

7.0 Recommendations and Implementation

7.1 Introduction

The Town of New Hartford has been proactive in regard to its development issues over the course of time. It has responded to the adverse impacts of development on the Town by twice declaring a positive declaration under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) for distinct areas of the Town and performing a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) study to determine how to mitigate those impacts.

The Town's concern about its future is reflected in its willingness to engage in the GEIS studies, which are large and complex tasks, but also to implement them. The Town's commitment to its future is also reflected in its overall willingness to engage in planning generally: it has completed and updated its Parks and Recreation Master Plan, updated (but not adopted) its subdivision regulations and in 2002 considered its options for a future of Smart Growth through an extensive literature search of the various studies it has undertaken to address its storm water, drainage and water issues. Several of the more recent studies and the surrounding issues are summarized in the Utilities section of the People and the Place Chapter.

The Town continues to be an attractive place for development, both commercial and residential. As a result, the impacts on the environment, physical, ecological and aesthetic, continue to impact the Town. In order to sustain New Hartford environmentally and as a place of residential and commercial choice in the Mohawk Valley, the Town needs to continue its proactive stance relative to planning for its future. Through the Comprehensive Plan Update, the Town is demonstrating its commitment to doing so.

7.2 Recommendations for Immediate Action

7.2.1 General Actions

The first of the implementation actions recommended for immediate attention is the adoption of the Comprehensive Plan Update. Another general area action recommends the Town explore ways to use technology to better involve residents in the official life of the Town. Two others are relative to existing deadlines and the terms of Memoranda of Understanding relating to storm water management and pollution. These are Action items numbered 18 and 35. Many of the most urgent actions fall under the Land Use section or are measures related to land use falling under separate sections.

7.2.2 Critical Area Planning

The Town should take a hard look at its critical areas, particularly and most urgently the southern area of the Town where increased numbers of homes and businesses are impacting an already serious environmental and traffic problem. A critical area study may well result in a third Generic Environmental Impact Statement, and that could take place following the conclusion of the Critical Area Study or Studies. That medium-term timeframe is also an appropriate time for the Town to undertake a re-evaluation of the Seneca Turnpike/Commercial Drive/Middlesettlemnt Road and French Road/Burrstone Road/Champlin Avenue GEIS studies. The provisions of these studies expire or "sunset" in 2012 and 2013, respectively, and the Town should be determine whether it should replace or revise them.

7.2.3 Land Use and Zoning

An update and consolidation of all land use regulations and the zoning code is an immediate recommendation of this Comprehensive Plan Update. This would include:

- Revise zoning code
- Adopt revised subdivision regulations
- Develop and adopt design standards

These measures will allow the Town to direct growth to appropriate areas and protect and enhance the environmental and visual character of the Town. The subdivision regulations have been revised but not adopted. The revised standards address a number of issues, including transportation-related issues. In addition, the subdivision regulations provide the Town the legal framework for issuing a findings under §277 of the Town Law requiring residential subdivisions set aside land for parks and recreation or that they pay a fee in lieu of dedication of land.

At a minimum the revision of the Town's zoning should address specific issues that arose during the Comprehensive Plan Update process:

- The Code should reflect the Future Land Use Plan, not the current pattern of land uses.
- The number, types and availability of Planned Developments should be reduced
- Reduce the number of zones
- Development, implementation and enforcement of design controls will improve the continuity of development and visual impacts of development
- Maximum lot coverage for commercial and industrial uses should be reduced
- A general reorganization of the Code will make it easier to use.

7.3 Implementation Policies

As it seeks to implement the actions necessary to realize its vision of the future as expressed in the Comprehensive Plan Update, the Town should be guided by the following policies, designed to provide a framework for addressing the actions recommended by the Plan as well as actions that are proposed and implemented in the future.

Policy 1 - The appropriate boards and commissions should be assigned the responsibility of developing strategies and actions to implement the Comprehensive Plan Update

Policy 2 - The Comprehensive Plan Update is a binding document and its recommended measures should be adopted and implemented

Policy 3 - The Town should support thorough environmental review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act in considering new development proposals even when they are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan Update

Policy 4 - The Town should expedite review and approval of development proposals deemed consistent with the Comprehensive Plan Update, land use and other regulations

Policy 5 - Revisions, amendments and deletions of Goals, Objectives and Policies or to the Comprehensive Plan Update itself should be recommended by an appropriate Town body and reviewed and approved – if appropriate – by the Town Board in public session

7.3.1 Implementation Matrix

The proof of the pudding, as they say, is in the eating, and the proof of the planning is in the implementation. The Implementation Strategy for the Comprehensive Plan Update is organized in a way that is straightforward, useful and comprehensive as the plan itself. Just five policy statements guide implementation directly, although all policy statements throughout the plan are geared toward implementation. The recommendations themselves are arranged in a matrix organized around the general organization of the plan. There are 46 recommended actions in the Implementation Matrix intended to guide the development of the character of the Town over the next 20 years. The recommendations ranging from items for immediate attention and those for which implementation will take place over the entire term of the Plan to those for longer-term consideration – through the five to seven year time frame. It is anticipated that new actions for implementation will be developed during the five-year update to replace those that have been successfully implemented.

Table 7-1 Implementation Matrix

Action		Responsibility	Estimated Cost	Timeframe
GENERAL AND OVERALL				
1	Adopt the Comprehensive Plan	Town Board Planning Board Town Supervisor Town Planner Comprehensive Plan Update Committee	N/A	Adopt Immediately Review Policy Annually; Update Plan Every 5 Years
2	Improve Public Involvement, Awareness and Understanding; Develop List-Serve to Inform Residents of Events and Meetings	Town Supervisor Webmaster Residents	\$4,000-\$5,000	Immediate – Develop List-Serve and On-Going
3	Continue Communications with Surrounding Towns, Oneida County and City of Utica	Town Board Town Supervisor Various Town Departments	N/A	On-Going
4	Foster a Collaborative Relationship with Advisory Boards and Community Groups	Town Board Various Town Departments Residents*	Varies	On-Going
POPULATION AND HOUSING				
5	Promote the Town as a Diverse and Welcoming Community of Residential Choice	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Residents Residential Real Estate Industry	N/A	On-going

Strengthening New Hartford's Neighborhoods

Action		Responsibility	Estimated Cost	Timeframe
6	Promote a Variety of Housing Choices Including Those For Rent and For Sale at a Variety of Prices/Rents	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Residential Real Estate Industry Real Estate Developers	N/A	On-going
7	Track Regional Residential Growth	Town Board Town Planner Residential Real Estate Industry Oneida County	Varies	On-Going
8	Ensure New Residential Development Does Not Encroach on Significant Views	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Residential Real Estate Industry Real Estate Developers	Varies	On-Going
9	Mitigate "Downstream" Impacts of Residential Developments	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Residential Real Estate Industry Real Estate Developers	Varies	On-Going
10	Encourage the Development of Nodes of Residential Development in Multi-Use/Mixed-Use Settings	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Residential Real Estate Industry Real Estate Developers	Varies	On-Going
ECONOMY				
11	Participate in Regional Economic and Job Development Efforts	Town Board Oneida County Mohawk Valley EDGE Oneida County IDA	Varies	On-going
12	Establish a Business Roundtable or Similar Vehicle for Communication Between the Town and Businesses	Town Supervisor Town Board	N/A	On-Going
13	Engage a consultant to Perform Cluster Analyses to Identify Business Groups and Types Most Suited for and Ways to Attract Them to New Hartford	Town Board Mohawk Valley EDGE	\$60,000-70,000	1-3 years
14	Develop Incentives to Encourage Small Neighborhood Establishments Serving Local Needs	Town Board Mohawk Valley EDGE Oneida County IDA	N/A	1-3 Years
LAND USE				
15	Update and Consolidate All Land Use Regulations	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Residents	\$125,000-150,000	Immediate

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Action		Responsibility	Estimated Cost	Timeframe
16	Adopt Updated Subdivision Regulations and Incorporate into Consolidated Land Use Regulations	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Residents	N/A	Immediate
17	Develop and Adopt Design Standards to Enhance the Visual Character of the Town	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Residents	\$25,000-30,000	Immediate
18	Implement Current Memoranda of Understanding and Other Rulings from State- and County-Level Agencies regarding Storm Water Management	Town Board Town Planner Oneida County NYS DEC	Varies	Immediate
19	Prepare Special Area Plans for Critical Areas	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Residents	\$50,000-60,000 each	Immediate
20	Protect Scenic Views, Flood Plains and Critical Natural Areas from Over-Development	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Residents	Included in Land Use Regulations	Immediate
21	Direct Commercial Development to Vacant and Under-Utilized Parcels	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner	Included in Land Use Regulations	Immediate
22	Define Growth Areas as Those Areas with Adequate Existing Infrastructure	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner	Included in Land Use Regulations	Immediate
23	Develop an Acquisition Plan and Approach to Implement Greenway Strategy	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Residents	\$20,000-\$25,000	1-3 Years
24	Depending on outcome of special area plans, consider GEIS studies	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Residents	\$250,000-\$300,000	1-3 years
25	Evaluate two existing GEIS studies to assess their effectiveness and determine if they should be revised and implemented, if their sunset should be delayed or if they should be abandoned	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Residents	Evaluation, each study, \$30,000-\$35,000 Revision: varies depending on evaluation outcome	3-5 years
NATURAL RESOURCES				
26	Encourage Environmentally "Green" Building Systems	Town Board Town Planner Residents Business Community	N/A	On-going

Strengthening New Hartford's Neighborhoods

Action		Responsibility	Estimated Cost	Timeframe
27	Adopt and Enforce Ground Water and Water Quality Protection Regulations	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Sauquoit Creek Intermunicipal Commission NYS DEC	Varies	1-3 Years
TRANSPORTATION				
28	Adopt Access Standards for Residential Development	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Developers	Included in Subdivision Road Standards	Immediate
29	Adopt Standards requiring Roads in Residential Subdivisions be built to Town Standards	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Developers	Included in Subdivision Road Standards	Immediate
30	Build and Expand Trail System for Various Users including Runners, Bicyclists, Commuters	Town Board Planning Board Town Parks & Recreation Department Town Highway Department NYS DOT Trail Users	Varies	On-Going
31	Take Necessary Measures to Alleviate Traffic Congestion in Areas of the Town	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Town Highway Department NYS DOT Oneida County Developers	Varies	On-Going
32	Implement Circulation and Parking Solutions in Commercial Areas	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Town Highway Department NYS DOT Oneida County Developers	Varies	1-3 Years
33	Ensure the Adequate Provision and Maintenance of Sidewalks	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Developers	Varies	On-going
34	Assess Potential for Improving Access and Usability of Mass Transit	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Oneida County CENTRO	N/A	5-7 Years
INFRASTRUCTURE				
35	Implement the Required Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan	Town Board NYSDEC	Varies	March 2008 Deadline for Implementation
36	Assure Enforcement and Education on Regulations for On-Site Systems	Town Board Town Staff Oneida County Public Health	N/A	On-Going

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Action		Responsibility	Estimated Cost	Timeframe
37	Coordinate with Utility and Infrastructure Providers to Ensure that Adequate Service is Available to users	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner Oneida County National Grid OCWA Sauquoit Creek Intermunicipal Commission	Varies	3-5 Years
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES				
38	Ensure that Public Safety Impacts are Considered Before New Developments Are Permitted	Town Board Planning Board Town Planner New Hartford Police Fire Companies Ambulance Services	N/A	On-going
39	Continue to Evaluate the Need for Additional Services Including Internet and Wireless Internet Services	Town Board Public Safety Providers	N/A	On-Going
40	Ensure Adequate Training is Provided for Both Volunteer and Professional Responders	Town Board Public Safety Providers	Varies	On-Going
41	Protect and Preserve the Town's Historic, Cultural and Natural Resources	New Hartford Historical Society Private Sector	N/A	On-Going
42	Address the need for office and meeting space for Town Boards, offices and staff	Town Board	N/A	Immediate
PARKS & RECREATION				
43	Issue a Findings Under Town Law §277 requiring residential Subdividers Set Aside Land for Parks and Open Space or Pay a Fee in Lieu for Acquisition of Parks and Open Space	Town Attorney Planning Board	N/A	Immediate
44	Conduct an Outdoor Pool Feasibility Study	Town Board Town Parks & Recreation Department	\$60,000	1-3 Years
45	Conduct a Community Center/Arena Feasibility Study	Town Board Parks & Recreation Department	\$70,000-80,000	1-3 Years
46	Assess Reuse Feasibility of Recreation Center	Town Board Parks & Recreation Department	\$8,000-\$10,000	1-3 Years
47	Develop a Comprehensive Trail System	Town Board Planning Board Town Parks & Recreation Department Town Highway Department NYS DOT Trail Users	Varies	3-5 Years

Source: peter j. smith & company, inc.