

## Plattsburgh Town updating Land Use Plan

By **DAN HEATH**  
Staff Writer

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— PLATTSBURGH — Progress continues as the Town of Plattsburgh works to update its Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

The next major step is to select a planning consultant to work with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan Committee, according to its chairman, Dr. Colin Read.

That firm or individual will be selected by the Plattsburgh Town Council, but the committee will be able to make recommendations on each consultant's qualifications.

### **NARROWING THE FIELD**

A field of 11 potential planning consultants responded to a request for qualifications sent out by the town in December.

Those response packages were scored by members of the committee, which will meet with six of those applicants: three on Feb. 5 and three on Feb. 12.

"We hope to narrow it down to three in this next round," Read said.

With multiple candidates, the Town Council should have some choices as to how much it spends on a consultant.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

Town Councilor Martin Mannix, one of two town councilors on the committee, said the person who makes the presentation is an important part of those meetings.

"We want the presentation to be made by the person we're going to be working with the most."

Read said the idea is to allow each candidate about 20 to 25 minutes to talk to the committee members and make them confident the two parties can work well together.

"This will be an example that they can work under pressure. That will be a key for whoever is selected to work with us."

In addition to qualifications, each firm or individual is expected to show its perspective of the town, how it will help update and revise the current plan while working within the town's financial resources and an ability to fast-track rezoning of the former County Airport property. Other considerations include how the prospective consultant will help develop a plan that creates sustainable community development that will be effective up to 15 years in the future and create affordable, diverse neighborhoods with good jobs, housing

and business opportunities.

The successful applicant will have to demonstrate an ability to develop an environmentally friendly, "green" community and be able to include recreational strategies.

Committee member Tim Palmer said each firm should be able to show how the current economy affects what it can do for the town.

### **OPEN PROCESS**

Philip Von Bargaen, head of the Town of Plattsburgh Planning and Engineering Department, said a land-use plan should be updated every five to 10 years, at a minimum. The town last updated its plan in 1999.

The Comprehensive Land Use Plan Committee was formed in June. The entire process is expected to take 18 to 24 months.

Von Bargaen said the town Web site, [www.townofplattsburgh.com](http://www.townofplattsburgh.com), now has a link to updates on the Comprehensive Land Use Plan under the Planning Department link.

The interview meetings and all Comprehensive Land Use Plan meetings are open to the public. Meetings start at 5 p.m. and are held at Plattsburgh Town Hall, 151 Banker Road, Plattsburgh.

"This is going to be a very open process," Mannix said. "A lot of people will have a lot of input."

**E-mail Dan Heath at: [dheath@pressrepublican.com](mailto:dheath@pressrepublican.com)**

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