

Appendix C

# Public Hearing Comment Summary

Horicon's Horizons Comprehensive Plan

This document was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State Environmental Protection Fund.

## Horicon Comprehensive Plan – Public Hearing

### Public Comments Summary

February 26, 2026 • Horicon Town Hall • 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Public Attendance: 15 Community members present

Planning Team: Allison Gaddy, Sam Blake, and Elliot Lear, LCLGRPB

Meeting Start: 5:30

Meeting End: 6:28

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The meeting was opened with a brief presentation for the planning team that outlined the planning process, the plan’s findings, and the goals and priority recommendations.

**The floor was opened for public comment at 5:45 pm.** Comments were also received by email and are incorporated into the summary below:

Public hearings and written comments on the Draft Comprehensive Plan generated thoughtful discussion and feedback from community members representing a range of perspectives. Overall, participants recognized the plan as an important effort to document community priorities and establish a long-term vision for the Town.

- Comments reflected a concern that seasonal and part-time residents may not be fully reflected due to reliance on census-based data and the composition of the Comprehensive Plan Committee.
- Others noted the importance of ensuring that both year-round and seasonal residents feel recognized in the Town’s vision and future decision-making. Discussion emphasized that, while residents may experience the community differently, planning decisions should reflect the needs and shared goals of the community as a whole.
- Survey results indicated that both seasonal and year-round residents share many common priorities for the Town’s future.

Participants acknowledged that the Comprehensive Plan represents a snapshot in time and is intended to serve as a flexible, guiding document rather than a binding implementation program.

- Comments highlighted the number of recommended actions and the financial and staffing resources that may be required to complete all initiatives, suggesting the importance of prioritization and phased implementation.

- Additional feedback included technical corrections, suggestions to clarify demographic and housing data, and recommendations to broaden certain goals beyond hamlet areas to benefit the larger community.
- Residents also offered ideas related to infrastructure improvements, environmental protection, housing, municipal operations, and economic development opportunities.

#### Other Discussion:

- Final decisions regarding implementation strategies, regulations, and investments rest with the Town Board.
- The plan is designed to evolve over time and be updated as community conditions and needs change.

Written comments reflected both strong support for the plan’s vision and constructive suggestions for refinement. Many commenters emphasized the importance of continued community engagement as the Town moves from planning toward implementation.

#### **Specific Comments and other Discussion:**

- Concerns were raised about the feasibility of completing all recommended initiatives.
- Some residents felt the plan contains too many initiatives (77 actions) and would benefit from clearer prioritization.
- Ms. Gaddy emphasized that this is a long-range plan and including a variety of projects and programs is important for future grant funding opportunities.
- Written comments supported establishing an Implementation Committee to guide phased execution.
- Requests to correct missing dates and data inconsistencies in population tables.
- Suggestions to clarify housing occupancy statistics to better distinguish year-round, seasonal, and vacant housing.
- Concerns that census-based demographic, income, and education data do not reflect seasonal populations.
- Recommendations to include additional economic and fiscal context, such as:
  - Assessed value comparisons between seasonal and year-round homes
  - Tax revenue contributions
  - Economic value of lakes and home-based businesses
- Some commenters felt the tone of the document could be more inclusive of all resident types.

Residents offered several location-specific and town-wide suggestions:

- Expand pedestrian and bicycle safety initiatives beyond hamlet centers.
- Consider safety improvements along Route 8 and East Shore Drive.
- Address road maintenance conditions affecting bicycle use.
- Explore seasonal traffic management strategies.
- Requests for a clearer explanation of how short-term rentals and seasonal housing influence affordability.
- Recognition that demand broadly affects housing prices.
- Suggestions to incentivize developers to construct lower-income or workforce housing.
- Interest in leveraging experienced seasonal residents as mentors for local businesses.
- Accelerate broadband and cellular improvements, including consideration of satellite-based services.
- Increase automation and digitization of Town administrative functions to improve efficiency and customer experience.
- Develop social media and marketing strategies to promote the Town.

**Public Comment closed at 6:28 pm.**