

Amsterdam/Churchill Community Planning Group
February 4, 2008

Attendees: Walt Sales, Robin Swanson, Tim Van Dam, Gail Weidenaar, Carl Vander Molen, Glen Flikkema, Ada Montague, Warren Vaughan, Bob Urich, LeRoy Logterman, Bill Kimm, Keith Venema, Carol Weidenaar, Mark Kimm, Nathan Crane

Meeting Introduction:

- 1) Erika passed around minutes from the last meeting and asked everyone to sign the attendance sheet. She hopes to e-mail the minutes to everyone by the Friday before the next Monday meeting. Everyone can look them over for approval and print out a copy to bring to the meeting if they want.
- 2) Walt asked for a motion to approve the January 21st minutes. Glen moved and Tim seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- 3) Warren asked everyone to share their name and any rumors they had heard.
- 4) Warren reported that there were over 85 attendees at the second community meeting held on January 22nd -- a larger turn out than the first community meeting.
- 5) Warren handed out a summary of results from the January 22nd meeting. Everyone commented on the results and how they felt the meeting went.
- 6) Warren introduced Nathan Crane, an MSU graduate student in architecture who will be working with Warren and Kestrel Aerial to do some photo illustrations on aerial photos of the area. The photo illustrations will be used to better show different development densities and patterns on land in the area. The illustrations should be made available over the next few weeks and months.

Discussion:

- 7) Next, the group discussed the next steps. Everyone agreed that the “easy” topics should be approached first.
- 8) Everyone participated in a long discussion regarding the proposed “inner” growth boundary verses the “outer” boundary of the Amsterdam/Churchill area.
- 9) Among the other topics discussed were:
 - a) how adjoining subdivisions and farm land can work together to co-exist.
 - b) how road improvements can be used to direct the flow of traffic.
 - c) the possibility of requiring dense new development to install sidewalks and street lights.

- d) the possibility of coming up with a draft for a sidewalk plan in areas already developed.
- e) looking into ways to define the main Churchill thoroughfare as a main street rather than a state highway.
- f) possibly creating a transportation plan and map, including a wish list of changes if existing subdivision plans fall through.
- g) possibly creating a permanent advisory committee to be put in place once the initial community plans are finished. This committee would be made up of volunteers who would meet periodically to look at zoning issues and requests for variances.
- h) looking into the cost and details of a public water system.
- i) possibly making the old railway into a bike path.
- j) a possible priority of building sidewalks with curbs, gutters, and lights on roads leading to schools.
- k) how to handle new development requirements verses existing needs (in areas already developed).

10) It was proposed that the boundary for the growth area of Churchill/Amsterdam extend one mile North, South, East and West from the curve at Bethel Church on Churchill Road. It was decided that the planning group should wait for the aforementioned aerial photos before voting.

Change of Meeting Time and Place:

- 11) The next Amsterdam/Churchill Community Planning Group meeting will be held on Monday, February 11th at the Bank instead of February 18th at the Fire Hall. This change was made because Warren will not be able to attend the previously scheduled February 18th meeting.
- 12) Agenda topics for the next meeting include electing a chair and raising money for the next community mailing.
- 13) Meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm.