

# Village of Briarcliff Manor

## Comprehensive Plan Addendum

### *B/BT District Recommendations*

#### *Public Hearing Draft*

# **Village of Briarcliff Manor**

## **DRAFT Comprehensive Plan Addendum**

### ***B/BT District Recommendations***

#### ***Public Hearing Draft***

**June 22, 2017**

***Prepared on behalf of:***

**Village of Briarcliff Manor Board of Trustees**  
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# Acknowledgements

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## SECTION 1.0: B ZONE RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2007 Village of Briarcliff Manor Comprehensive Plan is amended<sup>1</sup> as follows:

### **Section 2.6.4 Office and Business Areas: North State Road Offices, Route 9 Offices, Stand-Alone Offices and Laboratories (Comprehensive Plan Page 63)**

There are four areas in the Village zoned B Planned Office Building and Laboratories. ~~Offices-Parcels in the B District are comprised of~~ ~~here are the ±94-acre former Philips Laboratories on at 345 Scarborough Road, the ±9.4-acre former Sony Corp. at 600 Albany Post Road (on Route 9), the ±16.8-acre former Briarcliff Executive Park (formerly also known as Mearl) on at 320 Old Briarcliff Road, and the ±10.7-acre Briarcliff Corporate Campus on at 555 Pleasantville Road. With the exception of 555 Pleasantville Road, all of the office complexes have been vacant since the early 2010s. 555 Pleasantville Road, while still in use as a multi-tenant office complex, is underutilized with approximately 40% of the existing office space vacant. With the exception of Philips Laboratories, All of the buildings on each of the B zoned parcels are visible from the street, with the exception of Philips Laboratories, which is located in the interior of the ±94-acre site. However~~ ~~In addition, each of the four parcels is set back from the roadway, accessed by private driveways and screened by~~ ~~with~~ a significant amount of landscaping. The former Philips site and former Mearl site are located in residential neighborhoods off of residential streets, while the former Sony Corp. site is located along State Route 9, and the Briarcliff Corporate Campus is located along Pleasantville Road, a County road. The Philips Laboratories campus is about 98 acres, part of which is residentially zoned. The four B zoned properties and the one BT zoned property are shown in Figure 1.

### **Section 3.4 – Business Districts**

Add the following to Section 3.4 Business Districts (Comprehensive Plan Page 86):

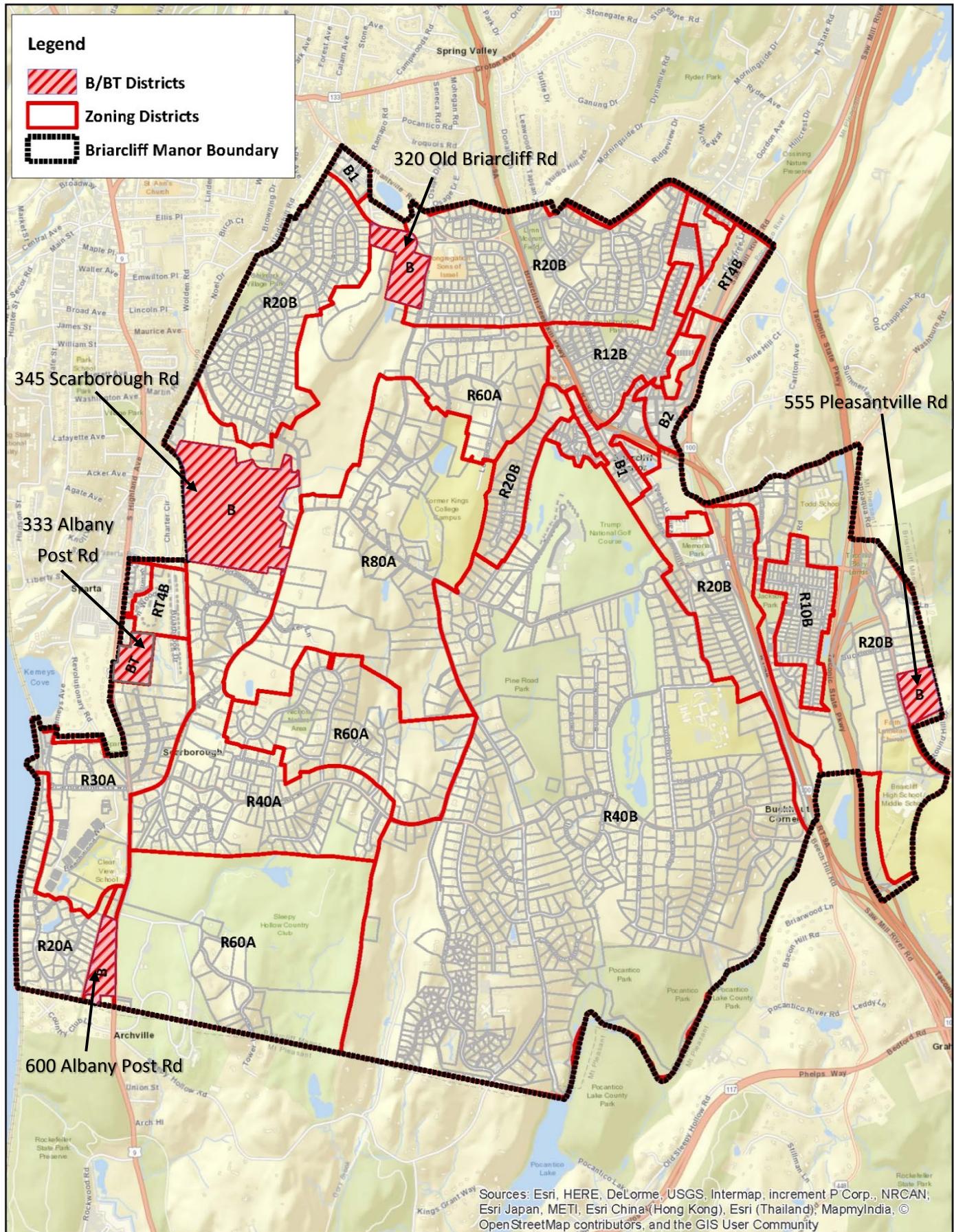
#### **GOALS:**

1. Create a successful central business district that has a distinct sense of place by building upon intrinsic historic, economic, natural and cultural amenities.
2. Create business districts that are pedestrian-friendly to promote a greater sense of community, improve opportunities for social contact and interaction and enhance downtown vitality.
3. Increase our commercial tax base.
4. Provide flexibility of use, bulk, and density to allow for appropriate and sustainable redevelopment and/or reuse of the Villages B/BT zoned properties.

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<sup>1</sup> Amendments to the 2007 Village Comprehensive Plan are shown herein in underlined and ~~strikeout~~. “Strikeout” text indicates text that has been deleted from the 2007 Plan, while “underline” text indicates text that has been added to the Plan. Text amendments contained in this Addendum supersede text contained in the 2007 Plan.

**Figure 1: B and BT District Zoned Properties**



As noted, the Village has ~~three~~ four principal commercial districts: the Chilmark Shopping Center; the complex at the corner of North State Road and Chappaqua Road; ~~a stretch of commercial uses located along S. Highland Avenue (Route 9) roughly between Glenwood Drive to the south and Charter Circle to the north;~~ and, the Village's Central Business District comprised of portions of Pleasantville Road (west of Route 9A) and the area bounded by North State Road, Woodside Avenue, and Route 100, east of Route 9A. The Village also ~~historically had~~ has several commercial office developments located in the B and BT Districts; however, all but two are currently vacant. The existing multi-tenant office complex (Briarcliff Corporate Campus) located at 555 Pleasantville Road within the B District is approximately 40% vacant, while the SHA Data Center located at 333 Albany Post Road is in use as a data storage center. The three remaining B District properties (former Philips, Sony and Mearl properties) have been vacant for some time and are being actively marketed for redevelopment in uses other than office and laboratory uses. The Village recognizes that market conditions for offices uses in Westchester County and the region have changed in the past decade and reuse of these properties under the current B/BT District regulations is prohibitive and unlikely. However, given the Village's relatively small commercial tax base, redevelopment of B/BT District properties, where feasible, for commercial use (or some portion of commercial use) of an appropriate type and scale type in suitable locations is encouraged.

Further, in recognizing the changing market conditions combined with a desire to bring these office sites back into productive use, the Village seeks to revise the B/BT District to allow for greater flexibility in use, bulk, and density to allow for appropriate and sustainable redevelopment and/or reuse of these properties. The Village also recognizes that each of the B/BT District sites is unique and while they all share a zoning designation, they vary significantly in size, location, access, and environmental sensitivity. Given this, flexibility in how redevelopment of each site is approached is imperative to limit and/or mitigate potential impacts to neighborhood character, open space, the natural environment (i.e. steep slopes, wetlands, etc.), recreation, traffic, public transit (Scarborough Metro-North Train Station), infrastructure (i.e. water, sewer, DPW), and emergency services (i.e. police, fire, and emergency medical services). Therefore, the B/BT District regulations should be amended to allow additional uses, densities, bulk and dimensional standards by special use permit or some other regulatory process, such as a planned unit development (PUD) that are individually tailored to the specific conditions of each property. The District could be amended to include a standard list of permitted principal uses, and minimum height, bulk and dimensional standards that would apply across the District (similar to the existing District regulations) and then allow additional uses and flexibility of area, bulk and dimensional standards based on site-specific conditions, at the discretion of the Village Board of Trustees, through either the PUD or special permit processes.

The following additional uses, listed in no particular order, could be allowed under the PUD, special permit, or other similar regulatory process could include:

- Multi-Tenant Office
- Biomedical
- Retail/Shopping Center

- Medical/Dental Office
- Hotel
- Warehouse including Self-Storage Facilities
- Light Manufacturing – of appropriate type
- Mixed-use Developments, in appropriate locations
- Single Family Residential, with cluster development required
- Multi-Family Residential, with an appropriate scale and density

Through the amendments to the B/BT District, the Village seeks to ensure that new developments within the B/BT District are in keeping with the character of the surrounding neighborhood, will not place an undue burden on municipal resources and infrastructure, and will protect natural resources such as steep slopes, wetlands, significant trees, and views. If a particular development project is found to place an undue burden on Village resources, natural resources, or other environmental impact areas, measures to mitigate or eliminate the impact should be pursued during the regulatory approvals process. Redevelopment of the B/BT District properties should provide opportunities for the preservation of onsite open space and the provision of additional recreational amenities to the benefit of Village residents, where feasible. Where the provision of onsite recreational amenities are infeasible, the Village should consider the creation of a recreation fee for multi-family units to ensure that no impacts to recreation occur as a result of future residential development projects. Finally, in order to preserve onsite open space, clustering of single-family and townhome developments should be required and the lot coverage of commercial or offices uses should be limited.

**Objective #2: Strengthen the commercial tax base.**

**Action items:**

- A. Encourage new and varied commercial development of an appropriate type and scale in suitable locations throughout the Village's business zones. In addition to the above, encourage businesses and offices in campus settings.
- B. Review and update Recognize the current and anticipated office market conditions and accordingly, amend the B/BT District requirements zoning regulations to allow for a greater variety of uses and flexibility with regards to area, bulk and dimensional standards based on site-specific conditions, such as location, access, and environmental features. including lot coverage, building height, setbacks, and landscape buffers.
- C. Enhance the potential and appearance of the area zoned B-2 that fronts onto Route 9.

Amend Table 3-1: Implementation Strategies (*Comprehensive Plan Page 94*), as follows:

<b>BUSINESS DISTRICTS</b>				
<b>GOAL:</b> Create a successful central business district that has a distinct sense of place by building upon intrinsic historic, economic, natural and cultural amenities.				
<b>GOAL:</b> Create business districts that are pedestrian-friendly to promote a greater sense of community, improve opportunities for social contact and interaction and enhance downtown vitality.				
<b>GOAL:</b> Increase the commercial tax base.				
<b>GOAL:</b> Provide flexibility of use, bulk, and density to allow for appropriate and sustainable redevelopment and/or reuse of the Villages B/BT zoned properties.				
<b>Objective #2: Strengthen the commercial tax base.</b>				
A	Encourage new and varied commercial development of an appropriate type and scale in suitable locations throughout the Village's business zones.	Trustees & Planning Bd.	On-going	3.4
B	Recognize the current and anticipated office market conditions and accordingly, amend the B/BT District zoning regulations to allow for a greater variety of uses and flexibility with regards to area, bulk and dimensional standards based on site-specific conditions, such as location, access, and environmental features.	Trustees & Planning Bd.	Short-Term	3.4
C	Enhance the potential and appearance of the area zoned B-2 that fronts Route 9.	Trustees & Planning Bd.	Short-term	3.4

## Appendix A – Business Areas in Briarcliff Manor

Amend Appendix A, as follows:

### Office and Business Areas (*Comprehensive Plan Page 116*)

~~Office and business areas, including standalone offices, offices on North State Road and Route 9 and laboratories should remain as zoned, with the addition of commercial design controls aimed at new construction and major renovations. Businesses are important contributors to the Village's municipal tax. The businesses areas are well located – while Philips Laboratories, the property formerly known as Mearl, and the Briarcliff Corporate Campus are located in residential areas, they are close to arterials that take employee traffic directly out of the local street network. The Village has historically had five commercial office developments located in the B and BT Districts; however, all but two are currently vacant. Recognizing a more than decade long decline in the demand for office space in a traditional campus like setting, the Village began, in 2017, a process to review its existing B Planned Office Building and Laboratory and BT Business Transitional zones. The Village established the B Zone Advisory Committee to review the existing zoning, explore current market demand, and to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees~~

as to what zoning amendments should be made to the B/BT Districts. The Committee focused its recommendations on enabling the B/BT zoned properties to be fully utilized and/or redeveloped with the highest and best use balanced with potential short- and long-term impacts on Village residents, neighborhood character, Village infrastructure, recreational resources, and the natural environment. The B Zone Advisory Committee issued a report to the Village Board of Trustees dated May 5, 2017. This report provides background information and potential recommendations to be considered by the Board of Trustees as it moves forward with amendments to the B/BT Districts as outlined in Section 3.4 of the 2017 Village Comprehensive Plan Addendum. Finally, this plan recommends that when the Mearl site is any of the B/BT District sites are redeveloped and plans are submitted for full occupation of the site, the Village should examine the traffic implications on nearby intersections, as well as all other potential environmental impacts.