

Hello Rutland Neighbors,

First, I'd like to thank all of you for your trust and support in electing me Chair of the Town of Rutland. I will do my best to advocate for our Town and help make Rutland an even better place to live. I want to share news and updates with as many residents as possible as we work together on this. You are receiving this because you signed up for the Town's mailing list. **Will you spread the word by getting three of your neighbors to sign up?** If each of us gets a few more people to sign up it will help us all stay well-informed and involved: <https://town.rutland.wi.us/subscribe-to-updates/>.



In my first few weeks as Chair I've had the opportunity to discuss and learn more about our major issues with Board members, officials from other Towns and the County, our community partners, and I've heard from a lot of you as well. A group of important projects has emerged and **I'd like your help**. For these ideas to succeed the Town needs your input and participation – we have an abundance of expertise and skills here, and I'm asking you to share them. It's an opportunity to help the Town, build on our sense of community, and meet some neighbors you don't already know. I am creating a "task force" for each of these projects and looking for 2 – 3 residents with an interest in each topic to step up. Most of these projects will at some point open up to the larger community to make sure we have feedback and participation from as many of you as possible. All of these topics are identified as important parts of our current Comprehensive Plan, which is also on the list for updating. Here are the projects:

1. Broadband access: Between now and December the Town will be soliciting and reviewing proposals from Internet Service Providers to bring broadband to all areas of the Town. Residents with some background in tech and/or communications would be especially helpful.

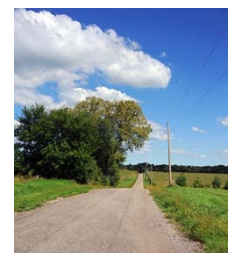
2. Comprehensive Plan update: This is our land use and planning document. It affects all of us because it sets goals and strategies for development, housing, businesses, land preservation, services and more. It was written in 2005 and was to be revised in 2024. This task force should represent the entire character of the town including agriculture, residential, and commercial land uses. A small group will work on a draft before bringing it to the whole community. (See the plan at <https://town.rutland.wi.us/comprehensive-plan/>).



3. Roads: This task force will update our road survey, which evaluates and ranks the condition of our Town roads to help determine how our small but essential road repair budget gets allocated. It may also make recommendations on solutions to improve safety.



4. Grant Writing: This task force will research and pursue funding from federal, state, county, and private sources to help advance our community improvement projects. Anyone with an interest in items such as trails, water quality, wetland restoration, historic preservation etc. would be a great addition. Writing and research skills would also be very helpful.



There are already residents working on what to do about our aging **Town Hall** (this will also open to the community at the next stage), our **Collection Center**, and the restoration of the historic **Rutland Center Church**. **THANK YOU** to the residents who have already contributed to these projects. Updates on these items will be addresses in future newsletters.



Please join me and our Town Board in tackling these important issues, so that they represent the needs and wishes of ALL residents as much as possible. Email me at chairknutson@town.rutland.wi.us to participate. Or stop in during my regular weekly office hours at the Town Hall, Mondays and Tuesdays 6:30 – 9am and Mondays 4 – 6:30pm.

And please ask your neighbors to sign up for updates from the Town so that we can have an even more engaged, well-informed Town.

Thank you.
Kent Knutson, Chair, Town of Rutland