

**Work Session Public meeting for the Comprehensive Plan  
March 15, 2017  
Minutes**

**1. Pledge to the flag**, followed by the reading of the Harris Township mission statement

We opened the floor to John Powers at 6:05 pm after the Pledge of Allegiance and the reading of the town mission statement.

John did the instructions and handed out two sheets of papers to each table. They had questions on them. I have condensed what each table has written as their notes.

Features and characteristics that define the Harris Community. Purpose is to identify the values, features, and characteristics that define the community to contribute to the positive sense of place. The responses were:

- Open spaces, a sense of privacy, not overly populated, options for rec trails, local recreation within township, and sense of personal safety. We need to upgrade our landing and parking. Walmart having an impact on the night sky. Billboards along 169, size and height. Still viable. Infrastructure, (gas and broadband) make the area more attractive.

Highway 160 corridor was the next question posed to the community.

Define the extent of commercial development within the Highway 169 corridor. Current plan perspective, Role of County zoning, and small discussion the general type of commercial development with any incentives or restrictive that should be considered.

- Some of the comments were: Retail services, plumbing, give options to go commercial, both sides limits to the commercial corridor, electrical, not heavy equipment, buffer zone between commercial and residential areas, square footage, incentive could be lower taxes that Grand Rapids, noise is a concern how far they come off the highway. Have a limited width and depth to the parcels, no industrial, and limitation on distance off highway.

Township Lake access, provide direction on the future of the Township boat landings. Identify desired future of existing accesses, retain as is, improve, or eliminate,

- #1 Mishawaka needs to be improved to add more parking, LaPlant would need to be a little larger, and Casper needs to be redone. Premier recreational resources. Improve landings

Ease of access to Grand Rapids.

- Employment, shopping experiences, Governmental services, entertainment, social/religion/education, all are great, and worry about annexation

General comments, this is an opportunity to raise questions and discuss aspects of the planning process implementation and other related topics.

- The question was raised if we are going to go to a city. Generalized and as a local government. There has been talk, we are moving in that direction but have no formal plans to take that on right now. Possible incorporation. If annexation would bring public utilities, hostile as the city could take what they wanted, the city can take up to 120 acres in one annexation chunk.

Motion to adjourn made by Supervisor Haubrich seconded by Supervisor Kelley passed by all.  
Adjourned at 8:10 pm.

