

Town of Enfield Planning Board Meeting
Comprehensive Plan Public Meeting Minutes - August 14, 2012
Enfield Community Building

PRESENT: Virginia Bryant, Stephen Givin, Marie Vandemark, Dan Walker

Absent: Ann Chaffee, Calvin Rothermich

STAFF: Alan Teeter/Building Code Enforcement Officer
Sue Thompson/Planning Board Recording Secretary
Vera Howe-Strait, Town Board Representative
Debbie Teeter, Town Board Member
Ann Rider, Town Board Member

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Virginia Bryant introduced the Planning Board members. Virginia Bryant then talked about the Comprehensive Plan and how the Board would be collecting community ideas in regard to the Plan for the next few months. She stated she had already received e-mails from community members with their input and would be sharing these e-mails later in the meeting.

Speakers:

Debbie Teeter, Town Board Member, of 71 Gray Road. Debbie Teeter stated she would hand in her statement at the end of the meeting. Debbie Teeter statement is attached to the end of these minutes.

Beth McGee of 173 Tucker Road stated she would send an e-mail to Virginia Bryant with a copy of her statement. Beth McGee statement is attached to the end of these minutes.

Martha Fisher of 772 Bostwick Road stated she signed up to be on the Housing Committee at the July 18 Planning Board meeting. She is a volunteer liaison for the Cooperative Extension Home Energy Improvement Program and she would like to see some very clear goals about helping people upgrade their homes. With help from the Town of Enfield endorsing these kinds of activities we could make good movements towards tightening up our homes and lessening the need for energy from outside sources. She would also like to keep Enfield's rural character and not have it include industry.

Mary Jo Lovelace of 2504 State Rt. 79 complimented the Planning Board for putting this meeting together. She also thanked ENSAW for getting the community involved. She supports getting the Comprehensive Plan in good shape as soon as possible and to get the community involved by contacting PTA, Grange, Senior Citizens and other groups. A special committee is a good idea if the Planning Board does not want to take the lead. The Town Board needs to find the money and grants to complete the Aquifer Study. She encourages the Planning Board to include future organic farming in the Plan.

Henry Hansteen of 382 S. VanDorn Road, stated that food is a very important thing in the future. Anything that can be done to encourage people to produce it and preserve it would be good. He

would like to see a total ban on fracking, because fracking would destroy this area and the damage is irreversible. He also thinks too much salt is being put on the roads in the winter. Money could be saved by dumping less salt on the roads.

Roy Wollney of 2271 Mecklenburg Road stated he was looking at the Welcome Sign for Enfield and thought it was designed to represent an agricultural community and what Enfield citizens wanted. He does not want industry come in and spoil the peace and quiet of the community. He commented on housing and the grants available through HUD, Office of the Aging, TC Action and Better Housing. He would like to see more people applying for grants who need the help.

Virginia Bryant stated that the office she works for, TC Action is looking for houses to weatherize.

There was discussion with Roy Wollney on individuals applying for grants through the different Tompkins County housing offices to weatherize homes. There was discussion on improving homes and then assessed at a higher tax rate and then having fracking come into the town. The comment was made that the taxes would probably go down if fracking came into town. Bishop Sheen does the improvement on the homes. They come in and look at your house to see what they can do to raise your house to a certain standard. They put a lien on the house depending on the loan. It is a decreasing lien, so if it is a 5 year lien it is clear after that. The reason they do that is because if you try to sell your house before that, they do not want you to profit over a grant.

Nancy Spero of 68 North VanDorn Road, stated she loves living in Enfield and being able to enjoy her land. She wants to see the town kept as light industry, farming, residential. Has enjoyed getting to know her community better through the Fracking issue. Wants a community building where dances and concerts can be held, where young people can be, and where help can be found for example in housing and volunteering. A sense of community and a sense of peace is very important.

Art Godin of 96 Woodard Road stated he was not at the meeting where the Board was soliciting for help. He is interested in helping, he enjoys the democratic process like working with language and really interested in the ideas mentioned tonight. He feels we can gather the most input from a survey to try to get responds from as many Enfield citizens as we can.

Joseph Prush of 377 West Enfield Center Road stated they enjoyed living in Enfield and wants to make sure that the land, water and forests will be around for future generations. He is concerned about urban sprawl and would like to see it stopped. There needs to be some regulation on signs on the main highway routes. The people that do have signs up now should be grandfathered out. He encouraged everyone to find ways to grow something even flowers. He stated to experience these rights that were once so fundamental to the American way of life is our right. Water quality with concern to trucks spilling over causing toxic pollution is another concern. The Town needs to address the clean-up process in case of spills. Another issue is the Federal attempt to deny the right to seed storage issues. An example of this issue is keeping our own tomatoes seeds over the year to plant the next year. He would like a statement to say that it is part of our rights in agriculture to store and use our own seeds. Road use by large trucks should be kept to major routes. If the trucking company is using the roads constantly,

they should be paying to keep up the maintenance of the roads. Town should take in more revenue as long as the community gets something back from that revenue such as a community area. There should be no zoning. We need to keep track of property in relation to making sure one neighbor does not damage/pollute others property.

Charlie Elrod of 101 Rockwell Road feels Enfield is a rural open landscape which attracts many people to come to live and operate farms and business, to run their own homestead. Agriculture may not be the largest tax contributor in the town, he feels that the grazing lands, open lands, actively farmed lands are a preferred land use. Food security is the biggest national security facing this nation and it affects all of us. The ability to protect land for the production of food and to retain some self-efficiency is critical for the town. Development is a concern; farm land once it has been developed never comes back. He believes zoning opens the door to protecting agriculture lands can be preserved and not developed. His family has a Conservation Easement on their 65 acres so it can never be developed except for agricultural purposes. Second greatest resource in addition to open/agriculture land is water you have to protect the water. We need to protect our aquifer from pollution and depletion.

Matt Leroux of 1837 Mecklenburg Road stated he works in agric marketing. He feels the Plan is very similar to a marketing plan addressing who is our target customer. Clean, Green and Rural should be the marketing plan. He has volunteered to be on the agric committee.

Virginia Bryant stated she has lived here for 45 years; they are surrounded by farm land. Water has been a personal concern and how to protect it. Her son who is in the military says they have emergency drills and they always focus on the water first. She feels the Comprehensive Plan is a vision of the present and future and what citizens see for Enfield.

Virginia Bryant stated comments concerning the Comprehensive Plan given at the meeting tonight will be attached to each section that is being working on. She does not feel a need to relinquish the doing of the Comprehensive Plan to another committee. That is the decision of the Town Board. She stated Comprehensive Plans do not spring up in two months.

The names of people interested in working on the Comprehensive Plan will be sent out to everyone listed including what they are interested in. She encouraged everyone to check the Town website for current information. She pointed out that there were comments on fracking but that is not whole point of the Comprehensive Plan. That issue will be handled through a law with the Town Board.

Dan Walker stated the whole purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is to the guide the Town Board and the Planning Board on how the town should grow and be managed in the future.

Virginia Bryant stated the Planning Board wants to create a plan to see the town grow in a Clean, Green, Sustainable way. They cannot actually put in the Plan that there will be no fracking; she has never seen that in any plan.

Roy Wollney asked how much of Enfield is covered with high-speed connection. He feels the issue of affordable high-speed connection in the Enfield community should be addressed.

There should be classes/workshops to show how to use the high-speed. A lot of people feel disenfranchised without that connection.

Virginia Bryant responded that her work during the day offers classes on how to use the computer in connection with the web and e-mail.

Virginia Bryant read three e-mails she received giving comments on the Comprehensive Plan. The e-mails were from: Corinna Lewis, Chris Martelli and Barbara Griffin.

Corinna Lewis of 43 N. Applegate Road, values living in our rural area, and very strongly encourages the Town to incorporate goals to keep our air, water and land safe for our children. She also support goals of sharing responsibility equitably: if new/big businesses bring in heavy trucks, use a disproportionate share of water compared to current farms and other users, and cause wear and tear on roads and other infrastructure beyond our current baseline or average, they should pay for that. She feels the working tax-paying residents should not pay more because their costs are spread equally over all of us: that is not equitable. If large businesses come into our area and take out profits, that should not be at the expense of local farmers and residents.

Chris Martelli of 57 Rothermich Road enjoys the rural character of the town, and living in an environment that includes fields, farms, forests and wildlife. She believes that we need to preserve our rural environment and not allow it to be industrialized or polluted by the natural gas industry.

Chris would like to see more sustainable development. If we can keep the gas wells out of Enfield we will have more organic farms, new housing construction by individuals and by developers. We would all benefit from an increase in population, and well-planned new construction should be actively promoted. We could then support more local businesses. Maybe a café or bakeshop. Maybe a real restaurant or tavern where you could go for a beer, pizza and live music. Maybe a gym or fitness center.

Chris likes the idea of the wind farm on Black Oak Road and hope that the project is completed. I think we should also promote the acquisition of solar panels among our residents. Enfield could become a showcase for sustainable energy.

She also feels we need to make high speed internet available to every home in Enfield. High speed internet is becoming more and more necessary for education, communication, entertainment and business.

Barbara Griffin of 2386 Mecklenburg Road, is concerning about saving the Town's water table from the possible damage that can be caused by Fracking. She feels this should be our number one concern.

Dan Walker asked if everyone was familiar with the Comprehensive Plan. The latest Plan is 2001 and you can get a copy from the Town Hall or on the Town Web site. He discussed the format of the Plan. Some of the categories addressed the improvement of the living experience in Enfield. Major areas are public utilities and transportation. The Town Board has a lot of control over the roads. He stated that land use is a common thread throughout the Plan. A park

system or a community owned facility needs to be addressed. Funding for items in the Plan need to be addressed.

Virginia stated it is likely the Aquifer Study will cost approximately \$90,000 over three years. They are talking about getting grants to help pay for the study and hopefully Tompkins County will contribute towards it.

Virginia Bryant stated a lot of people have expressed a desire for a community center. She asked Debbie Teeter about a plan that was drawn up for a community center adjacent to the highway facility. Debbie Teeter responded that there were plans with a comprehensive list involving a Town Hall and Community Building. The plan went to different community groups asking what they would like in a community building. She stated that the town puts aside money for capital improvement each year.

Virginia Bryant stated that if an objective is put in the Plan then the Town Board should be mandated to look it.

Dan Walker stated the actual State requirement for a Comprehensive Plan is its land use planning. How is your town going to develop and how you are going to provide protections? Usually the State says you can't do a "zoning ordinance" unless you have a Comprehensive Plan. Zoning is a way to regulate land use. The town has a small part of zoning addressed, Site Plan Review Law, which addresses subdivision regulation. Basically there is one big zone and there is nothing excluded from any particular area of the town.

Dan Walker stated that items like the town beautification and historic preservation are smaller components of the Plan but are still important. Major resources of the town and how the town functions is a higher priority. Overviews of the comments given tonight are to improve the living experience for residents, economic growth, and protection of agriculture.

Debbie Teeter discussed how she recently worked with a group collecting public input. They contacted groups and received many comments. They then categorized the comments. Then they looked at short, medium, long term goals and then the priority of the goals, high, medium, low. She asked Dan Walker if that is what he sees in the Comprehensive Plan.

Dan Walker answered yes. He stated there are goals which are big targets and then the objectives on how you achieve these goals. For example, a long term goal is to protect and encourage agriculture, how do we do that? We encourage farmers. Are there certain areas of the town more suited for different reasons? For example, the Old Babcock Facility on Podunk Road is basically an industrialized area. If we want to encourage some light industrial use in Enfield this might be a good place to do it, because it has already been industrialized.

Virginia Bryant stated that in the some of the Babcock buildings across from where she works on weekends are being used as a small tool company, light industry.

Virginia Bryant asked Debbie Teeter what data was available regarding agriculture land in Enfield. Debbie Teeter responded that County Planning could make maps based the agriculture district, agriculture assessed parcels, and agriculture property codes. Assessment could

probably provide information also. She thought that Ann Chaffee was surveying the agriculture community. She commented that agriculture was one piece of Plan and perhaps similar things could be done in other sectors.

Virginia Bryant stated she did not have a handle on what small businesses are in Enfield. Dan Walker stated that there was a directory done and it is on the Enfield Web site.

Dan Walker stated the big categories he sees are: Housing, Agriculture, and Economic development of business. Environmental protection is very important; it goes without saying that it is going to be protected. It does have to state in comprehensive Plan that we need to protect the aquifers and land use is how we do that.

Debbie Teeter shared an idea from the agriculture group that gathered at the July 18 meeting. They want to engage the disenfranchised the folks they don't see at the meetings, to make sure everyone has a voice. They thought they would approach the grange to sponsor a coffee or breakfast and invite farmers, and agriculture land owners to come and view the comments made so far and add their own input. Maybe there is a similar model for small business that might work, a way to bring them together and hear what their concerns are.

Art Godin asked for an overview of what was already done. Debbie Teeter had said there was an agriculture group, he would like become involved are there groups in these areas, and if not can we start forming them?

Virginia Bryant answered that we should begin forming the groups. The agriculture group is already formed from that night.

Beth McGee requested that the Grange meeting be widely publicized because there are lots of different people that farm this area with different opinions. Debbie Teeter thought a mail list would be created from who is getting agriculture assessment, not just farmers, but who they rent their land from. Also, Land owners with agriculture land codes, people who are involved in agriculture but not to the extent of receiving agriculture status.

Mary Jo Lovelace stated that she knows people who are not professional organic farmers now but will be in the future. She would like to see them included too.

Debbie Teeter stated it was not her intention to exclude anyone; the question was how to engage the farming usages. The meeting will probably not happen with the Grange until after October when the growing season is winding down.

Virginia Bryant stated that would give the Planning Board plenty of time for advertising the meeting.

Nancy Spero stated she thought forming committees was a good start. She would like to be on the Environment Committee. She would be happy to start a list of people interested in being on this committee. She doesn't want to see the committees get closed from the last meeting.

Debbie Teeter suggested loosely formed committees could monitor the comments as they come in and record them into their categories.

Mary Jo Lovelace stated she suggested at the Town Board meeting, that postcards be sent out to the community, stating when the meetings will be held. Information should be sent out to community groups.

Debbie Teeter informed the group that the newsletter is on a schedule four times a year. The next newsletter is scheduled to go out in September. Maybe someone could write an article and survey for the newsletter.

Cortney Bailey, Enfield Elementary School PTA representative, stated they have a newsletter that goes out to all the school children in their backpacks. The first meeting is September 10 at 5:30 pm. They send something out at least once a month. She would like to see a community library.

Debbie Teeter stated that in the newsletter there is a list of all the community groups that meet and when their regular meetings are. Mary Jo Lovelace asked about the history group meetings. Sue Thompson stated that the Historical Society has not met in a long time.

Art Godin asked if he could summarize what he was hearing about the process. His summary was: the Planning Board is going to circulate the names of the people on the committees. Each committee will assemble and start working from the suggestions they receive. All the comments from tonight will be in the minutes. He asked if there will there be a contact person on the Planning Board for each committee.

Virginia Bryant said the Enfield Town website should be checked for minutes and meetings. She answered that there will be a member of the Planning Board in each group. If they decided they do not have a member they will ask for a community member to help in that group. Each group can meet independently of the Planning Board. She asked that each group notify her with each of their meetings. There is hope that an e-mail mail list can be set up to notify everyone of each meeting whether they are in the groups or not.

Beth McGee stated that proper recordings of the group meetings should be done and given to the Planning Board. A member of that particular committee could do the recording.

Debbie Teeter suggested that guidelines be setup on recording/reporting of the group meetings. There should be guidelines for the charges for each group and how to engage the community around their issue. She said she felt uncomfortable with the groups just writing down themselves what the issues are. Each committee should use input from the community.

Cortney Bailey asked if there was hard copy of the survey that could go in the backpacks of the school children. The survey would have to go through the ICSD Approval Process which would take approximately 2 weeks. Ann Rider stated she has the e-mail address to send the Survey to for approval.

Virginia Bryant stated there was not a written survey. One could be developed through the Planning Board. Comment was made that it was a short time frame to develop a survey to send out by the beginning of the school year. Debbie Teeter suggested that there might be some survey's on the web that could be adapted for use. Nancy Spero suggested a committee could be formed for working on the survey. Judy Hyman had mentioned she would like to work on it. This committee could also work on sorting out the results for each group.

Debbie Teeter stated that the survey done for the 2001 Plan was open ended with questions such as, what do think is the most important for community, what is important to you, and what do you see as issues the town facing in the future. She stated that the survey might not want to be sent out in the first part of the year because of all the things being sent out with schoolchildren already.

Cortney Bailey stated that notices get sent out once a week with the school children through the year, every Wednesday. You can do it anytime you get a survey done. She suggested the beginning of October would be a good time to send the survey out and get responses. The school budget is sent out in October.

Virginia Bryant stated that some members of the Planning Board would be in the Survey Group along with other interested community members, Judy Hyman, Art Godin, Nancy Spero, John Tavares. She will look at surveys on the web and send to the Board and Survey Group.

John Tavares pointed out that there were a lot of people who do not have kids in school, how does the survey reach them.

A suggestion was made to use the ECC mailing list and put the survey in the community newsletter. September 25 is the deadline for the community newsletter. Debbie Teeter said it can come as an insert and should be only one page.

September 5 is the next Planning Board Meeting at 7:00 pm Enfield Community Building. There is no public meeting scheduled at this time for the Plan. Debbie Teeter suggested that the September 5 meeting could be the next public meeting on collecting input for the Plan.

Ann Rider asked if there was going to be a series of public meetings. Dan Walker answered yes there will be more public meetings. The Planning Board needs to put together all the comments so far and decide the direction they want to go in. There will be another meeting two weeks after the Planning Board meeting.

Debbie Teeter pointed out there were a lot of suggestions on how to draw people in for comments. She wondered how to reach the youth of the community.

Beth McGee stated she would like to see on the survey that if you have children that live in the Town of Enfield what they would like to see. Suggestions were made of having the teachers get involved with children on answering the survey at the Elementary School.

Cortney Bailey stated that a survey was done with the children on what the children wanted with their new playground. The teachers did a great job on this. Lisa Rieger the school principal

could be asked to become involved in the survey. The teachers can simplify the language for each age level.

Nancy Spero asked if the groups are going to meeting before the Planning Board how are they going to find out about the meetings.

Cortney Bailey suggested having a sign-up sheet now for people who are interested in specific areas.

Virginia Bryant stated they have a list started and people at the meeting tonight can add their areas of interest and e-mail to the sign-in sheet tonight. Virginia Bryant stated she would leave some of the comment sheets for people to take to fill out regarding the Plan.

Dan Walker stated that the biggest part of the land use is the inventory of what resources and areas we have in the town. A Land Use Committee will look at all of that.

There was discussion on the definition of land use. Is it a means for which determining how much funding will get allocated for each of the areas? The question is asked, is this really going to be a meaningful expenditure of public funds. For example if we found only 1 percent of the land in Enfield was used for recreational use, would we want to invest 50 percent of the entire budgeting process on that aspect or would we would to distribute it in a more logical matter.

Dan Walker addressed the need for recreational access in land use. Maybe we need a softball field, which is at the school already. Maybe the town needs a playground, but we have one at the school already. The committees need to address the things we need to have. Then we start looking at here is a need, it is already met, we have solved that problem. Or if the existing thing isn't adequate how do we solve that.

Virginia Bryant stated that we have baseball field and playground at the school, do we need to find some land nearby to build a community/recreation building.

Beth McGee stated that when they had gotten together as a group at the July 18 meeting, recreational assets were described as parks and areas we have in Enfield, existing ones. She asked if land use was a separate area.

Dan Walked responded that land use is a listing of resources that we have. We have tremendous resources in the State Park. Maybe in the Comprehensive Plan we can ask how we better make them accessible to Enfield residents. Do we have a program where the Town helps subsidize annual parking permits for all Enfield residents for use in Treman State Park?

Beth McGee stated that agriculture is a really big topic and should be in its own category. Could land use better served under Economic Development, Community Facilities and Programs.

Art Godin stated he wanted to zero in on categories.

- History and Population.
- Housing, **Public** Utilities, Infrastructure and Transportation.

- Economic Development, Community Facilities and Programs, Recreational Assets
- Agriculture
- Environmental and Natural Resources,

Dan Walker stated that a Land Use Committee has to be put all resources together to make a map. He asked if we had copies of the maps that the students did from the presentation on May 3, 2012 to the Planning Board. The answer was yes, we have copies of the posters they did of the maps. He stated that was good start.

Art Godin asked if the nature of the discussion and research and assembly of the material on history, population and land use is appropriate to one of the committees. He did not hear about anyone wanting to gather all that data.

Dan Walker said it is basically pulling the together the resources to putting the information down. It is usually a staff responsibility to gather all the data.

There was a discussion that yes there was a committee on that topic all ready, Sue Thompson, Cindy Estes-Smith to start with.

It needs to be decided what resources to use and if the County Planning Department could help update the maps. Dan Walker stated he had contacts with the Planning Department and it might cost \$50 an hour and a map might take 2 to 6 hours to generate. Debbie Teeter asked if Roy Barriere could ask more effectively to get the best price. Dan Walker answered he knows the people so he can do that.

Virginia Bryant stated that the focus points are:

History and Population, Land Use

Housing, **Public** Utilities, Infrastructure and Transportation.

Economic Development, Community Facilities and Programs, Recreational Assets

Agriculture

Environmental and Natural Resources

Beth McGee stated that it sounds like land use is not a category that we are discussing with goals. The land use is what we are looking at when we are done.

Dan Walker answered that there is a couple of phases; the previous Comprehensive Plan wasn't really a plan it just gives a list of ideas and wishes. There are goals and objectives but it didn't summarize. This is the next step in creating a land use map. They are talking about land use as it currently exists. If in the comprehensive plan we need to direct how things are going to happen in the town we need a plan. What do you want to see in the future?

Ann Rider stated that it is more important to define land use. Is it the existing one? Are you talking about current land use, a matter of reporting, or are you going to use the whole thing as future land use. It is important for this committee get it straight on how you are using this term.

Dan Walker responded that it is a process of gathering all the data they have including the residents desires on the surveys. Then we look at what we want to see happen in the Town of Enfield, that is what all the goals and objectives are.

Art Godin stated it sounded like the definition is current use, and that is used as a in the whole Comprehensive Plan as a guide. He thought that was more than what this committee is signed up to do. He said it sounded like research and assembly materials and that wasn't appropriate for a committee but they really needed help from people who are in to doing that.

Dan Walker stated that the County has the technical resources.

Virginia Bryant asked if we need a category called future land use.

Dan Walker responded that the future land use will come out of the process. He thinks that it should come out of the Planning Board as a whole.

John Tavares asked if some people here feel that the land use part of this should address what the people in the town wish?

Dan Walker stated for example that the State may say we have to allow someone to drill a gas well in the Town. Do we want to see that happen in Enfield Center or the old Babcock property? Or we decided it is important we have an expanded retail grocery outlet or create a restaurant district. Where could those be located, Black Oak road or Enfield Center? Do we provide the infrastructures for the facilities? We are talking about generalities we need to look at specifics.

Ann Rider stated we need a current land use a description, visually descriptive. Committee one is Current Land Use. People should sign up for committees if they haven't.

Debbie Teeter thought there might be someone in the community to help with GIS.

Virginia Bryant asked for Planning Board members to chair the committees:

- Dan Walker – Current Land Use
- Sue Thompson - History and Population.
- Virginia Bryant, Steve Given and Alan Teeter – Housing, **Public** Utilities, Infrastructure and Transportation.
- Marie VandeMark – Economic Development, Community Facilities and Programs, Recreational Assets.
- Ann Chaffee and Calvin Rothermich – Agriculture
- Virginia Bryant and Nancy Spero - Environmental and Natural Resources

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Thompson
Recording Secretary

Beth McGee
173 Tucker Rd., Town of Enfield
Comprehensive Plan comments 8/14/12

Thank you to the planning board for providing an opportunity for the residents of the town to make their comments regarding the Enfield Comprehensive Plan.

I would like for our Town to stop being held hostage by the myth that Agriculture is the biggest economic contributor to the Town of Enfield. While it may have once been true, this is a myth now, that keeps being repeated at meeting after meeting so we will keep believing it. It isn't true with regard to income, it isn't true with regard to the tax base, and it isn't true with regard to sales tax. I assert that if we are going to build a Comprehensive Plan that will direct our town for the next 10-15 years based on this false perception, then a lot of data needs to be collected and this needs to be proven to still be true. While I agree that Agriculture should definitely remain as a primary land use in our town, there are many types of agriculture, and many types of residents who use their land for this purpose, whether to earn a living, have a hobby, or feed their families. Since residential landowners now contribute more dollars to our tax base, it would not be prudent to assert the needs or desires of agricultural land owners over those of residential land owners/residents.

While large land holders take advantage of Ag assessments, the people who actually pay the bulk of the property taxes, residential land owners, are left scrambling to make up for what Agricultural landowners are not paying. The folks who are residential landowners move here to raise their families and may be in search of a community that prides itself in investing in itself and creating a space where people can come together. When residential landowners are burdened with the bulk of the financial needs of our Town through their tax payments, it's more difficult to think about spending money on investments in our community.

This brings me to the second idea that is strangling Enfield...The meme that no one wants to spend money on anything that will make Enfield a better place to live. We cannot look at the old Comprehensive Plan and be shocked that it says we have 70% substandard housing when we don't ever invest in our community. We can't bemoan the fact that the poverty level here is unmatched by nearly any town in the State when you begin every discussion about making improvements to our Town or being responsible stewards of it with "well, we can't spend any money." This is irresponsible. And if we keep doing it, we can be sure that when the 2020 Census is done, those numbers will have risen once again. I would like Enfield to dream big and take advantage of great things as they present themselves- being proactive in building community, bringing people together, connecting residents. This can be achieved through all of the topics of concern such as infrastructure, economic development, community resources, agriculture, and environmental issues.

Lastly, I don't want fracking in my town, or any other large industrial enterprise that will ruin our rural character. I especially don't like the idea of other land owners creating a situation where I am forced to allow drilling under my home. This is completely against the common mindset of Enfield residents. We do not take kindly to others telling us what we can and cannot do with our property. In this respect, I certainly agree. No land owner should have the power to change their neighbor's lives and land uses so drastically without their say. I cannot imagine myself ever forcing my neighbors to share the dangers and

the risks of this industrial environmental nightmare while I raked in the profits for myself. I am the steward of my land, so I stand up for keeping it safe, clean, and neighborly. I hope to live out my days in Enfield, and encourage my children to return and make their homes here eventually. It is my hope that we can continue to become more connected as a community.

Thank you.

Debbie Teeter comments:

General:

Don't remove things people suggest have been completed – they may stimulate other ideas from other people – fine to flag them in some way, though.

Need a new section: Community Engagement

Purpose: To encourage involvement in and the successful functioning of the Enfield Community.

- Encourage volunteerism:
 - ◆ Collaborate with existing community service organizations
 - ◆ Provide residents with information about and contact information for existing community service groups (PTA, ECC, Fire Company, Afterschool, Grange, Food Bank, Churches, etc)
 - ◆ Develop a simple campaign to encourage community members to get involved, even if they can't commit to regular meetings and larger projects, i.e. "Do One Thing" – could be join the PTA, make a donation, volunteer one day a year – develop a list of "One Day" opportunities – like the PTA book Fair or the Harvest Festival

Ag Section:

- Right To Farm Law is about protection and support, but also about education
 - ◆ Ag education is important
 - Right to Farm Law can be handed out with building permits
 - Make available CCE's flyer on *Living in the Country*, which covers things like staying away from fences and livestock, sharing the road with farm equipment, trespassing, etc.
- Appoint an Ag Advisory Board, which many Tompkins County municipalities have done (including the Town of Ithaca), to provide comment on local actions impacting ag
- Apply for NYS grant funding to develop a Town Ag & Farmland Protection Plan
- Make sure Enfield is not only represented on County Advisory Boards like the EMC and WRC, but that the representatives understand the character of the community and the relationship between these group's work and agriculture
- Consider a Lease of Development Rights program, which might follow the Ag Value Assessment model, which requires a rolling specific year Commitment to Agriculture in exchange for property taxes value assessment based on ag use as opposed to highest and best use – i.e. for an increase in the length of commitment, Town property taxes are reduced or removed.

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- Goal #2 needs re-working – implies farmers don't know what they are doing, are acting contrary to the common good, and non-farmers know better.
- Recognize farms are not failing (applies to Economic Development section as well); agriculture is changing, but there are more acres in production today in Enfield than there were 10 years ago.

Town Beautification Section:

- Pride of Ownership Award – love it!
- Post Office (can't find it in the document) – this may be unrealistic, but maybe there are ways to meet some of the needs, like a postal drop box and places to buy stamps or buy postage on-line?