



County of Rockland

Office of the County Executive

Office of the County Legislature

NEWS RELEASE

Date: April 7, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: CJ Miller, (845) 638-5645

Betsy Saetre, (845) 638-5184

County Holds 2nd Public Workshop for Comprehensive Plan Project

NEW CITY, NY – Rockland County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef and Rockland County Legislative Chairwoman Harriet Cornell have announced that the County of Rockland will hold its **second Public Workshop on Thursday, April 15th** to gather input for the County's Comprehensive Plan project. The meeting will be held at **7:00 pm at the Palisades Center Mall (4th floor Adler Room)**, 1000 Palisades Center Drive, West Nyack, NY 10994. All interested residents, public agency representatives and municipal officials are encouraged to attend.

The purpose of the Public Workshop is to solicit input from residents and stakeholders regarding the Comprehensive Plan's content and process, and encourage them to share their ideas. Specific draft chapters being covered at the April 15th Workshop will include natural and environmental resources, parks and open space and transportation. There will also be an opportunity for residents to share ideas on general issues related to the plan. The workshop will include a summary and timeline of the plan process, as well as a synopsis of the first public workshop.

During the Workshop, participants will hear a presentation by BFJ Planning, the project consultants, and will then be asked to break into roundtable discussions by topic. There will also be public sharing of items discussed at the roundtable groups.

This is the second public workshop in a series of four workshops for the Comprehensive Plan project. The first workshop, held in December 2009, provided an opportunity for preliminary discussion on the Plan's proposed content and issues and topics that should be addressed in the document. Future workshops will be held in June and September 2010 and will discuss historic and cultural resources, housing, services and information resources, economic development and infrastructure, and will present a draft future land use plan which will provide recommendations for the County to utilize in its planning processes. In addition, the Rockland County Legislature will host a Public Hearing for the Draft Comprehensive Plan and DGEIS documents in the Fall.

The Comprehensive Plan will serve as the basis for all County government planning and development issues for the next 20 years.

- more -

The Plan's overarching goals are to provide general recommendations on future land uses within the County and possible alternative strategies; recommend general policies that could be undertaken at both the County and municipal levels to implement these strategies; address those matters that are under direct jurisdiction of the County; and identify issues of land use and zoning conflicts between and among municipalities that should be resolved to allow the various municipal zoning regulations to work more effectively.

On a local level, municipalities' zoning and land use regulations are the central tools for controlling land development. Rockland County does not have jurisdiction to direct allowable land uses through zoning; however, a countywide land use plan can guide, influence and shape future development to ensure that it is consistent with the existing community character and meets countywide and regional goals.

The comprehensive planning process encompasses an 18-month effort which began in September 2009, and includes public workshops, meetings with Town and Village Planning Boards and elected officials, and regular meetings with a Technical Advisory Committee, the County Legislature and the County Executive. The plan is intended to be updated periodically to reflect land use changes, data updates or other major planning-related issues.

The Comprehensive Plan project is being carried out by the Rockland County Planning Department in conjunction with the consultant team of BFJ Planning (Buckhurst, Fish and Jacquemart, Inc.) of New York, NY, along with Urbanomics of New York, NY and McLaren Engineering of West Nyack, NY.

The three draft chapters being discussed at the Workshop (natural and environmental resources, parks and open space and transportation) will be posted to the project website – www.rccompplan.com – on Friday, April 9th. Written comments on the Plan's draft chapters may be submitted electronically through the project website, via email to rcplan@co.rockland.ny.us, or by mail to the Rockland County Comprehensive Plan Project, Building T, Pomona, NY 10970. The County is welcoming comments on any of the draft chapters of the Plan at any time throughout the process.

For more information on the Rockland County Comprehensive Plan project, please refer to the project website: www.rccompplan.com.

#