

Survey Results from the Public Focus Meeting - 11/18/09

1. Biggest issue facing the Town

Loss of agricultural property and activities
Cost of infrastructure development
Unbridled residential development in outlying areas
Loss of open space
Too much commercial zoning on Broadway
Maintaining "small town" character
Water
Where and how much residential development should be allowed
Balancing the views of the vocal minority with the opinions of others
Lot size and density
Aesthetics and community character
It is illogical to have a separate village that plans separately for itself (should be planning together)
Threat of commercial and excessive residential development

2. Where should growth occur in the Town?

Within geographic limits of the Village
Near the Village
Broadway (Ames Plaza)
Near Tops Market
Walden Avenue, around the prison
Walden Avenue, near Wilson Greatbatch
Put senior housing near the Village or around Broadway
Housing (condos, apts., single-family) in the Village
Millgrove and Genesee Street
Broadway, Walden Avenue and Genesee St. (manufacturing and commercial)
Do not target areas for new businesses and industries along major corridors (especially Broadway)

3. Where should commercial development be located?

Broadway - 3
Walden - 5
Genesee - 3
Near Village Boundary - 4

Broadway is already well zoned and properly developed
Walden Avenue is the commercial backbone of the Town
Keep the majority of businesses in the Village
The Town needs a "big box" law
Keep whatever goes on Broadway small in scale
Do not make Broadway, Walden or Genesee another Transit Road
Walden has infrastructure for industrial and commercial development
Industrial areas should stay together
No more commercial on Genesee in Millgrove
Steer commercial development to Broadway, nearest the Village
Don't sprawl commercial development out along highways; keep it in concentrated areas

4. How can Village and Town better cooperate?

Conduct joint meetings for economic development (regional planning for zoning and tax incentives)

"Talk" - compare master plans and discover commonalities and then act on them

Reconsider merging Town with Village

Consolidate some services

Hold a "Town Hall" meeting together

Consolidate, consolidate, consolidate

Village should contract for private garbage pickup and disposal with the Town

Village should contract with the Town for snowplowing and brush pick up

Eliminate duplication of services (economies of scale)

Combine the Crittenden and Millgrove fire departments

General comments:

Fear that large landowners/farmers will be ignored in effort to become the next Town of Clarence

Concern that the motives of the Committee are not aimed at the benefit of public (self serving)

Town should develop a Right to Farm law with teeth

Preserve prime farmland and farm soils

Sort out the sex offenders in the prisons from what is listed for the Town of Alden (demographics)

Town should enforce its property maintenance laws equally

How can we encourage the redevelopment of vacant buildings?

Residential subdivisions should include greenspace, parklands, etc. included within

Turn the old Tops into a senior citizen housing project

Develop landlocked parcels with housing

The railroad bridge on Rte. 20 is a gateway/front door to the Village (it looks like a mudroom)

Millgrove is perceived as a dumping ground filled with complaining people

Define "rural"; what constitutes a farm?

What about Crittenden and Town line hamlets?

Creative zoning sounds dangerous for random development

The Town should adopt a noise ordinance.

Develop and adopt smart growth principles

Ensure a safe and accessible food supply

Apply appropriate size and scale to residential and commercial development

Maintain and strengthen role of Town as supplier of agricultural products to the region

Do not follow the failed practices and policies of Lancaster

Productive farmland is one of Alden's greatest assets and should be used to guide prosperity

The unspoken majority that does not attend meetings supports growth with limitations

Would prefer Broadway to remain agricultural or with small businesses and homes (like now)

Plan around the core (Village) and don't allow development to sprawl outward