

**TOWN OF LA POINTE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 2013**

Present: Dave Thomas, Jim Rogers, Holly Tourdot, Paul Brummer, Charlie Brummer, Tom Wojciechowski, Lisa Potswald

1. Housing - Tom presented 2010 Census data for La Pointe. Tom then reviewed the present Housing Comprehensive Plan goal, objectives and action items for Housing, and asked what those present like about the plan, and what they want to see changed. Participant comments made:

- Housing should minimize environmental impact
- Town should have a municipal ordinance on energy saving when building
- There is a financial burden with holding tanks/mound systems
- Those building may have to reduce the size of their house to afford energy saving technology
- Minimum insulation standards
- Energy saving is less expensive in primary construction rather than to retrofit
- Energy reduction must be regulated
- Island has aging demographics – elderly/assisted living housing needed
- Remove objective #5 “Maintain a residential growth rate of 3 percent per year...”
- Island could sustain 500-700 people. Jobs come from having more residents – if more people, more services are required.
- Note the difference between subsidized and affordable housing. Nothing is available to rent in the affordable category. Most homeowners won’t rent year-round, so renting residents are forced to move regularly.
- “If we build it, they will come”.
- Madeline Island is the same geographic size as Manhattan and Hong Kong.
- How do you stop growth? Don’t encourage it.
- Must have industry to sustain 500-700 people.
- Has to be resources on the island to purchase

2. Transportation – Participant comments made:

- Congestion downtown not a big problem
- Town should transition to a pedestrian based economy
- Trucks should have a dedicated offloading area downtown
- All the problems are a result of tourism – we put bandaids on the problems rather than address the main problem of tourism
- For every \$1 in tourism gained it costs \$1.20 in infrastructure needs

3. Utility and Community Facilities – Participants comments made:

- (Regarding Objective #1 “Maintaining existing public recreation facilities”) Maintenance is important. What does “enhancing” mean?
- Community garden/farmers market should be considered a community facility and supported by the community/government
- 75% of Ashland County is a “food desert” according to the USDA, lacking a place to buy healthy food
- Objective 2 should read “Coordinate the siting, building and redevelopment of public facilities and the sharing of public services when possible”
- Eliminate Action Items 2 (“Explore the feasibility and support for creating a recreation or community center that is available to all ages”) and 3 (“Determine if it is economically feasible to expand the sewer system to serve other portions of the island”)
- Action Item #5 (...creating a health care clinic...) has been completed

4. Agriculture – Participant comments made:

- This is a pretty generic area; no sustainable food movement yet
- There is a need for a permanent structure for a Farmer’s Market – should/could use the Pavilion but it is out of the way
- Purchase land for local farmers’ community garden
- Should identify publicly owned spaces for community gardens; Local Food System Committee should start list

5. Natural Resources – Participant comments made:

- Zoning is very important with regard to this goal
- DNR looking at relaxing their restrictions
- Enough wells in one area; decrease capacity
- Objective #1 should read “Increase the preservation and protection of environmental habitat for wildlife, water quality and quantity, habitat protection, ecosystem and ecology services.”