

:RESOLUTION: 0328
:CATEGORY: MASTER PLAN
:SPONSORED BY: VC/MMR/PAH/JD/SH
:TITLE: ADOPTION OF FINAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

STRATEGIES REPORT

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Heaney, seconded by Supervisor Cannuscio, and duly adopted with the following recorded vote: All in favor:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Southampton, in accordance with Town Law Section 272-a, is authorized to prepare and adopt a comprehensive plan and amendments thereto; and

WHEREAS, Section 272-a.(2)(a) enables a comprehensive plan and subsequent update's to be prepared in the form of written and/or graphic materials that identify goals, policies, guidelines and other means for the immediate and long range protection, enhancement, growth and development of the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board by Resolution No.607 dated May 24, 1994, authorized the Supervisor to enter into a contractual agreement with a nationally recognized professional consultant team, led by the firm of Land Ethics, Inc., to prepare an update of the Town's existing 1970 comprehensive plan, as previously amended; and

WHEREAS, the consultant's scope of work for the preparation of the comprehensive plan update included the following tasks and elements: surveys of existing conditions, visual preferences and public attitudes; historic and natural resource inventories; land use and other physical feature mapping for planning and geographic information purposes; demographic, development and economic data and trends; and studies and recommendations pertaining to natural resources, historic resources, scenic resources, greenways and open space, affordable housing, community facilities, local economic conditions and sectors, agriculture, fisheries, hamlet centers and business areas, transportation and a strategic plan to define and prioritize actions, programs, projects and capital improvements for short and long range implementation; and

WHEREAS, preparation of the comprehensive plan update and its associated elements was undertaken through a significant public participation process involving the Town Board, Town Planning Board, citizen and special advisory committees, business associations, chambers of commerce, environmental groups, other local and regional governmental bodies and agencies and citizen and property owner interests; and

WHEREAS, prior to completion of the draft comprehensive plan update for consideration and public hearing by the Town Board, the consultant team, in cooperation with the Department of Land Management, facilitated a comprehensive community participation process, consistent with Section 272-a.6.(a) of Town Law, that involved over fifty meetings and other participation techniques including: hamlet and town-wide surveys of community issues and priorities; hamlet based visual preference surveys; work sessions and surveys with local schools; work sessions with various hamlet, citizen, business and environmental interests; town-wide vision setting workshops; public work sessions with the Town Board and Town Planning Board on various technical reports and plan elements; work sessions with a Comprehensive Plan Citizen Advisory Committee appointed by the Town Board; presentations to the Suffolk County Planning Commission; work sessions with surrounding town and village officials, citizens and interests; production of Cablevision and radio programs focused on the plan reports and recommendations; publication of plan findings, progress and recommendations in local newspapers and other print material; and distribution of draft technical reports and plan documents for public review and comment in both print form and through the Town's web site; and

WHEREAS, on October 23, 1997, the Town Board by Resolution No. 1134,

accepted the draft Comprehensive Plan Update for the purpose of conducting a public hearing as required by Section 272-a.6.(a) of Town Law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board, by Resolution No. 1303 dated November 25, 1997, authorized the Town Clerk, consistent with Town Law Section 272-a.6.(c) and Section 272-a(8), to provide public notice of completion of a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) concerning the proposed adoption of the comprehensive plan update and notice of public hearings on the comprehensive plan update and the DGEIS, in accordance with the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") and its implementing regulations; and

WHEREAS, the above Town Board resolution also forwarded the draft comprehensive plan update and DGEIS to both the Town Planning Board and the Suffolk County Planning Commission for review and recommendation consistent with Section 272-a.5.(a) and (b) of Town Law ; and

WHEREAS, during the public hearing process, the Town Board also made copies of the comprehensive plan update and DGEIS available to the general public through various means and mediums including: multiple copies of the plan and DGEIS were made available through both the Town Clerk's Office and the Department of Land Management; local newspapers and news media published reports regarding the plan's recommendations and hearing process; the plan was available for public access and comment through the Town's web site; special Cablevision programs were produced and aired periodically regarding the plan's recommendations; hamlet based meetings were conducted by the Department of Land Management to review the Plan's recommendations; formal public presentations and work sessions were conducted with the Town Board, Town Planning Board, Suffolk County Planning Commission, citizen and business interest groups and other local and regional governmental agencies and interests; and other publication and filing requirements were completed as required by SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, following public notice, the Town Board conducted nine public hearings on the proposed draft comprehensive plan update and DGEIS; and

WHEREAS, on February 24, 1998, the Town Board closed the public hearing on the draft comprehensive plan update and established a written public comment period until March 24, 1998; and

WHEREAS, transcripts from the public hearings and reports documenting written comments were prepared and organized by source, location and area of plan focus for submission and consideration by the Town Board, Department of Land Management and the consultant team; and

WHEREAS, following the completion of the public hearing and written comment periods, the Town Board authorized the consultant team and Department of Land Management to conduct fourteen community based work sessions between July 31, 1998 and September 15, 1998 to review and refine the plan's recommendations and prepare a Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS) consistent with SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Town Planning Board and Planning Division of the Department of Land Management also completed a review of the comprehensive plan update and DGEIS, and by Resolution dated June 25, 1998, the Town Planning Board submitted its report to the Town Board consistent with Section 272-a. 5.(a). of Town Law; and

WHEREAS, the consultant team on December 22, 1998, presented the final comprehensive plan update and implementation strategies report and FGEIS to the Town Board for consideration; and

WHEREAS, on January 26, 1998, the Town Board by Resolution No. 0144, accepted the final comprehensive plan update for the purpose of completing the SEQRA process; and

WHEREAS, on January 26, 1998, the Town Board also, by Resolution No. 0153,

accepted the FGEIS for the final comprehensive plan update and implementation strategies and authorized the Town Clerk to file and publish a notice of completion of the FGEIS for the purpose of receiving comments by February 16, 1999 in accordance with SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board also authorized the Town Clerk and Department of Land Management to distribute and make copies of the final comprehensive plan update and implementation strategies and FGEIS available to the general public through various means, including public libraries; and

WHEREAS, the Suffolk County Planning Commission adopted Resolution No. 1 dated February 3, 1999 stating that: the comprehensive plan has been the subject of an extensive public hearing and participation process; that the proposed plan will provide a framework for proper growth and orderly development within the town; that the Suffolk County Planning Commission supports the town's planning efforts; and commends the Town Board and Town Planning Board for their work in preparation of the comprehensive plan update and implementation strategies; and

WHEREAS, prior to the closure of the comment period on the plan and FGEIS, the Town Board received written public comments that have been compiled by a report from the Town Planning and Development Administrator dated March 3, 1999 and submitted to the Town Board for consideration. Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Southampton, through the efforts of the Town's consultant team led by Land Ethics, Inc. and, in conjunction with the Department of Land Management and the Town Planning Board, declares the preparation of the comprehensive plan update and implementation strategies report dated December 1998 to be complete; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town Board finds that the plan and implementation strategies have been prepared pursuant to Section 272-a. of Town Law, the requirements of SEQRA and through an open, responsive and flexible planning process; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town Board finds that the plan and implementation strategies not only advance a comprehensive vision for Southampton's future, but also supporting goals, policies, strategies, projects, programs, legislation and recommendations in a strategic manner that will insure the immediate and long range protection of the Town's natural resources, historic resources, scenic resources, open spaces, greenways, farmland, coastal and estuary environments, ground water management areas, wetlands and watersheds; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town Board finds that the plan and implementation strategies will promote the health, safety and general welfare of not only the citizens of the Town but also the surrounding Peconic region of Long Island; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town Board finds that the plan and implementation strategies provide for the conservation and orderly growth and development of the Town, particularly by: advancing recommendations to sustain and diversify the local economy; providing opportunities to increase the town-wide supply of affordable housing; maintaining, expanding, improving and diversifying the range of community, social, educational, recreational and cultural facilities and services available to serve the entire community; maintaining the sense of place, quality of life, diversity, scale, character, compactness and overall viability of the Town's hamlets and hamlet centers; promoting strategies to insure the conservation of farms and farmland; supporting the implementation of the Town's adopted Community Preservation Project Plan and understanding strategies for preserving open space and greenways; and by advancing alternative and multi-modal strategies and solutions to manage and improve both the Town and regional transportation system; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town Board finds that the plan will foster coordination and cooperation between town agencies and all levels of government that will assist with implementation of the plan; and be it further

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RESOLVED, the Town Board finds that the organization of the plan will insure that it will be readily utilized to serve not only the Town Board's decision making process but also the Town Planning Board, other appointed boards and committees and, most importantly, the citizens of Southampton; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town Board finds that the plan has considered and accounted for agricultural and farmland protections plans prepared for both the Town and Suffolk County including the Town's adopted 1998 Strategy for Farm and Farmland Preservation and the Suffolk County 1996 Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town Board finds that the organization and structure of the Strategic and Capital Improvements Plan component establishes intervals of one, two, three, four, five, five to ten and ongoing periods for periodic review of the plan as prescribed by Section 272-a.10 of Town Law; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town Board determines that, pursuant to Section 272-a.11(a) and (b) of Town Law, that all future Town land use regulations will be in accordance with this comprehensive plan update and all plans and capital projects of the Town and of another governmental agency shall consider the recommendations of the comprehensive plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town Board hereby adopts the Comprehensive Plan Update and Implementation Strategies report dated December 1998; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town Board authorizes the Department of Land Management to prepare the adopted final comprehensive plan and implementation strategies text for printing, distribution and filing; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town Board authorizes the Department of Land Management to prepare a resolution for consideration by the Town Board to create a Plan Implementation Advisory Committee composed of citizen, civic, business and environmental interests to review progress on plan implementation and to recommend revisions and amendments over the established periods defined by the strategic plan component; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town Clerk is directed to maintain on file the adopted comprehensive plan update and FGEIS and to file the update in the office of the Suffolk County Planning Commission.