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TOWN BOARD COUNTY OF ALBANY

TOWN OF COLONIE

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THE CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING IN RELATION TO THE  
PROPOSED UPDATES AND AMENDMENTS OF THE  
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PURSUANT TO NEW YORK STATE  
TOWN LAW SECTION 272 A

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THE STENOGRAPHIC MINUTES of the above entitled  
matter by NANCY L. STRANG, a Shorthand Reporter, on  
April 18, 2019 7:21 p.m. at Memorial Town Hall 534  
Loudon Road, Newtonville, New York 12128

BOARD MEMBERS:

- PAULA A. MAHAN, SUPERVISOR
- LINDA MURPHY, DEPUTY SUPERVISOR
- PAUL ROSANO
- DAVID GREEN
- CHRISTOPHER CAREY
- MELISSA JEFFERS-VONDOLLEN
- JENNIFER WHALEN

ALSO PRESENT:

- Michael C. Magguilli, Esq. Town Attorney
- Julie Gansle, Town Clerk
- Michele A. Turcotte, Deputy Town Clerk
- Charles Voss, PE, Barton and Loguidice
- Edward Schmidt
- Bruce Brenton
- Pat Auger
- Jonathan Teale
- Suzanne Maloney
- Susan Weber
- Wendy Allen
- Kathy Love
- Pat Carey
- John Gillivan
- Tom Romano

1 MS. TURCOTTE: This public hearing is being  
2 continued by resolution of the Town Board number 206  
3 for 2019 dated April 4, 2019 to continue to hear all  
4 persons in relation to the proposed updates and  
5 amendments to the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of  
6 Colonie. The Town Board will now hear all persons  
7 interested in this proposal.

8 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: If you recall any of you who  
9 are here a couple of weeks ago, the April 4 version has  
10 been on the website for a couple of weeks for review.  
11 If we have any questions, comments - Chuck Voss, our  
12 consultant from Barton and Loguidice is here tonight.  
13 He will be at the podium to address any questions or  
14 comments.

15 Chuck?

16 MR. VOSS: Thank you, Supervisor. I didn't have  
17 any briefing for this evening. It was just to be here  
18 to listen to comments and if anybody have any questions  
19 that the Board would like me to address, we can  
20 certainly do that.

21 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Just for information purposes,  
22 Chuck - they are working on the profile which is  
23 updating maps, tables, charts - all of that - - the  
24 last part, basically to be presented. So, when that is  
25 done, reviewed and ready, then we will put that on the

1 website and again everybody can have a chance to look  
2 at that and any questions or comments - - so, we still  
3 have a ways to go. That's just so you can see the plan.

4 MS. WHALEN: I have a question for Chuck. I will  
5 start.

6 So, I read through all of the different proposals  
7 and I don't know if maybe this is normal with  
8 Comprehensive Review Plans or not, but it seems very  
9 general to me. Like, we spent three years devising this  
10 update. We paid I think \$130,000 for experts. Yet, when  
11 you look at the recommendations for the future, it's  
12 like - established and facilitate better communication  
13 with the Planning Board and the public. Like, really?  
14 That, to me, seems like a no-brainer already. Like, I  
15 don't really know why - - like, I think it is good that  
16 it's in there. Don't get me wrong. It is so general.

17 I think we should insert on page 27, for instance,  
18 under improved communication between the Planning  
19 Department, the Planning Board and the public. We've got  
20 some nice impressive sounding language, but to me it  
21 almost really doesn't say anything. I would like to  
22 insert there possibly for consideration for example,  
23 adding live broadcast of meetings of the Planning Board  
24 and the Zoning Board. Like, I don't really see enough  
25 specifics in here. It's just sort of like I am an

1 attorney and by trade and by design, when we see very  
2 overbroad language, it is kind of a warning sign that it  
3 just gives general language - is meaningless. It just  
4 gives whoever is interpreting this the right to kind of  
5 do whatever they want. Like, I would like to see if  
6 we're going to improve communication with the Planning  
7 Board, we should have live broadcasts of those meetings  
8 for example and the Zoning Board. So, like, why wouldn't  
9 we insert that in there? Why is it that we met for three  
10 years and it's not to that level of specificity? It  
11 should be more specific. On the bottom of page 27 -  
12 protect the Town's important natural resources such as  
13 stream corridors, steep slopes, floodplains, wetlands  
14 and unique ecosystems, manage development activity to  
15 ensure that necessary clearing and site disturbances are  
16 minimized and implemented consistent with approvals and  
17 then again, we have some Tree City USA designation  
18 celebrations which is good. That is nice. We should put  
19 in possibly try to have a part-time Arborist do a tree  
20 inventory. Like, something that we can really kind of -  
21 - I know these aren't mandates so it shouldn't be so  
22 scary -- like oh my God we might not be able to afford  
23 an Arborist. It is nice to put that in as a wish list,  
24 right? Like, instead of this general - - to me it just  
25 seems like it's overbroad and general language. I don't

1 know. Why would we want to leave it so overbroad in  
2 general? It just seems like we went through this  
3 exercise and we came up with some overbroad in general  
4 language that just seems almost a little bit of adding a  
5 few more words to like, the 2005 plan. I don't know why  
6 we wouldn't put things like that in those little bullet  
7 points.

8 MR. VOSS: That is a good point. You can see -

9 MS. WHALEN: Also, the tree clearing and cutting  
10 and ravaging the trees - - it was just in the paper  
11 that is happening in Guildlerland. Certainly, when I  
12 started on the Town Board it was an issue right off the  
13 bat that I was confronted with. I have read the Town  
14 laws and certainly Towns have part-time Arborist. They  
15 do tree inventories.

16 So, it is my understanding that we started to put  
17 more pressure on the developers to be more mindful of  
18 the trees outside of the footprint, but why not also  
19 take an active role in inventorying trees in the Town?  
20 That's just like an example of specifics I think should  
21 be in here and if there are valid reasons why we  
22 shouldn't have such specifics in such a type of plan,  
23 then I guess you are the expert to tell me why. That's  
24 what struck me.

25 MR. VOSS: The Comprehensive Plan process can vary

1 by community and by choice in the way they scope it  
2 out. A lot of communities will have very generic and  
3 very general goals and recommendations that provide  
4 ideas for really where they want to go in the future.  
5 Then, what those communities will do is periodically  
6 start to implement the plan. They dive into each one of  
7 those separately and start to really kind of bore down  
8 and say well, how do we implement this goal? We should  
9 do this specific step and this specific step and then  
10 this one. A lot of communities do that as a separate  
11 additional task as they start to move forward with  
12 implementing the plan. It is very similar to what I  
13 think the Town did in the 2005 plan.

14 Those goals were relatively broad and relatively  
15 overarching and it took a couple of years to really  
16 start to implement those policy decisions. Communities  
17 do it a lot of different ways. This really know once  
18 that way to do it. You can put very specific  
19 recommendations and what if you don't implement those,  
20 those policy decisions might become moot down the road.  
21 It depends really on the flavor of the community.

22 The CPAC group didn't want to get too specific with  
23 their actual recommendations. They wanted to kind of  
24 leave that open and leave that at the discretion of the  
25 Town leaders. So, they wanted to be a little bit more

1 broad and be a bit more overarching with their goals.

2 That's kind of the short answer.

3 The Town Board can certainly add as much detail as  
4 you like to those goals and recommendations. If there  
5 are specific things that you would like to see in -

6 MS. WHALEN: So, I just mentioned two things I  
7 would like to see. If we are going to improve  
8 communication the Planning Board - I certainly was the  
9 catalyst for getting this camera in this Town Board  
10 room. I would like that inserted and I am proposing it  
11 right now. Like, the Planning Board should have live  
12 stream video cameras. It is the year 2019 and I think  
13 that would be a great way of improving communications.  
14 Not that it is a mandate, but certainly I think it  
15 should be -

16 MR. VOSS: A recommendation.

17 MS. WHALEN: Yeah, and also of the Zoning Board,  
18 too. I can't even attend the Zoning Board meetings  
19 because I'm usually here and they are happening at the  
20 same time. So, it would be nice to not have to read a  
21 transcript and watch it or listen to it while I am  
22 driving. I have to go and read the transcript. I like  
23 multitasking so the convenience would be - - that just  
24 seems like a logical insert there.

25 Then, with respect to the bottom, page 27, I think

1 the Conservation Advisory Council to which I serve as a  
2 liaison - like, it's part of their governing law to try  
3 to get tree inventories done in the Town. I think even  
4 Niskayuna - - obviously, we may not have the money but  
5 it is something to consider since we have had so much -  
6 in this climate we have had so much emphasis on the  
7 trees and certainly they are good for erosion control  
8 and pollution, noise, air, etcetera.

9 MR. VOSS: One of the solutions Niskayuna came up  
10 with several years ago, as a result of their  
11 Comprehensive Plan process discussions, was enacting a  
12 tree ordinance. They have a minimum tree size that can  
13 or can't be cut by permit. It is one way to kind of  
14 capture a broader aspect.

15 MS. WHALEN: Many Towns - - I know were talking  
16 about updating some of those laws. That is a good idea.  
17 If they are certain caliper - - I have researched a lot  
18 of the laws and the different Towns across New York  
19 State.

20 MR. VOSS: Yes, that's a good suggestion.

21 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I think they are all good  
22 points. As you have said, Chuck, there are different  
23 avenues to go down. I think what's important to  
24 understand is the Comprehensive Plan is a great guide  
25 to guide us into the future and into land use

1 amendments and things like that. One of the things that  
2 is important to understand is there are internal  
3 operations and work going on all the time. That's a we  
4 do every day. We work on things continually. So, a lot  
5 of things get done and do get done. It's difficult to  
6 specify everything and every step that we do.

7 When we talk about getting an Arborist and  
8 something like that, it certainly is a good idea and it  
9 certainly would be great if we did go in that direction  
10 to do an inventory. Something like that comes up when we  
11 look at what are the needs and what are the costs.

12 Does the Conservation Advisory Council - is that  
13 something that is in their budget? If not, is it  
14 something that could be added to their budget? So, there  
15 are a lot of steps to go through. It is not automatic  
16 that we can just do things.

17 As far as the cameras and everything like that in  
18 here - - I know, we worked with Lisa and you are very  
19 helpful with that. It is not something that we never  
20 wanted to do. There were just so many things that needed  
21 to be done and you needed to have the money to do it.  
22 This got done. I know that our MIS is looking at  
23 Planning Board and Zoning Board -

24 MS. WHALEN: Look, I am thinking about this as a  
25 wish list. I'm not attacking anybody. I don't want to

1 put anybody on the defensive. I just think that it  
2 should be a little bit more specific with the  
3 understanding like a caveat that says we might not be  
4 able to afford all of this. This is like a wish list.  
5 It's nice to have a little bit of specificity. Maybe  
6 because I don't have all the comments and all the ideas  
7 and detail attached to this that folks bounced around  
8 through this three-year process, but to just have such  
9 generalities - to have such a general document after  
10 like three years of this amazing committee and all  
11 these public hearings, it just seems like it's lacking  
12 something to cut your teeth into.

13 I don't think I'm misinterpreting the purpose of  
14 the document. I think you can get a little more specific  
15 without actually committing us - like, a wish list. Put  
16 at the bottom we may not be able to afford any of this,  
17 but we will see.

18 MS. JEFFERS-VONDOLLEN: Jennifer, I don't think  
19 this plan is meant to be a wish list. It is meant to be  
20 something that is a product of future vision that's  
21 going to guide the leaders - us, and whoever else comes  
22 after us - in making decisions for the Town. It is our  
23 commitment. It's not - oh, here's all the wishes that  
24 we want for everyone to see that we think this is all  
25 great, but this is actually a committed living document

1 that we're going to abide by. So, we can't just make up  
2 all these wishes that we want and then not deliver  
3 them.

4 MS. WHALEN: It's so general. Like, I don't know  
5 why we just didn't copy the last one. It's like - -  
6 it's so general. It's like a mirror, almost of what we  
7 just did.

8 MS. JEFFERS-VONDOLLEN: I honestly disagree.

9 MS. WHALEN: We sent out a survey and relied  
10 heavily on that, too. I just think that right now, the  
11 way this document looks - it's just very general and it  
12 looks like it's almost - - when you juxtapose the 2005  
13 on this graph, like with the 2019 goals - the language  
14 is almost the same. It's like, you added a few  
15 sentences. It's just a little general. So, I think some  
16 of the ideas that were bounced around might be a good  
17 idea to add in.

18 Certainly, live streaming Planning Board meetings  
19 where half of the Town shows up every other week is not  
20 something that is insurmountable for any of us. It is  
21 long overdue. It's not something that we are going to  
22 promise the residents and not be able to keep because  
23 you can come in with a iPhone, which I think a lot of  
24 people do anyway, and post it on YouTube. I think that  
25 is something that we can deliver. I don't think it is

1 that specific.

2 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I agree. I agree that we can  
3 deliver that. It is in the works and I agree with you.

4 MS. WHALEN: But we are talking about better  
5 communication. So, it just seems like that might be a  
6 third round bullet point insert there that wouldn't  
7 really break the bank or make us look like we are  
8 shooting for the moon. That is just what my thought  
9 process was as I was reading this. I know it is a work  
10 in progress.

11 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We are on the path now. If you  
12 would like to put that in as another objective, that's  
13 a good idea. We are in the works with it, but we can  
14 put it in.

15 MS. WHALEN: I think those are two things that  
16 would be worth considering. That is what I'm asking to  
17 have inserted, if you deem it appropriate.

18 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: As far as the goals being  
19 similar or continuing or whatever, they actually are  
20 continuing. They are not something that's just being  
21 implemented today. They are continuing on. They are  
22 adding onto them. A lot of the goals from 2005 were not  
23 realized because it just wasn't a lot of time. It is  
24 such a big Town and there were lots of good things in  
25 the 2005 Comprehensive Plan that were worth keeping and

1           worth continuing. So, many of those things will  
2           continue on with additions to them. It's not something  
3           that we would not want to do. We don't want to throw  
4           things away that are working and working well. It is a  
5           continuance of that plan. Again, there wasn't a lot of  
6           time to implement all of those when they did it in  
7           2005, but a good majority of it was worth keeping.

8           MS. WHALEN: Were there further transcripts of the  
9           meetings that were held? I attended one and I remember  
10          I think it was when your predecessor was leading the  
11          meetings and they had a big screen and they were  
12          talking about some initiatives that a Long Island  
13          community had taken on. I can't even remember, but it  
14          seemed like early on.

15          The woman that serves on the Nature Conservancy was  
16          sitting on the committee at the time and she started to  
17          kind of talk about it because she had familiarity with  
18          it. I remember thinking at the time that specific  
19          initiative by this Long Island Town. I can't even  
20          remember what it was relevant to. It all seemed like a  
21          great idea. Now I need something to refresh my  
22          recollection on that because it's kind of vanished.

23          MR. VOSS: There were no transcripts. There were  
24          summaries of the meetings.

25          MS. WHALEN: If this is a working document, if

1 something happened to all of us and this is what we  
2 give to somebody else who's coming in - not that that  
3 would happen, but certainly you would want them to be  
4 able to be inspired or have background information on  
5 some of these bullet points. Like, wow, what are they  
6 talking about and where did they get that from and what  
7 prompted them to insert this into this document?

8 MR. VOSS: Yes, and that would come from the  
9 committee meetings and committee summaries and those  
10 kinds of things.

11 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: A lot of that is in the  
12 profile, right?

13 MR. VOSS: Yes.

14 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Which, that is the next piece.  
15 Any other questions?

16 MR. SCHMIDT: Hi. I am Edward Schmidt and I live  
17 in the Town and I've seen a lot of growth over the  
18 years - since 1977 that I have been here. I have been  
19 kind of concerned about it because there's a tremendous  
20 amount of commercial as well as residential development  
21 and traffic has increased dramatically.

22 So, I just got into this last week or so and I  
23 started reading the document. Are you an engineer?

24 MR. VOSS: No, I am a planner by profession.

25 MR. SCHMIDT: Do you work for the Town?

1 MR. VOSS: Our firm works for the Town on this  
2 project; Barton and Loguidice.

3 MS. WHALEN: He is like an expert in municipal  
4 planning, right?

5 MR. VOSS: Yes.

6 MR. SCHMIDT: That's great. Your lawyer and I'm an  
7 engineer. That's terrific too. It's good. It adds up.

8 Anyway, what I wanted to say was I want to make one  
9 comment, basically. My comment was this: Where we were  
10 at one time is somewhere with a bunch of data about  
11 wetlands and parklands and residential development,  
12 highway and all this other stuff. That is background to  
13 me. We were there one time. Today we are someplace else.  
14 I didn't see any place in this document that told me  
15 anything about those things where I could understand how  
16 many wetlands have disappeared over 10 or 5 years or how  
17 much parkland has disappeared or how much highway has  
18 been congested. So, I looked at that and I said this is  
19 just an adequate to me. It doesn't tell you anything.

20 The attorney said this is not specific enough. I  
21 agree. To me, it doesn't go to those points about what  
22 has changed in 5 or 10 years. I think the only way to  
23 tell is to compare where we were at one point to where  
24 we are today. It doesn't do that. From there, you could  
25 go ahead and say to yourself okay, if we have that data

1 we can look at this and say well, we need to improve  
2 these things and put things in place. If residential  
3 development is going to be put in place, I don't know  
4 what you do if you're going to put wetlands there, but  
5 if you could do something to enhance it or buy wetlands  
6 elsewhere that would be part of the solution. I think  
7 you need to know where you've come from and where you  
8 are right now before you can say what we're going to do  
9 in the future. I don't think the document does that.  
10 It's just too vague to me and I don't think it helps you  
11 to do your job. It's got to be specific enough.  
12 Everybody who has reviewed this stuff later on can say  
13 okay, I think I know the Town wanted me to go with this  
14 thing and this is what we're supposed to do in the  
15 situation. We don't have that right now. That was my  
16 feeling on the thing.

17 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Correct me if I am wrong,  
18 Chuck, but all of that data is in the profile.

19 MR. VOSS: Correct.

20 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: There's a lot of information.  
21 We have gone through a couple of sessions of revisions  
22 and the profile is the very large section that kind of  
23 shows you where you were at one point and where we are  
24 now. How we compare with others as far as wetlands and  
25 things like that and preserving land and construction

1 that is going on in residential - that is done at the  
2 planning stages when they are developing the plan. A  
3 lot of the information that you're looking for, I  
4 believe, will be in the profile.

5 MR. SCHMIDT: Maybe you misunderstand me. The past  
6 information is there, I guess somewhere, right? Does it  
7 have where we are today compared to 5 or 10 years ago?

8 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Yes, in the profile.

9 MR. SCHMIDT: Okay, if that's the case, it shows  
10 what kind of job we have done as a Town in dealing with  
11 all the issues. Does it show that? That is my question.  
12 I don't think that it does.

13 I'll give you an example, okay? Route 9 and Maxwell  
14 Road - there is a tremendous amount of traffic at  
15 dinnertime. It is backed up tremendously. Is that in the  
16 report somewhere that we should do something about it?  
17 We've got to do something about that to handle future  
18 residential development and commercial development. You  
19 have to be able to do something with the highway there,  
20 or you just can't allow any more building there anymore.  
21 It just doesn't work.

22 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: That is an issue that we  
23 struggle with. What's happening is we have talked about  
24 this many times. Because of where we are located, we  
25 get a tremendous amount of pass-through traffic every

1 day during peak times. The Northway is a very crowded.  
2 The county that is growing the fastest is Saratoga  
3 County and a tremendous amount of traffic comes there  
4 and all the way back. All of the state highways all run  
5 through Town, so people are trying to get to those  
6 highways. During this peak times, it's very difficult.  
7 The Maxwell Road area, where you're describing, they do  
8 cut through to get to Route 9 because that's the only  
9 way to get over the bridge to get to Saratoga County  
10 unless they use the Northway. So, what we can do and  
11 what we have been doing is we work closely with the New  
12 York State Department of Transportation. We work with  
13 Albany County Transportation because those roads also  
14 run through our Town. It is a very, very difficult  
15 situation. There is no question about it. It's a very  
16 difficult situation. They recently - it might have been  
17 the Planning Commission that did a study on the growth  
18 in about 10 different areas - the main areas. You would  
19 think that we were the fastest growing, but out of the  
20 list of 10, six of the fastest growing were over in  
21 Saratoga County and a couple other places. I'm going to  
22 refer to our Chief of Police.

23 What is the pass-through number on a daily basis?

24 MR. TEALE: Over a quarter thousand cars pass  
25 through Town today. That's looking at the traffic

1 analysis on 87, Route 9 and Route 7.

2 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: That's people just passing  
3 through. Unfortunately, we have no way to avoid that. I  
4 think the state is trying to ease up a little bit with  
5 the Exit 4 configuration. It is difficult. Until there  
6 is another way to get to Saratoga County, which I don't  
7 think that will be in my lifetime, that's the only way  
8 to eliminate that.

9 MR. SCHMIDT: That was just an example.

10 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: It is a good example and it's  
11 something that we struggle with every day.

12 MR. SCHMIDT: The same thing at 155. There's a  
13 problem there, too. I realize that. In fact, I wrote to  
14 the state about that intersection and they got back to  
15 me with a lot of different information. Anyway, my  
16 point is keeping it simple. If you have the data and  
17 you could show it simply - - these are resources and  
18 this is our infrastructure. This is where it was and  
19 this is where it is and these are the problems we have  
20 and this is what were doing to deal with that. I think  
21 that would be great.

22 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I think that Chuck and Steve  
23 address that pretty well in the profile. I hope that  
24 will be helpful for you.

25 MR. VOSS: Just to address your quick question

1 about the Maxwell Road area: The Town commissioned  
2 along with the county a corridor study recently to  
3 specifically look at that traffic issue. They came up  
4 with some pretty interesting ideas and recommendations  
5 of how to improve that. One of the things that this  
6 does is recommends focused studies on problem areas to  
7 look at in detail and give the hard-core analysis that  
8 I think your engineering approach would appreciate.

9 MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you.

10 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We appreciate your feedback.  
11 Thank you.

12 MR. MR. BRENTON: I just want to make sure this  
13 question is appropriate for this part of the meeting.  
14 It has to do with economic development and records  
15 management.

16 For the past six or eight months I have been  
17 inquiring with the IDA with regards to a couple of  
18 projects that have received tax incentives,  
19 infrastructure and if it said so forth.

20 MR. MAGGUILLI: Does this have anything to do with  
21 the Comprehensive Plan?

22 MR. MR. BRENTON: Yes, I believe it does.

23 MR. MAGGUILLI: Because otherwise we have -

24 MR. MR. BRENTON: I understand and I will be  
25 brief. It's not about a specific project. My inquiry

1 had to do with a couple of well-established companies  
2 that have received some significant benefits. My  
3 inquiry was: Are there records of these companies  
4 having received benefits in the past? Both companies  
5 are moving from establish locations within the Town to  
6 new locations in the Town and they are receiving  
7 significant tax benefits and infrastructure benefits. I  
8 made inquiries to Mr. LaCivita who has been great and  
9 being responsive to these inquiries. I am very  
10 concerned because when I asked about his past  
11 incentives had been awarded to these companies, he  
12 informed me that the IDA only maintains records for 10  
13 years. Yet, the IDA and community development is  
14 capable of awarding tax incentives that run 20, 30  
15 years.

16 So, I did some independent research. It has not  
17 been easy. It was clear to me that there were incentives  
18 granted to these two well-established companies going  
19 back 25, 30 years ago and they are back getting  
20 additional incentives. There are no records on whether  
21 they created jobs, whether they downsized or what has  
22 happened. My concern moving forward is that your  
23 economic development program needs to maintain records  
24 that track incentives that have been given to businesses  
25 that tracks if their jobs were created or if they have

1 downsized. Absent this information, to me it looks like  
2 a big giveaway and I think most independent studies that  
3 have been done regarding IDA's is that they are not  
4 effective. I understand it is the game that is played  
5 today because every community is doing it.

6 Colonie is bidding against Saratoga. The Ayco  
7 project is closing their Saratoga office. They are  
8 consolidating a workforce of 850 people to 725 people.  
9 We have given them incentives totaling \$12 million to  
10 move to offices already established in Colonie to a new  
11 location. They are closing their Saratoga office. So, we  
12 are in a battle with Saratoga and 20 years from now  
13 Saratoga may offer a little better deal.

14 My big concern is: Take a look at your IDA. What  
15 is the goal there? What kind of records maintenance do  
16 you do to hold developers and businesses accountable? Do  
17 you offer them significant tax payer money?

18 Thank you for your time.

19 MS. WHALEN: Can you state your name?

20 MR. BRENTON: My name is Bruce Brenton. I have  
21 been in Latham for 23 or 24 years now. Thank you.

22 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Joe, can you elaborate a little  
23 bit?

24 MR. LACIVITA: Yes. So, Bruce and I have been  
25 corresponding back and forth. I know one of the things

1 that we look at is our record retention's policy. We  
2 have worked through our bond counsel from Hiscock and  
3 Barkley. Bruce is correct.

4 Where we keep those records and how long do we keep  
5 them? Once the benefits closed, we keep them for 10  
6 years after the fact. I know this goes back 25 years  
7 ago.

8 Coming in 2008, there were none of those records  
9 here when we came. So, that meant to us that those  
10 records were in fact closed. Moving forward again with  
11 the same things, if someone gets a benefit that extends  
12 past a certain period - 20, 30 years or whatever the IDA  
13 gives, we do have to keep that 10 years after that  
14 closing. So, that was one point that Bruce talked about.

15 MS. WHALEN: I've a question. Didn't we have that  
16 issue with Shop Rite but then - that grocery store.  
17 Remember, we gave them some IDA benefits and then we  
18 discovered that they weren't actually creating the jobs  
19 promised?

20 MR. LACIVITA: That's what I was going to get to.

21 MS. WHALEN: Then, we fix that so that won't  
22 happen anymore.

23 MR. LACIVITA: Correct.

24 MS. WHALEN: But he is speaking more about  
25 companies that have been around longer, but their tax

1 incentives are finished and then our records are  
2 finished because they're not getting the tax incentives  
3 anymore so we keep the records. They don't have an  
4 obligation to create any more jobs because we make sure  
5 that they have created what they promised to get the  
6 incentives and then it is over.

7 MR. LACIVITA: That is correct. That is the  
8 fallback provision that's within the IDA. If they are  
9 not creating the jobs in a timely basis, as promised,  
10 there are provisions now that with contracts in the  
11 bonding that we get that back.

12 MS. WHALEN: So, we check it while it is going on.

13 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Joe, correct me if I am wrong,  
14 but the PILOT programs that you have a very limited  
15 compared to most IDA's. It is a much shorter period of  
16 payback because what happens is in a lot of places they  
17 have 30 or 40 year PILOTs.

18 MR. LACIVITA: Correct. The PILOT provision that  
19 we did within the IDA was specific to attract  
20 technology businesses and a high level creation of jobs  
21 as an office component that would have a high paying  
22 job like that. The specific PILOT language in our PILOT  
23 agreement is actionable on the Central Avenue Corridor  
24 Study where we are looking to attract development in  
25 that area. Any other pilot offering throughout the Town

1 is actually through a deviation process. They have to  
2 prove that deviation.

3 So, we did hire Camoin Associates. We do an  
4 economic analysis on projects such as Ayco and they show  
5 that the economic benefit back to the Town whereby  
6 letting the IDA make an educated moving forward process  
7 to go into that contract with the Ayco Corporation.

8 Now, one of the things we look at a lot is that  
9 pirating provision. That is if someone is up and  
10 Saratoga, we don't go out and solicit them. They come to  
11 us. So, that pirating provision that is within the IDA  
12 law - we can't be caught for that. So, they came to us.

13 They were looking to consolidate. Bruce is right.

14 What happens after 20 years if they decide they  
15 want to go to new location and get the same type of  
16 benefits somewhere else? That can happen. We will do  
17 everything we possibly can to make sure that we do.

18 One of the other things we have to look at with  
19 this IDA benefit that was given to that area - they were  
20 bringing in a number of jobs. They were bringing  
21 high-quality jobs. It's also in the Boght GEIS area. You  
22 guys know what our GEIS area does to developments. It  
23 puts another layer of fee onto the developer for  
24 development in those three GEIS areas. It kind of  
25 outweighs going to our Township in that area. So, the

1 PILOT is somewhat of an offset to it. They also built a  
2 roadway and it's so that we could get a community  
3 benefit there as well. That was the whole process that  
4 we looked at through this process.

5 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Thank you, sir.

6 MS. WHALEN: I have another question for Chuck  
7 because I asked it two weeks ago, but I don't know if I  
8 got a clear answer. So, we've had all these meetings  
9 and sessions in public hearings. How often does a  
10 concern have to be introduced - reintroduced before it  
11 resonates onto this page? In other words, someone might  
12 come to one meeting and say, oh, I like horseback  
13 riding. You like bikes. I want to see horse trails like  
14 Tuxedo Park and Bedford throughout Colonie. There's  
15 only one person. There is no group or coalition coming  
16 in from Pine Hills and Berne and Slingerlands to back  
17 them up.

18 So, like, how does that resonate onto the page  
19 eventually?

20 MR. VOSS: It all falls on the seven of you up  
21 there. It all depends on what you choose to put in or  
22 don't choose to put in.

23 MS. WHALEN: Like, from all of those meetings, if  
24 there are no transcripts -

25 MR. VOSS: From the committee meetings themselves?

1 MS. WHALEN: Yes, from the committee meetings -  
2 when you are listening to the comments - - I know the  
3 survey, I know you're going to rely a lot on that  
4 survey, right? All those comments that you culled and  
5 pooled at all of this meetings - there is no  
6 transcripts. I didn't attend everyone. I went to them  
7 here and there. Like, how am I supposed to know, if you  
8 don't tell me, how many times was the drum beat before  
9 it goes into this document; once, 10 times, 25 people?

10 MR. VOSS: We have never tracked those in any  
11 projects in terms of waiting.

12 MS. WHALEN: But you're not answering my question.  
13 Like, how do these things get onto the page?

14 MR. VOSS: It's the committee - the committee,  
15 themselves. If they feel that they have heard something  
16 enough times, they will make that recommendation and it  
17 goes into the plan. That is how they are derived.  
18 Ultimately, now that the Comp Plan has developed into  
19 its next phase that the Town Board is looking to make  
20 revisions, it is up to you guys to decide what you  
21 would like in and what you wouldn't. If you are hearing  
22 the same comment 50 times over and you think it's  
23 important enough to put in, it's up to your membership  
24 to decide as a group - that's what you want to put in.  
25 If not, then we don't. That's usually how that process

1 works. There is no waiting of comments or value trying  
2 to valuate the comments based on how many times they  
3 are said.

4 Like you said yourself, a special interest could  
5 come in and say the same thing 100 times over, but it  
6 doesn't mean that's what you want.

7 MS. WHALEN: I mean, I saw a bike coalition -  
8 talking in a blizzard about bikes. Oh, there you are.

9 MR. VOSS: He was very good, yes.

10 MS. WHALEN: Like, should I get all my horseback  
11 riding friends to come in and talk about riding horses  
12 all over Colonie? I'm just wondering about the  
13 weighting process, because it must be weighted, right?

14 MR. VOSS: No, there isn't. In the Comp Plan  
15 process it is a very broad and open process. There is  
16 no weighting. There is no real prioritization of the  
17 number of comments they come in during the process. It  
18 is all discretionary. It's really what this Board is  
19 comfortable with. If your colleagues support the same  
20 things or suggestion that someone has made many times,  
21 then that's how it gets inserted.

22 MS. WHALEN: Okay, got it.

23 MR. VOSS: It is pretty straightforward.

24 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I think the random sample, as  
25 well from the survey - that feedback was very important

1 because as I say, it was random and he gave a true  
2 picture of what people were feeling.

3 MR. VOSS: And you can ask every question that  
4 anybody in the Town might want. With a population of  
5 over 80,000, there are 80,000 different opinions on  
6 everything. You try and hit the big questions.

7 MS. AUGER: My name is Pat Auger; A-U-G-E-R.

8 First of all, I agree with you Jennifer. To me, it  
9 seemed vague. The plan seemed vague. First of all, I was  
10 told I could see that study online and it hasn't been on  
11 the server. There is an error code. I assume you will  
12 fix it, right?

13 MR. LACIVITA: Yes.

14 MS. AUGER: Because I couldn't get the information  
15 that I wanted.

16 Second of all, there is 81% of surveyed that is  
17 concerned about road speed. I was told by a Legislator  
18 that it was 30 miles per hour and that it couldn't be  
19 changed because of state law or whatever. If people are  
20 concerned, I don't know if that's true or not -

21 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: It is 30 in the Town.

22 MS. AUGER: Cannot be lowered to 25?

23 MR. TEALE: Only in the villages.

24 MS. AUGER: Is there reason for that?

25 MR. TEALE: It is a state law.

1 MS. AUGER: Because it is ridiculous - the amount  
2 of speeding that goes on through these roads. I have  
3 been on the opposite side of the road where they sped  
4 like crazy. There was a dump truck that was speeding  
5 down my road today going lickety-split. He did slow  
6 down a little bit when he saw me walking the dog. Then,  
7 he sped up again. If people are concerned in the Town  
8 about lowering speeds, then there's nothing we can do  
9 about it, right?

10 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Well, we have to follow state  
11 law. As we have talked about before, we use the tools  
12 that we have which is the police department, there's  
13 radar -

14 MS. AUGER: Well, how come the village can control  
15 their speeds and we can't?

16 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Because it is a state law. The  
17 state law states that they can have 25 miles an hour.  
18 That's for the villages within the Town. The Town  
19 itself, outside the village, is 30.

20 MS. AUGER: I just think it is a sad scenario that  
21 you can't even lower them, especially when we are  
22 losing grants and everything.

23 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: That has been put back in. Has  
24 anyone heard anything different? What I heard was it is  
25 back in.

1 MS. AUGER: Well, that is a good thing.

2 With road paving and things like that, I was one of  
3 the fortunate people who got my road paved last year. I  
4 was looking at it and the seam in the road is very  
5 distinctive and at the bottom of the road it doesn't  
6 even connect. Are we hiring contractors to do all this  
7 work? To me, that road was poorly paved.

8 MR. MAGGUILLI: Ma'am, can you try to direct your  
9 comments to the Comprehensive Plan?

10 MS. AUGER: This is the Comprehensive Plan. Our  
11 roads are the Comprehensive Plan. It is ridiculous if  
12 you have your Towns - - I am getting stifled about  
13 stating about our Town. Are there any incentives about  
14 our small businesses that keep going out and in? Are  
15 there any incentives going on?

16 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Joe, if you would like to  
17 answer that?

18 We have probably one of the best economies around  
19 in the Town of Colonie.

20 MR. LACIVITA: When you are talking about  
21 incentives from an IDA perspective, the Town can't  
22 claim economically distressed. So, to offer those  
23 incentives that you have for the villages in the  
24 cities, under state laws and under state programs, that  
25 economic distress is really one of the things to

1           incentivize small businesses to go forward.

2           The other side of it is from an IDA perspective you  
3           can't look at retail components because they took the  
4           retail components out of the IDA legislation years and  
5           years ago. So, we have no way to incentivize that  
6           business.

7           As Paula mentioned, we have a strong economy here  
8           within the Township. Businesses tend to come. So, if we  
9           were to offer a benefit, they're going to come anyway.  
10          So, you have to look at both sides there.

11          MS. WHALEN: And it says on page 26 of the  
12          Comprehensive Draft - the proposed - building off of  
13          the Industrial Development Agency's economic assessment  
14          study that is currently underway to develop a current  
15          Townwide economic development strategy.

16          But that study - is that going to be attached? I  
17          don't have that study. Like, it doesn't have a site for  
18          that study. As I was reading this, I'm like, okay, there  
19          is still - it is so general. I don't even have access to  
20          the study. I have to go on the IDA website and pull it  
21          off. I just think that when we reference a document  
22          under our business friendly environment bullet point  
23          heading, we should definitely attach this study because  
24          we are building off of this IDA study and it should be  
25          incorporated in here, I think.

1 MR. LACIVITA: Well, that study hasn't been done  
2 as of yet. They're talking about having the IDA for  
3 future study and collaboration with the Planning  
4 Department. That's one of the reasons why we have  
5 Camoin Associates as one of our vendors that we would  
6 go to to help us and give us guidance on that.

7 MS. WHALEN: Okay, so we will be working with  
8 them.

9 MR. LACIVITA: Yes.

10 MS. WHALEN: And building off of whatever it is  
11 that they propose.

12 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We do work closely with both  
13 Chambers - the Colonie Chamber and the Capital Region  
14 Chamber. They do track a lot of different things and  
15 they are very, very familiar with our area, especially  
16 Colonie - strictly Colonie - the capital region -  
17 Albany, Schenectady, and Saratoga as well I believe. We  
18 work very closely with them and we are one of the best  
19 economies -

20 MS. AUGER: I just see these businesses come in  
21 and out, in and out, in and out and there are blank  
22 buildings down on my end all the time. It just kind of  
23 disturbs me a little bit.

24 Concorde House is moving itself - I don't even know  
25 if someone's going out, but that's been there since I

1 was a little girl.

2 MS. WHALEN: It's the Ethan Allen, right?

3 MS. AUGER: Yes.

4 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I think Ethan Allen is going  
5 into the old Sears building. They are private  
6 businesses and they make decisions.

7 MS. AUGER: That's why I was wondering if there  
8 were incentives for that particular -

9 MR. LACIVITA: One of the other things that I  
10 forgot to mention, Paula, and you brought it up about  
11 the Chamber - they have a 504 account that they work  
12 through which was part of the Altech Loan Fund. So, we  
13 work with New York State small business development  
14 Council, which is known as the NYSMDC and we work with  
15 the local Chamber who has the capability to do that  
16 funding for small businesses that need startup. When  
17 they make phone calls from my office we send them over  
18 to them which helps them from the point of business  
19 classes. They have them attend these and show them how  
20 to make things profitable and how to make sure they are  
21 successful. So, there are some of the small business  
22 funding components, like I said. The Altech Loan Fund  
23 that had up to \$750,000 and then you have the Chamber  
24 and they can give up to \$25,000. So, we work with them  
25 collaboratively on things like that. It is outside of

1 the Town.

2 MS. AUGER: The other thing is: We are not going  
3 to use our green spaces for anything else and keep them  
4 green, correct?

5 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Are you talking about open  
6 space?

7 MS. AUGER: Yes.

8 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Yes. They are permanent open  
9 spaces - Town owned open space. They are private -  
10 there is private open space in the Town.

11 For example, there is a private golf club or golf  
12 course rather - private sports complexes or whatever.  
13 They can do what they want with their land. That's out  
14 of our control. Certainly, we work with them to try to  
15 maintain that. Unless the Town has the funding to  
16 purchase it, which would be quite expensive - it's all  
17 part of the Town parks and things like that. You can't  
18 just sell a park. It doesn't work that way. The laws do  
19 not allow you to do that.

20 We have actually increased open space and our goal  
21 is to continue to do that.

22 When the Planning Department is working with the  
23 Planning Board on a proposed project, you will see a  
24 conservation subdivision where they cluster more and  
25 have a portion of the land preserved. Those are the

1 kinds of things that increases that. We do purchase, if  
2 we can - if there's an opportunity.

3 Right now, we have put an offer into the Land Bank  
4 for some open space. Again, whether our bid will be  
5 taken, we will have to wait and see. So, the goal is to  
6 keep expanding.

7 We built a new passive park on River Road which  
8 expanded open space. The Fox Preserve is private and  
9 that serves as trails for habitat and wildlife. That is  
10 also on River Road.

11 So, there is a lot different avenues that we go  
12 down to preserve space. Green space is something that is  
13 required with planning. So, there are ways to increase.  
14 It's very difficult to just purchase everything because  
15 that's a difficult thing to do. We do have green space  
16 fees when people develop. We also added a fee to  
17 development that is out of the mitigation areas because  
18 the mitigation areas already contribute for open  
19 space/recreational. We balance that out and we level the  
20 playing field so now everyone has to pay a fee. So, that  
21 will add to the ability to purchase more green space or  
22 possibly work with farmers to see if they are willing to  
23 work with us to keep it agricultural and things like  
24 that. Those are the goals.

25 MS. AUGER: I would just hate to see any of those

1 spaces being used for anything commercial or anything  
2 like that for more development. I think we have enough,  
3 as it is.

4 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: That is not our intention.

5 The other thing that we have which is very valuable  
6 in the Town which was basically from the 1960's - we  
7 have 12 pocket parks in the various areas of the Town.  
8 We are in the process of finishing - basically bringing  
9 those back to life with new equipment, fence and things  
10 like that. That adds up to a tremendous amount of open  
11 space that with these improvements, we are hoping that  
12 people will be able to better enjoy them and use them  
13 because they are right in neighborhoods. It is a good  
14 use of the space. There is a lot going on.

15 MS. AUGER: I know this is a sensitive subject,  
16 but our landfills and stuff - is there any proposals or  
17 incentives or anything - not just recycling but  
18 inventing or planning on getting rid of garbage - like  
19 getting rid of - - I don't know how to say it. I know  
20 we put people on the moon and stuff like that and I  
21 don't see why there is no way come up with something  
22 that we could do - like to recycle the garbage or get  
23 rid of it.

24 We are in the state of where Town dumps are getting  
25 fined for leakage in the Mohawk and stuff. I am

1 concerned about that - the environmental aspect because  
2 we are are a big producer of that because we are a big  
3 Town.

4 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: The landfill itself - - I don't  
5 know how much you know about the landfill, but the  
6 landfill itself has about at least another 20 years of  
7 life. The landfill was - back prior to this  
8 administration, they purchased land and increased the  
9 footprint for Areas 7 to be built, which will take the  
10 landfill out and into the future. The landfill was a  
11 major funding source for the Town for years. It was on  
12 basically the brink of bankruptcy and in order to  
13 preserve it and have it live out its lifespan and be  
14 able to support the economy and the funding for the  
15 Town, the way it should be, we did a tremendous amount  
16 of research over quite a long period of time. We had  
17 six of the best companies in the nation respond to our  
18 RFP. That is one of the goals of each and every one of  
19 those companies that applied. They have that ability.  
20 They have the ability to fund the research to work -  
21 they have several engineers. They have things that we  
22 couldn't do as a Town. Basically, we wouldn't be able  
23 to keep the landfill going without another option.

24 The options were to sell it, to lease it or to have  
25 an operating agreement.

1           The operating agreement, we felt, was the best way  
2           to go because the Town Board - everything has to go  
3           before the Town Board before it can go forward with  
4           anything or do any additions or whatever. Their goal -  
5           these companies work on this stuff all the time. Their  
6           goal is zero waste in the future. There are all kinds of  
7           things like research and technologies that are being  
8           developed. We do have a system where we capture the  
9           methane gas and turn that into electricity, so that is  
10          reused.

11           MS. AUGER: That is what I am wondering - to get  
12          rid of the garbage with innovations in technology and  
13          stuff like that. I don't know if we are investing in  
14          any of that.

15           SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We are investing. We could  
16          actually could not afford to invest and all that they  
17          can. They cover all costs. They own recycling  
18          companies. Recycling is a little bit of an issue today  
19          because back when I toured their facility - at that  
20          point, they were selling about 35% overseas and about  
21          65% was used in the country. China was one of the  
22          biggest buyers. At this point, that has turned a little  
23          bit. Still, the idea of recycling and reusing products  
24          - - there are also organic waste systems where we  
25          basically take garbage and get all the water out of it

1 and bring it down to a point where it produces energy.  
2 The last time I saw it it was the byproduct that could  
3 be used as fertilizer. So, you're basically using  
4 almost every piece of the garbage.

5 MS. AUGER: That's what I'm after.

6 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We talked to them about that  
7 and it has been around and it is been perfected and  
8 perfected. I think it's probably something in the  
9 future. Certainly, the goal is to have less waste and  
10 not more. You mention the point about the leakage with  
11 the construction. They are improving the situation. The  
12 Town always had like a leachate pond. This will be  
13 contained. It's much different and it is much better.  
14 Underneath it will be much sturdier with other types of  
15 materials that they are using.

16 So, they are all very very expensive improvements  
17 that the Town would not be able to afford. Frankly, if  
18 the landfill was allowed at that point to go bankrupt in  
19 the Town itself was basically bankrupt, you wouldn't be  
20 able to move forward. You would have to have assistance  
21 from the state.

22 The goal was to engage with the company that had  
23 the financial ability to really bring the landfill into  
24 the future with improvements in technology and finding  
25 ways to use garbage so it becomes a producer and it is

1 able to be reused. The company itself had also put in  
2 more lines to capture gas to be able to produce more  
3 energy. There are all kinds of things going on. It's  
4 actually a very interesting industry and something I  
5 thought I'd never look into, but it was rather  
6 interesting and challenging.

7 I think you're right on. That should be the goal of  
8 the waste management industry and these corporations can  
9 meet that goal far better than the Town with the funding  
10 that we have. We couldn't do it.

11 MS. AUGER: Thank you.

12 MS. MALONEY: My name is Suzanne Maloney. I just  
13 want to make a few statements. You're so wonderful at  
14 your explanations, but I just want to make a few  
15 statements about a conversation that was had about the  
16 Comprehensive Plan.

17 I have run strategic plans for corporations and for  
18 not for profits and a Comprehensive Plan is basically a  
19 grand strategic plan. When you put a committee together,  
20 they are basically appointed to the position to  
21 represent a part of the industry or a part of the  
22 residents and they represent who they are there to  
23 represent. When you go through the strategic planning  
24 session for the Comprehensive Planning session, you are  
25 offering information from who you are representing. So,

1 when a Comprehensive Plan comes together and then is  
2 brought to a body, its recommendation is to that body. I  
3 was once him - many times him. I did and put into those  
4 reports what I was asked to put into those reports. The  
5 detail or the lack of detail is really up to the entity  
6 who is asking for that plan to be written. So, I wrote  
7 a few things down because I heard these things being  
8 said. The detail in a Comprehensive Plan is a target and  
9 not a wish. It is a target. I know you said that it was  
10 maybe not a wish and maybe not a wish list.

11 MS. WHALEN: I called it a wish list just as a  
12 convenient - -

13 MS. MALONEY: it is a target. It should be in  
14 there because it is a target for the Board.

15 MS. WHALEN: whatever it is, it's not specific  
16 enough. That's what I think.

17 MS. MALONEY: the group who put together the  
18 recommendations that make that report to the Board -  
19 those are targets in their mind. Those are  
20 recommendations about what that community wants to see  
21 happen - a goal that they are aiming at. So, when it  
22 comes to the body that is supposed to implement that  
23 and things are not in it, yes, you should be looking at  
24 it and adding to it. It is a living document. That's  
25 why you're in the review process right now. Anything

1 that is in it, if it is not working should be reviewed  
2 and eliminated or given more assets to make it work. It  
3 is a living document. \*Save has all of the  
4 Comprehensive Plan meetings on our YouTube, if you want  
5 to look.

6 MS. WHALEN: I will watch those. Thank you.

7 MS. MALONEY: the only other thing I wanted to say  
8 was I was curious as to the data that we have available  
9 to develop a map. I'm one of those dangerous entities  
10 who learned GIS so I could tell people I employed what  
11 I needed. So, I went to the site and I pull down data  
12 on the public site and I am aware that you can't get a  
13 great deal of detail on that data because there is a  
14 hazard for that. You should be able to at least get  
15 data that is complete, the doesn't have multiples and  
16 it and that everything that is in the cells are lined  
17 up in the way that they should be lined up. I did not  
18 get that. I did a search and there are pre-entered  
19 parameters for the public to use and I use them all for  
20 vacant land and for agricultural vacant land. In a Town  
21 the size of our Town, it's just basic statistics. If  
22 you have this much of a population - say 20,000 people  
23 who had cancer and you think that 15,000 of them are in  
24 remission, that is statistically possible. I got 3000  
25 acres of "vacant" land. They were multiples when I

1 removed that out. It reduced it to even less. So, the  
2 data hasn't been set up to answer the queries that you  
3 have for the public - the question you are asking the  
4 data to answer. What vacant land we have? That's the  
5 simple question I asked. So, my question is: how are  
6 you making decisions if the data isn't set up for you  
7 to ask the questions of how much vacant land we have?  
8 How much do we want to keep? How much do we want to  
9 develop? Those are all my statements. I don't want to  
10 keep you.

11 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: The number that we have of open  
12 space that we quoted was an analysis that was done by  
13 the Town. It was through the GIS department and MIS.  
14 So, all of the parcels - everything is listed.

15 MS. MALONEY: I'm sure you have all the  
16 information. In the data, it is not there.

17 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: With open space - we are  
18 referring to -

19 MS. MALONEY: There is terminology, too; vacant  
20 versus open versus green.

21 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Yes, I understand that. When we  
22 are talking about Town open space, we are talking  
23 about -

24 MS. MALONEY: I'm not even talking about the  
25 vacant space. The data - when it came down, had things

1 that had zero acreage available.

2 MS. WHALEN: Where was it that you were looking?  
3 Can you just verify -

4 MS. MALONEY: On the Colonie GIS public portal you  
5 can go into an advanced search and there is a  
6 drop-down. You pick vacant and agricultural - those are  
7 the two that I chose. The vacant land has pre-populated  
8 what looked to be with someone else asked of the data;,  
9 industrial; minimal development; industrial vacant  
10 land, or private vacant land. There were like four or  
11 five different ways to ask that question of the data.  
12 Usually you can type in vacant land and that will just  
13 be a parameter and it has to be listed in the data for  
14 the database to go out and grab it and pull it into  
15 your - to answer your question.

16 There does not appear to be a column that  
17 identifies that data so that it comes down to answer  
18 that question. I'm not talking about the vacant land or  
19 the terminology. I'm talking about the data itself.  
20 Without that ability, you don't have the technological  
21 ability to answer the question.

22 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: If I could just make a  
23 suggestion - I understand what it is that you're  
24 looking for.

25 MS. MALONEY: I'm just looking to make the

1 statement that this is what I experienced.

2 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: You might want to contact our  
3 MIS Department because the GIS works with them as well  
4 and ask your question and maybe they can give you  
5 better direction, or maybe you can give them some  
6 feedback that might help them to improve something.

7 MS. MALONEY: I would be happy to do that.

8 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: That would be my suggestion.  
9 You might want to put it in writing and in that way -

10 MS. MALONEY: I did find the contact so I will  
11 make the query.

12 MS. WEBER: Hello everyone. My name is Susan  
13 Weber. I live in Colonie and I am one of the members of  
14 Save Colonie.

15 I have three points that I would like to make first  
16 of all, based on the comments that I have heard  
17 discussed here. The first one is about traffic.

18 The Albany Shaker Road Corridor Study identified  
19 that 60% of the traffic in that corridor is local and  
20 not pass through but local. I am just making this point.

21 The second point I would like to make is about -  
22 Jennifer, you mentioned trees and the loss of trees and  
23 how Guilderland is just suffering this and why don't we  
24 have tree ordinance?

25 When Save started itself years ago - three years

1 ago, actually before the Comp Plan even, we did a little  
2 study - we did a Google search of the Town law. We found  
3 that there is actually a code provision, Section 177 and  
4 we had a meeting with Mike Magguilli, Supervisor Mahan  
5 and they didn't seem to have been aware that the fact  
6 that there was an ordinance. It says that when you  
7 develop, you should not cut trees further than the  
8 footprint of the building in the driveway plus 10 feet.

9 MR. MAGGUILLI: My recollection of that meeting as  
10 much different than yours.

11 MS. WEBER: We are not here to have a  
12 conversation, Mr. Magguilli. What is your recollection?

13 MR. MAGGUILLI: My recollection is that I brought  
14 Chapter 177 to your attention.

15 MS. WEBER: Oh, no. We brought the copy and we  
16 handed it around and you and Mrs. Mahan went yipee,  
17 look what we can do and we will have to incorporate  
18 that.

19 MS. WHALEN: I did a lot of research of other Town  
20 laws and our 177 doesn't even go far enough.

21 MS. WEBER: No, it does not. You are correct.

22 MS. WHALEN: Like, that's where they have  
23 Arborists entry inventory. Anyway, yes, that will all  
24 maybe someday be a target to happen if we have money.

25 MS. WEBER: Actually, you don't need that because

1 that section of law says that the developer of that  
2 property shall inventory the trees thereon and save  
3 those that are larger than 3 inches. Actually, this is  
4 actually done - required of the developer of East  
5 Hills. So, that's a wonderful thing.

6 The third thing that I would like to bring up is -  
7 also, when Ms. Whalen suggested - - this is Section 7  
8 from the 2005 Comprehensive Plan. It has one section:  
9 Immediate actions within one year. It says the Town  
10 should immediately update zoning and subdivision  
11 regulations to ensure consistency with the plan; the  
12 Town should immediately. Recommend zoning revisions are  
13 listed by topic area. It goes on.

14 Then, they have short-term actions within one to  
15 two years. Restructure Planning and Economic Development  
16 Department, and enhance gateways to the Town, develop a  
17 Townwide economic development strategy. And it goes on.

18 Pursue redevelopment initiatives for the Lincoln  
19 Avenue industrial revitalization area. What we need in  
20 our plan is a review of where the Town has gotten itself  
21 on all of these required items. To what you said,  
22 Jennifer, - the same sort of thing going forward.

23 So, I commend everyone to please look at this  
24 wonderful Section 7 of the 2005 plan.

25 MS. WHALEN: So, you are saying that it is more

1 specific.

2 MS. WEBER: It is completely specific and  
3 directive. Would you like my copy?

4 MS. WHALEN: Sure, thank you.

5 MS. WEBER: First of all, these are the comments  
6 that I prepared.

7 Save Colonie members want to commend the Town  
8 administration and staff for undergoing this major  
9 project to evaluate the progress made over the last 13  
10 1/2 years toward the Town's goals as expressed in the  
11 2005 plan. After three years many well attended public  
12 hearings were residents gave thoughtful and extensive  
13 comments which were, by the way, transcribed somewhere -  
14 to different paid consultant experts as well as a Comp  
15 Plan Advisory Committee representing many aspects of our  
16 community, a major investment of time and Town money, a  
17 draft was created and handed over to this Board.

18 Based upon the Town Supervisor's public statements  
19 over the last two public hearing sessions and tonight,  
20 it appears that the Town Board has rejected the Comp  
21 Plan Advisory Committee's February 2019 draft and is now  
22 assembling an entirely new Comp Plan. In fact we believe  
23 this approach is seriously flawed. The fact-finding  
24 function and input of the Comp Plan Advisory Committee  
25 is now missing from the plan. Before the Town Board

1 takes a final vote, the newly updated draft must be sent  
2 back to the Comp Plan Advisory Committee for  
3 consideration and recommendations. The public record  
4 must be corrected also regarding the legal implications  
5 for the Town's adoption of a Comprehensive Plan.

6 Supervisor Mahan has been quoted several times in  
7 these hearing sections stating or replying that the  
8 updated Comprehensive Plan will not be a legally binding  
9 document. This is not a correct interpretation of the  
10 New York State Town law. For this reason, it is vital to  
11 the Town's future that this Town Board takes seriously  
12 its duty to review and ultimately vote on the total  
13 updated Comprehensive Plan after the community has had a  
14 chance to study the entire document and comment upon it.

15 Although the PEDD Director Mr. LaCivita who has led  
16 the Comp Plan process for the past three years stated in  
17 frustration that the Town Board now owns this document.  
18 We respectfully disagree. After a three-year process  
19 under the auspices of the PEDD Director and to paid  
20 expert consultants, the documents submitted to the Town  
21 Board has had to undergo three revisions and is still  
22 not ready for a final review. Residents should not have  
23 to comment on the drafts structural in adequacy,  
24 typographical errors, outdated data and missing  
25 analyses. We urge the Town Board to send this seriously

1 flawed plan back to the Comprehensive Plan Advisory  
2 Committee to deliberate and make all of the necessary  
3 corrections and only then when we have a total plan  
4 should be sent out for review and comment and your vote.

5 Save core members Wendy Allen and Kathy Love will  
6 present additional Save comments.

7 MS. ALLEN: My name is Wendy Allen and I am a Save  
8 Colonie member from Loudonville. Is this an update?  
9 From day one the public was told and reminded again and  
10 again that this exercise is an update of the 2005 plan.  
11 In the beginning when we protested that the RFP wasn't  
12 open to other than the Town of Colonie's three chosen  
13 firms, we were told that it was because these firms had  
14 extensive background and understanding of TOC processes  
15 and that it is an update of the 2005 plan. When Barton  
16 and Loguidice was chosen, one of the reasons was that  
17 Mike Welty had previously worked with Saratoga  
18 Associates on the plan and yet is impossible to do a  
19 side-by-side comparison of the goals and basic  
20 structure of the two plans to clearly understand what  
21 exactly is being updated. Many of the 2005 plan Section  
22 7 goals and action items which is what she gave you are  
23 not addressed at all in this draft.

24 All of the 2005 goals and action items should be  
25 the core of the update, if that is what this is supposed

1 to be. What was directed in 2005 and what has been  
2 accomplished in achieving them - all of them and not  
3 cherry picked as convenient. Statements like: continue  
4 working with X or continue working toward is not  
5 acceptable for a guidance document. Protect and promote  
6 the Town's significant cultural and historic resources  
7 was a goal in 2005 and it is repeated word for word as a  
8 goal in 2019. Has anyone taken a ride around the Town  
9 lately to see how that's working for the residents of  
10 Colonie? The Town's history is disappearing with no one  
11 to advocate. The Town historian has no enforcement  
12 powers. He just visits and takes photos. How about  
13 creating a historic commission like Clifton Park made of  
14 experts in architecture, local history, real estate and  
15 other professionals to advise the Planning Board? I  
16 don't believe that any creative solutions were discussed  
17 as part of this process to add meaning to these useless  
18 statements and I did bring that up to the Comprehensive  
19 Plan Advisory Committee.

20 Next, where are the comments? Where are the public  
21 comments? Many public hearings were held a couple years  
22 ago to obtain public input. Residents took time to make  
23 their issues and concerns known to the committee. Notes  
24 were taken on white boards. The section should also  
25 contain comments residence submitted through the online

1 form on the PEDD webpage when it was working. What about  
2 those comments submitted by Senior Services, the  
3 Historical Society and the Shaker Heritage Society?  
4 These need to be included in the document so residents  
5 and organizations alike know that their comments were  
6 heard and included in the plan. Reliance upon the  
7 results of the Siena survey does a disservice to the  
8 process and is it adequate to represent the public's  
9 input. How about the list of interviewees?

10 I gave Mr. LaCivita contact information twice for  
11 the Executive Director for the Greater Capital  
12 Association Regional Association of Realtors. Was she  
13 ever interviewed? Was the head of CIREV? Without this  
14 information is difficult to know how much content is  
15 just cherry picked low hanging fruit.

16 Implementation: Page 30 of my draft ends with  
17 implementation; the most important part of this process  
18 to me. It is blank which is an ominous sign. Why is this  
19 incomplete draft being shared with the public, other  
20 agencies and most of all the Board?

21 As a planner for New York State, I let efforts to  
22 create many types of plans; organizational plans,  
23 strategic plans, risk assessment plans. One element  
24 binds all types of public plans together. If they are  
25 not integrated into the everyday processes, they will

1 simply collect dust on the shelf.

2 I understand that this draft has cost somewhere in  
3 the range of \$130,000 and that doesn't include the value  
4 of staff time of those already on the Town payroll. So,  
5 I would imagine that cost would be double if not triple.

6 To achieve a truly successful plan, the top  
7 official must insist that it's guidance is followed.  
8 Department heads must understand that they will be held  
9 accountable to the plans goals and vision that has been  
10 adopted by the Board. There are many ways to do this.

11 Managers, personal interviews, personnel interviews  
12 should include explaining how they have use their  
13 resources to achieve the goals that apply to their work.

14 Budget items should be directly related to the  
15 support and advancement of the vision and goals, for  
16 example. What practices will the Town of Colonie put in  
17 place to make this plan something the taxpayers will be  
18 satisfied that they paid for?

19 I attend most Planning Board meetings and I've  
20 never heard anyone ask how does this comply with the  
21 Comprehensive Plan? If there are no questions, I will  
22 turn the microphone over to another save Colonie member,  
23 Kathy Love.

24 MS. LOVE: I'm going to bring up a couple other  
25 points that we feel are not included in this draft. The

1 draft fails to include an up-to-date list or a map of  
2 remaining Colonie open space. This is an essential tool  
3 to plan for the outstanding goal of conserving open  
4 space, farmland and wildlife corridors.

5 The Town is collecting fees that are to be used for  
6 open space acquisition and yet there are no parcels  
7 identified as potential green space. No lands identified  
8 to "enhance and expand; passive and active recreational  
9 resources".

10 So, how can this be accomplished if we do not know  
11 where the open spaces are, or does the Town only intend  
12 to expand and enhance those areas it already owns? It  
13 makes me wonder how serious the Town is about this,  
14 despite it being one of the most popular concerns as  
15 identified by residents again and again.

16 One of the several issues that has arisen since the  
17 2005 Plan is the imminent threat to our communities and  
18 our planet posed by human exacerbated climate change.  
19 Since a large percentage of fossil fuel use and  
20 greenhouse gas emissions causing climate change result  
21 from heating and cooling homes, businesses, hotels and  
22 other buildings, local building and zoning codes should  
23 be a major focus of planning for sustainable future. So  
24 too should the plan address revision of transportation  
25 systems and corridors to create mass transit, bicycle

1 and walk ability solutions.

2 Development approvals without LED requirements,  
3 ridesharing, electrical vehicle charging stations, solar  
4 farms and rooftop solar rays are negligent at the very  
5 least. All of these issues convince Save Colonie whose  
6 members have spent a great deal of time on this project  
7 that this document should not be accepted by the Board  
8 until all these issues in the profile which we have yet  
9 to see can be addressed. So, this should be returned to  
10 the committee, PEDD and hired consultant to address  
11 directly the issues we have discussed.

12 We further suggest that the 2005 Plan be consulted  
13 as a model of what a professional Comprehensive Plan can  
14 look like. When there is an adequate actionable draft,  
15 we will submit more detailed granuled comments.

16 Thank you very much for your attention to what we  
17 all agree is a most important matter for the Town of  
18 Colonie and all our residents.

19 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Thank you, very much. I would  
20 just like to comment on a few things, if I could.

21 First of all, thank you for your time and attention  
22 that you put into reviewing this. We do take feedback  
23 from other people, as well, throughout the whole Town,  
24 if they are interested. Certainly, we work with them as  
25 well.

1           Just a couple of things as far as: Are we serious?

2           Yes, we are very serious. I think you are certainly  
3           entitled to your opinions or whatever it is that you  
4           want to say. I respectfully disagree with some of what  
5           you are saying.

6           First of all, we are not leaving the first draft  
7           out of anything.

8           Second of all, I have been in contact with the  
9           Chair of the Planning Board who also was on the  
10          committee and several other committee members to keep  
11          them apprised as to what is going on and if they had any  
12          further suggestions.

13          You are talking about and asking for a map of the  
14          Town - every open space in the Town. I think Suzanne  
15          made a very good point. There is open space. Then, there  
16          is vacant space. Certainly, we do have the fees which  
17          are in effect now at this point. The green space fees  
18          were there. We had amended those back quite a while ago  
19          to level the playing field and we added the fees for the  
20          non-mitigation areas to level the field there. It takes  
21          time to build things up. It takes time to build funds  
22          up, but we have done an awful lot with whatever we were  
23          able to do with open space. As time goes on, we  
24          initiated this new fee to help us build a fund. We are  
25          going as fast as we can. So, we have to really delineate

1 what's open space, what's vacant space, what's rational  
2 that we can do? Our goal is to move forward and do the  
3 best that we can.

4 As you know, farmers - long ago, when I was  
5 teaching in North Colonie the farmers then knew and the  
6 school district knew and everybody knew back then that  
7 the farmers were going to be looking to sell their land.  
8 That was their retirement. It is a different time.

9 Now. There is not a lot of land left in the Town of  
10 Colonie. A lot of it has been already spoken for and a  
11 lot of what we have done for commercial has been  
12 redevelopment of vacant and underutilized sites. We  
13 don't want buildings falling apart and boarded up  
14 buildings and things like that.

15 We have some very challenging sites Like Latham  
16 Circle Mall. As that was deteriorating because it was so  
17 difficult to redevelop, there were issues there that we  
18 had to deal with that were detrimental to the Town.

19 We are working on Tobin, which is a real tough  
20 site, but we have something going there.

21 Our third most challenging site was the Starlite.  
22 There is a strategy and there is planning that goes into  
23 trying to do the very best with the situation that we  
24 are given.

25 As far as our historian, our historian does not

1 just walk around and take photos. Our historian happens  
2 to work extremely hard. He is a part-time person and he  
3 volunteers a lot of his time and I would suggest if you  
4 want to know anything about the Town of Colonie, or you  
5 would like to see the work that he does, please, he  
6 would love to have you visit because he does a  
7 tremendous job.

8 I think it is a little disrespectful to say that he  
9 just walks around and takes pictures.

10 MS. WHALEN: But wait, I think -

11 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Hold on a minute, Jennifer. Let  
12 me finish.

13 MS. WHALEN: They didn't say that. They said we  
14 should expand his jurisdiction a little bit.

15 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Jennifer, let me finish.

16 His jurisdiction is quite large for what he does in  
17 the Historical Society also does a great job.

18 Solar farms and things like that - as far as Town  
19 buildings, we have been wanting to put solar on top of  
20 our buildings however, there is a law which Mike can  
21 explain that when it is a municipality, most  
22 municipalities didn't even know about the law and so  
23 they put them on anyway, but Mike can explain that law.

24 We are, as we have said in its in the Comprehensive  
25 Plan - we have signed a contract with hydroelectric

1 power plant which is going to help us reduce our cost  
2 for Town facilities tremendously.

3 Really, you can make all the faces you want and you  
4 can say whatever you want, but you're looking at it from  
5 your perspective and I'm telling you what we are doing  
6 and that we take this very, very seriously. I hope you  
7 understand that because we do.

8 As far as the plan itself goes, we are working with  
9 the consultants to get it to the point where it's where  
10 we feel comfortable and ready to vote. It still has to  
11 go to the county because there is time. It has to stay.  
12 I think they have up to 30 days. Hopefully, we will get  
13 it back before then. It's not going to go there until  
14 it's ready.

15 This plan will help to guide land use amendments  
16 and zoning and all of that.

17 As far as what was done in 2005 and 2007 zoning -  
18 yes, they rezoned in 2007 after the Comprehensive Plan.  
19 I am not disagreeing with you, but I have a tremendous  
20 background on the zones and how they came about the zone  
21 and what went on behind closed doors. I'm not going to  
22 go into that, but if you would ever like to know, I  
23 would be more than happy to go over all that with you.  
24 But yes, they did get it zoned the way they wanted it's  
25 zoned. That's what we have been working with.

1           Part of that meant that they changed some zones and  
2           made it not as pleasing for some people. This gives us  
3           an opportunity - this plan gives us an opportunity as we  
4           move into land use amendments so that we can move the  
5           Town into more of a direction.

6           The feedback from people is very helpful. That  
7           helps us to guide where everybody wants to go. I do hear  
8           how you feel. People show us different things and we  
9           know how you feel, trust me. The idea is that it's you  
10          have to have all the pieces. So, I hope we give as much  
11          time as we can.

12          One of the big huge changes that was made in this  
13          plan - the additions was something that when I sat down  
14          with Wendy and Suzanne and Amy - there was one other  
15          person. I can't remember who it was. When we sat down,  
16          one of the things that somebody had asked and it came to  
17          light that you didn't know about a lot of the things  
18          that we were doing. So, you said those are really good  
19          things and could you put those in the plan? Can you put  
20          the accomplishments in the plan so you can see the  
21          connection from 2005 to 2019, where we are now. So, we  
22          did that.

23          I think it was great because to the other  
24          mechanisms that we get the information out there, you  
25          would just assume with everything that you read that you

1 guys would have known that, but you didn't. It was a  
2 good thing that came out of it. That is one section  
3 that's new.

4 Chuck, we talked about that.

5 Joe, we talked about that.

6 That was a piece that was missing and so we got it  
7 in there. It's just one of those things that something  
8 good comes out of conversation and that was something  
9 good that came out of it.

10 I can't say that I agree with everything that you  
11 are saying because I see it from the side and I see how  
12 hard people are working and I see how hard - from where  
13 we came. I know you don't want to hear that. Like I  
14 said -

15 MS. ALLEN: That's not even what I said.

16 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I'm not even referring to that.  
17 I am referring to some of the changes that were talked  
18 about in '07 and why did you do this sooner and why  
19 didn't you do that sooner and these types of things.  
20 There is a reason for it.

21 Again, we appreciate your feedback. We appreciate  
22 feedback from other people. To be perfectly candid, we  
23 really haven't received a lot of feedback on this  
24 Comprehensive Plan update. We received from you guys,  
25 but I'm saying most people are just complementary and

1 glad to see this and that and what can we do about  
2 congestion and what can we do about this or that. We  
3 talked about it and things that they are interested in.

4 There might be a question but there hasn't been  
5 much other feedback. That's where we are coming from.  
6 Personally, as Supervisor, what I want to see is that  
7 these guys have a document in front of them that they  
8 are comfortable with and that they have had time to  
9 review and what we feel is important to be in there is  
10 going to be in there along with feedback. We can't do  
11 everything that you want us to do, but some things are  
12 in there that have been put in there. It is a good guide  
13 that's going to lead the Town into the future and lead  
14 into some good amendments to that Land Use Law which is  
15 so confining. It needs updates. It needs amendments to  
16 make things better. That's really what we are trying to  
17 do.

18 You may have another vision or agenda and you are  
19 welcome to that but it's better when people work  
20 together instead of doing things - saying inappropriate  
21 things - not here, but in other places. I get a lot of  
22 comments about that and people are really not feeling  
23 good about those kinds of things. That's up to you guys.  
24 Whatever you want to put out there, you put out there.

25 Again, we appreciate your feedback. Some of the

1 things we are trying to accommodate. I agree with some  
2 of them and some of them I respectfully disagree. Maybe  
3 the six other people here might feel differently than  
4 me, but that's what makes it a good team. We all have  
5 our individual ideas and thoughts and that's how we  
6 learn from each other and share knowledge and work  
7 together collaboratively. We do get different feedback  
8 as well. I just want you to know because I know you are  
9 so interested and involved.

10 Yes, Wendy.

11 MS. ALLEN: I came up to say - I wanted to clarify  
12 that I was not trying to slam Kevin Franklin.

13 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I hope not. You're not that  
14 kind of a person and I hope you don't do that.

15 MS. ALLEN: I've dropped in on him a couple of  
16 times in his tremendously knowledgeable. Truthfully, he  
17 is the one that gave me the idea about the Clifton Park  
18 Historic Preservation Commission and then I went and  
19 looked at it. He said that the role that he has - he  
20 just doesn't have teeth for any kind of enforcement. It  
21 was the Leece office building where I originally went.  
22 He says, oh yeah, after the Planning Board he came and  
23 took photos and said there wasn't anything significant.  
24 I said, was that true? Kevin said, I can't do anything  
25 anyway.

1           Anyway, Kevin, if you're watching this, it's not  
2           about you.

3           SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I also talked to Kevin quite a  
4           bit - based on one of the comments that came up and he  
5           did clarify quite a few things that our hands are tied  
6           as a Town. He doesn't have a tremendous amount of  
7           funding. He just doesn't. Hopefully, as time goes on,  
8           there will be more. Thankfully, he stayed on as a  
9           part-time position and he works really really hard.

10          MS. ALLEN: He does.

11          Secondly, I think that - I don't think we have a  
12          different agenda than you all do here. I think that we  
13          all want the best for Colonie. I think you are referring  
14          to our Facebook page.

15          SUPERVISOR MAHAN: It is a little nasty.

16          MS. ALLEN: It does get a little snarky probably.

17          SUPERVISOR MAHAN: It's actually really nasty, but  
18          that's okay. That is your prerogative.

19          MS. ALLEN: I apologize for that.

20          MS. WEBER: It's frustration.

21          SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Well, I get really frustrated  
22          sometimes, but I would never call people some of the  
23          names.

24          MS. ALLEN: Well, we can't control everything  
25          everybody says.

1 MS. WHALEN: Oh my gosh. I hate to tell you guys  
2 this but I never even read your Facebook page. Sorry.

3 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I've gotten complaints from  
4 people and they are very upset.

5 MS. ALLEN: Why do they look, then?

6 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: People bring stuff to me and I  
7 don't even want to read it. Like I say, it is your  
8 prerogative and you can call us whatever you want.

9 MS. ALLEN: I guess that's all. I just want to  
10 make sure that Kevin Franklin didn't feel -

11 MS. WHALEN: No, I interpreted your comments as  
12 being very complementarity to Kevin Franklin. We need  
13 to expand his jurisdiction. That's how I took it.

14 MS. CAREY: My name is Pat Carey and I have lived  
15 in the Town of Colonie for over 40 years. I just have a  
16 question.

17 Earlier in the comment session you referenced a  
18 couple of times the profile. I am new to this whole  
19 process so could you just tell me what is this and how  
20 does this mesh with a plan?

21 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: It's a good question. Chuck has  
22 been working on that with his team.

23 Chuck, could you kind of give her an overview of  
24 the profile?

25 MR. VOSS: Sure. Essentially what it is - were

1 calling it a profile. It is an inventory and analysis  
2 of the various assets and amenities of the community.  
3 So, really what it is - it is a snapshot in today's  
4 terms of where Colonie is. We look at things like  
5 demographics, transportation network, the utilities in  
6 the Town, the road networks, sewer, water, housing,  
7 population - certainly, it goes into a lot of that from  
8 existing conditions. We look for environmental issues  
9 and constraints across the Town. There are several  
10 other things, but what it is is it is an analysis of  
11 what comprises Colonie physically in terms of its  
12 makeup and demographics.

13 We also have some economic numbers in there, too.  
14 We also look at things like school enrollment in a lot  
15 of different data steps that go into that. What that  
16 does is it really helps inform the committee who was  
17 originally looking at kind of formulating  
18 recommendations. Also it informs the Town Board as to  
19 kind of work Colonie is today. It is the empirical data  
20 that really backs of the goals and recommendations. It  
21 is quite extensive. It is 50 pages, give or take, with  
22 maps.

23 MS. CAREY: Is that available to the general  
24 public?

25 MR. VOSS: It will be very soon.

1 MS. CAREY: This went into putting together this  
2 plan, true?

3 MR. VOSS: Correct.

4 MS. CAREY: I'm just trying to understand.

5 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: As far as the revising of the  
6 original draft, this is the last phase that has been on  
7 there for two weeks. What Chuck is talking about - when  
8 that is ready, that will be added to this. As he says,  
9 it is about 50 pages. Then, there are three other  
10 appendices - three or four.

11 MR. VOSS: There are four appendices.

12 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: They may be in a separate  
13 packet, but it is all part of this.

14 MS. CAREY: With the public have access to that  
15 information before you vote on the plan?

16 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Oh, yes.

17 MS. CAREY: Honestly, the way you are describing  
18 it, I would rather read that than the plan.

19 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: It is very informative when you  
20 take a look at how things have changed over the years.  
21 That was one of the things that we had asked. Can we do  
22 further search to see if we can update it even closer  
23 to this time. Because they were kind of old statistics.  
24 So, it worked out well because it took a little more  
25 work, but it got to the point where it's coming along

1 very nicely. It's going to be very valuable.

2 You always wonder - not even just here but  
3 comparing to other municipalities - where do you sit?  
4 Where are you? How are things going? So, it is very  
5 valuable information. We will not vote until that has  
6 been reviewed thoroughly and also like I said, this  
7 document has to go to the county as well. That is going  
8 to take some time. So, we have a ways to go before were  
9 actually going to vote.

10 MS. CAREY: Okay, thank you.

11 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: You are welcome.

12 MR. SCHMIDT: So, we don't have it yet?

13 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: The things that the things that  
14 you were looking for - we think a lot of that is going  
15 to be in that profile.

16 MR. SCHMIDT: You think so.

17 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I know that a lot of it is  
18 going to be in there.

19 MR. SCHMIDT: So, it's all current information the  
20 profile?

21 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Yes.

22 MR. SCHMIDT: So, we will know how many wetlands  
23 we have in the county -

24 MR. VOSS: There are a lot of graphs.

25 MR. SCHMIDT: No, specifically it will say that we

1 have 600 acres of wetlands today and we had 6,000 a  
2 number of years ago.

3 MR. VOSS: One of the maps breaks it out.

4 MR. SCHMIDT: We will have to see what the shows.

5 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: There is work going on every  
6 day all over. Departments can answer questions if there  
7 is something that you don't see. The internal working  
8 operations are so extensive. It is just such a huge  
9 Town.

10 We've got about 24 departments and they are very  
11 specialized and they are very good at what they do. If  
12 you want to know but if the structure, I have a  
13 department head here now and he will tell you everything  
14 you want to know about Pure Waters.

15 MR. SCHMIDT: I just want to keep this simple for  
16 myself. I'm kind of a simple person. When we worked on  
17 the documents for the state, a lot of times you  
18 summarize the facts somewhere.

19 So, you have a 50-page document that has all about  
20 the history of whatever it is that we are talking about.  
21 But somewhere it should be summarized on one page - a  
22 matrix would be great. The resources and infrastructure  
23 - this is what they were 20 years ago and this is what  
24 they are today and this is what has happened to them.  
25 That would be terrific, if you do that. I am

1 recommending that's what you do. I'm saying that.

2 MR. VOSS: The plan has an Executive Aummary. It  
3 essentially does that.

4 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: It's not going to answer all of  
5 that

6 MR. SCHMIDT: For you people, really, you're the  
7 ones that have to deal with this in the future.

8 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Maybe we just take that for  
9 granted because we have all that information at our  
10 fingertips with our departments. Everything is very  
11 thorough, when it comes to that. We can go back and see  
12 where we were at.

13 As far as the infrastructure, we've got 10 year  
14 long-term plans in place the tell you exactly where we  
15 are now, where they came from. They know where all the  
16 weakest areas in the Town are as far as infrastructure  
17 and prioritizing. It's all part of those plans.

18 MR. SCHMIDT: We will see how goes. But thank you  
19 very much.

20 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: If you have questions after -

21 MR. SCHMIDT: Well, I was astounded when you said  
22 you haven't had many comments along the way.

23 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I haven't.

24 MS. WHALEN: I asked Chuck - that was my first  
25 question when we had the first public hearing. Like, is

1 he satisfied with the comments in the process and does  
2 he feel like we had enough input because I was worried  
3 there wasn't enough comments and that the comments were  
4 not diverse enough - from a diverse cross-section. He  
5 said - also that only 20% or so of the survey  
6 recipients responded - 30 - so, he went through all of  
7 that and said it was satisfactory and it was a good  
8 result for Town to receive this information and put my  
9 fears to rest and now I'm hearing -

10 MS. JEFFERS-VONDOLLEN: There is a difference  
11 between the survey results in the comments.

12 MR. VOSS: I was talking about the survey results.

13 MS. WHALEN: And the feedback to the different  
14 neighborhoods that you went to. Like, you went through  
15 a whole litany of - - you reviewed for the record  
16 basically like all the meetings that you have had. You  
17 thought that it was good. I asked you if you thought it  
18 was even diverse enough. Going back to my question  
19 earlier tonight - like, are these bullet points that  
20 are getting in here - are they weighted in any way? How  
21 does it resonate before it gets on the page? That's  
22 what I have been asking about and you had me convinced  
23 a few weeks ago that it was satisfactory.

24 MR. VOSS: My position hasn't changed, Jennifer.  
25 It is still the same. The feedback from the survey was

1 excellence. The feedback that we got from the workshops  
2 that we did was very good. I think what Paula might be  
3 referring to his individual comments from the general  
4 public.

5 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: After this has been out there -  
6 I'm talking about comments on this.

7 MR. VOSS: There hasn't been a whole lot of  
8 comments that I have seen from the general public  
9 during these public hearings that the Town Board is  
10 done. We've had a lot of input, certainly, during the  
11 committee reviews entering the workshops. The survey  
12 was excellent. 30% is phenomenal. I think there was  
13 some confusion there.

14 MS. WHALEN: So, the public hearings that were  
15 holding - you don't think there is enough -

16 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We have about 83,000 people in  
17 the Town.

18 MS. WHALEN: I get emails from people, too.

19 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We really appreciate you guys  
20 coming but it's 83,000 people and sometimes people will  
21 give me a call or they will write me an email and we  
22 talk and they are satisfied at that point. Or, they  
23 might identify something that we missed but very very  
24 seldom does that happen.

25 Jennifer, just getting back to Dr. Levy from Siena

1 - and I think Chuck, you will remember this and anybody  
2 who was at the meeting - when he did the analysis of the  
3 survey, 30% return doesn't sound like a lot but he  
4 explains in that type of survey that typically what they  
5 would get back would be 5% or maybe 10%. He said he was  
6 thrilled with 30%. The fact is that he specializes in  
7 that with his people. That is his specialty. He was very  
8 very pleased with 30%. He said that was an excellent  
9 representation of the sample that was put out there and  
10 what we received as far as the feedback. Jennifer,  
11 according to him, it wasn't just 20% -

12 MS. WHALEN: No, at the first meeting I asked  
13 whether this expert was convinced that we had a diverse  
14 and fair amount of comments. So, he ran through that  
15 explanation for me.

16 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: You are talking about the  
17 Townwide meetings and stuff -

18 MS. WHALEN: In the survey, and everything else.

19 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I may have confused you because  
20 I am referring to after this was out - the comments  
21 that are coming in now.

22 MS. WHALEN: My friends and family members aren't  
23 talking to me about this outside of - - like,  
24 individually. I do get emails from people.

25 MR. SCHMIDT: I was stunned by your statement that

1 you hadn't received anything significant. I thought the  
2 comments that these people made and that I made and  
3 were made today were significant. This concept that we  
4 don't have detailed data and we haven't seen it yet -  
5 it may be somewhere, but we haven't seen it, is a big  
6 thing. That's a big big thing. Where's the data and  
7 what is it showing us?

8 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: And that's why we're not voting  
9 on it yet because who want to have everything that we  
10 need to have.

11 MR. SCHMIDT: I'm just saying to me, it is a big  
12 thing.

13 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: It is a big thing.

14 MR. SCHMIDT: I don't know but everybody else. If  
15 you give my comment no weight, it disappears, I  
16 suppose, which I don't like either. I think it is an  
17 important thing.

18 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I agree with you.

19 MR. SCHMIDT: Thank you very much. I appreciate  
20 it.

21 MR. GILLIVAN: I worked for General Electric for  
22 33 years. You can't to the elevator speech. My name is  
23 John Gillivan.

24 MS. WHALEN: And where do you live?

25 MR. GILLIVAN: I live in the Village of Colonie,

1 which is in the Town of Colonie which is in Albany  
2 County, for over 35 years. I am the bike person that  
3 you talked about earlier. I'm the only one who came  
4 tonight.

5 A lot of people left that actually tried to make  
6 comments on the web and got an error. I tried two or  
7 three times and I did send my comments to Joe. I can  
8 send them to you as well, Paula. I called out page in  
9 section. No one else has done that tonight. So, I expect  
10 to get at least and add a boy for that one.

11 Save Colonie - you guys didn't talk about any  
12 specific page or section. That's what the meeting was  
13 supposed to be is a public form. You don't just come up  
14 here and ramble. You have to talk specifics.

15 I'm going to go through each one of the points that  
16 I did send to you, Joe. Chuck looked at them, as well.  
17 The bottom line is that: I'm not going to talk about the  
18 survey because I think the survey is a little skewed  
19 because there as a village of Colonie or Menands - we  
20 were not invited to participate. I never knew that  
21 survey was even available online after the 2,000 people  
22 were sent the request and only six others responded.  
23 That is less than 1% of 70,000. That's point 8%. So, to  
24 me, that's not a very good representation but it is what  
25 it is and the survey is what we have. We are not in a

1 pump statistics.

2 One thing I do want to reemphasize is the results  
3 of the survey - we should reevaluate and put more stuff  
4 in there. For instance, the bottom line is - for  
5 instance, for mobility - you talk about the construction  
6 of new sidewalks along main roads - 85% for residents  
7 that engage in physical activity. That was also 85%. So  
8 85% of the Town of Colonie residents are pretty active  
9 people. I'm pretty active. I guess other people are  
10 pretty active; 85%. It is what it is. It is what is in  
11 the Comprehensive Plan. I'm just adding to it saying  
12 that the reason why people want new sidewalks along main  
13 roads is because they want to walk. They want to walk  
14 and take their grandchild down to get an ice cream cone  
15 at Friendly's or whatever. It is what it is, all right?  
16 So, I would like to see that in there.

17 Designed local roads to slow speeds. We've talked  
18 about this over and over and over and over 81% in  
19 creating bicycle lanes on existing through roads - 65%  
20 of the response said that's a must. So, what I'm getting  
21 at is that the Siena survey is a little skewed because I  
22 didn't have any participation in it and all my other  
23 bike friends and runners and everyone else.

24 By the way on my way over here I saw for bicycles  
25 writing down major corridors that are not safe. They are

1 not safe at all. I would be on those roads at this time.  
2 After rush hour is okay but still, I would be on those  
3 roads because they are not safe. I choose non-peak times  
4 to ride my bike.

5 Again, this is page 8 section 1.3 - SCR I survey.  
6 Investing in improvements to the Town's parks - 80%. The  
7 respondent said they want to see improvements to the  
8 Town parks to include constructing additional off-road  
9 recreational trails - 65%. The median age is a little up  
10 there, but the majority of millennial's want to ride  
11 off-road.

12 You want to go to a park and ride a mountain bike  
13 around piles of dirt, mud and stumps and all this fun  
14 stuff. Clifton Park is doing it. Saratoga is doing it.  
15 Why isn't the Town of Colonie looking at that as well?

16 We have the real estate. We have the open space. We  
17 have parks. The Route 9 and Town of Colonie Park up  
18 there - that's a no-brainer.

19 I'm trying to add some statistics, Chuck and Joe  
20 that I really think needs to be reflected in the  
21 Comprehensive Plan to show that the residents that were  
22 surveyed really feel strongly about being active and  
23 they want to continue being active.

24 As the senior population gets older in the Town of  
25 Colonie, though senior people are going to be more

1 active, too. I ride with people that are in their 80's  
2 and 90's. That would have been unheard of 25 years ago.

3 MS. WHALEN: So, you want more specific, right?

4 MR. GILLIVAN: Well, for the survey results, yes.  
5 It should say what we are really targeting and what we  
6 are really going after and how we are on top of those.  
7 I won't speak all of my comments.

8 Again, they are page and section but basically, to  
9 give you an example: I'm talking to the Town Planner in  
10 the Town of Bethlehem. They are ahead of us. They did a  
11 Comprehensive Plan and they're moving pretty fast right  
12 now. They are light years ahead they actually, back in  
13 2007 - they basically put in that they wanted a  
14 bicycle/pedestrian advisory committee and their  
15 Comprehensive Plan. That's a must. That's not a wish. To  
16 get the feedback that you want in the Town of Colonie,  
17 saying what the public wants from the Town residents,  
18 you really need to have an advisory committee.

19 I actually sat in on the Highway Safety Committee  
20 this week. It's a great group of guys. Also, the Town  
21 Attorney was there. I was there just to meet them and  
22 see what they do and how they interact with the Planning  
23 Board and everyone else. I came away with really high  
24 fives. I think that getting the feedback from the bike  
25 and pedestrian advisory committee in the Comprehensive

1 Plan saying that this is something that again, it is the  
2 midterm to five years. I would like to see that quicker,  
3 but it took Bethlehem a couple years to get it all  
4 squared away. I am working with them to try to get some  
5 feedback on what they did and what they should've done  
6 all this other stuff.

7 Then, the only other thing is on Complete Streets,  
8 what people don't understand is Complete Streets  
9 basically just moves this microphone from here to here.  
10 It doesn't cost you any money. It cost me labor to move  
11 it or put a stripe on the road or put a bicycle decal on  
12 the road, but Complete Streets is not a whole  
13 re-changing of the infrastructure. I think there is a  
14 lot of - I'm not saying that there are a lot of  
15 wishy-washy stuff about Complete Streets in the plan. I  
16 think I can pretty much except what's in there. I think  
17 that the intent is that you want to learn more and you  
18 want to move forward. Complete Streets is actually a  
19 state requirement. Our Governor really wants Complete  
20 Streets. He's pushing for the Department of Health -  
21 Trish Valato. Does anybody know Trish Valato from the  
22 Albany County Department of Health? You should know her.  
23 She's fantastic. She's pushing Complete Streets.

24 MS. WHALEN: She spoke at one of the meetings.

25 MR. GALLIVAN: She actually came and gave you a

1 tutorial.

2 MS. WHALEN: She came to the Comprehensive Review  
3 Committee and the blizzard - that meeting.

4 MR. GALLIVAN: I asked her to come actually. I  
5 told her to be there.

6 In any event, my only point is that I don't have  
7 the expertise on a lot of the other stuff - economic  
8 development. I know what Chuck and Joe are working on  
9 for the statistics and things. I already saw the first  
10 version of the notice so I kind of know what to expect  
11 but I think you guys have done a really good job. I  
12 think it's easy to read. I think it's definitely easier  
13 to comprehend now.

14 I don't have the 2005 plan in my binder. I will  
15 have to get a copy of that. Seen the comparison was  
16 great. It was very helpful.

17 Like I said, I don't know why my comments got  
18 bounced back today. It sounds like other people having  
19 same problem, if that's the first time you for that. I  
20 tried like two or three times and just said contact your  
21 administrator or whatever I did send them to an I will  
22 forward them to you, Paula.

23 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I would like to see that. I  
24 think putting together something - - we have a lot of  
25 advisory and working committees - all different types

1 that we usually get every in going every January. I  
2 think it is something that we should look into. We have  
3 a new Senior Planner that has some background in that  
4 type of - obviously, complete streets but also making  
5 things more pedestrian friendly and different types of  
6 getting around Town with its by car or bus or walking  
7 or biking or whatever. She has a lot of background  
8 there.

9 MR. GALLIVAN: Are you speaking about Monica?

10 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Monique.

11 There are some things that we are planning that is  
12 coming out of the plan. One of the first projects is  
13 going to be creating the tool to monitor the goals of  
14 the plan and to update the progress periodically and be  
15 able to put that out to the public as to how it is  
16 progressing because that was one of the things that was  
17 hard to gather a lot of the information that they needed  
18 in the past.

19 Another is updating the master plan for parks. It  
20 is pretty old. There are some projects on the fire that  
21 we are looking at with planning and with Joe and Monique  
22 and his staff. Jack Cunningham, our Commissioner of  
23 Public Works and I went to a complete streets seminar  
24 and as you say, there are some things that work in the  
25 City of Albany and might be different for Colonie and it

1 might be different Bethlehem, Niskayuna. It depends on  
2 where you are. I believe that Van Rensselaer Boulevard  
3 is complete streets projects. We will have to go further  
4 with that.

5 MR. GALLIVAN: Again, the BPAC consisted of more  
6 than just people who ride a bike. It should have a  
7 Colonie safety officer. We should have some Town  
8 residents. We should have Parks and Recreation. It  
9 should be a combination - a cross combination of  
10 different people who have different backgrounds with  
11 different interests. It's not all about exercising out  
12 on the roadway. There are other things that you can do  
13 to enjoy yourself. So, I do appreciate you taking that  
14 into consideration because like I said whatever  
15 feedback I get from Bethlehem, I can forward that over  
16 or I can sit down with Monique and just give her some  
17 lead in on what other - - I think that's the key. It is  
18 really to get in the Comprehensive Plan start talking  
19 about them putting together a plan and see how it's  
20 going to work and how you pulled together. Like I said,  
21 between the Albany bike coalition - - I consider myself  
22 a Town of Colonie bike and pedestrian advocate. I'm  
23 also on the Traffic Committee for the Village. I really  
24 want to work closer with understanding some of the  
25 issues and how we can resolve them easily.

1           One thing I'm not sure a lot of residents  
2 understand, but Albany Shaker Road which is the corridor  
3 study was performed on, I put a lot of comments to that.  
4 I think I sent them to you as well as Joe. That's  
5 actually a county road. The one thing I mentioned is  
6 that the existing shoulders on Albany Shaker Road  
7 basically they provide you the bike lane already. It is  
8 a given. That's what I use.

9           There are certain areas where the shoulder becomes  
10 a little narrow as you get down to Frank's and on the  
11 other side of Osborne. I took pictures and I did the  
12 whole route. My comments were made on that and again  
13 because it is a county road, it will be up to the county  
14 really to implement the actual changes. Will the Town of  
15 Colonie -

16           SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I think it's the county.

17           MR. LACIVITA: When the things that the Town did  
18 was we applied for a grant program where the changes  
19 that were in that plan - some of the curving and the  
20 safety improvements. I think the grant was about 600  
21 and some thousand dollars.

22           MR. GALLIVAN: Right, because we are putting  
23 alight at Shaker El.

24           MR. LACIVITA: No, that's the county.

25           MR. GALLIVAN: Oh, the county is going to put that

1 there on their own?

2 MS. WHALEN: A lot of people were talking about -  
3 they wanted a roundabout where those drugstores are at  
4 the four corners - - where the Mobil station is. The  
5 folks that were running that study repeatedly saying  
6 that was just not possible because of the expense. It's  
7 too expensive to put a roundabout in but that's what a  
8 lot of people really wanted but they kept getting  
9 pushed away with that idea because of the expense.

10 MR. LACIVITA: The expense wasn't the only thing.

11 MS. WHALEN: That's what they told me. I asked  
12 them personally because I've seen the impact.

13 MR. LACIVITA: There were so many lanes congested  
14 that it is not feasible at this time.

15 MS. WHALEN: That's what would make traffic really  
16 move quickly.

17 MR. GALLIVAN: I can said, I will continue to make  
18 comments and will send the men electronically. I I  
19 always make sure I copy Joe.

20 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: You're very familiar with  
21 everything. Plus, you're very familiar with the Village  
22 as well.

23 MR. GALLIVAN: I live in the Town, too.

24 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: And you're on the  
25 Transportation Committee there. You could be really

1 helpful.

2 MS. GALLIVAN: Thank you very much for your time  
3 and have a good evening.

4 FROM THE FLOOR: Can I just briefly address what  
5 you are just talking about - the roundabout there? I  
6 live within two blocks of that intersection. Circles  
7 and roundabouts work very well in commercial districts.  
8 That intersection is commercial for only a block beyond  
9 that and then it's all residential.

10 It is hard enough now if I want to make a left out  
11 of my street. The planets have to align and I have to be  
12 lucky and I have to be fast. That's with a positive  
13 traffic because of the stoplight that is there. If you  
14 make that a continuous flow street where there is no  
15 pause, the residents will never get out of our streets.

16 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I agree.

17 FROM THE FLOOR: It would be a nightmare.

18 MS. WHALEN: So, do you need a bike lane or a  
19 traffic light or sidewalk? What would be your solution  
20 to solving it? Like, what was your put at that meeting.

21 FROM THE FLOOR: My input was not to do a  
22 roundabout.

23 MS. WHALEN: Well, slowing down the speed limit;  
24 that's one of the things.

25 FROM THE FLOOR: Changing the speed limit would

1 make no difference because the speed is stopping. The  
2 cars are not moving on Albany Shaker Road because there  
3 are 200,000 going through.

4 MS. WHALEN: The rationale behind that was if you  
5 are forced to go more slowly than you won't go on that  
6 street.

7 FROM THE FLOOR: Well, there is another one.  
8 Unless you go Route 9 or Sand Creek and that won't get  
9 you directly on the Northway. So, during the peak  
10 traffic hours, I don't know that it would have any  
11 difference whatsoever. All I can say is just remember  
12 the residents. That is primarily a residential area and  
13 not a commercial area. We can't get out of our houses.  
14 We are not to live there and you're going to lose a lot  
15 of taxpaying people.

16 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I agree. The traffic signal is  
17 there and you need that to get in and out. That would  
18 be a real tough spot.

19 FROM THE FLOOR: It already is a real tough spot.  
20 Don't make it worse.

21 MS. WHALEN: You have the Crossings, right? So,  
22 you will have to wait in line on Saturday forever.

23 FROM THE FLOOR: The Crossings - don't even go  
24 there.

25 MS. WHALEN: People who don't even live in Colonie

1 go to the park whole of traffic. You have a lot of  
2 problems there.

3 FROM THE FLOOR: I love the Crossings, but it is  
4 what it is. I think more parking and another playground  
5 on Wolf Road access but you also have to move some  
6 events there. You have to make people want to park  
7 their. We are creatures of habit. Move the Farmer's  
8 Market up there. Wolf Road - four lanes - Saturday  
9 morning is far better equipped to handle the farmers  
10 market traffic than two-lane Albany Shaker.

11 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I agree with you. If there's  
12 going to be the new playground down there -

13 FROM THE FLOOR: But you need more than that.

14 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Last year we tried to move a  
15 couple of concerts there.

16 FROM THE FLOOR: You might need to put in a  
17 restroom.

18 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Well, there is a restroom down  
19 there. It's on the south end. We are on the main road  
20 going into the park, you're talking that you can only  
21 go all the way down to the end there?

22 FROM THE FLOOR: No, I'm talking about access more  
23 from Wolf Road/Aviation, or one down that way.

24 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: That's the south end of the  
25 park. There's a pavilion, there's a bathroom but there

1 is no playground.

2 FROM THE FLOOR: The new playground, more parking  
3 and move some of that. Start the races. There are 5K  
4 races. Last Saturday was a wonderful event. It was for  
5 the veterans benefit and it was a good use of the park.  
6 Again, Saturday morning, Wolf Road is better equipped  
7 to handle that traffic. I'm not saying deny them the  
8 park. I'm just saying move with they get to go in.

9 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I don't know if you were here  
10 the last couple of weeks but one of the problems that  
11 we've been talking to the PD on this for a long time to  
12 try to figure it out - the main concern is very  
13 difficult to open the other end for traffic because we  
14 don't want them flying through to get to Albany Shaker  
15 Road. You're talking about just parking there.

16 FROM THE FLOOR: I'm just saying not make it a row  
17 that you could drive through the park and go out Albany  
18 Shaker. That wouldn't be good either. There are too  
19 many bicyclists, dogs and whatever. Just open up a  
20 whole other kind of event area up there. If you put up  
21 a big sign Farmer's Market access off of Wolf Road and  
22 put a little map, people will get used to parking lot  
23 and they will see that there is a bathroom and a  
24 playground for the kids. That's what they can get to  
25 events. I think there would be less traffic trying to

1 get in Albany Shaker.

2 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We would have to look at that  
3 with respect to space. There are a lot of other things  
4 like the runs of things.

5 FROM THE FLOOR: You're not denying them from the  
6 park. You just changing where they go to start. No  
7 roundabouts, please.

8 MR. ROMANO: Good evening everyone. My name is Tom  
9 Romano and I live at 979 Kings Rd. I guess that all the  
10 previous speakers kind of covered the questions that I  
11 had. There are one or two that shouldn't take to long.

12 Chuck, this is probably for you. I didn't notice  
13 anything in the plan that addresses gateways. That was  
14 in the first plan.

15 Also, transition zones. I didn't see anything that  
16 addressed the transition zones. That can be particularly  
17 useful in areas along Route 5 and 7. Other than that,  
18 everybody can go home.

19 Under improved communications between the Planning  
20 Department in the Planning Board and the public, want to  
21 increase the notification time by the Planning  
22 Department of communications for the Planning Board  
23 agendas in a falls under short term which is 1 to 2  
24 years to implement. I think that is something that could  
25 be done a lot quicker than one to two years.

1           It would be helpful to communicate to the people  
2           that when a developer gets notification that he's going  
3           to go before the Planning Board, it should be public  
4           information so that we have more than five or six days  
5           to review those plans. Other than that, good evening  
6           everyone.

7           SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Thank you, Tom.

8           Anybody else?

9           MR. MAGGILLI: Public comment.

10          MR. GREEN: First we have to vote to adjourn -

11          SUPERVISOR MAHAN: First we have to vote to  
12          adjourn the public hearing before we can go to regular  
13          public comment.

14          MR. GREEN: I will make a motion to adjourn to our  
15          next Board meeting which is May 9. That is three weeks  
16          from tonight.

17          MR. CAREY: Second.

18          SUPERVISOR MAHAN: In the public comment would  
19          remain open, just as it is now.

20          Supervisor votes aye. Clerk, call the roll.

21          (The roll was called.)

22          MS. TURCOTTE: The ayes have it, Madam Supervisor.

23          SUPERVISOR MAHAN: The Resolution is adopted.

24          (Whereas the above entitled proceeding was  
25          concluded at 9:55 p.m.)

## CERTIFICATION

1  
2  
3 I, NANCY L. STRANG, Shorthand Reporter and Notary  
4 Public in and for the State of New York, hereby CERTIFY  
5 that the record taken by me at the time and place noted  
6 in the heading hereof is a true and accurate transcript  
7 of same, to the best of my ability and belief.

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10 NANCY L. STRANG

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