Comprehensive Plan that addresses a host of Town issues, with a particular emphasis on land use, agriculture, resource preservation, and rural character.

Comprehensive planning has gained statewide attention in recent years with the adoption of new legislation affecting how comprehensive plans are prepared in Wisconsin, affectionately title "Smart Growth." The Town's Comprehensive Plan will be designed to meet the requirements of that legislation and respond to local needs and desires.

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A Comprehensive Plan helps guide the type, location, and appearance of growth and preservation in a community, generally over the next 20 years. It is not the same as a zoning ordinance or zoning map, which are tools often used to help implement the Comprehensive Plan. More specifically, comprehensive plans:

- Include maps, graphics, and text describing current and desired future conditions, as decided by each local community.
- Indicate local goals, objectives, and policies for future growth.
- Propose generally where future development should occur based on local input
- Provide recommendations for future roads, utilities, parks, and community facilities.
- Include strategies for farmland, forest, and natural area preservation.
- Provide recommendations for how future development should appear.
- Include strategies for job and tax base growth.
- Cover each of the nine required elements (*Issues and Opportunities; Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources; Land Use; Transportation; Housing; Economic Development; Utilities and Community Facilities; Intergovernmental Cooperation, and Implementation*).
- Are guided by a citizen participation plan that ensures public input opportunities throughout the planning process. A copy of the citizen participation plan is on file with the Town Clerk.

How will the Public be Involved?

The Plan Commission and Crispell-Snyder take seriously the need to engage as many residents as possible in the planning process. The Plan Commission and Crispell-Snyder's job is not merely to produce a report, but to reach out and collaborate with the community, to educate residents about planning, and to involve them in developing the plan. These goals stem from the fundamental aim of the planning process: to engage residents in building community consensus for a vision for Nepeuskun's future.

Public Visioning Workshop

What's your vision for the future of Nepeuskun?

Date: Wednesday, July 30th.

Time: 7-9pm

Location: Town Hall, 1475 County Road E.

Public Visioning Workshop

The planning process will begin with a public visioning workshop in July 2008. Members of the community will meet in small groups to engage in a guided discussion on what the current assets, issues, and opportunities are in the community and to identify specific top priority goals and actions for the comprehensive plan. A second workshop will be held in the winter to discuss future land use in the Town.

Conduct Public Planning Meetings

The Town will conduct monthly planning meetings that are open to the public and offer opportunities for participation by the public. The Plan Commission has been tasked by the Town Board to serve as the steering committee for the Comprehensive Plan. All meetings will be open to the public and notices will be posted at Town Hall, and on the town website (www.townofnepeuskun.org).

Focus Groups

Crispell-Snyder will conduct six focus groups individuals identified by the Plan Commission. These focus groups will cover a wide range of topics and are designed to solicit additional insight into key issues.

Town-Wide Survey

Late this summer or early fall, the Plan Commission, with the assistance of Crispell-Snyder, will conduct a town-wide survey to collect public input for the comprehensive plan. The survey will be mailed to residences as part of the next Town Newsletter.

Website and Newspaper Articles

Throughout the process, regular updates to the Town's website will be made. Articles in the Town Newsletter and local newspapers will also help to keep residents informed.

Open House and Plan Adoption

Towards the end of the project, a draft of the plan, including maps will be available for viewing in an informal open house format. Participants will be able to submit written comments regarding the Plan, and comments will be reviewed by the Plan Commission for discussion prior to formal action on the Plan.

Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held with the Town Board to formally adopt the Plan, in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes. All public hearings will be open to the public and written and oral testimony will be taken.

Receive and Respond to Written Requests

Comments and questions regarding the Comprehensive Plan Update are encouraged throughout the planning process. Correspondence can be forwarded to the Town Clerk, Rebecca Pinnow at 8605 Lake Rd, Ripon, WI 54971; phone number: (920) 748-3909; Internet website: www.townofnepeuskun.org.