



Town of Ballston Comprehensive Plan Update

Town of Ballston Virtual Focus Group Discussion Thursday, February 4, 2021, 6:00PM – 8:00PM, Via Zoom

VIRTUAL FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Welcome to the Town of Ballston Comprehensive Plan Update Virtual Focus Group Discussion. The purpose of this event is to gather more input related to specific topic areas including Hamlets, Targeted Growth and Land Conservation, and Clean Energy. The event will include an overview presentation with background information about the topic areas. Following the overview, participants will join virtual breakout groups facilitated by members of the consultant team. Breakout group participants will be asked to provide input on a series of topic-based questions. The information gathered from this activity will be used to help inform the development of the Comprehensive Plan Update.

Tentative Meeting Schedule

- 6:00-6:30 – Overview Presentation
- 6:30-7:30 – Virtual Breakout Group Discussions (by topic area)
 - 6:30 – 6:50 – **Hamlets** (20 minute discussion)
 - 6:50 – 7:10 – **Targeted Growth** (20 minute discussion)
 - 7:10 - 7:30 – **Clean Energy** (20 minute discussion)
- 7:30-7:50 – Groups Report Back
- 7:50-8:00 – Wrap-up/Next Steps

ZOOM MEETING “HOW TO”

The event will be held virtually via Zoom. The meeting information and instructions for how to participate are located below:

1. To register and access the meeting go to www.EnvisionBallston.com and click on the zoom link.
2. Participants will be randomly assigned to virtual breakout rooms which will be controlled by the meeting facilitators.
3. Once in the breakout rooms, participants can turn on their video and audio to join the conversation or use the chat function to leave comments or ask questions.
4. To speak, use the “Raise Hand” function and the facilitator will ask you to unmute.
5. After breakout discussions, host will rejoin everyone to main group for report back

VIRTUAL BREAKOUT ROOMS – PROMPT QUESTIONS

The following are prompt questions to help guide the virtual breakout room discussions. Please come prepared to discuss the topics presented below.

Hamlets

South (Burnt Hills)

1. What types of land uses should be supported in the Burnt Hills area? (Residential, businesses, etc.)
2. Where and what types of commercial development should there be in the southern hamlet area? (Retail, restaurants, offices, etc.)
3. Should design guidelines be developed to create a more walkable and livable look and feel? What should this area look like?

North

1. What types of land uses should be supported in the northern hamlet area? (Residential, businesses, etc.)
2. Do you associate the northern hamlet area with the Town or as part of Ballston Spa? Should this area have its own identity?
3. Do you want this area to look and feel like an extension of the Village of Ballston Spa?
4. Do you continue to support mixed-use development in this area?

Targeted Growth/Land Conservation

1. Where should commercial and residential growth occur in Town?
2. Where should land be conserved in Town? (open space, agricultural lands, etc.)
3. Should the Town focus on enhancing and expanding recreational opportunities like multi-use trails and parks?

Clean Energy

1. What opportunities exist for clean energy in the community?
2. As the Town prepares for community solar projects, what concerns do you have? Where should those projects ideally be located?