



Public Workshop #2 Meeting Summary

Meeting Date: December 13th, 2023

Introduction

The Town of Riverhead is updating its Comprehensive Plan to provide a long-range 'blueprint' for the future of the Town. It details the community's vision for the future and guides Riverhead on a wide range of issues such as future decisions on land use and development, capital spending, and general policy direction. The Comprehensive Plan also provides strategies addressing economic development, farmland preservation, the agricultural economy, housing, transportation, sustainable development, climate resiliency, natural resource preservation, and water quality.

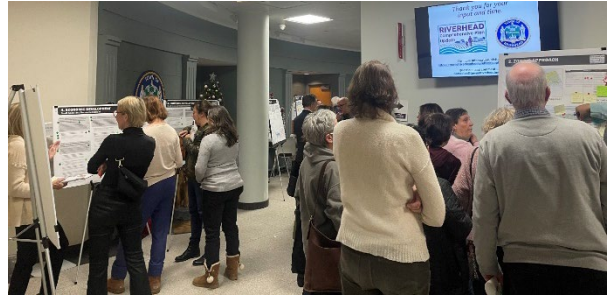
Public engagement is the foundation of Riverhead's Comprehensive Plan. As part of the community engagement process, the Town hosted a series of public engagement events during the first phase of the project between 2020 and 2022. During the second phase of the project, the consultant team hosted the first public workshop on April 22nd, 2023. A second workshop was held at the new Town Hall on December 13th, 2023. The purpose of this workshop was to gather input on draft goals and recommendations that have been developed throughout the planning process. The feedback will help to ensure that the Comprehensive Plan is representative of the community as a whole and that it includes realistic and publicly supported goals and recommendations. Following the workshop, the Comprehensive Plan Update Steering Committee held a public hearing. In accordance with Town Law §272-a, the Committee responsible for preparation of the plan is required to hold a public hearing during the preparation of the plan before it is forwarded to the Town Board for consideration. Approximately 65-70 people attended the workshop, and 13 spoke at the public hearing.

A copy of the presentation and the open house boards can be accessed via the Comprehensive Plan website: <https://townofriverheadcomprehensiveplanupdate.com>



Workshop Summary

The public workshop consisted of a presentation, an interactive open house with poster boards, and a public hearing. Town Supervisor Yvette Aguiar opened the public workshop with a welcome and then handed the presentation over to BFJ Planning. Noah Levine of BFJ planning introduced the project team and gave an overview of the planning process and the project timeline.



Following, the consultant team presented a summary of goals for each section of the plan, identified through the work completed to date. It was explained that the summary would be short as participants would be invited to review the full list of recommendations during the open house session. Noah Levine provided an overview of goals for Housing, Economic Development, and Agriculture. Emily Junker of BFJ Planning presented an overview of Parks and Open Space, Natural Resources, Community Facilities, Scenic and Historic Resources. Ray DiBiase of LKMA discussed Transportation, Infrastructure, and Sustainability and Resilience.

After the conclusion of the presentation, the attendees were directed to seven poster board stations in the hallway. Noah Levine, Emily Junker, and Sarah Yackel of BFJ Planning, Raymond DiBiase and Vincent Corrado of LMKA, Riverhead's planning staff, and Steering Committee members were available to converse with participants and answer questions at each station. The stations were organized by chapter and showed the draft goals and recommendations. Participants were given red and green dot stickers to mark items on the boards that they agree with, and feel should be priorities (green) and items that they do not support (red). Sticky notes and pens were available for participants to write in their comments.

Summary of Public Comments

The following summarizes comments that were made at the public hearing or written on the open house boards and comment cards.

1. Zoning and Land Use

EPCAL: Participants expressed the desire to have a dedicated meeting with the community and to have a comprehensive planning process to determine the best use of EPCAL. The timing is ripe to reconsider potential development given the most recent proposal is off the table. Some priorities that came out of this meeting include ensuring that EPCAL emphasizes living wage jobs, allowing existing Grumman/Berman businesses to expand (in the PIP district), creating a hub for green technology, solar farms, preservation of the core Pine Barrens area, public trails, recreational uses, and community facilities such as a senior center and police/fire/ambulance substation. Several participants said that they would like EPCAL (both PD and PIP districts) to be a receiving area in the revised Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program. Participants want to ensure that the impacts of future zoning changes and development are studied and that community benefits are maximized.



Agrotourism Resort: Some residents expressed concern about the concept of allowing for an agrotourism resort with the use of TDR credits. There was some opposition to a hotel and spa that was proposed by a developer across from Doctor's Path on Sound Ave. Comments expressed desire to preserve this land as open space.

Hamlet Center Zones: Some participants expressed concern about zoning inconsistencies in the Jamesport area and questioned why the HC area designated in Calverton is where it is.

Marina: Concern about making marinas conforming uses (marinas in residential districts are non-conforming). The current zoning helps to control these uses and prevent expansion.

Route 58: Consider residential use. The corridor has sewer, near transit, near jobs, and it would be a sink for TDR credits.

3. Housing

Senior Housing: Town needs to enable different options. Seniors who decide to downsize only have trailer parks as alternatives if they want to stay in the community.

Assisted Living: There was general support for the proposed assisted living overlay zone on Route 58. Participants noted there is a need for assisted living and nursing homes in Riverhead and that they provide for all stages of aging and well-paid jobs.

Homeownership: Participants expressed the need for more home ownership opportunities in Downtown Riverhead, as well as throughout the Town to retain schoolteachers, emergency response workers, and others.

500-unit housing cap in DC-1: There was not a consensus on the 500-unit cap in the DC-1 zone. Some feel that the number of units should be evaluated fully before revising the 500-unit limit, while others feel that the downtown already has too many apartments and the cap should not be exceeded.

Minimum Home Size: Participants expressed dissent for the recommendation to eliminate the minimum home size in single-family residential districts. One comment said that the minimum home size ensures “residential appeal.” Another said “Minimum home size should stay and let the use standard determine smaller units.”

McMansions: Someone expressed concerns about oversized homes and noted the development of McMansions on Roanoke Ave.

Residential on Route 58: A participant expressed desire to allow residential infill on route 58.

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs): Participants were in support of adjusting the ADU code to change the certificate of occupancy seasoning clause. Another mentioned that they would like the option to have an ADU on their property and pointed out that the NY grant program for ADUs (which should be mentioned in the plan).

4. Economic Development

Route 58: Some participants were in support of adding density to Route 58. Others questioned where infill development could go.

Industrial Zones: Concerns were expressed about increasing height in industrial zones with or without TDR, even with reduced Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and increased setbacks, because it could accommodate warehouses and cube-storage. A participant expressed desire for a ban on all warehouses in Riverhead including in EPCAL, Ind A, and Ind C zones.

Living Wage Jobs: Several participants agreed that living wages should be prioritized in all areas of economic activity and development, including EPCAL. During the public hearing, it was noted that the existing businesses in the Grumman/Berman area, including Riverhead Building Supply, Stoneybrook

Manufacturing, and Island International, provide well-paying jobs and training in tech and manufacturing. Northwell hospital was also noted as a good employer in the Town. Additional recommendations from the public included requiring large employers to provide childcare, providing emergency service workers with living wages, and adding assisted living and nursing homes in Riverhead, which can also provide good jobs.

Tourism: Mixed feelings were raised about the tourism economy in Riverhead. One participant suggested a shuttle to transport tourists between attractions such as wineries and seasonal events to reduce traffic and drunk driving.

Short-term Rentals: There were mixed feelings on the subject. Some felt that they should not be allowed at all, others were against shortening the minimum stay length, and others felt they were appropriate in some areas and not others. While there was some support for shorter stays in DC zones to support downtown tourism, there were concerns about allowing shorter rentals near beaches, the waterfront, and residential areas. Concerns mentioned include parking, noise, and lack of sewers.

Main Street vacancies: A participant noted that effort needs to be made to fill the empty stores on main street, rather than building anew.

5. Agricultural Lands

Agrotourism: Strong feelings were expressed in regard to agrotourism. Participants expressed that agrotourism is a commercial use, distinct from agriculture, has higher impacts on infrastructure, and should be taxed higher and regulated differently than farms. Regarding the definition of agrotourism, one commenter said it is not wedding receptions and catering halls. Another commenter wrote that “Farms” which accept income from tourist attractions, such as playgrounds, mazes, rides, music, etc. should have a higher tax rate than a true farm.” Concerns were raised about quality-of-life issues including noise, traffic, safety. There was additional opposition to allowing agrotourism resorts, which some commenters felt would compete with downtown hotels and existing inns and disturb residential neighborhoods.

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR):

- Some participants were opposed to the recommendation to allow agrotourism resorts as a TDR receiving use.
- There was general agreement that EPCAL should be a receiving area and that businesses in the PIP should be allowed to expand there.
- Several commenters didn't understand the recommendation to designate the areas north of Sound Avenue as sending and receiving areas. These areas are currently only receiving areas, which means that new development there can offset farmland preservation South of Sound Avenue. The recommendation to make this area a sending and receiving area is to allow farmland owners North of Sound Avenue to also have the option to preserve their lands by sending development elsewhere, including other lots North of Sound Avenue that already have the ability to develop.

- A participant asked Town to consider expanding the proposed Assisted Living overlay to both sides of Route 58 and allowing residential uses on Route 58 to expand TDR options.

Vertical Farming: Some participants expressed opposition to allowing vertical farming in the APZ Zone. They feel that it should only be permitted in industrial areas.

Event Regulations: While there was more support than dissent expressed regarding the regulation of private events in agricultural and residential zones, one commenter felt that the Town's existing special event permit regulations are sufficient.

Farm Stands: The draft recommendation discussed better enforcement of farm stand regulations to ensure that they are not selling more than allowed of non-local projects. A participant noted that farm stands also support locals by providing food options and essential goods and farm stands should have some flexibility to meet community needs.

6. Natural Resources

Surface Water Pollution: Wildlife Rescue in the Hampton Bays area raised concerns about lead in the local water that is causing poisoning of the geese and swan populations.

Dredging: Boaters would like to be able to visit downtown restaurants and shops by boat and recommend dredging up to the Peconic Avenue Bridge to allow for deeper boat access.

Impervious Coverage Limits: A participant noted that not all impervious surface coverings work, for example the permeable pavers used by the Hyatt became clogged.

Wetlands Inventory and Map: Support was expressed for inventorying and mapping local wetlands and concerns were raised about the inaction on this issue in the past.

Wildlife Protection: A participant expressed that they would like more emphasis on protection of native wildlife in the Plan.

Tree Preservation Law: Support was expressed for tree replacement and maintaining the tree canopy.

Native Species: Participants expressed support for planting native species and suggested incentivizing planting of native species on commercial and residential development.

Tick Management: As a method to control the tick population, a participant recommended reintroducing the ground bird population (e.g. quails and pheasants) to bring the ecosystem back in balance.

7. Transportation

EPCAL Transportation Plan: Participants would like transportation issues related to EPCAL to be reevaluated with the potential changes in use and development.

Route 58: Participants support improving Route 58, including working on traffic issues, and moving sidewalks away from the roads.

Intersection Improvements: Participants noted that they would like to improve the following intersections with lights/traffic circles/roundabouts: Harrison and Middle Road; Osborne and Sound Avenue.

Truck Traffic: A participant suggested a truck traffic simulation to study impacts of industrial development and uses.

Sidewalk Improvements: Participants expressed the need for sidewalks to allow children to walk to school, especially to Riverhead High School.

Bike Paths: Participants raised concerns about the safety and usability of existing marked bike paths, such as Sound Avenue. They want safer areas to be set aside for cyclists, and suggested widening Sound Avenue.

Public Transit enhancements: There was support for cooperating with neighboring Towns, the County, LIRR and others to improve public transportation. Suggestions included increasing trains from Greenport to Riverhead in high season and providing shuttle buses to MacArthur Airport and light rail to Ronkonkoma LIRR Station.

8. Open Space, Parks, and Recreation

Recreational Programming: A participant suggested that Riverhead Recreation should offer hiking/educational walks in the Pine Barrens to educate the public, create awareness, and provide healthy lifestyle habitats.

Recreation at EPCAL: Participants would like to see recreational facilities at EPCAL. Suggestions included senior center, public pool, and nature paths.

Greenways: Participants expressed a desire for a green belt that provides shade for walking and biking, particularly in hot summer months.

Boat Access to downtown Peconic Riverfront: A participant suggested that there should be a police officer and/or a recreation attendant to assist boaters who park downtown (i.e. collect fees, help dock, provide dining recommendations, ensure security.) In addition, a police officer or recreation attendant and provision of life rings could provide emergency assistance (i.e. if someone falls into the river).

Open Space Inventory and Priorities: Participants were unaware of an open space inventory and a plan for prioritizing open space parcels for preservation. Another expressed that the public should be involved in determining the use of future Community Preservation Funds (CPF) when the bond is paid off in 2030.

Neighborhood Parks and Playgrounds: Participants expressed a need for better lighting and more playgrounds/splash pads and use of unused land for more parks, to create child friendly safe places.

Litter: Participants noted that the Town needs to take more responsibility about the increase of litter in our community. There are people who volunteer to clean up, but there need to be more wastebaskets and collection of waste from parks, beaches, and other public areas.

9. Community Facilities

Developers should give back: All new commercial development should pay to help support fire, police, ambulance, etc. as well as parking.

Emergency Services: Participants were in consensus about the importance of supporting the needs of emergency services providers. Themes expressed include the following:

- Ensure that police and first responders have working technology (repeaters in high school were out of order during an emergency).
- More attention should be paid in the Plan to Wading River's role in fire and ambulance services.
- Need for more volunteers as volunteerism has dropped, particularly in youth.
- Suggestion for a volunteer / living quarters exchange program to provide affordable housing and increase human resources.
- Volunteer longevity program was just passed in Riverhead Fire District.
- EPCAL – Manorville, Riverhead and Wading River fire districts need to work together to determine response. A substation might work.
- Owners of battery storage facilities should pay for specialized training for firefighting.

School District: Participants support identifying additional land for school expansions or new schools. A participant also raised the concern that housing developments in Southampton needs to be considered for their impact on the school district.

Library: Several participants expressed support for library expansion and additional locations. They would also like to enhance funding to serve all ages and expand children's educational facilities.

Senior Center: Support was expressed for a senior center located on the west side of Town, and potentially at EPCAL.

Childcare: Large employers in Riverhead should provide onsite childcare to attract and retain employees.

Social Services: Participants supported more regulation of sober houses that are currently concentrated near the downtown and not well run. A participant suggested concentrating social services near the County Department of Social Services on Rt. 58, also near the hospital, and diverting them away from downtown.

Homeless population: A participant noted that Riverhead needs to address the homeless population issue. What programs are available to help this population get into housing and find the support they need?

10. Scenic and Historic Resources

Scenic Corridors: Participants felt that more recommendations in the Plan should ensure the protection of Sound Avenue and Main Road which are scenic and historic. Key suggestions include adding a recommendation to develop a pattern book for Sound Ave, which is being recommended for Main Road and Hamlet centers, and codifying the 500ft setback on Sound Avenue, and strengthening code definitions related to scenic resources, viewsheds and corridors.

Contextual Design: One participant recommended creating a model for downtown and having proposed developments placed in the model to help determine compatibility with surroundings.

Adaptive Reuse: A participant recommended that the plan could encourage façade preservation while allowing structures to be modernized and repurposed.

Incentives for Redevelopment: A participant noted that there is a lack of incentives to “redevelop” historic properties. They gave H.P. Grace Episcopal Church on Roanoke Avenue as an example.

11. Infrastructure and Utilities

Groundwater: A participant suggested that the impact of the plan total build-out on groundwater resources should be evaluated using computer modeling in order to identify possible negative impacts on groundwater levels, stream flow and saltwater intrusion.

Stormwater Management: Support was raised for improving stormwater management including incorporating pervious surfaces and bioswales. Concern was also raised that storm drains flow directly into the Peconic River, carrying all kinds of garbage and pollution to the Peconic.

Water Supply: Some concerns were raised about the rate of development and water scarcity. Water conservation and reuse should be emphasized (e.g. rain water capture) in the plan and wasteful practices, such as watering lawns in summer should be regulated. Riverhead Water District should get service over Suffolk County Water.

EPCAL: Suggestion for a PSE&G substation at EPCAL.

Expand Sewer District: A participant recommended expanding the sewer district in some areas to encourage developers to buy TDRs.

Capacity: Concern that infrastructure does not have the capacity and is not in place for ongoing and proposed development.

12. Sustainability and Resilience

Green Energy: A participant recommended encouraging solar farms at EPCAL, rather than on farms. A participant felt that BESS systems require more attention in the plan and is concerned about hazards they could present to communities.

Green Building Code: Participants supported strengthening the code and emphasized the need for enforcement. Follow strengthening codes with enforcement. Disappointment was expressed that more of the new developments have not been required to meet higher standards and noted the need for incentives.

Green Fleet: A participant was concerned about the cost of replacing Town vehicles with more sustainable alternatives. Another participant noted that NYSERDA offers grants to communities that transition to green fleets.

Electric Vehicles (EVs): Concern was raised about the actual environmental sustainability of EVs. They noted that EVs have negative externalities, such as mining and biohazardous waste disposal.

Sustainable Waste Management: Participants expressed support for a circular economy approach and identifying alternative to the Brookhaven landfill. They also want to monitor the efficiency of the recycling program.

Emergency Preparedness: Participants supported updating the hurricane emergency response plan. A participant raised the idea of “resilience hub” with police, fire, ambulance, and senior center in a building that is category 5 hurricane resistant. There are grants available, lower insurance rates, and could also serve as a heating and cooling center for seniors.

Appendix A – Open House Boards

Photos of the open house boards can be found on the following pages.

1. EXISTING LAND USE AND ZONING



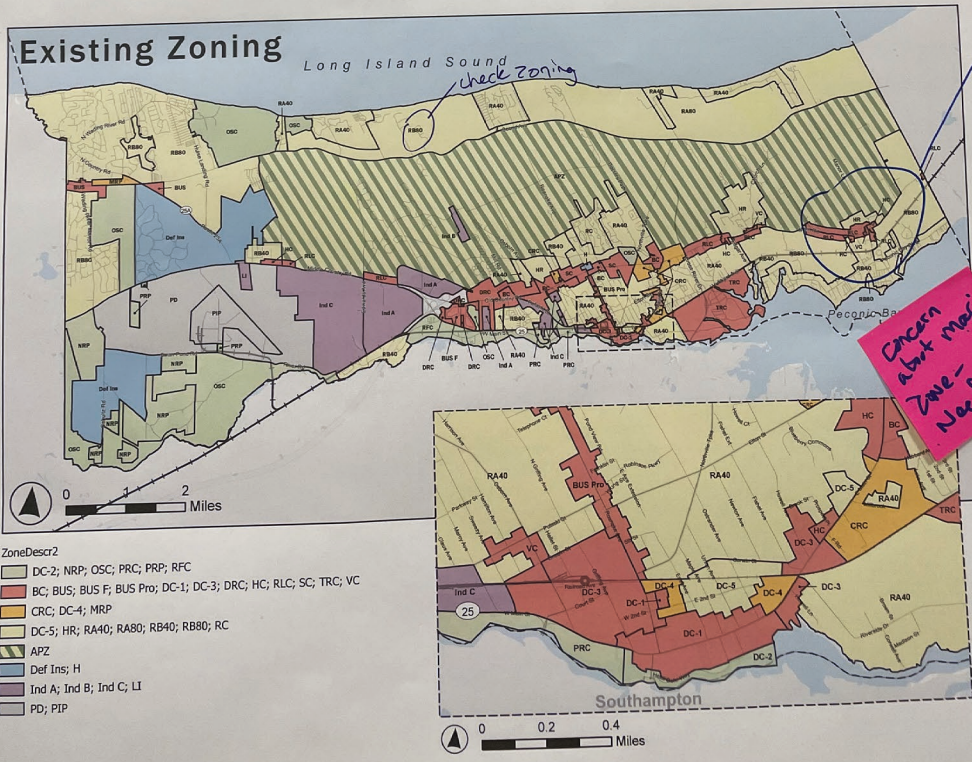
Need for a special meeting to discuss best use of EPCAL

Use CTR to protect some of EPCAL as green-space trails

No need for a hotel - Spill access Detours with Sandview Ave 1 open space!

Fill the Empty Stores on mainstreet instead of building more stores!

No need for a hotel - use the area to build more



Concern about zoning that jumps and is inconsistent

Concern about main zone - Need more control - not expanding (restaurants)

Traffic survey of main street

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Appendix A: Open House Boards

2. ZONING APPROACH



Land Use	Existing Ratio	Proposed Ratio
Single Family	1 unit per TDR Credit	1 unit per credit
Attached (< 600 GFA)	1 unit per TDR Credit	2 units per credit
Attached (600-1,200 GFA)		1.5 units per credit
DC 1 Multifamily		4 bedrooms per credit
Age restricted Living (<600 GFA)	1 unit per TDR Credit	3 units per credit
Age restricted Living (600-1,200 GFA)	1 unit per TDR Credit	2 units per credit
Nursing Home		2 units per credit
Assisted Living	1 unit per TDR Credit	2.5 units per credit
Commercial	1,500 SF per Credit	Comm: 3,000 Hotel: 3 keys Office: 2,000

Handwritten note: 'Need to be an 25 of... then TDR is a bonus.'

Handwritten note: 'The TDRs provided... the need for developers... style family formula (draft)'

TDR Approach



Zoning Approach

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Appendix A: Open House Boards

3. HOUSING

Draft Goals and Recommendations

Goal 3-1: Continue to promote housing affordability and the availability of quality affordable and workforce housing in Riverhead and throughout the region.

Riverhead has historically provided most of the East End's affordable and workforce housing. This trend has remained in the last 20 years as development elsewhere on the East End has become significantly more expensive. Without intervention, the increased development pressure will continue to diminish the supply of attainable housing options. This issue also affects economic development, as housing affordability is a key factor linked to workforce growth.

- Regularly monitor housing dynamics and review housing policies.**
The town's affordable housing policies, including workforce housing provisions, should be evaluated on a regular basis to ensure that they are achieving the desired outcomes.
- Monitor short-term rentals for impacts on Riverhead's housing stock.**
A balance is needed between ensuring adequate availability of year-round housing and providing for some economic development. Short-term rentals may be appropriate in more tourist areas, such as near the downtown or waterfront areas, where they support local businesses and attractions.
- Reach out to local financial institutions and non-profit housing developers to identify sites and funding for the development or rehabilitation of workforce housing.**
Experimentation and flexible non-profit housing developers can leverage incentives from federal and state programs to provide affordable housing for a variety of uses and income levels.
- Encourage other East End towns to provide their fair share of affordable and workforce housing.**
One example is potential development on the Flatters Acre in Southampton. Collaboration is needed to ensure that any development considers the broader impacts on neighboring communities and the Riverhead School District.
- Ensure that workforce housing is compatible in design and quality with the surrounding neighborhood.**
The town's land use laws provide oversight on these issues and should ensure that workforce housing is indistinguishable from market rate housing, both within the context of the neighborhood as well as within a housing development itself.
- Make the Long Island Workforce Housing Act mandatory for every subdivision, with no opt-out provision.**
Revise code to ensure that developers seeking to subdivide their property cannot opt out of providing affordable units or paying into the workforce housing fund.
- Ensure that workforce housing remains perpetually workforce.**
This can be achieved through a combination of legal, financial, and regulatory measures. Community land trusts are another option to maintain the long-term affordability of housing units.

Should not reduce when town needs it. A solution could be to use the existing code - the number of units in a house.

Comments:

3-2 d. No short term rentals. They will ruin our town. Also, some rural communities not subject to registration pending or consent.

3-2 e. No no reduce or eliminate the minimum size. Also, some rural communities not subject to registration pending or consent.

3-2 f. Address the "lowest" barrier to population rise. Is there a program that can allow the people into housing? How can we connect the dots to help them reach that point?

3-2 g. Some ideas to forward. Some are to allow for the intent to stay in the house. Community programs.

Goal 3-2: Encourage more diverse housing types to accommodate a wide range of income levels and to address evolving housing needs.

Demand for housing of all types at all levels continues to rise, while housing costs have grown exponentially. Eliminating burdensome restrictions in the Town code allows for greater flexibility in housing design and facilitates the development of affordable housing options. Building code standards already ensure the safety of residential structures.

- Eliminate minimum home size in residential districts.**
The Town's building code is sufficient to maintain health and safety. The existing 3,000 square foot minimum discourages the provision of smaller and more affordable units.
- Utilize TDR to allow for slightly higher densities designated areas.**
TDR credits could be used to exceed the 300-unit cap in the downtown (for homeownership opportunities only). Allowing for slight density increase with TDR in the CRC and IRC zones also provides for more diverse housing types such as townhouses and garden apartments.
- Promote adaptive reuse and preservation of buildings for residential uses in DC-1 District.**
Existing buildings in the downtown core area should be permitted to exceed the 300-unit cap when adaptively reusing existing upper floors for housing.
- Evaluate the 300-unit cap for the DC-1 District.**
The Town should conduct economic and fiscal cost-benefit analysis of potential development to determine whether to keep the cap or repeal it. Regulations for the cap should be revised to make it more practicable for applicants and the town.
- Revise standards for accessory dwelling units to reduce extraneous barriers for new housing.**
The accessory apartment code is overly burdensome. The requirement of being a 3-year minimum certificate of occupancy should be based on the principal building rather than the accessory building.

Goal 3-3: Support Creation and Protection of Homeownership for Low- and Moderate-Income Households.

The town has sufficient rental opportunities but needs reasonably priced ownership options. Financial barriers and lack of knowledge can make buying a home difficult for first timers and low- and moderate-income households. Making homeownership more attainable for individuals and families encourages their accumulation of wealth and economic stability.

- Provide resources and incentives to assist first-time homebuyers.**
The Town can work with the Riverhead Community Development Department, financial institutions, non-profits such as Long Island Housing Partnership, and New York State Homes and Community Renewal (NYSDHCR) to connect low- and moderate-income households to financing opportunities, low-interest or reduced-down payment mortgages, and homebuyer assistance counseling. A long-term option is to establish CDFI funds to offer loans for at-risk first-time homebuyers. This would require a ballot referendum on the use of CDFI funds which won't be available until 2023.
- Develop policies and procedures to utilize the affordable housing fund to support first-time homebuyers.**
This could include eligibility criteria, income guidelines, and application and fund allocation procedures for the use of the affordable housing fund for first-time homebuyer support, such as down payment assistance and reduced interest loans.
- Revise the 300-unit cap in the downtown core to promote homeownership opportunities and other housing goals.**
This supports the Town's overall goal of directing new residents to the downtown area who are committed to investing in the community's long-term well-being.
- Change affordability thresholds for ownership vs rentals.**
Adjusting the affordability thresholds for the Long Island Workforce Housing provision can better allow the town to provide affordable options for different incomes and income levels.

Goal 3-4: Promote inclusive housing policies and accessible design standards to ensure that housing is available to people of all ages and abilities.

As Riverhead continues to age and the needs of residents evolve, a strategic and proactive approach is needed to expand the availability of supportive care facilities. This recommendation reflects the Town's commitment to addressing the growing demands of the aging population and ensuring that residents have access to appropriate care and support as they age. Riverhead will also continue to experience increasing need for affordable retirement housing beyond mobile home parks. Producing housing alternatives for seniors wishing to downsize has the additional benefit of freeing up single-family stock for younger families.

- Continue to support programs which provide home improvement funding for low-income senior residents.**
The Community Development Department has been successful in helping to rehabilitate units occupied by lower-income senior residents, improving their quality of life, increasing resale value, and may have a positive impact in property tax revenue. The program could be enhanced with more staffing.
- Allow residential health care facilities, including continuum of care housing, to be developed in the Residence RC zone, as well as in areas near the Peconic Bay Medical Center, CRC zones, and CBD zones.**
An assisted living overlay zone is proposed for parts of Route 58 near the Peconic Bay Medical Center, with TDR credits. Other locations in the Town could allow assisted living by special permit.
- Develop Accessible Design Standards for Inclusion in the Town Code.**
The standards should cover a range of aspects, including physical infrastructure, signage, public transportation, and technology.
- Collaborate with Suffolk County and community partners to create and maintain safe and healthy neighborhoods that contribute to residents' well-being and security.**
One issue to address with the County is the concentration of sober homes in the Downtown area. The Town should continue code enforcement, such as occupancy standards, when needed.
- Expand the Hospital zone to encompass adjacent properties owned by the Peconic Bay Medical Center and permit a wider variety of wellness related uses and housing for hospital staff.**
The overall intent would be to provide a campus with a mix of uses that are supportive of the Hospital's overall mission. This could include fitness centers, health food, offices, childcare, and housing for staff.

Comments:

Should not pierce 300 cap DC-1. Need to evaluate how many apartments.

3-2 a. Should they not let people determine smaller units.

We need minimum size housing. Takes away residential appeal.

Allow residents walk on Rt 58.

ADU code. ADU code requires 2 yr waiting.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Draft Goals and Recommendations

Goal 4-1: Reassess the development strategy for EPCAL to ensure the economic and community benefits of proposed projects align with local needs and that impacts are proactively addressed.

Riverhead's industrial zones offer great opportunities for economic development. In particular, Enterprise Park (EPCAL) is uniquely suited for office, industrial, and commercial recreation development, due to its central location and convenient access from the LIE and existing essential infrastructure. The Town's ownership of the property provides it with the ability to facilitate appropriate development in emerging industries and bring the property back onto the tax rolls through its sale.

a. Continue to promote economic development opportunities in the EPCAL Area, while creating a framework to make sure impacts are addressed.

The Town should ensure that zoning regulations and land use plans align with their vision for EPCAL. Certain impacts could be managed through development, such as a re-evaluation of the potential impacts should more retail, offices, and public services be introduced. The Town should continue to promote economic development, but also ensure that zoning regulations are updated to reflect these changes.

Goal 4-2: Encourage appropriately scaled and designed development in industrial areas which better aligns with the character and needs of the surrounding areas.

Many residents expressed the need to reduce potential impacts of industrial development, as they threaten to impact the surrounding rural and residential landscape. The Town must continue to promote economic development, while carefully managing and minimizing potential impacts to surrounding residential communities.

a. Continue to promote and encourage additional opportunities for private and public indoor and outdoor recreational opportunities in Calverton, along Route 58.

Commercial recreational facilities can provide economic, social and recreation benefits to the community. The Town should encourage the economic, social and recreation benefits that can be realized from the development of recreational facilities in Calverton.

b. Scale back allowable density of industrial development to be more responsive to surrounding uses.

A reduction in allowable density of industrial development in EPCAL is a key component of a more responsive approach to industrial development. This approach would consider the surrounding residential and recreational uses when determining allowable density.

c. Provide some flexibility for building heights in industrial districts provided aesthetic impacts are mitigated.

To accommodate the current demands for industrial development, the Town may consider allowing building heights up to 30 feet in certain areas, provided that aesthetic impacts are mitigated through landscaping and other measures.

d. Strengthen design standards for industrial development to promote aesthetics, green building practices, and architectural harmony with the town's rural character.

Encourage developers to promote quality green building, such as sustainable practices, and contribute to a community that values high-quality, energy and environmental friendly development. Design standards for industrial development should be updated to reflect current building practices and materials.

e. Transition industrial districts in more urbanized areas into light industrial transition zones with specific design and landscaping requirements to minimize visual and environmental impacts.

Light industrial transition zones can provide a more appropriate and aesthetically pleasing alternative to traditional industrial development. These zones should be designed to blend with the surrounding residential and recreational areas.

Goal 4-3: Emphasize downtown as the civic, cultural, specialty shopping and historic center of Riverhead.

Riverhead's downtown boasts many assets including its local businesses, mixed uses, regional attractions, historic built environment, and riverfront location. The recent 2022 Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) was a collaborative process that helped identify several uses and opportunities in the downtown including vacant properties, riverfront access, public realm improvements, diverse population needs, and an expanding tourism market. Goals and strategies from the DRI plan are incorporated into this section.

a. Continue to advance the vision, goals, and strategies established in the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) Plan.

The goals were set through a collaborative effort with the community to address the revitalization of the DRI vision. The project was approved in the DRI Plan and aligned with the chosen goals.

b. Make the Peconic River a central feature of Downtown Riverhead's identity with new connections, activities, and development (DRI Goal #1).

Specific strategies include improving pedestrian connections to the waterfront, creating a new River Square to connect Main Street to the River, and creating a shared public space along the Peconic River.

c. Capitalize on opportunities of underutilized and blighted properties to create new catalysts Downtown (DRI Goal #2).

Specific strategies include identifying underutilized and blighted properties, making strategic investments in these areas, and providing incentives to attract new development.

d. Build on the previous outreach efforts and engage the diverse local community and organizations to address social and environmental justice needs (DRI Goal #3).

The DRI includes the creation of new programs and activities for the Town Square area and throughout Downtown that aim to engage all residents.

e. Create opportunities for new business investment and increased tourism and economic activity (DRI Goal #4).

Specific strategies include providing incentives to attract new investment, creating new public spaces, and improving the overall visitor experience in Downtown.

f. Create new and expand existing transit and pedestrian connections, as well as environmental, public space, and recreational improvements (DRI Goal #5).

The Town should continue to enhance existing transit and pedestrian connections, and create new public spaces and recreational areas to improve the overall visitor experience.

g. Implement strategies for flood mitigation integrated with the Downtown plan and new projects (DRI Goal #6).

Climate change and the impact of rising sea levels and stronger storms presents a significant threat to the Town of Riverhead. The DRI includes strategies for flood mitigation and resilience.

h. Adopt the Downtown Riverhead Pattern Book and continue to advance its recommendations.

The Pattern Book provides the visual and design standards for new buildings, the maintenance of the public realm, and the vision of historic preservation and historic district designation. The Pattern Book and Town Square are key components of the DRI vision.

Goal 4-4: Enhance the Route 58 Corridor to create a more attractive destination, improve accessibility, and cultivate a hospitable environment for regional and local traffic.

The Route 58 Corridor is a vital commercial hub for the Town and the east end region. It is also an unpleasant gateway to Riverhead as the commercial strip generally lacks aesthetic appeal and is consistently congested. While vacancies are down in recent years, the long-term prospect for big box retail is uncertain. Zoning guidance is needed to ensure that future development contributes positively to various aspects including aesthetics, infrastructure, traffic flow, and stormwater reduction.

a. Develop design guidelines that provide a cohesive vision for future development along Route 58's

The guidelines would address aesthetics, encourage job creation, and specify appropriate building heights, landscaping, and signage. The guidelines would also address traffic flow and stormwater management.

b. Revise commercial parking regulations to maximize the efficiency of land.

Current parking requirements encourage vast parking areas, much of which is underutilized. Reducing these requirements and encouraging the use of existing parking spaces could free up land for other uses.

c. Provide a flexible zoning framework that allows for the reusing of vacant and underutilized properties.

Zoning flexibility would provide EPCAL with more flexibility in the use of the property. This would encourage the reuse of vacant and underutilized properties for other uses.

Comments:
Mobile Retail protected from development?

More STAS in DC zone for high quality development.

Don't seem suitable for high quality development.

15,000 sq ft minimum for high quality development.

10,000 sq ft minimum for high quality development.

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4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Draft Goals and Recommendations

Goal 4-5: Guide responsible land use planning in hamlet centers.

The Town has several hamlet-oriented commercial areas where local residents can access essential goods and services without needing to travel long distances. Each hamlet has its own unique character, history, and community aspirations. The Town should coordinate economic development efforts with neighboring towns, local businesses, and non-profit agencies.

a. Encourage the creation hamlet studies for Aqueogue, Jamesport, Calverton, and Polish Town.

Hamlet studies can help identify the unique needs and priorities of the hamlets and provide guidance for responsible land use planning.

b. Balance growth and greenery along West Main Street, a gateway to Riverhead.

A mixed zoning approach to West Main Street should balance residential and small-scale commercial development with existing greenery and public spaces.

Goal 4-6: Balance fiscal and community benefits when considering new development and zoning decisions.

Economic development initiatives are necessary to increase the tax base and fund essential public services, infrastructure improvements, and quality of life enhancements. Commercial and industrial development provide high returns that offer residential property taxes and provide funding for the school district and other essential town services. Multi-family development can also have a positive fiscal impact on a community. Attracting investment with incentives should be balanced with community benefits that align with the Town's broader vision for sustainable growth, quality of life, economic prosperity, and the well-being of its residents.

a. Achieve a sustainable balance between economic development and land preservation.

The Town's approach to economic development should be balanced with land preservation and environmental protection.

b. Establish a fiscal framework for the evaluation of development proposals and zoning decisions.

A common approach to the fiscal implications of zoning changes and development decisions can ensure they align with the Town's long-term fiscal and community goals. This framework would establish transparency and consistency for development decisions.

c. Work with IDA to maximize both fiscal and community benefits.

The Town should work with the IDA to ensure that the regulations and programs are designed to maximize both fiscal and community benefits.

Comments:
You also do not seem to have ACTION

Goal 4-7: Continue to work with local partners on economic development initiatives.

The BID and Chamber of Commerce organizations serve as vital partners in the pursuit of economic development opportunities, working in unison with the local government to enhance the Town's business environment. Riverhead is also uniquely situated as the gateway to the North and South Forks and can do more to capture tourists heading further east. As a result, the Town's economic wellbeing is intricately connected to neighboring East End Towns.

a. Continue to work with the Business Improvement District (BID) and the Chamber of Commerce on Economic Development Opportunities.

The BID and Chamber of Commerce can provide valuable insights and resources to support economic development initiatives.

b. Foster synergy help coordinate economic development in the North Fork.

The North Fork should continue the partnership in North Fork Corporation, which resulted in a collaborative program for coastal and riparian areas in a "30 Day Park" which includes riparian and adjacent areas.

c. Actively Market Development/Redevelopment Sites Aligned with the Town's Vision.

The Town should actively market and promote its development and redevelopment sites that align with the Town's vision.

Goal 4-8: Promote sustainable economic growth and development and foster the creation of employment opportunities.

Investing in workforce development is vital for the economic growth and sustainability of Riverhead. Regional institutions such as Suffolk County Community College and Cornell Cooperative Extension, and local employers including Peconic Bay Medical Center are partners in the growth and development of a diverse job market. The development of EPCAL also has the potential to further diversify the job market in fields such as technology, sustainability, and other industries.

a. Partner with local educational institutions and workforce development agencies to provide training programs and resources.

Local educational institutions and workforce development agencies can provide valuable training and resources to support economic development initiatives.

b. Promote apprenticeship programs and partnerships between local businesses and educational institutions to create a pipeline of skilled workers.

The Town should partner with local businesses and educational institutions to create a pipeline of skilled workers.

c. Enhance digital infrastructure, including high-speed internet access, to support the growth of employment and knowledge-based industries.

Enhanced digital infrastructure can support the growth of employment and knowledge-based industries.

d. Carefully consider EPCAL development proposals to maximize living wage job creation and workforce training opportunities.

The Town should carefully consider EPCAL development proposals to maximize living wage job creation and workforce training opportunities.

Goal 4-9: Achieve a harmonious blend of tourism and rural charm, making Riverhead an attractive destination while upholding residents' quality of life.

Agritourism activities, including tastings at wineries and pick-your-own fruits and vegetables, have grown popular in Riverhead, especially during the fall months. It is important for the Town to support agritourism as a source of alternative income for farms, while ensuring that regulations prevent negative impacts such as traffic and noise. Private events, such as weddings, and short-term rentals bring visitors to Riverhead, but can present noise, light, and safety concerns.

a. Continue to promote agriculture and agritourism but strengthen monitoring to minimize impacts.

The Town should continue to promote agriculture and agritourism, but strengthen monitoring to minimize impacts.

b. Regulate short-term rentals to balance the benefits of tourism with the impacts on residential areas.

Short-term rentals may be appropriate in certain areas, but must be regulated to balance the benefits of tourism with the impacts on residential areas.

Goal 4-10: Promote more environmentally friendly businesses.

Aligning economic growth with environmental stewardship creates a sustainable and balanced framework that benefits businesses, residents, and the environment.

a. Encourage industries to adopt environmentally friendly practices, such as recycling, waste reduction, and energy efficiency measures.

Encouraging industries to adopt environmentally friendly practices can help reduce the environmental impact of businesses.

b. Promote more sustainable design.

Encouraging sustainable design in buildings and infrastructure can help reduce the environmental impact of development.

Comments:
How does EPCAL impact other planning in area?

Do not reduce STAS for a small lot in a small zone.

Should have a minimum lot size for residential development.

10,000 sq ft minimum for high quality development.

10,000 sq ft minimum for high quality development.

10,000 sq ft minimum for high quality development.

10,000 sq ft minimum for high quality development.

10,000 sq ft minimum for high quality development.

5. AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Draft Goals and Recommendations



Goal 5-1: Improve the marketplace for the TDR program.

This goal addresses the need to bolster the effectiveness of the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program, focusing on creating a more robust marketplace to encourage TDR participation. The plan recommends additional receiving areas where responsible and sustainable development can be accommodated. Another key strategy is to stimulate the marketplace by increasing the value of TDR credits. This multi-faceted approach will promote balanced growth while preserving the unique character, agricultural heritage, and natural resources that define the community.

- a. Designate additional receiving areas where some increased development can be accommodated.

This section identifies the areas where TDR credits can be used to effectively create new development opportunities where a more vibrant and diverse, diverse agricultural landscape is needed. The plan identifies several potential receiving areas that are suitable for development and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives. The plan also identifies areas where TDR credits can be used to create new development opportunities in areas that are currently underutilized or undeveloped.

Single Family Districts (R-2a, R-30)
Consider allowing TDR credits to be used in R-2a and R-30. These areas are both existing and receiving districts, allowing for some flexibility for single-family development.

Industrial areas in Calverton (IND-1)
This area is currently a light industrial area. It is a good fit for TDR credits as it is an existing receiving area and is consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

Industrial areas in other parts of Riverhead
An additional area in this section, the Plan Commission's light industrial area in the town of Riverhead is a good fit for TDR credits as it is an existing receiving area and is consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

Disturbed Areas
Consider allowing TDR credits to be used in disturbed areas. These areas are currently underutilized or undeveloped and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

Assisted Living Overlay or Plating Zone
Consider allowing TDR credits to be used in assisted living overlay or plating zones. These areas are currently underutilized or undeveloped and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

CRC and Planned River Community (PRC) Districts
These areas are currently underutilized or undeveloped and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

Leaf Cottages
Consider allowing TDR credits to be used in leaf cottages. These areas are currently underutilized or undeveloped and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

Agriculture Resiliency
This area is currently underutilized or undeveloped and is consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

Community Benefit Overlay Districts
These areas are currently underutilized or undeveloped and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

Other
Consider allowing TDR credits to be used in other areas. These areas are currently underutilized or undeveloped and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

- b. Increase the value of TDR credits through revisions of the transfer formula.

The current program is currently set at one acre for one credit, which is a credit that is used to create new development opportunities in areas that are currently underutilized or undeveloped. The plan recommends increasing the value of TDR credits to create new development opportunities in areas that are currently underutilized or undeveloped.

Other
Consider allowing TDR credits to be used in other areas. These areas are currently underutilized or undeveloped and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

Goal 5-2: Increase use of TDR through administrative improvements and access to new funding mechanisms.

The effectiveness of the Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program can be improved through the implementation of several administrative improvements and facilitating access to new funding mechanisms. This goal is aligned with the town's commitment to balanced growth and preservation of vital resources. It is also acknowledged that the Town has limited capacity to address the unique challenges involved with administering a complex program like TDR. The small-town context necessitates strategic approaches that balance program effectiveness with administrative feasibility.

- a. Establish a TDR Bank to facilitate transactions.

A TDR bank would serve as a central, neutral repository for developers and landowners to deposit, purchase, and trade development rights, thereby increasing liquidity. Establishing a TDR bank would allow administrative coordination, quality assurance and timely, reliable market for the bank's established and ongoing land management.

- b. Support TDR administrative efforts and leverage community resources to connect buyers and sellers.

The Town is an essential partner in ensuring the TDR program is successful. Administrative support can ensure that the program is implemented effectively. The town should work with other agencies to connect buyers and sellers. The town should also work with other agencies to connect buyers and sellers.

- c. Continue to work with the TDR Committee to revise regulations as needed to better facilitate preservation of agricultural lands.

The TDR program is a complex program that requires ongoing review and revision. The town should continue to work with the TDR Committee to revise regulations as needed to better facilitate preservation of agricultural lands.

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Goal 5-3: Safeguard agricultural land through diverse approaches to preservation.

Preserving Riverhead's agricultural heritage requires a multifaceted approach. This goal addresses the need for a holistic and sustainable framework that combines financial collaboration, strategic land-use planning, and dedicated administrative oversight to ensure the long-term preservation of the Town's valuable agricultural lands.

- a. Continue to plan for and coordinate efforts to permanently preserve farmland.

The town should continue to plan for and coordinate efforts to permanently preserve farmland. This includes working with other agencies to identify areas that are suitable for preservation and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

- b. Continue to promote cluster development subdivisions to preserve agricultural lands.

Cluster developments can be an effective tool for preserving agricultural lands while accommodating responsible growth and development. The town should continue to promote cluster development subdivisions to preserve agricultural lands.

- c. Establish a CFP Management Division in the Town to administer the program.

The town should establish a CFP Management Division to administer the CFP program. This division would be responsible for overseeing the program and ensuring that it is implemented effectively.

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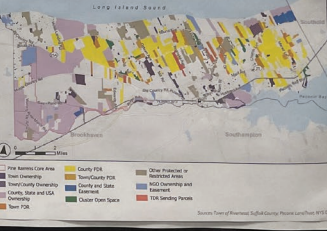
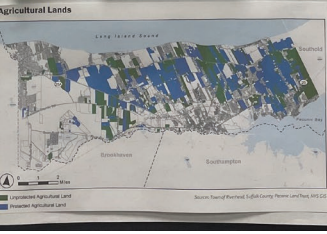
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5. AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Draft Goals and Recommendations



Goal 5-4: Cultivate Agricultural Resilience and Innovation for a Sustainable Future

This goal centers on preserving and enhancing Riverhead's agricultural legacy while supporting the economic vitality of local farmers. The recommendations address opportunities to foster collaboration among the community, promote innovation and streamline the zoning code to ensure that it provides clarity, reduces obstacles, and facilitates the growth of the local agricultural sector.

- a. Provide information to farmers that may help improve the efficiency, productivity, or profitability of their farm operations.

This goal focuses on providing information to farmers that may help improve the efficiency, productivity, or profitability of their farm operations. This includes providing information on best practices, new technologies, and market opportunities.

- b. Consider flexibility in the zoning code to allow for agricultural innovation.

Consider allowing TDR credits to be used in other areas. These areas are currently underutilized or undeveloped and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

- c. Flexibility for adaptive reuse of agricultural structures for permitted uses.

Consider allowing TDR credits to be used in other areas. These areas are currently underutilized or undeveloped and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

- d. Clean up the zoning code to address inconsistencies and make sure farming activities are supported.

Consider allowing TDR credits to be used in other areas. These areas are currently underutilized or undeveloped and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

- e. Support agriculture in Town waters.

Consider allowing TDR credits to be used in other areas. These areas are currently underutilized or undeveloped and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

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Goal 5-5: Cultivate Agrotourism as a Sustainable Income Source, Balancing Economic Growth and Community Well-being.

Riverhead recognizes the potential of agrotourism to bolster local farm incomes while being mindful of mitigating negative impacts such as traffic and noise.

- a. Define agrotourism.

The town should define agrotourism to ensure that it is implemented effectively. This includes working with other agencies to identify areas that are suitable for agrotourism and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

- b. Regulate events through a permitting process and site restrictions.

Consider allowing TDR credits to be used in other areas. These areas are currently underutilized or undeveloped and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

- c. Support efforts to enforce the Town's existing noise ordinance during events.

Consider allowing TDR credits to be used in other areas. These areas are currently underutilized or undeveloped and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

- d. Continue to allow bed and breakfast by special permit in the APZ, RA-80, RB-30 zones.

Consider allowing TDR credits to be used in other areas. These areas are currently underutilized or undeveloped and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

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Goal 5-6: Goal 6. Help promote Riverhead's agricultural industry and products.

This goal strives to create a vibrant and interconnected ecosystem that champions Riverhead's agricultural industry, ensuring its continued growth and prosperity.

- a. Improve enforcement of farm stand regulations to ensure that they do not allow higher-than-permitted amounts of non-local goods.

Consider allowing TDR credits to be used in other areas. These areas are currently underutilized or undeveloped and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

- b. Partner with the local farmers market to promote the sale and purchase of local produce and products.

Consider allowing TDR credits to be used in other areas. These areas are currently underutilized or undeveloped and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

- c. Encourage public and private entities to buy and sell local produce.

Consider allowing TDR credits to be used in other areas. These areas are currently underutilized or undeveloped and are consistent with the town's goals and objectives.

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6. NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Draft Goals and Recommendations



Goal 6-1: Protect and preserve the ecological integrity of Riverhead's Central Pine Barrens area and the water quality of Long Island's sole source aquifer.

The Central Pine Barrens area and the aquifer beneath are among the most critical natural resource areas in the Town from both a natural resource and public health point of view. The aquifer is part of a more extensive system providing millions of people drinking water. The State, County, Town, the Nature Conservancy, and others have acquired lands in the Pine Barrens Core Preservation Area for permanent preservation. Additionally, private property owners in these areas have transferred development rights through the Pine Barrens Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program.

- Continue to implement the Central Pine Barrens Comprehensive Land Use Plan and meet its development standards and guidelines. Following the Plan's development, the TDR program should be updated to reflect the changes in the region for the long term. The Plan is a state plan and is not subject to local review.
- Cooperate with local non-profit organizations, the County, and the State working to acquire and protect lands in the Central Pine Barrens area.

Encourage private property owners within the Central Pine Barrens TDR program. Through a combination of the State, County, Town, or nonprofit should acquire private lands that become essential or available for sale.

Comments:
 - The Central Pine Barrens is a critical natural resource area and the aquifer beneath is a critical natural resource area. The aquifer is part of a more extensive system providing millions of people drinking water. The State, County, Town, the Nature Conservancy, and others have acquired lands in the Pine Barrens Core Preservation Area for permanent preservation. Additionally, private property owners in these areas have transferred development rights through the Pine Barrens Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Program.

Significant Coastal Habitats, Critical Environmental Areas, Central Pine Barrens Core Preservation Area, and Natural Heritage Areas



Goal 6-2: Protect the quality of ground water and surface waters throughout the Town.

Watershed management is essential for protecting and preserving the Town's water resources, including groundwater and surface water. Stormwater runoff, fertilizer and pesticide usage, improper disposal of hazardous waste, household chemical, and pharmaceuticals, and sanitary systems contribute to water quality issues. Nitrogen pollution is one of the most significant concerns for Riverhead and the Long Island region. Poor surface water quality leads to the loss of habitats for plant and animal species and the closure of waters for swimming or shell-fishing due to biotoxins.

Groundwater quality and quantity are essential for safe and sustainable access to drinking water. Groundwater pollution, saltwater intrusion, rising sea levels, and future water supply demands all impact the aquifer's ability to provide drinking water.

- Consider the creation of a Comprehensive Water Management Plan with identified targets. The Town should establish targets to address issues raised in the Suffolk County Subwatershed Water Quality Plan and identify specific water quality improvement and other non-structural best management practices that are effective for reducing non-point source pollution.
- Encourage the use of I/A Systems and work to limit inputs of nitrogen, other nutrients, and toxic materials from sewage treatment plants. Suffolk County's Sewerage Treatment and Sanitation Department (STSD) is currently implementing a program to upgrade its wastewater treatment plants to meet the most stringent wastewater quality standards. The Town should encourage property owners to use these plants and water or septic permit fees for installing I/A systems to reduce their impact.
- Encourage the use of Permeable Reactive Barriers and other means of cleaning contaminated ground water. Permeable reactive barriers are an in-situ method to trap, degrade, or remove contaminants. They can be used in residential areas, commercial areas, and other locations where groundwater contamination is a concern.
- Improve enforcement of requirements for proper waste discharge from boats and houseboats and evaluate the need for additional pump-out facilities or vessels. The Town should evaluate whether pump-out vessels and stations are adequate and if new facilities are needed. The Town should also review household waste disposal requirements for wastewater handling and disposal systems.
- Develop a best practice manual that instructing owners and operators about proper vessel discharge practices. Through cooperation with Sea Grant, the Bay Committee, and the Parks and Recreation Department, the Town should develop a manual outlining appropriate vessel discharge with necessary signage information.
- Carry out dredging projects where needed. Dredging activities should be carried out where needed to improve vessel water levels, improve the Town's waterways, and to reduce sediment in Basking Harbor, Long Point, and East Cove. Dredging should be carried out in a way that minimizes environmental impacts.

Comments:
 - Boat traffic should be able to access the waterways. - Permeable reactive barriers should be used to clean up the water. - The Town should consider the creation of a Comprehensive Water Management Plan with identified targets.

Goal 6-3: Limit future increases in impervious surfaces and stormwater runoff to help reduce flood impacts and surface water pollution.

Changes in land use and development patterns have led to an increase in impervious surfaces. Existing stormwater management practices are not sufficient to address these risks. Reducing the coverage of impervious surfaces will also reduce the ground to absorb rainwater. Land use changes are required to reduce the amount of impervious surfaces and reduce the impact on the environment.

- Continue to update regulations, ensuring they incorporate the latest stormwater best management practices (BMPs). Review the Town Code to ensure stormwater management practices are up-to-date and effective. For projects that do not meet a BMP, requiring the required storage capacity for both structural and non-structural management is recommended for the incorporation of the Building Code.
- Reevaluate impervious coverage limits in commercial zones. Reduce coverage limits in commercial zones and encourage porous surfaces and stormwater management practices. On-site BMPs for the Town should consider reducing impervious coverage, and designing design practices to reduce landscape drainage and other green areas.
- Continue maintenance of Town-owned drainage systems. The Engineering Department and Highway Department should continue to carry out their duties to ensure the proper functioning of the stormwater system.

Goal 6-4: Conserve the coastal features of the Long Island Sound including bluffs, shoreline, and dunes.

Riverhead has seen its coastline recede year after year. Changing sea levels, increasing storm frequency and surge, clearing of trees, and development near the Long Island Sound have all contributed to the erosion of bluffs and the coastline.

- Clarify and Strengthen the Coastal Erosion Hazard Code regulations. Address erosion issues to address the need for a Storm Erosion Hazard Code. Review the Coastal Erosion Hazard Code regulations to ensure they are clear and enforceable. Review the Coastal Erosion Hazard Code regulations to ensure they are clear and enforceable.
- Track receding bluffs and shoreline. Laser data can be used to map and track where the land is receding along the coastline and bluffs. This information can be used to identify areas that are at risk of erosion and to develop a plan to track receding bluffs and shoreline.

Comments:

6. NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

Draft Goals and Recommendations



Goal 6-5: Protect and restore environmentally sensitive lands, wetlands, and marine habitats.

Animal and plant communities, wetlands, and marine habitats are critical to Riverhead and the region's ecosystems. For example, trees provide a range of benefits, including improving air quality, reducing stormwater runoff, providing habitat for wildlife, and enhancing property values. Significant threats to Riverhead's environment include the loss of trees, displacement of species caused by development, disconnected wildlife habitat areas, spread of invasive species, coastal erosion, alterations in hydrology, and climate change.

There is a need for more local knowledge and resources to address on the ground conditions in Riverhead. Fortunately, several regional institutions and conservation organizations are studying wetlands, marine, and other habitats and implementing restorative measures. These include the Nature Conservancy, Picnic City Partnership, Long Island Sound Study, Save the Sound, Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program, and Stony Brook Sea Grant.

- Consider a Tree Preservation Local Law to protect woodlands and historic, significant, and scenic trees important to the community. A tree preservation local law can help protect existing trees and provide incentives for planting new trees. The Town should consider a tree preservation local law to protect existing trees and provide incentives for planting new trees.
- Conduct a tree inventory to assess the health and condition of the Town's urban forest. The inventory should provide information on the age, size, and condition of trees throughout the community and help the Town make informed decisions about tree management and preservation. The inventory should be done on a regular basis and used to guide future tree planting efforts.
- Document and protect wildlife corridors. The Town should identify and document wildlife corridors and develop a plan to protect and restore them. The Town should identify and document wildlife corridors and develop a plan to protect and restore them.
- Establish formal standards around water bodies and wetlands. Guidelines for permitted development in riparian areas should be included in the Town Code.
- Comprehensively inventory and map wetlands. The Town should conduct a comprehensive inventory of wetlands and map them. The Town should conduct a comprehensive inventory of wetlands and map them.
- Partner with environmental conservation groups and experts on a wetlands restoration initiative. The Town should partner with environmental conservation groups and experts on a wetlands restoration initiative. The Town should partner with environmental conservation groups and experts on a wetlands restoration initiative.
- Encourage sustainable fishing and shell fishing practices. The Town should work with the Conservation Advisory Committee and Sea Grant to develop educational materials and programs about sustainable fishing practices, such as using fish handling gear and properly disposing of fish and shellfish.
- Continue to support and collaborate with the State, County, and institutions to protect significant coastal habitats and critical environmental areas. The Town should continue to support and collaborate with the State, County, and institutions to protect significant coastal habitats and critical environmental areas. The Town should continue to support and collaborate with the State, County, and institutions to protect significant coastal habitats and critical environmental areas.

Goal 6-6: Encourage eco-friendly landscaping and maintenance techniques.

Eco-friendly landscaping projects include planting native plant species, removing invasive species, creating pollinator gardens, rain gardens, bioswales, and more. Native species work together to enhance the local ecosystem, provide food sources to native animals and microorganisms, require less irrigation, and are easier to grow. Native-based stormwater management techniques, such as rain gardens, are an attractive solution that private property owners can easily implement and help reduce flooding, filter pollutants, and recharge groundwater.

- Establish and showcase best practices for eco-friendly landscaping and stormwater management on public property. The Town, Highway Department, and other committees should identify opportunities to establish eco-friendly landscaping projects, such as rain gardens, bioswales, and more. The Town should establish and showcase best practices for eco-friendly landscaping and stormwater management on public property.
- Inform private property owners about available grants and programs to implement their own eco-friendly gardens and green infrastructure. Grants and programs through Suffolk County, Long Island Sound Study, and Picnic City Partnership are available for information such as rain gardens and bioswales. The Town should inform private property owners about available grants and programs to implement their own eco-friendly gardens and green infrastructure.
- Work with non-profit and academic research institutions to develop an educational campaign promoting best practices for natural resource conservation. A research-based campaign could include a website, webinars, and other materials to educate property owners, businesses, and developers. It should address stormwater management, encourage the use of native plants, encourage the use of rain gardens, bioswales, and other eco-friendly landscaping practices, and encourage the use of rain gardens, bioswales, and other eco-friendly landscaping practices.

Comments:
 - The Town should consider the creation of a Comprehensive Water Management Plan with identified targets. - The Town should consider the creation of a Comprehensive Water Management Plan with identified targets.

Goal 6-7: Increase the Town's administrative capacity for working on natural resource conservation efforts.

The Town needs more staff with specialized knowledge and skills in environmental and natural resource conservation and the ability to coordinate and enforce environmental policies. Monitoring of open space areas is required to ensure that wetland and water buffer areas, coastal erosion hazard areas, and open space set-aside in cluster subdivisions are not being cleared, developed, or otherwise inappropriately used. The State also requires the Town's role to enforce the provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Regional projects related to natural resource conservation efforts must be coordinated between government agencies, research institutions, conservation organizations, and Town committees.

- Provide the human resources necessary to help implement the goals and recommendations of this chapter. An additional person should be added to the Planning Department to help with the coordination of environmental and natural resource conservation efforts with other units.
- Improve enforcement of environmental regulations in Riverhead. The Town may consider employing an additional Code Enforcement Officer to work on issues in the environmental regulations and provide practical assistance. The Town should review the environmental regulations and provide practical assistance. The Town should review the environmental regulations and provide practical assistance.

Goal 6-8: Protect persons from risk of injury or harm from wildfires and ticks.

Due to human activity and dry weather conditions, the Central Pine Barrens region occasionally experiences wildfires. The Central Pine Barrens Commission has a Wildfire Task Force and a Fire Management Plan, updated in 2022 following a particularly destructive fire in Massville. In addition, the Task Force has worked with local communities such as Calverton to develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP). CWPPs increase community awareness and involvement in wildfire management and open federal funding opportunities.

- Utilize the expertise of the Central Pine Barrens Wildfire Task Force to protect properties, residents, employees, and visitors from wildfires. The Town should work with the Task Force, the State, and committees to determine when to take. The Town should work with the Task Force, the State, and committees to determine when to take.
- Manage and promote awareness about tick-borne illnesses. The Town should manage and promote awareness about tick-borne illnesses. The Town should manage and promote awareness about tick-borne illnesses.

Comments:
 - The Town should consider the creation of a Comprehensive Water Management Plan with identified targets. - The Town should consider the creation of a Comprehensive Water Management Plan with identified targets.



Public Workshop #2 Summary Report

Appendix A: Open House Boards

7. TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

Draft Goals and Recommendations



Goal 7-1: Preserve and enhance historic and scenic corridors while improving traffic flow and safety.

The *Scenic and Historic Resources* chapter of this plan focuses on safeguarding Riverhead's scenic views. Zoning recommendations aim to maintain corridor character through adjustments in allowable density and setbacks. Simultaneously, the plan advocates for roadways that provide accessibility to these views without compromising their unique features or community context. The goal is to protect significant views and scenic viewsheds, ensuring they remain unaffected by transportation changes while enhancing mobility and access for the community.

a. Conduct corridor studies to identify context sensitive short- and long-term improvement strategies.

Identify mobility management strategies. Studies should be conducted to determine the appropriate balance between mobility and preservation of the historic character of the corridors. These studies should be funded by the public's share of the benefits of the corridors and not through unnecessary project-related development.

b. Develop design criteria for designated corridors.

Develop criteria, standards, and a style book for transportation structures, such as the development of other corridors. The design information includes signage, lighting, materials, planting, landscaping, and other elements in a style book for transportation structures, such as the development of other corridors. The design information includes signage, lighting, materials, planting, landscaping, and other elements in a style book for transportation structures, such as the development of other corridors.

Goal 7-2: Support economic growth at EPCAL with well-defined transportation plan.

Due to the cancellation of the Town's contract with Calverton in October 2023, future EPCAL development appears to be in "lock" can be taken at the proposed development, including proactive strategies to ensure potential impacts are addressed.

a. Review and update off-site improvements needed to mitigate EPCAL traffic.

The EPCAL project for the 2024 EPCAL Review and Reevaluation Plan identified substantial off-site road improvements needed to be completed by the end of the 2024 EPCAL period. A similar priority should be undertaken for any new projects undertaken by the Town.

b. Identify parties responsible for mitigation.

The ultimate success of any project depends on the cooperation of the project sponsor, the project sponsor, a plan should be in place that identifies parties responsible for traffic mitigation, including potential funding sources. A similar priority should be undertaken for any new projects undertaken by the Town.

c. Initiate needed roadway improvements by other agencies.

The local traffic mitigation plan identified the need for widening NY 25 from Village Road Parkway in the north to Highway 25 in the south to provide better access to each direction. The local traffic mitigation plan identified the need for widening NY 25 from Village Road Parkway in the north to Highway 25 in the south to provide better access to each direction.

d. Explore expanded use of rail transportation for EPCAL, for both people and freight.

The existing rail corridor through the EPCAL area is a key asset for the project. The local traffic mitigation plan identified the need for widening NY 25 from Village Road Parkway in the north to Highway 25 in the south to provide better access to each direction.

Goal 7-3: Alleviate congestion, elevate safety, and improve mobility on current infrastructure without excessive expansion.

The objective is to optimize the efficiency of existing facilities, ensuring a balanced approach that meets the community's transportation needs without unnecessary expansion.

a. Develop capacity and safety improvements through management strategies.

Planning level capacity analysis conducted during major roadways in the Town indicates that for the most part, existing infrastructure can accommodate capacity to accommodate anticipated growth. The objective is to optimize the efficiency of existing facilities, ensuring a balanced approach that meets the community's transportation needs without unnecessary expansion.

b. Develop/Implement Town-wide access management and complete streets policies.

Access management can increase capacity of existing facilities by limiting the number of vehicles that enter and exit roadways. The objective is to optimize the efficiency of existing facilities, ensuring a balanced approach that meets the community's transportation needs without unnecessary expansion.

c. Utilize roundabouts to increase capacity while reducing crashes.

Roundabouts more efficiently use flow capacity to prevent crashes while reducing peak and off-peak travel times. The objective is to optimize the efficiency of existing facilities, ensuring a balanced approach that meets the community's transportation needs without unnecessary expansion.

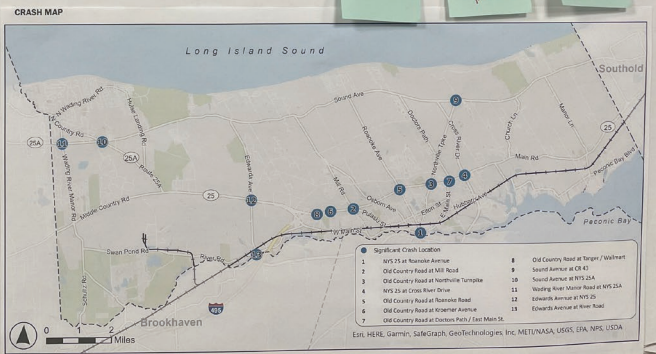
d. Work with Suffolk County Department of Public Works to improve CRG.

The \$8 million improvement to CRG is set by SCDFW, which includes an additional travel lane through the CRG. The objective is to optimize the efficiency of existing facilities, ensuring a balanced approach that meets the community's transportation needs without unnecessary expansion.

e. Evaluate high crash locations and develop mitigation.

Based on a year-over-year analysis of 2023 and 2024, High-Crash Locations in Suffolk County in 2023, along with the total number of crashes, include the following:

- Old Country Road at Old Country Avenue (Roundabout)
- Highway 25
- Old Country Road at Old Country Avenue
- Highway 25
- Old Country Road at Old Country Avenue
- Highway 25
- Old Country Road at Old Country Avenue
- Highway 25
- Old Country Road at Old Country Avenue
- Highway 25



Need to limit traffic volume in CRG area

Need roundabout in CRG area

NEED TRAFFIC SIMULATION

7. TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY

Draft Goals and Recommendations



Goal 7-3: Foster increased use of public transportation.

The goal includes recommendations to enhance accessibility, awareness, and overall adoption of public transportation options within Riverhead. The aim is to create a community environment that fosters the convenience and benefits of utilizing public transit, contributing to a more sustainable and efficient transportation system.

a. Consider circulator buses (travellers) in hamlet centers and between major destinations.

Rather than relying on county or regional public transportation options, local public transportation services can provide a more direct and convenient mode of transit. The objective is to optimize the efficiency of existing facilities, ensuring a balanced approach that meets the community's transportation needs without unnecessary expansion.

b. Install bus turnouts on CRG and other major bus routes.

Increased curb and ease of loading and unloading equipment bus boarding. SCDFW did not include bus facilities when CRG was last improved, nor are there turnouts in most other areas in town.

c. Work with LIRR for increased service.

The LIRR has shown a willingness to increase service in conjunction with efforts by the local government to improve transit. The objective is to optimize the efficiency of existing facilities, ensuring a balanced approach that meets the community's transportation needs without unnecessary expansion.

d. Work with Suffolk County Transit to improve and implement a new bus plan.

Suffolk County Transit (SCT) has recently completed the Riverhead Transit Authority, which is expected to provide a more direct and convenient mode of transit. The objective is to optimize the efficiency of existing facilities, ensuring a balanced approach that meets the community's transportation needs without unnecessary expansion.

Goal 7-4: Promote alternative forms of transportation, emphasizing pedestrians and bicyclists.

The town recognizes the importance of fostering a safe and accessible environment for non-motorized travel, contributing to both the well-being of residents and the overall sustainability of the community. By creating infrastructure, policies, and awareness campaigns that prioritize pedestrian walkability and bicycle-friendly pathways, Riverhead aims to enhance the quality of life for its residents while reducing environmental impact and promoting a healthier lifestyle. This goal aligns with the Town's vision for a more inclusive, sustainable, and vibrant community.

a. Develop a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP).

A Pedestrian Safety Action Plan identifies areas in need of pedestrian safety improvements, develops policies, and identifies responsible parties. The objective is to optimize the efficiency of existing facilities, ensuring a balanced approach that meets the community's transportation needs without unnecessary expansion.

b. Conduct walkability audits in hamlet centers.

Walkability audits identify gaps in infrastructure, such as pedestrian crossings, sidewalks, and lighting. The objective is to optimize the efficiency of existing facilities, ensuring a balanced approach that meets the community's transportation needs without unnecessary expansion.

c. Review / Update site plan requirements for pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

Establish or update standards for pedestrian and bicycle facilities in all new developments. The objective is to optimize the efficiency of existing facilities, ensuring a balanced approach that meets the community's transportation needs without unnecessary expansion.

d. Coordinate and implement bike route / bike lane improvements.

A project to improve bike routes on NY 25 from Old Country Road to the Hamlet. The objective is to optimize the efficiency of existing facilities, ensuring a balanced approach that meets the community's transportation needs without unnecessary expansion.

e. Develop shared-use paths on town roads.

Roadways within the Town which have been identified as high-traffic corridors. The objective is to optimize the efficiency of existing facilities, ensuring a balanced approach that meets the community's transportation needs without unnecessary expansion.

f. Review / Update Town roadway standards for compatibility with bicycle use.

On newly constructed or reconstructed town roads, construction standards should be updated to include bike lanes, bike-friendly drainage basins, and other features to encourage bicycle use. The objective is to optimize the efficiency of existing facilities, ensuring a balanced approach that meets the community's transportation needs without unnecessary expansion.

g. Review Town-owned facilities for bicycle and pedestrian access.

The Town's bicycle racks and other facilities should be reviewed. The objective is to optimize the efficiency of existing facilities, ensuring a balanced approach that meets the community's transportation needs without unnecessary expansion.

Goal 7-5: Coordinate transportation improvements with adjacent towns and other agencies.

Recognizing the interconnected nature of regional transportation networks, the objective is to coordinate efforts to enhance infrastructure, optimize traffic flow, and address shared challenges. By working in tandem with neighboring municipalities and relevant agencies, Riverhead aims to create a more seamless and integrated transportation system that benefits the broader community, improves connectivity, and ensures a cohesive approach to addressing regional transportation needs.

a. The recommendations of this plan will require input and support from various entities that have jurisdiction over roads or operate public transportation in Riverhead.

The Town should work closely with Suffolk County and NYSDOT as many regional roads are within their jurisdiction. The Town should also work with neighboring municipalities and relevant agencies to coordinate efforts to enhance infrastructure, optimize traffic flow, and address shared challenges.

b. Coordinate with LIRR for increased service.

The LIRR has shown a willingness to increase service in conjunction with efforts by the local government to improve transit. The objective is to optimize the efficiency of existing facilities, ensuring a balanced approach that meets the community's transportation needs without unnecessary expansion.

c. Coordinate with Suffolk County Transit to improve and implement a new bus plan.

Suffolk County Transit (SCT) has recently completed the Riverhead Transit Authority, which is expected to provide a more direct and convenient mode of transit. The objective is to optimize the efficiency of existing facilities, ensuring a balanced approach that meets the community's transportation needs without unnecessary expansion.

Comments:

Consider Free buses locally

consider a team of minibus connecting town of Hamlet to Aqueduct to Southold

historic Society

take down side of buses - have actual bus stop signs

Comments: LIRR/CRG/PSAP PLAN CAN BE REFERRED TO RPS.

Support shared-use paths on town roads

Review Town-owned facilities for bicycle and pedestrian access

Review Town roadway standards for compatibility with bicycle use

Coordinate and implement bike route / bike lane improvements

Conduct walkability audits in hamlet centers

Develop a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan (PSAP)

Consider circulator buses (travellers) in hamlet centers and between major destinations

Install bus turnouts on CRG and other major bus routes

Work with LIRR for increased service

Work with Suffolk County Transit to improve and implement a new bus plan

Foster increased use of public transportation

Promote alternative forms of transportation, emphasizing pedestrians and bicyclists

Coordinate transportation improvements with adjacent towns and other agencies

Foster increased use of public transportation

Promote alternative forms of transportation, emphasizing pedestrians and bicyclists

Coordinate transportation improvements with adjacent towns and other agencies

Comments:

Increase time of transit on Riverhead in high season

Consider a team of minibus connecting town of Hamlet to Aqueduct to Southold

historic Society

take down side of buses - have actual bus stop signs

8. OPEN SPACE, PARKS, AND RECREATION

Draft Goals and Recommendations



Goal 8-1: Expand recreational opportunities to address additional community interests and needs.

There is a strong commitment to creating new park and open space opportunities, even though CPF bonds won't be fully paid off until 2020. Riverhead's Department of Parks and Recreation, along with the Recreation Advisory Committee, has diligently worked to improve recreational offerings and facilities, addressing resident-identified priorities. The Town manages non-resident beach access to mitigate crowding and cleanliness issues, and the Beach Advisory Committee actively works on improving beach etiquette and facilities. Residents have identified various priority projects for the upcoming years, such as enhancing parking facilities, upgrading playgrounds, augmenting lighting, resurfacing courts and playing fields, and adding recreational facilities such as a gym and an indoor pool. The downtown area is also evolving with new public spaces, streetscape improvements, and amenities, reflecting ongoing efforts for community enhancement.

- a. Continue planning for new parks, prioritizing environmentally sensitive and/or underserved areas.
The Town should continue collaborating with its committees, State and County officials, and nonprofits to prioritize parks for acquisition and protection or park and recreation development.
- b. Implement the vision for the Town Square and other public spaces in Downtown Riverhead.
Transformative projects planned in the downtown received NYS DMJ funding, including the new Town Square, an adaptable play and picnic area, and the East End Arts Amphitheater.
- c. Pursue opportunities to repurpose the armory for community use.
The YMCA is considering occupying the former state armory on Route 58, which has served Riverhead as a community recreation facility in the past.
- d. Expand recreational programming.
Additional programming could address other interests, such as more passive recreational programming, such as nature walks and birding. With a growing Hispanic community, Riverhead should aim to create programming for Spanish speakers. The Town could coordinate recreational efforts with the YMCA, School District, Senior Citizens Department, and others.

Goal 8-2: Activate the Peconic Riverfront and other navigable waterways with recreation opportunities and good stewardship.

Currently, programming along the Peconic Riverfront in Riverhead is primarily for active uses such as boating. The Recreation Department and partners should explore opportunities for passive activities such as hiking and birding. Boating is also a popular activity in the Long Island Sound and Peconic Bay. There are several identified issues with boat access, such as the need for adequate parking areas near boat launches, to the lack of depth in the Peconic River and other water bodies to enable boating.

- a. Provide safe public access to the Peconic Riverfront.
This could include new pathways or trails along the riverbank, improved access points, designated launch sites for non-motorized watercraft, regular clean-up efforts, and educational programs on river conservation. The Town should work closely with DEC to regularly clear overgrown riparian riparian spaces.
- b. Provide signage to make attractions along the riverfront more visible and accessible.
Effective signage is crucial in guiding individuals to the many attractions and points of interest along the riverfront, ensuring visitors can find their way to key attractions, parks, trails, and recreational facilities.
- c. 2-3. Develop a plan for Moorings.
The Town should create formal requirements for moorings in Town waters to ensure safety, establish locations, and provide revenues for the Town. Any discussion about the siting of moorings or other water infrastructure should include input from the aquaculture industry.

Goal 8-3: Encourage open space preservation and public access opportunities in new development.

This goal provides several recommendations to strengthen Town code to better leverage new development to provide open space. The Town currently mandates open space provision for subdivisions, allowing flexibility through options like in-lieu payments into a parks fund when proposed preserved lands are unsuitable for public use. In waterfront areas, some subdivisions extend properties up to the water, restricting access for the public and neighboring properties. Adhering to New York State's Public Trust Doctrine, the public has the right to use the water surrounding Riverhead. Open space preservation should also consider opportunities for off-street pedestrian and bike corridors. The success of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Recreation Trail at Calverton Enterprise Park has spurred residents' desire for an expanded bicycle network with on- and off-street paths, interconnected to regional networks. Considering opportunities like power line corridors and the Peconic River, the Town aims to enhance connectivity and accessibility for a more robust network.

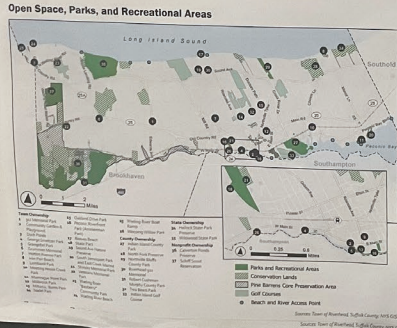
- a. Conduct a comprehensive review of subdivision and cluster regulations to strengthen open space requirements.
Open space requirements can be tailored to address the need to preserve natural features (wetlands, woodlands, etc.), and the promote interconnected open spaces such as wildlife corridors.
- b. Encourage cluster development on waterfront sites in RA40 and RB40 zones.
Whereas cluster development is mandatory in AD, RA40, and RB40, the planning board should be allowed to require a cluster development alternative in RA40 and RB40 to protect unique natural features and open space.
- c. Require public easements as part of subdivision approval wherever possible to ensure public access and connectivity between open spaces, the waterfront, and greenways.
Public easements could be required as trails, greenways, waterfront access, and other open spaces to allow the public unimpeded enjoyment of open spaces. Public access to the beach and the waterfront should be maintained to the greatest extent by requiring developers to maintain public water access and ensure that public right-of-ways are kept clear.
- d. Continue to employ conservation easement provisions to allow tax abatement for property owners.
To preserve priority natural and scenic resources, this provision allows landowners to place a conservation easement on their properties in exchange for a reduction in tax valuation.

Comments:

More open space - is there an industry 2 are parks prioritized for preservation? Yes, where is this info?

Are we talking more protected parks?

Need to Add a Pool Next to the Hickey Rink along with the Senior Center, Josephine Milowski 631.058.8602



Comments:

Encourage more recreational facilities in SPECIAL public spaces - nature paths, etc.

More playgrounds / splash pads / lighting / use unused land for more parks - ensure child friendly since kids safe for all

The town needs to take more responsibility about the increase of litter in our community, NY individuals clean

More garbage cans - on pick up route

POLICE supervision and/or enforcement road attention signage and lighting

Comments:

Check Town Board Park I thought it was town



Public Workshop #2 Summary Report

Appendix A: Open House Boards

9. COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Draft Goals and Recommendations



Goal 9-1: Ensure public services have sufficient facilities and resources.

In 2023, Riverhead moved its Town Hall to a downtown location on Second Street. This structure now not only provides the town with a modern administrative hub but also provides opportunities for other departments to expand their spatial capacities and assess their current resource requirements. Leveraging this relocation as a catalyst, the Town can conduct a thorough evaluation of the spatial and resource needs of diverse public services, aligning them with the evolving demands of the community. The goal is to ensure that public services not only meet the present demands but also remain adaptable to the dynamic needs of the community in the future.

- a. Expand and renovate the Police Station and resources to meet the needs of a modern and growing police force.
- b. Identify a long-term strategy for Riverhead Volunteer Ambulance Corps facilities.
- c. Ensure that FPCA has adequate police, firefighting, and ambulance services and explore methods to finance the construction of substations.
- d. Support the expansion or new construction of firehouses to accommodate new and larger firefighting equipment.

Community Facilities and Fire Districts



Goal 9-2: Enhance Responsiveness and Service Quality of Emergency Services.

In the face of modern technological advancements, urban development, and population growth, the comprehensive plan aims to fortify the responsiveness and service excellence of Police, Fire, and Ambulance Services. The intersection of innovation and challenges poses unique considerations for emergency responders, such as addressing fire safety concerns associated with battery storage, mitigating delays caused by traffic congestion, and recognizing potential lapses in services due to inadequate funding and human resources.

- a. Plan for specialized training and equipment for firefighting at Battery Storage Facilities.
- b. Ensure that water supply and pressure are sufficient throughout the Town for firefighting.
- c. Implement a pre-emptive signal program to allow Police, Fire, and Ambulance vehicles to respond quickly to emergencies.
- d. Supplement funding mechanisms for ambulance services.
- e. Ensure that the Fire Departments and RTVAC have adequate human resources.

Comments:

Expand library

Expand children's center at library

Expand at library

Expand at library

Expand at library

Expand at library

Expand at library

Goal 9-3: Strengthen Community Well-being through Enhanced Programming and Facilities for All Ages.

Recognizing the unique demographic challenges and evolving community needs, the comprehensive plan aims to elevate programming and facilities catering to senior citizens, youth, and the broader Riverhead community. As Riverhead's population ages at a faster pace than the County, the focus is on enhancing services provided by the Senior Citizen Department, addressing transportation concerns, and expanding the offerings at the Senior Center. Beyond the senior demographic, the plan also recognizes the growing and diverse population's needs for increased recreational programming, expanded youth services, and upgraded library facilities. By addressing these multi-faceted needs and modernizing facilities, the goal is to create a community hub that fosters inclusivity, engagement, and improved well-being for residents of all ages in Riverhead.

- a. Expand the variety of social activities, programs, meals, and support services through the Riverhead Senior Citizen Department.
- b. Establish a second senior center on the west side of Town.
- c. Help the Peconic YMCA identify a suitable site in Riverhead and advocate for needed amenities.
- d. Explore the feasibility of establishing a Riverhead youth center.
- e. Work with the Riverhead Free Library and Baiting Free Library to expand and establish branches or outposts.

Comments:

Enhance related funding for library as center for all ages

Examined what Senior Center will be doing in the future

Expand children's center at library

Expand at library

Expand at library

Expand at library

9. COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Draft Goals and Recommendations



Goal 9-4: Support expansion of school district facilities to accommodate growing demand

Riverhead Central School District has experienced a consistent increase in enrollment over the past two decades, enrollment has steadily increased over the past 20 years. Despite this growth, critical aspects like classroom space have not been expanded to meet the rising demands. The closure of Mary School in 2022 may have contributed to the surge in enrollment at the Middle and High School levels. With anticipated population growth and new developments in both Riverhead and the Southampton area of the school district, future enrollment is likely to rise further. A proactive approach to identify new facilities is essential to accommodate the evolving needs of the community, ensuring that the school district can effectively respond to increased enrollment and provide an optimal learning environment for students in Riverhead.

- a. Work with the school districts to identify appropriate sites for new schools and expansions.
- b. Ensure that expansion is equitable and consistent with the demand for LSI, Special Needs, and low-income students.

Comments:

The Riverhead Central School District plan to accommodate larger class sizes by expanding existing schools or developing new facilities. The plan also identifies areas for additional expansion, such as the expansion of the Riverhead Middle School and the expansion of the Riverhead High School. The plan also identifies areas for additional expansion, such as the expansion of the Riverhead Middle School and the expansion of the Riverhead High School.

Goal 9-5: Increase childcare options and promote affordable childcare.

Access to affordable childcare continues to be an issue in Riverhead. All efforts should be made to streamline the opening of childcare facilities and ensure they operate safely. The Town's zoning ordinance currently allows daycare facilities by special permit in most residential and commercial zones. Childcare facilities require licensing by the State.

- a. Allow small daycare centers (six children or less) in single-family detached homes as a home occupation.
- b. Allow daycare centers in places of worship as an accessory use.

Comments:

Streamline the opening of childcare facilities and ensure they operate safely. The Town's zoning ordinance currently allows daycare facilities by special permit in most residential and commercial zones. Childcare facilities require licensing by the State.

Goal 9-6: Goal 6. Strengthen the Town's capacity to address diverse community health and human service needs.

This entails developing targeted strategies to connect with and support vulnerable groups, such as seasonal workers, immigrants, and those facing barriers to health and human services. These groups face a variety of challenges, including limited access to health insurance and adequate medical care, while also addressing the unique needs of those recovering from addiction in the high concentration of sober homes. Recognizing transportation limitations, collaborative efforts are underway, including initiatives like Peconic Bay Medical Center's health services shuttle. The plan advocates for a holistic response, encompassing the establishment of critical facilities like a detoxification clinic and addiction recovery agency. Moreover, it aims to enhance awareness and accessibility to essential programs offered by the Suffolk County Department of Social Services, spanning family and child services, financial assistance, employment support, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and temporary housing assistance, among others.

- a. Work with Suffolk County to understand what role the Town can play in addressing community health and human service needs.
- b. Collaborate with Peconic Bay Medical Center to Enhance Community Health and Service Delivery.

Comments:

Streamline the opening of childcare facilities and ensure they operate safely. The Town's zoning ordinance currently allows daycare facilities by special permit in most residential and commercial zones. Childcare facilities require licensing by the State.

10. SCENIC AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

Draft Goals and Recommendations



Goal 10-1: Protect scenic resources and views.

A fundamental goal of this comprehensive plan is to proactively protect and enhance Riverhead's scenic resources and views. Advancement of this goal requires the implementation of thoughtful land-use policies, promoting responsible development practices, and collaborating with stakeholders. Integrating protective measures into development regulations will help to strike a balance between growth and preservation, fostering a resilient and visually appealing environment for all residents and visitors alike.

a. Undertake a study to identify locations throughout Riverhead with scenic resources and significant views.

This could include the documentation of scenic viewsheds along with recommended mechanisms for maintaining them.

b. Continue to recognize the importance of scenic qualities throughout the Town Code and in site plan review.

This could include strengthened zoning regulations, design guidelines to protect views, or other provisions in the Landmarks Preservation Law. Most zoning use districts, cluster development, and subdivision regulations identify the importance of scenic qualities.

c. Coordinate scenic preservation initiatives with other community enhancement programs

Other recommendations throughout the Comprehensive Plan (i.e. open space acquisition, natural resource conservation, park and recreation development, farmland preservation, and business district improvement efforts) are intended to help preserve open space areas and natural features of the landscape.

d. Continue to enforce exterior lighting code violations.

Continue code enforcement efforts and be vigilant in reviewing exterior lighting on future development applications.

e. Nominate Sound Avenue to the National and/or New York State Scenic Byway Program

The Federal Highway Administration and the NYS Department of Transportation both have scenic byway programs that provide grant funding for designated byways and require the development of a Corridor Management Plan. As part of this project, the Town should consider designating historic landmarks or districts along the corridor.

f. Protect the visual quality of scenic corridors and improve the scenery along other roads.

The Town should develop and adopt roadway design criteria for rural corridors, as recommended in Chapter 3 Transportation.

Goal 10-2: Continue to identify, document, and promote public awareness of town's historic resources.

The Town must actively engage in ongoing efforts to identify and document the diverse array of historic sites, structures, and cultural assets that contribute to the tapestry of its history. This effort requires collaboration with local historical societies, preservation organizations, and community stakeholders. Targeted educational initiatives, public outreach, and the integration of interpretive signage will help to raise awareness and ensure Riverhead's rich history remains a celebrated aspect of our community's identity for generations to come.

a. Update the comprehensive survey of historic resources in Riverhead.

An updated survey would supplement the list of officially designated town landmarks maintained by the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

b. Develop an integrated public signage program for historic resources

Signs should be located along Sound Avenue, at historic structures and archaeological sites, and within historic districts. These signs will allow residents and visitors to recognize, understand, and better appreciate the various points of interest throughout the Town.

c. Provide educational materials and technical assistance to historic and designated landmark property owners

These resources will help property owners to access funding, tax incentives, and educational materials to maintain their property correctly.

d. Designate additional historic districts.

The LPC proposed an extensive National Register Historic District extending along Main Road in Aqueduct, Jamesport, and Lanesville. Additional districts to consider nominating to the National Register include South Avenue, Polish Town, South Jamesport, and Jamesport Campgrounds.

e. Pursue local, state, and national designation of individual landmarks.

There is interest in designating resources related to the town's Black history and resources on the Main Road corridor and in Hamlet areas.

Goal 10-3: Ensure that design of new development is compatible with its surroundings and scenic and historic resources.

This comprehensive plan underscores the commitment to fostering a built environment that is not only functional and sustainable but also harmonious with the natural and cultural landscapes of Riverhead. By encouraging thoughtful site planning, architectural diversity, and the use of sustainable design practices, we can ensure new development enhances, rather than detracts from, the distinctive charm of Riverhead. This could include hamlet specific design guidelines that prioritize compatibility with respect to scale, architectural heritage, and scenic vistas of the surrounding areas. These guidelines would require a collaborative approach, involving residents, stakeholders, design professionals, and town officials.

a. Adopt the Downtown Pattern Book into the zoning code.

This document is a valuable tool, providing clear guidance for developers, architects, and the community on how to design buildings that preserve and enhance the unique character of the downtown district.

b. Develop design standards for historic hamlet center areas to ensure any development is compatible with the area's scenic and historic characteristics.

Chapter 4 Land Use and Zoning proposes pattern books for Jamesport, Aqueduct, Polish Town, and other areas which would identify design guidelines for new development.

c. Improve coordination between the LPC and ARB review process.

To ensure that the ARB can make informed decisions, expertise of Town departments should be consulted as appropriate. The ARB may request that a developer provide elevations showing adjacent structures and properties for context.

Goal 10-4: Protect historic resources from destruction or neglect, and encourage the restoration and adaptive reuse of historic structures.

Our community is committed to the preservation and sustainable use of our historic resources and protecting these irreplaceable assets from destruction or neglect. By implementing robust preservation policies and regulations, we aim to safeguard historic structures, ensuring they remain integral to the cultural fabric of Riverhead. Adaptive reuse is another key strategy, as it preserves the architectural integrity of these structures but also contributes to economic revitalization. Incentive programs, streamlined approval processes, and collaboration with developers will be explored to foster the responsible and innovative reupping of historic properties, striking a harmonious balance between preservation and progress.

a. Establish an official watch list of buildings that have potential for landmark preservation but have not been designated.

Alteration, construction, and demolition permit applications for watch list resources should be referred to the LPC for their recommendation.

b. Prevent demolition of historic structures.

Consider requiring referral of demolition permit applications to the LPC to review for potential historic significance, particularly for structures over 25 years old and buildings on the official LPC watch list. Demolition review should also be coordinated with the SHPO.

c. Provide flexibility to historic property owners who seek variances for the purpose of protecting the historic character of the property.

Consider a streamlined and use review to encourage the adaptive reuse of eligible buildings. Area variances (i.e. for parking, lot, and setbacks) for historic and cultural landmarks and structures within historic districts should be given some flexibility when the variance is necessary to maintain the historic or cultural aspects of the property.

d. Ensure enforcement of the Landmarks and Historic Districts Chapter of the Town Code is undertaken.

Continue to monitor the effectiveness of landmarks and historic districts code enforcement and make adjustments as appropriate.

e. Promote and facilitate adaptive reuse of historically and architecturally significant buildings.

The LPC could develop a list of eligible buildings and can help property owners find compatible uses and resources to appropriately retrofit the building for its new purpose.

f. Consider Pursuing Certified Local Government (CLG) status

CLG status gives increased access to Federal survey and planning funds. To be eligible, Riverhead may need to meet the Landmarks Preservation Law to ensure it complies with the State's current model code.

g. Educate property owners on financial incentives for historic preservation.

Incentives for property owners to rehabilitate historic properties include Riverhead's tax abatement program, state and federal rehabilitation tax credits, historic preservation easements that may provide tax benefits, and other preservation grants.

h. Identify, promote, and apply for preservation grants and funding opportunities.

Explore opportunities from other groups such as the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation League of New York, New York State Council for the Arts, and NYS Community Preservation Fund legislation.

Comments:

Library expansion?
Drafts are not Actions

Order Sound Ave. Planning Review Board Historic Corridor Designation

State is National Scenic Byway program, too much effort and too little return - need more teeth

Check cultural resource inventory for Sound Avenue wrong in 1970s
- 500ft setback on Sound Ave is only sort of setback - should be pattern book for Sound Ave - strengthen code definitions

Check a model of the character of the Riverhead area. A developer making a decision based on the model of the general surrounding area.

Look at the place - can some times positive facade make the building interesting

11. INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES

Draft Goals and Recommendations



Goal 11-1: Continue to meet emerging solid waste management challenges as disposal opportunities evolve

This goal underscores Riverhead's commitment to proactively tackle contemporary challenges in solid waste management while adapting to the evolving landscape of disposal opportunities. The town recognizes the importance of staying ahead of emerging issues such as the closure of the Brookhaven Landfill, to ensure sustainable and efficient waste management practices. Ongoing evaluation and strategic planning is needed to maintain a resilient waste management system and foster innovative solutions that align with the evolving needs of the town. Emerging sustainable waste management processes and technologies are discussed in more detail in Sustainability and Resilience Chapter.

a. Continue to work toward the NYS DEC goal of 40% reduction in solid waste by 2030, and 60% BY 20240.

While the Town of Riverhead currently generates higher amounts of residential waste than average communities on a per capita basis, the town has achieved a substantial reduction from between 2009 and 2015. The Town can continue to reduce the amount of solid waste generated by encouraging recycling, expanding food scraps and composting programs, and encouraging home composting through education and distribution of composting bins.

b. Work with regional communities to identify alternative transportation methods to dispose of ash in anticipation of the closure of the Brookhaven landfill.

The Town's SSMAP includes investigation of alternative transportation methods to dispose of ash in anticipation of the closure of Brookhaven landfill when it reaches capacity.

Goal 11-2: Continue to Protect Groundwater through modern wastewater treatment strategies

Recognizing the vital role that groundwater plays in the town's water supply, environmental health, and overall community well-being, the objective is to implement advanced wastewater treatment methods. By staying abreast of innovative technologies and sustainable practices, Riverhead aims to minimize the environmental impact of wastewater discharge, ensuring the continued protection of the town's groundwater resources for current and future generations.

a. Improve the efficiency of the existing Town Sewer Systems and ensure the ability to address future demand.

Calverton and Riverhead are served by a public sewer system. As Riverhead grows, developers are connecting to the system and the Town may decide to extend sewer lines. The Town should monitor the capacity of the wastewater treatment facility and plan for expansions before capacity is met.

b. Continue to invest human resources to better manage wastewater systems.

Riverhead needs to attract and retain qualified Wastewater Treatment Operators (WTO) through competitive salaries and other benefits. At present, an anticipated shortage in human resources could have an impact on operations.

c. Upgrade the pump stations in the Riverhead Sewer District.

The Town should ensure that it includes sequential upgrades to the 13 pump stations in Riverhead Sewer District in the annual budget. A capital improvements plan should identify priorities and costs.

d. Support the use of Innovative Alternative (IA) Wastewater Treatment options in areas where sewerage is not feasible or appropriate.

There are several programs which help homeowners finance transitions to Innovative and Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (IA OWS) or IAS. The Town should inform and encourage property owners about these practices. When CIP funds become available, the Town may also consider establishing its own grant program to supplement other programs.

Goal 11-3: Improve the efficiency of the existing Town Water Supply System, and ensure its ability to expand to address future demand

This goal focuses on optimizing the performance of Riverhead's existing water supply infrastructure while ensuring its adaptability to meet future demands. The first priority is to enhance the efficiency of the current system through strategic improvements and upgrades. Simultaneously, proactive planning is needed to accommodate the town's evolving water requirements, ensuring a resilient and scalable water supply system that can effectively serve the needs of the community now and in the future.

a. Complete the expansion of public water service to homes in Calverton and Manonville.

In areas that do not have public water service, properties rely on wells. Wells have been contaminated by the presence of PFOA/PFOS. To expand public water service to homes with contaminated wells, the Town should pursue Federal funding, and coordinate the effort with those of the Suffolk County Water Authority (SCWA).

b. Improve the infrastructure and efficiency of the public water system.

The Town should use the 20 million dollars in the Water District's Capital Improvement Plan to meet DEC regulations and replace antiquated components of the system. In addition, the Town should implement the "SCWA's" Regulatory Control and Data Acquisition system, like that used by the Suffolk County Water Authority, which includes remote monitoring of conditions in the district.

c. Discourage unsustainable use of water resources.

One of the greatest uses of public water in Riverhead is the irrigation of private residential lawns during summer months. The Town should regulate the use of water during summer months to reduce strain on the system. The Town should also educate property owners about the unsustainable practice and encourage the use of summer watering and the planting of native species.

d. Ensure that the water system and resources can provide the quantity and quality of water needs in the future.

Long Island's sole source aquifer provides fresh water to the region. Pollution of groundwater can impact properties that are on wells and also endanger the public water supply. Alternative water supply options such as trucking water and desalination are costly and unsustainable.

e. Clarify Town code with respect to water access.

Developers should be given a clear understanding of what costs for water access will be, before projects progress beyond conceptual stages.

f. Establish procedures and guidelines for working with regional partners including Riverhead Water District, Calverton Sewer District, and Riverhead Sewer District.

Establishing procedures and guidelines for working with regional partners will help to protect and justify Town and special district assets, notably in aquifer, critical environmental areas, water supply, and infrastructure and mitigate negative impacts to residents and rate payers within those special districts. An example of such project and need for evaluation and consideration of intermunicipal cooperation is SCWA project to install a new water main within the Town of Riverhead to supply the North Fork.

Goal 11-4: Coordinate with utilities to optimize reliability and accessibility of essential services.

This goal emphasizes the importance of strategic coordination with electric, natural gas, cellular telephone/Wi-Fi, cable TV, and internet service providers. This coordination ensures seamless connectivity, enhances infrastructure resilience, and promotes the integration of emerging technologies.

a. Improve coordination with private companies that provide electricity, natural gas, and other services.

Private companies provide Electric Service, Natural Gas Service, Cellular Telephone/Wi-Fi, Cable TV, and internet services to Town residents and businesses. While it is the best interest for residents to have more options and more reliable systems, utility companies have been non-responsive to requests for information about their short- and long-range improvement plans.

b. Investigate engaging an additional internet service provider, to help address a significant need to provide improved internet service.

Broadband and digital access is becoming a more critical issue for the public because of increased work from home models, greater reliance on the internet for information, and online schooling during extreme weather or other events (e.g., COVID-19). The Town should continue to monitor such services on a regular basis and meet with internet service providers (ISPs) annually, with the goal of encouraging competition which will help to lower prices and improve service.

Goal 11-5: Address localized highway flooding issues.

This goal reflects the town's commitment to ensuring safe and reliable transportation networks, minimizing disruptions, and safeguarding the well-being of residents and businesses affected by localized highway flooding. By adopting proactive measures, such as improved drainage systems, infrastructure upgrades, and responsive maintenance, Riverhead aims to enhance resilience against flooding events.

a. Investigate chronic flooding locations, design, and install drainage infrastructure as appropriate.

Based on observations and discussions with the Town's Highway Department, a continual maintenance issue is farm field runoff during heavy rain events. A number of chronic flooding locations have been identified. Leaching basins can be deployed in isolated locations with or without measures to reduce sedimentation, petroleum-based contamination from automobiles, and other impacts. The Town should consider connected systems, with or without recharge basins for larger areas.

b. Establish a structured framework for incorporating Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address stormwater run-off.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are a set of available methods to reduce the volume and nutrient content in stormwater run-off. Certain BMPs are more appropriate for different soil types or contexts. One approach that is generally applicable is to plant field buffers such as trees, shrubs, and grasses to help absorb run-off and filter out nutrients before they reach a water body.

Comments:

The impact of the plan total built out on groundwater resources will be studied using computer modeling in order to identify possible negative impacts on groundwater levels, stream flow and surface interaction.

Development of SPAL (stormwater) treatment systems or new systems (reusable) need to be evaluated in combination with the impact of recommended for the rest of the town.

Comments:

MANY OF THE CURRENT STORM DRAINAGES FLOW DIRECTLY TO THE RIVER CARRYING ALL KINDS OF GARBAGE/POLLUTION TO THE BEACH!

WE NEED A PDED SUBSTATION AT SPICAL!

participates
surface
depend
desirable

highly
notifiable

Public Workshop #2 Summary Report

Appendix A: Open House Boards

12. SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE

Draft Goals and Recommendations



Goal 12-1: Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and proactively adapt to climate change.

The Town of Riverhead is already encountering significant climate change effects, which are projected to increase. Anticipated impacts include increased temperatures with more spikes and an increase in extreme weather events. In Long Island, climate change impacts will also include humidity, droughts, wildfires, flash flooding, heat, tomatoes, and degraded water and air quality. The severity of climate change impacts depends on society's ability to reduce GHG emissions. New York State has set targets to limit greenhouse gas emissions to 60% of 1990 levels by 2030 and 50% of 1990 levels by 2050.

- a. Achieve Climate Smart Communities (CSC) certification and continue to act on the CSC Pledge Elements (PEs).
- b. Establish a Climate Action Plan and partner with neighboring communities on a regional plan.

Comments:

Reduce GHG emissions by 50% by 2050

Goal 12-2: Embrace renewable energy sources to achieve the State's targets of 70% renewable sources by 2030 and 100% zero-emission electricity by 2040.

New York State has set ambitious targets in its Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). The state has also mandated a significant increase in the state's electricity that must come from renewable sources as part of Reforming the Energy Vision (REV), with a requirement of 50 percent zero-emission electricity by 2040. In Riverhead, these programs have helped to bring four solar farms. Battery Energy Storage Systems is another technology which can help to integrate renewable energy while enhancing grid stability. While these projects offer numerous environmental benefits, their implementation can sometimes be met with local apprehensions. Addressing these concerns involves transparent communication, community engagement, and a proactive approach by local authorities and property owners.

- a. Ensure that renewable energy programs are equitable and promote climate justice.
- b. Become a regional and/or state leader by taking more actions in NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities program.
- c. Transition Riverhead utilities to clean energy sources.

Equitable and affordable energy communities (ECs) that promote active labor market conditions can take on a new spirit. The program makes grants available for member communities.

NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities (CECs) program allows local communities to take on a new spirit. The program makes grants available for member communities.

CECs are a new type of energy community that focuses on providing clean energy to those who need it most. They are designed to be equitable and affordable, and they are designed to be resilient. They are designed to be resilient.

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Goal 12-3: Promote sustainable building practices, landscaping, and design.

Buildings are the number one emitter of greenhouse gases through energy use, heating and cooling, and construction. Riverhead is a growing community with more opportunities for development in the future. The community would like to see buildings built today last into the future and reduce environmental impacts through sustainable construction and building practices.

- a. Strengthen the Town's Building Code with green building standards and improved energy requirements.
- b. Encourage nature-based solutions, eco-friendly landscaping, and green infrastructure.
- c. Reduce energy and water demand in publicly owned properties and facilities.
- d. Cooperate with regional institutions and non-profits on sustainable practices.
- e. Educate the public about sustainable practices and incentives for sustainability initiatives on private properties such as solar panels, electric vehicles, and green infrastructure.

Comments:

Follow strengthening codes of enforcement

Circular economy from local sources

Goal 12-4: Promote sustainable transportation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Automobiles are one of the leading emitters of greenhouse gases. That Climate Act sets targets to reduce the Town's greenhouse gas emissions. The Town has been promoting the adoption of electric vehicles (EV) by installing EV charging stations in public parking lots and offering incentives for EV purchases. Riverhead is also working with NTA on a First Mile, Last Mile Pilot Study which aims to encourage travelers to use alternative modes other than single use automobiles to access the station.

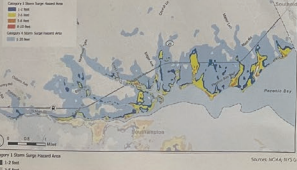
- a. Promote alternative transportation.
- b. Promote infrastructure for Electric Vehicle (EV).
- c. Adopt a green fleet plan for Town-owned vehicles and equipment.

Goal 12-5: Promote a Green Economy and Green finance, technology, and jobs.

Riverhead should invest in training and skill development for green jobs. This can be achieved through strategic partnerships with educational institutions, businesses, and workforce development programs. This initiative not only addresses the pressing need for skilled professionals in renewable energy, environmental conservation, and sustainable practices but also bolsters our local economy by fostering job growth in emerging green industries.

- a. Promote EPCL and industrial sites to green technology and finance companies.

Storm Surge Hazard (Peconic Bay Zoon)



Goal 12-6: Reduce waste and promote circular economy waste management practices

With the closure of the Brookhaven landfill and the environmental impacts of waste, Riverhead needs to explore innovative solutions for waste management. Solid waste disposal has impacts ranging from pollution to emissions to exhaustion of resources. For example, plastics break down slowly and release PFAS into the environment, organic waste trapped in landfills can release methane gas into the atmosphere, trucking waste to faraway landfills or processing facilities is costly and contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, and recycling often uses excessive water and energy.

- a. Implement recommendation of Riverhead's Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) for more sustainable practices.
- b. Reduce the use of single use plastics and other wasteful practices.
- c. Continue to provide a recycling program and promote recycling.
- d. Implement and expand a Town-wide composting program.
- e. Explore alternative means of waste disposal that generate renewable energy and useful byproducts.
- f. Promote the reuse of rainwater for irrigation and other purposes.
- g. Explore innovative methods to repurpose graywater.

Comments:

How do we reduce, reuse, and recycle?

How do we reduce, reuse, and recycle?

Goal 12-7: Mitigate the effects of flooding, sea level rise, and storm surge.

Floodplain maps indicate many areas along the Peconic River, including Downtown Riverhead, are in flood-risk areas. Flooding and erosion from storm events is of great concern along the Long Island Sound, particularly near the bluff. With anticipated sea level rise and increase storm intensity and frequency, responses to flooding and coastal erosion will only become more pressing. Residents have experienced roadway flooding during heavy rain. Some of the roads identified include Sound Ave, Mill Road, Fresh Pond Avenue at Route 29, and Creek Road in Wading River. This issue is especially problematic as the water when freezing causes safety hazards.

- a. Continue to implement infrastructure improvements to mitigate future flood impacts.
- b. Mitigate flood impacts and coastal erosion in flood prone areas on the Long Island Sound, Peconic River, and inland, through nature-based solutions.
- c. Develop a resilience plan to assess vulnerability by location and identify context-specific solutions.

Goal 12-8: Ensure the safety of Riverhead residents, employees, and visitors in the event of an emergency and strengthen the Town's emergency preparedness.

One of the key climate change issues facing the town is the increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, tropical storms, and heavy rainfall events. These events can cause flooding, damage to infrastructure, and disruptions to businesses and residents. Riverhead has experienced several significant storms in recent years, including Superstorm Sandy in 2013, which caused widespread damage and flooding throughout the town. In response to these events, the town has been developing emergency response plans and investing in infrastructure improvements to increase its resilience to future storms.

- a. Promote the Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- b. Update the Town of Riverhead Hurricane/Severe Storm Emergency Response Plan.
- c. Enhance the Town's ability to provide important notifications and increase the public's awareness about emergency preparedness.