

# Don Meltz – AICP

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## Experience

**Don Meltz Planning and GIS:** Currently self-employed as a planner and GIS consultant. Work focuses on rural communities and non-profit organizations that need access to GIS capabilities and other technical aspects of the planning process. Experience includes assembling, editing, analyzing, and presenting geographic information; performing advanced geospatial analysis, build-out analysis, watershed analysis, watershed modeling, cartography, and web-mapping; conducting public workshops and focus groups, developing and analyzing both online and mail surveys, interviewing government officials and residents, and writing reports and comprehensive plans.

**NYS GIS Association:** A member since 2006. Served on the communications committee since 2011. Recently involved in the complete overhaul of the associations website which included the integration of social media tools and automated integration of website news articles and social media posts.

**Town of Stockport, Planning Board:** Since May 2005, a member of the Town of Stockport Planning Board serving as vice chairperson.

**Town of Stockport Zoning Update Committee:** Served as chairperson, and currently helping the town board through the review and adoption process.

**Greater Stockport Creek Watershed Alliance:** Currently serving on the advisory committee. Helping the organization assemble a watershed inventory, including available GIS data. Performed an analysis of impervious surfaces for sub-watersheds and catchments within the larger watershed.

**Town Councilman for the Town of Stockport:** From Jan. 1, 1998 to Dec. 31, 2001, served 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**

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.

## **Certification**

**AICP certified planner**

## **Projects**

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

Worked with principal planner Nan Stolzenburg AICP on many planning projects in New York State. Assembled GIS databases, produced resource maps, build-out and watershed analyses, worked on online and mail surveys, in-person workshops, and many other aspects of the planning process for the following communities:

- Dutchess County, NY** – Farmland Protection Plan
- Orange County, NY** – Farmland Protection Plan
- Putnam County, NY** – Farmland protection plan
- Sullivan County, NY** – Farmland Protection Plan
- Town of Ancram, Columbia County, NY** – Comprehensive plan, zoning update, Ridgeline Protection plan
- Town and Village of Athens, Greene County, NY** – Zoning update
- Town of Berne, Albany County, NY** – Zoning updates
- Town of Cairo, Greene County, NY** – Comprehensive plan and new zoning law
- Cazenovia Preservation Foundation** – Strategic land conservation plan
- Town of Chatham, Columbia County** – Comprehensive plan and watershed analysis
- Town of Claverack, Columbia County, NY** – Comprehensive plan and zoning update
- Town of Copake, Columbia County, NY** – Farmland Protection plan and zoning update
- Town of Elizabethtown, Essex County, NY** – Comprehensive plan update
- Esopus-Delaware Economic Revitalization Plan** – GIS mapping, analysis, and workshops
- Town of Gallatin, Columbia County** – Comprehensive plan
- Town of Ghent, Columbia County, NY** – Comprehensive plan
- Town of Granville,**
- Town of Halcott, Greene County, NY** – Comprehensive plan and Farmland protection plan
- Town of Hamilton, Madison County, NY** – Comprehensive Plan
- Town of Lexington, Greene County, NY** – Long Term Community Recovery plan
- Town of Peru, Clinton County, NY** – Comprehensive plan, zoning, and open space plan
- Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess County, NY**
- Town of Pittstown, Rensselaer County, NY**
- Village of Schoharie** – Long Term Community Recovery plan
- Town of Schaghticoke, Rensselaer County, NY**

### **Columbia County Farmland Protection Plan:**

Worked with the Columbia County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board in developing a county-wide agriculture and farmland protection plan. Specific tasks included identifying and mapping all currently farmed properties, assembling pertinent digital geographic data layers for resource mapping, and

leading the board through an in-depth analysis of farmland resources resulting in a prioritized list of farmland preservation locations.

**Village of Kinderhook, Columbia County, NY**

Worked with the village to develop an updated zoning map, incorporating new village boundaries based on extensive deed and survey research. Continue to supply GIS and digital mapping services as needed.

**Town of Canaan, Columbia County, NY**

Provided GIS services and updated zoning map based on interpretation of their 1970's zoning map and recently updated zoning law.

**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**

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.

**Town of Hillsdale, Columbia County, NY**

Provided GIS services, digital, and hard copy maps for their comprehensive plan and zoning law update. Provided additional mapping services as needed for a farmland inventory, sidewalk inventory, and other smaller projects.

**SHARE-IT, Sharon Springs**

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.

**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**

Community Planning & Environmental Associates  
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### **James Dunham**

Village of Kinderhook  
Former Mayor  
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### **Michael Kipp**

Town of Kinderhook  
Kinderhook-Stuyvesant-Stockport Inter-municipal Trail Committee Chair  
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### **Ellen Jouret-Epstein**

Former Community Projects Manager at Columbia Land Conservancy  
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### **James Waterhouse**

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### **Mary Gail Biebel, Ph.D.**

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