

**Klaus Heinert**

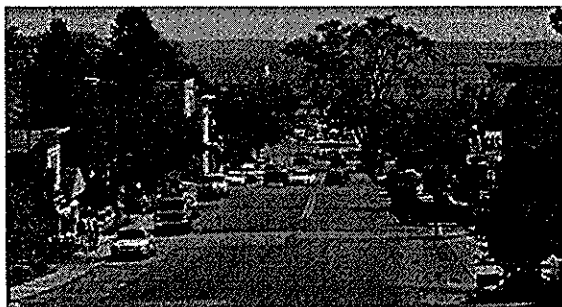
**From:** Kevin Ringwelski  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2009 3:52 PM  
**To:** Klaus Heinert  
**Subject:** FW: Traverse City News: New vision for Northport unveiled

**From:** Traverse City Business News [mailto:info@tcbusinessnews.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 01, 2009 1:31 PM  
**To:** Kevin Ringwelski  
**Subject:** Traverse City News: New vision for Northport unveiled

# BN NEWSFLASH

## New study: Northport has makeover options

A vision of a revitalized Northport was unveiled Tuesday, part of an effort to boost its appeal to residents, visitors and new businesses alike.



The concepts, from a study entitled "Future by Design Northport," called for streetscape improvements, better links between different areas of the village, and more pedestrian friendly walkways spaces in the village's retail district. There was even a suggestion that a base for tall ships be created at the marina.

More than 100 residents heard the suggestions during an open meeting at the Northport Public School auditorium. The goal is for residents to discuss the suggestions, and for village officials to consider adopting some of them in coming years.

The Leelanau Township Community Foundation sponsored the study, and Gosling Czubak Engineering Sciences of Traverse City, carried it out.

Klaus Heinert, a registered landscape architect and project manager with the firm, told the gathering that Northport could especially benefit from improved links between its retail district and the waterfront. For example, the study suggested widening sidewalks to accommodate benches, planters for trees and other foliage, and paving bricks. It also recommended curb projections that jut into the streets, creating safer spaces for pedestrians preparing to use crosswalks.

Consideration might be given to returning some buildings to their original historic form, razing others, and encouraging some infill development, possibly live-work space on Waukazoo or other streets, the study said.

"Waukazoo is probably one of your biggest untapped opportunities right now," Heinert said.

He said Northport could also benefit from open passageways behind, along and around buildings on Waukazoo if the village could solve public access issues with property owners.

The study also envisions the possibility of a true public promenade along the marina, and not simply a sidewalk for boaters. It also called for restructuring marina parking and parks and beaches to make it easier to walk the length of the waterfront. "There should be a continuous space connecting the whole waterfront," Heinert said.

He also envisioned the creation of an area for tall ships at the northern edge of the marina – an addition that would fit the village's maritime history. "Wouldn't it be nice to see a tall ship stopping here or being based here?"

The study also looked at potential systems of signs to communicate Northport's identity and guide visitors around the village. Among other things, it called for upgrades to Northport's gateways.

One goal of "Future by Design" is to "provide the palette to entice new entrepreneurial and business sector activity," according to its executive summary. Its commercial district has been in decline recently, in part due to problems with local septic systems. It now has a new sewer system.



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