

PATHWAY TO OUR FUTURE

GUILDERLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



TOWN OF GUILDERLAND

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Purpose: Comprehensive Plan Update Committee (CPUC) Meeting #10
 Date and Time: May 14, 2024, 7:00 pm
 Location: Guilderland Town Hall, 5209 Western Turnpike, Guilderland, NY
 Attendees: See Below

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
<p>Welcome</p>	<p>Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee (CPUC) Cody Betton welcomed Committee members, Town staff, and members of the public. Mr. Betton introduced Jaclyn Hakes (MJ Engineering), who provided an overview of the meeting agenda, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Update • Overview of Preliminary Draft Comprehensive Plan – Committee Draft • Committee Working Draft Review Responsibilities • Priorities Map Discussion • CPUC Open Discussion • Next Steps • Public Comment <p>Ms. Hakes indicated, for the benefit of the CPUC, that new members would be joining the planning team for future meetings.</p>	<p>None.</p>

<p>Project Update</p>	<p>Ms. Hakes (MJ) provided an update on the Comprehensive Plan Update process, drawing attention to the upcoming steps and future Public Hearing required prior to the adoption of the Plan Update.</p> <p>Ms. Hakes reiterated that the Public Hearing would function as the fourth public meeting for the Comprehensive Plan update process. The Public Hearing is a requirement, per Town Law 272-a of New York State.</p> <p>Ms. Hakes noted that the next CPUC meeting is scheduled for July 24, 2024, and that its purpose would be to discuss refinements to the Committee Working Draft, informed by CPUC input. There is the possibility of an August public hearing – the Guilderland Town Hall conference room space has been reserved, in case – although it is the Committee’s prerogative when they feel the Draft Plan is ready for a public hearing and which date would be most appropriate to facilitate significant public input.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Overview of Preliminary Draft Plan</p>	<p>Jesse McCaughey (MJ) introduced a series of slides outlining the organization of the Committee Working Draft of the Comprehensive Plan Update, the contents of which were as follows:</p> <p><i>Introduction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview • Planning Process • Public Engagement • Plan Organization • Challenges & Opportunities • Vision • Goals 	<p>None.</p>

<p>Overview of Preliminary Draft Plan (Cont'd.)</p>	<p>Following the Introduction, each of the six identified themes are addressed in a separate section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Agriculture</i> • <i>Business, Employment & Fiscal Resources</i> • <i>Environment, Climate Change & Resiliency</i> • <i>Neighborhoods & Housing</i> • <i>Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Historic Resources</i> • <i>Transportation & Mobility</i> <p>Each of the above theme sections features:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal(s) • Relevant Town-Specific Data • Key Priorities via Input • Connection to Town Character • Tables/Maps • Recommendations <p>Following the six theme sections, there are sections covering:</p> <p><i>Governance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boards/Committees/Departments of the Town • Infrastructure/Utilities • Recommendations <p><i>Implementation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview • Recommendations • Implementation Table <p><i>Appendices, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Meeting Materials • Community Survey Data • CDRPC Demographic Report • Transportation Council Report • CPUC Meeting Summaries 	
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<p>CPUC Working Draft Review Responsibilities</p>	<p>Jesse McCaughey (MJ) provided an explanation of proposed CPUC Working Draft review responsibilities, which were generated in collaboration with the CPUC Chair and Vice Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All CPUC members review Introduction and Implementation sections, as well as Priorities Map (members are encouraged to review entire document) • CPUC members focus on two (2) them sections to provide in-depth written feedback to MJ • Members are welcome to provide input on other sections, as schedules allow <p>Mr. McCaughey also provided some targeted prompts to elicit actionable feedback from the Committee’s review work:</p> <p>Focus of Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there elements which are unnecessary and should be cut? • Are there elements that are unclear? What would clarify those elements? • Are there additional elements – e.g., informational call-out boxes, supporting data, images – that you feel would strengthen a given section? • Focused on ideas/content, as opposed to grammatical/lexical review at this stage. <p>Section Review Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction – All • Agriculture – Jim, Dominic, Stephen • Business, Employment & Fiscal Resources – Elizabeth, Jim, Rich • Environment, Climate Change & Resiliency – Caitlin, Stephen, Lisa • Neighborhoods & Housing – Cody, Elizabeth, Tara • Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Historic Resources – Lisa, Cody, Dominic 	
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<p>CPUC Working Draft Review Responsibilities (Cont'd.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transportation & Mobility – Rich, Caitlin, Tara • Governance – Town Staff • Implementation – All • Priorities Map - All 	
<p>Draft Priorities Map Discussion</p>	<p>Jesse McCaughey (MJ) introduced a discussion on mapping future priorities. Based on input from the CPUC and the public, few substantial changes to existing land uses have been proposed throughout the Update process. Therefore, an alternate approach – providing a graphic representation of future priorities – was attempted and a draft Priorities Map was created. CPUC members were provided with hard copies of that draft map, for discussion purposes, and a slide showing the map and its legend was displayed for meeting attendees.</p> <p>Before soliciting input from the Committee on the draft map, Mr. McCaughey provided a brief explanation of each element portrayed in the map legend, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A shaded area showing ridgeline protection of the Helderberg Escarpment and Settles Hill areas of Guilderland • Icons to indicate placemaking gateway features at the northern and southern ends of Western Avenue/US-20 • An icon to represent light commercial/mixed use area near the Princetown line • A shaded line to depict riparian corridor protections along the Normanskill and tributaries • A shaded area over the Watervliet Reservoir to designate the goals of water quality protection, invasive species removal, and resiliency • School bus icons at Farnsworth Middle School and Guilderland H.S. to represent the need for improved vehicle access 	<p>None.</p>

**Draft Priorities
Map Discussion
(Cont'd.)**

- A highlighted section of Route 146/Carman Road, where light commercial and missing middle housing were desired in public input
- A green shaded area in the southeastern area of Town to indicate an Overlay Area for Black Creek Marsh
- Parallel blue lines along the NY Thruway to denote a plan to divert more surface traffic onto the regional highway system
- Purple shapes between Foundry Road and Rapp Road on Western Avenue to show areas where redevelopment of vacant/abandoned/brownfield sites was desired
- A shaded blue area in McKownville to show the goal of continued stormwater mitigation to reduce flooding
- A dashed line along Western Ave from the Albany city line to Rapp Road, representing pedestrian safety and walkability enhancements
- A red icon at the intersection of State Route 155 and Western Avenue to represent a desired town center

Initial CPUC feedback on the draft Priorities Map included the following comments:

- Streetscape enhancements on Western Ave should extend as far as Route 155
- The desire for pocket park/green space (esp. in Westmere) should somehow be represented
- Map is possibly “too general” – may need to section the map to allow for greater detail
- Gateways are more than signs – they establish a sense of place – and should be of similar design at various entry points

<p>Draft Priorities Map Discussion (Cont'd.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundaries of ridgeline protection overlay may need to be modified and/or explained in greater detail 	
<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) provided an overview of the next steps in the Comprehensive Plan Update process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPUC Review of Committee Working Draft <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ June 11, 2024 • Next CPUC Meeting – July 24, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. – Guilderland Town Hall 	<p>CPUC Input on Committee Working Draft to be submitted by June 11. Paper hard copies of draft document to be provided to CPUC members by MJ.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>Committee Chair Betton opened the floor to public comment.</p> <p>The following comments were provided by members of the public present:</p> <p>A member of the public expressed a desire for clear language in the Comprehensive Plan to avoid as much ambiguity as possible. This member of the public expressed a desire to use the word “suburban” in town character descriptions. Finally, this member of the public expressed a hope that additions/changes to recommendations be clearly indicated in some manner.</p> <p>Another member of the public raised a question about the process for public distribution of the draft plan. Members of the Committee replied that the current Working Draft will be reviewed and revised by the CPUC to ensure it accurately represents the priorities and perspectives of the Committee. The commenter also inquired about the contents/purpose of the Governance section of the draft plan but closed by praising the quality of the meeting presentation.</p>	<p>None.</p>

Public Comment (Cont'd.)	Committee Chair Betton asked for any further public comment. Hearing none, Chair Betton adjourned the meeting.	
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This meeting summary conveys our understanding of the items discussed and agreements reached at this meeting. Please forward any additions, corrections and/or questions to my attention.

Submitted by:

Jesse McCaughey, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C.

cc: Consultant Team, Comprehensive Plan Update Committee, Town of Guilderland, File

Comprehensive Plan Update Committee (CPUC)

Name	Present
James Abbruzzese	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dominic Rigosu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tara Cristalli	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Richard Brustman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Caitlin Ferrante	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cody Betton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Lisa Hart	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Stephen Wilson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth Lott	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Town Representatives & Planning Support

Name	Present
Ken Kovalchik	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Consultant Team

Name	Affiliation	Present
Jaclyn Hakes, Project Manager	M.J. Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jesse McCaughey	M.J. Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>