

Supporting Documents

Town of Newport

Comprehensive Plan

2011

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SWOT Analysis

The Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee completed a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Analysis at the outset of the planning process. The Committee used information gathered from the survey and also brought to the table their own knowledge of the community. The SWOT Analysis technique was used to guide the direction of some key focal points within the plan.

Members of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee:

Patty Marko, *Chair (Village Planning Board/retail store owner)*

Nanette Roesler (Town Clerk/town resident)

Jim Fisher (Village Planning Board/B&B owner)

Donna Goodbread (Town ZBA/business person/village resident)

Diane Lockwood (real estate agent/town resident)

John Snyder (former business person/financial advisor/village resident)

Mike McEvoy (Town Supervisor/business person/village resident)

Rich Brelinskey (farmer/town resident)

Kathleen Snyder Esty (nurse, village resident)

Gail Fischer (retailer/business owner/physical therapist/Kuyahoorra Chamber of Commerce)

Debbie Tracy (school library assistant/village resident)

Roberta Walsh (retired/village resident)

Eric Newman, Jr. (business person/town resident)

The meetings of the Steering Committee were open and members of the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Appeals and interested local residents participated and brought valuable insights to the discussions. Members of boards, town and village residents and business owners who attended one or more meetings:

Todd Fenton

Ron Fusco

Tom Lindsay

Phyllis Fisher

Carl Dalmata

Mark Dupont

Rob Warney

Kathy Dupont

Torrey Felio

Art Bass

Frank Salisbury

Anne McKerrow

Tiffany Morrison

Christopher Eastman, manager of the Land Use Training and Technical Assistance program at the New York Department of State, attended one meeting and the Committee would like to thank him for his assistance.

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SWOT Analysis Results

Strengths

- High quality of life
- Small town atmosphere
- Rural character
- Historic appeal
- Natural scenery and resources
- Active agricultural community
- Quality schools
- Proximity to Utica, Herkimer, the Adirondacks & Central NY
- Low crime rate
- Perception of the quality of public services
- Focal points: School, Church, Bank
- “Gateway to the Adirondacks”
- West Canada Creek
- The Southern Adirondack Trail/Route 28 Scenic Byway

Weaknesses

- No identified location for a business “hub”
- No business development initiative
- No right-to-farm law
- Low tolerance for farm practices
- Lack of organized communication between town government and public
- Outdated zoning regulations
- Lack of consistent zone enforcement
- Not enough business diversity
- No large employers

Opportunities

- Customer base for economic development
- Potential site for business development
- Opportunities for expansion of service and tourist industries
- Public desire for protection of open spaces, including agriculture
- Presence of agri-business
- Potential for growth of tourism
- Remaining historic structures

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- Potential for increased access to West Canada Creek
- Multi-season activities
- Growth of cottage industry
- Planned newsletter

Threats

- Loss of active farmland to non-farm development
- Perceived or actual high real property tax rates
- Negative Farm/non-farm interaction
- Lack of general understanding of agricultural practices by public
- Uneven economic development

Town of Newport Residents Opinion Survey

The following report provides a summary of the results of a survey that was included with a short newsletter mailed to residents of the Town of Newport (including residents of the Villages of Newport, Poland & Middleville) late summer 2010 using a mailing list obtained from the Herkimer County Real Property Tax Service. A total of 662 surveys were mailed out; 121 responses were returned and tabulated. This represents a response rate of 18%.

The number of responses from the Village of Newport was 38

The number of responses from the Village of Poland 5

The number of responses from the of Middleville 5

The number of responses from the Town of Newport outside of the Villages was 75

Most respondents, 66%, had resided in the area for over 20 years.

Question regarding housing issues addressed the availability and affordability of housing, property maintenance and property taxes: The need to reduce property taxes elicited the largest response from 63% of respondents. There was some interest 20% in property maintenance and less interest in availability and affordability of housing.

Question regarding reasons for living in Newport: scenic beauty represented 59% of the responses and 51% of respondents cited the small town atmosphere.

Question regarding factors that would cause resident to move from Newport: 68% of respondents stated that high taxes might cause them to leave Newport. Loss of community character was the second highest reason that a resident might leave Newport was cited by 36% of respondents.

Question regarding what the comprehensive plan should address: Residents of the Town of Newport, including the villages, responded that they were most concerned that

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vacant properties with vacant buildings should be redeveloped at 61%. The second highest concern was that Newport’s small town character be maintained. The third highest concern was different for Town of Newport and Village of Newport. Residents of the Village of Newport cited natural resource protection and preservation of open spaces as a concern. Residents of the Town of Newport were divided between farms contributing to the rural character and allowing light commercial to mix with residential uses.

Questions regarding the type of growth that would serve needs: Responses to this question indicate that residents are concerned about a range of services being available to them. 62% of respondents would like to see a drug store in the community. 45% of respondents would welcome a grocery store. There was also interest in a general store, 40%; a hardware store or restaurant, 36%; and a senior citizen facility, 33%. Less than 1% of respondents indicated that they would be happy with no business growth.

Question regarding their feelings about a community being a place to live, work and play: 84% of residents of the town, and of total respondents, agreed that a community should be a place where residents are able to live, work and play.

Town of Newport Residents Opinion Survey Results

Town of Newport Residents Survey	Newport Town	Newport Village	Poland Village	Middleville Village	Town Wide
Years resided in Newport	75	38	5	5	121
1-5	7	4	0	1	12
6-10	7	5	1	1	14
11-15	5	3	0	0	8
16-20	3	2	0	1	6
21+	51	24	3	2	80
Housing Issues					
More housing for single people	8	3			11
More housing for young couples/families	12	7			19
More housing for senior citizen	16	8	1	1	26
More affordable housing	10	5	1		16
Property Maintenance	24	13	2	1	40
Reduce Property Taxes	52	17	3	4	76
Why Choose Newport?					
Lived here all my life	29	14	2	4	49
Small town atmosphere	35	23	2	2	62
Family and friends	35	22	1	1	59

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Scenic beauty	46	22	3		71
Close to work	15	11			26
Housing available and cost	12	13		1	26
Convenience of services	6	6			12
Quality of schools	33	19		1	53
Factors that would cause you to move					
Inadequate housing opportunities	4	6			10
Area overdeveloped	17	6	2		25
Inadequate community services	13	7	1	2	23
Not enough parks and recreational facilities	4	3			7
Quality of school	8	1	1		10
Taxes too high	48	26	4	4	82
Loss of community character	24	17	1	1	43
Comprehensive plan should give attention to					
Designated commercial zone areas	19	15			34
Allow light commercial to mix with residential uses	31	14	1	3	49
Maintaining "Small Town" character	34	22	4	2	62
Vacant Properties with vacant buildings	41	26	6	1	74
Agriculture districts: How commercial uses could be	17	10		1	28
All farms contributing to the rural character	31	11	4	2	48
Natural resource protection and open space preservation	30	16	2	1	49
Home occupations	16	8	2		26
Residential development	13	7	1	1	22
Tourist Development	25	9			34
Other					
Types of growth acceptable to serve your needs					
Drug store	46	24	3	2	75
Grocery store	36	15	2	2	55
General store	34	11	2	2	49
Hardware	30	11	1	1	43

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Bakery	24	9	2	1	36
Gas station	30	7	1		38
Auto repair	18	8	1	1	28
Convenience store	16	12			28
Bank	25	9		1	35
Entertainment	18	7		1	26
Restaurant	27	14	1	1	43
Senior citizen facility	25	13	1	1	40
Auto parts	14	5			19
Lawn garden store	16	5			24
Physical therapy	14	7	1	2	21
Chain store (dollar)	18	7			25
Clothing store	11	4			16
No business growth; happy to obtain services elsewhere	7	3			10
Do you feel a community is a place to live, work and play?					
Yes	62	35	2	3	102
No	1	1			2

List of Concerns

The Town of Newport Comprehensive Plan Committee formulated these concerns, goals and actions using information collected in the Town of Newport Survey from residents of the Town of Newport as well as from residents of the village of Newport and the parts of the villages of Poland and Middleville that are in the Town of Newport as well as from the resulting SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) list that was created during the first meetings of the Committee.

Development/Economic

- No identified location for a business hub.
- The Town of Newport Survey indicated that residents are concerned about the lack of local retail.
- Uneven economic development.
- Most businesses in Newport are small and offer employment for only a few people.
- Responses to the survey indicate that residents place a high value on scenic beauty and small town atmosphere but have wants and needs that require commercial development. Growth is viewed as being

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necessary but it is felt that it should be done so as not to disrupt the character of the Town.

- Actual or perceived high property tax rates.
- Outdated zoning regulations.
- Town policies should recognize and support tourism as an important part of the local economy.

Land Use

- That active farmland is being lost to non-farm development and that the loss of farmland will contribute to loss of scenic beauty, small town atmosphere and rural character that is valued by residents who responded to the survey.
- Lack of general understanding of agriculture by the non-farming community. The non-farm community identifies common farming practices as nuisances.
- Differences between business and residential use.
- Floodplains, wetlands, and slopes over 15% present problems.

Resource Protection

- Lack of consistent zoning enforcement.
- Residents and tourists both want recreation areas, interesting scenery, access to West Canada Creek, etc.
- When properties are not maintained they detract from the small town atmosphere and scenic beauty valued by people who responded to the survey, make the Town less attractive, decrease civic pride and property values.
- Preserve the Town's historic resources.

Community Infrastructure and Services

- Lack of organized communication between town government and the public. Too much dependence on "word-of-mouth."
- In response to the question "The Comprehensive Plan should give attention to:" the number one concern of Town of Newport residents who responded to the survey was "vacant properties and buildings."
- 83% of Town residents who responded to the survey agreed with the statement that a community is a place to live, work and play.

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- Public recreation, Scenic Byway and West Canada Creek are not being exploited to their maximum use and to attract tourism.

Larger Maps

Paper Maps

Larger versions of the following maps are available for viewing at the Newport Town Clerk's Office, Town Garage, Newport Road.

- Newport Tax Parcels and Agricultural Districts map
- Newport Satellite Imagery map
- Newport Steams, Floodplains and Wetlands map
- Newport Transportation System map
- Newport Prime Agricultural Soils map
- Newport Zoning Map

Online Maps and Other Resources

All of the following resources were accessed August 2011

FEMA Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps
<http://www.fema.gov/hazard/map/flood.shtm>

New York State DEC Environmental Resource Mapper
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/imsmaps/ERM/viewer.htm>

New York State DEC West Canada Creek Fishing Map
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/9235.html>

West Canada Trail Riders Snowmobile Trail
Map<http://www.westcanadatrailriders.com/trailmap.htm>

Town of Newport Agricultural Districts Map at Cornell University Geospatial Information Repository
<http://cugirdata.mannlib.cornell.edu/pdf/agHERK2010.pdf>

Town of Newport Agricultural Districts Map at Oneida County Dept. of Planning
http://www.ocgov.net/oneida/sites/default/files/planning/AgDistrictMaps/Herkimer/NEWPORT_LETTER.pdf

FEMA National Flood Insurance Program
<http://www.fema.gov/about/programs/nfip/index.shtm>

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Herkimer County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan
http://www.farmlandinfo.org/documents/31860/NY_Herkimer_AFPP.doc

Herkimer County 2030 Long-Range Transportation Plan
<http://ocgov.net/oneida/planning/hocts/lrtp>

Herkimer County Risk Assessment Profile Update, 2009, created by Herkimer County Integrated County Planning and Herkimer County HealthNet, Inc., in collaboration with the members of the Comprehensive Assessment Task Force
<http://herkimercounty.org/content/Generic/View/40>

HUD (203)k Rehabilitation Program
http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/housing/sfh/203k/203kabou

National Register of Historic Places
Benjamin Bowen House
http://www.oprhp.state.ny.us/hpimaging/hp_view.asp?GroupView=2796
Newport Stone Arch Bridge
http://www.oprhp.state.ny.us/hpimaging/hp_view.asp?GroupView=2771
Yale-Cady Octagon House and Yale Lock Factory Site
http://www.oprhp.state.ny.us/hpimaging/hp_view.asp?GroupView=102227
Masonic Lodge
http://www.oprhp.state.ny.us/hpimaging/hp_view.asp?GroupView=103045

New York Data Center
<http://www.empire.state.ny.us/NYSDataCenter/Census2010.html>

New York State Historic Homeownership Rehabilitation Tax Credit and
New York State Tax Credit Program for Income Producing Properties
<http://nysparks.state.ny.us/shpo/tax-credit-programs/>

New York State Office of Real Property Tax Services (Property & School Tax rate info)
<http://www.orps.state.ny.us/>

New York State Right to Farm Statutes
http://www.farmlandinfo.org/documents/31860/NY_Herkimer_AFPP.doc

U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Factfinder
<http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

U.S. Census Bureau Manufacturing, Mining and Construction Statistics
<http://www.census.gov/const/www/permitsindex.html>

U.S.D.A. Census of Agriculture 2007

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<http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/>

U.S.D.A. Programs (Wildlife Habitat Incentives and other programs)
<http://www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>