

Town and Village of Liberty Joint Comprehensive Plan Meeting, February 11, 2026 6-8pm, Senior Center

Meeting summary

Quick recap

The meeting focused on launching a comprehensive planning process for the Town and Village of Liberty, with Peter Manning presenting an overview of the planning process and timeline. The steering committee was introduced, along with advisory groups that will focus on specific topics such as land use, transportation, and economic development. Participants were encouraged to review the existing 2008 comprehensive plan and provide feedback on its strengths and weaknesses. The group discussed the importance of public participation and the need for inter-municipal cooperation between the town and village. Manning explained a comprehensive plan is not a regulatory document but will serve as a guide for future decision-making and development. The conversation ended with an invitation for community members to join advisory groups and provide input on the planning process.

Next steps

- [All participants: Encourage neighbors and community members to participate in the Comprehensive Plan process and attend future meetings](#)
- [All participants: Fill out and submit the survey \(available online and in print\) to provide input](#)
- [All participants: Review the existing 2008 Comprehensive Plan \(available on the Town of Liberty website\) and provide comments on its relevance, completed items, and areas for improvement](#)
- [All participants: Complete and submit index cards identifying 3-5 strengths/assets and 3-5 weaknesses/liabilities \(or concerns\) for Liberty and the village](#)
- [Advisory group members: Begin forming topic-based advisory groups and prepare presentations on baseline information, analysis, and recommendations for their assigned topics for future meetings](#)
- [Peter Manning \(and/or meeting organizers\): Post a link to the recent Tustin comprehensive plan as an example on the project webpage](#)
- [Peter Manning \(and/or meeting organizers\): Update and share the list of interested group members and their contact information via email](#)
- [Peter Manning \(and/or meeting organizers\): Schedule the next meeting for the second Wednesday of the following month](#)
- [All interested participants: Indicate to Nick \(or the organizers\) if they wish to join specific advisory or special interest groups](#)
- [Peter Manning \(and/or meeting organizers\): Post meeting minutes, presentations, and updates on the Town of Liberty website under "documents and forms" > "Comprehensive Plan"](#)
- [Advisory/Special Interest Groups: Volunteer to present findings to the full group at upcoming meetings \(target: two months from now, or three if needed\)](#)

The meeting introduced the start of a comprehensive planning process for Liberty, with the goal of updating the existing plan (really creating a new plan) last updated in 2008. Liberty's supervisor emphasized the importance of public participation and encouraged attendees to engage in the process, which is expected to take 12-14 months to complete. Peter Manning, the planner and facilitator, highlighted the community-focused nature of the comprehensive plan and encouraged dialogue among participants. The conversation ended with an emphasis on the need for community input and the importance of updating the plan regularly to adopt to future changes.

While a comprehensive plan is not mandatory, it offers significant benefits such as improved grant opportunities and a more welcoming environment for economic growth. A plan is also important as a tool to express community organization and predictability to potential developers and residents. Attendees were encouraged to engage in the process, tailor it to their needs, and review relevant statutes (Town Law §272-a) for a better understanding of the planning process.

Also discussed was the importance of a comprehensive plan as a foundation for land use regulations, serving a potential role in legal challenges and to show community organization. The next comprehensive planning meeting will be held on March 11th at 6 PM at the Senior Center. The town also has a project webpage for further information.

Manning also discussed the concept of inter-municipal cooperation in New York State, highlighting the large number of local governments and their home rule authority. He explained that while local governments want to retain autonomy, there are incentives for collaboration to improve efficiency and save money. Also touched upon was the potential for joint planning efforts between towns and villages, while acknowledging that some forms of cooperation, such as joint planning boards, may be too complex for the current project.

The structure of the plan and the process in creating it was also explained. The plan will include sections on topics like housing, agriculture, and transportation. Manning described how the plan will have a steering committee to guide the process, followed by working groups to address specific areas. Each section will include a background, current state, vision statement, and recommendations for implementation. The plan will incorporate population statistics, demographics, and information from related plans, such as the town of Liberty's agriculture and protection plan.

The group discussed the need for public participation, including a survey and review of the existing plan, and emphasized the importance of balancing detail and specificity in the comprehensive plan. Also addressed was the need to schedule meetings and the formation of special interest groups to address specific topics within the plan.