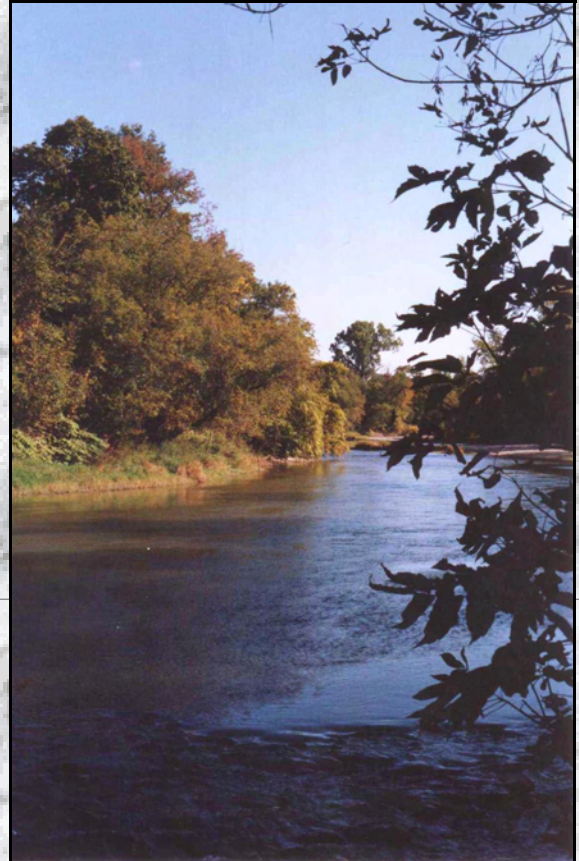


TOWN OF HOOSICK

Comprehensive Plan Update 2004



**Marilyn Douglas,
Supervisor**

Town of Hoosick

**COMPREHENSIVE
PLAN UPDATE**

August 2004

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Albany, New York 12205



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

In 1986, the Town of Hoosick prepared a *Comprehensive Master Plan* which inventoried Town resources, identified issues, and made recommendations for future land use and development patterns. The *Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Update* was undertaken to take a current inventory of the Town's resources, obtain contemporary public opinion, and reconsider the goals set out in the 1986 Plan. The Town obtained a grant from the Hudson River Valley Greenway to help pay for the Plan.

In the fall of 2002, the Town of Hoosick initiated the planning process by appointing a Plan Advisory Committee to represent significant sectors of the community -- business owners, homeowners, farmers, seniors, youth, and representatives of the Town. The Plan Advisory Committee was scheduled to meet every other month to determine key issues, develop goals, and recommend an action plan to achieve those goals. With professional assistance from Laberge Group, an Albany based planning and engineering firm, the committee conducted an inventory and analysis of resources in the target area as a basis for developing goals for the area. Research and field studies were conducted in the areas of demographics, land use, natural and environmental resources, municipal resources, community and cultural resources, educational resources, and transportation.

Public input was solicited through a mail-in residential survey and several public meetings. Stakeholders in the community, such as department heads, business owners and homeowners, were also interviewed to solicit their views and opinions about issues and opportunities in the corridor. Key issues that were identified through public input and stakeholder interviews were:

- Protecting the Town's natural resources including agricultural lands, scenic areas and water resources,
- Economic development and the availability of jobs and shopping opportunities,

- Providing quality housing, yet preventing suburban sprawl,
- Preserving the historic resources of the Town,
- Using the provision of public water and sewer systems to serve new industrial or residential development,
- Providing sufficient programs in the Town to involve youth in their community.

There were approximately 20 participants at the first public meeting, where residents worked in small groups to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT), which might effect the future development of the Town. Strengths that were identified at the SWOT workshop were Hoosick's scenic beauty, its agricultural base, resources, and its strategic location near Vermont, the Capital District, and Saratoga.

The Advisory Committee decided to hold an additional meeting to solicit the public's vision for the future of the Town and to "brainstorm" ideas on how to realize those visions. Some of the most important ideas that emerged were controlling future development through some type of land use regulations and the efficient use of public utilities, preserving the agricultural lands and scenic areas, and promoting the Town for economic development by using the intrinsic assets of the Town such as its beauty, history, and small town charm.

The return on the residential survey was 290 questionnaires out of 2,620, giving a 11% response rate. When asked to identify the positive aspects of the Town, 88% of the respondents chose the rural lifestyle as the most liked feature of the Town. Conversely, the lack of job opportunities was identified by 84% of the respondents as the most negative feature of the Town. The 1986 plan recommended the development of a zoning ordinance to control visual quality in the Town. Of the respondents to the residential questionnaire, 59% supported the development of a zoning ordinance, 25% were opposed, while 17% had no opinion or did not respond.

Based on the input from the community and the results of the inventory and analysis of the corridor's resources, the Plan Advisory Committee developed goals to address the identified key issues. These are:

- Goal 1** Preserve and enhance the existing rural character of Town while accommodating a balanced mix of recreational, residential, industrial, and commercial uses.
- Goal 2:** Protect and enhance lands, which are environmentally significant and or sensitive, and minimize any adverse impacts man-made development may have on land, air, water quality, natural habitats, animal and plant species, unique land formations and agricultural and scenic resources.
- Goal 3:** Preserve, enhance, and promote cultural and historic resources.
- Goal 4:** Maintain or improve the transportation network in the Town.
- Goal 5:** Provide public facilities to support development in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.
- Goal 6:** Continue to provide quality emergency services.
- Goal 7:** Provide safe affordable housing to all residents of the Town in appropriate development locations.
- Goal 8:** Maintain and enhance current parks and recreational facilities and explore options for creating new ones.
- Goal 9:** Support economic development in the commercial, industrial, and agricultural sectors.

An action plan and action matrix were developed to present a concise table of goals, recommended activities, identified responsible parties, time frames, and possible sources of funding.

After an appropriate time period for public comment on the proposed *Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Update*, the Town Board adopted the plan in March, 2004.

I. INTRODUCTION

What is a Comprehensive Plan

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

A Comprehensive Plan is a written document that identifies and establishes a community's goals, objectives, and recommendations in order to guide future growth, development, and/or preservation.

The Plan acts as a "guide" or a "blueprint" for the future, summarizes the history of the community, analyzes the present and/or existing conditions, sets forth issues, objectives and actions for forthcoming changes, and outlines an implementation strategy for those actions. In short, the plan tells us where we have been, where we are now, where we want to be, and how we are going to get there.

The *Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Update* identifies and examines a comprehensive list of existing conditions, including demographics and economic features, natural resources, municipal resources, recreational and community facilities, educational resources, transportation and land use. The 2004 *Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Update* will serve as a guide to future public and private decisions. The public planning process is an opportunity to establish a consensus on the Town's goals and objectives regarding the location of future development, design of new development, restrictions of certain types of development and the general path for the community's future.

The Town of Hoosick understands the positive and negative impacts of growth, the planning tools legally available, and residents' expectations for the Town. The 2004 *Comprehensive Plan Update* offers an opportunity to fully understand the issues and reaffirm or redirect the goals set out in previous planning efforts.

In order for the Town of Hoosick to continue to be socially and economically sustainable, it must respond to changing conditions. The vitality of the Town requires a strategic vision that weaves together the facts of changing economic conditions, the importance and value of open space, the and the needs and desires of a diverse population.

The Town of Hoosick is authorized by Town Law §272-a to undertake “comprehensive planning and to regulate land use for the purpose of protecting the public health, safety and general welfare of its citizens”. Town Law further strengthens the role of Comprehensive planning by stating that any new land use regulations and/or amendments, and all plans for future capital projects of another governmental entity on land within the Town, must take into consideration the adopted Comprehensive Plan Update. As such, the Town of Hoosick has gone to great lengths to create a vision for the community that will set the tone for years to come.

PLAN DESCRIPTION

The Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Update is divided into five main sections; I - Introduction, II - Inventory & Analysis, III - Issues, Goals and Recommendations, and IV - Implementation Plan. The Plan also contains thematic maps, tables, charts, and graphs.

Section II, Inventory & Analysis contains an in depth review of existing conditions within the Town. This section contains information on the History, Demographic Features, Natural Resources, Municipal Resources, Recreational & Community Facilities, Educational Resources, Transportation, Existing Land Use, and Public Opinions. The information in this section is very useful for documentation of the current socio-demographic status of the community. It also serves as a record of the various features of the Town.

Section III, Issues, Goals, and Recommendations is based on analysis of the information presented in Section II and the public participation process. This section outlines issues facing the Town of Hoosick and the goals and recommendations that are suggested for those issues.

Section IV, Implementation Plan lays out the actions that are to be undertaken to meet the needs of the community. This section contains an action matrix including a comprehensive list of actions, a timeline for each activity, and a cross reference

for which municipal entity is responsible for each item and potential funding sources.

Previous Plans & Regulations

THE HOOSICK COMPREHENSIVE MASTER PLAN 1986

In 1986, the Town of Hoosick prepared a Comprehensive Master Plan. The document includes an Inventory & Analysis of town resources, issues identification, goal and objectives, development alternatives and a land use plan. The Plan surveyed and evaluated historical growth, existing environmental resources, existing land use patterns, socio-economic demographics, existing community resources, public utilities, and transportation. The Plan further made proposals and recommendations for future land use and development patterns.

The 1986 Plan identified several issues, which were of special concern to the community. These are listed below:

Issues of Concern

1. **NYS Route 7** – Improvements to Rt. 7 will shorten travel time to Capital District, resulting in new pressure for residential and commercial development. Both uses are important and need to be accommodated.
2. **Route 22 Corridor** – Current land use [commercial] is in conflict with its best use as fertile farmland. There is a need to control commercial growth within this area, perhaps with planned business districts.
3. **Prime agricultural lands** are pressured for conversion to other uses. An effort must be made to preserve the visual character of lands in growth corridors and focus preservation efforts on prime lands in areas that are not prime for developers.
4. Potential **ground water resources** [along the rivers] are also potential areas for growth and development. Land preserves, open space, and green space should be incorporated in the overall land use policy to ensure adequate water supply. Strip development should be stopped and replaced with development nodes such as business and residential districts.
5. **Concentrate development** around existing nodes of development such as Hamlets.

6. **Industrial activity** should be encouraged in industrial parks.
7. **Visual quality** is one of the most important resources of the Town, and should be protected in all new development through such land use controls as subdivision regulation, zoning ordinance and site plan review.

All of the issues focus around one central theme: How does the Town accommodate growth in the industrial, commercial and residential sectors, yet protect the quality of life for the current and future residents? The solution is to encourage growth around established nodes and discourage growth in the agricultural areas.

Goals and Objectives

1. Support Hamlets as centers for commerce and new residential development.
2. Identify and protect key natural features, which create the feeling of openness and natural beauty.
3. Encourage the management of agricultural resources to keep high visibility agricultural land in production.
4. Preserve the rural character of the town.
5. Identify the opportunities for growth given the constraints of the natural resources.
6. Encourage economic diversity.

Based on soil, slopes, bedrock and other environmental constraints, the 1986 Plan delineated areas of the Town that were suitable for agricultural use, community development, recreation, woodland production, and conservation. These areas were displayed in a series of maps. These environmental characteristics have not changed, and the 1986 maps are still valid as a means of determining where specific uses should be encouraged. Copies of maps used in the 1986 Plan are included in the map section.

Land Use Plan

The land use plan consists of a discussion and recommendations about the various land uses.

1. **Hamlet areas** should be the densest areas of development in the Town, with commercial and residential uses as predominate, with some light manufacturing allowed.
2. **Industrial/commercial expansion** is encouraged for areas where there was good access to major public roads and the railroad, and where there are water resources. An industrial park should be considered.
3. **Community Expansion** is encouraged around the Village and Hamlets, but not in strip development.
4. **Rural Development** should include agricultural activities and large lot residential (one dwelling unit per acre).
5. **Rural Settlement** is provided to encourage low density single or two-family residential development, as well as small farmlands (one dwelling unit per five acres.)
6. **Resource management areas** should be established in prime agricultural areas with a recommended maximum density of one (1) dwelling unit per 5 acres.
7. **Resource protection** should be extended to protect unique natural areas including the Town's aquifer, Tibbitts Forest and the Bennington Battlefield.

SITE PLAN REVIEW LAW

In 2001, the Town of Hoosick adopted a Site Plan Review Law, which authorizes the Planning Board of the Town to review and approve site plans for all development except single-family dwellings, and accessory uses. No building permit will be issued for any other use without a site plan approval from the Planning Board.

There are 19 specific site plan requirements that must be included on all site plans. The Site Plan Review Law specifies information that must be recorded on the site plan, including:

1. Scale of drawing.

2. Lighting plan.
3. Floor elevations (assure positive surface drainage).
4. Small scale location map.
5. Landscape plan.
6. Existing and finished grade contours.
7. Existing and proposed utilities.
8. Location of test borings, ground water elevation and soil profiles.
9. Traffic flow.
10. Parking plan.
11. Stamp and signature of surveyor, P.E. or architect.
12. Interior design plan when requested.
13. Walkways and handicapped access when requested,
14. Engineering report re: watershed area & septic system.
15. Location and screening of service, storage, and utility areas.
16. Parking, paving, and storage setbacks.
17. A scaled elevation drawing.
18. Dimensions & items of outdoor display.
19. The location and dimension of signs.

Although information about all the above site plan features is required, only four of the above requirements have specific or quantitative restrictions regarding site plan restrictions. These pertain to landscaping, parking, the position, and screening of service, storage, and utility areas, and paving, parking or storage setbacks.

Landscaping

The Site Plan Review Law requires 35% of the property to be landscaped. However, there is some flexibility in this requirement, since it can be waived if the applicant can establish that the proposed landscape plan is necessary in

order to avoid undue hardship or that the surrounding properties will not be affected by a lesser amount of landscaping.

TOWN OF HOOSICK SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS

Parking

The plan must include a required number of parking spaces depending on use, and in accordance with the size specified in the latest edition of the Transportation and Traffic Engineering Handbook.

Service, Storage, and Utility Location

Such areas cannot be located in the front yard, and must be screened from view.

Paving, Parking, or Storage Setbacks

Such area shall not be permitted within seven (7) feet of a side or rear line of the site plan, and no parking or paving except for entrances will be permitted within ten (10) feet of the site plan. These areas will be landscaped. There is some flexibility in this requirement if it restricts effective development of the site.

There is considerable flexibility in the Site Plan Review Law. The height of buildings, the building setbacks, the size and location of signs and outdoor display areas and curb cuts are all unrestricted design elements, subject to approval of the Planning Board. Additionally, the flexibility of the landscape and paving, parking, or storage area setbacks allows more discretion in site plan design. A public hearing may be required for approval of a site plan.

The Subdivision Regulations, approved by the Town Board in 1987, is the other major land use regulation tool used by the Town in regulating land development. Land may be subdivided only if approved by the Planning Board and filed with the County Clerk.

General policies of the regulations state that the subdivision of land must not endanger the public health, safety, and welfare. Additionally, the Town's natural resources, such as aquifers

and wetlands must be protected. Subdivision regulations apply to all lots that are to be divided for development, and do not apply to the development of a single lot for residential purposes. A waiver to compliance with the Subdivision Regulations may be granted where compliance would cause unusual hardship or extraordinary difficulties because of the unique condition of the property, if the public interest is protected.

The Planning Board classifies the preliminary sketch plan as a Simple, Minor, or Major Subdivision. There are different procedures required for each type. A public hearing is required for Major and Minor Subdivision applications.

The Planning Board reviews the Sketch Plan, taking into consideration the requirements of the community and the best use of the land being subdivided. Particular attention is given to:

1. Arrangement, location, width and design of roads and their relation to the topography.
2. Water supply.
3. Sewage disposal.
4. Surface drainage.
5. Lot sizes and arrangement.
6. Potential flood hazards.
7. Future development of adjoining lands as yet unsubdivided.
8. Impact on Historical sites.
9. Wildlife habitat.
10. Any adverse natural environmental condition including soils, slopes, and wetlands.
11. The goals and objectives of the Town Comprehensive Plan.

The Planning Board may require certain design techniques, such as clustering, to be used to avoid development in critical areas. Lot development regulations include grading standards, easement protection, road layout, storm water and surface water drainage, wetlands and flood plains regulations, water and sewer facilities, sidewalks, utility lines and road signs and lighting.

The Planning Process

PLANNING PROCESS

The Town of Hoosick began the planning process in July of 2002 by establishing a Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee. The Committee was created with the intent of representing a large cross section of the community, including the Town Board, the business community, fraternal and religious organizations, farmers, senior citizens, students, and homeowners.

The Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee, realizing the importance of public participation in the development of a Comprehensive Plan Update, held open meetings throughout the entire process. The Town of Hoosick sought methods of community outreach beyond simply inviting public to the Committee meetings. Several opportunities for community outreach were afforded to the residents, including: community surveys, business surveys, a community Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) workshop, and a Goals & Objectives implementation-planning workshop. The meetings were advertised through articles in *The Bennington Banner*, *The Eagle*, and *The Eastwick Press* that are distributed throughout the Town. The draft and final Comprehensive Plan Update were also presented at public meetings.

Planning Process and Events

Listed below are events that took place over a 12-month period beginning in July 2002 for the development and adoption of the Comprehensive Plan Update.

Appointment of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee with meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of every other month.

July 2002 - Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee Orientation Meeting.

September 2002 - Review of the comprehensive planning process, and preparation of the public opinion surveys for distribution.

November 2002 - The facilitation of the Residential and Business Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Workshop.

April 2003 - Release, receipt and tabulation of the public opinion surveys.

June 2003 - Review of the public opinion survey results, review of inventory and analysis documentation, the review, and analysis of the SWOT workshop.

July 2003 - Presentation of draft goals, tasks, and implementation plan.

October 2003 - Present the Draft Plan Update to the Committee.

January 2004 - Approval by the Plan Advisory Committee.

February 2004 - Present the plan to the public (Public Hearing) & State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) Determination, Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee approval and forwarding of the Plan to the Town Board.

August 2004 - Town Board Public Hearing and Comprehensive Plan Update adoption.

II. INVENTORY & ANALYSIS

Town History

INTRODUCTION

This section of the report provides information about the Town of Hoosick in a variety of subject areas and will help paint a picture of the community's social, physical, and economic conditions. An inventory and analysis of the community's resources is a fundamental part of the planning process, since current assets form the foundation upon which future plans are made.

EARLY SETTLEMENT



Current view of farm buildings off Johnson Hill Road

This section will present a short history of the Town based on material made available from the Town of Hoosick as derived from several historical sources, which are listed in the Bibliography. The Town of Hoosick, located in upstate New York, between Bennington, Vermont and New York's Capital District, was originally settled as a farming region and played an important role in the early history of our county. The Town of Hoosick was originally settled in the early 18th Century on tracks of land granted to individuals by the English government in exchange for service. These tracks, parts of which are now included in the Town boundaries, are the Hoosick Patent, (1688, presently the middle section of the Town), the Walloomsac Patent (1739, the north-eastern section of the Town) and the Schneyder Patent (1762).

The first settlements were made by several Dutch families on the Hoosick Patent. A Dutch church was founded, known as the "Tyoshoke Church," at San Coick, near the north border of the Town. The settlement at Hoosick was entirely destroyed by a party of French and Indians on the 28th of August 1754. The area was slowly settled during the 18th and 19th century and by 1860 the pattern of farmlands and hamlets had been established.

The Battle of Bennington was fought at a site in the Town, a few miles west of the Vermont border. The arrival of British troops was part of the operations of General Burgoyne's invasion from Canada in the summer and fall of 1777. Being low in supplies, Burgoyne's sent Lieutenant Colonel Baum on August 16 to capture livestock and supplies from what he

DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL CENTERS

believed to be a well stocked and poorly defended storehouse in Bennington, Vermont. Baum never made it to Vermont, but was intercepted and defeated at Walloomsac by a large force commanded by General Stark who had marched from Bennington and was joined by reinforcements from Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont. The defeat was the end for Burgoyne's campaign, whose forces were defeated in the Town of Saratoga two months later.

Hoosick was formed as a district on March 24, 1772 and as a town on March 1, 1778. The Village of Hoosick Falls and the hamlets of Eagle Bridge, Buskirk, Hoosick, North Hoosick, Walloomsac, West Hoosick, and Potter Hill, all settled during the 18th and 19th centuries, were social and commercial nodes for the settlers.

The Walloomsac and Hoosic Rivers played an important role in the settlement of the area. The rivers provided the waterpower to run the mills that produced many of the necessary supplies of the early settlers. At the time of the Revolutionary War, North Hoosick contained the Van Schaick gristmill, which supplied feed for animals and flour for home use. Other mills, including a sawmill, cider mill, papermaking mill, scythe mill, and woolen mill operated in North Hoosick into the early 1900's. Other commercial activities included a chair factory and a soda bottling company.

In 1880, Perry Eldridge built the hotel located at the intersection of Routes 22 and 67; now known as Delaney's Hotel, currently vacant and undergoing renovation. In the 20th century, other businesses were established in North Hoosick including a general store, a brass valve manufacturing company, a wallpaper manufacturing company, hotels, shoe shop, blacksmiths, meat markets, gas stations, auto shops and the Hathaway's Drive-In. The other hamlets similarly contained a variety of mills, factories, stores, hotels, and services.



Village of Hoosick 2002

In 1787, there were only four or five buildings where the Village of Hoosick Falls now stands. These were the gristmill, two residential buildings, and a mill-house. By 1818, the Village had only two stores. During the 19th century, stores, hotels, and industries were slowly established in the Village. During the period 1853 to 1924, the Walter A. Wood Mowing and Reaping Machine Company made the Village the world's manufacturing center for reapers, binders, and other farm machines. At its height, the company employed 2,000 workers and produced over one million farm machines sold throughout the world.

When the Town of Hoosick was incorporated in 1827, there were only 36 dwellings and a population of 200 in the entire town. In 1865, the population of the entire Town was 4,783 and contained 38,906 acres. By 1940, there were 1,550 residential buildings in the Town, 1,018 of which were in the Village. Currently there are 2,879 residential units, and 6,759 persons in the Town.

Because the majority of the Town's residential and farm buildings were built before 1940, the area has a timeless quality. Although, the addition of modern conveniences, buildings and signs have introduced an obviously contemporary accent to the environment, the essence of Town of Hoosick is essentially the same as it was over one hundred years ago. This observation has not changed since the writing of the 1986 Plan, 16 years ago. It is this settlement pattern of large farmlands and undeveloped acreage complemented with residential and commercial nodes that forms the charming rural character of the Town.

Demographic Features

An integral part of any comprehensive plan is a study of demographics, past, present and future. By examining socio-economic data, recommendations can be made concerning the future land use and demographic make-up of the community. In addition to the Town data provided in this section, comparisons to the Village of Hoosick Falls, Rensselaer County and the State of New York have been made where appropriate. These comparisons will provide a level of context that is required to understand the conditions in the Town of Hoosick. Unless otherwise specified, Town statistics include the portion of the Town's population living in the Village of Hoosick Falls.

The information contained herein has been compiled utilizing data from the 1990 U.S. Census, the 1997 Economic Census, the 2000 U.S. Census, Claritas Inc., the Capital District Regional Planning Commission, and the 1986 Hoosick Comprehensive Master Plan. The data presented is the most up to date available at the time of printing, and sources have been documented under each table and chart.

POPULATION

Local population growth or decline is often dependent upon several factors, including economic expansion, environmental capacity, housing suitability, varying needs within age cohorts, and overall regional desirability. With minor fluctuations, the population of the Town has remained virtually the same in the past fifty years as shown in Table 1, below.

Table 1: Population Change - Town of Hoosick 1950 - 2000

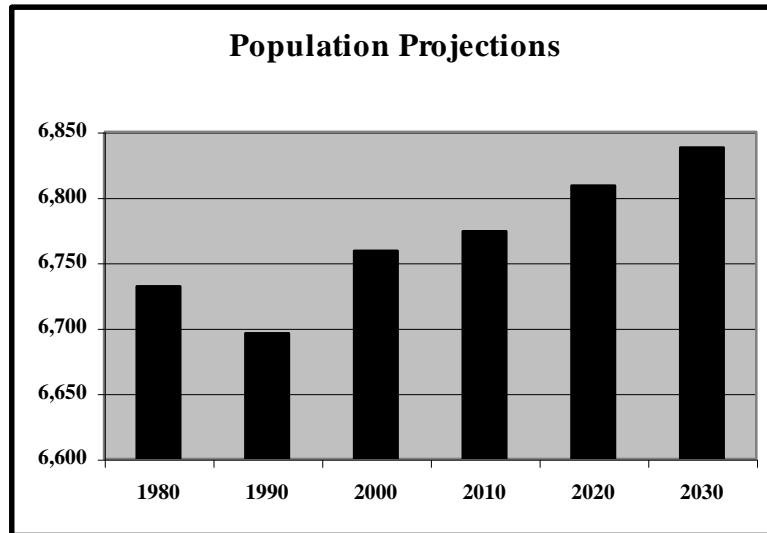
Year	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000
Population	6,520	6,490	6,651	6,732	6,696	6,759

*Source: 1950 - 1970 figures from Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Master Plan, 1986;
1980 - 2000 figures from CDRPC*

Overall population in the Town of Hoosick has grown slightly during the 1990's, with a population gain of approximately 0.9%. This gain is in contrast to a population loss from 1980 to

1990 of -5.3%. The Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) predicts that this trend will continue at a modest level, and that the Town will gain population in the next few decades as shown in Figure 1, below.

Figure 1: Population Projections



Source: CDRPC

Table 2 illustrates the population trends of the Town of Hoosick as compared to the Village of Hoosick Falls, Rensselaer County, and New York State. Local population growth has lagged behind that of New York State, which experienced an 8.1% growth from 1980-2000. The table shows a slight shift of population from the Village to the rural sections of the Town, since the Village population has declined 4.8% in the last two decades, while the entire Town of Hoosick has increased 0.4%.

Table 2: Population Comparisons

	1980	1990	2000	% Change 1980-1990	% Change 1990-2000	% Change 1980-2000
Town of Hoosick	6,732	6,696	6,759	-5.3%	0.9%	.4%
Village of Hoosick Falls	3,609	3,490	3,436	-3.3%	-1.5%	-4.8%
Rensselaer Co.	151,966	154,429	152,538	1.6%	-1.2%	0.4%

NYS	17,558,072	17,990,455	18,976,457	2.5%	5.5%	8.1%
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Source: 2000 US Census, CDRPC

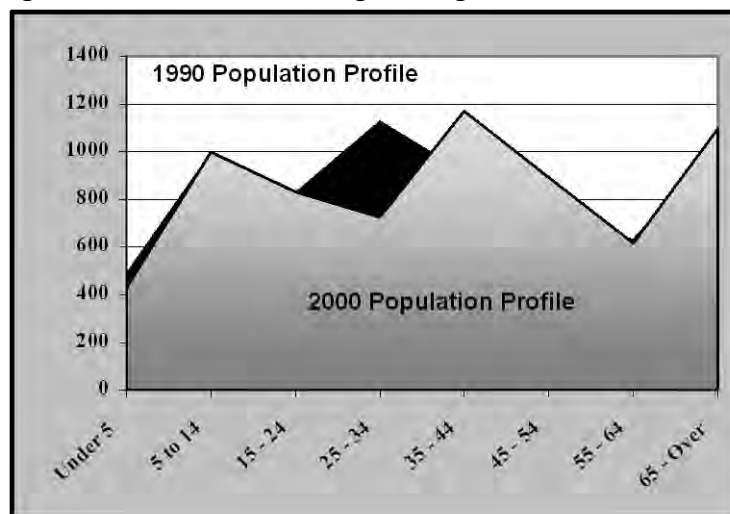
When reviewing population trends within communities, it is often helpful to look at the age breakdown of the population to determine where the population shifts occurred. Table 3 depicts the general age demographics from the 1990 Census for the Town of Hoosick as compared to the 2000 Census. The most noticeable shift has occurred in the middle age range, where the median age has increased from 34.4 years in 1990 to 38.6 in 2000. This change is visually depicted in Figure 2, which shows the 2000 population profile in gray and the 1990 population profile in black.

Table 3: Town of Hoosick Age Change 1990 - 2000

Age	1990	2000
Under 5	484	428
5 to 14	990	998
15 - 24	825	832
25 - 34	1,125	725
35 - 44	909	1,170
45 - 54	707	892
55 - 64	629	617
65 - Over	1,027	1,097
TOTAL	6696	6759

Source 1990 and 2000 Census Data

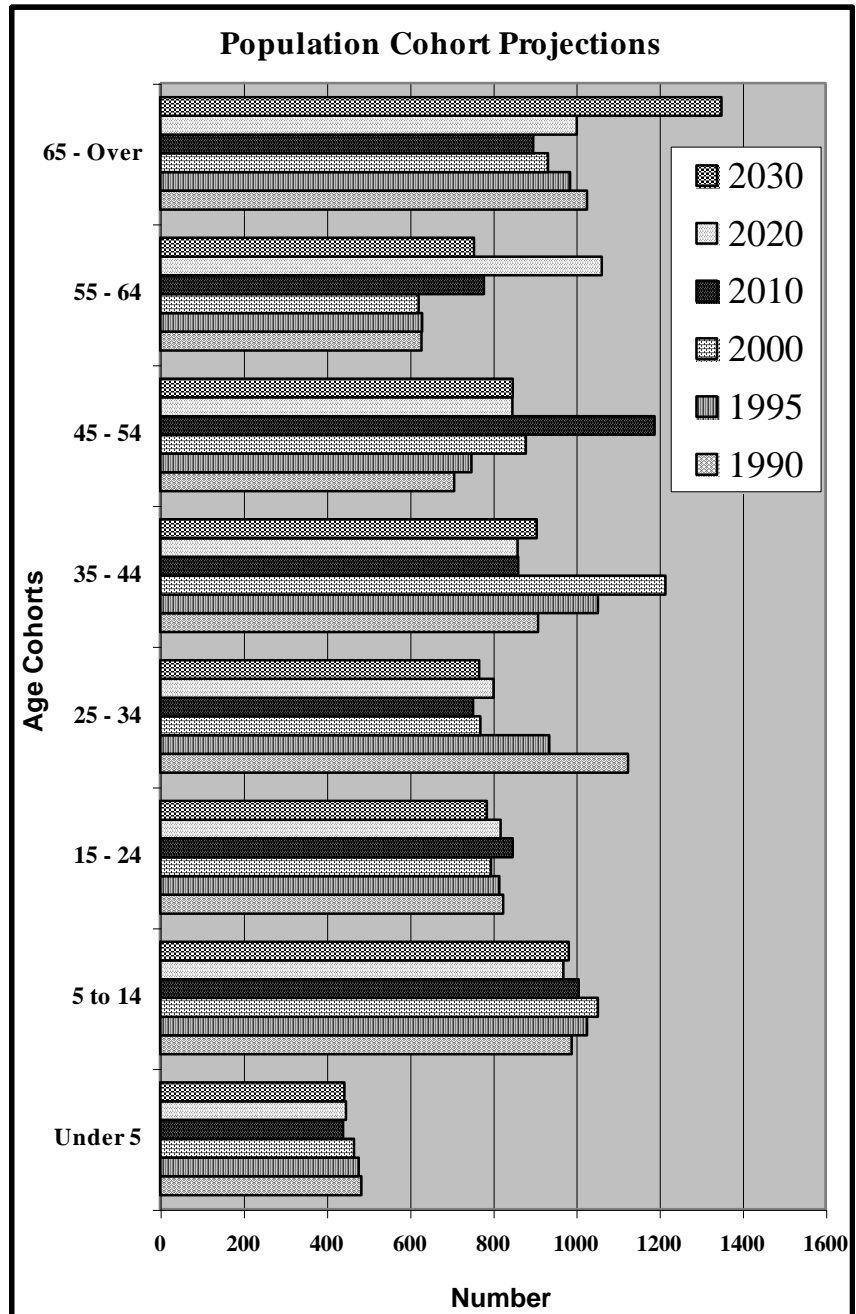
Figure 2: Town of Hoosick Age Change 1990 - 2000



Source: Census 2000

By the year 2030, the current 35 – 44 year old cohort will have aged, becoming the largest age group as the 65 years and older group. Figure 3 shows the CDRPC predictions based on 1990 data. New predictions are yet to be made based on 2000 data.

Figure 3: Population Cohort Projections

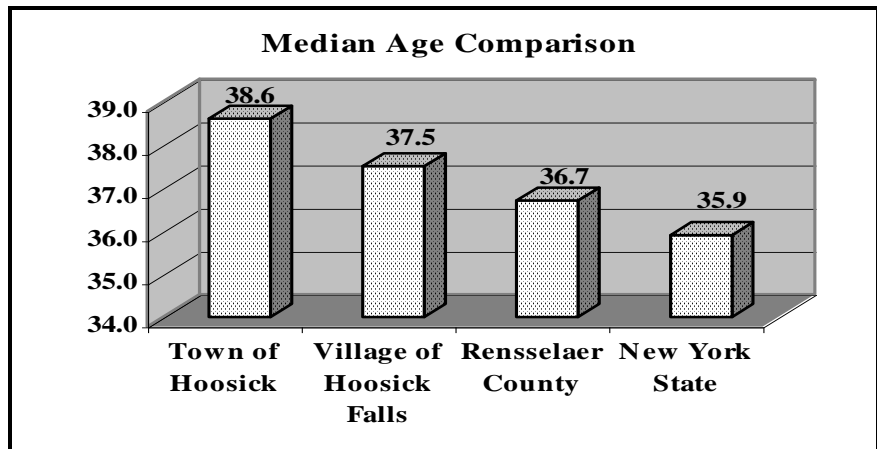


Source: CDRPC: Community Fact Sheet

Based on the 2000 Census, of the total population of 6,759, 99.5% (6,725) are classified as of one race and 98% (6,621) are classified as white, while the other two percent are a fairly even mixture of black (33 residents), native Americans (20 residents), Asian (26 residents) or some other race (23 residents). There are 3,228 males and 3,531 females.

The median age of the Town of Hoosick is older than that of the Village of Hoosick Falls, Rensselaer County, and New York State, as shown in Figure 4 below.

Figure 4: Median Age Comparison



Source: 2000 Census

Although the percent of the Town's population having a high school diploma is greater than that of New York State as a whole, the percentage of persons having a bachelor's degree is lower. The residents of the Town are less likely to pursue a college degree relative to the population of New York State as shown in Table 4.

Table 4: 2000 Educational Attainment of Persons 25 & Over

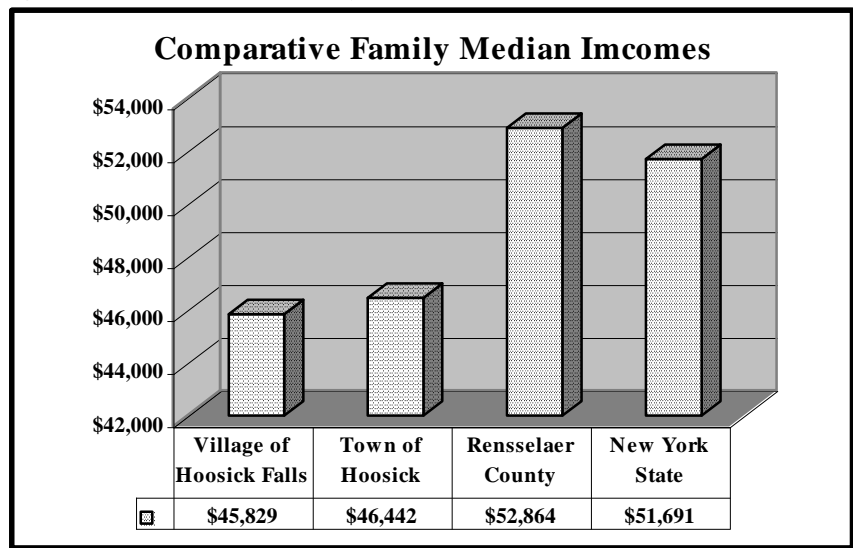
Level of Education	Percent of Total Population		
	Town of Hoosick	Rensselaer County	New York State
High School Diploma or Higher	82.9%	84.9%	79.1%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	18.2%	23.7%	27.4%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

INCOME

The relatively lower educational levels are reflected in the comparatively lower income levels as shown in Figure 5 below.

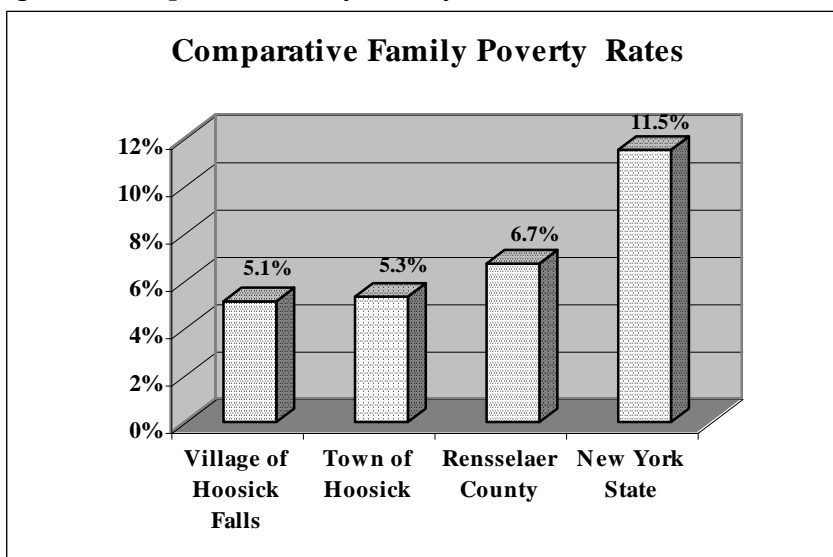
Figure 5: Comparative Family Median Incomes



Source: Census 2000

Another indicator of a community's income status is the percent of its population living in poverty. According to the 2000 Census, the Town of Hoosick has a family poverty rate of 5.3% (Figure 6, next page), having 99 families in this category (Table 5, next page). This rate is lower than that of Rensselaer and considerably lower than that of New York State as a whole as shown in Table 5 on the next page. Families with the highest poverty rate in the Town were those headed by a female householder with children under 5 years of age - poverty rate 34.7%. Individuals 15 years and older had a high poverty rate - 11.5%.

Figure 6: Comparative Family Poverty Rates



Source: 2000 Census

Table 5: Poverty Status in the Town of Hoosick

Group	Number below poverty level	Percent below poverty level
Families	99	5.3%
Families with related children under 18 years	78	8.6%
Families with related children under 5 years	26	9.2%
Families with female householder	27	10.1%
With related children under 18 years	27	16.9%
With related children under 5 years	17	34.7%
Individuals	445	6.7%
18 years and over	275	5.6%
65 years and over	81	7.9%
Related children under 18 years	158	9.5%
Related children 5 to 17 years	120	9.9%
Unrelated individuals 15 years and over	114	11.55

Source: 2000 Census

INDUSTRY & EMPLOYMENT

According to the 2000 Census, of the Town's population 16 years and older, 65.2% are in the labor force, compared with 62.1% in the Village of Hoosick Falls, 66.9% in Rensselaer County and 61.1% in New York State. The number of workers in the labor force is 3,378 and all of them are civilians. Of these, 3,289 individuals are employed and 89 are unemployed, giving a 2.6% unemployment rate. The workers are employed in a variety of occupations as shown in Table 6 on the next page.

The main occupational category for residents in the Town of Hoosick is management/professional (29.4%), followed by sales and office occupations and production and material moving. Industries in which these workers were employed are listed in Table 7 on the next page. Figures from the 1986 Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan are also given to show economic trends.

The percent of residents working in manufacturing jobs has decreased significantly in the past two decades. Since the types of Census categories have changed slightly, some of the data requires interpretation. Professional services in 1980 apparently included education. If all of the highlighted services job categories are added together for the respective years, the final percentage is 22.9% in 1980 and 34.9% in 2000. This trend from manufacturing to service jobs follows the general trend in the American economy over the last few decades.

The location of the jobs may or may not be in the Town of Hoosick. According to the 1997 Economic Census, 615 individuals are employed in manufacturing jobs in the Village of Hoosick Falls. An additional 197 individuals are employed in retail businesses in the Village and 167 individuals are employed in healthcare and social assistance in the Village. The 2000 Census shows that the mean travel time to work is 23 minutes. Most workers (2,586) drove to work alone, 270 workers carpooled and 108 walked. Only 38 individuals used public transportation including taxicabs.



Table 6: Occupations in which Residents of the Town of Hoosick Worked

Occupation	Village of Hoosick Falls		Town of Hoosick		Rensselaer County		NYS
Management, professional, & related	381	24.3%	966	29.4%	36.7%	26,992	35.9%
Service	271	17.3%	456	13.9%	16.6%	10,557	14.0%
Sales & office occupations	385	24.6%	726	22.1%	27.1%	21,127	28.1%
Farming, fishing, & forestry	0	0.0%	27	0.8%	0.3%	179	0.2%
Construction, extraction & maintenance	168	10.7%	388	11.8%	7.6%	6,804	9.0%
Production, transportation & material moving	360	23.0%	726	22.1%	11.7%	9,555	12.7%
Total	1,565	100.0%	3,289	100.0%	100.0%	75,214	100.0%

Source: 2000 Census

Table 7: Industries in which Residents of the Town of Hoosick Worked

Industry	1980	2000	
	% of employed population	Number of workers	% of employed population
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, mining	4.6%	88	2.7%
Construction	2.9%	205	6.2%
Manufacturing	40.9%	723	22.0%
Wholesale Trade	1.9%	158	4.8%
Retail Trade	14.8%	352	10.7%
Transportation, warehousing & utilities	4.1%	133	4.0%
Information (2000 Census only)	0	50	1.5%
Finance, insurance, real estate, leasing	1.4%	168	5.1%
Professional, scientific, management, administrative & waste management services	19.8%	180	5.5%
Education, health & social services (2000 Census only)	0	808	24.6%
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation & food services	2.5%	132	4.0%
Other services (except public administration) (2000 Census only)	0	157	4.8%
Public Administration	5.4%	135	4.1%
Personal services (1980 only)	2.5%	0	0
Business, repair services (1980 only)	0.6%	0	0
TOTAL	101.40%	3289	100.00%

Source for 2000 date: 2000 Census, Source for 1980 data: 1986 Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan

HOUSING

Housing is available throughout the Town of Hoosick with a wide range of styles, sizes, and settings (Table 8, below). Of the 2,879 housing units in the Town, more than 50% or 1,553 are located in the Village. About half of the homes in the Town (1,550) were built before 1940; however, most of these (1,018) lie in the Village.

Table 8: Year when Housing was Built

Year Structure was Built	Village of Hoosick	Town of Hoosick
1990 - 2000	103	299
1980 - 1989	92	317
1970 - 1979	28	184
1960 - 1969	97	166
1940 - 1959	215	363
1939 or earlier	1,018	1,550
Total Housing Structures	1,553	2,879

Source: Census 2000

Homes are scattered throughout the country side and are also clustered in the hamlets of Buskirk, Eagle Bridge, North Hoosick, Walloomsac, Potter Hill and Hoosick. Table 7 shows that 90% of the housing units are occupied and that 71% are owner occupied. The owner occupied rate is greater than the Village of Hoosick Falls, Rensselaer and New York State.

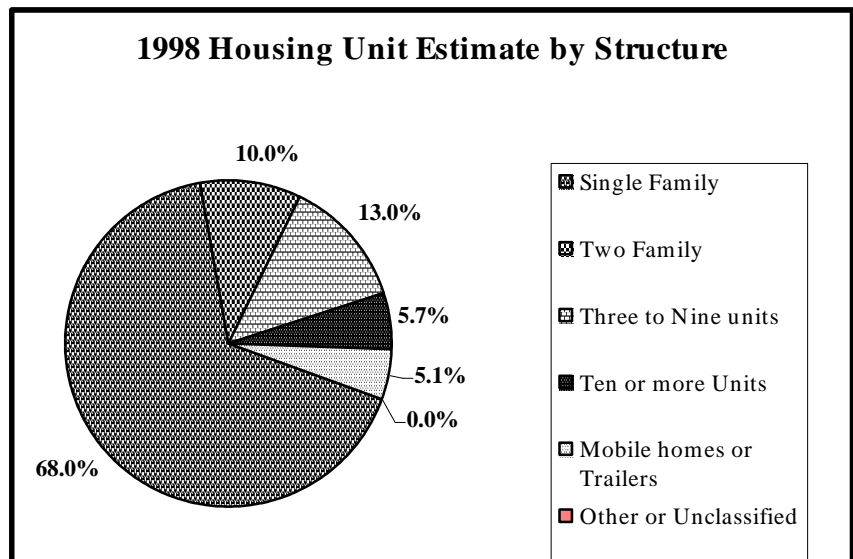
Table 9: Housing Demographics Comparison

Subject	Village of Hoosick Falls	Town of Hoosick	Rensselaer County	New York State
Housing Tenure				
Owner-occupied Housing	60.9%	71.2%	64.9%	53.0%
Renter Occupied Housing	39.1%	28.8%	35.1%	47.0%
Housing Occupancy				
Occupied Housing Units	89.0%	90.6%	90.6%	91.9%
Vacant Housing Units	11.0%	9.4%	9.4%	8.1%
Homeowner Vacancy Rate	3.6%	2.5%	1.8%	1.6%
Rental Vacancy Rate	7.5%	7.5%	7.9%	4.6%
Household Type				
Average Household Size	2.43	2.55	2.46	2.61
Average Family Size	3.05	3.06	3.02	3.22

Source: Census 2000

As shown in Figure 7, 68%, or 1,957 of the units are single family. Most of the housing that is multi-family is located in the Village. The median housing values of \$86,100 is relatively low compared to that of \$102,900 in Rensselaer County and \$148,700 in New York State.

Figure 7: 1998 Housing Unit Estimate by Structure



Source: Census 2000

The Town of Hoosick Housing Authority maintains two 25-unit senior citizen housing projects – Wood Park and Woodbridge, located within the Village of Hoosick Falls. Also maintained by the Housing Authority is Hoosick Meadows, a 25-unit low-moderate income housing project located on Route 22.

The Assessor's office reports that people from Vermont, Connecticut, and Massachusetts are relocating in the Town due to the availability of large tracks of land available at relatively lower prices. Farmland is being sold in East Hoosick for housing construction. Table 10 shows that most of the new housing in the Town of Hoosick has been built in the Town outside of the Village. The data also shows almost all the housing is single family, since in all yearly records; the number of units equals the number of buildings, with the exception of 1988.

Table 10: Residential Building Permits for the Town of Hoosick and the Village of Hoosick Falls 1980 - 2001

Year	Town of Hoosick		Village of Hoosick Falls	
	Buildings	Units	Buildings	Units
1980	0	0	1	1
1981	0	0	1	1
1982	0	0	0	0
1983	0	0	0	0
1984	10	10	0	0
1985	30	30	0	0
1986	32	32	3	3
1987	21	21	9	9
1988	28	29	10	13
1989	23	23	7	7
1990	13	13	6	6
1991	9	9	1	1
1992	21	21	0	0
1993	15	15	0	0
1994	13	13	0	0
1995	11	11	0	0
1996	12	12	0	0
1997	15	15	0	0
1998	41	41	0	0
1999	41	41	0	0
2000	14	14	0	0
2001	9	9	0	0
TOTAL	358	359	38	41

Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Construction Statistics Division.
Prepared by the Capital District Regional Planning Commission

ANALYSIS

Over the last decade, several significant trends have changed the social and economic character of the community. The first trend is the change away from manufacturing and farming as industries in which residents work, and the upsurge of education, health and social services as the main industrial category for residents, 25% of whom are employed in this category. These jobs (as shown in Table 6 and 7) may or may not be physically located within the Town, but may be located in other jurisdictions such as the Village of Hoosick Falls or further away in Bennington or the Capital District.

In 1980, approximately 41% of the residents worked in manufacturing jobs, now only 22% do. The closing of Isola located in the Village, most likely was part of this decline. Farming jobs are also declining; in 1980, 4.6% were employed in agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining, now that figure is 2.7%. Although the demographic shift is small in terms of total numbers of people, the trend is significant for the future development of the Town, since currently only 88 or fewer residents work in agriculture, out of the total population of 6,732. Children of current farmers may leave the farming industry for many reasons, including economic or lifestyle choices.

The second perceptible trend is the sale of farmland for rural residential uses. The land use map shows that 25% of the Town's acreage is residential in use. Most of this is low-density rural development. There are no high-density residential developments in the Town yet. The condition of the soils limits the construction of septic systems and prohibits the development of high-density residential uses.

The third significant trend is the aging of the population. The current 35-44 year old cohort is the largest population group in the Town. By the year 2030, this group will have aged, becoming senior citizens, 65 years and older, and the largest age category in the Town. These senior citizens will require housing, health, and social services that are not currently available in the Town on a scale their size will demand. If the

younger population does not increase, there might be a serious shortage of funding and social resources to meet this need.

Natural Features

INTRODUCTION

The process of land use planning requires a thorough understanding of the natural features of the community. Since the natural features inventoried in the 1986 Hoosick Comprehensive Master Plan have not changed, this section will reiterate some of the information from that plan. The features discussed and analyzed in this section include: Panoramic Views, Surface Water Resources, Bedrock Geology; Unconsolidated Deposits; Topography; Slopes; and Soils.

PANORAMIC VIEWS



Looking north-east at the Hoosick River Valley

As discussed in the 1986 Comprehensive Plan, the most dramatic natural resource of the Town, particularly to the visitor, is the grand vistas that exist from various locations around the Town. They are characterized by gently rolling mountainous terrain that is focused around the meandering, open Hoosick River valley. The mountains are predominantly forested, with large open cuts where farm fields are located. The views are significant all year long. However, the grandest season of the year is autumn, when the green fields are contrasted with the gold and red foliage.

The character of the panoramic views is so beautiful; it is not difficult to understand how Grandma Moses, the renowned landscape folk artist, was inspired to do her paintings. Also contributing to the visual significance of the town is the steep narrow stream valleys that are located all over the town. Generally, they are wooded and provide a sense of enclosure that is unique for the region. The severe nature of the slopes and soils in these valleys has kept them in a natural state to this point.

WATER RESOURCES

The Town's primary surface water resources include the Hoosick and Walloomsac rivers. The rivers provide a number of amenities to the Town. These include, but are not limited to: recreation; aesthetic; wildlife; and aquifer recharge resources. Natural water resources including rivers, streams, NYS DEC wetlands, flood plain boundaries and aquifers are



*The Hoosick River off Route 22.
Near Route 7*

shown on the Water Natural Resources Map in the map section.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) classifies water bodies for the purposes of regulating discharges into these bodies in accordance with the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination system (SPDES). These classifications refer to the suitability of a water body (lake, pond river, stream) for human use. The higher the classification (A) the better the water quality and the more suitable for human use. A “t” may be added to indicate water suitable for trout breeding. The NYSDEC regulates all streams that are classified C(t) and higher according to NYS Rules and Regulations Title 6 Section 701 and 608.

The Walloomsac is classified by as a “C(t)” stream. Streams under this classification have their best use as fishing streams. The Hoosick River south of the junction with the Walloomsac is also classified as C(t). After the Walloomsac joins the Hoosick River, the Hoosick River becomes a “Bt” stream. This classification designates a stream whose primary and secondary best uses are contact recreational (swimming, boating) along with trout fishing.

Many tributary streams and brooks drain the town watersheds. These streams and brooks provide a fresh habitat for several species of game fish as well as contribute to the ground water aquifers found in the unconsolidated deposits in the valley. Ultimately the Town’s watershed feeds the Hoosick and Walloomsac Rivers, thereby affecting the quality and quantity of water in those rivers and the associated ecosystems.

The Town’s water supply is generally derived from ground water resources developed in outlying sub-aquifers. These resources are obtained from dug, driven, and drilled wells as well as springs occurring at or near the surface. The principal aquifer system for the Town, having potential as a municipal

water source, is the river-bottom land of the Hoosic and Walloomsac Rivers.

BEDROCK GEOLOGY

The bedrock geology of the Hoosick Falls area is best explained by the presence of two relatively recent (geologically) partially synchronous sequences.

The Taconic Allochthon dominates the Hoosick area and contains the Taconic and Synclinorium sequences. The Taconic sequence is composed of Cambrian and Ordovician slates and graywackes, estimated to be some 4000' thick and is found in the central and western portions of the Town. The Synclinorium sequence, is estimated to be some 2000' thick, and is composed of Cambrian and Ordovician limestone, dolostone, and quartzite. This sequence is generally overridden by the Taconic sequence, and is found in the eastern portions of Town.

Although these two sequences occurred in approximately the same geological time frame, their composition is dissimilar. Geological examination has revealed that these formations underwent a metamorphism, which is responsible for the present conditions found in the Hoosic River.

UNCONSOLIDATED DEPOSITS

The unconsolidated deposits in the Town are generally found in conjunction with the watershed drainage ways, i.e. stream and river valleys. The depth of these deposits is unknown, although there is reason to expect greater thickness of this overburden at the lower elevations due to the erosion of these materials over time.

The composition of these deposits varies with location and originates from the parent bedrock material. The geologic aging and weathering of the parent bedrock produced material of varying grain size. Typically these deposits are relatively porous and are of large grain size, including pebbles, large stones, and boulders.

With the occurrence of unconsolidated deposits near the river corridors of the Town, it is easy to understand the presence of a large aquifer system.

TOPOGRAPHY

The topography of the Town of Hoosick is dominated by the bedrock formation known as the “Taconic Allochthon.” The Hoosic and Walloomsac River valleys generally traverse the topography and form three distinct sub – regions.

The Hoosic River generally bisects the Town and flows from the southern limits of the Town to the north where it joins the Walloomsac River. The Walloomsac is limited to the northern portion of the Town and as it flows westward, it becomes the northern boundary.

Topography ranges from a low of 380’ (approximate), along the river in the north, to + 1400’ in the highlands to the south.

The topographic sub – regions in the Town are similar, and can be characterized as ranging from gently rolling to very steep. Changes in elevation are most severe as one travels away from the river valleys, i.e. east or west from the Hoosic River and north or south from the Walloomsac River.

SLOPES

The slopes in the Town of Hoosick are varied, and range from nearly level (0-3% 0) along the rivers to very steep (+25%) in the adjacent highlands.

The topography and consequent slopes are the determining environmental factors, which have influenced the land use of the region.

For the scope of this inventory the following slope ranges were identified: 0-3%; 3-8%; 8-15%, and +15%. These ranges were chosen to correspond with existing soil descriptions, and are ranges typically used in land use analysis.

In general, the largest areas of 0-3% slopes are adjacent to the rivers, with some smaller scattered area found in the highlands. Areas of this slope range cover approximately 10% or 4,057.6 acres.

Areas 3-8% slope cover approximately 15% or 6048.4 acres and are found in the transition from the valley floor to the steeper areas along the streams drain the topography of the Town.

35% Or 14,201.6 acres exhibit slopes ranging from 8-15%. These areas are typically hilly and the majority of land is situated west of the Hoosic River.

The remaining portion to the Town exhibits slopes in excess of 15 %. These areas account for approximately 40% or 16,230.4 acres of the total land area of the Town.

SOILS

Soil development is closely related to the geologic history of an area since the parent materials for soils are the result of geologic processes. The parent material for the soils in the Town is generally glacial outwash. The soils, which have developed in the Town, are geologically “young” and have been formed within the Past 12-14,000 years.

As time progressed, these early soils were further refined by the interaction of living organisms, climate, and their relative location in the landscape to produce the types, which exist today.

Generalized Associations

Soils in the Town are grouped into mapping units as defined by the USDA National Soil Information System. The remainder of this section first presents a narrative description of the generalized soil associations followed by a detailed description of each site-specific soil association.

The soils in the Town can generally be grouped into two associations: The Bernardston-Pittstown-Nassau association and the Limerick-Hamlin-Teel association.

The Bernardston-Pittstown-Nassau association consists of soils on gently sloping to hilly, well drained and moderately well drained, medium textured soils with fragipans, and somewhat

excessively drained, shallow soils over shale bed-rock; on uplands. These soils formed in a series of ridges, knolls, and low hills. The topography is complex because of the underlying folded shale and slate bedrock. Exposed bedrock is evident in many places. Slope ranges mainly from 3-25%, but areas of 3-40% also exist.

The Limerick-Hamlin-Teel association consists of soils dominant on nearly level areas, and are poorly drained to well drained; medium textured, deep soils; on flood plains. These soils formed in silty alluvial deposits on flood plains adjacent to meandering streams. Slope is generally less than 2% but ranges from 0-3%. These soils follow the riverbeds of the Hoosic and Walloomsac Rivers. (See The Generalized soils map in the Map Section.)

SOILS - INDIVIDUAL ASSOCIATIONS

Bernardston – Nassau Association

These are deep and shallow, well – drained low lime soils; on glacial till uplands. The Bernardston soils make up approximately 35% of the association and the Nassau soils approximately 35%. The remaining 30% are soils of minor extent.

The undulating and rolling relief of this association is determined by the underlying shale bedrock. The Bernardston soils have formed in material similar to that in which the Nassau soils formed, but they do not have shale bedrock within 40 inches.

Much of this association is in farmland or woodland. The shallow depth to bedrock imposes severe limitations on many community development uses.

Bernardston – Pittstown Association

These soils are deep, somewhat well drained and moderately well –drained soils that have a medium textured subsoil; on glacial till uplands. This association occupies gently sloping and sloping areas in the till plain.

Carlisle - Palms Association

The Bernardston soils make up approximately 40% of the association and Pittstown approximately 30%. The remaining 30% consists of soils of minor extent. The Bernardston soils occupy gently sloping and sloping hillsides and drumlins on the till plain. Pittstown soils occupy similar slopes but on slightly lower positions on the till plain.

The association is mainly in farmland and woodland. It has severe limitations for some non-farm uses due to some seasonal wetness and the dense, compact, underlying fragipan.

These are deep, very poorly drained acid, organic soils, on uplands and outwash terraces. This association occupies level of slightly depressional areas in the rolling glacial till upland and in outwash plains. Carlisle soils make up approximately 50% of the association and Palms approximately 30%. Minor soils make up the remaining 20%.

Carlisle soils have formed in deep, acid, organic deposits in swamps and bogs. They are wet most of the year with a seasonal water table at or just below the surface. The Palms soils have formed in acid organic deposits, also in swamps and bogs. The organic material is 16 to 50 inches deep over medium textured soil material.

Most of this association is in woodland. This association has severe limitations for non-farm uses due to the high water table, instability of the soil material and the hazard of ponding.

Hudson Association

These deep, well-drained soils have moderately fine or fine textured subsoil on lake plains. Hudson soils make up approximately 85% of the association. The remaining 15% are soils of minor extent. Hudson soils occur on moderately steep, steep, and very steep dissected waterways. Individual areas are long and narrow.

This association is mostly in woodland or idle land. There are severe limitations for most non-farm uses due to the strong slope gradients. These soils are susceptible to landslides.

Hoosick-Riverhead- Chenango Association

These are deep; well drained to somewhat excessively drained low lime soils that have a medium to moderately coarse textured subsoil, on outwash terraces. Hoosick soils make up approximately 40% of the association, Riverhead soils 25%, and Chenango soils 10%. The remaining 25% are soils of minor extent.

The Hoosick, Riverhead, and Chenango soil occur mainly on level outwash terrace positions. They also occur on gently sloping landscape on the outwash terrace.

Much of this association is in hay land, cropland, and housing development. This association has few limitations for most urban uses. It is an excellent source of sand and gravel.

Hamlin - Wayland - Teel Association

These soils are deep, well-drained and moderately well drained to somewhat poorly drained, medium lime soils with medium textured subsoils and poorly and very poorly drained soils with medium or moderately fine -textured subsoil on flood plains. This association occupies nearly level flood plains along the Hoosic and Walloomsac Rivers.

Hamlin soils make up approximately 35% of the association; Wayland soils make up approximately 25%, and the Teel soils approximately 25%. Soils of minor extent have all formed in similar kinds of deposits on flood plains. These deposits have been laid down by overflowing streams and consist mainly of silts and very firm sands. These soils are intermingled on the flood plains with the Hamlin soils occupying the higher positions, the Teel soils at slightly lower positions, and the Wayland soils the lowest positions or areas adjacent to higher positional soils provide runoff. These soils are all subject to flooding. This flooding mainly occurs in the spring or during periods of intense prolonged rainfall.

Much of this association is cleared and used for farming. The Hamlin and Teel soils are among the most productive soils in the area if adequately fertilized and managed. The Wayland soils usually require drainage. This association has severe

Nassau Association

limitations for many non-farm uses due to wetness and the hazard of flooding.

These soils are shallow, well drained to somewhat excessively drained, low lime soils that have medium textured subsoil, on uplands. This association occupies nearly level, undulating, rolling, and moderately steep upland landscapes where the relief is affected by the underlying bedrock. The bedrock may be tilted or horizontally oriented. Bedrock outcrops are common features of the landscapes.

Nassau soils make up approximately 70% of the association and the remaining 30% is made up of soils of minor extent. The Nassau soils are dominantly undulating and rolling. The relief is governed by the tilted, fractured underlying bedrock.

Cleared areas of this association are used mainly for native pasture or are idle. Woodland areas are of poor quality. The shallow depth to bedrock limits the use of this soil for many urban purposes. The high positional location of many of the Nassau soils provides home sites with excellent views.

Nunda, Lackawanna, & Canfield Associations

These soils are deep, well-drained and moderately well drained low to medium lime soils that have medium and moderately fine textured subsoils, on uplands. This association occupies moderately steep, steep, and very steep areas in the till plain.

Nunda soils make up approximately 40% of the association, Lackawanna approximately 15%, and Canfield approximately 15%. The remaining 30% consists of soils of minor extent. The Nunda soils occupy drumlins and other moderately steep to very steep landscapes in the till plain.

This association is mainly in woodland. Where it has been cleared, it is mainly used for pasture or hay field. The steep slope gradients within this association limits its use for most non-farm uses.

Nassau-Rock Outcrop Association

These soils are shallow, well -drained low lime soils. This association occupies hilly, steep, and very steep upland landscapes. Nassau soils make approximately 45% of the association and the land type, rock outcrop approximately 45%. Soils of minor extent make up the remaining 10%.

Numerous bedrock outcrops and areas of shallow depth to bedrock, less than 10", that makes up the rock outcrop component of this association.

Much of this association is in poor quality woodland. The strong slope gradients and the shallow depth to bedrock severely limit the use of this association for many community development uses.

Otisville-Oakville Association

These soils are deep, excessively drained soils that have coarse textured subsoil on terraces. This association occupies level through sloping terraces. The Otisville soils make up approximately 35% of the association, the Oakville soils approximately 35%. Soils of minor extent make up the remaining 30%.

The Otisville and Oakville soils occur mainly on level outwash terrace positions. They also occur, to a lesser degree, on gently sloping and sloping landscapes on the outwash terraces.

Most of this association is in farmland, idle land, and urban developments. This association has few limitations for most urban uses. It is an excellent source of sand and gravel. The glacial outwash material in which the Otisville and Oakville soils have formed will quite often provide a good source of domestic water.

Rhinebeck - Madalin Association

These are deep, somewhat poorly drained poorly and very poorly drained soils that have a moderately fine or fine textured subsoil; on lake plains. This association occupies nearly level and gently sloping landscapes within the lake plain. Madalin soils make up approximately 30% of the

association and Rhinebeck soils make up approximately 40%. The remaining 30% are soils of minor extent.

Madalin soils are nearly level and occupy the lower position in the landscape where they receive runoff from surrounding higher positional soils. Rhinebeck soils have formed in the same kind of material as the Madalin soils. They occupy slightly higher positions on nearly level to gently sloping landscapes.

This association is found in farmland and woodland. This association has severe limitations for on-site septic tank absorption fields due to the very slow permeability of the soils. Seasonal wetness, stability, and erodability also present problems when these soils are used for housing developments.

Rock Outcrop- Farmington Association

These are shallow, well-drained low lime soils and the land type, rock outcrop on uplands. This association occupies steep and very steep areas in the uplands. The land type, rock outcrop makes up approximately 70% of the association and the Farmington soils about 20%. The remaining 10% consists of soils of minor extent.

The rock outcrop in this association occurs as steep and very steep cliffs and breaks. The Farmington soils occur on narrow benches and steep and very steep slopes.

This association is mainly in woodland. It has severe limitations for community development uses because of the steep slopes and the high percentage of rock outcrop.

Scriba Association

These are deep, somewhat poorly drained soils that have medium textured subsoil, on uplands. This soil occupies nearly level, gently sloping, and sloping landscapes on till plains. The Scriba soils make up approximately 65% of the association and the remaining 35% are soils of minor extent.

The Scriba soils occupy nearly level to concave sloping areas on the till plain. They receive runoff from the higher

CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS & DEVELOPMENT CONSTRAINTS

positional Pittstown and Bernardston soils. The association is mainly in farmland and woodland. Seasonal wetness and the firm, dense underlying fragipan limit the use of this association for some non-farm uses.

These soils are deep, well-drained, very stony soils that have moderately coarse textured subsoil; on glacial till uplands. The Worth soils make up approximately 80% of the association; the remaining 20% are soils of minor extent. This association occupies moderately steep through very steep areas.

Most of this association is in woodland. The strong slope gradients, stoniness, and the dense compact fragipans are the major limitations of this association for non-farm uses.

Critical environmental areas are those areas in which environmental or natural resource constraints are the overriding considerations limiting new development. The NY State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) defines it as "a specific geographic area designated by a local agency, having exceptional or unique characteristics that make the area important to the local community."

Besides previously established areas such as Bennington Battlefield and Tibbits Forest, the primary critical environmental areas in the Town of Hoosick are the flood plains along the Hoosic and Walloomsac Rivers, associated wetlands, and the steep slope/thin soil areas scattered throughout the Town.

The flood plains and wetlands provide crucial flood protection by absorbing potential damaging floodwater during periods of intense runoff. The flood plain/wetland, then later releases those waters at a greatly reduced velocity thereby diminishing erosion and other flood related damage to the landscape. The unconsolidated deposits of these flood plain areas absorb the

water that runs into and through them to create great aquifers that have two principal use benefits to the Town and its residents:

1. Potable water source.
2. Permits abundant agriculture.

Uncontrolled development endangers the aquifer in two ways. First, the placement of buildings and pavements inhibits the recharge capabilities of the aquifer. Secondly, uncontrolled discharge of sanitary, industrial, and other types of effluent into the aquifer, contaminates it and potentially prohibits its use as a source of potable water.

The wetlands generally support diverse wildlife populations, are fragile, and easily disrupted ecosystem. There are several wetlands within the Town. In general, these areas are associated with lowlands along the rivers, although there are a handful of smaller areas scattered throughout the Town. In capacities proportionate to their size, the wetlands also recharge the atmosphere. This is due to the dense vegetative growth associated with wetlands, and the resultant enrichment of the oxygen content of the air.

Areas which exhibit thin soils are generally associated with the steeper slopes in the Town. These areas have a low bearing capacity for development due to the susceptibility to erosion and the shallow depth to bedrock. These factors severely limit the development of infrastructure, e.g. roads, utilities, etc., as well as limiting the type and density of structures feasibly developed.

Finally, the beautiful landscape provides the natural setting for a rural way of life favored and cherished by the Town residents. The Town is now in a position to determine the future development of the Town in such a way as to preserve and protect its natural environment, including its scenic beauty and water resources.



Municipal Resources

TOWN GOVERNMENT



Armory Building – Town Offices

The Town of Hoosick was incorporated in 1827. The Town government consists of a Supervisor, who is elected to a two year term, and four Town Board members all of whom are elected to a four-year term. The Highway Superintendent, the Town Clerk, and two judges are elected to a four-year term. All other positions within the Town are appointed by the Supervisor and Town Board, including the Bookkeeper, the Payroll Clerk, the Building Inspector, the Assessor, Assistant to the Assessor, the Historian, the Records Manager, the Animal Control Officer and two Constables. The Judges make their own appointments to the court clerk.

In general, all Town boards and committees meet on a regular basis. The Town Board meets once a month, with special meetings as may be required from time to time. The Planning Board meets once a month. There is no Zoning Board.

The Town Board is responsible for all aspects of the Town government, with the exception of those delegated to other entities. In general, however, the Supervisor and Town Board are responsible for the fiscal well being of the Town along with the provision of all services to the residents and business owners. The Planning Board, created in 1986, although appointed by the Town Board, is an independent body commissioned with the authority to review all proposed site plans and subdivisions. The decisions of the Planning Board are final and can only be appealed to a court having jurisdiction over such matters.

BUDGET

The Town's fiscal year runs from January 1 to December 31. Among the Supervisor's duties, is the preparation of a tentative budget and presentation to the Town Board by October 5. The budget must include all proposed expenditures and anticipated revenues. The Town Board makes the tentative budget available to the public for input at the required public hearing before adoption. The budget is used to determine what the necessary real property tax rate will be for

the fiscal year. After public review, the Town Board must approve the budget by November 20.

The Town has a General Budget and two Highway Budgets, one for areas outside the Village and one Town-wide. The property tax accounts for over half of the income for the Town's General Fund. Other sources of funds are payment in lieu of taxes; interest, and penalties; user fees (such as pool fees); state revenues sharing funds and other miscellaneous revenues. General funds are spent on general Town operations and salaries, professional services, construction and maintenance of recreational facilities and miscellaneous supplies and equipment.

The highway budget is funded by two important funding sources – the real property tax and sales tax, supplemented by the CHIPS program and miscellaneous revenues. Expenditures are for road maintenance and construction, bridge repairs, materials, and staff salaries. The Townwide expenditures also include payments toward the purchase of machinery and vehicles that are included in the Town's Capital Program.

THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

The Highway Superintendent manages the highway department. Equipment includes five (5) dump trucks, a bucket loader, grader and a grade-all ditch cleaner. Based on discussions with the Town of Hoosick's Highway Department Superintendent, there are 56 miles of roads that are maintained by the highway department. The highway department has nine (9) full-time employees that do most of the highway maintenance, excluding approximately 50% of the paving, which it contracts out. Among the department's maintenance duties, the highway department mows all roadsides at least three times a year to keep the area clear and provide adequate sight distance for road users. The department also maintains the 29 cemeteries scattered throughout the Town, two-thirds of which have less than 30 headstones. Additionally, the department is responsible for the operation and maintenance

of the Town pool, skating rink, athletic fields, and the Armory building.

FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Town is served by five volunteer fire companies and one volunteer emergency squad. Of the five volunteer fire companies in the Town of Hoosick, two are commissioned fire districts: the Village of Hoosick Falls Fire District and the Hoosick Fire District. They are managed by an elected Board of Commissioners, and funded through Town taxes levied on a fire district basis

The other three fire districts are managed by a Board of Directors composed of members, and are funded through Town taxes levied on a fire district basis. These non-commissioned fire districts are the Fire Districts of North Hoosick, Buskirk, and West Hoosick. The “Mutual Aid Agreement” that towns in Rensselaer County follow, ensures that all fire companies respond to all 911 calls on an as needed basis. The Rensselaer County Bureau of Public Safety, stationed in Troy, New York, is responsible for routing all 911 calls. There is a 6 a.m. through 6 p.m. daytime mutual aid agreement between North Hoosick and Hoosick Falls for structural fires.

A brief inventory of resources and equipment is presented below.

North Hoosick Fire Company

The North Hoosick Fire Company, with 34 volunteers, has the most fire fighting equipment of all the companies, and answers 90 to 110 calls per year. Most emergency calls are the result of car accidents, while storms and lightning strikes results in a significant number of calls because of damage to electric wires.

The Fire House is comprised of a six (6) bay garage built in 1996 and a banquet hall which was converted from the original firehouse built in 1964. The Fire Chief feels that the facility is adequate, the equipment is excellent, and the firemen are well-trained members who work well together. The Fire Company is well organized and has a disaster plan. The company has the following equipment:

- 1 tanker truck
- 2 engine tankers
- 1 water supply truck
- 1 four-wheel drive rescue truck with equipment, can carry extra personnel
- 1 utility truck (can be used for water problems and pumping out basements and other flooded areas)
- One response Ford Bronco carrying “jaws of life” (a mechanism to disassemble vehicles to free trapped people.)

The main problem facing all of the fire companies is daytime staffing. Because the men have to travel to jobs in distant areas, they are not present during the day. Fortunately, most of the emergencies happen from late afternoon to midnight. Currently, successful programs for youth in the North Hoosick Fire Company are the Explorers Program, which enrolls teenagers, aged 13 to 15, and the junior membership program, which enrolls teenagers, aged 16 to 17.

Fund raising and providing community services go hand in hand, since the banquet hall is used for catering, special events, and dances for youth (grades 4 to 9). Some dances have been attended by over 100 youth. A special attraction is the 1948 fire pumper, which is kept for display and special occasions.

Equipment for the other four (4) companies is listed below.

Buskirk Fire Company

- 1 engine
- 2 engine tankers

Hoosick Fire Company

- 2 ETA engine tankers
- 1 rescue vehicle

- 1 utility vehicle

West Hoosick Fire Company

- 2 ETA engine tankers
- 1 tanker
- 1 utility vehicle

Hoosick Falls Fire Company

- 2 engines
- 1 rescue vehicle
- 1 bucket truck

Town of Hoosick Rescue Squad



Town of Hoosick Rescue Squad Facility

The Emergency Rescue Squad, (EMS) an all-volunteer organization, provides 24 hour a day emergency response service. The squad has excellent facilities and equipment needed for all types of emergencies. The state certified facility is located on 21 First Street and provides a garage for vehicles and living/sleeping quarters for emergency workers. The facility is equipped with a kitchen, lounge, and sleeping quarters for volunteers who choose to be in the facility when they are on call.

As with the fire companies, staffing is the most serious problem. Membership has been decreasing over the last few decades. In 1989, there were 55 members, and as of 2002, there are only 19. Since two members are required for each emergency response, it is difficult to provide 7 day a week, 24-hour coverage with only 19 members. However, the squad owns up-to-date, state of the art equipment including the following:

- 95 Lifeline Ambulance
- 93 Lifeline Ambulance
- 2000 Lifeline Ambulance
- 94 Fly Car

- 93 MCI Trailer for major catastrophes (104 backboards carried)
- 94 Suburban Vehicle

The EMS covers all of the Town of Hoosick's fire companies and the White Creek Fire Company in Washington County. Every time a fire truck goes out to an emergency, the emergency squad goes out as well. Other types of emergencies include domestic fights, accidents involving farm machinery, factory accidents, pregnancies, broken bones, and auto accidents. Many trips involve the transport of elderly people from the Danforth Adult Home to the hospital. The Southern Vermont Medical Center is the most likely destination. For cases that require special care, a helicopter pad next to the facility is available for helicopter transport to more distant medical centers.

The number of emergency responses is second in the county only to the City of Rensselaer. In 2001, over 1,000 responses were made resulting in ambulance use. The squad is funded with costs recovered from insurance companies and some financial support from the Town of Hoosick for rent and electricity.

It is difficult to recruit volunteers. Despite an intensive campaign, the EMS has not been able to properly staff its operations. EMS training is very intense, requiring a 7 to 8 month training period. Since the membership is low, the volunteers must take on a heavy time burden of a time commitment of 24 hours once a month, in addition to being on-call one night per week.

POLICE PROTECTION

Emergency calls that require a police response are answered by the Rensselaer County Sheriff or the State Police. Given the current population, and low frequency of emergencies, the present service provided by these agencies is adequate. It is unlikely that the population will increase at such a rate during

the next ten years that the formation of a Town police force will be justified.

UTILITIES

Water & Sewer

Except for a few areas around the Village of Hoosick Falls, there are no public sewer and water utilities in the Town of Hoosick. The Village is responsible for the public utilities within its boundaries, while the Town is responsible for the sewer and water lines in Green Heights, a subdivision near Albany and Saratoga Streets. The Green Heights system, built in 1969-70, and activated in 1989, is new enough not to need repairs. Wastewater from the Village sewer system is pumped to the sewer plant in North Hoosick, where it is treated and discharged into the Hoosic River. Some areas in the Town have private sewer and water systems. However, some soil conditions in the Town are not conducive to septic systems and major problems occur on a site-specific basis, as exemplified by the failure of two septic systems installed by the School District.

Throughout the Town, culverts and ditches provide storm water drainage. Steep slopes and soil conditions in the Town causes some flooding problems, and damage to portions of the dirt roads.

Gas & Electric

Currently, there is no natural gas in the Village or Town. Fuel and cooking fuels include oil, propane, electricity, and wood. Electricity is supplied by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation.

The Town does not have any plans to develop a street lighting improvement plan, and residents have not asked for more street lights. The Highway Superintendent judges the present level of street lighting to be more than necessary.

Trash & Garbage Collection

In the mid 1980's, the Department of Environmental Conservation issued a directive to shut down local municipal landfills and create regional systems in order to protect local

water supplies. At that time, the Town contracted with the Village of Hoosick Falls to use the landfill located off the west side of NYS Route 22. This landfill was closed in 1993. The Town is now served by three private refuse collection companies that transport refuse to the Washington County Transfer Station at Jackson, NY, where it is gathered for transport to Hudson Falls for incineration. Large items can be picked up for a fee by one of the private companies, or by small businessmen whom will transport refuse to the transfer stations twice a week. Additionally, residents can drop off recyclable items at a recycling center at the highway garage on River Road.

Communications

In addition to traditional phone service, cell phone service is available in the Town. Verizon and Cellular 1 provide wireless telephone service. Adelphia Communications Company provides cable for television reception in the Village and various areas in the Town.

ANALYSIS

The municipal resources currently are geared to provide general governmental services and highway maintenance. Although most of the Town's roads are in good shape, the highway department is challenged to repair the minor roads, especially the unpaved roads when they are eroded due to storms and winter weather.

Except for a small subdivision called Green Heights, north-east of the Village of Hoosick Falls, there are no Town water or sanitary sewer systems. The lack of a public water and sewer system limits high-density growth in any part of the Town. The absence of these public services is a double-edged sword. On the one hand, large-scale new development has not occurred throughout the Town, preserving the Town's basic appearance and sensitive natural areas, including sensitive ecological areas, farmlands, and landscapes.

On the other hand, there is no infrastructure in place to attract and support industries or commercial ventures that may be

making a location decision. At present, the Town is in the position of deciding if and where to locate public water and sewer public services as a precursor to development.

Community & Cultural Resource

INTRODUCTION

Having a dramatic historical background and a spectacular rural setting, the Town of Hoosick also has a rich diversity of community and cultural resources that can be enjoyed by residents and visitors. This section will discuss the many recreational, historical, cultural and community resources in the town.

PARKS & RECREATION



*Joseph L. Bruno Park –
General View to North*



*Joseph L. Bruno Park – Skating Rink
View to East*

There are diversified recreational venues in the Town of Hoosick. The main athletic facility is the Joseph L. Bruno Town Park that is located within the Village of Hoosick Falls on approximately 8.5 acres of Town owned land. Park facilities include:

- 90' baseball field.
- 60' softball field.
- Volleyball court.
- Three tennis courts.
- One and a half basketball courts.
- Enclosed playground.
- Large outdoor pool with a 365 person capacity.
- Skating rink/multi-purpose building.

The skating rink is a large 220' x 100' facility with a cement floor and portable rink boards, which can be removed in order to use the facility for other activities. The rink has been used for special events such as festivals, dances, weddings, or educational uses. In 2002, 140 youth participated in the Town's day camp program held at the facility. The day camp, featuring swimming, games; arts and crafts and special events ran for 6 weeks during the summer months for children ages 5 to 12. The Recreation Director coordinates all the programs offered by the Town at the Joseph L. Bruno Park.



*Joseph L. Bruno Park –
Pool - View to West*



*Joseph L. Bruno Park – Tennis Courts
View to North East*



*Golf Course – East of Joseph L. Bruno
Park*

The pool, constructed in 1966, is open late June through August from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and offers swimming lessons, public swimming, and adult lap swimming. The Town is currently exploring funding opportunities to replace the existing outdoor wading pool with a larger deeper pool with water attractions and slides. Adjacent to the Park is a 9-hole public golf course where the Town offers golf lessons to youth Tuesdays and Thursdays.

In addition to the outdoor recreational opportunities, the Town also has a Community Center on Church Street in the Village of Hoosick Falls. The facility was purchased in 1952 and dedicated as a living memorial to WWII Veterans. The center has a games room and gymnasium, as well as a lounge and kitchen area.

Although there are no nature parks or public trails in the Town, Tibbitts State Forest, located on both sides of Route 7, can be used by residents for a variety of activities, including hiking. Tibbitts State Forest, an 893-acre tract, was established in 1953 because of a gift of land from Reverend John K. Tibbitts. The mostly hardwood forest is comprised of red and white oaks, sugar maple, hemlock, and beech, with some white pine.

Residents use the Tibbitts State Forest for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. Fishing is allowed at Shingle Creek, a protected trout stream that flows through the park along the south side of Route 7. White tailed deer is the primary game species, but turkey, squirrel, and ruffed grouse are present. The park also offers hiking, camping, snowmobiling, and cross-county skiing opportunities. Over three miles of unmarked trails, which follow old logging roads, are suitable for hiking. Other than those in the State forest, there are no other designated hiking trails in the town.



*NYSDEC Fishing Access Site at
Buskirk*

CULTURAL & HISTORIC RESOURCES



Bennington Battlefield Monument

One of the main recreational assets in the Town is the Hoosick River, which is used for boating and fishing. There are many areas where access to the river is provided through sandy beaches and well-positioned riprap or gravel. Near the Buskirk Bridge, there is a NYSDEC Fishing Access Site, a formally designated fishing site, a recreational amenity mirrored by countless unofficial sites throughout the Town. Also, the Walloomsac River offers great fishing and canoeing.

The cultural and historic resources of the Town include the historic Bennington Battlefield, many historic buildings (several of which are on the National List of Historic Places), museums, and private cultural enterprises.

Located in Walloomsac on NY 67 near the Vermont border, is the site of a decisive Revolutionary War battle in which a contingent of the British Army, under General Burgoyne's command, was defeated. The Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site contains the hilltop commemorative marker and flag, along with descriptive placards detailing the battle. A visitor's center contains additional information. There are picnic facilities for cookouts and a pavilion for stormy weather. The park was dedicated in 1927 and is open to the public free of charge from 8:00 a.m. to dusk from mid-April to Thanksgiving.



Delaney's Hotel



*Hoosick Falls Armory –
Town Hall Offices*



*Old Stone Schoolhouse –
Route 7 & 22*

Since the Town was settled in the 18th and 19th centuries, there are several historic buildings and sites still existing. An automobile tour of the Town reveals many old and interesting buildings, some of which are on the National Register of Historic Places, as listed below in Table 11. Many other superb buildings would be eligible for listing because of their age, architectural style, and condition, and need only to be nominated and accepted for listing.

Table 11: National Register Listings in the Town of Hoosick and the Village of Hoosick Falls

Resource Name	Address	Listed
Delaney's Hotel	Jct. Of NY 22 & NY 67 North Hoosick	1996
Estabrook Octagon House	8 River Street, Hoosick Falls	1980
Hoosick Falls Armory	Jct. of Church & Elm St. Hoosick Falls	1995
Hoosick Falls Historic District	Main St. Hoosick Falls	1995
St. Mark's Episcopal Church	Main Street, Hoosick Falls	2000
Tibbitts School House	Jct. Of NY22 and NY7	1978
US Post Office	35 Main Street, Hoosick Falls	1988
Buskirk Bridge	Village of Buskirk County Rt. 103 over Hoosic River	1978

Delaney's Hotel, at the intersection of Routes 22 and 67, was built in 1880 by Perry Eldridge. Over the years, various owners acquired the building and ran it as a hotel or tavern until 1985, when it was closed due to financial difficulties. The present owner bought the hotel in 1994 and registered it on the Historical Register. They are in the process of renovating it with the hopes of operating it as a bed and breakfast. The southern exposure of the beautifully balanced façade allows the building to gleam in the sunshine the entire day.



Buskirk Bridge



Louis Miller Museum



The Famous Daniel Store Museum

The Hoosick Falls Armory, built in 1889 is the second oldest National Guard Armory in New York State. It is the home of the National Guard Company C First Battalion, and is the location of the Town of Hoosick offices.

The Old Stone Schoolhouse, located at the intersection of NY Routes 7 and 22, was built in 1842 and was recently restored by the Stewart's Ice Cream Company, adjacent to it. It is open and free of charge to the public.

The Buskirk Bridge, a one lane, single-span truss wood covered bridge, is listed on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places. The bridge was built in 1850 and is the last remaining bridge of its kind in Rensselaer County.

In 1982, the Hoosick Township Historical Society established the Louis Miller Museum to preserve historic artifacts and exhibit displays depicting the history of the Village and Town. The museum is funded through private donations, staffed by volunteers and open to the public on Tuesday afternoons.

Private individuals have also taken a keen interest in the history of the area. The Famous Daniel Store Museum on Church Street, built in 1860, is the oldest building in the Village of Hoosick Falls. It has been recreated as a simulated a dry goods store by its owner and made to look, as it would have in 1890. It's stocked full of old relics from the 19th century such as farm implements, player piano music rolls, spinning wheels, clocks, and jewelry. Although the museum is currently open to the public only on special occasions, the owner hopes to open the shop as a functional turn-of-the-century "sweet shop." The owner has plans to build a historic complex including a science museum and blacksmith shop. If these plans are realized, the historic theme park could become a major tourist attraction.

SOCIAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES

The residents of the Town of Hoosick have established social organizations, which serve a wide variety of community needs. Among these are the Hoosick Area Senior Service Center, a multipurpose center that serves and delivers meals, provides medical services, hosts educational activities and social events and organizes day and overnight trips. The center is open from 9 to 3 daily, except weekends and holidays.

The Cheney Free Library, located in the Village, offers a large collection of books, as well as inter-regional library services to borrow VCR's, CD's, videos, and books from the 28 libraries of the Upper Hudson System, and computers for use.

Volunteer clubs and organizations include:

- The Hoosick Township Historical Society
- Lions Club
- Kiwanis Club
- Elks Lodge
- Knights of Columbus
- American Legion
- Hoosick Falls Health Center Board of Trustees
- Derby Club
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8417
- Fraternal Order of Eagles
- St. Stanislaw Social Club
- Van Rensselaer Star Lodge No. 400
- Hoosick Grange No. 127
- Kings Daughters
- Hoosick Falls Soccer Club
- Friends of Skating
- Community Cares

- Town of Hoosick Peewee Football
- Town of Hoosick Misses Softball
- Town of Hoosick Little League
- Boy Scouts
- Girl Scouts
- Hoosick Falls Area Senior Citizens

SUMMARY

The Town of Hoosick is well endowed with many recreational, historic, cultural and community resources. The historic background of the area and the beautiful natural setting create an appealing setting for residents as well as an attractive destination for visitors. There is great potential for the Town as a tourist destination if it is marketed to a wider public.

Educational Resources

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES



Hoosick Falls Central School

The entire Town of Hoosick is in the Hoosick Falls Central School District. The school facility off Route 22, just south of the Village accommodates Grades K through 12. There are no pre-kindergarten classes, and some special education students are accommodated off-campus. The majority of students are bused to school on school owned buses. The total current school district enrollment is 1,274 with 651 students in the K-6 program, 592 in the 7-12 grade program, and 31 students attending special education classes.

The District's computer facilities are recognized and respected by other educational institutions. Internet access is provided to students and staff through a network of computers and servers. Students in grades 7-12 have access to four computer labs.

Although the designated capacity of the school building is 1,740 students, the School District constructed additional classrooms and upgraded its technology facilities in 2000. Currently, the school reports an adequacy of space with no crowding conditions. As shown in Table 12 below, the school aged population ages 5 to 19 has not grown in the past decade, and based on population projections, is not likely to grow significantly in the next few decades.

Table 12: Town of Hoosick Children Aged 5 to 19

Age Group	Year	
	1990	2000
Ages 5 - 14	990	899
Ages 15 - 19	412*	492
Total No. of School Aged Children	1402	1391

Source: Census 1990, 2000

**Figure calculated from Census 1990 figures, actual figure may vary*



St. Mary's Parochial School

Also located within the Town are two well-respected private institutions which provide an alternative to a public education. St. Mary's is located within the Village and offers a fine educational program to students K-8. Hoosac School, a private boarding school, is located within the Town and also opens its doors to day students.

Opening in 2003 was the Town of Hoosick Family Resource Center. The Town formed a unique partnership with the Commission on Economic Opportunity, and with state and federal money built a state-of-the-art facility. Programs ranging for Pre-School, Headstart, and GED classes are offered at the Resource Center.

Transportation

TRANSPORTATION



NYS Route 7 looking East

The transportation network within the Town of Hoosick is comprised of three (3) state routes, seven (7) county routes, and numerous local roads. An integral part of economic and social development is comprehensive transportation planning. The grouping of highways by the character of service they provide (functional classification) was created for transportation planning purposes. Functional classification is an important planning tool used to determine and dictate development for a given area. The functional classification schemes of highways include arterials, collector roads, and local roads. Refer to Map Section for a map illustrating the functional classification of the major routes in the Town of Hoosick. This map was provided by the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC).

Arterials are thorough ways for major movements such as state wide or interstate travel. Arterials are sub classified as principal (main movements) or minor (distributors) and are further divided as urban or rural. According to the CDTC, State Route 7 is classified as a principal rural arterial that facilitates east-west movements for the southern portion of the Town. NYS Route 7 connects the capital district with Bennington, Vermont. This route provides a major connection for truck traffic commuting from the capital district to the central-western portion of Vermont. The traffic volume for Route 7 swells seasonally, as people travel from various locations of New York to the mountains adjacent and within Vermont to observe the fall foliage and experience the many skiing facilities Vermont has to offer.

An important east-west transportation corridor is State Route 67. NYS Route 67 is considered a minor rural arterial that serves the northern portion of the Town. It connects the northern section of New York State to North Bennington, Vermont. This route meanders through the Town of Hoosick and a small portion of Washington County, and then passes over the Hoosic River in the hamlet of Eagle Bridge.

An important north-south transportation corridor is State Route 22. NYS Route 22 is functionally classified as a minor

rural arterial. It connects NYS Route 7 to NYS Route 67 and passes through the Village of Hoosick Falls. Consequently, this route provides a connection for residents of the Town of Hoosick and the Village of Hoosick Falls to Albany and Vermont.

Collector roads are facilities that link arterials to major land uses such as residential, industrial, and commercial areas. Like arterial roads, collectors can be sub classified as minor or major and rural or urban. Collector roads are generally spaced at intervals consistent with population density. All collector roads within the Town are County highways, and are classified as minor rural collector roads. These highways include County Roads 87, 95, 103, and 104.

All remaining roads in the Town are classified as local roads. Local roads typically function for the purpose of short trips and moderate speeds. As a result, the volume of traffic on local roads is relatively small.

Refer to the Road Map in the Map Section for the Annual Average Traffic Volumes (AADT) for the major routes within the Town of Hoosick. Data was gathered from the NYSDOT 2001 Traffic Volume Report for Rensselaer County. Given the sporadic layout of the transportation network within the town, traffic congestion is not a common problem.

Contributing to the transportation system within the Town are the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) and the proximity of the Amtrak passenger railroad system. CDTA has a daily schedule that includes destinations to local areas such as the Village of Hoosick Falls and the hamlet of Eagle Bridge. CDTA's shuttle bus service provides a direct connection to the City of Troy from various locations in Rensselaer County including the Town of Hoosick. Amtrak's *Maple Leaf* rail system begins in New York City and provides service to Toronto, Canada with daily stops throughout the Empire corridor. However, the nearest train station facility is located in the City of Rensselaer. Greyhound and Adirondack

Trailways service is available in Albany, New York. There is no other bus service available in the Town of Hoosick.

According to the NYSDOT, Official Description of Designated Qualifying and Access Highways in New York State, the following routes are designated as qualifying highways for larger dimension vehicles.

NY Route 7 – (Hoosick Street and Hoosick Road) – 8th Street to the New York-Vermont State line in the City of Troy and the Towns of Brunswick, Pittstown and Hoosick.

NY Route 22 – Western Village of Hoosick Falls line to the eastern end of the NY 7/NY 22 overlap in the Town of Hoosick.

Based on discussions with the Town of Hoosick's Highway Department Superintendent, there are 56 miles of roads that are maintained by the highway department. The highway department has nine (9) full-time employees that do most of the highway maintenance, excluding approximately 50% of the paving, which it contracts out. Among the department's maintenance duties, the highway department mows all roadsides at least three times a year to keep the area clear and provide adequate sight distance for road users.

The highway superintendent expressed his concerns that roads at all levels in the Town require improvement. NYS Routes 67 and 22 in the northern portion of the Town are especially dangerous. These routes are narrow and winding, and can be treacherous during winter months. Many of the Town roads need to be resurfaced. Due to budgetary constraints, the Town has no plans to pave the 15 miles of roads that currently have a dirt surface.

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) have many planned improvements for the routes that intersect the Town of Hoosick. Construction has begun for Phase I of a

cooperative venture involving Vermont and NYSDOT to construct the Bennington Bypass. Phase I involves the connection of NYS Route 7 in the Town of Hoosick to US Route 7 in Bennington Vermont. Phase I construction will include two new bridges, one will span the Dailey Mine access road and the other over the Farmer's Inn Road. The remaining portion for this phase of the contract involves connecting the Vermont State Route 67A to US Route 7 in Bennington Vermont.

Several enhancements to the transportation infrastructure within the Town of Hoosick are planned. These projects are available for funding through CDTC's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Proposed projects are listed below:

- Replacement of the Church Street Bridge over the Hoosic River.
- Resurfacing of a two-mile section of NY Route 22 in the Village of Hoosick Falls.
- Replacement of the NY Route 22 Bridge over the Walloomsac River.
- NY Route 7 bridge replacement.
- Total pavement reconstruction of NY Route 67, from NY Route 22 to the Vermont State line.
- Bridge replacement on Cottrell Road, spanning the Walloomsac River.

The completion of the aforementioned projects and other strategic improvements will provide the community with an improved and overall appealing environment. This will increase tourism and economic development along the corridor.

Bicycle and pedestrian access in the Town of Hoosick is typically provided on the travel lanes, as permitted by the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law. For example, the shoulders on NYS Route 7 are wide enough to accommodate

pedestrians and bicyclists. However, there are no dedicated provisions for bicyclists or pedestrians via separate facilities. Sidewalks are typically located within the majority of the Village of Hoosick Falls. In rural areas of the town, sidewalks are not present due to the sporadic distribution of communities.

Existing Land Use

GENERAL LAND USE PATTERN



*Farm on Johnson Hill Road –
Looking West*

The Town of Hoosick has developed over the years, as a rural community comprised of farmlands, residential centers, and connecting roadways. The general land use pattern consists of farmland and rural residential uses spread over the entire Town, the central village community of Hoosick Falls, and the residential hamlets of Buskirk, Eagle Bridge, Walloomsac, North Hoosick, Hoosick, West Hoosick and Potter Hill scattered at more or less equi-distances around the town. Mixed uses, including residential, commercial, and industrial uses have been developed along the major connecting roads of NYS Route 7, NYS Route 67, and NYS Route 22. The Town contains 1,890 parcels totaling approximately 59.8 square miles or approximately 38,271 acres.

Land use patterns have remained virtually the same over the last 16 years with a small, yet significant increase in commercial and residential uses. Residential uses have increased in the Town as evidenced by the 318 residential building permits reported by the Capital District Regional Planning Corporation. (See discussion in Demographic Features Section). However, these homes are not concentrated in any one area, but are scattered throughout the Town. Some new businesses have been established along NYS Routes 7, 67 and 22.

The description of existing land use patterns represents a snapshot of the Village's current pattern of activities and level of development and is illustrated on the *Town of Hoosick Land Use Map*. This map depicts the general patterns of development in the Town by categorizing each individual land parcel based on how that parcel is coded for full value assessment. The map was prepared from Geographic Information System data that was provided to the Town of Hoosick by Rensselaer County Real Property. The evaluation of the data for the creation of the map is taken from the parcel based Real Property Assessment Database. Accuracy and completeness of this information is not guaranteed. The nine land use categories developed by the New York State Office of Real Property Services are as follows:



Eagle Bridge United Methodist Church

- Agriculture Property used for the production of crops or livestock.
- Residential Property used for human habitation excluding hotels, motels, and apartments.
- Vacant Land Property that is not in use, is in temporary use, or lacks permanent improvement.
- Commercial Property used for the sale of goods or services.
- Recreation & Entertainment Property used by groups for recreation, amusement, or entertainment.
- Community Services Property used for the well being of the community.
- Industrial Property used for the production and fabrication of durable and non-durable man-made goods.
- Public Services Property used to provide services to the general public.
- Wild, Forested, Conservation Lands & Public Parks Reforested lands, preserves, and private hunting and fishing clubs.

Table 13 summarizes land use in the Town by land area and number of parcels.

Table 13: Existing Land Use

Land Use	# Acres	% of total by area	# Parcels
Agricultural	19,572	51.1%	174
Residential	9,612	25.1%	1,140
Vacant Land	5,894	15.4%	428
Wild, Forested, Conservation	1,305	3.4%	10
Commercial	544	1.4%	71
Public Services	510	1.3%	24
Industrial	386	1.0%	8
Community Services	318	0.8%	31
Recreation & Entertainment	130	0.3%	4
TOTAL	38,271	99.80%	1,890

Table 13 above shows a total of 38,271 acres or 59.8 square miles. However, the table does not include acreage covered by roadways or water bodies, nor does it include parcels within the Village of Hoosick Falls. The inclusion of roads and other non-parcel lands brings the total Town landmass to approximately 63 square miles. As identified in the above table, agricultural uses dominate the land use within the Town. The following sections will detail the existing land uses that currently exist in the Town of Hoosick.

AGRICULTURAL



The predominant land use in the Town of Hoosick is agricultural, totaling 19,572 acres or 51.1% of the total acreage. Farms are typically comprised of pasturelands for cattle and horses, fields for hay crop, and wooded areas on hills that are too steep or rocky for crops or grazing. Farms usually have large farmhouses, barns and accessory buildings, and silos. The resulting patchwork of pastures, crops, and forests creates the picturesque scenery immortalized by Grandma Moses, the noted folk artist of rural New York State.

Agricultural Districts

In the Town of Hoosick, Rensselaer County has established three Agricultural Districts, under the NY Agricultural Districts Law (1971) to protect farmland from non-farm development. Agricultural districts provide the framework to limit unreasonable local regulation on farm practices, to limit the acquisition of farmland for public purposes and to protect farmers from nuisance suits with “Right to Farm” provisions. The Agricultural Districts Law also provides for reduced property tax bills for land in agricultural production.

Currently, the three Agricultural Districts (Districts 1, 3 and 4) cover most of the Town as shown on the Agricultural Districts Map, which is included in the Map Section. The Assessor’s Office reports that there are approximately 200 agricultural exemptions currently filed. A tenant, who is actively farming a rented property, as well as a farmer/owner, may file an exemption.

Conversion of Farmland to Residential Uses.

In terms of land area, farming is the most geographically significant industry in the Town of Hoosick. Farmland also provides the basis for the fundamental character of the Town as a rural, scenic area. However, in terms of employment, the number of residents in the rural occupations of agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, mining has fallen from about 150 in 1980 to 88 in 2000 (according to the 2000 census.) As farmers age, children of farmers are seeking other professions for numerous reasons, including economic and lifestyle reasons. Therefore, over the last 16 years, there has been a subtle, yet consistent trend toward the conversion of farmland to residential use.

RESIDENTIAL

Residential uses comprise the second largest land use category in the town, encompassing 9,612 acres or approximately 25.1% of the acreage. Residential uses are divided between the rural residences in farming areas, and the residential buildup in the 7 hamlets.



Typical Victorian home found throughout the Town

VACANT LANDS & NATURAL AREAS

The land use map shows the scattering of residential properties amongst the farmlands. This is the result of a combination of factors. As the 1986 Plan reports, rural residential land uses do not occur in any kind of established pattern. It typically occurs along existing roads, where a farmer chooses to sell off pieces of his less productive land. In addition, as older farmers die, their children may choose to sell the farmland to buyers who wish to establish rural residences on large parcels. Thus, the present rural residential development pattern is a combination of original farmhouses on inactive farms and newly constructed single-family houses on large parcels. Starting in the year 1984, approximately 10 to 40 housing units were constructed each year throughout the Town.

Vacant lands comprise a significant portion of the Town's area and are instrumental in contributing to the rural character and undeveloped beauty of the landscape. Vacant lands, which consist of 5,894 or 15.4% of the acreage, include inactive farmland and parcels with significant development constraints such as wetlands, poor soils, critical habitat, stream courses, rocky outcrops, or steep slopes.

PARKLAND



Bennington Battlefield Visitor's Center

Parkland, including wild or forested land, conservation land and public parks includes two major parks in the Town proper - the Tibbitts State Forest, and the Bennington Battlefield, as well as some minor state and private owned parcels off Route 7. Tibbitts State Forest is a relatively large park, with 893 acres of forested land. In terms of landmass, this park alone comprises 2.3% of the Town's acreage. All lands in this category comprise 1,305 acres or 3.4% of the Town's acreage. This does not include the Town's major sports oriented recreational facilities, the Joseph L. Bruno Community Park, which lies on Town-owned land in the Village of Hoosick Falls.



COMMERCIAL



Potter Hill Barn on Route 7

There are 55 commercially assessed parcels in the Town comprising 544 acres, or 1.4 % of the Town's acreage. Commercial land uses are located primarily along NYS Routes 7, 22 and 69, with a slight increase in intensity around Eagle Bridge, North Hoosick, and Hoosick. Most of the retail development on Routes 22 and 69 serves the local community and provides a variety of stores and services including restaurants, auto shops, car dealerships, hardware stores, nurseries, gas stations, and a bowling alley. The businesses on Route 7, catering to travelers, include gas stations, a Stewart's shop, florists and wayside nurseries, gift shops, and restaurants.

PUBLIC SERVICES

Public Services land uses occupy 510 acres or 1.3% of the Town's acreage. The old landfill, electric power line right of way, and the railroad corridors fall into this category.

INDUSTRIAL



Bennington Paper Board, Inc.

Industrial land use is limited to specific industries along main routes and occupies only 1% of the Town's acreage. The Dailey gravel mine is located at the Vermont border north of Route 7. On Route 69 near Walloomsac, there is a large industrial property that is currently occupied by Bennington Paper Board, Inc.. WCW, a new company that manufactures beds for nursing homes has been opened on Route 7. Other than these few industrial companies, there is no major concentration of industrial uses in the Town.

The other significant industrial uses were located in the Village, which is not included in the Town's acreage. In the Spring of 2003, St. Gobain began an expansion of their plant facility in the Village of Hoosick Falls. The expansion has created 24 additional jobs at the facility. The closing of Isola represents a major loss of employment potential for the Town. The industrial facility, located to the north of the Hudson River, occupies the site of the former Walter A. Wood Mowing and Reaping Machine Company, 1853-1924. The plaque at the site states that at its height, employing nearly 2,000 workers,

COMMUNITY SERVICES

the wood company produced over one million farm machines sold throughout the world.

These uses occupying 318 acres occupy only 0.8% of the Town's acreage. These uses include fire and emergency service stations, schools, churches, nursing homes, hospitals, animal welfare shelters, and community centers.

RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT

Only 130 acres are classified as recreation and entertainment.

DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL



View from Wilson Hill Road to the East

The Town is currently developing as a rural residential community with a central Village for commercial, government, and social functions. One constraint on development is accessibility to employment centers, and the availability of essential services. Although rural, the location of the Town between Bennington, Vermont and the Capital District provides residents with the opportunity to commute to other communities for employment.

The chief asset of the Town is its undeveloped agricultural lands of impressive scenic beauty and panoramic vistas. Newcomers, appreciating the rural setting, may be willing to commute to regional work places. In addition, the local commercial, recreational and social services appear to provide enough diversity to meet most everyday needs.

One land use tool for determining the location of new developing is zoning. Zoning is a tool to regulate the uses, to which property may be developed, the siting of development on land, and the density of development. The zoning ordinance divides the whole community into separate districts, or zones, in which properties are subject to a uniform set of development regulations.

Zoning is a growth management tool that is helpful in preventing land use conflicts. For instance, if new large lot, upscale housing is encouraged by the Town, newcomers may want some assurance that undesirable uses cannot locate next to their home.

Another factor in limiting the intensity of development is the restrictive condition of the soils and topography, which are conducive to the use of septic systems. Additionally, the location of a main aquifer along Route 22 severely restricts the use of septic systems in this area. The Town will have to make some decisions regarding the provision of public sanitary sewers if any type of high intensity development is to occur in the Town. The Town now has the opportunity to decide the amount, type, and location of new development.

Public Opinion

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

The foundation of a good Comprehensive Plan is the incorporation of public input early and often throughout the development of the document. Visualizing a future for the Town of Hoosick is an intensive and integral component of the Plan. It requires the input of the Town's elected and appointed leaders, business owners, and residents to provide a basis for the development of coordinated goals and objectives. To facilitate this, the Town of Hoosick has both created a broad based Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee and developed a Comprehensive Community Outreach Program aimed at incorporating varying levels of public participation throughout the planning process.

Recognizing the importance of public involvement, the Town of Hoosick sought methods of community outreach beyond simply inviting the public to the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee meetings. Several opportunities for community outreach were afforded to the residents, including: community surveys, a community S.W.O.T. Analysis workshop where Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats were identified, articles in The Bennington Banner newspaper, The Eagle, and the Eastwick Press. Both draft and final Comprehensive Plan presentations given at public meetings.

S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS *Strengths* *Weaknesses* *Opportunities* *Threats*

After the initial committee meetings, the public was invited to participate in an exercise called a S.W.O.T analysis. A S.W.O.T analysis is a method for describing a community in terms of its Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. Essentially, the participants discussed and listed those factors that have the most impact on the community. The Strengths are characteristics of the community that allow it to take advantage of opportunities or reduce the impact of barriers. Weaknesses are characteristics that could stand in the way of the community's taking advantage of opportunities. Opportunities are factors that allow the community to take action or encourage something to be done. Threats are factors

that stand in the way of a community's efforts to get something done.

A S.W.O.T analysis is an easy, understandable way of identifying the key issues and communicating them to others. The aim of a S.W.O.T analysis is to identify the critical issues in any situation and to organize them in a way that enables a community to come up with a sound strategic approach. The approach should enable you to do the following:

- Build on **Strengths**
- Minimize **Weaknesses**
- Seize **Opportunities**
- Counter **Threats**

To identify strengths of the community the group facilitator asks a series of questions. What does your community do well? What distinct advantages does your community offer? Why do residents enjoy living in the community?

To identify weaknesses of the community the group facilitator asks: What could be improved about the community? What stumbling blocks does the community continue to encounter? What do other communities do better than yours?

To identify opportunities the group facilitator asks: What needs are not being met by the community that are being met by other municipalities. How can the community meet these needs and improve the community?

To identify threats to the community, the group facilitator asks: What are the obvious obstacles in your way, both potential and actual? What are neighboring communities doing that might cause negative impacts on your community?

The participants at the S.W.O.T public meeting were given a blank form in which to list Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. The participants broke into four groups and worked together to fill in the blanks, discussing

issues relating to land use, physical and environmental resources, community and municipal resources, historical and cultural resources, and recreational and educational resources.

S.W.O.T Analysis Final Results

After about one hour, the four separate groups joined to discuss their results. A speaker for each group reported what they had listed as strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. The following is the results of the S.W.O.T analysis with all of the responses given. The top three issues/items for strengths and weaknesses are ranked from 1-3 in order of importance. In the opportunities and threats categories, the top three or four issues were judged to be of equal importance.

Strengths

1. Scenic beauty.
2. Agricultural base & resources.
3. Location (nearness to Vermont, the Capital District, and Saratoga.

Other strengths that were mentioned by at least one person are as follows:

- Medical/EMS Service, Fire, Doctors, Health Center.
- Architectural, Historical, and Cultural Resources.
- Youth recreation.
- Amenities of rural area.
- Educational opportunities.
- Diversity.
- Small town support network.
- Quality of life.
- Pride in town culture and rich history.
- Commercial properties to be filled.
- Continuing higher education.
- Schools.
- Good government.
- Family resource center.
- History.

- Recreational facilities.
- People.
- Roads/crew.

Weaknesses

1. Public schools.
2. Lack of Land Planning.
3. Loss of Employment Opportunities/Loss of industry.

Other weaknesses that were mentioned by at least one person are as follows:

- Declining agriculture industry.
- Public transportation.
- Non-owner occupied housing.
- Availability of water for manufacturing.
- No defined area for economic development.
- Billboards.
- Absentee landlords in village.
- No art programs /activities.
- Communication network telephone wire.
- No retail.
- Apathy for government.

Opportunities

1. Preserving open space, land conservation/greenbelt.
2. Expanding the economic base (farming, tourism, jobs in all sectors).
3. Land planning to direct growth, including zoning controls.
4. Improving schools.

Other opportunities that were mentioned by at least one person are as follows:

- To market local agriculture.
- Take advantage of proximity to Capital District.
- No major blight.
- Work force that is trained and dependable.
- Cultivation of the arts.
- Designation as part of the Empire Zone.
- Capitalization on natural beauty / seasons / river / bike path.
- American Farmland Trust conservation easements.
- More programs for youth.
- Development.
- Hoosic River/Walloomsac.
- Wood Block Building.
- Rte 22 improvement.

Threats

1. Unregulated & unplanned growth, vulnerable to unwanted land uses.
2. Loss of working farms & prime agricultural land. External threats to agriculture businesses.
3. Big city problems (drugs, high school problems, family problems).

Other threats that were mentioned by at least one person are as follows:

- Non – owner occupied housing.
- Eroded employment opportunities.
- Capital improvements need repairs/upgrades.

“VISIONING” PUBLIC MEETING

- Lack of parental supervision and involvement in school and community.
- Low income housing.
- Zoning.
- Loss of historic sites & buildings.
- Gas pipeline.
- Billboards.

After the SWOT meeting, the Advisory Committee decided to hold an additional meeting to solicit the public’s vision for the future of the Town and to “brainstorm” ideas on how to realize those visions. Project consultants presented a short PowerPoint presentation on issues surrounding each of the key development areas discussed below. Approximately 25 residents attended the meeting and worked in small groups to deal with one of the key development areas and brainstorm about concerns, recommended goals or specific actions to be taken. The groups worked with large maps, large posters that duplicated the slide show, and colored markers to provide a variety of means of expression. After the brainstorming session, the groups reconvened to present the ideas from each group. A short summary is given below, while a complete listing of all points raised is included in Appendix B.

Land Use and Zoning

The Land Use and Zoning group thought that land use and future development should be controlled by some type of regulations – possibly simple zoning regulations, revised subdivision regulations or other types of land use regulations. They thought that new development should be kept close to the Village, although small businesses should be encouraged throughout the Town. An industrial park is recommended just north of the Village.

Environment

The Environmental group felt that agricultural lands and key scenic areas and viewsheds should be protected. Conservation

easements, the purchase of development rights, the continuations of agricultural districts, land use planning including conservation subdivision regulations, and the efficient delivery of Town services should all be used to protect and preserve natural and agricultural areas. They called for programs to raise community awareness of the impact of development on agricultural lands.

Historic & Cultural Resources

Identifying and mapping resources throughout the Town and promoting the resources regionally was the focus of discussion for this group.

Transportation & Traffic

No major transportation or traffic problems have been identified. The group thought there should be more transportation provided for special groups like the elderly, and that there should be more transit options for commuters to Capital District. Specific problematic traffic locations were pinpointed such as the connection to Route 7 bypass and the intersection at Hill Road and Route 7.

Municipal Services

The group thought that municipal services should be expanded to support new development, but that development should be encouraged as close to the Village as possible. They felt that no development should be permitted in agricultural lands.

Emergency Services

The group thought that the Town cannot afford to pay staff at present. They felt that one of the obstacles to recruiting more fire and emergency staff was the very long and rigorous training that volunteers had to go through. They would like to see lower qualifications based on differing jobs (such as drivers) and felt that New York State should be contacted and lobbied for a different training system.

Housing

The development of housing is closely related to land use issues. The group thought that some type of restrictions are needed, and that it was important to preserve a significant percentage of the Town's land as greenspace.

Parks & Recreation

Economic Development

Main ideas for new recreational venues are riverfront development for recreation including hiking/biking paths and boat launch. Old railroad beds and areas along Route 7 should be developed with trails also. More art and music programs for teenagers were suggested.

Promotion of the town for economic development should use the assets of the Town such as its beauty, history, and small Town charm. Some ideas were to bring in new shops - jewelry, bookstore, museum gift shops, and craft stores in conjunction with existing museums. Craft lessons and lectures should be offered as well.

COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL SURVEY

A Community Residential Survey was distributed to every household in the Town (approximately 2,620 households.) The purpose of the broad distribution was to afford the majority of people in the Town the opportunity to participate in the planning process. The combination of different perspectives, experiences, opinions, backgrounds and talents seems to be the “unlocking” mechanism which opens more opportunities for a successful plan - a plan that represents what the community has collaboratively created, and one that focuses on a common vision that can be achieved.

Approximately 290 written surveys were returned to the Town, resulting in a return rate of 11%. Responses to the survey were tabulated, illustrated as charts, and presented to the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee. A copy of the survey and the actual results of all the survey questions can be found in Appendix B. The following provides the highlights of the community residential survey.

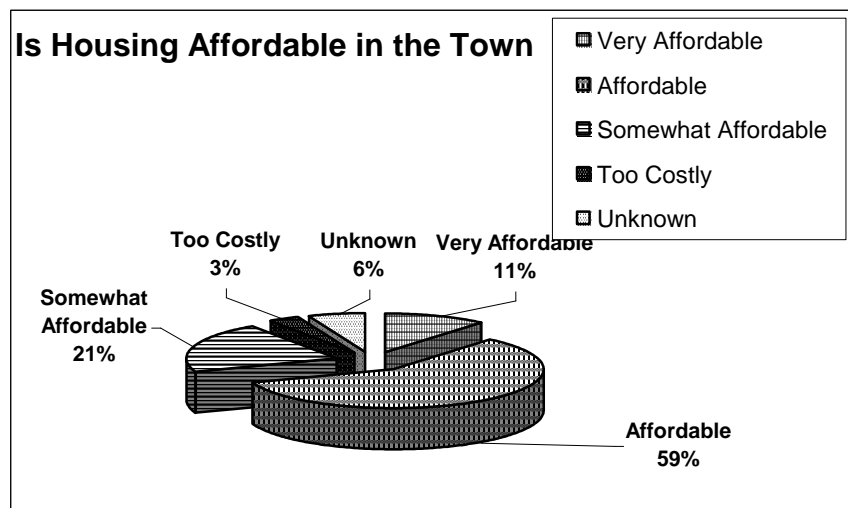
Quality of Life

Quality of life issues can be defined as the many elements of daily living that are the forefront of everyday existence: how one enjoys, experiences, and is affected by ones surroundings, systems and interactions. Being satisfied with the elements, which most frequently and personally touch our lives, will usually produce a favorable rating of quality of life. The

results of the Community Residential Survey reflect this satisfaction, as respondents generally feel that they live in a nice, safe, affordable place.

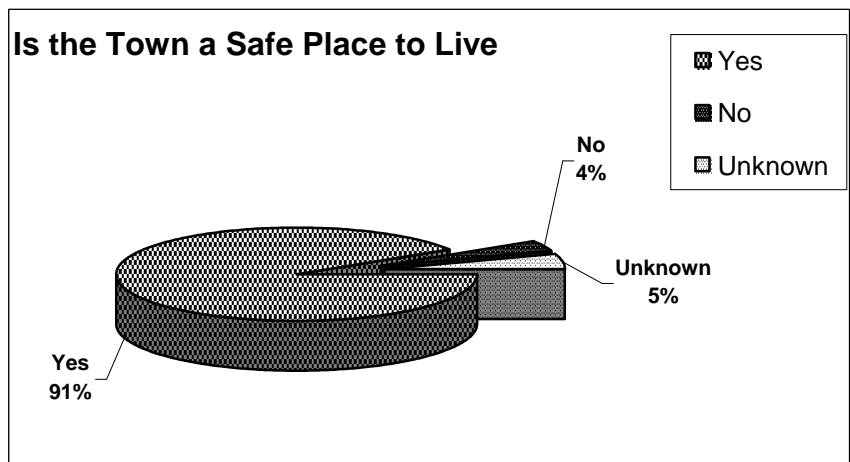
When asked to rate the Town as a place to live, 57% of the respondents stated that the Town is a good place to live, 10% thought it was an excellent place to live, 28% reported it as fair, and a mere 4% of those surveyed rated the Town as poor. In addition, 59% of the respondents commented that they thought housing was affordable in the Town (Figure 8), and an astounding 91% thought that the Town was a safe place live (Figure 9).

Figure 8: Is Housing Affordable in the Town



Source: 2003 Residential Survey

Figure 9: Is the Town a Safe Place to Live



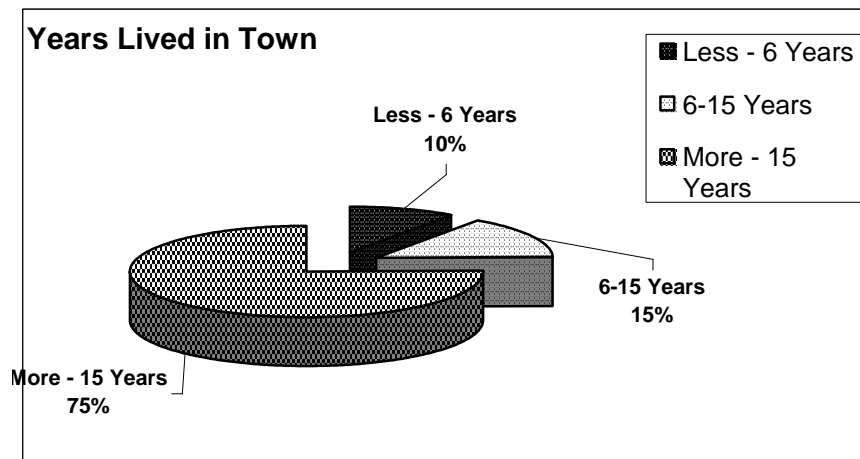
Source: 2003 Residential Survey

Long-time Residents

Of the population surveyed, seventy-five percent (75%) of the respondents reported to having lived in the Town for more than 15 years, fifteen percent (15%) said that they had lived in the Town for 6-15 years and ten percent 10% for less than 6 years. With over $\frac{1}{4}$ of those responding having lived in the Town for six (6) or more years (perhaps for many others, a life-time), the responses from the survey reflected much of the quality of life and sense of place issues that “rooted” individuals have. (See Figure 10)

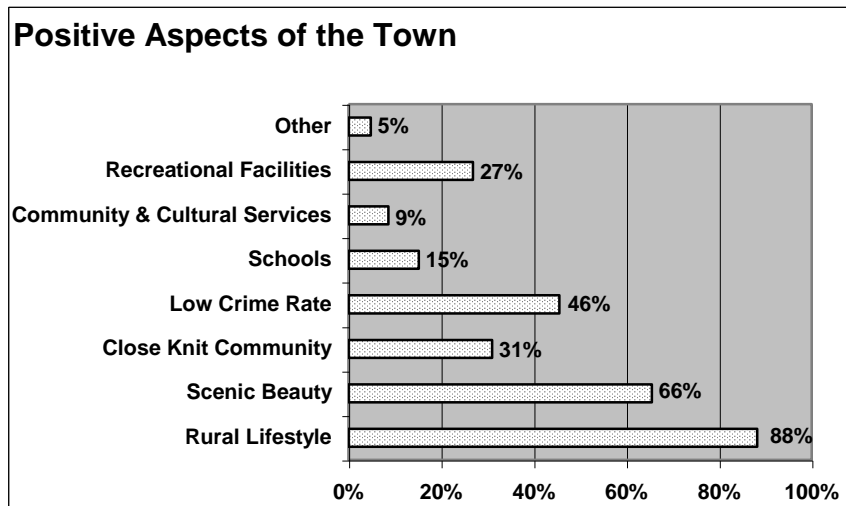
The results of the Community Residential Survey show that, in general, people choose to live in the Town of Hoosick because of its’ rural lifestyle, its’ friendly neighbors, scenic beauty, safe streets and many other positive aspects of Town life. Nevertheless, some minor criticisms were noted such as the lack of job and shopping opportunities. Overall, the assessment and ratings were mostly positive.

Figure 10: Years Lived in Town



Source: 2003 Residential Survey

Figure 11: Positive Aspects of the Town

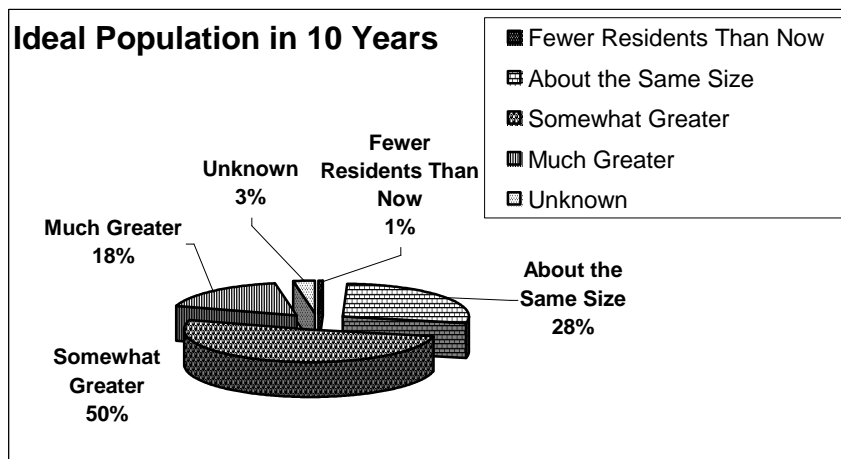


Source: 2003 Residential Survey

Attitude Toward Growth

When asked about future growth and looking ahead to the *Ideal Population for the Town in 10 years*, 28% said that they wanted the population to stay about the same and 50% said the Town should grow somewhat. There were those who thought the Town could stand to grow much greater (18%) and some (1%) wishing that there were even fewer residents than there are now. Those that answered unknown (3%) are probably comfortable with the size of the Town and not very sure how growth would affect this comfort level. (Figure 12)

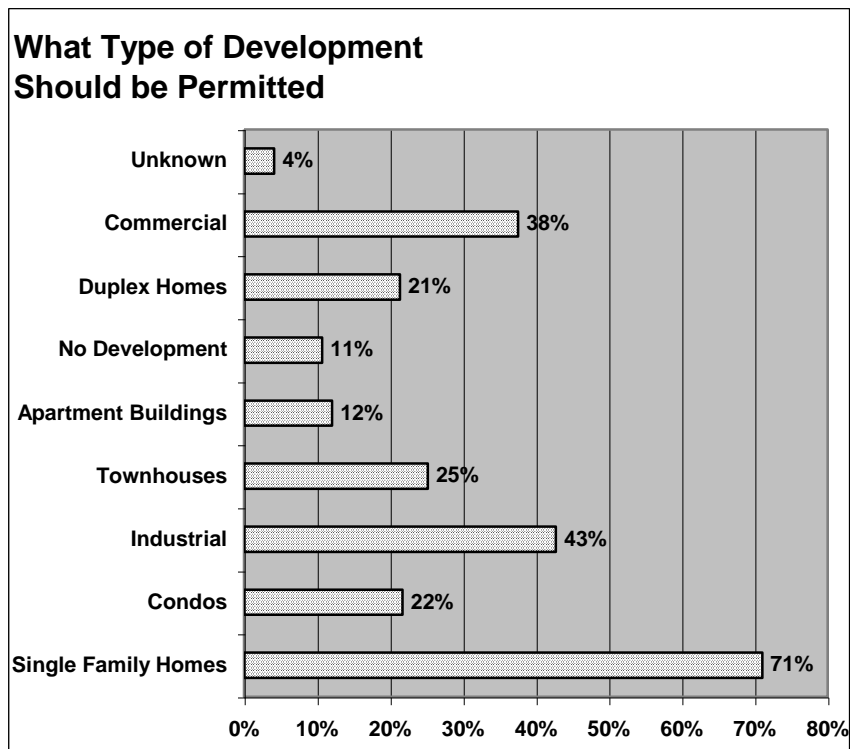
Figure 12: Ideal Population of Town in 10 Years



Source: 2003 Residential Survey

While the respondents are divided on perceptions of the “*Ideal Population*”, they agree on the type of development that should occur on undeveloped land in the Town. A large majority (71%) of the residents surveyed, stated that future growth on undeveloped land should be residential in nature (Figure 13). Forty-three percent (43%), a significant portion of the population, would like to see industrial development, with 38% of responders wanting commercial development. Of all the residents surveyed 25% thought that townhouses should be permitted to be developed and a mere 4% were unknown. This shows that the residents of the community would prefer residential development but there are those that would like to see industrial development that would provide job opportunities and tax revenue to the Town.

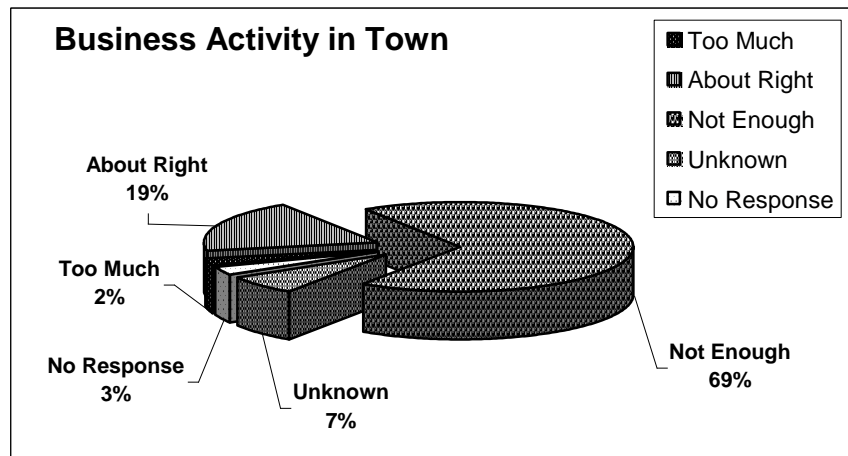
Figure 13: What Type of Development Should be Permitted



Source: 2003 Residential Survey

When asked about the current level of business activity in the Town, a majority (69%) of the respondents thought there was *not enough* business in the Town, 19% said it was *just about right*, two surveys were returned indicating *too much* activity, and only 7% responded, *unknown* (Figure 14 below). Types of new business that were expressed as wanted and needed were: a clothing store, grocery store, industrial/manufacturing services, a general store, and restaurants. All of these businesses would benefit the community with the creation of jobs and providing the Town with goods and services. With these businesses coming to Town, it will also encourage the purchasing of certain goods and services that otherwise may be purchased out of the Town.

Figure 14: Business Activity in Town

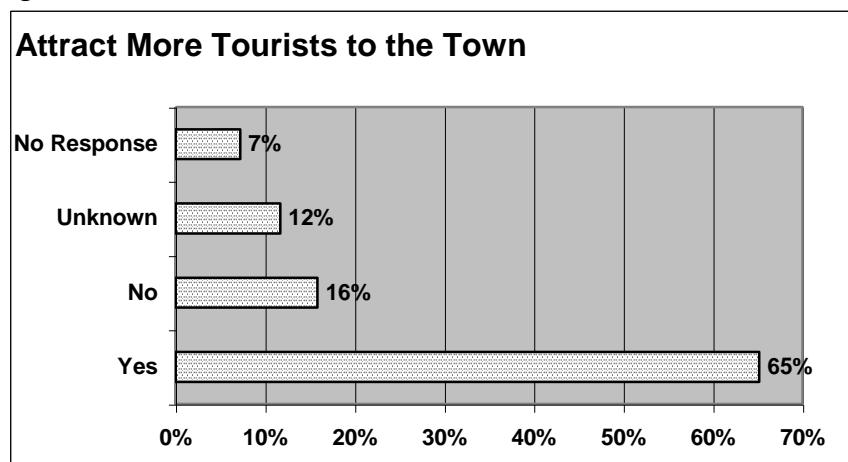


Source: 2003 Residential Survey

The Community Residential Survey questioned if more tourists should be attracted to the Town. Sixty-five percent (65%) of the respondents answered yes, and 16% answered no, (12% were tallied as unknown). (Figure 15) With 2/3 of all those surveyed indicating that tourism should be promoted and encouraged, it is evident that residents understand the positive affects of tourism. Tourism could lead to the creation of new tourist serving jobs and the collection of more revenue for the community. With an influx of tourism, it is safe to assume that many of the empty storefronts of “Main Street” could be retrofitted to meet the needs of tourists, with opportunities for dinning, specialty souvenir shops, and lodging accommodations.

Since the Village provides local job opportunities for Town residents, an increase in tourism would benefit Town residents who prefer jobs closer to home. Moreover, an increase of economic activities in the Village would lead to increased business for Town firms who provide goods and services to Village businesses.

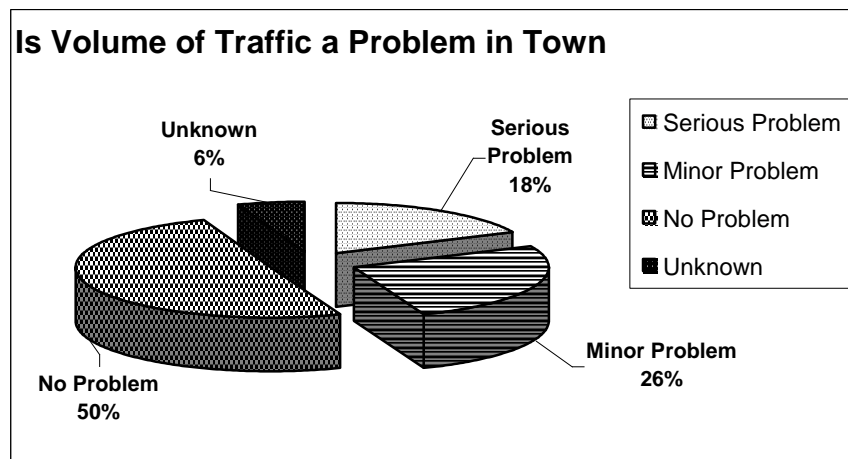
Figure 15: Attract More Tourists to the Town



Source: 2003 Residential Survey

When asked if the volume of traffic in the Town was a problem, most survey respondents stated it was *not a problem* or a *minor problem*. We might assume that nearly 80% of the respondents do not see traffic in the Town as a major problem at all, or that the respondents are possibly pedestrians or drivers who experience worse parking and traffic conditions elsewhere in comparison. (Figure 16) A small amount of the respondents (18%) believes that traffic is a serious problem and only 6% answered unknown. Some of the respondents to the survey believe that certain areas within the Town have traffic problems but not throughout the entire Town.

Figure 16: Is Volume of Traffic a Problem in Town



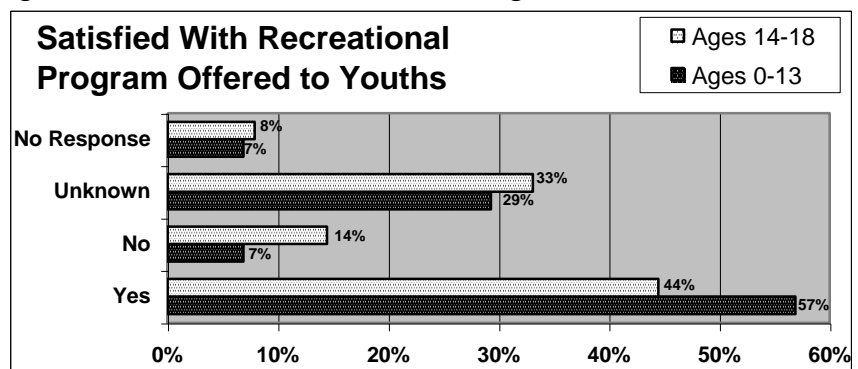
Source: 2003 Residential Survey

Recreation

As in most communities, recreational resources are valued amenities that contribute greatly to the overall quality of life. The Town of Hoosick is no exception. Survey questions, which attempted to reveal the satisfaction level of recreation options in the community, were answered in the following manner. Approximately 56% of the survey respondents were satisfied with recreation programs for youth ages 0-13; and 6% were not. All others were unsure or did not respond to the question. For the age group of 14-18 about 44% are satisfied with the recreational programs and 14% were not while the remaining were unknown or did not respond. This age group drew more *no* and *unknown* answers than the younger group.

Of the respondents, 42% thought there was a need for more recreational programs for adults and 30% did not, (Figure 17). The most frequently requested additional amenity for the Town's recreational facilities or programs was bikeways and hiking trails. Other popular wants/needs listed were, picnic areas, indoor and outdoor athletic facilities, more parks and miniature golf.

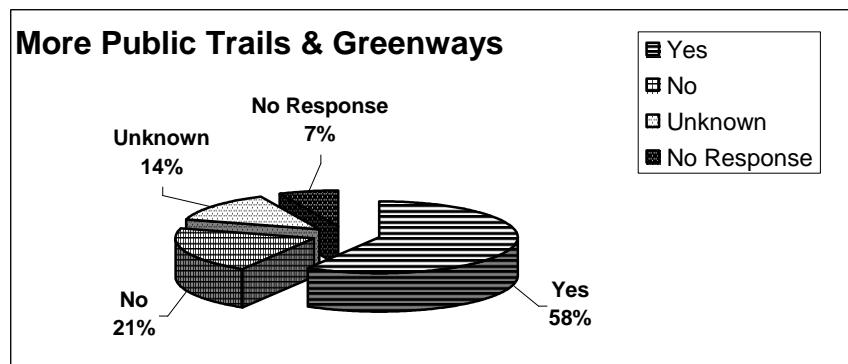
Figure 17: Satisfied With Recreational Programs Offered to Youths



Source: 2003 Residential Survey

Open space protection usually yields more opportunity for recreational activities (active and passive) especially in natural settings like open fields, wooded areas and waterfronts. More than half of all survey respondents indicated that there was a need for more greenways and public trails. If additional greenways and public trails were created, not only would Town residents benefit from these amenities, but they would also serve non-resident recreation enthusiasts. (Figure 18)

Figure 18: More Public Trails & Greenways

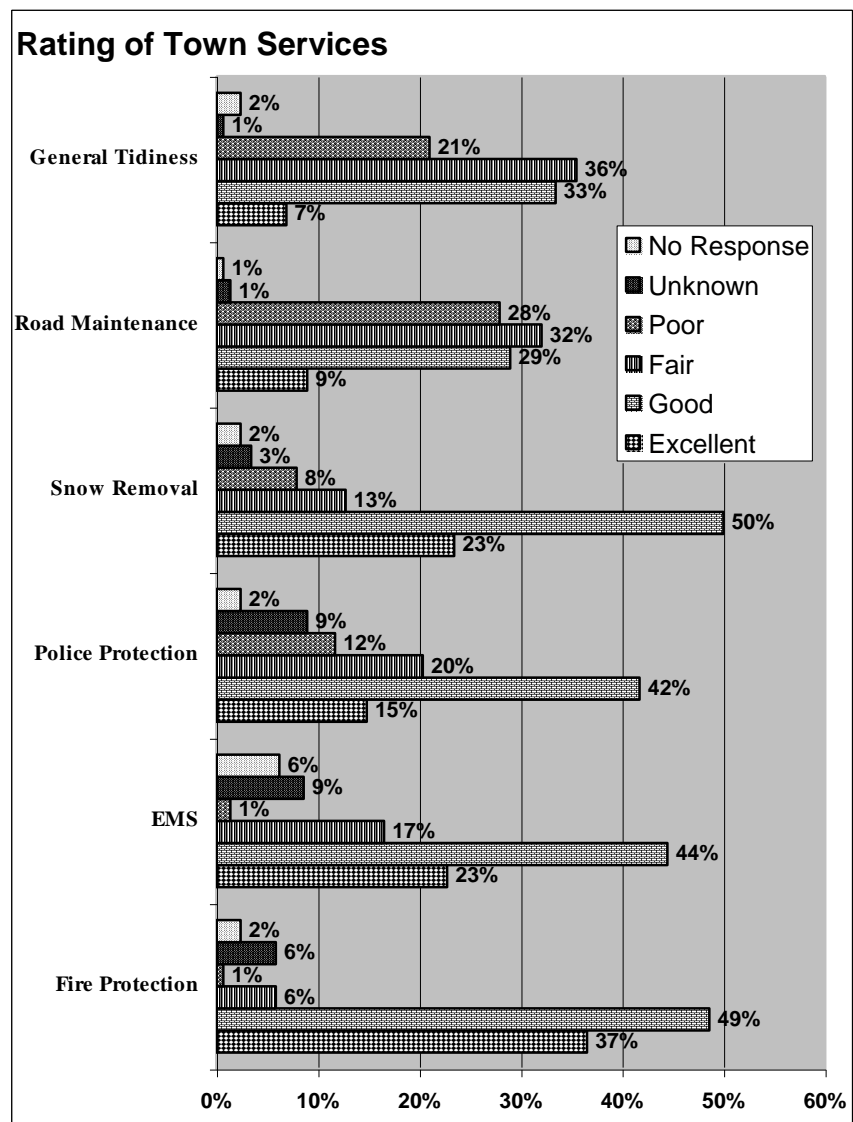


Source: 2003 Residential Survey

Town Services

The Town services are an important function of any municipality. These services provide for the protection of the residents and community, upkeep of the Town and snow removal. As Figure 19 below shows, fire protection, EMS, police protection and snow removal received the most excellent and good ratings. The services that drew the fairest responses were the road maintenance (32%) and general tidiness services (36%) respectively.

Figure 19: Rating of Town Services

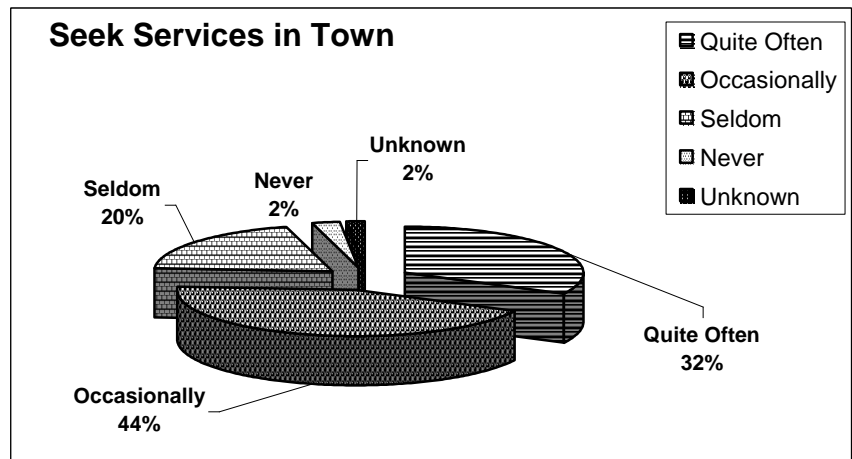


Source: 2003 Residential Survey

Economic Factors

An important question is whether the Town provides the necessary goods and services to the residents. The responses shown in Figure 20 below will show whether the residents spend their money in the Town or outside of Town. When the residents spend their money in Town, it provides local revenue and support for the businesses. The respondents of the survey stated that 44% occasionally shop or seek services in Town and 32% responded quite often, while 20% said seldom.

Figure 20: How Often Do You Seek Services in the Town

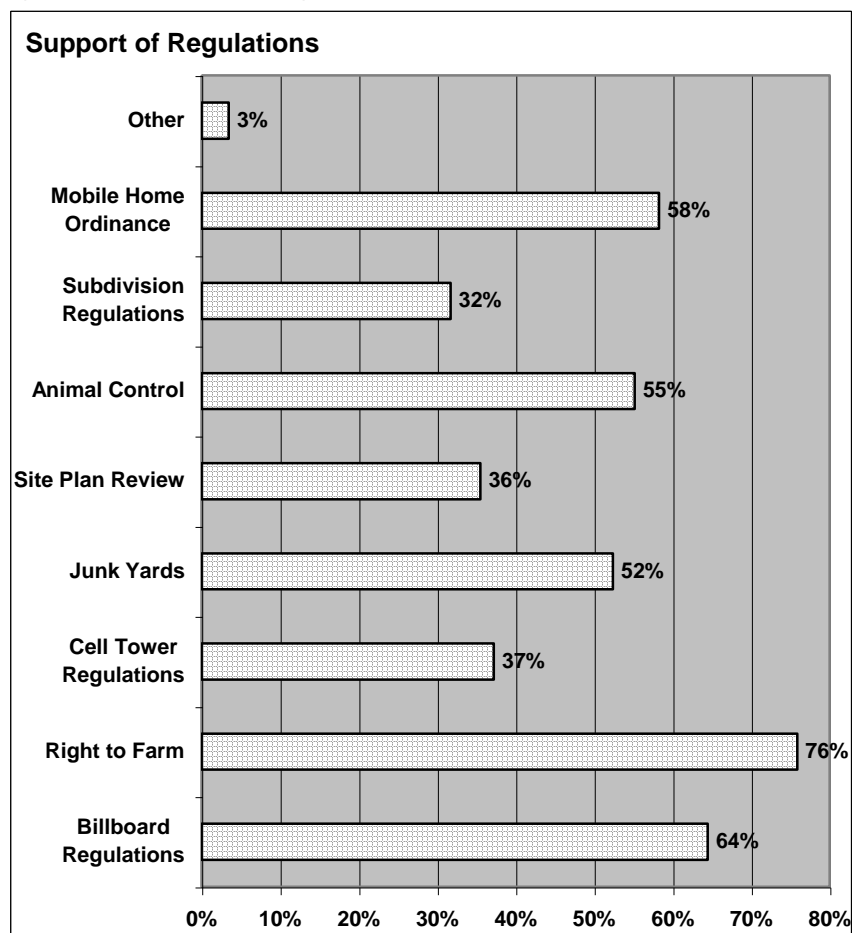


Source: 2003 Residential Survey

Town Planning

Town Planning is an integral part of the Town government; it provides the community with the chance to improve the Town, attracts more residents and provides regulations that will protect the residents and properties. Out of the all the survey respondents (Figure 21 below), the majority (76%) believed that the right to farm is an important regulation to support. In addition to the right to farm regulation, many residents support billboard regulations (64%), mobile home ordinances (58%), animal control (55%) and junk yard regulations (52%). These regulations provide the community with an organized, controlled and aesthetically pleasing neighborhood to live in.

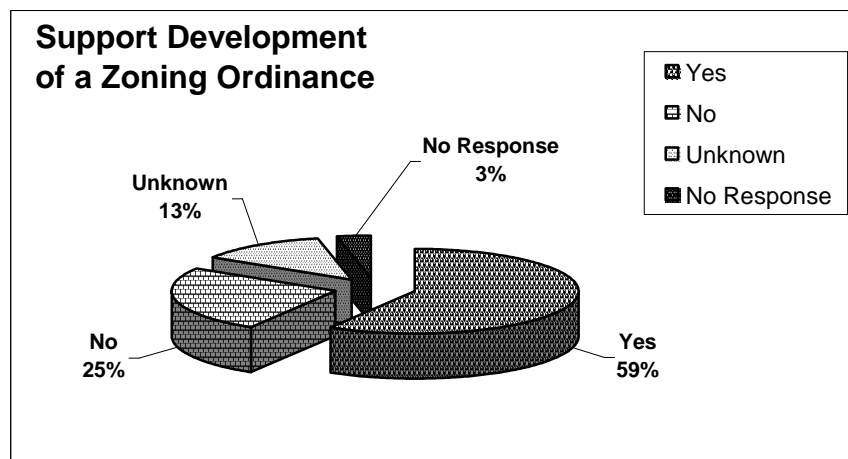
Figure 21: Support of Regulations



Source: 2003 Residential Survey

A zoning ordinance is a powerful tool that the Town of Hoosick recommended in the 1986 Comprehensive Plan. The regulations in the zoning ordinance could contain requirements that would concern land use, setbacks, landscape buffering, and open space. For the residents that responded to the survey (Figure 22 below), the majority (59%) said they would support the development of a zoning ordinance and 25% stated that they would not. The residents that responded no and unknown (13%) to this question may not understand the positive aspects of how a zoning ordinance can improve the Town. The public will have opportunities to learn and give input before the development of a zoning ordinance.

Figure 22: Support Development of a Zoning Ordinance

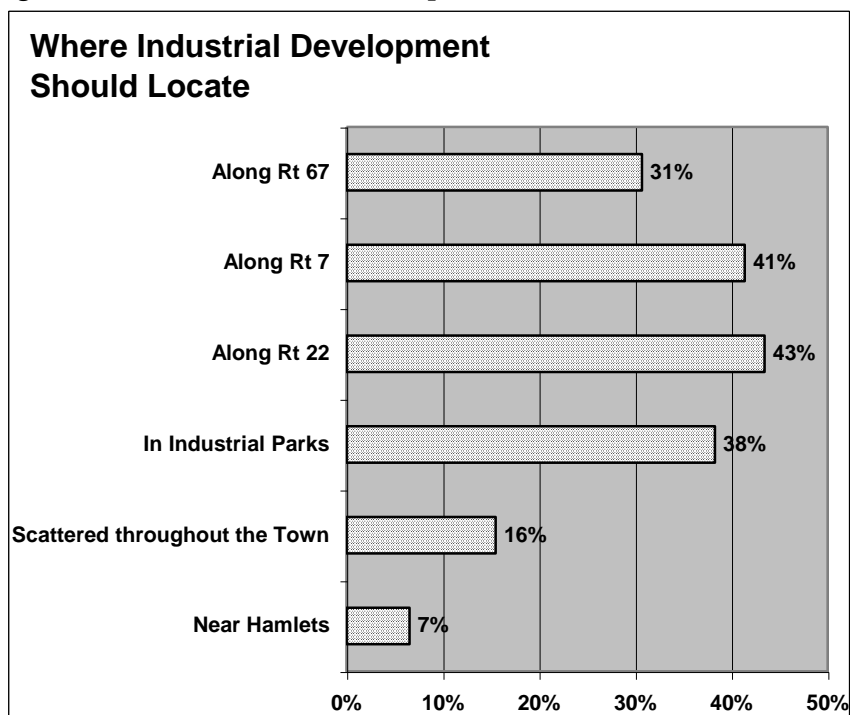


Source: 2003 Residential Survey

The 1986 Hoosick Comprehensive Plan included several other recommendations. The survey asked the residents about recommendations for the location of future commercial, residential, and industrial development and the protection of agriculture lands. Of all survey respondents, 54% stated that they would like to see commercial development along Route 22 and 44% stated that Route 7 would be the preferred location of commercial development. The majority of the responses to where residential development should be located was scattered throughout the Town (46%) and only 18% stated that residential development should be located near hamlets.

The responses for the question “Where would you prefer to see industrial development?” featured four areas with high responses. Along Route 22 drew the most responses with 43% followed closely by Route 7 with 41% and industrial park with 38%. From Figure 23 below, the areas that received the least amount of responses for industrial development was “scattered throughout the Town” and “near hamlets”

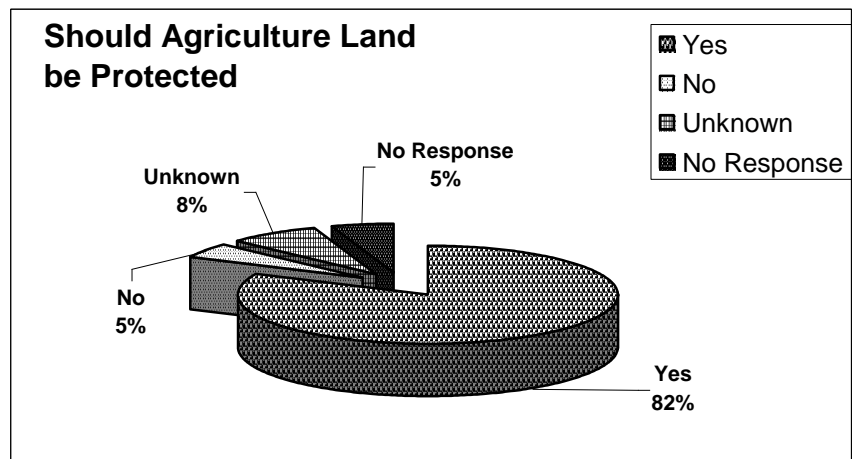
Figure 23: Where Industrial Development Should Locate



Source 2003 Residential Survey

Another recommendation of the 1986 Hoosick Comprehensive plan was that agriculture resources should be protected. The resident's responses to these questions were overwhelming, 82% stated that - *yes*, and efforts are needed to protect agriculture lands (Figure 24, below). The remaining responses, 5% stated no, 8%, where unknown and the rest did not respond to the question. The outcome of this questions shows that the Town would have a significant amount of support in recommending that agricultural land be protected.

Figure 24: Should Agriculture Land be Protected



Source: 2003 Residential Survey

III. ISSUES, GOALS, & RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

The Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Update was undertaken in 2002 to assess the current conditions in the community, to reconsider the Town's goals set forth in the 1986 *Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan*, and to update Town goals in light of current conditions and public opinion. Through a series of public meetings and a residential survey, the Town discovered that public opinion supports the goals in the 1986 *Comprehensive Plan* and calls for several new goals regarding future development and the protection of the Town's resources. The Town has therefore determined that the following goals are necessary and desirable in the first decade of the 21st century.

- Goal 1: Preserve and enhance the existing rural character of Town while accommodating a balanced mix of recreational, residential, industrial, commercial, agricultural, and industrial uses.**
- Goal 2: Preserve, enhance, and promote cultural and historic resources.**
- Goal 3: Maintain or improve the transportation network in the Town.**
- Goal 4: Provide public facilities to support development in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.**
- Goal 5: Continue to provide quality emergency services.**
- Goal 6: Provide safe affordable housing to all residents of the Town in appropriate development locations.**
- Goal 7: Maintain and enhance current parks and recreational facilities and explore options for creating new ones.**
- Goal 8: Support economic development in the commercial, industrial, and agricultural sectors.**

Goal 9 Protect Farmlands as a Valuable Natural Resource and Strengthen Farm Viability and the Agricultural Economy.

Land Use and Zoning

GOAL 1

Preserve and enhance the existing rural character of Town while accommodating a balanced mix of recreational, residential, commercial, agricultural, and industrial uses.

The rural pattern of development, comprised of a patchwork of farms, open fields, woodlands, and hamlets is the landscape cherished by the Town residents and celebrated in the paintings of Grandma Moses. Currently 51% of the land is agricultural. However, farmland is being sold for residential uses, which gradually decreases the amount of farmland and creates residential sprawl throughout the Town. There are currently no regulations regarding the location of new development, although the site plan review process checks the internal plan of each new project. Moreover, residential uses and the Town's rural lands in general are not protected from the development of new undesirable uses such as gravel mines, ATV circuits, or pornography stores.

The 1986 Comprehensive Plan

"Preserving the Rural Character of the Town" was one of the six main goals in the 1986 Comprehensive Plan. The plan identified the need to provide for a continuation of the diversity in the Town by encouraging a pattern that builds on the strength of the existing pattern rather than imposing a sprawl or corridor pattern of development, which might diminish the unique characteristics of the community.

The 1986 Comprehensive Plan recommended the development of a zoning ordinance to control visual quality in the Town. These regulations could contain requirements concerning land use, setback, landscape buffering, and open space

Public Opinions

When asked in the Residential Survey to identify the positive aspects of the Town, residents chose the rural lifestyle as the most important feature of the Town. During the first public meeting to identify the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) to the Town, participants identified land planning to direct growth as one of the Town's three top

opportunities. This was in agreement with the number-one threat of unregulated and unplanned growth, and vulnerability to unwanted land uses. At the second public meeting, at which participants “brainstormed” in order to create a vision for the Town, several land-use recommendations were made. These included the possible use of simple zoning regulations, use of site plan review to control growth, keeping development close to the Village of Hoosick Falls, encouraging businesses through the Town, and finding a good location near the Village for a light industrial park. Land use planning tools include clustered subdivisions, identifying good areas for housing and using town services efficiently to service new development were also mentioned.

When asked in the Residential Survey if they would support the development of a Zoning Ordinance, 59% of the residents said Yes, 25% said No and 16% gave either no response or did not know. Seventy percent of respondents favored home-based offices in residential neighborhoods.

To ensure that the housing, economic, and recreational needs of the residents are met, and that property taxes are kept reasonable for existing and future residents, a balanced yet conservative land use pattern is recommended. The Concept Map included in the Map Section, showing the location of desired land uses, is based on the recommendations in the 1986 Comprehensive Plan, current public opinion, and environmental considerations. The following objectives and actions are recommended to safeguard the rural character of the Town while providing opportunity for residential and economic growth.

Objectives

- To prevent sprawl and facilitate cost effective provision of infrastructure and of services, future residential, commercial and industrial development should be contiguous to existing development in the Village of Hoosick Falls, the hamlets in the Town, and along Routes 22 and Route 7.

- To protect the agricultural land and the scenic beauty of the area, development is discouraged in the Agricultural Districts. If any development is permitted, conservation subdivisions are recommended. This requirement can be stipulated in the Subdivision Regulations.
- To protect the water resources of the Town, development over the Town's aquifer and the Hoosic and Walloomsac Rivers (along Route 22 and Route 67) should be allowed only upon the provision of sanitary sewers.
- To prevent sprawl and encroachment on agricultural and vacant land, scattered development of any type is discouraged and should only be permitted if there is extreme hardship or other kind of extenuating circumstance demonstrated.
- To protect the Town's land and water resources, land uses are encouraged that are "clean" and have few environmental impacts, and land uses that put the Town environment at risk are discouraged.
- To protect the visual character and view sheds of scenic roads, a scenic corridor status should be given to certain Town roads, including Route 22, Wilson Hill Road and Route 67 from Vermont border to Delaney's in North Hoosick, and Johnson Hill Road. These scenic roads can be protected through land use regulations such as site plan review, subdivision regulations, corridor design guidelines, and zoning regulations. If the Town develops zoning regulations, these roads could become an overlay scenic corridor district.
- To encourage economic development, home-based businesses should be allowed in residential neighborhoods. However, if expansion is undertaken, the appearance of the building and business signs should be considered in the site review and building permit process, so that new commercial uses are compatible in character with the rural setting.

Recommended Actions

1. Consider amendments to the current Subdivision Regulations and Site Plan Review Law to protect the natural and built environment in the Town. Require that subdivisions in rural areas be of the conservation subdivision type, having clustered development and planned open spaces. Require development that is proposed along scenic highways to be compatible with the rural characteristic of the Town in terms of scale, visual character, and setting in the landscape.
2. Consider the development of a Zoning Ordinance to regulate future development in the Town. The Zoning Ordinance should stipulate districts based on the recommended land use in this plan and provide for the protection of the Town's agricultural, environmental, economic, cultural, and historic resources. The Zoning Ordinance should contain regulations to ensure compatible and quality development in each district.
3. Work with the surrounding Towns and Village of Hoosick Falls to ensure that future development serves the needs of the region in providing a balanced mix of agricultural, residential, recreational, commercial and industrial uses for the welfare of the residents and the protection of the Town's resources.

Historic & Cultural Resources

GOAL 2

Preserve, enhance, and promote cultural and historic resources.

Historic structures and locations play a significant role in defining the Town's character and identity. Preservation and promotion of these resources are very important to maintaining the unique identity of the Town and creating a tourism industry.

The 1986 Comprehensive Plan

There was no goal specified for Historic and Cultural Resources in the 1986 Comprehensive Plan.

Public Opinion

When asked about the importance in preserving the historic nature of the Town, 31% of the respondents to the Residential Survey thought it was important, and 60% of the respondents thought it was very important.

Objectives

- To safeguard, enhance and promote the historic and cultural resources for the enjoyment of the current and future generations.
- To build community pride and sense of identity.
- To safeguard, enhance, and promote the historic cultural resources as part of an economic strategy to build a tourism industry in the Town.

Recommended Actions

1. Identify and map all historic and cultural resources.
2. Nominate historic structures that are not on the National Register of Historic Places for historic designation.
3. Create an historical center for visitors to receive information on historic sites and related community events. The old Saint Mary's building could be redeveloped as a visitor's center.
4. Build interest of Town's residents in historic and cultural resources through events such as tours, open house, concerts, and festivals.

5. Identify sources of funding for restoration and marketing activities.
6. Restore and enhance currently designated historic structures.
7. Form an historical resources group whose purpose is to identify, acquire, maintain, and preserve historic sites.
8. Hold seminars and workshops for owners of historic properties and/or properties that would be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Owners could be advised of funding sources, regulations regarding historic structures and own responsibilities.
9. Include historic and cultural resources in comprehensive marketing program for the Town.

Transportation

GOAL 3

Maintain or improve the transportation network in the Town.

Transportation issues were not a main focus for stakeholders and committee members. Except for managing Route 22 traffic through the Village of Hoosick Falls, the current road system and traffic patterns in the Town are appropriate. The problem of constant upkeep on some of the local roads was identified as a maintenance problem by Town staff. The proposed land use plan should take into account the nature and function of the present road systems, in order to provide safe and attractive roads throughout the Town.

The 1986 Comprehensive Plan

There was no goal specified for Transportation Resources in the 1986 Comprehensive Plan.

Public Opinion

When asked if the volume of traffic in Town was a problem, 50% of the respondents thought it was not a problem, 26% thought it was a minor problem, while 18% thought it was a serious problem. At the Visioning Public Meeting, participants come up with the following ideas: bringing back the passenger train, providing more transit options for commuters to the Capital District, providing more transportation options for the elderly, handicapped and lower income residents. Specific traffic points that were mentioned were the connection of Route 7 bypass to current Route 7 and the connection at Hill Road and Route 7.

Objectives

- To provide safe and efficient transportation infrastructure.
- To provide safe, convenient, and efficient transportation options for commuters to the Capital District.
- To provide transportation options for special groups of residents.
- To protect scenic routes from unattractive and visually incompatible development.

Recommended Actions

1. Improve and maintain the integrity and capacity of existing local roads.
2. Establish and maintain sidewalks in areas of high pedestrian activity.
3. Work with the New York State Department of Transportation to be aware of and help plan and/or implement planned improvements to State Roads.
4. Work with the Capital District Transportation Authority and local transportation agencies to explore public and/or private transit options for elderly, handicapped, and low-income residents.
5. Enhance the entrances to the Town on Route 7 with “gateways”, and site plan review to protect from signage that adversely affects historic and scenic area.
6. Designate Route 22 and certain local roads as scenic corridors and protect the view sheds through land use regulations.

Municipal Services

GOAL 4

Provide public facilities to support development in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.

The Town's desire to protect environmental resources and agricultural lands limits the areas where residential, commercial, and industrial uses can locate. The most appropriate lands for new development (in terms of containing sprawl and the efficient provision of infrastructure) are located along Route 22 and Route 67, near the Village of Hoosick Falls and the hamlets of North Hoosick, Eagle Bridge and Buskirk. However, these areas are directly over the Town's aquifer, which runs concurrent with the Hoosic and Walloomsac Rivers. In this area, most development will require public sanitary sewers. The Town can encourage or limit development largely by determining where and when public utilities will be built.

The 1986 Comprehensive Plan

There was no goal specified for Municipal Resources in the 1986 Comprehensive Plan. However, under the main goal of "Supporting Hamlets as Centers for Commerce and New Residential Development" the issue of public facilities was addressed. ". . . any concentration of population must consider the ability of the land to support development and the availability of public facilities to mitigate potential adverse effects."

Public Opinion

When asked if they would support the extension of public sanitary sewer facilities to encourage development, 55% of the respondents said "yes" to residential development while only 27% were opposed. Positive responses to the question went up to 56% for industrial uses and 60% for commercial uses. At the Visioning Public Meeting, participants identified the need to plan for new development, and expand municipal services to support new development. However, development as close as possible to the Village of Hoosick Fall was favored.

Objectives

- To safeguard environmentally sensitive or significant natural resources, new large-scale development without sanitary sewer facilities is discouraged.
- To support new development, the extension of public facilities to proposed residential, commercial, and industrial uses is supported in the areas contiguous to the Village of Hoosick Falls.

Recommended Actions

1. Prohibit new development over the Town's aquifer unless public sanitary sewers are provided. This can be accomplished through the site design and building permit review. Where development is close to the Village of Hoosick Falls, the Town may decide to extend the existing public sewer system. Where development is proposed in areas distant to the Village of Hoosick Falls, the developer is expected to provide the infrastructure.
2. Prohibit large-scale development in agricultural areas unless sanitary sewers are provided by the developer. This can be accomplished in the subdivision site plan review.

Emergency Services

GOAL 5

Continue to provide quality emergency services.

The five well-equipped fire districts and Emergency Rescue Squad provide very good emergency services. However, staffing is a problem because these organizations depend on volunteer staffing. As many workers travel to other regions, they are not available for emergency calls.

*The 1986
Comprehensive Plan*

There was no goal specified for Emergency Resources in the 1986 Comprehensive Plan.

Public Opinion

When asked to rate municipal services in the Residential Survey, fire and emergency services were rated excellent or good by a majority of the respondents. At the Visioning Public Meeting, residents felt that the Town could not afford paid staff and that more recruitment is needed to find more volunteers. Recommendations were also made regarding training requirements, which are included in the recommended actions below.

Objectives

- To continue the delivery of quality fire fighting and emergency services.

Recommended Actions

1. **Continue to use Volunteer staff for EMS and Fire Departments**, but increase recruitment for these services.
2. **Work with New York State** to develop different training systems and requirements for volunteer staff.

Housing

GOAL 6

Provide safe affordable housing to all residents of the Town in appropriate development locations.

There is a wide variety of issues regarding housing. These include the large number of rental housing in the Village, the number and location of subdivisions, the encroachment on agricultural lands, and the desirability of increasing the tax base through upscale, more expensive housing. If attracting newcomers with the intent of developing quality housing is desired, then the controversial issue of zoning must be reexamined. People may not want to build expensive homes if there is threat of undesirable uses locating nearby.

The 1986 Comprehensive Plan

The only goal directly related to housing is to "Support Hamlets as Centers for Commerce and New Residential Development. The rationale given is as follows: "These areas have already received substantial public and private investment which ought to be maintained. Orienting new development to these areas should help relieve pressure to develop environmentally sensitive and/or agriculturally productive land. Nonetheless, any concentration of population must consider the ability of the land to support development and the availability of public facilities to mitigate potential adverse effects."

Public Opinion


When asked what type of development should be permitted on the undeveloped lands in the Town, single-family homes were selected by 71% of the respondents to the Residential Survey. Housing did not emerge as a major issue at the SWOT meeting. During the Visioning meeting, participants felt that some types of restrictions are needed for new housing, that subdivisions should be of the clustered site plan type, that a significant portion of the Town's land should be kept as green space so that it does not all become developed as residential lands. The importance of well kept of properties, and the use of code enforcement in the Village were mentioned.

Objectives

- To provide safe, affordable quality housing to all residents in the Town.
- To protect agricultural and environmentally sensitive lands from sprawling residential development.
- To efficiently provide public facilities and services to new development.
- To encourage future development that is of quality design and construction, will meet the necessary long-term population needs, and will lead to fiscal stability of the community.

Recommended Actions

1. Revise the Subdivision Regulations to Mandate clustered site plans for subdivision that have more than a small number (2-5) of residential structures.
2. Revise the Subdivision Regulations to encourage sanitary sewers for all new subdivisions. In areas where public utilities are not provided, the developer will be expected to provide the infrastructure.
3. Provide public utilities and services to new development proposed for areas contiguous to the Village of Hoosick Falls, and areas near present hamlets.
4. Develop Design Guidelines for subdivision site plans and building appearance. Incorporate the design guidelines in the Subdivision Regulations.
5. Consider the adoption of Zoning Regulations to specify where residential development is preferred, and determine development regulations as to landscaping, setbacks, and other requirements to ensure that new development is compatible with the character and appearance of the Town.
6. Create a Housing Program. Apply for funding to rehabilitate deteriorated housing and for funding for home ownership opportunities.

- 
7. Work with the Village of Hoosick Falls to meet the goal of providing safe affordable housing to all residents of the Town.
 8. Work with Village of Hoosick Falls to enforce current codes to maintain clean, tidy housing.
 9. Work with the Wood Park Senior Citizen Housing staff to maintain an affordable senior citizen housing facility.

Parks and Recreation

GOAL 7

Maintain and enhance current parks and recreational facilities and explore options for creating new ones.

The 1986 Comprehensive Plan

The Town has a well-developed recreational program. However, stakeholders and committee members have voiced a concern about providing sufficient programs and opportunities in the Town to involve youth in their community and cause them to choose it as their future home. The provision of an indoor facility for soccer events was mentioned, as a community need.

There was no goal specified for Parks and Recreational Resources in the 1986 Comprehensive Plan.

Public Opinion

When asked about additional recreational facilities or programs, respondents to the Residential Survey chose bikeways and hiking trails as the two most popular items. When asked if they would like to see more trails that are public and greenways through the Town, 58% of the respondents said "Yes." At the Visioning Public Meeting, ideas included developing the riverfront for recreation including a bike path, hiking trails and a boat launch and take out. Other venues for bikeways and paths are the old railroad beds and the Route 7 bypass. Other recreational ideas included the possible installation of an indoor soccer field in present ice rink building, the provision of more art and music programs and the construction of a gym area in the pool facility.

Objectives

- To maintain and enhance current parks and recreational facilities for the use and enjoyment of residents.
- To acquire and develop new parks and recreational facilities for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors.
- To protect the natural environment by creating public green spaces and parks.

Recommended Actions

1. Inventory and identify areas in the Town that should be protected as open space or parkland.
2. Identify and secure funding to acquire green space and parklands, especially in environmentally sensitive areas.
3. Acquire and develop riverfront and other lands for development as recreational venues.
4. Work with the DOT to plan for and implement bike trails along Route 7 bypass.
5. Improve and enhance the current recreational facilities to provide more recreational opportunities for all citizens.
6. Form committee to represent Youth and Senior Citizens' to explore social and recreational needs and express their needs to the Town Board.
7. Encourage State of New York to purchase easements to Walloomsac and Hoosick Rivers, and purchase land contiguous to Bennington Battlefield and Tibbits Forest.

Economic Development

GOAL 8

Support economic development in the commercial, industrial and agricultural sectors.

Economic development and the availability of jobs is one of the main issues facing the Town. The loss of industries and business over the last few decades has led to a significant decline in the number of manufacturing jobs locally available to residents. As an example, Isola left the town, but is still active in other states. It is very important for the Town to provide new jobs for the younger population so that they can stay in town, and to provide a return destination for those who go elsewhere to seek higher education.

Small businesses are also required to meet the shopping needs of residents and provide employment opportunities. Currently, people shop locally at the Grand Union Market or go to Bennington or Brunswick for groceries. There is no clothing shop or general store in the Town.

The 1986 Comprehensive Plan

The goal for economic development in the *1986 Comprehensive Plan* was to “Encourage Economic Diversity. The text stated that:

Communities dependent on one major employment source are vulnerable to changes in that industry over time. A substantial number of residents will continue to commute to employment centers in Troy, Albany, and the Capital District area, as well as Bennington, Vermont and North Adams, Massachusetts. However, given the relative distance to these centers, the attractive location of the Town to larger regional markets and the characteristics of the work-force, it would seem possible and desirable to develop new, relatively small industries compatible with the environment and the community to supplement the one large industry currently located in the Town.

Public Opinion

The lack of job opportunities was identified as the most negative aspect of the Town by 84% of the respondents to the Residential Survey. The lack of shopping opportunities was also identified as a negative aspect by 67% of the respondents. The types of new businesses most desired were a clothing shop, a grocery store, industrial or manufacturing businesses, a general store, restaurants, specialty shops and entertainment businesses. A majority of the respondents favored home based offices in residential neighborhoods and attracting more tourists to Town.

Several good ideas emerged at the Visioning Public Workshop. These included establishing new shops such as jewelry, bookstores, museum gift shops and craft stores in conjunction with existing museums. A tourism industry could take advantage of the areas rich history and charm, including the Town's role in the work of Grandma Moses.

Objectives

- To foster a vital business environment and promote the establishment of new business enterprises to improve the overall economic vitality of the area and enhance the quality of life for residents.
- To maintain a viable agricultural economy in the Town of Hoosick and promote the economic development of the agricultural sector.
- To expand the Town's tax base.
- To take advantage of the Empire Zone
- To provide existing and future residents with a wide range of business, employment and career opportunities.
- To retain and improve the commercial and industrial base of the Town in order to expand the availability of a variety of goods and services to residents.
- To use the Town's rich history and rural charm to foster a tourism industry.

Recommended Actions

1. Designate areas or commercial and industrial districts to be used for future development.
2. Develop a marketing program and marketing strategy to promote the historic and rural resources of the Town.
3. Use the current stock of buildings in the Town for adaptive reuse for commercial and industrial purposes.
4. Foster public and private efforts to develop businesses in the tourism industry. These include craft production, craft shops, craft lessons and lectures, bookstores, museum gift shops, expanded farmer's markets, cultural and historic events and festivals. Work with business owners in developing the marketing program and help organize the business community.
5. Support the agriculture industry through the continued use of Agricultural Districts and agricultural tax rates.
6. Create a merchants association to oversee economic development.
7. Improve the appearance of commercial areas in Town through clean-up activities, façade improvement programs, and "beautification" projects such as the planting of trees and flowers and the provision of streetscape amenities.
8. Promote access to rail system that traverses the Town.

Protect Farmland & Promote Farming

GOAL 9

Promote land use policy and conservation measures that encourage agriculture and protect productive farmland. Maintain a viable agricultural economy, promote the economic development of the agricultural sector.

One of the primary challenges facing Hoosick is the risk of farmland being converted out of agriculture. Once converted, the farmland is lost forever. Hoosick's prime soil conditions for farming is also in conflict, as it tends to be at present the best soil for development.

Record low commodity prices, higher property taxes, escalating costs of business, as well as labor issues, contribute to the farm's struggle to remain profitable. The Town does maintain a strong connection to the farming community and calls individual farmers to remind them to file their agricultural exemptions. The Town also has "Right to Farm Legislation" and supports the three AG Districts within its borders.

Objectives

- Direct growth away from agricultural areas to minimize loss of prime soils and disruption of farm operations.
- Guide public policy in promoting agriculture.
- Demonstrate the importance of farming and the integral part it plays in supporting the rural character of the Town as well as the part it plays in Hoosick's quality of life.
- Support the purchase of development rights on farmland.
- Expand efforts to promote Town farm businesses and farm products.

Recommended Actions

1. Encourage local land use policies which support agriculture and protect farmlands.
2. Create an AG Advisory Committee to review existing Town policies, to promote farming industry as well as

farm-related events, and to research funding opportunities.

3. Support the purchase of Development Rights (PDR) on farmland.
4. Develop an Agricultural Directory for Hoosick Farms.
5. Promote community support for agriculture through educational efforts and materials.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Action Plan

INTRODUCTION

If the vision for community development is to take place, the Town must pursue a series of activities that will actualize the plan. The vision of the Town as a beautiful and prosperous place to live, work, play or visit can only come about through the efforts of its residents in carrying out the tasks recommended in this plan.

ACTION MATRIX

The following pages present an Action Matrix, which sets out those tasks and identifies the responsible or lead party, the type of action, possible funding source, and time frame.

The recommended time frame is indicated by the following code:

S - Short Term: To the end of year 2004.

M - Midterm: To the end of year 2006.

L - Long Term: To the end of year 2009.

O - On-going.

The following table gives the complete names of the agencies that are abbreviated on the Action Matrix Sheets.

Abbreviations	Full Name
CDBG	Community Development Block Grant
CDCLF	Capital District Community Loan Fund
CDTA	Capital District Transportation Authority
CF	Conservation Fund
CREDC	Capital Region Economic Development Corporation
CW/CA	Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act
ESDC	Empire State Development Corp
EZ	Empire Zone
GOSC	Governor's Office for Small Cities
HHS CSBG	Health & Human Services - Community Service Block Grant
HRVG	Hudson River Valley Greenway

Implementation Plan

LWRP	Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (NYS Environmental Protection Fund)
NPS - LWCF	National Park Service – Land & Water Conservation Fund
NYSBD	NYS Banking Dept.
NYSBDC	NYS Business Development Corporation
NYSCA	NYS Council on the Arts
NYSCPP	NYS Conservation Partnership Program (NYSDEC)
NYSDAM	NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets
NYSDEC	NYS Dept of Environment Conservation
NYSEDD -	NYS Economic Development Dept.
NYS DHCR	NYS Div. Of Housing & Community Renewal
NYSDOL	NYS Dept. of Labor
NYSDOT	NYS Dept. of Transportation
NYSDOT TEP	NYSDOT Transportation Enhancement Program
NYSDOT TIP	NYSDOT Transportation Improvement Program
NYSED	NYS Education Department
NYPF	NY Planning Federation
NYSHFA	New York State Housing Finance Agency
NYSOPRHP	NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (sometimes called SHPO)
NYS OTDA	NYS Office of Temporary Disability Insurance
RCEDCP	Rensselaer Co. Bureau of Economic Development & Planning
RCRCC	Rensselaer County Regional Chamber of Commerce
RTP	Recreational Trails Program (USDOT/FHWA)
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office (same as NYS OPRHP)
SBP	Scenic Byways Program (National Scenic Byways Discretionary Grants)
SNYM	State of New York Mortgage (Home of Your Own Program)
USDOI- RICA	US Dept. of the Interior, Rivers Trails, & Conservation Assistance

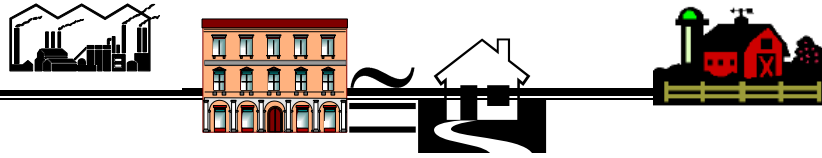
Action Matrix



GOAL #1: Preserve and enhance the existing rural character of Town while accommodating a balanced mix of recreational, residential, commercial and industrial uses.

	Action (Tasks) Goal #1:	Type of Action	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Possible Funding Source
1.1	Consider amendments to the current Subdivision Regulations and Site Plan Review Law to protect the natural and built environment in the Town.	Policy/ Administration	S	Town	Local
1.2	Consider the development of a Zoning Ordinance to regulated future development in the Town.	Policy/ Administration	S	Town	Local
1.3	Work with the surrounding Towns and Village of Hoosick Falls to ensure that future development serves the needs of the region.	Policy/ Administration	S	Town	Local

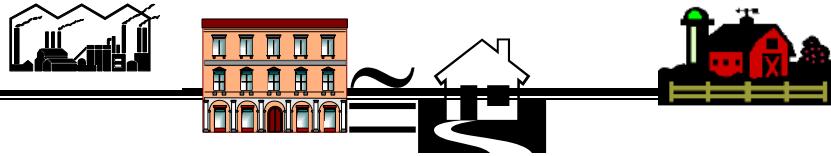
Implementation Plan



GOAL #2: Preserve, enhance, and promote cultural and historic resources.

	Action (Tasks) Goal #3:	Type of Action	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Possible Funding Source
2.1	Identify and map all historic and cultural resources.	Program	S-M	Town	Local
2.2	Nominate historic structures that are not on the National Register of Historic Places for historic designation.	Program	S	Town	Local
2.3	Create an historical center for visitors to receive information on historic sites and related community events.	Program	M-L	Town	Local, NYSOPRHP Private Foundations
2.4	Build interest of Town's residents in historic and cultural resources through events such as tours, open house, concerts, and festivals.	Program	S	Town/ Historical Resource Group	Local
2.5	Identify sources of funding for restoration and marketing activities.	Program	S	Town	Local
2.6	Restore and enhance currently designated historic structures.	Program	O	Town	Local, NYSOPRHP, CBDG, Private
2.7	Form an historical resources group whose purpose is to identify, acquire, maintain, and preserve historic sites.	Program	S	Town	Local
2.8	Hold seminars and workshops for owners of historic properties and/or properties that would be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.	Policy/ Administrative	S-M	Historical Resource Group	Local
2.9	Include historic and cultural resources in a comprehensive marketing program for the Town.	Program		Town/Historical Resource Group/Merchants Assoc.	Local

Implementation Plan



GOAL #3: Maintain or improve the transportation network in the Town.

	Action (Tasks) Goal #4:	Type of Action	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Possible Funding Source
3.1	Improve and maintain the integrity and capacity of existing local roads.	Program	O	Town	Local
3.2	Establish and maintain sidewalks in areas of high pedestrian activity.	Program	S-L	Town	Local, NYSDOT - TIP
3.3	Work with the New York State Department of Transportation to be aware of and help plan and/or implement planned improvements to State Roads.	Program	M-L	Town	NYSDOT
3.4	Work with the Capital District Transportation Authority and local transportation agencies to explore public and/or private transit options for elderly, handicapped, and low-income residents.	Program	S	Town	Local, CDTA
3.5	Enhance the entrances to the Town on Route 7 with "gateways."	Program	S-M	Town	Local, NYSDOT -TEP NYSOPRHP (Parks Grant)
3.6	Designate Route 22 and certain local roads as scenic corridors and protect the view sheds through land use regulations.	Administrative	S	Town	Local, SBP, HRVG

Implementation Plan



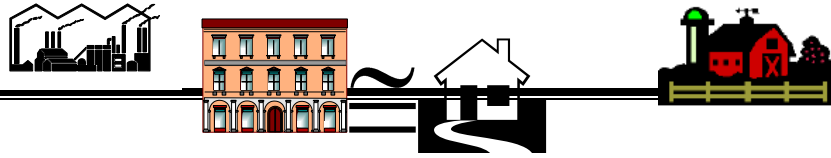
GOAL #4: Provide public facilities to support development in accordance with the Comprehensive Plan.

	Action (Tasks) Goal #5:	Type of Action	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Possible Funding Source
4.1	Prohibit new development over the Town's aquifer unless public sanitary sewers are provided. This can be accomplished through the site design and building permit review.	Policy/ Administrative	O	Town	Local
4.2	Prohibit large-scale development in agricultural areas unless sanitary sewers are provided by the developer.	Policy/ Administrative	O	Town	Local

GOAL #5: Continue to provide quality emergency services.

	Action (Tasks) Goal #6:	Type of Action	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Possible Funding Source
5.1	Continue to use Volunteer staff for EMS and Fire Departments, but increase recruitment for these services.	Policy/ Program	O	Fire Districts	Local
5.2	Work with or lobby New York State to develop different training systems and requirements for volunteer staff.	Policy/ Administrative	O	Town	Local

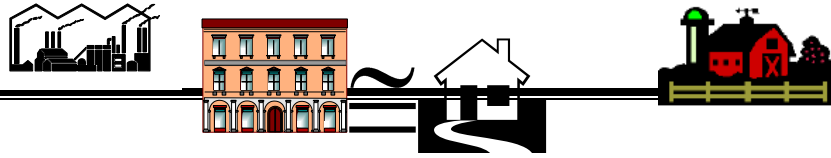
Implementation Plan



GOAL #6: Provide safe affordable housing to all residents of the Town in appropriate development locations.

	Action (Tasks) Goal #7:	Type of Action	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Possible Funding Source
6.1	Revise the Subdivision Regulations to Mandate clustered site plans for large subdivisions.	Policy/ Administrative	S-M	Town	Local
6.2	Revise the Subdivision Regulations to require sanitary sewers for all new subdivisions.	Policy/ Administrative	S	Town	Local
6.3	Provide public utilities and services to new development proposed for areas contiguous to the Village and hamlets.	Policy/ Administrative	M-L	Town	Local, CDBG
6.4	Develop Design Guidelines for subdivision site plans and building appearance. Incorporate the design guidelines in the Subdivision Regulations.	Program	S	Town	Local, NYSCAP, HRVG, CDTC
6.5	Consider the adoption of Zoning Regulations to specify where residential development is preferred, and determine development regulations.	Policy/ Administrative	S	Town	Local
6.6	Create a Housing Program and apply for funding.	Program	O	Town	Local, CBDG, NYS DHCR, SNYM, CDCLEF, NYSHFC
6.7	Work with the Village of Hoosick Falls to meet the goal of providing safe affordable housing to all residents of the Town.	Program	S	Town	Local
6.8	Work with Village of Hoosick Falls to enforce current codes to maintain clean, tidy housing.	Policy/ Administrative	S-M	Town	Local
6.9	Work with the Wood Park Senior Housing Agency.	Program	S-M	Town	Local

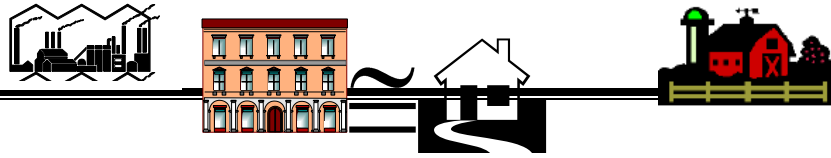
Implementation Plan



GOAL #7: Maintain and enhance current parks and recreational facilities and explore options for creating new ones.

	Action (Tasks) Goal #8:	Type of Action	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Possible Funding Source
7.1	Create a Land Trust to oversee the acquisition and development of parklands and open space.	Administrative	S	Town	Local
7.2	Inventory and identify areas in the Town that should be protected as open space or parkland.	Program	S-M	Town/Land Trust	Local, HRVG, NYSOPRHP
7.3	Identify and secure funding to acquire green space and parklands, especially in environmentally sensitive areas.	Policy/ Administrative	O	Town/Land Trust	Local, possible sources: NYSCPP, NYSOPRHP,
7.4	Acquire and develop riverfront and other lands for development as recreational venues.	Policy/ Administrative	O	Town/Land Trust	Local, NYSCPP, NYSOPRHP, RTP
7.5	Work with the DOT to plan for and implement bike trails along Rout 7 bypass.	Program	S-M	Town/Land Trust	Local, NYSCAP, HRVG, CDTC, NYSOPRHP, DOT TIP, DOT TEP
7.6	Improve and enhance the current recreational facilities to provide more recreational opportunities for all citizens.	Policy/ Administrative	O	Town/Land Trust	Local, NYSOPRHP, NYSCPP, HHS CSBG
7.7	Form committee to represent Youth and Senior Citizens' to explore social and recreational needs and express their needs to the Town Board.	Program	S	Town	Local

Implementation Plan



GOAL #8: Support economic development in the commercial, industrial, and agricultural sectors.

	Action (Tasks) Goal #9:	Type of Action	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Possible Funding Source
8.1	Create a merchants association to oversee economic development.	Administrative	S	Town	Local
8.2	Designate areas or commercial and industrial districts to be used for future development.	Policy/ Administrative	S-M	Town	Local
8.3	Develop a marketing program and marketing strategy to promote the historic and rural resources of the Town.	Program	O	Town/ Merchants Association	Local, CDBG Technical Assistance Grant
8.4	Use the current stock of buildings in the Town for adaptive reuse for commercial and industrial purposes.	Policy/ Administrative	O	Town	Local, Private development funds, CDBG
8.5	Foster public and private efforts to develop businesses in the tourism industry.	Program	S-M	Town/ Merchants Association Trust	Local, HHS CSBG, CDBG, RCEDCP
8.6	Support the agriculture industry through the continued use of Agricultural Districts and agricultural tax rates.	Policy/ Administrative	O	Town	Local
8.7	Improve the appearance of commercial areas in Town through clean-up activities, façade improvement programs, and “beautification” projects such as the planting of trees and flowers and the provision of streetscape amenities.	Program	S	Town/ Merchants Association	Local, MSNY, NYSDOT TEP, NYSOPRHP

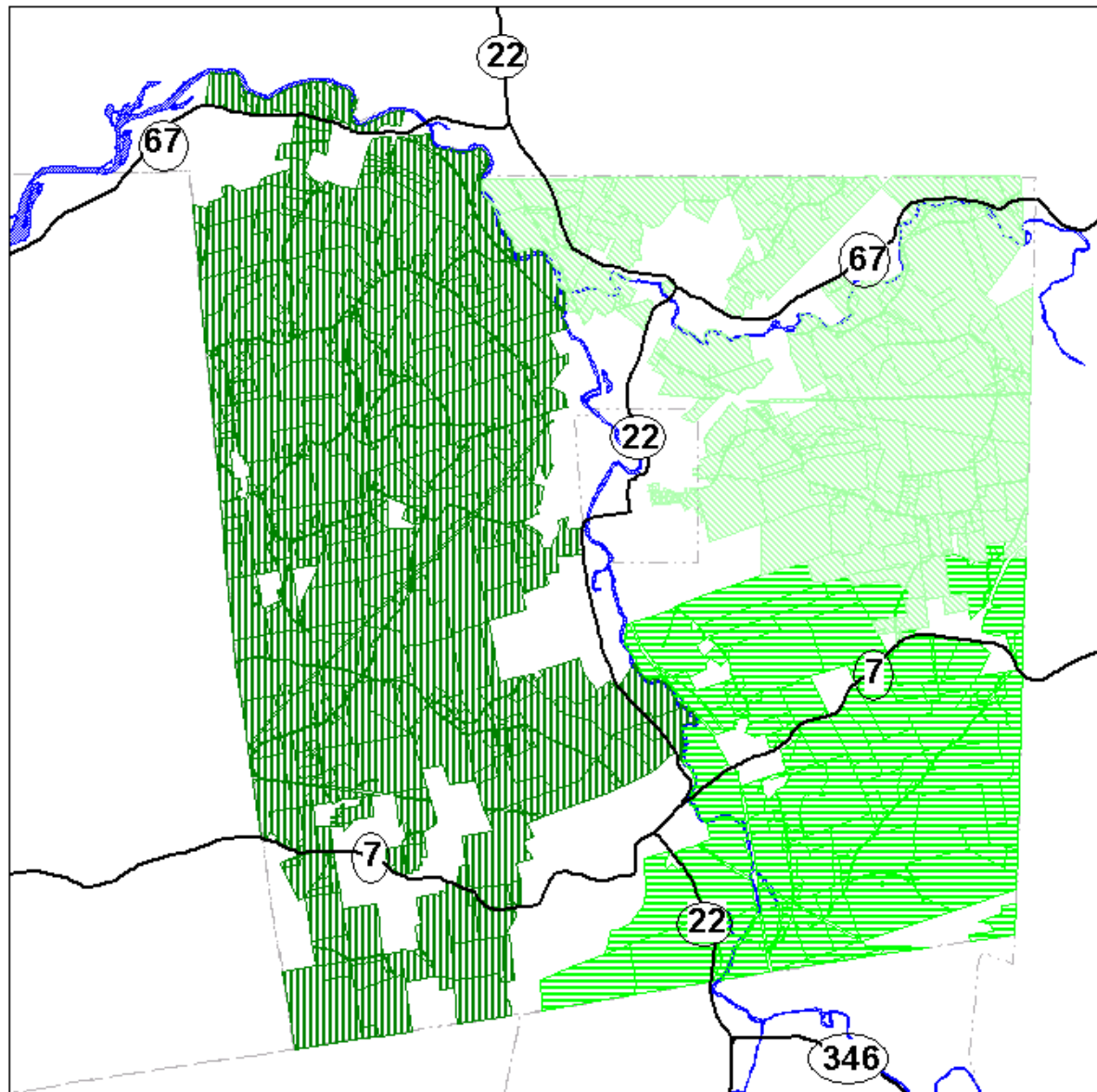
Implementation Plan



GOAL #9: Promote land use policy and conservation measures that encourage agriculture and protect productive farmland. Maintain a viable agricultural economy, promote the economic development of the agricultural sector.

	Action (Tasks) Goal #4:	Type of Action	Time Frame	Responsible Party	Possible Funding Source
9.1	Encourage local land use policies which support agriculture and protect farmlands.	Policy	S-O	Town	Local
9.2	Create an AG Advisory Committee to review existing Town policies, to promote farming industry as well as farm-related events, and to research funding opportunities.	Policy	S-O	Town	Local
9.3	Support the purchase of Development Rights (PDR) on farmland.	Policy	S-O	Town	Local
9.4	Develop an Agricultural Directory for Hoosick Farms.	Program	S-M	Town	RCEDCP, NYSDAM
9.5	Promote community support for agriculture through educational efforts and materials.	Program	S-L	Town	RCEDCP, NYSDAM

Agricultural Districts in the Town of Hoosick, New York



Highways



Rivers



Agricultural District 1



Agricultural District 3



Agricultural District 4



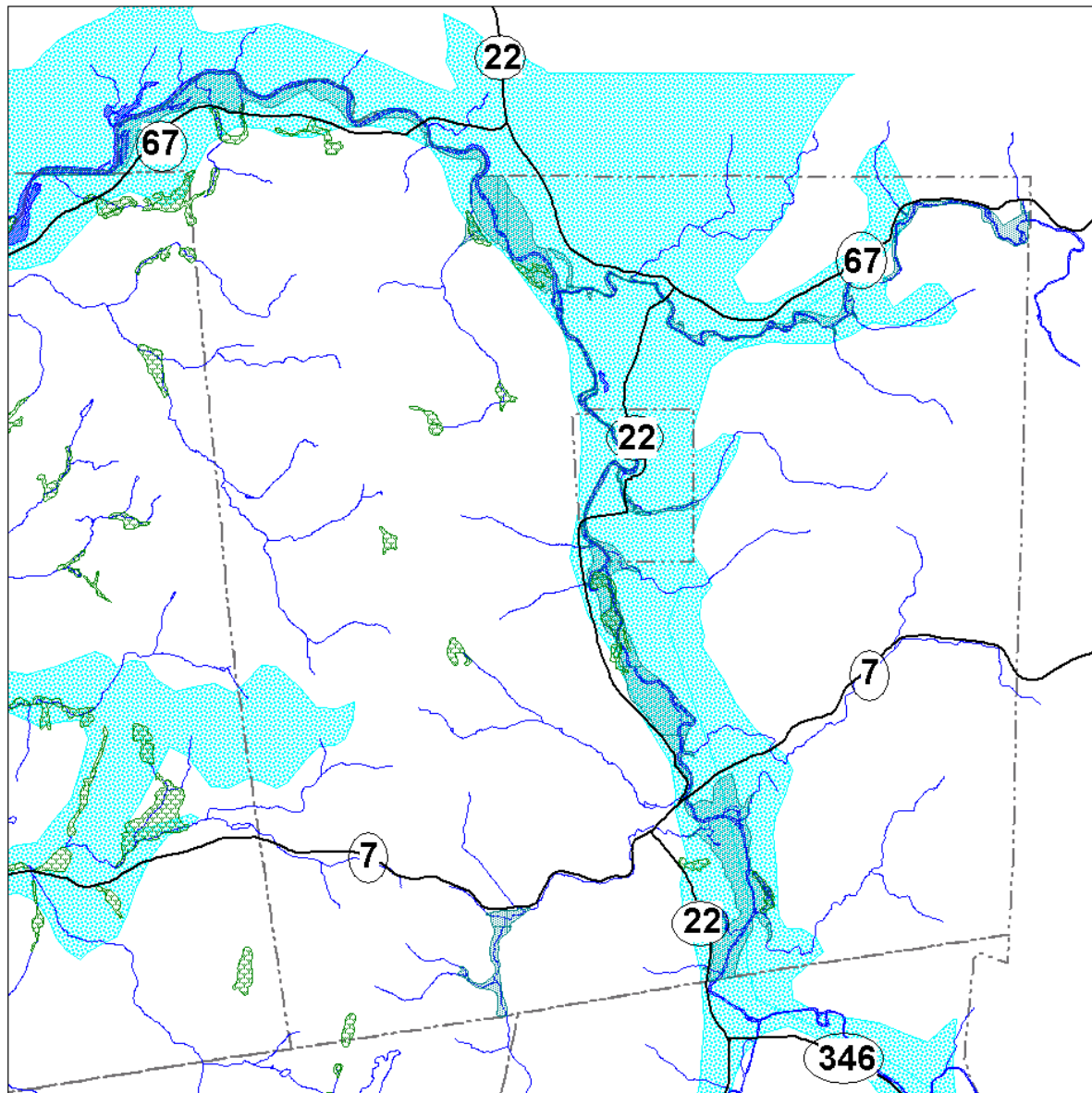
Municipal Boundaries



Scale 1"=7,500'
Not to Scale

*Agricultural districts as of 10/1/02
Source: Rensselaer County
Economic Development & Planning*

Water Natural Resources of the Town of Hoosick, New York



Municipal Boundaries



Major Roadways



Aquifers



Rivers



Streams



Flood Plain Boundaries



NYS DEC Wetlands

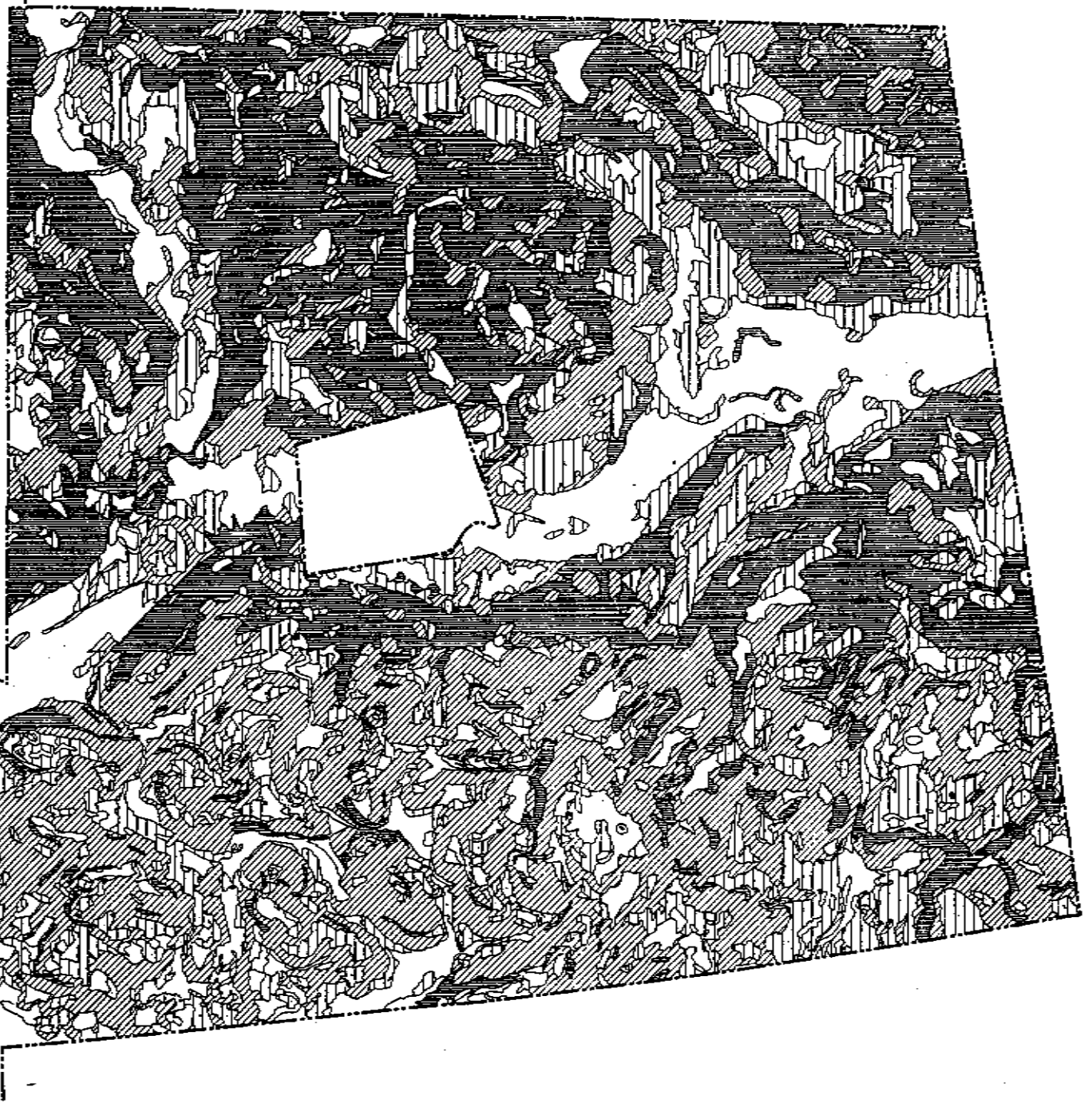


Scale 1" = 7,500'

Not to Scale

Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Flood Insurance Program;
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

Prepared by: Rensselaer County Economic Development & Planning



KEY



0 TO 3 %



3 TO 8 %



8 TO 15 %



+ 16 %

Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Land Use Plan

MAP TITLE: GENERALIZED SLOPES

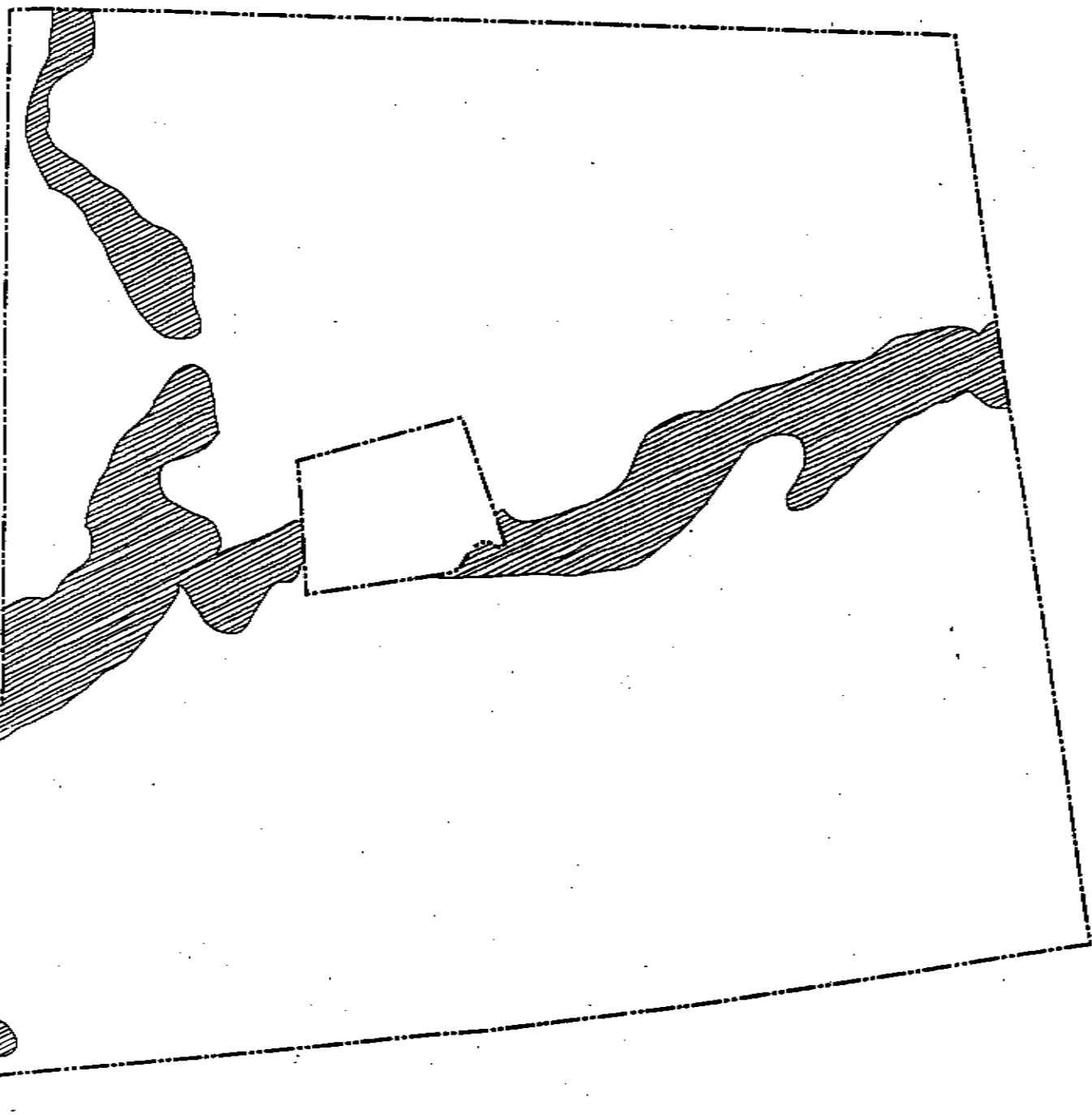
SCALE: 1" = 1/2 MILE

0 1/2 1 MILE

the LA Partnership
LOCAL ACTION
PLANNING
2.3



2.3



KEY



Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Land Use Plan

PROJECT TITLE: GENERALIZED SOILS

DATE: 1984-1985, 1986-1987, 1988-1989



the LA Partnership
Land Use Association
1000 Main Street, Suite 100
Hoosick, NY 12042
518-537-1234

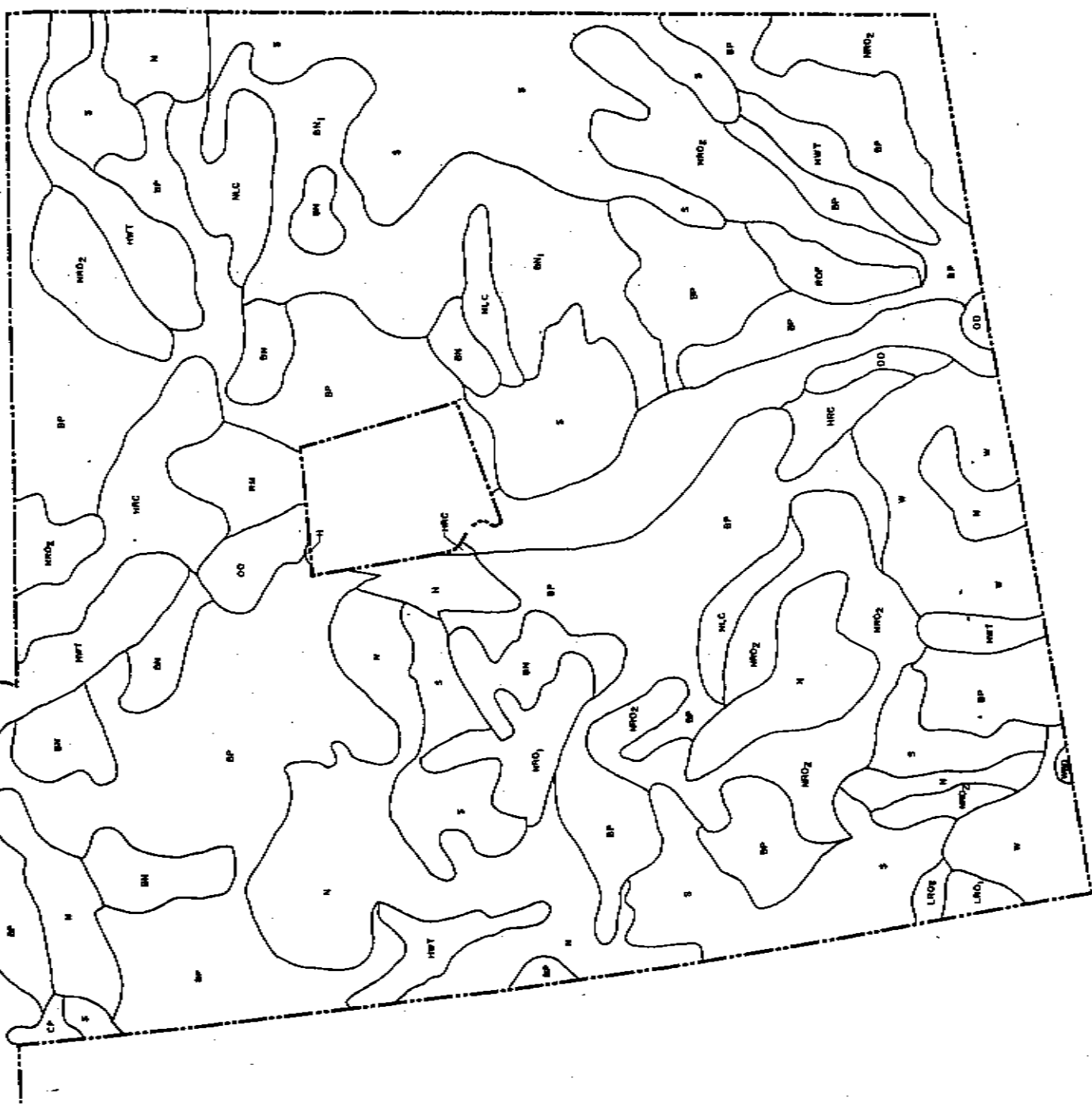
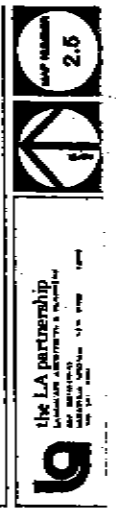
TOWN OF HOOSICK
1000 Main Street, Suite 100
Hoosick, NY 12042
518-537-1234

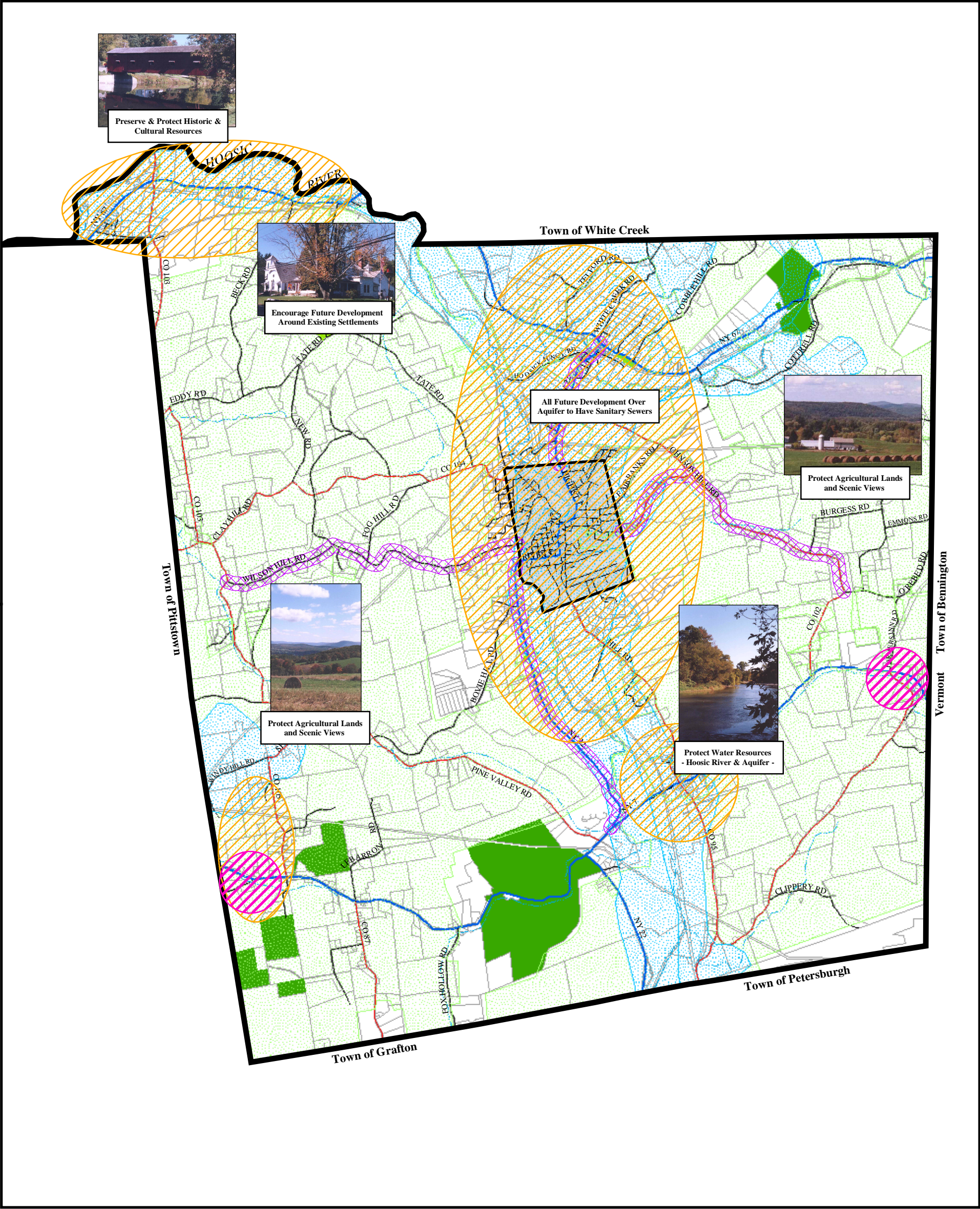
HRC Hoosic-Riverhead-Chenango Assoc. Nearly Level
 HWT Hamlin-Wayland-Teel Assoc. Nearly Level
 OO Otisville-Oakville Assoc. Nearly Level

BP Bernardston-Pittstown Assoc. Sloping
 BN Bernardston-Nassau Assoc. Rolling
 BN1 Bernardston-Nassau Assoc. Hilly
 CP Carlsale-Paines Assoc. Nearly Level
 H Hudson Assoc. Gently Sloping
 LRO1 Lyman-Rock Outcrop Assoc. Undulating
 LRO2 Lyman-Rock Outcrop Assoc. Steep
 N Nassau Assoc. Rolling
 NRO1 Nassau-Rock Outcrop Assoc. Rolling
 NRO2 Nassau-Rock Outcrop Assoc. Hilly
 NLC Nunda, Lackawanna, & Canfield Some Mod. Steep
 RM Rhinebeck-Madalen Assoc. Nearly Level
 ROF Rock Outcrop-Farmington Assoc. Very Steep
 S Scribs Assoc. Gently Sloping
 W Worth Assoc. Very Stony Steep

Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Land Use Plan

SHEET TITLE: GENERALIZED SOILS

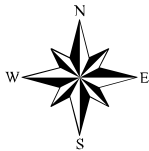




LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|------------------|
| | Town Boundary | | County Roads |
| | Village Boundary | | Local Roads |
| | Preserve Scenic Corridor | | Private Roads |
| | Mixed-Use Development | | State Roads |
| | Aquifer Protection Area | | Rivers & Streams |
| | Community Gateway | | |
| | Preserve Existing Agricultural Districts | | |
| | Recreation & Entertainment | | |
| | Forested, Conservation Lands, Public Parks | | |

**Town of Hoosick
Rensselaer County, New York
Comprehensive Plan
Recommended Land Use
Concept Map**



0 0.375 0.75 1.5 Miles

Produced for Planning Purposes Only
Data provided by Rensselaer County, Bureau of Research
Geographic Information System
State Plan Coordinates, NY East Zone NAD83 Datum
Accuracy or completeness is not guaranteed
Last Revision 09-24-03 Project # 22064

VI. APPENDICES

A. MEETING AGENDAS & MEETING NOTES

Town of Hoosick

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #1

AGENDA

July 16, 2002
6:30 pm ñ 8:00pm

I. Introductions (20 minutes)

- Members of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC)
- Consultants
 - Benjamin H. Syden, AICP, Planning & Community Development Manager
 - Sandra Governor, AICP – Planner and Community Development Specialist

II. Review the Comprehensive Planning Process (30 minutes)

- What is a Comprehensive Plan
- Description of the Comprehensive Plan
- Action and Implementation Plan
- Flow Chart
- Sample Data Inventory

III. Key Issue Development (30 minutes)

- Identify Stakeholders
- Identify Key Issues
- Create Public Participation Program
- Create Project Timetable – Sample
 - Project Initiation Committee Meeting #1 (July)
 - Committee Meeting # 2 & Public Workshop (September – S.W.O.T.)
 - Committee Meeting # 3: Review Goals and Action Plan (November)
 - Committee Meeting # 4 – Draft Plan Review (January)
 - Committee Meeting & Public Hearing # 1 (Feb – Draft Plan & SEQR)
 - Committee Meeting & Public Hearing #2 (Mar – CPAC Plan Approval)
 - Town Board Adoption (Mar/April)

IV. Questions & Answers (10 minutes)

Town of Hoosick

Kick Off Meeting

PLANNING COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

July 16, 2002

Name: _____
Business or
Area of interest: _____



PLANNING COMMITTEE WORKBOOK

Your decision to become a member of the Planning Committee for the Comprehensive Plan Update is one that will positively affect the outcome of the planning process. Your commitment to a series of planning meetings over the next several months is one that appreciated by the Town Board. This workbook will serve a number of purposes: it will give you a chance to organize and record your thoughts, and it will aid the consultants in gathering information. At the end of the session, the workbooks will be collected by the consultant to obtain the information that you have supplied, and they will be returned the following workshop. Thank you for your participation in this planning process. We look forward to working with you in producing an updated Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Hoosick.

Town of Hoosick

Comprehensive Plan Update
Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #1
JULY 16, 2002 7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

I. Introductions (15 minutes)

- Members of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC)
- Consultants
 - Benjamin H. Syden, AICP, Planning & Community Development Manager
 - Sandra Governor, AICP ñ Planner and Community Development Specialist

II. Review the Comprehensive Planning Process (20 minutes)

- What is a Comprehensive Plan
- Description of the Comprehensive Plan
- Action and Implementation Plan
- Flow Chart
- Sample Data Inventory

III. Key Issue Development (30 minutes)

- Identify Stakeholders
- Identify Key Issues
- Create Public Participation Program
- Create Project Timetable ñ Sample
 - Project Initiation Committee Meeting #1 (July)
 - Committee Meeting # 2 & Public Workshop (September ñ S.W.O.T.)
 - Committee Meeting # 3: Review Goals and Action Plan (November)
 - Committee Meeting # 4 ñ Draft Plan Review (January)
 - Committee Meeting & Public Hearing # 1 (Feb ñ Draft Plan & SEQR)
 - Committee Meeting & Public Hearing #2 Mar ñ CPAC Plan Approval
 - Town Board Adoption (Mar/April)

IV. Questions & Answers (10 minutes)

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

A Comprehensive Plan is a written document that identifies and establishes the goals, objectives, principals, guidelines, policies, standards, and strategies to guide the future growth and development of the community.

Background

- ✓ The Town of Hoosick is authorized by New York State statute to prepare a comprehensive plan, and the Town Board is authorized to create a special board called the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee.
- ✓ Components of a Comprehensive Plan are suggested by the state law that authorizes local governments to prepare a comprehensive plan.
- ✓ Recent New York State legislation has strengthened the role of a comprehensive plan in a municipality by requiring that zoning laws and other regulations conform to the comprehensive plan.
- ✓ The goals included in this plan will be broad statements that reflect ideal future conditions desired by the Town and identified through a planning process that includes public participation. Recommendations will be specific actions identified to carry out or implement the goal.
- ✓ Public participation efforts may include public meetings, surveys, a planning workshop, a visual preference survey and public hearings. These efforts will allow the committee to better understand the strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and threats in the Town.
- ✓ The Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan will serve as a guide to future public and private decisions. It will be based upon the values and concerns of residents and landowners in the Town.

Description of the Comprehensive Plan

The Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan will state the following:

Where we were.
Where we are.
Where do we want to go?
How do we get there?

These statements will be answered by researching and documenting the existing conditions of the Town, establishing goals and recommendations, and creating an implementation plan. The plan revolves around several elements. Background information will be provided to help identify important issues related to each element, followed by an issue statement, and one or more goals will be provided to support the vision of the Town. The elements proposed for inclusion in this Comprehensive Plan are as follows:

- ✓ ***Physical and Environmental Features, including open space and scenic areas.*** To plan for the protection of natural resources and sensitive natural areas within the Town.
- ✓ ***Historical Resources and Preservation.*** To plan for the conservation of the Town's historic resources.
- ✓ ***Transportation.*** To plan for the most appropriate location, character, and extent of roads, highways and other means of moving people and commodities.
- ✓ ***Community, Education and Municipal Facilities.*** To plan for the most appropriate location, character, and extent and use of public lands, buildings, facilities and services.
- ✓ ***Cultural, Recreational and Education Facilities.*** To plan for adequate recreational opportunities for youth and adults and to enhance the cultural features and programs in the Town.
- ✓ ***Land Use.*** To plan for the most appropriate future use of land so that the above goals and visions are met.
- ✓ ***Housing.*** To identify the strengths and weaknesses of the housing stock and assess the availability of housing options within the Town.

Action and Implementation Plan

This section of the Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan will present, in chart form, the actions that will be recommended as part of the Comprehensive Plan. The actions will be listed in an implementation matrix, which will list the proposed action, type of action, the responsible party, the time frame for each action, and a reference to the plan. Short-term actions should take place within two years of adoption of the Comprehensive Plan. Intermediate actions should take place 3 to 6 years after adoption of the Comprehensive Plan. Continuous actions should take place throughout each year.

Policy actions refer to those that require the Town to state a specific policy and then work toward implementing that policy. Administrative actions refer to those that require administrative procedures to be implemented to carry out the recommendation. Program actions are those that are specific programs, activities and tasks to be accomplished. Legal Amendment actions are those that require making amendments to the zoning, subdivision, highway or other local laws. The actions will be shown in the order they appear in the plan, under the headings of the sections in which they appear.

S = Actions to be implemented in the Short-term of 0-2 years after adoption

I = Actions to be implemented in the Intermediate-term of 3-6 years after adoption

C = Actions that are continuous throughout the life of the Comprehensive Plan

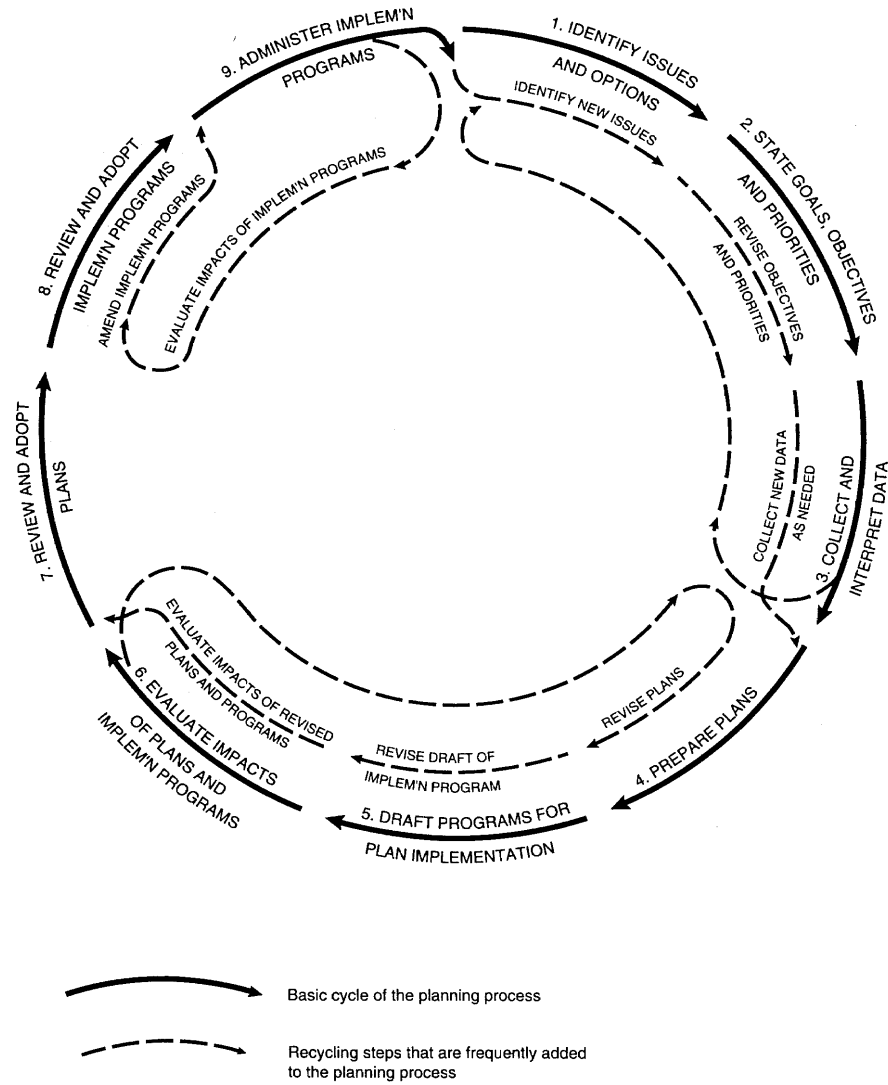
CPAC = Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee

TB = Town Board

PB = Planning Board

GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING URBAN PLANS

Figure 2-1 The Planning Process



Source: Larz T. Anderson: Guidelines for Preparing Urban Plans, 1995 APA

Comprehensive Plan Development

General Information, Data Collection & Inventory Check List

(This raw information will provide the basis for the development of the Existing Conditions section of the Plan)

Natural Environment

- ☐ Water Bodies (rivers, streams, lakes, ponds) *
- ☐ Floodplains (FEMA) *
- ☐ Wetlands (NYS regulated, and NWI National Wetlands Inventory wetlands) *
- ☐ Soils (prime agricultural soils, depth to bedrock) *
- ☐ Topography *
- ☐ Geology *
- ☐ Agricultural Resources (Agricultural Districts, farms, etc.) *
- ☐ Open Space

Land Use

- ☐ Real Property Tax Parcels *
- ☐ Current Land Uses *
- ☐ Aerial Photograph(s)
- ☐ Residential Density, Single-Family, Two-Family, 3-4-Family, Multi-Family *
- ☐ Geographically Identified Planning Units (i.e., census tracts, neighborhoods, etc) *
- ☐ Build Out Analysis
- ☐ Publicly Owned Properties *
- ☐ Vacant Land *
- Assessment of Land Use Regulations
 - ☐ Subdivision Regulations
 - ☐ Site Plan Review
 - ☐ Sign Regulations
 - ☐ Cell Tower Regulations
 - ☐ Special Planning District Regulations
 - ☐ Conservation Subdivision
 - ☐ Sewer, Water, Fire, Lighting Districts *
 - ☐ Sexual Oriented Business Regulations *
 - ☐ Environmentally Sensitive Areas (locally defined) *
 - ☐ Business Improvement Districts *
 - ☐ Historic District Regulations (Local, State, National)*

Housing

- ☐ Supply of existing housing
- ☐ Age of housing stock *
- ☐ Tenure of housing stock (rental or owner occupied) *
- ☐ History of real estate sales (volume and sale price over time)
- ☐ Vacant or underutilized buildings data *

Transportation

- ☐ Roadways (local, county, state maintained) *
- ☐ Traffic Volume/Traffic Studies *
- ☐ Bicycle Routes, Truck Routes *
- ☐ Public Transportation & Routing *
- ☐ Rail Access/Service *
- ☐ Pedestrian Access/Service, Future Plans *
- ☐ Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Regional Plans
- ☐ Village, Town, County, State Future Plans

Utilities

- ☐ Water Infrastructure (future needs analysis) *
- ☐ Sewer Infrastructure (future needs analysis) *
- ☐ Storm Water Infrastructure (future needs analysis) *
- ☐ Review of existing and planned service areas *

Community Facilities

- ☐ Parks & Recreation Facilities
- ☐ School, & School Districts
- ☐ Government Facilities
- ☐ Fire Houses & Districts Coverage's
- ☐ Police Stations & Jurisdictional Coverage's
- ☐ Emergency Medical Services
- ☐ Libraries
- ☐ Community Centers
- ☐ Religious Facilities
- ☐ Civic Organizations
- ☐ Cemeteries

Municipal Resources

- ☐ Governmental Structure
- ☐ Departmental Profiles
- ☐ Municipal Services Provided
- ☐ Municipal Buildings / Facilities

Historical Resources

- ☐ Local History
- ☐ Historical Sites
- ☐ Architecturally Significant Buildings/Districts

Visual Resources

- ☐ Particularly Attractive Areas & Vistas (i.e., tree lines-canopied streets, open plazas)
- ☐ Attractive Structures or other elements of the built environment

Demographics

- ☐ Population Size and Characteristics
- ☐ Age/Sex Distribution
- ☐ Income/Ethnicity Distribution
- ☐ Population Projections
- ☐ Employment & Employment by Sector
- ☐ Analysis by County and State

Economic Conditions

- ☐ Local Employment Profile
- ☐ Occupations of workers locally employed
- ☐ Past, Present and Future locations and profiles of the Central Business District/Municipal Center
- ☐ Major employers in the area
- ☐ Vacancy in retail, office space and industrial parks

Building Construction / Demolition Trends (Over previous 5 Years)

- ☐ Residential and commercial building permit activity
- ☐ Use & Area Variance activity
- ☐ Planning Board Activity/Profile of cases reviewed

Current Projects

- ☐ Projects approved but not yet built *
- ☐ Public & Private facilities (i.e., sewer/water line extensions, residential subdivisions, new schools) *

Mapping Elements

- ☐ Regional Location
- ☐ Base Map (municipal boundaries, roads, railroads water bodies, Tax Parcels)
- ☐ Natural Constraints (wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, prime agricultural soils)
- ☐ Existing Land Use
- ☐ Existing Zoning Districts
- ☐ Future Zoning Districts
- ☐ Historic Districts (Local, State, National)

* Elements with this symbol may possibly be represented with a thematic map

Committee Member's Questionnaire

July 16, 2002

-
-
1. In your opinion why is a Comprehensive Plan important?

2. What do you feel are the most important issues facing the Town of Hoosick now and in the future?. Please list four or five and rank them as to importance.

RANK	ISSUE

3. What groups, organizations, or individuals do you think are the most important stakeholders in comprehensive planning and/or community development?

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

4. A) What are the things that you most like about living or working in the Town of Hoosick? Please list them below and rank them as to importance.

RANK	Things most liked

B) What do you like least about living or working in the Town of Hoosick?

RANK	Things least liked

5. Where do you see the Town of Hoosick in the next five years?

TOWN OF HOOSICK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #3

AGENDA

Tuesday, June 17, 2003
6:30 pm ñ 8:00 pm

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| <i>I. Recap/Regroup</i> | <i>(15 minutes)</i> |
| <i>II. Review SWOT Results</i> | <i>(15 minutes)</i> |
| <i>III. Review Survey Results</i> | <i>(20 minutes)</i> |
| <i>IV. Review Draft Document</i> | <i>(20 minutes)</i> |
| <i>V. Next Steps</i> | <i>(15 minutes)</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Discussion of possible Vision Workshop</i>• <i>Explanation of Homework</i>• <i>Decide on and set Next Meeting</i> | |
| <i>VI. Comments, Questions</i> | <i>(5 minutes)</i> |

TOWN OF HOOSICK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Meeting Notes Summary Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #3

*Tuesday June 17, 2003
6:35 pm - 8:00pm
Hoosick Falls Armory*

➤ Attendees

Marilyn Douglas
K. Hayden
B. Galvin
J. Fitzsimmons
Sandra Governor – Laberge Group

Recap/Regroup:

- Reflection on SWOT Meeting; generally good, but concerns about school being a negative were over emphasized in the media; Town has no governance over school district.

Review SWOT Results

- Number of surveys mailed out – (according to Marilyn) was closer to 1500; 290 were returned; this is about 18% return rate.
- We got database from Rensselaer County.
- Notice was put in paper if a person did not get a survey to come to Town Offices and pick one up.
- Under Threats what was meant by “high school problems?” gangs? Drop out rate? Truancy? Sandra will go by and check notes from SWOT to clarify this topic.

Next Steps

- Do we want another public meeting?
- We decided we would like to have another public meeting; Vision workshop; maybe in three weeks; then another committee meeting three weeks after that;
- DATE FOR VISION WORKSHOP JULY 22, 2003 7 pm.
- Notice needs to be sent to the papers;
- Follow up committee (Goals Meeting) August 12, 2003 – 6:30 pm

- We are to work on goal setting exercise and turn in at public meeting

TOWN OF HOOSICK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #2

AGENDA

Tuesday, September 17, 2002
7:00 pm ñ 8:30 pm

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| <i>I. Introductions</i> | <i>(5 minutes)</i> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Formalize members of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) & select Chairman- Consultants Laberge Group<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Benjamin H. Syden, AICP, Planning & Community Development Manager- Sandra Governor, AICP Planner | |
| <i>II. Review Meeting Notes from the 6-16-02 meeting</i> | <i>(5 minutes)</i> |
| <i>III. Review Key Issues Document</i> | <i>(10 minutes)</i> |
| <i>IV. Review Existing Conditions Working Document</i> | <i>(10 minutes)</i> |
| <i>V. Examine Demographics of the Town</i> | <i>(20 minutes)</i> |
| <i>VI. Review Residential Survey Example</i> | <i>(15 minutes)</i> |
| <i>VII. Review Business Survey Example</i> | <i>(15 minutes)</i> |
| <i>VIII. Control Group Survey Exercise</i> | <i>(10 minutes)</i> |
| <i>IX. Next Steps</i> | |

Example Comprehensive Plan Goals

Historic & Cultural Resources

Goal 1 Preserve and enhance cultural and historic resources which reinforce a sense of identity and pride for the residents.

Goal 2 Encourage the protection and restoration of existing structures to maintain historic character.

Community Services and Facilities

Goal 1 Maintain a commitment to providing quality educational opportunities for its residents.

Goal 2 Promote existing and new programs and activities for seniors and youth, and continue to cooperate with the Town and school district for the provision of needed services to the citizens.

Recreational Facilities and Resources

Goal 1 Continue to provide the desired recreational and community services to residents.

Goal 2 Improve recreational opportunities for all citizens through public and private efforts.

Goal 3 Improve access to and opportunities for passive recreational use of natural areas.

Natural & Environmental Features and Resources

Goal 1 Protect and enhance lands which are environmentally significant and or sensitive, and to minimize any adverse impacts man-made development may have on land, air, water quality, natural habitats, unique land formations and scenic resources.

Goal 2 Manage and protect sensitive environmental areas in order to prevent development which would endanger the environment or public health.

Goal 3 Preserve and protect lands that serve as important natural drainage channels and natural habitats.

Municipal Services and Facilities

Goal 1 Maintain a safe and sufficient water supply source that can be effectively distributed and provides adequate quantity and quality.

Goal 2 Maintain and improve public buildings to adequately serve their function for all residents.

Goal 3 Maintain and enhance the existing sewer and water system to support economic development.

Goal 4 Provide well maintained local streets in a safe and cost effective manner.

Goal 6 Maintain and enhance the existing aesthetics of municipal buildings and ensure that the activities of the public works department do not negatively impact the environment or public health.

Goal 7 Provide an infrastructure system that meets the demands of current and future residents, and maintains existing investments.

Transportation

Goal 1 Provide safe, convenient and efficient transportation options for residents which minimize the impact of traffic on quality of life.

Goal 2 Maintain and enhance the character of existing residential streets to promote safe, efficient and uncongested circulation of pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Goal 3 Support the planning efforts of regional transportation entities such as the Adirondack-Glens Falls Transportation Committee.

Goal 4 Provide and maintain a safe and contiguous sidewalk system throughout the Town.

Goal 5 Improve and maintain the integrity and capacity of existing state and local roads through access management.

Economic Development

Goal 1 Enhance the economic climate to foster a vital business environment and promote the establishment of new business enterprises to improve the overall economic vitality of the area and enhance the quality of life for residents.

Goal 2 Promote economic development that will expand the Town's tax base and provide existing and future residents with a wide range of business, employment and career opportunities.

Goal 3 Retain and improve the commercial and industrial base of the Town in order to expand the availability of a variety of goods and services to residents.

Goal 4 Improve tourism based on the historic and aesthetic assets of the Town.

Housing

Goal 1 Provide safe, affordable quality housing to all residents in the Town.

Goal 2 Provide a balanced blend of quality housing opportunities including a desirable range of housing types and price ranges which are affordable and accessible for residents.

Land Use & Zoning

Goal 1 Preserve and enhance the unique features of the Town that make it a quality place to live.

Goal 2 Preserve and enhance the existing character of Town while accommodating a balanced mix of recreational, residential and commercial uses to ensure that property taxes are kept reasonable for existing and future residents.

Goal 3 Encourage future development that is of quality design, will meet the necessary long-term population needs, and will lead to fiscal stability of the community.

Goal 4 Encourage land uses that are "clean", have few environmental impacts and discourage those that put the Town environment at risk.

Goal 5 Promote and encourage inter and intra-municipal cooperation and communication when making land use decisions.

Goal 6 Protect visual character and design quality especially along the corridors and entranceways.

Goal Setting Exercise Instructions

Enclosed you will find some ***Example Comprehensive Plan Goals***. In order to spark your thinking process, specific example goals were chosen from nearby Village and Town plans, that have similar issues as the Town of Hoosick.

Goal: a broad statement that reflects the ideal future conditions desired by the Town.

Recommendation: an action step or strategy that the Town can take to accomplish goals.

For example:

Goal: To preserve and enhance the unique features of the Town that make it a quality place to live.

Recommendation: Establish an annual Town Clean Up Day.

Goal: To provide an adequate network of roads which supports safe mobility within and around the Town for automobiles and pedestrians.

Recommendation: Continue to support and fund the installation and upgrading of sidewalks.

Goal Setting Exercise

Historic Resources (historic structures and properties)

Goal 1

Goal 2

Goal 3

Goal 4

Goal 5

Goal 6

Cultural Resources (museums, institutions, events)

Goal 1

Goal 2

Goal 3

Goal 4

Goal 5

Goal 6

Community Services and Facilities (youth center, senior center, health centers, educational facilities)

Goal 1

Goal 2

Goal 3

Goal 4

Goal 5

Goal 6

Recreational Facilities and Resources (parkland, programs, trails)

Goal 1

Goal 2

Goal 3

Goal 4

Goal 5

Goal 6

Natural and Environmental Features and Resources (rivers, floodplains, sensitive environmental areas)

Goal 1:

Goal 2:

Goal 3:

Goal 4:

Goal 5

Goal 6

Municipal Services and Facilities (public water, sewer, buildings, street lighting, policies, procedures, administration, emergency services, litter removal)

Goal 1:

Goal 2:

Goal 3:

Goal 4:

Goal 5

Goal 6

Transportation (traffic circulation, volume, noise, storm drainage, curbing, sidewalks, maintenance, public transportation options)

Goal 1:

Goal 2:

Goal 3:

Goal 4:

Goal 5

Goal 6

Economic Development (potential/future locations of commercial or industrial facilities, policies and strategies for improving the local economy, downtown revitalization, tourism)

Goal 1:

Goal 2:

Goal 3:

Goal 4:

Goal 5

Goal 6

Housing (existing housing resources, future housing needs, affordable housing, senior housing)

Goal 1:

Goal 2:

Goal 3:

Goal 4:

Goal 5

Goal 6

Land Use & Zoning (existing and proposed location and intensity of land uses, deficiencies in code, design guidelines, code enforcement mechanisms, gateways, landscaping, etc.)

Goal 1:

Goal 2:

Goal 3:

Goal 4:

Goal 5

Goal 6

Others

TOWN OF HOOSICK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #4

AGENDA

Tuesday, August 19, 2003
6:30 pm ñ 8:00 pm

- I. Review Results of Visioning Workshop (20 minutes)***
- II. Committee Member Goals (20 minutes)***
- III. Updated sample goals for the Town of Hoosick (20 minutes)***
- IV. Review preferred areas of development for concept map (20 minutes)***
- V. Tentative Schedule (10 minutes)***

Town of Hoosick

POSSIBLE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN GOALS

Natural & Environmental Features and Resources

- Goal 1 Protect and enhance lands which are environmentally significant and or sensitive, and to minimize any adverse impacts man-made development may have on land, air, water quality, natural habitats, unique land formations and scenic resources.
- Goal 2 Manage and protect sensitive environmental areas in order to prevent development which would endanger the environment or public health.
- Goal 3 Preserve and protect lands that serve as important natural drainage channels and natural habitats.
- Goal 4 Preserve and protect the Hoosic River and the Walloomsac Rivers
- Goal 5 Preserve and protect the agricultural lands in the Town
- Goal 6 Identify key scenic areas and preserve and protect the scenic beauty of the Town
- Goal 7 Encourage site design that protects the existing environment, and preserves significant vegetation and scenic views

Historic & Cultural Resources

- Goal 1 Identify and map all historic and cultural resources
- Goal 2 Preserve and enhance cultural and historic resources which reinforce a sense of identity and pride for the residents.
- Goal 3 Encourage the protection and restoration of existing structures to maintain historic character.
- Goal 4 Promote resources regionally

Transportation

- Goal 1 Provide safe, convenient and efficient transportation options for commuters to the Capital District.
- Goal 3 Provide more transportation opportunities for the elderly and handicapped
- Goal 5 Improve and maintain the integrity and capacity of existing state and local roads through access management.

Municipal Services

- Goal 1 Plan for the installation of sewer and water infrastructure in accordance with the preferred development patterns in this Comprehensive Plan.
- Goal 2 Use existing laws and regulations (such as perc tests) to determine where public utilities are needed or not needed.
- Goal 3 Encourage new development to be located near existing development such as hamlets in order to efficiently deliver municipal services.
- Goal 4 Provide an infrastructure system that meets the demands of current and future residents, and maintains existing investments.
- Goal 6 Maintain and enhance the existing sewer and water system to support economic development.
- Goal 5 Maintain and improve public buildings to adequately serve their function for all residents.
- Goal 7 Provide well maintained local roads in a safe and cost effective manner.

Emergency Services

- Goal 1 Continue to use Volunteer staff for EMS and Fire Departments, but increase recruitment for these services
- Goal 2 Work with New York State to develop different training systems and requirements for volunteer staff

Housing

- Goal 1 Provide safe, affordable quality housing to all residents in the Town.
- Goal 2 Provide a balanced blend of quality housing opportunities including a desirable range of housing types and price ranges which are affordable and accessible for residents.
- Goal 3 Encourage subdivisions that are based on site plans with clustered residences and large portions of land preserved as open space. (Conservation Subdivisions)

Optional Goal 3

- Mandate clustered site plans for subdivision that have more than (a specified number of) residential structures
- Goal 4 Work with Village of Hoosick Falls to enforce current codes to maintain clean, tidy housing

Parks & Recreation

- Goal 1 Develop the riverfront for recreational opportunities.
- Goal 2 Inventory and identify areas in the Town that should be protected as open space or parkland
- Goal 2 Improve recreational opportunities for all citizens through public and private efforts.
- Goal 3 Improve access to and opportunities for passive recreational use of natural areas.
- Goal 4 Improve and enhance the current recreational facilities to provide more recreational opportunities for all citizens

Economic Development

- Goal 1 Enhance the economic climate to foster a vital business environment and promote the establishment of new business enterprises to improve the overall economic vitality of the area and enhance the quality of life for residents.
- Goal 2 Maintain a viable agricultural economy in the Town of Hoosick and promote the economic development of the agricultural sector.
- Goal 3 Promote economic development that will expand the Town's tax base and provide existing and future residents with a wide range of business, employment and career opportunities.
- Goal 4 Retain and improve the commercial and industrial base of the Town in order to expand the availability of a variety of goods and services to residents.
- Goal 5 Improve tourism based on the historic, aesthetic and agricultural assets of the Town.
- Goal 6 Use the current stock of buildings in the Town for adaptive reuse for commercial and industrial purposes

Land Use & Zoning

- Goal 1 Preserve and enhance the unique features of the Town that make it a quality place to live.
- Goal 2 Preserve and enhance the existing character of Town while accommodating a balanced mix of recreational, residential and commercial uses to ensure that property taxes are kept reasonable for existing and future residents.
- Goal 3 Promote development patterns, land use policy and conservation measures that encourage agriculture and protect productive farmland.
- Goal 4 Encourage future development that is of quality design, will meet the necessary long-term population needs, and will lead to fiscal stability of the community.
- Goal 5 Encourage land uses that are "clean", have few environmental impacts and discourage those that put the Town environment at risk.

- Goal 6 Encourage types and patterns of development that minimize the need for services and infrastructure
- Goal 7 Promote and encourage inter and intra-municipal cooperation and communication when making land use decisions.
- Goal 8 Protect visual character and design quality especially along the corridors and entranceways.
- Goal 9 Consider amendments to the current Subdivision Regulations and Site Plan Review Law to protect the natural and built environment in the Town
- Goal 10 Consider the development of a Zoning Ordinance to regulated future development in the Town.
- Goal 11 Coordinate Town and Village planning efforts to the greatest extent possible

Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan

MEETING SCHEDULE

RECORD OF PAST MEETINGS AND TENTATIVE UPCOMING SCHEDULE

1. July 16, 2002 Kick-off meeting – Committee Meeting # 1
2. September 12, 2002 Key Issues, Survey determination – Committee Meeting #2
3. January 28, 2003 SWOT Public Meeting
4. June 17, 2003 Committee Meeting # 3
5. July 22, 2003 Public Meeting - Visioning
6. August 19, 2003 Committee Meeting #4 – Goals
7. (October 21, 2003) ? Committee Meeting #5 – Review Draft Plan
8. November ? Committee Public Hearing – Approve Plan
 ↓ 30 days notice for coordinated public review
 ↓ Rensselaer County and Hudson RiverValley Greenway to review plan
9. December ? Town Board Public Hearing – Adopt Plan, SEQR Neg Dec

J:\22064\Meetings\Meeting #4\Meeting Schedule.doc



Join Us!



Town of Hoosick Visioning Public Workshop

Envision Positive Changes for the Town of Hoosick

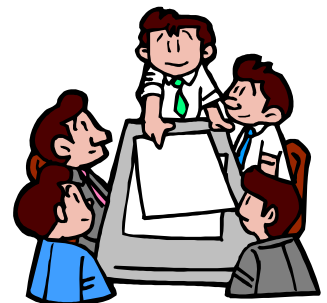
***Take an Active Role for the Future of
Your Community!***

The results of the workshop will allow the ***Comprehensive Plan Citizen Advisory Committee*** define the Goals and Objectives and an Action Plan to guide growth in the Town of Hoosick.

When: Tuesday, July 22, 2003
7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

Where: Armory building
Church & Elm Street
Hoosick Falls, NY

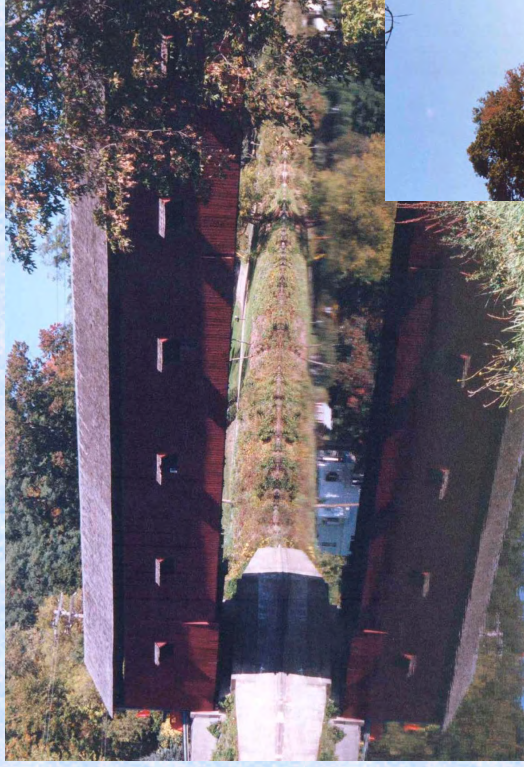
Who: Adults & Teens 13 +
Town Business Owners
Town Residents





Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Development

Visioning Workshop



**July 22, 2003
7:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.**





Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Development

Agenda

- **Introduction**
 - **Description of the Comprehensive Plan**
 - **Time Line - Tasks Accomplished to Date**
 - **Future Tasks to be Completed**
 - **Overview of Key Development Areas**
 - **“Visioning” or “Brainstorming” Workshop**





Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Development

Description of a Comprehensive Plan

A Comprehensive Plan is a written document that identifies and establishes a community's goals, objectives and recommendations in order to guide future growth, development, and/or preservation.



Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Development

Comprehensive Plan Development Process

Phase I	Project Initiation
Phase II	Issue Identification, Data Gatherings and Analysis
Phase III	Develop Goals and Objectives
Phase IV	Development of Comprehensive Plan



Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Development

Tasks Accomplished to Date

- **Inventory & Analysis of Existing Conditions**
- **Mail-in Town Resident Survey**
- **SWOT Public Workshop**



Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Development

Future Tasks to be Completed

- **Visioning Public Workshop (Tonight)**
- **Goals & Implementation Plan Committee Meeting (August)**
- **Draft Plan (October)**



Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Development

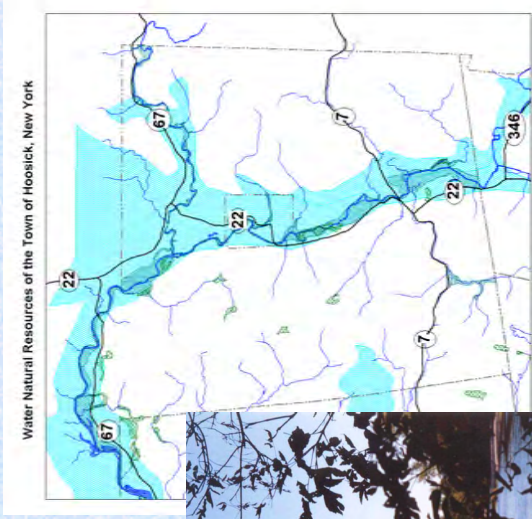
Key Development Areas

- **Environmentally Sensitive Areas**
- **Historic & Cultural Resources**
- **Transportation**
- **Community Facilities/Municipal Services**
- **Emergency Services**
- **Housing**
- **Parks and Recreation**
- **Economic Development**
- **Land Use and Zoning**



Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Development

Environment



Issues:

- Protection of scenic beauty
- Protection of rivers and aquifer
- Protection of prime agricultural lands

Questions

- How to manage future development & safeguard the environment at the same time
- What land can be designated for open space conservation, greenbelts or parks?

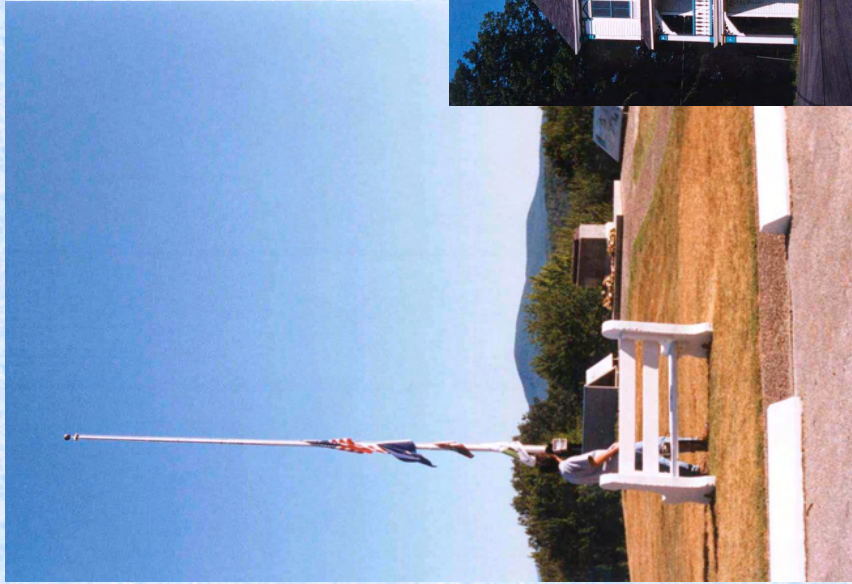




Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Development

Historic &

Cultural Resources



Issues:

- Identification, protection and marketing of historic & cultural resources

Questions

- How to coordinate the management of the Town's historic & cultural resources
- How to use the historic & cultural resources in economic development strategies





Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Development

Transportation



Issues:

- No major issues have been identified through the SWOT analysis and the residents' survey regarding the road system
- Public transportation was listed as a weakness at the SWOT meeting

Questions

- Are there any improvements or changes desired for the Town's transportation system?



Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Development

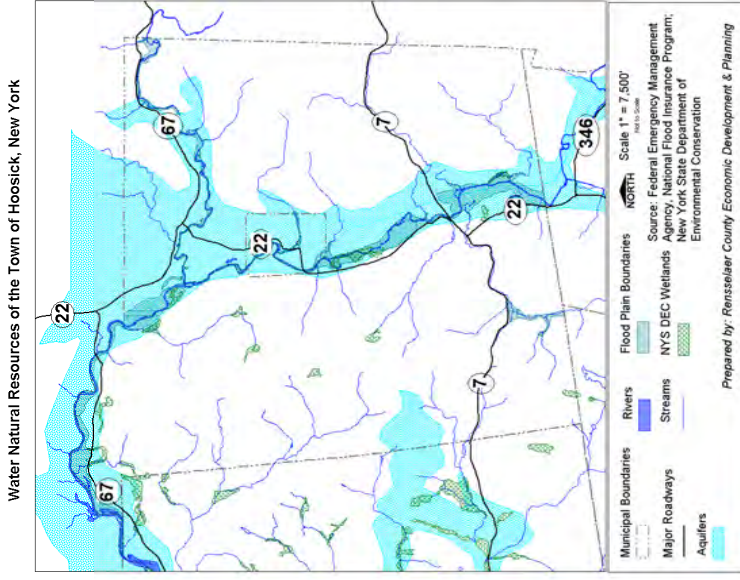
Municipal Services

Issues:

- Steep slopes, poor soils and the location of the Town's rivers and aquifer limit development
- Most new development will require public sewer and water

Questions

- Where should development be encouraged?
- How to balance new development and the protection of environmental resources?





Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Development

Emergency Services



Issues:

- Staffing of the Hoosick Rescue Squad is becoming a serious problem because it is an all-volunteer organization operating 24 hours each day
- Daytime staffing is a problem for the Fire Departments because men have to travel to jobs in distant areas and are not present during the day

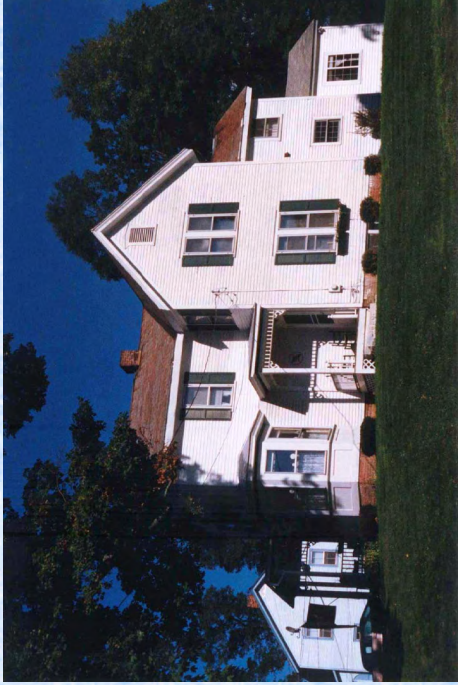
Question

- Does the Town need a paid Fire Dept. or EMS in the future?



Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Development

Housing



Issues:

- Farmland is being sold for residential use. (Most of the new housing in the Town has been built outside of the Village.)
- Residential uses are not protected from undesirable uses because of lack of zoning regulations
- Non-owner occupied housing in Village sited as a weakness in SWOT meeting

Questions

- Where should housing in the Town be encouraged and what types of development patterns are desirable? (Standard Subdivisions, Subdivisions with clustering, large lot single family, etc)
- Should the Town have zoning regulations to protect residential development and also to specify where new housing can be built?
- How can the Town work with the Village regarding absentee landlords and property depreciation in the Village?



Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Development

Parks & Recreation



Issues:

- Need for sufficient opportunities to involve youth in the community and cause them to choose it as their future home
- No art programs or activities
- Community survey identified need for more bikeways and hiking trails, picnic areas, indoor and outdoor athletic facilities, parks

Questions

- Should the Town pursue the development of an indoor soccer facility?
- What types and where should new parks or recreational facilities be developed?
- Is there a need for adult or senior citizen recreational programs or facilities?



Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Development

Economic Development



Issues:

- Closing of large companies like Isolda & loss of jobs
- More retail businesses needed for residents' shopping needs
- General business development including tourism

Questions

- What types of businesses are desired?
- Where should industry & commercial uses be located?
- How to market Hoosick to new businesses, the public?





Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Development

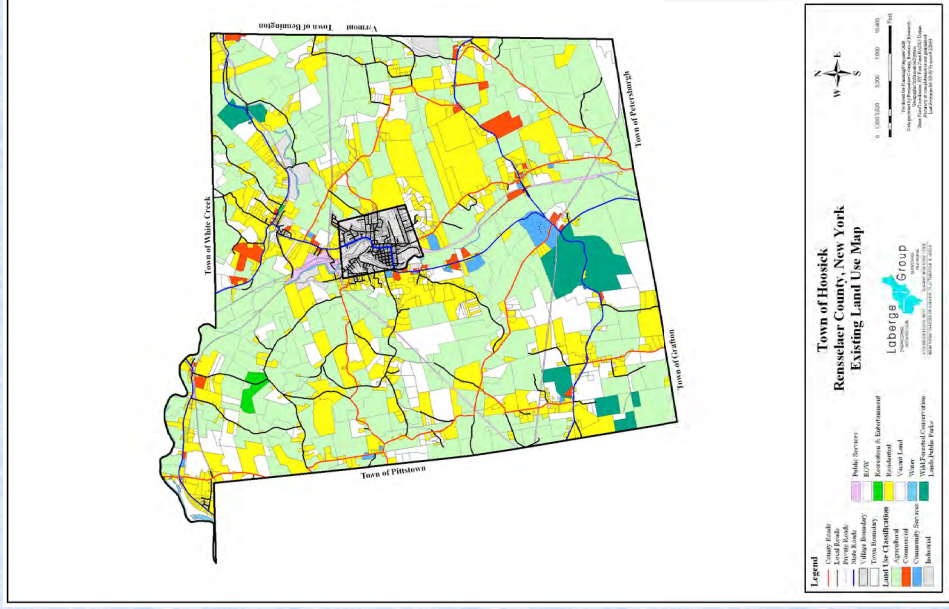
Land Use & Zoning

Issues:

- 51.1% of the land use is agricultural, which the residents highly value
- Farmland is being sold for residential uses which decreased the amount of farmland, open space and natural beauty
- The general land use pattern is tending toward residential sprawl
- There is currently no regulation regarding location of new development
- Residential uses are not protected from the development of new undesirable adjacent uses

Questions

- Should the Town develop zoning regulations to guide new development?
- Where should the various types of uses be allowed - along highways, in industrial parks, in subdivisions, near hamlets, etc.





Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Development

Visioning Session Procedures

- Small groups working at tables
- Key Development Areas to be addressed (on display boards)
- Use questions to guide brainstorming, but feel free to think of other questions
- Free flow of ideas without discussion or judgement
- Use of map to locate physical features
- Appoint a presenter to give a summary of your group ideas
- Use of flip chart to write down points



Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Development

Thank You

**For your Contribution to the
Development of the
Town of Hoosick
Comprehensive Plan!**



Town of Hoosick

IDEAS/RECOMMENDATIONS FROM VISIONING MEETING JULY 22, 2003

ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage Conservation easements and/or development rights
- Keep agricultural lands assessed as agricultural
- Continue with agricultural districts (tax benefits)
- Land use planning
 - Clustering
 - Planned housing areas
 - Town services (Efficiency in delivery)
- Educational programs to raise community awareness (impact of development on agricultural lands. What alternatives are available? What types of development have less impact?)
- Raise awareness level of each individual property owner.
- Sustainable environmentally sensitive development
- Identify key scenic areas & view sheds
- Encourage property management
- Determine visual preferences of town residents
- Agricultural Lands ñ encourage continued participation in all programs
- Conservation management

HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Identify resources throughout the Town ñ Make List
- From list ñ produce a map
- Signage for events
- Band concert promoting farmers market
- More support for private resources
- Promote resources regionally
- Promote drive in

TRANSPORTATION

- Bring passenger train back
- More transit options for commuters to Capital District
- More transportation for elderly handicapped, lower income folks (shopping health care Etc.)
- Connection to Route 7 bypass to current Route 7
- Traffic connection at Hill Road and Route 7 South Street

MUNICIPAL SERVICES

- Planning is key
- Municipal services make sense - expand them to support new development
- Develop as close to village as possible
- Use existing laws & regs (such as Perc tests)
- No development in prime agricultural lands

EMERGENCY SERVICES

- No paid staff (Town cannot support it at present (\$))
- Promote more recruitment for these services
- Contact/work with NYS for different training systems
 - Hours/Schedule
 - Local training vs school
- Different levels of qualifications by task drivers, lifters etc.

HOUSING

- Subdivisions should have clustering instead of large lot
- Keep % of land as green space so it all doesn't become developed
- Some type of restrictions are needed
- In Village - code enforcement
- Up keep of property important

PARK & RECREATION

- New facility for indoor soccer facility not as important as increased use of ice rink (possible soccer location in present ice rink)
- Riverfront development for recreation.
 - Bike path, hiking/walking
 - Boat launch;
 - Boat take out
- Old railroad beds developed for recreation
 - paths
 - picnic areas
 - bike trails
- More programs for 12+
 - Art & music
 - Gym area at pool (exercise)
- Bike path along Route 7 Bypass

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Bring in new shops - jewelry, bookstore, museum gift shops, craft stores in conjunction with existing museums
- Fill in vacant bldgs, old St. Mary's building
- If old buildings are not usable knock them down
- Use beauty of the area - small town charm, family-oriented community
- Take advantage of history, more museums, wood manufacturing, Grandma Moses.
- Use wood block bld for artisans and artists.
- Craft lessons and lectures

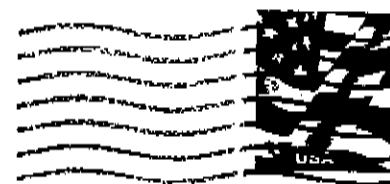
LAND USE AND ZONING

- No zoning. Use Development regs for farmland (sell development rights) Federal & State \$
- Possibly zoning but not so heavy handed
- Site plan is effective under present subdivision regs
- Encourage small businesses through out the Town
- Use vacant buildings instead of putting up new ones along highway
- Keep development closer to Village
- Identify possible site for Lt Industrial Park
 - Possible location within or just outside village
 - (A lot just north of village)

C. PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY & RESULTS

Town of Hoosick

P.O. Box 17
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090



TOWN OF HOOSICK

P.O. Box 17, Hoosick Falls, New York 12090
Phone (518) 686-4571 Fax (518) 686-5304

March 2003

Dear Resident,

The Town of Hoosick is in the process of updating the Town's Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Your views and opinions are important to the Town Board, and we wish to have the Comprehensive Plan reflect the consensus of Town residents.

The Town asks your assistance by completing the following survey. Your responses to the questions below will be tallied and presented to the Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee. Please drop off the completed survey at the Town Offices located in the State Armory, or mail to Town of Hoosick, P.O. Box 17, Hoosick Falls, NY 12090. Surveys will be accepted until April 18, 2003.

We look forward to your response, and thank you for your participation. Please feel free to contact the Town Offices at (518) 686-4571, or any Town Board member if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Marilyn K. Douglas, *Supervisor*

Matt Beck, Mark Cottrell, Kevin O'Malley, Robert Ryan, *Town Council*

TOWN OF HOOSICK

CONFIDENTIAL RESIDENTIAL SURVEY

This survey has been designed to aid in the development of an updated **Comprehensive Plan** for the Town of Hoosick. Your responses to the questions below will be tallied and presented to the Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee to gather a consensus as to what the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan should entail. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. **YOUR ANSWERS ARE CONFIDENTIAL, AS YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO SIGN OR REVEAL YOUR NAME ANYWHERE ON THE FORM.** Please return your survey by January 15, 2003 using the enclosed self addressed stamped envelope. Thank you.

1. What is your age group? ☐ 18-24 ☐ 25-39 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54
☐ 55-59 ☐ 60 & Over
2. What is the size of your Household? ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 - 4 ☐ 5 or more
3. Does anyone under 18 years of age live in your home? ☐ Yes ☐ No
4. Do you own or Rent your Home? ☐ Own ☐ Rent
5. How long have you lived in the Town? ☐ Less than 6 years ☐ 6-15 years
☐ more than 15 years
6. In your opinion, what are the positive aspects of the Town of Hoosick?
☐ Rural lifestyle ☐ Scenic beauty ☐ Close knit community
☐ Low crime rate ☐ Schools ☐ Community & cultural services
☐ Recreational facilities
☐ Other _____
7. In your opinion, what are the least positive aspects of the Town of Hoosick?
☐ Lack of Job opportunities ☐ Lack of shopping opportunities
☐ Not enough recreational facilities ☐ Lack of public water & sanitary sewer systems
☐ Development patterns (ie. Industrial, commercial next to residential)
☐ Other _____
8. In your opinion, how would you rate the Town as a place to live?
☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Unknown
9. Is housing affordable within the Town?
☐ Very Affordable ☐ Affordable ☐ Somewhat Affordable ☐ Too Costly
☐ Unknown
10. Do you feel the Town is a safe place to live? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown
11. Is the volume of traffic a problem within the Town?
☐ Serious Problem ☐ Minor Problem ☐ Not a Problem ☐ Unknown

If so where _____

12. Please rate the following services that are provided by/in the Town of Hoosick (outside of the Village):

SERVICE	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	UNKNOWN
Fire Protection					
EMS					
Police protection					
Snow Removal					
Road Maintenance					
General Tidiness					

13. Are you satisfied with the Town recreational programs offered for youth?

Ages 0 -13 ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

Ages 14 -18 ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

14. Do you feel that there should be Town recreational programs offered for adults?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

15. What additional recreational facilities or programs would you like to see in the Town?

☐ Indoor athletic facilities ☐ Outdoor athletic facilities ☐ More parks

☐ Additional indoor community space ☐ Hiking trails ☐ Bikeways

☐ Theme parks/adventure lands ☐ Camp Grounds ☐ Picnic areas

☐ Miniature Golf ☐ Other _____

16. Would you like to see additional arts and cultural programs?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

17. Would you like to see more public trails and greenways throughout the Town?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

18. Do you feel that home - based offices are appropriate in residential neighborhoods?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

19. How often do you shop or seek services in the Town (outside the Village)?

☐ Quite often ☐ Occasionally ☐ Seldom ☐ Never ☐ Unknown

20. What is your opinion of the current level of business activity in the Town (outside the Village)?

☐ Too Much ☐ About Right ☐ Not Enough ☐ Unknown

21. Would you like to attract more tourists to the Town?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

22. What types of business would you like to see come to the Town? (Check all that apply)
- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grocery store | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothing Shop | <input type="checkbox"/> General Store |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bed & Breakfast | <input type="checkbox"/> Specialty shops | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Restaurants | <input type="checkbox"/> Bars/Bar & Grille |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business & professional services | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial/manufacturing | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Child Day Care | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |
23. Do you support the following current regulations?
- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Billboard Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cell Tower Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Junk Yards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Site Plan Review | <input type="checkbox"/> Animal control |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Subdivision Regulations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
24. How important is it to preserve the historic nature of the Town?
- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very Important | <input type="checkbox"/> Important | <input type="checkbox"/> Not a Priority | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
|---|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
25. Looking ahead, what would be the ideal population for the Town in 10 years?
- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fewer Residents Than Now | <input type="checkbox"/> About the Same Size | <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Greater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Much Greater | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown | |
26. What type of development should be permitted on the undeveloped lands in the Town? (you may choose more than one.)
- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Family Homes | <input type="checkbox"/> Condos | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Townhouses | <input type="checkbox"/> Apartment Buildings | <input type="checkbox"/> No Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Duplex Homes | <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
27. Overall, how do you feel about the appearance of commercial signs for businesses in the Town?
- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Superior | <input type="checkbox"/> Adequate | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
28. Please provide any additional comments about the quality of life in the Town, opportunities to improve the Town, or threats to what you value in the Town? _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

29. The 1986 Hoosick Comprehensive Plan recommended the support of hamlets as centers for commerce and new residential development. Where would you prefer to see commercial and residential development?

Residential:

☐ Near hamlets ☐ Scattered throughout the town ☐ Other _____

Commercial:

☐ Near hamlets ☐ Scattered throughout the town ☐ In commercial malls
☐ Along Rt 22 ☐ Along Route 7 ☐ Other _____

30. The 1986 Plan recommended the location of industrial uses in areas where there was good access to major public roads and the railroad, and where there was an abundance of natural resources. Where would you prefer to see industrial development?

☐ Near hamlets ☐ Scattered throughout the town ☐ In industrial parks
☐ Along Rt 22 ☐ Along Route 7 ☐ Along Rt 67
☐ Other _____

31. The 1986 Plan recommends the development of a zoning ordinance to control visual quality in the Town. These regulations could contain requirements concerning land use, setbacks, landscape buffering, open space etc. Would you support the development of a Zoning Ordinance?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

32. Would you support the extension of public sanitary sewer facilities to encourage development?

Residential	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown
Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown

33. The 1986 Hoosick Comprehensive Plan recommended that agricultural resources be managed to keep high viability agricultural land in production. Do you support efforts to protect agricultural lands?

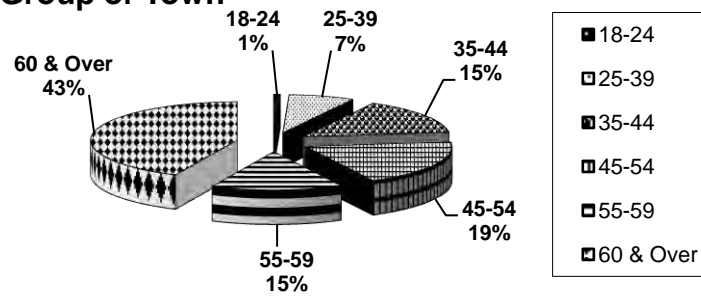
☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unknown

The Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee thanks you for your cooperation and support.

1 - What is your age group?

18-24	25-39	35-44	45-54	55-59	60 & Over	Total
2	21	44	56	42	125	290
1%	7%	15%	19%	14%	43%	

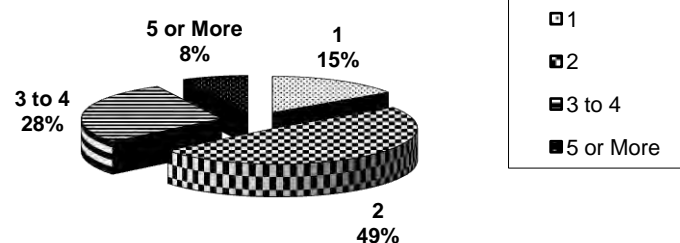
Age Group of Town



2 - What is the size of your Household?

1	2	3 to 4	5 or More	Total
45	141	82	22	290
16%	49%	28%	8%	

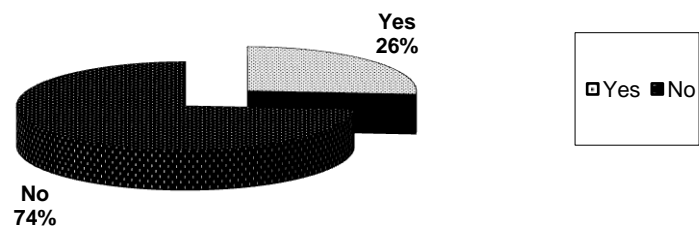
Size of Household



3 - Does anyone under 18 years of age live in your home?

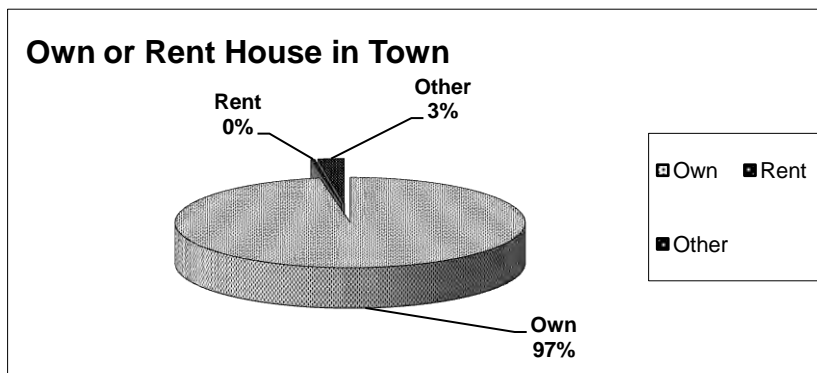
Yes	No	Total
76	214	290
26%	74%	

18 Years of Age Living in Household



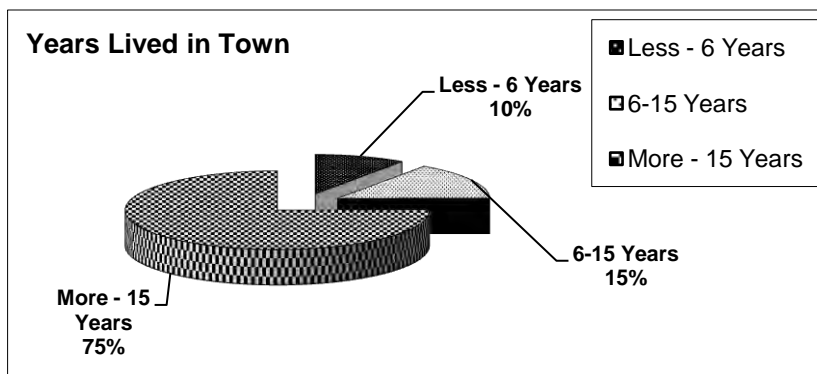
4 - Do you Own or Rent you Home?

Own	Rent	Other	Total
282	1	7	290
97%	0%	2%	



5 - How long have you lived in the Town?

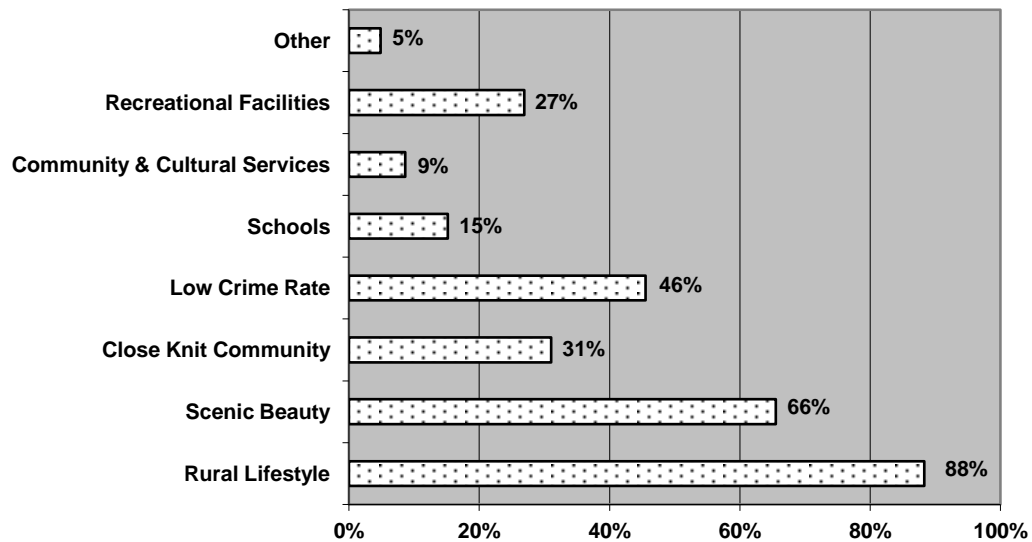
Less - 6 Years	6-15 Years	More - 15 Years	Total
28	44	218	290
10%	15%	75%	



6 - What are the positive aspects of the Town of Hoosick?

Rural Lifestyle	Scenic Beauty	Close Knit Community	Low Crime Rate	Schools	Community & Cultural Services	Recreational Facilities	Other
256	190	90	132	44	25	78	14
88%	66%	31%	46%	15%	9%	27%	5%

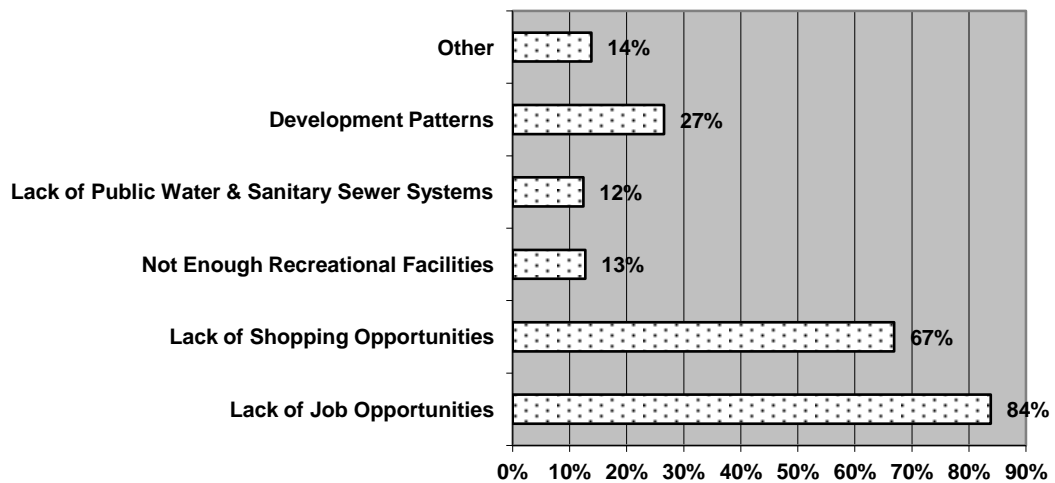
Positive Aspects of the Town



7 - What are the least positive aspects of the Town of Hoosick?

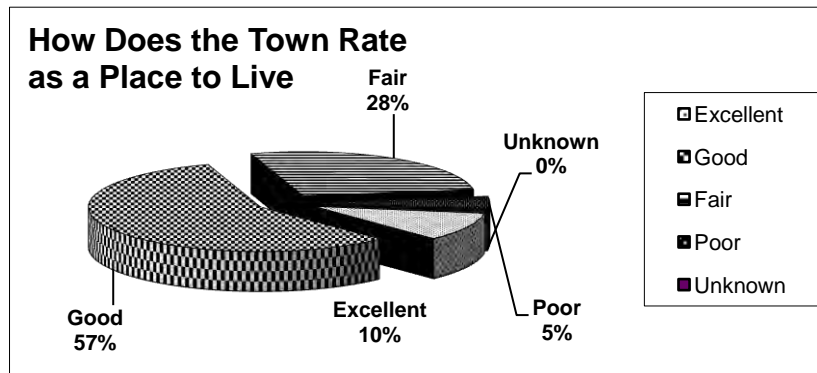
Lack of Job Opportunities	Lack of Shopping Opportunities	Not Enough Recreational Facilities	Lack of Public Water & Sanitary Sewer Systems	Development Patterns	Other
243	194	37	36	77	40
84%	67%	13%	12%	27%	14%

Least Positive Aspects of the Town



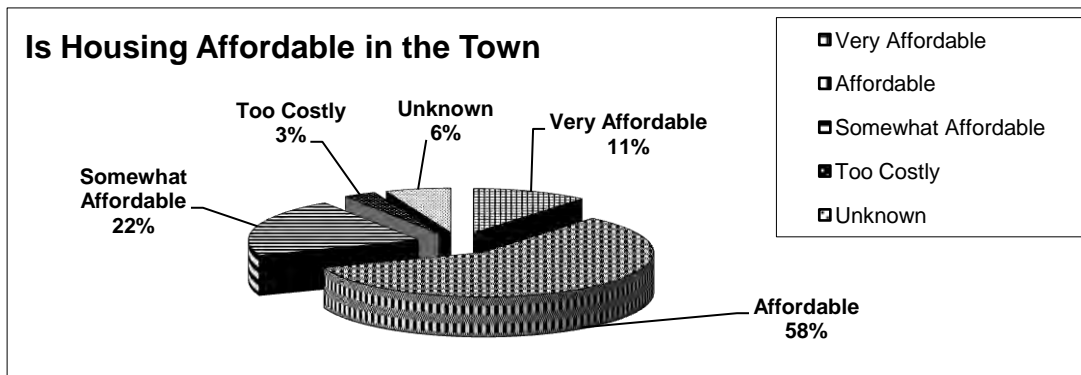
8 - How would you rate the Town as a place to live?

Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unknown	Total
30	166	80	13	1	290
10%	57%	28%	4%	0%	



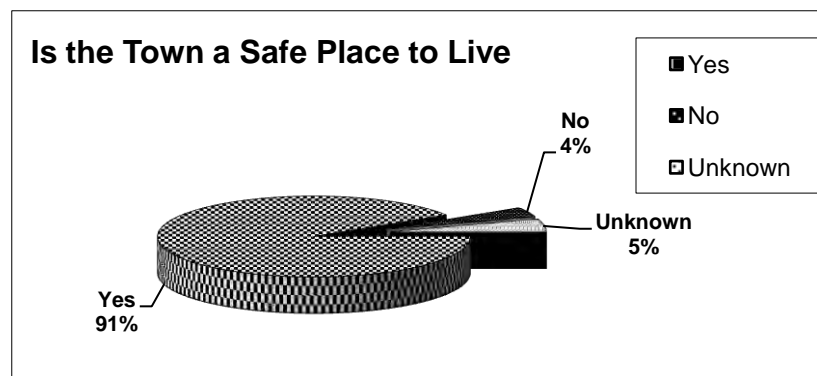
9 - Is housing affordable within the Town?

Very Affordable	Affordable	Somewhat Affordable	Too Costly	Unknown	Total
32	169	62	9	18	290
11%	58%	21%	3%	6%	



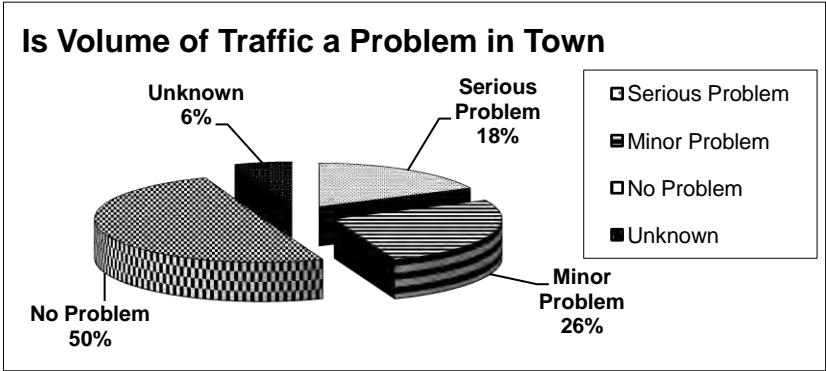
10 - Do you feel the Town is a safe place to live?

Yes	No	Unknown	Total
264	11	15	290
91%	4%	5%	



11 - Is the volume of traffic a problem within the Town?

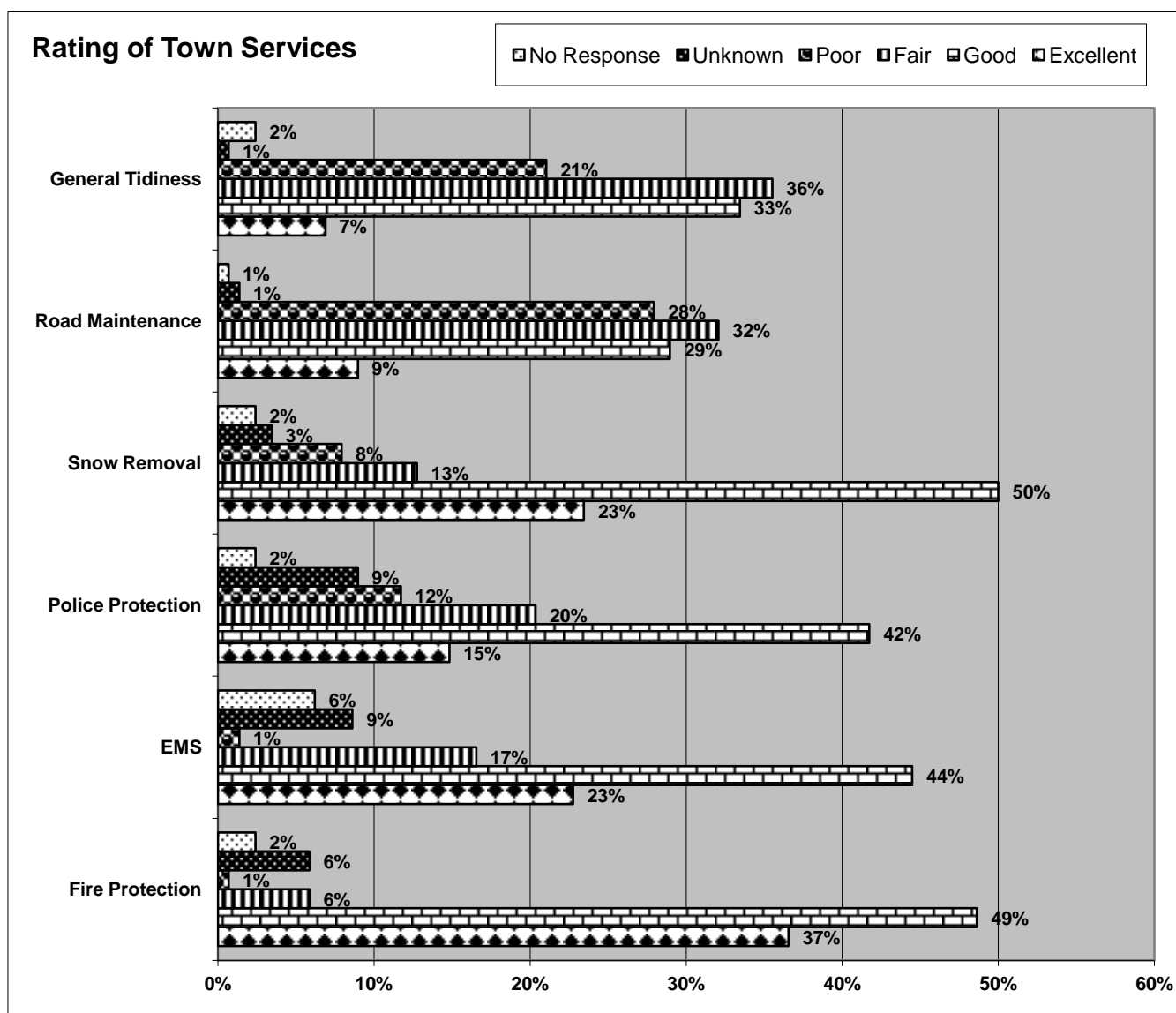
Serious Problem	Minor Problem	No Problem	Unknown
52	76	146	16
18%	26%	50%	6%



12 - Rate the following services that are provided by the Town of Hoosick?

Service	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unknown	No Response	Total
Fire Protection	106	141	17	2	17	7	290
EMS	66	129	48	4	25	18	290
Police Protection	43	121	59	34	26	7	290
Snow Removal	68	145	37	23	10	7	290
Road Maintenance	26	84	93	81	4	2	290
General Tidiness	20	97	103	61	2	7	290

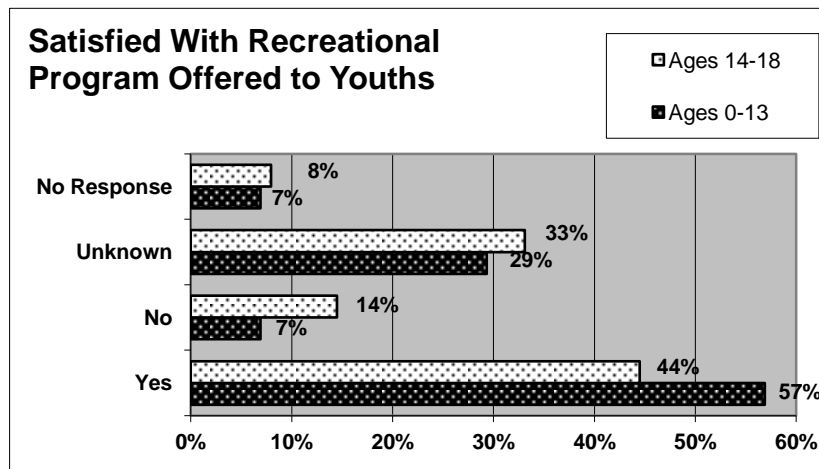
Service	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unknown	No Response
Fire Protection	37%	49%	6%	1%	6%	2%
EMS	23%	44%	17%	1%	9%	6%
Police Protection	15%	42%	20%	12%	9%	2%
Snow Removal	23%	50%	13%	8%	3%	2%
Road Maintenance	9%	29%	32%	28%	1%	1%
General Tidiness	7%	33%	36%	21%	1%	2%



13 - Are you satisfied with the Town recreational programs offered for youth?

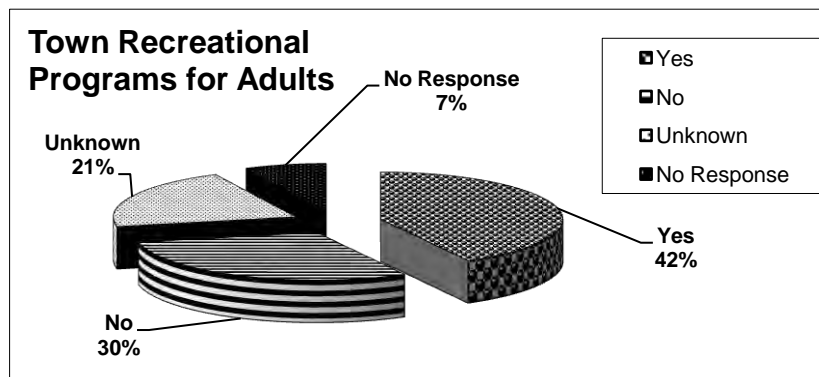
	Yes	No	Unknown	No Response	Total
Ages 0-13	165	20	85	20	290
Ages 14-18	129	42	96	23	290

	Yes	No	Unknown	No Response
Ages 0-13	57%	7%	29%	7%
Ages 14-18	44%	14%	33%	8%



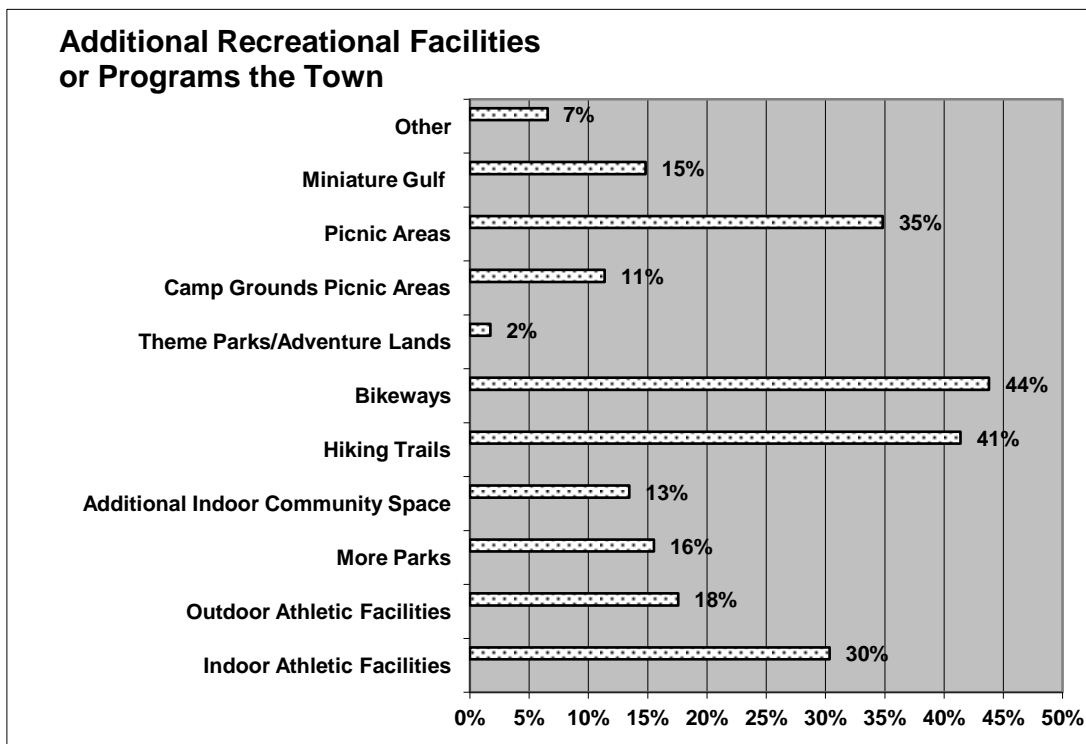
14 - Do you feel that there should be Town recreational programs offered for adults?

Yes	No	Unknown	No Response	Total
122	86	61	21	290
42%	30%	21%	7%	



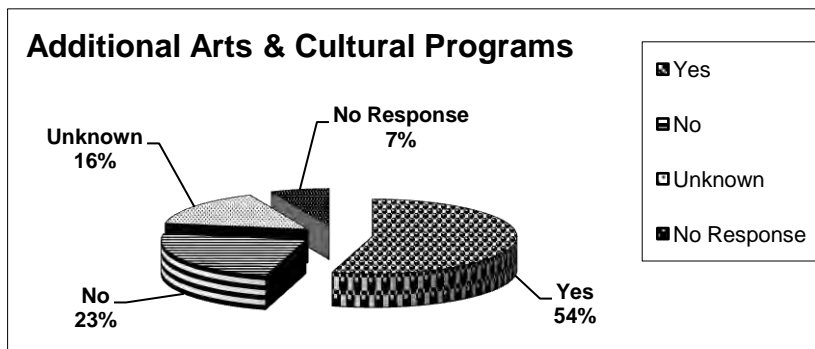
15 - What additional recreational facilities or programs would you like to see in the Town?

Indoor Athletic Facilities	88	30%
Outdoor Athletic Facilities	51	18%
More Parks	45	16%
Additional Indoor Community Space	39	13%
Hiking Trails	120	41%
Bikeways	127	44%
Theme Parks/Adventure Lands	5	2%
Camp Grounds Picnic Areas	33	11%
Picnic Areas	101	35%
Miniature Golf	43	15%
Other	19	7%



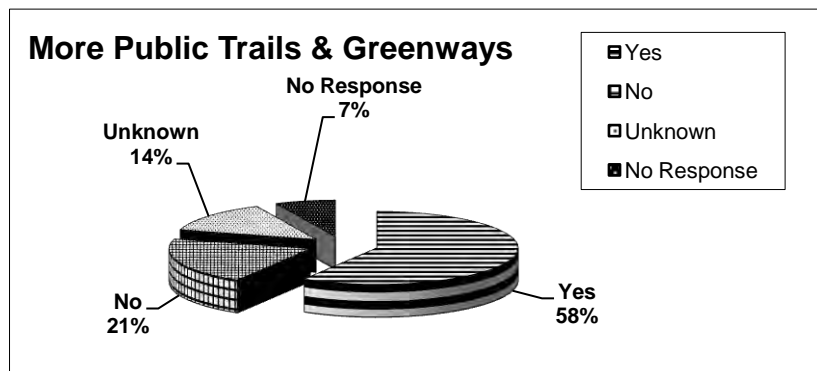
16 - Would you like to see additional arts and cultural programs?

Yes	No	Unknown	No Response	Total
158	67	46	19	290
54%	23%	16%	7%	



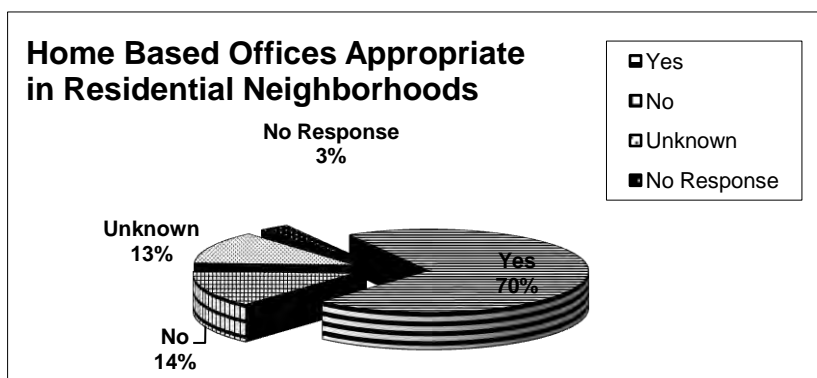
17 - Would you like to see more public trails and greenways throughout the Town?

Yes	No	Unknown	No Response	Total
170	60	40	20	290
59%	21%	14%	7%	



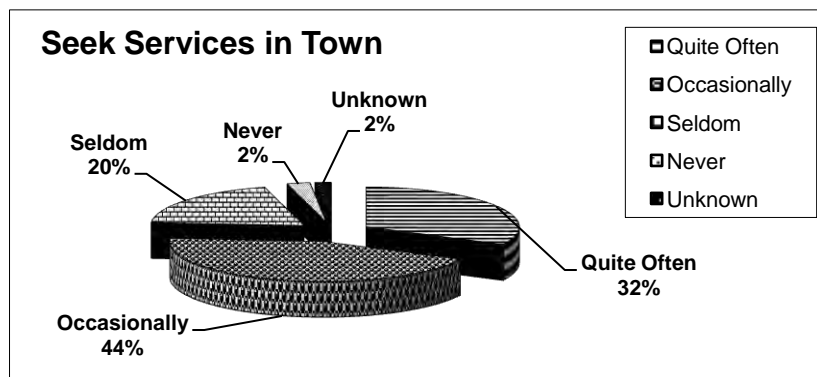
18 - Do you feel that home - based offices are appropriate in the residential neighborhoods?

Yes	No	Unknown	No Response	Total
203	41	37	9	290
70%	14%	13%	3%	



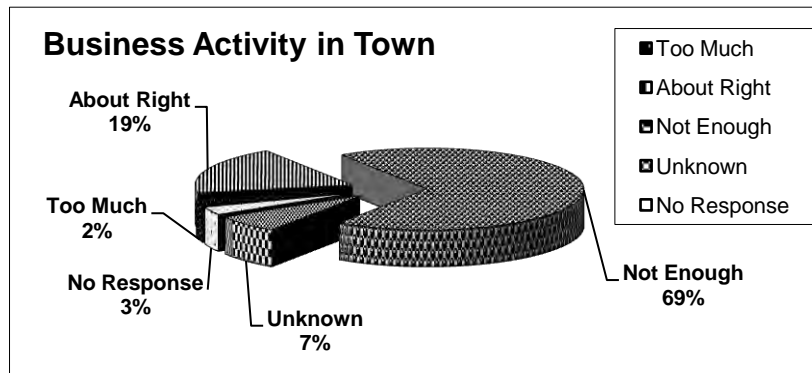
19 - How often do you shop or seek services in the Town?

Quite Often	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Unknown	Total
94	127	57	7	5	290
32%	44%	20%	2%	2%	



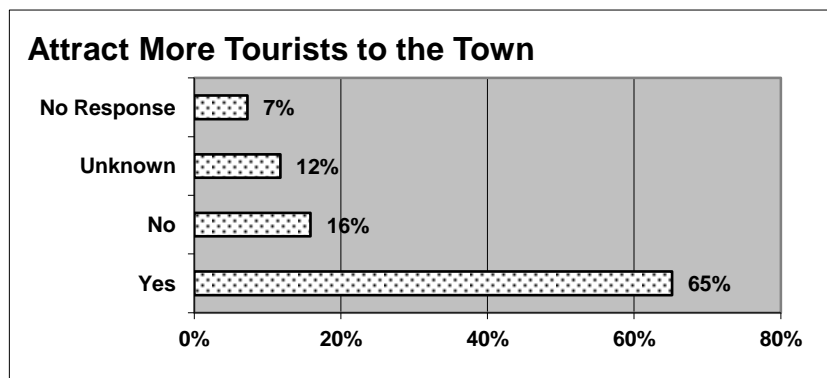
20 - What is your opinion of the current level of business activity in the Town?

Too Much	About Right	Not Enough	Unknown	No Response	Total
7	55	199	20	9	290
2%	19%	69%	7%	3%	



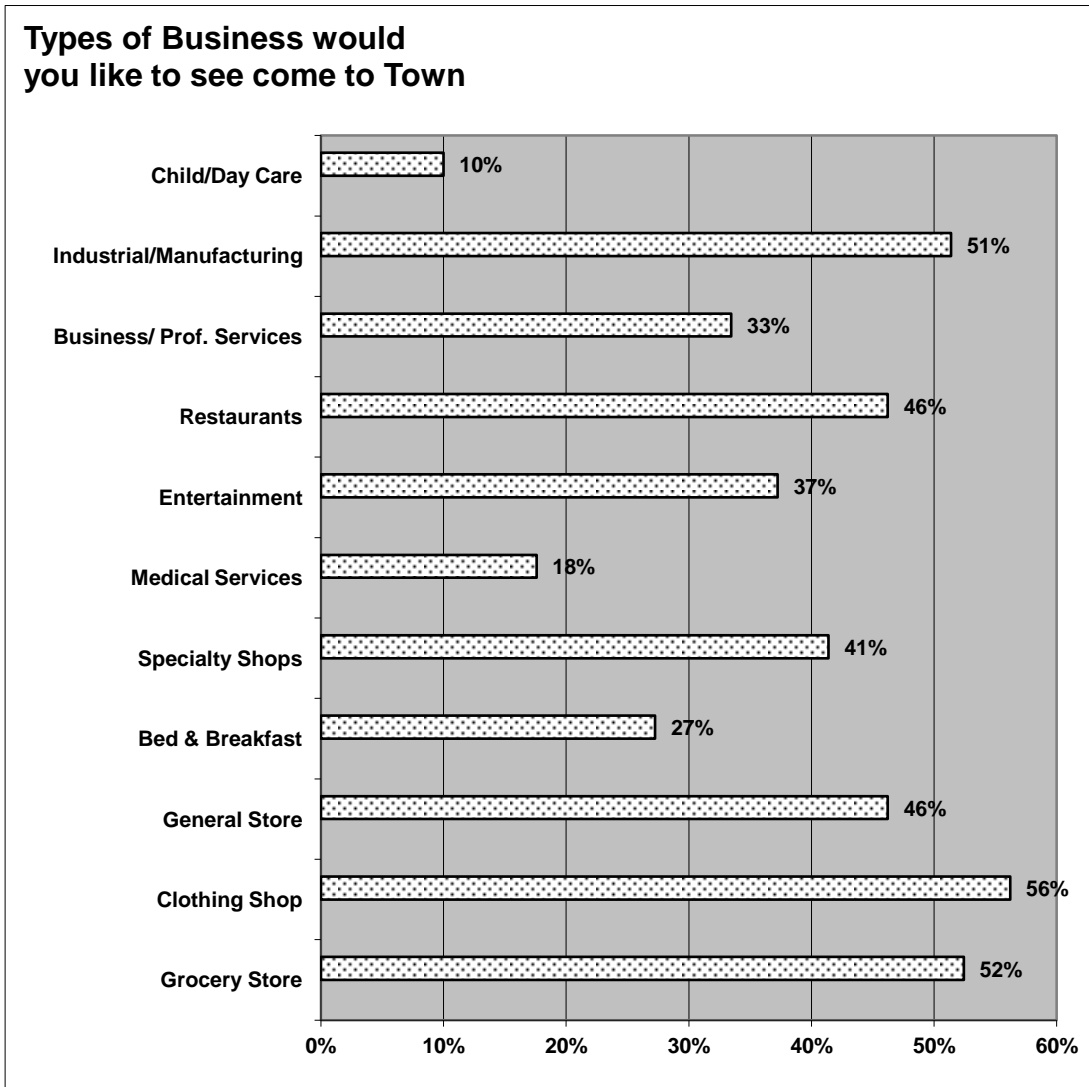
21 - Would you like to attract more tourists to the Town?

Yes	No	Unknown	No Response	Total
189	46	34	21	290
65%	16%	12%	7%	



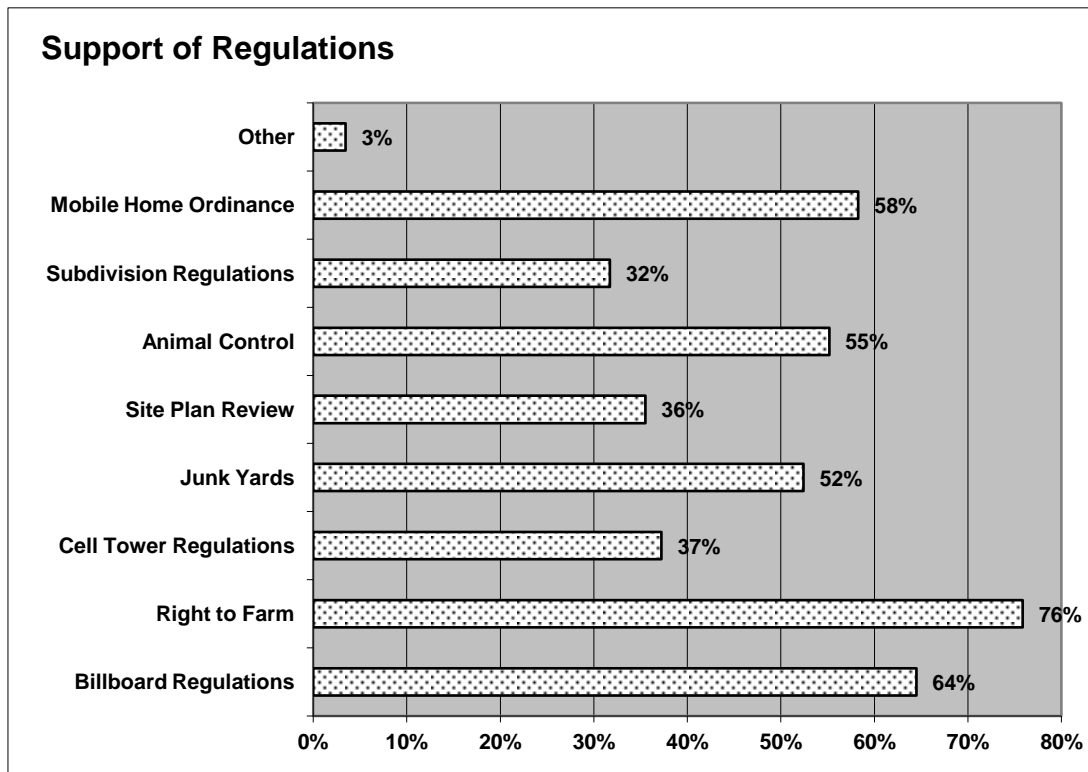
22 - What types of business would you like to see come to the Town?

Grocery Store	152	52%
Clothing Shop	163	56%
General Store	134	46%
Bed & Breakfast	79	27%
Specialty Shops	120	41%
Medical Services	51	18%
Entertainment	108	37%
Restaurants	134	46%
Business/ Prof. Services	97	33%
Industrial/Manufacturing	149	51%
Child/Day Care	29	10%



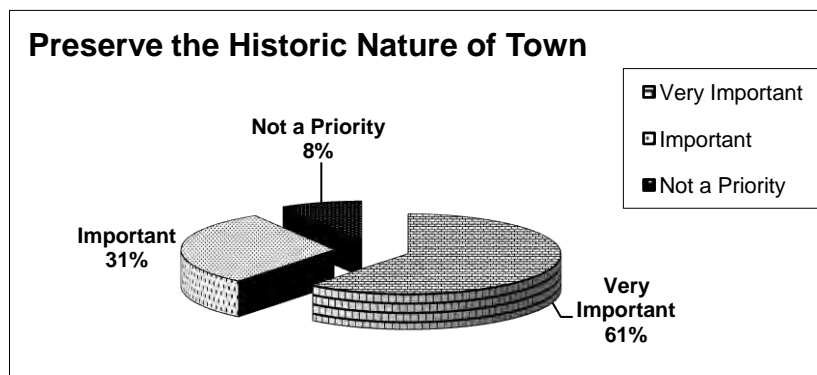
23 - Do you support the following current regulations?

Billboard Regulations	Right to Farm	Cell Tower Regulations	Junk Yards	Site Plan Review	Animal Control	Subdivision Regulations	Mobile Home Ordinance	Other
187	220	108	152	103	160	92	169	10
64%	76%	37%	52%	36%	55%	32%	58%	3%



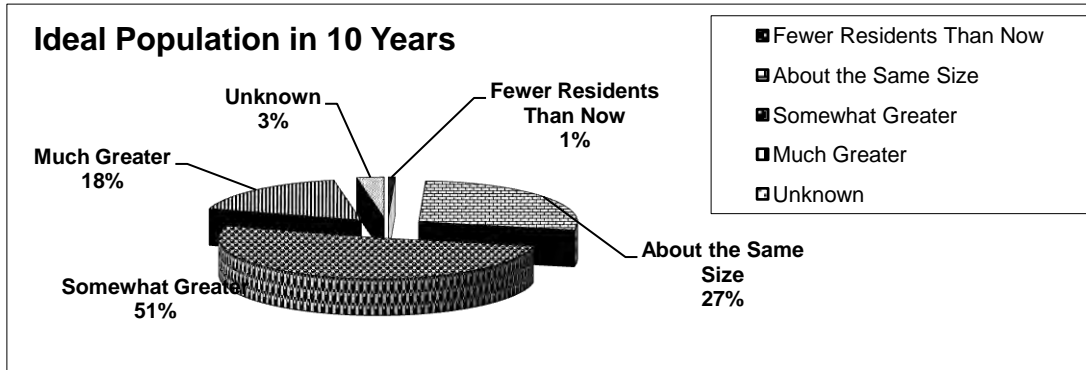
24 - How important is it to preserve the historic nature of the Town?

Very Important	Important	Not a Priority	Unknown	No Response	Total
176	89	25	0		290
61%	31%	9%	0	0	



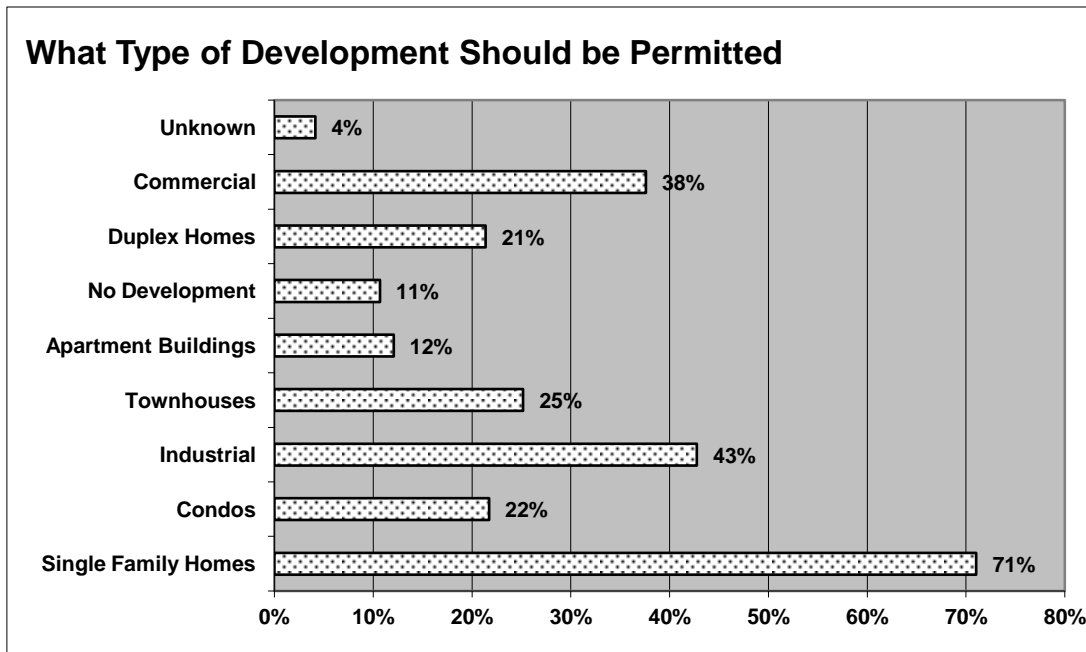
25 - Looking ahead, what would be the ideal population for the Town in 10 years?

Fewer Residents Than Now	About the Same Size	Somewhat Greater	Much Greater	Unknown	Total
2	80	149	51	8	290
1%	28%	51%	18%	3%	



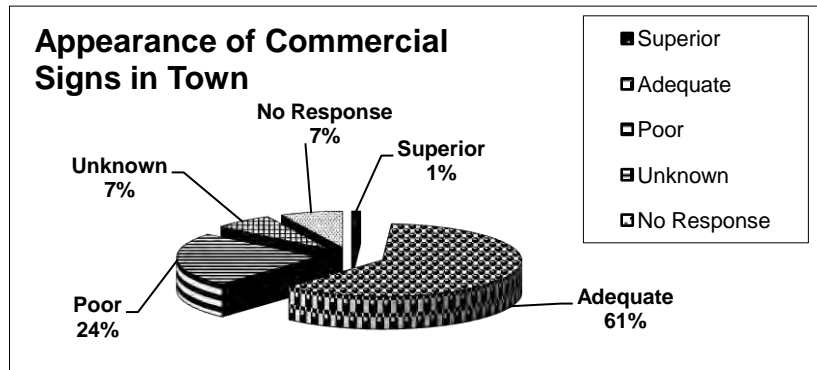
26 - What type of development should be permitted on the undeveloped lands in the Town?

Single Family Homes	Condos	Industrial	Townhouses	Apartment Buildings	No Development	Duplex Homes	Commercial	Unknown
206	63	124	73	35	31	62	109	12
71%	22%	43%	25%	12%	11%	21%	38%	4%



27 - Overall, how do you feel about the appearance of commercial signs for businesses in the Town?

Superior	Adequate	Poor	Unknown	No Response	Total
3	176	70	20	21	290
1%	61%	24%	7%	7%	



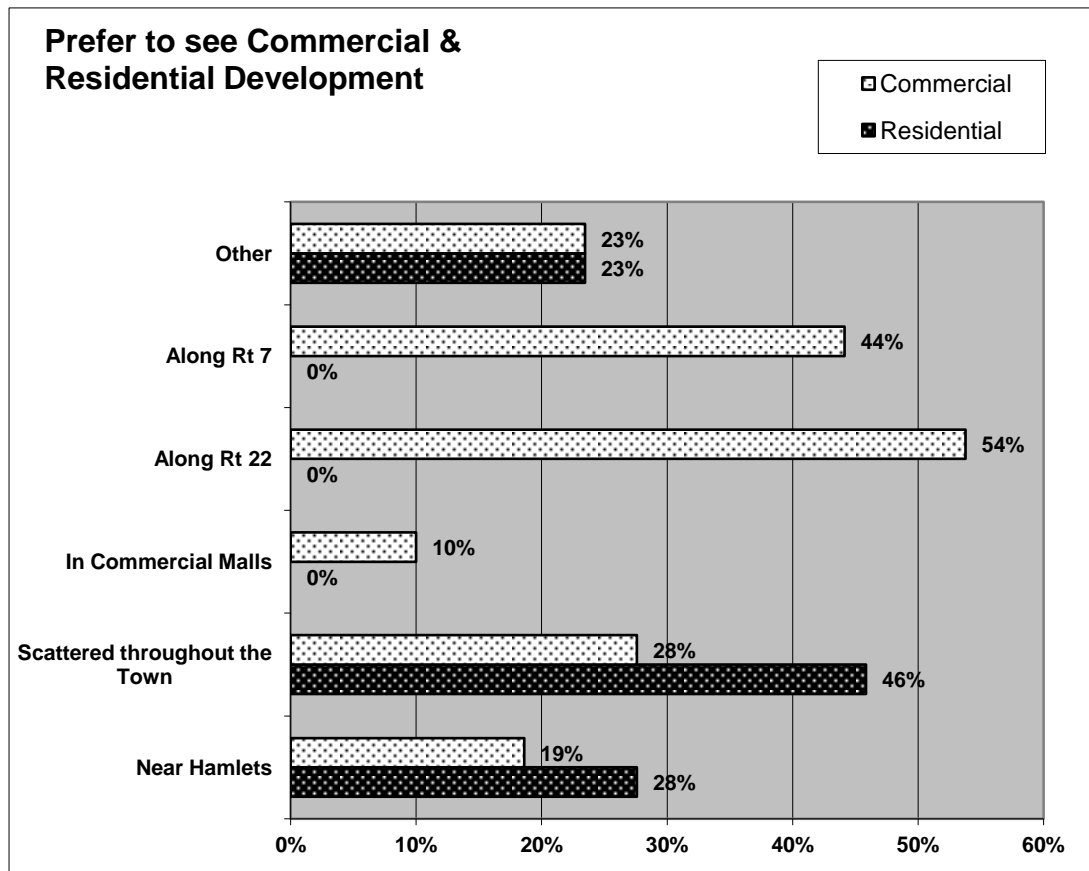
28 - Please provide any additional comments about the quality of life in the Town, opportunities to improve the Town, or threats to what you value in the Town?

Need Zoning
Clean up junk on peoples lawn, eyesores
General Poor Appearance
Poor Road Conditions
More Jobs
Lack of Quality Schools
Save Open Space and Farms
Need Truck By-pass
Attract more Businesses to the Town

29 - The 1986 plan recommended the support of hamlets as centers for commerce and new residential development. Where would you prefer to see commercial and residential development?

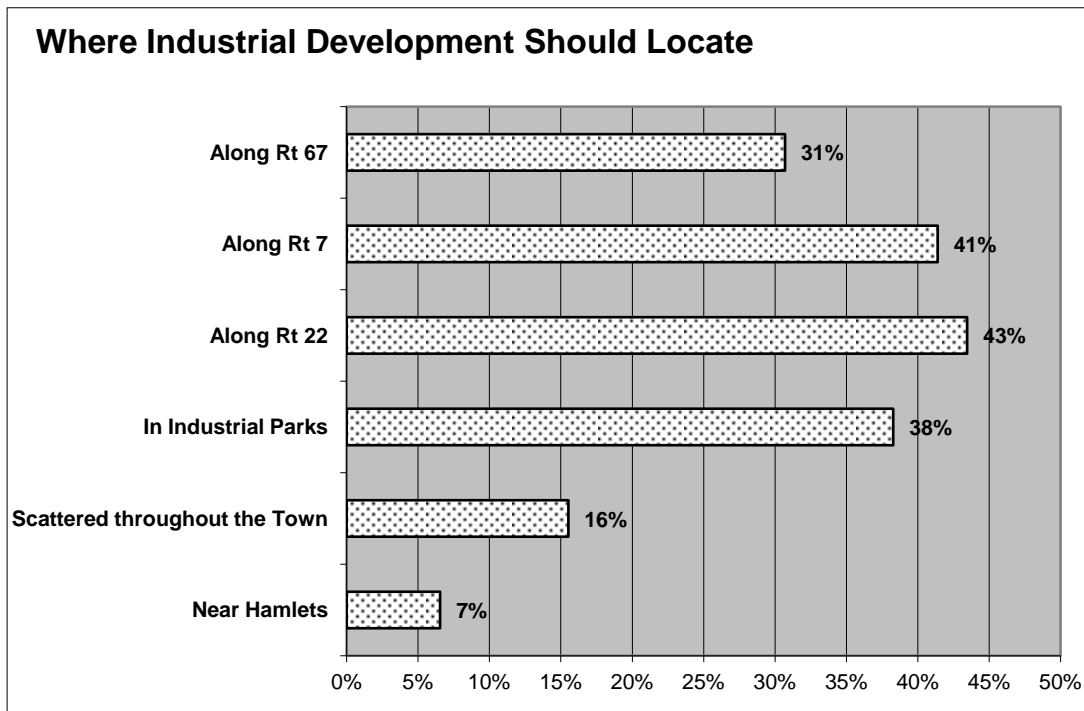
	Near Hamlets	Scattered throughout the Town	In Commercial Malls	Along Rt 22	Along Rt 7	Other
Residential	80	133				68
Commercial	54	80	29	156	128	68

	Near Hamlets	Scattered throughout the Town	In Commercial Malls	Along Rt 22	Along Rt 7	Other
Residential	28%	46%	0%	0%	0%	23%
Commercial	19%	28%	10%	54%	44%	23%



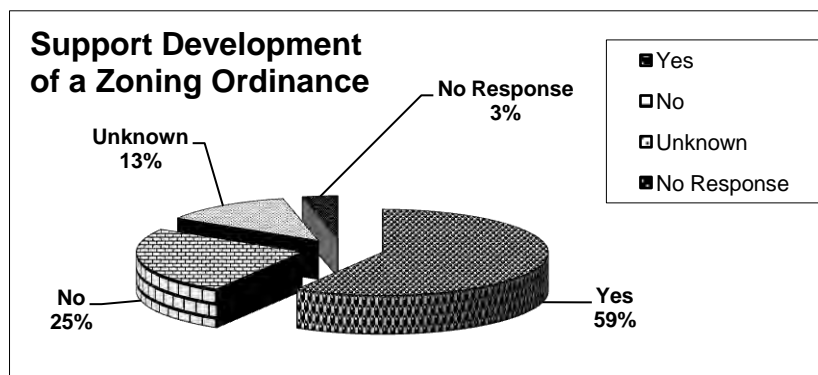
30 - The 1986 plan recommended the location of industrial uses in areas where there was good access to major public roads and the railroad, and where there was an abundance of natural resources. Where would you prefer to see industrial development?

Near Hamlets	Scattered throughout the Town	In Industrial Parks	Along Rt 22	Along Rt 7	Along Rt 67	Other	No Response	Total
19	45	111	126	120	89			290
7%	16%	38%	43%	41%	31%	0	0	



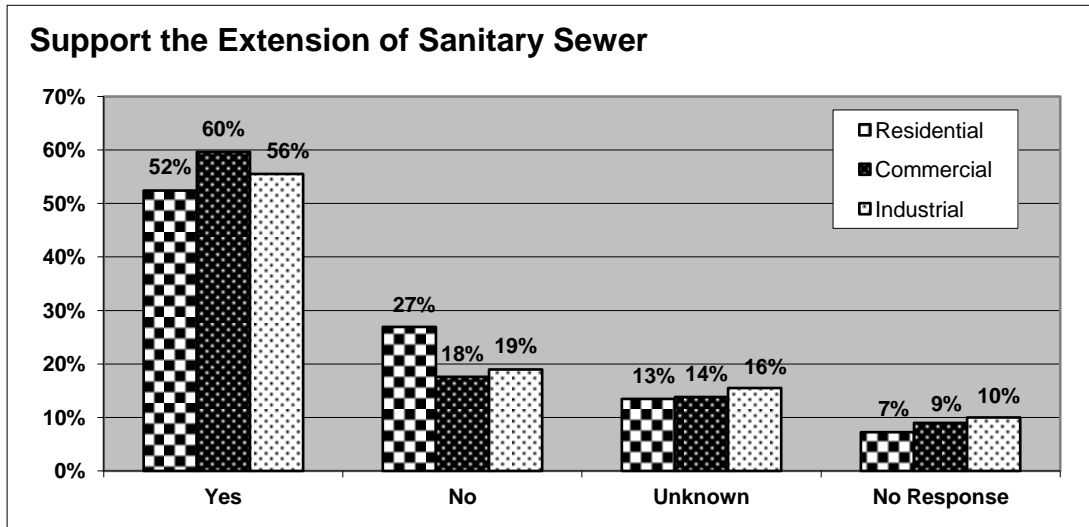
31 -The 1986 plan recommends the development of a zoning ordinance to control visual quality in the Town. These regulations could contain requirements concerning lands use, setbacks, landscape buffering, open space, etc. Would you support the development of a Zoning Ordinance?

Yes	No	Unknown	No Response	Total
170	73	37	10	290
59%	25%	13%	3%	



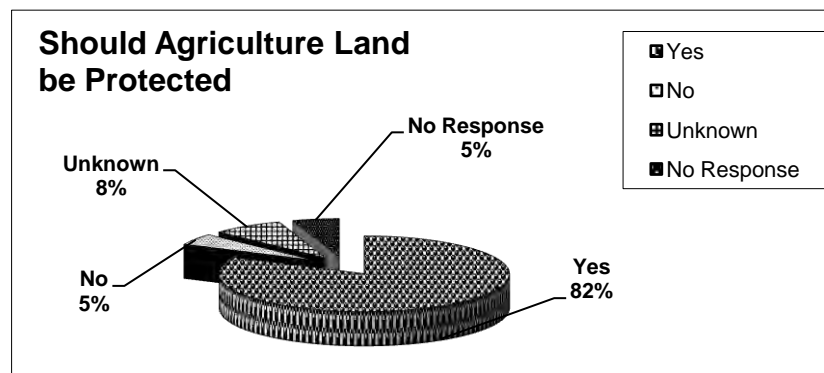
32 - Would you support the extension of public sanitary sewer facilities to encourage development?

	Yes	No	Unknown	No Response	Total
Residential	152	78	39	21	290
Commercial	173	51	40	26	290
Industrial	161	55	45	29	290
	Yes	No	Unknown	No Response	
Residential	52%	27%	13%	7%	
Commercial	60%	18%	14%	9%	
Industrial	56%	19%	16%	10%	



33 - The 1986 Hoosick Comprehensive Plan recommended that agriculture resources be managed to keep high viability agriculture land in production. Do you support efforts to protect agriculture lands?

Yes	No	Unknown	No Response	Total
238	14	23	15	290
82%	5%	8%	5%	



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