



Welcome to
TOWN OF BALLSTON
A Farms First Community

Comprehensive Plan Update: Town Board Status Update

March 30, 2021

MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C. has been advancing Phase 1, Tasks 1, 2 and 3 as per the current contract authorization. Below is a status update on each of tasks as well as an outline of next steps in the process.

Phase 1, Task 1: Project Coordination

- Town Board Workshop held on July 16, 2020 via Zoom
 - Project overview
 - Public engagement techniques discussion
 - Mini visioning exercise with Town Board
 - Online community survey discussion
- Town Board Update held on September 29, 2020
 - Schedule overview
 - Online community survey discussion
 - Mobile Visioning Workshop discussion
- Town Board Update held on November 10, 2020
 - Highlights of community survey (803 responses)
 - Discussion of project tasks and next steps
- Town Board Update held on January 26, 2021 via Zoom
 - Review of engagement activities to date including ongoing student survey (January – February) and Virtual Focus Group meeting (February)
 - Discussion of project tasks and next steps

Phase 1, Task 2: Public Engagement

- Project website management is ongoing: www.EnvisionBallston.com
- Community survey
 - Opened August 10 – October 9, 2020.
 - 803 online responses received.





- Mobile Visioning Workshops
 - October 1, 2020, 5:00 – 7:00 pm, Living Hope Christian Church parking lot at 978 Saratoga Road (Route 50), Ballston Lake
 - October 3, 2020, 9:00 – 11:00 am, Anchor Diamond Park parking lot on Middleline Road.

- Virtual Focus Group Meeting
 - February 4, 2021 at 6:00 – 8:00 pm
 - 60 participants. 100 registrants.
 - Focus on specific topics in virtual break out groups. Groups facilitated by MJ.
 - Topics include targeted growth/land conservation; clean energy; hamlets
 - Meeting recording, presentation, summary: available on website at <https://www.envisionballston.com/public-engagement-activities>

- Middle School / High School Student Survey
 - Online survey to gather input from students about the Town
 - Distributed to Ballston Spa CSD and Burnt Hills – Ballston Lake CSD middle school and high school social studies classes
 - Open January 22 - February 5, 2021
 - 710 responses received

- Ongoing: Residents and stakeholders can continuously provide input here:
<https://www.envisionballston.com/contact>
 - We have received comments through website and email.
 - Comments received through March 30, 2021 have been provided to Town Board in pdf format.

Phase 1, Task 3: Comprehensive Plan Report Card Exercise (Town Board and MJ Team)

- Report card drafted with input from Town Board

Next Steps

1. **Initiation of Phase 2: Targeted Comprehensive Plan Update – Requires Town Board Authorization**
 - a. Identification Targeted Topic Areas for Update
 - i. Possible targeted topic areas -
 1. Clean Energy (including Commercial Solar Installations)
 2. Targeted Growth (including where growth is desired, scale of development, infrastructure, land preservation discussions)
 3. Housing (type of housing, location)
 4. Hamlets (walkability, growth, each examined individually)
 5. Recreation and Trails (needs, public access, etc.)
 6. Transportation



- b. Existing Conditions update of targeted topic areas
- c. Additional Public Engagement:
 - i. Key Stakeholder Interviews
 - ii. Public Meeting/Workshop
- d. Draft Comprehensive Plan Update / Final Comprehensive Plan Update
- e. Adoption Process
 - i. Required Public Hearing (per Town Law 272-a)
 - ii. County Planning Board Referral (GML 239-m)
 - iii. State Environmental Quality Review Act compliance (SEQRA)

2. **Initiation of Phase 3: Zoning Update** – *Requires Town Board Authorization*

- a. Zoning diagnostic can be initiated during comprehensive plan adoption process

Revised Schedule as of March 30, 2021.

Draft Schedule by Phase	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Phase 1: Visioning & Engagement													
*Phase 2: Comprehensive Plan Update & Engagement													
*Phase 3: Zoning													
*Phase 4: GEIS Update													

Schedule is subject to change. Note: Schedule indicates start of GEIS process only.

*Not Yet Authorized