

Town of Bethlehem

Comprehensive Plan

Public Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: December 8, 2020 6:00-8:00 PM

Meeting Location: Zoom (Virtual)

Prepared by: Highland Planning



SWBR

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OVERVIEW

On Tuesday, December 8, 2020, the Town of Bethlehem hosted a virtual public meeting from 6:00—8:00 PM to support the development of the Comprehensive Plan that will guide development and community-related decisions toward the community's vision for years to come. The Town's current Comprehensive Plan, adopted in 2005, has provided the Town's elected and appointed officials with valuable context and guidance for development-related decisions and capital investment. It established a vision for the community's future, articulated guiding principles and goals, and recommended specific actions or strategies that would move the Town toward the community vision. Updating the comprehensive plan requires a thorough and inclusive community discussion about the current state of the town, the community's values and aspirations for the future, and the strategies that should be used or actions that should be taken to achieve the community's vision for the future.

By Fall 2021, the Town of Bethlehem Board will adopt an update to its Comprehensive Plan to establish a shared community vision for the future and an action plan to achieve it.

To inform and engage the members of the general public in the development of the Comprehensive Plan Update, the Town hosted the first public meeting to serve as an introduction to the project, providing an opportunity to:

- (1) Share information about the project scope, schedule, and engagement opportunities
- (2) Summarize feedback received to date
- (3) Solicit feedback from participants about issues and opportunities

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the meeting was held virtually using Zoom and also livestreamed on the Bethlehem Forward Facebook page and the project website. To reach out to people who do not have access to the internet or computer, the option to join the meeting by phone was also provided.

More than 155 people attended the virtual public meeting, including 15 participants who joined via Facebook Live. The meeting recording is accessible at <https://youtu.be/1Kty3GxB96E> and a list of attendees interested in staying informed about the project is included as Appendix A.

AGENDA

The virtual public meeting was convened by David VanLuven, Town Supervisor, who welcomed and thanked the attendees for participating. Reiterating the purpose of the meeting, Tanya Zwahlen, Highland Planning, reviewed the meeting agenda, which included:

- Welcome & Introductions
- Meeting Instructions & Poll Questions

- Project Overview
 - Project Scope/Schedule/Engagement Opportunities
 - What We’ve Heard – Key Themes
- Topic-Oriented Breakout Sessions
- Report Out
- Q&A/ Discussion
- Wrap-up & Next Steps

A copy of the annotated agenda is included as Appendix B.

INTRODUCTIONS & MEETING INSTRUCTIONS

Bill Price, SWBR, introduced the project team including the Town representatives, the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee (CPUC) members, and the consultant team members from SWBR, Highland Planning, Fisher Associates, and Kevin Dwarka, LLC.

Tanya further informed the attendees about Zoom meeting controls. To gather an understanding about geographic representation, the team asked attendees to participant in a poll and select one of the hamlets in the Town of Bethlehem they live in. The polling results¹ tabulated below illustrate that majority of attendees represented Delmar (47%), followed by Elsmere (21%). There was no representation from North Bethlehem and South Bethlehem.

Poll 1: Where do you live?

Hamlet	Response
Delmar	(41) 47%
Elsmere	(18) 21%
Glenmont	(10) 11%
North Bethlehem	(0) 0%
Selkirk	(6) 7%
Slingerlands	(11) 13%
South Bethlehem	(0) 0%
Other	(1) 1%

PROJECT PRESENTATION

Bill Price, SWBR, presented an overview of Comprehensive Plan Update process, including the project scope and schedule. He noted that the project initiation and public engagement plan phases of the project have been completed and we are currently in the community assessment

¹ A total of 87 Zoom meeting attendees participated in the poll.

and profile phase. He provided an overview of both completed and upcoming engagement activities, including one-on-one stakeholder interviews, CPUC meetings, four public meetings, three focus groups, and two online surveys, throughout the course of the project.

Tanya further summarized the comments received from the community during the stakeholder interviews.

- Town has top school districts in New York State
- Other assets include:
 - Parks and open spaces
 - Senior services and public services
 - Rural and historic character
 - Socially conscious community
- Unequal resource/infrastructure distribution between Delmar and other Town hamlets
- Lack of racial diversity and inclusion in the community
- Preservation of historic sites, buildings, and the rural character is crucial
- Other concerns noted by stakeholders include:
 - Motorized traffic (trucks, tankers, etc.) passing through the Town
 - Barriers to business expansion
 - Development of former farms and rural lands
 - Availability of affordable and age-friendly Housing
 - Town financial resources, particularly in the wake of the COVID pandemic
 - Neighborhood connectivity / cut-through traffic
 - Property owner's rights and flexibility of uses on rural lands

A copy of the project presentation is included as Appendix C.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS & REPORT OUT

The presentation was followed by an interactive group exercise. Tanya Zwahlen, Highland Planning, introduced the topic-oriented breakout group exercise and noted that the participants were pre-assigned to topic-oriented breakout groups based on their preferences at the time of meeting registration. Each breakout session was led by a Facilitator and/or Notetaker, who were members of the project team and/or CPUC. There were a series of generic discussion questions.

1. What is the biggest issue/ challenge?
2. What could the Town do better?
3. What resources does the Town lack?
4. What's going well in the Town with regard to this topic?
5. What would you like to see more of?

Participants were encouraged to discuss the issues and opportunities associated with the respective topic and collect their thoughts. Each breakout group selected one participant to debrief main points/key takeaways from the discussion to the larger group.

Summary from each topic-oriented breakout groups is included below.

AGING

The breakout session on aging was facilitated by Tanya Zwahlen, Highland Planning. Twelve (12) participants were in attendance.

1. What is the biggest issue regarding aging in the Town?

- Accommodations in design and infrastructure (parks, sidewalks) are needed
- Use universal design
- Challenge of housing stock; one floor living is in high demand
- New construction should include one floor living and multi-family housing; this would make the town more attractive for those who are aging and for diversity
- More one floor, rental options in walkable areas are needed in the Town
- New housing is not being built in walkable areas
- Town center doesn't provide mixed use walkability; this worries me
- Not a lot of one floor housing available and, where there is, it's not affordable; this is a barrier to existing residents
- Lack of available land in the center of town for the development of a senior center
- Lack of connectivity with transportation and people

2. What could the Town do better?

- Neighborhood support groups and networks to help people stay in place
- Create a community center with a focus on senior programs and with programs involving mixed age groups
- Anytime there is infrastructure improvements, consider universal design
- Van service or micro-transit to move residents through the town; people might be willing to pay for this

3. What resources does the Town lack?

- Money
- Volunteers and/or personnel

4. What's going well in the Town with regard to the needs of senior citizens?

- Senior programs are tremendous; they are a hidden gem
- Senior transportation to appointments and shopping
- Most are from Delmar and Slingerlands

5. What would you like to see more of?

- More people aware of Bethlehem Neighbors, a group of people who join together to help people age in place, so it can be more successful
- Transportation for other ages
- The Town Planning Department study, analyze and recommend improvements that help senior citizens and those with disabilities
- Ask people with expertise on topics related to aging and residents with disabilities to provide knowledge and advice to the Town to solve problems
- Using skills of senior citizens to greater affect

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The breakout session on economic development was facilitated by Kevin Dwarka, Kevin Dwarka LLC, with support from Karen Shaw, Town of Bethlehem as the notetaker. Sixteen (16) participants were in attendance.

1. What is the biggest issue in the Town regarding economic development?

- Chamber of Commerce - hear from members - difficulty going through the Planning Board process, time takes too long to get project approved.
- Planning Board needs business owners on the Board; there's a lack of understanding of how biz economy works
 - Makes a difference when businesses are deciding if they should locate in Bethlehem
- How do we encourage start-ups, small businesses?
- When on Town Board - solar companies - attracted to communities like Bethlehem where the permitting is streamlined; can we think about targeting small businesses and setting out a standardization of how they would get started in town to make the process faster, more effective - a way to make it easier for businesses to get their start - given Covid-19, nurture small businesses
- Survey that Chamber did, existing businesses may not survive over the winter... highlight this problem. Critical problem right now.
- Rail trail is great, but there are opportunities for development and connection is a missed opportunity - finally had food trucks there, but didn't go about that in the best way
 - Chance to connect businesses to the Rail Trail, incubator spaces, encourage small restaurants
 - Right now, not a huge amount of food and restaurants - small, independent - could potentially hold the winter farmers market
 - Incentives - encourage small businesses to "refresh" their facade? Offer incentives for new signage on the outside

- Town encourage more social gatherings where businesses to participate - music in the park, street festivals - people looking for ways to come together; close down part of a street or four corners (Chowderfest, etc.)
- Microenterprise grant - supports small businesses through NYS/local grants; also, reimbursements/grants for PPE for small businesses (via IDA)
- Institutions need to remain open - dive tank, pool closed over the summer - killing jobs and commerce, mistake - need to manage money better
- Tax dollars come out of the private sector
- Land use moratorium - is there something in between? A uniform moratorium with no building for a year is too much
- Economic development will be inhibited for the next couple of years due to moratorium

2. What could the Town do better?

- One of the challenges is the rail trail is maintained by the County - food trucks was a County project - not sure there is an understanding at all levels priority of the town, local businesses
- Need better inter-governmental communication - County, State, local
- Planning Board - have a developer, small business person - is there anyone representing economic development?
- In another town, planning boards move more quickly - need to make sure PB members do their due diligence so questions are answered ahead of PB meetings
- As a small business owner - I don't know about these town-based incentive programs/grants, so communications need to be better, guidance for business owners would be helpful
- Some businesses use social media very well - could there be offerings by Town - bring in social media guru - show how to use Instagram/Facebook to draw business, promotional use
- Could be more grants and programs to support small business productivity and connections
- (remember to sign up for Chamber of Commerce emails, etc. To get notices, trainings :))
- Like to see expansion of amenities on the Rail Trail - undercurrent of folks living in town to have more connectivity - Four Corners - walkable, dense; offer opportunity for more businesses in the heart of Delmar
- Walkability is key - infrastructure is there, need to continue fostering this - particularly in Delmar - can expand to other areas (Slingerlands) and other places connected to Rail Trail (Voorheesville, etc.)
- Four Corners has bones that other places try to replicate, but it's all already there - just need to build on in - continue momentum - connection organically all along the trail's linear pathway

- Walk on the Rail Trail everyday - 2 generations of family; kids have all moved back and use the trail - as an Albany Co. Legislator, we are interested in ways to enhance the trail... pushing Dan McCoy to do more there. Have a vision for the trail - untapped potential.
- County owns the Rail Trail - want to support vision
- County has financial assistance for small businesses - can help support Town/IDA
- Connection to the Pine Hollow Arboretum from the rail trail
- The Rail Trail going all the way out to Voorheesville
- The Four Corners - most suburbs don't have this so enhance this: Fall Fest at Perfect Blend, etc.; perhaps blocking off a street to celebrate/encourage businesses to interact, celebrate

Other comments on tax included:

- Part of the work of the IDA is to bring in businesses to enable the growth of the tax base
- Look for businesses that are within our mission
- As taxpayers, we see we are getting value for our money... seems a lot of people agree with that if services are excellent

ENVIRONMENT/SUSTAINABILITY #1

The first breakout session on environment/ sustainability was facilitated by Jeremy Snyder, CPUC member, with support from Rob Leslie, Town of Bethlehem as the notetaker. Eighteen (18) participants were in attendance.

1. What are the biggest concerns with respect to the environment and sustainability?

- Maintaining clean air - proximity to SABIC
- Clean water - waste facilities (feeds to the Hudson)
- Preservation of open spaces, important conservation areas
- Clean energy as it relates to air quality
- Less houses being developed, preservation of open spaces
- Climate change
- Things we can do as a town to cut our energy waste (inefficiencies) - through sustainability initiatives to come out of this plan
- Future development needs to support mixed use, aging population. Cafes/restaurants. Very little going out towards Slingerlands - more needed in this area.
- Biking in this area is not safe.
- Where do we want/don't want houses – Selkirk is different than Slingerlands.
- Places for people to go and enjoy the land where they live

2. What is going well? What would you like to see more of?

- Rail Trail and charging stations at the Rail Trail
- Hiking trails, MHLC efforts

- Recycling program is amazing - like to see more plastics (not in our control)
- Walkable/Bikeable helps us to drive less
- CDTA- public transportation
- Comp Plan is moving ahead despite the virus
- Efforts towards Community Choice Aggregation - great idea/easy

3. What goals should the Town set with respect to the environment and sustainability?

- Government and businesses are doing towards sustainability. Synergy of Town Govt, business, and residents - 3 sectors to work together to set targets.
- Expand upon solar panels in Town - additional
- Real benefit from large-scale solar
- Ground mounted solar that also allows farming to take place underneath panels - compatible with agriculture
- Encourage smarter development – mixed-use development. Large scale residential development should include pocket-parks.
- Scale of housing - mega mansions not consistent with sustainability goals.
- Look at new housing with critical eye - sustainable.
- Bethlehem align its laws with NYS goals - zero-out greenhouse emissions by 2050-Climate Act (move Bethlehem towards zero-emissions)
- Sustaining open space balanced with property rights
- Lots of cars removed off the road - transportation includes many short trips - use public transportation as predominant use rather than Single occupancy

4. What are some policies or actions the Town could enact to meet these goals?

- Simplify regulations for egg-laying hens.
- Building out education programs for all ages - focus on youth attuned to environmental issues
- Sustainable farming
- backyard eggs vs store purchase
- Accessibility - open space/hiking trails is a draw
- Allow dogs in town parks [dogs need to be on leash-it's allowed]

5. What are other communities you're aware of that are doing a good job on the environment and sustainability that we can look to as role models?

- Look at Ithaca
- California/Washington

ENVIRONMENT/SUSTAINABILITY #2

The second breakout session on environment/ sustainability was facilitated by Frank Armento, Fisher Associates, with support from Brittany Murphy, SWBR as the notetaker. Around fifteen (15) participants were in attendance.

1. What are the biggest concerns with respect to the environment and sustainability?

- Town going in the right direction
- Will Comp Plan guide sustainability and make sure we do it right?
- How are we defining sustainability?
- Farm preservation is a concern, but not pigeon holing. “preserving” alone can be problematic, town should focus on property rights, and flexibility of use.
- Concerned about renewable energy, favors moving toward solar energy in town.
- Concerned with balance between property rights respect and managing development to sustain true environment and habitat, ensure factors like water table. How to “do both”?
- Concerned about pesticide use for aesthetic reasons for lawns
- Concern about pesticides seconded, no options for composting food scraps.
- Climate “smart communities’ program” should be incorporated into comp plan, solar energy in town code (issues about trees from neighbors blocking solar panels, disputes between neighbors). People plant native plants in yards but use not continued when property changes hands. Opportunities for passive solar, taking advantage of designing for sun exposure.
- Need resources for homeowners wanting to plant native plants

2. What policies/programs in town are going well? Other examples of towns with good policies or programs?

- New Scotland zoning changes around route 85, mixed use commercial use, land preservation, oriented around land features, protective of natural habitat and mixed-use development
- Vista tech park is an example of unsustainable development, too much asphalt/impervious, spread-out single-story buildings, replaced natural land in/near watershed. Need more innovation for development that protects natural features, stormwater, biodiversity.
- Some towns (nationally) have policies to buy local food, CSAS, introducing residents to food growers nearby
- Opportunities to educate residents about alternatives to pesticides, renewable energy, native plants etc. Convenient resources for busy people.

Other comments on town services with regards to sustainability included:

- Composting leaf and mulch program are amazing. Any enhancements/development would be great, could even export to other communities

- Need to consider health effects in all decisions, sidewalks, walkability, pesticides etc. Health in all policies
- Town is moving toward food waste composting; residents need to be educated in all areas of town. Make it easy for people. Would be a huge impact on greenhouse gas emissions.
- Creating networks/combining compost uses (food waste and leaves/yard)

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The breakout session on historic preservation was facilitated by Bill Price, SWBR with support from Leslie Lombardo, Town of Bethlehem as the notetaker. Around fifteen (15) participants were in attendance.

1. What is the biggest issue regarding historic preservation in the Town?

- No common goals for historic preservation
- Question if there should be historic districts
- Educational resources etc. Need a discussion on these questions to get to goals
- Group members have been active in participating in saving historic structures in town
- Bill noted the focus has been in Slingerlands, what about the other hamlets, can you mention them:
 - Selkirk area, Cedar Hill has the Historic Society
 - There was an inventory of structures in 1996, it needs to be updated
 - History of Town began in Cedar Hill area
 - People are not aware of where structures are.
 - We need a seat at the table for the topic, we need a process, a commission for historic preservation to get things moving
 - Old Delmar is also an area, a classic easy suburb, the town should protect, celebrate this area and Elsmere area also, mid to late 19th century, homes and subdivision built on old farms
 - Glendale Ave an example of homes built before 1900 in Delmar
 - Wealth of history here in Town in all parts
 - Uniqueness is important to residents

2. What's been lost?

- A home at the back of Maple Ave Delmar lost to construction to new homes, in-fill development, was once part of Grosbeck Farm
- Slingerlands - house behind the old Mangia restaurant was taken down
- Train Station in Slingerlands, now the fire house
- 9 Elsmere

3. Are there sites that need to be protected?

- A historic district commission could recommend areas to save, set up a process
- Church on Krumkill Rd that is being turned into a day care
- We need to define what is historic?
- 1996 inventory doesn't have all the data needed for a professional survey; it is missing structures doesn't include all
- Would help to have more data to meet the criteria, reconnaissance survey is a trigger to set up a district
- Consultant can give feedback on what's needed to set up a commission, districts etc.
- Sometimes restriction of a historic district is not welcomed by residents

4. What are the roles of property owner and muni in process?

- The owner can get their property designated by State and National level - have to meet criteria
- A historic commission, if formed, then it gets to weigh in on changes to structure- can cause additional expenses for renovations

Other comments included:

- Resident spoke of a home in a historic district that they own - the commission in that location is a good thing though she thought
- A commission is usually volunteer board, there is legislation that can help guide it, people can be from different background on a board like that.
- Education is important - tax credits can help with renovations if people are interested, Towns can help with that.
- Do you allow accessory dwelling units in order to help with revenue is a question?
- Limitations is a problem that needs attention, it can be an obstacle
- Some group members have looked into commissions and how they are set up, they vary, some are more advisory, the Town should talk about the idea and explore all the options

HOUSING

The breakout session on housing was facilitated by Brian Gyory, CPUC member. Twenty (20) participants were in attendance.

- Review Committee - demographics and aging of the town population. Left senior housing to the private sector market. Developments require cars and on the fringe of town. Would like senior housing in the core of the town
- Density in center. Concentrate on dense in central areas. Focus on infill in the center of town-include housing for seniors as well as young people. Worried about cost of housing.
- People want to live in walkable area

- Housing diversity - great. Co-housing or intentional community housing. Adults with disabilities specifically. Live in an environment that is quieter than the city
- Cooperative housing project in Saratoga (take a look at it)
- Partner with planners, architects, and social services
- Appear there is a movement to fill any empty space. Doesn't serve anyone except for owners of the empty space. Plan for development to change the community in a positive way. Not in a dramatic way that makes it a different way.
- Concern that unless we are more careful in planning, we risk that we could become a very different town.
- Concern over high-priced housing development
- Become more inclusive and look into healthy living
- Rail trail is added to positive side of town.
- High priced single homes require drive
- How to make a change to this? June Farms-125 acres -farm. Restaurant B&B. Context of land that it is very rural and also a business.
- West Hartford, CT. Farm that the Town purchased. Town maintains the farm. Local schools visit (education center). Lease some of the property as a wedding/event venue.
- Property owners-long time (30 years). Development-looking not to just pay taxes. Do something to shift. Developer to change.
- Sewage lift station as opposed to grinder pumps. Thoughtful ways to mitigate cost.
- Hard to find housing that is affordable for young families.
- Change in how we look at housing. If you look at total number of homes in Bethlehem. SF v multi/townhouse. Vast majority are single family on individual lots.
- Provide housing for changing demographics. Don't focus on outer lands.
- Find ways to develop in center of town and incentivize.
- Economics that drive the projects-economics are single family of SF attached homes on individual parcels of land
- Economics need to be looked at
- Agree about affordable housing. Diversify housing stock
- Apartments-including everyone, buy in on the idea.
- Town needs mixed use hamlet zoning.
- Seniors and young professionals-affordability and walkability
- Mass transit-key component. Modify transit lines to accommodate more people. Make more convenient.
- Affordable- Apartments, condos, co-ops
- Center is saturated
- People want to walk
- Mixed use hamlet zoning
- Incentivizing-increase housing for seniors. More cluster housing. Changes in building code
- Cluster housing-density bonus. Make them more of a requirement.

- People want more open space in town
- Have lots closer together with parkland in neighborhood.
- Greater density in new development. Multiunit house 2-3 story apartments.
- Infill developments. Take parking lots or SF house lots into more dense developments
- Accessory dwelling units-accommodate
- Incentives-change zoning to allow what we want
- Disallow what we don't want. We have tons of SF detached housing. Don't want more of this. For open space to be developed create a high bar to develop this space
- Enforce new zoning.
- Take option of greenspace development off the table
- Look at impact of demographic change
- Look at statewide demographics as well as local demographics
- Opportunity to look at comprehensive in a different way
- Forward thinking. What we want to see the town to look like in 10 years
- How do we use technology and alternative transportation?
- Housing and how housing development come into play
- Keep in mind that those of us that live in town want to be healthy here. Walking and recreation is really important. Seniors need a place to walk too.
- Transportation-bus line

TRANSPORTATION

The breakout session on economic development was facilitated by Mike Godfrey, Fisher Associates, with support from Nate Owens, Town of Bethlehem as the notetaker. Twelve (12) participants were in attendance.

1. **What is the biggest transportation issue in the Town?**
 - Traffic around town is manageable, but some areas are problematic. School times around elementary schools experience congestion. Pedestrian traffic at particular crosswalks is a problem. Sidewalks and pedestrian safety. Rectangular rapid flashing beacons are helpful. Cherry and Orchard crosswalk. No sidewalk that takes you to Elm Ave. Park.
 - Bicycle safety. Difficult to cycle around town. On-street facilities (shoulder, bike lane) are desired. Normanskill bridge a problem. Elsmere Ave. between bypass and Feura Bush Rd a problem. Full of potholes.
 - Continue focus on walkability and bikeability. Sidewalks can just end abruptly. More bike lanes and better shoulders desired. Make more areas of Town walkable.
 - Importance of street connectivity. Support bike lanes. Connect as many neighborhoods and people as possible to Elm Ave. Park. Especially important with Covid-19

- Truck traffic in Selkirk is a big issue (Maple Ave./396). Kids waiting for the school bus and that is a safety concern. Road winds and twists. 9W corridor is rough too. River Road is also a concern with truck traffic.
- Separate access to Thruway
- Main routes are NYSDOT roadways and that can be a barrier to Town efforts/initiatives. 9W roundabout rectangular rapid flashing beacons won't be installed initially, need to have supporting pedestrian numbers.

2. What could the Town do better with respect to transportation?

- More interface with State. Problems with roadwork in Town is on state roads. Work out some solutions with State - can be hard to connect with state. Bypass to Selkirk - roundabout in Glenmont and pedestrian access are examples.
- Concerns about pedestrian safety at roundabouts. Kenwood and Cherry a desired location. While they are efficient and safer than intersections, they are uncontrolled. They should be made safer for pedestrians.
- Roundabouts aren't good for cyclists either - roundabouts could be better designed for cyclists. Issue with riding alongside traffic.
- NYS-85 and lack of bicycle facilities
- Reach agreement with the City of Albany/Water Board to use the water line as a recreational facility.
- Creating pedestrian connectivity with paper streets (street that is mapped/owned by Town, but not constructed)- Colonial Acres an example

3. What transportation resources does the Town lack?

- Funding to maintain sidewalks and add new sidewalks, older sidewalks covered with asphalt. Need creative ways to maintain what we have and maintain new sidewalks.
- Great highway dept. Pretty good shape.

4. What's going well in the Town with regard to transportation?

- Bus route 18 and bus shelters - great way to connect - add shelters and maintain connectivity
- Rail trail - new connector in Albany to get to river
- Expansion of sidewalks in recent years

Q&A SESSION

The report out session was followed by a question and answer (Q&A) session to gather further feedback from the meeting participants. The question and comments received from the attendees are summarized below.

- **Regarding historical areas, would anything 50 years or older be considered a historic district?** I'm wondering if there's anything in Town that was built say after World War II with a bunch of houses to bring the soldiers home. Those areas could be considered historic areas. I live in the historic area down in Selkirk. In Maple avenue and Selkirk, there are quite a few Sears homes and that would be considered historic.
- **How can the residents continue to stay involved? What are the other opportunities going forward?** There is a survey open for the public right now. The next Comprehensive Plan Update meeting is on Wednesday, Dec 16, 2020 from 5—7 PM. The next public meeting will take place in February 2021; that will focus on visioning and goals. More information about future engagement opportunities will be made available on the project website and social media pages.
- **PR regarding project volunteer residents with the yard signs. Neighbors can ask resident volunteers regarding the Bethlehem Forward project and this will help engage residents actively with the project.**
- **Even after participating, it's not clear how these project meetings are different from the town meetings. I'm a little bit ignorant to the overall project and how it was advertised. Also, it's not clear how to engage going forward and how they're meant to be different from normal town meetings.** A lot of the topics discussed in today's project meeting are routinely talked about at the town board level or in the planning board or zoning board of appeals meetings. The town has been working from an existing comprehensive plan which was adopted in 2005 and probably done mostly in 2004. A Comprehensive Plan Update Committee (CPUC) updated that plan in 2013. Then the town and CPUC held community forums again in 2018. So, this is a continuation of the work that started in 2018. The project team is trying to understand the differences in demographics, economics and physical infrastructure of the town that has changed over that time. Today's meeting provided the team a lot of information about the inner relationship of infrastructure, transportation, historic preservation, land use density, zoning, etc., and how the town functions. The next step is to create a vision and the goals that start to really address all of these issues and opportunities that have been identified tonight.
- **Can people provide additional comments on tonight's meeting?** The meeting recording and summary will be posted on the project website. The public can provide further input through the website, which will be open throughout the course of the project.
- **Has anyone thought about community gardens?**
- **Will there be a code/local law update process as well?**
- **Where can we get a lawn sign?**
- **Will there be future mailings?** This is the best way to communicate with all residents. I didn't see anything in my mail as others had. I only found out about this via seeing yard signs.
- Other questions and comments include:

- The other thing not working is sidewalk maintenance and construction. A consistent, transparent process is needed and sufficient funding to make progress on needs.
- Need better parking at rail trail - limited spaces
- Community space for adolescents
- What's not working is having a diversity of housing options so that there is a range that includes more affordable options.
- I agree with lack of community space and activities for kids/teens
- The former RCS board of Ed building would have been great for town uses
- It would be good to further develop the 9W corridor. I live in Selkirk and driving to Latham or Colonie to do basic shopping.
- Thinking about some commercial properties that have sat empty, unused, undeveloped/unsold for years. E.g. New Scotland Rd near Maher Rd. Let's utilize existing real estate, consider remodeling to adapt to new roles (e.g. Office, co-working, housing)
- Mixed use will also make our community more attractive to young professionals
- We need connectivity between greenways, to sustain wildlife and to permit natural movement of wild creatures.
- Wildlife protection
- I wholeheartedly agree with non-motorized connectivity
- Re under-utilized properties, there appear to be some abandoned (unoccupied) single-fam homes as well as some large tracts of farmland (corner of 9W in Glenmont, e.g.?)
- Historic preservation should include cemeteries as well as structures
- Having an historic district commission can help the town successfully apply for funding to save structures/sites of historic value.
- Provide incentives to keep your historic home historic instead
- Rather than impose restrictions, more flies with honey than vinegar is my thinking
- Maybe a small museum here with an emphasis on history, photos, artifacts
- Guidelines for those who must remodel, etc.
- Bethlehem Historical Association has a museum in the Cedar Hill Schoolhouse.
- Many homes in my neighborhood were built in the late 1940's and 50's
- My house is 1910-20 somewhere around there, and there are many over here (Elsmere near Delmar border)
- The meeting was excellent. Really appreciate the town making the effort to have residents contribute to the comprehensive plan.
- There was one informational postcard that went out
- I would like a yard sign
- Thank you. Learned a lot. Nice job.
- Really good meeting btw, kudos

- I'm in Selkirk - I'd put out a yard sign.
- Thank you- very important and informative meeting
- Great meeting, thank you all
- I'm also from Selkirk and would put up a sign
- I have suggestion in relation to historic preservation. I did the comprehensive historic survey for the Town of Colonie in 1980. I think it would be helpful to check in with the NYS historic preservation office to see what they might deem approvable for the National Register. While a house/building is 50 years or older, it doesn't mean that it is going to meet the thresholds to get on the National Register. For Colonie, we confronted that with a town-wide nomination process.
- I'm interested in a lawn sign also.
- Such a great turnout tonight. Thank you so much everyone.

WRAP-UP & NEXT STEPS

The project team reviewed the next steps:

- Virtual meeting recording is available on the project website and Facebook page.
- Submit your feedback via:
 - Online Survey: www.publicinput.com/BethlehemForwardSurvey
 - Paper copies of the survey can be requested by emailing at bethlehemforward@townofbethlehem.org or calling 518-439-4955 x 1157
 - Comment Form on the website: www.BethlehemForward.com
- Submission deadline for the survey: Thursday, December 31, 2020
- Comp Plan Update Committee Meeting: December 16, 2020 from 5:00—7:00 pm
- Next Public Meeting about Visioning & Goals: February 2021

APPENDIX A: LIST OF PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDEES

Note: The list only includes contact information of public meeting attendees interested in staying informed about the project.

First Name	Last Name	Affiliation	Phone Number	Email Address
Jeff	Baker	Resident		jeff.baker967@gmail.com
Pattie	Beeler			
Gus	Birkhead	Resident		gus.birkhead@gmail.com
Brent	Cady	Resident		brentcady@gmail.com
Maureen	Cunningham	Town Board Member		mcunningham@townofbethlehem.org
David	Decancio	Resident		
Cindy	Ferrari	Resident		ferraric@aol.com
Vicki	Folger	Resident	518-439-1824	
Ashley	Fox	Resident		ashfoxly@gmail.com
Victor	Franco, Jr.	Resident	518-506-4589	sell518property@gmail.com
Jennifer	Gallagher	Resident	5184750811	jengal@verizon.net
Bridget	Griffin	Resident		bridgetburkeg@gmail.com
Ashley	Herkert	Resident	518-322-2344	ae08herk@gmail.com
Amy	Higgs	Resident		amylhiggs@gmail.com
Peter	Iwanowicz	Resident	518.439.2921	pmiwanowicz@gmail.com
Bill	Ketzer	CPUC	646-315-1416	labratsrock@gmail.com
Mark	Kissingner		518-605-6319	mkissw2@gmail.com
Don	Klime	Resident	518-229-5778	doklime1@gmail.com
Mary Lyn	Koval	Resident	518-439-6940	marylynkoval@gmail.com
Celine	Lavalley	Resident		clavalley@albany.edu
Libby	Liebschutz	Resident	518-466-7034	libbyliebschutz@gmail.com
Kathleen	Mannix	CPUC Member		
Michael	McCarthy	Resident		mccarthyteam@gmail.com
James	McGaughan	Resident		jamcgaughan@gmail.com
Joe	Murphy	Resident	5187299249	
Nancy	Neff			
Carol	Ostrow	Resident	518-727-8423	carologoes@gmail.com
Maureen	Packer	Resident	518 281-7395	jmpacker@gmail.com
Janine	Patschureck	Resident	518-469-8446	wbeannn@gmail.com
Michael	Patterson	Resident		patterson83078@gmail.com
Bill	Reinhardt	Resident	518 3698573	ww.reinhardt@gmail.com

Erin	Rightmyer	Resident	518-542-9016	erin.rightmyer@gmail.com
Mark	Sargent	Resident	5184698063	msargent@cmellp.com
Frank	Slingerland	Resident		fms1077@gmail.com
Vicary	Thomas	Resident		vicaryt28@gmail.com
Peter	Thomas	Resident		enform@gmail.com
Amy	Vastola	Resident		senneshcurls@gmail.com
Joanne	Vogel	Resident	5182816131	jtv170@gmail.com
Gail	Volk	Resident		
Gabrielle	Walker	Resident	443-668-6683	gsmccrea@gmail.com
Mary	Willmott	Resident		marywillmott2@hotmail.com
Ma	Witherspoon	Resident		klspoon@hotmail.com
Katie	Yezzi	Resident		yezzikatie@gmail.com
Margery	Zucker	Resident	518-439-0264	diamondmdz@gmail.com
Vicki				

APPENDIX A: PUBLIC MEETING #1 ANNOTATED AGENDA

Date: December 8, 2020

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Format: Zoom Meeting

Meeting Registration:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMvcuGspjovEftqgjB91lqsb92XDKu0mHE>

Objectives: The public meeting will serve as an introduction to the project for the general public, providing an opportunity to:

- (1) Share information about the project scope, schedule, and engagement opportunities
- (2) Summarize feedback received to date
- (3) Solicit feedback from participants about issues and opportunities

Participants:

- (1) Members of the general public
- (2) Members of the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee (CPUC)
- (3) Project Team

Format: The Town is hosting a two-hour virtual public meeting using Zoom. The meeting will be conducted in two parts:

- (1) A live virtual public meeting to share project updates and information, followed by a live question and answer (Q&A) session and interactive group activities.
- (2) The meeting recording will be posted on the project website to gather public feedback for a period of additional two weeks.

Invitation & Promotion: The meeting will be promoted by the Town and the CPUC via the following.

- Press release
- Project website and Town website
- Town E-blast/newsletter
- Town Social media

Dry Run: A dry run with the team and Town representatives will be conducted within one week prior to the meeting.

Agenda:

Time	Activity	Description	Role
5:45 pm	Meeting Set-Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Zoom meeting set-up ▪ Assign co-hosts/panelists ▪ Share the sign-in google-spreadsheet link in chat-box: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16PXrgBA-gpgcvzRldyeUZlnPrVGnYo3lfe1Th04Pttc/edit?usp=sharing 	Highland Planning
6:00 pm	Convene & Welcome	Begin recording. Convene the group and introduce Town and project team	SWBR/Town
6:05 pm	Online Meeting Instructions & Agenda Review	<p>Explain logistics of online participation (provide virtual meeting instructions about “virtual hand-raising,” chat-box, etc.) and review meeting purpose and agenda.</p> <p>Poll #1: Where do you live?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Delmar ▪ Elsmere ▪ Glenmont ▪ North Bethlehem ▪ Selkirk ▪ Slingerlands ▪ South Bethlehem ▪ Other <p>Poll #2: How did you hear about the public meeting?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project website ▪ Town website ▪ Town E-blast/newsletter ▪ Postcard mailings ▪ Social Media ▪ The Spotlight Newspaper ▪ Times Union Newspaper ▪ Our Towne magazine ▪ Neighbors and friends ▪ Other 	Highland Planning

6:10	Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Project overview ▪ Scope/timeline/engagement opportunities ▪ What we've heard – key themes 	SWBR/Highland Planning
6:20	Q&A	<p>Participants can submit clarifying questions in writing via Zoom. Questions can be answered in writing during the webinar or addressed live by the team.</p>	Highland Planning
6:30	Interactive Group Exercise	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION:</p> <p>Based off topic preferences at the time of registration, the participants will be pre-assigned to topic-oriented breakout groups of 5-10 people. Each breakout session will have a Facilitator and Notetaker from the Project Team and/or CPUC.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aging (Facilitator/Notetaker: Tanya Zwahlen) ▪ Economic Development (Facilitator: Kevin Dwarka, Notetaker: Karen Shaw) ▪ Environment/Sustainability (Facilitator: Jeremy Snyder, Notetaker: Frank Armento) ▪ Historic Preservation (Facilitator: Bill Price, Notetaker: Leslie Lombardo) ▪ Housing (Facilitator/Notetaker: Brian Gyory) ▪ Transportation (Facilitator: Mike Godfrey, Notetaker: Nate Owens) <p>For each breakout group, participants will be asked to discuss the issues and opportunities associated with the respective category and collect their thoughts, which they will then bring back to the larger group. Each breakout group will select one participant to debrief main points/key takeaways from the discussion to the larger group.</p> <p><i>Note to the reader/facilitator: Refer to the</i></p>	Highland Planning/Town

		<i>FACILITATOR’S GUIDE section in this document for step-by-step instructions.</i>	
7:00	Report out	Each group’s reporter summarizes main points/takeaways from their group.	Highland Planning
7:30	Q&A	Participants can submit questions in writing via Zoom chat-box or “raise hands” virtually to comment/ask questions.	Highland Planning
7:50	Wrap-up and adjourn	Discuss next steps, future engagement opportunities, and online survey	SWBR

Online Live Stream

- Meeting will be livestreamed via Facebook Live and the project website to provide an option to the public to view the presentation without pre-registering on Zoom (a Facebook login may still be required).
- SWBR and Highland Planning staff will monitor comments and questions on Zoom.
- Town (Karen Shaw) will monitor comments and questions on Facebook livestream post

Meeting Recording and Comment Period: At conclusion of the meeting, the project team will share the link to the recorded meeting through the project website to allow community members to offer additional input. All comments received within the period of two weeks will be included in the final document. This will allow the members of the public (including those who were unable to participate in the live virtual meeting) to provide detailed feedback.

FACILITATOR’S GUIDE

Topic-Oriented Breakout Group	Discussion Questions	Facilitator	Notetaker
1. Aging	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the biggest issue regarding aging in the Town? 2. What could the Town do better? 3. What resources does the Town lack? 4. What’s going well in the Town with regard to the needs of senior citizens? 5. What would you like to see more of? 	Tanya Zwahlen	-
2. Economic Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the biggest issue in the Town regarding economic development? 2. What could the Town do better? 3. What resources does the Town lack for economic development? 4. What’s going well in the Town with regard to economic development? 5. What would you like to see more of? 	Kevin Dwarka	Karen Shaw
3. Environment/ Sustainability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the biggest concerns with respect to the environment and sustainability? 2. What is going well? What would you like to see more of? 3. What goals should the Town set with respect to the environment and sustainability? 4. What are some policies or actions the Town should enact to meet these goals? <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Regarding ecosystem health or climate change b. Regarding electrification, renewable energy, and efficiency c. Regarding various end uses such as houses, transportation, services, etc. 	Group 1: Jeremy Snyder Group 2: Frank Armento	Group 1: Rob Leslie Group 2: Brittany Murphy

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. What are other communities you're aware of that are doing a good job on the environment and sustainability that we can look to as role models? 		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Historic Preservation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the biggest issue regarding historic preservation in the Town? 2. What could the Town do better with respect to historic preservation? 3. What resources for historic preservation does the Town lack? 4. What's going well in the Town with regard to historic preservation? 5. What would you like to see more of? 	<p>Bill Price</p>	<p>Leslie Lombardo</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Housing 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the biggest issue regarding housing in the Town? 2. What could the Town do better with respect to housing? 3. What housing resources does the Town lack? 4. What's going well in the Town with regard to housing? 5. What would you like to see more of? 	<p>Brian Gyory</p>	<p>-</p>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Transportation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the biggest transportation issue in the Town? 2. What could the Town do better with respect to transportation? 3. What transportation resources does the Town lack? 4. What's going well in the Town with regard to transportation? 5. What would you like to see more of? 	<p>Mike Godfrey</p>	<p>Nate Owens</p>

Role of the Facilitator:

- The main role of the Facilitator is to ask open-ended questions about issues and opportunities related to the assigned topic and to keep discussion flowing (see suggested discussion questions in the table above). If the group starts to get off topic, please gently bring them back to the assigned subject. Please do not comment on what people say, other than to acknowledge them and ensure their comment is recorded. Please do not

attempt to answer questions about the assigned topic. Ask the group to note their questions and ask them later in the larger group during Q&A session.

- Convene the respective breakout session
- Keep time
- Record and save the individual breakout sessions
- Assist the group to select one participant to debrief main points/key takeaways to the larger group
- Ask the notetaker (see assignments in the table above) to take notes from the discussion.
- Keep discussion on time by giving around 5 minutes for transition to/from Zoom’s breakout rooms
- Wrap up the breakout group discussion
- Ensure participant who will report to the larger group has the notes
- If you have any difficulties during the breakout session, please select “Ask for Help” icon to notify the host (Charvi) and she will come in to help you. Alternatively, you can also message her using chat-box. You do not have to leave the breakout room to reach out to her.

Role of the Notetaker:

- The notetaker should share his or her screen, open the respective topic-specific Google word document (https://highlandplanning-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/charvi_highlandplanning_com/EUHfLjPqayhOgksmXqyYoQgBCxBPZPvAHwqG3gpGV11iUw?e=FGVbnl) and type notes from the group discussion.
- Before the end of the session, the Notetaker should share this document with the person who will report out to the large group.

Breakout Group Agenda:

Time	Activity	Description	Role
6:30 pm	Transition & Convene	<p>Allow participants to transition from the main group to breakout group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Notetaker will share screen and open the shared Google note-taking word doc. to take notes. Note the number of participants. ▪ Begin recording. ▪ Facilitator will convene the breakout group ▪ Select one participant to debrief main points/key takeaways from the discussion to the larger group. <p>SAMPLE INTRO SCRIPT FOR FACILITATORS:</p>	Facilitator/ Notetaker

		<p><i>Thank you for joining me for this breakout session on [topic]. My name is [your name] and I'm [a CPUC member or with the consultant team]. Introduce the Notetaker (if any).</i></p> <p><i>[If the group is small (say 5 or less), you may ask people to introduce themselves if they're comfortable.]</i></p> <p><i>Note why we are here and reiterate that the insights from these discussions will assist the Town in the development of the Comprehensive Plan. Introduce the respective breakout session topic. You may use the sub-topics mentioned in the shared note-taking Google word document to elaborate your discussion topic.</i></p> <p><i>Review the Zoom meeting controls and how you'd like the participants to submit response before diving into the group discussion.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>To view the shared document and facilitator/ participant videos, click "View Options" at the top of the screen and select "side-by-side" mode in the drop-down menu (the option will only be visible when the screen is shared)</i> ▪ <i>Facilitators may provide option to the group to share comments/questions/supporting materials via chat-box. But please include the chat message response in the notes word document.</i> 	
<p>6:35 pm</p>	<p>Group discussion</p>	<p>Facilitators can use the topic-specific discussion questions detailed in the above table to gather insights from participants about the issues and opportunities in the town.</p> <p>Generic discussion questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the biggest issue/ challenge? 2. What could the Town do better? 3. What resources does the Town lack? 	<p>Facilitator/ All</p>

		<p>4. What’s going well in the Town with regard to this topic?</p> <p>5. What would you like to see more of?</p> <p>If facilitators provide the option to participants to share feedback via chat-box, please include the chat message response in the notes document.</p>	
6:55 pm	Wrap-up	Facilitators will review the main points/key takeaways, save discussion notes, and remind the selected person who will report out. Notetakers may share the discussion notes with them, if required.	Facilitator/ Notetaker

After the meeting: Facilitators/Notetakers will ensure:

1. Discussion notes are in the respective topic-specific Google word document (https://highlandplanning-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/charvi_highlandplanning_com/EUHfLjPqayhOgksmXqyYoQgBCxBPZPvAHwqG3gpGV11iUw?e=FGVbnl)
2. Meeting recording has been uploaded to the shared folder (https://highlandplanning-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/g/personal/charvi_highlandplanning_com/EtEVFBZjj_tHg89bv_6ITtIBDXIZRVM-fD0o80_PrlVouA?e=eHdKpD). Ensure the recording name/title is after the respective breakout topic.

APPENDIX C: PROJECT PRESENTATION

Comprehensive Plan Update

Public Meeting #1 – Issues & Opportunities

Town of Bethlehem



12/08/2020

SWBR

Meeting Agenda

2

- 6:00 – 6:05 Welcome / Introductions / Meeting Instructions
- 6:05 – 6:10 Meeting Instructions / Poll Questions
- 6:10 – 6:20 Project Overview
 - Project Scope / Schedule / Engagement Opportunities
 - What We've Heard – Key Themes
- 6:20 – 7:00 Breakout Sessions / Group Exercise
- 7:00 – 7:30 Report Out
- 7:30 – 8:00 Q&A / Discussion
- 7:50 – 8:00 Wrap Up / Next Steps

Bethlehem Forward Project Team

3



Bill Price, RLA
Senior Associate
SWBR



Don Naetzker, RLA
Senior Associate
SWBR



Tanya Zwahlen, AICP
Principal
Highland Planning



Frank Armento, AICP
Senior Planner
Fisher Associates



Kevin Dwarka
Principal
Kevin Dwarka, LLC



Brittany Murphy
Landscape Designer
SWBR



Charvi Gupta
Senior Planner
Highland Planning



Nancy Raca, AICP
Director of Engagement
Highland Planning



Mike Godfrey, AICP
Senior Planner
Fisher Associates

Town of Bethlehem Comprehensive Plan Update

12/11/20

SWBR

Bethlehem Forward Update Committee

4

- Giles Wagoner
- Jeremy Snyder
- Kathleen Mannix
- Bill Ketzer
- Brian Gyory
- James Grady

- Georgia Fishburn
- Thomas Coffey
- Paul Beyer
- Anne Benware
- Rad Anderson
- Dania Flores

Town Representatives

- David VanLuven, Supervisor
- Rob Leslie, Director of Planning
- Leslie Lombardo, Sr. Planner
- Nate Owens, Sr. Planner
- Karen Shaw, Open Space Coordinator

Town of Bethlehem Comprehensive Plan Update

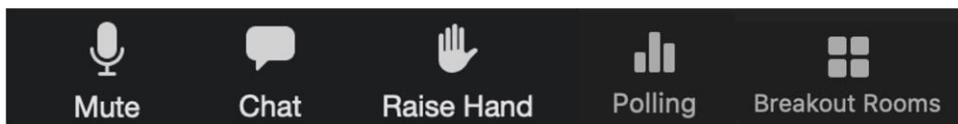
12/11/20

SWBR

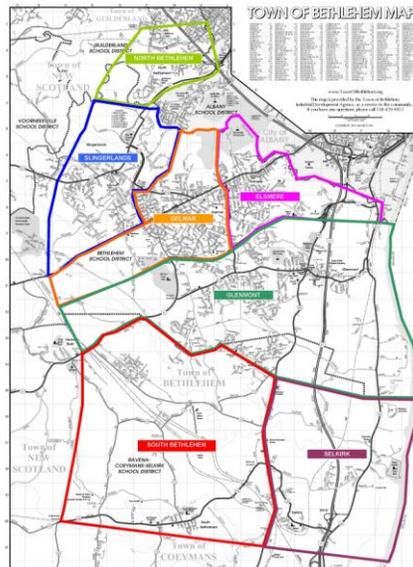
Meeting Instructions for Attendees

5

- Mute/Unmute
 - If you're not speaking, please mute yourself for better audio clarity.
- "Chat" to submit questions in writing during the webinar
 - Please include your email along with questions to allow us to follow up individually
- "Raise hand" virtually to ask questions/comment
 - Attendees joining via phone can dial *9 to virtually raise hand
- "Polling"
 - If you accidentally close the poll, use the "polls" feature in the control panel at the bottom of the screen to access it again.
- "Breakout Rooms" will be used for interactive group activity



Poll #1: Where do you live?



6

Poll #2: How did you hear about the public meeting?



12/08/2020

SWBR

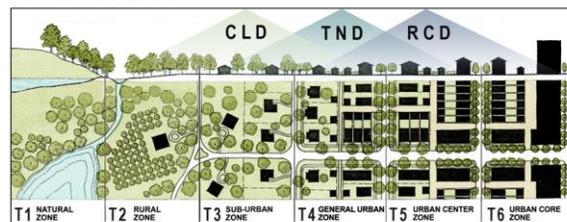
Project Scope

8

- Task 1 – Project Initiation
- Task 2 – Public Engagement Plan
- Task 3 – Community Assessment & Profile
- Task 4 – Community Visioning & Goals
- Task 5 – Programming & Implementation Strategies
- Task 6 – Draft Comprehensive Plan
- Task 7 – Final Comprehensive Plan & SEQRA
- Task 9 – GIS Mapping



Jericho Drive-In Theater, Jericho Road



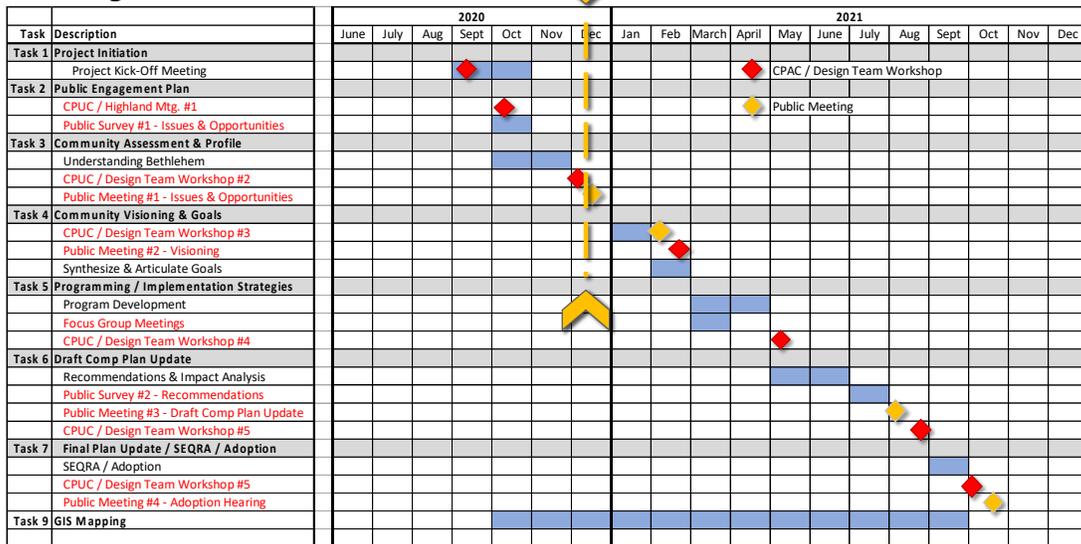
Rural – Urban Transect

12/11/20

SWBR

Project Schedule

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Town of Bethlehem Comprehensive Plan Update

12/11/20

SWBR

What we've heard

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- Town has top school districts in New York State
- Other assets include:
 - Parks and open spaces
 - Senior services and public services
 - Rural and historic character
 - Socially conscious community
- Unequal resource/ infrastructure distribution between Delmar and other Town hamlets
- Lack of racial diversity and inclusion in the community
- Preservation of historic sites, buildings, and the rural character is crucial
- Other concerns noted by stakeholders include:
 - Motorized traffic (trucks, tankers, etc.) passing through the Town
 - Barriers to business expansion
 - Development of former farms and rural lands
 - Availability of Affordable and Age-Friendly Housing
 - Town financial resources, particularly in the wake of the COVID pandemic
 - Neighborhood connectivity / cut-through traffic
 - Property owner's rights & flexibility of uses on rural lands

Town of Bethlehem Comprehensive Plan Update

12/11/20

SWBR

Breakout Group Exercise

- Participants have been pre-assigned to groups based on their preferences at the time of registration.
 - If you wish to switch to a different group, message Charvi Gupta via chat-box.
- Generic discussion questions:
 - What is the biggest issue/ challenge?
 - What could the Town do better?
 - What resources does the Town lack?
 - What's going well in the Town?
 - What would you like to see more of?

Topic	Facilitator/ Notetaker
Aging	Tanya Zwahlen
Economic Development	Kevin Dwarka, Karen Shaw
Environment/ Sustainability	Jeremy Snyder,
Environment/ Sustainability	Frank Armento, Rob Leslie
Historic Preservation	Bill Price, Lelsie Lombardo
Housing	Brian Gyory, Brittany Murphy
Transportation	Mike Godfrey Nate Owens

Town of Bethlehem Comprehensive Plan Update

12/11/20

SWBR

Breakout Group Exercise In Progress

We will reconvene at 7PM for the report out.

If you're having trouble joining the breakout group, please message Charvi Gupta via chat-box.



12/08/2020

SWBR

Report Out

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- Generic discussion questions:
 - What is the biggest issue/ challenge?
 - What could the Town do better?
 - What resources does the Town lack?
 - What's going well in the Town?
 - What would you like to see more of?

Town of Bethlehem Comprehensive Plan Update

12/11/20

SWBR

Q&A Session



12/08/2020

SWBR

Next Steps

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- Public Survey Open Until December 22nd
- Comp Plan Update Committee Mtg. - Dec. 16th 5-7 pm
- Next Public Meeting – February 2021 – Visioning & Goals
- Stay Connected – BethlehemForward.com

Town of Bethlehem Comprehensive Plan Update

12/11/20

SWBR

Thank you

To learn more about the project or provide further feedback, please visit www.BethlehemForward.com.



12/08/2020

SWBR