



Village of Briarcliff Manor Comprehensive Plan Update

Working Group Meeting Notes | August 21, 2025

12:15 PM – 2:15 PM

Attendees:

Briarcliff Manor Comprehensive Plan Working Group

Amy Karpati, Environmental Advisory Council Chair

Rhea Mallett, Village Trustee

Malcolm Netburn, Village Trustee

Joshua Ringel, Village Manager

BFJ Planning

Sarah Yackel, Project Principal

Michelle Gilman, Project Manager

Nick Cerdera, Project Planner

1. Review of Draft Chapters

- a. II.2 Sustainability and Natural Resources Chapter
 - i. The Working Group discussed ways to strengthen the Chapter's introduction to make the document more visionary and accessible to readers.
 1. The Working Group recommended strengthening the chapter's first paragraph to better reflect the Village's role in the regional connectivity of environmental resources. For example, the Village's slogan of a "Village Between Two Rivers" could be a launching point for high level discussion introducing the Village's key role in connecting the Hudson and Pocantico Rivers, along with the wildlife and ecosystems associated with this linkage.
 2. Additionally, adjustments to the chapter goals were discussed. For example, discussion supporting the goal recommending the integration of nature into the built environment should make it clear that the Village hopes to encourage the transformation of the suburban monoculture of grass lawns found in the Village into a native, living, and vibrant ecosystem.
 - ii. The Working Group also flagged specific, content-related edits to improve the overall foundation of the chapter's existing conditions sub-sections.
 1. The Working Group suggested additional information should be provided on the Village's role in the health of the Pocantico River Watershed.
 - a. The Working Group also expressed interest in exploring overlay zones as a potential recommendation in the Village Plan to address the area's unique ecological requirements.
 2. The Working Group also recommended adding more context about mammals, wildlife crossings, solar energy systems, and battery energy storage systems in the chapter to better illustrate the various important sustainability initiatives and natural resources in the Village.



b. Overall Plan Framework and General Comments

- i. The Working Group was pleased with the improvements made to the Comprehensive Plan format and the restructuring of chapters. As chapters continue to be refined, it is important to both emphasize the plan goals and previous Village accomplishments.
- ii. It was also noted that the Comprehensive Plan should demonstrate the Village's goal of becoming an enduring example of how to modify and manage the suburban landscape into the future.
 1. The Working Group discussed the importance of distilling the Plan's Vision into a few core themes which will connect with the Plans' recommendations.
- iii. The Village Plan Section will organize the Plan's recommendations into a matrix format. The Working Group discussed factors to include in the matrix, including: plan goals addressed by the recommendation, entity responsible for implementation, and the time horizon for completion (e.g., short-, medium-, and long-term).

2. Fall Public Engagement

- a. The Visioning Exercise is live and had not received any comments as of the Working Group Meeting. The Working Group discussed strategies to increase engagement:
 - i. Josh Ringel will send three email blasts to the community asking for participation in September and October.
 - ii. QR Codes will be distributed at the Village Community Day on September 6th.
- b. Community Day, which will take place on Saturday, September 6th, will be an informal and interactive touchpoint with Briarcliff Manor residents before the formal November Workshop.
 - i. Rhea Mallett, Sarah Yackel, and Nick Cerdera will attend and staff the Comprehensive Plan table.
 - ii. Materials will include boards for the community to provide input on the Plan's vision and goals, along with a map of the Village where participants can mark their favorite place in Briarcliff Manor.
- c. The Public Workshop will take place on Wednesday, November 5th at Todd Elementary School.

3. Next Steps

- a. September Working Group Meeting
 - i. The Working Group will meet on Friday, September 26, to discuss the following:
 1. The completed existing conditions chapters
 2. Open Space Element
 3. The Village Plan