

The Lansing Tomorrow commission (LTC)

The April 03, 2009 meeting began at 6:00 with Nita Church thanking all who volunteered their time and labor for the preparation of that night's meeting. She then introduced Paul Combs (the coach) who told of what the meeting would consist of.

Paul Combs gave a small overview of how the Town received the grant. With the help of Dot Shupe and the Town we were included in the second round of the Small Town Economic Prosperity Program (NCSTEP), sponsored and funded by the NC Rural Economic Development a Leadership Team of local citizens and officials, empowered by the community and committed to providing long-term leadership in economic development planning and implementation of projects resulting from the planning effort ;2) assisting the Leadership Team with producing a comprehensive strategic economic development plan, including an implementation plan for specific projects to advance the identified strategies; and 3) providing some funding to assist with project implementation. Although the Rural Center provides a coach to guide the process, developing and guiding the implementation of the strategic plan is entirely the responsibility of the Leadership Team. The process of developing the plan is designed to develop the capacity for the Leadership Team to carry out its responsibilities.

Mission of the Leadership Team .The Lansing Leadership Team continues to evolve, and although it is functioning with a solid core of dedicated citizens representing most elements of the community, its major challenge is overcoming the differences in perspective of the various groups represented in the town and the surrounding area. As the Leadership Team moves toward establishing common objectives around the goal of building a stronger economy for the town and northwestern Ashe County those differences will become less important.

The first step in the planning process was to insure that the Leadership Team and the community clearly understand both the Team's source of authority and its responsibilities. Therefore, the Team named itself the Lansing Tomorrow Commission and developed the following mission statement:

The Lansing Tomorrow Commission (LTC), a broad representation of civic and business leaders in the Greater Lansing Area, is appointed by the Town Board to provide leadership in developing and implementing strategic community and economic growth of life for everyone in northwestern Ashe County. In carrying out this mission, the LTC is committed to:

1. Working with the full range of human and natural resources already existing within our area.
2. Encouragement of community member participation and representation of community interests throughout the entire process.
3. Creation of a planning framework compatible with indigenous ecological natural resource constraints.
4. Promotion of locally owned businesses and local assets.
5. Creation of high quality jobs and local employment opportunities.

6. Maintaining the small-town atmosphere of the community.

Paul Combs briefly spoke on the vision of the Village in 2020.

- Population growth in the town, but more in surrounding area.
- Retail village with attractive amenities. (Sidewalks, benches and ample parking).
- Building facades reflect village theme.
- Festivals.
- Community Center, to serve northwestern Ashe County. (With meeting spaces for recreation.
- Rock school is community asset.
- local prosperity in 2020. (Higher average incomes, better quality of life, more local and area employment).

Active citizen participation in government and civic activities.

- Residents having great pride in their community.

Paul also committed on the painting that Frenchy did, of what Lansing would look like with our vision of 2020. And what a great job Frenchy did, and ask everyone to take a look at it. He thanked Frenchy very much for the work he has done.

Combs spoke on how to Sustaining and Growing the Lansing Economy.

The Lansing Economy-retail trade, public and private services, construction, manufacturing.

1. Products and services for local area residents.
2. Products and services for tourists.
3. Flow of products and services.
4. Products and services for local 2nd home and retiree population.
5. Manufactured products-wine, crafts, etc.-for export.
6. Flow of in income.

Target Audiences Are;

- Traditional local area residents.
- Current and future 2nd homes and retiree populations
- High Country Visitors (tourists).
- Regional markets for wine and crafts manufactures.

At this time Combs ask to divide into the four Strategy subcommittees and develop projects proposals. Also prioritizes the projects, implement a plan. These plans then will be presented to the Lansing Tomorrow Commission for their approval. And a formal proposal the Lansing Town Board of Alderman. The subcommittees can meet several times on their one throughout the nest month to get their proposal ready to present.