Monroe County Planning Board
Meeting Minutes, September 24, 2026

A meeting of the Monroe County Planning Board (MCPB) was held on September 24, 2026, at 3:30 pm, in person, via Zoom, and live streamed on YouTube.

Members Present:	William Santos, MCPB Chair; Mike Wiedemer, Vice Chair (via zoom); Dave Watson, citizen member; Tyrese Bryant, citizen member; Elizabeth McDade, citizen member; Milton Pichardo, citizen member; Victor Sanchez, citizen member (via zoom); Rachel Barnhart, Legislator (via zoom); Jennifer Cesario, Dir. of Finance; Sean Murphy, Chief of Engineering & Facilities Mgmt. Dept. of Environmental Services
Alternates Present:	Conor McMahon (for Deputy Co. Exec. Amy Grower); Joe Leathersich (for Asst. Co. Exec. Adrienne Green); Joe Taddeo, Finance
Planning Staff Present:	Ana Liss, Dir. Planning & Development; Pat Gooch, Sr. Associate Planner; Yixuan Lin, Sr. Planner, Secretary to the Board; Grace Sherburne, Planner II; Lisa Huntoon, Asst. to the Secretary to the Bd.
Others Present:	Office of the Sheriff: Captain Kevin Schoepfel, Major Chris Fay; Lieutenant Brian Unterborn Law Dept: Bridget Cook, Deputy County Attorney Public: Edward Campany

Chairman Santos called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm.

Agenda Amendment: Agenda Item 4: 'Review and Recommend Monroe County Comprehensive Plan" has been revised to: "Review Monroe County Comprehensive Plan"

Chairman Santos explained there is an agenda amendment to agenda item 4. The Board will not be taking action on its recommendation for the Comp Plan today, but the Board will hear updates and review the final draft of the Plan and schedule to take an action at the October meeting.

Ms. Cook explained further that NYS Municipal Law 239d requires that the County Legislature needs to hold one public hearing within 90 days of the Planning Board referral and recommendation. Due to the schedule of county legislative cycle, moving forward with the recommendation today would put the Legislature Public Hearing outside of the 90-day window. Therefore, the vote will be moved to October so it can line up with the Legislature process.

Motion: Chairman Santos **Seconded:** Ms. McDade **Vote:** Motion Approved

APPROVAL OF THE August 20, 2026 MEETING MINUTES:
Motion: Mr. Bryant **Seconded:** Mr. Pichardo **Vote:** Motion Approved

ANNOUNCEMENTS and COMMUNICATIONS:

- Ms. Yixuan Lin shared there is a training program coming up next Tuesday, September 29th. It will include the State Environmental Review Process (SEQR) as well as site review. This is our annual training program we organize for local town, villages and city planning boards, zoning boards and other board members. They are able to earn credits for continuing education or learning credits.

ACTION ITEM:

a. Amend the 2026-2031 Capital Improvement Program and amend the 2026 Capital Budget to add the project entitled "Sheriff's Mounted Unit-Horse Barn Restoration" in the amount of $250,000.

Presenter: Captain Kevin Schoepfel
Discussion: Captain Schoepfel shared some history of the horse barn for context. The Mounted Unit is located in Mendon Ponds Park and utilize the barn that was built sometime between 1830 and 1875. It was acquired by Monroe County when creating Mendon Ponds Park in the late 1920's and early 1930's. The Mounted Unit was started in the 1940's. Currently, MCSO Mounted Unit consists of 5 horses and 8 part-time Deputies. The Unit is responsible for care of the horses, special events, directed patrol, funerals and they host barn tours. The barn's exterior needs repairs to the wood on windows and doors as well as cleaning, caulking, and painting. The roof is deteriorating and needs a full replacement along with gutters that are the correct size. Additionally, an asphalt driveway installation is required along with catch basins. Office and bathroom updates are also needed.

Captain Schoepfel provided the below information in response to questions from the Board:

- There does not appear to be asbestos or hazardous building materials to be concerned about.
- The requested dollar amount is based on quotes received in June.

Motion: Mr. Murphy **Seconded:** Mr. Watson **Vote:** Motion Approved

Review Monroe County Comprehensive Plan
Presenters: Pat Gooch & Yixuan Lin
Discussion: Mr. Gooch shared some updates from the Board's previous discussion on the Comprehensive Plan Update. He again shared the Planning Board's powers and duties related to the comprehensive plan and the purpose of the update. He noted that not much has changed to the plan since the last discussion as it is still designed to work on the four pillars with previously presented goals and strategies. After reviewing comments from the Public Review Period, there have been some updates to the draft plan to incorporate and address those comments. Those topics include:

- Need to address homelessness and housing instability.
- Expand consideration of environmental health, ecosystem protection, and invasive species management.
- Enhance recognition of the needs and experiences of Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard of Hearing communities and promote inclusive access.

- Improve connections between the Comprehensive Plan and other County planning efforts to support implementation and coordination.

Ms. Lin provided next Steps for the Comprehensive Plan: The Board takes action to recommend the Plan at the October 29th meeting. The Planning Department prepares the required SEQR materials. The Legislature introduces the Comprehensive Plan for consideration for adoption and then holds a public hearing on the Plan (within 90-days of Planning Board Recommendation). Following Legislature public hearing, the County Legislature considers and adopts the Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Cook noted that the Legislature also has to refer this to all Monroe County municipalities and their planning boards and offers them the ability to weigh-in on the Plan if they wish.

OTHER BUSINESS:

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

- October 29, 2026 at 3:30 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: Ms. Cesario **Seconded**: Ms. McDade **Adjournment:** 4:13 pm