

# **Long Island Comprehensive Plan 2022 - Frequently Asked Questions**

## **What is a comprehensive plan?**

A municipality's comprehensive plan takes a long-range look at priority topics that impact the character, preservation and growth, and fiscal condition of the place. It provides a shared community vision and policy framework for the future.

## **Why do a comprehensive plan?**

Based on the common vision for the community the plan provides:

- Guidelines for making decisions in town management and growth
- A framework to prioritize allocation of limited resources
- Qualification for state and local grants and other funding opportunities
- Legal protection and control over land use ordinances

## **What is included in a comprehensive plan?**

The State of Maine requires that the plan include a vision statement and sections on specific topics. Topics must address: analysis of current conditions and trends, recommended policies and strategies for the future. The state requires that the plan include an implementation strategy, a regional coordination program, and evaluation measures

Required topics include: historical and archaeological resources, water resources, natural resources, agricultural and forest resources, marine resources, population and demographics, economy, housing, recreation, transportation, public facilities and services, fiscal capacity and capital investment, existing and future land use.

## **How often must a comprehensive plan be completed?**

Once completed, the State of Maine reviews a municipality's comprehensive plan and issues a Finding of Consistency if it meets the requirements. This Finding of Consistency is valid for twelve (12) years from the date of issue. Amendments to a comprehensive plan can be made at any time and do not reset the duration of the original consistency finding. Long Island's current comprehensive plan was adopted in 2008 and the original town comprehensive plan was done in 1996.

## **What is the Long Island Comprehensive Plan Citizen Committee?**

The Planning Board commissioned the Long Island Comprehensive Plan Citizen's Committee in February 2021 to guide the comprehensive planning process. It includes a mix of community members including year-round, part-time and summer as well as members of various community groups and town committees. This committee will guide the planning process through approval by the state and the town.

## **How does the comprehensive plan relate to other town policies?**

A municipality's comprehensive plan provides a long term framework which provides the underpinning for decision making and allocation of critical resources in keeping with the communities vision for the future.

### **How long will it take and how will the work be done?**

The effort is expected to last from Feb. 2021 to Fall 2022 and will be phased approach.

*Phase 1: Prepare* February-March: Establish mission, roles, scope, timeline, resources

*Phase 2: Discover* March - October 2021: Community outreach and topical research/data collection and analysis

*Phase 3: Create:* Nov. 2021 - April 2022: Craft vision statement, write chapters, edit and compile report

*Phase 4: Socialize* April 2022: Post draft chapters to the web and hold public forums

*Phase 5: Produce* April 2022: Produce the final report

*Phase 6: Approve* May - August 2022 : Town meeting vote and state approval

*Phase 7: Implement* July 2022: Activate the plan and begin to implement

### **When will the plan be complete?**

The comprehensive plan is currently live on the town website at this link:

[http://townoflongisland.us/wp/?page\\_id=5216&fbclid=IwAR0PJ6HGTdxWHhhSqVnnecRlcTIU\\_cgJzpXAPhDfPsFloIF\\_Isc4wl-CQ\\_U](http://townoflongisland.us/wp/?page_id=5216&fbclid=IwAR0PJ6HGTdxWHhhSqVnnecRlcTIU_cgJzpXAPhDfPsFloIF_Isc4wl-CQ_U) The plan will be voted on at town meeting on May 14, 2022.

### **When and how will the plan be activated?**

The recommendations made by this comprehensive plan will start to be activated after the plan is adopted by the Town of Long Island. If the plan is adopted by the registered voters of the Town of Long Island at the annual meeting on May 14, implementation will begin shortly afterwards. The plan recommends the creation of an Implementation Committee to aid in the process of turning these recommendations into actions.

### **Were any members of the last committee on this committee?**

No, this committee has all different members from the 2008 committee. However, the past committee members were very gracious in sharing time, insights, and lessons learned which helped inform this committee's approach.

### **How is the budget process addressed in the plan?**

There is a full chapter dedicated to fiscal capacity which covers the town's current budgeting strategy, approach and guidelines. This includes a description of the Capital Investment Process and plan where committees and town officials collaborate to identify and prioritize investments required over the next 10-12 years. There are recommendations on improvements to that process in the Plan Framework chapter of the plan.

### **What is required for state approval and do they check on the implementation progress?**

When the State Planning Office was eliminated about 10 years ago the responsibility for ‘approving’ comprehensive plans shifted to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF). The DACF approval process has three parts: 1) public comment period where state and local agencies as well as municipalities sharing boundaries can comment on the plan; 2) completeness - check that all items in the state’s checklist have been addressed and all data in the state provided data set have been used in the plan; and 3) land use consistency - the land use chapter of the plan is checked as ‘consistent’ with Maine’s Growth Management Act.

The state requires an implementation and evaluation chapter in the plan which assigns timeline, priority and responsibility for the recommendations to local entities. After the plan is submitted and approved by the state, there are no further progress checks and it is left up to the Town of Long Island.

### **In the recommendation section, what is the difference between strategies and policies?**

The template from the state differentiates between policies which are broad statements of intention and strategies which are more action oriented.

### **How are priorities for recommendations set?**

Committee members working on the implementation plan have done their best to assign priorities looking at a number of factors including data from Long Island Comprehensive Plan Community Survey completed in 2021, input from public forums, and interviews with town leaders and officials. The committee has also considered the approach used by the town’s Finance Committee in setting priorities for capital investments. The priorities will be revisited as the implementation plan is set in motion and will remain flexible as progress is monitored through the implementation and evaluation process outlined in the plan.

### **Where can I learn more?**

Please visit the Town of Long Island [webpage](#) for more information, including meeting notices and minutes, news and articles published along the way, summary output from community survey and forums, and draft chapters of the plan.

### **Is it too late to become involved in the process?**

No! After the plan is approved, keep your eyes out for information on how to join the implementation committee. For more information, contact [tolicompplan@gmail.com](mailto:tolicompplan@gmail.com).