

# Don Meltz

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## Objective

To provide professional planning services and geographic information systems (GIS) capacity to towns, villages, and non-profit organizations.

## Work and Volunteer Experience

**Current Employment: Don Meltz, Planning and GIS:** Currently self-employed as a planner and GIS consultant, focusing on small municipalities and non-profit organizations that need access to GIS capabilities and other technical aspects of the planning process. Experience developing and analyzing mail surveys, conducting focus groups, interviewing government officials and residents, conducting and analyzing public workshops, and writing reports and comprehensive plans. Also, work as a subcontractor to other planning consultants that do not have a GIS staff person.

**May 2005-present: Town of Stockport, Planning Board:** Currently serving a seven year term as a member of the Town of Stockport Planning Board as vice chairperson. Also serving as chairperson of the zoning and subdivision update committee.

**Jan. 1, 1998-Dec. 31, 2001: Town Councilman for the Town of Stockport:** In Nov. of 1997, elected to a four year term on the Stockport Town Board. Served on the Water and Sewer Committee, Youth and Recreation Committee, Buildings and Parks Committee, and New Highway Garage Committee. Served as chairperson of the Comprehensive Planning Committee from Jan. 1999 to Dec. 2003.

**1984-1989 Appalachian Mountain Club:** As a volunteer member of the Catskill Chapter of the AMC for 6 years, held the following positions: Chapter Chairperson, Vice Chair, Trail Maintenance Committee Chair, and Activities Committee member. Also on an Ad Hoc committee that reviewed Unit Management Plans with the DEC for all regions of the Catskill Park, worked with DEC and other organizations regarding planning strategies, focusing mostly on recreational facility location and design.

## Education

### **Masters Degree in Regional Planning (MRP), University at Albany, May 2008**

Course work at The University at Albany focused on two areas:

- \* The unique challenges facing small towns and rural areas.
- \* How GIS technology can help planners and town officials make informed decisions.

**Courses completed:** Planning History and Philosophy, Urban and Metropolitan Structure and Function, Statistical Methods for Planning, Comprehensive Planning Process, Planning Law, Small Town and Rural Planning, Environmental Planning, Geographic Information Systems, GIS Applications, Land Conservation, Planning Studio-Survey of Vacant Buildings in Albany NY, and an Independent Study that involved mapping the farmland resources in the lower Hudson River Valley using GIS. Final research paper was on Watershed Planning, the impacts on local government planning decision making, and how GIS can help in that process.

### **Bachelor of Arts, Biology, Franklin Pierce College, June 1981**

Course work at FPC focused on environmental biology.

## **Projects**

### **Community Planning and Environmental Associates:**

Worked with principal planner Nan Stolzenburg, AICP, on many planning projects in northeastern New York State. Assembled GIS databases, produced resource maps, buildout analyses, worked on mail surveys, and many other aspects of the comprehensive planning process, and zoning updates for the following communities:

**Putnam County, NY**  
**Town of Ancram, Columbia County, NY**  
**Town and Village of Athens, Greene County, NY**  
**Town of Ancram, Columbia County, NY**  
**Town of Berne, Albany County, NY**  
**Town of Broadalbin, Fulton County, NY**  
**Town of Cairo, Greene County, NY**  
**Town of Charlton, Saratoga County, NY**  
**Town of Chatham, Columbia County**  
**Town of Claverack, Columbia County, NY**  
**Town of Durham, Greene County, NY**  
**Town of Gallatin, Columbia County**  
**Town of Galway, Saratoga County, NY**  
**Town of Ghent, Columbia County, NY**  
**Town of Halcott, Greene County, NY**  
**Town of Middlefield, Otsego County, NY**  
**Town of Peru, Clinton County, NY**  
**Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess County, NY**  
**Town of Pittstown, Rensselaer County, NY**  
**Town of Princetown, Schenectady County, NY**  
**Town of Schaghticoke, Rensselaer County, NY**  
**Town and Village of Seneca Falls, Seneca Falls, NY**  
**Town of Tannersville, Greene County, NY**  
**Village of Altamont, Albany County, NY**  
**Village of Kinderhook, Columbia County, NY**  
**Village of Sharon Springs, Schoharie County, NY**  
**Village of Whitesboro, Oneida County, NY**

### **Brittany Hollow Associates:**

#### **Hyde Park Zoning**

Worked with Principal planner Chuck Voss, AICP, on an update to the Town of Hyde Park zoning map. This project included obtaining the most recent parcel data from Dutchess County, and digitizing the hand drawn concept map the zoning committee had been working on. Many revisions were produced as the update was reviewed by the public, the Town Board, and the Planning Board.

#### **Tannersville Build-out Analysis**

I worked with Brittany Hollow Associates and J. Kenneth Fraser, performing a buildout analysis for the Village of Tannersville, Greene County, NY. This project consisted of assembling all available GIS data, analyzing the physical constraints and current developed area within the village's boundaries, and developing a variety of scenarios in an effort to build consensus on the communities preferred future land use build-out.

#### **SHARE-IT, Sharon Springs**

I produced a GIS database that inventoried all of the historic buildings and sites in a five municipality region including the Towns of Sharon, Springfield, and Cherry Valley, and the Villages of Cherry Valley and Sharon Springs.

### **Town of Stockport Comprehensive Planning Committee:**

Initiated the formation of a comprehensive planning committee, and led the committee as its chairman through the comprehensive planning process including:

- \* Educating Town officials on the comprehensive planning process.
- \* Developing a town-wide mail survey.
- \* Applying for and receiving a \$5,000 grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council.
- \* Developing a request for proposals that led to the hiring of a consultant to help us through the planning process.
- \* Development of a Vision Statement, Issues to be addressed, and Goals for the town to strive for.
- \* Organizing public meetings and hearings to receive input from residents on various aspects of the Draft Comprehensive Plan.

### **Town of Stockport Zoning and Subdivision Update Committee**

Currently serve as the chairperson for the town's zoning and subdivision update committee, whose goal is to implement the town's comprehensive plan through updates to existing local laws and land use regulations.

### **Open Space for Tomorrow: A Capital District Sprawl & Open Space Action Strategy**

Working with Katherine Daniels, AICP, produced a series of maps for a report analyzing the potential for open space preservation and/or land acquisition programs in the Capital District area. This study covered Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, and Saratoga Counties. The project also included a detailed build-out analysis for the Town of Bethlehem in Albany County.

### **Columbia Land Conservancy, Protected Lands Map:**

Produced an annual map for Columbia Land Conservancy (CLC) showing all of the publicly owned land and private property with conservation easements located in Columbia County. Using parcel boundary data from the counties Soil and Water Conservation District office, and hardcopy maps provided by CLC, digitized the sections of individual properties that are under easement by CLC and other Not-for-Profit organizations.

### **Columbia Land Conservancy, 2002 Regional Public Conservation and Recreation Lands Map:**

Produced a map showing all of the publicly accessible properties in an eight county region around Columbia County, New York. Contacted and received data from over 15 different sources, processed the data so it was in a similar format, and modified and refined the information so it was as accurate and complete as possible. This map shows all properties and recreational trails owned by Federal, State, County, and Local governments in the region. It also shows properties owned by individuals and non-profit organizations that are freely open to the public.

### **Scenic Hudson, Inventory of Hudson Valley Farmland:**

Worked on a project using GIS to identify active farms in a 10 county region in the Hudson River Valley. Combined information from State agencies, the Federal Government, and individual municipalities in an effort to inventory and categorize farms that might qualify for government or non-profit sponsored farmland protection grants.

## References:

**Nan Stolzenburg**

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