

PATHWAY TO OUR FUTURE GUILDERLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN



Comprehensive Plan Update Committee Meeting #3

APRIL 17, 2023

Guilderland Town Hall



AGENDA



- Welcome
- Committee Chair Discussion
- Public Engagement Update
- Visioning Discussion
- Next Steps
- Public Comment



COMMITTEE CHAIR DISCUSSION

- Role of Chair/Co-Chair
 - Lead CPUC Meetings & Public Hearing (with MJ Team assistance)
 - Participate in Monthly Coordination Calls with Town Staff & MJ Team



Public Engagement Activities:

- Stakeholder Group Discussions
- Public Open House
- Community Survey
- Project Website Comments
- Student Engagement
- Public Workshop #2



Stakeholder Groups:

- Local & Regional Partners
- Environment, Sustainability & Recreation
- Business & Economic Development
- Arts, History & Education
- Neighborhood & Community Organizations
- Transportation & Mobility

Meetings held March 7th & 8th via Zoom



Themes from Stakeholder Group Input

- Layout of Town presents natural and constructed barriers (Normanskill, major roads/rail lines) to connectivity
- Beneficial location: proximity to jobs, highways, cultural amenities, etc.
- School system is highly regarded: significant draw to and employer for Guilderland
- Parks and Open Space: Tawasentha, Pine Bush, trail system are assets
- Greater uptake of Conservation Easement program is an opportunity
- Route 20/Western Ave is the Town's "Main Street" – presents challenges and opportunities
- Walkability is a concern (progress of strategic sidewalk connections recognized)
- Public transportation: bus service in Town is uneven
- Water quality and invasive species important concerns at Watervliet Reservoir
- Affordability of housing a concern, especially for seniors and those on fixed incomes
- Changing trends in retail present opportunities and challenges



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Public Open House & Visioning Workshop



Public Open House & Visioning Workshop – Key Themes

- Desire for more walkable/bikeable community
- Value of open space and agriculture to the community
- Concerns about housing type and affordability
- Safety and aesthetic concerns on Route 20
- Desire for interventions to address traffic
- Need for gathering places emphasized
- Desire to maintain and/or enhance the attractive character of the Town
- Appreciation for library, parks, and education system
- Concern for water supply and water quality



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Online Community Survey

- Online through Survey Monkey
- Launched on March 13th
- Open for responses through month of April – 467 received as of April 14th
- Participants can access on mobile devices, computers, or hard copy
- Consultant Team to prepare summary of survey response highlights

9. Which of the following do you value most (3) from the list below.

- Access to outdoor recreation (e.g., trails, public parks)
- Access to local businesses (e.g., shopping, dining)
- Access to desirable housing options
- Access to employment (in Town)
- Access to employment (outside Town)
- Access to art/entertainment/culture
- Sense of community / neighborhood
- Support for business
- Access to agricultural land
- Other (please specify)





Project Website Comments Portal

- www.pathwaytoguiderlandsfuture.com/contact
- Open throughout Comp Plan Update process
- Comments saved and transmitted to CPUC

Want to get involved?
Share your ideas and comments with us!

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Email * _____

Write a message _____

Submit



Student Engagement

- Coordinating with District & School leadership
- Elicit input about perceived strengths and challenges/needs in Guilderland from younger Town residents
- To be completed before end of school year



Public Workshop #2

- Facilitated, topic-based “speed round” discussions
- Each table at the workshop to feature a specified theme (natural resources, transportation, recreation, etc.)
- Timing of Public Workshop #2 - TBD



INTRODUCTION TO VISIONING

Understanding
Where You Are

THE EXISTING STATE



Where Do You
Want To Be?

THE DESIRED STATE



Identifying a Shared Vision
for the Town of Guilderland

How Do You
Get There?

IMPLEMENTATION



Reality-Based Series of
Implementation Steps



INTRODUCTION TO VISIONING

Community Vision – What is a Vision?

- A vision statement establishes the direction of the community over **the next five to ten years**
- It forms the **basis for the Comprehensive Plan**
- All subsequent **recommendations aim to achieve the established vision**
- Use **present tense** (as if you are ten years in the future)



INTRODUCTION TO VISIONING

Community Vision – What is a Vision?

Subjects typically addressed:

- **Common values** of a community
- **Qualities, resources and assets** that make a community unique or describe its identity
- **Attributes** of the community that people want **to preserve or change**
- **Preferred future** for each subject area of the community



INTRODUCTION TO VISIONING

Vision Statement from Existing Comprehensive Plan (2001)

The Town of Guilderland envisions itself as a distinctive suburban and rural community within the Capital District. It is a desirable and attainable place for families and individuals of all ages to live and work, with a large assortment of local and regional opportunities for high-quality employment, education, recreation, and cultural activity. These opportunities are easily accessed within the Town and throughout the region by a varied and efficient transportation system that emphasizes mobility and safety for all residents. Guilderland's settlement patterns are focused around attractive and vibrant neighborhoods, and are based on a recognition of – and shared sense of responsibility for – the Town's natural, agricultural, open space, and scenic resources and the value of these resources to the current and future health, culture, and economy of the community. It is a community that looks to the future in the belief that through continued community dialogue and action, it can manage and shape change for the better.

Town of Guilderland Comprehensive Plan 2000, Page III-10



NEXT STEPS

- Vision Statement Preparation
- Next CPUC Meeting – Tuesday, May 9, 2023
- Public Workshop #2 - TBD



PUBLIC COMMENT

