**Village of Black River**
**Comprehensive Plan**
**Agenda**
**August 13, 2026**
**6:30 P.M.**

- Call to order

- Review of agenda

- Review & approve meeting minutes: **July 16, 2026**

- Public comments

- Meeting Focus: Land Use – Final topic session in the comprehensive plan process

- Comments from the Committee

- Next scheduled meeting:

- Adjournment

**Please contact the village office at 315.773.5721 or email deputyclerktreasurer@blackriverny.gov**

**if you are unable to attend!**

**Village of Black River**
**Comprehensive Plan Committee**
**Meeting Minutes**
**Date:** July 16, 2026
**Time:** 6:30 P.M.
**Location:** Village of Black River

## 1. Call to Order
Chairman Shepard called the meeting to order at **6:30 P.M.**

## 2. Attendance
**Present:**
- Chairman Shepard
- Member Benson
- Member Bernhard-Aldrich
- Member Branagan
- Member Morgia
- Member Proven
- Member Stafford

**Absent:**
- Member Hayes
- Member Mace

**Others Present:**
- Maria Covey Re: Tug Hill Commission

**Guests:**
- Marshall Weir – CEO, Jefferson County Industrial Development Agency (JCIDA)
- Kaylee Millward – Downtown Revitalization

## 3. Public Comment
There were no public comments.

## 4. Meeting Focus
**Economic Development**

## 5. Discussion
The Committee and guests discussed factors that would make a site viable for future development while maintaining the character and identity of the Village. Transportation considerations were discussed, including the importance of accommodating cars, trucks, and buses, particularly in the Poors Island area. The Committee also identified zoning regulations as an area requiring further review to ensure that future development is consistent with the Village's goals.

**Adaptive Reuse:**
Adaptive reuse was identified as a viable option for encouraging small-business development within the Village. The Committee discussed the need to review and potentially revise zoning regulations to appropriately accommodate the types of development desired in the future.

**Economic Development Priorities:**
The Committee identified tourism, small-scale retail, restaurants, and cafés as areas of potential economic development. The discussion also included opportunities for signage throughout the Village to attract visitors traveling from Route 3 and to highlight key destinations, including recreational opportunities and the downtown area.

**Resources for Local Businesses:**
The Committee discussed opportunities available to local business owners through programs such as the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and the Jefferson Leadership Institute, available through the Greater Watertown North Country Chamber of Commerce. These programs may serve as valuable resources for local entrepreneurs and business development.

**Comprehensive Plan:**
The Committee discussed incorporating language into the Comprehensive Plan recognizing and expressing appreciation for the Village's Department of Public Works (DPW) employees and their contributions to the community.

**Regional Planning and Historical Preservation:**
Member and Village Board Trustee Proven reported that the Village is officially a member of RACOG. Member Proven also reported that a motion had been made at the previous Village Board meeting and that the Village will not be hiring a grant writer at this time.
The Committee also discussed the historical preservation component of the Comprehensive Plan. It was noted that Mr. Reichard will be provided space to display historical information about the Village.

**6. Next Meeting**
The next Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting is scheduled for **August 13, 2026, at 6:30 P.M.**

**7. Preliminary Minutes**
The Deputy Clerk will provide the Mayor with a copy of these minutes. The minutes are preliminary and will remain subject to approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

**8. Committee Comments**

There were no further public or Committee comments.

**9. Adjournment**

A motion was made by **Member Branagan** to adjourn the meeting, seconded by **Member Bernhard-Aldrich**. The motion carried with all members in favor. **Meeting adjourned.**