

Pat Murphy

3-19-15

received  
3-19-15 SL

The SWOT analysis revealed that the public ranked Kingston's architectural and cultural heritage – in other words, its historic resources– as the city's #1 strength.

The Comprehensive Plan does not adequately reflect that value. There is no strong statement up front to that effect.

References to our architectural and historic resources -- and their protection -- can be found in various sections of the document, but there should be one section that provides a concise summary of those resources – namely our four historic districts. That same section should also list the protections that are in place and must be adhered to.

There needs to be an official historic preservation plan and it needs to be up front.

A casual reader of the document could easily conclude that strictures differ in the Stockade District and the Rondout District. Hopefully, Midtown Kingston will become the city's fifth historic district because it has a huge store of significant architecture, but meanwhile, property owners in Midtown appear to be given wide latitude in the maintenance and development of their properties.

The plan needs to give the same weight and attention to the protection of historic resources city-wide as it does to issues such as climate change, complete streets and urban gardening.

If someone from Chicago or Pittsburgh should read the 2025 Comprehensive Plan, they should come away with the clear conviction that Kingston is a city with remendous historic resources....and a plan in place to protect them.