



Steve Neratko
Senior Planner

PLANNING AND MUNICIPAL SPECIALIST

Steve Neratko is a versatile planner, with an extensive background in municipal governance, planning, cartography, data analysis and community and economic development. He has excellent research, analytical, communication and creative skills which enables him to envision alternatives to the physical and social environments in which we live and work. He has in-depth experience working with a wide range of municipal and governmental agencies, non-profit organizations, consultants, business and industry leaders, and the public. He is adept at consensus building, able to communicate effectively, and work with a variety of people.

EDUCATION

- Graduate Certificate in Public Sector Leadership, Cornell University
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, State University of New York at Fredonia

SKILLS

- Municipal governance and management.
- Governmental regulation, policy and procedure evaluation and development.
- Zoning and land use planning, community and economic development, revitalization, and housing.
- Site planning and permitting.
- Project assessment and management.
- Capital improvements planning.
- Community and stakeholder engagement
- Ordinance analysis and revision.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- Professional Certificate in Data Science, IBM
- Emergency Management Institute’s Professional Development Series, FEMA
- Introduction to Smart Growth Certificate, Planetizen

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| <p>Lehigh Valley Planning Commission <i>Chief Planner</i></p> | <p>Steve led community, regional and transportation planning efforts for the two county Lehigh Valley region. He managed a team of planners and the planning review program, and improved efficiency and effectiveness of reviews, despite a notable increase in project proposals, plans, and ordinance amendments. He led an independent analysis of the community and financial impacts of Allentown’s Neighborhood Improvement Zone and developed a Northampton County Freight Analysis. Working with local municipalities, he guided three multi-municipal comprehensive plans, and an unprecedented number of zone code revisions. He provided additional GIS, data, environmental and transportation planning support, and managed the organization-wide data request system. He also sits on the boards of the Lehigh County Redevelopment Authority and ITN Lehigh Valley.</p> |
| <p>Town of Springfield, VT <i>Town Manager</i></p> | <p>Steve directly supervised staff across numerous departments, including Town Administration, Finance, HR, Town Clerk, Public Works, Water, Sewer, Police, Fire, Library and Planning & Zoning. He collaborated closely with staff to identify and implement new and more efficient methods of operations. He worked closely with the Select Board, other elected officials, staff, and the community to determine town goals and objectives and developed a strategic plan for achievement. He worked with the Select Board, municipal boards, staff, advisory committees, and the community to develop a fiscally responsible municipal budget with no tax increases or reductions in service. He developed a system for identifying, prioritizing, and tracking of capital improvement projects. He led the Town through the pandemic, social unrest, staffing issues, a petroleum leak, contamination from a major environmental pollution issue, and numerous other infrastructure concerns. He developed a Personnel Policy, Purchasing Policy, Loan and Grant Policy and other internal policies, procedures, and regulations.</p> |
| <p>City of Allentown, Bureau of Planning and Zoning <i>Planning Director & Chief Planner</i></p> | <p>Steve led planning and zoning efforts for the City of Allentown and provided guidance and effective management for the growth, preservation, and redevelopment of the City. He coordinated the City’s review of plans and projects and was responsible for developing the City’s annual five-year Capital Improvements Program.</p> |