

Joyfield Township Planning Commission Meeting with the Farm Community and Public

Thank you to all who attended and offered ideas regarding sustaining and enhancing the agricultural economy in our community. Your input is important and necessary to create our Master Plan for Joyfield Township.

Following is a summary of the meeting and its results. We encourage your continued participation and suggestions and welcome you to attend our planning commission meetings.

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Who: General public invited with an emphasis on the Joyfield farming community.

What: Public meeting to ask the farming community what the Township can do to help them “sustain and enhance the agricultural economy of the Township”; which is one of the goals of the Joyfield Township Master Plan. What suggestions do farmers have for the Township, that relates to planning and zoning, to help the farming community succeed?

When: March 7, 2013 at 7pm

Format: The facilitator gave a brief overview of the Lakes to Land Regional Initiative and the master planning process in Joyfield Township. Also reviewed were the priorities from the vision session and the Cornerstones that were developed as a result of the vision session. Participants were asked to discuss as a group and write down their answers to two questions:

"What do the farms need, from Planning and Zoning, to insure that they are viable over the next 20 years without compromising other priorities of the Township?"

"What is needed to make this opportunity/tool/technique successful? What are the roadblocks that could prevent success?"

Each group reported back to the larger group with their answers to the questions.

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Results

QUESTION 1:

"What do the farms need, from Planning and Zoning, to insure that they are viable over the next 20 years without compromising other priorities of the Township?"

- We need the ability to build industrial facilities to support our agricultural industry and maintain it
- Support for migrant work force and housing
- Good roads for hauling produce and farm products
- Support for more affordable electrical energy
- Further land preservation must support the Township tax structure- pay their taxes
- Added support for right to farm
- Agriculture should be number 1- change your priorities
- We don't always make decisions for business on scenic beauty.
- Keep land divisions to 80 acres.
- Leave us alone- no zoning

QUESTION 2:

"What is needed to make this opportunity/tool/technique successful? What are the roadblocks that could prevent success?"

- Avoid zoning that dictates what I grow
- Avoid restrictive ordinances and allow farmers more flexibility
- Avoid restrictive zoning that hampers the ability to make a living
- Lands splits at 2.5 acres
- Cluster development
- Ability to diversify freely
- Lease to legitimate industry- wind/gas/oil
- Avoid redundancies in regulations
- Do not impede on our land rights
- Road blocks include: polarized viewpoints, biased leadership, outside influence (limit), lack of representation
- No zoning- minimum zoning if needed
- Let us use our land as we see fit to make a living
- I believe 90% of the people here, are here to see how bad they are going to get screwed

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JOYFIELD TOWNSHIP VISIONING RESULTS

<i>Collective Prioritization</i>	<i>Votes</i>
1. Retain scenic character - developed natural areas	31
2. Growth in agriculture - specialized	29
3. Implement zoning/planning	26
4. Maintaining a rural character/environment	21
5. Increase job opportunities - support local business	17
6. Utilities	6
7. No large industrial complexes	3
8. Undivided community	1
9. Clean up - beautification	0

JOYFIELD TOWNSHIP CORNERSTONES

1. Retain and create jobs for Township residents.
2. Connect with regional non-motorized and motorized trails.
3. Improve and develop Township infrastructure.
4. Avoid the development of industries that affect our rural character.
5. Discourage blight.
6. Preserve our rural and scenic character.
7. Sustain and enhance the agricultural economy of the Township.