

APPENDIX B

Workshop Summaries

Town of Poughkeepsie Comprehensive Plan Webinar Workshop Summary

Prepared on behalf of the Town of Poughkeepsie
Comprehensive Plan Review Committee



Workshop Date: July 1, 2020 7pm

Summary Date: July 17, 2020

Introduction

On July 1, 2020, the Town of Poughkeepsie Comprehensive Plan Review Committee (CPRC) conducted a public visioning workshop as part of the ongoing Comprehensive Plan Update process. Originally scheduled as in-person open-house style workshops, a national health emergency prompted the CPRC to convert the content of the workshops into an interactive, online webinar.

Marketing and outreach for the webinar was conducted through a Facebook page set up by the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee (CPRC) and advertised on the Town of Poughkeepsie's website, on the Town Hall notice board, Town email blast, and through a notice in the local newspaper, *Mid-Hudson News*. Approximately 38 flyers were handed out to patrons of the Poughkeepsie Farmer's Market on June 25th, 2020.

The webinar was held using the online video meeting platform "Zoom" on July 1st 2020 from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. The goal of the workshop was to gather feedback from residents and stakeholders on the draft vision statement and goals for the Town of Poughkeepsie Comprehensive Plan Update. Feedback on potential recommendations were also collected during the workshop.

The webinar was formatted as an interactive PowerPoint presentation which utilized the following interactive tools:

- The Zoom Polling feature to solicit feedback on focused questions;
- The chat function which allowed attendees to provide written questions, or provide feedback;
- The "raise your hand" function, which attendees used to indicate they wished to speak out loud.

The presentation included the following topics:

1. Introduction of the CPRC and Planning Team
 - a. Poll Question- What is your connection to the Town of Poughkeepsie?
2. Comprehensive Plan Process Basics- What is it, why is it important?
3. Comprehensive Plan Process Roadmap
4. Initial Community Input- Review 2018 workshop outcomes
 - a. Poll Question- Did you attend any of the workshops held in 2018?
5. The Principles of the 2007 Plan
6. Community Survey- review highlights and provide link to access
7. Overview of Existing Conditions Analyses
 - a. Poll Question- Choose your top 3 interests from the list of existing conditions topics
8. Overview of Town Center Zoning Districts
9. Gather feedback on the draft Vision
 - a. Poll questions followed each sentence of the Vision statement asking- do you agree?
10. Gather feedback on the draft Goals
 - a. Poll questions accompanied each goal asking- do you agree?
 - b. Verbal comment welcomed to discuss each goal and potential recommendations

Bill Carlos, the Chairman of CPRC welcomed attendees and introduced the CPRC, and the effort that had taken place to this point. Mike Welti from the Town of Poughkeepsie gave the outline on how the webinar was to proceed and introduced attendees to the chat function, "raise hand" and other

engagement tools on Zoom. He acknowledged that the Comprehensive Plan Update is funded in part by two grants provided by the New York State Climate Smart Communities program, run through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and a Hudson River Valley Greenway grant.

Bonnie Franson and Adriana Beltrani from Nelson, Pope, & Voorhis, LLC facilitated the workshop PowerPoint presentation and moderated the “raise hand” and verbal discussion while Kristen Taylor and Mike Welti from the Town of Poughkeepsie moderated the chat function, providing context for questions and ensuring attendees knew their comments were being reviewed.

As outlined above, the first portion of the workshop focused on providing participants with context around the Comprehensive Plan and its components, and how those apply to the Town of Poughkeepsie. Poll questions were incorporated to help facilitators understand the audience, and keep participants engaged in a dialogue. In gathering feedback on the draft Vision Statement and goals, the audience was invited to provide open feedback. When participants used the “raise hand” function, their microphone was unmuted, and the individual was invited to provide feedback. Many participants opted to utilize the chat function as opposed to speaking out loud. In this instance facilitators tried to read off the comments coming in and address any questions or acknowledge feedback.

The workshop ended by outlining the next steps and opened up the discussion to hear back from attendees in the webinar/workshop. Links were provided to all of the data and resources discussed, and a follow up email was sent out to all webinar registrants the next day, including clickable links to the same resources.

Outcomes

The webinar was attended by 65 participants and they were polled on multiple topics including vision statements and goals; the outcomes of the polls are provided below.

Introductory Polls

What is Your Connection to the Town of Poughkeepsie?

The workshop started off with a poll to understand how the attendees are connected to the Town of Poughkeepsie. Of the 55 attendees who responded, 41 attendees live in Poughkeepsie, 35 eat, 34 shop, 32 play, 32 receive services, and 20 work in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Responses to this poll question were “choose all that apply”, accounting for the total responses over 55 individuals.

Figure 1: What is your connection to the Town of Poughkeepsie?



After getting an understanding of the participant break down Bonnie Franson from Nelson, Pope, & Voorhis went on to explain the comprehensive planning process and present the eight steps involved in the Town of Poughkeepsie planning process.

1. Establish a Comprehensive Plan Review Committee
2. Initiate stakeholder and public input
3. Review the 2007 plan
4. Develop a community survey
5. Analyze existing conditions
6. Determine issues and opportunities
7. Public participation
8. Prepare the Comprehensive Plan

Currently, the Town of Poughkeepsie Comprehensive Plan is at the participation stage.

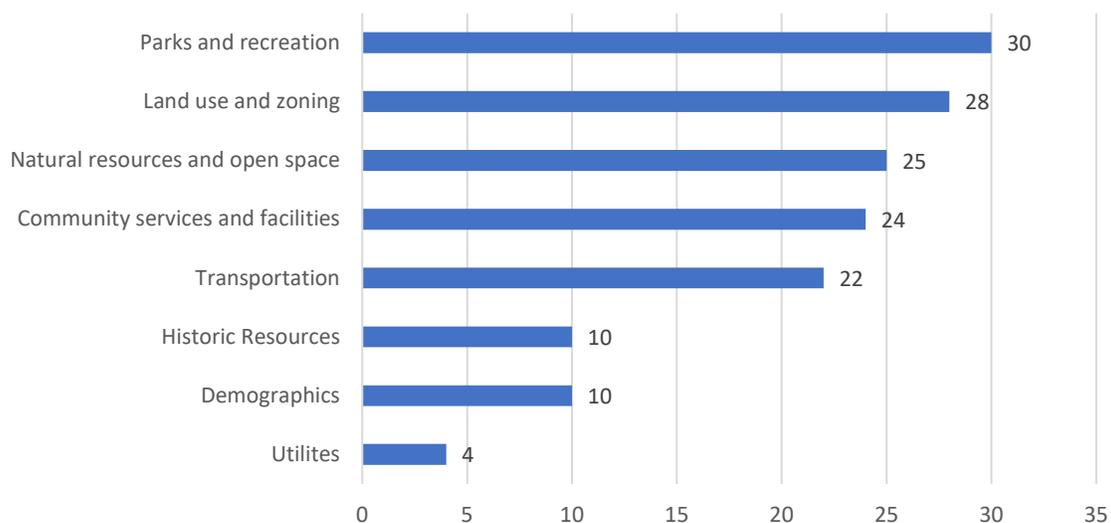
2018 Workshop Attendance

As a next step Ms. Beltrani, from NPV went on to poll if any of the attendees were present in the 2018 September workshop. The results of the poll showed that 81% of the webinar participants did not attend the 2018 workshop, whereas 19% did.

Participant's Top 3 Interests by Topic

After presenting on the 2007 Comprehensive Plan Concepts and describing the online survey process, the facilitators went on to present on the existing conditions analysis. Ms. Beltrani began with a poll which allowed participants to select their top 3 interests from topics including demographics, environment and natural resources, parks and recreation, historic resources, transportation, community services and facilities, utilities, and land use and zoning. This is a “choose all that apply” poll, though participants were encouraged to only those three.

Figure 2: Choose your top 3 interests



From 50 responses collected, most attendees (30) were interested in parks and recreation, followed by land use and zoning (28), natural resource and open space (25), community services and facilities (24) and transportation (22). Only 10 attendees were interested in historic resources or demographics, and 4 voted for utilities. More than 50% of the attendees were interested in parks and recreation, land use and zoning, and natural resources and open space. Only 10% of the attendees were interested in utilities.

Following this poll, Ms. Franson and Ms. Beltrani from NPV presented some results from the existing conditions analysis and then transitioned to the vision and goals segment.

Vision & Goals Discussion

Vision Statement Introduction

Participants were asked to review and provide feedback on a draft of a vision statement prepared by the CPRC. A Vision Statement is a guiding statement or philosophy for the future of the Town which informs important goals and policy recommendations in the Plan.

The vision statement was presented and followed by a series of slides which broke down components of the vision statement making it easier for participants to respond whether they agree or disagree or felt the statement required clarification. The draft vision statement was read out loud as follows:

“The Town of Poughkeepsie is an established, family-oriented, vibrant, and diverse Hudson River community strengthened by its history, attractive neighborhoods and longstanding and historic educational institutions. In the next ten years, the Town will re-vitalize, re-develop, re-connect and re-define what it means to live and work in a 21st century Poughkeepsie. The Town of Poughkeepsie will pursue a sustainable future by protecting and enhancing existing natural resources, encouraging alternative transportation and complete streets, and focusing on redevelopment of its transportation corridors, and preservation of its remaining open space and agricultural lands. The Town will enhance and diversify the local economy while preserving precious and important open space by incentivizing mixed use, walkable development in areas that have already been developed such as brownfields and greyfields. The Town of Poughkeepsie will be a community where people can afford to live and work, where on and off-street trails and sidewalks connect neighborhoods with important amenities and with each other.”

Following this slide, four slides showing one or two sentences of the vision statement were presented and accompanied by a poll question. The results of that discussion are provided below.

Vision Statement Part 1:

“The Town of Poughkeepsie is an established, family-oriented, vibrant, and diverse Hudson River community strengthened by its history, attractive neighborhoods and longstanding and historic educational institutions. In the next ten years, the Town will re-vitalize, re-develop, re-connect and re-define what it means to live and work in a 21st century Poughkeepsie.”

Participants were asked to vote to see if they agreed, disagreed, or needed more clarity on part 1 of the vision statement. Of the 47 participants who took the survey, 72% agreed with this statement, 24% said something was missing, and 4% disagreed.

One participant asked what family-oriented meant; Yvonne Laube from CPRC clarified that family-oriented means a good place to raise a kid, lots of good school options, and family resources.

Vision Statement Part 2:

“The Town of Poughkeepsie will pursue a sustainable future by protecting and enhancing existing natural resources, encouraging alternative transportation and complete streets, and

focusing on redevelopment of its transportation corridors, and preservation of its remaining open space and agricultural lands.”

Part 2 of the vision statement was followed by a poll. Out of the 48 people who voted, 75% agreed with the vision statement, 19% said something is missing, and 6% disagreed.

Participants used the chat function to expand on what a sustainable future means to them. People were interested in promoting renewable energy infrastructure and production, community solar, and resiliency. Another suggestion that came up was to create Town incentives for installing solar. Participants were excited and interested to learn more about the sustainability elements in the plan, discussed in the next section.

Vision Statement Part 3:

“The Town will enhance and diversify the local economy while preserving precious and important open space by incentivizing mixed use, walkable development in areas that have already been developed such as brownfields and greyfields.”

In the poll that followed, 46 attendees participated of which 35 attendees agreed with this statement, 1 disagreed and 10 people said something was missing.

In the chat function, one participant suggested that the vision statement expand on the concept of what it means to enhance and diversify the local economy. This is a concept that could be expanded on within a goal such as Brownfields and Infill Development.

Participants (3) mentioned a need for more safe bike lanes and bike trails connecting communities to town centers. Another participant highlighted about the flight from New York City to Dutchess County and the need for planning for possible future health crisis.

Vision Statement Part 4:

“The Town of Poughkeepsie will be a community where people can afford to live and work, where on and off-street trails and sidewalks connect neighborhoods with important amenities and with each other.”

The poll on part 4 of the vision statement showed that of the 45 attendees who voted, 75% agreed with the vision statement, 18% said something is missing, and 7% disagreed.

A participant mentioned in the comments that if the statement “afford to live and work” implies affordable housing, it should be stated as such. Another comment asked if the elements in the vision can address conservation of open spaces directly through acquisition of land or easements rather than exclusively via indirect means.

Vision Statement-Conclusion & Discussion

Between 45 – 48 attendees responded to four polls related to the vision statement. Overall, between 72% - 76% agreed with the vision statement; between 2% - 7% disagreed with the vision statement and between 18% - 22% said something was missing. Participants who felt something was missing wanted broader representation of concepts ie: clarification of the term “affordable”, or expanding ideas related to sustainability to incorporate specific technologies.

Later in the discussion section of the workshop, one resident expressed that visioning should include a sense of duty to the region and the relationship between the Town and the City. The Town should address economic fairness and accessibility for other people, by encouraging accessibility to schools and housing. This participant expressed concern that the poverty line has gone down because the Town prices everyone out and suggested the visioning should also include not just the people who are here already, but people who want to be here. This discussion was supported by several (5) other participants who used the chat function to agree. One attendee added that the Town geographically wraps around the City, hence the planning and management should be done together.

A participant also felt that even though the vision statement is very good, the use of “re” (ie. “re-vitalize, re-develop, re-connect) becomes repetitive. Instead it should say we intend to continue with these features or qualities in the next few years.

One workshop participant also stated that they felt reusing or preserving historic buildings is missing from the vision statement.

Goals & Recommendations

The webinar went on to discuss the draft goals prepared by the CPRC in a similar format as the Vision Statement, with slides accompanied by poll questions. After responding to poll questions, attendees were welcomed to contribute to an open discussion on the goal itself. While some attendees did raise their hand to speak out loud, many opted to use the chat function. Because of the intended open nature of this discussion, facilitators did their best to verbally reiterate the comments being written in the chat box. The draft goals were under the following eight topics:

1. Agriculture
2. Natural Resources and Open Space
3. Reconnect to the Hudson River
4. Complete Streets and Trails
5. Brownfield and Infill Development
6. Update Centers and Greenspaces
7. Historic, Scenic and Cultural Resource Preservation
8. Community Facilities, Utilities and Amenities

Agricultural Preservation & Enhancement

“The Town desires to promote sustainability and food security by preserving and promoting a diverse agricultural economy in the Town. Existing and fallow agricultural lands should be preserved to allow for continuation and growth of agricultural production in the Town. Locally produced food is more sustainable, less costly and supports the local economy. Transportation and environmental costs are high for foods that are imported from distant regions and other countries, consuming large quantities of fossil fuels.”

The slide also showed draft recommendations such as encourage suburban agriculture, open space planning, zoning overlays/incentive, support innovative technologies, farmland preservation planning, and value-added production spaces.

Following this, participants were polled on whether they agree with the goal. Of the 45 participants who voted, 76% agreed with the goal, 11% disagreed, and 13% said something is missing.

Participant Comments

Participants felt that the Town should have its own Farmer's Market and composting facilities and that compost pick up should be made available. One participant mentioned that the CAC/Climate Smart should pursue this, and residents should be able to get the composted materials back for home- use. Another expanded on this idea, pointing out that recycled food waste can be used by community farms and homes to garden and farm. One attendee added that there are other innovative strategies available for waste reduction, in addition to composting. In total, 9 participants showed interest in composting and a farmer's market through agreement using the chat function.

One participant encouraged the Town to include the promotion of sustainability and food security by sustaining and promoting a diverse agricultural economy within the Town. Similarly, another participant wanted to add a way to allow farm stands in Town so that people can sell the food being produced.

One participant stated that they would like to see the encouragement of backyard farming or homesteading be added to the Agriculture goal. This was supported by another attendee who wanted the Town to allow people to have chicken coops at residences of ½ acre or more.¹

One attendee also mentioned encouraging limited and responsible solar production on agricultural lands.

Two comments were received regarding the length and specificity of this goal. One attendee felt that the sentence "locally produced food is more sustainable, less costly and supports the local economy" is unnecessary. Another was confused by the last three sentences, which are not really goals and only serve to provide context for the first sentence, which is intended to be the true "goal statement."

Additionally, earlier in the chat residents of the Town of Poughkeepsie who own agricultural land reiterated their interest in stewarding their land for open space and agricultural production, and conveyed their interest in discussing this more with the CPRC.

Natural Resources and Open Space

"Protect and enhance the health of existing ecosystems in the Town, particularly along the three major creeks, their floodplains, riparian areas and associated wetland complexes."

Some of the themes discussed under this section were about the creation of a natural resource inventory, collaboration with Hudsonia and other groups to meet stewardship goals, engaging in community preservation planning, adoption of new critical environmental areas, resource protection regulations, protect floodplains through easements, and community composting. The participants were polled on whether they agree with the goal. Of the 44 participants who voted it was found that 80% agree with the goal and the rest 20% said something is missing.

Participant Comments

One participant previously on the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) provided insights on wetland protection in the Town and stated that the CAC had previously advocated for a 100-foot wetland buffer,

¹ §210-62.1 of the Town of Poughkeepsie Zoning Code currently allows up to 6 chickens on any size lot within Town after obtaining a one-time permit.

and that the Town should adopt this buffer requirement for Wetland protection through the protection of associated buffers. She said there needs to be more discussion about tree protection not just in terms of habitat protection as trees are important for helping with storm water, air quality, water quality.

Another attendee suggested that the elements of habitat connectivity and contiguous habitat patches should be added to the goals, objectives or recommendations. Similarly, through chat, a participant added that this goal should address the direct conservation of open space through the acquisition of land and easements rather than through indirect means such as zoning incentives.

Participants noted that the Hudson River Estuary should be added to the list of important waterbodies and two other participants agreed with that statement. Additional Critical Environmental Areas should be identified within the Town that highlight unique or important habitats and places.

One attendee noted that the mining area around Sand Dock Road should be considered wetland and another voiced concern about road salt and other chemicals leaching in the waterways. Another participant emphasized that floodplain protection is also climate change protection ie, resiliency building.

Ms. Gluck from Cornell Cooperative Extension pointed out that the Town can obtain Climate Smart Community points for updating the wetlands ordinance and tree planting/stewardship protection once implemented as these are Climate Smart Community actions.

Reconnect to the Hudson River

“The Town of Poughkeepsie is fundamentally defined by and historically connected to the Hudson River. The River is an amenity that is underutilized as a result of the limited direct access to the riverfront. The Town seeks to reconnect physically and visually to the Hudson River as it lends the Town its unique community character.”

The slide mentioned concepts relating to pursuing the trail along the river, exploring public access on IBM property, first right of refusal, and updating the LWRP.

Following this, participants were polled on whether they agree with the goal or not and it was found that of the 45 participants who voted, 78% agree with the goal, while 2% disagree, and 20% said something is missing.

Participant Comments

1. If “reconnect” means putting condos next to the Hudson River that is not supported.
2. Town should create a greenway trail along the River.
3. Spackenkill Road could connect to the River via Sand Dock Road where an existing bridge could add access to the River.
4. Incorporate tributaries that lead to the Hudson: Fallkill and Wappinger Creek.
5. Sporting is an interest that could be added to the goal. For example, Wappinger Creek, which is a tributary of the Hudson River is a Creek stocked with Trout and is a great asset for tourism and local recreation, and it will help increase attractiveness and traffic to local businesses.
6. Show ideas on how or where to physically connect to the River in the plan (agreed by another participant).
7. The Town’s proximity to Hudson River is underutilized.

8. Access to the Hudson River should be public over private.
9. If there are existing dams leading to the Hudson River, their “removal” could be a way to “re-connect.”
10. Need more public parks and access points to the River such as public parks or bike paths connecting to a shore point.

Complete Streets and Trails

“The Town will continue to pursue an interconnected and multimodal transportation system of trails, sidewalks, streets and rail systems, and promote complete streets which are designed and operated to enable safe use by pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities in their needs to get to and from homes, schools, shops and jobs.”

Related concepts such as expand trails off the Dutchess Rail Trail, review existing easements and rights of way for trails, sidewalks required in town centers, expand traffic calming, parking studies, and route 9 mixed use were also discussed.

Participants voted on whether they agree or disagree with the goal. Of the 44 participants who voted 84% agreed with the goal, 2% disagreed, and 14% said something is missing.

Participant Comments

Michelle Gluck from Cornell Corporation Extension asked how the usage/parking availability at New Hamburg and City of Poughkeepsie is and if there were bike routes from more centralized areas of the train stations. Jeff Renihan from CPRC responded that before COVID19 hit, the New Hamburg station used to be full and had Loop Bus shuttles available and there are no defined bike routes to New Hamburg as such. In response, another participant mentioned that the loop bus does not link or connect to the train schedule, and if the train runs late, it’s very likely that one might miss the last bus of the day and be stuck. Three participants agreed that there is limited accessibility to the New Hamburg station in terms of bus services and bike routes.

Several participants felt that the Town needs more safe bike lanes and routes, and bike trails connecting communities to the Town Centers.

Several participants felt sidewalks are needed for Spackenkill Road(4), near Spackenkill High School(1), Route 9, Wilbur Boulevard(1), Innis Avenue(1), and Bordman Road(1), while another participant disagreed that Spackenkill Road needs sidewalks. Another participant said that the Walk/Bike Dutchess already includes a sidewalk on Spackenkill Road to Cedar, but it doesn’t do much if one can’t cross Wilber Boulevard and Croft Road easily. She also said that it’s not bikeable and the sidewalk doesn’t help much. An attendee also expressed concern over how aggressive people are at the Cloverleaf on Spackenkill road every morning.

Additional Participant Comments

- 1) Limited Service
- 2) Better access to New Hamburg Train Station is needed via sidewalks, bike paths etc. An example
- 3) Lack of coordination between train and bus schedules is an issue

- a) A better bike lane out of New Hamburg to Route 9 could be located along Sheafe Road, would empty out at the Galleria Mall center/link to South Hills.
- 4) Safe bike lanes/trails needed
- 5) Implementation of a Safe Routes to School plan is needed
- 6) More pedestrian accessibility needed based on economic trends; not everyone has access to cars nor can they afford trains/buses.
- 7) People who use mobility devices should also be added as users in the draft goal.
- a) Another participant added that accessibility to all user types is important.
- 8) Having sidewalks or a bike lane on Spackenkill and Boardman Road, from IBM to Vassar and perhaps then across the back side of Vassar would increase connectivity greatly. (Two participants supported)
- 9) Sidewalks for Wilbur Boulevard, down by Spackenkill Road are needed (supported by two participants) although one participant disagreed with putting sidewalks on Spackenkill Road.
- 10) Getting to and from the City, as well as getting downtown without having to drive and park is important.
- 11) Connectivity between town and city trails/sidewalks is needed.
- 12) Expanded bus services are needed as population ages; they may require shared transportation to get to places such as buses and vans with selected pickup.
- 13) Prioritization of riverfront greenway to extend north from Poughkeepsie to connect to Hyde Park.
- 14) Add “recreation” as a purpose outside of the utilitarian use of trails/sidewalks/streets.
- 15) Walkways are needed for Route 9 as pedestrians currently use the center walkway which is dangerous. Like the idea of pedestrian walkways behind landscaping.
- 16) Walk Bike Dutchess, the County’s pedestrian and bike plan, has a series of recommendations for all Dutchess County communities including the Town of Poughkeepsie which should be checked.
- 17) A participant inquired whether Routes 376 and 113 are currently defined as the bicycle greenway and should be considered a valued and protected resource?
- 18) The Town should slowly move away from reliance on private automobile and retrofit car infrastructure such as parking lots for other uses and developments.
- 19) Innis Avenue needs sidewalks.

Brownfield and Infill Development

“Discourage new development from the remaining Greenfields in the Town, and redirect growth to underutilized or infill locations that are already developed and have access to transportation, utility, community facilities and other infrastructure in order to promote sustainability.”

The presentation further elaborated on certain key aspects such as Route 9 mixed use, facilitating a feasibility plan for Dutchess Center, Brownfield Opportunity Area grant funding for Dutchess Center, Plan for “Shovel ready sites”, daylighting, and zoning incentives.

The goal was followed up with a poll to understand how participants felt. 40 participants voted, 95% agreed with the goal, 2% disagreed, and 3% said something is missing.

Participant Comments

1. Development of Dutchess Center should include daylighting of Casperkill (supported by four participants)²
2. 4 participants said daylighting of Casperkill is a good idea
3. Landfills should be used for community solar projects and joining Community Choice Aggregation would promote such projects by providing the incentive of demand (two agree)
4. Landfills can also be used to enhance pollinator ecology, and the Climate Smart Task Force is considering joining the Town in the Pollinator Pathways program.

Update Centers and Greenspaces

“This Plan seeks to update the 2007 Centers and Greenspace Plan through further evaluation of the location of the centers, and desires to encourage infill development within already developed locations in the Town.”

Based on the presentation participants were asked to vote on whether they agreed with the goal. 36 participants voted on this goal and 92% of the participants said they agree, whereas 8% said something is missing. No one disagreed with the goal.

The slide showed a map with proposed centers proposed relating to the goal and asked participants for ideas and feedback for new Town Centers. Insights on areas that should be green spaces or remain green spaces were also welcomed.

Participant Comments

1. The northeastern part of town – Plan B, Peach Hill, and other sites should be protected from overdevelopment
2. Two participants agreed that the Salt Point Town Center should be scaled back or removed due to the floodplain
3. Making South Hills Mall a Town Center is an idea that needs work. Affordable/multi-family housing and transit are central to making this a workable Town Center.
4. Spackenkill Road and Route 9 are important centers as they connect the greenway to Locust Grove, Vassar, and Boardman Road (another participant agreed with this). Slowing traffic on Route 9 and making it bikeable is a good goal.
5. Essential services need to be considered for all proposed development.
6. Make Cedar Avenue walkable and bikeable.
7. There was a working farm in the Salt Point TC back in the day and the CPRC has a goal to increase/preserve green space/farm land. That area has proximity to the rail trail and Fallkill Creek as well- it could have creek side trail potential (one participant agreed)

Earlier in the discussion chats, one participant asked if the Plan might consider extending the Fairview Town Center a bit south to extend to the city line. Participants were interested in the Spackenkill Town Center in particular. Inquiries on potential plans for Spackenkill Town Center came up in the chat discussions.

² Ms. Beltrani clarified during the workshop that “daylighting” is the concept of re-naturalizing streams that have been channelized into pipes, often underground. Daylighting opens the stream back up to daylight and attempts to restore the natural flow of the stream.

Two participants were interested in knowing if there is going to be a new Community Center like the one in Fishkill. Kristen Taylor from the Town of Poughkeepsie responded by saying she can put them in touch with the Town's recreation committee.

Historic, Scenic and Cultural Resource Preservation

"The Town will continue to preserve its significant historic, scenic and cultural assets to preserve and enhance the Town and neighborhood character, promote neighborhood pride, and foster a strong Town cultural identity among generations of residents for years to come. Preservation of these resources also will promote place-based economic development and conserve natural resources through reuse of existing structures and buildings."

For the following poll question 35 participants voted; 85% of the participants agreed with the goal and the rest 15% said something is missing.

Participant Comments

1. Several participants said that there should be more recognition of Native American history in Town.
2. Consider creating a critical environmental area in New Hamburg to flag the hamlet as a unique resource- they have a couple of small historic districts.
3. Cultural assets seem to be a broad term
4. Statement that says the Town will seek to represent all residents in preserving cultural assets needs to be added (two participants agree)
5. Consider splitting the Town geographically to allow for distinct regions to plan and prioritize more effectively based on localized needs
6. Identification of historic buildings doesn't necessarily mean protection; examples of historic buildings at Hudson River Psych Center and Arthur May School on Raymond Avenue which were torn down were mentioned to highlight the need for more protection (2 participants)
7. The Natural Resource Inventory will include Native American sites.
8. One participant added that Stockbridge-Munsee people, who were removed from this area to Wisconsin, now have a cultural office in Saugerties, to consult with folks in the Hudson Valley about their heritage and representation.

Community Facilities, Utilities and Amenities

"Poughkeepsie residents, businesses, landowners and visitors are serviced by a comprehensive system of community facilities and services which collectively improve the quality of life in this community. Besides Town government, services are administered by various districts, including school, fire and ambulance, and several services are provided from regional agencies, e.g., state and county roadway maintenance. The Town will continue to ensure that all persons are served adequately by programs and facilities which are considered essential to the Town."

Following this, participants were asked to vote on whether they agreed with the goal. Of the 35 participants around 77% of the participants agreed with the goal, whereas 6% disagreed. 17% said something is missing.

Participant Comments

1. The term “adequately” makes it seem less important.
2. There should be a Community Center in the lower part of the Town.
3. More accessibility is needed for the Croft Corners Fire Department to legally access the Spackenkill Road going east in cases of emergency.
4. Delineation of age specific services is needed.
5. Consider age in place options as the population is aging and the school age population is decreasing.
6. Add accessibility for physically challenged.
7. The Town is adding too many developments with rent starting at \$1400 for a studio.

Final Questions or Comments

At the close of the webinar, facilitators invited the public to provide any additional questions, comments or takeaways from the meeting. The following comments and questions were shared:

1. What defines which programs/facilities are considered?
2. Is the Comprehensive Plan considering the potential changes that may come with the medical school opening at Marist and Vassar Hospital?
3. A new resident noted that people in Town are aging out of their homes and newer/younger people are moving into the Town of Poughkeepsie. With all of the colleges in the area, it is important to understand why the younger population is not staying as Poughkeepsie after graduation.
4. Ensure representation of the region’s diverse population as the area is gentrifying.
5. The CPRC should conduct outreach in Spanish language to increase participation in the planning process from that segment of the population. Other participants agreed with this as Spanish outreach will ensure that people other than activists who are already involved in the community will also get a chance to learn and participate in these workshops
6. Redistribute resources: for example if people who work in the Town have properties that don’t fall within the boundaries of certain school districts, it makes it difficult for them to access quality education. It’s a question of affording opportunities and the goals should think along the lines of equitable distribution of resources. The Town should be wary of developing housing that doesn’t meet needs of existing low-income residents both within the Town and City. Redistribution of resources could make it more inviting to live in Town.
7. Make sure that when developers are allowed to construct affordable housing that they actually develop housing that meets the needs of the existing low-income residents.
8. Ensure that affordable housing incentives are not misused by developers.
9. A participant was struck by the statistic that 47% of renters are rent burdened as a lot of new development being approved in the Town rent apartments starting at \$1,400 for studio. The average person cannot afford that. The participant understands that we want to attract new residents from NYC but we should also be building for people here;
10. One participant provided recommendations for economic fairness through affordable housing as follows:
 - a. Local preference should not be given when you develop affordable housing because it becomes discriminatory to people who can’t already afford living in Town; a regional preference may be more appropriate.

- b. Increase the commercial tax base so that the residential rate can stay the same or go down to make it more affordable for people to stay here
 - i. Another participant contradicted this by saying that commercial tax increase in the time of a pandemic economic downturn is not a great idea. She mentioned corporations like Sears, JC Penny, Macy's, Kmart, Bonefish, and Wendy's have either gone bankrupt or closed, or filed for Chapter 11.³ She said that Dutchess County and Town of Poughkeepsie will be hit hard similar to how IBM downsizing hurt tax base.
 - c. Look into New York State programs for down payment assistance and publicize them. There's also a 2nd mortgage assistance program for first time homeowners. Leverage State programs to make the Town more accessible.
 - d. When there are new building projects make sure that there are workforce and occupancy goals to encourage social diversity and especially support women. Look into who is working on those projects and who is able to live in these places.
11. Look into practical ways to reduce barriers to affordable housing.
 12. High taxes are prohibitive and make the Town unaffordable.
 13. There should be a greater discussion on affordable housing in the Comprehensive Plan.
 14. Continue using the Zoom even when we revert to in-person workshops to give people who are otherwise unable to attend a chance to attend meetings.
 15. Consider adding strategies or recommendations to approach/recover from pandemic in sections that are addressing ideas of resiliency; several participants agreed with this point.
 16. Consider adding autonomous vehicles and electric vehicles into the sustainability section of the plan. Charging stations for electric cars are also needed.

The webinar concluded with a slide which showed ways to get in touch with the Town of Poughkeepsie. The next day an email was circulated to all who registered for the Webinar containing links to the CPRC Town Website, Facebook Page and other resources discussed during the webinar. The recording of the webinar can be accessed from the Town of Poughkeepsie YouTube Channel at the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZoS214GoEE&list=UUjeRDRCg17z3K2GhMIJ_Y5Q&index=5&t=0s

³ NYS Bankruptcy Law that allows a business to reorganize and pay off debts without the need to liquidate assets and shut down.

Appendix A:

Summary of Discussion

Issue	Participants Agree	Comments
CSX Rail Spur	2	
Limited services	3	
Lack of sidewalks	8	Wilbur Blvd, Spackenkill road, Cedar Avenue, Route 9, Innis Avenue
Lack of bike routes	6	Cedar Avenue, Wilbur road, Croft road, Rte 9, Spackenkill, Sheaf Road
Recreational Center	2	
Sustainability and renewable energy	8	There was a high interest in renewable energy and sustainability
Community Solar	3	
Farmer's Market	2	
Composting	8	
Backyard farming/homesteading	4	Chicken coops and farm stands should be permitted
Housing	6	6 participants said there should be a greater discussion on housing and the housing section needed more clarity
Retail to residential	2	essential task
Town Centers	4	Spackenkill Town Center? Extending Fairview Town Center a bit south to the City line, Salt Point Town Center should be scaled back or removed due to the flood plain (2), possible park and connection to rail trail; South Hills Mall as a Town Center seems to be a bit of a stretch
American Indian History	3	
Identification of historic building doesn't mean protection	2	
Croft Corners fire department	2	It is difficult for the Spackenkill fire department to legally access Spackenkill Road going East in an emergency
Age Specific Services	1	Delineate age specific services, strategies for aging in place
Wetlands and floodplains	3	People were curious to know about current wetlands and floodplain designations

Issue	Participants Agree	Comments
Reconnect: Physically connect to the River	7	People were interested in reconnecting to the Hudson river be it through greater use of tributaries, or by creating a physical connection or removing barriers.
Safe routes to school	1	
Pedestrian accessibility	6	More pedestrian accessibility needed, consider users relying on mobility devices, sidewalks; use of Route 9 could be enhanced for walkability.
Daylighting Casperkill Creek at Dutchess Plaza	3	
Additional Critical Environmental Areas should be identified	2	
Housing Affordability	2	Town approves too many developments with rents starting around 1\$,400 for a studio, especially considering housing prices, rent burden
Resiliency regarding COVID19	5	Integrating strategies for recovery from pandemics in light of Covid19 in the resiliency section
Autonomous and electric vehicles	3	AV and EV to be integrated in sustainability section, charging stations for EV

Town of Poughkeepsie Comprehensive Plan Update Community Workshop #2

(Focus: Redevelopment and Infill Design and Placemaking)

Online Workshop on Zoom® Platform

September 30, 2020 7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Comprehensive Plan Review Committee [CPRC]

Bill Carlos (Chairman), James Challey, Yvonne Laube, Maribeth Rubenstein, Dan Salvatore,
Ann Shershin, David Silver, Jeff Renihan, Carl Whitehead

Planning Department

Michael Welti / Director of Municipal
Development Kristen Taylor / Planner

Consultants

Bonnie Franson and Adriana Beltrani, Nelson Pope and Voorhis (NPV)
Shachi Pandey, Metropolitan Urban Design Workshop (MUD
Workshop)

Meeting Attendance

See attached attendance list

Meeting Notes Prepared by

Shachi Pandey, MUD Workshop

This project has been funded, in part, by the Climate Smart Community Grant Program, Title 15 of the Environmental Protection Fund through the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; and by a grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway.

1. Workshop Summary

On September 30, 2020, the Town of Poughkeepsie Comprehensive Plan Review Committee (CPRC) conducted a design and planning workshop as part of the ongoing Comprehensive Plan Update process. Given the national health emergency due to the novel coronavirus Covid 19, the workshop was conducted digitally using the interactive platform Zoom®.

Marketing and outreach for the workshop was conducted by the Town of Poughkeepsie through the following channels:

- Comprehensive Planning Facebook page set up by the CPRC;
- Town's official website;
- Town Hall notice board;
- Town email blast;
- Notice in the local newspaper including Poughkeepsie Journal, the Mid-Hudson News, the Southern Dutchess News, Hudson Valley News, and I Heart Radio;
- Announcements on Town Hall TV screens; and
- Flyers distributed at the Poughkeepsie farmer's market.

The goal of the workshop was to gather feedback from residents and stakeholders on their preferred design and placemaking principles for the Town Centers identified in the 2007 and 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Two representative sites including the Dutchess Center and the South Hills Mall were selected to illustrate considerations in planning and design analysis and discuss the application of the community's preferred design and placemaking principles.

The workshop agenda included:

- Welcome and introductions,
- A recap of where the CPRC is in the comprehensive plan update process;
- Presentation and workshop led by the comprehensive plan consultants. The presentation included the following:
 - A recap of what the CPRC has heard so far with regard to how residents and stakeholders feel about development trends in the Town and how that compares to the Centers and Greenspaces Plan documented in the 2007 Comprehensive Plan.
 - An overview of best practice examples and key placemaking principles that could be applicable to the context of the Town of Poughkeepsie.
 - Planning and design analysis for two representative sites including Dutchess Center and South Hills Mall.
 - Polling and open forum discussion on each of the representative sites.
 - Next steps in the comprehensive planning process; and
- Wrap up by CPRC Chairman, Bill Carlos, and Director of Municipal Development, Michael Welti.

Interactive feedback tools used to illicit and document responses from the participants included -

- Zoom® polling feature to solicit statistical feedback on focused questions.
- The chat function which allowed attendees to provide written questions and comments.
- The “raise your hand” function, which attendees used to indicate they wished to speak out loud.
- Open forum at the end of the workshop which included live note-taking of comments and feedback from fellow participants which could all be seen at once by everyone.

Key individual roles during the workshop included -

- CPRC Chairman, Bill Carlos, who opened and closed the workshop. He welcomed all attendees, introduced the CPRC and the effort that had taken place to this point.
- Director of Municipal Development, Michael Welti, AICP, provided an outline of how the workshop would proceed and introduced the chat and “raise hand” functions for interaction. Kristen Taylor, AICP (Planner, Town of Poughkeepsie) and Mr. Welti also moderated the chat function, providing context for questions and ensuring attendees knew their comments were being reviewed.
- Adriana Beltrani, AICP (Environmental Planner at NPV) provided context of where we are in the comprehensive planning process and managed the poll function.
- Shachi Pandey, AICP, LEED AP (Principal of MUD Workshop) introduced the workshop agenda, gave the presentation on design and placemaking principles, facilitated the workshop, polling and open forum feedback, and took any questions related to the content of the workshop.

As outlined above, the first portion of the workshop focused on providing participants with an overview of best practice examples and design and placemaking principles. Two representative sites - Dutchess Center located on Dutchess Turnpike / Route 44 and South Hills Mall located on Route 9 - were used to illustrate considerations in planning and design analysis and discuss how the Town preferred design and placemaking principles could be applied to these sites.

This part also included poll questions specific to the application of these principles. The second part of the workshop was an open forum where participants could engage in a dialogue with the consultants and CPRC. The participants utilized the chat and “raise hand” function to participate in this open forum. When a participant used the “raise hand” function, the microphone was unmuted, and the individual was invited to provide feedback. Many

participants opted to utilize the chat function as opposed to speaking out loud. In this instance, facilitators read the comments coming in and addressed any questions or acknowledged feedback.

The workshop concluded with an overview of next steps and the timeline for the completion of the comprehensive plan update. In addition, Survey 123[®], a spatial feedback platform on GIS, was introduced to all participants for any additional feedback they may have over the coming week. Existing and new links to access data and resources discussed during the workshop were also provided at the end of the workshop and posted on the Town's website.

2. Design and Placemaking Principles Discussed

Shachi Pandey, Principal of MUD Workshop, made a presentation of best practices and design and placemaking principles.

- This slide show for the presentation has been uploaded on the Town's website.
- A recording of the live workshop and digital presentation was uploaded to the Town's YouTube webpage: [Click Here](#).

Summarized below is a list of design and placemaking principles that were discussed with the community during the workshop –

A/ Walkability – This is a desirable goal that can contribute greatly to the experience, vitality and vibrancy of a place. In this regard, one key consideration specific to the Town is traffic safety. Using methods that allow for traffic calming like wide sidewalks, bump-outs at intersections, proper signage and balancing the proportion or ratio of space dedicated to cars versus parking and pedestrian movement are some ways to achieve traffic safety.

B/ Transparency at the Street Level – One key factor in making walkable places is transparency at the pedestrian level. This allows for the pedestrian to engage beyond the edge of the street by showing them what possible human activities are contained within buildings. In addition to clear / see through façades, windows, doors, and openings into midblock spaces, transparency can also be achieved by dedicating pedestrian friendly outdoor spaces and welcoming landscape design. This is especially important given the current social-distancing needs and the potential future landscapes that will emerge from this need.

C/ Active Storefronts and Programming – Active storefronts and programming are another invitation to engage in human activity outside of the car. This can include activities like temporary food trucks, events and performances, temporary local markets etc., all of which add to the social vibrancy of a place and invite the pedestrian to engage directly with the landscape.

D/ Flexible Community Space – Multi-purpose and flexible community spaces can especially play a vital role in revitalization, redevelopment OR new development. The example cited in the workshop is the Princeton Shopping Center in NJ. The shopping center has a central and flexible community space around which retail is organized. The space is being used in different seasons and at different times of the day for different activities including lunching, concerts, promoting local businesses and more. The landscape design, access and layout shows the consideration taken to make this space inviting, truly community centric and useable at different times of the day. Given the current pandemic landscape where social gatherings are limited, these spaces are especially important in maintaining social yet safe interactions.

E/ *Mix of Uses* – Mixed use can be defined as a balanced combination and thoughtful distribution of residential, office and retail use that works for the community and economic contexts in which the development is situated. The demographics and market should be carefully considered to develop a program for development that will balance both community and business needs. Mixing of uses can add vibrancy to a place, promote healthier live-work relationships and keep the place active by the day and night. One example of a large-scale center is Legacy Village in Ohio, which is frequently cited as a successful mixed-use community and has a combination of one to three story buildings that are packed in a compact development pattern. The compactness of development helps in several ways including safer walkable places and even more importantly it helps create the critical mass needed to support the uses. Another example cited here is that of Mashpee Commons, showing active streets by the day and night. The nighttime uses such as dining, while they attract visitors, are additionally supported by the residents of the area. The mix of uses helps keep the area vibrant and safe during the day and at night.

F/ *Planning for All Weathers* – The Northeast is a cold region and can make outdoor spaces inaccessible during the winter. The spaces that thrive with activity during the warm weather can be entirely unusable during the winter if not programmed appropriately. So thinking about how to create and support all-weather redevelopment patterns is also very important in the context of the Town. This can be achieved through different elements of design and programming. The Princeton Shopping Center, for example, has created sheltered and canopied walkways that stay warm even during the winter months. While the winter seasons may not see concerts, the spaces can still be used for lunching, shopping and small gatherings. One way to activate large community spaces is by seasonal pop-ups, kiosks and winter uses. Bryant Park is an example that hosts a *Winter Market* featuring artists and small businesses from around the region and also transforms its central lawn into an ice-skating rink. This keeps the place active even during the winter months.

G/ *Mix of Local and National Brands* – One way to provide ample choices for a variety of users is to balance the mix of local and national retail. Having this mix also ensures the long-term viability and success of a place especially through different market cycles, and it is important to plan this early on to ensure future success of the development. Even national brands can fit the scale and desired character of the Town in which they are situated. The example shown is that of Mashpee Commons and Princeton Shopping Center, both of which show how the regional / national brands fit within the scale and character defined by their contexts and don't overpower them.

H/ *Streetscapes and Civic Spaces* – The importance of streetscapes and civic spaces was discussed briefly from the point of view of safety and programming. But there are specific design elements that can increase walkability and make for more inviting spaces. One example is in the Town itself, is from the Arlington Town Center. It has incorporated several principles including transparency on the street, awnings, outdoor spillover space for cafés and restaurants, thoughtful landscaping, signage, lighting and paying attention to the materiality of the sidewalk and the buildings. All of these together play an important role in placemaking.

I/ *Environmental Considerations* – Certain existing sites in the Town like the Dutchess Center may be constrained from redevelopment due to perceived issues owing to past uses and conditions. In the case of the Dutchess Center, the center was built on a landfill site. It is also within a 100-year floodplain and in close proximity to the Casperkill Creek which has been modified from its original natural course. Soils can be cleaned up naturally over time through phytoremediation. It is a widely accepted cost-effective environmental restoration technology where plantings and associated soil microbes can reduce the concentrations or toxic effects of contaminants in the environment. A phytoremediation park can act as a central community space, which could offer opportunities for environmental awareness and education.

J/ *Energy and Emissions Consideration* – Emissions have been a growing concern in our times and a shift towards clean, green and renewable energy is something that is already happening. Now and in the future, it is important to be thinking about alternative forms of energy at the inception of any design and development undertaking. There are successful examples around the country to harness solar energy and the examples cited here include canopies, roofs and carports. The Town is also participating in the Climate Smart Communities program and one thing to note here is that as electric car ownership goes up, one can even provide EV charging stations in parking areas, which would achieve a "climate smart communities" action point.

3. Planning and Design Analysis of Dutchess Center and South Hills Mall

Shachi Pandey, Principal of MUD Workshop, gave a presentation of the planning and design analysis of the two selected representative sites, Dutchess Center and South Hills Mall. Key points discussed are below –

A/ Dutchess Center

- The mid-century buildings have been vacant a long time and may not be structurally stable for adaptive reuse. Based on feedback from the CPRC, these buildings can be taken down for new mixed use typologies.
- There is a large asphalt parking lot, which has not been in use because there is nothing active in the vicinity except for the drive-in Burger King.
- A historic "Dutchess Center" signage is situated at the entrance on Dutchess Turnpike.
- The site was constructed within the 100-yr flood plain and therefore the site is sensitive to flooding.
- The Casperkill right next to the site is an opportunity for creating a community / open space as one element of redevelopment.
- Another opportunity is proximity to the Dutchess Rail Trail and the bike connection to this trail and other nearby nodes / destinations can be considered during the site's development.
- The walking distance map shows of points of interest within 5 and 10 minutes of the site and the trailhead connection is within a 10-minute walking distance. Also, there is a pedestrian connection to the Arlington Town Center, which can be strengthened over the longer term.
- The site can be accessed from the Dutchess Turnpike, Burnett Boulevard and Friendly Lane. Dutchess Turnpike has a very challenging pedestrian environment and no traffic signals for site entrance. Burnett Boulevard has a signalized intersection at the entrance to the site and access via Friendly Lane was most likely used by delivery and service trucks.
- The site is approximately 20.5 acres in area and was zoned B-SC to serve as a regional destination with uses that support multi community use. Currently the bulk standards allow for a 25% ground coverage and a 55 foot maximum height. These regulations can

be updated by the Town to support and attract the kind of the development desired by the community.

B/ South Hills Mall (The Shoppes at South Hills)

- The South Hills Mall is experiencing high vacancy now that the K-mart, the movie theater and Burlington Coat Factory spaces have been vacated.
- One of the most frequented stores is the ShopRite.
- The development has distinct colonnaded walkways and there is even a space for smaller stores like nail salons and spas.
- There is a large loading dock area in the back and surplus surface parking both in the back and front of the center.
- South Hills Mall does not have any flooding challenges or floodplain issues.
- The site has a pretty wide, thick and healthy buffer zone which slopes up toward the residential areas to the west.
- Both Main Street and South Road / Route 9, provide direct access to the site. In addition, the South Hills Mall can also be accessed from Galleria to the north. In the back and along the buffer, there is a service road mainly used by delivery trucks.
- Approximately 73.5 acres in size, South Hills Mall is likely a suitable site for infill development as noted in a meeting with the CPRC.
- The South Hills Center zoning district and development guidelines call for increased and safe pedestrian and interconnectedness with adjacent areas for both pedestrians and cars.
- The bulk standards allow for 3 stories or 45 feet of building height and a 30% ground coverage.

4. Community Polling and Open Forum

Following the existing conditions presentation for each site, a brief community poll was conducted after which an open forum where participants were invited to offer their feedback on the placemaking principles and the representative sites. Both the feedback and the polling results are noted below for each site –

A/ Dutchess Center

Polling Results

- Question 1 / What is your vision for Dutchess Center?
 - o Total number of responses = 32
 - o Top response was ‘mixed use center with retail, offices and residential’ at 50%
 - o Other responses include –

Response Option	Number	Percentage
Mixed Use Center with Retail, offices + residential	16	50.0%
Community gathering space	5	15.6%
Environmental Learning Center	4	12.5%
Entertainment Complex	3	9.4%
Other	3	9.4%
Destination Mall	1	3.1%
Neighborhood Retail	0	0.0%
Healthcare	0	0.0%
Independent senior living	0	0.0%
Assisted senior living	0	0.0%

- Question 2 / What are the top three uses you would like to see at Dutchess Center?
 - o Total number of responses = 31
 - o Top response was 'residential; single and multifamily, townhouses at 17.2%
 - o Other responses include –

Response Option	Number	Percentage
Residential; Single Family, Multifamily, Townhouses	16	17.2%
Civic or Community Space; Lawn, Town Center Plaza	15	16.1%
Passive Recreation; Seating, Strolling, Picnic Spot	14	15.1%
Entertainment; Cinema, Bowling Alley, Eateries & Bars, Sauna	12	12.9%
Public Recreation Center; Swimming, Tennis, Mini-Golf, Library, Escape Room	11	11.8%
Commercial; Grocery Store, Local Artists	10	10.8%
Solar Farm	6	6.5%
Phytoremediation Park	5	5.4%
Environmental Education	4	4.3%
Community Farming	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%

- Question 3 / Are there any Local Businesses, Artists' and Flea, Farmer's Markets that you would like to see being supported at Dutchess Center?
 - o Total number of responses = 34
 - o Top response was 'farmer's market' at 35.3%
 - o Other responses include –

Response Option	Number	Percentage
Farmer's Market	12	35.3%
Local Eateries, Breweries or similar	9	26.5%
Artists' and Flea	8	23.5%
Community Maker Space	3	8.8%
Local Businesses like hair salon, nail & spa	1	2.9%
Other	1	2.9%

- Question 4 / How far from Dutchess Center do you live?
 - o Total number of responses = 33
 - o Top response was '1-3 miles' at 36.4%
 - o Other responses include –

Response Option	Number	Percentage
1-3 Miles	12	36.4%
3-5 Miles	9	27.3%
> 5 Miles	7	21.2%
0-1 Mile	5	15.2%

- Question 5 / What would be your ideal mode of transportation to get Dutchess Center, assuming that the development will be walkable once you get there?
 - o Total number of responses = 35
 - o Top response was 'driving personal vehicle' at 54.3%
 - o Other responses include –

Response Option	Number	Percentage
Driving personal vehicle	19	54.3%
Biking	10	28.6%
Walking, jogging, running	3	8.6%
Bus or a new mode of public transportation (shuttle)	3	8.6%

Open Forum Feedback (Please note that spoken language has been edited to provide greater clarity in written language)

- There is an elementary school close to the site and it would be an ideal location for young families to reside.
- There is a bank, credit union and other facilities within walking distance making this a great location for residential use. Can the site consider affordable housing for young families where they don't have to drive? This could also include facilities like a childcare center, free Wi-Fi and a co-working space for parents.
- There is a shortage of places to go to bathroom and buy water along the Dutchess Rail Trail. The site is so accessible to the trail. We need to think of a place where people can rest a bit and get these basics for their hike.
- Strongly advocate for the daylighting of Casperkill. For any development on the site, there should be a requirement that the creek be restored as an amenity.
- Environmental education and school children can be attracted to this location and site.
- The site should also consider habitat restoration and attracting wildlife.
- There is a police station in the back of Dutchess Center. Will the redevelopment of Dutchess Center include any municipal operations or operations related to the police station?
- Consider how bus routes can be incorporated as a mode of transportation.

B/ South Hills Mall

Polling Results

- Question 1 / What is your vision for South Hills Mall?
 - o Total number of responses = 32
 - o Top response was 'mixed use center with retail, offices and residential' at 40.6%
 - o Other responses include –

Response Option	Number	Percentage
Mixed Use Center with Retail, offices + residential	13	40.6%
Community gathering space	5	15.6%
Destination Mall	4	12.5%
Environmental Learning Center	4	12.5%
Assisted senior living	3	9.4%
Entertainment Complex	1	3.1%
Neighborhood Retail	1	3.1%
Other	1	3.1%
Healthcare	0	0.0%
Independent senior living	0	0.0%

- Question 2 / What are the top three uses you would like to see at South Hills Mall?
 - o Total number of responses = 34
 - o Top response was 'entertainment; cinema, bowling alley, eateries & bars,sauna' at 23.4%
 - o Other responses include –

Response Option	Number	Percentage
Entertainment; Cinema, Bowling Alley, Eateries & Bars, Sauna	22	23.4%
Residential; Single Family, Multifamily, Townhouses,	13	13.8%
Commercial; Grocery Store, Local Artists,	13	13.8%
Public Recreation Center; Swimming, Tennis, Mini-Golf, Library, Escape Room,	11	11.7%
Passive Recreation; Seating, Strolling, Picnic Spot	11	11.7%
Civic or Community Space; Lawn, Town Center Plaza	11	11.7%
Solar Farm	6	6.4%
Environmental Education	4	4.3%
Phytoremediation Park	3	3.2%
Community Farming	0	0.0%
Other	0	0.0%

- Question 3 / Are there any Local Businesses, Artists' and Flea, Farmer's Markets that you would like to see being supported at South Hills Mall?
 - o Total number of responses = 31
 - o Top response was 'local eateries, breweries or similar' at 32.3%
 - o Other responses include –

Response Option	Number	Percentage
Local Eateries, Breweries or similar	10	32.3%
Community Maker Space	10	32.3%
Farmer's Market	6	19.4%
Artists' and Flea	3	9.7%
Local Businesses like hair salon, nail & spa,	1	3.2%
Other	1	3.2%

- Question 4 / How far from South Hills Mall do you live?
 - o Total number of responses = 35
 - o Top response was '3-5 miles' at 42.9%
 - o Other responses include –

Response Option	Number	Percentage
3-5 Miles	15	42.9%
> 5 Miles	13	37.1%
1-3 Miles	7	20.0%
0-1 Mile	0	0.0%

- Question 5 / What would be your ideal mode of transportation to get Dutchess Center, assuming that the development will be walkable once you get there?
 - o Total number of responses = 35
 - o Top response was 'driving personal vehicle' at 62.9%
 - o Other responses include –

Response Option	Number	Percentage
Driving personal vehicle	22	62.9%
Bus or a new mode of public transportation (shuttle)	7	20.0%
Biking	6	17.1%
Walking, jogging, running	0	0.0%

Open Forum Feedback (Please note that spoken language has been edited to provide greater clarity in written language)

- The concept here should focus on connecting communities – a smooth circulation where we can move easily by bike and walking to different neighborhoods.
- Walking to the mall is unsafe. Traffic lights are not really there or are not functioning.
- It's also not safe to ride a bike in front of South Hills Mall. There was a plan for an overpass on Route 9.
- A number of people don't drive or can't drive. Public transportation is very critical for a lot of folks.
- Biking from the Spackenkill area, one usually goes to the west of Route 9. It's a scary thought to bike / walk down Route 9. There are people walking or biking down the median and there's no space to squeeze in. It would be good to have something that connects north and south. Maybe we can take away one of the lanes on Route 9 and make it a walking or biking path. We can get by with two lanes of traffic on either side.
- Make space for artists and communities, cafés etc.
- We should give reason for people to come beyond just retail as it is waning. The place can be programmed as a community sports and entertainment center that is similar to Chelsea Piers in Stamford. In addition, creating co-working spaces like WeWork that people can rent on an hourly basis.
- With respect to South Hills Mall and being right next to Galleria - it can be turned into an entertainment center / sports center. There was the IBM country club which is no longer available and this entertainment club could fill the gap. Having a place where families can get to – could be indoor like a Chelsea Piers concept – would be great.
- Malls and shopping are waning and we should make this infill development unique and stand out.
- Neighborhood around the site are not integrated with the development and having a component of residential will make South Hills Mall better integrated.
- Malls changing had started to happen even before the pandemic. We need to rethink these malls and have it be a good mix rather than just a heavy use. We should reuse and redevelop rather than tear down green spaces just to build something new.
- The zoning should be updated to match whatever is being said in the comprehensive plan.

Polling Results for Town-wide Question

- As these Town Centers develop, what would you like Town of Poughkeepsie to be known for?
 - o Total number of responses = 36
 - o Top response was ‘promoting walkability, mixed use and transit-oriented development at 33.3%
 - o Other responses include –

Response Option	Number	Percentage
Promoting walkability, mixed use and transit- oriented development	12	33.3%
Ethnic and economic diversity	7	19.4%
A place that demonstrates building sustainability and reducing carbon emissions	5	13.9%
Affordable lifestyle	5	13.9%
A passive recreation destination for biking, walking and enjoying the Town’s amenities	3	8.3%
A historic tourism destination	2	5.6%
An eco-tourism destination	1	2.8%
Other	1	2.8%

5. Next Steps

Shachi Pandey of MUD Workshop provided an overview of next steps to follow –

- Survey 123, a digital feedback platform will be made available for a week for anyone who wants to provide additional input after this workshop.
- Other important links were shared.
- Using the two representative sites, MUD Workshop will illustrate how community feedback and design and placemaking principles discussed during the workshop can be incorporated in any new or redevelopment and used as a model for other potential infill and redevelopment areas.
- The draft of the comprehensive plan update will be made available by the end of 2020 and the adoption process will begin in 2021.

Attendance List:

1	Adriana Beltrani	36	Anthony Giorgio
2	Bonnie Franson	37	Marianne Begemann
3	Shachi Pandey	38	David Carroll
4	Michael Welti	39	Jon Baisley
5	Kristen Taylor	40	Sean Twohig
6	Bill Carlos	41	Robert Nasser
7	James Challey	42	Florence Hadshian
8	Yvonne Laube	43	Scott Brenner
9	Maribeth Rubenstein	44	Daniel Salvatore
10	Dan Salvatore	45	Elizabeth Kucinich
11	Ann Shershin	46	Christina Hrynyk
12	David Silver	47	Rosemary Caspary
13	Jeff Renihan	48	Kristina Granieri
14	Carl Whitehead	49	Nancy Kappler-Foster
15	Rebecca Edwards	50	Karen Flaherty
16	Arden Bevans-Jenkins	51	Vanessa Sanchez
17	Sharon Phillips	52	Wendy Mcneil
18	Siennah Yang	53	Lorraine Mirabella
19	Lydia Higginson	54	Ann Shershin
20	Jennifer Warburton	55	Laurie Sandow
21	Tom Lawrence	56	Deborah Stachura
22	Arelis Espinosa-Romanov	57	Bryan Swarthout
23	Brad Weaver	58	Carl Whitehead
24	John Famelette Jy	59	Pok Native
25	Rachel R	60	Caroline Fenner
26	Eero Vaitkus	61	Stephanie Harris
27	Greg White	62	Emily Dozier
28	Edward Enright	63	Shelby Frangk
29	Shakia Cowings	64	Wendy Wright
30	David Kaminski	65	Carolyn Fielding
31	Michael Sperling	66	Herman Figueroa
32	Ian Wickstead	67	Eleanor Charwat
33	Susan Karnes Hecht	68	Katy Anson
34	Yvonne Laube	69	Arthur Scott
35	Eileen Stinson		