

VILLAGE OF CENTRAL SQUARE

3125 East Avenue
Central Square, New York 13036

Planning Board

June 16, 2011

The Village of Central Square Planning Board met at Village Hall on June 16, 2011. Members present were Chairperson Stephen Williams, Burt Alm, Barbra Davis, Maryellen Commisso and JudyAnn Trombley, Secretary. Also in attendance were Mayor Murphy, Debbie Bilello, Mark and Linda Martino, Kay Buschle, Rob and Noreen Drabot, Paul Baxter, Donald and Chad Penoyer, and Ann Woodward.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Stephen Williams, at 7:00PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomed the attendees, explained that there were just a few points of business that needed to be addressed prior to beginning discussion on the Comprehensive Plan and thanked them for their patience.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairperson Stephen Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2011 Planning Board Meeting with two corrections. The motion was seconded by Burt Alm, the Board was polled and the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairperson Stephen Williams tabled discussion regarding "carports/portable garages" until the next meeting.

On the topic of "Political Signs," the Board reviewed the letters from the Planning Board to the Village Board and Mark Bombardo, Codes Enforcement Officer, as well as his response letter. A brief discussion regarding the procedure to forward to the Zoning Board of Appeals or does the Planning Board write a modification to make Municipal Code Chapter 198-2 "Signs" and Chapter 250-18 "Zoning" information consistent. It was agreed that a note of recommendation to the Village Trustees to proceed to amend the following law as follows:

Change Chapter 198-2 **from:**

Time limits; obstruction of traffic prohibited, A. *Political signs may not be affixed or maintained **prior to eight (8) weeks** before the election. Dated 07-10-2002*

To: Chapter 198-2, Time limits; obstruction of traffic prohibited, A. *Political signs may not be affixed or maintained **prior to six (6) weeks** before the election.*

Change Chapter 250-18 **from:**

Signs, F. Specific sign restrictions, (1) Political sign, (d) *Political signs shall be removed **within sixteen (16) days** after the election to which said sign pertains.* Dated 02-5-2007

To: Chapter 250-18 Signs, F. Specific sign restrictions, (1) Political sign, (d) *Political signs shall be removed **within forty-eight (48) hours** after the election to which said sign pertains.*

Chairperson Williams made a motion to submit a letter (copy attached) to the Village Trustees requesting the acknowledgement of the above changes and procedure to amend the laws for consistency within the Municipal Code. The motion was seconded by Barbra Davis, the Board was polled and the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairperson Steve Williams opened discussion on review of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan. He thanked all in attendance for their interest. He made special mention of those in attendance who assisted with the development and earlier revisions of the Plan.

Kay Buschle suggested the cemetery property didn't belong to the Village at that time and should have a statement in the Plan, now. She mentioned the statements regarding the Park and Ada Powell Smith as examples.

Barbra Davis asked if there were census numbers available. Chairperson Steve Williams requested research on census numbers with special regard for medium income, business tax base contributing to Village now versus prior to 2008, etc. for the next meeting.

Chairperson Steve Williams asked the attendees their thoughts on what will attract people to our community.

Mayor Murphy commented on different routes for circumventing traffic around industrial development with an example being possibly a connection between Corporate Drive and Gertude Drive.

Don Penoyer commented that he didn't think that the example would eliminate village traffic issues with the majority coming from the north.

Mayor Murphy commented on the location of the fire company and ambulance in relation to the location of the railroad tracks has always been a concern in the village with these two services being opposite sides of the tracks.

Chairperson Williams brought out the topic of infrastructure and two examples needing attention: 1) a sidewalk linking older downtown to newer progress center via Route 49 and, 2) widening Routes 12, 49 and 11 to accommodate a bike path. It was further suggested that this change may also help with festival as well as other activities and all bikers following routes that link other bike paths/routes.

The topic of traffic continued with the specific location being the sidewalk nearby St. Michael's Church on Route 11. Safety concerns have long been talked about with regard to it being so dangerous for walkers and those waiting for buses in that area. Chairperson Williams asked about the Traffic Study that had been done several years past and requested that a copy of that study be available at the next meeting for review.

Debbie Bilello stated the school bus traffic, in areas without a sidewalk, is a recurring nightmare. She did say that she was aware that the police do everything they can, but they are limited as well. Debbie also mentioned the housing at Meadowview in the regard of changing demographics in tenants that seems to be moving away from senior housing and more of low income housing, now. She commented on security issues at Meadowview, as well.

Mayor Murphy brought out that there are designs, in fact, one proposed to change the intersection of Route 12 to Route 11 by the school, moving it down.

Don Penoyer commented on a "Round-About" still being on proposal. He explained for all what it is and gave examples of localities having this type of traffic circle. He went on to say that burying overhead wires and opening up parking areas would do much for the aesthetic appeal to the community.

Mayor Murphy mentioned eliminating telephone poles and modifying lamp poles with solar energy has been a vision going forward that he hopes will happen in the near future.

Barbra Davis added that businesses coming into the community have difficulty with unaffordable seasonal heating prices coupled with insufficient parking and just those two issues make it unappealing to any prospective new, small business.

Mayor Murphy commented on wind and solar energy being looked into as alternative energy sources as more affordable choices for energy savings in the future. He added with the revision on the pumping station a savings of 30% off last year's amount was realized.

A Historical Background of Central Square section is at the end of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan. The start year is 1789 and it progresses through 2005 with events listed for each year listed. Chairperson Stephen Williams suggested that

Trustee Heather Stevens, be contacted (copy attached) to compile events to be added from 2005 to this present year and submit this data for the continuation of the historical background section of the revised Plan.

The question was raised regarding why businesses would move north from Onondaga County, with incentives from County and State programs being one answer. Don Penoyer commented the Empire Zone had been eliminated due in some part to redistricting guidelines. It was explained that there were areas set aside by the State for businesses who were required to apply and be accepted by the program. There were large tax breaks, as well as other incentives for businesses being accepted. Barbra Davis added that along with the benefits, there may also have been a fear of losing tax base from abuse of such programs.

Chairperson Williams mentioned that Central Square may be a “well kept secret” with mixed blessings that go along with that as more population comes in, more of what we may not want will follow.

Don Penoyer brought out that there should be more available downtown for the kids, as well as all generations to use as a community and participate in. If we facilitate the infrastructure with something new that would benefit the community and attract others, it would foster growth and inspire a sense of pride.

A brief discussion regarding vacant parcels and the large houses that were popular and prominent in the past, resulted in agreement that most people find the older, large houses unaffordable in several aspects and upkeep very difficult. Smaller homes and even smaller yards are fast becoming a majority choice and that could continue well into the future, along with multiples (i.e., apartment building complexes) being the first choice for those interested in little or no outside maintenance at all. Industry needing local places for housing of workers was also part of this discussion.

Zoning for professionals and a need to explore existing boundaries was brought out by Barbara Davis. Her observation was that the boundaries seem sporadic and not well blended in and around the community. “Business from home” may be encouraged if zoning was more in balance and less like a jigsaw puzzle. Tom Baxter felt that zoning would be at the foundation of the Comprehensive Plan going forward.

Chairperson Stephen Williams stated that he is hopeful when this revision of the Plan is completed it would become a part of a monthly Village Trustees’ meeting, where it is routinely talked about as a review of progress and realization of the goals set. He commended those who put endless hours into the Comprehensive Plan. He also commented on marketing the plan with students and ways to inform them of its completion. Mayor Murphy added that perhaps having a captured audience with

the Summer Recreation Staff. Burt Alm responded with an idea to utilize local university students, classes and/or clubs to take on the interest and become involved in some way.

Barbra Davis shared her opinion of “senior citizens” and “teens” being two areas needing attention in the Plan. A suggestion was made that the old IGA could be something positive for teens. Ann Woodward voiced concern regarding basketball at the park with teens and their behaviors, which spurred a short discussion on the latter.

Chairperson Stephen Williams listed four objectives he would like to see focused on for the next meeting:

1. Requesting Historical Background from 2005 to present from Trustee Heather Stevens, to be added to the present background found in the 2008 Comprehensive Plan.
2. Research community data from 2010 Census results.
3. Comprehensive Plan goals submitted to the newspaper for community.
4. Review feedback on Plan and make Traffic Study information available.

He went on to say that he would like to have a survey/poll questions on the Village website with a way to track/count answers. Possibly locating the original survey questions and enclose them with a Village sewer bill mailing for each residential address to participate in, was also a suggestion.

Burt Alm explained all the work that goes into developing and revision of a document such as this Comprehensive Plan and commended those who diligently served many hours in making it a realization. He believes tweaking the existing document framework will be most beneficial in going forward and to offer the message to the Department of Transportation that is what we need for our community, in September. His statement was met with all around agreement by attendees.

Kay Buschle said that moving the monument to the American Legion may help to make a difference in the intersection. Don Penoyer again brought out a “round-about” and that he finds nothing pretty at the center of town. He inquired about the Fire Department’s property on the intersection, usage and their possible move. This prompted Chairperson Stephen Williams to suggest a note to the Central Square Fire Department requesting a representative attend the next meeting. He also stated the important role of the Fire Department in the community and the Comprehensive Plan. Other community services and businesses were also suggested by Debbie Bilello. Don Penoyer commented that to have service you have to have support and a coordinated effort and that continued conversation will help make change.

Chairperson Stephen Williams will submit an article to the Citizen and Barbra Davis will contact the Post Standard, possibly a representative to attend the next meeting.

With no further business, the next Planning Board meeting/workshop was announced by Chairperson Williams as July 21, 2011 at 7:00PM. Chairperson Williams moved to adjourn the meeting/workshop at 8:47PM. The motion was seconded by Barbra Davis, the Board polled and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

JudyAnn Trombley
Planning Board Secretary