

**DRAFT SCOPING DOCUMENT**  
**Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement**

**1/14/20**

Name of Proposed Action: Chappaqua Hamlet Rezoning

Location: Chappaqua Hamlet  
Town of New Castle, Westchester County, New York

SEQRA Classification: Type 1

Lead Agency: Town of New Castle Town Board  
200 So. Greeley Avenue  
Chappaqua, NY 10514

Contact:  
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Date Submitted: January 14, 2020

Date of Public Scoping Session: January 28, 2020

Comments Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Adopted: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Chappaqua Hamlet Rezoning**  
**DRAFT GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

INTRODUCTION

A Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of 6 NYCRR Part 617.9, to assess the potentially significant environmental impacts of the proposed Chappaqua Hamlet Form-Based Code legislation. The study area is located in the southwest corner of the Town of New Castle, Westchester County, New York. The area to be rezoned spans approximately 72 acres along Greeley Ave and King Street including the areas currently zoned in this Hamlet B-R (Retail Business), B-RP (Retail Business and Parking), B-D (Designed Business), and I-P (Planned Industrial Zoning).

PROJECT SCOPING

This Scoping Document contains the items described in 6 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 617.8(F) (1) through (6), and identifies the existing conditions, the potentially significant environmental impacts of the Proposed Action, and the potential mitigation measures for any adverse impacts that will be addressed in the DGEIS.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The New Castle Town Board, (the “Applicant”) proposes an amendment to the New Castle Zoning Code to rezone the Chappaqua Hamlet business districts with the creation of a “Form-Based District” which is described as an implementation task of “A Framework for the Future of New Castle”, 2017 (the “Comprehensive Plan”). Prior to adopting the 2017 Comprehensive Plan, an extensive public engagement process was carried out in the Town of New Castle. Public opinions regarding the future of the Chappaqua Hamlet and the Town of New Castle were used in drafting of the Town’s Comprehensive Plan. The rezoning of the Chappaqua Hamlet has taken the goals of the Public Engagement report and the Comprehensive Plan into account when developing the substance of the draft Form-Based Code.

The objective of the Form-Based District is to rezone the study area such that the Hamlet’s existing character is preserved while mixed-use development is promoted to meet the changing needs of the community. The Chappaqua Hamlet’s business districts in the study area will be replaced by an entirely new zoning district that will primarily regulate the form of development with greater flexibility in regard to the use of properties. The change from a conventional zoning

code to a form-based zoning code in the Chappaqua Hamlet business districts is essential for guiding new growth and future economic development in a manner that is consistent with community planning goals.

REQUIRED APPROVALS

The only approval required for the changes to the Town Code will be the adoption of the proposed Form-Based District by the New Castle Town Board.

DRAFT GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FORMAT

The Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) will discuss relevant and material facts and evaluate the reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Action identified in this Scoping Document. It will be clearly and concisely written in plain language that can be easily read and understood by the public. Highly technical material will be summarized and, if it must be included in its entirety, will be referenced in the DGEIS and included as an appendix. All relevant correspondence from the Lead Agency and interested agencies will be included in an appendix to the DGEIS.

The DGEIS will be written in the third person without use of the terms I, we, and our. As appropriate, narrative discussions will be accompanied by illustrative tables and graphics. Graphics will clearly identify the study area. Each potential impact category will be the subject of a separate section describing existing conditions, anticipated impacts, and proposed mitigation.

The full DGEIS will be made available to the Lead Agency in both hard copy and electronic formats. The electronic format will be in Adobe Acrobat (.pdf) file. When the DGEIS is accepted for public review by the Lead Agency, sufficient hard copies will be provided to allow placement of a copy at the Chappaqua library and New Castle Town Hall for public review during normal business hours. In addition, the full DGEIS will be posted on the internet for public review, as required by law.

CONTENTS OF THE DGEIS

**Cover Sheet** listing title of project, location, identification as a DGEIS, Lead Agency (with a contact name and a phone number), preparer, and relevant dates (i.e., date of submission, and spaces for dates of DGEIS acceptance, public hearing, final date for comments). A list of preparers will include the firm name, contact name, address, and phone number for all consultants who contributed to the document.

**Table of Contents** including list of primary DGEIS sections and subsections, tables, exhibits, drawings, appendices, with page numbers listed for each.

## **I Executive Summary**

The Executive Summary will include a brief summary description of the Proposed Action and a listing of all potential significant adverse environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures. A summary will provide a list of the approvals and permits required, and of the alternatives to the Proposed Action that are evaluated in the DGEIS. The Executive Summary will only include information that is found elsewhere in the main body of the DGEIS.

## **II Description of Proposed Action**

### **A. Site Location and Characterization**

1. Description of Chappaqua Hamlet location in the context of Town of New Castle
2. Narrative and map describing study area, with existing zoning identified
3. Primary vehicular and pedestrian circulation patterns (state, county and local roads)
4. Open Space, Natural Areas and Historic Features in the Hamlet

### **B. Proposed Action**

1. Proposed Form-Based Zoning
  - a. Regulating Plan and Regulations
  - b. Development standards
  - c. Architecture standards
  - d. Definitions
  - e. Proposed development review and approval process
2. Build Out Scenario
  - a. Description of assumptions resulting in the Buildout Scenario
  - b. Residential – Buildout Scenario
  - c. Commercial/Retail – Buildout Scenario
  - d. Vehicular, pedestrian circulation, and parking in Buildout Scenario
3. Open space, natural areas and historic features relative to the Buildout Scenario
4. Utilities in the Hamlet
  - a. Sanitary Sewer
  - b. Water Supply
  - c. Stormwater Management

### **C. Project Purpose, Needs, and Benefits**

1. Project Purpose and Objectives

- a. Community goals as identified through the Comprehensive Plan Process
- b. Encourage mix of uses to enhance the viability of the Hamlet, improved economic development, sustained environmental benefits, enhanced walkability, and protection of historic and desired architectural character
- 2. Need for the Proposed Action/Project History
  - a. Project History - Comprehensive Plan Update
  - b. Form-Based Code working group
  - c. Summary of Market Scan Report
- 3. Benefits to the Town and the general public from implementation of the Proposed Action

**D. Involved/Interested Agencies and Required Approvals**

- 1. Provide the Lead Agency's contact information and describe approval process
- 2. Provide a listing of all Interested Agencies/parties who will receive the DGEIS for comment

**III Existing Environmental Conditions, Anticipated Impacts and Mitigation**

**A. Land Use**

- 1. Existing Conditions
  - a. Describe existing land uses within the study area, including recent streetscape and infrastructure improvements
  - b. Describe the surrounding area (within 200 feet, immediately adjacent)
  - c. Relevant Planning Studies
    - i. "A Framework for the Future of New Castle" 2017
    - ii. New Castle Recreation Plan
    - iii. Other applicable plans
- 2. Anticipated Impacts
  - a. Potential impacts of the Proposed Action in relation to existing land uses and immediately surrounding land uses
  - b. Compliance with the Comprehensive Plan and other relevant documents
  - c. Consistency and compatibility of the proposed Town Zoning Code and Map with other Town Plans
- 3. Mitigation Measures

**B. Zoning**

- 1. Existing Conditions
  - a. Describe existing zoning and permitted uses in the study area
  - b. Surrounding area (immediately adjacent within 200 feet)

2. Potential Impacts of Rezoning and Build-out
  - a. Describe zoning districts that will be replaced
  - b. Describe differences between existing zoning ordinance and Form-Based Code
  - c. Describe current review procedures for development in the Hamlet
  - d. Integration into the Town Code (Subdivision Chapter 113; Affordable Housing, Section 60-220; natural resources such as steep slopes, wetlands, tree removal and stormwater management)
3. Mitigation
  - a. Procedures to expedite implementation of Proposed Code

**C. Visual Resources and Community Character**

1. Existing Conditions
  - a. Describe the character of the study area and immediately surrounding neighborhoods
  - b. Document existing views in the study area from public roadways (by use of photographs and diagrams)
    - i. South Greeley Avenue
    - ii. North Greeley Avenue
    - iii. King Street
    - iv. Saw Mill Parkway
    - v. Bedford Road
2. Anticipated Impacts
  - a. Views to the study area relative to the Buildout Scenario from surrounding roadways and parks, including building heights, build to line, appearance of streetscape and pedestrian zone. Illustrate with sketches, photo-simulations, or cross sections, as appropriate.
  - b. Describe proposed public open space and landscape elements as part of Form-Based Code
  - c. Describe architectural character requirements of Form-Based Code
3. Mitigation
  - a. Proposed regulating plan, architectural character, styles and materials
  - b. Proposed landscaping and buffering
  - c. Proposed building form and height, public spaces, enhanced pedestrian circulation

**D. Natural Resources**

1. Geology and Soils
  - a. Existing Conditions

- i. Describe existing soils (using existing available sources), including hydric soils
    - ii. Subsurface conditions (using existing available sources), rock and high groundwater
  - b. Anticipated Impacts
    - i. Relation to the Buildout Scenario
    - ii. Soils constraints
  - c. Mitigation
    - i. Identify mitigation for areas with soils constraints (if any)
- 2. Vegetation and Wildlife
  - a. Existing Conditions
    - i. Vegetation – provide mapping of vegetative communities in study area using (existing available sources)
    - ii. Wildlife - provide data relative to any rare, threatened or endangered species in study area (using IPAC web tool, or other publicly available data bases)
  - b. Anticipated Impacts
    - i. Describe potential impacts to vegetative communities, trees, and wildlife in study area
    - ii. Describe regulated activities and permits that would be required for regulated activities, if any (compliance with Chapter 121, “Tree Preservation” of the Town Code)
  - c. Mitigation
- 3. Wetlands and Watercourses
  - a. Existing Conditions
    - i. Describe regulated wetlands, watercourses and ponds in study area (based on existing available mapping)
    - ii. Identify development areas constrained by regulated wetlands or buffer areas
  - b. Anticipated Impacts
    - i. Identify changes to wetlands, watercourses and ponds in study area based on Buildout Scenario
    - ii. Describe regulated activities and permits that would be required for those activities, if any (compliance with Chapter 137, “Wetlands” and Chapter 135 “Watercourses” of the Town Code)
  - c. Mitigation

**E. Infrastructure and Utilities**

1. Stormwater
  - a. Existing conditions
    - i. Describe existing drainage patterns
    - ii. Provide current mapping of 100-year and 500-year flood in study area
    - iii. Describe study area constraints relative to drainage
  - b. Anticipated impacts in relation to Buildout in general terms:
    - i. Stormwater quantity
    - ii. Stormwater quality
    - iii. Floodplains (compliance with Chapter 70, "Flood Damage Prevention" of the Town Code)
  - c. Mitigation
    - i. Describe threshold issues related to drainage limitations in the study area, if any
2. Water Supply
  - a. Existing Conditions
    - i. Identify and describe the existing water supply and distribution system in the study area using data from recent Town infrastructure upgrades
  - b. Anticipated impacts
    - i. Impact on existing water supply in relation to Buildout based on recent infrastructure upgrades
  - c. Mitigation
    - i. Describe threshold issues related to water supply limitations in the study area, if any
3. Sanitary Sewer/Wastewater
  - a. Existing Conditions
    - i. Identify and describe existing sanitary sewage system in the study area and in the immediate area based on recent infrastructure upgrade reports
  - b. Anticipated Impacts
    - i. Impacts to sanitary sewage system in relation to the Buildout scenario based on infrastructure upgrade reports
    - ii. Wastewater generation for commercial and residential uses based on Buildout scenario
  - c. Mitigation
    - i. Describe threshold issues related to sanitary wastewater disposal limitations in the study area, if any

**F. Transportation, Pedestrian Circulation and Parking**

1. Existing Conditions
  - a. Describe road system in study area and surroundings



- b. Document Existing Traffic Volumes for the Weekday Peak PM Hour (based on a review of NYSDOT Automatic Traffic recorder data) at the following intersections:
    - i. Washington Avenue and Old Pinesbridge Road
    - ii. Washington Avenue and South Greeley Avenue
    - iii. Woodburn Avenue and South Greeley Avenue
    - iv. Quaker Street/Route 120 and Greeley Avenue
    - v. Quaker Road/Hunts Place/Douglas Road/Mill River Road
    - vi. King Street and Greeley Avenue
    - vii. King Street/Route 120 and Senter Street
    - viii. King Street/Route 120 and Maple Avenue
    - ix. King Street and Bedford Road
    - x. South Bedford Road/King St
  - c. Capacity Analysis (Level of Service) for each of the above intersections (SYNCHRO Analysis)
  - d. Describe existing character of streets in the Hamlet and pedestrian circulation patterns, including recent streetscape improvements
  - e. Evaluate accident data for the study area over the past three years with data from Town of New Castle police and other available sources
  - f. Provide inventory of overall parking areas in the study area, including:
    - i. on-street public parking
    - ii. off-street parking (public and private)
    - iii. existing parking districts
    - iv. existing commuter parking and permits
    - v. describe parking restrictions, public/private parking
  - g. Conduct a parking survey of all parking in the study area on a Monday or a Tuesday between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. (additional effort required as a result of inclusion of partial parking waiver for existing properties in the Form-Based Code).
2. Anticipated Impacts
- a. “No Build” Traffic Volumes/Capacity Analysis - to include background traffic growth and other proposed projects in the area, if any (to be provided by the Town)
  - b. Potential Trip Generation – Using the Institute of Transportation Engineers’ (ITE) Trip Generation Manual, 10th Edition, or other sources, estimate the net increase in weekday PM peak-hour traffic volumes resulting from a reasonable maximum Build Out under the new Code)
  - c. Analyze the “Build” peak-hour traffic volumes using Synchro 10 to evaluate future traffic volumes with the contemplated Form-Based Code.
  - d. Identify the changes in delay and changes in levels of service (LOS) (or other relevant metrics) projected to occur that could be considered a significant impact
  - e. Describe other potential impacts to character of surrounding streets

- f. Evaluate intersection sight distances at the access drives in accordance with NYSDOT standards
  - g. Calculate the additional on-street parking that would occur from the Build Out scenario under the new Code and compare to the available spaces documented by the survey of existing conditions (additional effort required as a result of inclusion of partial parking waiver for existing properties in the Form-Based Code).
3. Mitigation
- a. Propose mitigation measures at study area intersections as needed to accommodate projected traffic increases. This may include traffic controls at site entrances if warranted.
  - b. Describe parking initiatives and solutions, including a parking structure, as part of a “parking toolbox” and describe how those measures could address parking related to new and existing development in the Hamlet

## **G. Cultural Resources**

- 1. Existing Conditions
  - a. Based on data from New Castle Historical Society and other publicly available sources, provide existing conditions information on historical and archeological sites in the Hamlet, including but not limited to:
    - i. Horace Greeley House
    - ii. Chappaqua Railroad Station and Memorial Park
    - iii. Church of Saint Mary the Virgin
    - iv. Robert Bell Middle School
    - v. Chappaqua firehouse on Senter St.
    - vi. Greeley Woods
- 2. Anticipated Impacts
  - a. Describe potential direct and indirect impacts to historic buildings, structures and cultural landscapes in the study area
  - b. Describe potential direct impacts to archaeological sites in study area
- 3. Mitigation
  - a. Describe threshold issues related to cultural resources in the study area, if any, related to the adoption of the Form-Based Code.

## **H. Community Facilities and Services**

- 1. Existing Conditions - using available data, provide existing conditions information on the following services as they relate to the Chappaqua Hamlet study area:
  - a. Public Schools (including most recent enrollment projections, and capacities, if available)
  - b. Police
  - c. Fire Protection/EMS
  - d. Town Public Works
  - e. Open Space and Recreation
  - f. Electric and Natural Gas Service

2. Anticipated Impacts - based on the Buildout Scenario, provide a discussion of the potential impacts and/or demands to each of these community services in the study area:
  - a. Public Schools – provide an estimate of additional enrollment in public schools based on the Buildout Scenario, and its relationship to enrollment projections and school capacities
  - b. Police
  - c. Fire Protection/EMS
  - d. Town Public Works
  - e. Open Space and Recreation
  - f. Electric and Natural Gas Service
3. Mitigation
  - a. Describe threshold issues related to community services in the study area, including but not limited to: increased tax revenues vs. increased demands to Police, Fire/EMS, Town DPW, expanded or improved recreational facilities

#### **I. Socioeconomics**

1. Existing Conditions – using publicly available information, provide existing conditions estimates for the study area relating to:
  - a. Demographics
  - b. Property Tax Generation
  - c. Existing employment
2. Anticipated Impacts – based on the Buildout Scenario, provide assumptions and estimates relating to potential changes in the study area to:
  - a. Demographics
  - b. Property taxes generated with Buildout Scenario as compared to municipal costs
  - c. Employment opportunities
3. Mitigation
  - a. Describe threshold issues related to socioeconomics in the study area, if any, related to the adoption of the Form-Based Code and Buildout Scenario.

#### **J. Hazardous Materials**

1. Existing Conditions – using publicly available information and the NYSDEC Site Remediation Database, provide existing conditions information for the study area relating to remediation sites.
2. Anticipated Impacts – based on the Buildout Scenario, describe potential impacts relating to identified hazardous sites in the study area.
3. Mitigation
  - a. Describe threshold issues related to hazardous materials in the study area, if any, related to the adoption of the Form-Based Code.

## K. Air Quality and Noise

1. Existing Conditions
  - a. Provide a qualitative description of the existing noise environment and primary noise generators in and around the study area
  - b. Identification of noise-sensitive uses and properties in the study area
  - c. Provide a qualitative description of existing air quality data (from publicly available sources)
  - d. Identification of local sources of air pollution in the study area
2. Anticipated Impact
  - a. Provide qualitative description of noise generation in relation to Buildout Scenario
  - b. Identify air quality pollutants of concern relative to Buildout Scenario
  - c. Discuss general compliance of Buildout Scenario with applicable air quality standards
3. Mitigation
  - a. Describe threshold issues related to air quality and noise in the study area, if any, related to the adoption of the Form-Based Code.

## IV Alternatives

Provide a description of each alternative noted below, and its anticipated impacts, at a conceptual level of detail sufficient to permit a comparison with the Proposed Action. Where appropriate, provide graphic materials to enable a comparison with the Proposed Action. Summarize information on each alternative and its impacts in a tabular format.

- A. **No Action** (no new development in Hamlet)
- B. **Buildout under Existing Zoning** – discussion of a Buildout development with existing zoning as mapped (with no moratorium).
- C. **Full Buildout of Form-Based Code** – description of a potential Buildout with maximum development on the entire Hamlet, including combined parcels, and use of municipal lands.

## IV Other Required Sections

- A. **Significant Adverse Environmental Impacts That Cannot be Avoided if the Proposed Action is Implemented**
  1. Long Term Impacts
  2. Short Term Impacts
- B. **Growth Inducement** – Discuss the potential for the proposed rezoning to stimulate growth in the Hamlet (as an appropriate location for growth), and how that relates to growth elsewhere in Town as per Comprehensive Plan goals. Describe the potential

impacts of such growth and identify any potential for it to add to the direct impacts of the proposed rezoning.

- C. Effects on the Use and Conservation of Energy Resources** – Identify and describe the general types, amounts and sources of energy for the project and any measures to be incorporated to reduce energy demands.
- D. Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources** – Identify any natural resources that would be consumed, converted or made unavailable for future use by the Proposed Action.

**Appendices**

- A) Proposed Zoning Code and Regulating Plan
- B) Buildout Scenario
- C) SEQRA Documentation (EAF Parts 1, 2, 3/Positive Declaration, Adopted Scoping Document)
- D) Project Correspondence
- E) Market Scan Report, July 2019
- F) Traffic Impact Study