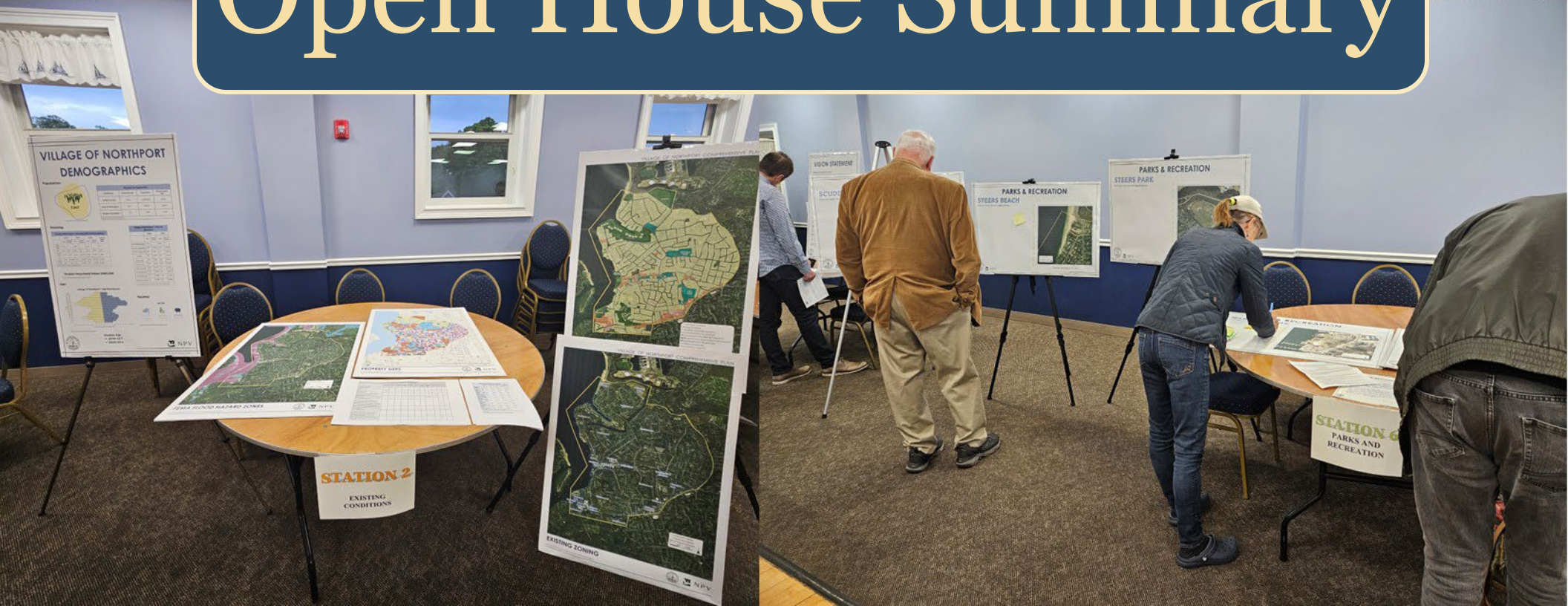


Appendix

E

Open House Summary



Open House Summary

On May 9, 2024, the Village of Northport hosted an Open House Public Workshop at the American Legion, located at 7 Woodside Avenue Northport, as part of Northport's Comprehensive Plan process. The Open House was facilitated by project consultant Nelson, Pope & Voorhis (NPV), and the Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC). Interactive public workshops and visioning are core elements of the Comprehensive Plan process. The Open House provides an opportunity for the public to learn about the planning process, ask questions, and provide feedback (verbally and written) that will ultimately inform the Comprehensive Plan.

The Public Workshop was the first community-wide public forum held as part of the Comprehensive Plan process and follows nearly a years-worth of research, analysis, CPC meetings, and an online survey. The Public Workshop was designed to be flexible - attendees could arrive any time between 7:00 and 9:00 p.m. and move between the stations at their own pace, ensuring that community members could participate as their schedules allowed. The Open House was advertised via flyers (which were displayed throughout the Village including in the library, Village Hall, and Chamber of Commerce), the Village website, Facebook, and the local newspaper. Approximately 50 people signed in (additional



participants were present but chose not to sign in), including Village Board members, the Village mayor, and the CPC members.

The Open House format of this meeting featured a series of seven stations set-up around the room with members of the CPC and NPV available to provide attendees an opportunity to learn at their own pace, spend as much time as they need at each station, and speak with members of the team directly. In addition, the Open House format allows attendees to move between stations in any order they want to prevent overcrowding and long lines.

The following provides a summary of each station's goals, presentation materials, handouts for participants, and a summary of the input received.



Station 1: What is a Comprehensive Plan? The posters and handouts at the first station provided an overview of the comprehensive planning process and the goals of a Comprehensive Plan. In addition,

the poster provided a timeline of the Plans progression and the expected completion date for the Plan.



Station 2: Existing Conditions. Station 2 provided an overview of existing conditions within the Village. Posters at this station included existing demographics in the Village, zoning, land use patterns, property sizes, and FEMA floodplains. Participants were enthusiastic about finding their property on the maps and many were surprised at the numbers represented on the demographic's poster.

Station 3: SWOT. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. Participants were asked to write their ideas about strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats facing the Village on a sticky-note and attach it to the poster board. If someone agreed with another respondent's idea, they were asked to put a tally-mark on the sticky note.

- Strengths- What about the Village today makes it a great place to live and work?

- Responses: Community spirit, family-oriented village, love for the community, historic buildings on Main Street, walkable waterfront, the harbor, local government on Main Street, restaurants downtown, the theater, village police, safety, good access to Long Island and off Island.



- Weaknesses- What about the Village today would you improve?
 - Responses: 8 responses were regarding the sirens in the Village and the desire for them to be removed. A few individuals had comments related to landscaping noise and the desire to phase out gas powered equipment. Flooding was another main concern for participants, particularly on Main Street. Other comments were about invasive plants within the Village, trees being cut down, parking, traffic, and poor street signage.

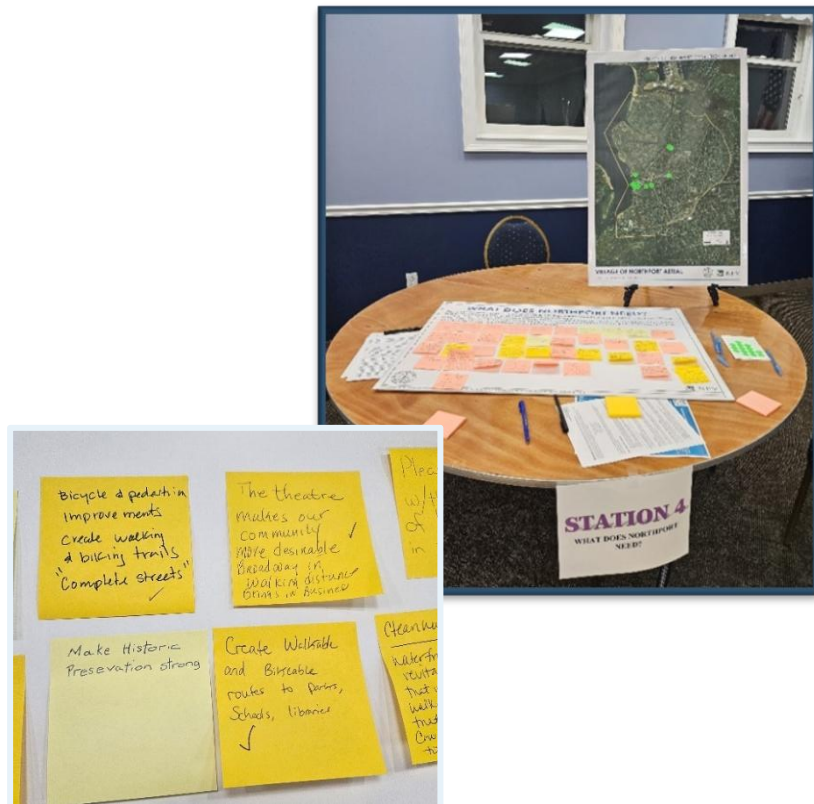
- Opportunities- Are there untapped resources in the Village that could make it a better place to live and work?
 - *Responses: Major dock system and waterway updates, trolley car “tourist visitor center,” or trolley-esque shuttle bus, bike paths and dog park at the Bronsan building, more activities for non-athletic youth, extension of the sewer line, more bike/jogger paths, more public art, creation of a streetscape for Main Street including bioswales and large street trees, more native plantings, as well as alerts on the Northport app to warn of flooding events.*
- Threats- Are there any obstacles that might prevent the Village from being a better place to live and work?
 - *Responses: high taxes, waterfront drainage, quality of water in the harbor, pollution, flooding and water from storm surges, climate change, lack of middle-class housing supply, destruction of historic buildings, landscaper noise, speeding on side streets, and lack of safe sidewalks.*



Station 4: What Does Northport Need? Participants were asked to brainstorm what they think the Village of Northport needs. The ideas could include anything related to land use, services, businesses, employment/jobs, utilities, infrastructure or any other topic. Participants wrote down their ideas on a sticky-note and attached them to the poster board. If their idea referred to a specific place or property within the Village, participants were asked to place a numbered dot on a map to indicate the location and include that number on the sticky-note with their suggestion.

- *Responses: Many comments related to safety within the Village. These included suggestions to make Bayview Avenue a one-way street, additional stop signs and traffic lights at specific intersections, wider sidewalks and additional sidewalks, and enforcement of speed limits. Seven comments were related to the need for a tree inventory and a policy to replace trees that are cut down on Main Street. Additionally, residents would like to see a requirement for more native species. Other comments included affordable housing for*

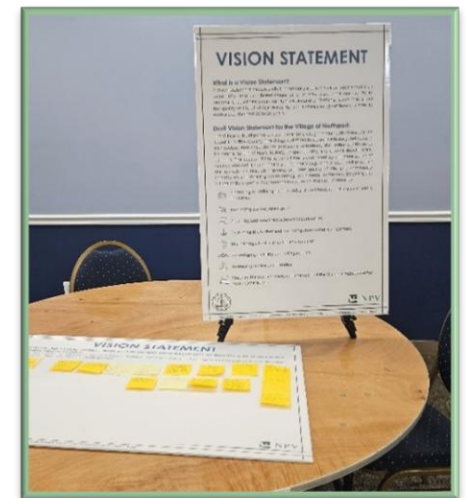
elderly and young families, better flood mitigation measures, electric car charging stations, and dredging of the harbor.



Station 5: A Vision for Northport.

A Vision Statement is a positive, forward-thinking statement that broadly describes the future of the Village. It captures what community members value most about their community. In a Comprehensive Plan, the Vision Statement sets the stage for the goals, objectives and recommendations of the plan. It answers the question, “where are we going?” Participants were asked to review the draft vision statement below and determine if they agreed or disagreed with the Vision and provide suggestions as to how they would revise it.

“The Village of Northport is a historic maritime village on the north shore of Long Island, in Suffolk County. The Village is defined by its unique history and culture, architecture, tree-lined streets, and scenic waterfront. The Harbor continues to be central to the Village’s history, unique identity, and current development patterns. The quality of life in the Village is evidenced by the generations of families who call it home. The Vision for the Village is to protect and preserve the intimate nautical atmosphere, excellent quality of life, and community integrity while embracing future demographic needs. In the next 10 years, the Village of Northport will continue to evolve in a sustainable manner by: Protecting its defining historic, cultural, architectural, natural and scenic resources.



Preserving existing open space. Providing additional recreational opportunities. Protecting the harbor and improving stormwater management. Maintaining a family-oriented environment. Encouraging a variety of housing options. Increasing access to the Harbor. Ensuring the overall beauty and character of the Village is maintained for future generations.”

- *Responses: Comments and suggestions on the draft visions statement include – preservation of historic buildings, addition of historic markers, emphasis on people before cars, walkable and bikeable routes throughout the Village, an emphasis on sustainability, clean water for wildlife and people, protection of our natural environment, and encouragement of small businesses and restaurants.*

Station 6: Parks and Recreation. Participants were asked to brainstorm what amenities they would like to see at each park within the Village. This could include active recreation such as playgrounds, ball fields, pickleball courts, ice skating rinks, or passive recreation such as benches, walking trails, gardens, or open space areas. Each park was displayed on a poster and participants wrote on a sticky note what improvements they would like to see at each park.

- *Responses:*
- **Northport Village Park:** *Improvements participants want to see in Northport Village Park include replacing dying trees, a walkable waterfront that links Cow Harbor Park including a greenspace connection, recycling bins, enhanced signage, safe zone pedestrian crossings at stairway entrance, bike racks,*

splash area for kids, additional art shows and storytelling events, rentable lawn games.

- **Cow Harbor Park:** *Interactive panel about the history of the park with historic pictures, plant rain gardens, reduce parking space to create more green space, improved walking paths, educational information about native gardens, “greenway” walkway between Cow Harbor and Northport Village Park, solar panels on roof of picnic areas.*
- **Scudder Park:** *Overall cleanup, native species planting, oyster restoration floats, restoration of wetlands, develop the park as a botanical and greenway resource, develop a waterfront trail, new pavilion with tables, dog park, rec center, live music, more kayak racks, improvement of blind corner.*
- **Steers Beach:** *Cleanup, more picnic tables, outdoor showers, new bathrooms.*
- **Steers Park:** *Pickleball courts, dog park, restrooms, outdoor classroom, rain gardens, host more Village functions.*



Village of Northport

2026 Draft Comprehensive Plan

Station 7: This optional station provided an opportunity to complete the Comprehensive Plan survey. Laptops were set up so participants could take the survey before they left the Open House. The survey was also accessible via a QR code displayed on flyers throughout the Village and was posted on the Village Website. In addition, paper copies were available at Village Hall and the Library.



Appendix E

Open House Public Workshop Summary - May 9th, 2024

