

# Town of West Monroe Embarks on Vision for the Future

## Master Plan Committee Report

by Doug Fuegel

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Way off in the distance there is a rumble, you can almost hear it and for some they can feel it; the Town of West Monroe is shaking ever so slightly but it is shaking; at least that's what a small group of citizens that the West Monroe Town Board selected last June as a Master Plan committee are hoping.

The town board charged the committee to develop a Master Plan for West Monroe that would be all encompassing for all its residents, the citizens and the business community, a plan not for just today but for years and decades to come. A plan that will insure our rural atmosphere, include provisions for commercial growth, a plan that will address recreation and a plan that will retain our heritage.

The committee consists of Steve Patch, Debra MacDougal, Doug Fuegel, Norma Jean Howard, Dave and Dale Mahar, Dale Gass, Marc Decuffa, Jim Kelly, Bruce Phillips and Randy Shaw. The committee, all residents of West Monroe possess a variety of backgrounds from military, owner/operated business, retirees, sales persons and just plain citizens who hold a deep care for this town.

The committee began meeting in June 2008 and have met continually every few weeks devising a draft master plan for the town. It has been a long process first outlining and listing what we like about the town and what we don't like about the town and then sorting these out by priority and importance for an overall goal. From there where do we want to go, what do we envision for the future?

We should note that there have been master plans developed in the past for West Monroe, good plans that were shelved with no action. There was unanimous agreement among committee members that here we are in the 21st century and growth is and has been happening around our township but little within our borders. The committee also agreed if there is to be growth and opportunities for its citizens it must be controlled and planned as to not destroy or diminish one of its greatest assets, the character of the town.

Months of digressing and gathering information from invited guest's expert in the field of planning at several of the committee meetings the committee developed a rough draft master plan for West Monroe. As communities to our south burst at their seams and have utilized most of their land areas it is the hope of the committee that people and business will say "yes" West Monroe has what I want for my family, good schools, good navigable connecting roads, recreation areas, a community center, near by businesses that can fulfill my needs and above all the infrastructure to support families and business growth.

The committee has met and hopefully done the boring preliminary work creating a draft master plan and will continue to function but now it is time for you the public, the citizenry of West Monroe to come forward and be a part of this adventure. Our meetings

are absolutely open to the public and we encourage each and every resident to attend Master Plan meetings. Each and every meeting will conclude with a 15 minute question and answer session for the public; your input is vital and our only vehicle that lets us know if we are on the right path and also allows the committee to completely keep you the public informed.

Where we now and what is the future plan and schedule? The rough draft plan is on paper, the Town Board has approved and accepted the Master Plan's recommendation for a professional organization to guide us and has contracted Kent Environmental Planning and Design.

For the next nine months the Master Plan Committee will meet every two weeks until October 20, 2009 when at that time we present the final report to the Town Board. All meetings will be held at the West Monroe Town Hall located on County Rt. 11 and will commence at 6:30 P.M. For the next few weeks General Meetings are scheduled as follows: February 10<sup>th</sup>, February 24<sup>th</sup>, March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> with our first scheduled Public meeting March 31<sup>st</sup>.

As time goes on I will make every effort to update our meeting schedule for you; the committee's sincerest hope is you the citizens of West Monroe will overflow our meeting room. A complete list of all Master Plan committee meetings is available by visiting the West Monroe web site at [www.townofwestmonroe-ny.us](http://www.townofwestmonroe-ny.us).