

Channahon officials seek input on proposal

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CHANNAHON – The Channahon Village Board discussed how the village is preparing to begin its new comprehensive plan at its regular meeting Monday night, and it wants public input.

The last plan was created in 2008, and it was updated after a market analysis in 2011, Village President Missey Moorman Schumacher said.

“A lot has changed in terms of the business community and how e-commerce has affected retail ... since then,” Schumacher said.

The comprehensive plan is an overall land use document for the village. It is a map of where trustees, village staff and those who live and work in Channahon believe the best sites are for retail, residential areas, open space and other land uses.

Water use has been a recent focus, as the village is beginning an \$8 million expansion of its wastewater treatment plant.

The new comprehensive plan will take about a year to complete, and the village is looking for input from residents and area businesspeople.

“We want as much input from our residents as possible,” Schumacher said. “This is not my plan. This is not the board’s plan. It is our town’s plan, so we want everybody to have ownership and input. ... Everybody has an opinion, and they’re all important.”

The village is organizing a comprehensive plan advisory committee consisting of business leaders and various residents, including two high school students.

The committee will meet throughout the year to discuss directions they do or don’t want development to occur.

An online survey soon will be available on Channahon’s village website for residents to complete, and survey links will be sent to households with water and gas bills.

The village also will host Saturday workshops and evening workshops on the topic.

Schumacher said that one thing people should be thinking about for the new comprehensive plan is the changing face of retail.

Brick and mortar stores, especially big-box chains, are losing business to online shopping, she said, and that should be reflected in land set aside for those larger stores.

The Route 6 and Interstate 55 corridor will be one focus of the new plan. Particularly behind Manor Motel, 23926 W. Eames St., the mayor said, is some open, developable land. Another focus will be land west of Ridge Road.

A grant from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning will supply about 85 percent of the funding for the work on the new comprehensive plan.

The Village Board also approved authorizing the village administrator to interview and hire for five summer positions.

Three of those positions will be seasonal help in the village’s public works department, where the work mostly will be outdoors. The positions will last for 12 weeks at pay rates of \$12.25 an hour.

The other two positions will be summer student interns affiliated with the Grundy Economic Development Council’s summer internship program.

The interns will be employed about 25 to 30 hours a week for about six to eight weeks and mostly will do office work. The pay rates will be \$12 an hour.