



# TOWN OF GREENWICH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

## 9.27.22 DRAFT MEETING NOTES

Project Number: 2221123.02

Location: Teams  
Date: September 27, 2022  
Time: 6:00 PM

	Name	Company/Representing
Attendees:	Jim Nolan	Supervisory, Town of Greenwich
	Maria Robinson	Trustee, Village of Greenwich
	Sarah Tuttle	ZBA Member, Village of Greenwich
	Pete Veale	Business Owner, Village of Greenwich
	Norabelle Greenberger	LaBella Associates
	Kyle Hatch	LaBella Associates

Meeting Scope: Review Community Profile, Plan for Public Events/Engagement

Discussion:

A review of the Community Profile took place:

- Norabelle mentioned that the community profile primarily serves as a baseline analysis to guide further discussion.
  - Specific areas of focus with stakeholders that can add context to what the data tells us.
- Demographics:
  - Norabelle pointed out that 2020 Decennial Census data is now available which provides newer data than what was reviewed in the Revitalization Plan.
  - There was a discussion of population decline in the Village
    - Committee member noted that a few prominent apartment buildings have been converted to short term rentals. Wondering if that is impacting population in the Village.
    - Committee member also noted the changing trends in age cohorts. Unclear if older people are leaving or younger people are coming. Declining median age doesn't line up with other area trends.



- Committee member mentioned her neighbors who are seniors have left the Village due to the lack of affordable senior housing.
  - Committee member requested data on race/ethnicity distribution, educational attainment be added, and additional infographics.
  - Committee member mentioned wanting details on Amish population increase. Large families but children aren't going to the school districts – need to understand how to pull these populations out of the overall population stats to understand these details.
    - Provided local stakeholders that work with the Amish population and may be able to help us find information.
- Land Use:
  - It was noted that residential development has been taking place on agricultural land
    - Committee member requested pie chart/graphic of land use changes
  - A discussion on how vacant property is defined occurred. Determined that vacant lands may contribute to rural aesthetic, but preserving agricultural lands is priority.
  - A discussion of solar development impacts to agricultural lands took place. It was noted that the projects currently in development will largely meet the Town/Village's capacity.
    - Committee member wants to see appropriate solar development take place – ag lands or vacant lands that aren't being used efficiently, proper screening and aesthetic preservation.
      - *Small scale community solar development?*
- Agriculture: It was noted that agriculture in Greenwich goes beyond just active farming and it really serves as a regional agricultural hub with strong ties to community culture and character.
  - Can many regional stakeholders be brought together in Greenwich to promote synergy among ag/food
  - ASA has conserved ~27,000 acres of agricultural lands – how much of that is within the Town of Greenwich.
- Committee member requested that all graphics/maps be labeled with a title
- Parks & Recreation:
  - Opportunities to develop a “recreation hub” on the western border of the Town. Leverage the Empire State Trail, Hudson Crossing Park, water access, etc.
  - Why is the Town Beach no longer used as a beach?
    - Sand erosion
    - Geese led to Health Department closure requirement
  - Town study of Town Beach – Supervisor will provide
- Community Services: It was noted the only community service that's lacking are senior support services. Committee member suggested combining youth and senior services at the same location.
- Historic Resources: It was noted that there are opportunities to expand designated historic sites and districts. An opportunity to celebrate the community's history more.
  - NYS bought the tavern next to Susan B Anthony's home. Potential expansion of that historic site and additional acquisitions could develop a real historic hub.



- Water Resources: Waterways were mentioned as a community asset. Railway is a major impediment for waterfront access – converting it to a trail or bikeway would be transformational for the waterfront.
  - Non-profit ownership with stated mission for continued use of rail line may be an issue. Outreach to NYS officials is needed.
- Infrastructure: Committee member noted telecom should be included in the infrastructure section.
  - Quality of access is important.
  - Washington County broadband survey was completed – Supervisor to provide data/map
- Norabelle discussed thoughts for future engagement
  - Want to avoid survey and planning fatigue from previous planning work
  - Outreach to students about their vision for their future in Greenwich is an opportunity
    - We'll need to coordinate with the school to make sure we meet their requirements and can maximize attendance.
      - Building usage request can be completed online
      - Likely the gym, library, or cafeteria space.
      - Target the week after elections but before Thanksgiving.
  - Discussions can focus on specific topic areas where there are information/feedback gaps
  - Neighborhood specific meetings once recommendations begin to come together
  - Supervisor noted we will need to consider weather/timing – hard to hold meetings in winter.
    - Second phase will take place late winter/early spring so there is time to narrow talking points and hear back on pending grant funding opportunities.
  - Will need to promote events in local papers, bulletin boards, social media, library, etc. Potential to promote meeting at polling location for upcoming election?



ITEM	ACTION ITEM	OWNER
1	Schedule public event with school (week of Nov. 14)	LaBella/Maria
2	Provide feedback on Community Profile	Committee
3	Integrate feedback/comments on Community Profile	LaBella
4	Provide broadband study & Town Park study	Supervisor
5	Confirm if event can be posted at polling places	Supervisor

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:15 PM**

The preceding minutes represent the author's understanding of the matters discussed and decisions reached. If there are any corrections, clarifications, or additions to be made to these minutes, please contact the sender at [khatch@labellapc.com](mailto:khatch@labellapc.com) within five business days of issuance.

Respectfully submitted,  
LABELLA ASSOCIATES, D.P.C.

*Kyle Hatch, Planner, LaBella Associates*

*Norabelle Greenberger, Senior Planner, LaBella Associates*

Cc: All Attendees