

MEXICO TOWN BOARD and MEXICO VILLAGE BOARD

Minutes of the Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Plan

Held Monday, June 22, 2026

Mexico High School Auditorium

3338 Main Street, Mexico, New York

Commencing at 6:00 P.M.

Present: Eric Behling, Town Supervisor
Russell Partrick, Deputy Town Supervisor
Had Fravor, Town Councilor
Jeanne Revette, Town Councilor
Terry Grimshaw, Village Mayor
Roberta Hammer, Village Trustee
James Emery, Village Trustee
Robert Harter, Village Trustee
John Hotchkiss, Village Trustee

Also Present:

Legislator: Frank Bombardo

Members of the public (attendance recorded by sign-in sheets).

Town Supervisor Eric Behling called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed those in attendance. He thanked the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board and the members of the Comprehensive Plan Committee for their work over the past two years. He stated that the goal of the plan is to preserve the character and values that make Mexico unique while planning for future growth.

Mr. Behling recognized committee members and others who participated in the planning process; introduced Mr. Aaron McKean of the CNY Regional Planning and Development Board.

Mr. McKean provided a presentation on the Draft Comprehensive Plan. He explained that the Agricultural Protection Plan is a separate but related document. He highlighted the importance of preserving the Village, utilizing recreational resources, access to Interstate 81, public water and wastewater infrastructure, workforce opportunities, housing needs for seniors and young families, and preparing for development pressures associated with Micron and other regional growth. He noted that the plan identifies residential growth areas focused around the Village, promotes waterfront commercial access to Lake Ontario, and identifies the western portion of the Town as an area for potential renewable energy projects. He emphasized that the Comprehensive Plan is a vision and decision-making document and does not itself change zoning or land-use regulations.

Marcia DeLong thanked everyone for attending and stated that the Comprehensive Plan is intended to promote a shared vision for future growth and development. She noted the increasing importance of housing in light of anticipated economic development in the region. She encouraged continued public participation and explained that additional public hearings may be held. She clarified that property owners retain rights to their property and that the Agricultural Protection Plan and Comprehensive Plan are intended to complement one another. She also encouraged residents to review ORES regulations and stated that reasonable regulations are

preferable to overly burdensome requirements. She opened the Public Hearing stating rules for participation.

PUBLIC HEARING

Marcia DeLong opened the public hearing at 6:37 p.m. Public notice had been duly published.

There were no comments from members of the Town or Village Boards.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public attendees were given each equal time to voice their comments and concerns. The following points were taken:

- Concern was expressed regarding the proposed Renewable Energy Area, particularly its location over the Town's aquifer, with a request for additional consideration of water supply protection.
- A resident discussed concerns that the expanded Aquifer Protection Zone and associated wetlands regulations could affect plans to build a family residence on adjacent property.
- Questions were raised about the role and authority of ORES (Office of Renewable Energy Siting), with requests for additional information and consideration of alternative locations for renewable energy projects within the Town.
- Concerns were expressed regarding large-scale solar development on agricultural land and wetlands. It was also noted that language within the Draft Comprehensive Plan appeared to discourage future mobile homes, raising concerns about the availability of affordable housing for local families.
- Comments were made regarding the potential long-term impacts of solar development on farmland, including concerns about site cleanup responsibilities and whether local residents would realize meaningful economic benefits.
- Appreciation was expressed for the work completed by the committee, particularly the action plans contained in the document. Questions were raised regarding implementation procedures and timelines.
- Several speakers noted that the Comprehensive Plan serves as a guiding document rather than law but cautioned that future regulations and policies could be influenced by its language.
- Questions were raised regarding whether residents would have an opportunity to vote on the Comprehensive Plan before adoption.
- Concerns were expressed about solar projects, environmental impacts, and state energy policies, along with suggestions to explore alternative energy sources and industrial development opportunities.
- Several residents expressed concern that designating a specific Renewable Energy Area could be interpreted as actively encouraging renewable energy projects. They questioned the necessity of creating such a zone and emphasized preserving agricultural land and supporting balanced future growth.
- Concerns were raised regarding how the Agricultural Protection Plan aligns with the Draft Comprehensive Plan, particularly concerning the amount of acreage identified for renewable energy development.
- Questions were asked about whether emergency services, especially the Fire Department, would have the capacity to support anticipated future growth.

- The importance of continued community involvement in decisions affecting the future of the Town was emphasized.
- Concerns were expressed regarding ORES authority and legal challenges involving renewable energy projects in other municipalities. Opposition was voiced to the creation of a designated Renewable Energy Area.
Residents spoke about preserving the rural character, scenic views, and agricultural heritage of the community and encouraged collaboration to protect the Town's future.
- A suggestion was made that the Comprehensive Plan should include discussion of lakefront septic systems and consider the potential future development of small nuclear reactor technology.

With no further comments offered, the public hearing portion paused at 7:27 p.m.

Joint Town and Village Board discussion regarding the possible need for additional time for the public comment period.

The meeting reconvened at 7:34 p.m.

Marcia DeLong stated that the Town and Village Boards would review all comments received and take them into consideration. This public hearing will re-open on July 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at McAuslan Hall, 3245 Main Street, in the Village of Mexico. Information regarding revisions to the Draft Comprehensive Plan and the location of the next public hearing will be posted on the municipal website. Copies of the plan will remain available online or through the Town and Village offices, with reproduction costs to be borne by those requesting copies. Written comments will be accepted until July 22, 2026 and could be mailed to either the Town or Village office.

Board members thanked everyone for attending and for their participation in the process.

With no further comments, the public hearing was recessed at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristina Raymond