

Village of Watkins Glen

2020 Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Village of Watkins Glen to Host Online Public Workshop as Kick-Off to Zoning Code Update Project

WATKINS GLEN, NY – The Village of Watkins Glen invites all residents and stakeholders to kick off the Village’s Zoning Code Update by participating in an online Public Workshop on **Wednesday, September 16th at 6:00 PM**. The meeting will be held remotely through an online application, Zoom, which can be accessed by all attendees through the following link: <https://zoom.us/j/96405669928> (the link and additional connection information is also available on the Village webpage). A Zoom account is not required to attend.

Municipal zoning codes determine which types of land uses are allowable and where, influence the design and appearance of our built environments, and inform the management of properties. While the Village of Watkins Glen’s existing Zoning Code was recently amended in 2018, it does not fully reflect many of the plans and studies completed within the last decade, including the 2014 Comprehensive Plan, 2017 Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, and 2018 Downtown Revitalization Initiative. Conflicts between recommendations within local planning documents and regulations within the Zoning Code undermine the Village’s mission of protecting the character of Watkins Glen and guiding future investment and development.

The Village has hired community planning and zoning professionals from Barton & Loguidice to lead the zoning code update. By undertaking this effort, the Village aims to achieve the following:

- Ensure that land use regulations are consistent with the 2014 Comprehensive Plan and other recent planning documents;
- Incorporate design guidelines into the Code, with special consideration for commercial corridors, waterfront spaces, and residential areas;
- Update and make consistent the Village’s signage requirements;
- Streamline the development review process and clarify criteria; and

- Create a more user-friendly, readable document to improve guidance and understanding for all users of the code.

The current Zoning Code (2018 Local Law No. 3) is available for review on the Village's webpage, here:

<https://www.watkinsglen.us/building-planning-zoning.php>

The Online Public Workshop on September 16th is an opportunity for Village residents and stakeholders to learn about the code update process and offer their input on what regulations are appropriate for the community. The Workshop will begin with a brief presentation on the update process and an introduction to zoning best practices. A variety of brainstorming and surveying activities will be facilitated through the remote online meeting, enabling attendees to actively participate in and contribute to the development of code revisions. There will be additional public input opportunities later on in the process, during which residents will be able to review the proposed Draft Zoning Code and Map and provide feedback.

All stakeholders with an interest in the future of the Village of Watkins Glen, including residents, business and property owners, and community leaders, are encouraged to attend. The input of local stakeholders is critical to shaping the zoning code update process and ensuring that the revised zoning code accurately reflects the Village's future community development preferences.

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If you would like more information about this event, please contact Barbara Peterson, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer at deputyclerk@watkinsglen.us.