

Brad Kaye - Notes from meeting

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Date: 7/31/2007 4:27 PM
Subject: Notes from meeting
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Brad

Here are the notes I took last night during the report outs and final questions. I couldn't clearly read some of the flip charts from where I was sitting so if it sounded like they were adlibbing and not reading from what they wrote I tried to capture it.

Report outs from flip charts

Group A

- Want to be a destination not just a place people pass through

Group B

- Guidelines need to be flexible to meet different needs, circumstance
- What are the rules now – who is involved (ie DEQ, Township, County, Health Department) – not always sure where to go for information
- Personal Property rights are a big issue
- Want the area to be appealing – a place to come to
- Bonair is an issue – committee looking at trying to deal with building felt a broader focus would be better than just looking at one parcel. This group is working with the township to look into a possibility of establishing a downtown development authority
- Open areas – need to be able to see the water
- What about Hessel – a lot of the discussion seemed to focus on Cedarville

Group C

- Systemic issues – if put in public access and don't deal with the parking issue group recognized they may create more problems than solve. Need to look at entire picture
- Balance between access points vs. rights of adjacent property owners – noise, trespassing, etc
- Need to look at better access for fishing as fish population is recovering

Group D

- Buffer Zones – not good to mow and fertilize right down to the beach
- Need better enforcement of ordinances – particularly around health and safety (blight and issues with septic systems were specifically mentioned)
- Stormwater runoff from hard surfaces – paving of roads and driveways – not 100% sure of impact
- Master plan should help create awareness of consciousness about environmental issues
- Controls or lack of control of Great Lakes Water Level and impact locally

Open discussion at end of workshop

- What is the likelihood that this will make a difference – we did this 10 or 20 years ago (Brad's response – to not just outline what we want in the Master Plan but to talk about how to get there – what are the strategies – current master plan does not do this)
- Timeframe for completion – Summer 2008 is the soonest
- Township website – does one exist; also comments on trying to put information out there more so people can check on updates on process
- Zoning – take into consideration the tax structure. Combined with prevailing wages in area, it makes it difficult to for people who grew up here to stay here and own property
- Personality and character of the community is important. People are passionate about the Les Cheneaux

Islands. Encourage to keep it the little area we are and keep it special.

- Property being given to conservancies which is affecting the bottom line of taxes for the township
- Valuation on property has exceeded what you can expect for a return from having a business on that property making it difficult to keep small businesses.
- Look at how to incubate businesses
- Need to be able to maintain basic services for year round residents

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