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Six Mile Vision plans for future

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SIX MILE Some Six Mile area merchants, real estate developers and longtime residents are organizing to promote the northwestern Pickens County community as business- and family-friendly.

The group, which held its first meeting at Six Mile Town Hall this week, has launched preliminary steps toward forming a Six Mile area chamber of commerce.

Brenda Rippy, who owns Rippy Realty in Six Mile, said the town has never had the need for a chamber of commerce until now.

"We have 60-70 businesses in the Six Mile area," said Rippy, an area that includes a couple of relatively new upscale residential developments on Lake Keowee, and a new marina/hotel development under construction on the lake.

Rippy serves as secretary/treasurer of the new group, which calls itself Six Mile Vision. Phillip Bowers, owner of MPC Properties in Six Mile, is the group's president.

Bowers cited growth data from Greenville-based **Upstate Forever** showing that the Six Mile area, along with much of Pickens County and the Upstate, is projected to grow significantly over the next 20 years.

"That's why we need to plan," Bowers said to a crowd of about 30 who attended the start-up meeting.

Among those attending the meeting were Six Mile Mayor John Wade and DeWitt Stone, chairman of the Pickens County Planning Commission.

Stone said now is a good time for Six Mile to be "looking ahead."

He said the county is beginning work on updating its comprehensive plan that looks at future growth in the county.

"We would love to have your group's involvement," Stone said.

The group has listed a half dozen issues in the Six Mile area it would like to see addressed. Those include more on-street parking on State 133, more sidewalks and streetscape improvements, infrastructure improvements including sewer, a local library, publication of a monthly newsletter and raising funds for a chamber of commerce.

Wade said Six Mile Vision will be "a plus" for the town and that he and the town council are talking with the state about on-street parking and it is attempting to secure grant funds for streetscape improvements. It also hopes to get funding for sewer through the \$800 billion federal stimulus bill signed Tuesday by President Obama.