

VILLAGE OF SCHUYLERVILLE

Comprehensive Plan 2005

Schuylerville, New York

February 2005

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Executive Summary

Comprehensive Plan of 2005

On July 7, 2004, Mayor John Sherman and the Trustees of the Village of Schuylerville established a Special Board, hereafter known as the Citizen's Advisory Board, for the purpose of developing a Comprehensive Plan. This Plan was a recommendation from the Community Development Strategic Plan (2003) funded by the NYS Governor's Office for Small Cities. The community's vision for the future is contained in this Plan along with goals, objectives and recommendations that will foster the community's values and hopes for the future and will result in growth of a village that typifies the ideals of its residents. The Village of Schuylerville has the authority under Village Law §7-722 to engage in the development of a comprehensive plan *as a means to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of the village and to give due consideration to the needs of the people of the region of which the village is a part.*

The membership of the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) was limited to village residents. Public meetings were held twice monthly and community participation was encouraged. Outreach efforts were made to ensure that all groups within the community had the opportunity to voice their ideas, concerns, and hopes for the direction of future development that would occur in the village. The CAB addressed the fifteen components of Village Law as comprehensively as possible based on the information provided. It is expected that all future land use and capital projects on land within the village will take into consideration the adopted Comprehensive Plan.

The Village of Schuylerville has engaged in the planning process several times over the past twenty years. In addition, the Town of Saratoga Comprehensive Land Use Plans of 1971 and 2002 target the Villages of Schuylerville and Victory. All previous planning efforts served as background for and framed the development of the Comprehensive Plan of 2005.

In an effort to determine what the residents of the Village of Schuylerville wanted in their community, a survey was developed and distributed to every homeowner in the village. In addition, a Public Information Meeting was held on October 20, 2004 where the vision and goals of the village were discussed and input was sought from residents. The response to the survey and the quality of data obtained from it are an indication of the high level of interest that village residents have in their community.

The Comprehensive Plan has four sections. The first section provides an overview and background of the comprehensive planning process. Section Two provides a discussion of each of the components of the Comprehensive Plan.

Section Three presents the findings of the Village Information Survey and Section Four presents the recommendations of the Citizen's Advisory Board.

Recommendations have been formulated that are directly related to the stated goals of the village. Information provided by village residents weighed heavily in the development of the recommendations which are crucial to the implementation of goals and objectives of the various topics within the Comprehensive Plan.

In the Community Development Strategic Plan of 2003, it was stated that in order to achieve the stated goal of ensuring successful community development efforts through careful planning and inter-municipal cooperation, the village needed to develop a formal Comprehensive Plan. With the acceptance of this Plan, that goal will have been accomplished. The second recommendation of the Strategic Plan of 2003 was to form a Planning Board. The Citizen's Advisory Board strongly recommends that a Planning Board be created under § 7-718 of New York State Law with municipal, resident, community service and business representation. In addition, it is recommended that the Village Board institute a forum for regular communication with residents to discuss major issues and to build public awareness and support. Additional recommendations made to achieve the goals of the Village of Schuylerville are located in Section Four of this Plan.

All recommendations in this Plan were made based on information obtained from the Public Information Meeting held on October 20, 2004 and the Village Information Survey, as well as the review of prior planning recommendations for the village. While the task of developing and assembling the Comprehensive Plan has been challenging, the greater challenge for the village will be to incorporate the use of this document as an integral part of all future planning efforts. It is the intent of the Citizen's Advisory Board that this Plan be a vital document providing direction that reflects the views of the residents of the Village of Schuylerville.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margaret Ditch, Chair
Leona Colvin, Recording Secretary
Michael Hughes, Village Trustee
Roy Albertson
Joan Alheim
Lawrence Alheim
Rose Decker
Marie Foster
Robert Foster
Daniel McCabe
Nancy North
Bernard Wood

Section I: Overview and Background of the Comprehensive Planning Process

The Village of Schuylerville is named after General Philip Schuyler, an industrious man whose energy helped this town grow to enjoy economic prosperity. Philip Schuyler, a vital force in upstate New York, donated land to establish several churches, including the Dutch Reformed Church and the Methodist Church, and provided credit, loans, and advice to community members. In 1831, the citizens of Old Saratoga voted to rename their village in honor of the man who led this community's dedication to freedom and economic independence (Appendix A: Village of Schuylerville brochure).

Located approximately 35 miles from Albany and a short distance from Saratoga Springs, Glens Falls, and Clifton Park, the Village of Schuylerville has become a desirable residential community for families and individuals working in the Capital District and surrounding cities. Over the past several years the village has seen an increased number of housing starts (Morgan's Lookout) and the resale values of existing homes have increased.

Due to economic reversals in local industries that employed village residents and supported local business, many businesses closed and/or left the village in the last twenty years. While attempts have been made to resolve this situation, concerns remain about the quality of the downtown business district and the need to revitalize that area as well as increase opportunities for tourism in the village and surrounding areas.

Schuylerville is in a unique position to capitalize on tourism as a tool for economic development. It has a strong historical identity and important artifacts of that history. The commercial center is in a period of revitalization and there is space for new facilities to serve the needs of village residents and visitors. It is close to the Saratoga National Battlefield and the Gerald B. Solomon National Veteran's Cemetery; two sites that have the potential to bring large numbers of visitors to the village. Furthermore, Schuylerville is strategically located on the Champlain Canal, a part of the New York State Canal which has received national recognition because of the program to develop it as a tourism destination (Appendix B: SEDC, Tourism Development Plan, 1997, p. 1).

Several community and business groups have formed within the village in an attempt to support historic and cultural development and increase tourism. In addition, there is recognition that this effort would provide opportunities for business growth and future development in the village. In December 2003, the Village of Schuylerville Community Development Steering Committee and Community Development Resources, LLC, produced a *Community Development Strategic Plan* (CDSP) funded by the New York State Governor's Office for Small Cities (Appendix C). The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan that follows is to build on the information generated by the CDSP, and evaluate recommendations from earlier plans/reports to assist in guiding the village government in future decisions regarding growth, development, and the quality of life of the village.

Development of the Comprehensive Plan

On July 7, 2004, Mayor John Sherman and the Trustees of the Village of Schuylerville established a Special Board, hereafter known as the Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB) for the purpose of developing a Comprehensive Plan. The community's vision for the future is contained in the plan along with goals, objectives and recommendations that will foster

the community's values and hopes for the future and will result in growth of a village that typifies the ideals of its residents. The Village of Schuylerville has the authority under Village Law §7-722 to engage in the development of a comprehensive plan *as a means to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of the village and to give due consideration to the needs of the people of the region of which the village is a part.*

The membership of the Citizens Advisory Board (CAB) was limited to village residents. Public meetings were held twice monthly and community participation was encouraged. Outreach efforts were made to ensure that all groups within the community had the opportunity to voice their ideas, concerns, and hopes for the direction of future development that would occur in the village. Copies of the Minutes of these meetings are on file in the Village Office along with other supporting documents. The CAB addressed the fifteen components of Village Law as comprehensively as possible based on the information provided. It is expected that all future land use and capital projects on land within the village will take into consideration the adopted Comprehensive Plan.

Prior Plans Developed for the Village of Schuylerville

The Village of Schuylerville has engaged in the planning process several times over the past twenty years. In addition, the Town of Saratoga 1971 and 2002 Comprehensive Land Use Plans target the Villages of Schuylerville and Victory. Planning efforts to date have resulted in the following plans that serve as background for and frame the development of this Comprehensive Plan.

- Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Saratoga and Villages of Schuylerville and Victory, New York. Prepared by Environmental Consulting Group, Inc. in 1971.
- Report on the Economic Condition of the Village of Schuylerville 1970 – 1980, prepared by Stuart K. Witt in 1980.
- Village of Schuylerville Economic Development Plan: Business District Enhancement Plan and Schuylerville Tourism Development Plan, prepared by C. T. Male for the Saratoga Economic Development Commission (SEDC) in 1997.
- Town of Saratoga 2002 Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Prepared by the LA Group, PC.
- Village of Schuylerville Community Development Strategic Plan prepared by the Village of Schuylerville Community Development Steering Committee and Community Development Resources, LLC, in December 2003.

1971: Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Saratoga and Villages of Schuylerville and Victory, New York

The *Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Saratoga and Villages of Schuylerville and Victory, New York* was prepared by Environmental Consulting Group, Inc. (formerly Hans Klunder Associates, Inc.) in June 1971. This was a joint Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Saratoga and the Villages of Schuylerville and Victory, with individual statements of goals and guidelines to assist both villages in making development and

planning decisions. Elements of the plan include an historic section, a section on goals, population, housing, local economy, land capability and use, public facilities and utilities, open space and recreation, village center improvements and highway transportation.

A survey was taken of residents of the Town of Saratoga and the Villages of Schuylerville and Victory. One hundred three questionnaires were received from Schuylerville residents. At that time, the residents reported they felt the village was a good place to live and the reasons were mostly that it was a small, rural, clean community with friendly people and a low incidence of crime.

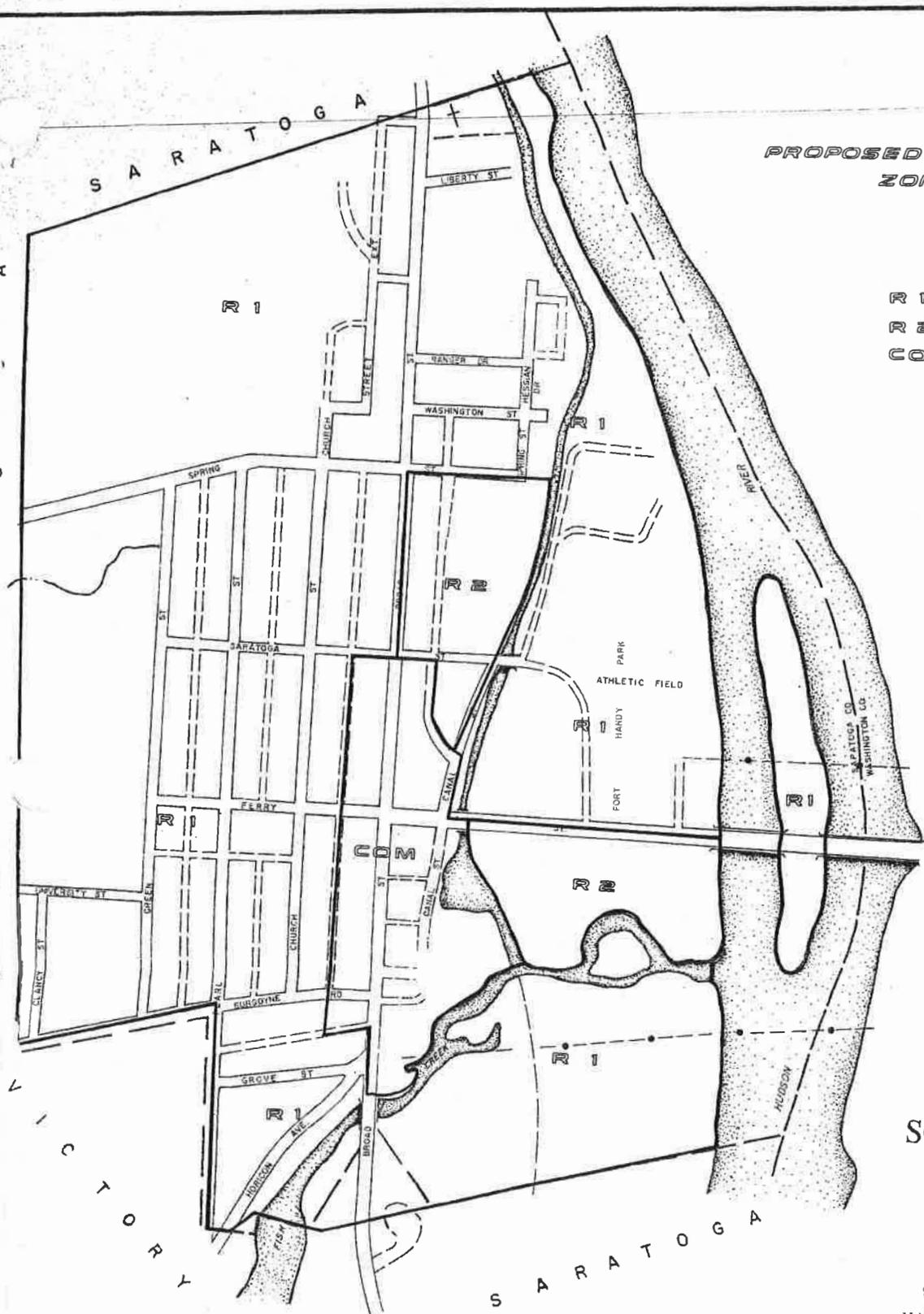
The recommended steps to carry out the goals and objectives of the *Town of Saratoga Comprehensive Land Use Plan of 1971* relative to the Village of Schuylerville included the following:

- **Zoning Ordinance.** In order to protect the existing character of the village when reuse of land is contemplated, a zoning ordinance should be adopted so that such reuse will be in accordance with the land use plan. Thus, protection will be given to the residents of the village to assure that they have the type of community that they rightfully desire. A proposed zoning map, developed by Hans Klunder Associates, Inc. in 1969, is on the following page.
- **Sub-division Regulations.** Sub-division regulations are not as critical to a nearly completely developed village like Schuylerville as they might be otherwise. They should be considered, however, so that the part that is still undeveloped will be developed in such a way as to prevent the cost of new roads and other new facilities in a subdivision from becoming another burden on the present taxpayers.
- **Building Codes.** It is recommended that the Village of Schuylerville adopt a standard building code, such as that recommended by the State of New York, to assure those who are having new buildings constructed that they will have a high quality of work accomplished, which at least meets minimum standards. Also a building code will assure that new construction will not create a fire hazard in the village.
- **Financial.** Due to the cost of improving the water and sewer systems, a modest capital improvements program is recommended for Schuylerville. Highlights of the program were:
 1. An annual appropriation of \$9,000. a year for equipment replacement in the public works department, and
 2. An \$8,000. special appropriation for the improvement of village streets and sidewalks. Beyond the six-year period for which the program is projected, the village will have to consider the purchase of a new fire truck and, as funds permit, make appropriations for improvements at Fort Hardy. Additionally, the capital improvements program shows what effect the program will have on the tax rate.

SARATOGA

PROPOSED
ZONING MAP

- R1 RESIDENTIAL ONE
- R2 RESIDENTIAL TWO
- COM COMMERCIAL



VILLAGE
OF
SCHUYLERVILLE
SARATOGA COUNTY
NEW YORK

1969
SCALE



HANS KLUNDER ASSOCIATES, INC.
PLANNING CONSULTANTS
HANOVER, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Based on U.S. Geological Survey Maps
and on aerial photography



The preparation of this map was financially aided through a federal grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development under the Urban Planning Assistance Program authorized by Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended, and through a grant from the New York State Office of Planning and Economic Development.

- **Continuing Planning.** The local planning board, as advisors to the Village Board of Trustees in the formation of policy, should be continually involved in the future of the village. The board should review the comprehensive plan and alter it as changing conditions and needs indicate. An annual function in updating the comprehensive plan is to review and alter the proposed capital improvement program and make recommendations to the town board for appropriate changes to suit the town's needs. Another continuing responsibility is the consideration of amendments of changes to the zoning ordinance that may arise from time to time. Should the village at any time extend its boundaries, then a major review of the comprehensive plan would be necessitated (Appendix D: Summary of Comprehensive Plan Town of Saratoga, 1971, pp. 3 - 4).

It is unclear whether or not these recommendations were ever given serious consideration by the village. It does not appear that any of the recommendations were ever implemented.

1980: Report on the Economic Condition of the Village of Schuylerville 1970 - 1980

This document provided a description of the economic climate in the village during a ten year span from 1970 - 1980. The recommendations, while over twenty years old, still have applicability to the comprehensive plan. The author, Stuart Witt, a professor at Skidmore College, conducted a survey that resulted in valuable data regarding household composition, income, local industry and other economic factors that provided a detailed picture of the village when it was at a low point in terms of community functioning.

It is unclear whether or not these recommendations were ever given serious consideration by the village, although some of the recommendations listed below were achieved over time, as the village grew and developed.

1. The village should consider forming a municipal utility. This would allow the village to generate its own power and sell it at reduced rates to the residents.
2. The village should consider forming an industrial development agency and explore the possibilities of attracting new industry to the area.
3. The village should consider annexing the Thomson site and taking rights to the hydro-electric resources.
4. The village should explore federal grants for which it may be eligible.
5. The village should find the authority to increase the penalties and interest on unpaid taxes, so as to discourage tax delinquency.
6. The village should encourage and assist in the opening of a medical facility in the village.
7. The village should consult with the Saratoga County Economic Development Corporation.

8. The village should contact the State Assemblyman and Senator to have them draw up legislation that would have the state assume a greater share of the cost of sewage plants for villages.
9. The village should consider the consequences of doing nothing about its fate and weigh them against the prospects of harnessing the heretofore negative energies of a taxpayers group and converting them to a positive effort to make improvements through public action.
10. The village should consider making its meeting room in the Village Hall a forum for the presentation and discussion of ideas about the community and its future rather than an arena for bloodletting. (Appendix E: Report on the Economic Condition of the Village of Schuylerville, 1980, pp. 33-34).

1997: The Village of Schuylerville Economic Development Planning Project

The Village of Schuylerville Economic Development Planning Project was a result of a \$10,000 Regional Economic Development Delivery Partnership (REDDP) grant received from the New York State Urban Development Corporation (UDC). The funds were administered by the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation (SEDC). The grant was the result of a concerted effort by the then Village of Schuylerville Mayor, Kim Gamache, to advance Schuylerville's economic future. The project was an outgrowth of planning activities conducted by the Economic Development Committee of the SEDC and community planning sessions headed by the Saratoga County Chamber of Commerce (Appendix B: Business District Enhancement Plan, p. 1).

The Plan, published in 1997, consists of two major parts: 1.) The Business District Enhancement Plan which incorporated business district maps, identified infrastructure and building façade improvements, and an implementation program timetable; and, 2.) The Tourism Development Plan, another part of the overall Schuylerville Economic Development Plan.

The primary recommendation of the Business District Enhancement Plan encouraged village government to work closely with, and coordinate the efforts of, the local business groups operating in the village: The Old Saratoga/New Schuylerville (OSNS) Association and the Old Saratoga Area Schuylerville Chamber of Commerce. The Plan specifically states the importance of facilitating communication between the Village government and these two groups. Short-term strategies for the development and revitalization of the business district (1 – 2 years) included suggestions regarding physical improvements in the business district, marketing and promotion, support of business expansion, recruitment of new businesses, and encouragement of community involvement in the entire community. Long-term strategies (3 – 4 years) built on the initial efforts and provided recommendations that included: Creating a Village Center; developing a landscaping plan and maintenance plan; hiring a business district coordinator; designating a special taxing district; establishing businesses to attract Saratoga County residents; and encouraging the formation of business partnerships whenever possible.

The central recommendation of the of the Tourism Development Plan was the formation of a Schuylerville Tourism Committee, comprised of representatives of organizations interested, involved in , and effected by, tourism. The Plan also presented the pros and

cons of tourism for the Village and assessed the viability of the Village to be a tourism destination (Appendix B: Tourism Development Plan, 1997, p. 11).

The overall plan provided clearly detailed strategies and suggestions for community development activities related to the revitalization of the business district and the development of tourism. There is no evidence that those strategies were formalized and implemented by village government.

2002: *The Town of Saratoga 2002 Comprehensive Land Use Plan*

The Town of Saratoga 2002 Comprehensive Land Use Plan states the following:

The Town has two village centers, Schuylerville and Victory, both of which have suffered urban decline. The general appearance and the viability of the commercial districts in these centers need substantial improvement. There are a number of areas in the village environment that may be appropriate for the development of light industry. This opportunity should be explored in order to provide future employment for young people who desire to live and work in the same community (Appendix F: Town of Saratoga 2002 Comprehensive Land Use Plan, p. iv).

The economic development plan prepared for the Village of Schuylerville in 1997 can be expanded upon to encompass the Town of Saratoga since the two communities are bonded by so many factors. Such a plan would help direct appropriate businesses into the existing business centers in the villages, while supporting other types of businesses that typically require larger parcels to areas in the Town of Saratoga. (Ibid, pp. 1 - 2).

Support the village centers of Schuylerville and Victory as the main commercial centers. Continue to help promote their downtown redevelopment efforts by not creating new commercial centers in the Town of Saratoga. (Ibid, pp. 2 – 17).

In the *Town of Saratoga 2002 Comprehensive Land Use Plan*, the Villages of Schuylerville and Victory are encouraged to work together, develop strategies to share services to reduce the burden on local taxpayers and to maintain the tax base in each village. The Town of Saratoga Plan is supportive of development efforts that will encourage development of the business areas and enhance the quality of life for residents of the Village of Schuylerville.

2003: *Village of Schuylerville Community Development Strategic Plan*

In 2002-2003, another strategic plan, funded by the New York State Governor's Office for Small Cities, was conducted by the Village of Schuylerville Community Development Steering Committee with the assistance of Community Development Resources, LLC. The strategic plan addressed improvements to infrastructure, elimination of blight in the downtown/main street section of the Village, strategies for local economic development, support of new and expanding small businesses, and projects which will capitalize on the canal-based and historic characteristics of the community to promote heritage tourism and economic growth. (Appendix C: CDSP, 2003, p. 2).

The major issues identified in the strategic plan are similar to those identified in earlier plans. These include: infrastructure improvement, coordinated planning efforts, housing

rehabilitation, historic preservation, tourism, downtown revitalization, and waterfront development. The key stakeholders identified during the planning process were village and surrounding area residents, local businesses, local school district, village government officials and municipal employees, and local human service providers and agencies. Key external groups identified during the strategic planning process included greater Town of Saratoga residents and business owners, neighboring municipal governments, and county, state and municipal governments. The key success factors/priorities identified from the strategic planning process are:

- Development of a clear definition of what Village of Schuylerville stakeholders want to accomplish through their community development efforts.
- Development of a vision for the future for the Village of Schuylerville.
- Identification of additional sources of revenue and sufficient resources to implement the plan.
- Utilization of collaborative partnerships, strong public relations and inter-municipal efforts (Ibid., p. 4).

The *Community Development Strategic Plan* was supported by Mayor John Sherman, Village of Schuylerville trustees Daniel Blake, Michael Hughes, James Miers, and acting trustee, Heath Morris. While this plan does not provide implementation strategies to achieve its stated vision or goals, it does provide the foundation from which the current Comprehensive Plan for the Village of Schuylerville has emerged. The Vision and Goal statements utilized in the next section of the comprehensive plan are the result of the 2003 Community Development Strategic Plan.

Summary

It is apparent that, over time, a great deal of planning activity has occurred in the Village of Schuylerville. Each time a planning effort began, the residents responded to surveys identifying the needs that they perceived to be most important, however, there is little evidence that their input was ever acted upon. When the current planning effort is complete, it is imperative that the efforts of the Citizen's Advisory Board be continued and the community organized to work effectively on the items that they consider most important to the quality of village life and the direction of future growth and development.

The village is uniquely prepared to undertake this effort. There is a renewed interest in the village due to affordable housing, an excellent school system, and the small town atmosphere that is highly attractive to persons interested in living in this area.

Section II: Components of the Comprehensive Plan

Prior to beginning the discussion of the fifteen components of the Comprehensive Plan as required by §7-772 Village Law of the State of New York, additional information will be provided regarding the demographics, village government, and other components of the Village of Schuylerville.

Demographic Trends in the Village of Schuylerville

The demographic data presented in this section is taken from the 2003 Community Development Strategic Plan. It is based on the 2000 Census and while that data will not be updated for several years, it is still an accepted source of demographic data for community planning.

The Village of Schuylerville is a small community of approximately 1200 residents, with a very small percentage of minority residents. The largest age group represented is between the ages of thirty and forty (14.3%), followed closely by those between forty and fifty (13.7%) and fifty and sixty (12.2%). This is indicative of a population whose majority is in the family building and mid-career stages of life.

Collectively, approximately one-fifth (21.3%) of the entire population is over the age of sixty, with the largest age band falling between seventy-five and eighty-four in that group. These figures indicate a substantial need for affordable senior housing and supportive services as the population continues to age (Appendix C: CDSP, 2003, p. 8).

It is important to note that change is occurring in the village. Increased numbers of people are attracted to the village because of affordable housing and an excellent school system and businesses are attracted to the area, as well. As a result, housing prices have increased dramatically and the annual household income in the village could be higher than is reported in the survey findings. With the gradual shift in population from outside the village, it can also be suggested that the educational level and expectation for municipal services will increase.

Village Government

The Village Office is located at 35 Spring Street. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. All elected officials of the Village hold four year terms. They are listed below:

Mayor: John Sherman

Village Trustees: Daniel Blake, Glenn Decker, Michael Hughes, James Miers

Appointed positions include:

Village Attorney: Edward Bartholomew

Village Clerk/Treasurer: Barbara Tierney

Deputy Village Clerk/Treasurer: Helene Patterson

Code Enforcement Officer: Mark Dennison

Village Historian: Kristina Saddlemire-Reese

Regular village board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. Workshop meetings are scheduled for the Monday before each board meeting. Special meeting notices are published on a regular basis to alert residents to important topics concerning the Village.

Components of the Comprehensive Plan

1. General statement of goals, objectives, principles, policies, and standards upon which proposals for the immediate and long-range enhancement, growth and development of the Village are based.

All development in the village, both immediate and long-term, will be based on the Vision Statement and Goals for the village contained in the *Village of Schuylerville Community Development Strategic Plan* prepared by the Village of Schuylerville Community Development Steering Committee and Community Development Resources, LLC, in December 2003 (Appendix C).

Vision Statement of the Village of Schuylerville

The Village of Schuylerville envisions itself growing while preserving and celebrating its history and maintaining a firm hold on future development. The village will be an active participant in improving the local economy, emphasizing the village's history and reflecting a modern lifestyle in balance with the environment. The Village of Schuylerville will be a destination location with excellent opportunities for entrepreneurship, culture, education, and tourism. (Ibid., p. 4)

Summary of Goals of the Village of Schuylerville

1. To preserve Schuylerville's historic and natural attributes and accentuate these unique features as opportunities for economic stability and growth.
2. To provide for improved infrastructure throughout the village.
3. To revitalize the downtown area and support local business.
4. To attain diverse funding sources to support municipal, business and residential community projects.
5. To ensure successful community development efforts through careful planning and inter-municipal cooperation.
6. To assure increased communication between all sectors of the community providing greater awareness of government and community-based services and activities.
7. To ensure the quality of life in the Village of Schuylerville by protecting its natural environment and preserving its small town atmosphere and sense of community (Ibid., p. 9).

2. Regional needs and the official plans of other government units and agencies within the region.

Town of Saratoga

Numerous services are delivered to Town of Saratoga and village residents by Saratoga County at the Town Hall, 30 Ferry Street, Schuylerville, NY. These services include Probation, WIC, Meals on Wheels, Prevention Exercise Program and the Senior Dining Program. Offices of the Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, Town Assessor, Town Justices and a sub-station of the New York State Police are also located at the Town Hall

In November 2002, a proposition was defeated that would have relocated the Town Hall to Town of Saratoga property outside of the village. The Town Hall must be relocated as the site where it is currently located is not stable. Thomas Wood, Supervisor of the Town of Saratoga, has begun conversations to relocate the Town Hall and has stated his intent to keep the Town Hall in the village.

Department of Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) will be completing work on Routes 4 and 32 and Route 29. Meetings have been held with DOT to determine the impact of this work on businesses located in the village. Concerns raised by the business community and residents of Green Street have resulted in a refocusing of the original DOT traffic plan. Negotiations are progressing to develop a traffic flow plan that will support the needs of the community. Work is scheduled to begin in 2008 and planning continues between DOT, Mayor John Sherman, and a committee designated for this purpose.

The National Park Service: Saratoga National Historical Park

Saratoga National Historical Park preserves sites associated with the Battle of Saratoga, the turning point of the American Revolution. Under a 1926 law, New York State began to acquire battlefield lands in preparation for sesquicentennial celebrations of the battles. The battlefield was made part of the national park system in 1938 when Saratoga National Historical Park was authorized by the United States Congress. Since 1938, three sites have been added to the park: the General Philip Schuyler Estate in the Village of Schuylerville, the Saratoga Monument, and Victory Woods in the Village of Victory (Appendix G: National Park Service Draft General Management Plan, 2003, p. 1).

The General Management Plan and material relative to the Village of Schuylerville and surrounding areas will be presented in greater depth in Item 4 of the Comprehensive Plan.

Old Saratoga on the Hudson

Six municipalities (Town of Saratoga, Town of Northumberland, Town of Greenwich, Town of Easton, Village of Schuylerville, and Village of Victory) and numerous public and private partners came together in and around the Village of Schuylerville to develop a community plan for cultural and economic renewal. The *Old Saratoga on the Hudson* (formerly Schuyler Park) Project, administered by Saratoga P.L.A.N. (Preserving Land and Nature) brings together these public and private partners on both sides of the Hudson River in one revitalization effort. The vision is to build on the area's

extraordinary concentration of historical, scenic, and recreational resources to create an international heritage tourism destination.

The vision of Old Saratoga on the Hudson is to unite the communities along both sides of the Hudson River in the historic region known as *Old Saratoga* in a regional effort to protect the area's extraordinary beauty, history, and heritage while enhancing the quality of life and economic stability of the people who live here today and for those who will follow (Appendix I).

A comprehensive description of the groups working with *Old Saratoga on the Hudson* to preserve and define historical areas in the village and surrounding areas will be more fully discussed in Item 4 of this Plan.

New York State Canal Corporation

The New York State Canal Corporation has the oversight responsibility for any development activities that involve the Champlain Canal and/or the Old Champlain Canal Towpath. The planning activities for these areas are one of several projects being developed under the umbrella of *Old Saratoga on the Hudson*. These projects will be discussed more fully in Item 4 of this Plan.

New York State Department of Health

The New York State Department of Health sets drinking water standards and determines when the presence of microbiological contaminants is a health concern. They have been working with the Village since May 1999 when the Schuylerville-Victory Joint Board of Water Management, the Villages of Schuylerville and Victory Mills, and the State of New York entered into a Judgment of Consent in State Supreme Court that required the Water Commission and the Villages to construct new water treatment facilities in accordance with a schedule set by the Health Department.

Due to several factors, the original scheduled date of completion could not be met and the schedule has been modified over time. Fines have been levied by New York State. The work on the water treatment facility is moving forward and there appear to be few barriers to successful completion of the project.

New York State Department of Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has ordered General Electric to remove PCB's that company dumped into the Hudson River for many years. The hotly contested process of dredging will take them out through a big, industrial process, costing \$500 million and lasting six years. Communities along the river fear everything from increased traffic to noise, smell and disruption of pleasure boating. The EPA is planning to build dewatering sites in Fort Edward and Bethlehem later this year. The EPA plans to release maps of where the first dredging will take place by March. According to an EPA official, the dredging is set to begin in 2006. (Appendix H: Times Record, 1/10/05).

It is unclear how the Village of Schuylerville will be affected by the dredging of the Hudson River. At this point in time, the village leadership is not overly concerned that there will be a negative impact on the community.

United States Post Office

The Post Office is located on 25 Ferry Street, Schuylerville, NY. The hours of operation are Monday – Friday, 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. and 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. The Postmaster is Danny Smith.

3. Existing and proposed location and intensity of land uses

The map of Schuylerville indicates primarily residential property in the village. The business district of the village is located on Broad Street (Route 32). This area is undergoing resurgence with renewed interest in revitalizing the downtown district. As there are no zoning regulations in the village, businesses have developed alongside residential property resulting in mixed-use in many areas.

There are few undeveloped parcels of property in the village. When the development of Morgan's Lookout is completed, there will be few places to build new homes unless existing property is purchased and new construction occurs on the footprint of the original structure.

There is a high probability that as businesses relocate to the village and as housing costs increase in surrounding communities, there may well be an interest in building structures that are several stories high. In a review of the properties on Broad Street, none are more than three stories high. Residential buildings in the village are primarily one or two stories. Property lot sizes and the setback from the curb to residences are not consistent throughout the village.

Open land available to village residents includes Fort Hardy Park and the land along the Towpath and the Hudson River. Recreational land is at a premium in the Village, although, five *pocket parks* are planned for the village and surrounding area. These will be discussed at length in Item 4.

4. Land Usage: Agricultural, historic and cultural resources, coastal and natural resources and sensitive environmental areas.

As has been pointed out in past studies of Schuylerville, one of the village's outstanding features is its history. A large part of that history is tied closely to the establishment of our nation as an independent, self-governing country. The Turning Point of the War of Independence fought by our ancestors took place in our corner of upstate New York, then known only as Saratoga. After the Battle of Saratoga, the surrender of a large contingent of British troops was carried out on land along the Hudson River within the borders of Schuylerville. The place near where those troops surrendered their arms has become a village park – Fort Hardy Park. Presently, the park has a variety of uses including encampments recalling troop life in the 18th century and various other large group activities. For many years, the park's primary use has been by a highly successful youth recreational program. There is been a growing interest among some village residents and business owners, supported by government initiatives, to see the park area used for activities more suited to historical and cultural interpretive programs thus increasing its value to the community and to the growth of tourism.

Another historical event that has brought Schuylerville into a position of prominence was the completion of the Champlain Canal in the early 1800s under the leadership of Philip

Schuyler II. He was the grandson of General Philip Schuyler who owned a home and businesses in what is now Schuylerville during the Revolutionary War period. The canal brought great prosperity to our area and helped our village develop into a highly successful community. Although much of it has been rerouted to the Hudson River, a portion of the original Champlain Canal still exists and runs through the village. For over a mile a Towpath follows along its side reaching from General Schuyler's home to Lock 5 of the current canal. Originally, mules and workers used it as they pulled the heavy wooden barges filled with produce and other goods through the canal and its locks. Currently a section of the Towpath serves as a village street for residents whose homes lie along it and for all others who wish to make use of the recreational offerings of the area. Among these are a boat launch, wooded trails, picnic areas, Nordic skiing and ice skating in winter, Hudson river scenic views, access to the canal and the river for fishing, opportunities for nature study and photography and space in which to be alone with ones thoughts in a natural setting away from the pressures of daily life (Appendix J: Albertson, 2004).

There is no agricultural use of land within the Village of Schuylerville. However, there are numerous historic and cultural resources, coastal and natural resources and sensitive environmental areas. There are several groups/agencies that have attempted to identify and plan for the development and use of property within the village. These include:

Historic and Cultural Resources

Saratoga National Park

In the draft of the General Management Plan (2003), Alternative D: *Focus on the Burgoyne Campaign* will focus on improving the visitor understanding of the events that led to the 1777 British surrender by providing a more complete and logical depiction of these events. The alternative would provide wide access to Old Saratoga with suggested development of the towpath trail and a regional visitor center that would be opened on a seasonal basis. The General Management Plan is scheduled for fall 2004 printing and at that time, Alternative D will be formally accepted as the development plan for the park.

Visitors to Saratoga National Historical Park arrive primarily by automobile. While there appears to be adequate parking at the Battlefield, that is not the case for the Old Saratoga locations. Currently, the Schuyler House has parking for 15 cars and one bus, with overflow parking on grassy areas. The Saratoga Monument and Victory Woods are located in the Village of Victory, and they are in close proximity to the Village of Schuylerville and draw visitors to the area. Currently, the Saratoga Monument has a gravel parking lot for 10 cars and does not meet universally accepted handicapped parking and wheelchair access to the ground floor of the monument. An agreement has been reached between the National Park Service and Prospect Hill Cemetery to correct the parking situation and pave additional area to benefit both parties. In addition, the National Park Service will also build a handicapped accessible restroom facility in that area. At present time, Victory Woods has no facilities for visitors, although that could change in the future with the development of an alternate parking plan to support parking at National Park Service sites (Appendix G).

In the preferred plan of development for the National Park Service focusing on the Burgoyne Campaign, the plan proposes the following initiatives that will have an impact on the Village of Schuylerville:

- Provide orientation at the Old Saratoga Unit in a new facility developed at an appropriate location in Old Saratoga. Include classroom and public assembly space, as well as a *showcase gallery* highlighting other sites of importance throughout the region. Site and design the facility to allow for expansion as new opportunities and regional partnerships evolve.
- Open all three Saratoga Unit sites to the public on a seasonal basis. Link the Old Saratoga Unit sites with thematically related sites outside of the park boundary via pedestrian, bicycle, and auto routes. Such routes could include linking the Saratoga Monument and Victory Woods via the Prospect Hill Cemetery, and linking Victory Woods with the Schuyler House via Fish Creek.
- Interpret the Saratoga Monument to portray the commemorative movement and return the landscape to its original formal design.
- Preserve the Schuyler House and install a combination of historic furnishings and other interpretive media that best portrays the story of the Schuyler Family in Old Saratoga.
- Expand interpretation of the historic Champlain Canal (*Ibid.*, pp. 10 – 11)

Opportunities exist for the park to participate in a number of new regional heritage tourism initiatives. Local and state officials are working to develop the historic and recreational potential in Schuylerville. The park is a partner in the Saratoga County Heritage Trail System, a network of town and municipal trails, bike paths and greenways; Champlain Canal Towpath, a plan to adapt the original Champlain Canal Towpath to use as a continuous linear recreation trail from Waterford to Schuylerville and beyond; the NYS Canal Corporation, an organization that is promoting the use of the Hudson River for recreational boating and is exploring the possibility of building a dock along the Hudson River near the battlefield (*Ibid.*, p. 126); and the Lakes-to-Locks Passage Scenic Byway initiative.

Old Saratoga on the Hudson

Several projects are being coordinated under the auspices of *Old Saratoga on the Hudson*, administered by Saratoga P.L.A.N. The geographic area that is incorporated in *Old Saratoga on the Hudson* is one of the most beautiful and historically significant landscapes in the region. Within its boundaries lay the Field of Grounded Arms where the British Army surrendered to American forces after the Battle of Saratoga, commonly referred to as the *Turning Point of the American Revolution*. The area is steeped in historic significance from the key role it played in the development of the Champlain Canal and Hudson River as vital transportation routes, to the development of industrial mills (Appendix K: OSOH Project Description, March 2004, p. 1).

The *Old Saratoga on the Hudson* project includes efforts to protect the magnificent landscapes, viewsheds, open spaces, and surrounding farmlands in the region. The open space preservation is embodied in several of the features of the *Old Saratoga on*

the Hudson project (e.g., recreational development) and is the primary focus of efforts to preserve and protect an apple orchard and neighboring farmlands on the eastern border of the village. (Ibid., p. 4).

The Federal Highway Administration, through the New York State Scenic Byway Program has provided seed money for a project known as the Old Saratoga Pocket Parks. The parks will help visitors and residents alike in putting individual historical sites throughout the area into context and offer a unified presentation of the importance of the area in American history.

The Heritage New York funding is being used to develop a driving tour and information display that will help to tell the story of the region's role in the Revolutionary War beyond the traditional boundaries of the Saratoga National Historical Park (Ibid., p. 4).

Fort Hardy Park

This site is an extremely important historical and recreational resource for the community. Also known as the *Field of Grounded Arms*, it is the location that troops under the command of British General John Burgoyne *grounded their arms* on October 17, 1777 as part of the Articles of Convention that ended the Battle of Saratoga, marking the Turning Point of the American Revolution.

Bordered on one side by the Hudson River and on the other by the Old Champlain Canal and towpath, the park serves as the community's largest and most centrally located public area serving multiple uses from Little League baseball to canoeing.

When the Town of Saratoga received a grant from the National Scenic Byway Program to develop a series of Pocket Parks for Old Saratoga, including the Villages of Schuylerville and Victory, monies became available for the LA Group to work closely with the Fort Hardy Park Committee. The purpose was to develop a master plan for land use and development of the Fort Hardy Park. The Committee, formed in fall 2002, is committed to the development of a plan for improving the Fort Hardy area as an educational, cultural and recreational resource (Appendix L: FHP Design Charette, 9/20/04).

On July 17, 2004, The Fort Hardy Park Community Survey was taken during Family Fun Day at Fort Hardy Park (Appendix M: FHP Community Survey, 7/17/04). On September 20, 2004, the LA Group facilitated a design charette to bring the community together to define a common vision for the Park. Public opinion regarding the use of the Park was also solicited on October 17, 2004 during the Surrender Day program. On November 8, 2004, a short presentation was made during a Village Workshop to familiarize the mayor and village trustees with the planning that had occurred to date on this project.

Lakes to Locks Passage

Old Saratoga Pocket Parks is a project intended to create a series of small parks to interpret areas of historical interest in the Schuylerville/Victory area within Lakes to Locks Passage (LTLP), a nationally designated All-American Road. The intent of this project is to complete the planning, engineering and other steps necessary to begin implementation of the park network in a multi-year program (Appendix N: LTLP: Assessment Report, 2/27/04).

Implementation of the initial Pocket Parks will be closely integrated with the interpretation of the Heritage New York Revolutionary War Trail Collaborative Regional Interpretive Signage Project (CRISP) sites of the Revolutionary War Heritage Trail. Most of the potential pocket parks will highlight and interpret key features of the final siege field at Saratoga.

The central theme to Old Saratoga is the military history known to many as the *Turning Point of the American Revolution*. Prominent historic features are the Battlefield, Schuyler House and the Saratoga Monument, which are interpreted by the National Park Service. The secondary theme for the community is a continuous section of the old Champlain Canal that runs through Schuylerville. The mostly-intact canal channel, tow path, basin and aqueduct are especially distinctive elements (Ibid., p.1).

The pocket parks will help visitors and residents alike in putting individual historical sites throughout the area into context and offer a unified presentation of the importance of the area in American history. The project administrator is working closely with the administrator of two Heritage New York grants awarded to the Town of Saratoga. The Heritage New York funding is being used to develop a driving tour and information display that will help to tell the story of the region's role in the Revolutionary War beyond the traditional boundaries of the Saratoga National Historical Park (Appendix K: OSOH Project Description, March 2004, p. 4).

Coastal and Natural Resources

Schuylerville Harbor Project

The goal of the Schuylerville Harbor Project is to restore the Old Champlain Canal, harbor, and junction lock to provide a base for economic development in the villages of Schuylerville and Victory and the Town of Saratoga. The project has historical, educational, and economic value and would potentially benefit businesses and residents of the Town of Saratoga and surrounding areas (Appendix O: Schuylerville Harbor Project, p. 1)

The original Champlain Canal was constructed about 1823 and enlarged in the 1840s. When the new Barge Canal System, which used the river channel and no longer passed through Schuylerville, was completed in about 1913, boats could no longer access Schuylerville. In 1919 a Junction Lock was constructed to allow boats to access the original canal and deliver their cargo to the Schuylerville docks. When highways had improved to allow reliable year round transportation, the old system was no longer needed and was abandoned in the early 1950s. Water still flows through the lock and canal and the waterway is occasionally used for canoeing but there is no access from the Hudson River/Champlain Canal. Sedimentation has reduced the original seven foot depth to approximately three feet. The project would restore the historic lock and canal so that the Town of Saratoga and Village of Schuylerville can be a destination for vacationing boaters. The proximity to the Saratoga National Historical Park, National Veteran's Cemetery, Schuyler House, Saratoga Battle Monument, and the City of Saratoga Springs is a major factor in the village's ability to attract vacationing boaters (Ibid., p. 1).

This project involves the restoration of the old historic Champlain Canal which starts near Champlain Canal Lock 5 in the northernmost part of the Town of Saratoga and goes for approximately one mile south before ending at a dam near the southern end of the Village of Schuylerville. The historic lock and approximately ¼ mile of the canal is north of the village of Schuylerville but still in the Town of Saratoga. The remainder of the canal including the existing harbor is within the Village of Schuylerville. It is commonly held that the New York State Canal Corporation owns the canal, lock, and most of the harbor lands as well as the lands on the east side of the canal.

When completed, the project would accommodate overnight docking at three sites. These sites will provide dock space for about twenty five vessels of the 25 to 40 foot size most common for canal vacationers. These three sites are: the immediate area of the old lock, docks placed along the east side of the old canal, and the harbor (Ibid., p. 2).

With the completion of this project, the Town of Saratoga could become a destination for boaters rather than just another lock to pass through. This would be the only structure on the Champlain Canal system to allow boaters the experience of passing through a hand operated lock and onto a waterway built when our nation was less than 50 years old (Ibid., p. 1).

Hudson Crossing – A Bi-county Educational Park

The Hudson Crossing project plans to develop a comprehensive educational and recreational destination highlighting the history of the American Revolution, unique geologic elements, ecology, and the economic and cultural significance of the Champlain Canal and Hudson River. These include the following:

The Dix Bridge

Built in 1900, this High Warren Truss Bridge is listed on the National Historic Register and provides an important connection between Saratoga and Washington Counties. The Hudson Crossing master plan includes a study to determine the feasibility of re-opening it as a shared-use pathway. This would allow pedestrians, snowmobilers, and bicyclists to safely cross the Hudson River and provide bi-county access to the *Hudson Crossing Park* (Appendix P: Hudson Crossing).

Champlain Canalway Trail Development

Within the Village of Schuylerville there is a very well preserved section of the historic Old Champlain Canal and Towpath from the Schuyler House to Lock 5 Island. The Old Champlain Canal is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This bike and pedestrian pathway is a link between the historic sites related to the siege of 1777 and the structures and waterways of the original Champlain Canal and recreation sites along the west bank of the Hudson River (Appendix K: OSOH, 2004, p. 5).

The *Old Saratoga on the Hudson* project, of which Hudson Crossing is a part, includes plans for improving this section of the Canalway Trail by upgrading the surface, adding benches and interpretive signage and other improvements (Ibid., p. 5). This well-maintained pathway which follows the old canal leads directly to the Visitor's Center in Schuyler's Canal Park. The Canal Towpath serves as a gateway to the walking tour of Schuylerville and provides a safe and scenic area for a variety of recreational pursuits (Appendix P).

Sensitive Environmental Areas

Dredging of the Champlain Canal has been discussed in the newspapers, at public meetings, and concerns have been raised about it at the village meetings. It is unclear what will happen with the Canal although it is understood by village residents that support for cleaning up the Canal and the increased tourism activity that could result would have strong economic benefits to the village.

5. Consideration of population, demographic and socio-economic trends and future projections

The information in this area is based on the Census Report of 2000. Census data was used in the Community Development Strategic Plan of 2003 and there is no change. Demographic information will be extrapolated from the survey information and will provide a current snapshot of age, gender, and household income of the survey respondents.

Demographic and Socio-Economic Data

The Village of Schuylerville has approximately 1200 residents. Total housing units in the village are 578, with 271 owner occupied residences and 265 renter occupied residences. There are 579 employed persons living in the village and working in the following occupational categories: Management, Professional and related Occupation (182); Sales and Office Occupations (149); Service Occupations (102); Farming, Fishing and Forestry Occupations (2); Construction, Extraction and Maintenance Occupations (53); and Production, Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (91). Income was reported as follows:

• Less than 10,000	54
• 10,000 - 14,999	64
• 15,000 – 24,999	109
• 25,000 – 34,999	96
• 35,000 – 49,999	81
• 50,000 – 74,999	89
• 75,000 – 99,999	23
• 100,000 – 149,999	11
• 150,000 – 199,999	3
• 200,000 and over	9

Based on the Census data of 2000, the median household income was reported to be \$30,779. (Appendix C: CDSP, 2003, pp. 5 - 7).

The Community Development Strategic Plan provided the following analysis of demographic trends in the village, based on Census 2000 data:

The Village of Schuylerville is a small community of approximately 1200 residents, with a very small percentage of minority residents. The largest age group represented is between the ages of thirty and forty (14.3%), followed closely by those between forty and fifty (13.7%) and fifty and sixty (12.2%). This is indicative of a population whose majority is in the family building and mid-career stages of life.

Collectively, approximately one-fifth (21.3%) of the entire population is over the age of sixty, with the largest age band falling between seventy-five and eighty-four in that group. These figures indicate a substantial need for affordable senior housing and supportive services as the population continues to age.

Sixty-four percent of the persons over age sixteen are employed. The majority of the population over age twenty-five has at least a high school education, approximately ten percent (9.5%) have earned associate degrees, approximately thirteen percent (13%) have bachelor's level educations, and approximately five percent (4.4%) have earned graduate or professional degrees.

The vast majority (72%) of positions held by the working residents of the Village of Schuylerville are private wage and salaried positions. A significant number (23%) of the total employed residents are government workers. There are twenty-four self employed workers in the village, comprising four percent (4%) of the total work class (Ibid., p. 8).

Future Trends

It is important to note that change is occurring in the village. Increased numbers of people are attracted to the village because of affordable housing and an excellent school system; and businesses are attracted to the area, as well. As a result, housing prices have increased dramatically and the annual household income in the village could now be higher than is reported in the information taken from the *Community Development Strategic Plan*.

With the active housing market and gradual shift in population from outside the village, it can also be suggested that the educational level and expectations for municipal services will increase beyond what is currently reported. The *Village Information Survey* will provide some current data regarding expectations of village residents and that information will be provided in Section 3 of the Plan.

6. Location and types of transportation facilities.

In both the *Saratoga Economic Development Corporation Plan* (SEDC) of 1997 and the *Community Development Strategic Plan* (CDSP) of 2003, residents indicated that public transportation to Saratoga Springs and surrounding areas was a concern. Currently, the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) operates a bus, one day a week, incorporating Schuylerville, Victory, and the Town of Saratoga. The bus route is to the Wilton Mall in Saratoga Springs with return time to the village that allows time for shopping.

CDTA indicates that the ridership is approximately 15 persons per month, however, that number may be incorrect. They have expressed interest in exploring whether there is a market for increasing the number of weekly bus runs and has indicated a willingness to work with the village in an effort to identify whether there is sufficient need for increasing public transportation services to the village.

Currently, there is no taxi service or senior shuttle bus service in the village. In public meetings held at the Senior Dining Sites in September and October 2004, one of the primary concerns of residents was availability of transportation to medical appointments. The survey data will be cross-tabulated to determine whether or not public transportation is a concern of older persons or if it is a general concern of village residents.

7. Existing and proposed general location of public and private utilities and infrastructure.

Utilities

Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation supplies the electric power needs for the village. The hydroelectric dam on Fish Creek is owned and operated by the Long Lake HydroPower Corporation. They supply power to the general power grid and not to any local customers. Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation also supplies natural gas.

Verizon supplies local phone service and Time Warner Cable supplies cable television services throughout the community (Appendix F: Town of Saratoga, 2002).

Infrastructure

The Saratoga Economic Development Commission (SEDC) report (1997) defines infrastructure as:

Public amenities which can be either above-ground, at grade, or located below grade. Public sewer and water are below grade infrastructure items. Ground level infrastructure refers to sidewalks, curbing, on-street and off-street parking (parking lots), roads, street furniture, street trees, stoops, and hydrants. Public amenities such as street lights, signs, and utility poles and wires are considered above ground items (Appendix B: Business District Enhancement Plan, 1997, p. 13).

Three of the top five potential projects cited by the *Community Development Strategic Plan Of 2003* are affected by the infrastructure of the village. These include:

1. Improved water and sewer system
2. Sidewalk reconstruction and improvement of streets and roads.
3. Downtown revitalization (Appendix C: CDSP, 2003, p. 18).

One of the village goals is to provide for improved infrastructure throughout the Village. Improvement of infrastructure, with particular focus on water and sewer, has been identified as the top priority for the Village of Schuylerville (Ibid., p. 11).

Board of Water Management

The village is a joint partner with the Village of Victory in the Schuylerville-Victory Joint Board of Water Management (BOWM) for providing water to residents of both villages and outside users in the Towns of Saratoga, Easton, and Northumberland. On May 24, 1999, when the BOWM entered into a Judgment of Consent in State Supreme Court, Saratoga County, that required the BOWM and the villages to construct

new water treatment facilities in accordance with a schedule set forth in the Consent Order.

Since that time, the BOWM has worked diligently to meet the construction schedule while dealing with numerous challenges related to development of a site and construction in an historic area. Working with The Laberge Group, the BOWM is currently engaged in the construction of a 560,000 gallon per day reverse osmosis water treatment facility to be located in Fort Hardy Park. Bids were advertised, reviewed and accepted, and work at the site has begun.

There are two commissioners on the BOWM from each village designated by the respective mayors. The Village of Schuylerville Commissioners are Penny Downs and Margaret Ditch. The Village of Victory Commissioners are Lawrence Wolcott (Chairperson of the BOWM) and Douglas Root. Mayor John Sherman (Village of Schuylerville) and Mayor George Sullivan (Village of Victory) are ex-officio members of the BOWM. Brenda Buchanan serves as the Recording Secretary of the BOWM.

Sewer Advisory Board

The Sewer Advisory Board was instituted in August 2004. Its purpose is to provide a liaison between the operators of the Waste Water Treatment Plant (Earthtech) and the Village. Earthtech has assumed management responsibility for the facility and is in the process of reviewing the existing plant and the present and future needs of the community.

Schuylerville Tourism Development Plan

The Schuylerville Tourism Development Plan was part of the Village of Schuylerville Economic Development Planning Project conducted by C.T. Male Associates and sponsored by the Saratoga Economic Development Commission. It was presented to the village in 1997.

The primary recommendation of the Tourism Development Plan was the creation of a Village Tourism Committee comprised of a membership that was representative of all community-based organizations that had an interest in tourism development. The members were to advise the mayor on the development and implementation of strategies for promoting economic development through tourism (Appendix B: Tourism Development Plan, 1997, pp. 11 – 12).

While the overall report is interesting and could be utilized to support the development of tourism in the village, one section, *Streetscape Design Guidelines*, is of particular interest. This section provides design guidelines intended for the village business district, located on Broad Street between Spring and Burgoyne Street, with extra emphasis on the area between Ferry and Burgoyne Street. It provides a working definition for streetscape.

A successful streetscape design has elements that are balanced, provide continuity, and that are oriented to a pedestrian scale. The streetscape should provide an organized appearance that is apparent to pedestrians and motorists alike. Many streetscape elements can contribute to this appearance. Building facades, as stated, are a significant element. Less obvious

elements would be sidewalk pavements and curbing, pedestrian scale light fixtures (less than 14' height), street furniture such as benches and planters, architectural elements such as awnings, community signs, graphic art, sculpture, fountains, and plantings such as street trees, accent shrubs, flowers and lawn areas (Ibid., p. 3).

It does not appear that this Plan was ever acted upon. There have been individual efforts made to beautify the village and the Schuylerville Garden Club has been very active in beautification efforts in the downtown business district.

Sidewalk Committee

Probably the longest standing, unresolved issue that village residents have indicated needed improvement is the condition of sidewalks. Residents have long complained about the absence or condition of the village sidewalks and recently an effort was made by Trustees James Miers and Glenn Decker to establish a Sidewalk Committee. It was hoped that a dedicated planning effort attempting to deal with this problem would result in a solution.

For several years, there has been a \$40,000 grant, with a \$16,000 match from the village, to install sidewalks on Green Street. The monies can only be used for Green Street, however, and other areas of the village have deteriorating sidewalks. It appeared that progress would be made on the Green Street sidewalks in 2004; however, for numerous reasons it did not happen.

An effort was made to recruit a group of volunteers from the village to work on the sidewalks and treat this as a public service. While that sounded good, the reality is that it is very difficult to recruit and maintain a large group of skilled volunteers. It may be that this idea will resurface again in 2005. Currently, there is not a concerted effort being made by the village to repair/replace sidewalks.

Department of Public Works

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is where the responsibility falls for general maintenance of the streets, garbage pick-up, recycling, snow plowing, leaf pick-up, and many other infrastructure related jobs, including water and sewer. There are currently five persons employed by the DPW. At present no job descriptions are on file for these positions and how the agency fits into the overall operation of the village is unclear.

8. Existing housing resources and future housing needs, including affordable housing.

It is difficult to predict the future housing needs of the village. In terms of numbers of additional residences in the village, there is a limited number of building lots that are currently available. Schuylerville is quickly being designated as a *bedroom* community of Saratoga Springs, Clifton Park, and Albany. Industry and businesses have increased in and around these areas and there is a need for affordable housing for their employees. Even with the upsurge in the re-sale price of houses in the village, the selling price of homes is still lower than in neighboring communities. Add to that the asset of an excellent school system and the Village of Schuylerville is in a very desirable position.

Future housing needs may change based on how the population of the village changes. Morgan's Run, managed by the Belmont Corporation, provides twenty-four apartment units to income-eligible seniors. This is the only senior housing available in the community. At the meetings held at the Senior Dining Sites, numerous residents voiced concern that they were having difficulty maintaining their homes and when they had to sell, they would have to move out of the village. That is not an acceptable alternative for many residents and they want the village to deal with this issue. As there does not appear that there is space available in the village to build affordable senior housing, there may need to be communication with the Town of Saratoga to ascertain if the development of affordable senior housing is part of the Town's long-range planning effort. As the demographics of the community change, there may be a desire for more apartment housing and less single family dwellings.

9. Present and future general location of educational and cultural facilities, historic sites, health facilities and facilities for emergency services.

Educational and Cultural Facilities

The Visitor's Center for the Village of Schuylerville was built with grant monies. At the time it was built, the boat launch, gazebo, and the walkway to the Schuyler House were also constructed. The function of the Visitor's Center is to direct visitors coming to the village to the various historical and cultural attractions in and around the village. The Visitor's Center is open on a seasonal basis from April through October.

Schuylerville Central School District

A school reflects the pride of a community in itself and its belief in and commitment to its children and their future. The residents of the Village of Schuylerville and the Schuylerville Central School District have always had this pride and belief in their future. (www.hometown.aol.com/twood71098/schoolh.htm). From the American Revolution to the Information Revolution, Schuylerville continues its tradition of excellence. Through our two schools — the Elementary School and the Junior-Senior High School — the Schuylerville Central School District offers challenging and rewarding educational opportunities to 1,800 students; 278 of whom reside within the Village.

The Schuylerville School District is a place where:

- Families choose to live because of the quality of our schools, as well as the quality of life in the area. The district is located in one of the fastest-growing counties in New York State.
- More than 80% of the graduates attend college.
- Student achievement is consistently above the state average.
- More than 150 professionals work to support all levels of students, from those needing a little extra help to those needing extra educational challenges.
- Students are able to take advantage of the latest technology in computer, graphic arts and engineering labs.
- Business professionals work together with educators to ensure that students are provided with an education that will make them marketable in their chosen careers.

- Parents and community members take pride in their involvement in the schools.
- The school campus is the center of the community.
- Students in all grade levels volunteer their time in community service activities.

In looking back at education history in the area, the first schools in Schuylerville date back to the late 1700s. By the late 1800s, there were 12 different districts within the town. New schools were continually built to accommodate the growing population. In 1946, the Schuylerville Central School District was formed. Since that time, the community has supported the building of a Junior-Senior High School in 1955, an Elementary School in 1966 and a series of additions, renovations and upgrades.

Hudson Crossing: A Bi-County Educational Park

The creation of a Bi-County Educational Park was the key recommendation in a four-year corridor management plan submitted to the New York State Department of Transportation's Scenic Advisory Board for official designation of the Champlain Canal Byway.

The Hudson Crossing Park Project, a joint project of Saratoga and Washington counties, will develop a comprehensive educational and recreational destination highlighting the history of the American Revolution, unique geologic elements, ecology, and the economic and cultural significance of the Hudson River and Champlain Canal.

The project includes plans to develop the Hudson River Environmental Education Center utilizing state of the art *green architecture* and innovative alternative energy resources. This facility will serve as the centerpiece of Hudson Crossing, offering year-round educational and research opportunities and riverfront conference space (Appendix P).

Schuylerville Public Library

The Schuylerville Public Library is an important component of the local community. It was first chartered to serve the Village of Schuylerville in 1905 as a free library association. Its public library charter was granted in 1963. The present building, at 52 Ferry Street, opened in 1968 (Appendix Q: Schuylerville Public Library).

In FY 2003-2004, the library circulated 16,438 items to 903 registered borrowers in the course of 10,083 patron visits. The library's five regular and thirteen occasional volunteers contributed 285 hours of clerical assistance and physical labor. The *Friends of the Schuylerville Public Library* engage in fundraising activities to purchase magazine subscriptions, equipment, books, and videos to support community use of the library.

This was the second year in which all library services were fully automated. Automation has made the daily workings of the library more efficient and statistics easier to retrieve. It has also made the catalog of its materials readily accessible to readers and researchers in the fifty-plus other libraries in the Southern Adirondack and Mohawk Valley Library Systems.

The *Preschool Story Hour* program has completed its sixth year of reading fun for the very young. The *Summer Reading Program* encouraged literacy throughout the summer months, as did the *Monday and Thursday Read-Alouds*, hosted by the librarian. Special performances featuring live music and art were scheduled over the summer months.

The library's restroom facility has recently been renovated to meet handicapped requirements and provide a baby changing station (Ibid., pp. 1 – 2).

Historic Sites

Historic places and attractions within the Village of Schuylerville and surrounding areas include:

- The Schuyler House rebuilt by General Philip Schuyler in November 1777.
- The Saratoga Battle Monument erected between 1877 and 1883.
- The Marshall House lived in by Baroness von Riedesel during the Battle of Saratoga (not open to the public).
- Champlain Canal Lock 5 Park and walking trail to the Schuyler House.
- Stark's Knob scenic overlook, one mile north on Route 4, where General Stark placed his cannon to block Burgoyne's retreat.
- Saratoga Battlefield National Historic Site, seven miles south on Route 4, where the fate of the American Revolution was decided.
- Fort Hardy Park, the site where Burgoyne surrendered the arms of war.
- The Gerald B. Solomon National Cemetery, a memorial and final resting place of the nation's veterans.

Health Facilities

There are currently two medical offices located in the village; one physician in private practice and one family practice operating under the auspices of Saratoga Care, an extension of hospital services meant to provide outreach to the rural communities of Saratoga County. At this point in time, there are no other medical providers or a pharmacy in the village. Village residents must travel to Saratoga Springs, Glens Falls, or to the Capital District if they require hospital-based services. Assisted living facilities/nursing homes are not located in the Village but these services can be found in neighboring communities (Argyle, Ballston Spa, Cambridge, Ft. Edward, Glens Falls, Malta, and Saratoga Springs and the Town of Saratoga).

Facilities for Emergency Services

Police

The Saratoga County Sheriff's Department and the New York State Police provide police protection to Village Residents. A 911 system is in place and all calls are dispatched through the Wilton office of the New York State Police. State Police coverage is out a substation located in the Town Hall, 35 Ferry Street, and it is manned by two troopers. On average, there are two troopers covering the Towns of Saratoga, Malta and Stillwater at any one time. Patrols are around the clock.

Fire

The Schuylerville Fire Department has been protecting the Village of Schuylerville as an organized department since 1831, operating as a Bucket Brigade. In 1836, the department purchased its first piece of firefighting equipment – a hand pumper. This hand pumper was replaced prior to 1870 with the Old Betsy hand pumper still on display in the firehouse.

In 1953, the department was reorganized as the Schuyler Hose Company, with Clarence King as its Fire Chief and Roy Myers as President. The next 25 years brought many changes as the company added new apparatus, connected to Saratoga County by radio communication, and introduced SCBAs and other innovations in firefighting.

In 1977, village taxpayers supported the building of a new fire station at the corner of Spring and Green Streets. Today, Schuyler Hose Company has over forty active members and provides fire protection for the Village of Schuylerville, and portions of the Towns of Northumberland, Saratoga, Easton and Greenwich.

Today, the Schuyler Hose Company is facing many challenges. While improvements in construction have resulted in more fireproof structures, the use of synthetics which produce toxic substances when burned will likely increase. The number of households in the community will grow, resulting in increased call volume. With an increase in call volume, additional volunteers will need to be recruited, and a presently aging department will need an infusion of young, energetic volunteers.

The factors that led to the development of a strong, aggressive department will help to meet the challenges of the future. A history of committed leaders, an emphasis on training and safety, prudent use of resources, and most important, the dedication of the volunteer firefighter has resulted in a department that the community views with pride (Appendix R).

Schuyler Hose Auxiliary

The Schuyler Hose Company was formed on September 16, 1969, with one purpose: to assist the firefighters of Schuyler Hose Company in their mission of protecting the Village of Schuylerville and surrounding areas. The Auxiliary is comprised of spouses, family members, and other friends of the firefighters they support.

When Schuyler Hose Company is dispatched for a major alarm, Schuyler Hose Auxiliary is never far behind, providing food and drink required to sustain firefighters throughout the call. Schuyler Hose Auxiliary is also actively involved in assisting the firefighters in events such as Fire Prevention Week and Las Vegas Night. Throughout their 34 years of service, Schuyler Hose Auxiliary has held many fundraisers through which they have purchased a great number of items for Schuyler Hose Company.

Schuyler Hose Auxiliary has over twenty active members who are proud to continue to honor their original promise of support to Schuyler Hose Company and its firefighters – their husbands, fathers, sons, daughters, brothers, uncles, significant others, and friends. (Appendix R)

Emergency Medical Services

General Schuyler Emergency Squad

In the early spring of 1971, a steering committee comprised of members of the Lions Club was named to look into the formation of an emergency squad as John T. Still had announced that he was giving up the emergency ambulance service he had faithfully performed for 20 years. The response to the call for applicants for the newly formed emergency squad was overwhelming. In 1971, there were 93 applicants. Over the next five years, there were 80 more.

Applicants came from all walks of life including factory workers, students, nurses, bank employees, housewives, clergy, farmers, salesmen, grocery store employees, carpenters, postal workers, school employees, bakers, town and village employees, self-employed and the unemployed. While the vast majority of members have moved on to other things, there are several current members who have been serving the village for twenty or more years. Dick Behrens joined in 1975, Bill Bruce in 1980 and George Garney in 1980 and again in 1990. Sherry Doubleday and Barb Scaglione joined the squad in 1985.

In 1992, the General Schuyler Emergency Squad became New York State certified which meant there was an Emergency Medical Technician on each call. They also became defibrillator certified. In March 2003, the squad reached their goal of becoming an Advanced Life Support agency employing paramedics around the clock, seven days a week. Due to this certification, the call volume has risen over 65% from the 2002 level.

In 2005, the General Schuyler Emergency Squad will be constructing a new building on Route 29, three miles from the village (Appendix S).

10. Existing and proposed recreation facilities and parkland.

Fort Hardy Park

This site is an extremely important historical and recreational resource for the community. Also known as the *Field of Grounded Arms*, it is the location that troops under the command of British General John Burgoyne *grounded their arms* on October 17, 1777 as part of the Articles of Convention that ended the Battle of Saratoga, marking the Turning Point of the American Revolution.

Bordered on one side by the Hudson River and on the other by the Old Champlain Canal and towpath, the park serves as the community's largest and most centrally located public area serving multiple uses from Little League baseball to canoeing.

When the Town of Saratoga received a grant from the National Scenic Byway Program to develop a series of Pocket Parks for Old Saratoga, including the Villages of Schuylerville and Victory, monies became available for the LA Group to work closely with the Fort Hardy Park Committee. The purpose was to develop a proposed master plan for land use and development of the Park. The Committee, formed in fall 2002, is a community-based advisory board committed to the development and implementation of a plan for improving the Fort Hardy area as an educational, cultural and recreational resource (Appendix L: FHP Design Charette, 9/20/04).

On July 17, 2004, The Fort Hardy Park Community Survey was taken during Family Fun Day at Fort Hardy Park (Appendix G: FHP, Community Survey, 7/17/04). On September 20, 2004, the LA Group facilitated a design charette to bring the community together to define a common vision for the Park. Public opinion regarding the use of the Park was also solicited on October 17, 2004 during the Surrender Day program. On November 8, 2004, a short presentation was made during a Village Workshop to familiarize the mayor and village trustees with the planning that has occurred to date on this project.

There has been a long and proud tradition of youth sports in the Park and at the present time, the Old Saratoga Athletic Association is coordinating a recreation program that serves over 500 families from the village and surrounding areas. At the time of the presentation, the mayor and village trustees made it very clear that recreational space is at a premium and there must be a place for youth sports in the village. Public comment at the meeting supported that position.

Youth Center

Rev. Wm. Lemoyne, Mayor John Sherman, Former Assemblyman Robert D'Andrea, Joanne Sciorba, Rev. David Buchanan, Pat Hayes, and Kevin Burch were founding members of the Schuylerville Youth Center. The initial funding for this project (\$40,000) was obtained through Sen. Joseph Bruno's office.

The Youth Center was originally developed to provide a place for the youth of the Village of Schuylerville to engage in various activities under adult supervision. The original members used churches in the village until the Youth Center meetings began to conflict with other regularly scheduled activities of those organizations.

Eventually a building was erected in Fort Hardy Park to serve the youth of the community. Numerous organizations use the facility to serve the youth of the community. These include, but are not limited to, Little League, Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts, Feeding Our Future, Schuylerville Family Day, as well as village residents who have used the Youth Center facility to hold family parties.

The Youth Center also provided a valuable service to village children during the summer of 2004. From June 23 – August 15, volunteers prepared a free lunch for any child in the village and surrounding area. While the volunteer program, *Feeding the Future*, was originally intended to serve children who received a free lunch during the school year, there were no eligibility requirements and lunch was provided to any child that came to the Youth Center between 11:00 a.m. and noon, Monday through Friday (Appendix T). Most recently, Head Start has inquired about the availability of using the Youth Center as a possible site.

Village Beach

The Village Beach was the scene of two community concerts in summer 2004. The events, free and open to all members of the community, were sponsored by the Schuylerville Chamber of Commerce. The group intends to sponsor six concerts over the course of the summer 2005. The beach is a special place for village residents and there are continuing conversations about how to improve it, increase usage, and make it the place for community events.

Old Saratoga Pocket Parks

Old Saratoga Pocket Parks is a project intended to create a series of small parks to interpret areas of historical interest in the Schuylerville/Victory area within Lakes to Locks Passage (LTLP), a nationally designated All-American Road. The intent of this project is to complete the planning, engineering and other steps necessary to begin implementation of the park network in a multi-year program (Appendix N: LTLP: Assessment Report, 2/27/04).

Implementation of the initial Pocket Parks will be closely integrated with the interpretation of the Heritage New York Revolutionary War Trail Collaborative Regional Interpretive Signage Project (CRISP) sites of the Revolutionary War Heritage Trail. Most of the potential pocket parks will highlight and interpret key features of the final siege field at Saratoga.

The central theme to Old Saratoga is the military history known to many as the *Turning Point of the American Revolution*. Prominent historic features are the Schuyler House and the Saratoga Monument, which are interpreted by the National Park Service. The secondary theme for the community is a continuous section of the old Champlain Canal that runs through Schuylerville. The mostly-intact canal channel, tow path, basin and aqueduct are especially distinctive elements (Ibid., p. 1).

The pocket parks will help visitors and residents alike in putting individual historical sites throughout the area into context and offer a unified presentation of the importance of the area in American history. The project administrator is working closely with the administrator of two Heritage New York grants awarded to the Town of Saratoga. The Heritage New York funding is being used to develop a driving tour and information display that will help to tell the story of the region's role in the Revolutionary War beyond the traditional boundaries of the Saratoga National Historical Park (Appendix K: OSOH Project Description, March 2004, p. 4).

11. The present and potential future general location of commercial and industrial facilities.

At present, there are no light commercial or industrial facilities operating in the village. Without some form of site plan review, however, commercial sites could easily be developed in the village and this type of growth may or may not be beneficial. Presently, there are two sites, one developed and one for sale, which have the potential for commercial and/or industrial use.

The Muziker property, located at Spring and Broad Street, is currently for sale. Work has been completed on the site to remove contaminated soil. Included with this property are two apartment houses. The development of this property is of significance to the village because of its location. Anyone entering or leaving the village via Rte 29 would pass this property.

Roohan & Bonnacio have developed the site of the former Schuylerville School into a commercial property that many residents feel will increase interest of other businesses in locating in or near the village. Currently, the site houses a drug testing laboratory, the Bonnacio woodworking shops, and 5000 sq. feet of space is still available. Parking for the tenants/workers at this site, necessitated acquiring additional property near the site.

12. Specific policies and strategies for improving the local economy in coordination with other plan topics.

As stated in Section I of this Plan, there has been a great deal of planning for and with the residents of the Village of Schuylerville. After reviewing the planning documents and reports, it would be unwise for the Village of Schuylerville to ignore the information contained in the *Village of Schuylerville Economic Development Plan* of 1997. This Plan had two important components: the Business District Enhancement Plan and the Tourism Development Plan. Both contain valuable information that can be used to support the development of a viable business district. Both plans are very detailed and could be used in a variety of ways as the business district develops and tourism increases. In addition, the *Old Saratoga on the Hudson Project* is concerned with the downtown revitalization of both the Villages of Schuylerville and the Village of Victory.

The Village of Schuylerville *Community Development Strategic Plan* of 2003 is an excellent resource for strategies to successfully implement plans to improve the village and identifies numerous sources of government funding in order to implement community improvements. The Plan states that:

In order to fully implement the Community Development Strategic Plan, it is recommended that the involved parties pursue a variety of funding sources, including government funding programs and private foundations, which have a community development and revitalization focus. To achieve the maximum potential funding for community improvements, all government funding programs, which are deemed programmatically and fiscally appropriate for the Village of Schuylerville should be pursued (Appendix C: CDSP, 2003, p. 19).

Development Resources, LLC, developed a list of appropriate potential funding sources for implementation of the Community Development Strategic Plan. These include the following: Roadway Improvement Funding Options, Parks, Trails and Other Green Space Improvements; Infrastructure Improvements; Government Funding for Economic Development; Private Foundation Funding Sources. If the village were to decide to move in the direction of seeking governmental funding, there would need to be several controls in place, a position clearly identified as responsible for grant writing/economic development and an accounting system that supported those efforts. These do not appear to be in place at the present time.

Old Saratoga on the Hudson Project also is committed to the economic revitalization of the Villages of Schuylerville and Victory. They recognize that both villages have a unique status in Saratoga County with full municipal sewer and water systems. They suggest that careful planning and investment can rejuvenate the commercial areas (Appendix K).

Schuylerville Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber is comprised of individuals, associations, corporations, partnerships, business entities, or other organizations that support the development and encouragement of the commercial, professional, financial, industrial, agricultural, and general business interests of the area as well as preserving and protecting the historical and cultural interests of the region. (Appendix W: *Old Saratoga Community Guide*, 2004, p. 10). It is reasonable to assume that this is an organization that would work closely with the village to support the revitalization of a vital downtown business district.

13. Proposed measures, programs, devices, and instruments to implement the goals and objectives of the various topics within the comprehensive plan.

In an effort to determine what the residents of the Village of Schuylerville wanted in their community, a Village Information Survey was developed and distributed to every homeowner in the Village (Appendix U). In addition, a public meeting was held on October 20, 2004 where the vision and goals of the village were discussed and input was sought from residents. The findings of the survey can be found in Section 3 of this report. Anecdotal comments of residents who attended the public meeting can be found in Section 4 of this report and in Appendix V.

Recommendations have been formulated that are directly related to village goals, based on information provided by village residents, and will assist in the implementation of goals and objectives of the various topics within the comprehensive plan.

14. All or part of the plans of another public agency.

The Town of Saratoga Comprehensive Plans of 1971 and 2002 both provide good information regarding the direction that growth and development can take in the Village of Schuylerville. Provided within the plans is the promise of support and cooperation from the Town to assist the village in achieving its stated goals and objectives for future development. All plans included in the Appendixes of this Plan are on file in the Village Office.

15. Any and all other items which are consistent with the orderly growth and development of the village.

The Village of Schuylerville has a tremendous resource in its residents. They proved themselves willing to engage in the planning process once again, even though past efforts have not reflected the changes that residents indicated were both desirable and necessary.

The community is grounded in history and there is an appreciation for the historic sites that abound. The community is also interested in the welfare and care of its residents and the organizations that serve the residents reflect that ideal. These include:

- American Legion Post #278
- American Legion Auxiliary
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Boy Scouts of America
- Girl Scouts of America
- Knights of Columbus
- Catholic Daughters of America
- St. Anne Rosary Society
- Lions Club International
- Schuylerville Garden Club
- Old Saratoga Historical Association
- Old Saratoga Seniors

In addition to the organizations listed above, the Village of Schuylerville has five churches within its borders that are integral to the functioning of the community. These

include: Old Saratoga Reformed Church, United Methodist Church, Notre Dame-Visitation Catholic Church, Assembly of God, and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church.

The findings of the survey are discussed in the following section of this document. In addition to the high response to the survey, the comments of residents reflect both a concern and an excitement about future possibilities for the Village of Schuylerville.

Section III: Findings of the Village of Schuylerville Information Survey

Description of the Survey

The survey used to gather information from village residents is similar to a prior survey used for the Community Development Strategic Plan, however, changes were made to increase the amount of general information obtained about the village. Several of the original survey questions were re-worded for increased clarity. Questions were also added to the survey to obtain general information about residents, why they chose to move to Schuylerville, and the way in which they find out what is happening in the village. Another question asked respondents whether or not they would use the Village Website to find out about upcoming events. Also, residents were asked what services/businesses they wanted in the village.

There are four sections of the Village of Schuylerville Information Survey (Appendix U). Section One attempted to obtain general information about the respondents view of the village. The survey questions are:

1. How would you describe Schuylerville as a place to live?
2. If you weren't born in Schuylerville, why did you move here?
3. What do you like best about the village?
4. What do you like least about the village?
5. What would you like to see change in the village?
6. What should stay the same?
7. What businesses or services would you like to see move to Schuylerville?
8. How do find out what's happening in the village?
9. Are you getting enough information about Village Board meetings, community meetings, and community events?
10. Would you use the Village Website to find out about upcoming events in the village?
If your answer is *No*, why not?

Section Two asked resident's opinions about types of community services. Respondents were asked what services they felt were important to have in the village and to identify specific services for families, senior citizens, and business owners. Respondents were also asked to indicate services they needed that were missing or not available in the village.

Section Three of the survey asked the residents to rate the importance of municipal services. Each of the services was rated on the following scale:

1. Not Important
2. Somewhat important
3. Fairly Important
4. Important
5. Very Important

Section Four of the survey asked village residents to indicate the importance of twenty potential village projects based on the scale stated above. These are future projects or projects that had been implemented and further work is needed to bring the project to optimum levels of satisfaction. The scoring grid used in this survey was changed from the original for Sections Three and Four in an effort to reduce confusion and provide ease of scoring for respondents.

The survey was completed by many residents following the Village Information Meeting held on October 20, 2004 at the American Legion Hall (Appendix X). Sixty-eight persons attended that meeting (Appendix Y) and 41 surveys were completed and handed in at the end of the meeting. Surveys were mailed to all homeowners in the village in a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Surveys and collection boxes were available in the public library and at the Village Office for anyone who did not receive a mailing. Two surveys were submitted at the library and 136 were returned in the mail. A total of 187 surveys were received. Collection of surveys ended on November 10, 2004.

In addition to the information gathered from the surveys, Citizen Advisory Board members facilitated small group discussions at the Village Information Meeting. The small groups discussed the vision and goals for the Village of Schuylerville. Comments were recorded and will be discussed later in the Plan. In an effort to encourage wide participation within the village, presentations were also made at the Senior Dining Site and the Old Saratoga Seniors luncheon meeting prior to the Village Information Meeting.

Demographic Data

Demographic data was specifically sought in the following categories: age, gender, residential status, and annual household income. One purpose of asking these questions is to determine whether there is a significant change from the demographic data reported in the Community Development Strategic Plan (2003) and to compare current demographic data with the Census 2000 data. The primary purpose, however, is that it will be very useful to know for whom specific services are important; base on age, gender, residential status and annual household income.

Age

One hundred and eighty-one (96.8%) respondents indicated an age group. Of that number, one (0.6%) was 18 years of age or less. Eight (4.4%) were between the ages of 19 – 25. Thirty-five (19.3%) respondents were between the ages of 26 – 40. Seventy-six (42%) respondents were in the 41 – 64 age range and 38 (21%) fell into the 65 - 80 category. Twenty-three (12.7%) were 81 or older. Six persons (3.2%) did not respond to this item.

Respondent's Age Group

Age Group	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<=18	1	.5	.6	.6
19 – 25	8	4.3	4.4	5.0
26 – 40	35	18.7	19.3	24.3
41 – 64	76	40.6	42	66.3
65 – 80	38	20.3	21	87.3
>=81	23	12.3	12.7	100.0
Total	181	96.8	100.0	
Missing	6	3.2		
	187	100.0		

Gender

One hundred and sixty nine (90.4%) respondents indicated their gender. Of that number, 101 (59.8%) were female and 68 (40.2%) were male. Eighteen persons (9.6%) did not respond to this item.

Respondent's Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Female	101	54.0	59.8	59.8
Male	68	36.4	40.2	100.0
Total	169	90.4	100.0	
Missing	18	9.6		
	187	100.0		

Residential Status

One hundred and eighty-one (96.8%) respondents indicated their residential status in the Village of Schuylerville. Of that number, 148 (81.8%) were home owners and 19 (10.5%) were renters. Nine (5%) respondents indicated they owned a business in the village. Three (1.7%) respondents indicated that they were both home and business owners and two (1.1%) were both renters and business owners. Six persons (3.2%) did not respond to this item.

Residential Status

Residential Status	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Home Owner	148	79.1	81.8	81.8
Renter	19	10.2	10.5	92.3
Business	9	4.8	5.0	97.2
Home + Business	3	1.6	1.7	98.9
Renter + Business	2	1.1	1.1	100.0
Total	181	96.8	100.0	
Missing	6	3.2		
	187	100.0		

Annual Household Income

One hundred and sixty-eight (89.8%) respondents provided an annual household income. Of that number, 44 (26.2%) indicated an annual household income of \$24,000 or less. Fifty-two (31%) indicated an annual income in the \$25,000 - \$49,000 range and 44 (26.2%) selected the \$50,000 - \$74,000 category. Fifteen (8.9%) indicated an annual income range of \$75,000 - \$99,000 and 13 (7.7%) indicated an income of \$100,000 and above. Nineteen (10.2%) persons did not respond to this item.

Household Income

Household Income	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
<=\$24,000	44	23.5	26.2	26.2
\$25,000 - \$49,000	52	27.8	31.0	57.1
\$50,000 - \$74,000	44	23.5	26.2	83.3
\$75,000 - \$99,000	15	8.0	8.9	92.3
>=\$100,000	13	7.0	7.7	100.0
Total	168	89.8	100.0	
Missing	19	10.2		
	187	100.0		

Section 1 – General Information

Ten questions were asked in an effort to gain general information about the resident's feelings, needs, ideas for change, and ability to obtain information about village meetings and other functions occurring in the Village. The responses to each of the questions will be discussed individually. Anecdotal comments from the surveys will be included wherever appropriate.

Q1. How would you describe Schuylerville as a place to live?

One hundred and seventy-eight (95.2%) respondents replied to this question. Responses varied and 32 categories were eventually constructed. While each response was recorded and is important, it became apparent that collapsing the categories would be more beneficial for reporting purposes. The three natural categories are: Positive descriptors, negative descriptors, and non-committal descriptors. There is also a Future category for responses that did not deal with the present but included future predictions for the village.

Complete chart on next page

How would you describe Schuylerville as a place to live?

Describe Schuylerville?	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Size	9	4.8	5.1	5.1
Good/Nice	39	20.9	21.9	27.0
Library	1	.5	.6	27.5
Safety	7	3.7	3.9	31.5
Wonderful	5	2.7	2.8	34.3
Pleasant	9	4.8	5.1	39.3
Friendly	10	5.3	5.6	44.9
Community	11	5.9	6.2	51.1
Okay	9	4.8	5.1	56.2
Don't Know	1	.5	.6	56.7
Great	3	1.6	1.7	58.4
Quiet Village	32	17.1	18.0	76.4
Revitalized Village	2	1.1	1.1	77.5
Too Expensive	2	1.1	1.1	78.7
Middle of Nowhere	2	1.1	1.1	79.8
Love it!	5	2.7	2.8	82.6
Location	6	3.2	3.4	86.0
Comfortable	2	1.1	1.1	87.1
Peaceful	4	2.1	2.2	89.3
Lacking Services	5	2.7	2.8	92.1
Too Many Houses	1	.5	.6	92.7
Family-oriented	2	1.1	1.1	93.8
Historic Nature of the Village	1	.5	.6	94.4
Place of Promising Potential	1	.5	.6	94.9
Scenic	1	.5	.6	95.5
Enjoyable	1	.5	.6	96.1
Decent Place to Live	1	.5	.6	96.6
Future	4	2.1	2.2	98.9
Village Hanging Onto the Past	1	.5	.6	99.4
Needs Improvement	1	.5	.6	100.0
Total	178	95.2	100.0	
Missing	9	4.8		
	187	100.0		

After the categories were collapsed, it was found that 161 (90.4%) described the Village in positive terms. These included the following: *Good, Nice, Friendly, Safe, Wonderful, Pleasant, Great, Revitalized village, Great location, Comfortable, Peaceful, Family-oriented, Scenic, Enjoyable, and a Decent place to live.* Twelve (6.7%) respondents described the Village in negative terms. These included: *Needs improvement, Village hanging onto the past, Too many houses, Lacking services, and Middle of nowhere.* One (0.6%) non-committal response was *Don't know.*

Recode Place to Live

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Positive Descriptors	161	86.1	90.4	90.4
Negative Descriptors	12	6.4	6.7	97.2
Non-Committal Descriptors	1	.5	.6	97.8
Future	4	2.1	2.2	100.0
Total	178	95.2	100.0	
Missing	9	4.8		
	187	100.0		

Four (2.2%) respondents provided answers to the question that predicted future growth or wrote about what the village would be like after changes were made. Nine (4.8%) respondents did not answer this question. The table at the end of this section provides the full range of responses to this question. Listed below are samples of anecdotal comments from the survey:

- I have a sense of being safe
- Small village
- Good Small town, with a lot to offer
- Good schools
- Best place to be
- Good quality of life
- A place to call home
- Pleasant, quite charming
- Quaint little village
- Community
- Nice place to raise a family
- Great, with hometown appeal
- Heart of America

The overwhelming response to the Village of Schuylerville as a place to live was positive (90.4%).

Q2. If you weren't born in Schuylerville, why did you move here?

One hundred and thirty-three (71.1%) respondents indicated they had moved to the Village of Schuylerville for one of 11 reasons: Affordable housing, Location, School, Church, Family, History, Community, Business, Job-related, Small village, and Senior housing. Forty-six (24.6%) of the respondents were born here. Eight (4.3%) of the respondents did not answer this question.

Thirty-seven (27.8%) respondents indicated affordable housing as the primary reason they moved to the village. Thirty-four (25.6%) indicated family as the reason for moving and 23 (17.3%) cited location as the primary reason they moved to Schuylerville. Ten (7.5%) respondents indicated that the school system was their main reason for moving here and 10 (7.5%) other respondents indicated job-related issues were the prime motivator for their move. The table at the end of this section provides the full range of responses to this question. Listed below are samples of anecdotal comments from the survey

- We were looking for an affordable home
- Wanted to return to NY where I grew up
- Married a resident
- Quality of life and good schools
- To be near our church
- I wanted to purchase a home that was convenient to my place of work
- To live and start a business in Schuylerville
- It has a town/country feel
- We like the area and the schools
- To be close to friends

If you weren't born in Schuylerville, why did you move here?

Why Move Here?	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Affordable	37	19.8	27.8	27.8
Location	23	12.3	17.3	45.1
School	10	5.3	7.5	52.6
Church	5	2.7	3.8	56.4
Family	34	18.2	25.6	82.0
History	1	.5	.8	82.7
Community	6	3.2	4.5	87.2
Business	4	2.1	3.0	90.2
Job Related	10	5.3	7.5	97.7
Small Village	1	.5	.8	98.5
Senior Housing	1	.5	.8	99.2
Future	1	.5	.8	100.0
Total	133	71.1	100.0	
Born in Schuylerville	46	24.6		
Missing	8	4.3		
Total	54	28.9		
	187	100.0		

Q3. What do you like best about the village?

One hundred and seventy-one (91.4%) respondents provided an answer to this question. Sixteen (8.6%) did not answer this question. While there were numerous responses to this question, 29 (17%) respondents indicated the small size of the Village. Twenty-four (14%) indicated people and 22 (12.9%) respondents indicated that history and the historical nature of the Village was what they liked best. There are numerous categories that emerged based on answers to this question and the Citizen's Advisory Board decided not to collapse categories but to report the data as recorded for the general information of Village government and the community at large. The data can be collapsed for future planning purposes, as necessary. The table at the end of this section provides the full range of responses to this question. Listed below are samples of anecdotal comments from the survey:

- Natural village ambiance
- Small town flavor
- People walking in the streets, calling Hello to each other
- The old world look
- The natural environment
- Good neighbors
- Closeness to other places
- Smallness, closeness
- It's history
- A safe community with friendly people

Complete chart on next page

What do you like best about the village?

Like Best?	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
People	24	12.8	14.0	14.0
Small Size	29	15.5	17.0	31.0
History	22	11.8	12.9	43.9
School	12	6.4	7.0	50.9
Location	18	9.6	10.5	61.4
Natural Environment	11	5.9	6.4	67.8
Quality of Life	6	3.2	3.5	71.3
Quiet	14	7.5	8.2	79.5
Small Businesses	4	2.1	2.3	81.9
Cleanliness	1	.5	.6	82.5
Efforts to revitalize downtown	4	2.1	2.3	84.8
Affordable housing	1	.5	.6	85.4
Well maintained appearance of homes /businesses	1	.5	.6	86.0
Community Appearance	2	1.1	1.2	87.1
Community	3	1.6	1.8	88.9
Walkability	4	2.1	2.3	91.2
Low Crime Rate/Safety	1	.5	.6	91.8
Friendly	3	1.6	1.8	93.6
Medical Services	1	.5	.6	94.2
Quaint	2	1.1	1.2	95.3
Potential for Future Growth	1	.5	.6	95.9
Know Everybody in the Village	1	.5	.6	96.5
Library	1	.5	.6	97.1
Safe	2	1.1	1.2	98.2
Fire/Police	1	.5	.6	98.8
Residential Setting	1	.5	.6	99.4
Future	1	.5	.6	100.0
Total	171	91.4	100.0	
Missing	16	8.6		
	187	100.0		

Q4. What do you like least about the Village?

One hundred and seventy-one (91.4%) of the respondents answered this question. Sixteen (8.6%) responses were missing. There are numerous categories that emerged based on responses to this question and the Citizen's Advisory Board decided not to collapse categories but to report the data as recorded for the general information of village government and the community at large. The data can be collapsed for future planning purposes, as necessary. Thirty-eight (22.2%) respondents cited the condition of neglected properties in the village as the item they liked least about the village. Examples of response levels include 21 (12.3%) respondents who indicated the lack of essential businesses in the village and 20 (11.7%) respondents citing the condition of the sidewalks. The table at the end of this section provides the full range of responses to this question. Listed below are samples of anecdotal comments from the survey:

- Paying for garbage pickup
- Lack of communication about public/village events
- Four way stop signs
- Loose Dogs
- Small town attitude
- The structures which have been neglected
- The village moves too slow in getting things done
- Transient population, rundown area of Broadway
- The taxes are too high
- No constructive activities for young people

Complete chart on next page

What do you like least about the Village?

Like Least?	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Neglected Properties	38	20.3	22.2	22.2
Village Decision-making	1	.5	.6	22.8
Lack of Essential Businesses	21	11.2	12.3	35.1
High Taxes	8	4.3	4.7	39.8
Sidewalks	20	10.7	11.7	51.5
Lack of Police Protection	7	3.7	4.1	55.6
Water Rates	4	2.1	2.3	57.9
Village Government	4	2.1	2.3	60.2
Lack of Interest	1	.5	.6	60.8
Other Residents	3	1.6	1.8	62.6
Lack of Village Funds	1	.5	.6	63.2
Traffic	5	2.7	2.9	66.1
Condition of the Village streets	5	2.7	2.9	69.0
Lack of Activities for Youth	2	1.1	1.2	70.2
Poor Communication Re: Public Events	2	1.1	1.2	71.3
Vandalism	2	1.1	1.2	72.5
Village Park Needs Revitalization	1	.5	.6	73.1
Streets/Roads	3	1.6	1.8	74.9
Loose Dogs	1	.5	.6	75.4
Downtown	4	2.1	2.3	77.8
Small town Attitude	8	4.3	4.7	82.5
Paying for Garbage Pickup	2	1.1	1.2	83.6
Nothing	1	.5	.6	84.2
Lack of Community Support of Local Businesses	1	.5	.6	84.8
Pressure to be a Historic Village	1	.5	.6	85.4
River-related	2	1.1	1.2	86.5
Political Infighting	2	1.1	1.2	87.7
Teens Roaming the Village	3	1.6	1.8	89.5
No Zoning	3	1.6	1.8	91.2
Lack of Board's Ability to Enforce Codes	2	1.1	1.2	92.4
Nothing to do in the Evening	1	.5	.6	93.0
Too Quiet	1	.5	.6	93.6
Lack of Jobs	2	1.1	1.2	94.7
Junk on the Alleys	1	.5	.6	95.3
Economically Depressed	1	.5	.6	95.9
Lack of Public Transportation	2	1.1	1.2	97.1
Lack of Diversity	1	.5	.6	97.7
Low-income Residents Without Hope of Improvement	1	.5	.6	98.2
Growing in the Wrong Direction	1	.5	.6	98.8
DPW	1	.5	.6	99.4
Lack of Village Services	1	.5	.6	100.0
Total	171	91.4	100.0	
Missing	16	8.6		
	187	100.0		

Q5. What would you like to see change in the Village?

One hundred and sixty-nine (90.4%) respondents answered this question. Eighteen (9.6%) were missing. There are numerous categories that emerged based on their answers and the Citizen's Advisory Board decided not to collapse categories but to report the data as recorded for the general information of village government and the community at large. The data can be collapsed for future planning purposes, as necessary. Two examples of response levels include 23 (13.6%) respondents who wanted more businesses in the village and 16 (9.5%) who wanted the village to engage in beautification efforts. The table at the end of this section provides the full range of responses to this question. Listed below are samples of anecdotal comments from the survey:

- Recruit tourists
- Everything
- Canal and riverfront development
- Clean up and renovate downtown
- Zoning – need it
- Rehab and save older buildings
- The downtown strip needs to be cleaned up, sidewalks fixed, storefronts repaired/painted, flowers/trees planted, artwork/statues of historical significance
- Require people to maintain their property
- Recruit light industry so there are more jobs for village residents

Complete chart on next page

What would you like to see change in the village?

Change?	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Beautification Efforts	16	8.6	9.5	9.5
Historic Preservation	4	2.1	2.4	11.8
More Businesses	23	12.3	13.6	25.4
Pharmacy	1	.5	.6	26.0
Senior Center	1	.5	.6	26.6
Sidewalks	9	4.8	5.3	32.0
More Parking	5	2.7	3.0	34.9
Zoning	7	3.7	4.1	39.1
More Stores	1	.5	.6	39.6
Jobs	2	1.1	1.2	40.8
More Communication	1	.5	.6	41.4
Rebuilding of Some Areas	9	4.8	5.3	46.7
More Resident Involvement	5	2.7	3.0	49.7
Business Revitalization	7	3.7	4.1	53.8
Canal and Waterfront Development	1	.5	.6	54.4
Old Champlain Canal and Harbor	2	1.1	1.2	55.6
Pride in Community	2	1.1	1.2	56.8
Recruit Tourists	3	1.6	1.8	58.6
Village Government	7	3.7	4.1	62.7
Complete Water Treatment Plant	2	1.1	1.2	63.9
Village Decision-making	2	1.1	1.2	65.1
Everything	2	1.1	1.2	66.3
Downtown Revitalization	6	3.2	3.6	69.8
Becoming a Living History Village	1	.5	.6	70.4
Curfew for Teens/Vandalism	1	.5	.6	71.0
Remove 4 Way Stop Signs	1	.5	.6	71.6
Require Residents to Maintain Property	1	.5	.6	72.2
Paying for Garbage Stamps	1	.5	.6	72.8
Village Police Dept.	7	3.7	4.1	76.9
Regulation of Loose Dogs	1	.5	.6	77.5
Water Quality & Cost	3	1.6	1.8	79.3
Future	1	.5	.6	79.9
Merger with Town/Victory Mills	1	.5	.6	80.5
School Traffic System	1	.5	.6	81.1
Streets/Roads	1	.5	.6	81.7
Nothing	3	1.6	1.8	83.4
Keep Clean	3	1.6	1.8	85.2
More attention to Quality of Life issues	1	.5	.6	85.8
Lower Taxes	2	1.1	1.2	87.0
Small town attitudes	1	.5	.6	87.6
Village Swimming Pool	2	1.1	1.2	88.8
Respect for the Property of Others	1	.5	.6	89.3
New Entrance to School to Ease Traffic	1	.5	.6	89.9
Merge with Town of Saratoga-Eliminate the Village Tax	2	1.1	1.2	91.1
Large Tax Base	1	.5	.6	91.7
Fewer Rental Properties	1	.5	.6	92.3
Don't Know	1	.5	.6	92.9
More Activities in the Village	1	.5	.6	93.5
Become a Destination	1	.5	.6	94.1
More Restaurants	2	1.1	1.2	95.3
Public Transportation	3	1.6	1.8	97.0
Sidewalks Coming Out of Morgan's Run	1	.5	.6	97.6
Stop the Speeding	1	.5	.6	98.2

Change (Continued)				
Increase Garbage Pick-ups	1	.5	.6	98.8
Improve Main Street	1	.5	.6	99.4
Former BP Gas Station	1	.5	.6	100.0
Total	169	90.4	100.0	
Missing	18	9.6		
	187	100.0		

Q6. What should stay the same?

One hundred and forty-six (78.1%) respondents answered this question. Forty-one (21.9%) responses were missing. There are numerous categories that emerged based on their answers and the Citizen's Advisory Board decided not to collapse categories but to report the data as recorded for the general information of village government and the community at large. The data can be collapsed for future planning purposes, as necessary. Forty-four (30.1%) respondents were concerned about maintaining the small town atmosphere, while 18 (12.3%) were concerned about maintaining historic sites. Eleven (7.5%) respondents wanted to maintain the historic architecture in the village. The table at the end of this section provides the full range of responses to this question. Listed below are samples of anecdotal comments from the survey:

- Friendly, small town atmosphere
- The old look of Schuylerville
- The activity areas of the Beach and Park
- Small town character with historical flavor
- Nothing, liquidate and work out something with the Town
- Maintain Ft. Hardy Park as a children's sports field area.
- Sense and feeling of a true community
- Neighborhoods
- Keep it a quiet and peaceful place to live
- The historical importance of the area

Complete chart on next page

What should stay the same?

Stay the Same?	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Small Town Atmosphere	44	23.5	30.1	30.1
Historic Architecture	11	5.9	7.5	37.7
Activity Areas of Beach/Park	3	1.6	2.1	39.7
Historical Sites	18	9.6	12.3	52.1
People	4	2.1	2.7	54.8
Small Businesses	8	4.3	5.5	60.3
Walkability	3	1.6	2.1	62.3
Natural Environment	1	.5	.7	63.0
Small Size	5	2.7	3.4	66.4
Nothing	6	3.2	4.1	70.5
Village Leadership	1	.5	.7	71.2
Leave it the way it is	1	.5	.7	71.9
Neat Homes & Surroundings	2	1.1	1.4	73.3
History of the Village	2	1.1	1.4	74.7
Everything Else	2	1.1	1.4	76.0
Designated Business District	1	.5	.7	76.7
Village Services (Fire Dept/Rescue Squad)	2	1.1	1.4	78.1
Downtown Business District	2	1.1	1.4	79.5
Schools	3	1.6	2.1	81.5
Fire, Rescue Squad, Police Services	2	1.1	1.4	82.9
Beautification	1	.5	.7	83.6
Low Crime Rate	1	.5	.7	84.2
New Positive Attitude	1	.5	.7	84.9
Village Physicians	1	.5	.7	85.6
Historic Feel of the Village	3	1.6	2.1	87.7
Historic Preservation	3	1.6	2.1	89.7
Affordable Housing	1	.5	.7	90.4
Merge with Victory/Town of Saratoga	1	.5	.7	91.1
Future Predictors	4	2.1	2.7	93.8
Byron's	2	1.1	1.4	95.2
Town Hall	1	.5	.7	95.9
Taxes	1	.5	.7	96.6
Traffic Route Through Village	1	.5	.7	97.3
Water Service	2	1.1	1.4	98.6
Autonomy	2	1.1	1.4	100.0
Total	146	78.1	100.0	
Missing	41	21.9		
	187	100.0		

Q7. What businesses or services would you like to see move to Schuylerville?

Numerous responses were made in terms of businesses and services that residents wanted to have move to the Village. In order to adequately reflect the numerous items from the respondents, first, second, and third choices were recorded. There are numerous categories that emerged based on the answers to this question and the Citizen's Advisory Board decided not to collapse categories but to report the data as recorded for the general information of Village government and the community at large. The data can be collapsed for future planning purposes, as necessary.

First choice

One hundred seventy-five (93.6%) respondents answered this question while 12 (6.4%) did not. Sixty-seven (38.3%) respondents indicated the need for a pharmacy. Seventeen (9.7%) responded that they wanted more restaurants in the village. The table below provides the full range of responses to this question.

Complete chart on next page

What businesses or services would you like to see move to Schuylerville?

First Choice?	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Clothing Stores	1	.5	.6	.6
Artisans	3	1.6	1.7	2.3
Pharmacy	67	35.8	38.3	40.6
Community-based Businesses /Family Businesses	2	1.1	1.1	41.7
Fast Food Outlet	5	2.7	2.9	44.6
High End Factory Outlet Stores	3	1.6	1.7	46.3
Children's Store	1	.5	.6	46.9
More Restaurants	17	9.1	9.7	56.6
Fitness Center/Gym	3	1.6	1.7	58.3
Stores that People Like	2	1.1	1.1	59.4
Affordable Shops	2	1.1	1.1	60.6
Dry Cleaner	3	1.6	1.7	62.3
Movie Theatre	1	.5	.6	62.9
Senior Center	1	.5	.6	63.4
Eye Care Services	1	.5	.6	64.0
Light Industry	4	2.1	2.3	66.3
Grocery Store/Supermarket	6	3.2	3.4	69.7
Taxi	2	1.1	1.1	70.9
Five & Dime Store	1	.5	.6	71.4
Dental Clinic	1	.5	.6	72.0
Bakery	2	1.1	1.1	73.1
Historically Appropriate Businesses	1	.5	.6	73.7
Recreational Facilities/Businesses	2	1.1	1.1	74.9
Only Small Businesses	1	.5	.6	75.4
Dollar Store	6	3.2	3.4	78.9
Anything	2	1.1	1.1	80.0
New Businesses That Don't Already Exist in the Village	1	.5	.6	80.6
Food Co-op	1	.5	.6	81.1
Specialty Shops	3	1.6	1.7	82.9
None	2	1.1	1.1	84.0
Video Store	3	1.6	1.7	85.7
Don't Know	2	1.1	1.1	86.9
Another Bank	2	1.1	1.1	88.0
General Store	1	.5	.6	88.6
Professionals	2	1.1	1.1	89.7
Liquor/Wine Store	2	1.1	1.1	90.9
Services for Travelers/Tourists	1	.5	.6	91.4
Department/Variety Store	2	1.1	1.1	92.6
TV/Appliance Repair	1	.5	.6	93.1
Any Business	2	1.1	1.1	94.3
More for Middle-aged Adults	1	.5	.6	94.9
Tech/Medical Supply	1	.5	.6	95.4
Jobs	1	.5	.6	96.0
Entertainment Choices	1	.5	.6	96.6
Dance Studio	1	.5	.6	97.1
Job Assistance	1	.5	.6	97.7
Services for Seniors	1	.5	.6	98.3
Bar/Tavern	2	1.1	1.1	99.4
Chiropractic Office	1	.5	.6	100.0
Total	175	93.6	100.0	
Missing	12	6.4		
	187	100.0		

Second choice

Ninety (51.4%) respondents did not indicate a second choice for the businesses or services they wanted to see move to the village. Twelve (6.4%) did not respond to this question. Again, in response to this question, 12 (6.9%) respondents indicated a pharmacy as their second choice. As with the first choice, a decision was made to not collapse the data obtained regarding the second choices to this question. The data can be collapsed for future planning purposes, as necessary. The table below provides the full range of responses to this question.

Complete chart on next page

2nd choice: Businesses/Services

Second Choice?	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Clothing Store	5	2.7	2.9	2.9
Jewelry Store	2	1.1	1.1	4.0
Pharmacy	12	6.4	6.9	10.9
More community-based, family businesses	2	1.1	1.1	12.0
Fast Food Outlet	1	.5	.6	12.6
Upscale Outlet Stores	2	1.1	1.1	13.7
Bus Service to Wilton Mall/Saratoga	4	2.1	2.3	16.0
Contract for Prescription Delivery	1	.5	.6	16.6
More Restaurants	8	4.3	4.6	21.1
Fitness Center	4	2.1	2.3	23.4
Retail Stores	1	.5	.6	24.0
Dry Cleaner	4	2.1	2.3	26.3
Movie Theatre	3	1.6	1.7	28.0
Eye care Services	1	.5	.6	28.6
Grocery Store/Super-market	6	3.2	3.4	32.0
Police Department	3	1.6	1.7	33.7
Taxi	1	.5	.6	34.3
Fabric Store	1	.5	.6	34.9
Five and Ten Store	1	.5	.6	35.4
Dental Clinic/Dentist	1	.5	.6	36.0
Bakery	2	1.1	1.1	37.1
Historically Appropriate Businesses	1	.5	.6	37.7
Recreational Facilities/Businesses	1	.5	.6	38.3
Senior Housing	1	.5	.6	38.9
Dollar Store	1	.5	.6	39.4
Video Store	1	.5	.6	40.0
Welcome Wagon	1	.5	.6	40.6
Another Bank	1	.5	.6	41.1
Liquor/Wine Store	3	1.6	1.7	42.9
Affordable Housing Complex	1	.5	.6	43.4
Department/Variety Store	1	.5	.6	44.0
Hotel	1	.5	.6	44.6
Jobs	1	.5	.6	45.1
Entertainment Choices	1	.5	.6	45.7
Dance Studio	1	.5	.6	46.3
Day Care	1	.5	.6	46.9
UPS/Fed Ex Drop-off	1	.5	.6	47.4
Parks/Recreation	1	.5	.6	48.0
Landscaping Business	1	.5	.6	48.6
N/A	90	48.1	51.4	100.0
Total	175	93.6	100.0	
Missing	12	6.4		
	187	100.0		

Third choice

One hundred and twenty-eight (73.1%) did not indicate a second choice for businesses or services they wanted to see move to the village. Twelve (6.4%) did not respond to this question. Eight (4.6%) respondents indicated they wanted more restaurants to move into the Village and four (2.3%) wanted a pharmacy. As with both the first and second choices, a decision was made to not collapse the data obtained regarding the third choice responses to this question. The data can be collapsed for future planning purposes, as necessary. The table below provides the full range of responses to this question.

3rd choice: Businesses/Services

Third Choice?	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Clothing Stores	1	.5	.6	.6
Jewelry Stores	1	.5	.6	1.1
Artisans	1	.5	.6	1.7
Toy Stores	1	.5	.6	2.3
Pharmacy	4	2.1	2.3	4.6
Fast food outlet	2	1.1	1.1	5.7
Upscale Outlet Stores	1	.5	.6	6.3
Bus Service to Wilton Mall/Saratoga	2	1.1	1.1	7.4
Contract to Deliver Prescriptions	1	.5	.6	8.0
More Restaurants	8	4.3	4.6	12.6
Fitness Center	2	1.1	1.1	13.7
Retail Stores	1	.5	.6	14.3
Dry Cleaner	2	1.1	1.1	15.4
Movie Theatre	2	1.1	1.1	16.6
Eye Care Services	1	.5	.6	17.1
Light Industry	1	.5	.6	17.7
Grocery Store/Super-market	1	.5	.6	18.3
Police Department	2	1.1	1.1	19.4
Fabric Store	1	.5	.6	20.0
Dental Clinic/Dentist	1	.5	.6	20.6
Bakery	1	.5	.6	21.1
Gas Station	1	.5	.6	21.7
Specialty Shops	3	1.6	1.7	23.4
Shoe Store	1	.5	.6	24.0
Record Store	1	.5	.6	24.6
Health Food Store	1	.5	.6	25.1
More Parking	1	.5	.6	25.7
Larger Teen Center	1	.5	.6	26.3
UPS/Fed Ex Drop-off	1	.5	.6	26.9
N/A	128	68.4	73.1	100.0
Total	175	93.6	100.0	
Missing	12	6.4		
	187	100.0		

Q8. How do you find out what's happening in the village?

One hundred and sixty-nine (90.4%) respondents answered this question. Eighteen (9.6%) did not. Forty-eight (28.4%) indicated that the newspaper was the way that they found out what is happening in the village, 46 (27.2%) indicated word of mouth, and 27 (16%) specifically stated that their neighbors was their primary source of information. There are numerous categories that emerged based on their answers and the Citizen's Advisory Board decided not to collapse categories but to report the data as recorded for the general information of village government and the community at large. The data can be collapsed for future planning purposes, as necessary. The table at the end of this section provides the full range of responses to this question. Listed below are samples of anecdotal comments from the survey:

- I talk to a lot of people and come to the meetings.
- Good question – very hit or miss.
- I call a trustee or occasionally see something in the paper. I do read the windows.
- Senior meal sites
- I talk to folks.
- I find out after it's happened.
- Village meetings
- I read the notices at Byron's.
- Conversations at church
- By being involved

How do you find out what's happening in the village?

Whats Happening?	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Neighbors	27	14.4	16.0	16.0
Word of Mouth	46	24.6	27.2	43.2
Friends/Spouse	2	1.1	1.2	44.4
Senior Meal Site	1	.5	.6	45.0
Village Office/Officials	1	.5	.6	45.6
Newspaper	48	25.7	28.4	74.0
Involved in the Village	1	.5	.6	74.6
Community Notices	12	6.4	7.1	81.7
Chamber of Commerce	2	1.1	1.2	82.8
Village Meetings	15	8.0	8.9	91.7
Inconsistent Communication	4	2.1	2.4	94.1
Church	1	.5	.6	94.7
Listen	2	1.1	1.2	95.9
Village Web Site	3	1.6	1.8	97.6
Don't	3	1.6	1.8	99.4
Go to Byron's	1	.5	.6	100.0
Total	169	90.4	100.0	
Missing	18	9.6		
	187	100.0		

Q9. Are you getting enough information about Village Board meetings, community meetings, and community events?

One hundred and seventy-four (93%) respondents answered this question. Thirteen (7%) did not. Seventy-seven (44.3%) respondents indicated Yes, they were getting enough information about Village Board meetings, community meetings, and community events. Ninety-seven (55.7%) answered No. This may be indicative of a communication problem in the village.

Are you getting enough information about Village Board meetings, community meetings, and community events?

Enough Information?	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	77	41.2	44.3	44.3
No	97	51.9	55.7	100.0
Total	174	93.0	100.0	
Missing	13	7.0		
	187	100.0		

Q10. Would you use the Village Website to find out about upcoming events in the village? If your answer is No, why not?

One hundred and seventy-two (92%) respondents answered this question. Fifteen (8%) did not. One hundred and sixteen (67.4%) indicated they would use the Village Website to learn more about what was happening in the village. Fifty-six (32.6%) responded negatively.

Would you use the Village Website to find out about upcoming events in the village?

Use Website?	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Yes	116	62.0	67.4	67.4
No	56	29.9	32.6	100.0
Total	172	92.0	100.0	
Missing	15	8.0		
	187	100.0		

The various reasons for answering No, are provided in the table below.

Why not use website?

Why Not?	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Don't Own a Computer	27	14.4	16.6	16.6
Computer Not Hooked Up	4	2.1	2.5	19.0
Website Not Up to Date	2	1.1	1.2	20.2
Didn't Know There Was a Village Website	3	1.6	1.8	22.1
Don't Know How to Use a Computer	4	2.1	2.5	24.5
Don't Have Time	3	1.6	1.8	26.4
Don't Have Internet	4	2.1	2.5	28.8
N/A	116	62.0	71.2	100.0
Total	163	87.2	100.0	
Missing	24	12.8		
	187	100.0		

Section 2: Community Services

In this section, respondents were asked to indicate services they felt were important in the village. Specifically, services for families for children, services for seniors, and services for business owners. They were also asked to identify services they need that are missing in the village.

Services for Families with Children

Ninety-five (50.8%) answered this question and 92 (49.2%) did not. Thirty (31.6%) respondents indicated that Playgrounds/Parks/Recreation were important to families with children in the village. Eleven (11.6%) respondents indicated that Programs for Youth/Families were important. The table below provides the full range of responses to this question.

Services for families

Services	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Playgrounds/Parks/Recreation	30	16.0	31.6	31.6
School	5	2.7	5.3	36.8
Free Lunch/Food Bank	2	1.1	2.1	38.9
Community Center	2	1.1	2.1	41.1
Programs for Youth/Families	11	5.9	11.6	52.6
Day Care/Pre-School	10	5.3	10.5	63.2
Youth Center	10	5.3	10.5	73.7
Library	4	2.1	4.2	77.9
Emergency Services	2	1.1	2.1	80.0
YMCA	2	1.1	2.1	82.1
School's Out Day Care	1	.5	1.1	83.2
Church	1	.5	1.1	84.2
Medical Services/Pharmacy	5	2.7	5.3	89.5
Community Activities/Events	1	.5	1.1	90.5
Public Transportation	2	1.1	2.1	92.6
Library	2	1.1	2.1	94.7
Support for Needy Families	2	1.1	2.1	96.8
Swimming Pool	1	.5	1.1	97.9
Improved Sidewalks	1	.5	1.1	98.9
Not Sure	1	.5	1.1	100.0
Total	95	50.8	100.0	
Missing	92	49.2		
	187	100.0		

When the data was collapsed into similar categories, the following results were found:

Recode: Services for Families

Recode Services	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Playgrounds/Parks/Recreation	31	16.6	33.0	33.0
School	5	2.7	5.3	38.3
Community Center	3	1.6	3.2	41.5
Programs for Youth/Families	38	20.3	40.4	81.9
Library	6	3.2	6.4	88.3
Emergency Services	2	1.1	2.1	90.4
Church	1	.5	1.1	91.5
Medical Services/Pharmacy	5	2.7	5.3	96.8
Public Transportation	2	1.1	2.1	98.9
Improved Sidewalks	1	.5	1.1	100.0
Total	94	50.3	100.0	
Not Sure	1	.5		
Missing	92	49.2		
	187	100.0		

When categories were collapsed, 38 (40.4%) respondents indicated that Programs for Youth/Families was important while 31 (33.0%) respondents stated that Playgrounds/Parks/Recreation was an important service for families living in the village.

Services for Seniors

Ten items were identified as important services for seniors in the Village. One hundred and two (54.5%) respondents answered this question; 85 (45.5%) did not. Thirty seven (36.3%) respondents indicated that Public Transportation was an important service for senior citizens while 26 (25.5%) indicated that a Senior Center was important. The table below provides the full range of responses to this question.

Services for seniors

Services	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Public Transportation	37	19.8	36.3	36.3
Senior Community Assistance	10	5.3	9.8	46.1
Meals on Wheels/Senior Dining Site	12	6.4	11.8	57.8
Senior Center	26	13.9	25.5	83.3
Senior Housing	4	2.1	3.9	87.3
Pharmacy	4	2.1	3.9	91.2
Emergency Services	2	1.1	2.0	93.1
Senior Recreation Activities	5	2.7	4.9	98.0
Medical Services/Clinic	1	.5	1.0	99.0
Library	1	.5	1.0	100.0
Total	102	54.5	100.0	
Missing	85	45.5		
Total	187	100.0		

Services for Business Owners

Sixty (32.1%) respondents answered this question, while 127 (67.9%) did not. Thirteen (21.7%) respondents indicated a Chamber of Commerce as important to business owners. five (8.3%) respondents stated that Parking was very important for business owners. The table below reflects the initial items identified by village residents as being important to business owners.

Services for business

Services	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Attract More Business Owners	1	.5	1.7	1.7
Off-street Parking	3	1.6	5.0	6.7
Chamber of Commerce	13	7.0	21.7	28.3
Signage	1	.5	1.7	30.0
Repair/Install Sidewalks	3	1.6	5.0	35.0
Police Department	2	1.1	3.3	38.3
Village Website	2	1.1	3.3	41.7
Parking	5	2.7	8.3	50.0
Village Programs to Support New Businesses	9	4.8	15.0	65.0
Faster DPW Response to Problems	4	2.1	6.7	71.7
Improved Downtown Street Lights	2	1.1	3.3	75.0
Tax Incentives	6	3.2	10.0	85.0
Street Maintenance	2	1.1	3.3	88.3
Increased Communication in the Village	1	.5	1.7	90.0
Copy/Shipping Center	2	1.1	3.3	93.3
Public Transportation	1	.5	1.7	95.0
More Banking Services	2	1.1	3.3	98.3
Revitalize Downtown Business District	1	.5	1.7	100.0
Total	60	32.1	100.0	
Missing	127	67.9		
	187	100.0		

Due to common elements among the responses, the categories were collapsed. The table at the end of this section provides the full range of responses to this question.

Recode Services for Business

Recode Services	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Parking	8	4.3	13.3	13.3
Chamber of Commerce	13	7.0	21.7	35.0
Signage	1	.5	1.7	36.7
Repair/Install Sidewalks	3	1.6	5.0	41.7
Police Department	2	1.1	3.3	45.0
Village Website	2	1.1	3.3	48.3
Village Initiatives to Support Businesses	11	5.9	18.3	66.7
Issues re: DPW	6	3.2	10.0	76.7
Downtown Street Lighting	2	1.1	3.3	80.0
Tax Incentives	6	3.2	10.0	90.0
Increased Communication in the Village	1	.5	1.7	91.7
Copy/Shipping Center	2	1.1	3.3	95.0
Public Transportation	1	.5	1.7	96.7
Banking Services	2	1.1	3.3	100.0
Total	60	32.1	100.0	
Missing	127	67.9		
	187	100.0		

What services do YOU need that are missing in the village?

One hundred and one (54%) respondents answered this question. Three (1.6%) respondents indicated *Not Sure* and 83 (44.4%) respondents did not answer this question. Twenty (19.8%) respondents indicated that a pharmacy was the missing service they needed. Other responses were similar in range to one another and are reflected in the table below. As with other questions asked in this survey, numerous categories emerged based on their answers and the Citizen's Advisory Board decided not to collapse categories but to report the data as recorded for the general information of village government and the community at large. The data can be collapsed for future planning purposes, as necessary.

What services do YOU that are missing in the village?

Missing Services YOU Need?	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Local Police Protection	7	3.7	6.9	6.9
Water Related	3	1.6	3.0	9.9
Flexible Hours at Village Hall	1	.5	1.0	10.9
Improved Library	2	1.1	2.0	12.9
Video Store	4	2.1	4.0	16.8
Pharmacy	20	10.7	19.8	36.6
Family-Oriented Activities	3	1.6	3.0	39.6
Medical Services	4	2.1	4.0	43.6
Fall Village Clean-up	5	2.7	5.0	48.5
More activities for kids	2	1.1	2.0	50.5
Food Co-op	1	.5	1.0	51.5
Faster DPW Response to Problems	2	1.1	2.0	53.5
Nothing/None	6	3.2	5.9	59.4
Businesses/Stores	7	3.7	6.9	66.3
Garbage Same Day Pick-up of Garbage & Recycling	1	.5	1.0	67.3
Village Website	1	.5	1.0	68.3
Police Department/Services	6	3.2	5.9	74.3
Senior Housing	1	.5	1.0	75.2
Monthly Pick-up of Yard Debris	3	1.6	3.0	78.2
Grocery Delivery	1	.5	1.0	79.2
Enforcement of Village Laws	1	.5	1.0	80.2
Public Transportation	5	2.7	5.0	85.1
Sidewalks	3	1.6	3.0	88.1
Alternate Street Parking	1	.5	1.0	89.1
Fitness Center/YMCA	2	1.1	2.0	91.1
Dry Cleaner	2	1.1	2.0	93.1
Parking	1	.5	1.0	94.1
Adequate Village Services	1	.5	1.0	95.0
Day Care	1	.5	1.0	96.0
Improved Recycling in the Village	1	.5	1.0	97.0
More Professional Services	1	.5	1.0	98.0
Larger/Economical Grocery Store	2	1.1	2.0	100.0
Total	101	54.0	100.0	
Not Sure	3	1.6		
Missing	83	44.4		
	187	100.0		

Section 3: Municipal Services

Respondents were asked to circle a number on the scale listed below indicating how important they felt eleven municipal services were. The services included Streets, Water/Sewer, Garbage Pickup, Police, Fire/Emergency Services, Parks/Recreation/Playgrounds, Snow Removal, Library, Community Bulletin Board, Village Website, and Public Transportation. The rating scale was:

1. Not Important
2. Somewhat Important
3. Fairly Important
4. Important
5. Very Important

When respondents rated the municipal services, nine of eleven services were rated as very important. In order to rank the items in terms of significance to the largest number of respondents, it is necessary to look at the variance or degrees of dispersion between the rankings of all respondents to each item. The variance allows for the numerical ranking of the top nine very important items. The smaller the measure of dispersion (variance) the more important the issue is to the majority of respondents.

Municipal Services	Variance
Fire/Emergency Service	0.60
Water/Sewer	0.60
Streets	0.73
Snow Removal	0.75
Parks/Recreation/Playgrounds	0.88
Library	1.08
Garbage Pickup	1.23
Police	1.64
Public Transportation	1.80

This chart above does not mean that Community Bulletin Board and Village Website are not important. In fact, they were rated fairly important (3 on the rating scale) by respondents. The nine items listed as very important can be recognized as essential services that need to be delivered on a regular basis to maintain safety and enhance the quality of life in the community.

Section 4: Potential Village Projects

Twenty items were listed as potential village projects and respondents were asked to circle the number on the scale listed below indicating the importance of each project. The projects included Sidewalk Improvement/Reconstruction, Street lighting, Bicycle paths/scenic walkways, Parks development, Improved fire/rescue and police, Improved streets/roads, Improved traffic control, Signage identifying the entrances to the village, Waterfront revitalization, Historic tourism development, Downtown revitalization, Improved water system, Improved waste management, Improved sewer system, Senior housing, Affordable housing, Rehabilitation of existing housing, Historic preservation, Centralized social services (outreach, food, benefits) and Zoning.

The rating scale was:

1. Not Important
2. Somewhat Important
3. Fairly Important
4. Important
5. Very Important

When respondents rated the importance of the potential projects, 13 of the 20 projects were rated as very important. In order to rank the items in terms of significance to the largest number of respondents, it is necessary to look at the variance or degrees of dispersion between the rankings of all respondents to each item. The variance allows for the numerical ranking of the 13 very important items. The smaller the measure of dispersion (variance) the more important the issue is to the majority of respondents. In the table below, respondents most frequently chose 5 (Very Important).

Potential Projects – Very Important	Variance
Downtown Revitalization	0.92
Improved Water System	0.96
Streets and Roads	0.97
Sidewalk Improvement	0.98
Improved Sewer System	1.09
Improved Waste Mgt	1.12
Rehabilitation of Existing Housing	1.13
Historic Preservation	1.23
Street Lighting	1.24
Police/Fire and Rescue	1.28
Centralized Social Services	1.37
Affordable Housing	1.50
Zoning	1.70

In the table below, respondents most frequently chose 4 (Important).

Potential Projects – Important	Variance
Historic Tourism	1.30
Waterfront Revitalization	1.36
Senior Housing	1.39
Park Development	1.40

In the table below, respondents most frequently chose 3 (Fairly Important).

Potential Projects – Fairly Important	Variance
Bicycle Paths/Walkways	1.45
Traffic Control	1.45
Signage to Village	1.53

Summary

A great deal of information was obtained from the village residents through the survey. A brief analysis of the data has been provided in this section of the Plan. Basic analysis at the level of frequency distributions has been provided. At this point in time, correlations between the demographic data and responses to the questions were not pursued. That type of data analysis will be invaluable for future planning efforts that are connected to the Comprehensive Plan. The survey is a snapshot of a specific period of time (fall 2004) of the opinions of the respondents. There are factors that can influence the direction that the village will take in future planning; for example, the availability of grant monies and economic development in the village and the surrounding area. The challenge will be to have the Village Board and the community involved in the planning process using the information provided in the survey.

Section IV: Recommendations and Implications for the Future

The final section of the Comprehensive Plan is comprised of recommendations of the Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB). The recommendations are based on the information obtained from village residents in public meetings and from the Village Information Survey (Appendix U). In some instances, the CAB has included recommendations from the Community Development Strategic Plan of 2003 (Appendix C) and the Business District Enhancement Plan that resulted from the work of the Saratoga Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) in 1997 (Appendix B), as they are reflective of what residents have expressed as needs of the community. Comments from the Information Gathering Meeting of October 20, 2004, are also included.

Goal #1: To preserve Schuylerville's historic and natural attributes and accentuate these unique features as opportunities for economic stability and growth.

The findings from the survey indicate that residents are concerned about preserving the history and natural attributes of the village. Residents view them as important to the quality of village life and as an opportunity for economic stability and growth. A sample of anecdotal comments from the public meeting can be found below. A complete list of comments is available in Appendix V.

- Expose historic cobblestones in places on Broad Street.
- Put historic signs back up that have been torn down.
- Play up natural attributes, particularly Hudson River.
- Towpath needs to be more welcoming where gravel road ends and grassy tracks go to Lock 5. Signs like those at Bog Meadow Trail on Route 29.
- Fix canal for boats -- open canal with drawbridge.

These comments are indicative of the comments that residents made at the Village Information meeting. Similar comments were received on the survey. The recommendations that follow will address those concerns. Items 1 and 2 are recommendations made in the Community Development Strategic Plan of 2003 and they are both important and relevant in the Comprehensive Plan of 2005.

Recommendations

1. Investigate incentive programs for private preservation initiatives.
2. Pursue opportunities to restore and revitalize the canal and waterfront.
3. Review and change the existing village signage ordinance to strive for uniformity and consistent application throughout the village.
4. Foster communication through participation of the village leadership and residents to become knowledgeable about the possibilities for preservation/restoration activities by working cooperatively with other groups in the community.
5. Encourage the preservation of existing buildings that have their historical detail intact and the rehabilitation of older buildings that have deteriorated over the years.
6. Develop guidelines that new construction in the village should be in keeping with the scale of the neighboring structures.
7. Establish and follow a policy that recognizes and supports historic preservation of existing buildings in the village.

Goal #2: To provide for improved infrastructure throughout the village.

Infrastructure is the term used to indicate any public amenities whether above-ground, at grade or located below grade. Public sewer and water are below grade infrastructure items. Ground level infrastructure refers to sidewalks, curbing, on-street and off-street parking, roads, street furniture, trees, stoops, and hydrants. Street lights, signs, and utility poles and wires are considered above ground items. On the Village Information Survey, the infrastructure of the village and future plans to develop and maintain infrastructure were very important to respondents. A sample of anecdotal comments from the public meeting can be found below. A complete list of comments is available in Appendix V.

- There is a need for improved sidewalks.
- Get rid of utility poles downtown
- Crosswalk signs - with pushbutton for crosswalks.
- Storm drains overflowing; better sewer management.
- Historic street lighting

The condition of existing sidewalks, who will maintain them, replace them, and who will pay for them, is an on-going issue in the village. A sidewalk committee was formed four years ago. The people have spoken loudly and consistently on this issue and, to date, a plan has not been developed and implemented to deal with the problem. The need for sidewalks and the care and maintenance of sidewalks was also addressed in the SEDC report of 1997. There is a \$40,000 grant available for repair of sidewalks in a targeted area of the village. The grant has a matching portion of \$16,000 in the budget and, to date, no plans exist to use the grant or to find the necessary matching funds.

Items 1 – 4 are recommendations originally made in the Community Development Strategic Plan of 2003. They remain pertinent and have been incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan.

Recommendations

1. Research funding opportunities to upgrade infrastructure including sewer, water, wastewater management, transportation, power and other systems.
2. Develop a comprehensive inventory of infrastructure systems.
3. Create a plan to schedule and/or phase capital projects and investigate options to establish debt planning to fund infrastructure repair and replacement.
4. Study options to enhance village government's ability to address infrastructure management and planning.
5. Develop a community forum to address and identify potential shared services with other communities.

6. Develop a community-based group to work closely with village leadership to establish:
 - A plan for sidewalk installation, maintenance, and repair.
 - A plan for the downtown streetscape which includes trees, sidewalks, crosswalks, plantings, and street benches.
 - Pedestrian right-of way signs and crosswalks at highly trafficked points downtown and in other areas of the village where needed.
7. Develop attractive gateway signage welcoming and directing visitors at all entrances to the village and emphasizing the historical significance of the area.
8. Recognize the uniqueness of the lanes/alleys in the village and encourage residents to maintain them free of debris, unregistered vehicles, and other refuse.

Goal #3: To revitalize the downtown area and support local business.

Revitalization of the downtown business district continues to be very important to the residents of the village according to their responses to the survey. Data from the Village Information Survey indicated a high level of concern about the need to support business, shop locally, and have a business community that could assume a larger portion of the tax burden of the village.

Earlier studies dealt with this issue and recommendations from those reports have been included in this comprehensive plan. The first recommendation was taken from the Economic Development Planning Project prepared for Saratoga Economic Development Corporation (SEDC) in 1997. This report identified the business district and provided information regarding a continuing problem in the commercial core of the village.

Commercial core business owners have complained that a major problem is to get travelers to make a left turn onto Broad St. south when those persons are heading west on Ferry St., presumably to continue to the Northway (I-87) or to Saratoga Springs (p. 12).

Signage in the village is a continuing concern of business owners and needs to be addressed by the village leadership.

Items 2 – 5 are recommendations made in the Community Development Strategic Plan (CDSP) in 2003. In the Village Information Survey, residents were very clear on what services they needed that were missing in the village. Continued revisiting of the results of the findings of the survey should guide the process for recruitment of desired businesses/services within the community. A sample of anecdotal comments from the public meeting can be found below. A complete list of comments is available in Appendix V.

- Parking major problem – need signage – need to look ahead 10 – 20 years.
- When will all the sidewalks be done?
- Give incentives to residential landlords to improve properties
- Need every day things – clothing stores, pharmacy
- Canal Street needs to be cleaned up.

Recommendations:

1. Encourage village government to work closely with, and coordinate the efforts of, the local business groups operating in the village.
2. Define the business district and prioritize existing problems and potential project options.
3. Develop a community forum to study other communities' efforts and successes in this area.
4. Lessen possible disruptive effects of upcoming DOT road and sidewalk repair projects by establishing an open forum for communication between DOT, Village Board of Trustees and the community.
5. Include public in decision-making process to choose and attract preferred businesses.
6. Focus increased parking and other business supportive infrastructure between the area on the east side of Broad Street and the old Champlain Canal.
7. Restrict through zoning, businesses that are inappropriate to the village's small town, family-friendly character.

Goal #4: To attain diverse funding sources to support community and municipal projects.

Residents recognized the importance of expert knowledge regarding how to obtain funding to support community and municipal projects. Recognizing that the village leadership has numerous issues to deal with in coordinating the on-going operations of the village, it is not realistic to expect that they would assume or necessarily have the knowledge regarding additional sources of funding for village development. This need could be best addressed by the creation of a Planning Board, the primary recommendation to meet this goal and the remaining two goals mentioned in this Plan. A sample of anecdotal comments from the public meeting can be found below. A complete list of comments is available in Appendix V.

- Work with the Town of Saratoga
- Community Association for Historic Preservation
- How have other communities found grants?
- Block grants like the west side of Saratoga Springs
- Legislative help, such as Senator Bruno

Planning needs to be an on-going activity in the village and the institution of a Planning Board with decision-making authority, will promote and encourage the continuation of planning for the diverse needs indicated by village residents in the Village Information Survey. With a Village Planning Board in place, items 2 – 4 recommended in the Community Development Strategic Plan, could become a reality.

Recommendations

1. Create a Planning Board per New York State Law §7-718.
2. Research initiatives by other communities to obtain alternative funding sources.
3. Research hiring a grant writer to seek available grant monies for various projects.
4. Research process and interest levels for the creation of a formal special assessment/business improvement district.

Goal #5: To ensure successful community development efforts through careful planning and inter-municipal cooperation.

At the Village Information Meeting held on October 20, 2004, village residents commented on the importance of planning efforts. A sample of anecdotal comments from the public meeting can be found below. A complete list of comments is available in Appendix V.

- More interaction between groups
- Zoning
- Good examples of cooperation – parade committee/water commission
- Create better signage.
- Fix “bad” things first.

In the Community Development Strategic Plan of 2003, the first recommendation to achieve the stated goal of ensuring successful community development efforts through careful planning and inter-municipal cooperation was to develop a formal comprehensive plan for the village. With the acceptance of this Plan, that goal will have been accomplished. The second recommendation was to form a planning board. Items 2 and 3 were also recommended in the Strategic Plan.

Recommendations

1. Create a Planning Board with municipal, resident, community service and business representation.
2. Establish methods of communication to build public awareness and support.
3. Determine avenues other than taxation to finance municipal projects and functions.
4. Institute site plan review of all new commercial and land development projects within the village.

Goal #6: To assure increased communication between all sectors of the community providing greater awareness of government and community-based services and activities.

Respondents to the Village Information Survey indicated that newspapers and *word of mouth* was the way that most of them found out what was happening in the village. Over half of the respondents (55.7%) indicated they are not getting information in a timely manner and 67% said they would use the village website to find out information. Many respondents expressed surprise that the village had a website and that is indicative of how facts are not communicated

in the village. A sample of anecdotal comments from the public meeting can be found below. A complete list of comments is available in Appendix V.

- Newsletter once a month or every other month
- Post Village and Town Meeting minutes.
- Library postings
- Bulletin Boards
- Need to put more information in newspapers

As part of the comprehensive planning effort, the Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB) made a special effort to engage residents in an information gathering process. For the most part, residents do appear to have an interest in what is happening in the village and want to be kept up to date. The Community Development Strategic Plan of 2003 contained several recommendations that are consistent with best practices to assure increased communication between all sectors of the community. Items 1 – 3 are taken from that Plan.

Recommendations

1. Establish committees with citizen and business owner representation to facilitate increased participation in planning and community development activities.
2. Establish mechanisms for cross-communication between governmental officials and community-based groups.
3. Institute a forum for regular communication among residents and the Village Board to discuss major issues and to build public awareness and support.
4. Revisit the village website and update its design. Incorporate website maintenance and posting of announcements into the position description of village office personnel.

Goal #7: To ensure the quality of life in the Village of Schuylerville by protecting its natural environment and preserving its small town atmosphere and sense of community.

The response to the Village Information Survey regarding the quality of life in the village was very positive. Respondents indicated that the small town atmosphere, people, location, and historic and environmental attributes of the area were very important to them. A sample of anecdotal comments from the public meeting can be found below. A complete list of comments is available in Appendix V.

- Stay a small village – everybody get together to do things that different organizations do, but do it together as a village.
- Need one source of communication of community functions
- Preserve small village atmosphere very important
- Preserve what we have along the Hudson
- Get our Beach back.
- Ft. Hardy needs to be left for the kids – the way it is now.
- Move ahead but keep the 1920s to 1930s look.
- Need Zoning Board.
- Trolley tracks utilized instead of pulling them up.
- Village back streets as important as Broad Street
- Walkways, parking need improvement.

The Community Development Strategic Plan of 2003 proposed numerous recommendations that do not appear to have been acted upon. These dealt with reducing the impact on the natural environment, increasing family and community-based activities and programs, and improving and centralizing social and community services networks. Items 1 – 3 are recommendations from that Plan.

Recommendations

1. Establish community-wide events that accentuate and celebrate the natural environment.
2. Research programs and funding mechanisms that assist communities in restoring and improving their natural environment (i.e., community tree planting programs).
3. Establish a community forum for researching the use of existing facilities to provide recreational, social and community-based services for families, youth, and senior citizens of the village.
4. Develop a personnel policy for all village employees that includes position descriptions, employee evaluation criteria, and maintenance of employee personnel files.
5. Form a Planning Board and a Zoning Board to regulate, through site plan review and zoning, all future development in the village.

Summary

All recommendations in this section were made based on information obtained from the Public Information Meeting held on October 20, 2004 and the Village Information Survey. While the task of assembling the Comprehensive Plan has been challenging, the greater challenge for the village will be to incorporate the use of this document as an integral part of all future planning efforts. It is the intent of the Citizen's Advisory Board that this Plan be a vital document providing direction that reflects the views of the residents of the Village of Schuylerville.

