

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2003 MONTEBELLO COMPREHENSIVE PLAN HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009 AT VILLAGE HALL.

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:35 PM.

Members Present: Thomas Campbell-Chairman
Lance Millman
Jane Burke
Anthony Piazza
Melanie Golden
Sandra Ward

Members of the Public provided comments on the existing 2003 Montebello Comprehensive Plan, including recommendations for improvements and areas of focus.

Comments from Resident Alan Rubin:

- Noted that 2003 CP vision for Village Center 2 required changes to existing uses of surrounding parcels – was unlikely to be workable and should be reconsidered.
- Also suggested that mixing Office, Retail, and Residential uses is commendable, especially low-income housing, but VC2 plan in 2003 CP required too much concentration, too small roads, not enough parking.
- From a tax perspective, the best use of the Village Center 2 parcel may be commercial (office or retail).

Comments from Mr. Elsworth (representing Novartis):

- Commented on long-time presence of Novartis and its predecessors in the current location
- Concerned that any changes to proposed use for Novartis land in Montebello (200' conservation easement along Hemion Rd) could upset relationship.
- Stated that Novartis has no plans to further develop any of its property along Hemion Rd.

Comments from Resident Katherine Gorman:

- Asked Comprehensive Plan Commission to consider need for affordable housing in the area – at minimum make no changes to the zoning currently in place for the Indian Rock development.
- Noted on Walking Trail portion of existing Comprehensive Plan, a recommended “short-cut” between the residential and commercial Indian Rock parcels was recommended. In Ms. Gorman’s opinion, this is not needed (and is potentially unsafe) and can be removed from the next Comprehensive Plan.

Comments from Resident Amy Rapoport:

- Need to consider ways to continue moving forward with walking/biking paths. Possibly push for wider roads in new subdivisions (assists with both walking/biking AND snow removal).
- Part of incentive for this focus in 2003 CP was to give school students a safer way to get to school and for sports training.
- Give special attention to the proposed path in the area of Montebello Fields and Coe Farm subdivisions – land may have been allocated but not utilized

Comments from Residents (students) Molly Babcock and Leona Quinn:

- Reconsider sidewalks and/or walking paths for students and athletes – currently have to use public roads near high school, feels unsafe. Can alternatives become a priority in the next Comprehensive Plan?

No other members of the public requested the opportunity to speak.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM