

**Village of Schuylerville Comprehensive Plan Update  
Draft #1 Vision, Goals and Recommendations Report  
August 8, 2024**

**Vision for the Future**

The Village of Schuylerville strives to become a community recognized for its resilience, with a focus on environmental responsibility, historic preservation, and walkability with family-based outdoor recreation and entrepreneurship. The Village will foster to build a vibrant downtown for visitors and residents. The Village will build new and renovate existing downtown properties with a focus on bringing affordable housing opportunities to enable more people, workers, families, artists, and entrepreneurs to live, work, and play in Schuylerville. Economic development will focus on marketing the Village as a vibrant historic village that markets itself as a year-round destination for heritage and recreational tourism along the Empire State Trail, the Old Champlain Canal Trail, and the Hudson River.

**Goals and Recommendations**

**1. Quality of Life**

**Goals**

- *Sustain the high quality of life in the Village of Schuylerville by preserving its historic village atmosphere and protecting the assets that characterize the community.*
- *Craft a welcoming identity through promotion of the arts and placemaking.*

**Recommendations**

- A. Establish community-wide events that accentuate and celebrate the Village’s historic and natural resources.
- B. Continue to assess the use of existing facilities to provide recreational, social and community-based services for families, youth, and senior citizens.
- C. Identify and provide a cohesive communication plan to promote community functions and events.
- D. Collaborate with neighboring communities, the county, and local organizations to provide more activities for senior citizens to overcome barriers to accessing those activities.

**2. Local Economy and Tourism**

**Goals**

- *Encourage infill development and renovations focused on local businesses and workforce housing.*
- *Continue to revitalize the downtown area and support local business through other programs such as the the NY Forward program.*

- *Promote heritage and recreational tourism along the local trails and waterways by building a sustainable tourism strategy.*

### **Recommendations**

- A. Embark in marketing plan to develop a branding and marketing roadmap that blends Schuylerville's assets into a distinctive brand that attracts new businesses, residents, and visitors. Create a mark and tagline for the Village, and campaign elements to promote the area 365 days a year for its history, recreation, and beauty. Coordinate with Lake to Locks Passage efforts and adjacent communities to promote the Hudson River as a recreation and heritage tourism destination. Consider the opportunity to apply for an Empire State Development MarketNY grant that focuses on regionally cooperative tourism initiatives and signature events.
- B. Explore the feasibility of hiring a local event coordinator possibly through a partnership with the Saratoga Regional Chamber of Commerce.
- C. Focus marketing a few local special events that are well organized and have a high impact on local economics. Expand on successful events such as art and craft fairs, farmers markets, festivals, outdoor events and competitions, and other historical and cultural celebrations that build off of the existing institutions will breathe new life into the community.
- D. Identify the Village's role in the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Revolutionary War (2026). Apply for funding special projects and programs as funding becomes available.
- E. Task the Schuylerville Community Council to prioritize existing parking and other issues and potential projects. Include an assessment of a process to choose and attract preferred businesses. Also focus increased parking and other business supportive infrastructure between the area on the east side of Broad Street and the Old Champlain Canal.
- F. Develop a distinctive set of itineraries into half, full and 3-day visitor experience packages utilizing the resources from the Historic Hoosic-Hudson Rivers Partnership, Lake to Locks Passage, and the Erie Canal National Heritage Area. Organize and mix activities into a variety of recreational, cultural, and entertainment activities. Incorporate the specialty driving trails. Expand the existing regional geocaching program with a focus on the Village's historic resources and trails. Develop and market a new visitor trail challenge program.
- G. Develop community awareness of Schuylerville as an integral part of the Lakes to Locks Passage Byway which follows the interconnected waterway of the Upper Hudson River, Champlain Canal, Lake George, Lake Champlain, Richelieu River, and Chambly Canal through six counties in New York State: Rensselaer, Saratoga, Washington, Warren, Essex, and Clinton.
- H. Prepare a wayfinding signage plan to assist visitors in navigating the community and find local attractions.

### **3. Parks, Recreation and Trails**

#### **Goals**

- *Meet the present and future recreational needs by developing new recreational resources that encourage the retention and growth of young families, and Schuylerville as a destination for day visitors.*
- *Improve the safety and overall experience for pedestrians and cyclists.*

#### **Recommendations**

- A. Implement the recommendations of the Fort Hardy Master Plan. Priority concentration should be on construction of the new community center.
- B. Assess the condition of all buildings in Fort Hardy Park and develop a long-term plan for their maintenance.
- C. Improve existing trail systems and develop new trails for different user groups with a range of abilities.
- D. Pursue opportunities to restore and revitalize the canal and waterfront for recreational use.

### **4. Historic and Cultural Resources**

#### **Goals**

- *Preserve Schuylerville's historic and cultural attributes and accentuate these unique features as opportunities for economic stability and growth.*
- *Encourage the preservation of existing buildings that have their historical detail intact and the rehabilitation of older buildings that have deteriorated over the years.*

#### **Recommendations**

- A. Develop a wayfinding, regulatory and interpretive signage plan that identifies and creates a distinct identity for the Village of Schuylerville that ties into the regional corridor. Draw on the strength by association with the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, Hudson River Valley Greenway, NYS Canal Corporation, Lakes to Locks Passage, NYS Pathway Through History, Empire State Trail and local communities.
- B. Establish and follow a policy that recognizes and supports historic preservation of existing buildings in the Village.

### **5. Natural Resource Protection**

#### **Goals**

- Conserve and protect environmental resources.

#### **Recommendations**

- A. Provide a detailed plan to open the Old Champlain Canal for small boat traffic while maintaining the use of the canal for flood control and protecting the natural environment.

## **6. Sustainability and Resilience Strategy**

### ***Goals***

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Prepare for the impact of climate change.
- Educate the community on best practices.
- Save taxpayer money.

### ***Recommendations***

- A. Conduct an assessment that identifies community vulnerabilities and identifies and prioritizes actions to reduce risks to the community.
- B. Identify and map buildings, infrastructure and areas that are prone to flooding after large storm events and assess the need for culvert and other stormwater infrastructure improvements.
- C. Develop flood prevention criteria to avoid or mitigate potential flood damage. This section of the zoning code should be consistent with FEMA Guidelines and Standards for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping Activities Under the Risk MAP Program.
- D. Develop site plan review procedures and criteria for reviewing applications to include storm water management requirements and lighting that is consistent with International Dark Sky Community Program Guidelines.
- E. Encourage the Water District to install water meters throughout the water district.

## **7. Land Use, Zoning and Housing**

### ***Goals***

- Update all land use and zoning documents to be consistent with contemporary conditions and future considerations.
- Protect the existing housing stock for residential growth to the greatest extent possible and address housing needs in the community.
- Identify opportunities for the development of additional residential and mixed-use rental units.

### ***Recommendations***

- A. Form a Planning Board and a Zoning Board to regulate, through site plan review and zoning, all future development in the Village.
- B. Update zoning ordinance and official Village zoning map.
- C. Review land use densities and permitted uses and modify as needed.
- D. Review, identify, evaluate, and correct zoning inconsistencies and barriers to commercial growth.
- E. Modify zoning to increase the flexibility of permitted uses and encourage the conversion of existing buildings, while exploring opportunities for new housing.
- F. Develop supplemental regulations for steep slopes, stormwater management and erosion control.
- G. Review and update the existing Village signage ordinance to strive for uniformity and consistent application.

- H. Develop and adopt a local law regulating short-term rentals.
- I. Expand on the current Community Housing Needs Assessment to implement recommendations.
- J. Investigate the potential of applying for USDA Housing Programs to support local housing development efforts.
- K. Create a small project fund for building renovations to improve facades and activate upper stories for housing.
- L. Support the develop of new housing at the Schuylerville Marina.

## **8. Community Services**

### ***Goals***

- Develop a long range grant strategy to support municipal, business and residential community projects.
- To assure increased communication between all sectors of the community providing greater awareness of government and community-based services and activities.

### ***Recommendations***

- A. Develop, coordinate and install compatible and consistent wayfinding, regulatory and interpretive signage and information kiosks. Develop interpretive signage at appropriate locations based on the distinctive history, communities and resources that distinguish the Champlain Canal corridor. Draw on the strength by association with the Champlain Valley National Heritage Partnership, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, Hudson River Valley Greenway, NYS Canal Corporation, Lakes to Locks Passage, NYS Pathway Through History, Empire State Trail and local communities.

## **9. Infrastructure**

### ***Goals***

- Continue to improve infrastructure throughout the Village.
- Restore Old Champlain Canalway and connection to the Turning Basin.

### ***Recommendations***

- A. Develop a sidewalk, parking, and trails assessment and improvement plan.
- B. Restore Old Champlain Canalway by installing a box culvert that will allow water to flow from the Olde Canalway into the turning basin on the others side of Ferry Street.
- C. Continue to convert outdoor streetlights to energy efficient LED technology.
- D. Install historic street lighting.
- E. Develop a funding strategy to upgrade infrastructure including sewer, water, wastewater management, transportation, power and other systems.
- F. Develop a capital improvement plan for all infrastructure facilities. Priority should be on developing a DPW facility equipment plan.