

Comprehensive Plan Assessment Committee (CPAC)

Bethlehem's Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 2005, resulting in revisions to its zoning and related codes. The Plan identifies goals, objectives, principles, guidelines, policies, and standards for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of the Town. In 2007, a Comprehensive Plan Oversight Committee (CPOC) was convened, which issued a variety of recommendations, one of which was to periodically review the Comprehensive Plan. Since CPOC's review, the zoning codes have been revised several times, new studies have been issued, and economic conditions have changed. It is therefore a good time to review the Plan to ensure that its goals are being met, broadly shared, and that the public understands how the Plan and land use controls operate.

Mission: To evaluate progress on the goals and objectives of the 2005 Comprehensive Plan and subsequent CPOC report to determine whether changes, additions or deletions are appropriate, considering changes in the community, the economic climate, as well as recommendations from advisory committees and the community at large. Broad subtasks include:

- 1) Review Comp Plan status (report prepared by staff)
- 2) Develop Public Information on Land Use Issues
- 3) Review of overall development patterns and projects
- 4) Identification of development and planning issues
- 5) Development of Public Engagement Process
- 6) Evaluate Planning issues identified by community participation.

Committee Operation: CPAC will involve objective fact-finding as well as broad public participation. The Committee will include Town officials and staff as well as citizens chosen to represent a cross-section of the community (a "focus panel"). The Town staff can provide baseline information, background reporting, etc., with the community members adding their experience and perspective. However, as the primary goal of this effort is to facilitate broad public participation, the Committee will also utilize surveys, public forums and any other appropriate methods to gather public input.

Public Engagement Process: CPAC will develop a public engagement process using local forums, surveys and other tools to provide for public input and public education on the current plan, land use and related issues. CPAC should provide for outreach to community leaders and residents of each neighborhood or area of town and conduct meetings that focus on interests to such areas. CPAC should also incorporate contact with other interested parties in its review: including the business community, industry, agricultural interests, neighboring municipalities and other municipal jurisdictions.

End Product: A report on progress in achieving Comp Plan goals and objectives that establishes a priority for remaining and new goals and initiatives, and identifies next steps and a proposed timetable for implementation.

Town Officials

Supervisor – John Clarkson
Deputy Supervisor – John Smolinsky
Town Board Member – Kyle Kotary
Planning Board Chair – George Leveille
Zoning Board Chair – Dan Coffey
Director DEDP – Mike Morelli

Community Members

David Barnet
James Booker
Jessica Brand
Joseph Castiglione
Mark Hennessey
Linda Jasinski
Edward Kleinke

Jill Knapp
Valerie Newell
John Privitera
Lee Rosen
Loretta Simon
Bruce Smith
Paul Tick
David VanLuven