

Dennis Twp. Residents Invited to Give Input on Smart Growth

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DENNIS TOWNSHIP -- The township scheduled two public meetings to ask residents how they want parts of the township to look - from buildings to sidewalks.

The workshops are part of the township's planning through the state Office of Smart Growth. The ongoing process identifies town centers and tries to guide future development to those areas.

The planning will include suggestions to change zoning regulations and ways to create a more "downtown feel" in some areas, Deputy Mayor Dennis Crippen said Thursday.

"Part of the format is to get as much public involvement as possible about how the business people and residents in these areas want to see it look in 10, 20, 30 years," Crippen said.

The first workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 25 at Dennis Township Hall. The meeting will involve the designated villages of Dennisville, South Dennis and South Seaville.

The second workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 2 at Township Hall and will involve the larger designated town centers in Ocean View and Clermont along Route 9.

Topics of discussion could involve the heights of buildings, such as whether certain areas should be permitted buildings larger than two stories, Crippen said.

Discussion could also involve whether some town centers need sidewalks, Crippen said.

An approved smart growth plan, which is driving the effort in Dennis Township and other parts of the state, can help the township obtain state grants and fast-track permitting in those areas.

"It's going to evolve as we go along," Crippen said. "It's still fuzzy in a lot of people's heads - how it's going to look. After these workshops, we're going to have a clearer picture of what it is we're looking to accomplish."

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