

ROCHESTER REPORTER



News & Facts about our Town

Published by the Rochester Town Board to keep residents informed and involved

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MEETINGS & EVENTS

12/14 (Th) Environmental Commission, 7pm TH

12/18 (M) Letters of Intent due for vacancies on Town commissions/boards/committees

12/19 (Tu) Planning Board, 7pm TH

12/20 (W) Youth Department Board, 9:30am CC

12/20 (W) Town Board (Audit), 4:30pm TH

12/20 (W) Interviews of applicants for vacancies on Town commissions/boards/committees, 5:30 pm TH

12/20 (W) Fire Commissioner Board Meeting, 7:30 pm AcF

12/25 (M) Town offices closed for Christmas

12/31 (M) General Tax Bills mailed

1/04 (Th) Public Hearing on extending building Moratorium, 7pm TH

1/04 (Th) Town Board Organizational Meeting, 7pm TH

TH=Town Hall
CC=Community Center
AcF=Accord Firehouse



Comprehensive Plan Update Approved

First Plan revision to get Board OK in 37 years!

The Update to the Town's Comprehensive Plan received approval at the November Town Board Audit meeting. The vote was 4 in favor, 1 opposed. The approval followed almost one year of work by the Planning & Zoning committee, outside consultants

and various other contributing residents.

With this approval, the Town's 1969 Comprehensive Plan has been made obsolete. The new Plan begins with an introductory section that establishes the context and rationale for the update. Following this are six

core plan elements, each with a separate goal statement, set of objectives and policy recommendations. These plan elements are:

- Environmental Quality
- Land Use
- Economic Development
- Community Char-

acter

- Infrastructure
- Government Services.

The Plan also presents a 5-year timetable and set of priorities for implementation.

The next step is for revisions to be made

(Continued on page 2)

Public Hearing on Moratorium Extension

A Public Hearing is scheduled for Jan 4, 2007 at 7PM in the Town Hall on a proposed 3-month extension of building moratorium, from Feb. 6, 2007 to May 6, 2007. (The public hearing will be followed by the Town's 2007 Organizational Meeting.) The need to extend the period of the building moratorium is to allow the Code Task Force to finish developing revisions to existing subdivision and zoning laws to make them consonant with the recently approved Comprehensive Plan Update.

Two New Fire Commissioners Elected

On Tuesday, Dec. 12, Town residents David Lawrence and Wayne Gray Sr. were elected to fill two vacant positions on the Board of Fire Commissioners. Mr. Lawrence was elected to fill a 5-year term, while Mr. Gray will fill a 1-year term, the time remaining on the seat held by a Commissioner who prematurely resigned. Almost 500 residents voted in the election.

2007 Transfer Station Permits on Sale

Town Transfer Station Use Permits for 2007 are now on sale. The cost of the permits has been raised to \$30.00 for Town residents (\$5.00 increase) and \$60.00 for non-residents (\$10.00 increase). The new permits can be purchased at the Transfer Station (by check only, from Tuesday to Saturday) and the Town Clerk's office (by check or cash, from Monday to Friday).

(*Comp Plan*, continued from page 1)

to the Town's subdivision and zoning statutes. Proposed revisions are being developed by the Code Task Force.

The approved Comprehensive Plan as well as the draft of the revised subdivision law can be downloaded from the Town website (www.townofrochester.net).

Please note both of these documents are very large and may take a while to download. Alternatively, copies can be obtained from the Town Clerk.

Part Time Help Wanted

The Transfer Station is looking for additional part time help for times of high usage or when the permanent staff are absent. The pay rate is \$8.50 per hour. Contact the Town Clerk for application information.

Vacancies to be filled on Town Commissions, Boards & Committees

The Town Board will accept Letters of Intent until Dec. 18, 2006 for upcoming vacancies on the following commissions, boards and committees:

- Youth Commission - 2
- Zoning Board of Appeals - 2 (5 year term and 1 alternate)
- Planning Board - 2 (7 year term and 1 alternate)
- Ethics Board - 2
- Hist. Pres. Commission - 2
- Business Development

Committee.

Interviews for these positions will be held at the Town Hall on December 20, 2006 beginning at 5:30 pm. Information on procedures for application can be found on the Town's website or obtained from the Town Clerk.

Please support your town by volunteering to serve.

Veterans' Park for Accord

A park to commemorate our veterans will soon be constructed behind the site of the town's Historic Museum. The proposed plot, measuring approximately 75 by 200 feet, will provide

easy access to municipal parking.

The design is being developed with the assistance of Ms. Nancy Copley, and will likely include stones-with-brass-plaques for each war, benches, a flagpole, paths, landscaping and fencing.

The plan to have two cell towers erected on Town property is moving forward. The company involved, Homeland Towers, and the Town Board are currently negotiating the terms of the lease agreement. If

Cell Towers Lease being Negotiated

Signs for Accord and six other Town hamlets have been purchased by the Historic Preservation Commission (from budgeted 2006 funds).

In addition, three historic markers are being refurbished under the direction of Bill Collier. When the work is complete, they will be erected along Route 209.

approved, the new towers should not only provide additional revenue to the Town (similar to an agreement with Time-Warner), but also provide much improved cell phone coverage and (broadband) internet connectivity to town residents and businesses.

The Highway Super-

intendent is working with Homeland Towers to solve a couple of remaining technical issues regarding actual placement of the towers.

Once agreement is reached, the company claims that improved communications services could be only a matter of several months away.

Pancake Breakfast at the Alligerville Fire House

Accord Fire District Company #3 is holding a pancake breakfast on Saturday, December 16th at the fire house in Alligerville from 7am to 11am. Cost is \$5.00 for adults, \$3.00 for kids up to 12 years old, and \$4.00 for older kids and seniors. At 4:00pm, there will be a tree lighting in front of "A Store in Alligerville."

Business Development Committee Up & Running

The recently reconstituted Business Development Committee (BDC) is planning its initial efforts in promoting an improved environment for business development and growth in the Town.

More specifically, the committee intends to survey existing business activity in the Town, develop a business recruitment plan with

incentives, and to make recommendations on zoning law changes that support targeted businesses.

The initial scope for the business survey has been expanded to include obtaining information on how the BDC can nurture and assist existing business, in addition to identifying opportunities for new businesses.

Also included in the business survey will be questions on what types of businesses the town needs or desires. For this, the BDC will get feedback from area residents as well as business owners.

In addition, businesses that have recently closed down (particularly those along Rt. 209) will be sur-

veyed as to the problems they encountered and the reasons they left. The purpose would be to determine if the town could have offered incentives to keep the businesses operational and to consider ways the Town could to extend assistance to struggling businesses in the future.

A flyer describing the BDC will be developed

for informational as well as recruitment purposes.

The BDC meets monthly at the Town Hall at 7 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2007. All are welcome to attend. More information about the BDC and its meetings are available on the town website.

List Your Business (It's Free!) Place information about your local business on the Town's website. If you have your own website, a direct link to it will be offered. Go to www.townofrochester.net and click on the *Business Directory* link for more information and to sign up.