

CURRENT

Vision Statements

As part of updating Poland's Comprehensive Plan the Update Committee attempted to gain input from citizen about what they would like for the future of Poland. In planning terms what the committee wanted to do was create a "Vision" or a mental picture of what the town's residents want the community to look and feel like in 10 to 20 years. The "Vision" is an important part of the Comprehensive Plan. It is the introductory description which the rest of the plan builds upon. The "Vision" is the dream of the community and the Plan is the blue print of the community.

In developing the "Vision" the Committee attempted to engage residents in a discussion of what they like about their town and what are the most important issues that need to be addressed as Poland plans for its future. The Committee held public meetings on Saturday October 20, 2007, Thursday October 25, 2007 and Saturday October 27, 2007. At each of these meetings residents presented to the Committee their thoughts and ideas about the future of Poland. The Committee was somewhat disappointed in that more of our residents and neighbors did not take this opportunity to engage in a discussion about the future of their town.

Based on the public visioning sessions, the following are Poland's Vision Statements.

- The town will have a diversified economic base of small business and industry that provide local employment opportunities and a tax base not overly dependent on residential properties.
- There will be a balance of economic growth attracted here due to incentives and simply because Poland is the 'place to be'.
- The quality of our lakes and ponds will be high and will support our tourist industry and add value to our tax base.
- There will be a definable "village area" that both locals and passers by stop at to obtain goods and services. They will stop because the "village area" is attractive, is clean and well maintained, is walkable rather than vehicle orientated, is locally orientated not dominated by national franchises or big boxes, and is safe.
- Our major Routes, 11, 26 and 122 are attractive, safe and not cluttered with inappropriate development types.
- There will be sewer and water services in some areas of the community that serve businesses and residents.
- Our community character, consisting of clean surface and ground water, clean air, forestlands, open spaces, scenic views, attractive and safe residential areas, friendly people and local businesses will still be here.
- New development will be located where it can be best served by municipal services reducing the cost of providing these services to outlying areas.

Selected Comments From the Online Survey

Streamline Permitting Process

Remodel/Expand Library

Downtown Gathering Place/Community Gathering Center

Playground for toddlers/Gym

Public Transport

Bike Trails

Support Agriculture

Industrial Park

Attract businesses – CVS, Walgreens, and Restaurants

24-hour police presence and speed control

More small town events, parades etc.

Senior Housing

Extend water and sewer (some did not want this)

DRAFT

Vision Statements

The Comprehensive Plan Committee has updated the Poland Comprehensive Plan. In drafting that update, input was received from residents about what they would like for the future of Poland and the major challenges facing the town. In addition, the Committee conducted thoughtful research and reviewed trends that would impact how Poland could respond moving forward. The Committee did not discard the "*Vision*" developed in the previous plan, but updated it considering new facts and data that help refine the mental picture of what the town's residents want the community to look and feel like in 10 to 20 years. The "*Vision*" is an important part of the Comprehensive Plan and is the foundation on which the rest of the plan builds upon.

In developing the "*Vision*" the Committee engaged residents to ascertain what they like about their town and what are the most important issues that need to be addressed as Poland plans for its future. The Committee conducted an online poll that had a high response rate and held public meetings on XXXXXXXX.

Based on the public visioning sessions, the following are Poland's Vision Statements.

- The town will have a diversified economic base of small business and industry that provide local employment opportunities and a tax base not overly dependent on residential properties.
- There will be a balance of economic growth attracted here due to incentives to live and work in Poland, a Comprehensive Land Use Code that encourages development consistent with town desires, and community events and spirit that make Poland the 'place to be'.
- The quality of our lakes and ponds will be high, will support our tourist industry, and add value to our tax base.
- There will be a definable "village area" that both locals and passersby stop at to obtain goods and services. They will stop because the "village area" is attractive, is clean and well maintained, is walkable rather than vehicle orientated, is locally orientated not dominated by national franchises or big boxes, and is safe.
- Our major Routes, 11, 26 and 122 are attractive, safe and not cluttered with inappropriate (can we define this?) development types.
- There will be sewer and water services in some areas of the community that serve businesses and residents.
- New development will be located where it can be best served by municipal services reducing the cost of providing these services to outlying areas.
- There will be appropriate housing options to allow Poland Senior's to age in place and remain part of the community.
- The small town character of Poland will be maintained through careful stewardship of clean surface and ground water, clean air, forestlands, open spaces, scenic views, attractive and safe residential areas, and development of community gathering places.
- Poland will remain as a good place to raise a family. Consideration should be given to affordable housing for young families and programs, such as an expanded before and after care program at our schools, that enable working parents to continue to work.