

THE SENECA FALLS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

On June 3, 2025, on behalf of the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee (CPIC), Committee Member Charlie Cappellino presented the Town Board with an overview of the CPIC and its progress thus far.

Committee members include Lisa Fitzgerald (Chairperson), Charles Cappellino, Fred Capozzi, Christine Van Dusen, Judy Wenzel. Each members has a variety of backgrounds with experience in developing and implementing comprehensive strategic plans.

Purpose of the Comprehensive Plan: Serve as guide for the Towns planning efforts and decision making over the next 20 years.

Background of the Comprehensive Plan: The plan was developed with significant community input including over 80 participants as well as a significant number of community members during the year of 2023. The plan was finalized and adopted by the town in October of 2023. All the CPIC members participated the development of the ADVANCE Seneca Falls 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Comprehensive Plan Priority Areas:

- Resident Retention and Attraction
- Economic Development and Fiscal Security
- Preservation and Enhancement of the Build and Natural Environment
- Curation of Arts, Culture and Placemaking

Each Policy area contains several Objectives. Example Policy Area 1 / Objective 1 is “Pursue opportunities that provide diverse and affordable housing”

Each Objective contains approximately 5-10 Action Items – (Show Action Plan table)

The Comprehensive Plan is available on the Town of Seneca Falls website under Your Government / Urban Initiatives.

Purpose of the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee:

The CPIC will:

- Oversee the implementation of this plan and the strategies outlined within it.
- Ensure actions are prioritized and recommend resources required for completion.
- Provide quarterly updates to the Town Board on progress and for input.

Progress to Date:

- Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee kicked off September 2024
- Met with Matt Horn of MRB and a nearby Town Manager that helped implement a comprehensive plan to learn about the implementation process.
- In an effort to understand activities that are already in process, we met with several local organizations to get an update on their progress. These included:
 - Town of Seneca Falls Parks and Recreation
 - Seneca County Planning and Community Development – Housing
 - Seneca County Chamber of Commerce and Town of Seneca Falls Visitor Center
 - Seneca Falls Development Corporation
 - More organizations will be engaged as needed.
- Assessed and updated the entire action register (>100-line items) from the Comprehensive Plan. We identified single owner for most action items. This has taken several long meetings to complete and will continue to evolve in the future.
- Held 2 meetings with local community leaders involved with grant writing to identify areas of opportunity to support the Comprehensive Plan funding needs.
- The Town of Seneca Falls Housing Committee was launched to explore ways of expanding housing options for new and existing residents.
- Launched the Fiscal Responsibility Committee to understand the Towns fiscal future with and without landfill revenue.

Communication Opportunity

The good news - there are a lot of great things going on in our community! More than most residents realize. We believe there is an opportunity to more broadly communicate what is happening in our town including improvement projects, events, etc. Some progress and opportunities:

- The Seneca Falls Development Corporation is in the process of launching a monthly newsletter.
- An annual town hall meeting at the Community Center has also been discussed to provide updates to community members. This may also provide an opportunity for local organizations to setup tables providing an update of their efforts and recruit volunteers from the community.

What are the Next steps for the CPIC?

- Identify, support and drive the top near-term priorities.
- Continue to update and further engage with the Town Board as needed.
- Finalize a communication strategy to further inform and engage our community.
- Provide input to the Town's 2026 budget process.

This presentation concluded with a request that if anyone would like to support this effort including joining any of the committees, to please contact any of the CPIC committee members.