



# TOWN OF ROCHESTER

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Office of the Supervisor  
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## Meeting Notes for the Planning & Zoning Committee Meeting with Peter Fairweather

May 10, 2006

7:00 p.m., Town Hall

### Update of the 1969 Comprehensive Plan (Pam's Notes)

Town Board Members	Planning and Zoning Committee Members
Pam Duke Alex Miller	Kristin Marcell, Jonathan Blair, Pam Duke, Walter Levy, Mike Baden, John Dawson, Steve Fornal, Marijane Knudson, Bill DeGraw, Alex Miller, Dona-Marie Ragonese, Ruth Bendelius
Consultants	
Peter Fairweather,	

Since only two members of the Town Board were present, this was not an official Town Board meeting.

Pam Duke reviewed a map of Rochester with all the streets in the town given to her by Steve Stevens, chief of Accord 1. A copy will be made available for the Code Update Task Force. Good street maps are important for fire or rescue calls. Jonathan Blair reaffirmed that it is very important for residents to have their addresses clearly posted.

Discussion brought out the fact that although new buildings need a certificate of occupancy, the new addresses aren't passed along to the fire company and the rescue squad. It will be requested that the Code enforcement office pass that information along.

Alex Miller expressed dismay that the presentation made by the school board lacked information about the details of the school budget. Several present recalled that *The Times Record* (May 4) published a full comparison of school data. There was puzzlement as to why the RVC presenters did not know these details?

Steve Fornal reported on the progress of the Code Update Task Force:

- Susan Blickstein has assembled new and improved maps of the Town.
- The draft of the subdivision section was progressing.
- The new Code will have section concerning roads. At present, information about roads is spread out and not easy to find.

- The Task Force will be working on incorporating changes mandated by New York State which stipulates that electric service must be installed underground in certain subdivisions. John Dawson reminded the group that it is important to know that Central Hudson won't install service until a subdivision has been cleared by the planning board.
- There will be a tour of subdivisions that are good and bad examples of coding. Notice of this tour will be forthcoming.
- The next Code Task Force meeting will be May 22 at 5:00 at Town Hall.

Peter Fairweather introduced the results of the visioning session of the Public Outreach sessions. The results of the survey along with all comments are on the Town website: [townofrochester.net](http://townofrochester.net). In order to read the results, go to Comprehensive Plan and then to Peter Fairweather's website. When reading the information remember that the order of preference is from best liked to least liked. The highest rated image in the survey was the Accord railroad station: the least liked building was the strip mall Mac Donald's.

Walter Levy asked Fairweather to address the issue that some of the resistance to the drafting of an updated Comprehensive plan may be a class issue based on perceived issues of affordability and taste. Based on the responses to the survey, there is a need for consultation and clarification of needs. The PZC was asked to analyze the survey comments and come to some clarity about how to incorporate community concerns in to the new draft that will be presented for public comments in June. We know that appearance and affordability matter. We know that people want the hamlet of Accord revived but that they do not seem comfortable with density. We know that some want development on larger parcels because of issues of privacy, but some want smaller development parcels because of affordability. The quest remains as to how we can satisfy and balance concerns regarding affordability, appearance, and density.

Fairweather offered that this comprehensive plan that we are updating is about progress and balance--not perfection. Responses at the public outreach meetings have made it clear that we need to slow down--and we are. We are now working toward presenting another "draft" in July. More Public Outreach meetings are scheduled. Please see the schedule below.

Fairweather will revise the goals and make sure that comments are incorporated into the plan. Sections of a reworked draft will be discussed at our next meeting. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MEETING IS NOW ON THE MAY 22, TOWN HALL AT 7:00 PM**

Clarification of the Town's concept of a revitalized hamlet of Accord is really important. Responses to the survey photos of closely spaced houses were not always favourable, and this clashes with ideas for revitalizing Main Street Accord, which is our densest neighbourhood street.

Inventory of Natural Resources (NRI) is in progress. The Town's Environmental Conservation Commission will take up discussion of the completion of the NRI in time for the discussion of the "draft" of the Comprehensive Plan, not later than early July.

At the present time, the PZC is working with Steve Winkley, who is completing a study of the Town's water resources. We will make this water survey available as soon as we get the maps. Subsequent to our PZC meeting, the Environmental Conservation Commission (ECC), which is working on an in-depth NRI, agreed that Susan Blickstein should be retained to complete the NRI necessary for the Comprehensive Plan.

Next Steps:

The next PZC meeting will be held on May 22 at Town Hall—7:00 PM. Meetings in June are on the 14<sup>th</sup> and the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

A revised draft incorporating Town responses will be held in June, and the schedule is listed below.

Bill DeGraw has a video detailing conservation subdivision. Please contact DeGraw if you are interested in viewing it.

Public Outreach Meetings  
Town of Rochester Comprehensive Plan Update

Outreach meetings are your opportunity to provide your input into the Town of Rochester's Comprehensive Plan Update. Attend one: attend all.

Saturday June 17, 2006, 9:00 – 11:00 AM  
Town Hall (Scenic Drive, Accord)

Wednesday, June 21, 2006, 7:00 PM  
Alligerville Firehouse (Creek Road)

Thursday, June 22, 2006, 7:00 PM  
Rochester Town Court (Samsonville Road)

Tuesday, June 27, 2006, 7:00 PM  
Rochester II Firehouse (Samsonville (Road)

Thursday, June 29, 2006, 7:00 PM  
Accord Fire House (Main Street, Accord)

For more information, look for Comprehensive Plan at the town website:  
[www.TownofRochester.net](http://www.TownofRochester.net).