

City of Glens Falls Comprehensive Plan

CPC Meeting 1

October 21, 2024



Ice Breaker Exercise

1. Why did you agree to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Committee?
2. What are your favorite things to do in Glens Falls?



This presentation was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State Environmental Protection Fund.

Agenda

- 1 Ice Breaker Exercise
- 2 Welcome & Introductions
- 3 What is a Comprehensive Plan & Why Do We Need One?
- 4 Proposed Scope and Schedule / Roles and Responsibilities
- 5 Work Session
- 6 Next Steps

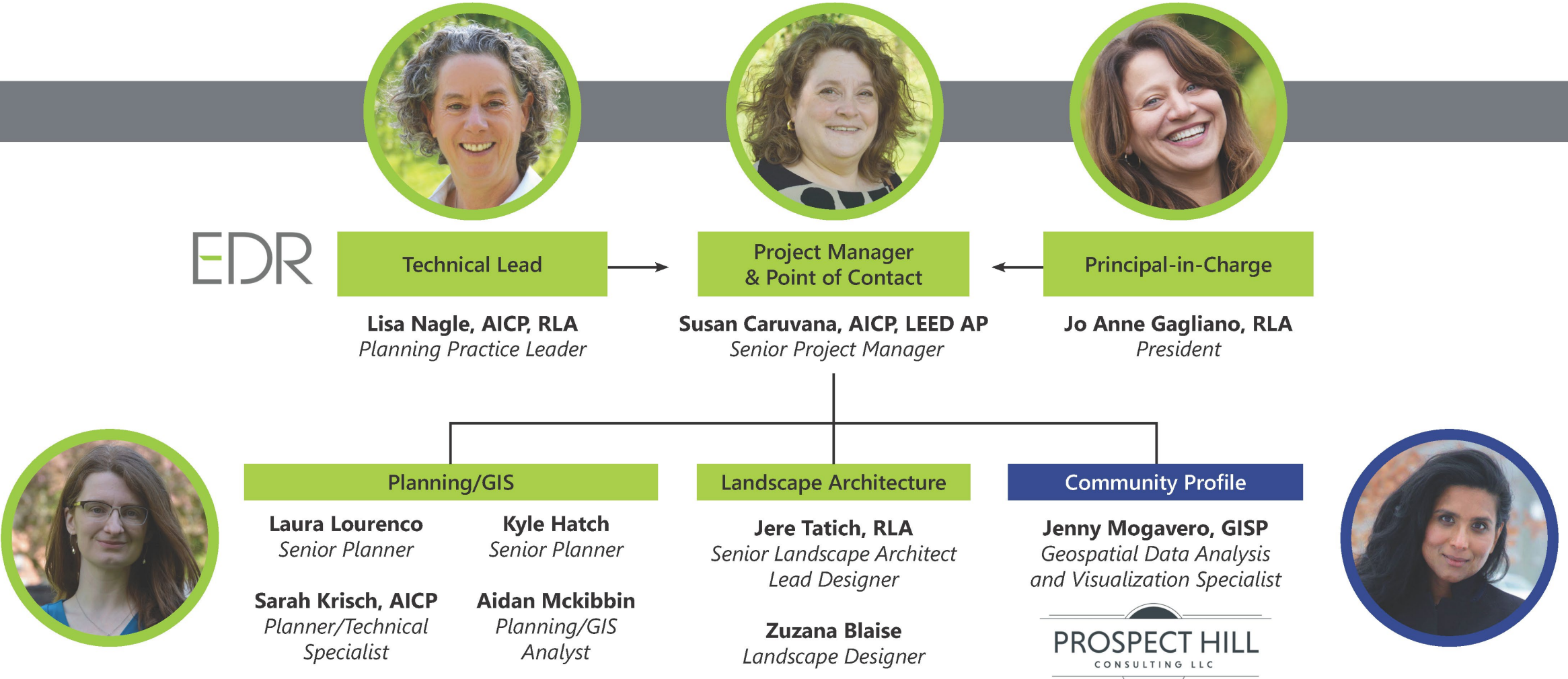
Welcome & Introductions

Bill Collins, Mayor

Mike White, Committee Chair



Project Team



Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC)

Bill Collins, City of Glens Falls, Mayor

Bob Curtis, Resident, former City Clerk

Patrick Dowd, City of Glens Falls, Community Development Director

Jeff Flagg, City of Glens Falls, Economic Development Director

Sara Frankenfeld, Warren County Planning & Community Development

Matt Fuller, Meyer, Fuller & Stockwell

Allison Hargrave-Gaddy, AICP, Lake Champlain - Lake George Regional Planning Board, City of Glens Falls
Zoning Board of Appeals - Chair

Matt MacDonald, City of Glens Falls Zoning Board of Appeals

Joy Kaczmarek, Resident

Tom Landry, City of Glens Falls Planning Board

Alberta Parsons, Resident

Patricia Tatich, AICP, Resident

 **Michael White**, Comprehensive Plan Committee - Chair

What is a Comprehensive Plan and Why Do We Need One?



Initial Considerations

Comprehensive planning today...



is integrated and comprehensive.

Environment, Economy, Community, Housing



works within the regional context.

Supports regional development & initiatives.



sets a foundation for successful economic development.

- Quality of Place is integral to attracting investment.
- Sets foundation for zoning

**INNOVATIVE
PLACES
ATTRACT
INVESTMENT**



What is a Comprehensive Plan?

“The materials written and/or graphic, including maps, charts, studies and other materials that identify the goals, objectives, principles, guidelines, policies, standards, devices and instruments for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of the City.”

(NY General City Law 28-a)

Comprehensive Plans provide an opportunity to ask:

- What is happening in the City of Glens Falls today?
- What are the anticipated future needs?
- What would you like the City of Glens Falls to be in the future and how should it look?
- What steps does the City need to take to accomplish and sustain that vision?



Why Do We Need a Comprehensive Plan?

- Provides a clear vision
- Provides guidance on the types and densities of housing that will be needed to support future population growth
- Helps shape a framework for desired development that recognizes and maintains neighborhoods
- Establishes a blueprint for future zoning revisions
- Incentivizes private investment by providing confidence in the marketplace
- Moves grant applications to the “Top of the Pile”

A vertical photograph of a garden path. The path is made of light-colored stones and is surrounded by dense green foliage, including ferns and trees. Several large, rusted metal lanterns hang from the trees. The lighting is bright and natural, suggesting a sunny day.

Elements of a Comprehensive Plan

Public Input

- Comprehensive Plan Committee
- Stakeholder Interviews/Focus Group Meetings
- Two Community Open Houses
- Public Hearing

Community Profile (Inventory and Analysis)

- Snapshot of what the City of Glens Falls looks like today
- Categorized by Smart Growth Principles

Vision, Goals and Recommendations

- What do you want the City to look like in ten years and what steps do we need to take to get there

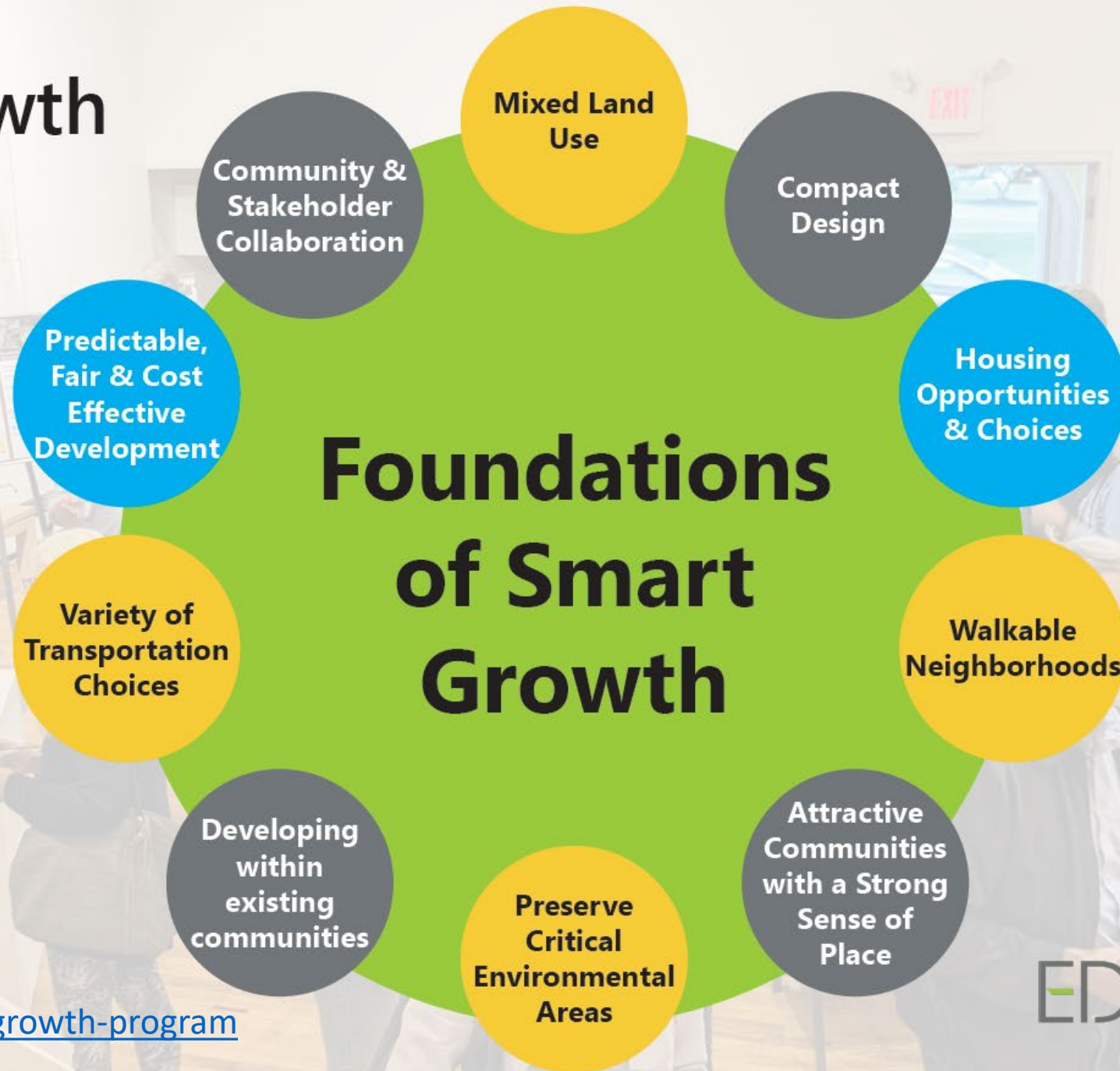
Implementation Matrix

- Prioritize recommendations
- Committee(s) to advance Plan recommendations (Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee, Zoning, Parking, etc.)

Future Land Use Map

- A community's visual guide to future planning

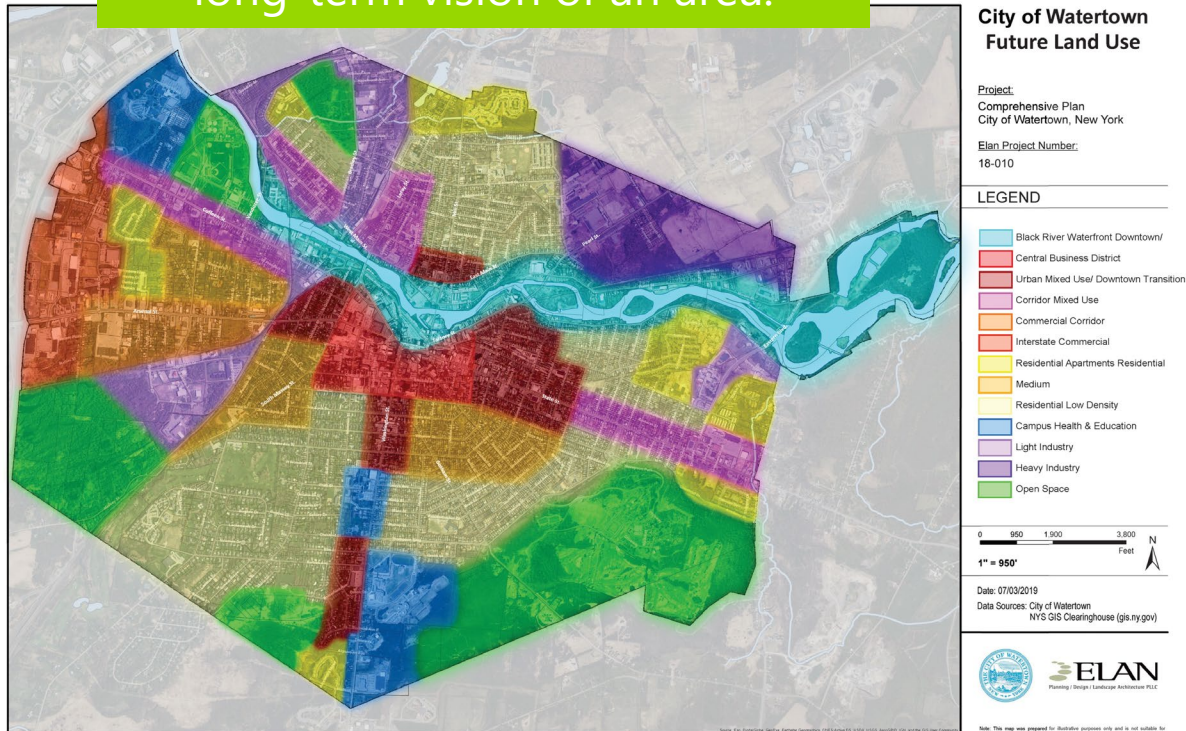
Smart Growth Principles



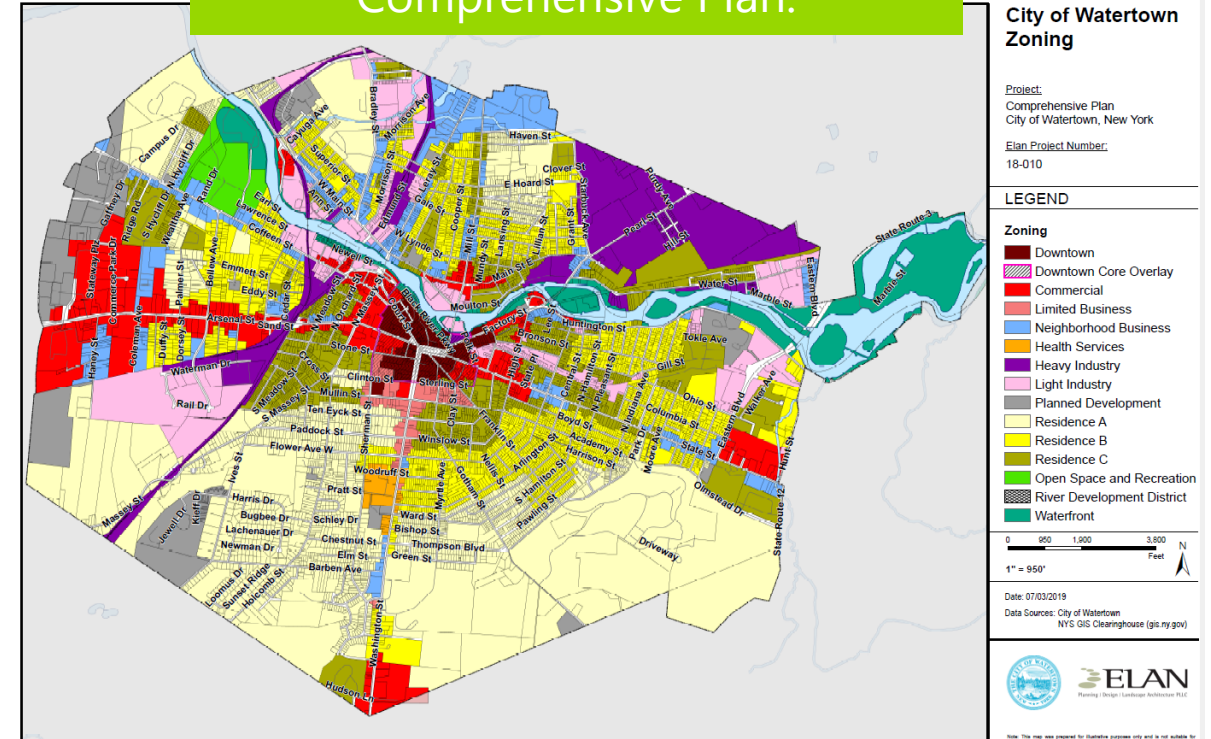
A Comprehensive Plan is Different from Zoning

A Comprehensive Plan is a GUIDE for decision-making about the City's land use.

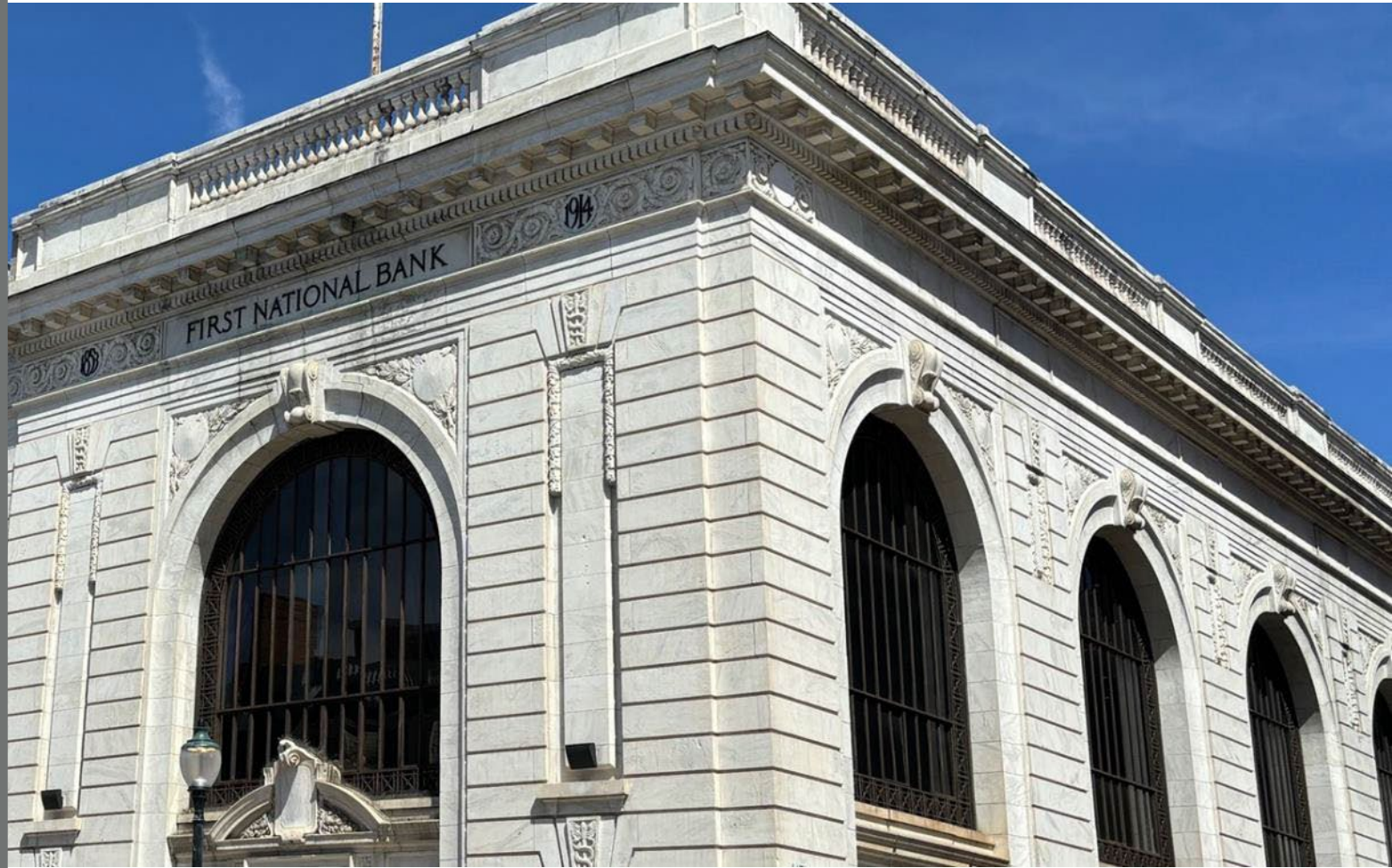
The Comprehensive Plan provides general guidance regarding the long-term vision of an area.



The Zoning Ordinance is a tool to implement the Comprehensive Plan.



Scope, Schedule, and Responsibilities



Glens Falls Comprehensive Plan

[illegible]

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee – Proposed Meeting Dates

- Date
 - Monday night
 - First or second week of the month
 - Monday, December 2nd
 - Monday, December 9th
- Time
 - 5:30 PM
 - 6:00 PM

Roles & Responsibilities

City Leadership & Staff

- Staff coordination
- Guide the process
- Liaison with DOS

Comprehensive Plan Committee

- Facilitate dialog with the community
- Keep City Boards abreast of activities
- Establish and confirm strategic direction
- Recommend, review and validate vision, goals, and policies, program & project recommendations
- Maintain the momentum into implementation!

City Council

- Review throughout the process
- Public Hearing
- SEQRA
- Adopt the Plan

Planning Board/ZBA

- Engaged throughout the process
- Recommend Plan for Adoption
- Use as a guide in planning review

Consultant Team

- Overall guidance with specialized technical and subject matter material
- Information gathering & documentation
- Draft document based on community input and conditions

Work Session



Visioning Workshop



Celebrate Our Place: What makes the City of Glens Falls unique?

Our Preferred Future: What can the City of Glens Falls be in 10 years?

Getting There: What are the key issues that need to be addressed to realize our preferred future?



Stakeholder Identification

Consultant Team will facilitate up to **four** stakeholder sessions.

Potential focus groups:

- Neighborhood residents
- Downtown residents
- Business owners
- Young professionals

Potential discussion topics:

- Housing and downtown development
- Transportation and mobility
- Public health and social services
- Open space, recreation, and cultural resources

Send stakeholder contact information to Pat Dowd at
communitydevelopment@cityofglensfalls.com

Next Steps



Next Steps



+ Community Participation Plan (CPP)

- Consultant Team will prepare draft CPP and email draft to Committee for review

+ Project Website

- Consultant Team will create a project website, with a tab for Steering Committee

+ Stakeholder Interviews

- Committee members email stakeholder contact info to Pat communitydevelopment@cityofglensfalls.com
- Consultant Team will facilitate interviews in November

+ Community Profile

- Committee members – email existing planning and economic studies to Pat
- Consultant Team to collect data and prepare maps

+ Upcoming Meeting(s)

- December – Stakeholder Interview summary
- January – Plan for Community Visioning Workshop #1