

The History of the Development of the Shellsburg Planning & Zoning Commission and Ordinance

In April of 2017 the City of Shellsburg took the first steps toward establishing a Comprehensive Plan for the city by contracting with East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) to facilitate this process. Community volunteers were appointed in June 2017 and met monthly to give input to the comprehensive plan. (Volunteers were Larry Beatty, Marcy Daniel, Jay Herman, Jean Fish, Scott Fish, Stephanie Jones, Tim Meier, Mike Peters, Tim Peters, and Ed Shaeffer.) Additionally, a survey seeking input was offered to Shellsburg citizens and nearly 40% of our citizens responded to offer their opinions about various planning issues. Results of this survey are found [here](#).

On October 26, 2017, a town hall meeting was held with over 90 residents taking part. This meeting was facilitated by ECICOG staff who provided an overview of the benefits of creating comprehensive plans for communities and how it can be used to guide city leaders and citizens. Participants were divided into five discussion groups. Citizens shared their ideas about 1) the positive qualities of living in Shellsburg and 2) the greatest future challenges that exist for our town. Input was tallied and discussed and the results can be found [here](#).

Through these efforts a comprehensive plan for the City of Shellsburg was drafted. It contains information concerning population trends, population projections, housing needs, economic development, infrastructure, parks and recreation, lands use and recommendations for implementation. This comprehensive plan was adopted by the Shellsburg City Council on May 22 and can be found [here](#).

The comprehensive plan calls for a Planning and Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustment to be created. Certain aspects of this sort of planning are dictated by state laws and the next required step will be for the Planning and Zoning Commission to develop a zoning and land use ordinance. This process will again be facilitated by ECICOG.

Five citizens were appointed to the Planning and Zoning Commission on May 22, 2018. They are:

- Carmen Allyn
- John Hancock
- Jim Mott
- Greg Peacock
- Dave Travis

Five citizens were appointed to the Board of Adjustment on June 4, 2018. They are:

- Jason Boisen
- Larry Beatty
- Rhonda Bridgewater
- Lisa Moressi
- Chris Mott