

# TOWN BOARD MEETING OPENING REMARKS OF SUPERVISOR MICHAEL B. SPECHT

July 14, 2021 Town Board Meeting

As part of the Town Board's periodic updates on the status of our comprehensive planning process, I would like to continue to share the progress made since the June 23, 2021 update.

- The Town Planning professionals continue to work on sections of the Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) to be sure all requirements of SEQRA are fully complied with at all times.
- Responses to the questions submitted in writing to the Professional Team have been posted to the FAQ section of the Project webpage.

In terms of next steps, the Town Planning Professionals will continue to move forward with preparation of the DGEIS and intend to provide that document to the Town Board next week to review and determine the completeness of the DGEIS for public comment. The Town Board by law must decide if the proposed DGEIS is adequate for public review and comment by its completeness. This is **not** a determination by the Town Board to approve the DGEIS, but only a determination if the DGEIS is ready for public review and comment. The Town Board will consider any approval or disapproval of the DGEIS only **after** all public review and comment is made.

The Town Board has been receiving individual draft sections of the DGEIS on a rolling basis to stay informed of the DGEIS progress. The Town Planning Professionals will be available to meet with Town Board members as needed to discuss the DGEIS components consistent with all legal requirements.

The Town Board intends to decide if the DGEIS is complete for purposes of public review at its July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. When that determination is made by the Town Board, the Town Board will set a date for a Public Hearing on the DGEIS. Promptly after the Town Board determines that the DGEIS is complete for public review and comment, the DGEIS will be made available for public review on the

project webpage and hard copies will be made available at Town Hall and other locations as the law provides.

The Town Board will schedule a Public Hearing for all public comment on the DGEIS in accordance with SEQRA regulations. The intention is for that Public Hearing to be held in September 2021 with written public comment to be accepted until the end of September 2021.

Following all public comment both at a Public Hearing and after the written comment period, the Town Board and Town Planning Professionals will review and respond to substantive public comments in preparation of a proposed Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement (FGEIS). After further public review and comment on the FGEIS, ultimately the Town Professionals will prepare a proposed Findings Statement in accordance with SEQRA regulations for the Town Board to consider taking action on.

For myself and on behalf of the Town Board, I thank all for their interest and comments and other contributions to this comprehensive planning process. I continue to welcome all to make your questions and comments through the Town's webpage in a timely fashion.