# COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION PLAN FOR THE SMART GROWTH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF HUNTER, VILLAGE OF HUNTER AND VILLAGE OF TANNERSVILLE, NY

## 1. PURPOSE

The Community Participation Plan identifies a variety of forums and outreach mechanisms to engage all interested persons in the development and preparation of the Intermunicipal Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan prepared by the Town of Hunter, NY and the Villages of Hunter and Tannersville NY, with the NYS Department of State (NYS DOS) and the appointed Intermunicipal Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan Committee. All meetings will be advertised and are open to the public.

The Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan community engagement process will reflect the Town and each Village's commitment to inclusion, employing multiple, diverse methods of communication and tools for gathering input. The public engagement process for the intermunicipal comprehensive plan will begin with developing this comprehensive citizen participation plan. The process will include a fully accessible website, interviews, focus groups and community events potentially including pop up events, meetings, workshops or open houses. Information updates will be posted and distributed, and a contact database will be maintained. The Town and Villages will work with local and regional service agencies to reach typically underrepresented stakeholders. All documents, websites, social media and survey sites will be fully accessible and screen-reader friendly. Other accessibility accommodations will be available upon request and all sites for in-person events will be ADA compliant. The best methods will be identified at the beginning of the project by the intermunicipal staff, the consultant team and Intermunicipal Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan Committee and the Department and will include the components laid out in the following sections.

## 2. COMPONENTS OF THE PARTICIPATION PLAN

An Intermunicipal Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan Committee will be engaged in identifying the best methods to reach the community throughout the process and developing a community participation plan, which will include the development of an interactive and accessible website, interviews with local and regional stakeholders, a community survey, public workshops, and additional communication via email, news outlets, social media and potentially printed mailers. Other responsibilities include:

- Regular Comp Plan Committee Meetings
- Coordination meetings with NYS DOS Consultant Team and the Town
- Outreach through various media in partnership with multiple organizations
- Dedicated project web page at www.townofhunterny.gov/smartgrowthcompplan that will be established as part of the Town of Hunter website
- At least two community meetings
- Community survey
- Interviews and focus groups, as appropriate
- Presentation to the local municipal boards
- Public Hearing for Adoption
- Public meetings as part of SEQR
- Ongoing coordination with NYS DOS

## 3. CURRENT AND NEW PARTNERS

The communities are interested in broadening their stakeholder base. The following list will change, but to start key partners are:

- The Town of Hunter, Village of Tannersville and Village of Hunter administration and departments (as needed)
- Town and Village Boards
- Town and Village residents (including tenants), merchants and property owners
- Town of Hunter and Village standing committees
- Town of Hunter Chamber of Commerce
- Greene County Chamber of Commerce
- Community-Serving Organizations: School District, Library, United Way, Tannersville and Haines Falls Fire Departments, EMS, etc.
- Nearby Greene County Towns: Ashland, Catskill, Halcott, Jewitt, Lexington, Prattsville, Windham; as well as Town of Catskill as County Seat.
- County Agencies: Greene County Economic Development, Tourism & Planning; Soil and Water Conservation District (GCSWCD) Watershed Assistance Program
- NYC Department of Environmental Protection
- State Agencies: NYS DOS, DEC, OPRHP, DOT, HCR, DHSES, etc. as appropriate.
- State and Federal Legislative Delegations and Federal Agencies: EPA, NOAA, EDA, FEMA/HHS, Fish and Wildlife
- NGO's: Catskill Center for Conservation/Development, Catskill Mountain Foundation, Greene Land Trust, Hunter Foundation, Hunter Area Trails Coalition (HATC), Hunter Mountain Outfitters (Windham Area Recreation Foundation), Mountain Top Arboretum, Mountain Top Historical Society, Nature Conservancy, New York/New Jersey Trail Conference, Open Space Institute, Scenic Byway, Stronger Together Committee, Trout Unlimited, Trust for Public Lands, etc.

## 4. KEY CONTACTS AND CORE TEAM MEMBERS

The Core Team includes the Town of Hunter Supervisor, Sean Mahoney and Administrative Assistants Susan Graham and Allison Curran; Intermunicipal Committee Co-Chairs, Marc Czermerys and David Kukle; and the NYS Department of State Revitalization Specialist, Gina DaBiere-Gibbs. For the Consultant Team lead, River Street Planning & Development, assigned staff include Margaret Irwin and Christina Snyder.

| TOWN OF HUNTER, NY – SMART GROWTH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - CORE TEAM ROSTER | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Name** | **Address** | **Email** | **Phone** |
| Sean Mahoney, Supervisor | Town Hall, 5748 Route 23A Tannersville, NY 12485 | smahoney@townofhuntergov.com | 518-589-6151, Ext 312 |
| Susan Graham, Town Admin. Asst. | Town Hall, 5748 Route 23A Tannersville, NY 12485 | sgraham@townofhuntergov.com | 518-589-6151, Ext 317 |
| Allison Curren, Town Admin. Asst. | Town Hall, 5748 Route 23A Tannersville, NY 12485 | acurran@townofhuntergov.com | 518-589-6151 |
| Marc Czermerys Chairperson | Town Hall, 5748 Route 23A, Tannersville, NY 12485 | mczermerys@townofhuntergov.com | 518- 589-6151 Ext 304 |
| David Kukle, Co-Chair | Town Hall, 5748 Route 23A, Tannersville, NY 12485 | dkukle@townofhuntergov.com | 518-514-8140 |
| Gina DaBiere-Gibbs | 99 Washington Ave. Suite 1010, Albany, NY 12231 | gina.dabiere-gibbs@dos.ny.gov | 518-486-3984 |

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| Margaret Irwin and<br>Christina Snyder,<br>River Street Planning | 4 Ridge Road<br>Troy, NY, 12180 | mirwin@riverstreet.org<br>csnyder@riverstreet.org | 518-441-1496<br>917-930-0306 |

## 5. INTERMUNICIPAL SMART GROWTH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The planning process will kick-off and be overseen by an Intermunicipal Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan Committee that will meet on a regular basis. The 15-member committee will include residents from a range of ethnic, social and cultural backgrounds and diverse range of stakeholders such as life-long residents and newcomers, business owners, underrepresented populations, civic leaders, elected officials, environmental experts, community organizers, and recreation enthusiasts.

The Intermunicipal Comprehensive Plan Committee responsibilities include providing valuable input on issues and existing local conditions; attending regular committee meetings and public meetings; informing others in the community about the process and how they can be involved; reviewing reports, designs and other documents; keeping elected officials and municipal officials informed about the planning process; working with Town staff to complete tasks relating to the development of the Comprehensive Plan.

**Membership:** Committee members listed below.

**Public Participation:** All meetings publicly noticed are open to the public.

**Notification:** Email/phone call from town staff or consultants.

**Schedule:** As needed to monitor progress and review interim and final documents and plans. Many identified members are also residents and small business owners.

| INTERMUNICIPAL SMART GROWTH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN MEMBERS (15 MEMBERS - ALL RESIDENTS) | | | |
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| **TOWN AT LARGE REPRESENTATIVES** | | | |
| **Name** | **Affiliations** | **Email** | **Phone** |
| Marc Czermerys | Planning Board Chair, Immaculate Conception Church, Village Planning and Zoning Coordinator, Mountain Top Cares, Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway | mczermerys@townofhuntergov.com | 518-514-8530 |
| David Kukle | Town Council, Mountain Cloves Scenic Byway, Catskill Center Board | dkukle@townofhuntergov.com | 518-514-8140 |
| Trent Poole | General Manager Hunter Mountain and Vice President Vail Resorts | gpoole@vailresorts.com | 518-263-4666 |
| Sarah Slutzky | School Board Member, Chamber of Commerce | Sarah.slutzky@vailresorts.com | 845-849-5523 |
| Ismael Villafane | High School Principal, Business Owner | ivillafane@htcschools.org | 518-589-5880 x1100 |
| Daryl Mercer | Platte Clove Community Rep. | darylmercer@ccimail.com | |
| Neal Chernin | Local Resident | nchernin@gmail.com | |
| Aleksandra Smith | Town Planning Board Member | asmith@townofhuntergov.com | 617-694-8592 |
| Robert Johnson | Lanesville Resident, Stony Clove Rod & Gun Club, HD Lane Fire Co. | stoneycloveinc@gmail.com | |
| **VILLAGE OF HUNTER REPRESENTATIVES** | | | |
| Paul Slutzky | Village Planning Chair | pslutzky@villageofhunterny.com | 518-821-4175 |
| Harout Dermenjian | Village Planning Board, businessowner | Haroutd1974@gmail.com | |
| Kevin McArdle | Local Attorney | kevinjmcardle@gmail.com | |

| VILLAGE OF HUNTER TANNERSVILLE REPRESENTATIVES | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| George Kelly | Village Trustee and Deputy Mayor | gkelly@tannersvilleny.gov | 631-926-7175 |
| Kody Leach | Village Trustee | kleach@tannersvilleny.gov | |
| Serhiy Yevtushkenko | Businessowner | sergiotorodesign@yahoo.com | 646-678-9571 |

**Identified Agencies/Other Interest Groups, Non-Governmental Organizations:** Catskill Center for Conservation/ Development, Catskill Mountain Foundation, Greene Land Trust, Hunter Foundation, Hunter Area Trails Coalition (HATC), Hunter Mountain Outfitters (Windham Area Recreation Foundation), Mountain Top Arboretum, Mountain Top Historical Society, Nature Conservancy, New York/New Jersey Trail Conference, Open Space Institute, Scenic Byway, Stronger Together Committee, Trout Unlimited, Trust for Public Lands, etc.

### Community Participation Plan

**Outreach Efforts:** Outreach efforts will include providing a call-in/phone option for meetings and engagement events and providing text reminders, posting flyers and posters in gathering areas, community services and other locations as appropriate.

**Notification:** Members are notified of all meetings and may be surveyed or interviewed, as necessary.

## 6. COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

**Community Workshop One: Visioning Workshop –** To establish a vision statement and goals, a visioning workshop will be held to gain input from the community on their priorities for the future of the town. This will be held after the community profile is developed so that some of those findings can be shared at the workshop. The first workshop will inform the public about the findings of the planning process conducted up to this point; present a clear assessment of how Smart Growth policies are integrated in the municipality's planning efforts, governmental decisions, and ongoing initiatives; and will solicit public input on existing resources, community character, and future growth. The workshop will be advertised with generous advance notice to garner maximum publicity, awareness, and participation. The site of the workshops will be accessible to the public. The first workshop will review and update the Town's SWOT, Vision and Goals.

**Pro-Housing Community Law Meeting –** Public input for developing a local law addressing support for the Town of Hunter to be a Pro-Housing Community will include stakeholder interviews with residents, realtors, private and nonprofit housing development organizations, faith-based communities and other community service providers. This will emphasize input from local businesses who have identified workforce housing as a critical need. The Town/Consultants will collect data from the public about specific housing needs and market considerations. This meeting will also highlight the Pro-Housing Community Law and data from the ongoing needs assessment and market analysis being prepared by Liz Kormos and Associates. This event will be highly interactive with large group discussion and activities as well as display stations for people to digest information and provide input at their own pace; it will also include online facilitation if necessary or preferred.

**Community Workshop Two: Resilient Catalyst Projects –** Once the action plan with catalyst projects has been developed, a presentation will be made to update the community and gather input prior to finalizing the comprehensive plan for Town and Village Boards consideration. The second workshop will provide information and solicit input on key Catalyst Projects under consideration. This meeting will also present findings of the Pro-Housing Community Law needs assessments. The workshop will be advertised with generous advance notice to garner maximum publicity, awareness, and participation. The site of the workshops will be accessible to the public.

**Public Hearing –** After the draft comprehensive plan has been approved by the Hunter Town Board and the Village Boards of Hunter and Tannersville, has been through SEQR and County Planning Board and County Agriculture Review (if needed), and updates are made in response to these reviews as well as NYS DOS and NYS DEC input through the Catskill Smart Growth Program, a public hearing will be held prior to and as part of the formal adoption process.

The Town and both Villages will hold a joint public hearing prior to adoption of the comprehensive plan. Notice of the public

hearing will be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the community at least ten calendar days in advance of the hearing. The proposed comprehensive plan will be made available for public review during said period at the office of the Town Clerk and public library and will be posted on the municipal website. The public hearing(s) may also be publicized in the community through press releases, announcements, individual mailings, and any other appropriate means

**Participants:** The public including interest groups identified above, individuals, and other community groups.

**Graphics:** NYS Department of State will be copied on all media and provided with draft materials and final copies. The Town can assist by providing draft materials such as save the date cards for mailing and emailing, language for an email blast, press release, flyers, and posters. Information will be shared on the Comprehensive Plan page of the Town of Hunter website.

## 7. OTHER MEANS OF COMMUNITY INPUT

**Community Survey -** The survey will solicit perspectives from residents on local conditions, issues, challenges, and opportunities, vision, and goals. The Committee and consultant will develop an online community survey that could also be provided in paper format to gather input on current local conditions and issues, opportunities, strengths, and weaknesses to inform direction on the comprehensive plan update.

**Stakeholder Interviews/Focus Groups -** The Committee will identify local and regional partners and conduct in-person or virtual interviews if appropriate and/or develop focus groups around key topics (for example, all appropriate smart growth principles, housing choice, resilience and climate adaptation, recreation, economic development, youth and senior services) and ready-to-go initiatives that achieve the community's vision and goals. The Committee possesses the technical skills to identify projects to evaluate and tee up sustainable investments over a 5-to-10-year period and identify a range of funding to support the Town's successful implementation of model project.

**Project Website -** The Town and Villages will offer online content through designated pages of the Town of Hunter website. It will be used to maintain contacts, share information about events, gather public input and comments, provide announcements, survey links, draft documents, links to other resources, and post recorded meetings, power point presentations, "join at your own pace" events, and more. The site will include:

- Announcements on available websites and social media
- Announcements on local radio stations including: WRIP Mountaintop Radio and WIOX
- Press releases to local media including: The Mountain Eagle, The Daily Gazette (Hudson Valley 360), and the Catskill Daily Mail
- Flyers distributed at local events including Rotary luncheon, church bulletins etc., as needed
- E-mails to organizations of PAC members and organizations like the Chamber of Commerce, etc.

| Organization | Location | Phone | Email and Links |
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| **Television and Radio Outlets** | | | |
| WRIP 97.9FM – Mountaintop Radio | 265 South Street, PO Box 979 Windham, NY. 12496 | 518-734-4747 | wrip979@gmail.com |
| WIOX 91.3FM | PO Box 100. 2335 County Route 41 Roxbury, NY 12474 | 607-326-3900 | wiox@wioxradio.org |
| WCTW Radio -I Heart Radio | 5620 County Route 14, Hudson, NY | 518-828-5006 | |
| WGXC Radio | 344 Main St, Catskill, NY | 518-622-2598 | info@wgxc.org |
| Radio Catskill 90.5 FM | 2758 NY-52 Liberty, NY 12754 | 518-966-4747 | feedback@wjffradio.org 845-482-4141 |
| **Newspaper Outlets** | | | |
| The Mountain Eagle | PO Box 162, Schoharie, NY 12157 | (518) 763-6854 | mountaineaglenews@gmail.com |

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| Times Union Newspaper | 645 Albany Shaker Rd. Colonie, NY | (518) 454-5694; 518-374-4141 ext. 01095 | dana.gerdes@chron.com; molly.renaud@timesunion.com; erica.smith@timesunion.com Times Union |
| Catskill Daily Mail Newspaper | 364 Warren Street, Suite 1, Hudson, NY 12206 | (518) 943-2100 | circulation@registerstar.com; editorial@thedailymail.net |
| HudsonValley360/The Daily Gazette/Hudson Register Star | 127 Warren Street, Hudson, NY | (518) 828-1616 | editorial@registerstar.com reed@dailygazette.com circulation@dailygazette.net Hudsonvalley360.com \| dailygazette.com |
| Kingston Freeman | P.O. Box 4470 Kingston, NY 12401 | 845-331-5000 | editorial@registerstar.com https://www.dailyfreeman.com |
| Catskills Reporter | 39 Elm Street, Delhi, NY 13753 | 607-464-4009 | news@the-reporter.net |
| Hudson Valley News | One Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 | | Newsroom: news@midhudsonnews.com news@statewidenews.com |

## 9. INTERVIEWS AND COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER SURVEYS AS NECESSARY

**Purpose:** Plan and schedule interviews with stakeholders including merchants to obtain their vision for the Town, input and feedback regarding elements of the project. This input will be shared with the Intermunicipal Smart Growth Comp Plan Committee members and NYS DOS.

**Participants:** A list will be developed based upon stakeholders identified by the committee, NYS DOS, NYS DEC and the Consultant Team. Participation may vary but will include people with interest or knowledge in the topics related to the Comprehensive Plan:

- Town Municipal Officials and Boards
- Town Elected Officials and Board Members
- Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Nonprofit organizations with a stake in the area
- County Economic Development Offices
- County or Local Development Corporations
- County Industrial Development Agencies
- County Planning Departments
- NYS ESD, NYS Regional Councils

**Notification:** Telephone call, direct mail or email.

**Schedule:** Beginning in April 2026 with potential follow-up sessions as needed, concluding in September 2026

## 10. CONSULTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS AND REPORTING

**Purpose:** Regular ongoing formal and informal communication between the Town, NYS DOS, NYS DEC, the Committee, and Consultant Team for monitoring and smooth flow of tasks.

**Participants:** Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, Comp Plan Committee, NYS DOS, NYS DEC, representatives from Consultant Team.

**Notification:** E-mail among participants.

**Schedule:** As needed with meeting notes or audio recordings.