**Village of Schuylerville Comprehensive Plan Update**

**Draft #2 Vision, Goals and Recommendations Report**

**September 10, 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. **Community Services**

***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.*
* *Develop a strong and welcoming Village.*
* *Develop a long range grant strategy to support municipal, business and residential community projects.*
* *I Increase communication between all sectors of the community providing greater awareness of government and community­based services and activities.*
* *Strive to keep taxes affordable to retain and grow the population.*

***Recommendations***

1. Continue to establish and promote community-wide events that accentuate and celebrate the Village’s historic and natural resources.
2. Continue to assess the use of existing facilities to provide recreational, social and community-based services for families, youth, and senior citizens.
3. Identify and implement a cohesive communication plan to promote community functions and events.
4. Collaborate with local organizations, neighboring communities, Saratoga County, and

to increase activities for senior citizens and develop strategies to overcome barriers to accessing those activities.

1. **Local Economy and Tourism**

***Goals***

* *Encourage infill re-development of vacant and underutilized buildings and lots.*
* *Continue to revitalize the downtown area and support local businesses through the NY Forward program.*
* *Build a sustainable tourism strategy by promoting heritage and recreational tourism along the local trails and waterways .*

***Recommendations***

1. Develop a marketing plan that blends Schuylerville’s assets into a distinctive brand that attracts new businesses, residents, and visitors. Promote the area 365 days a year for its history, recreation, and beauty. The marketing strategy should coordinate with Lake to Locks Passage efforts and adjacent communities that focuses on regionally cooperative heritage, agricultural and recreational tourism initiatives.
2. Explore the feasibility of hiring a local event coordinator potentially through a partnership with the Saratoga Regional Chamber of Commerce.
3. Focus marketing a few signature events that are well organized and have a high impact on local economics. Expand ongoing successful events including arts and crafts fairs, farmers markets, festivals, outdoor events and competitions, and other historical and cultural celebrations.
4. Identify the Village’s role in the 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War (2026). Apply for funding special projects and programs as funding becomes available.
5. Request the Schuylerville Community Council to address parking and other downtown issues, potential new businesses, and supportive infrastructure between the area on the east side of Broad Street and the Old Champlain Canal.
6. 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, and develop and market a new visitor trail challenge program.
7. Develop community awareness of Schuylerville as an integral part of the Lakes to Locks Passage Scenic Byway.
8. **Parks, Recreation and Trails**

***Goals***

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

***Recommendations***

1. Continue to implement the recommendations of the Fort Hardy Master Plan. Priority concentration should be on construction of the new community center and continued progress on the new dog park, trails and proposed pavilion.
2. Assess the condition of all buildings in Fort Hardy Park and develop a long-term plan for their use and maintenance.
3. Improve and promote existing trails and their connections with other regional trail systems.
4. Continue to develop new trails for different user groups with a range of abilities.
5. Pursue opportunities to restore and revitalize the Old Champlain Canal and Hudson River waterfront for recreational use.
6. **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***

1. Develop an interpretive signage plan that identifies historic resources, creates a distinctive historic identity for the Village of Schuylerville and ties into the regional story.
2. Follow the policy that recognizes and supports historic preservation of existing buildings in the Village.
3. **Natural Resources, Sustainability and Resilience (Sandy and Jen to review/revise for 9.12.24 meeting)**

***Goals***

* Conserve and protect environmental resources used by the public.
* Develop a long-range strategy for addressing sustainability and resilience issues.
* Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
* Prepare for the impact of climate change.
* Educate the community on best practices.
* Save taxpayer money.

***Recommendations***

1. Protect the natural environment in the Old Champlain Canal for flood control and habitat.
2. Develop a plan to identify, map and manage terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.
3. Provide community resources and educational sessions for learning about the effects of climate change, the importance of flood prevention and mitigation, and energy conservation.
4. Incentivize and identify sources for funding a higher level of building code-required energy conservation in new development through tax credits for meeting the NYStretch Code for new builds and major renovations <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Clean-Resilient-Building-Codes/NYStretch-Energy-Code-2020>.
5. Conduct an assessment that identifies community vulnerabilities and identifies and prioritizes actions to reduce risks to the community. 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.
6. 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](https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/guidance-reports/guidelines-standards).
7. 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](https://darksky.org/app/uploads/2018/07/IDSC-Guidelines-Jun2018.pdf).
8. **Land Use, Zoning and Housing (Leona to review/revise for 9.12.24 meeting)**

***Goals***

* Update all land use and zoning documents to be consistent with 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***

1. Enforce the NYS requirement that all planning board and zoning board of appeals members obtain a minimum of four hours of training a year.
2. Update zoning ordinance and official Village zoning map.
3. Review land use densities and permitted uses and modify as needed. Address obstacles to renovating buildings in the downtown.
4. Review, identify, evaluate, and correct zoning inconsistencies and barriers to commercial growth.
5. Modify zoning to increase the flexibility of permitted uses and encourage the conversion of existing buildings, while exploring opportunities for new housing.
6. Develop supplemental regulations for steep slopes, stormwater management and erosion control.
7. Review, update and enforce the existing Village signage ordinance to strive for uniformity and consistent application.
8. Develop and adopt a local law regulating short-term rentals.
9. Expand on the current Community Housing Needs Assessment to implement recommendations.
10. Investigate the potential of applying for USDA Housing Programs to support local housing development efforts.
11. Create a small project fund for building renovations to improve facades and activate upper stories for housing.
12. Develop policies and practices for Schuylerville as a “Pro-Housing Community”.
13. **Infrastructure (Dan to review/revise for 9.12.24 meeting)**

***Goals***

* Continue to improve infrastructure throughout the Village.
* Work with federal and state partners and other organizations to improve restore Old Champlain Canalway and connection to the Turning Basin.

***Recommendations***

1. Develop a capital improvement plan and funding strategy to upgrade all infrastructure facilities. Include sewer, water, wastewater management, transportation, power and other systems. Priority should focus on developing a DPW facility equipment plan.
2. Address and formulate a plan to improve communications and interactions with the Schuylerville/Victory Water Authority.
3. Consider the value and feasibility of developing a Utility Overlay District.
4. Develop a wayfinding, regulatory and interpretive signage plan and install signage as directed in plan.
5. Continue to improve the condition of sidewalks and address public parking needs.
6. Support the restoration of the Old Champlain Canalway and opening the canalway to the Turning Basin.
7. Complete the installation of historic street lighting that reflects the Village’s past.
8. Proactively support enforcement of the Zoning Code.