

At Tuesday night's Village Board meeting, some residents had questions regarding the Piermont Comprehensive Plan. I would like to answer some of these questions and help clarify the next steps in the Comprehensive Plan process.

To start, the Village Board is up against a deadline. According to our Grant writer, in order for the Village to get reimbursed for the \$150,000 from a Grant for the Comprehensive Plan, it must be adopted on or before April 30, 2025. While the Comprehensive Plan process started more than two years ago, we were always up against the April 30 deadline. Trustee Nate Mitchell was the Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee. When it was discovered that Mitchell had been colluding behind the scenes with a resident and member of Preserve Piermont, who is married to a litigant suing the Village, Mitchell, in September 2024, resigned from both the Village Board and Comprehensive Plan Committee. As a result of this, the Committee lost a couple of months while reorganizing and getting new members to fill vacancies. The Village Board just recently received the final version of the Plan a couple of weeks ago.

There were also inquiries regarding potential zoning changes as part of the process of the Board adopting the Comprehensive Plan. The Village of Piermont has never done a Comprehensive Plan, nor have any of the members of the Village Board. We have been advised by our planning consultants, Nelson Pope Voorhis, that most municipalities consider including potential zoning changes as part of the process when adopting a Comprehensive Plan. On Thursday, March 13 at 6:00 PM, the Village Board will be conducting a work session for the first time to discuss the Plan and consider adopting potential zoning changes. The public is invited to come and observe the process. There have been no discussions among Board members before this meeting regarding the adoption of the Plan or potential zone changes.

As for the next step, once the Board has finalized any potential changes to the Plan (or not), and any proposals for zoning changes (or not), all that information will be distributed to the public. There will then be a Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan on Tuesday, April 8th at 7:30 PM at Village Hall, where the Board will take into consideration any comments from the public.