Appendix D: Community Comments of Draft Plan

Summaries of the comments received during the public meeting for the Draft Comprehensive Plan Update held on July 14, 2016 included the following:

1. Will there be any type of mechanism to control the deer population, especially behind Sacred Heart Church?

It was explained that the Town is talking with DEC and other towns regarding this issue. A committee will be formed to address this topic before next year.

A member of the public suggested having a starting and ending date for this plan.

2. A community member is concerned that the water trail noted in the Update will increase the number of people using the Owasco River, to the point of invading the privacy of homeowners along the way, leading to persons coming on private property, especially now that many trees have been removed during the sewer project that effected their property.

It was explained that the water trail should not cause any problems of this nature. If persons are coming onto private property, it is suggested that community members call the police, if necessary.

3. Issue of eminent domain regarding proposed kayak / canoe launch on Town pump station property, opposite VanDuyne Avenue - when the pump station property was taken by eminent domain years ago, it was promised to property owners nearby that it would be used only for a pump station.

Another comment objecting the kayak launch area due to impact on traffic: if there is only room for two cars to park in the area, what happens when others try to access the area?

It was explained that this project is only a suggestion at this time and that this item will be reassessed by the Comprehensive Planning Committee. After further discussion, the Committe decided to remove mention of this idea from the Update.

4. If and when is work to be done on the Route 38A roadway?

It was explained that the NYSDOT is supposed to work on the road in 2017.

5. Concern was raised by a resident regarding possible future sidewalks and who would be responsible for maintenance of the sidewalks if installed. Another resident asked if research had been done as to cost of installation, liability insurance and responsibility for maintenance.

It was explained installing sidewalks is a suggestion at this time and that any sidewalk installations would require a new local law be created to dictate who is responsible for maintenance. The process of creating this local law would require public input.

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Town of Owasco Procedural Checklist

The steps below lay out the remaining path for the Town of Owasco to achieve a final, adopted Comprehensive Plan document. The CNY RPDB will be available for assistance along the way, although the Town will be responsible for submitting documentation for the SEQRA and County review processes.

- **6/6/16:** Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting: Review draft Comprehensive Plan document. CNY RPDB will make necessary updates.
- Post the committee-approved draft plan on either the municipality's or CNY RPDB's website for public review.
- Send out a News Release to local papers stating that a PDF of the draft is posted online for public review and comment. Note that the online review period will be followed by a public meeting where comments from the public will be received.
- Conduct the public meeting with all committee members present if possible. Record attendance and all comments on the draft. Have a hard copy or two available. CNY RPDB will give an overview of the planning process and committee work and the resulting plan and goals.
- After the public meeting, the committee determines which/if public comments need to be addressed with changes.
- The Town must submit documentation for SEQRA Review (usually this results in a Negative Declaration).
- The Town must then send the final draft document along with SEQRA results to the County Planning office (with the County's GLM 239 submittal form) for County Planning review and comment.
- The committee determines if County comments need to be addressed with changes to the draft. (CNY RPDB will be available as needed to make final changes to the plan.)
- The Plan can then be adopted through Resolution by the Town Board if desired.

Plan Structure

The contents of this plan include an Introduction and four chapters. Chapter 1: Goals and Recommendations lays out the specific goals and recommendations by topic area; Chapter 2: Community Inventory and Analysis explains the historic and current state of the town and what it has to offer; Chapter 3: Conservation Lands and Trails provides a summary of existing and priority conservation land and trail locations in Owasco; and Chapter 4: Regional Influences is intended to give background information on existing conditions in the town and region. Five Appendices in the back of the Plan contain information on Principals of Smart Growth, Conservation Subdivisions, Issues of Community Concern, the Community Survey and Comments, and National Register Listings.

Adopting and Implementing the Comprehensive Plan

Legislative Authority

In the State of New York, village and town governments are granted authority to adopt a comprehensive plan pursuant to Village Law §7-722 or Town Law §272-a. The comprehensive plan, a set of policy and analytic documents and maps, strategies and tools for the guidance of community well-being, land use, and development, is also intended to provide the foundation for local zoning laws. Once adopted, all land use policy decisions in the town must be in accordance with the comprehensive plan. The review of future projects no longer occurs on an independent project-by-project basis, but rather in consideration of the comprehensive plan and the community vision. This Plan provides guidance as to where and how future development should occur in the town. In addition, all other governmental agencies must consider this plan when directing or funding capital projects that occur within the town.

Adopting a Comprehensive Plan

The purpose of adopting a comprehensive plan is the protection of the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the community and their environment. Once adopted, review of future projects occurs in consideration of the community vision and the Comprehensive Plan. In addition, all other governmental agencies must consider this plan when directing or funding capital projects that occur within the town. Adoption of a comprehensive plan is a discretionary decision and is considered a Type I action pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law and Title 6 of the New York Code of Rules and Regulations Part 617.4(b)(1).This means that the plan must meet the provisions of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) prior to final adoption by Town Board.

In accordance with New York State General Municipal Law 239, the Governing Board must refer the adoption or amendment of the proposed comprehensive plan to the County Planning Board's 239 Land Use Committee for review for potential inter-municipal impacts of the proposed plan. The Governing Board may adopt a Comprehensive Plan (or an amendment to a Comprehensive Plan) by resolution.

Review and Maintenance of the Plan

Because communities are continually changing and adjusting to new conditions, the 2002 Comprehensive Plan together with this comprehensive plan update are works in progress, and can be thought of as documents that provide guiding principles for the future development and growth decisions. The town's Comprehensive Plan and this update should be reviewed regularly to ensure continued relevance with the existing conditions, goals and objectives of the Town of Owasco. Every five years, the Town Board should conduct an in-depth review of the Comprehensive Plan and plan updates and make changes as needed. This review should assess the status of the plan's recommendations and implementation actions, such as land use regulation revisions,

capital improvement programming, expansion of recreational opportunities, tourism, economic development, and progress on other work identified in the Goals & Recommendations (Chapter 1) of the plan. As policy-making changes and the physical characteristics of the community change, the comprehensive plan should also change. The plan should be a "living document".

Circumstances that may warrant revising the plan include:

- A finding of significant change within the community or substantial unforeseen circumstances or impacts;
- A finding of significant public benefit associated with the proposed revision or a need to maintain and protect public investments and resources; or
- The need to maintain compliance with new laws, regulations, court actions, or other mandates

Implementing the Owasco Comprehensive Plan Update

All of the work that the community has done thus far in preparing the Comprehensive Plan and this update can be lost without a solid framework for implementation based on available funding resources and realistic expectations. Some recommendations in the Update may be implemented over a longer period of time, others will be a concentrated, short-term effort, but all elements of the Plan and the update should be considered in terms of budgets and time frame.

A Comprehensive Plan is a valuable resource a community can use to win significant grant funding from a wide variety of sources. Forming partnerships with various public agencies at the local, county, state and federal levels is advisable as these agencies can often assist communities in their funding and implementation efforts. Special committees may be established by the Town Board to address specific focus areas identified in the Plan. These committees should include members of the community most familiar with the Comprehensive Plan and its guiding principles. Examples of such committees are a Farmland Preservation Committee, An Historic Preservation Committee, or a Energy and Technology Committee.

Community efforts can often be strengthened and community benefits broadened by cooperative planning and promotional strategies among neighboring communities. Through cooperative efforts with other agencies and inter-municipal relationships with neighboring municipalities, planning can have positive impacts on the community, as well as on the region as a whole.

Suggestions for priority implementation actions noted in this Comprehensive Plan include the following:

Short-term recommendations:

- Expand pedestrian infrastructure in The Avenues, including creating a trail that will connect the Bench Track to Owasco Elementary School
- Create small boat launch area at Town-owned waterfront parcel on the Owasco River, including kayak/canoe racks
- Encourage the establishment of a quality senior assisted or independent living facility or community

Long-term recommendations:

- Implement more stringent, town-specific regulations for erosion and sediment control to reduce water quality issues in Owasco Lake, and encourage other towns on the lake to follow.
- Expand bicycling infrastructure along existing routes, including widening shoulders, sharrows, and/or creating bike paths
- Update zoning to incorporate conservation subdivision principles

6. A question was asked about affordable senior housing proposed in the Update.
It was explained that the Town is looking at different areas for development of senior housing, but nothing is definitive at this time.

7. Concern was raised by a resident regarding Emerson Park and the requirement of Cayuga County residents to pay to park vehicles at the Park. This was not a requirement years ago. It was also mentioned that many areas of the Park need improvement, and that the Town should try to have more influence over what happens at the Park.

It was explained that Emerson Park is owned by the County, and the Town therefore has no control over the park. The Town has voiced opinions in Park matters in the past to no avail. If community members are concerned about issues at the Park, they can contact their County Legislators.