

Town of New Glarus

Results of March 24th, 2015 Public Informational Meeting & Workshop

On March 24th, 2015, 25 town residents and business professionals gathered at the Chalet Landau Hotel to discuss Town of New Glarus priorities and offer suggestions and comments to Town Leaders. The effort was announced via a direct mailing to all town residents and postings on the Town's web page.

The Town's Planning Consultant, Ken Jaworski, of Martenson & Eisele, began the evening by presenting national, state and regional level information on demographics, housing, agriculture, transportation, environmental and land use trends. A short Q & A was conducted after the presentation before the participants engaged in an affinity process to provide answers to seven questions. It must be noted that not all attendees participated in the affinity process.

Participants recorded individual answers to each question on a separate "post-it" note. There was no limit to the amount of answers a person could submit per question. Post-it notes were then placed on to white boards. Facilitators reorganized the post-it notes by similar themes on white boards.

Similar answers were placed in their own group and marked for voting. Participants were given three dots and asked to vote for their three favorite groups of answers per question. Only Questions 1 through 5 required voting. Questions 6 and 7 were open comments. Each dot is assigned a weighted value. Red dots represented their first priority, and were worth a value of five (5) points. Green dots were their second priority and were worth a value of three (3) points. Yellow dots were their third and final priority and worth one (1) point. Please note that some participants elected not use all of their assigned three (3) dots per question which is why the total point total is not exact for each question.

All white sheets were then collected and the dots counted and weighted values calculated. Based on the priority values, a final score was calculated of each grouping of answers. The final voting results from the workshop are presented as follows in order of priority:

1. What are ways Town Leaders could improve the "Quality of Life" for Town Residents?

Theme:

1) Maintain/Promote Rural Character and Agriculture

- Maintain rural life
- Encourage Ag environment
- Keep mega-farms out of the Township = this will help keep air & water quality good & will help Green County's image of family farms stay true
- Maintain rural areas
- Limit dense development
- Quality of life is excellent, no need for improvement, rural and Ag, no high density housing
- Retain and/or increase the Ag sector
- Keep as much Ag land in production as possible
- Establish a sense of community; nature (parks), neighborhood's to Farm Days (Farm to Table) , Green County Sheriff's Dept. involvement in communities

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 7 votes

#2 – 4 votes

#3 – 1 vote

Total Score: 48

2) Improve Internet Services/Broadband

- Better & affordable high speed internet for township residents & business. TDS is refusing to develop infrastructure to accommodate growth
- Improve access to internet services
- Improve Broadband, TDS internet is bad

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 6 votes

#2 – 3 votes

#3 – 1 vote

Total Score: 40

3) Improve Trail Networks

- Improve biking & walking trails/lanes near roadways
- Walking, biking trails

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 2 votes

#2 – 3 votes

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 19

4) Keep the Status Quo

Specific Comments:

- Don't get obsessed with Growth
- Keep the town a safe, clean place to live

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 3 votes

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 1 vote

Total Score: 16

5) Natural Gas Expansion/Promotion.

- Town's support of Natural Gas Expansion
- Promote Natural Gas to the Township

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 3 votes

#3 – 2 votes

Total Score: 11

6) New Library.

- Contribute to a new library
- Work with Village on making a new library a reality
- Encourage support, work with village to get a new library

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 2 votes

#3 – 3 votes
Total Score: 9

7) Hold or Lower Taxes

- Lower or hold taxes
- Lower taxes on Farm Land
- Lower/reasonable taxes
- Keep taxes low so people can invest their money as they see fit!! Do not borrow money on top of borrowed money

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 3 votes

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 9

8) Protect Ground Water

- Protect ground water

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 3 votes

Total Score: 3

9) Provide Town Services

- Fire & EMS
- Bring more services to the town residents

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 2 votes

Total Score: 2

10) Town Communication

- Being available for the Town Residents to answer questions & help with concerns
- Help with concerns
- Better communication of Town activities

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 1 vote

Total Score: 1

11) Address shooting in residential areas of the town

- Address shooting in residential areas of the town

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 1 vote

Total Score: 1

12) Kids Activities

- Kids activities

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 1 votes

Total Score: 1

13) Snow plowing & road maintenance.

- Snow plowing & town road maintenance
- Maintain or improve current plow levels of service in the Town
- Better trash service WM isn't reliable in snow & it snows in Wi for 5-6 months at a time

Voting Priorities:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 0

2. As a Town tax payer, what type and levels of service do you expect to receive from Town Government?

Theme #:

1) Road Maintenance, Conditioning and Plowing

Specific Comments:

- Road maintenance (4 times)
- Road maintenance, garbage pickup & little else
- Good Roads
- Road & winter maintenance
- Keep roads in good condition , needs to be a high priority
- Maintain roads both highways and in residential areas
- Roads, buildings
- Cost to repair roads & service to work with Tax payer
- Snow plowing of roads, fire protection, EMS, police service
- Snow plowing, weed cutting & necessary highway maintenance
- Weed cutting
- Snowplow as it is now

Voting Priority:

#1 – 12 votes

#2 – 5 votes

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 75

2) Emergency and Protection Services

- Basic police & fire services; bringing natural gas lines to subdivisions, the mailings our nice to get
- EMS & Fire (2 times)
- Fire and Police services
- Ambulance & fire
- Law enforcement from the count is fine

- Fire station, garbage collection, EMS, Police service, medical office, restaurants, roadway service
- Current frequency of garbage pick-up ok, snow removal, mutual aid, assistance for public safety, police, fire, EMT
- EMS (3 times)
- Fire (3 times)
- Police (2 times)
- Public health safety & welfare, that's it. If dog parks, trail, etc., are wanted by a few people let them pay for it
- Basic services only, fire, EMS, garbage disposal, law enforcement
- Fire protection, EMS, plowed roads, well maintained roads, garbage pickup every two weeks

Voting Priority:

#1 – 3 votes

#2 – 6 votes

#3 – 5 votes

Total Score: 38

3) Waste Management

- Timely garbage pick up
- Trash pick-up
- Trash service
- Trash collection
- Garbage pickup
- Continue present refuse pickup
- Garbage pick-up as it is now

Voting Priority:

#1 – 1 vote

#2 – 6 votes

#3 – 4 votes

Total Score: 27

4) Improve Library

- Increase library service
- Help make new library a reality
- Support the library

Voting Priority:

#1 – 1 vote

#2 – 1 vote

#3 – 2 votes

Total Score: 10

5) Town Administration

- Informed at all times projects that impact my property
- Communication from township
- Combine all new housing rules
- Township gets access to pool through tax dollars
- None

Voting Priority:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 7 votes

Total Score: 7

3. The Town must address the need for a town garage. Where do you feel the garage should be located?

Theme #:

1) Cost effective and economical

- Locate garage where it is most economical
- Wherever cost efficiency and convenience intersect
- Work with Village, county (whoever) to maximize benefits to the “larger” community
- The town garage should be located where it will be the most cost effective area as long as the need is warranted. Work with village to save on costs?
- Use the most efficient alternative if its alone in cooperation with village or county
- I think it should be wherever it is most cost effective & works best for the town
- Wherever it is the most economical for the tax payers
- Cost effective for township
- Located where cost is lowest
- Whatever is cost effective
- Cost effective in the town. Room for growth

Voting Priority:

#1 - 13 votes

#2 – 3 votes

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 74

2) Shared Facilities

- Maybe combine with county and Village to save costs
- Work with & share facilities with other government entities
- Village and town together to share equipment in out of town property
- We should be provided with several location possibilities. Maybe town & county can both use
- Pursues joint facility with village & county efficiency is more important than particular location
- Garage should be located in most cost effect site in combo w/ Village & county
- Locate the garage as close to village as possible. Explore sharing facilities w/ village & county
- Wherever it would make the most sense. Have to have enough room for current use and future

Voting Priority:

#1 – 4 votes

#2 – 13 votes

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 59

3) Access to main highways –centrally located

- Access to main highways – centrally located

Voting Priority:

#1 - 0 votes

#2- 0 votes

#3 - 8 votes

Total Score: 8

4) Should not compromise service levels

- Should not compromise service levels only if it improves

Voting Priority:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 1 vote

#3 – 3 votes

Total Score: 6

5) Vacant lot in Village

- Vacant lot in Village

Voting Priority:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 3 votes

Total Score: 3

4. What type of recreational facilities should the Town provide for its residents and visitors?

Theme #:

1) None/Not Needed/Low Priority.

Specific Comments:

- Not an area of great concern, low priority
- Nothing beyond the existing New Glarus Woods State Park (430 acres) & Bluebird Conservancy in Windmill Ridge
- None! We have underutilized parks trails etc. Why spend more tax money that may be used infrequently
- Not needed
- None. Enough located nearby help maintain trails
- None! We have a State Park, bike trail already. Why duplicate??
- Don't see a need for the Town to provide recreational facilities but a shooting range would be nice
- Nothing
- Ok at this time
- None (3 times)
- None or work with village to use their facilities for a fee

Voting Priority:

#1 – 13 votes

#2 – 1 vote

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 68

2) Cooperation/Collaboration for Future Facilities.

- Cooperate w/ village for recreational facilities
- Should work in collaboration with villages in the area (NG, Monticello) & townships = joint activity
- Park – Family outing, probably using village facilities such as swimming pool, swing sets & other park children units

Voting Priority:

#1 – 1 vote

#2 – 9 votes

#3 – 5 votes

Total Score: 37

3) Trails & Trail Networks

- Bike trails to travel into the village or pool
- Bike trails from subdivisions to the village and other areas in Township
- Bike trails to travel to other areas to enjoy services like parks, etc., pools
- Hiking biking

Voting Priority:

#1 – 4 votes

#2 – 2 votes

#3 – 3 votes

Total Score: 29

4) Cooperation with NG Woods State Park

- Cooperative “tie-ins” with NG Woods State Park
- The State park is right here, also a fantastic bike trail – do we need to pay for more in this area?

Voting Priority:

#1 – 1 vote

#2 – 4 votes

#3 – 3 votes

Total Score: 20

5) An Area for Target or Trap Shooting

- An area for target shooting or trap shooting. Many outdoorsman live in area

Voting Priority:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 2 votes

#3 – 3 votes

Total Score: 9

6) Dog Park

- Dog park

Voting Priority:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 1 vote

Total Score: 1

5. What do you feel the Town's roll should be in accommodating or promoting development?

Theme #:

1) Manage/Control Development

- Controlling development
- Use zoning, land use powers to limit how subdivisions & perpetuate rural character
- Just to be available for questions & input when these situations come up
- Avoid development
- Set up a committee to promote diverse residential development
- It depends on what kind of development? Cluster development, No! Large lot development, Yes!

Voting Priority:

#1 – 7 votes

#2 – 3 votes

#3 – 2 votes

Total Score: 46

2) Accommodate Agriculture

- Accommodate , allow mini farms – “Cottage industries”
- The Town should support farming and residential areas. No industry
- Preserve our need for food in the future – limit # of new residential subdivisions in the township
- Organize development to provide maximum amount of Ag Land

Voting Priority:

#1 – 4 votes

#2 – 3 votes

#3 – 3 votes

Total Score: 32

3) Support Expansion of Natural Gas

- Support expansion of natural gas

Voting Priority:

#1 – 2 votes

#2 – 3 votes

#3 – 2 votes

Total Score: 21

4) Promote Development

- Town should play an active role in promoting development
- Promote development within village not in township

Voting Priority:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 4 votes

#3 – 2 votes

Total Score: 14

5) Establish Neighborhood Type Development

- Establish a development with smaller houses & lots. Have a common area of parks, Nature, & Trails. This market is growing for the progressive families.

Voting Priority:

#1 – 2 votes

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 10

6) Promote Commercial/Business & Light Industrial

- Develop a business park? & promote labor pool available
- We need a commercial area
- Promote light industrial and/or technical

Voting Priority:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 2 votes

#3 – 4 votes

Total Score: 10

7) Promote Tourism Base

- Promote tourism
- Development could be more to perpetuate the tourism base

Voting Priority:

#1 – 1 vote

#2 – 1 vote

#3 – 1 vote

Total Score: 9

8) Work with Village as a “Sense of Place”

- Should work with village as a “sense of place”

Voting Priority:

#1 – 1 vote

#2 – 0 votes

#3 – 0 votes

Total Score: 5

9) Collaboration for Regional Branding

- Town should collaborate with other towns & villages to promote the general area = more cost effective & will appeal to a wider group of people
- Needs to be cooperative if not a negative to Town of N.G.

Voting Priority:

#1 – 0 votes

#2 – 1 votes

#3 – 1 votes

Total Score: 4

10) Communicate with Town People on Needs

- By talking to towns people, as to what they need. If a bed-community perhaps not much is needed

Voting Priority:

#1 – 0 votes
#2 – 0 votes
#3 – 0 votes
Total Score: 0

6. Do you believe maintaining and/or increasing the Town's tax base is important? If so, what type of development and where?

- If we can increase tax base – great- as long as we don't immediately find ways to spend on new thing etc.
- Yes, along 69 corridor attract prof. level commercial development bioengineering – Ag related
- Yes, development of smaller homes with access to services like a park or bike trail
- Yes, maintain, business – commercial
- Place near highway thoroughfare
- Yes, growing & sustaining in slow but stable growth is good
- Only if this does NOT involve foreign investment or mega farms. Keep it rural and small farm/family –oriented
- Yes, light industry or technical or professional
- Professional businesses w/tight development controls so it is aesthetic
- Maintain not increase
- No (3 times)
- No mega farms, particularly hogs

7. It is well understood and accepted that commercial and light industrial development generates a positive tax base. That said, do you think the town should pursue this type of development more aggressively or could it negatively impact the town in other ways?

- Yes (4 times)
- Combine a business or industrial base with county or village. Focus on small organic farms & Ag
- Yes, just don't use too much tax payers money for tax breaks
- Leverage proximity to Dane County/Madison
- Yes, with a concentration on AG
- Yes, professional , commercial, high tech, bio engineering, artists
- Leverage the Madison to Illinois corridor (I see lots of Illinois license plates on Hwy 69)
- Efforts should be coordinated with other governmental entities in Green County. This should be based on promoting & keeping healthy our small farm/ag image
- No – should happen in village business park – keep town rural/agricultural
- No – I do not think at this time it is needed
- No
- Maintain as rural