

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose and Function of the 2007 Comprehensive Plan

Comprehensive plans are commonly described as cookbooks, toolboxes and blueprints, all providing guidance and strategies for a community's future. As defined in New York State Planning and Zoning Law, a village comprehensive plan is a means to guide "the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of the Village." The comprehensive planning process involves a variety of research and assessment tasks: review of past plans and objectives, analysis of historical trends and current conditions, identification of issues of concern and formulation of recommendations for problem areas and opportunities. The recommendations presented in the plan are framed by an overall vision for the community for the next 20 years and beyond. In addition, the plan enables the Village to influence decisions by state agencies (such as the New York State Department of Transportation) and strengthen its ability to attract State dollars for projects that support the plan.

This Comprehensive Plan updates the Village of Briarcliff Manor's previous plan which dates back to 1988. The purpose of this plan is to adjust the existing plan and to respond to new development issues and concerns that have arisen within the Village since 1988.

Although this plan sets forth recommendations for the future of Briarcliff Manor, it is not in itself a law or regulation. Recommendations are implemented through zoning laws and other land use regulation tools, which must be in accordance with an adopted plan and the Village's Capital Budget.

1.2 Planning Process

Preparation of the new Comprehensive Plan began with the creation of an advisory Comprehensive Plan Committee, assembled by the Board of Trustees. The committee oversaw and assisted in the crafting of the updated plan. The committee was also charged with overseeing the planning consultants.

The planning process began in October 2005. The plan incorporates ideas and recommendations of Village officials, the Comprehensive Plan Committee and residents. Believing that resident participation would be critical in ensuring that the Plan represents the needs and interests of the entire Village, the first phase of the process was devoted entirely to resident participation. The Board of Trustees conducted five neighborhood meetings targeted to the various Village neighborhoods. Each meeting began with a brief presentation by Mayor Vescio regarding current projects, followed by a discussion of neighborhood "likes" and "dislikes." The Comprehensive Plan Committee developed and circulated a written survey to all households. Six hundred and thirteen (613) surveys were returned for a fairly high response rate of 24 percent. Survey questions encompassed a variety of issues including Village services, Village appearance, quality of life and the future of the Village.

The initial public input defined the guiding vision and identified issues for the plan to focus on. During the plan-writing phase, the Comprehensive Plan Committee and the planning consultants met on a monthly basis to discuss the plan chapters. Residents were invited to a planning workshop, a committee public hearing, and three public information meetings to review and provide feedback on the draft plan. The planning process concluded with a public hearing conducted by the Board of Trustees.

1.3 Guiding Goals of the Comprehensive Plan

The research and public participation phases defined the scope and nature of issues to be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. Although numerous viewpoints and objectives were expressed, the vision for the future of Briarcliff Manor shared by most participants emphasized:

- Preserve open space throughout the Village
- Manage future growth along the Scarborough Road Corridor and promote development that would maintain the corridor's existing character
- Strengthen the Central Business District (CBD) including linking both sides of the CBD separated by Route 9A and encouraging appropriate redevelopment

Plan recommendations to achieve these goals are discussed in more detail in Section 3.0.

1.4 Format of the Comprehensive Plan

This plan is organized into two major sections. Section 2.0 provides a description of existing conditions:

- Regional and Historic Context
- Land Uses, Zoning and Community Character
- Village Population
- Natural Environment
- Transportation
- Business Areas
- Community Facilities, Parks and Recreation.

Section 3.0 is the Village Plan. The plan stems from the findings in Existing Conditions Section 2.0. It is in this section that the vision for the Village is described. To support the vision, specific objectives and actions are described which should be undertaken to implement the plan.