

TOWN OF EAST GREENBUSH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE



MEETING SUMMARY

Purpose: Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (CPSC) Meeting #2

Date and Time: May 29, 2019 1:00-2:30 pm

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

Attendees: See Attached Sign-in

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
Welcome and Agenda Overview	<p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) welcomed the members of the committee and the public and provided an overview of the agenda.</p> <p>The MJ Team members present included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jaclyn Hakes, AICP, Director of Planning Services • Andrew Gillcrist, Planner 	<p>None</p>
Selection of CPSC Chair or Co-Chairs	<p>At the March 25, 2019 CPSC meeting the Committee considered the selection of a Committee Chair or Co-chair to be voted on at the May 29, 2019 meeting. The full committee was not present it was determined that the selection of a Committee Chair be postponed to the following CPSC Meeting. Nominations would be solicited through email or phone correspondence.</p>	<p>MJ Team to coordinate with CPSC and Town Staff to prepare nominations for Committee Chair or Co-chairs at the next CPSC meeting.</p>
Overview of Community Profile and Existing Conditions	<p>Ms. Jakes provided an overview of the Community Profile and Existing Conditions to the Committee. The Community Profile provides an overview of existing conditions and includes key opportunities and challenges identified within the Town. The existing conditions helps to form the foundation to shape future recommendations in the Comprehensive Plan and also helps to target</p>	<p>MJ Team to provide the Community Profile as a technical memorandum to the CPSC Review</p>

questions for public input about opportunities and challenges in East Greenbush.

The topic areas discussed in the Community Profile include:

- Demographic and Socio-Economic Trends
- Land Use and Zoning
- Parks, Recreation and Open Space
- Agriculture
- Natural Resources and Water Quality
- Community Facilities and Services
- Transportation and Mobility
- Infrastructure and Public Utilities
- Economic Development
- Historic Resources

The following is an overview of topics from the Community Profile presented by Ms. Hakes and discussions held by the Committee.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Trends

Key takeaways for demographic and socio-economic trends include:

- East Greenbush population increased 16.5% since 1990
- East Greenbush accounts for nearly 10% of Rensselaer Co. population
- The median household income of East Greenbush is approximately 17% higher than Rensselaer County
- 20% of population is under 18
- Nearly 47% of population is between the ages of 35-64
- 18% of population is between ages of 55 -64
- Town has high percentage of owner-occupied housing units

Members of the committee indicated a need to better understand the breakdown of changing age cohorts over time, specifically the population of the 18-34-year-old age group. Housing, employment and retail opportunities were discussed as potential challenges and opportunities related to this age group.

The committee also discussed the need to plan for older residents that may be seeking more diverse housing options and access to services and public transit in order to age in place.

	<p>Land Use and Zoning</p> <p>Ms. Hakes provided an overview of existing land use and zoning in the Town. Throughout the comprehensive planning process, the project team will review the current zoning for alignment with existing land uses. This will help to indicate changes needed for a future zoning update. The project team will also solicit public input to find out if the current zoning aligns with the future vision the community has for the Town.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the land use and zoning sections include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Density Residential is largest percentage of land use at 37% • Vacant land is next largest percentage of land use at 32% • Together, residential land uses account for over 40% of land use • R-B district accounts for largest acreage at 31% • R-OS district is next largest at 27% <p>Parks, Recreation and Open Space</p> <p>Next, Ms. Hakes described the existing parks, recreation and open space lands in the town. This includes lands protected through a conservation easement, town owned parks and conserved lands, outdoor recreation lands and indoor recreation spaces.</p> <p>Key takeaways from the parks, recreation and open space section include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks and recreation account for approximately 4% of total land area in the Town • 2 conservation easements exist on private property (not open to public) <p>Agriculture</p> <p>Agricultural resources make up a significant portion of the Town. Prime agricultural land presents a number of opportunities both for the development of agriculture and for developable land. Typically, lands that are best suited for farming are also best suited for residential and commercial development due to relatively level slopes and well drained soils. This presents both an opportunity and challenge for finding the right balance between development and land protection for agriculture.</p> <p>The Committee discussed creating a map to show constrained lands in the Town to better understand the vacant land. Constrained lands are lands that may include wetlands, steep slope and other constraints that are not developable.</p>	<p>MJ Team to develop a map illustrating constrained lands in the Town of East Greenbush</p>
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	<p>Key takeaways from the Agriculture section include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nearly 29% of the Town is within an agricultural district • Over 25% of the Town is Prime Farmland <p>Natural Resources and Water Quality</p> <p>The Town has recently developed a thorough and up to date Natural Resources Inventory. The information collected from this inventory will be utilized for the development of the comprehensive plan and to help shape recommendations related to land use and natural resource protection.</p> <p>Key environmental resources in East Greenbush include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hudson River • Papscanee Creek • Mill Creek • Moordener Kill • Floodplains 	
<p>Discussion of Community Outreach Process</p>	<p>Ms. Hakes provided an overview of the community engagement process and the committee discussed a tentative schedule, public meeting formats and different methods of public outreach. Public outreach is a key component of the comprehensive plan and is a significant driver of the recommendations that will be included in the final plan.</p> <p>Topics of discussion included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Workshop #1 • Community Online Survey • Summer Engagement Opportunities <p>Public Workshop #1</p> <p>The Committee discussed options for the first public workshop including potential dates, proposed format and location. The Committee agreed upon the proposed format presented by the Project Team which includes the following:</p> <p>Potential Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monday, June 17 • Tuesday, June 18 • Monday, June 24 	<p>MJ Team to publicize Public Meeting #1, develop draft online community survey for CPSC to review and follow up with CPSC about volunteers for summer engagement opportunities.</p>

	<p>Proposed Format:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open house format with activity stations, facilitated by MJ team • Formal presentation at a set time by MJ • Open house format with activity stations, facilitated by MJ team <p>Location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Barn at the Town Park <p>Online Community Survey</p> <p>Ms. Hakes then described the online community survey as part of the public engagement process. An online 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 online survey is intended to go live at the first public workshop and extend through Labor Day.</p> <p>Ms. Hakes also discussed the possibility of developing a community photo survey, whereby community members can post photos of their favorite parts of the town to social media outlets. The photos help to provide a visual representation of the community’s vision for the Town and provides another way for the public to be involved in the development of the comprehensive plan. The Committee discussed the community photo survey and agreed that it should be included in the public engagement process.</p> <p>Summer Engagement Opportunities</p> <p>The Committee then discussed opportunities for public engagement over the summer. Summer engagement opportunities may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPSC Booth at Farmer’s Market • Community Photo Survey <p>The Committee discussed the importance of reaching the 18-34 age group by utilizing social media and other online platforms.</p>	
<p>Discussion of Next Steps</p>	<p>Ms. Hakes then walked through the next steps in the process which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicize and Prepare for Public Meeting #1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CPSC to help spread the word! • Prepare Online Community Survey • Finalize Community Outreach Plan 	<p>MJ Team to prepare materials for Public Meeting #1, prepare online community survey, finalize Community Outreach Plan and Community Profile and schedule stakeholder interviews.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalize Community Profile • Schedule Stakeholder Interviews with Key Town Departments <p>The next CPSC meeting will be held on Monday, July 22, 2019 at Town Hall.</p>	
Public Comment	<p>Comments, questions, or concerns from the public included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Jack Conway, Town Supervisor, thanked the CPSC for their time and reiterated the importance of this comprehensive planning effort. 	
Adjourn	The meeting is adjourned.	None

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

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

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