

Appendix C Stakeholder Meeting Summaries





STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

PURPOSE: History, Culture and Education

DATE/TIME: September 17, 2019, 8:30AM-9:30 AM

LOCATION: East Greenbush Town Hall, 225 Columbia Turnpike Rensselaer, NY 12144

ATTENDEES: See Attached Sign-in

The Town of East Greenbush, as part of the engagement component of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan Update process, held a series of Stakeholder meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 17 and 18, 2019 at the East Greenbush Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to speak with the History, Culture and Education stakeholders to gather input on a variety of topic areas.

All stakeholders were also encouraged to participate in the ongoing planning process and help spread the word about public engagement opportunities.

History, Culture and Education 9/17/2019 8:30-9:30AM

- Larry Edson has been at the finance center for 18 years
 - Biggest issue he sees is Columbia Turnpike
 - Participated in the complete streets
- Jill Hughes 4 years at the library
 - People come from surrounding areas
 - Youth and senior groups
 - Sidewalk improvements have helped significantly
 - Day-hab groups and adults with special needs/ high functioning use the library often
- Walkable community
- Areas for families
- Swimming area
- The town park could be a center point
- Connection of neighborhoods
- Events like tree lighting ceremony Memorial Day parade help create traditions for people
- Schools are always looking for projects so partnering with schools to get the word out about events and activities would be helpful
- Town wide service day for schools, businesses, and residents
- Regeneron is a resource that could be used towards this
- Biggest area of growth for the library is in programing



- High demand for meeting spaces of all sizes
- Tutoring is growing and a big user of the library meeting spaces
- Schools in the area are seeing growth especially in North Greenbush
- A rise in different cultures in the area
 - Both school and library seeing different backgrounds
 - Racial and ethnic backgrounds are changing
- There is an uptick in free and reduced lunches
 - This could be because the new enrolment system auto enrolls families
- Water and sewer
 - Make people aware of what is available and what services they are paying for
- Outreach could be done through churches
- There is a need for athletic fields
 - Currently the community wants to use the fields at the school, but they are at capacity
 - Make the availability free or low cost
 - The YMCA is expensive to use for this because some groups have a hard time coming up with money to get an insurance certificate
- The current tax cap is forcing the schools to do a lot with very little funding
- Opportunities for shared resources in all aspects i.e. schools, churches raising awareness for causes
- Public transportation doesn't go to the library so that's an untapped resource
- More athletic fields could be used ¾ seasons because there is such a high demand for them
- The addition of a pool would be good for community gatherings like the community pool in Colonie
- The library currently has an undeveloped lot
- Its been mentioned to put town government there but the town hall needs to stay on Columbia Turnpike
- Library does more than just lending books
 - It's like a community living room
 - The meeting spaces are always booked so they have considered getting rid of books to make more space for meetings
- Suggested using organizations that reach multiple communities to pull various people together '
 - Community shared resources
- Use the school website as a resource
 - The parents are active and involved
 - Student group is active and looking for projects *student survey?
 - Town wide mailings work with the school to save money
- Community beautification
 - Decorations like the banners in Troy
 - Encourage businesses to participate
 - Painting under bridges by students
 - Community pride





STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

PURPOSE: Open Space, Recreation and Agriculture

DATE/TIME: September 17, 2019, 10:00AM-11:00 AM

LOCATION: East Greenbush Town Hall, 225 Columbia Turnpike Rensselaer, NY 12144

ATTENDEES: See Attached Sign-in

The Town of East Greenbush, as part of the engagement component of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan Update process, held a series of Stakeholder meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 17 and 18, 2019 at the East Greenbush Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to speak with the Open Space, Recreation and Agriculture stakeholders to gather input on a variety of topic areas.

All stakeholders were also encouraged to participate in the ongoing planning process and help spread the word about public engagement opportunities.

Open Space, Recreation and Agriculture 9/17/2019 10:00-11:00AM

- Balance of development and wanting to preserve green space
- More solar energy
- Showcase natural resources like Duchess
- Go above and beyond with regulations
- The reason originally moved to East Greenbush was for the green space
- There is a big increase in the need for more rec space
- Little league space is a premium
 - No indoor space available
 - Gilligan Rd complex ½ school ½ town owned (great space to use)
 - Currently made up of 26 board members
 - About 400 participants 4 to 12 years of age
 - The age kids/parents want to participate has come down
 - Kids from Schodack and Castleton also play
- Being a volunteer for anything you get pulled in many directions and you see the same group of individuals volunteer for multiple things
- The addition of pocket parks could be considered
 - They currently have a hard time giving them the attention they need
 - The spaces should be multi use



- Not just for the kids but for the older generations as well
- East Greenbush YMCA
 - Use charitable and business model
 - Senior exercise activities
 - Pickle ball
 - Growing active adults
 - 1200-1500 swipes per day
 - Parking seems to be an issue and they encourage people not to park on the road
 - They are starting to encourage off site programs i.e. using new Regeneron facilities
 - Diversity and inclusion for teens
 - Not just high school but middle school as well
 - They have a leader's club for teens
 - Open to partner with other organizations
 - Need to work with neighbors to redo the road Community Way
 - Drainage issues on the road
 - Long-term growth is looking at rural urban demographic
 - East Greenbush Y might be the biggest in the area
 - Growing rapidly
 - Held the capital campaign to gather resources for the Y
- Town of East Greenbush Parks
 - A connection between the different groups and rec programs would be helpful
 - There isn't collaboration on the use of the spaces
 - community programs feel separated
 - parks sometimes feel forgotten about and only in the last few years there has been progress on improvements
 - Trying to keep up with what the people want
 - People are more likely to go to Hampton Manor than the Town park to walk around the lake
 - Pocket parks need attention, but the employees and budget are already stretched thin
 - The town park doesn't feel accessible to some so changing the entrance to Luther Rd would help
 - Amenities mentioned by the planning board are pull offs for people to enjoy the views because East Greenbush has some areas that are really good for that
- Has been mentioned to get rid of pocket parks or let clubs run them so more maintenance and upkeep is done
- Families are concerned just letting kids run free
- Winter workout space availability
 - Groups try to use the YMCA, but they have to cater to their paying customers first
 - A community center could support this
- Grants are far and few, so the community looks at some big businesses coming in to help support some of the amenities
 - Amenities fee on new development is in place now
- East Greenbush and Castleton
 - Some leagues have restrictions
 - Organized leagues
 - There is room for growth just need more funding



- The Clifton Park commons are an example because you can use the area for multiple purposes
- Capital Campaign mentioned a sports bubble this could be used all year round or other forms of indoor fields
- The Y isn't on the bus route this is an untapped resource that limits the employee base Walmart is the closest stop
- Programing at the YMCA
 - Senior groups slowed down but are back on the rise
 - They have ideas to expand in programs but there isn't enough space
 - Clubs are unwilling to change locations
- Paint and Punch, art, and yoga classes all free for seniors
- Offer bowling after school and that's popular in March
- Fishing and hiking program
- Summer camp program open to the whole school district
- Easter egg hunt is popular
- People have enquired about a preschool camp
- Renting of the EG facilities is much easier now than in the past the soft ball fields now have signups because of popularity
- Lack of arts and craft spaces
- No gallery
- No theater in the community
- Seeing an increase in younger families with kids coming into town.



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

Submitted by: Andris Blumbergs/ Jaclyn Hakes, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.





STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

PURPOSE: Infrastructure, Mobility and Transportation

DATE/TIME: September 17, 2019, 11:30AM-12:30 PM

LOCATION: East Greenbush Town Hall, 225 Columbia Turnpike Rensselaer, NY 12144

ATTENDEES: See Attached Sign-in

The Town of East Greenbush, as part of the engagement component of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan Update process, held a series of Stakeholder meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 17 and 18, 2019 at the East Greenbush Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to speak with the Infrastructure, Mobility and Transportation (Sewer, Water, Streets, Transit, etc.) stakeholders to gather input on a variety of topic areas.

All stakeholders were also encouraged to participate in the ongoing planning process and help spread the word about public engagement opportunities.

Infrastructure, Mobility and Transportation (Sewer, Water, Streets, Transit, etc.) 9/17/2019 11:30AM-12:30PM

- 4 studies have been done on 4/20
- When a town is on the verge of development it's very important to protect the green space
- Projects that haven't been incorporated
 - Walkability
 - Have been hearing more from the port community especially now that there is development in the Schodack area
- The CDTA did a complete street and suggested to do one for this as well
- The Albany Hudson trail design work is all being led by the main office
- The coming season the DOT is redoing the sidewalk from Rt 4 to Hays Rd
- CDTA has 2 routes through EG
 - 5 days a week
 - In the middle on ridership buses are not packed but not empty
 - Adding a bus stop in the town center and having a stop on a intersection
 - Stop by Regeneron and SUNY
- Possibility of a bikeshare in the area
- Town plans to extend Temple Ln
- Tech park on Rt 4 the library and the Y are trip generators that should be considered



- Best Rd is not great for development because of big transmission lines that would be too expensive to move
 - Alt for Rt 4 and 9/20
- Sewer and sewer have the capacity to support the development
- The Comp Plan needs to address where the infrastructure should be extended
- Region freight plan on CDTA website
 - Discuss complete streets
 - Community quality of life
 - Regeneron packing plant
 - Amazon packing plant
- On the Rt 4 the round about could become a problem with future development
- The traffic lights don't have a push to walk button
- Regeneron employees will probably need to do travel share programs to help the alleviate some traffic
- Service crews will probably need public transit
- Regeneron
 - Electric vehicle infrastructure
 - Smart signals
 - The streetlights are replaced when needed not a comprehensive approach The town doesn't own any of the lights
- The water and sewer system is getting "smarter" to collect more data
- Access management
- Walkability
- Mobility
- Town doesn't have the employees to maintain additional parks

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

Submitted by: Andris Blumbergs/ Jaclyn Hakes, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.





STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

PURPOSE: Economic Growth, Land Development and Business

DATE/TIME: September 17, 2019, 1:30PM-2:30 PM

LOCATION: East Greenbush Town Hall, 225 Columbia Turnpike Rensselaer, NY 12144

ATTENDEES: See Attached Sign-in

The Town of East Greenbush, as part of the engagement component of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan Update process, held a series of Stakeholder meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 17 and 18, 2019 at the East Greenbush Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to speak with the Economic Growth, Land Development and Business stakeholders to gather input on a variety of topic areas.

All stakeholders were also encouraged to participate in the ongoing planning process and help spread the word about public engagement opportunities.

Economic Growth, Land Development and Business

- New York Independent System Operator (NYSIO)
 - Manages New York's power grid and energy markets
 - GIG ring runs around East Greenbush. The Town has a locational advantage due to its location within this ring
- Tech Park
 - Availability of land is what initially attracted to develop the tech park in East Greenbush
 - Many employees and employers, particularly high-tech companies look for areas with natural surroundings and walking trails to locate. Good quality of life for employees
 - The location between Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) and SUNY Albany creates opportunities for retaining potential employees
 - Current vacancies at tech park
 - 60,000 SF currently vacant with 30,000 SF spoken for and awaiting funding
- BBL
 - Involved in the design and construction of buildings and commercial real estate
 - Projects include Holiday Inn Express, Harney's
 - Focus should be on commercial development along Columbia Turnpike
- Regeneron
 - Headquarters locate in Tarrytown



- Company expanded to East Greenbush when business grew
- o Regeneron is invested in East Greenbush community and stays for reasons, including:
 - Availability of workforce
 - Support services
 - Positive relationship with community
 - Enough property available
 - Knowledgeable, well educated workforce
 - Easier to build off of base knowledge then to relocate to a new region
 - Grow your own mentality invest in internship program and recruit college graduates
- Committed to generating 1,500 new jobs over the next 7 years
- Workforce is a mix of East Greenbush residents and people from around the region
- Regeneron looks to hire local employees because they are more likely to stay in the area
- Most residents are looking for live, work, play opportunities in close proximity to home
- The Town of East Greenbush is very segmented with no anchor attractions
- Young people want more sustainability
- Not many good locations for a town center
- There should not be so many barriers to development
- Getting through the local approval process is difficult. Takes a long time and increases applicant costs
- Cost to do business in East Greenbush makes project non-competitive
- Tech parks can help spur development like in Johnstown, Pennsylvania
- Regeneron is a catalyst for additional growth in the community
- Commercial and tech companies develop at faster pace than municipalities
- The land use approval process often gets in the way of development
- East Greenbush needs to be more business friendly. Very slow to get through the system
- Existing zoning is not conducive to growth. Many PDDs. Need for flexible zoning tools
- East Greenbush has slower land use approval process than other municipalities in the region
- Companies are being held back by slow regulatory process
- At times there is a disconnect between the Planning Board and Town Board
- Predictability is key for Town and developers
- There are a lot of users who will not spend the time or money to do business
- The process slows down at the Planning Board
- Communication is key. Feels as though Town has to have all concerns addressed before the shovel goes in the ground
- TDE is part of the issue
- Land use process should be better mapped

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

Submitted by: Andris Blumbergs/ Jaclyn Hakes, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.





STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

PURPOSE: Health, Human Services and Emergency Services

DATE/TIME: September 17, 2019, 3:00PM-4:00 PM

LOCATION: East Greenbush Town Hall, 225 Columbia Turnpike Rensselaer, NY 12144

ATTENDEES: See Attached Sign-in

The Town of East Greenbush, as part of the engagement component of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan Update process, held a series of Stakeholder meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 17 and 18, 2019 at the East Greenbush Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to speak with the Health, Human Services and Emergency Services stakeholders to gather input on a variety of topic areas.

All stakeholders were also encouraged to participate in the ongoing planning process and help spread the word about public engagement opportunities.

Health, Human Services and Emergency Services 9/17/2019 3:00-4:00PM

- With growth comes a need for more emergency services
- Challenges related to Police services
 - There is a need for a new facility
 - Current facility is too small
 - Sergeants have to share desks or go without
 - New facility should still be centrally located
 - The station gets approximately 20,000 calls per year which is high compared to number of officers
 - Not enough parking at existing facility
 - Need for a better security camera system
 - Need for proper records storage
 - Regularly a bad sewage smell in the cross-examination room
 - Difficult to recruit new officers. Much fewer trying out for the physical fitness phase of training
- Current staffing
 - o 25 officers including the Chief of Police
 - Ideally there should be about 33 officers
- The Police Station need their own impound yard and gated facility for patrol cars



- Currently, people leaving court park in the same lot as patrol cars. Have had vandalism to police cars in the past
- Clinton Heights Fire Department
 - All volunteer
 - Typically 25 fire fighters to an alarm
- Challenges related to Fire services
 - Most of the active volunteers are aging
 - o Equipment is not an issue
 - Recruiting new volunteers is a significant challenge and is common across the United States. This is also true for emergency medical services and police recruitment. The time commitment may be a reason for recruitment challenges in terms of the time for training and on-call expectations
 - Town infrastructure is a challenge. Poor road conditions and small roads in older neighborhoods
 - o Clinton Heights has some of the oldest streets
- East Greenbush is an urbanized suburbia. Residents expect 24-hour services which didn't used to be available in suburban and rural areas.
- Police are stretched further and further with every new development
- Police have gone from 6 per shift in the past to 4 per shift
- Staffing issues leads to reactive policing instead of proactive
- East Greenbush has the busiest court in Rensselaer County behind Troy
- The police department needs more detectives
- A significant amount of calls stem from Walmart. Most calls are for people outside the community
- Intersection of Route 4 and 3rd Avenue Extension has a significant traffic problem
- Traffic Safety
 - o Traffic circle is needed at 3rd Avenue Extension
 - o Left hand turn at Stewarts on Route 4 is an issue
- Sherwood Avenue has gone form a small residential street to more of a thoroughfare
- Traffic on Route 4 makes emergency calls more of a challenge
- Columbia Turnpike used to be busy after 5pm. Used to be called Thunder Road
- East Greenbush population increases substantially during the workday
- 911 Call Process
 - East Greenbush is backup for County
 - Working on MOA with County
 - o East Greenbush has own 911 center
 - Working on grant for Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system
 - Current system is in conjunction with Saratoga and Albany

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

Submitted by: Andris Blumbergs/ Jaclyn Hakes, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.





STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

PURPOSE: Regional Partners

DATE/TIME: September 18, 2019, 8:30AM-9:30 AM

LOCATION: East Greenbush Town Hall, 225 Columbia Turnpike Rensselaer, NY 12144

ATTENDEES: See Attached Sign-in

The Town of East Greenbush, as part of the engagement component of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan Update process, held a series of Stakeholder meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 17 and 18, 2019 at the East Greenbush Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to speak with the Regional Partners (CDRPC, County, Adjoining Communities, etc.) stakeholders to gather input on a variety of topic areas.

All stakeholders were also encouraged to participate in the ongoing planning process and help spread the word about public engagement opportunities.

Regional Partners (CDRPC, County, Adjoining Communities, etc.) 9/18/2019 8:30-9:30AM

- Schodack
 - Hope to see Route 9/20 reborn in the next 5 years
 - Amazon is willing to put in a lot of infrastructure in Schodack
 - There are many people against the Amazon development in Schodack
 - Amazon and Regeneron create two commercial anchors along Route 9/20
 - Columbia Turnpike should be a key focus for growth
 - Traffic on Route 4 is a challenge
 - Columbia Turnpike is set up well to accommodate more growth
 - o Growth in East Greenbush and Schodack is good for both communities
 - Schodack has seen commercial growth but not as much residential growth. A lack or sewer and water infrastructure is a significant factor for slow residential growth in the Town
 - There is a lot of land in Schodack available
 - There are three exits off of I-90 in the Town of Schodack, providing opportunities for both residential and commercial growth



- Potential parties interested in rehabilitating the old Fort Orange Paper Mill in Schodack.
 Could connect to sewer lines in Castleton-on-Hudson
- Once sewer lines are extended, growth will occur
- Schodack a good candidate for a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)
- Term for Schodack Supervisor is only two terms, making it challenging to accomplish longer-term goals
- Working on zoning update; 95% complete
- The Town has recently put together a committee to update an old LWRP to seek opportunities along the riverfront. There is no funding yet for this project
- Ideas have been discussed for establishing a local IDA between Schodack and East
 Greenbush that could include retail development. County IDA does not focus on retail
- Shcodack is in need of a comprehensive plan update
- Shared services in Rensselaer County
 - East Greenbush and Schodack sometimes share equipment between Highway Departments and for snow removal
 - All highway departments help each other out when needed
 - There are no formal agreements for these services
 - Rensselaer County provides engineering services for some projects in municipalities in the county
 - Police: East Greenbush, North Greenbush and Schodack have tactical squad team together
 - Someday a County-wide fire district may make sense
 - Entire emergency services sector is facing challenges
 - Fewer recruits
 - Fewer volunteers
 - Need for more specialized personnel then there used to be
 - The more communities grow the more emergency services they will need
 - Families have less time to devote to volunteering
 - With better building codes there are also less fires than there used to be, but more emergency calls overall
- Rensselaer County
 - Retail has had a resurgence in Rensselaer County
 - Need more of a variety of stores in stead of just big-box stores
 - Columbia Turnpike has the capacity to grow
 - Many opportunities in neighboring communities
 - Hudson River Foods, Castleton, NY
 - Food processing
 - Organic foods
 - Sand Lake higher income community
 - Affordability of housing an issue
 - City of Rensselaer



- Positioned well to take off
- Affordable rentals and home prices
- o Expensive houses being built on Philips Road near Schodack
- More Saratoga County Developers are coming to Renselaer County
- Castleton was a booming Village at one time. The Village decline after deindustrialization and the construction of I-90 which diverted traffic away from Village
- Papscanee Preserved
 - Owned by Open Space Institute and maintained by Rensselaer County
 - Needs a friends of group for better maintenance
- Development along the riverfront is a challenge
 - Limited sewer and water infrastructure
 - Environmental barriers
 - Former and existing industrial sites
- Riverfront Opportunities
 - Unique tidal freshwater wetlands
 - Underwater wetlands
 - Rensselaer County is working plans for a waterfront trail form Troy to
 Rensselaer. Potential opportunity to connect to Papscanee Preserve in future

Agriculture

- Significant hay business in the area
- Chickens are very popular. It is easy for residents in Troy and North Greenbush to own chickens
- Biggest challenge for agriculture is development pressure

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

Submitted by: Andris Blumbergs/ Jaclyn Hakes, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.





STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

PURPOSE: Service and Community Organizations

DATE/TIME: September 18, 2019, 10:00AM-11:00 AM

LOCATION: East Greenbush Town Hall, 225 Columbia Turnpike Rensselaer, NY 12144

ATTENDEES: See Attached Sign-in

The Town of East Greenbush, as part of the engagement component of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan Update process, held a series of Stakeholder meetings on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 17 and 18, 2019 at the East Greenbush Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to speak with the Service and Community Organizations (Neighborhood groups, churches, charitable organizations, etc.) stakeholders to gather input on a variety of topic areas.

All stakeholders were also encouraged to participate in the ongoing planning process and help spread the word about public engagement opportunities.

Service and Community Organizations

(Neighborhood groups, churches, charitable organizations, etc.) 9/18/2019 10:00-11:00AM

- Girl Scouts
 - Working on expansion on Mannix Road
 - Girls Scouts have five camps and three offices in the area. East Greenbush is the Largest facility
 - o Girl Scots have been located in East Greenbush since 1948
 - East Greenbush site is 105 acres
 - Challenges
 - Condition of road into facility
 - Earth dam cannot drive buses across
 - They host volunteer dinners throughout the year
 - During the summer, the facility is used seven days per week for camps, but during the
 off season the facility is only used on the weekend. Opportunities may exist for
 community use during the week in the off season
 - Most scouts live within a 25-35-minute radius of the camp
 - o The camp offers a variety of activities, including a low ropes course



- The camp has space available that could be used as a space for community meetings when not in use for Girl Scout related activities
- The camp can accommodate groups up to about 20 people
- Looking to expand camp facility to accommodate up to 250 people
- There are opportunities to partner with local schools to use the facility for field trips, outdoor experiences, water quality courses, etc.
- With the Development of Carver Court, a 120-unit cluster subdivision, there may be an
 opportunity to connect to water and sewer and expand trail system
- Regeneron is looking to have volunteer group help with trail maintenance 2-3 hours per week. An opportunity to give back to the community
- The camp has a swimming pond that is regulated by the Rensselaer County Department of Health. Potential facility for community members to use when not in use for Girl Scout related activities
- The swimming pond is supervised by lifeguards. Some lifeguards are previous scouts, and some are only there for one season. They also employ some international staff through Camp America
- The camp facility has about 2-3 miles of nature trails that are not open to the public.
 Outside groups, however, can schedule times to use the trails. More trails would be ideal, but capacity for maintenance is limited. Currently have 2 year-round staff for maintenance
- 1 additional seasonal maintenance staff person just for the summer for landscaping and general maintenance
- The Girl Scout Camp would be interested in working and partnering with conservation organizations like the Rensselaer Land Trust
- There are currently no conservation easements on the property
- There are a number of important natural features in the area

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

Submitted by: Andris Blumbergs/ Jaclyn Hakes, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.





STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

PURPOSE: Planning, Zoning and Land Use

DATE/TIME: September 23, 2019, 4:30PM-5:30 PM

LOCATION: East Greenbush Town Hall, 225 Columbia Turnpike Rensselaer, NY 12144

ATTENDEES: See Attached Sign-in

The Town of East Greenbush, as part of the engagement component of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan Update process, held a series of Stakeholder meetings. The purpose of this meeting was to speak with the Planning, Zoning and Land Use stakeholders to gather input on a variety of topic areas.

All stakeholders were also encouraged to participate in the ongoing planning process and help spread the word about public engagement opportunities.

Planning, Zoning and Land Use 9/23/2019 4:30PM-5:30PM

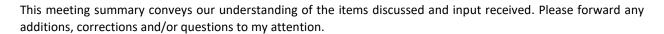
- Challenges related to Planning and Zoning Boards
 - Site plan being approved by the Town Boars. Slows process
 - o In Bethlehem, Planning Board approves site plans
 - Zoning works for the most part. Biggest issue is that many applicants are not prepared for appeal
 - SEQR process could be improved. Currently, Zoning Board is lead agency for SEQR but could be handled by Planning Board
 - Most projects are Type 2 or Unlisted under SEQR
 - Regeneron SEQR to be completed before approval process. Can add up to four months onto approval process
- BRT Meetings
 - Have been a good practice, particularly good when someone is proposing land uses that are not well defined in the zoning code
 - Currently held monthly, but could be held bi-monthly
 - Meetings are open to the public and applicants
- Subdivision regulations are outdated
- Subdivision regulations should be consolidated within the zoning code
- Zoning code is ambiguous in many places



- Bethlehem Zoning
 - Doesn't leave a lot of discretion to Planning Board
 - o Bethlehem is flexible from a land use standpoint
- Code may need more flexibility built in. Current code states that any use not in the code is not allowed
- Need to address preexisting undersized lots
 - Hampton Manor
 - o Route 4
 - Philips Road
- Variances
 - Mostly area variances
 - Front yard fence issues
 - Not as many use variances. There have been a few on 3rd Avenue Extension
 - Single story issue on Columbia Turnpike
- Create some hamlet areas
- Could add elements that promote walkability into the code
- Columbia Turnpike
 - Underutilized sites
 - Many small parcels
 - Larger projects are difficult because of smaller lots
 - Albany-Hudson Electric Trail will improve walkability
- Route 4
 - o Traffic volume is high
- A challenge is trying to get away from auto-oriented development
- Need a lot of residential development close to commercial areas to improve walkability
- Definition of habitable space in code is a challenge
- Safety on Columbia Turnpike has improved but speeding is still an issue
- A new issue will emerge when Schodack adds new sewer hookups
- Locations where water and sewer hookups should be extended:
 - o R-B zone
 - Route 4 Corridor
 - Have had many development proposals in these areas
- The comprehensive plan needs to contend how to handle infrastructure extensions and where to put them in connection with the GEIS
- East Greenbush could become like Clifton park or Halfmoon if sewer and water infrastructure are extended east of I-90
- Development can be clustered to help preserve land
- Many community members are interested in more commercial development as opposed to residential development
- Some cluster development has occurred in Town but there has not been a strong emphasis on greenspace open to the public



- No residential land uses are allowed in the B-1 District excepts for mixed-use buildings
- There should be more flexibility in allowed uses, at least with special use permits
- R-2 zone can include as much as 6 units attached
- Planned Development Districts (PDDs)
 - o PDDs were more commonly used in the mid-late 2000s
 - o Fed-Ex
 - Spring Hurst good PDD example
 - o PDDs may have been used in the past to circumvent zoning. Not so much recently
- Town Center Looking for residential behind Route 9/20 to encourage commercial growth
- PDDs have not been a very useful too generally
- R-B zone should not touch Route 4. This should change
- Better way to strengthen language to not allow PDD. More formal process needed for the Town to be able to reject certain PDD proposals
- The Town has struggled with the implementation of incentive zoning requirements for PDDs
 - Bethlehem incentives are open space based
 - Focus on community need
 - o East Greenbush does not have a schedule
- Conservation overlay would be good in certain areas of town
 - Areas along 9J
- Michael Road good opportunity for infill development
- Community members have an appetite for development on Columbia Turnpike



Submitted by: Andris Blumbergs/ Jaclyn Hakes, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.





STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

PURPOSE: Rosewood Rehabilitation and Nursing

DATE/TIME: September 11, 2019, 11:30AM

LOCATION: Via phone

ATTENDEES: Kelly Ann Anderson, Administrator

The Town of East Greenbush, as part of the engagement component of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan Update process, held a series of Stakeholder meetings. On September 11, 2019 a phone conversation with Kelly Ann Anderson, the Administrator occurred.

The following is an overview of discussion items:

- Privately owned and operated
- Offer short term rehab and long-term nursing
- Work with Albany Med
- 80 bed facility with 150 employees
 - In order to purchase more beds a community assessment needs to be done with NYS Moratorium (Certificate of Need)
- About 10 acres of property that has its own gardens and walking spaces
- A lot of money has been put in to update facilities.
 - Lobby was updated
 - Admin updates
 - Lighting
 - > Addition of propane heat to help offset the electric heat that is extremely expensive
- Building is 48 years old and has outdated electrical
 - Currently has a waiver till Feb 2020 at that point everything will need to be up to the current code
- Head of maintenance and has been there for 20 years and said the improvements are much needed, and they are slowly getting the electrical up to code
- Big issue they are concerned with is the federal health insurance programs. Not getting enough money and support to maintain the facilities.
- They have an issue with keeping good employees and recruiting reliable educated CNAs
- Try to encourage free education to the employees but when they get more education they seem to leave to go make more money





STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARY

Purpose: Department Head Stakeholder meeting

DATE/TIME: August 15, 2019, 10:00AM-12:00 PM

LOCATION: East Greenbush Town Hall, 225 Columbia Turnpike Rensselaer, NY 12144

ATTENDEES: See Attached Sign-in

The Town of East Greenbush, as part of the engagement component of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan Update process, held one of a series of Stakeholder meetings on Thursday, August 15, 2019 at the East Greenbush Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to speak with the Heads of Town Department of to learn about the local government and to gather input on a variety of topic areas. Topic areas included History and Culture, Education, Open Space and Recreation, Economic Development, Building, Development and Housing, Agriculture, Infrastructure, Mobility and Transportation. The department s that were represented at this meeting included the Assessor's Office, Department of Public Works, Department of Finance, Building Department, the Town Historian, ad the Department of Planning and Zoning.

All stakeholders were also encouraged to participate in the ongoing planning process and help spread the word about public engagement opportunities.

The following stakeholders were present:

Susan McCarthy, Assessor
Scott Gallerie, Commissioner of Public Works
Dan Fiacco, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works
Meaghan Hart, Director of Finance
Kevin Hitchcock, Code Enforcement Officer
Roberta "Bobbie" Reno, Town Historian
George Phillips, Comptroller
Adam Yagelski, Director of Planning and Zoning
Jack Conway, Town Supervisor



The following is an overview of discussion items relate to each department:

Assessor

- Assessor is responsible for identifying and estimating the value of real property located within the town.
- The Assessor Analyzes property values and sales and keeps records per Local, State, Federal regulations.
- On a schedule through the State which includes a 4-5-year reassessment program. The last one completed last year.
- The Assessor's Office is a standalone system with no county assistance for processing.
- Quality customer service is a priority.

Department of Public Works

- DPW includes 31 employees with the clerk
- Oversees maintenance of 80 miles of East Greenbush Roads
 - 50% residential
 - 45% rural
 - 5% commercial/industrial
- Maintains all town owned properties
- In the process of upgrading 2 water pump stations that are paid for by Regeneron
- Commons are getting a new above ground pump station
- Invested \$15 million on the wastewater treatment plant and cut 95% of the odor
- Wastewater upgrades included capacity increase from 2.2 million gallons to 4.3 million currently using 3.3 million
- Regeneron and Garelick Farms are the biggest users of the treatment facility
- In an agreement with Rensselaer and Schodack for water and sewer
- City of Rensselaer and East Greenbush share water transmission lines
- Schodack uses East Greenbush sewer system through an intermunicipal agreement which allows up to 45,000 gallons per day. The Town is in the process of renegotiating that agreement because Schodack is growing and needs more capacity
- It is important to hold developers accountable from the start of a project to completion in order to alleviate infrastructure challenges in the future
- Last year invested \$1.1 million on equipment
- East Greenbush is growing at a much faster rate than the infrastructure can keep up with so there is an important balance of fixing the old and making the new as reliable as they can
- Water districts were consolidated to one district. Plan is to consolidate four current sewer districts to one district as well. This will include a revaluation of user rates with redistricting
- Highway and storm/ sewer water are the biggest expenditures
- The Town completed a \$1.1 million new equipment package for the sewer treatment facility 2.5 years ago. In good shape for equipment
- The next biggest project is repaying. The Town is currently back logged by \$4.5 million for repaying
- A number of storm sewer structures will need to be replaced soon
- Highway is the next highest priority followed by storm sewers



- The City of Troy is undergoing a \$40 million water line replacement. East Greenbush and Rensselaer is responsible for \$10 million of that. This will be a significant capital cost coming up. Funding for this project yet has not yet been determined. Two-year timeframe for the project. First payment would be in 2021.
- The town has grown at a faster rate than the infrastructure to support it.

Building Department

- Responsible for enforcement of local, state and federal laws
- Governed by EPA, DEC, NYSDOS
- 2 enforcement officers, 1 clerk
- Responsible for Building inspections, permits, fire inspections
- Want to make the process thorough yet easy enough that people will not try to avoid
- Promote see something say something because the department does not have the capacity to patrol for enforcement issues
- The department generally needs more staff capacity for enforcement, particularly with the new Regeneron developments
- In the past, enforcement of local code was more lenient
- Manage expectations of the residents
- Work done by the state and highway on sidewalks is very minimal
- Come to an understanding with residents on their expectations of what can be done for the budget they have
- Enforcement of weed trimming is a challenge. Town Code mandates that weeds not be higher than ten inches
- The department enforces the removal of signs on utility poles
- A key challenge is balancing residential and commercial growth with limited resources the Town has
 - More help form state and county would help

Town Historian

- Role of the Town Historian is to educator and promote the preservation of local history
- Works with people to find history on their homes by looking at deed histories and mortgage history
- There is a conflict between preservation and progress

Finance Department

- Responsible for audited financial statements and day to day payment of bills
- Integrity of employees is crucial
- The department understands that the town is growing rapidly, and changes need to be made in multiple areas like infrastructure
- Accountability of all Town departments is very important
- Currently working on the budget. A challenge to meet the needs of all departments while staying within tax cap.
- School taxes have increased 8% in the last 2 years
- Town taxes account for only 21% of the local tax burden. School tax is high



• Suggested that part of the Comprehensive Plan could be changing the perception of where the taxes go and who has control of expenditures

Department of Planning and Zoning

- Planning office is where most town departments intersect
- Reputable, fair/ effective process
- The Department of Planning is in a mostly land management role. Very little long-range planning occurs due to the heavy volume of administrative work related to MS4 program, issues with the Town Code and lack of resources
- Regeneron requires a lot of resources from the Department of Planning
- New housing units are being built for the first time in many years. Long range planning is very important to ensure the Town is not always in a reactionary role with regard to land management
- Stormwater problems have come up and need to be fixed
- The growth of the town pushes land development
- The Town has engaged in many past planning efforts, but they were not utilized
- Ideas from past planning initiative can be revived through the comprehensive planning process

Police Department

- First female police chief
- East Greenbush is a safe community
- Bike patrol will need be necessary with the Albany-Hudson Electric Trail
- The Police Department encompasses a larger percent of the Town Budget

The next portion of the meeting included an interactive exercise to gather input about needs and opportunities related to particular topic areas. Using the five colored dots that were provided, each stakeholder identified the top 5 key issues facing the Town of East Greenbush now and into the future.

The following is a list of topic areas included in the exercise with the number of dots received for each topic, followed by a summary of the discussions held related to each topic.

Transportation & Mobility – 10
History, Culture & Education – 7
Route 9/20 Corridor (Columbia Turnpike) – 6
Infrastructure – 6
Economic Growth – 5
Recreation, Open Space & Environment – 5
Community Character & Neighborhoods – 4
Route 4 Corridor – 3
Housing – 2
Agriculture – 2



Topic Area Discussion

Transportation and Mobility

- Traffic from Mannix Road Roundabout to Rt. 4 at 3rd Avenue Extension is a challenge
- No traffic signal at Temple Lane. Traffic will continue to increase here with Regeneron Development
- Accessibility and connectivity
 - Better access to alternative modes of transportation are needed to get to key destinations (Bike/pedestrian/transit)
 - Many people choose to bypass Route 4 by getting on I-90 at exit 8 and getting off at exit
 - Truck traffic is heavy along Route 4 due to location of FedEx distribution center and Garelick Farms
 - There is no bus service along Route 4 in Town
 - Better traffic signal timing could help traffic congestion

Arts, Culture and Education

- Culture of the Town should prioritize integrity
- Elementary schools were redistricted this year
- Beltop has maxed out and children on a waiting list to enter. Children bussed to other schools
- Challenge with residential growth. Redistricting impacts residents who choose where to purchase a house based on the schools.
- Work with school districts
- More acceptance of diverse residents and diversity of neighborhoods

Infrastructure

- Infrastructure is a limiting factor to growth
- Maintenance a long-term challenge
- Residents don't always realize when they are responsible for the maintenance of sidewalks
- Walkability Forest Point has sidewalks within neighborhood but does not connect to Route 9/20
- Existing sidewalks in town have been mapped
- ADA compliance a challenge in many areas with sidewalks
- Safety of school bus pickups an issue. Town is planning a meeting with county and school district to discuss
- Extreme separation of uses. A vehicle is needed for most activities.

Rt. 9/20 Corridor

- Used to be called "Thunder Road" in the 1950s
- Was main transportation route prior Exit 8 on I-90



- Reestablish as focus of town
- Update and maintain older structures
- Redevelop vacant buildings and properties
- Re-use what's there
- Slowly coming back
- Center turning lane made it much safer
- Interspersed residential
- Walkability/ connectivity is an issue and concern from the town
- Type of business makes a difference (auto oriented businesses people aren't walking to)
- Weathervane issue

Recreation/ open space

- Nothing for teenagers to do
- Great town park
- No amenities/ pocket parks for apt buildings (require for new ones)
- Many developments don't have playgrounds
- Maintenance over time is an issue
- Town park
 - Public swimming
 - Splash park
 - Splash pad
- Hampton Lake/Town park used to have swimming
- Water quality of lakes
- Environment: NRI implementation unique ecologies

East Greenbush

- Too much Rt. 4
- Need more Rt. 9/20
- Need more quality commercial
- Keep the money in town
- 10 year high of construction
- Culture of society people don't want to stop on 9/20
- Need to get people to support the town
- Smaller food restaurants can't make it
- Regeneron has a cafeteria, so it keeps people in house and that isn't supportive of the town
- Loosing open space less agriculture and wildlife displacement





Department Head Stakeholder Meeting Thursday, August 15, 2019, 10:00am-12:00pm Town Hall, 225 Columbia Turnpike, Rensselaer, NY

Sun Morreale	GEORGE PRILLIPS	TACK Corway	Meaghan Nav	ADAM YAGELSEI	Andrew Collicist	Sue Die CARTHY	KEUIN HITCH COCK	Bobsic Dovo	DAN FIACCO	Scott Gollerie	Name
Success	TOWN COMPTROLLER	Town Supervisor	Director of Finance	Town , Planny : Zonny	Mr Engineering	1/57550	CODE OFFICIAL	Tistorian	Deputy Daw Commissioner	DAN COMMISSIONE	Affiliation
Smurcante @ east greenbush, and	gonillips @cost green bush ova	Jeonwork eastgreebush.org	Director of Finance impart & evitar eenbush org.	Town, Raming: Zonn ayagelstic gast grantershing	Agilorst@Meds.com	Salo Onewhoos. rig	Khitchcock & castgreen bish. ory	RResident greenbrish City	Micico o east green bush , org .	Sgallerie e eastgreenbush.org	Email



EAST GREENBUSH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE HISTORY, CULTURE AND EDUCATION STAKEHOLDER GROUP

•

Date/Time: September 17, 2019/ 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Location: East Greenbush Town Hall (Court Room),

225 Columbia Turnpike, Rensselaer, NY 12144

Jackie Hakes	Andra Blumbers	Adam Jagelski	Lang Eduan	Out Dugas thighes	Name
MI	MJ	Town of EG	EG Contral School Dismich	FBC. Uprany	Affiliation
			Ast. Speristerent for Shall Robers, France	Directos a eglibrary org	Email









EAST GREENBUSH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE OPEN SPACE, RECREATION AND AGRICULTURE STAKEHOLDER GROUP



Date/Time: September 17, 2019/ 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Location: East Greenbush Town Hall (Court Room),

225 Columbia Turnpike, Rensselaer, NY 12144

Andris Blumbers	Many Luper	Scott Moserine	Jessila Lansina	ADAM YAREUSEZ	Name
MS	EGB NRI Morla Gra	Ent Creshal-Catton 1. The lower	Tam OF East Greenbush	TOWN OF EAST GREENBUSH	Affiliation
	nancy- Eupiec @ amailie	Sromanowski @cdyman.org	jlansing (Deastgrunbush ora	ayagels ki@ easts months.	Email









EAST GREENBUSH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE NFRASTRUCTURE, MOBILITY AND TRANSPORTATION STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Date/Time: September 17, 2019/ 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Location: East Greenbush Town Hall (Court Room),

Rensselaer, NY 12144 225 Columbia Turnpike,

Andris Blumbers	Michael Williams Audry Ewinson BRIM Kirch	ADAM HEREISER Sondy Misieuricz Brent Irving	Name
RAST GREENBUSH	MYSDOT RI PLANNING	COTC COTA	Affiliation
dfiacco Reastgreenbush.org	michael w @ colta. ora Andrey - burne son adotiny oga brian. Kirch 2 dot. ng. gar	Smisicuica @cathrenbul.on Smisicuica @cathrenbul.on	Email











EAST GREENBUSH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE ECONOMIC GROWTH, LAND DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Location: East Greenbush Town Hall (Court Room), Date/Time: September 17, 2019/ 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM 225 Columbia Turnpike,

Rensselaer, NY 12144

Name	Affiliation	Email	
ADAM YEELSUZ	Town OF EAST GREENBUS!	Town OF EAST GREENBUSI ayazelskie eastgrecholog	no.
GARY WIELAND	NY 150 (NEW YORK INDEPENDENT)	GWIELANDONYISO.COM	N
ART Dombrowski	GREENLOUS & ASSOC	ARTOR HORMANENTERPRISES, ON	4
Steve Obesmayes	BBL COMPanies	Sobermayer@bbling.com	03
Kate Manley	Rensselaer County Regional	lemanley@renscochamber.dom	5
Spency Jones	Davo Homes Management	Sjones@darahores.com	
DAVID (RENSHAW	REGENERON PHARMACOUTICAS, INC	cars/1/2. david - crenshaw 10 regenerous com	~
Kyle CHERRY	REGENERAN	Kyle, cherry @ regeneron, con	
Andrew Cillianst	Mr Engineering	Agillimit @Mjelsicom	
Jacks Hakes	MJ Engineering	J hakes @Mjejs. Com.	











EAST GREENBUSH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES STAKEHOLDER GROUP



Date/Time: September 17, 2019/ 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: East Greenbush Town Hall (Court Room),
225 Columbia Turnpike,

Rensselaer, NY 12144

MS Engineering	Andrew (Sillens) Respect J. Reiners	My Carrons Hors Fires East Greenbich Recurpt.	Maillenstoniels. Com Theiners och intenheights fire.com Chief e egpolice. org Avagelski aconstantenbust. org
MJ Enginering	ROBERT J. KEINERS Claume Rudrumsku	Dept.	chief e egpoli
MS Enginering	Adam Yagelski		Ayegelski Deash (
	Jackie Halses	MJ Enginering	Thakes @ MJE









EAST GREENBUSH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE REGIONAL PARTNERS STAKEHOLDER GROUP



Date/Time: September 18, 2019/ 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM

Location: East Greenbush Town Hall (Court Room),

Rensselaer, NY 12144 225 Columbia Turnpike,

Name	Affiliation	Email
Linea Van Der Heide	Reas select (want) Acaning	
Maria Harris	Schoolack Jam German	
Andrew Cillerst	MJ Eugaelmas	Hailleast OMSELS.com
Jacks Akes	MS Changains	The boomsels. Um
Hem Yagelski	Town of East Grentush	Ayozelski @ C95+ Bron bush.ors









EAST GREENBUSH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE SERVICE AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS STAKEHOLDER GROUP

•

Date/Time: September 18, 2019/ 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Location: East Greenbush Town Hall (Court Room),

225 Columbia Turnpike, Rensselaer, NY 12144

Sockie Hakes MJELS. Com Adam Vagelski. Bush of East Granbush Alpasolski. Cast Granbush. Com
Jack Crark Grantus ;









PLANNING, ZONING AND LAND USE STAKEHOLDER GROUP EAST GREENBUSH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE



Date/Time: September 23, 2019/ 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Location: East Greenbush Town Hall,

Rensselaer, NY 12144 225 Columbia Turnpike,

Oschie Hakes	Andrew Gillarst	Matt Mastra	Joe Slater	Bin Hassney	TERE PANCIBURIN	- John Conway	Tina Tierney	Name
MJ Engineerins	MJ Ensinopins	EG Manning Bound	Els Planning Board	E 6 ZBA	EG 2134	Camp Pin Committee	EG Town Board	Affiliation
Jikkesa MiELs.com	Asillenot@MJELS-Com	Planing Chair @ Castylenbushowing	if islates@ east-greenbush org	mhessor go zest carposhio	LONING CHAIR C FASTGREENBUSH	JJ Comman / (D) pal. com	+terney & east greenbah. on	Email











EAST GREENBUSH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE (CPSC)



Date/Time: September 23, 2019/ 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: East Greenbush Town Hall,

Rensselaer, NY 12144 225 Columbia Turnpike,

				Max Mastr	Rob Leslix	Name
					Town of Bethlehm	Affiliation
					rlestie = townot bestile terming	Email







