Empire Township Master Plan

Summary of Major Changes

5/16/2023

* Updated Generalized Land Use Map to utilize tax assessment classifications for current land usage.
* Substantial updates to Future Land Uses section, including combination of “Rural Living” and “Agricultural Preservation” areas into “Agricultural/Residential” area; the removal of the “Forestry Corridor”, “Planned Residential Area, and “Steep Slope Protection Corridor” areas; and the addition of a “Commercial Development” area, as well as other, more minor, changes to other sections. These changes also include complementary changes to the Future Land Use map, and brought the Master Plan up to date with current and potential land usage within the Township.
* Renamed the previous The Human Environment section to Current Environment and Long Term Objectives, and split into several sub-sections, including Transportation, Utilities and Services, Housing Policy & the Economy.
* Substantially expanded Housing Policy & the Economy sub-section from the existing housing and economic language in the previous The Human Environment section. Integrated information from 2019 Community Survey and various housing and economic analyses covering the Township, and added discussion of zoning techniques that can be used to expand housing options for a variety of economic levels.
* Developed Long Term Objectives for the various sub-sections of the new Current Environment section. These objectives will drive and focus township planning and zoning over the next 10-20 years.
* Integrated 2019 Community Survey results throughout the Master Plan.
* Coordinated with Leelanau County Equalization Department to ensure accuracy, completeness, and readability of maps and data.
* General updates and corrections to demographic data, dates, maps and other information throughout the Master Plan.