

Vision Statements From Town of Sharon Residents

Workshop Number	Issue Category	Comment
2	AG	Ag land must be carefully classified and zoned. This is the key to land control in the county and town.
2	AG	All A1 agriculture land should not be used for housing developments.
1	AG	If farms (small) cannot survive, zone so that owners cannot make fast profits by developing on a large scale. Farms remaining idle are good. Encourage this with a favorable taxing system (property tax).
2	AG	Insist on wise practices - less quick fixes for insect / disease damage. Less emphasis on cash crops that really shouldn't be attempted here because of inappropriate rainfall, soil fertility, etc.
2	AG	Keep the ag land limited to a bigger acreage to promote its use as cropland, as opposed to being someone cash cow by subdividing it. Try to add incentives to attract the next generation to farm - if there is nobody to do the job there will be no farms.
6	AG	Keep true prime ag - prime ag. Don't let it be divided up by development. Improve farming inputs of nitrogen and other chemicals look for owner input crops that are marketable. Encourage organic farms.
1	AG	Land use tax very helpful and needed. Should be allowed to develop if there continues to be demand. A lot of farmland is not valued at the same level of housing & when the farmer needs the cash or wants to retire do not punish him even more by not letting him sell to the highest bidder.
2	AG	Limit development in prime agriculture to a minimum. Keep development in non-agricultural areas.
2	AG	Maintain stability.
2	ED	Areas should be set aside for sewage plants - industrial use - commercial - around small villages such as Polonia - Ellis - Custer - Amherst - Nelsonville.
6	ED	Attract businesses that help economy but don't increase population a lot.
2	ED	Attract more diversity not just more walmarts, home depots, targets, that just compete with businesses already here and cause major turn over (leaving unused business buildings) just because it looks good on the tax roll.
1	ED	County needs to support it and take a position. The problem Olsen Mills faced when trying to bring much needed industry to this area was a disgrace. Portage County worried about a few and ignored the many. How many other businesses read about or talked to him or other businesses in the area that were told Portage County is not business friendly.
1	ED	Develop business and factories in a small way. Try to keep out large employers. Develop more of the University system and education.
2	ED	Improve or/ maintain what is already here.
2	ED	Industrial development should be in the business park and if more room is needed expand the business park.
2	ED	Stevens Point being the hub of the County's employment wheel needs to draw - not turn down - some industrial opportunities - and refuse some retail style employment. Such as the possible chance to attract Saturn automobiles or Harley Davidson when Woodward Governor closed. Instead, we got a new business park and Lands End, not the best deal for an area depending on one main dying industry - paper mills.
2	ED	We should look for small non-agricultural businesses. They should be placed in specifically zoned areas with available transportation for goods, services, and employees.
2	H	Too much building/land consumption. Example- area east of Brilowski Road and N of Hwy 10. Once land is developed it will not be reversed.

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1	H	I would prefer 'urban sprawl' over 'urban density'. I feel having homes with enough space for families to enjoy will raise the quality of life not harm it. Should aim to maintain & enforce clean and neat housing (so many broke down cars and garbage)
2	H	I'm not sure what can be done except to keep insisting for compatibility (not letting homes be built near agricultural contaminated sites or businesses suddenly built in the midst of housing or open fields that were valuable before they came in.
1	H	In Rural areas require larger acreages to build single family homes.
2	H	Keep housing development in areas which are not suitable for agriculture and keep lot sizes to 5 acres if possible.
2	H	Limit or restrict the development of subdivisions to keep the County's character rural.
2	H	Private residential should be defined to areas so zoned for that use.
6	H	Site new development where drainage is good. Cluster housing in some areas to protect greenspace around homes. Infill homes in city and villages first.
2	H	Zoning properly set out and enforced is the answer. The people should decide what housing should go where. I live here because it is country and would like it to stay that way.
2	IC	A County based newsletter sent to township leaders to inform them of changes, or additions, to rules or regulations in all the townships/cities of Portage Co.
2	IC	All city - village - rural government should work together to minimize service expenses.
2	IC	Enforcement of plans can only be accomplished with a "no exception rule". This might seem harsh but if not approached on that basis all regulation is mute.
1	IC	Local governments maintain local control but with restrictions so that local governing body does not do the opposite of another. This is with respect to development, land use, etc.
6	IC	More true intergovernmental cooperation. Consolidation of fire and other services across municipal lines.
2	IC	Tough one - everyone wants to keep their own little (or big) kingdom.
2	IC	Try to combine services that are feasible with other communities.
2	IC	Why can't we better share governmental control rather than isolating ourselves with town boards, separated school districts, etc.
1	IC	you mean like Plover and Stevens Point - the one who gets to the press first to say it was their idea then it is ok with them. Everyone needs to quit worrying about who gets the credit for the idea and if money can be saved, share it.
2	LU	Be more aggressive in protecting open/green space. Be more protective of A1 and Cons. Zoning districts - too easily changed.
2	LU	All areas should have development/use zoning such as farming - light industrial - heavy industrial - small business - private residential - multifamily - mobile home parks
6	LU	Infill and use vacant lots. Enforce service (sewer) boundaries. Slow annexation process - it just promotes sprawl. Revitalize downtown. Revitalize older homes and historic places.
2	LU	Keep the usable a land as ag land, versus the subdivision option. Keep the residential development "placed - concentrated" in areas versus dividing everything in sight into 2 acres parcels.
2	LU	Land use can be controlled by good zoning with strict enforcement, having land properly zoned to begin with is the key.
1	LU	Select areas where land is not suitable for farming try to maintain large tracts of swamps and forests. Develop only land that is not suitable for farming or forestry and water areas.

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2	LU	Use land which is best for housing, agriculture and recreation.
2	LU	We must maintain green spaces within our communities. Places for kids to climb trees, build tree houses, explore a pond, etc. So I am for community planning, against uncontrolled urban sprawl and homeowners insisting they have unlimited rights to do what with their land as they please. We must learn to look at the whole picture and have a healthy (diversified) community, not having all our jobs associated with one economic source.
2	NR	A definite restriction on mining - gravel pits and concrete based operations is necessary. The drainage at the Patch/Michigan underpass has been compromised by the amount of concrete truck washoff - resulting in plugging of the drainage tubes under Michigan. The washoff coming from the company on the corner of Patch/Michigan. Carefully monitor the current big industry to help them solve any pollution problem they may have.
2	NR	Hopefully these will be protected by several approaches. Open and green space, woods, wetlands and open water along with the wildlife they support I believe are the backbone of what makes Portage Co.
2	NR	I do not want to see and significant loss of these natural areas. If any are threatened by highway, business, mineral or gravel exploitation, a thorough investigation should be done first to figure out why such action is necessary and whether some other solution is possible. We must put great emphasis on keeping our underground water supply safe. If this water is harmed for drinking, our land and lives will be greatly harmed. Our wildlife is already threatened, it must not continue to decline (songbirds, etc.)
2	NR	Limit development around lakes to 5 acre lot size.
1	NR	Maintain a country atmosphere. Not developing lakes, streams, etc. Heavy emphasis on maintaining wetlands. 20 years from now the next generation can experience natural environment.
6	NR	Preserve and protect natural resources / green and open spaces through revised zoning, conservation easements, and reducing urban sprawl. Protect corridors for wildlife and plants by not breaking them up with buildings / homes. Improve ground water quality by reducing are inputs. Recent EPA study shows air quality in PC a concern. Be watchful of groundwater quantity - L. Plover river disappearing. Protect and respect wetlands. No more hwy 10 gas stations like one on Plover River. Com 83 septic changes need to be addressed before they allow destruction of natural lands otherwise protected.
1	NR	Protect them, but be reasonable. Keep wetlands & ponds safe. Continue to find ways to protect ground water - more will get done if you work with the farmers not blame & regulate them. Example is the relationship of WPVGA & World Wildlife Fund - 4 yrs farmers reduced toxicities by over 37%.
2	NR	Reasonable protection should be a goal
2	NR	Rivers and wetlands need to be protected with strong development laws. Natural areas should be purchased by local and state for protection.
2	PF	Planning should be put in place for public buildings - water systems - sewer- residential - industrial use for all small non incorporated villages in the county.
2	PF	All townships need to impress upon the citizens how important their say in what services or facilities we provide or deny really is.
1	PF	Average public services. Those services that are affordable and normal.
2	PF	Develop areas for youth to be able to go to.

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2	PF	I would expect a county fire and emergency department will be part of our community in 2020. Stations throughout the county will follow growth and need.
6	PF	Quality education in maintained school buildings with adequate classrooms. Possible consolidation of 5 districts to reduce costs. Water and sewer services - define boundaries and use those to direct smart growth. No telecommunication towers in parks. Continues support for public libraries. Monitor Plover power plant - if it goes beyond 3 yr. deadline - relook at t need to design.
1	PF	Why do all the buildings look nicer then most businesses and homes. New water pump house on 54 or the Hwy dept. If the services they provide were done by private business - the buildings and landscape would not be done to such an extent.
2	PF	With a stable population hopefully all that will be needed is to maintain what we've got with updates as needed. New facilities and constant expansion of existing should not be necessary.
2	QOL	Areas need to be set aside for more parks - playgrounds in residential developments - walkways / bikeways along some light traveled roads.
6	QOL	Maintain small town atmosphere with a blend of urban and rural vitality. Protect, preserve and create green (rivers, streams, fields, parks) and open space both in town and in rural areas. How much growth is enough? Limit growth by selecting, so we keep the small town atmosphere but retain economic viability.
2	QOL	My vision is not status quo, but to see greater blending of our resources. Let our historical and cultural heritage remain, but help smart growth by coordinating municipal services, police and protective services that can share responsibilities, letting everyone be aware of all other persons so not is left floundering by themselves - simply because they live outside a city limits, or in a distant part of the community center.
2	QOL	Need to control / limit growth to maintain our small town atmosphere. New developments should be limited to established municipal boundaries - do not continue to expand boundaries to accomodate development.
1	QOL	Quality of life should be small town. Enjoying nature, opportunity for education and average level of employment. We need no silicone valley, tourist capital of Wisconsin.
1	QOL	Stop listening to the people - that once they move to the country then they say no more growth.
2	QOL	The value of old historic and non-historic buildings realized so that they may be preserved for future generations. Protecting all waters shores - lakes/rivers and keep them free of the overdevelopment that is taking place.
2	QOL	Zoning with strict enforcement will control growth rates. We live here because of the small town atmosphere - yet growth is necessary.
2	T	All areas within the county should have designated heavy use highways for heavy truck usage
2	T	Highway GG may need some modifying - such as near hwy Z in Polonia - but the main route remain the same. An overhaul rather than building a new road will help keep land acquisition costs low and not turn the county into 1 large road map. Highway 10 should travel its existing route - frontage roads here are long overdue!!
2	T	Hwy 10 should use existing corridors. Road development should be limited to maintaining what exists - way too much money for road construction.

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Workshop Number	Issue Category	Comment
1	T	Maintain the present transportation system we have. Do not create a super system because that just puts pressure on redeveloping land use.
6	T	More bike paths and walkways. In city it is very dangerous. Use existing concrete for highways as much as possible.
2	T	Run hwy 10 south west from Stockton Road to CTY Hwy HH to I-39 & North to Hwy X & cross the river. Any future development along Hwy 10 should have frontage roads.
2	T	This topic will probably be one of the most delicate to handle, yes we need alternative recreation (trails) but how many groups can share a trail. Must we have separate trails for walking, skiing, snowmobiling, horses, etc.? Or can we learn how to use them and still protect them from over use. Automobile roads must be well planned. If we had used smart growth several decades ago along hwy 10 east (planned service roads, with limited access onto hwy 10, we would not be going through the agonies of today. (we must keep traffic flowing at 65 mph - as a quote of Marshfield Clinic Officers stated)

Workshop Location

- 1 Amherst 3-18-02
- 2 Polonia 3-19-02
- 3 Eau Pleine 3-21-02
- 4 Bancroft 4-1-02
- 5 Stevens Point 4-4-02
- 6 Village of Plover 4-8-02

Issue Category

- AG Agriculture
- ED Economic Development
- H Housing
- IC Intergovernmental Cooperation
- LU Land Use
- NR Natural Resources
- PF Public Facilities
- QOL Quality of Life
- T Transportation