

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

9/12 (Tu) ZBA, 7:30pm TH

9/13 (W) Comp. Plan Update,

P&Z Committee, 7pm TH

9/14 (Th) Environmental Com-

mission, 7pm TH

9/18 (M) Historic Preservation

Commission, 4pm TH

9/18 (M) Code Task Force,

7pm TH

9/19 (Tu) Planning Board, 7pm

TH

9/20 (W) Youth Dept. Board,

9:30am CC

9/20 (W) Fire Commissioner

Board Meeting, 7:30pm AcF

9/27 (W) Town Board (Audit),

4:30pm TH

9/27 (W) Comp. Plan Update,

P&Z Committee, 7pm TH

10/3 (Tu) Code Task Force,

6pm TH

10/05 (Th) Public Hearing:

Comp. Plan Update, 7pm AcF

10/05 (Th) Town Board Meet-

ing, after Publ. Hearing AcF

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

New Draft of Comprehensive Plan Public Comments Lead to Revisions

Over 100 residents attended the public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan Update conducted by the Planning & Zoning Committee on Aug. 29 at the Accord Fire Hall. The meeting, chaired by Supervisor Duke, was held to receive comments on the initial draft of the plan to use as input for a subsequent revision.

Members of the audience were

both critical and supportive of various aspects of the plan.

Public Hearing

A public hearing on the draft Comprehensive Plan Update will be conducted by the Town Board at 7 pm on Thursday, Oct. 5 at the Accord Fire House. All residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Many lauded the openness with which the process has been conducted to date. Several offered concrete suggestions for improving the plan.

There was a criticism that the plan made the town appear "Westchester" like, followed by a suggestion that more be included to promote expansion of small businesses. Another

(Continued on page 2, Comp. Plan)

Saturday, Oct 7 Declared Town Heritage Day Many Events Planned

At its regular monthly meeting on September 7th, the Town Board officially proclaimed Saturday, October 7, 2006 as Town Heritage Day, in recognition of the events to be held as part of the Celebration of Historic Accord.

This special day (see notice on right) is being organized by the Friends of Historic Rochester "to encourage pride in our town's history and to promote support for preservation of the historic assets: homes, barns, commercial buildings, train stations, schoolhouses, and churches."

All events are free; the costs are being met from donations from various local organizations and businesses.

(Comp. Plan, Continued from pg 1)

viewpoint was that the plan dealt well in emphasizing local commerce and business.

While some in the audience questioned the attention the plan gives to second home owners, others pointed out that these people actually subsidize full time residents by using fewer town services and school district facilities.

Other points raised included the need for sunset clauses to be built into special use permits, the importance of mining

to the town economy, the need for affordable housing in and near the town, the positive and possible negative consequences of a town noise ordinance, and the proper balance between protecting rights of individual property owners while providing adequate safeguards for community and neighbor rights.

Supervisor Duke thanked the audience for the input and indicated the committee would carefully consider every point of view expressed. Based on

these deliberations, which will be conducted in the open starting with the committee's next meeting on Sept. 13 at 7:00 pm, a revised draft plan will be prepared. Following this draft, and approval by the committee, the plan will be forwarded to the Town Board for consideration. This final stage of the review process will include a public hearing on Oct. 5th.

The revised draft will be available from the Town Clerk and the Town website in advance of the next public hearing.

Award for Local Entrepreneur

The Town Board awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to resident Marijane Knudsen for "contributing to the revitalization of the Hamlet of Alliger-ville with her work to restore, stock, open and operate her general store in the hamlet. Open daily, it offers hamlet and town residents an open and friendly meeting place for coffee, discussions and groceries." The store is located at 14 Purcell Lane in Alliger-ville.

Flood Damage Relief — Deadline Extended to October 2, 2006

Residents who were affected by the late June heavy rains may be eligible for assistance from FEMA/New York State. The numbers to call to get more information are:

1-800-462-7587 (hours: 8 AM to 8 PM daily)

1-888-7-NYS-AID (hours 8 AM to 8 PM Mon-Fri; 8AM to 5 PM Sat & Sun)

Hearing/Speech impaired: TTY:NYS Relay 711

Applications can also be submitted online at www.fema.gov and www.labor.state.ny.us.

Business Recruitment Committee Revitalized — Volunteers Sought

The Business Development (aka Recruitment) Committee, established under the leadership of Councilman Francis Gray, is being revitalized and is seeking new members. The Committee's charge, as defined by the Town Board is provided below. Anyone interested in becoming a member should contact Supervisor Pam Duke.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE PURPOSE:

To analyze 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 in the Town of Rochester. The committee plans will be in a manner consistent with the Town's rural character, preservation of natu-

ral resources, and the quality of residential life.

ACCOUNTABILITY: The subcommittee members will be appointed by and are accountable to the Town Board and shall solicit and receive public input.

TERM: The committee shall exist until dissolved by the Town Board. The Town Board can add new members at any time.

SCOPE OF WORK:

1. Take an inventory of:
 - a. Existing businesses
 - b. Existing experience and talent within the Town to support new businesses
 - c. Services the town lacks that would identify and support new businesses
 - d. Targeted businesses to relocate or expand to the

Town to satisfy town needs

- e. Existing town zoning codes and conditions that impede economic development.

2. Evaluate and make recommendations on how the Town Government might assist in the recruitment of new local businesses and engines of economic activity.

3. Analyze and make recommendations on infrastructure improvements that the Town Government might assist with in order to attract targeted businesses.

4. Review the Town's current zoning and subdivision codes to identify areas in need of amendment along with recommendations on the priority of such amendments.

5. Research sources of outside

funding to support report recommendations and draft funding requests as added incentives to targeted businesses.

6. Prepare written recommendations to the Town Board based on committee deliberations, resident input, and responses from businesses.

2nd Annual Jenny Bell Pie Festival

The Youth Department and Kerhonkson-Accord Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring the 2nd Annual Jennie Bell Pie Festival on Sat., Sept. 30 at the Kelder Farm. Events include a talent show, pie judging, draft horse exhibitions, arts & crafts vendors, children's activities, food, fireworks, and much more. Vendors please call 626-2115 or 626-5537.

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.