

Village of Rockland – Comprehensive Plan

Public Participation Plan

Introduction:

Public participation is the process which people who will be affected by or are interested in a decision by a governmental body have an opportunity to influence its content before the decision is made.

The public participation plan offers all citizens, businesses, interested groups and other interested parties a range of opportunities to participate throughout the planning process in a meaningful way to shape the future of the Village and region. 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. They will also be the main implementers and enforcers of the plan.

Wisconsin's Comprehensive Planning statute recognizes the necessity of effective public participation and requires the adoption of a written public participation plan as stated in Chapter 66.1001(4) (a):

“The governing body of a local government unit shall adopt written procedures that are designed to foster public participation, including open discussion, communication programs, information services, and public meetings for which advance notice has been provided, in every stage of the preparation of a comprehensive plan. The written procedures shall provide an opportunity for written comments on the plan to be submitted by members of the public to the governing body to respond to such written comments.”

In preparation of the Comprehensive Plan for the Village of Rockland, the Village Board and Comprehensive Planning Commission are committed to providing on-going opportunities for public participation throughout the planning process. The Village of Rockland is therefore committed to completing the following tasks in order to provide opportunities for public participation.

Posting/Notification of all planning commission meetings

- Public notification for the Comprehensive Planning meetings will be posted at the following locations:
 - Rockland Village Hall
 - Stop-n-Go
 - US Post Office – Village of Rockland

A member of the Comprehensive Planning Commission will regularly check these sites to see that posted notifications are replaced if removed. These notifications will be posted until the comprehensive Plan is adopted by the Village Board.

Public Input

- The Village of Rockland's Comprehensive Planning Commission did issue a village-wide community survey in order to attain input regarding all nine aspects of the comprehensive plan. The survey was completed in the spring of 2006. Responses will be used as input in drafting the Village's Comprehensive Plan.

Meetings

- The Comprehensive Planning Commission will hold two public hearings as required by Chapter 66.1001(4) (d). These meetings will be held upon the completion of the draft Comprehensive Plan and prior to the Village Board voting to accept or deny the draft Comprehensive Plan. A notice of each hearing must be published at least 30 days before the hearing in a newspaper likely to give proper notification regarding the date, time, location, etc.
- All Comprehensive Plan related meetings, as well as Village Board meetings regarding the Comprehensive Plan, shall be open to the public.
- The Comprehensive Planning Commission meeting are held the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm (excluding holidays) at the Village Hall. Village Board meetings are the second Tuesday of every month.

Newsletters

- The Comprehensive Planning Commission will post notice of the upcoming Comprehensive Commission meetings in the Village Newsletter.

Plan Availability

- Copies of the Public Participation Plan, and Draft Comprehensive Plan will be available for review at the following locations:
 - Bangor Public Library
 - West Salem Public Library
 - Rockland Village Hall
 - US Post Office – Village of Rockland
 - La Crosse County Website

Public Comments

- The Village Board/Comprehensive 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.