

PATHWAY TO OUR FUTURE GUILDERLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



TOWN OF GUILDERLAND

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Purpose: Comprehensive Plan Update Committee (CPUC) Meeting #6
Date and Time: September 12, 2023, 7:00 pm
Location: Guilderland Town Hall, 5209 Western Turnpike, Guilderland, NY
Attendees: See Below

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
Welcome	<p>Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee (CPUC) Cody Betton welcomed Committee members, Town staff, and members of the public. Chairperson Betton introduced Jaclyn Hakes (MJ Engineering), who provided an overview of the meeting agenda, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Schedule Update • Public Engagement Update • Subcommittee Report Back • CPUC Open Discussion • Next Steps • Public Comment 	<p>None.</p>

<p>Project Schedule Update</p>	<p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) provided an update on the Comprehensive Plan Update process, highlighting key milestones such as Public Workshops, development of the Community Profile & Inventory, the creation of Vision/Goals/Strategies/Recommendations.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<p>Public Engagement Update</p>	<p>Jesse McCaughey (MJ) updated the Committee on Public Engagement activities, including completed/ongoing activities such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Website Comment Portal • Public Open House/Visioning • Stakeholder Focus Groups • Community Survey • Student Engagement • Public Workshop #2 <p>Mr. McCaughey (MJ) also noted future public engagement activities that have been outlined within the scope of the process, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pop-Up Table • Public Workshop #3 <p>Mr. McCaughey noted that the purpose of the pop-up table would be to promote the Public Workshop event.</p> <p>Mr. McCaughey elaborated on the sequencing of the public engagement to date. Stakeholder Focus Group discussions had helped to surface key issues in the community; the Public Open House & Visioning Workshop elicited public input on those identified themes and helped to publicize the Community Survey; Public Workshop #2 gathered more information about those topics that arose in Community Survey data; Student Engagement elicited input from a demographic cohort that had been underrepresented in other engagement methods, thus far.</p>	

<p>Subcommittee Report Back</p>	<p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) introduced a series of “goal categories” that had arisen from the current Comprehensive Plan and from public input, thus far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture • Economic Growth • Environment, Climate Change & Resiliency • Neighborhoods & Housing • Parks, Recreation, Open Space & Historic Resources • Transportation & Mobility <p>Subcommittee Report Back began with the Agriculture Subcommittee</p> <p>Agriculture Spokesperson: Jim Abbruzzese</p> <p>The subcommittee convened 3 times and discussed the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserving farmland & open space • 3-acre zoning • Cluster housing on smaller lots with common septic systems • Preference for solar field installation that does not disturb prime farmland • Potential funding sources for agricultural land preservation <p>Mr. Abbruzzese emphasized that preservation programs should remain voluntary for landowners.</p> <p>Questions arose regarding the Town conservation easement program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are such programs effective? • How many currently exist in Town? • Should incentives be revised? • Instead of being conserved in perpetuity could the easements be available for limited terms. <p>Economic Growth Spokesperson: Cody Betton</p>	
--	---	--

<p>Subcommittee Report Back (cont.)</p>	<p>Mr. Betton began by explaining the process in which the subcommittee created their goals and recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group analyzed the previous economic section of the 2001 Town Comprehensive Plan. • Many objectives were “modernized” or revised. • Some objectives considered redundant were not used by the subcommittee. <p>The subcommittee understood the importance of retaining Guilderland’s identity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The suburban aspect, the rural character, and small commercial identity of the Town. <p>Mr. Betton mentioned that more people can begin a business and can base the business out of their homes.</p> <p>Regarding strengthening relationships with the local universities, Mr. Betton highlighted the potential for growth of the nanotech sector.</p> <p>The Subcommittee realized that efforts need to be made to expand the community’s tax base.</p> <p>Environment, Climate Change & Resiliency Spokesperson: Caitlin Ferrante</p> <p>The subcommittee met 4 times and focused on 2 areas.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce Impact from Climate Change 2. Reduce Townwide Contribution to Climate Change <p>Ms. Ferrante emphasized that severe climate events are occurring much more frequently than in previous years.</p> <p>The subcommittee recommended open space protection, streetscape designs incorporating green infrastructure, light-</p>	
--	---	--

<p>Subcommittee Report Back (cont.)</p>	<p>colored roofs, and proper management of Town forests.</p> <p>Topics discussed by this subcommittee include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing pesticide/ herbicide use • Maintaining wetlands • Potentially working with Green Corps • Support conservation clustering • Green infrastructure and green energy production (solar, wind, hydro, and micro grids) • LED streetlights and other energy-efficient technologies <p>Ms. Ferrante concluded the report by saying any possible future meetings for the Environment subcommittee would likely focus on honing specific goal language.</p> <p>Neighborhoods & Housing Spokesperson: Dominic Rigosu</p> <p>The subcommittee convened 5 times, with some Town residents attending subcommittee meetings.</p> <p>Mr. Rigosu explained that most of the subcommittee’s work consisted of adapting the past Plan’s objectives to the modern day.</p> <p>The subcommittee discussed the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The infrastructure necessary to support density • Incentives to encourage different types of developments • The needs of first-time homeowners • Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) 	
--	---	--

<p>Subcommittee Report Back (cont.)</p>	<p>Transportation & Mobility Spokesperson: Rich Brustman</p> <p>The subcommittee convened 4 times. Main topics the group focused on are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Avenue • Sidewalk and Trails • The pedestrian experience • New technology • Business needs relating to transportation • Public transit <p>Mr. Brustman described that the subcommittee examined the 2001 Plan. He noted that the subcommittee’s main departure from the previous plan involved Western Ave and the Town arterial roads.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many suggestions stemmed from how the thruway could better serve the Town. • However, Mr. Brustman clarified that their ideas were suited for a long-range plan of 5-10 years. <p>The previous plan’s objectives are still relevant with a few exceptions posed by the subcommittee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CDTA’s FLEX • Adaptive signals <p>Mr. Brustman concluded his report.</p> <p>CPUC members had additional comments regarding the Town conservation program, existing infrastructure/ resources, and how the CPUC would address overlapping interests posed by the subcommittees.</p> <p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) requested that the subcommittees submit their input in writing by October 13, 2023 for consolidation.</p>	
--	--	--

<p>CPUC Open Discussion</p>	<p>Ms. Hakes (MJ) asked the CPUC whether there were any other suggested topics to address in future meetings. No CPUC comments were received.</p>	<p>None.</p>
<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"> • Subcommittee Homework • Next CPUC Meeting – November 14, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. – Guilderland Town Hall • Public Workshop #3 <p>Ms. Hakes noted that the consultant team plans to share draft meeting materials with both the CPUC and the public in advance of future meetings, to align with Town practices.</p>	<p>None.</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>The first comment raised was the topic of waning interest in the Comprehensive Plan Update. Questions were posed about publicizing participation and pop-up tables.</p> <p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) answered that pop-up tables are set up at popular locations where people typically congregate. MJ will work with CPUC to schedule and organize the next public meeting.</p> <p>The next speaker was a member of the McKownville Improvement Association and invited those in attendance to the Association’s next meeting.</p> <p>The final speaker was a member of the Guilderland Coalition for Responsible</p>	<p>None.</p>

<p>Public Comment cont.</p>	<p>Growth. The speaker was concerned about the CPUC's and consultant team's efforts for public engagement.</p> <p>Ms. Hakes (MJ) answered that public engagement is most effective when organized as a partnership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This entails work done by the Town, the consultant team, and Town residents. • Once a date is established for the next Public Meeting then a publicity plan will be created. <p>CPUC Chair Betton thanked the public for their input and made a motion to adjourn which was seconded. All CPUC Members present voting aye, the meeting was adjourned.</p>	
------------------------------------	--	--

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

Submitted by:
 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 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"/>