

Don Meltz – AICP

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Qualifications

Don Meltz began working as an independent planning consultant in 2002 when he founded Don Meltz Planning and GIS. Specializing in the needs of small towns and rural communities, Don brings a unique blend of community based collaboration and geographic analysis to each project. He uses a broad array of geographic modeling techniques to analyze, communicate, and illustrate various planning concepts to communities throughout New York State.

As someone who has been deeply involved with his own town's government, Don understands the challenges facing rural municipalities today. He has served four years on his town board as a councilman, served as chairperson for their comprehensive plan, and for their updated zoning law. He currently serves as chairperson for his town's planning board. Don strives to assist each community he works for to cooperatively identify opportunities to raise the quality of life for their residents.

Don has over 20 years of experience using both desktop and online tools to help facilitate the planning process. This includes using websites, social media accounts, and online survey tools to supplement traditional public outreach methods in order to provide every resident and business owner an opportunity to participate in community based planning.

As a planner and GIS consultant Don focuses on rural communities and non-profit organizations that require access to professional planning services, GIS capabilities, and other technical aspects of the planning process. Don's 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, and interviewing government officials and residents. Don has experience writing comprehensive plans, zoning and other land use laws, and various technical reports and guidance documents.

Education

Masters Degree in Regional Planning (MRP), University at Albany

Coursework was completed between fall 1998 and spring 2002. Due to the deployment of his spouse during the Iraq War (Operation Iraqi Freedom), final research paper was completed and degree conferred in 2008.

Don's coursework 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.

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

Coursework at FPC focused on environmental biology.

Certification and Memberships

AICP - Certified Planner since 2010

American Planning Association (APA), National and NY Upstate Chapter

NYS GIS Association (formerly on the Communications Committee and Unmanned Aerial Systems Group)

NY Planning Federation

Other Experience

Columbia County Planning Department: Beginning in August 2018 – Senior Planner. Primarily tasked with expanding the county’s GIS capabilities. Developed the county’s first online GeoData portal and set of online mapping applications. Set up online access to the data produced for the county’s Natural Resources Inventory, helped develop and deliver workshop training sessions on the NRI’s use. Developed online tutorials on the county’s GIS system for planning board and ZBA annual training requirements. Completely overhauled the department’s website. Continuous assembling, conversion, and editing of data to digital online format. Assists with monthly County Planning Board reviews.

Marist College: Beginning in August 2016 - Adjunct Instructor teaching two courses: Introduction to GIS (fall semester) and Advanced GIS (spring semester).

Town of Stockport, Planning Board: From May 2005 until July 2018, a member of the Town of Stockport Planning Board. Served as chairperson from January 2017 until July 2018.

NYS GIS Association: A member since 2006. Serving on the communications committee from 2011 through 2017. 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. From December 2015 through 2017, a member of the UAS Professional Affiliation Group (Unmanned Aerial Systems, aka drones).

Town of Stockport Zoning Update Committee: Served as chairperson and helped the town board through their review and adoption of the updated law in July 2013.

Greater Stockport Creek Watershed Alliance: 2011-2013, served on the advisory committee. Helped 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.

Kinderhook, Stuyvesant, Stockport (KSS) Intermunicipal Trail: 2009-2012, served as a volunteer on the Stockport Trails committee, provided GIS services for the KSS intermunicipal trail project and a liaison to the University at Albany graduate planning studio students working on the KSS intermunicipal trail feasibility study.

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.

Appalachian Mountain Club: As a volunteer member of the Catskill Chapter of the AMC for 6 years (1984-1989), held the following positions: Chapter Chairperson, Vice Chair, Trail Maintenance Committee Chair, and Activities Committee member.

President of the Board of Trustees, Trinity United Methodist Church: From January 2008 to December 2012, and from January 2016 to present.

References:

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