

RIVERHEAD Comprehensive Plan Update



*Steering Committee Meeting #2
March 28, 2023*



Agenda

1. Process and Timeline

2. Public Workshop #1

- April 22, 10am at Suffolk Theater
- Recording of presentation posted virtually

3. Summary of Prior Work

4. Report: Vision, Planning Goals, Issues and Opportunities

5. Discussion: Vision: 2003 Riverhead Comprehensive Plan

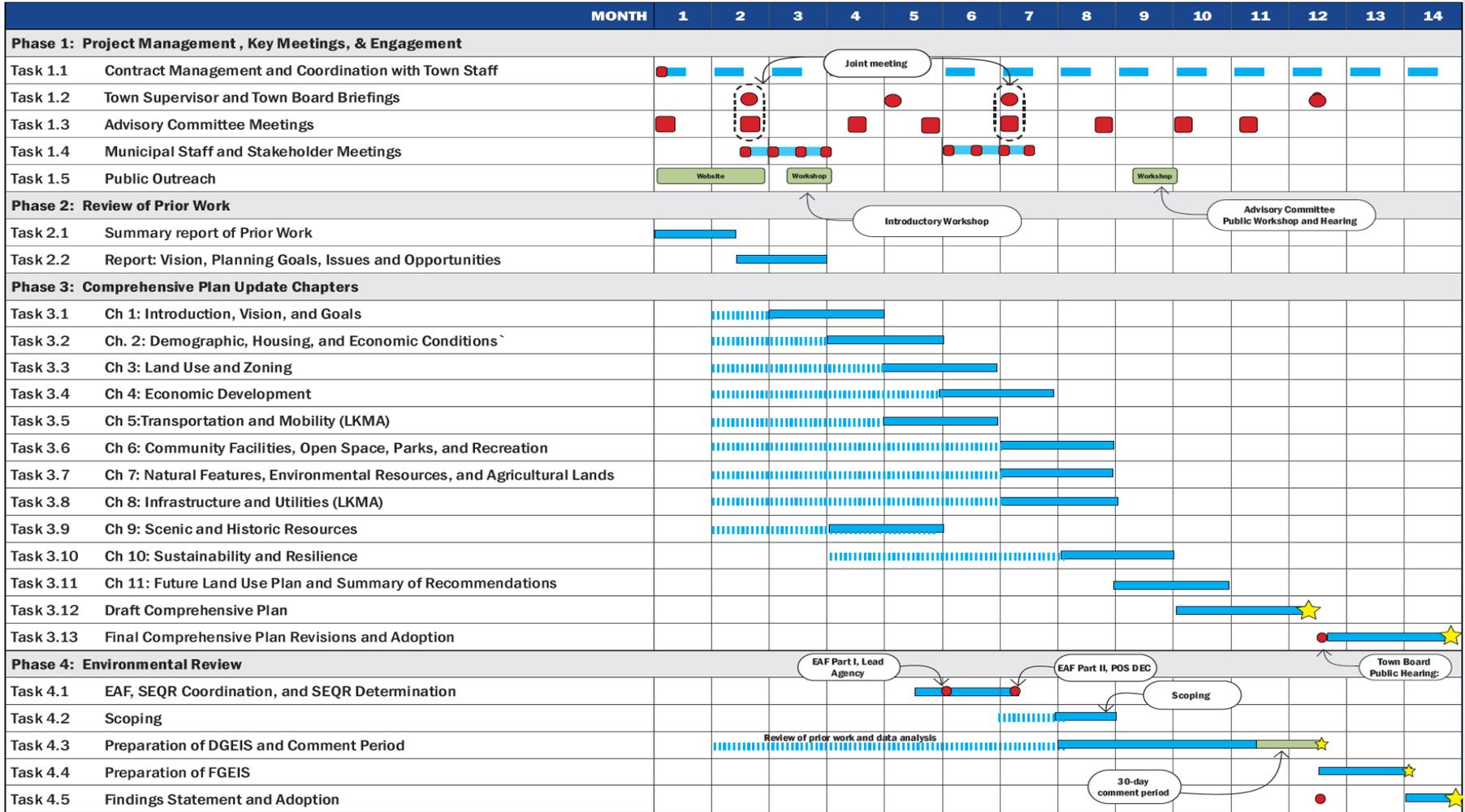
6. Next Steps



Comprehensive Plan Update Steering Committee

- Role of Committee:
 - Guide comprehensive plan process and monitor timelines
 - Help plan for public outreach activities
 - Provide input on issues and opportunities
 - Help to ensure plan is representative of wider community
 - Review draft deliverables
- Working groups
 - Advise on technical subjects and review specific materials*
 - Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources
 - Housing and Economic Development
 - Transportation, Utilities and Community Facilities

Timeline (14-Months)

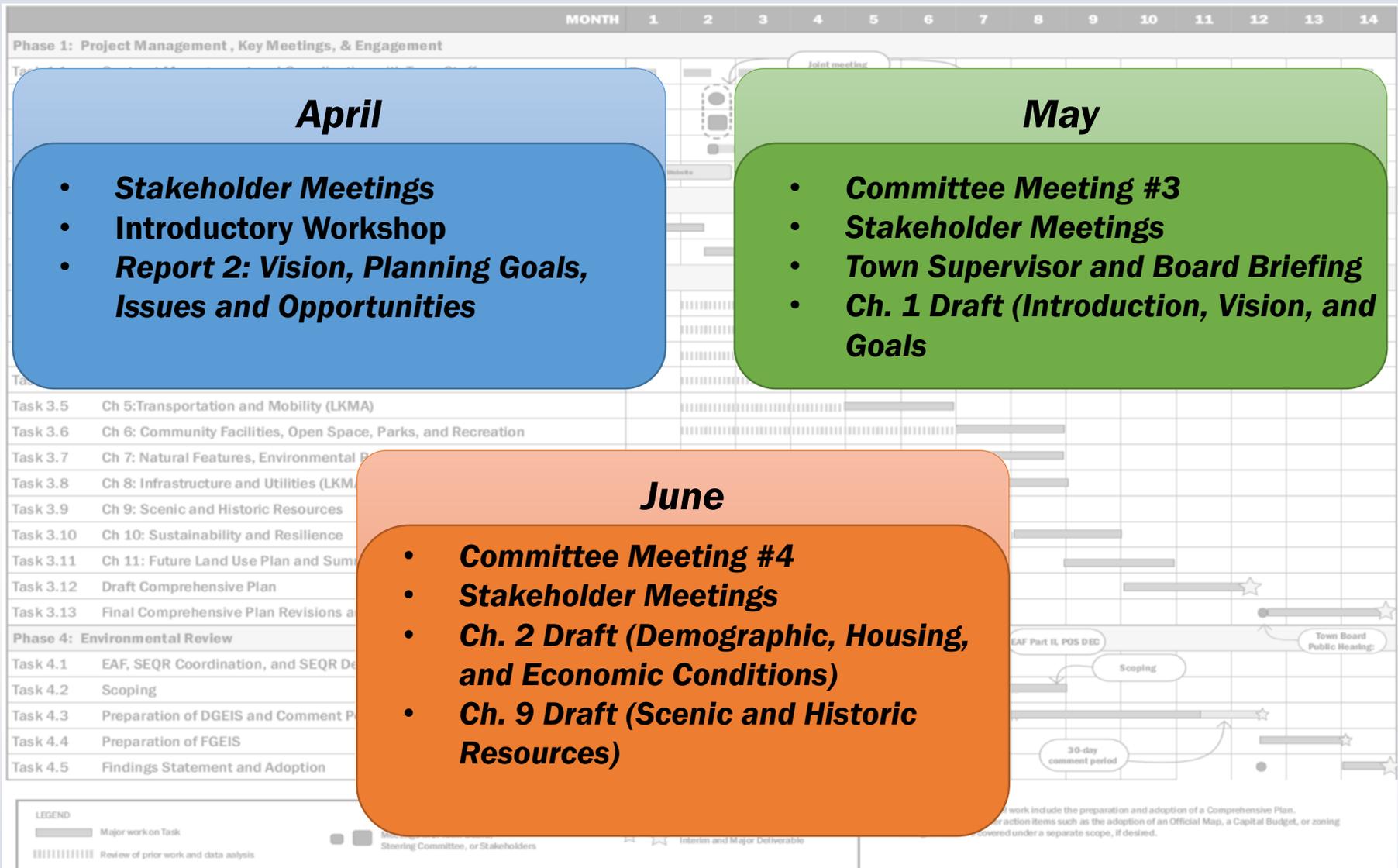


LEGEND

- Major work on Task
- Meetings with Town Board, Steering Committee, or Stakeholders
- Review of prior work and data analysis
- ★ Interim and Major Deliverable

The timeline and scope of work include the preparation and adoption of a Comprehensive Plan. Implementation of other action items such as the adoption of an Official Map, a Capital Budget, or zoning changes would be covered under a separate scope, if desired.

Timeline – Milestones in Next 4 Months (April-July)



Public Meeting #1



RIVERHEAD
Comprehensive Plan
Update

PUBLIC WORKSHOP
SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND, 10AM - 12PM
At the Suffolk Theater (118 E Main Street)

Riverhead is updating its **Comprehensive Plan**, which is the Town's "blueprint" for the next 10 years and beyond. The Comprehensive Plan will provide policies and land use goals to guide the Town's economic, social, physical, environmental, and fiscal development.

For more info, open your phone's camera and point here:



Please join us to learn about the planning process and share your ideas.

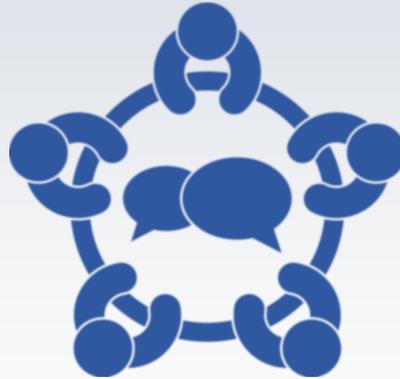
For more information, visit: <https://townofriverheadcomprehensiveplanupdate.com>



- Flyers
- Press Release
- Website
- E-blast
- Social networks
- **Other Suggestions?**



Public Meeting #1



Presentation

**Roundtable
Discussions**

**Report
Back**



10:00



10:45



11:30



12:00

Summary of Prior Work



Summary Report of Prior Work

An Interim Document for the
Riverhead Comprehensive Plan Update

Working Draft: March 2023

Prepared by:
BFJ Planning
115 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10003

BFJ Planning

- Interim working document intended to be a starting point.
- Synthesis of issues and opportunities identified in **previously completed work** (by AKRF and others).
- **Indicates topics where we understand that further study is needed.**
- Feedback from the Committee:
 - Corrections
 - Identification of gaps
 - Topics where further analysis is needed

Comments on Summary Report due 4/16

Report: Vision, Planning Goals, Issues and Opportunities

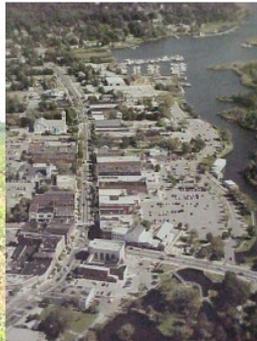
- **Vision Statement:** provides a conceptual framework that guides development of the rest of the plan.
- **Planning Goals:** organized by topic, frame the direction of implementation strategies and recommendations. Each recommendation will contribute to achieving the Planning Goals.
- **Issues and Opportunities:** first pass at previously identified related to planning, economic, infrastructure, and environmental concerns at both local and regional level.
- **Land Use and Zoning Concerns:** summary and potential strategies to resolve conflicts and reduce barriers.

Vision: 2003 Riverhead Comprehensive Plan



TOWN OF RIVERHEAD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN NOVEMBER 2003

PURSUANT TO SECTION 272-a OF THE TOWN LAW



2003 Vision

- What is still relevant?
- What has changed?
- What is missing?

Land Use Element

Riverhead is already one of the most dynamic and exciting places on Long Island, and in the future, it will become a preeminent center for tourism, agriculture, business, shopping, recreation, and living on the East End. As in recent years, the Town will continue to experience growth and change in coming years. Economic development and environmental conservation should be balanced; to not only sustain expansion of Riverhead's strong economic base, but also promote livable communities, preserve farmland and agricultural activity, and protect Riverhead's natural, historic, and scenic resources. ...

2. Land Use Element

In the future, Riverhead should have the following characteristics:

- A revitalized downtown that is retooled for tourism, with unique cultural attractions, a bustling Main Street, protected historic buildings, and an expanded and improved waterfront park;
- Walkable hamlet centers that serve as centers for community life and provide day-to-day shopping and services for residents, as well as specialty shopping for tourists.
- Attractive residential neighborhoods clustered around downtown, the hamlet centers, and north of Sound Avenue;
- A thriving commercial corridor along Route 58, with reduced traffic congestion and an attractive visual quality;
- A dynamic office/industrial center in and around Enterprise Park at Calverton;
- Regional recreational and entertainment facilities at Enterprise Park at Calverton;

(Continued)

2. Land Use Element

In the future, Riverhead should have the following characteristics:

- A greenbelt of farmland and open space with a prosperous agricultural industry, where housing is clustered and open space permanently preserved;
- A system of parks and greenways that provide abundant recreational opportunities for all age groups;
- Improved access to waterfront areas for recreational purposes, including the Peconic River, Flanders Bay, the Great Peconic Bay, and Long Island Sound;
- Protected streambeds, wetlands, woodlands, bluffs, beaches, and other natural areas, including habitat areas for plant and animal species;
- A strong Town identity and heritage, with protected scenic vistas and beautifully restored and reused historic buildings;
- A reputation as a place that has the best of both the past and the present, and the best of both natural and built environments.

3. Agriculture Element

Riverhead's agricultural industry will continue to play a leading role in the Town's economy and shape the Town's character and way of life. The Town will work with farmers and landowners to support farm business and promote farmland preservation, and the Town will strive do so in a manner that respects private property rights, protects landowner equity, and ensures flexibility and choice in the use of farm property.

4. Natural Resources Conservation Element

The natural resources present in Riverhead today – including stream corridors and wetlands, the Central Pine Barrens region, and the aquifer that provides high quality water to the Town – are integral to Riverhead’s long-term health, safety, and well-being, as well as its identity and economic vitality. As such, the ecological integrity of Riverhead’s natural resources must be maintained and protected.

5. Scenic and Historic Resources Preservation Element

Riverhead has a distinctive scenic and historic character, comprised of farmland, open space, historic hamlet centers (including downtown Riverhead), historic structures and sites, and unique natural resource areas such as the Pine Barrens. Because these resources play a key role in maintaining Riverhead as a desirable tourist destination and as an attractive place to live and work, these resources should be protected and carried forward into the Town's future, as development continues to occur.

6. Business Districts Element

Commercial retail development should be well planned on a site basis instead of sprawled along Riverhead's roads. Downtown and hamlet centers should be promoted as centers for specialty shopping and civic life, building on their historic and pedestrian character. Route 58 should absorb most of the demand for regional and destination retail uses and thus should continue to be a mainstay for generating jobs and tax revenue.

7. Housing Element

As development pressures continue to increase, the Town should promote the preservation and development of work force housing for senior citizens, young adults, first-time homebuyers, seasonal workers, low-income individuals and households, and special needs populations. Work force housing should be distributed throughout the Town, should be in locations accessible via transit, and should have a design and be of a quality and character that are indistinguishable from that of market-rate housing.

8. Economic Development Element

With the increasing popularity of the North Fork as a tourist destination, Riverhead should develop attractions that can capture a significant portion of the emerging tourist industry in general and agrotourism in particular. At the same time, Riverhead should continue to pursue a diverse economic base by promoting office and industrial development, agriculture, retail development, and entrepreneurial and small-business activity in appropriate locations. Economic development pursuits must be balanced with the conservation policies expressed in the other sections of this plan, particularly with regard to historic, scenic, and natural resources.

9. Transportation Element

Route 25 and Route 58 should remain Riverhead's primary east-west traffic corridors, while other east-west roads are discouraged from being used as bypass routes. Road improvements throughout Riverhead should be undertaken in a manner that is sensitive to the Town's residential neighborhoods and its historic, scenic, and natural resources. Downtown and the hamlet centers should be oriented to transit, pedestrians, and bicycles, and commercial sites through Riverhead should be accessible via bus, by bike, and on foot.

10. Utility Service Element

Utility infrastructure is critical to the health, safety, and welfare of the community. Water, sewer, electric, natural gas, and telecommunications facilities are relied upon by residents and businesses for day-to-date activity and contribute to the Town's economic wellbeing. Utilities should continue to be expanded to meet Riverhead's growing needs. At the same time, the Town should strive to limit any potential negative impacts from new infrastructure on the natural environment or Riverhead's historic or scenic resources.

11. Parks and Recreation Element

Parks and recreational facilities provide Riverhead residents and outdoor enthusiasts regionwide with opportunities to exercise, engage in team sports, and to access and experience the natural environment. Parks also provide balance to the built-up areas of the Town, adding to the visual character and quality of life in the community and enhancing property values. The Town should expand and improve parks in all parts of Riverhead and should establish a greenway system that links these parks together.

12. Community Facilities Element

Because community facilities protect public safety and enhance the quality of life in Riverhead, they should be improved and/or expanded to meet growing needs. At the same time, the Town should seek opportunities for the efficient and multiple use of facilities, in order to limit increases in costs. New facilities should be conveniently sited in or near residential neighborhoods and hamlet centers, where they can easily accessed by residents and contribute to the sense of community.

Next Steps

- **Public Workshop** – Saturday April 22, 10am @ The Suffolk
- **Comments on Summary Report due 4/16**
- **Stakeholder Engagement** – Schedule focus group meetings
- **Steering Committee Meeting #3** – Potential Dates?
- **Report:** Vision, Planning Goals, Issues and Opportunities