

2010 Comprehensive Plan Environmental Review Summary

The Penfield Town Board has received the Plan from the Comprehensive Plan Committee. The next step, before consideration for adoption is to complete an environmental evaluation of potential impacts that adoption and implementation of the Plan may have. The Town Board has determined that the “action” (adoption of the Comprehensive Plan) may have potentially significant impacts that need further analysis and public review. Under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), a Generic Draft Environmental Impact Statement (GDEIS) will be prepared. There are several mandated or recommended steps, once the Board determined that a GDEIS was necessary. Here is a summary of what will be happening:

Step 1 – The Scoping Process

This process determines the scope of the DGEIS, which impacts should be analyzed and in what detail. The scope functions as the table of contents for the DGEIS. It also provides the public with an opportunity to participate in the identification of impacts. Public comment on the draft scoping outline available on the Town website will be accepted in writing May 20, 2010 to 5:00 p.m. June 18, 2010. Comments may be submitted in writing via mail, hand delivery, fax, and e-mail to the Town of Penfield, Attn: Planning Department, 3100 Atlantic Avenue, Penfield, NY 14526, Fax: (585) 340-8644, E-mail: planning@penfield.org. Every comment submitted in writing will be provided to the Town Board for their consideration, reviewed by staff, and placed in the project file as part of public record.

Step 2 – Preparation of the Draft GEIS

This document will be drafted by Town staff. It will follow the Final Scoping Outline ultimately determined to be appropriate, in Step 1. This could take up to several months to prepare. Once prepared, reviewed and determined to be complete by the Town Board, a public hearing will be scheduled on the Plan itself and the DGEIS.

Step 3 – The Public Input Process

One of the biggest benefits of SEQRA is to permit the public to participate in this important process of analyzing impacts of government actions. The Town Board will consider the DGEIS complete and then a formal public review period will be established. This must be a minimum of 30 days and at least 10 days following a public hearing. It is anticipated that this review period will be initiated early August and continue for about a month. During that review period, the public will be requested to provide comments, either in writing or verbally at the public hearing. Comments will likely be on both the content of the Plan and on the DGEIS's analysis of impacts.

Step 4 – The Final GEIS

At the completion of the public comment period, all comments will be reviewed and those substantive comments made during this period are required to be addressed in the FGEIS. The responses to these comments are the responsibility of the Town Board.

Step 5 – Findings

The Town Board will accept the FGEIS as complete, once it agrees with all responses to the comments. Once accepted as complete, the Town Board must wait at least 10 days before it adopts its Findings. The Findings will explain the rationale of the Board's decision on adoption and implementation of the Plan. It will likely include thresholds under which future implementation measures may or may not have to undergo separate, additional environmental reviews.

Step 6 – Adoption and Implementation

This Comprehensive Plan can only be adopted by the legislative body of the town...the elected members of the Town Board. It will provide guidance for land use decisions, including possible rezoning of land that may take place over the next 10 – 15 years.