

Update on the Town's Comprehensive Plan
Rose Rivezzi 10/15/18

Work on the Town's Comprehensive Plan began in the fall of 2017. About 20 people came to an initial session to brainstorm ideas under the categories of Quality of Life, Infrastructure, Land Use, Housing, Energy, and Economic Development.

In January and February there were two work sessions for each of the six focus areas. We invited many throughout the community, offered an online response form, and advertised the input options in the paper and on radio. At these 12 meetings the assets and concerns we have as a community were discussed. These meetings were followed up with Individual conversations as needed.

The result is the following list of goals and action items. **These are not complete, nor are they final.** It is simply where we are at the moment.

The draft of the goals are posted on the town website and available at the Town Clerk's office, There are three ways you can give input as the Town Board moves forward. **Let us know if any of these might be priority items for you. Let us know if there are other goals we should consider as a board.**

- 1) Attend one of the three input sessions at the Town Community Room
 - a) October 24th 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM
 - b) October 24th 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM
 - c) October 25th 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM
- 2) Email Rose Rivezzi (rrivezzi@gmail.com) with questions, other ideas, concerns, etc.
- 3) Come to the Town Hall during business hours from October 24th to November 1st to view comments made during the input sessions and add yours

Deadline for comments is Tuesday, November 27th.

The Draft Goals (10-10-18)

Economic Development

1. Support efforts of start-ups, small entrepreneurs, and existing local businesses
 - a. Develop the basement of the Town Hall ifor use as a conference/training space
 - b. Install a display rack/bulletin board for information pertaining to economic development
 - c. Participate in efforts to develop entrepreneur-led small business opportunities
 - d. Communicate the support that exists for local entrepreneurs.
 - e. Link Town and Chamber of Commerces' websites
2. Encourage development of a Green Innovation Economy as outlined in the Climate Smart Communities Certification Program
 - a. Incentivize green industry or businesses
 - b. Adopt a green procurement policy
3. Encourage and attract agricultural producers
 - a. Promote opportunities to develop diversified agricultural production and value-added products
 - b. List agricultural lands available
 - c. Promote local food initiatives such as GardenShare and the Potsdam Farmers' Market
 - d. Consider implementing agriculturally related property tax exemptions (for example, those for agricultural land and temporary greenhouses)
4. Make the Town of Potsdam an inviting place to prospective residents, including students, faculty, medical personnel, and retirees to ensure our community's financial health
5. Market Town of Potsdam as a home base for tourists to the region
 - a. Improve marketing of Potsdam as a base for tourists
 - b. Work with Potsdam Recreation on efforts to promote and expand year-round recreational opportunities
 - c. Promote and improve access to the Raquette River

Quality of Life

1. Promote Use of Town Hall space for community engagement
 - a. Maintain and improve amenities of the Community Room
 - b. Improve the use of the Community Kitchen
2. Expand organized recreational and cultural opportunities for persons of all ages and abilities
3. Support and improve access to child and elderly care
 - a. Publicize training opportunities for caregivers

- b. Ensure access for community members that have special needs through infrastructure improvements
4. Work with other agencies to ensure public transportation services in our community

Infrastructure

1. Improve internet connectivity
2. Increase pedestrian, cyclist, and motorist safety by implementing Complete Street guidelines when possible
 - a. Collect data on pedestrian/cycling safety
 - b. Implement traffic calming techniques where needed
 - c. Support initiatives to enhance or develop safe corridors for pedestrians and cyclists
 - d. Create safe and accessible means of accessing shopping centers outside the village (namely the shopping areas heading South on Rt. 11)
 - e. Seek grant funding to run pedestrian and cyclist visibility awareness campaigns
 - f. Develop bike lanes and multi-use paths between the nearby communities of Norwood and Canton
3. Work with the Village to develop a composting facility
4. Create and practice a Town-wide Emergency Management Plan
 - a. Create a committee to develop a Emergency Management Plan
 - b. Conduct a vulnerability assessment
 - c. Support the development of a microgrid for the community as backup energy source in the event of an emergency
5. Improve Town Highway Barn so it is a facility that serves the needs of the town
6. Maintain a current inventory of the Town's infrastructure, including the age of buildings, equipment, bridges, roads, and culverts

Housing

1. Develop a plan to rehabilitate substandard housing in the Town
 - a. Conduct a "windshield" survey to identify Town properties most in need of repair/rehabilitation
 - b. Identify potential sources of funding
2. Promote more housing options for seniors and young professionals
 - a. Convene a "housing summit" to identify possible ways to satisfy the Town's need for these target groups
 - b. Consider a package of incentives to encourage property owners to upgrade existing dwellings or build new housing to meet senior/professional needs
 - c. Secure funding opportunities to help seniors age in place

3. Promote a “culture of pride” in our living spaces
 - a. Educate the public on how home improvements affect assessments
 - b. Give residents information about the economic, environmental, and safety benefits of property improvements

Land Use

1. Update existing land use policies and regulations
 - a. Review renewable energy regulations
 - b. Develop a timeline for updating zoning and code
 - c. Update floodplain maps working with FEMA and DEC
2. Preserve natural resources and open spaces such as water and wooded areas
 - a. Develop a natural resource inventory
 - b. Map the tree canopy to identify hazardous trees and which trees need to be replaced or added
 - c. Incorporate Smart Growth principles into land use policies and regulations
 - d. Promote cluster development and seek solutions that allow smaller minimum parcel size when appropriate
 - e. Redevelop Town brownfield sites
 - f. Conduct a watershed analysis to explore water retention areas to control stormwater flow
3. Preserve agricultural land and protect prime soil areas
 - a. Evaluate where prime soils are present, identify which lands are classified as agricultural, and revise zoning district boundaries if needed
 - b. Discourage development in prime soils areas
 - c. Review zoning practices that could be friendlier to farming
 - d. Examine the distribution of hardwood forests and see that they are zoned appropriately
 - e. Incorporate text that references the use of agricultural data statements for project reviews for any project in an Agricultural District 2 so anticipated impacts to farm production can be assessed
 - f. Assure decommissioning provisions are incorporated into renewable energy regulations so that remnants of large scale solar arrays or wind turbines don't permanently displace prime soils from agricultural production

Energy

1. Decrease municipal energy use
 - a. Establish a fuel economy standard and anti-idling ordinance for for fleet vehicles
 - b. Keep the energy audit conducted on municipal buildings updated and implement recommendations for efficiency
 - c. Adopt Green Building Standards for new or major renovation of Town buildings
 - d. Transition to LED lights

2. Decrease community energy use
 - a. Support and promote public transportation opportunities within the county
 - b. Conduct an energy use benchmarking audit for the town
 - c. Conduct a Greenhouse Gas inventory
 - d. Promote access to energy efficiency programs for homeowners and businesses
 - e. Provide workshops on energy conservation basics

3. Increase municipal and community use of renewable energy, and look for local sources of energy.
 - a. Update and add regulations in the town code that deal with the development of renewable energy
 - b. Consider a clean power purchase policy
 - c. Use municipal lands to provide a host site for power generation
 - d. Pursue options for establishing Community Choice Aggregation/power purchase for the community
 - e. Establish EV charging stations
 - f. Promote state and federal opportunities for homeowners' use of renewable energy