



TOWN OF ULYSSES

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

A Resolution Recommending that the Town Board Adopt the Ulysses 2045 Comprehensive Plan

WHEREAS THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE FINDS THE FOLLOWING:

1. The intent of New York State legislature under the Consolidated Laws of New York (CLNY) Chapter 62 Article 16 Section 272-A encourages, but does not require, the preparation and adoption of a comprehensive plan (Comp Plan) for the purpose of protecting the public health, safety, and general welfare of its citizens; and
2. The Town of Ulysses completed its last periodic update to the Comp Plan in 2009 but did not conduct any annual update or any other update since its adoption; and
3. The Town of Ulysses applied for and received a grant from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) as part of the 2022 Climate Smart Communities Grant Program; and
4. The Ulysses Town Board created a Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (CPSC); charged it with the preparation of a draft Comp Plan and related public engagement with the assistance of a Planning Consultant (Consultant); appointed the first members on December 13, 2022; and resolved to continue outreach efforts to attract and appoint additional members; and
5. The CPSC first met on April 17, 2023 to develop committee rules, to develop a work plan, and to start research on best practices for the Comp Plan; and
6. DEC finalized the grant contract with the Town on November 21, 2023, approved the CPSC's work plan and process to proceed with Consultant acquisition; and
7. The CPSC in coordination with Town Staff directed the development and release of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a Consultant; and
8. The CPSC conducted interviews for Consultants on April 18, 2024; deliberated on the qualifications and proposals of the applicants during their May 9, 2024 and June 5, 2024 meetings; and indicated a majority preference for MRB Group (MRB) to be the Consultant at the June 5, 2024 meeting; and
9. The Town Board resolved to select MRB as the Consultant during their June 25, 2024 meeting and the Town subsequently entered into a contract with MRB to act as the Consultant to facilitate the development of the draft Comp Plan and to assist in public engagement; and
10. The CPSC in coordination with the Consultant led the public review and development of the draft Comp Plan, including 40 meetings and workshops, five public pop-up events, three public open houses, and 12 public hearings; and

11. The Town Board approved a Public Involvement Plan (PIP) on September 24, 2024 developed by the CPSC that identified stakeholders and outlined a broad process to engage members of the public in the development of the Comp Plan; and
12. Early and continuous public participation was encouraged throughout the periodic update process following the PIP; and
13. The Consultant led a series of targeted focus groups to identify strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities related to planned specific elements of the Comp Plan with noted stakeholders identified in the PIP and with members of the public; and
14. The first focus group was held on October 24, 2024 to discuss economic development, housing, and historic preservation and the built environment, and the CPSC reviewed the result of stakeholder input during their November 6, 2024 meeting; and
15. The Consultant conducted a series of interviews with professional staff and elected officials on October 24, 2024 to identify strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities for the town, and the CPSC reviewed the result of that input during their November 6, 2024 meeting; and
16. The second focus group was held on November 15, 2024 to discuss environment and natural resources, and climate change and resilience, and the CPSC reviewed the result of stakeholder input during their December 4, 2024 meeting; and
17. The third focus group was held on December 13, 2024 to discuss capital facilities, community well-being, and transportation, and the CPSC reviewed the result of stakeholder input during their January 8, 2025 meeting; and
18. The fourth focus group was held on March 13, 2025 to discuss agriculture and land use, and the CPSC reviewed the result of stakeholder input during their April 2, 2025 meeting; and
19. The Consultant, under direction of the CPSC, developed a community-wide survey that was released to members of the public on December 7, 2024 and was available for input through March 2025, and the CPSC reviewed the results of the survey during their April 2, 2025 and May 7, 2025 meetings; and
20. The CPSC in coordination with the Consultant conducted the first joint session with Town Board members on January 8, 2025 to develop a Vision Statement; reviewed drafts of the vision statement during their February 5, 2025 and March 5, 2025 meetings; conducted a second joint session with Town Board members during their April 2, 2025 meeting; reviewed revised drafts of the vision statement during their May 7, 2025 meeting; and discussed the majority preferred Vision Statement during their June 4, 2025 meeting; and
21. The CPSC in coordination with the Consultant conducted the first public open house on March 19, 2025 which presented the preliminary draft Vision Statement and solicited input to identify the strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities related to economic development, housing, built environment, environment & natural resources, climate change & resilience, capital facilities, community well-being, transportation, agriculture and land use, and the CPSC reviewed the result of the open house input during their April 2, 2025 meeting; and

22. Development of the draft elements of the Comp Plan was conducted in a phased process; the CPSC reviewed initial drafts of the Housing and Built Environment elements during their May 7, 2025 meeting; reviewed initial drafts of the Economic Development, Environment & Natural Resources, and Climate Change & Resilience elements during their June 4, 2025 meeting; reviewed initial drafts of the Transportation and Community Well-Being elements during their July 2, 2025 meeting; reviewed an initial draft of the Capital Facilities element during their August 6, 2025 meeting; reviewed materials and started workshopping the Future Land Use Map (FLUM) during the September 3, 2025 meeting; and reviewed initial drafts of the Land Use element, FLUM, and Introduction chapter during the September 24, 2025 meeting; and
23. The CPSC directed the release of initial drafts of the Comp Plan elements for public dissemination in a phased process; the Housing, Built Environment, Economic Development, Environment & Natural Resources, and Climate Change & Resilience elements were available to the public after their July 2, 2025 meeting; and the Capital Facilities, Community Well-Being, Transportation, Agriculture and Land Use elements were available to the public on October 6, 2025; and
24. The CPSC is required under CLNY 62.16.272-A.6.b to hold a public hearing on the proposed Comp Plan; and
25. Notice of the public hearing was published in the Ithaca Journal, was posted on the Town's Public Legal Notice Board, was posted on the Town's webpage, and was mailed to over 2,400 known property owners, stakeholders, and interested agencies; and
26. The CPSC conducted public hearings on the first draft of the Comp Plan in a phased process starting on September 3, 2025 to receive public input on the Housing, Economic Development, and Built Environment elements; continued their public hearing on September 24, 2025 for public input on the Environment & Natural Resources, Climate Change & Resiliency, and Built Environment elements; continued their public hearing on October 8, 2025 for public input on the Community Well-Being and Capital Facilities elements; continued their public hearing on October 22, 2025 on the Transportation and Land Use elements; and continued their public hearings on November 5, 2025, December 10, 2025, January 14, 2026, and January 28, 2026 for public input on the full draft Comp Plan; and
27. The CPSC in coordination with the Consultant conducted a second public open house on October 6, 2025 which presented the draft plan and solicited input, and the CPSC reviewed the result of the open house input during their October 8, 2025 meeting; and
28. The CPSC in coordination with the Consultant conducted a third public open house on November 19, 2025 to solicit additional public input, and the CPSC reviewed results during their December 10, 2025 meeting; and
29. A revised second draft of the Comp Plan was released February 2, 2026 that incorporated amendments made by the CPSC in response to public input; and

30. The CPSC continued their public hearings on February 11, 2026, February 25, 2026, and March 11, 2026 for additional public input on the draft Comp Plan; and
31. The CPSC in coordination with the Consultant conducted a targeted four-hour workshop on March 7, 2026 to make amendments to the draft FLUM in response to public input; and
32. A revised third draft of the Comp Plan was released on March 18, 2026 that incorporated amendments made by the CPSC in response to public input; and
33. The CPSC conducted their last public hearing on March 25, 2026 where it reviewed the revised draft and received public input;

NOW THEREFORE THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE RESOLVES THE FOLLOWING:

1. The CPSC recommends that the Town Board adopt the Ulysses 2045 Comprehensive Plan as presented in Attachment A (,with the modifications listed below: (as needed))
 - A. **(Chapter Title: e.g. Add a new policy to...)**
 - B. **(Chapter Title: e.g. Remove proposed policy...)**
 - C. **(Chapter Title: e.g. Amend Policy XX.XX.XX/2nd paragraph on Page XX/etc. as follows: (Full text w/ ~~strikeout~~/underscore redlines))**
2. The CPSC also recommends the Town Board direct the Planning Board to develop a recommended implementation strategy for the Comp Plan prior to the 2027 budget season.
3. The CPSC further recommends the Town Board pass a Resolution of Dissolution for the Committee as soon as is agreeable to the Board and should the Town Board consider the Committee has fulfilled its charge of preparing the draft Comp Plan and related public engagement thus far; and additionally, that the Planning Board be charged with preparing annual updates to the Comp Plan or as may be needed or directed by the Town Board.