

## Hello Rutland Neighbors,

### I'd like to pose a couple of questions here for you to consider:

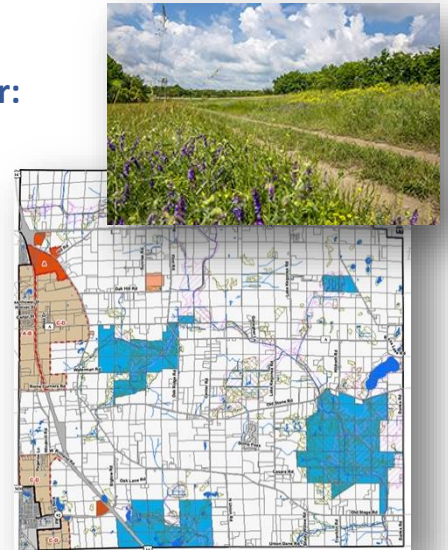
- How has Rutland changed over the last 15 years? What has changed for YOU in the past 15 years?
- There is a big demand for homes. Where should they be built? Should we have areas of denser housing? If so, where?
- Should Rutland encourage more businesses to locate here? What kind? Where?
- What are Rutland's best features? What are our biggest problems?
- What does "farmland preservation" mean to you? What should we be preserving?
- If you could name one thing that you wish Rutland had that it lacks, what would it be?

I'm asking these questions because one of the most pressing tasks ahead of the Town Board and Planning Commission is updating our Comprehensive Plan, which was written in 2005 and is due for a rewrite in 2024.

#### What is the Comprehensive Plan?

A Comprehensive Plan describes the long-term vision of the community. It describes where the community is at now, where it would like to be in the future, how the community functions, and its role in the region. Land-use decisions by the Town should reflect the goals and strategies outlined in its Comp Plan. These planning documents were required by State legislation as of 1999. You can see ours at <https://town.rutland.wi.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Rutland-Plan.pdf>

**It's time to revise the Plan.** In addition to data, the document is shaped by resident input. The Board and Planning Commission will be asking for resident participation, so please take a look at our current Plan and give some thought to what aspects still feel current, what seems out of date, what goals are unmet and how we might meet them, what new goals should be defined. A few things stand out to me: when the document was written most people didn't depend on internet access the way we do now. The effects of the pandemic are still being felt, with a rise in working from home, but also a rise in social isolation. The more extreme climate and weather phenomena we're all grappling with... none of these were factors in the 2005 document. I hope you'll start talking with your family, neighbors, and friends about how these and other issues should be addressed in the document that helps shape the decisions of our Board and Planning Commission. We will also need residents to help with this— please consider taking part in the process by joining the Comp Plan task force. This will be your chance to weigh in on something that affects all of us. **If you're interested and want to participate** please email [chairknutson@town.rutland.wi.us](mailto:chairknutson@town.rutland.wi.us).



Here are a couple of updates about the Task Forces, and I'd like to thank the residents who have volunteered to help work on these important projects.

- The **Roads** task force is working with Dawn George to apply for funding for road and bridge repair. This will help with the Town's (small) budget allocation for future road maintenance. The Sheriff's department completed the Speed Study with speed monitors in several locations around the town and will be supplying the Board with data about speeding vehicles, a concern for many residents.
- The **Broadband** task force is working on an ordinance to improve access to internet service throughout the town. This will be presented at the July Board meeting, and although it will take several months to a year for access to be in place it will be a big improvement for many of us.



Lastly, as we are experiencing a very dry summer, I'd like to remind everyone to **watch for and obey the burn bans in our area**. The DNR posts current-condition maps at <https://apps.dnr.wi.gov/wisburn/-/> and has an app you can put on your phone. This is something to take seriously, as we have already had grass fires in Rutland and surrounding areas this year. We are working on **updating the Town's Fire ordinance** with more current instructions – this will be posted on the website soon.

It's important to be considerate of our neighbors about burning (and everything else for that matter!)

I'd also like to ask you again to help **spread the word by asking a few of your neighbors to sign up for this newsletter** at <https://town.rutland.wi.us/subscribe-to-updates/>, to help us all stay well-informed and involved.

**Thank you.**

Kent Knutson, Chair, Town of Rutland. [chairknutson@town.rutland.wi.us](mailto:chairknutson@town.rutland.wi.us)  
Office hours at the Town Hall, Mondays and Tuesdays 6:30 – 9am and  
Mondays 4 – 6:30pm.

