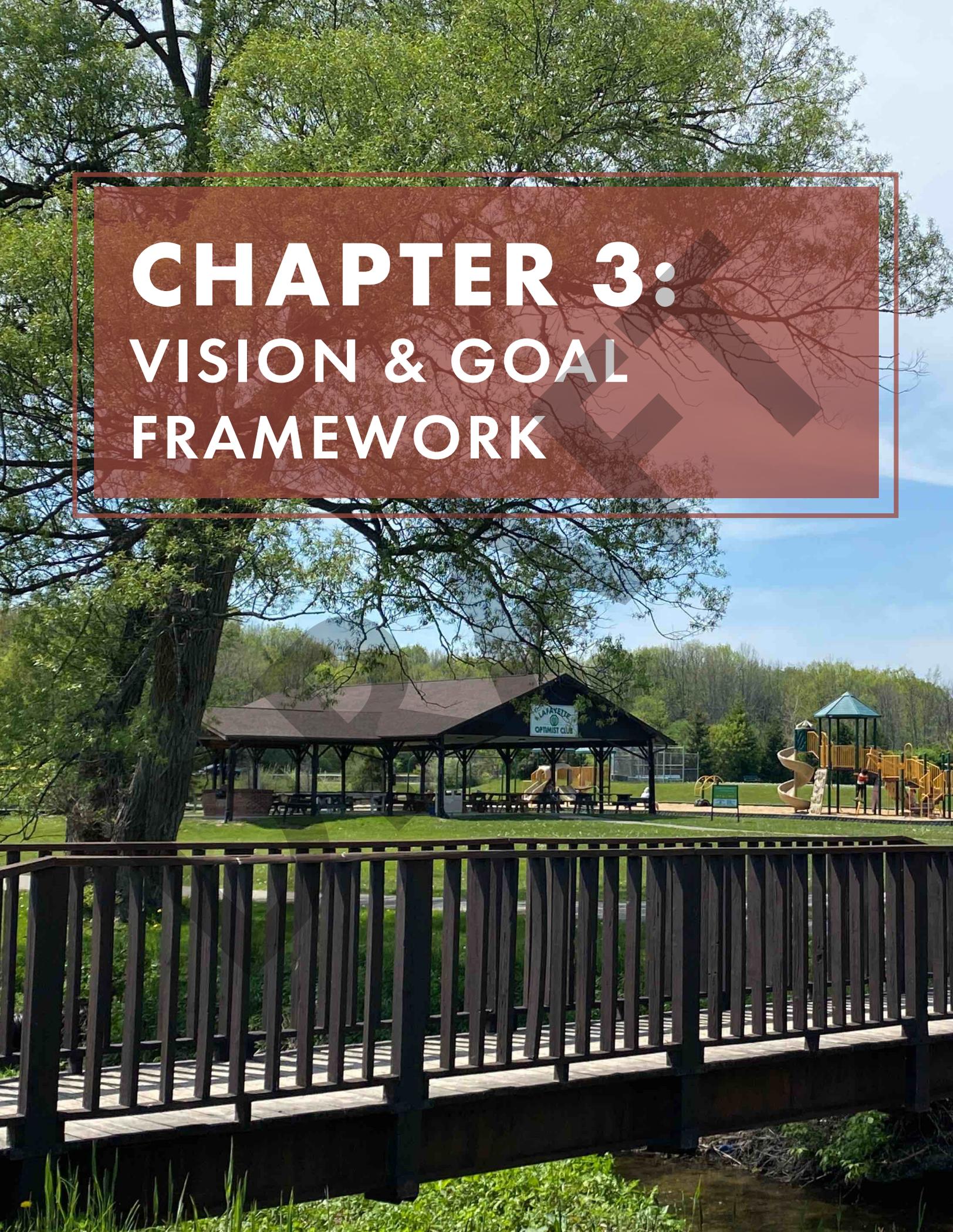


CHAPTER 3: VISION & GOAL FRAMEWORK



3. VISION & GOAL FRAMEWORK

A successful comprehensive plan is developed and implemented on multiple levels, addressing the short- and long-term needs of a community while providing varying levels of detail. In an effort to accomplish this, the LaFayette Comprehensive Plan Vision & Goal Framework is comprised of the following elements:

VISION

A general statement that describes the aspiration of the Town. It is an end towards which all actions are aimed. The vision should not dramatically change over time but rather be consistent throughout the planning horizon. Ideally, the vision contained in this Plan should be useful for the 10-year planning horizon.

GOAL

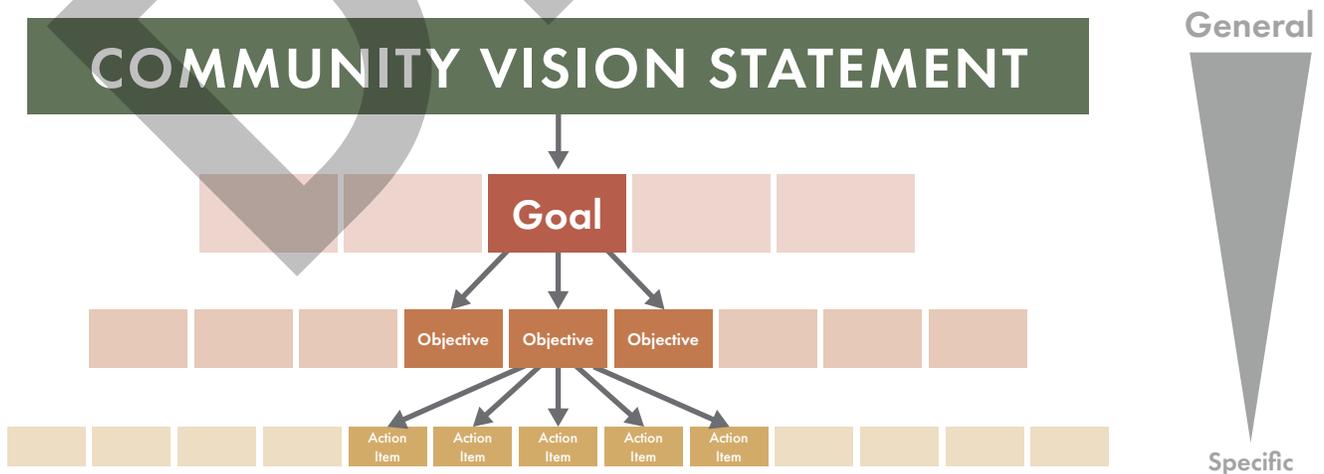
Similar to the vision statement in that it is a general concept of a future condition towards which actions are aimed. However, the scope of a goal is much more narrow. It should support the position statement by addressing a specific topic area(s) or issue(s) facing the community. Policies should not dramatically change over time, but rather be consistent throughout the planning horizon.

OBJECTIVE

A statement of a measurable activity to be accomplished in pursuit of the goal; it refers to some specific aspiration that is reasonably attainable by the town and its partners. Think in terms of actions such as “increase,” “develop,” or “preserve.” It should be noted that the Town might already be undertaking some of the objectives articulated in this Plan; including them helps to ensure that these efforts are continued moving forward until they have been achieved. The lifespan of an objective is usually 6 to 10 years.

ACTION ITEM

A specific proposal to accomplish an objective; it can take the form of a plan, project, program, or Town Board action. The lifespan of an action can be immediate or vary from one to 10 years, depending on the item.



COMMUNITY VISION STATEMENT



“LaFayette is a beautiful rural town and a great place to live. Our vibrant hamlet, surrounding farmland, open spaces, and scenic views are preserved through thoughtfully managed development. We welcome a diverse population, encourage the development of compatible businesses, and strive to capitalize on our bucolic landscape and historic identity as the Crossroads of New York State.”

GOAL #1: HAMLET REVITALIZATION

The LaFayette Hamlet, located at the crossroads of Routes 11 and 20, has a rich history as the focal point and center of activity within the Town. It is the goal of the Town to respect the legacy of the Hamlet, and restore its role as the heart of the community. The Town recognizes that the success of the Hamlet is dependent on safe access for pedestrians and motorists, visually appealing storefronts, and comfortable public spaces. Therefore, future investment in the hamlet will enhance its traditional character and walkability and foster an inviting public realm with a diverse mix of uses.



OBJECTIVES

- A.** Ensure that the Hamlet has the necessary modern infrastructure facilities to support activity and commercial development.
- B.** Support appropriate commercial development that contributes to the character of the Hamlet.
- C.** Establish a community identity through placemaking strategies that create an inviting, visually attractive center of activity for residents and visitors to enjoy.
- D.** Preserve the historic character of the hamlet through the preservation, rehabilitation, and restoration of existing historic structures.
- E.** Foster multi-modal connectivity within the Hamlet by creating dedicated travel facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Review and revise the Town Code to ensure that its land use regulations support the desired scale, character, and type of development within the Hamlet.
2. Foster a pedestrian-friendly environment through implementing placemaking and traffic calming strategies such as public art, parklets, street trees, lawns, bump-outs, high-visibility crosswalks, and street furniture.
3. Conduct a water and sewer feasibility study and pursue funding to develop the public infrastructure within the Hamlet necessary to encourage private investment and remove blight.
4. Pursue grant funding to assist in rehabilitation of deteriorating properties and preservation of historic structures.
5. Collaborate with Hotel owners to consider options for a future development strategy of the property.
6. Work with NYSDOT to revise preliminary intersection design concept to ensure increased safety, comfort, and access for all transportation modes while maintaining traffic flows along Route 20 and Route 11.
7. Review and revise the Town Code to include nonresidential design standards or guidelines to ensure future development is of a desirable aesthetic to the Town and that the development of the hamlet and surrounding area is compatible and mutually supportive.
8. Inventory sidewalk sections and address those in need of repair. Identify gaps within the existing network. Consider establishing a maintenance plan.
9. Conduct a property condition inventory and develop a strategy for reviving abandoned, dilapidated sites and vacant lots; and consider developing a property maintenance code for derelict or deteriorating structures and site.

GOAL #2: RURAL CHARACTER PRESERVATION

Abundant open space and agricultural lands are one of the defining features of the Town of LaFayette. It is the goal of the Town to sustain and enhance our environmental assets while continuing to value our agricultural heritage in order to maintain the pastoral character of our Town. We will strive to protect the many scenic vistas in our Town by conserving open space and environmentally sensitive lands, while promoting access to our precious natural resources to residents and visitors for decades to come.



OBJECTIVES

- A.** Preservation of scenic vistas and critical environmental areas.
- B.** Maintain strong partnerships with local, regional, and statewide agencies working to protect local agribusiness and natural resources.
- C.** Minimize the adverse impacts of development on agricultural land and preserve prime soils.
- D.** Enhance passive and active recreational opportunities throughout the Town.
- E.** Protect our creeks and floodplains as natural stormwater management systems.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Conduct an independent study of regulatory techniques and land use controls to best manage future development in order to preserve the Town's public vistas and critical environmental and agricultural areas.
2. Encourage the use of tax abatement programs and other incentives for property owners to maintain agricultural land uses.
3. Encourage the use of Onondaga County's Purchase of Development Rights Program for LaFayette farms to preserve farmland and support farm operators financially.
4. Encourage the use of natural stormwater management practices as a part of development application review process (e.g. bioswales, rain gardens, green roofs).
5. Draft and adopt Environmental Protection Overlay Districts (EPODs) for critical environmental areas and resources, including but not limited to floodplains, wetlands, woodlands, steep slopes, and wildlife management areas, to better monitor and protect them from development pressures and degradation.
6. Enhance understanding of the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process by all review boards to protect our natural resources from the potential negative impacts of development.
7. Review and revise the Town Code to include provisions for green infrastructure and renewable energy use in both building and site design.
8. Work to reduce the Town's environmental footprint through better management of pollution, waste material, and use of energy and water resources.
9. Develop and adopt a Parks and Open Space Master Plan to identify strategies for the development and preservation of recreation facilities and programs, trails, and open space within the Town.
10. Inventory and identify sensitive environmental areas in the Town and designate Unique Natural Areas or Critical Environmental Areas as defined by the NYS Department of Environment Conservation (NYSDEC), and as appropriate.
11. Regularly review and revise, as needed, all local regulations dealing with stormwater runoff and retention to maximize protection of surface and groundwater resources.
12. Establish a tree planting program for Town-owned properties and public right-of-ways.

GOAL #3: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

It is the goal of LaFayette to promote and protect local business operations in order to sustain our local economy. We will actively support local agribusiness in an effort to ensure the long-term viability and sustainability of agricultural enterprises throughout our community. Our Town will continue to foster opportunities to offer visitors a unique retreat from their everyday lives and the opportunity to explore our local landscape. The Town is committed to attracting businesses that will be compatible with the rural character of our Town and will help support local employment and entrepreneurship within the community.



OBJECTIVES

- A.** Pursue and promote the attraction and expansion of appropriate local commercial, industrial, and office investment.
- B.** Foster a mix of residential and commercial activity in the Hamlet that contributes to a walkable and affordable lifestyle.
- C.** Support the maintenance of existing housing stock and development of affordable housing for all ages and lifestyles in appropriate areas of the Town.
- D.** Promote our agricultural and environmental qualities as a top-tier destination of Central New York.
- E.** Monitor the balance of residential and nonresidential development with respect to open space, agricultural uses, and existing development patterns.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1.** Incentivize area farmers to develop an agri-tourism industry by establishing new and partnering with existing training, promotion and support for this local emerging industry.
- 2.** Support the provision of a local farmers market in the Hamlet or Stafford Park to connect local agricultural operations and products with the greater LaFayette community and its visitors.
- 3.** Investigate and teach local farmers about teaming with the Cornell Small Farms program to establish workshops or internships to grow and promote their farms.
- 4.** Work with LaFayette Apple Festival Inc. and area farmers to develop economic uses for the Apple Festival grounds and buildings throughout the calendar year.
- 5.** Work with developers and property owners to coordinate future infrastructure investments for continued growth of the Town's commercial areas.
- 6.** Investigate and support the provision of quality, affordable renter and owner-occupied housing options within the Town for all residents.
- 7.** Work with local partners such as the Onondaga Community College Small Business Development Center and the Onondaga County Office of Economic Development to attract new businesses and provide resources to prospective and existing business owners.
- 8.** Support provision of entertainment and daily-need uses in the Hamlets to help spur activity.
- 9.** Review and revise Town application review processes to increase understanding by the applicant and action by the boards and streamline the process.
- 10.** Review and revise Town Zoning Code to respond to new technologies and markets, update obsolete regulations, remove regulatory barriers, and improve administrative efficiency.

GOAL #4: INFRASTRUCTURE & COMMUNITY ASSETS

In order to ensure the public health, safety, and welfare of our residents, it is the goal of the Town of LaFayette to approach the provision of infrastructure in a sustainable, collaborative manner. Accessible from Interstate 81, the Town strives to provide a transportation network that is safe, efficient, and deliberate in its design to accommodate vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle users where appropriate. The Town also recognizes that in order to support further residential and commercial development, the provision of modern community services; such as public water, sewer, and broadband internet; is essential. The Town is committed to enhancing and maintaining its essential community services to efficiently and sustainably meet future and anticipated needs of residents, business, and agriculture alike.



OBJECTIVES

- A.** Increase secure and easy access to clean, affordable, and sufficient drinking water.
- B.** Pursue access to broadband internet to all town residents and businesses.
- C.** Continue to evaluate the provision of public sewer systems in development nodes within the Town.
- D.** Preserve and enhance our multi-modal transportation assets to meet the current and future needs of all transportation users.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Identify areas for future development nodes and consider pursuing funding for water and sewer development.
2. Support the County's work with internet providers to expand broadband availability Townwide.
3. Maintain public facilities at consistently high levels and commit resources for street and sidewalk maintenance, street cleaning and general community appearance.
4. Promote the use of green energy and green infrastructure in developments throughout the Town.
5. Support future public and private investment through grants and tax incentives to build sustainable infrastructure.
6. Consider becoming a Climate Smart Community.
7. Draft and adopt a Transportation Network Master Plan and Map that considers both vehicular and non-motorized transportation connections and facilities throughout the Town.
8. Work with NYSDOT on the Route 11 & Route 20 intersection redesign to ensure that the project enhances multi-modal connectivity while reducing congestion at peak hours.
9. Draft and adopt a Complete Streets policy that classifies roadways based on anticipated users and desired improvements.
10. Review policies regarding public and private roadway design and use to maintain consistency of Town standards for all future roadways and roadway improvements.
11. Work with local, state, and regional transportation departments and authorities to include on-street bicycle facilities, where appropriate, when re-striping roadways.
12. Include access management standards in the Town to reduce conflict points on main arterials within the Town while promoting safe access for vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists to adjacent development.

GOAL #5: EFFECTIVE & COLLABORATIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The future success of LaFayette is dependent on proactive leadership as well as an engaged and active citizenry. However, the Town is also aware that our environmental and economic assets are not limited by our Town boundaries; but rather exist within a larger regional context. LaFayette will actively seek out partnerships between public and private entities in order to achieve its community vision. The Town understands that their wellbeing is directly tied to their ability to work together with Onondaga County. Additionally, community stewardship and volunteerism is encouraged in residents to support existing civic needs and build future leaders. The Town is committed to creating lasting local and regional connections to leverage and support the Town's future endeavors. Lastly, it a priority of the Town to ensure the continued provision of efficient effective services in order to maintain a high quality of life for citizens and support daily operations within the Town.



OBJECTIVES

- A.** Maintain and improve relations with the school district, Onondaga County, the State, nearby towns and the Onondaga Nation.
- B.** Increase resident engagement and participation in neighborhood and community events.
- C.** Improve clear, consistent communication with the public to ensure transparency in local governmental action.
- D.** Provide access to recreational and educational programming and activities to meet the needs of our residents, regardless of age.
- E.** Maintain the adequacy of community services, such as fire, police, emergency service responders, etc.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Establish a community outreach program to maintain a Town-wide event calendar, partner with local neighborhood groups, and assist with planning events that build resident relationships.
2. Plan periodic events for residents to interact directly with elected and appointed officials, e.g., host dialogues with residents regarding current topics, upcoming events, issues, ideas etc.
3. Establish a Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee to ensure that action items are carried out.
4. Develop a "Welcome" package for new residents highlighting Town resources, events, businesses, and contacts.
5. Support and coordinate efforts with the private and non-profit organizations that provide programming and recreational opportunities for residents.
6. Consolidate Town and school services to the fullest extent possible.
7. Create an inventory of potential areas of opportunity for sharing services with one or more local governments and research potential savings from implementing specific shared services.
8. Develop formal methods and processes to create and maintain lines of communication between the Town government and neighboring municipalities, Onondaga County, Onondaga Nation and the LaFayette School District.
9. Form a partnership with neighboring rural Towns to provide stronger representation for common needs when working with Onondaga County.
10. Maintain open and consistent communication with State agencies to ensure statewide initiatives within the Town align with the Vision & Goals of this Plan.