

West Monroe Master Plan-Questions & Answers
By Doug Fuegel

The third draft of the Master Plan is some 18 pages with policies, goals and actions on numerous topics ranging from growth, extension of utilities (water& sewers), housing, non-residential development, traffic and transportation, recreational and even procedural (how we do business). To say the least it is a massive undertaking that if adapted by the Town Board will take several years and much hard work to implement. Residents must understand a plan of this magnitude will not see fruition over night in fact most will not experience any change in their mode of living or pursuits within this town. I liken the implementation of this Master Plan if adapted to watching grass grow, it will happen but ever so slowly over a period of time. Implementation of the master plan will be excruciatingly slow and require countless committee's eons of time and energy with each phase.

From the very beginning of the Town Board appointing the 11 members to this committee the committee agreed from the onset our biggest challenge would be communicating with the citizens of West Monroe, to keep them informed of facts, our progress and above all keeping rumors and misconceptions at a minimum. Hard as we tried with constant updates to our web site, columns in this publication and the Syracuse Post however in some respects we have failed some of our residents. Letters to editors stating our plan disallows commercial development in all areas except the NY Route 49 corridor and our plan to extend sewers along this corridor will cost every tax payer are not only incorrect but so disheartening to the hard working volunteer committee members.

It is a given accepted fact across this nation regarding villages, towns and hamlets with a high proportion of residential properties, of which West Monroe falls into this category, does not generate enough tax base to support needed services. Knowing this as a given the committed agreed to attract any form of big box commercial development sewers and water would be a must. The immediate exit off interstate I-81 eastward was considered the ideal location for this infrastructure consideration. By "big box" the committee rationalized interest may come from any number of national or regional chains as Target, Wegman's, etc. and along with the big box companies a host of smaller type commercial businesses this area so sorely needs.

The gigantic misconception that seems to be surfacing among some West Monroe residents is that the Route 49 corridor is the one and only location in the land use plan that would allow commercial development. **This is absolutely not the case.** The land use map is and has been on display at each meeting since it was developed and has been revised at least a couple times due to great suggestions from residents attending our meetings. The draft Master Plan allows for massive areas within the town for commercial use within residential areas. West Monroe already has a smorgasbord of smaller type commercial business too numerous to list scattered throughout our town. The Master Plan Committee has no intention of limiting or denying commercial growth in areas of the town that will blend with residential development.

This Master Plan Committee has labored long and unselfishly of their time to develop this 3rd draft plan that contains many great ideas from residents who took the time to attend meetings or read the plan on the towns web site. Our goal is to keep you informed and keep misconceptions to a minimum by urging attendance at our meetings; the next meeting is Tuesday July 14th, 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. Those residents unable to attend meetings please visit our web site at www.townofwestmonroe-ny.us, the site also provides an email address that you may inquire on any portion of the plan or submit any question. Your inquiries will replied to promptly.