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Appendix D
Public Workshop Summaries

East Greenbush

Our Vision. Our Community.

TOWN OF EAST GREENBUSH
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

MEETING SUMMARY

PURPOSE: **Public Open House & Visioning Workshop**

DATE/TIME: **June 17, 2019, 6:00-8:00 PM**

LOCATION: **Red Barn, 100 Town Park Road, East Greenbush Town Park**

ATTENDEES: **See Attached Sign-in**

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Agenda Item	Discussion
Overview	The Town of East Greenbush has initiated an update to the Town's Comprehensive Plan, first adopted in the 1970s and updated in 1993 and 2006. In addition to the Comprehensive Plan update, the Town is also updating its Comprehensive Zoning Law and the Western East Greenbush Generic Environmental Impact Statement, adopted in 2009. The Comprehensive Plan will provide a guide for long-range planning for the growth of the community while protecting its natural, cultural, and economic resources. On Monday, June 17, 2019 the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (CPSC) held the first public open house and visioning workshop for the Town Comprehensive Plan update. The event was held from 6:30-8:00 PM at the Red Barn in the East Greenbush Town Park. Over 100 residents, property owners, business owners, and other stakeholders participated in the event. The schedule included: 6:30 PM to 7:00 PM – Open House 7:00 PM to 7:30 PM – Presentation by Consultant Team 7:30 PM to 8:00 PM – Open House The open house component of the event allowed participants to informally walk through eleven (11) activity stations to learn about the project at their own pace and provide their input and ideas. A Participant Guide was provided to attendees to guide them through the stations.

	The activity stations included: Station 1 – Project Overview Station 2 – Community Profile Station 3 – Community Vision Station 4 – Challenges & Opportunities Station 5 – Places We Gather Station 6 – Serving the Generations Station 7 – Mapping the Future Station 8 – Idea Station Station 9 – Kid's Corner Station 10 – Take the Survey Station 11 – Other Thoughts and Ideas Additionally, participants had the opportunity to speak with Town staff, CPSC members and the Project Team and also, share written ideas and/or comments on comment cards. Workshop materials are provided as attachments to this summary. Attachments include: • Participant Guide for Activity Stations • Open House Stations • PowerPoint Presentation • Sign In **Common themes arising from all input received include: (in no particular order)** • Transportation and traffic improvements • Active Recreation Facilities • More walkable and bikeable community • Focus on Town Center • Environmental health and sustainability
Activity Station 1: About the Project	This station provided information about the Comprehensive Plan Update. This station provided an overview of the program as well as its intended purpose, outcome, and the CPSC members.
Activity Station 2: The East Greenbush Community	This station provided an overview of current demographic and socioeconomic trends of the Town displayed in charts. An overview of the current land use, zoning, agriculture, and recreation were illustrated in maps.
Activity Station 3: What's your Vision?	The Vision station provided an opportunity for participants to share their Vision for the Town of East Greenbush over the next 5, 10 and 20 years. ***Common themes included:*** • Active recreation facilities • More walkable and bikeable community

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	• Focus on Town center • Scalable development ***Ideas expressed through this exercise include (in no particular order):*** • Athletic Fields • Local bagel/coffee shop • Sidewalks 3rd Ave Ext • Town zoning more in line with what developers will build • Make it easier for developers to work with the town to develop the town • Community support • Youth sports local venues • Repair all asphalt at tennis courts • Outdoor + Green spaces • Trails • Sidewalks • Small apartment complexes • Need more green space • Sidewalks, bike lanes, good food and music • CDTA bus from East Greenbush to Troy along Rt 4 • Lacrosse Field Complex • Environmentally responsible, green energy, composting and recycling (+1) • A town with a human scale: i.e. no sprawl, no mega-malls, yes to smaller developments, walkability, transportation (+1) • More vibrant and attractive 9/20. Perhaps more defined town center area. • Pool • Town center with dinning, walking trails, pub, sidewalks, bike trails, small shops. • Sidewalk for Sherwood Ave. • Remain rural esp. around my house • Make pickle ball courts large growing interest in the retirement community • Develop a town center, a focal point of the community • Make pickle ball courts • Year-round party/ entertainment for kids (tax $ going across river) • Increased tax base • Better services +/or lower taxes • Locally owned businesses and restaurants. Local coffee shops. Bars/ restaurants w/ live music and outdoor seating. • Lacrosse fields with concessions and bathrooms • Need more business less apartment complexes • Need senior apartments • Growth like Rt 9 / Latham • More businesses that is geared for kids • Clear/ defined town center (walkable) • Sidewalks, bike lanes, sustainability

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	• Create a compact walkable "downtown" • Other nice family restaurant non-chain • Community pool like Bethlehem • Multiple Tech companies • Green space • Recreation activities • Attractive buildings • Top ranked schools • I think we need a 9+20 – Rt 4 • Roundabout and improved traffic flow at Rt 4 3rd Ave Ext (Walmart+ Target) • CDTA improvements along 9 + 20 + 4 corridors • Green focus, walkable and bikeable • Social places to gather • Need town center to be built • Have community feel w/ com. / family events. Music? • Luther Rd seems excluded from the rest of the town. No water, sewer, spotty cable service – we just pay taxes! • Community garden • Bike lanes and sidewalks • More local businesses • Green energy wind, solar, geothermal + tax incentives to go green • More sidewalks and shops / restaurants along 9/20 • A nice bike path • Would like to see the town lead the way to renewable energy….. and find ways to support private homes to follow that lead. • Stop Signs/ traffic control on Phillips Road • Development of a lacrosse Complex • Improvement of Eckman Pk. • Pickle ball courts -> the largest growing sport in the community can have adjustable tennis nets for pickle ball and play on lined (pickle ball lined) Court. • Sidewalks • Bike lanes • Welcoming/ district, gateway to the town • (equal access) Athletic facilities for all sports and genders • (very) accessible by all forms of transport (walkable)
Activity Station 4: Challenges & Opportunities	This station encouraged participants to share their insight about challenges and opportunities for the Town. ***Common challenges and concerns raised included:*** • Traffic, transit and transportation • Walkability • Dining options along the main corridors • Becoming a "company" town

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	Challenges identified by participants include (in no particular order): • Lacrosse sports complex, fields, bathrooms, concession • Remove vacant zombie homes • Clean up lakes at Hampton Manor and Town Park for swimming • Continued RCIDA Pilots being granted to Regeneron • Town being overrun by Regeneron • No pocket parks in North end/ third Ave area • Vacant buildings on Columbia Tpike. • Let's not become a mega-suburb like those surrounding major cities – or, with all due respect let's not be Clifton Pk. Or Latham, with acres of asphalt and sprawl • Avoid light pollution from businesses into homes. Example: Regeneron – invasive lighting toward New York Ave. • Neighborhoods are very disconnected • Lack of bicycle infrastructure • Aging demographic resistant to change • Lack of rentals/ nightlife/ dining to attract millennials • Taking too long to get anything done • Traffic Phillips Rd Columbia Turnpike • Drainage problems and sewer system upgrades • More small shops will succeed if local community will support it. My history says many local folks do not stop in Sweater Venture – Country Trunk • Why old Sports Grill w/ great views sits empty? • Need more good restaurants • Traffic on Rt 151 – August Gate – hard to get out of development at times • Traffic • Too large of tax breaks for large companies, Regeneron, Fed Ex, etc. • Poor location of the sewer treatment plant, (right at the town entrance) smell is negative • Growing congestion Rt. 4 / 3rd Ave area getting intolerable • Competing with other communities for business growth • Lack of sidewalk continuity (gaps) • Traffic light at Barber + Columbia Tpke • Need new paved roads in my development Behind Hoffman Car Wash. Have weed growing up near curbs. • Traffic congestion on Third Ave Ext. • Need for more sidewalks • Traffic congestion on Route 4 • Independent living like Spinney • Better recycling • Would like to see an enforceable noise ordinance – including barking dogs during certain hours • East Greenbush is a car centric town need to make it more walker/ biker friendly in the more densely populated areas • Competing w/ other local municipalities Clifton Park, Delmar, Saratoga • Lack of public transportation, all the closed stores, no fast food places

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	• Not to have a chemical plant take over E.G. • Lack of shopping on Rts 9 + 20 • Downtown seems to be stuck in the 50s/60s – long, "touring" rather than compact and cute • Disappearance of rural areas • Rt 4 traffic by Walmart + FedEx! • Traffic X3 • Taxes too high for services we get (or don't) • We need double lanes in Rte 4 near 3rd Ave Ext. Traffic is too heavy • Property owners on 9+20 clean up lots that are undeveloped • Ordinances enforcement of existing and/ or updating e.g. as relating to property maintenance (decrepit garages, etc.) Unregistered vehicles on property • More sidewalks + walking trails • 3rd Ave Ext Rt 4 traffic @ intersection • Family style restaurant/ Diner with, we currently have to travel to Valatie to find a decent all-around restaurant • Anything to go into Burger King, Pizza Hut, Friendly's? • No more new strip malls • Aesthetically pleasing designs for buildings • Decrease geese population @ Hampton Lake Make Ring Rd one way with separate walking paths • Traffic on Rt 4 • Develop Hudson River frontage for recreation • Town Hall needs to be refurbished inside + out, including the back of the building facing Hampton Manor • Regeneron is great, but we must take care not to become a "company town" • Lack of incentives for small business development • Lower speed limit on route 4/ circle and increase law enforcement (maybe) • Highway noise • Lack of affordable housing • Town lack of mixed-use transit-oriented development • Speeding traffic on Elliot Road animals and people getting hit • Rensselaer County worked on the road (Elliot) years ago, and did terrible, expanded, tipped it , and did not put small trench for water so it flows across and causes accidents, also the county said they know what they did was bad + wrong but all the $ goes to Troy! Also, terrible plowing + speeding! • Traffic West no Rt 4 • People walking at dusk (sidewalks) ***Common opportunities raised included:*** • Great location, close to everything • Good schools • Active recreation

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	Opportunities identified by participants include (in no particular order): • Location • Historical significance • More change! More millennials and youth! • Good schools • Location near Albany • 1812 + colonial history • Safe community • Close to Albany + more rural places (great balance) (+1) • Music venue! (+1) • Location/ commute to Albany • Movie nights in park • WE have a great town supervisor who puts needs over politics • (expand access) • Awesome town parks and public amenities • Vicinity to employment hubs (stable) • Access to major routes and highways • Main bus routes and transit • (rail trail) Albany-Hudson electric Trail (future) • Strength proximity to workplace low traffic • New town board good town government • Location • Good schools • Diversity of income • Good snow removal/ town maintenance • Location • Great schools and teachers! • Well educated population, home ownership, green space, good schools/ library, YMCA, sports fields, many faith communities • Good schools • Upscaled dining • Our current Town Board • Attractive place to live • Variety of shopping/ dining • Proximity to downtown Albany • Easy access to thruway/ neighboring towns / cities • Attractive housing prices/ property values • A safe place to live! • Privileged location
Activity Station 5: Places We Gather	Participants used stickers representing a variety of activities to identify the places they gather in the community and what they are doing there. The activities represented education, religious & spiritual, shopping, recreation, socializing, dining, and neighborhood. **The following highlights locations for where attendees gather most:** • Shopping: clustered along Columbia Turnpike and the northern part of Troy Road

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	• Dining: concentrated on Columbia Turnpike • Socializing: the YMCA was a common location • Recreation: large cluster at the Town Park and also the YMCA
Activity Station 6: Serving the Generations	This station encouraged participants to share their insight about generational needs. Generations tend to share similar characteristics and have similar needs for services, housing, shopping, learning, healthcare, transportation. The generations are categorized by birth year and include Traditionalists or Silent Generation: Born 1945 and before; Baby boomers: Born 1946- 1964; Generation X: Born 1965- 1976; Millennials or Generation Y: Born 1977- 1995; and Generation Z: Born after 1996. **Common themes identified in multiple generations include:** • More dining options • Improve walkability and bikeability throughout the community • Active recreation ***Traditionalists or Silent Generation: Born 1945 and before:*** • More better-quality dining • Improve old rail trail for cycling, walking, skateboarding, and rollerblading ***Baby boomers: Born 1946- 1964:*** • Sidewalks Brookview to Hydon, Gilligan Rd, Columbia Tpike -east • Bike lanes • Quality dining • Pickle ball court • Senior housing (higher end) • Sidewalks • A community that supports aging community • Public transportation • More dining opportunities • Sidewalks Sherwood Ave • Sidewalk / bike lane 3rd Ave Ext • Walkable community • Need town center to be built • Luther Rd – better cable service, sidewalks, water/sewer, lower speed limits • What happened to Michael Road housing Project? Why did developer Quadrini back out? • Sidewalk re-de should NOT stop at Hayes need to extend at least to Pinecrest development area (Springhurst) • Need pickle ball courts • Sidewalks- Gilligan, Hayes Rd., Greenwood Ln., Elliott Rd., Phillips, need especially near commercial, schools, dense housing. • "Granny Pods" or micro housing, in law apartments • Walkable community

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	Generation X: Born 1965- 1976: • Side walks • Bike paths • Multi-generation homes to help support aging parents • Lacrosse fields with bathrooms and concessions • Invest in public gathering spaces (picnic) • Increase tax base to help lower taxes • More independently owned businesses less big box ***Millennials or Generation Y: Born 1977- 1995;*** • Breweries • Trendy shops • Restaurants • Bike and walking paths • More restaurants/ dining w/ local food • More bike and pedestrian infrastructure in neighborhoods • Affordable homes • Walking access for exercise and meeting neighborhoods • Affordable homes walkable sidewalks/ bike paths ***Generation Z: Born after 1996;*** • Nice playground • Need sidewalks to "all" the schools in town • Places for kids to go (other than the library) after school for activities, classes, socializing
Activity Station 7: Mapping the Future	Participants were asked to identify on a map, where they want certain types of land uses in the future, such as recreation, commercial, residential, agricultural, and mixed use. ***Comments provided on the map include (in no particular order):*** • Preserve Papscanee Preserve/ Open space here • Indoor turf for sports • New development • More recreational opportunities • Extend sewer line • Preserve Ridge Road open space if possible • Keep riverfront area around 9J an AG and enviro conserve • More retail – less car dealers, oil changers etc. • Community center for teens (in old Burger King) • High density in blue outline here • Be careful of businesses that are not family friendly – Ex: adult world, tattoo parlors, buying + selling silver • Bike Lane • Walkable commercial mixed use • Housing options affordable – in sand/ gravel area • Clearly distinct defined town center • No vacant buildings left in disrepair – hold owners accountable • Good dining choices

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	• Bike lanes • Keep min. 100 ft buffer along water ways • Work with city of Rensselaer to develop commerce • Pickle ball courts • Bike path to Reg • Community center • Keep Businesses to a scale reflecting our community- Example FedEx, no more business to the extent of FedEx • Maintain AG buffer zone • Dog park • Keep rural • Limit industry keep it rural • Capital view park • Bike lane and / or sidewalk • Pocket park • Finish connection • Nature Area • Make walkable • Keep residential • More businesses for jobs and taxes • Pool • Improve town park • Limit large apartment complexes • Preserve agriculture East of Rt 55 • Preserve open space/ rural character in Best-Luther if possible • Preserve agriculture south of Route 54/ 53 • Mixed use bldg. housing/ business on 9/20
Activity Station 8: Idea Station	At the Idea Center, participants were asked to share ideas about a variety of topic areas including: • Recreation, Open Space and Environment • Agriculture • Infrastructure (electric, water, sewer, etc.) • Transportation and Mobility (bicycles, pedestrians, vehicles, transit, accessibility and connectivity, etc.) • History, Culture and Education • Economic Development (retail, commercial, business) • Community Character, Neighborhoods and Housing ***Themes in recreation, open space and the environment:*** • Active recreation areas • Parks and open space preservation • Sustainability and environmental health ***Input received about recreation, open space and the environment include (in no particular order):*** • Composting • Sports venues

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	• Food scraps collection at transfer station • Pool at Town Park • NO pipeline! • Ban Styrofoam • Create nature spaces w/ minimal upkeep (gravel not paved • Keep availability of open fields • Our waters are polluted – no swimming – we need a great water activity park for kids + families • Pipeline! • No pipeline • Hampton Manor the lake needs more maintenance. Not looking good • Lake Shore Drive needs to be redone, again! Erosion at Lake Shore Dr + Madison Ave West for example (+1) • Winery overlooking Albany skyline • Music venue, music in park • Lots of green space everywhere • Walking/ biking trails • Town center • A sunset watching park • No pipeline!! • Compost/ green energy • Splash pad water feature • Dual stream recycling • Compost facility at transfer station • Walking trail • Making Hampton Manor swimmable • Town pool/ swim pads • Bike paths • Nature preserves+ green spaces • Please clean up our water • No pipeline • Pickleball court where dilapidated tennis court is • Town pool/ community center • Sports fields – stop sending our money and kids to Latham • Long walking trail • Better park(s) (maybe a pool) • Lacrosse sports complex (see Guilderland, Saratoga Springs, Scotia / Glenville) • Splash pads for summer • Clean up lake at Hampton Manor • Walking trails ***Themes in agriculture include:*** • Preserve agriculture in East Greenbush • Allow chickens

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	Input received about agriculture include (in no particular order): • Maintain ability for light use Ag. In current buffer zones. i.e. Farm structures, animals, and crops • Change zoning for keeping chickens • Regulate beehives near property lines • Preserve a portion of EG as agriculture • Chickens • Chickens + goats! • The right to raise hens • No more industry keep it rural (+1) • Community gardens • Allow micro stock everywhere • Encourage Agri-tourism, local food, food safety at farmers markets ***Themes in infrastructure include:*** • No National Grid pipeline • Improvements in infrastructure • Environmental health and sustainability ***Input received about infrastructure include (in no particular order):*** • 9+20 underground wiring • Support Rensselaer in keeping garbage processing facility out • Extend sewer lines (e.g. Van Buren Ave) • Do something with smell from sewer treatment plant • Composting at landfill for residents • Drainage problems • Sewer infrastructure improvement • No pipeline • Use of simple, holistic use of smart city technologies • Water and sewer on Michael • Clear recycling and garbage in public spaces. • Roadways are gross! • Green energy – more solar • Support moratorium on dump • Green energy • Walkable downtown • Create a truly walkable downtown! Not 9820! (see examples like: Mill Creek, WA) • No pipeline • Fire protection establish one town wide fire dept/ district in order to save money for community projects • Transfer station open Monday nights for weekend town clippings • No pipeline! ***Themes in transportation and mobility include:*** • Improve walkability • Traffic improvements • Connecting neighborhoods

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	Input received about transportation and mobility (bicycles, pedestrians, vehicles, transit, accessibility and connectivity, etc.) include (in no particular order): • Better connections with the different neighborhoods • Bike paths and nature trails • Transportation better speed/ traffic control on Phillips Road • CDTA bus has route from 4+20 to Troy • I like the sidewalks + electric trail • Create larger shoulder for walk/ bike access • More public transportation such as Taxis • Utilize current infrastructure as much as possible • Take advantage of electric trail with small businesses • Traffic light on 9+20 at Horizon View Drive West • Sidewalks to Schodack town line • Sidewalks on Rt 4 • Sidewalks on Bridge over I90 • Make EG a more walkable town • Sidewalks on Phillips Rd • Trolleys up + down Rt 4+9+20 • Monorail! • Sidewalks • Alternative transportation bus, bike, walk • Safer bike lanes everywhere ***Themes in history, culture and education include:*** • Highlight East Greenbush history • Need for a town center • Beautification ***Input received about history, culture and education include (in no particular order):*** • Town center – outdoor restrooms • Making East Greenbush's history more visible (historic markers, programs, etc.) (+1) • Culture: need an East Greenbush identity (+1) • Be proud to say we live here • We need a town center more arts events • Need performance venue at town park • Make history visible! + Encourage remodel over rebuild • Office support for entrepreneurs • Rehab old big box? • Outdoor concert venue • Add a history/ art culture center • Beautification, flags, flowers, signs • More information on history and historic landmarks • High School entrance road needs a sidewalk for kids who walk to/ from, YMCA and library

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Themes in economic development include:

- Improved Route 9 and 20 corridor
- More dining options
- More shopping options

Input received about economic development (retail, commercial, business) include (in no particular order):

- No more fulfillment centers! *No future
- Not too many apartments – they don't pay for their school $ / taxes
- Independently owned restaurants not chains + not chain stores
- More small business on 9/20 (commercial taxes)
- Ask developers to maintain property on 9+20 undeveloped lots look terrible
- Theater or arts venue
- Welcome signs
- Variety of business on 9/20
- Entertainment / eating business district without cars
- Increase transparency
- Ease the burden of doing business
- Reasonable taxes
- Trader Joes +2
- Consider colonial architecture look for business buildings
- 9+20 Restaurants
- More Shopping
- Recreation center similar to the Crossings
- Enough tattoo parlors!
- Keep commercial on main roads
- Restaurants on 9+20
- Entertainment
- Department stores
- Breweries plural
- Need food court with indoor/ outdoor dining
- Tax breaks for start-ups
- Coffee shop
- Incentive for businesses
- Need a transit center
- Better restaurants and places to go out on weekends
- Taxes

***Themes in* community character include:**

- Town center
- Addition of retail to the 9/20 corridor
- Improved walkability
- Attractive housing for all generations
- Environmental health and sustainability

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	Input received about community character, neighborhoods and housing include (in no particular order): • Do something about old abandoned buildings • New construction to maintain town charm • Phillips Rd. • Would like more sidewalks! Especially on collector roads such as Gilligan, Greenwood Ln, Elliot, Hayes Rd. (+1) • Small town charm • It's hard to find charm when 4 lane highway runs through • Smaller town charm no Clifton Park! • Eco friendly buildings • No town center like in Loudonville Rt 378 • Sidewalks along main through fares • No high-density developments • Adhere to zoning • More sidewalks for middle school (Giligan) • Allow multi-gen homes • Walkable roads (sidewalks) • Recycle bin in middle of town • Sidewalks • East Greenbush NOT East Pavement! • Town Center • Lacrosse sports complex with Bathrooms and concessions • Need a local town center clustering of dining shops, residence • Traffic safety (especially on Phillips Road) • More retail – clothing shoes, bookstores, etc. Less auto lots • Duplexes • Encourage small independent businesses • Affordable nice!! Apartments • Town green • For Rt 4 + Columbia Tpike – Mixed use commercial office/ banks w/ apartments above etc. • Promote sustainability + climate smart planning • Clean up Town Hall curb appeal • Traffic light at Barber + Columbia Tpike • More organic neighborhoods for families to grow together • Minimize large commercial enterprises like box stores (+1) • Although the area is mostly residential buffer zone, I think more enforcement or guidelines are needed or to re-zone • Sync lights at 3rd Ave Ext + Rt 4 • Keep local flavor, NOT Clifton Park • Extend Temple Lane to 3rd Ave Ext with sidewalks • Add trails into woods + Mill Creek • Make 9/20 more aesthetic or aesthetic theme for businesses to follow • No more apartment housing

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Activity Station 9: Kid's Corner	This was a place for kids to be creative and share their ideas. No comments were received.
Activity Station 10: Take the Survey	The station included a tablet enabling participants to take the online community survey. Which is available at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EGCompPlan
Activity Station 11: Other Thoughts and Ideas	This station included an opportunity for any additional thoughts and ideas. The thoughts shared are listed below: • Zone for growth and economic stagnation – Do not rely on one employer! • Embrace the use of standard, scalable technology to cut cost, increase security, and transparency • Create a real, human scaled downtown! No more big box stores and fulfillment centers.
Presentation	The presentation included a welcome introduction by (Town Supervisor) Jack Conway and Adam Yagelski the Director of Planning and Zoning. Project Manager, Jaclyn Hakes from MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C. (MJ) introduced the CPSC and project team. Ms. Hakes lead an overview of the Comprehensive Plan process which included project goals, scope, process, and schedule. The presentation also included a review of the next steps for the project and how the public can stay involved. Attendees were encouraged to continue sharing ideas at the activity stations after the presentation to provide their input and vision for East Greenbush. For more information please visit: https://www.eastgreenbush.org/ To participate in the East Greenbush Community Survey please visit: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EGCompPlan Written comments can be sent to: CompPlanUpdate@eastgreenbush.org To participate in the East Greenbush Photo Survey please use #EGComprehensivePlan on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Take photos of your favorite places in East Greenbush and share with us!

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Input Provided on Written Comment Cards	In addition to gathering input via maps and station boards, participants had the opportunity to provide input on written comment forms. Below is a list of written comments received: • Open space- Lacrosse fields complex with bathrooms and concessions. (look at Guilderland, Saratoga Springs, Scotia/ Glenville) • Transportation – traffic safety – lower speed limit on Phillips Road to 20 MPH during school bus pick-up and drop-off times. • Park improvement – Eckland Park -picnic benches, BBQ grill • Please be transparent w/ survey and Post-It board results! Post online! Thank you! Ps Some comments will be crazy we know it

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.

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

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TOWN OF EAST GREENBUSH
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

MEETING SUMMARY

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PURPOSE: Public Open House #2

DATE/TIME: September 30, 2019, 6:00-8:00 PM

LOCATION: Red Barn, 100 Town Park Road, East Greenbush Town Park

ATTENDEES: See Attached Sign-in

The Town of East Greenbush, as part of the public engagement component of the 2019 Comprehensive Plan Update process, held their second public open house on Monday, September 30, 2019 at the East Greenbush Town Park. The meeting was attended by over 70 residents and stakeholders making up multiple generations. The meeting was started with Jack Conway the Town Supervisor introducing Jaclyn Hakes (M.J. Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.) followed by a brief update on the comprehensive plan and the introduction to the round table discussion. The attendees then proceeded to one of five tables for an open discussion on a relevant subject going over three main questions. Each facilitated table discussion lasted 10 minutes and the participants moved to all 5 tables throughout the evening. Below are each of the subjects with corresponding questions and participant remarks from the 5 rounds.

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

Transportation & Mobility Table #1:

1. **Should there be better pedestrian connections from neighborhoods to commercial nodes along Route 9/20 and Route 4? Where and how?**
    - Resounding yes. Residents feel there is currently no dedicated pedestrian space and that access to future and existing trails is important.
    - Lighting improvements (or new installations) are needed both in neighborhoods and along the major corridors,
    - Complete streets – residents feel that implementation is best suited for the 9/20 corridor (for now).

- Support was voiced for sidewalks on Gilligan Road – at least between Rts 9/20 and the Middle School. Residents feel that pedestrians do not have safe access to the baseball fields.
- Sidewalks are needed on 9/20. Pedestrian travel is especially dangerous at night due to lack of dedicated space and lack of lighting.
- No opposition to increase connections.
- Pedestrian signals and sidewalks are needed – there are currently none on Routes 4 or 9/20
- Access to existing bike facilities should be considered – including the proposed Albany Hudson Electric Trail
- 9/20 SW: Fucillo
- Residents were concerned and curious who would be responsible for maintenance and ownership of sidewalks, should they be installed.
- Yes, connections are needed to the Rts. 4 and 9/20 corridors, and also to 3rd Avenue Extension.
- Support was voiced for bike and pedestrian accommodations along – Elliot Road, Michael Road and Community Way since people frequent travel these roadways to access the YMCA, Library and Town Park.
- Support for connections was provided.
- When discussing bike lanes along the 9/20 corridor, safety concerns were voiced.
- Neighborhood connections to the commercial corridor can only be made if pedestrian accommodations are installed on 9/20 first.

2. What areas of Town could be better serviced by public transportation?
   - A Park & Ride within East Greenbush could be utilized
   - Shelters are needed along the existing 9/20 CDTA route
   - A Town-operated or privately-owned shuttle running between 9/20 to the north would be very helpful for the elderly and disabled, and possibly others.
   - The existing CDTA line does not run full time. Can service be extended to the full day? (Correction – service runs intermittently throughout the day).
   - Some type of public transportation, likely bus route, would be useful on Rt. 4.
   - A Town-oriented shuttle service would be utilized by residents to extend beyond where the CDTA route travels.
   - The need for public transportation was suggested between Route 4 and the YMCA
   - Varying levels of support for an East Greenbush park and ride was heard
   - Suggestion: Could Regeneron be asked to sponsor a shuttle service or host park and ride on their property?
   - Support was voided for a senior bus service within the Town
   - A CDTA employee and resident that has occasionally used the CDTA bus service in Town noted that CDTA ridership is somewhat low. An increase in CDTA services (routes or frequency of stops) would need to be justified by increased ridership.

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- If a new Park and Ride lot is considered, it should be coordinated with and existing or new bus stop.
- Public suggested that CDTA timelines/ schedules could be adjusted to better fit commuter's needs.
- Public transit would be useful in the north/south direction to access the Library/ YMCA area.
- A new park and ride within the Town would likely benefit neighboring towns (North Greenbush Park and Ride is heavily used)
- Consider a park and ride at Price Chopper on 9/20 (Columbia Plaza)

3. How can traffic along Route 4 be improved?
    - The roadway should be widened to increase capacity
    - There is a need to synchronize the traffic light operations
    - The existing roundabout at Mannix Road has helped but traffic is still backed up at rush hours
    - 4 lanes should be extended through the entire corridor
    - Egress / ingress improvements are needed at FedEx
    - Future planning and designs should have consideration for back access to commercial areas/plazas – especially to Rt 4. Back connections between commercial areas would remove traffic from Rt 4.
    - The most significant traffic delays were noted between the Mannix Road roundabout to Route 43.
    - Concerns were raised regarding the Regeneron development. Was there a traffic study done? Will there be alternate access to the property?
    - 4 lanes should be extended through the entire corridor
    - The corridor would benefit from public transit and bike infrastructure
    - There is an existing bottleneck at the 3rd Street Extension intersection
    - Add turning lanes
    - 4 lanes should be extended through the entire corridor
    - Coordinate signal phases
    - Not on Route 4, but students and other residents noted that there is a need to improve capacity at the Route 151 intersection with the Columbia High School entrance.

Economic Growth Table #2:

1. Should the Town focus on creating a Town Center? Where?
    - Like the idea of smaller centers because they have identity
    - One center gives sense of community
    - One main w/ several smaller
    - Rt. 4 / Columbia: historic center
    - Structure supports smaller centers
    - Make a town center with small centers

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- Rt. 4/20
- Hayes / 20
- Sherwood Ave
- Big town center
- Surrounding neighborhoods can come together
- Recreation "The crossings" example
- Fire house was a hub years ago
- Commercial hub – along bike path
- One main town center would be difficult
- Hannaford plaza
- Develop places that are already developed
- (to support D.S.)
- Sherwood Ave – making a comeback
- Kmart (future)
- 9/20 near weathervane
- Other things need to come 1st
- More dev. On 9/20
- Mixed use
- Self contained seniors
- Town center – one center
- 9/20
- Bring people together
- Library and YMCA
- Connect to surrounding neighborhoods
- Would like to see at center
    - farmers market
    - tourism/ info kiosk
    - bike racks

2. If economic growth occurs, where should that growth be focused?
    - More growth 9/20
    - Traffic Rt. 4 daunting
    - Need to improve 9/20
    - Small property sizes make difficult
    - Old buildings
    - Beautification can help attract growth
    - Keep agriculture
    - Columbia turnpike
    - 9/20 and Rt.
    - Vacant properties
    - Anchors P.C. and Hannaford
    - More business near pnt

    **Nobody knows where East Greenbush is. Signage; visualization
    - Columbia turnpike

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- Rt. 4 (near soccer fields)
- Near library and YMCA
- Performing arts
- Temple lane
- Keep where growth is
- River and industrial
- Along 9/20 (reduce taxes)
- More restaurants, etc.
- End of Rt. 4
- Keep concentrated
- Concentrate growth
- More vibrant
- Protected open space
- Reuse existing
- Hampton Manor
    - sense of community
    - dense
    - connected
- Port is untapped for more industrial
- Keep rural area rural

3. **How should the Town foster local business growth and entrepreneurship?**
    - Partner with county IDA
    - Create own town IDA
    - Target focus on business
    - Person/ office to support business + encourage business
    - Business hub/ incubator
    - tax breaks
    - Improve development review process
    - Up front costs to develop
    - Incentivize re-use + historic preservation
    - Reduce light
    - Pilots
    - German bakery
    - Create predictable process
    - Easily repeatable
    - Defined timeline
    - Encourage more variety (not more auto oriented business/ repair shops)
    - Wayfinding/ gateway

Neighborhoods & Housing Table #3:

1. **What challenges exist related to housing? (Supply? Quality? Type? Cost? Location?)**

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- Maintain rural feel
- Provide affordable housing
- Balance encroachment of community into residential neighborhoods
- Maintain quality of neighborhoods – despair Hayes Rd. area
- Affordability – for younger generations
- Proper maintenance – enforcement
- Regeneron driving up the cost of living
- Not enough variety – need more townhomes
- Build where there is more infrastructure
- Lack of new inventory
- Property maintenance / code enforcement
- Need more affordable housing for young people – residential
- Students coming back after college
- Need more senior housing
- Townhomes and condos
- Have enough housing
- Smart commercial development
- Need for community spaces
- Job opportunities for young people (teens)
- Type – not enough mixed use or apartment rentals
- Mix of quality housing
- Property maintenance
- No sense of community
- Small community center
- Empty housing – owned but vacant
- Taxes too high – cost of development
- More apartments
- Walkability

2. **What types of housing should be prioritized? (Rental apartments, multi-family, single-family, senior housing, etc.)**
    - Variety of senior housing – (rentals and condos)
    - Single family – smaller houses
    - Variety of all types
    - Town center
    - Mixed use on 9/20
    - Not a need for more high-density rentals
    - Need community-based housing
    - Higher density rental apartments
    - Transitional housing – age in place
    - The Spinney at Van Dyke – Delmar – combination of rental / owned
    - Mix of housing
    - Multi-generational

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- Variety
- Walkability around schools / neighborhoods

3. **Where should new residential development be concentrated?**
    - Need transportation
    - Western East Greenbush- keep eastern area rural
    - Southern portion of 9/20
    - rental apartments
    - Michael Rd. – townhouses/ row houses
    - Higher density – Columbia/ Rt. 4
    - 9/20 – 4 corridor apartments
    - Ridge Rd down to 9J – trail system

Recreation, Agriculture & Natural Resources Table #4:

1. **Should open spaces, agricultural lands or natural areas in the Town be conserved? Where?**
    - Yes – all should be conserved
    - Conservation should be balanced with Industrial, Commercial and Recreation
    - Town should discuss conservation with landowners
    - Preserve Papscanee and Eastern part of Town
    - Public access to Papscanee should be improved
    - Preserve aquifers
    - Work with schools to utilize existing facilities
    - Preserve forest and wildlife habitat
    - Consider conservation easements
    - Golf course on pheasant hollow

2. **What recreational opportunities/facilities are missing?**
    - More and larger recreation areas
    - Pools
    - Swimming
    - Walking course
    - Dine-in theatre
    - Pocket parks along the new planned trail
    - Historical points along the new planned trail
    - Recreation fields incorporated
    - Have businesses donate to recreation areas
    - Extend the Town park
    - Sensory garden
    - Restore swimming at the Town Park river

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- Town owned intramural sports field (track, football, lacrosse, track) that is open year round
- Bike and walking trails for all abilities
- Affordable indoor recreation
- Park similar to the Crossings with athletic/basketball fields
- Tennis
- Famers markets
- Teen center
- Senior center
- Community center for all ages
- Improve exiting trails
- Cross country skiing trails
- Town support for biking along bike trails (such as free air station, fix-a-flat, bike racks, etc)
- Roller rink
- Campground
- Build more playgrounds in existing parks
- Build Environmental Center with educational displays at current open areas
- Drive-in theatre
- Create a centralized inventory of the parks and recreation opportunities in town
- More places for kids to play
- Cicadi center?

3. **Should the Town focus on developing new recreational facilities, focus on improving/expanding existing recreational facilities, partnering with others, or a combination?**
   - Improve facilities at existing town parks
   - Develop new facilities
   - Foster partnerships
   - Partner with Regeneron to conserve land and create bike/ped trails similar to Rensselaer Tech Park and Global Foundries in Malta
   - Centralized vs fragmented sports complex
   - Farmers market that's larger and better advertised
   - Partner with Hudson Valley Community College
   - Work with YMCA to bring pool and hockey rink
   - Improve public relations – advertise activities better
   - Better access to Town Park

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Governance & Infrastructure Table #5:

1. **Are there current gaps in needed services locally? If yes, what services?**
    - Waste management
        - Battery disposal
        - Hazardous waste day
    - Recycling options around town
    - Chemical recycling
    - Garbage company control
    - Electronics recycling
    - Storm water/ flooding is concerning
    - Sidewalk expansion - make more walkable
    - Yard waste collection (more frequent)
    - Leaf pickup
    - Town engineer is needed
    - Stormwater capacity is deficient – flooding occurs frequently
    - Population at schools/ parking at Red Mill school
    - Lawn waste pickup
    - Ensure sewer system is adequate for development
    - Storm sewer separation
    - Repairs to aging water system
    - Internet costs - negotiate lower
    - Underground infrastructure is aging and a long-term plan should be considered
    - Cleanup of Hampton Lake
    - Green infrastructure
    - Fiber around town
    - Adequate street lighting in neighborhoods is desired
    - Enhance pride in greenspace in East Greenbush
    - Tree inventory program would be beneficial
    - Teen center
    - Senior center
    - Garbage service
    - Fiber
    - Stormwater improvements need on Luther Rd. and Haze Rd.
    - Old storm systems in older neighborhoods
    - Maintenance of storm ponds
    - Cellular service needs improvement on Miller/ Luther Roads
    - Public safety (fire, EMS, police)

2. **Should water/sewer service be extended? Where?**
    - Water and sewer services should be provided in the same locations

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- Quality of wells in some areas is not acceptable
- Some desire for water and sewer expansion
- Water/sewer extension is needed in portions of the town
- Low well yield in places
- Safety/ walkability to schools
- Consider water and sewer extension
- Extend water/ sewer up Luther rd.

3. **Should the Town consider design guidelines for the Route 9/20 Corridor?**
   - Make area inviting for visitors
   - Sign guidelines would be beneficial
   - Code enforcement of existing businesses is important to improve aesthetic of primary business/retail areas
   - Tree requirements
   - Design
     - Public square
     - Places to gather
     - North portion of 9/20 corridor should be more residential and walkable
     - South portion of 9/20 corridor should be commercial
     - Attract more unique businesses
     - Current lack of planning – the Town seems RANDOM
     - Bikability
     - Street crossings are needed to improve pedestrian safety
   - Road diet on 9/20
   - Code enforcement of existing properties would be beneficial
   - Yes - build character but consider developers cost
   - Keep any requirements simple/ clean
   - Economic balance
   - Yes!
   - Need consistency
   - Code enforcement is paramount
   - Trees are needed
   - Green Bushes
   - Design Guidelines should include:
     - Lighting
     - Sidewalks
     - Landscape/ greenspace
     - Safety
     - Snow storage

All additional comments left in the comment box included the following.

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- Good gathering of various age groups. Lots of great ideas.
- No one addressed how "pay" for all the improvements.
- Town currently needs to "address" business owners or apartment owners to keep their properties up to snuff! For example the corner of Greenwood Dr + 9&20 – Elia's Pizza weeds along sidewalk.
- Code enforcement needed now!
- We need lots more support to promote walkability
  - More sidewalks/ bike paths
  - More streetlights
- How about starting by adding sidewalks in neighborhoods directly adjacent to our public schools and also linking neighborhoods to 9/20 & Rt. 4
- Consider, in addition to better CDTA service, having the town invest in a "trolley" to transport residents and visitors among town highlights – (YMCA, library, town, park, ball fields, malls) The goal would be to reduce car use.
- Along these lines, really working forward to the new bike trail. It would be great if the new trail could link to these community sites.
- Traffic on Rte 4 could be improved if there were better public transportation throughout the area. Maybe people could take a shuttle from store to store along Rte 4 and have their large parcels shipped to them at home – thinking ahead, in fact, retail is changing so fast, it is hard to predict how traffic along Rte 4 will change.
- We need more commercial tax base, to lower residential taxes.
- Get developer to widen Rt 4 near Target (northbound)
- Roundabouts! Love couse Corners & Mannix
- I like my well water – off of Best Rd
- Preserve the agricultural land and avoid building on the land used for those purposes.
- Anchor institutions seem to be tax exempt status or big tax breaks for several years – at the expense of tax paying residents.
- Retail is pretty much non-existent along Rts 9+20. Bookstore, shoe store, convenient store, etc seem to be pretty much out of the question so far.
- Too many banks, car service areas, gas stations, drugstores, markets not much else. We need more restaurants – not chains, but independently owned.
- Senior housing seems exclusive – no moderately affordable areas for long term residential.
- Regeneron has exploded – yet our taxes haven't gone down. If it weren't for senior Star exemptions, we couldn't live here – after 48 years it is outpricing us.
- We are a white bread ton – we need to encourage more diversity – we need to be more welcoming and encourage new families from all ethnicities

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- We need retail!
- Town park – getting there – but so much more could be done – Water in lake is polluted, we could use a theater type area for summer programs, swimming Etc.

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.

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

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