

## **Meeting Notes**

Conquest Comprehensive Plan

Steering Committee

November 9, 2021

7:00 PM

### Agenda:

1. Photos of Conquest – Presentation
2. Break-out session to review local Comp Plans
3. Next steps – Survey & Public Launch Meeting

### Notes:

General themes from the photo presentation & review of the local comp plans:

- Agriculture
  - o Preservation of it is critical
  - o Kids around and involved with it growing up – they know where their food comes from
  - o Farmland protection programs- right to farm law –should be considered
  - o Currently threatened by large-scale solar projects
    - Farmers are losing feed sources, places to deposit manure
    - Increased ag vehicle traffic
    - Changing ag business operations
- Natural Resources
  - o Protecting open space
  - o Wildlife habitat
  - o Hunting habitat
  - o Scenic vistas and historic resource protection
  - o Environmentally sensitive areas
  - o Preservation of clean water/protecting water resources
    - Seneca River
    - Duck Lake
    - Howland's Island area
  - o Personal energy production and use
- History of Town
  - o Seneca River as heritage of Erie Canal
  - o Historic buildings & industry
  - o Town events
  - o Cemeteries with Civil War veterans
- Community Identity
  - o Places to play and gather are important

- Gateway on Route 38 at the Seneca River crossing
- Hot air balloon tours
- Land Use Regulations
  - May be needed to protect natural resources and agriculture
  - Setbacks and lot areas should be investigated
- Economic Development
  - Future residential, commercial, and industrial needs
  - Tourism (eco-tourism, Duck Lake, Seneca River, town's history)
- Municipal Services
  - Highway dept. and road maintenance are important
  - Internet service is needed
    - COVID increased the importance of the internet
    - Only a few areas of Conquest have broadband—DSL or TDL in the town
  - Transfer station is a good service
  - Fire department (hard to recruit volunteers)
  - Emergency services
- Diversity of residents should be highlighted
- Dislikes in Conquest:
  - Abandoned, neglected buildings in disrepair
  - Junk and abandoned cars on properties
  - Solar impeding on agriculture and community character

#### Plan format:

- Upfront history in some of the Comp Plan examples was good, followed by the goals
- Just as important to the younger generation to develop the comp plan
- Survey results should be part of the comprehensive plan
- We need a plain language section for it to be a working document for the community
- Want to create something that the residents of the town can read and understand
- Town of Victory document is very readable and creates an identity for their community
- Need a plan that the town can maintain

#### Survey comments:

- Concerned about the return of surveys
  - Surveys will be sent to all property owners and available online
- How to engage the Mennonites in this process and in the survey
  - They will be mailed a paper survey and it is up to them to fill out and return
- Add zoom meeting link to the survey

**Action Steps:**

- Joni will talk to Greg about her article in the Citizen and what she should include
- Greg will send one or two examples of comp plans to the group
- Committee will review a draft survey – to be sent to committee week of November 15
  - *send comments to County staff before Thanksgiving*

**Public Launch:** Tuesday, December 14 at 7 PM at the Town Hall or Fire Hall (TBD)