**Village of Schuylerville Comprehensive Plan Update**

**9.30.24 Draft #3**

**Chapter 5 Vision, Goals and Actions**

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**5.1** **Schuylerville’s Vision for the Future**

﻿﻿﻿ *The Vision Statement describes the desired future state of the Village of Schuylerville and provides a picture of what the community is working towards. The statement is a combination of existing conditions that the community desires to protect and aspirational elements that the community has not yet achieved but wishes to see manifested in its desired future state. This Vision Statement serves as the organizing feature of the Comprehensive Plan’s goals and recommendations. The following narrative describes Schuylerville’s future vision for the community.*

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 continue to foster the development of a vibrant community 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.﻿﻿﻿

* 1. **Goals and Recommended Actions**

**5.2.1 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 programs such as NY Forward.*
* *Build a sustainable heritage and recreational tourism strategy by promoting local trails and waterways.*
* *Strengthen the Village’s identity as a historically significant community.*

***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.
2. Coordinate with Lake to Locks Passage efforts and adjacent communities that focus on cooperative heritage and recreational tourism initiatives in the Hudson River corridor.
3. Develop a series of life sized cut out figures from history that would be placed in strategic locations throughout the community.
4. Explore the feasibility of hiring a local event coordinator through a partnership with the Saratoga Regional Chamber of Commerce.
5. Focus marketing on 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.
6. Identify the Village’s role in the 250th Anniversary of the Revolutionary War. Apply for funding special projects and programs as funding becomes available.
7. Work with local partners such as the Schuylerville Community Council to address parking and other downtown issues. Identify specific businesses the village wants to attract.
8. Identify and support infrastructure improvements between the area on the east side of Broad Street and the Old Champlain Canal.
9. Make visitors aware of important connections to adjacent and nearby venues available by land and/or by water, much like the original travel routes.
10. Develop a distinctive set of itineraries into half, full and 3-day visitor experience packages. Organize and mix activities into a variety of recreational, cultural, and entertainment activities.
11. Develop specialty driving trails, expand the existing regional geocaching program, and develop a new visitor trail challenge program.
12. Support the activities at the Champlain Canal Region Gateway Visitor Center, a collaborative economic development initiative with Historic Hoosic-Hudson Rivers Partnership.

**5.2.2 Land Use and Zoning**

***Goals***

* Provide for consistency in all land use and zoning documents.
* Review, identify, evaluate, and correct zoning inconsistencies and barriers to commercial growth.
* Actively support the enforcement of the Zoning Code.

***Recommendations***

1. Enforce the NYS training requirement for all members of the planning board and zoning board of appeals.
2. Update the Village Zoning Code and official zoning map.
3. Identify and evaluate land use densities, permitted uses and dimensional requirements.
4. Address potential obstacles to renovating buildings in the Zoning Code.
5. Unify, update and enforce the existing Village signage regulations.
6. Create a small project fund for building renovations to improve facades and activate upper stories for housing.
7. Develop site plan review procedures and criteria for reviewing applications to include stormwater management and erosion control requirements.
8. Add lighting requirements into the Zoning Code that are consistent with [International Dark Sky Community Program Guidelines](https://darksky.org/app/uploads/2018/07/IDSC-Guidelines-Jun2018.pdf).
9. NEW: Consider applying for a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) which would help in securing project funding in the future.

**5.2.3 Housing**

***Goals***

* Address the current and future housing needs in the community.
* Increase the supply and diversity of all housing types.
* Identify opportunities for the development of additional residential and mixed-use rental units.

***Recommendations***

1. Develop and adopt a local law addressing the management of short-term rentals.
2. Conduct a Community Housing Needs Assessment.
3. Investigate funding to support local housing improvement and development efforts.
4. Address the value and feasibility of Schuylerville joining the “Pro-Housing Community program” through NYS Homes and Community Renewal.

**5.2.4 Community Services**

***Goals***

* *Sustain the high quality of life in the Village of Schuylerville.*
* *Preserve Schuylerville’s historic village atmosphere and protecting the assets that characterize the community.*
* *Strive to convey that Schuylerville is a warm and welcoming community.*
* *Support municipal, business and residential projects in the community.*
* *Increase communication between all sectors of the community.*
* *Provide greater awareness of government and community­based services and activities.*
* *Strive to keep taxes affordable to retain and grow the population.*

***Recommendations***

1. Develop a long-range grant strategy that supports community projects.
2. Continue to establish and promote community-wide events that celebrate the Village’s historic and natural resources.
3. Continue to assess the use of existing facilities to provide recreational, social and community-based services for families, youth, and senior citizens.
4. Identify and implement a cohesive communication plan to promote community functions and events.
5. Collaborate with local organizations, neighboring communities, and Saratoga County.
6. Increase the diversity and number of activities for senior citizens and improve access to those activities.
7. Install consistent welcome signage at all entrances to the village.
8. Develop community awareness of Schuylerville as an active and integral part of the Lakes to Locks Passage Scenic Byway.

**5.2.5 Infrastructure**

***Goals***

* Continue to improve infrastructure throughout the Village.
* Identify opportunities to expand water services to outside users.
* 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 including sewer, water, wastewater management, transportation, power and other systems.
2. Priority should focus on developing a DPW facility equipment plan.
3. Address and formulate a plan to improve communications and interactions with the Schuylerville/Victory Board of Water Management.
4. Consider the value and feasibility of expanding utilities to outside the Village.
5. Support the development of a wayfinding, regulatory and interpretive signage plan.
6. Continue to improve the condition of sidewalks and address public parking needs.
7. Support the restoration of the Old Champlain Canalway and opening the canalway to the Turning Basin.
8. Investigate the feasibility of installing historic street lighting.

**5.2.6 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.*
* *Improve, connect and promote trails throughout the village.*
* *Improve the safety and overall experience for pedestrians and bicyclists.*

***Recommendations***

1. Continue to implement the recommendations of the Fort Hardy Master Plan. Priority should be the construction of the new Community Center.
2. Continue progress on the new dog park, pedestrian trail network and Waterfront Pavilion.
3. Assess the condition of all buildings in Fort Hardy Park and develop a long-term plan for their use and maintenance.
4. Establish a continuous, safe bike and pedestrian trail that utilizes historic towpaths, trails, on-street bicycle routes and provides clear links to regional and local destinations, nearby parks and marinas, other recreational destinations, and links to community attractions and the downtown business districts.
5. Strive to develop new trails for different user groups with a range of abilities.
6. Pursue opportunities for recreation in the Old Champlain Canal and Hudson River waterfront.
7. Continue to support the implementation of the Champlain Canalway Trail Action Plan.
8. Support the continued efforts to improve the Empire State Trail through the Village.

**5.2.7 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.*
* *Strive to rehabilitate buildings with historic value that are important to the community.*

***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. Adhere to the policy that recognizes and supports the preservation of historically significant buildings.

**5.2.8** **Natural Resources, Sustainability and Resilience**

***Goals***

* Conserve and protect natural resources.
* Prepare for the present and future impacts of climate change.
* Assess and address vulnerable, stressed or impacted lands and facilities community.
* Reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
* Increase the number of trees throughout the Village.

***Recommendations***

1. Develop a management plan with the Department of Environmental Conservation and Canal Corporation to control flooding and protect the natural environment in the Old Champlain Canal.
2. Develop a management plan that identifies, maps and controls the spread of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.
3. Develop an urban forestry plan.
4. Provide community resources and educational sessions on sustainability and resiliency on individual properties and the community.
5. Develop a strategy to integrate required energy conservation requirements for new development. Explore tax credits through the NYStretch Code.
6. Identify buildings, culverts and other stormwater management structures and areas that are prone to flooding after large storm events.
7. Identify a long-range funding strategy for implementing improvements.
8. Incorporate flood prevention criteria into the zoning code that is consistent with [FEMA Guidelines and Standards for Flood Risk Analysis and Mapping Activities](https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/guidance-reports/guidelines-standards).
9. Continue to take advantage of the benefits of being a registered NYS “Climate Smart Community”.