

Resolution 96-2026

TOWN OF CANAAN

**RESOLUTION MAKING DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE UNDER
THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT (SEQR)**

At a regular meeting of the Town Board for the Town of Canaan, Columbia
County, New York, duly held on the 13th day of July, 2026, at the Canaan Town Hall,
County Route 5, Canaan, New York, the following Resolution was proposed and
seconded:

Resolution by: _____;

Seconded by: _____.

WHEREAS, the Town of Canaan Town Board identified a need to develop an up-to-date comprehensive plan (the “Plan”) to properly plan growth and development in the Town pursuant to Town Law §272-a; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board, pursuant to Town Law §272-a appointed and assigned the task of developing the Plan to the Town of Canaan Comprehensive Plan Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan Committee conducted a careful study of the Town that included a full inventory and analysis of the environmental, agricultural, economic, housing, demographic, cultural and historical resources in Canaan utilizing the Town of Canaan Natural Resource Inventory and new data and GIS-developed maps; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan Committee has drafted this Plan with the assistance of a planning consultant and has solicited input from the community via a community-wide survey, an open house workshop, focus groups, open public meetings, and public hearings in formulating the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the drafted Plan includes the long-term vision, goals, objectives, and strategies to guide the future growth in the Town and to address the identified needs; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan Committee has submitted that draft Plan to the Town Board of the Town of Canaan for their consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board initiated an adoption process per Town Law §272-a;
and

WHEREAS, adoption of a comprehensive plan pursuant to Town Law §272-a has been determined to be a Type I action, pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) 6 NYCRR Part 617.4, and the Town Board has declared itself Lead Agency; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action will not require permits and approvals from any other local, regional, and State agencies before adoption of the Plan, and thus a coordinated SEQRA review is not required; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan was referred to the Columbia County Planning Board for further review as required by General Municipal Law §239-l and §239-m; and

WHEREAS, the Columbia County Planning Board advised the Town of Canaan in correspondence dated May 19, 2026, that the adoption of the proposed Comprehensive Plan will have no significant county-wide impacts or inter-community impact, and was thus a local decision to be determined by the Town of Canaan and which could be approved by a simple majority vote of the Canaan Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the review by the Columbia County Planning Board is considered an advisory opinion under SEQRA, and the agency is not considered to be eligible for lead agency status in this action; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the proposed Comprehensive Plan, and voted on May 11, 2026 to hold a public hearing on June 3, 2026 pursuant to Town Law §272-a; and

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2026 the Town of Canaan opened a public hearing on the proposed Comprehensive Plan at which time it received both written and oral comments on the proposed Comprehensive Plan, and thereafter duly closed the public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the Full EAF, along with a detailed Part I Section F Narrative, and a detailed Part 3 analysis of potential impacts, has given a hard look at potential impacts and analyzed whether any significant adverse environmental impacts will occur by adopting the proposed Plan, and hereby sets forth the following:

1. The Plan is a guidance document for future decision making and makes recommendations on ways the Town can maintain its environment, which includes natural resource, historic, agriculture, cultural areas, its' rural and small-town character, open spaces, clean water, clean air, and its natural resources while allowing for appropriate future growth and development consistent with its environmental setting. The Plan establishes that these features are primary and vital components of the community and critical parts of the environment in the Town of Canaan.

2. Implementation of the Plan will positively assist Canaan in proceeding to review its land use regulations and no Moderate to Large adverse impacts will occur as a result of adoption of the Plan. See Attachment I (SEQRA Findings Statement - Rational for Negative Declaration) for specific details. The Plan will aid the Town in reaching its goals of maintaining open space, rural landscapes, and protecting the environment through a variety of programs, projects, capital improvements, future studies, and by updating or establishing new land use policies and regulations.
3. The Plan recognizes the need to protect natural features and sensitive environmental areas, including Queechy Lake, and establishes recommendations to protect those features.
4. The Plan includes an inventory of environmental resources and recommends future actions to protect those resources.
5. The Plan was developed with significant public input throughout the process.
6. The intent of the Plan is to promote the safety, health, and well-being of the residents of the Town, and to protect and enhance the Town's natural environment and character while simultaneously promoting smart growth and economic development consistent with those goals.
7. The Plan promotes renewable and efficient use of energy.
8. The Town recognizes that growth will continue to influence the environment in Town, but the Plan is oriented to helping manage development in a manner that reduces impacts to the environment. The Town finds that the Plan offers mechanisms to reduce environmental impacts compared to conditions that would occur if no Plan were adopted; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to subdivision §617.7(b) of the SEQR regulations, the Town of Canaan Town Board, as Lead Agency, has considered the action as defined in subdivisions §617.2(b) and §617.3(g) of the SEQR regulations, has reviewed Part I, II and III of the EAF, has analyzed the identified relevant areas of environmental concern to determine if the action may have a significant adverse impact on the environment, and hereby determines that the Town of Canaan Comprehensive Plan described herein will not have any significant adverse environmental impacts, and that an environmental impact statement will not be required; and be it further;

RESOLVED, that Town of Canaan Supervisor Brenda Adams be hereby authorized to execute Part III of the EAF confirming the adoption of a Negative Declaration pursuant to this resolution, and be it further;

RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to file the negative declaration (FEAF Part III) and a notice in the Environmental Notice Bulletin, according to SEQRA, NYS 6 NYCRR Part 617.

Upon calling the question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Board members voted "Aye" in favor of the Resolution:

_____;
_____;
_____;
_____; and
_____.

The following Board members voted "No" in opposition thereto:

_____;
_____;
_____;
_____; and
_____.

The Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Town Board, the same was declared duly adopted by the Supervisor of the Town of Canaan.

Dated: July 13, 2026

Sandra Bevens, Town Clerk
Town of Canaan