

Town Topics

CompPlan Meeting at Cragsmoor Firehouse Set for Mon., Sept. 27th

by James Dolaway, Supervisor, Town of Wawarsing

The Town of Wawarsing has begun the process of updating its *Comprehensive Plan*. As reported in the August issue of *Wawarsing.Net*, the **Town Board** has secured the services of Fairweather Consulting and Shepstone Management Company to assist the town in this effort.

The **Town Board** paid a visit to the **Shawangunk Senior Center** in Napanoch on August 2nd to discuss the *Town Comprehensive Plan*. Over 60 residents came out to give their thoughts on Napanoch and the Town of Wawarsing. Project consultants Peter Fairweather and Tom Shepstone presented background information on the Town's growth, conducted two visioning exercises, and moderated a public discussion of major issues. Public comments, which do not necessarily reflect the policy of the Town of Wawarsing, included the following:

1. It is important to use the most recent data available whenever possible such as census population estimates, building permit records, etc.
2. Napanoch offers a combination of natural beauty, history, and architectural appeal that needs to be protected.
3. Conversion of an old hotel to multi-family apartments could bring new problems to the Hamlet of Napanoch.
4. The recent closing of the *Imperial Schrade* plant and the loss of 250 jobs could have a long-term negative impact on the community if not addressed properly.
5. It is important, in developing the overall plan for the Town, to recognize individual community identities.
6. The diversity of incoming population, such as the Ukrainian Community, is an important asset.
7. The Town needs to bolster its historic preservation efforts in the same manner as the Village of Ellenville.
8. It is important to find productive uses for vacant commercial properties.
9. Proposed conversions of old hotel properties to new uses demand higher standards with respect to replacement uses and historic preservation.
10. The Town needs to enforce property maintenance regulations sooner to avoid building deterioration and requests for property tax abatements later.
11. More attention is needed to the safety of those pedestrians and bikers who are now using **Rte. 209**.
12. The Town needs to protect the large masses of valuable farmland it possesses, some of which are zoned industrial.
13. The Town must better address the needs of its youth.

It was great to see such a turnout at the **Shawangunk Senior Center** in Napanoch, and I believe all those who attended the *Comprehensive Plan* meeting enjoyed the meeting and were very positive about their concerns.

In Kerhonkson, on August 18th, a group of 30 residents – including Supervisor Pam Duke of the Town of Rochester – came out to give input to the *Comprehensive Plan*. In the next issue of *Wawarsing.Net*, I will bring some of the Hamlet of Kerhonkson concerns.

Irene Rocha, a resident of Kerhonkson, has stepped forward to join an unofficial committee in the development of the *Town Comprehensive Plan*. This unofficial committee includes Planning Board member John Constable, Planning Board Chairman Martin Lonstein, Planning Board Attorney Mary Lou Christiana, avid sportsman and former Highway Superintendent Bill Smith, Town of Wawarsing Code Enforcement Officer Jack Kissel, Town of Wawarsing repre-

sentative to Ulster County Environmental Management Council (ECEMC) Hank Bartosik and the Town's Assessor, Michael Sommer. Heading up this group are Councilman Ray Lux and myself.

The next scheduled public input meeting for the *Comprehensive Plan* will be at the **Cragsmoor Firehouse, Monday, September 27th at 7:00-9:00 PM**. We are looking to schedule one each for Ulster Heights, the Hamlet of Wawarsing, and possibly out in Spring Glen.

I hope you are able to attend one of our meetings; if you have any questions, please call the Supervisor's Office at **647-6570 ext. 6**.

Again, thanks for assisting us in this process. Hope to see you in Cragsmoor on the 27th of September. 

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An Airport Grows in Wawarsing

by Dr. Richard Craft

Economic development in the Town of Wawarsing has recently been given a "shot in the arm." Although it is not on the scale of the Bethel Performing Arts Center, growth has taken its first steps as the accompanying photo shows. The occasion is the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of a new seven-bay hangar at the **Joseph Y. Resnick Airport**. Those pictured in the above photo are, from left to right, Councilman Ray Lux, former resident and former president of the *Ellenville Savings Bank*, David Freer, local businessman and chief promoter of the project Dwight Coombe of *Shawanga Aviation*, liaison to the Airport from the Town Board Councilman Terry Houck, President of *Shawanga Aviation* Bob Arnot, current Supervisor James Dolaway, and former Supervisor Dr. Richard Craft. Foundation work has already begun and, according to spokesman Dwight Coombe, construction should be completed by September. Mr. Coombe added that all the spaces have been rented in anticipation of its early date of occupancy. Once completed, plans may include erecting a second building.

The **Joseph Y. Resnick Airport**, owned and operated by the Town of Wawarsing, has also awarded an obstruction removal bid for the clearing of all trees to the south of the airport. In addition, proposals are being readied for the extension of the taxiway, the construction of a new maintenance building, the razing and removal of two existing buildings, and the relocation of the fuel depot. Another positive note reveals an increase in fuel sales since Avgas is no longer available at the Wurtsboro Airport. Funding for this new expansion comes through grants given to the town from the FAA.

In four short years, the once-dormant **JYR Airport** 