

Galena considers growth, land use

By Gary Budzak - April 19, 2025

GALENA — The village held its first Planning and Zoning Commission meeting of 2025 on Jan. 22, with an emphasis on growth strategy.

"The team discussed missing middle housing, which aims to diversify the housing stock by introducing options like townhomes and duplexes," minutes from the meeting said. "Mayor Jeff Kinnell suggested a target of 20-25% multifamily units in new developments, and participants agreed on the need to revise the comprehensive map to accurately reflect planned mixed-use areas. The conversation also included the significance of Floor Area Ratio (FAR) in property development, emphasizing its role in determining building coverage and green space.

"Traffic safety concerns related to development in priority growth areas were addressed, particularly at the hazardous State Route 3 intersection," minutes said. "Participants discussed the necessity for developers to conduct traffic impact studies and proposed strategies to enhance pedestrian safety, such as adding crosswalks and traffic circles. The group also considered the importance of clarifying definitions and requirements in documentation.

"Additionally, they discussed the complexities of overlay districts, the need for adequate infrastructure to support new housing developments, and the potential for improving pedestrian and bicycle connectivity."

In his Mayor's Report at the Village Council meeting on Jan. 27, Kinnell said, "The 'rough draft' growth and land use plan was delivered to the Village from our consultant and is currently under review."

Council later passed unanimously by emergency on its first reading "an ordinance authorizing annexation of contiguous village-owned territory to the Village of Galena."

In other village news:

- There was a Facebook post on March 28 that said, "Join us for a fascinating look into Delaware County's agricultural past! Steve Schmitt from the Delaware County Historical Society will be sharing insights on the history of farm implements in the area, including stories of the Hughes and Smythe Factory in Galena, Ohio." The event was slated for April 12 in the Galena Municipal Building.
- Council President Gillian Doucette said at the Jan. 27 meeting the Big Walnut Civic Association "will be assisting with all Galena events with volunteers."
- Kinnell said residing the Village Hall, new flagpoles and flags for the Village Square, new lighting and new fencing in front of the cemetery on Walnut Street are planned.

Village vitals

- Galena Village Council consists of Mayor Jeff Kinnell, Pete Casuccio, Council President Gillian Doucette, Mike Fry, Zach Hopper, Kathy Krupa, and Josh Porter. Also attending are Fiscal Officer Michelle Dearth, Logan Shannon of Maintenance, Zoning Inspector Matt Shock. They typically meet at 6 p.m. in council chambers of the Village Hall, 109 Harrison St., Galena (also available on Zoom).
- The Planning and Zoning Commission consists of Village Zoning Inspector Matt Shock, members Alison Cherubini-Hillyer, Pete Cassuccio, Seth Everitt, Mike Fry, Zoning Clerk Lauren Frank and Galena Mayor Jeff Kinnell.
- For more information about the village, see: galenaohio.gov (website), Village of Galena (Facebook), The Village of Galena (YouTube), Village of Galena (Instagram).