

# **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROCESS**

## **I. Introduction.**

The Town of Farmington is in the process of creating the Town's Comprehensive Plan pursuant to the State's Comprehensive Planning Law, Section 66.1001 of the Wisconsin Statutes. Section 66.1001(4)(a) of Wisconsin Statutes specifically requires the governing body of the local government unit to adopt written procedures designed to foster public participation, including open discussions, communication programs, information services, and public meetings for which advance notice has been provided, in every stage in the preparation of the comprehensive plan. These written procedures contained within this Public Participation Plan (hereinafter referred to as the "Plan") satisfy this requirement. This Plan will guide public participation throughout the Town of Farmington's Comprehensive Planning Process.

This Public Participation Program offers all citizens, businesses, interest groups, affected units of government, and other parties a range of opportunities to participate through the planning process in a meaningful way to shape the future of the Town. Effective public input is critical for the success of this planning process because it is our citizens, businesses, and groups that will experience the Plan's costs and benefits on a daily basis for many years. This Plan will, in part, determine where and how our residents live, work and play, and how they travel from one place to another.

The participation program encourages people to participate in the planning process and is designed to maximize the effectiveness of their contributions. Public input opportunities are open to everyone with a stake in the outcome of the comprehensive plan. The participation opportunities are available to a wide range of citizens—people with different incomes, races, ages, and occupations—in all stages of the planning process.

The public participation process will:

- 1 Ensure all planning decisions are open to public comment;
- 2 Produce better planning decisions;
- 3 Support and add credibility to all Town decision-making processes;
- 4 Provide opportunities to disseminate information about the Plan and process to all segments of the Town;
- 5 Strengthen the relationship between our decision makers and citizens;  
and,
- 6 Develop a shared vision for the future of The Town of Farmington and La Crosse County.

## **II. Public Participation Opportunities.**

The Town of Farmington has established the following list of public participation opportunities. This collection of opportunities will meet both the letter and spirit of Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning Legislation and will include the following:

### **1. Community Survey.**

To facilitate public awareness of the planning process a community

survey will be prepared and distributed to all Town of Farmington landowners and residents. The survey will obtain public opinions and preferences on key subjects addressed in each of the nine comprehensive plan elements.

## **2. Visioning Meeting 1: Issue Identification.**

The visioning meeting will create public awareness and provide education about the planning process. It will also facilitate a goal setting exercise. Meeting attendees will participate in an exercise that will identify issues and opportunities that should be addressed in the comprehensive planning process. Participants will also set their top priorities for the process and Town of Farmington over the next twenty (20) years by ranking issues and opportunities. The results of this exercise will provide the foundation for the development of project and community goals and objectives.

## **3. Stakeholder Interviews.**

The Town Planning Commission and/or designee will conduct interviews with residents and stakeholders to gain additional input and support for the comprehensive planning process.

## **4. Website.**

The Town of Farmington will post on its website the Comprehensive Plan and planning process information. This information may include the project schedule, agendas, draft plan elements and reports, maps, photographs, updates and survey results.

## **5. Past Planning Accomplishments**

The Planning Commission and Town Board throughout the planning process will inform residents and meeting attendees of past planning efforts and planning documents. The information provided will be utilized in developing the Town of Farmington Comprehensive Plan.

## **6. Public Comments.**

The Town Board and the Planning Commission will always welcome written comments regarding issues presented. Direct written responses will be made where a response is appropriate. Comments will always be addressed and discussed at meetings. Written comments can be mailed to the Plan Commission Chairperson Tom Brindley at W3114 County Rd T, Mindoro WI. 54644.

## **7. La Crosse County Planning Information**

La Crosse County is in the process of preparing the La Crosse County Comprehensive Plan. In preparing the County plan residents in the Town of Farmington expressed their opinions in the form of public meeting input and resident surveys. The Town of Farmington will utilize this information gathered by the County planning process to aid in the development of the Town plan.

## **8. Meeting Notices.**

The Town of Farmington will post meeting notices for each meeting and event in a timely manner at accessible locations (the Mindoro Post Office, outside the Town Hall and inside the Co-Op station), and the notices will meet the requirements for proper notification regarding date, time, location, etc.

**9. Planning Commission Meetings.**

The nine elements of the Town of Farmington Comprehensive Plan will be developed at a series of meetings of the Town of Farmington Planning Commission. The meetings, unless otherwise noted, will be open to the public and allow opportunities for public comments. The meetings will focus on the development of plans, policies, and programs to implement the community defined vision. Meeting agenda and minutes will be posted on the Town website and kept at the Mindoro Library. All monthly meetings will have a public attendance sign in sheet for records.

**10. Open House to Review Draft Plan.**

The Comprehensive Planning Law requires municipalities to hold at least one (1) formal public hearing with a Class 1 public notice prior to adoption of the "Final Comprehensive Plan." Prior to adoption of the Final Comprehensive Plan, the Town of Farmington will conduct an open house that will be chaired by the Planning Commission. The intent of the community open house is to provide an opportunity for the public to review and comment on the complete "Draft Comprehensive Plan."

**11. Public Hearing on Final Plan Adoption.**

The final step in the Plan adoption process is for the Town Board to hold a public hearing on the proposed "Final Comprehensive Plan" adoption ordinance and the "Final Comprehensive Plan" document. The Town Board is required to consider any comments received on the Recommended Comprehensive Plan prior to adopting a Final Comprehensive Plan. After adoption of the ordinance for the Final Comprehensive Plan, the Plan and adoption ordinance shall be distributed by the Town to recipients listed in Section 66.1001(4)(b) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

**12. Other.**

Planning is a continuous process that does not end with the adoption of the Plan. Unforeseen issues at the time this Plan was prepared, or as future issues arise, the Planning Commission may organize additional public participation activities or as it considers specific planning issues and amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. The topics of the meetings or open houses will depend on these issues and will be designed to feature opportunities for public education, input, and interaction.

**III. Adoption.**

This Plan was adopted by the Town of Farmington Board on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Chairman  
(SEAL)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk

