

TOWN OF LAFAYETTE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)

Our town has secured a grant which will fund updating our Comprehensive Plan and our Hamlet Development plan. The Hamlet Development activities are the most time-critical planning activities, owing to our town's desire to leverage the municipal water planning opportunity potential resulting from the current Cardiff water activity. Our 2012 Comprehensive Plan highlighted the importance of regularly updating and reviewing our plan and recommended a 5 year update frequency.

What is the purpose of having a Comprehensive Plan?

A Comprehensive Plan sets the vision for the Town and establishes objectives and action steps the Town wants to achieve and implement over the next 10 years to reach its vision. The Comprehensive Plan provides guidance for land use and policy decisions made at the planning, zoning and town board levels. The Comprehensive Plan can also support securing grant funding to implement projects, like roadway, water, sewer, and other improvements. While only recommendatory in nature, the plan's value is indicated by the degree to which our community desires to see it implemented. It is important to remember that a comprehensive plan and a zoning ordinance are two separate tools that are used in conjunction with one another. A Comprehensive Plan recommends how land should be used to meet the needs and desires of the community, whereas a zoning ordinance regulates land uses. Once a Comprehensive Plan is adopted by a municipality, New York State Town Law suggests that the zoning ordinance "should be in accordance with an approved Comprehensive Plan".

Why is the town updating the Comprehensive Plan now?

Comprehensive Plans typically need updating every 5-10 years to respond to the changing dynamics related to development and infrastructure needs, and this is in line with the recommendations from our previous plan. In addition to this, there are currently funding opportunities the Town can take advantage of and an updated Plan can help increase the Town's competitiveness for accessing such funding sources.

What is included in our Comprehensive Plan Update?

The Plan includes these main sections:

Chapter 1: Introduction – Overview of the planning process, intent, benefits, and expected outcomes.

Chapter 2: Community Profile – This section describes the current state of the community and includes historical context. It describes current zoning and land use, community assets and resources and includes several descriptive maps.

Chapter 3: Vision and Goal Framework – This section defines the community vision (what do we want to be in 10-20 years?) and goal framework used in the plan, outlines the five major community goals and the objectives and action items intended to achieve the stated goals.

Chapter 4: Community Development Framework – This section will include an envisioned future land use map, as well as a Hamlet development strategy that will identify the preferred future character of the Hamlet, and strategies and tools for ensuring future development is in align with the Town's vision.

Chapter 5: Implementation Matrix – This section creates the details required to turn the specified actions into a prioritized actionable plan.

What is B&L's (our Planning Consultant) role in developing the Comprehensive Plan Update?

The Town received a grant to retain Barton & Loguidice (B&L) to facilitate, guide, and educate the town throughout the planning process. B&L recommends Plan structure, content, format and scope based on their experience and knowledge of best practices, including:

- Offer recommendations about planning and land use options available and appropriate for our town
- Complete specific technical tasks and create deliverables including draft plans and presentation materials



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- Develop community surveys and presents results to the Town
- Develop materials needed for community Open House presentations and support informational sessions about the plan.
- Facilitates NYS's environmental review (State Environmental Quality Review Act) and Plan adoption process with the Town Board.

Is the Comprehensive Plan a legally binding document?

No. While not legally binding, the Comprehensive Plan guides the Town's decision making. When plan elements are not supported by our town ordinances, these ordinances would need to be amended in order to legally ensure implementation of the plan provisions.

How can LaFayette residents provide input to the Comprehensive Plan Update?

In June, LaFayette residents were asked, via a Facebook posting, to participate in an online survey by answering questions related to the Town's strength, challenges and opportunities. In October, residents will be asked to participate in a community open house where they can share their ideas about the draft Plan Update. A draft of the Plan Update will be posted for community review in mid-October, so please check our Facebook page around that time. There will also be two public hearings, tentatively scheduled for October and December, offering additional public input to the plan. Draft versions of each Chapter will be uploaded periodically throughout the planning process for public review, as well.

What are the remaining steps and timelines to complete the Comprehensive Plan?

Remaining Steps	Estimated Timeline
Development of Draft Chapters 4 & 5	September 2021
Tiger Team Meeting to Review Complete Draft (Closed to Public)	Late September 2021
Complete Draft Comprehensive Plan posted on website for public review	Mid-October 2021
Public Open House & Tiger Team Committee Public Hearing	Late October 2021
Final Draft Comprehensive Plan posted on website for public review	Mid-November 2021
State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Process	November 2021
County Planning Referral	November 2021
Town Board Public Hearing for Plan Adoption	December 14, 2021

Is the updated Plan considered an amendment or a replacement of the 2012 Comprehensive Plan?

This new Comprehensive Plan is an update to the 2012 Plan. While much of the content of the 2012 is nearly ten years old, a lot of it remains relevant and will be incorporated into the new Plan along with new material and best practices. However, once the new Plan is adopted by the Town Board at the end of 2021, it will effectively replace the 2012 Plan.

What happens after the Comprehensive Plan Update is completed and adopted?

The Plan Update will include specific action steps that the Town will execute. It will also identify those who are responsible for executing the action steps as well as the timeframe. Those groups will begin their work in January 2022. An implementation team will check on the progress and find ways to assist.

