

# TOWN OF EAST GREENBUSH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE



## MEETING SUMMARY

**Purpose:** Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (CPSC) Meeting #5

**Date and Time:** September 23 2019, 6:00-8:00 pm

**Location:** Town Hall, 225 Columbia Turnpike, Rensselaer, NY

**Attendees:** See Attached Sign-in

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
<p><b>Welcome and Agenda Overview</b></p>	<p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) welcomed the members of the committee and the public and provided an overview of the agenda.</p> <p>Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (CPSC) members present included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guy Warner</li> <li>• Bill Perkins</li> <li>• John Conway, Jr</li> <li>• Ralph Viola</li> <li>• Adam Yagelski</li> <li>• Steve Obermayer</li> <li>• Victoria Manieri</li> <li>• Robert Lehman</li> </ul> <p>The MJ Team members present included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jaclyn Hakes, AICP, Director of Planning Services</li> <li>• Andrew Gillcrist, Planner</li> </ul> <p>The following items were included on the meeting agenda:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome and Agenda Overview</li> <li>2. Project Update</li> <li>3. Education Topic – Natural Resources Inventory</li> <li>4. Discussion of Vision and Guiding Principles</li> </ol>	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Overview of Public Open House #2</li> <li>6. Survey Update</li> <li>7. Recap of Stakeholder Meetings</li> <li>8. Next Steps</li> <li>9. Public Comment</li> </ol>	
<b>Project Update</b>	<p>Ms. Hakes provided a project update that included actions that have been completed or are in progress.</p> <p>Actions that have been completed / In-Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public Engagement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Public Open House #1</li> <li>○ Online Community Survey</li> <li>○ Stakeholder Meetings</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Community Outreach Process and Plan</li> <li>▪ Community Profile (Inventory)</li> <li>▪ Project Webpage</li> <li>▪ CPSC Meetings #1-4</li> </ul>	
<b>Education Topic</b>	<p>The Education Topic for this CPSC meeting included an overview of the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) presented by the NRI Work Group Chair and CPSC member, Victoria Manieri.</p> <p>The NRI was developed by the Natural Resources Work Group (NRWG) and is comprised of a series of maps as well as an accompanying report with narrative descriptions, supporting data tables, and recommendations. The inventory serves as an essential tool for East Greenbush's Planning and Zoning, Building and Codes, and Public Works Departments by officially identifying sensitive land, water and cultural/historical resources.</p> <p>The information and recommendations of the NRI will be incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan.</p> <p>The full NRI is available at:  <a href="https://www.eastgreenbush.org/departments/planning-zoning/natural-resources-inventory">https://www.eastgreenbush.org/departments/planning-zoning/natural-resources-inventory</a></p>	
<b>Draft Vision and Guiding Principles</b>	<p>Next, Ms. Hakes guided the Committee in a discussion about the draft Vision and Guiding Principles. The Committee then provided feedback and revisions.</p> <p>The Draft Vision was developed with input from the public, stakeholders and the CPSC and establishes the direction of</p>	

	<p>the community over the next 5, 10 or 20 years. The draft Vision is as follow:</p> <p><i>The Town of East Greenbush is a desirable live/work community with a thriving walkable town center surrounded by historic hamlets, well-connected neighborhoods, rural lands and active agriculture.</i></p> <p><i>Balanced, sustainable growth within the community maintains the small town feel while providing a range of employment opportunities, supporting a diverse tax base and encouraging locally owned businesses as well as a thriving technology sector.</i></p> <p><i>A range of quality housing options are available, and the town takes pride in its well-maintained streets, parks, businesses, and neighborhoods.</i></p> <p><i>East Greenbush is a community aware and respectful of its important natural resources and the health of the environment.</i></p> <p><i>This safe, welcoming town has a strong sense of community and is a place for multiple generations to call home.</i></p> <p>Ms. Hakes then discussed the draft Guiding Principles. The Comprehensive Plan will be divided into different topic areas, each with a guiding principle that aims to achieve the Vision. The Topic areas of the Comprehensive Plan Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Placemaking</li><li>• Transportation and Mobility</li><li>• Economic Growth</li><li>• Neighborhoods and Housing</li><li>• Recreation</li><li>• Natural Resources, Agriculture &amp; the Environment</li><li>• Governance and Infrastructure</li></ul> <p>The draft Guiding Principles are as follows:</p> <p><b>Placemaking</b> Create a strong sense of place and unique identity, including a recognized town center, that attracts residents, businesses and visitors and is supportive of all generations, while celebrating the Town’s history and small-town feel.</p>	
--	--	--

	<p><b>Transportation and Mobility</b> Enhance walking and biking facilities to create better connections between neighborhoods, the town center and transit options. Evaluate options to alleviate vehicular traffic along key commercial corridors.</p> <p><b>Economic Growth</b> Engage in sustainable, managed growth that balances community character with tax-base generating opportunities and increased access to employment. Focus commercial growth along key corridors and support a thriving town center with local businesses and restaurants.</p> <p><b>Neighborhoods and Housing</b> Preserve the character of existing neighborhoods and historic hamlets while creating new quality housing options. Provide housing options which attract and retain those who may travel to work in town while providing opportunities for residents to age in place.</p> <p><b>Recreation</b> Expand passive and active recreational opportunities of all scales throughout the Town. Create gathering places which foster community-oriented activities and pride in the Town.</p> <p><b>Natural Resources, Agriculture &amp; the Environment</b> Protect important natural resources to maintain water and air quality as well as wildlife habitat. Support active farms, agribusiness, and agritourism.</p> <p><b>Governance &amp; Infrastructure</b> Maintain fiscal responsibility and enhance governmental efficiencies with a positive customer service approach. Promote transparency and equity in decision making and governance processes. Provide staffing and financial support for Town departments to carry out essential responsibilities. Maintain and upgrade infrastructure to support a growing community.</p>	
<p><b>Overview of Public Open House #2</b></p>	<p>Ms. Hakes then provided an overview of the next Public Open House, scheduled for September 30, 2019 from 6:00-8:00PM at the Red Barn at East Greenbush Town Park.</p> <p>The agenda for the event is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome/Orientation</li> </ol>	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Presentation</li> <li>3. Topic-based Speed Round Discussions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Transportation &amp; Mobility</li> <li>2. Economic Growth</li> <li>3. Neighborhood &amp; Housing</li> <li>4. Recreation, Agriculture &amp; Natural Resources</li> <li>5. Governance &amp; Infrastructure</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Table Report Back</li> <li>5. Question and Answer Period</li> <li>6. Next Steps</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Survey Update</b></p>	<p>Mr. Gillcrist then provided a survey update. The East Greenbush Comprehensive Plan Online Community Survey is a tool that can be utilized to gather input from a wide range of stakeholders including those that may not typically come to a public meeting.</p> <p>The survey went live on June 17, 2019 and will remain open until...</p> <p>To date there have been 723 survey respondents with 607 (85%) of the respondents being East Greenbush Residents and (107) non-residents.</p>	
<p><b>Stakeholder Recap</b></p>	<p>Mr. Gillcrist then provided a recap of the stakeholder meetings held in August and September 2019 and provided a summary of common themes discussed.</p> <p>A total of 9 stakeholder meetings were held over several days in August and September. Stakeholders were identified by the Town and CPSC and invited to participate to share information about needs and opportunities related to specific topic areas within the Town.</p> <p>The stakeholder meetings included:</p> <p><b>August 15, 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department Head Meeting</li> </ul> <p><b>September 17, 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History, Culture and Education</li> <li>• Open Space, Recreation and Agriculture</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infrastructure, Mobility and Transportation(Sewer, Water, Streets, Transit, etc.)</li> <li>• Economic Growth, Land Development and Business</li> <li>• Health, Human Services and Emergency Services</li> </ul> <p><b>September 18, 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Partners (CDRPC, County, Adjoining Communities, etc.)</li> <li>• Service and Community Organizations (Neighborhood groups, churches, charitable organizations, etc.)</li> </ul> <p><b>September 23, 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning, Zoning and Land Use</li> </ul> <p>Common themes discussed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Columbia Turnpike Revitalization (Routes 9/20)</li> <li>• Traffic along Route 4</li> <li>• Partnerships</li> <li>• Need for Community Space</li> </ul> <p>In addition to the stakeholder groups mentioned above, the project team will be meeting with several other groups throughout the planning process. Those groups include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students – Superintendent’s Advisory Group 10/2</li> <li>• Columbia Turnpike</li> <li>• Small business</li> <li>• Agriculture</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Discussion of Next Steps</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholder meeting summaries</li> <li>• Public Engagement Event #2: Monday, September 30, 2019</li> <li>• CPSC Meeting #5: Monday, November 25, 2019 at 6pm</li> <li>• Survey Analysis</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>	<p>No Comments</p>	

This meeting summary conveys our understanding of the items discussed and agreements reached at this meeting. Please forward any additions, corrections and/or questions to my attention.

Submitted by:  
Andrew Gillcrist, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, PC

cc: Consultant Team, CPSC, Town Planning & Zoning Department

DRAFT