

Town of North East
Town Board Special Meeting

The Town Hall

19 N. Maple Avenue, Millerton, New York 12546

Thursday May 30, 2024 at 4:30PM

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call

SUPERVISOR KENNAN	HERE
COUNCILWOMAN MORRISON	HERE
COUNCILMAN FEDELE	HERE
COUNCILWOMAN WINKLER	HERE
COUNCILMAN MAYVILLE	HERE

Invited to lead the discussion was Edie Greenwood, Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee. With the Public in attendance, and invited to speak, were Mayor Jen Najdek, Rich Stalzer, Ed Downey, Kathleen Spahn, Bill Kish, and John Coston

Agenda

To review the Town of North East's Comprehensive Plan, published 2019.

Review of the Comprehensive Plan

Supervisor Kennan thanked Edie Greenwood for attending. "She steered the Comprehensive Plan to its finished state." He then thanked Councilman Mayville for requesting this opportunity to have the Board review and be reminded of the contents and goals of the Comprehensive Plan for the Town and Village. Greenwood advised the Board to read the Executive Summary and then approach the goals through the charts listing medium and long-term actions at the back of the Plan document.

The Board members methodically tracked each list item and discussed the goals for this year. Topics started with the Community Calendar, establishing an Agricultural Advocacy Committee, hosting an annual Town and Village Hall meeting for the public, and doing more to spread a clear awareness of the Comprehensive Plan by enhancing communication and transparency.

Regarding the long-term goals, the first three: Public Sewers, Sidewalks, and Eddie Collins Field, are big projects that are definitively moving forward from the last five years. The Town has been awarded Bronze level Climate Smart Community and the Village is soon to follow. The Board has approved a Master Biking and Pedestrian Plan.

Councilman Mayville brought up engaging more civic participation and discussion followed about finding committees that can move us forward in all areas of the Plan. He liked the idea of a Town Village Open Hall meeting to share about the Comprehensive Plan and give the community a metric to measure what we have been doing.

Greenwood reminded us that the Plan is a living document and there is always room for more goals. Supervisor Kennan said a new goal of his is to create a 5-year financial plan. Councilwoman Winkler brought up subdivisions and hope to communicate opportunities for landowners. Councilman Fedele would like to see more affordable housing and an inventory of properties (such as the current Town Hall) that can be potentially readopted for such purposes.

Bill Kish thanked Councilman Mayville for this reflection and accounting. Kathleen Spahn stated that she was attracted to the area because of the Climate Smart Initiatives and Comprehensive Planning, and their existence should be highlighted more. Mayor Najdek suggested a possible committee could develop a welcome package for new buyers that highlights civic associations and makes new residents aware of the distinction between Town and Village, and then share about the CSC and Comprehensive Plan. Ed Downey spoke about the Right to Farm, the view shed and the importance of the Rail Trail. Rich Stalzer also spoke about the challenges of maintaining a Rail Trail corridor, the natural loss of the view shed due to invasive species.

Supervisor Kennan thanked Greenwood for being a resource for the Board. The meeting inspired ideas of things the Town can do to build on the Plan's goals.

Adjournment

Motion made by Councilman Mayville and seconded by Councilwoman Morrison to adjourn. Votes taken:

AYES- 5 (Kennan, Morrison, Fedele, Winkler, Mayville)
NAYS- 0

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM

Submitted by

/s/: Elizabeth Strauss, Town Clerk

APPROVED: 6/13/2024