

Introduction to the Proposed Changes to the Town of Sharon Comprehensive Plan

In February 2007, the Sharon Town Board adopted the Town of Sharon Comprehensive Plan. This document serves as a kind of road map for how the community can stay a great place to live for the next 20 years. It contains a discussion of many aspects of Town life, from population and housing information, to natural resources and agriculture, transportation, business and industry, and concludes with ideas on how land should be used in the future to make the Town prosper.

After a Plan like this is created, the next step is to look at the zoning currently in place in the Town, to see if there are any areas where it doesn't match the preferred long term uses. This process began in the Summer of 2007. As the Sharon Plan Commission continued work to revise the Town Zoning Map to bring it into line with the adopted Comprehensive Plan, it became apparent that the Town's Comprehensive Plan also needed some amendments to clarify some land use issues through both map and text changes. Several new members were also appointed to the Plan Commission, and time was needed to get them familiar with the planning documents. Revisions like this are natural, and reflect how flexible the Comprehensive Plan is intended to be. It can be amended as situations change over time. It is not carved in stone.

After meeting from June 2007 to June 2008, the Plan Commission ultimately recommended amendments to the Plan to the Town Board on June 26, 2008. Copies of the recommended draft were made available for inspection at the Sharon Town Hall, Portage County Library, Portage County Planning and Zoning Department, and here through the Portage County website.

The changes listed in the Revisions document you are about to read are organized by Chapter, and identify which pages in the adopted Plan are proposed to be changed, along with the specific change. You may want to open up the full Comprehensive Plan document (also available on-line) to provide a more complete picture of what the changes will mean.

These proposed changes will be going to a Public Hearing in front of the Town Board on Tuesday, August 12, 2008, at 6:00 pm. at the Sharon Town Hall, 6704 Hwy 66, Custer WI. There will also be an Open House Monday, August 4, 2008 from 5 – 8 pm so that people can review the changes; the documents will also be available at the Town Hall Monday through Thursday, 10 am – 2 pm.

If you have any questions regarding the information presented here, or regarding the Comprehensive Plan in general, please contact Plan Commission Chair Kathy Powell at 715-592-4600 or Vice Chair Jeff Check at 592-3573.

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