



Public Zoning Discussion Session #2

Streamlining Historic, Cultural and Design Review
&
Consolidating/Updating Planning Board Function & Authority

Kingston, New York
October 17, 2017



HISTORIC, CULTURAL and DESIGN REVIEW

• **Purpose:** To implement the following objective from the 2016 Comprehensive Plan

– **Objective 6.2:** Simplify the regulatory programs and protections to ease processing of development approvals involving Historic resources.

- **Strategy 6.2.1:** Develop procedures to coordinate and streamline review functions by multiple agencies. Preservation of valuable historic resources must be ensured while expediting the reviews required by zoning and related laws.



EXISTING SITUATION

- Overlapping districts: Historic, cultural and design
- Four types of districts: Historic (4), Design (3), Heritage Area, LWRP (coastal)
- Different standards and purposes of reviews for similar districts
- Three different review agencies: Landmarks, Heritage Commission, Planning Board.





CONCERNS

- Duplication of reviews
- Clarification of purpose of reviews
- Responsibilities of various reviewing agencies
- Agreements with outside agencies: NYS OPR, SHPO, NYSDOS



PROPOSED ACTIONS

- Standardize design guidelines
- Combine Landmarks Commission and Heritage Area Commission



PLANNING BOARD FUNCTION and AUTHORITY

- **Planning Board function and authority currently distributed in different sections of City Code and Zoning Law**
- **Create new section of Zoning Law, which consolidates all Planning Board duties**
- **Give Planning Staff power to approve small-scale actions to expedite review and relieve Planning Board of basically ministerial functions**