

Survey responses and verbal public meeting comments from October 15, 2009

Fourteen surveys were turned in, and twenty people provided verbal comments at the meeting on October 15, 2009.

Survey results overall: People responding largely agreed with the list of chapters, the public process, the website, the role of the Planning Team, and the concept overall. Strongest criticism was with regard to a lack of providing for a vision, and the public input process. Further comments from the surveys and from the verbal comments follow.

1. The description of the new Comprehensive Plan for Southold and its necessity was clear.	Town Response
Special interest (NFEC) and Politics have too much influence in zoning	The Town is doing everything possible to create a plan that is balanced.

2. The roles and responsibilities of plan participants and how the plan will be developed are satisfactory.	
As long as property rights are protected. We protect farms but disregard homeowners and business properties	We will consider this during the plan.
This seemed the weakest - let the pros (planning dept.) do their job and back them up.	
Independent planning "czar" with requisite credentials would be beneficial.	The Town considered this, but decided in-house credentials were as good as any outside planning help for writing most of the plan. Some outside help will be considered for chapters where there is no in-house expertise.
Thank you for putting the onus for participation on Town <u>residents</u> . If they don't participate, they can't complain!	

Create a planning task force made up of the public to create the comprehensive plan and have the team as proposed be ex-officio advisors.	By charging town staff who are accountable to the public, this will ensure that the plan will be done expediently. A board of volunteers would not be accountable to anyone. The Town considered this, however experience has shown that it is very difficult to choose a team made up of the public that all citizens would find acceptable. The public will have ample opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way.
Town staff works for Town Board and will poorly represent the public's interest in the process	Town staff work for the citizens of the Town of Southold as well as being accountable to the Town Board, and we put the overall good of the Town above anything else. Public involvement in all stages of the plan will ensure the public's interest is represented accurately in the process.
Appoint a Team to produce the plan that consists entirely of the public, with planners and town attorney "ex officio" to that committee.	See above.

3. The proposed website will be important and useful.	
As long as comments are productive and not a sounding board	All comments will be viewed as productive.
Please keep it current	Point well taken. It will regularly updated.
Put all former plans and studies on the web site.	We are working on this
links to all the old plans	We will have links to some of the plans to begin, and eventually to all of them.

4. The proposed process for public involvement is sufficient.	Town response
Too much public input. Too complex & time consuming. Pg. 2 of the handout is sufficient public position to construct the plan for approval or	The plan needs public input to be effective, therefore more input will be gathered throughout the process.

modification.	
The Town should invest in outreach whether that be inserts in tax bills, ads, etc. Public participation is vital.	We agree. While we cannot place inserts in the tax bills, we will make every effort to advertise the meetings well, both on Channel 22, in Town Hall, using flyers around town, and through the website.
Please be sure that the dates, times and place for meetings are well-advertised in Suffolk Times and on Channel 22.	See above.
but when & how will the vision be described & have buy-in from the residents??	We heard the public on the issue of the Vision (we need one to guide the plan), and will be drafting a proposed Vision based on existing plans and studies, and putting it up for public comment.
Have a meeting on each chapter	We may not be able to do this in the proposed time-frame. Instead we propose to cover several chapters per public meeting. Meetings are costly and time-consuming and we'll need to make the most of each one.
The public is not involved in a meaningful way - give the public a more formalized role.	The public is involved in a meaningful way. We plan to consult the public on every step, and no chapters will be finalized without public input, and without integrating that public input into the document.
What reassurance will we give back to the public that their input is being taken into consideration and actually used to formulate the plan?	All public input will be itemized here on the website, and a response to each comment made. This will demonstrate that your input was considered, whether your comment was implemented, and if not, why.
The public needs to be engaged in a genuine way. Design public meetings so that the public can discuss amongst themselves and provide input that goes beyond the standing up at the mic one at a time process that is ineffective.	The proposed public input process has been remodeled to do away with the traditional "stand at the mic one at a time" format. See the Southold 2020 Planning Team link and review the Public Process document.
Involve the business community in the process	The business community will certainly be involved in the process. The Chambers of Commerce were invited to the first public meeting and will continue to be involved.

Involvement of young people in the process	This has been shared with the Youth Bureau Board and Youth Advisory Council for their input.
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5. The proposed timeline for the plan is reasonable.	
Too rushed	We have proposed an ambitious timeline to help us get the much-needed plan done as soon as possible.
Too long - should be done in a year	We are going to make every effort to keep the process as short as possible.
Ambitious, but possible	
The legislative process, enacting the laws that make the master plan a reality, should be included in the timeline.	We plan to do so.
good luck in avoiding (dealing with) unexpected obstacles	

6. The proposed chapters are comprehensive and necessary.	
Looks good for a start - can always add/subtract later	
I think these must include a chapter on or an emphasis on sustainability and self sufficiency.	We plan to cover sustainability in our Natural Resources chapter.
...but how and when will you integrate the priorities and plans set in each chapter? There will be potential conflict, as you know. And where is over-arching vision? And who will describe it??	We will add an "Introduction and Vision" chapter to the beginning of the Chapter list.
Code compliance - develop a positive strategy for code compliance in the plan	Code compliance is an essential part of an effective town plan and town code and will be addressed, however an entire chapter on the topic is not typical in a Comprehensive Plan, which is designed to look at

	the big picture.
Long term financial planning for the town	While this is certainly needed, the Plan will address the property tax base as it relates to zoning and the overall economics of the Town, however Comprehensive Plans do not typically address the details of budgeting town operations.
Code enforcement	Code enforcement will be referenced in the plan, however an entire chapter on it would be too much detail on day-to-day operations of the Town which are not typically covered in a Comprehensive Plan.
New chapter -Town Gov't , Town Manager.	Due to the Economic climate, the town is not seeking to increase payroll with new positions. And also this isn't generally covered in Comprehensive Plan which tends to look at bigger picture issues rather than the details.
Need a population chapter, buildout	This will be covered in the Introduction and Land Use chapters.
Septic & waste management	This topic will be covered partially in Natural Resources, probably in Land Use as well.

7. My overall feeling about the Town's development of the new Comprehensive Plan is favorable.	
Strongly disagree if moratorium! No more moratoriums. You will kill the economy - it is already on life support.	No moratorium has been proposed.
Excellent! Go, Go, Go!	
Long overdue!	
I'm concerned about how vision will be agreed upon.	The Planning Team will draft a proposed Vision based on previous plans, and present it to the public for input and comment.
Measuring success - what critical factors will be used?	We agree this is important to consider.

<p>Moratorium until things are figured out.</p>	<p>No moratorium has been proposed, because there does not appear to be a rush of applications that would affect the outcome of the plan or the Town vision and goals at this time (October, 2009)</p>
<p>Consider a moratorium on development while plan is being written</p>	<p>See above</p>
<p>Have a moratorium on all development so the 7-11 project and others like it are stopped while the plan is being written.</p>	<p>See above.</p>
<p>Devise the plan so Southold becomes sustainable. Think of planning based on multiple capacities and their relationships so that the maximum for sites/communities are identified. Examples: roads/traffic, water, soils, schools, coasts, maybe even tax burdens. If formulas based on site conditions are then applied, all are restricted equally. One ideally never reaches full capacity, as not all land owners will use the maximum allowable for their site. This is a more equitable way of planning than first come first served and also makes it easier to build for individuals/businesses and the limits are defined and justified, so they may not have to do a full EIS.</p>	<p>Sustainability and carrying capacity will both be considered during the analysis and development of the chapters.</p>
<p>Environment and over development are both urgent issues. We have the potential to become a bedroom community if we are not careful. Be proactive for Town's best interests, just as you did for the protection of open space. Possibly a revolving fund. Am afraid of what will happen on big lots. One developer building whole neighborhoods is not our historical model for development. Town could buy significant properties, reallocate the land, take parts for public access, use, off-street paths, and parks (linking to hamlet centers), then put parcels on market again with any stipulations on deed. Then money received would go back to the fund for further interventions. Basically I think we need to identify what would be in the public and environments best interests and then target parcels when they become available. For example think Mattituck is a prime area for this.</p>	<p>The Town's Land Preservation Committee reviews parcels for purchase.</p>

Add a chapter to integrate the chapters, or use the vision and make sure all chapters go along with the vision and overall goals.	We have chosen to go with the Vision to tie in the chapters.
Urgent that Southold plan for the future, especially with big developments potentially coming to Riverhead - development pressure will increase here.	See above.
Modernize, streamline coordinate town gov't first by hiring a town manager.	See above similar comment.
Don't throw out all the stakeholder work and all the UK Study report work.	The Stakeholder work will be used and integrated into the Comprehensive Plan, as will the US/UK Report.
Need a tightly written final plan, a zoning code that reflects the plan, and code enforcement.	Agreed.
Keep the plan short - 3 pages per chapter	The goal is a short, concise plan.
Need a town board resolution to formalize that this process is going forward & specify in writing what is to be done.	This was done.
Sustainability - assess carrying capacities for roads, bays, groundwater, schools, etc.	Will be considered in the plan
Carbon footprint - measuring points	Will be considered in the plan

***The following comments are related to content of the plan, and will all be considered as we draft the corresponding chapters, and responses to each will follow at that time.**

Vision	Town Response
There needs to be a vision to guide the process	See above *
Southold's agricultural base must be maintained to protect the food supply.	*
Support of non-polluting, atmosphere friendly energy sources becomes a first priority (our part in preventing climate change).	*

Protect marshes, creeks, bays and Sound that are actually the nursery of the seas. To actively combat the the loss of the sea as a food source we must eliminate pollutants, surface and subterranean.	*
Our open spaces, local wine and produce, abundance of clean beaches and water for boating and fishing and a relaxed non-urban atmosphere have made tourism our profitable industry base.	*
Keep it rural	*
Tourism is a good business base. Maintain low taxes, non-urban open and rural environment, and do our part in battling world problems like hunger and pollution.	*
Land-use policies to preserve agriculture & open space and limit residential development.	*
Attention to Trustee matters, in that the salt water food source must be protected. Limit human interference and support setbacks, run off controls, etc.	*
Attention to underground aquifer quality and the effect of fertilizers, pesticides, septic flow and other pollutants; as well as surface run off control.	*
Attention to keeping business down town and keeping out “Big Box Stores”. Maintain the small town rural ambiance. Our attraction is directly related to our “not urban” feel.	*
Actions designed to support the National objective of energy self sufficiency and reduction of climate change causing activities.	*
Maintaining those qualities that draw tourists and denying those urbanizing efforts that will change the character of Southold.	*
Public input needed for vision	Agreed
Pull vision from existing plans for first draft of it	This is the methodology we will follow.
Need a vision first	Agreed

Involve public in "visioning" process	Agreed
Sustainability	*

Content - Infrastructure	Town Response
Consequences of infrastructure like water mains and sewers on increasing density.	*
Address expansion of infrastructure as an inducement for growth	*
infrastructure expansion & growth inducement	*

Content - open space	Town Response
Address stewardship of preserved land	*

Content - Environment & Natural resources	
Identify the carbon footprint of the town and set goals for reductions.	*
Address wetlands code - PEPCCMP, LI Sound Plan	*

Content - Housing	
Address Accessory Apartment Code	*

Content - recreation	
Skate park (like in Greenport) for Mattituck	*

Site-specific comments	

Pay attention to Factory Avenue and the problem with trucks disrupting traffic and the church as they access Waldbaums loading dock.	*
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