

SEQRA Findings Resolution 2012 Willsboro Comprehensive Land Use and Action Plan

TOWN OF WILLSBORO SEQRA FINDINGS ADOPTION RESOLUTION SEPTEMBER 12, 2012

WHEREAS, the Town of Willsboro (“Town”) is authorized to develop, adopt and implement a Comprehensive Plan pursuant to Town Law Section 7-272a for the purposes of (i) protecting the public health, safety and general welfare of its citizens, (ii) giving due consideration to the needs of the people of the region of which the Town is a part, and (iii) fostering cooperation among governmental agencies planning and implementing capital projects and municipalities that may be directly affected by such projects; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the fact that the participation of citizens in an open, responsible and flexible planning process would be essential to the designing of the optimum Comprehensive Plan, in March, 2009, the Town Board voted to form a Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee to oversee the development of the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, between March 2009 and June 2012, the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee listened to experts and citizens, collected studies, and reviewed data. Members inventoried and analyzed existing conditions, surveyed and interviewed citizens, evaluated future trends, mapped and studied natural and community resources, and ultimately made the recommendations included in this plan; and

WHEREAS, substantial opportunities for public input and comment were provided to the citizens of Willsboro and included the August 2009, Community Listening Sessions, the February 2010, Community Survey, four Visioning Workshops in March and May of 2010. In July 2010, and January 2012, the Comprehensive Plan hosted community meetings. Public Hearings on Plan Adoption and for SEQRA were held in January 2012 and May 2012. Citizens participated extensively throughout the planning process and public meetings were well attended. Community members contributed thoughtful comments and suggestions, providing continual to prepare an initial draft and then several re-drafts of the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee subsequently finalized its draft of the Town of Willsboro Comprehensive Land Use and Development Plan and developed State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) Draft and Final Generic Environmental Impact Statements (“DGEIS/FGEIS”) in support of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2012, the Town Board established itself as the SEQRA Lead Agency for purposes of considering adoption of the Comprehensive Plan (being the only SEQRA Interested Agency with jurisdiction to fund, approve and undertake development, adoption and implementation of the Plan), and issued a SEQRA Positive Declaration finding that adoption of the Plan would potentially result in one or more significant adverse environmental impacts. On May 9, 2012, the Town Board deemed the DGEIS as complete and adequate for public review and comment within the meaning of 6 N.Y.C.R.R. 617.9; and

WHEREAS, copies of the draft Comprehensive Plan and DGEIS were made available for review and comment by the SEQRA Involved and Interested Agencies, including the Essex County Planning Board (GML 239-m), Essex County Farmland Protection Board and NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, and the public through June 25, 2012, and a Notice of the Positive Declaration and Completeness were published in the Environmental Notice Bulletin maintained online by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board held a combined SEQRA/Adoption public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan and DGEIS on May 30, 2012; and

WHEREAS, a Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (“FGEIS”) was subsequently prepared by the Town Board to respond to comments received from the public and SEQRA Involved and Interested Agencies; and

WHEREAS, the FGEIS was accepted as complete by the Town Board on August 8, 2012; and

WHEREAS, a SEQRA Findings Statement has since been drafted for consideration by the Town Board, which Findings Statement is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

1. The Town Board has considered the relevant environmental impacts, facts and conclusions disclosed in the DGEIS and FGEIS, and other pertinent information and has weighed and balanced relevant environmental impacts with social, economic and other considerations;
2. Having considered the information and the facts and conclusions relied upon to meet the requirements of 6 NYCRR 617.11, the Town Board certifies that (i) the requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 617 have been met; and (ii) consistent with social, economic, and other essential considerations from among the reasonable alternatives available, the action (development, adoption and implementation of the “Town of Willsboro Comprehensive Land Use and Action Plan” dated July 31, 2012 (Final Version 26R 7-31-2012) is one that avoids or minimizes adverse environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable, and that adverse environmental impacts will be avoided or minimized to the maximum extent practicable by incorporating those mitigative measures that were identified as practicable in the SEQRA Findings Statement and in the DGEIS and FGEIS.
3. The Town Board hereby adopts the SEQRA Findings Statement attached hereto.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby specifically finds that the “Town of Willsboro Comprehensive Land Use and Action Plan” dated July 31, 2012 (Final Version 26R 7-31-2012):

1. Adequately describes the land use planning goals, objectives, principles, policies, and standards upon which future and current proposals for the immediate and long-range enhancement, growth and development of the Town should be based by taking into consideration and accounting for:

- the regional needs and the official plans of other government units and agencies within the Town and region;
- population, demographic and socio-economic trends and future projections in the Town and region;
- specific policies and strategies for improving the local economy in coordination with other plan topics; and
- existing and proposed location and intensity of various land uses in the Town and region;
- location and types of transportation facilities available in the Town and region;
- existing and proposed general location of public and private utilities and infrastructure in the Town and region;
- existing housing resources and future housing needs, including affordable housing in the Town and region;
- present and future general location of educational and cultural facilities, historic sites, health facilities and facilities for emergency services in the Town and region;
- existing and proposed recreation facilities and parkland in the Town and region; and
- The present and potential future general location of commercial and industrial facilities in the Town and region.

2. Sets forth proposed measures, programs, devices, and instruments to implement the goals and objectives of the various topics discussed within the Comprehensive Plan.

3. Promotes and set forth a strategy for the future promotion and protection of the public health, safety, and welfare of the Town, its residents and the region as a whole.

Dated: September 12, 2012

Motion by: _____

Seconded: _____

Roll Call Vote:

Motion _____