

Town of Germantown Smart Growth Kickoff Meeting

S.W.O.T. Workshop Results

February 14, 2006

Residents attending the Town of Germantown Smart Growth Kickoff meeting had an opportunity to participate in a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (S.W.O.T.) assessment of their community. Residents worked in groups of 6-10 people brainstorming issues on each component of the S.W.O.T. workshop. After each component, groups were asked to “*” three issues that were of most importance that they would like to share with the entire group of participants. The following is the result of that workshop. Town of Germantown participants indicated that all identified issues were of importance and that all issues should be considered to have an “*”.

Strengths: Something that makes a community stand out when compared to other communities; Resources or capabilities that help a community be successful/strong.

- Small size/community
- Cohesiveness/sense of community
- All residential or agricultural uses
- Lower taxes – but still good services
- Easy access to elected officials
- Safe
- Quiet

Weaknesses: Deficiencies in resources for a community to be successful.

- Limited local control of land use
- Lack of cable/high speed internet
- Small size and population
- Small pool of candidates for clerk, board, planning commission, etc.
- Lack of citizen participation in government/town affairs
- Lack of communication between town and citizens

Opportunities: Something that could be done to improve a community; Factors or situations that can affect a community in a favorable way.

- Better definition of who we are and who we want to be/don't want to be
- Local control over land use
- Residents becoming more involved
- Increased communication between Town and residents
- Access to high-speed internet

Threats: Anything that could jeopardize the future success of a community; Factors or situations that can affect a community in a negative way.

- Possible businesses in Residential Areas
- Village expansion
- Fragmentation of the town
- Land use visions of other communities
- Being forced to hook up to public sewer and water (especially if just installed a new system)
- Increased traffic
- Decrease in neighborhood safety
- The wrong type of business
- Depletion of groundwater due to new development of businesses
- The extraterritorial power of the village
- Increasing values – increasing taxes
- Local roads being worn out by traffic from Cabela's, etc.