

NOV 01 2021

Since climate change is an existential threat to our lives, I am excited that the village response was a “high” priority for renewable energy and a desire to reduce the impacts of climate change. To address our citizens’ concern for the environment, I feel that we need to take advantage of the resources available by joining the New York State Clean Energy Communities program by appointing a liaison between Aurora and the program. I am requesting to be that liaison. I also feel that we need to take every opportunity available in this community to convert to renewable energy sources.

Another concern, which was brought up by Laura Holland, was the large presence in Aurora of Route 90. When our home was built circa 1811, the elevation of the road (now present day Rte. 90) was that of the present day sidewalk which is approximately two feet lower than the present road. You can see this in the picture of the stone block used to enter the carriages in 1811 that still exists in front of our house. When the Department of Transportation modernized the road, they changed the elevation of the road, and with heavy rains, there is flooding of the homes to the west of Rte. 90. There needs to be not only culverts and catch basins to gather the water on the east side of the road but also larger culverts to clear the water from the east side at Lafayette St. that pass under Rte. 90 and into the lake.

Marie Dentes



RECEIVED

NOV 01 2021

RECEIVED

NOV 01 2021

Village of Aurora
Draft Comprehensive Plan
Comments on the 10/22/2021 version
Submitted by John Dentes on 11/1/2021

Thank you to the Village Trustees, Village Board members, and Steering Committee members for your efforts in preparing an update to the 2008 Aurora Comprehensive Plan.

Especially appreciated is the Implementation Matrix. It provides a prioritized list of actionable goals. The following comments relate to the Matrix.

- 1) The order of goals, as they appear in the Matrix, should be from highest priority level to lowest. Further, each goal should be ranked highest to lowest by the number of times it was cited as a priority in the supporting documentation.
- 2) Potential Partners described in the Matrix should be listed in the table appearing on the previous page. I would recommend adding the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network to the Matrix under goals related to water quality and embracing the lake.
- 3) Reword the second goal which says, "The Village should acquire land ..." to read. "The Village should explore all options towards creating a functioning office/meeting space." Not making this change excludes the first and most critical step in the capital budgeting process which is identifying alternatives.
- 4) "Updating zoning for consistency with the Comprehensive plan" is another goal. It should be made clear, within this goal or elsewhere in the Plan, that pending and future appeals related to zoning will be handled promptly and not put on hold, "until the Zoning Code is formally updated." It is likely that updating and passage of a revised Zoning Law will take years.
- 5) Consider adding a column to the matrix that indicates the Steering Committee's assessment of the time frame within which the goal is to be accomplished.

The Matrix identifies 12 of the 24 goals as high priority. To move expeditiously on these goals it is absolutely critical that, "the Village Board assign a person or board to be responsible for timely completion." Given the Board's current work load, apparent lack of a committee structure, and need to move promptly on multiple fronts, I strongly urge that local residents with expertise in the various goal areas be solicited for their participation. To that end, I John Dentes, request that I be added to the group of individuals assigned to address the goal identified as "Improve and expand communication between the Village, its residents, business owners, ..."

To accomplish the goals outlined in the Plan, consideration should be given to the creation of ad hoc committees consisting of interested and appropriately skilled residents

Please note that this document is not complete without the Appendices. These should be made available before the final Plan is offered up for approval.

Subject: Village Comprehensive Plan meeting Nov. 2
From: Louise Rossmann <edlou@rochester.rr.com>
Date: 11/1/2021, 10:29 PM
To: villageclerk@auroranewyork.us

Dear Comprehensive Plan members,

First, thank you for all the work you have put into this document.

In the Implementation Matrix I see no mention of the water runoff problems, although it is mentioned in the text of the plan.

During last week's heavy rains, water has washed out soil under the sidewalk on Lafayette Street Extension; water from a small stream carved out a hole around a drain on the east side of Route 90; storm drains at the base of Lafayette Street remained plugged several days after the most recent rain, so water does not drain into them. Dealing with water runoff and drainage problems should be a high priority.

Buildings and parking lots by their nature worsen the flooding conditions. There should be intentional emphasis in the plan of the need for inclusion and retention of green spaces with plants and trees to slow the water runoff, including at the lake front.

Patrick Tavern: Why did the Village acquire this building if it seems to have no plan to use it? How encumbered is it with the Historic District regulations? Is it possible to renovate it for the much-needed Village office? Probably not. Maybe for our Village Historical Association.

The three most pressing issues in my view:

Need for a new water treatment plant

Need to keep ahead of the worsening storm water runoff problem

Need to find new space for Village officers.

Thank you for your consideration of my suggestions.

Louise Rossmann

8 Orchard Ln.

Aurora

Subject: Need for a permanent home for the Village archives, re Comprehensive Plan

From: "Ann L. Wiley Consultants Inc." <ann@annlwiley.com>

Date: 11/1/2021, 4:52 PM

To: <villageclerk@auroranewyork.us>

Dear Friends in Aurora,

As a trustee of the Village of Aurora Historical Society and an active participant in the local history community, I am writing to encourage the Village to consider establishing a permanent home for the Village Archives. This irreplaceable collection is of great value as part of the local history of our area, and it is currently stored in three locations, one being the Cayuga Lake National Bank. The bank has generously offered use of its storeroom, but this is not regarded as a permanent solution. The present use of Patrick Tavern for the Tuesday Mobile Market makes valuable contributions to the community and isn't consistent with also using the space for the Villate Archives.

It looks to many of us as though having a Village Hall is the best way to meet the need for a home for the Village Archives that is secure, resistant to fire, has reasonable climate control, and is accessible to everyone. I understand there are options near the facility now shared with the Aurora Volunteer Fire Department. As a trustee of the Historical Society, I recognize my responsibility to support any project that will provide a permanent home for the Village Archives and I will do so in any way that I can.

Thank you for your attention to making a permanent home for the Village Archives a priority in the Comprehensive Plan.

Ann

Ann L. Wiley Ph.D.
157 East Genesee Street
Auburn, NY 13021-4130
315.252.2086 (landline)
315.406.7877 (mobile)
ann@annlwiley.com

Subject: Aurora Comprehensive Plan - Comments for November 2, 2021 Steering Committee Public Hearing.

From: Laura Holland <lholland@rochester.rr.com>

Date: 11/1/2021, 9:54 PM

To: Bonnie Bennett <bonnie_apgar_bennett@yahoo.com>, clerk <villageclerk@auroranewyork.us>

The Village of Aurora Comprehensive Plan 2021, draft, section 1, Background, About Aurora: I believe that the sentence "The tree-lined streets are populated by a range of homes from sprawling mansions to well-kept cottages..." should be edited to read "The tree-lined streets are populated by a range of homes from mansions to cottages..."

The adjectives used are objectionable - "sprawling" is derogatory and "well-kept" is patronizing.

Also, in this section, and in Appendix A, Existing Conditions, I think that New York State Route 90 should be considered and acknowledged. It is not a quiet village street. NYS Route 90 is a significant part of the Village of Aurora, running the entire length of the village, with all control of that highway and its 60' wide right of way under the authority of the NYSDOT.

There are obvious drawbacks and dangers to the highway and it being controlled by a New York State agency, but it is also a great asset to the village. It is more than a scenic highway, and as such, should be included in the Aurora Comprehensive Plan.

Thank you,

Laura Holland

RECEIVED

NOV 02 2021

Re the use of Patrick Tavern

I would like to see Patrick Tavern winterized and made available for little shops, a coffeeshop or the Village Office. Now it looks like an archaeological exhibit, like the Old Stone Mill. The village owns so little available space, and has so many needs.

Lili MacCormick

RECEIVED

NOV 03 2021

PUBLIC COMMENT

Hearing on the Draft Comprehensive Plan, 11/2/21 — K. A. Hindenlang

The draft comprehensive plan reports that many villagers expressed concern about the lack of *diversity* in retail and restaurant options, but the draft does not identify the manifest basis for this concern.

Currently, except for one location, all commercial sites in the village are owned by a single developer. That same developer was allowed to expand its footprint by turning several residences into commercial properties (the former Abbott, Taylor and S. Zabriskie Houses).

The draft also indicates that villagers feel we need more residential housing. But the draft fails to identify the loss of housing to the developer noted above, plus the removal of two Techbuilt homes, and the growing number of commercial Air B&Bs which are not occupied as residences.

Naming our commercial and housing issues may be helpful, but briefly identifying some factors which created these problems might lessen the chance of future board actions leading to similarly unwelcome outcomes.

Subject: Commentary for Planning study

From: Lynn Reuss <reuss@me.com>

Date: 11/2/2021, 11:35 AM

To: villageclerk@auroranewyork.us

Please include the following areas of consideration in your Village Study:

1. Many families who reside and maintain residences in the Village have contributed over 6 generations of artifacts in concert with the Village Historical Society for public access, exhibits and safekeeping. These treasured collections have been displaced and reside in different locations. This is unacceptable! A Village is required to ensure a consistent, climate controlled and public access for these historical exhibits and collections!
 - 2 The Village is losing venues affording well managed alternative dining options for local residents and tourists who desire additional options to the Inns of Aurora.
 - 3 The Fargo has had sudden inconsistent service for the entire tourist season with staff and quality.
 4. Economic development to impact property owners and the tax base is non-existent.
- Lynn Maloney Reuss

Subject: Public Hearing, Comprehensive Plan
From: Linda Schwab <lschwab@wells.edu>
Date: 11/2/2021, 1:04 PM
To: clerk <villageclerk@auroranewyork.us>

Owing to the length of this letter, at the hearing I would like to read the paragraphs on "Omissions;" the various corrections can be read and considered by the Steering Committee when they compile all the corrections for Labella.

To the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee:

In order that the Comprehensive Plan be, according to the introductory paragraph under "Background," as accurate as possible an "inventory of community assets" and a "useful benchmark of where the community is at the time of its adoption," I offer the following corrections and call attention to two significant omissions.

Corrections, Land Use:

As noted at the Public Hearing of Oct. 30, 2021, there are several errors in the map on p. 18, "Village of Aurora Land Use." I offer the following corrections.

Data for this map was taken, I am told, only from Real Property Services (RPS). RPS listings are descriptive only, and not always directed to use, nor were they always followed. However the data were acquired, they omit the NYS program of Agricultural District properties. These certainly describe land use (the purpose of the map) and furthermore, are denoted on a large map in the Village Office, on the wall near the copier; surely an accessible as well as a valid source of inventory material for the Plan.

One of my properties, 182.13-1-38, is among those affected. Because Agricultural District inclusion is achieved by application, this property should be in green, denoting "agricultural," rather than in gray, denoting "vacant." I am keen to see this corrected, because of the common erroneous assumption that "vacant" means "available for development," and it most emphatically is not. Please correct this error.

Not all the properties denoted in gray belong to the Ag District, but those others that do should also be corrected accordingly. In addition, the map should be checked carefully for other errors; for example, two properties that have long been and remain "multifamily housing" (316 Main St and Woods End Apartments) should be in orange rather than red, denoting "commercial," along with (apparently) McGordon House. Also denoted "commercial" (red) rather than "single family houses" (pale yellow) were the two houses across from Wells Rd. Nor is it helpful to lump educational properties (so denoted for Wells College) along with general "community services" like Oak Glen Cemetery (pale green), or the ball field/College farm property (also among the educational properties) as "recreation and entertainment." None of these actually conform to RPS listings.

An accurate inventory on this map will also assist in producing a better "Future Land Use Map" (p. 22), that is to say, one that describes these uses in a clearer way than with free-hand blobs. Uses of particular parcels may change with changing ownership, but property boundaries change much less often.

Corrections, Implementation Matrix:

I agree that there should be a consistent ordering of Priority Levels, from high to low.

Under "Encourage the use of existing community spaces, especially Patrick Tavern," "Responsible Parties" need to include (e.g. on an Ad Hoc Committee) representation from the Aurora Historical Society, by virtue of the MoA that gives it oversight. Under Potential Partners, CCE is not defined in the list of partners, and

the connection to “Clean Energy Communities” is neither explained nor obvious. (There is already a functional connection to CEDA)

Under “Continue to support and diversify the historic district, [etc.]” this effort *may* originate with the Village Historian, but actual “Partners” include CPP as well as the Village Board (per the Zoning Law), and CPP may itself propose Landmarks. Therefore, CPP may be listed in either or both boxes, but must be included.

Omissions:

The first and most critical omission is any mention of the urgent need for a single and appropriate location for the Village Archives. Under Village Hall in Appendix A, the Plan notes that municipal records are stored in the Pod, but makes no mention of the priceless Village collection that is now stored in three locations around the Village. This is obviously unsustainable as a long-term plan, or even a short-term plan.

It is my firm belief that a Village Hall is the best way to meet the need for a home for the collection that is secure, resistant to fire, has reasonable climate control, and is handicapped accessible. There are at least three options for such a Hall on or near the present facility, which is owned by the Village and shared with the AVFD. All options to meet this need should be on the table, and none should be dismissed without discussion. The Village Board needs to recognize that oversight of this collection by the Aurora Historical Society - cited as an appropriate arrangement in NYS law - does not absolve the owner, the Village of Aurora, from its responsibility, also given in NYS law. As the Town Hall demonstrates very well, this need can be met simply but effectively, and grants for both municipal and essential services buildings (e.g. AVFD) exist.

The second omission is this. The Comprehensive Plan mentions “expanding” the uses of Patrick Tavern but does not say anything about present uses since the rehabilitated building opened in October 2020. Again, if this Plan is to be an “inventory of community assets” and a “useful benchmark,” this information needs to be added to the record. The Tuesday Mobile Market brings more than a dozen local small businesses, several nonprofits and one restaurant into Aurora year round on a rotating schedule that conforms more or less to the harvest year. I want to emphasize that this Mobile Market, with its pre-order/pick-up strategy, met and continues to meet community needs with meal basics, not just add-ons, and has been a life-line to area small businesses as well. It works well with, and complements, the summertime Farmers’ Market, with a longer and more robust line-up. This weekday market fits within the common practices outlined recent study of Mobile Markets, in the rare niche of a “rural mobile market.”* A few households now make it their primary access to food, with grocery-store trips for “luxuries,” and participating local small businesses see it as a way to grow that works for business, family, and personal schedules. In addition, Patrick Tavern is a meeting point for CEDA with interested local businesses, and, as the first of the community uses envisaged in the three supportive grants, hosted a very popular members’ gallery show for the Art Club.

Aurora *can't* give a storefront to every local business, but Patrick Tavern’s current uses show that Aurora *can* bring businesses, especially essential businesses, to its people. I ask only that the Plan acknowledge what is being done *now*, in the areas of resources (particularly fresh, local food), and quality of life, as well as an example of adaptive reuse of the County’s oldest building. This is distinctly a “community asset” that should be recognized as such.

Sincerely,

Linda Schwab

318 Main St

Aurora NY 13026

* Christina M. Kasprzak et al., “Using common practices to establish a framework for mobile produce markets in the United States,” *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, Vol. 10

Subject: Comprehensive Plan comments

From: Rob LoMascolo <roblomascolo@gmail.com>

Date: 11/2/2021, 2:02 PM

To: Clerk Balloni <villageclerk@auroranewyork.us>

I have just a couple comments regarding the plan.

First, I think it is important to note that Patrick Tavern has been in use by the Tuesday Farmer's Market. This, though small, has been a tremendous asset to the community. It gives local artists, bakers, gardeners, farmers and others a venue to sell their products directly to the Aurora community. Additionally, especially in the case of produce, the market makes high quality nutritious foods easily available to the community at no cost to the vendors. Several regular patrons actually walk to the market. This easy availability of quality food and ingredients improves the overall health of the community. Finally, the market has facilitated learning and sharing through conversation. Especially through the pandemic, this sharing has had a huge benefit to the emotional health and well being of all involved.

I too would like to see the uses of the tavern expand, but it is critical that the use it has enjoyed is recognized and additional new uses don't interfere with what is already a great thing. I have little doubt that as the pandemic passes and the reputation of the market grows there will be more interest in the space for workshops, shows etc.

My second comments refer to the need for a village hall with space for the historical archives and activities of the historical society. As someone who spends a good deal of time in my business restoring books and helping to preserve historic works on paper, I can not over stress how important proper storage of these materials is. They need to be kept in a humidity and temperature controlled environment that is safe from flooding and fire. Proper storage is expensive, but the alternative could lead to even more expensive repair work, or worse, irreversible damage or complete loss of materials. Additionally, these materials must be stored in a way that makes them accessible. If the archives are not accessible they have little reason to exist. We can't go on relying on the generosity of local businesses, non-profits or the Village Historian to make everything right. The Village needs to take a proactive role in preserving its own history for the future.

Rob

The Press of Robert LoMascolo

2211 Moonshine Road, Aurora New York 13026 USA

315-283-4930

www.RLfinepress.com & [Facebook.com/RLpress](https://www.facebook.com/RLpress)

Subject: Comments on Draft Comprehensive Plan for Public Hearing on Nov. 2, 2021

From: Ken Larson <kenlarson48@gmail.com>

Date: 11/2/2021, 3:25 PM

To: Ann Balloni <villageclerk@auroranewyork.us>

I was very happy to see in the "Infrastructure & Transportation: Actions" section of the Draft Plan that there was a recommendation to "Provide appropriate space to house village records and archives" in a new office / meeting space for the village. But I am concerned that in the "Village Hall" section of the "Existing Conditions" appendix there is only mention of the Pod used to store village records, but no reference to the extensive village archives that also need a permanent and accessible home.

Since July, 2021, when the Inns of Aurora reclaimed space in the bottom floor of the Old Schoolhouse building, the village archives have been scattered among three locations. Two local institutions, the Cayuga Lake National Bank in Union Springs and the Masonic Lodge in Aurora have generously allowed for temporary storage of village archives in their facilities, but these arrangements are only temporary, and access to the dispersed materials is difficult. It is crucial that the plans for a new village hall include adequate space for storing and accessing the village's archives, and that construction of the building begin as soon as possible. The archives are the property of the village. They are a wonderful resource that contribute to the understanding of the sense of place and historic development described in the Vision statement of the Comprehensive Plan.

Ken Larson

Treasurer, Village of Aurora Historical Society

--

Ken Larson

Professor of German Emeritus

Wells College, Aurora, NY 13026

Subject: Comments on Draft Comprehensive Plan
From: ukrad <ukrad@aol.com>
Date: 11/2/2021, 4:59 PM
To: "villageclerk@auroranewyork.us" <villageclerk@auroranewyork.us>

November 2, 2021

To the Members of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee,

The following are my comments on the draft Comprehensive Plan dated October 22, 2021. First, a picky point: I believe there should be a comma after the word "development" in the Village Vision.

On Page 9 under "Step in the Process" it states that the members of the Steering Committee "included representatives from the Village Board, Village Planning Board, Village Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), and Community Preservation Panel (CPP) **as well as community residents.**"

The portion in Bold is untrue as there were no community residents on the Steering Committee -- only Village Staff and Board Members. As some of the other comments suggested, a Representative of the Inns and Wells should have been included on the committee because as someone noted in the comments, Aurora is a "three-legged stool" They are our largest land owners and should have been an integral part of this process.

Additionally, on page 9 it states that there has been a "loss of community gathering spaces at the local level." I do not know the basis for this statement and do not believe it to be true. As a small village we are blessed with numerous gathering spaces: The Morgan Opera House, two church halls, the auditorium at Wells and the new conference center. The few times there has been a whole village gathering- for instance when there was a presentation about the blue green algae in the lake- we all crammed into the meeting room at the firehouse instead of taking advantage of one of those spaces. When I previously lived in Foxboro, Massachusetts the town considered purchasing a parcel of land to turn into forever green space. The ENTIRE town gathered in the high school auditorium to discuss and debate this purchase. Foxboro is a substantially larger community but was able to practice real democracy in action – there is literally no reason why Aurora, a village of less than 300 residents (most of which do not live here year-round) cannot gather in one of the aforementioned gathering spaces to discuss the issues which face our village.

As I stated in the October 30th meeting, while I appreciate the Implementation Matrix in the Draft Plan, it would make more sense to me to order the goals in order of descending importance: highest to lowest. And within the high priority items I believe it should be possible to order them based on the priority assigned to them by the village residents or by the number of times they were mentioned as being of importance.

Further, I believe the second goal which is phrased "the Village should acquire land" should be rephrased as "the Village should explore options for creating/finding adequate office/meeting space. I believe we already have adequate meeting space in the village: the

village just needs to work with the other entities within the village to utilize them. As for a village hall, I believe that is a want, not a need, particularly when I look over all the other high priority items in the list which will have significant budget impacts- particularly addressing the water system and flooding issues which are becoming more and more common. And if we truly want to entice young families to move to the village, raising our already high taxes along with our high water/sewer costs is not the way to go. Water/sewer costs at nearby communities are a fraction of what we pay in Aurora. Instead, if a larger village office is truly determined to be a need which the budget can sustain, I suggest exploring using a facility we already own, Patrick Tavern, the renovation costs of which could be done through historic grants. Or work with the fire department to explore their building a new firehouse since their funding sources are the whole fire district and they can apply for grants, then the current firehouse could be used for the village hall.

There is an implication in the plan that lakefront development is the cause of the algae issues we are experiencing so that we need to revise our zoning laws. This may be a minor source but certainly chemicals being applied to lawns and more importantly farm fertilizer run off is more likely. The last thing the village needs to do is make our zoning process more onerous. It is the one thing that is mentioned in conversation with others who don't live in the village that it has a reputation for being a difficult place to own a home and do work on it. I can attest to that as when I first moved to the village, I applied to renovate my derelict barn. I spent over a half hour justifying my design choices in windows and siding and being questioned as to whether it was "consistent with the age of my house." My house which has vinyl siding and vinyl replacement windows!

The plan also states that we should update the zoning code for consistency with the Comprehensive Plan. We have already placed a long moratorium on building permits, and I do not agree that this should continue while the zoning laws are revised. As I recall the last attempt at this took months and never resulted in any actual revisions being made.

Finally, I believe that more attempts should be made to reach out to a broader and more diverse group of citizens to assist with implementing this plan. We have many skilled and experienced residents whose talents are not being put to use. Off hand, I can think of several entrepreneurs who run businesses (Jim Wilcox and Jim Kirkwood), a former VP of GE who teaches strategy and consulting at Cornell (John Haggerty), an accountant who has worked for Wells and now a large foundation with an endowment of nearly \$300 million (John Dentes), a recent graduate of Cornell with a degree in Age and Aging who has been on numerous boards and runs numerous fundraisers, including the Book Lovers' Ball (Marie Dentes). I graduated from Cornell and have a law degree- I would be interested in assisting with the implementation process in whatever capacity I could be of value. Having just built my forever home on the lake I have a long-term interest in the continued health and vitality of this village which I have grown to love since moving here 16 years ago.

Thank you for your attention to my comments.

Very truly yours,

Robin Driskel