

Memo

To: Northfield Township Board of Trustees
From: Marlene Chockley, Supervisor
RE: Future Planning and Zoning Coordination
Date: 3-23-17

Board of trustees,

We are faced with a significant opportunity in the next few years to set the stage for a revitalization of the downtown and to realize the dream of a flourishing economy in the US 23 corridor. The North Village (aka Community Park or Van Curler property) will play a key role in what happens downtown.

The North Village presentation we will see is the culmination of several months of effort on the part of the Downtown Planning Group (DPG). The DPG was officially created by the Board of Trustees on October 13, 2015 to prepare an overall vision for the downtown and determine implementable action items. Many community residents and business owners serve as volunteers on the group. It is led by Barbara Griffith, the chair of the Downtown Development Authority (DDA).

On September 20, 2016, Northfield Township signed closing documents on the purchase of the 23 acres formerly referred to as "the Van Curler Property" – the vacant land next to the Whitmore Lake Post Office. The DPG began working to create a plan for that area with the help of McKenna Associates. It is their hope that this concept plan be adopted by the Planning Commission and Board of Trustees.

With that goal accomplished, we look to prepare a strategic plan for the downtown. It is important that both the DDA and Planning Commission be involved significantly with this process since that is their official charge. In fact, the DDA voted on March 15 to fund the strategic plan for the downtown. It is my hope that the DPG, DDA, and Planning Commission will contribute members to a committee that will see this plan through to its adoption by both the Planning Commission and the Board of Trustees.

The Planning Commission also has a work plan in the packet. It is a very ambitious plan for the next year and may stretch into 2018. Key components of it are the coordination with the work of the DDA, DPG, the Parks and Recreation Board, and the Farmland and Natural Areas Committee.

As all of these projects are drawn together, we will see a very strong and exciting path forward. Please call or email me if you have any questions. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



Marlene Chockley