

News from Avon Township

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A little more than 30 years ago, the Board of Supervisors adopted the “Avon Township Comprehensive Plan 1989 – 2020.” This document outlined the principles that have guided decisions for three decades. A copy of the 1989 Comprehensive Plan is available on the Township website (avontownship.org/ordinances/).

To create the plan in 1989, the Township assembled a large team that included the Township Supervisors (Daniel Boom, Leo Gondringer, Maynard Sand) and members of the Planning Commission (Richard Bresnahan, Brian Brix, LeRoy Gondringer, Alfred Schwalbe, William Skay). Attorney Daniel Zimmermann and a group of consultants and researchers from St. Cloud State University also joined them.

The mission of the team was to develop a plan that would “enhance the spirit of the community, enrich the natural resource base, and preserve the family farm heritage.” The Comprehensive Plan that they drafted “was designed with a 30 year vision . . . in consideration for our grandchildren who will inherit the land.”

In 2003, the Township undertook a project to “develop a growth map for the township to help guide Stearns County officials in their decisions to approve or reject development requests.” This massive effort involved gathering and analyzing data about each section of the Township. At the conclusion of this review, a revised growth map was approved.

At the June 2019 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, they decided that it is time to update and revise the Comprehensive Plan and Growth Map. Like their predecessors, the Supervisors delegated this responsibility to the Planning Commission.

The review process will begin at the June 26th meeting of the Planning Commission. It would be particularly useful during these meetings to have a crystal ball to help us see into the future of the township. If you have one, we’d love you to bring it to this meeting to help review and revise our Comprehensive Plan.

Even if you don’t have a crystal ball, we invite you to join the Planning Commission and provide input into shaping the future of the Town. Hopefully, the comprehensive plan and growth map that evolve from these discussions will be as insightful, useful, and cutting-edge as the ones drafted in 1989 and 2003, respectively.

To end on a lighter note, if you've traveled on County Road 9 you've likely spotted Sasquatch. We have started to keep track of the big fellow (or gal) on our Town website (avontownship.org/inside-avon-township/sasquatch). Email your sightings to me (clerk@avontownship.org) to include on our new Sasquatch page.