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Introduction
One of the best ways to strengthen communities is to create opportunities for citizens to work collaboratively on the challenges that shape their community. Accomplishing this requires political leadership, citizen education, and active involvement. A successful comprehensive plan begins with a process of thinking about and visualizing the future. This Community Participation Program was crafted with these principles in mind and establishes a two-way communication between local citizens and their government officials, with the overall goal of better decisions supported by the public.

The Town of Sharpsburg adopted a Comprehensive Plan July 11, 2004 (2024 Plan) in conjunction with their new Town Plan. The 2004 efforts included an aggressive public participation program that resulted in the development of an innovative Town Plan and the 2024 Plan. This Community Participation Program describes those public involvement efforts that were accomplished as part of the 2024 Plan. To supplement and update the 2024 plan efforts, the Town will be doing additional Public Involvement work in accordance with the Advanced Planning Level Local Planning Requirements from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), effective May 1, 2005.

Identification of Stakeholders
The Town Council, staff, and consultants have worked together to identify those individuals and groups that have a special interest in the development of the community agenda for the Town of Sharpsburg. The key Stakeholders are typically representatives from the general public, residents, professionals, business and industry leaders, church and civic leaders, media representatives, special interest groups, Town staff and elected officials. It is important that the Stakeholder group consist of a diverse assortment of local representatives with different perspectives on the issue.

Mayor & Sharpsburg Town Council
Town of Sharpsburg Mayor, Wendell L. Staley
J. Clay Cole
Larry W. Hyde
Derrick G. McElwaney
Standly D. Parten

Town of Sharpsburg Staff
Robin L. Spradlin, Town Administrator/Finance Officer
Donna M. Camp, Town Clerk
Town Attorney – David P. Winkle, Ross Burris, Jon Kendall – Powell Goldstein
Precision Planning – Joe Walter
Eco-Logistics – Luke Bethea, Britt Hall

Residents of Sharpsburg
All Sharpsburg residents will be mailed invitations to the Open House
Garden Club – Rosalie Gage
Participation Techniques

**Town Meeting and Visual Preference Survey**
The first step in the planning process was the Town Meeting on February 16, 2004. At this meeting it was first announced that the Town of Sharpsburg was going to prepare both a Town Plan and a new Comprehensive Plan.

As part of the Town Meeting, discussions were held with the residents of Sharpsburg to explain the necessity of planning for the future and to outline the planning process. The meeting also included a Visual Preference Survey. Participants evaluated a series of visual images and were asked to select their preferred types, styles and patterns of development.

The outcome of the first public hearing was a consensus of opinion from the residents and Mayor and Council on the general vision of the future of Sharpsburg. Subsequent workshops were held to continue the involvement of citizens in preparation of the Town Plan.

**Charettes**
Three Charettes were held in early 2004. The first charette was held on February 26 and included a TND Workshop and further development of Community Goals. At the second charette held on March 9 a Schematic Concept Plan was presented. The Concept Plan was based on Community Input in the Town Meeting, the Visual Preference Survey and first charette. Participants were invited to provide additional input. The Draft Concept Plan was presented at the third charette. Growth factors were discussed along with Schematic Concept Plans for the Historic Core Area and for a Typical Annexation Area Site.

**Town Plan Presentation**
On May 3, 2004, the draft Town Plan was completed and presented to the residents of Sharpsburg at an announced meeting.
Comprehensive Plan Workshops
Two Comprehensive Plan Workshops were held in June. At these meetings, the vision established by the Town Plan was re-visited and the requirements for preparation of the Comprehensive Plan were discussed. These meetings featured interactive, small group sessions. The outcomes of these meetings were an endorsement of the vision established by the community through this planning process and an understanding of the requirements of a Comprehensive Plan.

The 2024 Plan was presented to the public at a meeting in July, 2004. The vision, policy recommendations, and work programs were a direct result of the public participation efforts.

Informational Meeting With Town Council
This event was held in December of 2005. The Consultants responsible for preparing the 2026 Comprehensive Plan presented the planning process to the Town Council. The meeting emphasized the new Local Planning Requirements from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA), effective May 1, 2005. Additionally, the purpose and approach of the 2026 plan were covered and the questions and concerns of the Town Council were addressed.

Public Hearing
As required under the state minimum standards, an initial public meeting will take place on February 6, 2006. The purpose of this hearing is to brief the community on the potential issues and opportunities identified through the Community Assessment, obtain input on the proposed Community Participation Program, and notify the community of when these plan components will be transmitted to the regional development center. After the public comments have been addressed, the Community Assessment and Community Participation Program will be transmitted to the regional development center by resolution of the Town Council.

Open House
An Open House, scheduled for April 10, 2006, will be an opportunity for participants to review and comment on the Draft Community Agenda. The Open House will serve to ensure that all development and land use issues have been identified and that the input received during the process has been reflected in the draft Community Agenda. It will allow high-level interaction and participation, enabling participants to engage in comfortable two-way dialogue. Stations will include displays, comment cards, handouts, and other informational materials. Formal written comments, collected at the conclusion of the Open House, will be summarized and responded to in the Draft Community Agenda. The Open House will be 2 hours in length and will take place after the Town has had an opportunity to review and comment on the draft Community Agenda.

Final Public Hearings
The Community Agenda will be presented during a regular Town Council meeting after a period of public review. The hearing will occur before transmittal to the Chattahoochee-Flint Regional Development Center (RDC) for regional and state review. The purpose of this hearing is to brief the community on the contents of the Community Agenda, provide an opportunity for residents to make final suggestions, additions or revisions, and notify the community of when the Community Agenda will be submitted to the RDC for review. After public comments have been addressed, the Community Agenda will be transmitted to the RDC by resolution of the governing body.

After the RDC and DCA review the Community Agenda, the final draft will be presented to the Town Council and the public for adoption at a regular Town Council meeting.

**Schedule For Community Agenda**
The following is the schedule for completion of the Community Agenda.

- **February 16, 2004**  TOWN MEETING
- **February 26, 2004**  CHARETTE 1
- **March 9, 2004**  CHARETTE 2
- **March 24, 2004**  CHARETTE 3 – Concept Plan
- **May 3, 2004**  TOWN PLAN PRESENTATION
- **June 1, 2004**  COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WORKSHOP
- **June 28, 2004**  COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WORKSHOP
- **July 26, 2004**  COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PRESENTATION
- **December 9, 2005**  INFORMATIONAL MEETING
- **February 6, 2006**  PUBLIC HEARING
- **April 10, 2006**  OPEN HOUSE
- **June & August, 2006**  PUBLIC HEARINGS
### Community Agenda

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