

# TOWN OF ROMULUS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

May 21, 2019

Present: Mary Joslyn; Bill Karlsen; Earl Martin; Daryl Martin; Darren Burkholder; Bryan Burkholder; Ken Battle; Wayne Rowland; Tom Bouchard; Kathy Nicholas; Peter Arena. Guests: (see attached.)

Informational session opened at 7 PM by Subcommittee Chair Tom Bouchard.

TOPIC FOCUS: *Agricultural Issues*

## ACTIONS:

- Ken reported that he sent about 20 surveys via email to residents in the Route 89 Water District. Survey was also emailed to Lakeshore residents. Survey Monkey link to town web site expires at the end of May. Ken volunteered to bring surveys to the Ovid Library.
- Identified the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats pertaining to agricultural issues. **STRENGTHS:** GOOD CLIMATE AND SOIL; FLAT LAND; VINEYARDS/AMISH FARMS; DIVERSE CROPS; WELL-DEVELOPED ECONOMY; LOCAL FOOD; FOOD AUCTION; FINGER LAKES BRAND RECOGNITION; SUPPORT NETWORK; TWO WINE TRAILS; AMPLE WATER; LOW POLLUTION. **WEAKNESSES:** DRAINAGE; RUN OFF; CONTRIBUTES TO ALGAE BLOOM; PUBLIC LOOKS AT AGRICULTURE AS A THREAT; LACK OF LABOR; LACK OF MARKETS. **OPPORTUNITIES:** PUBLICITY; AGRI-TOURISM; FARM-TO-TABLE; HYDOPONICS; HOPS AND/OR ALTERNATIVE CROPS; EDUCATION; POTENTIAL FOR GREATER PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT; BETTER SIGNAGE; REGIONAL FOOD HUB; DEVELOP INFRASTRUCTURE FOR TRANSPORTING FARM PRODUCTS; COLLEGE INVOLVEMENT; METHANE DIGESTER; COMPOSTING; 3,000 ACRES FOR FARMING IN THE DEPOT. **THREATS:** TARRIFS; FARM/LABOR BILL; CLIMATE CHANGE; DUMPS AND INCINERATORS; DECREASE IN POPULATION; LARGE SCALE SOLAR.
- Worked on establishing some preliminary goals such as: *Promote sustainable agriculture; Keep farms intact and manage development and growth; Refer back to the town's Farmland Protection Plan (2009.)*

Information session ended at 8:30 PM.

NEXT SESSION: JUNE 18, 2019. TOPIC: *Economic Issues/Tourism*

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Bouchard