

!! COMMUNITY ALERT TO ALL RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN OF RAMAPO, ITS VILLAGES AND ADJOINING NEIGHBORHOODS!!

Are you fed up? Confused? Or are you simply in the dark?

- It has been 17 years (!) since the Town of Ramapo passed the 2004 Comprehensive Plan. It has been overdue for an update for 10+ years. In 2017, Supervisor Specht ran on an election platform that promised a Comprehensive Plan update. Since then, the supervisor has avoided normal comprehensive planning processes and instead has taken action to increase development in Northeast Ramapo to cater to the golf course developer and commercial developers who have interests in this area.
- Areas bought by Town to open space funds have been sold off for years for industrial use and high-density development, and now more open space is on the table.
- Meeting notices to date on efforts to change density in northeast Ramapo have been last minute – including the Town Board meeting of 12/31/20 where the Town tried to sneak through passage of a scoping document to evaluate the impact of plans that either don't exist or haven't been made public.
- The Town is avoiding town wide participation in town wide comprehensive planning and environmental studies that affect all residents by burying the town wide efforts in paperwork and notices specific to the Northeast area. CONFUSED? THAT'S THE PLAN.

Regardless of whether you want more development or less development, we hope you are for good comprehensive planning for a sustainable Ramapo. Residents throughout Ramapo must organize to advocate the Town Board for an organized and inclusive approach to town wide planning, for following lawful processes, and for engaging all of Ramapo in these processes.

Help spread the message to Ramapo officials that we all support good and lawful planning efforts to protect Ramapo residents and that we oppose efforts to subvert the planning processes to solely accommodate development interests. Ultimately the cost of Town development falls on the shoulders of all current residents! We deserve a say in these plans!

Get informed / Get Organized / Go to [ROSA4Rockland.org/northeast](https://Rosa4Rockland.org/northeast)

- Where you can **get informed** and get links to resources including the Town 2004 Comprehensive Plan and new documents related to changes.
- There, get details on how to **Join a Zoom Information Forum** on Monday, January 18 at 7:00pm organized by residents to promote a sustainable Ramapo and will include the planner hired ROSA.
- **Email a letter** to the Town Board **before January 20th** sharing your concerns and for adjustments to the planning processes. See the website or the back this flyer for suggested wording and email addresses.
- **Show up** at the Zoom meeting of the Ramapo Town Board on January 20th at 7:00 pm where the Board plans to adopt their proposed scoping document. Link is on the ROSA page and Ramapo.org.
- **Speak up** during public participation at the January 20th meeting! The Town requests interested speaking to send your name, address, and email address to osherovitzs@ramapo.org no later than thirty (30) minutes prior to the Town Board Meeting but generally interested people will be allowed to speak for up to 3 minutes.

This effort of alerting community residents and groups to the planning issues is supported by various local groups including Skyview Acres Land Trust (SALT) and ROSA 4 Rockland Inc. Please share your email to stay informed.

At the Town Board Meeting of January 20th, at 7:00pm, Town Board members will have an opportunity to discuss the passage of the SEQR Final Scoping document released on December 29, 2020. We hope they will table that resolution and instead discuss how to get comprehensive planning back on track.

Please submit your own comments on the final scoping document and ask the Town Board to stop the SEQR process for plans that don't exist, and to focus on preparing the town wide environmental and planning studies needed to support a full update to the Comprehensive Plan with any area specific recommendations.

Below is sample wording for **sending an email to the Town Board in advance** of the meeting (ie. before 1/20) and instructions where to send it. **Please take the time to incorporate your own specific concerns, aspirations for the future of Ramapo and please add your own personal comments.** This is your time to speak up and to ask for an opportunity to participate. Many people didn't even know that there have been any meetings to date. **If you were not aware of the 2018 and 2019 meetings, say so.**

WRITE A LETTER!

Customize the email below or write your own. Send your comments in a single email to Supervisor Specht and copy the Town Board members the Town Clerk. Please consider blind copying us as well.

TO Supervisor: spechtm@ramapo-ny.gov,

CC Town Board Members and the chief of staff: loganb@ramapo-ny.gov, rossmanr@ramapo-ny.gov, weissmandly@ramapo-ny.gov, wanounoud@ramapo-ny.gov, montalm@ramapo-ny.gov

BCC: rosa4rockland@gmail.com, sustainable.ramapo@gmail.com

Dear Mr. Specht and Town Board members,

I am a Ramapo resident. I recently learned from my neighbors that the Town is moving forward with planning an update to the comprehensive plan for Northeast Ramapo before doing basic planning for the Town overall. I understand that you started a SEQR scoping process for plans that do not yet exist, and I join other residents in asking you to stop this irrational process and to reorganize to get back on track to do good comprehensive planning.

I am asking you to embark on a full analysis of Town environmental resources, infrastructure, and other planning studies needed to support a full update to the Town Comprehensive Plan. Please table any considerations of any area specific strategic planning until you have first taken stock of what has or has not worked in the current Comprehensive Plan, what zoning and environment laws were passed since the Comprehensive Plan and the impact of those regulations, and done a full analysis of how much more development has been approved, is in the process of approval or can be approved as of right before determining the capacity of the Town's infrastructure to support all such development before contemplating changes in zoning to allow increased development.

When you have all the necessary studies in place, please hold multiple public workshops that are well noticed, well in advance, to develop proposed updates to the Comprehensive Plan. Only when there is a specific proposal, including alternatives, for an update to the Comprehensive Plan should the Town start the State Environmental Quality Review processes designed to judge the impact of specific proposed changes.

I support the efforts of community groups like ROSA 4 Rockland, Skyview Acres Land Trust ("SALT"), and neighborhood CUPON groups as well as other residents who all advocate for and support transparent and collaborative processes with the public to update the Town Comprehensive Plan. Like these groups, I welcome the opportunity to work with the Town to develop an update to the Comprehensive Plan that is comprehensive and looks at the town as whole before working on area specific recommendations

I request that the town notify me of meetings in the future and ask that you use my email address to do so.

Respectfully,
YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS