

Survey distribution for Comprehensive Plan Review

Surveys will only be distributed to property owners and taxpayers.

Housing

What is liked? The plan minimizes the environmental impact of residential growth. It should include a goal for producing at least ½ of domestic energy on sight.

What are some issues? -Low income housing is not readily available.

-As a result of the lack of economically feasible housing opportunities, LaPointe has a low resident retention rate in comparison to the City of Bayfield.

-Summer and Seasonal housing is different for community viability; what makes [LaPointe] a viable place for families to move and stay here?

-Seasonal housing does not address issue of “community viability”.

-Town of LaPointe not an affordable tourist attraction (hotels are expensive)

-Proposed solutions housing affordability: establish Land Trust program, where an organization owns a land parcel and a family simply owns the home. Bell St. facilities and other vacant buildings may be remodeled to be condominiums, serving the dual function of seasonal renters and long term Assisted Living programs.

-All group members agreed that a reevaluation of how property is taxed is in order, while taking the federal tax structure into consideration. All property tax is “high”, more so with Lake Front properties.

-Investigating the tax base is necessary in a reduction effort.

-Bayfield and other school districts had managed to reduce budgets and lower property taxes.

-Is low-income housing for island residents or off island people seeking housing assistance? There are issues with nonresidents in need of affordable housing occupying all available space; housing not being filled up fast enough by residents.

-“Thinking creatively about zoning”: grouping groups of houses in confined space to keep costs down and land use efficient. *May have Not In My Backyard issue. Plan should consider the development of a high density EcoVillage.

-Opposition in reducing zoning restrictions: must take carrying capacity and quality of life into consideration

-Potential solution to reducing zoning restrictions: Planned Unit Developments

-More focus on permanent residential housing. Potential survey question: Do you want the population to grow, stay the same, or shrink?

-Concerns with an aging population, to the point where the school may have to close down because of the low rate of young family population growth.

-All elements of housing development are based on population; the foundations of island development may collapse in a domino effect if the island exceeds its carrying capacity

-Island has seen “enormous” growth in the past 25 years; seasonal residents still claim residency on island.

-Question: *What is the number of housing units in relation to population growth?*

Transportation

-Question: *Has progress been made in traffic congestion?* (Objective #2)

-Madeline Island Ferry refuses to release data on Ferry usage. This information is critical to understanding the island’s population and demographics. The municipality has not been willing to work with this data as a way to assess long term strategic planning.

Town of LaPointe, Madeline Island
Comprehensive Plan Review
Meeting Minutes: 9/9/2013

- Proposed tear down of tree canopy on North Shore Road, due to concerns of ice and snow in Winter months. Opposition to tear down for intrinsic values; has been considered WI Scenic road.
- Integrate pedestrian based transportation systems; incentive for cycling and walking and fees for automobile usage.

Utilities and Community Facilities

- Expansion of Camping facilities
 - 1st timers come as campers, and then eventually may buy a parcel to build their permanent residency
 - Accessibility for touring Madeline Island declines when there is no campsite vacancy on the weekends.

Education

- Question: *Is population growth a concern for environmental impact?*
 - Divided on this issue
- Question: *Where is the balance with demographic changes and the resulting barriers to maintaining a "viable community"?*
- Issue with fostering a community for new, incoming families when schools could potentially close down
- An age breakdown of the data, suggesting that young people are increasing.
- The number of children enrolled in the public school is decreasing.
- Question: *Is this a community that is "family-friendly", in consideration of all the overage venues?*

Broadband & Telecommunications

- Grant has been received for fiber optic internet connection. A major improvement from wireless communication.

Civic Participation and Engagement

- Question: *How is involvement engendered in a community? Raising expectations for community members?*
- Question: *How to expand opportunities for volunteers amongst non full-time residents?*
- Part-time volunteers are impractical...
- Long-distance meeting attendance may increase participation
- Partnering programs with seasonal/permanent residents for various community activities.
- Additional recognition (Item 3)