

*Town and Village of Middleburgh
Comprehensive Plan*

140 Railroad Avenue, P.O. Box 946, Middleburgh, New York 12122

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

**FOR THE
TOWN AND VILLAGE OF
MIDDLEBURGH**

**Prepared for the Town and Village Boards
And the Citizens of Middleburgh, NY**

**By the
Town and Village of Middleburgh
Comprehensive Plan Committee**

March 1999

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Town and Village of Middleburgh Comprehensive Plan Committee

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To the Town and Village Board and the Residents of Middleburgh:

Anticipating continued growth in the coming years, the Town and Village of Middleburgh have authorized a volunteer board to draft this Comprehensive Plan, a document to articulate a common vision for our community. By examining demographic and economic trends, capital and social resources, and surveying the opinions and hopes of community residents, the Comprehensive Plan Committee has endeavored to determine priorities, opportunities and strategies for community development. In an early draft of Middleburgh's plan, committee members emphasized the importance of gathering as much community input and participation as possible, explaining, "what is presented in this document is the key to taking control of our destiny."

This comprehensive planning enables our community to review and coordinate land use regulations, inventory community resources and identify its needs, and it has helped spur residents to conceptualize and express a vision of a desired future for their community. Further, a comprehensive plan greatly increases the community's eligibility for a range of funding grants and other development programs. A written comprehensive plan also helps direct the drafting of ordinances as they are needed in a deliberate, rather than a reactive way. Such participatory "visioning" and planning ensures local control of our community's growth.

Key Advantages of a Comprehensive Plan:

- 1.) Can strategically and objectively set priorities for spending municipal funds;
- 2.) Increases funding opportunities from State/Federal sources;
- 3.) Coordinates various independent planning goals, such as hazard mitigation, agriculture and farmland protection, open space, and business retention and expansion efforts;
- 4.) Can help municipalities consider wider regional impacts of land use regulations;
- 5.) Can further economic development and business recruitment;
- 6.) Helps Town Boards and Zoning Boards of Appeal make fair, expedient, and legally defensible discretionary determinations.

The recommendations in the plan are not prescriptive. They outline the goals for our future, guidelines and rationale for choices we will make, and strategies to achieve this vision. The Plan contains no specific directives, but once adopted as an amendment to zoning code, subsequent land use decisions must be consistent with the goals of the Plan. Similarly, state and federal agencies are legally bound to consider your town's plan in their project designs.

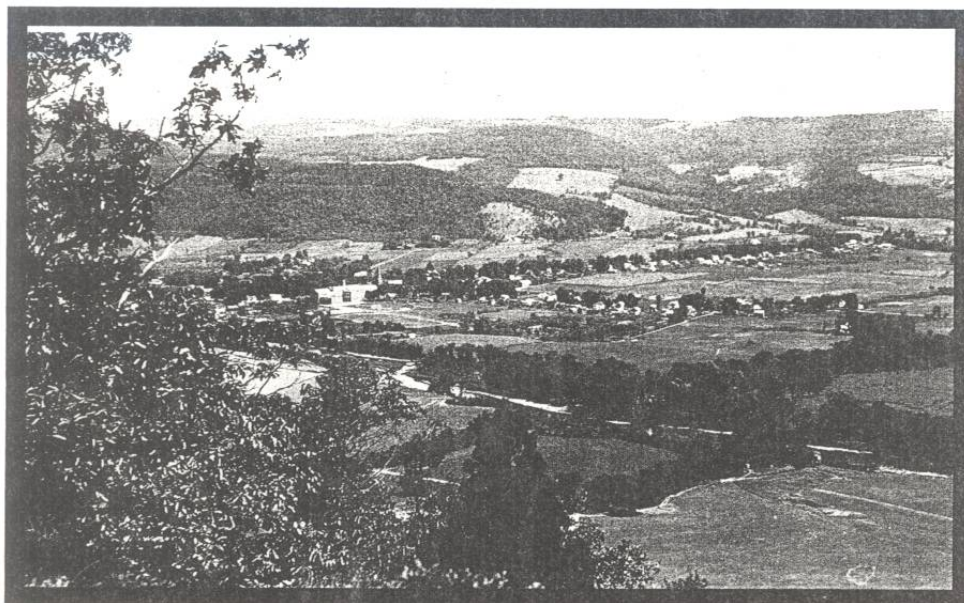
The Comprehensive Plan Committee is pleased to offer this proposal for your review and, we hope, for final adoption as the official document to steer growth in the coming years.

The Members of the Comprehensive Plan Committee

- SECTION ONE - BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Historical Highlights of the Town of Middleburgh

The Town of Middleburgh was established on March 17, 1797 by the Legislature of the State of New York as one of the six original towns in Schoharie County. Fulton was taken off in 1828 and a small parcel added to Broome in 1849. First settled in 1712 by the Palantines under the leadership of John Conrad Weiser, it was called Weiser's Dorf or Weisertown until 1797, when, with Hartman's Dorf, it took its official name from its most prominent site, the Middle Fort of American Revolutionary renown. It was here, after the burning of the entire village, that Timothy Murphy defied Major Woolsey, rallied the Colonials, and successfully defended the fort against British and Indian raiders on October 17, 1780. The Dutch Reformed Church built in 1786, west of the Middle Fort, remains in continuous use. A new fellowship hall in keeping with the original building has been added.



Middleburgh from Vroman's Nose, circa 1935

The census of 1800 shows a population of 1,831. The census of 1990 shows a population of 3,296. The largest center of population is the Village of Middleburgh (1,436). West Middleburgh (Mill Valley), the hamlet of Huntersland, Aker Hollow (Ecker Hollow), Limekiln and Frisbieville are included. The town encompasses 25,850 acres.

The Schoharie Creek and its fertile valley flows northward across the town, dividing it into ridges of upland with broad flats upon the sides of the stream. The cliffs and mountains on its east and west are part of the Helderberg mountain range.

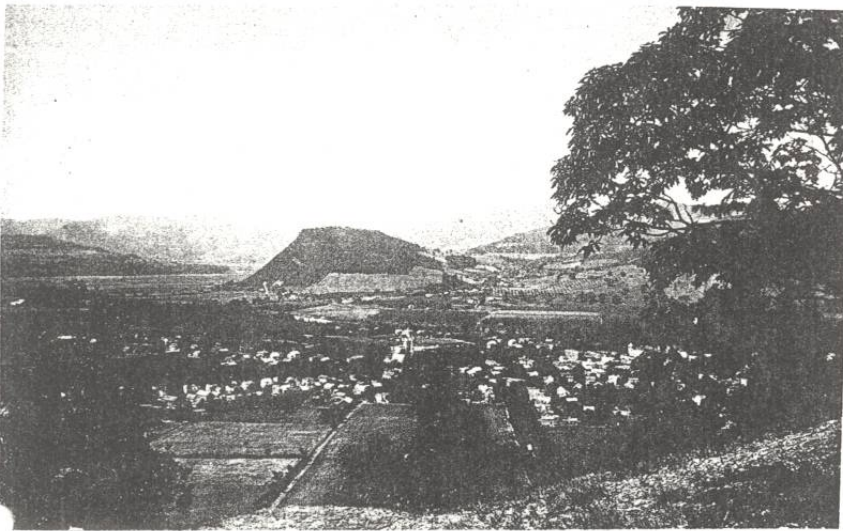
NYS Route 30 leading south to the headwaters of the Susquehanna River and the Delaware River and north to the Mohawk, and NYS Route 145 leading south to the Hudson River and north to the Mohawk River, cross at the Schoharie Creek in Middleburgh, forming an important hub of transportation. These routes, long used as Indian trails, were followed by early turnpikes, used by settlers migrating westward

and drovers supplying cattle to New York City. A half mile south of this intersection the creek receives the inflow of the Little Schoharie and almost opposite, the Linekill enters. At this point, flooding caused a bridge of driftwood to be formed. Thus, the derivation of the word *Schoharie* (*Towas-ho-har*), from the Indian translation meaning *driftwood*. The fertile flats provided the soil for the raising of grain for the Colonial troops and the area became famous as the "Breadbasket of the Revolution."

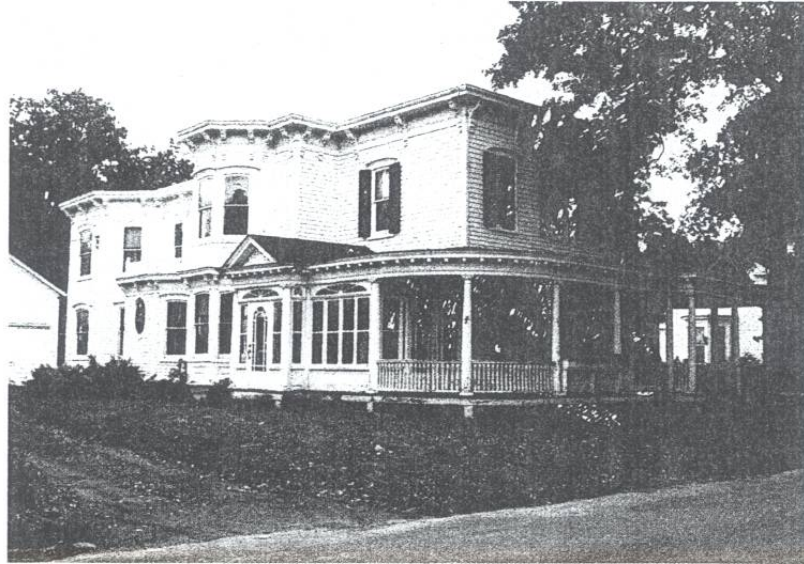
Agriculture has always

been and still remains the chief occupation of the areas: first, the raising of wheat and corn, followed by hops and today, alfalfa, corn, vegetables and fruit. Most of the small hill farms have become large units for reforestation and residential divisions. Mainly large dairy farms remain. It was the terminus for the Middleburgh and Schoharie Railroad from 1867 until 1936, when the railroad gave way to automobiles and trucking.

Today, small businesses, many active organizations, nine churches, antique and craft shops, a fine centralized school, a modern computerized library (a new building soon to be built) with excellent



Middleburgh from The Cliff, circa 1920



The Best House, built ca. 1884, served as home and office of two generations of country doctors over a period of 100 years. Furnishings are all original to the Victorian home.

genealogy and a historic house exhibit (the Dr. Christopher S. Best Medical Exhibit), an efficient ambulance service and fire department, and an excellent youth program, all contribute to this picturesque and historic community.

*Prepared for
Comprehensive Plan
Committee by
Helene S. Farrell, Town
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Historian*

Table of Contents

SECTION ONE: BACKGROUND INFORMATION

History of Middleburgh

Highlights of Middleburgh's history..... page 1

Population and Housing

Summary of Middleburgh's population trends, demographics and housing characteristics... .. page 3

Flood Zones

Discussion of primary watercourses affecting flooding and implications for management... .. page 5

Wetlands

NY State-designated wetlands are identified and regulatory importance noted... .. page 7

Agricultural Districts

Description of the 4 Ag Districts that reach into Middleburgh and outline of pertinent laws..... page 8

Soils

The major soil associations and management implications are described..... page 10

Terrain

Discussion of Middleburgh's topographical character and some management principles... .. page 14

State Lands

Reforestation areas managed by the State are listed..... page 15

SECTION TWO: KEY ISSUES AND STRATEGIES

Guiding Principles..... page 17

Overview: Issues Examined page 18

Enhancing Our Economic Base..... page 20

Preserving and Promoting Scenic and Visual Attributes..... page 26

Capitalizing on Our Human Resources page 30

Providing Needed Public Services/Ensuring Public Safety..... page 33

Summary of Findings..... page 40

Implementation Timetable..... page 45

Middleburgh Population Trends

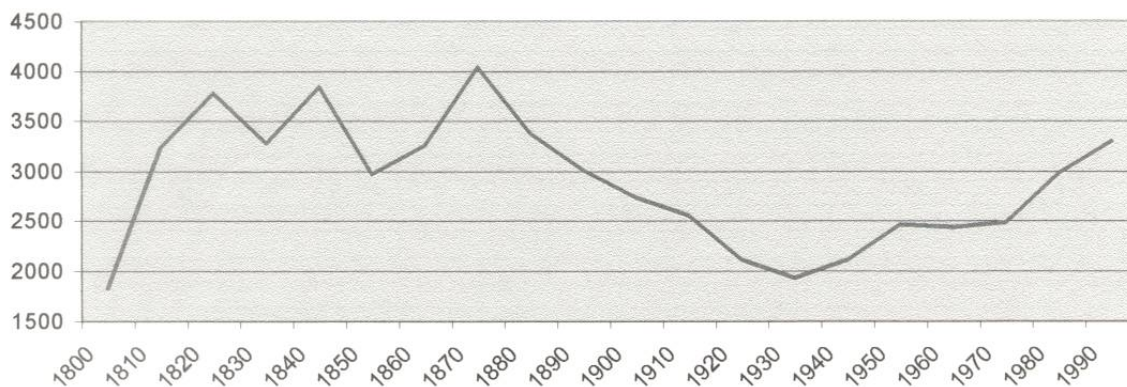
Settlement patterns in Schoharie County have traditionally followed the broad and fertile valley floodplains of the Cobleskill and Schoharie Creeks. Historically agricultural and rural, the northeastern part of the county is beginning to see "suburbanization" influence, accelerated by the 1980 completion of Interstate 88, from the Albany-Schenectady metropolitan region.

Typical of the Southern Tier of the state, the County experienced a burst of population growth at the beginning of the 19th Century associated with the settlement of the colonial frontier. Initial growth in the county continued until the Civil War- period several decades longer than neighboring counties. Initially, growth was at a rate of about 8,000 persons per decade, but it slackened considerably after 1840 with the Westward Expansion. From the Civil War through the Great Depression, the County continued to lose population at an irregular average rate of about 2,000 persons per decade.

After 1930, the county saw a new growth period that continues to this day. Average growth rates have been about 2,000 persons per decade, with a slight downturn in the 1980's; as mentioned, the completion of I-88 has had a positive impact on growth rates. From 1980 to 1990, the combined Town and Village population increased by 10.6 percent. Despite the fact that it has the smallest population of the eight-county Southern Tier East Region, Schoharie County had the highest net in-migration from 1990-1995, with an average addition of 130 persons annually. With a "natural increase*" of approximately 90 persons per year plus an annual in-migration of as much as 220, Schoharie County's population could possibly reach 38,000 by year 2030. Projections suggest that the Town and Village of Middleburgh will represent a slight decline of about 10.5% to 9.5% of the County population.

*(birth rate of 11.3 per 1,000 minus death rate of 8.6 per 1,000 = natural increase of 2.7 per 1,000)

Town & Village of Middleburgh Population



Middleburgh Population Projections

| Year | Reported | | Projected | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 | 2010 | 2015 | 2020 | 2025 | 2030 |
| Town | 1860 | 1863 | 1897 | 1927 | 1954 | 1979 | 2001 | 2022 | 2041 |
| Village | 1436 | 1441 | 1446 | 1451 | 1455 | 1459 | 1462 | 1465 | 1468 |
| Total | 3296 | 3304 | 3343 | 3378 | 3409 | 3438 | 3463 | 3487 | 3509 |
| County | 31859 | 32840 | 33680 | 34468 | 35217 | 35933 | 36622 | 37288 | 37934 |
| Percent | 10.4% | 10.1% | 9.9% | 9.8% | 9.7% | 9.6% | 9.5% | 9.4% | 9.3% |

Highlights of Middleburgh Key Demographic and Housing Characteristics

| | <i>Land Area</i> | <i>Population</i> | <i>Density</i> † |
|---------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Town | 49.29 sq.mi. | 1860 | 38 |
| Village | 1.19 sq.mi. | 1436 | 1207 |
| Total | 50.48 sq.mi. | 3296 | 65 |

| <i>Households</i> | <i>Town</i> | <i>Village</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| Number of Families | 506 | 387 | 893 |
| Families with Children | 253 | 189 | 442 |
| Female Headed Families | 62 | 60 | 122 |

Age Distribution

| | Median Age | < 18 years | 18-65 years | >65 years |
|---------|------------|------------|-------------|-----------|
| Town | 35.7** | 222 | 1367 | 271 |
| Village | 37.1 | 93 | 1075 | 268 |

Income Per Capita (1989)

Town: \$ 11,217**
Village: \$ 11,782
County: \$ 11,333

Average Persons per Household, 1989

County: 2.61

NOTE: Median Income is not the "average income" but that value that is at the center of all values recorded. This measure minimizes the effect of extreme "outlier" values.

Median Income (1989)

Town: \$ 28,160**
Village: \$ 29,653
County: \$ 30,215

Number of Housing Units

| 1990 | Town | Village | Total |
|----------|------|---------|-------|
| Total | 837 | 668 | 1505 |
| occupied | 660 | 582 | 1242 |
| vacant | 177 | 86 | 263 |
| mobile | 241 | 38 | 279 |
| seasonal | 130 | 27 | 157 |

Occupancy and Ownership

| | 1990 | Town | Village | Total |
|-----------------------|------|------------|----------|----------|
| <i>Owner Occupied</i> | | 526 | 367 | 893 |
| Median Value | | \$75,200** | \$78,900 | \$75,200 |
| <i>Rental Units</i> | | 134 | 215 | 349 |
| Median Rent | | \$284/mo** | \$285/mo | \$284/mo |
| Median Year Built | | 1956** | 1939 | 1956 |

Major Employers in County (1996)

| Rank | Total Employment |
|------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | SUNY Cobleskill 566 |
| 2 | Interknitting, Ltd. 480 |
| 3 | Schoharie County 380 |
| 4 | Coble/Ricmondvl School 350 |
| 5 | WalMart Dist Ctr 260 |
| 6 | Scho Assoc Retarded Cit 235 |
| 7 | Middlbrg Central School 225 |
| 8 | Basset Commty Hospital 200 |
| | Scho Central School 200 |
| | WalMart SuperCenter 200 |
| 9 | Eden Park Nursing Hm 180 |
| 10 | NY Power Authority 160 |
| 11 | Price Chopper 155 |
| 12 | Camp Summit Correctnl 134 |
| 13 | Kintz Plastics, Inc 110 |
| 14 | P&C Food Store 82 |
| 15 | Gilboa-Consvl Cntrl Schl 81 |

Water Source

| 1990 | Town | Village | 1990 | Town | Village |
|--------------|------|---------|-----------------|------|---------|
| public | 38 | 593 | public | 21 | 281 |
| drilled well | 583 | 51 | septic/cesspool | 780 | 382 |
| dug well | 98 | 7 | other | 30 | 5 |
| other | 112 | 17 | | | |

Sewage Disposal

† Persons per Sq. Mi.

** Medians are calculated based on the combined Village and Town totals.

Sources:

- Schoharie County Profile, Southern Tier East Regional Planning Development Board, 1995.
- Economic & Demographic Characteristics of Sixteen New York State Counties, 1996, SUNY Plattsburgh Technical Assistance Center
- Population Projection to 2030, Breakout Edition, New York State Association of Regional Councils, 1997.

The Slaughter's History of Schoharie County, Hendrix & Hendrix, 1995.

Middleburgh Flood Zones

The propensity for flooding in the Town and Village of Middleburgh is well known both from detailed study and painful experience. One result of this knowledge is a series of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM's) which outline the predicted extent of the so-called 100-year flood, the 500-year flood, and the regular floodway. Referring to these maps is the easiest and most accurate way to understand the areas affected, but suffice it to say here that the floodways and flood zones are adjacent to the Schoharie, Little Schoharie, Stoney, and Line Creeks and two unnamed tributaries.

Primary Watercourses in the Town and Village of Middleburgh

Schoharie Creek flows north through the Town and is one of the principal tributaries to the Mohawk River. It has a total length of 87 miles and a drainage basin (watershed) of 926 miles; it is one of the rare northward flows in the northeastern U.S. The Schoharie Basin is divided into an upper and lower basin that serve a series of three reservoirs. The Gilboa Dam forms the Schoharie Reservoir, which holds 19.6 billion gallons. This impoundment diverts the water from a 320 square mile drainage southward to the Esopus Creek. The other two impoundments, the Upper and Lower Blenheim-Gilboa Reservoirs, are located four miles downstream (i.e., north) of the Gilboa Dam. The lower reservoir is an impoundment of the Schoharie Creek created by the Blenheim-Gilboa Dam; the retained waters are pumped to the upper reservoir for power generation at times of peak power demand. Flows from the Blenheim-Gilboa Dam are essentially unregulated and continue their course to the Mohawk River.

Within the Village, the immediate floodway of the Schoharie is below the abutment of NYS Route 30 (River Street), but it includes the bridge that NYS Routes 145 and 30 share. The 100-year flood zone is more expansive in the Village, making a broad reach along the west and south Village lines (Schoharie and Stoney Creeks) and covering roughly the top third of the Village. The 500-year flood zone increases the reach to all but the western edge and southeastern third of the Village.

Beyond the Village, the Schoharie Creek has a 100-year flood zone that is as much as 3000' wide all along its course north of the Village. The broadest floodway is west of the village and NYS Route 145, north of NYS Route 30. South of the Village, the Schoharie Creek flood zones are primarily west of County Route 36 (Clauverwie Road) with some minor flood zones along feeder streams.

Stoney Creek is a southwest flowing tributary to the Schoharie Creek and has a drainage of 3.24 miles and a length of 4.1 miles. It flows through the Village along the southern edge of the Village line and creates a floodway of up to 400' wide and flood plains of about 1000' wide.

Schoolhouse Creek, a tributary of Stoney Creek, which flows southwest through a residential area of the Village, has a drainage of 2.17 miles and is 3.6 miles long. At the Main Street Crossing, the stream is piped about 300' downstream of the Middleburgh School. While its own floodway and 100-year flood zone are relatively small, the creek contributes to a wider 100-year flood zone in the area around its confluence with Stoney Creek near the Schoharie.

Tributary A flows north through the farm and residential area in the northern half of the Village. It is the primary drainage of the steep rise to the east of the Village known as The Cliff; the drainage area is 1.1 square miles. While it flows into a broad flood plain and "peters out" near NYS Route 30 before it actually flows into the Schoharie, it does have about a 50' wide floodway within the residential areas.

Tributary I is south of the Village, parallel to and west of NYS Route 145, and flows northward into Little Schoharie Creek. It has a relatively minor flood zone associated with it, but there are several domiciles along its edge, particularly near the southern Town Line (near Woods Road).

Little Schoharie Creek flows west and parallel to the south of County Road 21 (Huntersland Road). While the mapped flood zone is generally less than 200' wide, it extends to about 1000' wide as it passes through the hamlet of Huntersland.

Management Implications of Flood Zones

Encroachment on floodplains, such as artificial fill, diversions, and structures of substantial size, reduces the areas' flood-carrying capacity, increases the height of streams, and increases the probability and magnitude of flooding in adjoining areas. Aside from the hazard to life and property, development on floodplains also poses pollution hazards, often disrupts environmentally sensitive areas, and consequently, must navigate several flood plain management regulations. Sound flood plain management can also affect access to governmental aid for flood management and emergency response such as Community Rating System 'points' and flood insurance premiums.

Flood Plains- Generally speaking, the floodplain is any area susceptible to inundation with water from any source. For management purposes, the FIRM maps are the clearest preliminary determination of floodplain boundaries.

Floodways- Structures on these areas are most susceptible to serious flood damage; additionally, alteration of the floodway, by displacing water, may increase the height and velocity of floodwater. The floodway is the channel of a stream plus any adjacent flood plain areas that must be kept free of encroachment in order that the 100-year flood may be carried without substantial increases in flood heights. (FEMA limits the allowable increase caused to 1 foot.)

Floodway Fringe- The area between the floodway and the extent of the 100-year flood is the floodway fringe. This is the portion of the flood plain that theoretically could be completely obstructed without increasing the floodway height by more than one foot.

Flood Event Recurrence and Magnitude- Terms such as "100-year flood" can be misleading. Floods can not be predicted or scheduled, of course, but the probability of their occurrence and magnitude may be statistically calculated. Flood events of a magnitude that are expected to be equaled or exceeded once on the average during and 10-, 50-, 100-, or 500-year period (recurrence interval), are standard measures for floodplain management and flood insurance rating. These events, commonly known as 10-year, 50-year, 100-year, and 500-year floods have a 10, 2, 1, and 0.2 percent chance, respectively, of being equaled or exceeded during any year. (Put another way, each year has a 1-in-10 chance of a ten-year flood, a 1 in 50 chance of a 50-year flood, a 1 in 100 chance of a 100-year flood, and a 1 in 500 chance of a 500-year flood magnitude.)

It is important to note that the recurrence interval represents a long-term average period between floods of a specific magnitude, and that rare floods can occur at shorter intervals, even within the same year. The risk of experiencing a rare flood increases (logarithmically) with the length of time between floods. For example, the risk of a 100-year flood (1 in 10 of annual occurrence) increases to about a 40 percent chance (4 in 10) over 50 "flood-less" years and increases to 60 percent in 90 years.

Wetlands in Middleburgh

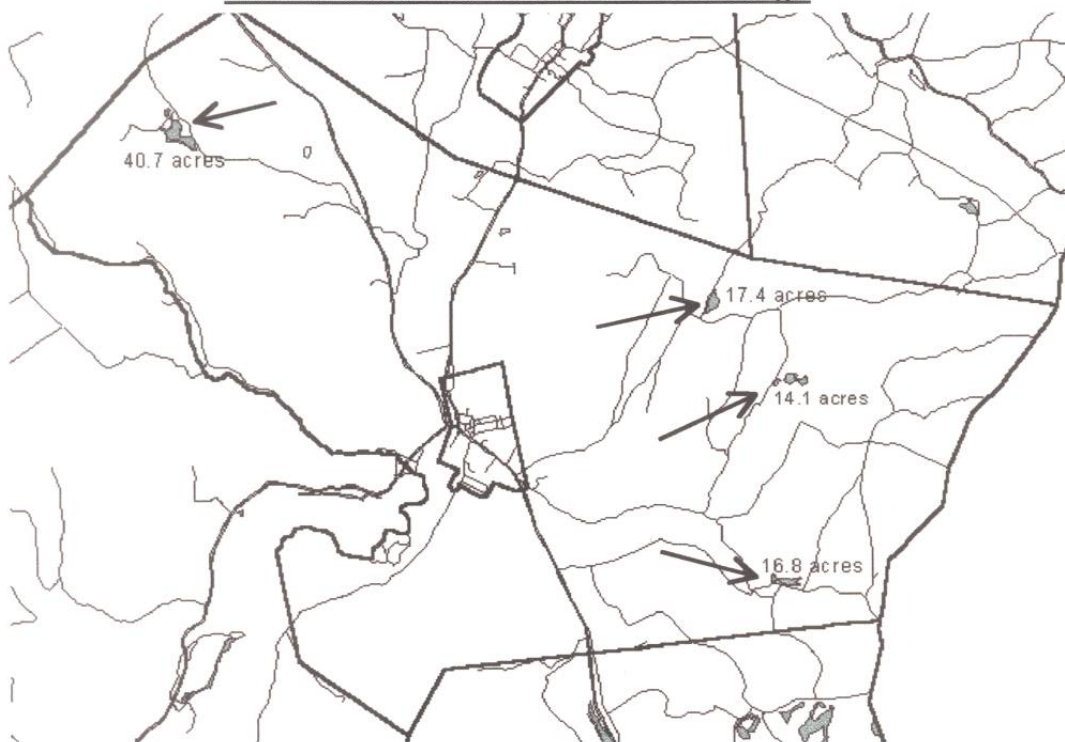
Given the presence of important watercourses and the relative frequency of flooding in the town and village, it seems improbable that there are very few state-designated (jurisdictional) wetlands. This is probably due to the extensive agricultural history of the Schoharie Creek valley in which the fertile flood plain soils were quickly claimed and converted to farm fields.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in the 1980's performed preliminary, but extensive inventories of the state's wetlands. The data is represented on official maps that delineate and classify all wetlands over 12.4 acres ($1/10^{\text{th}}$ hectare), and smaller wetlands of unusual significance. The public values of wetlands are considerable and important to protect; hence, regulatory implications can be significant. Each of the four state wetlands in Middleburgh are Class II wetlands, the second highest value of four classes. These areas, plus a 100-foot proximity buffer are protected under NYS Freshwater Wetlands Law (and federal laws, which can regulate wetlands as small as $1/3$ acre). Wetlands regulations require substantial proof that the proposed activity create enough public benefit to outweigh the loss of wetlands values, and that no practicable alternative exists.

Within the Town of Middleburgh (including the Village), there are only four NY State designated wetlands:

1. At the west end of Ecker Hollow Road, east of Bixby Road: 40.7 acres (2.6 acres are west of Bixby Road)
2. East of Treadlemire Hill: 17.4 acres
3. Hamlet of Huntersland, north of CR 21 (Huntersland Road) and west of Cannady Hill Road: 16.8 acres
4. East of Brooky Hollow Road, about one mile south of Cotton Hill Road: 14.1 acres

State Jurisdictional Wetlands in Middleburgh



Agricultural Districts in Middleburgh

Middleburgh has a rich agricultural history, and the importance of that heritage continues today. The floodplain of the Schoharie Creek contains the county's most fertile soils and, with careful attention and planning, the region's agricultural economy may continue well into the future.

New York's Agricultural Districts Law, enacted in 1971, recognizes the importance and irreplaceable values of agricultural lands, acknowledges their accelerating loss to development and other constraints, and seeks to create an economic and regulatory climate that encourages the continued viability of farming. Designation as an Ag District is primarily initiated by agricultural landowners and local governments with oversight and certification from the NY State Dept. of Agriculture and Markets. Inclusion in a district provides farmers with a number of protections and benefits including, in part:

- special tax certification to protect active farms from excessive real property taxation;
- protection from local regulations that unreasonably restrict farming practices ("Right-to Farm laws");
- notice requirements that actions within 500 feet of an working farm must file an "Ag Data Statement" to assess the potential impact of the project upon the farm operation;
- limited legal assistance in "nuisance complaint" law suits;

Benefits are conditional upon assurances that the land will remain in agricultural use over a specified period. Ag Districts are re-qualified at every eight-year anniversary of their original designation date.

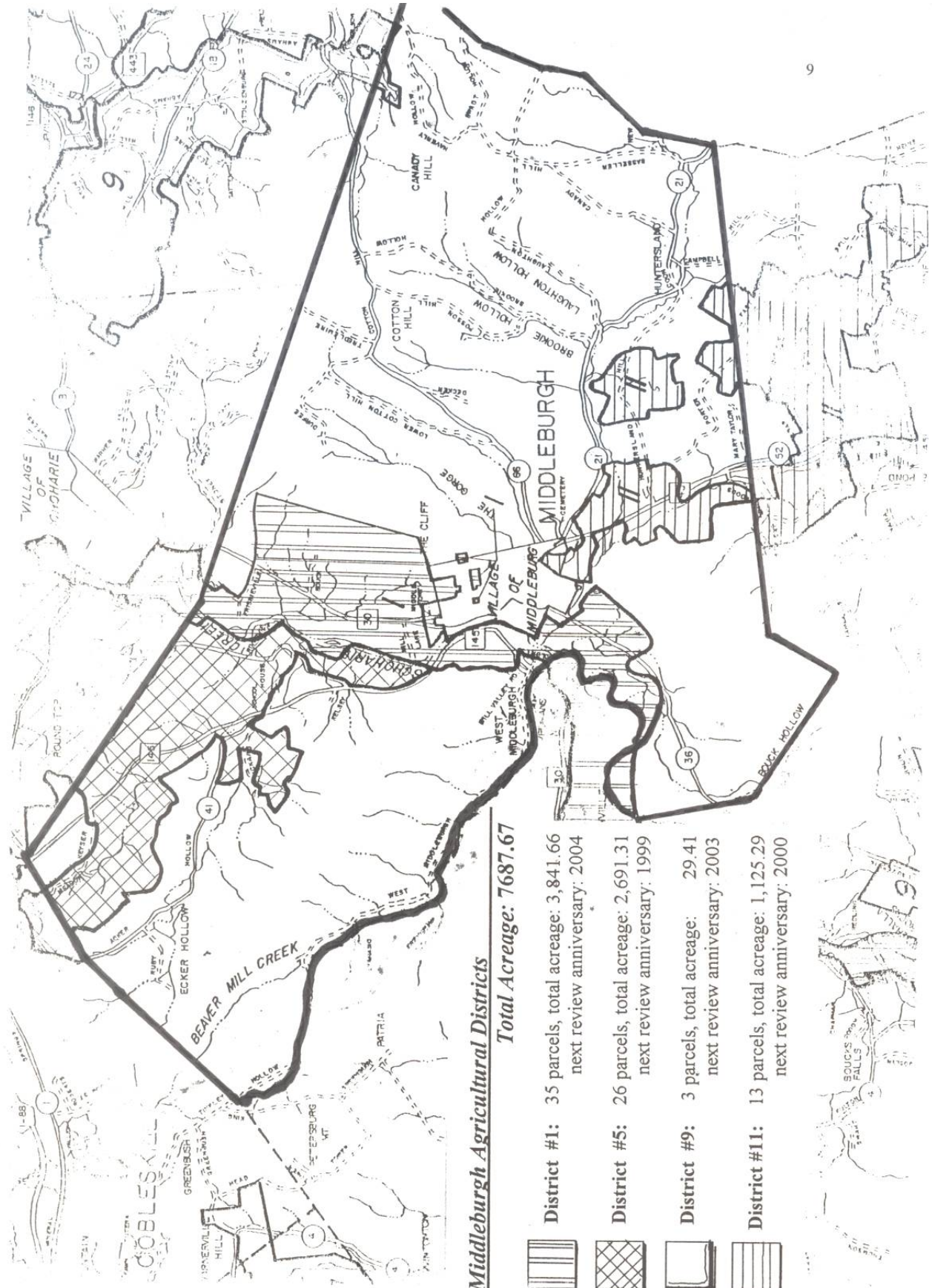
Nearly one-fourth of the Town of Middleburgh (including the Village) is designated Agricultural District. In all, 77 tax parcels, totaling 7,687.67 acres are included in Ag Districts #1, #5, #9, or #11. All of these districts overlap municipal boundaries throughout the county. Ag Districts add procedural review requirements to land use approval process and so, have important implications for growth and development planning. Because of the extent and importance of these agricultural lands, Ag District review requirements should be an integral part of Town and Village land use permitting process.

Ag District #1 (3,841+ acres) traces the floodplain of the Schoharie Creek from Esperance to Blenheim and includes much of the county's prime farmland. Within Middleburgh, District #1 runs along the eastern side of the Creek, widening into a broad lobe that reaches eastward to The Cliff and southward to the Village; a few smaller parcels within the Village are included in the District. West of the Village, District #1 continues a somewhat narrower path that broadens again into the Town of Fulton and continues on to the Blenheim-Gilboa Reservoir. The next review of this district is in the year 2004.

Ag District #5 (2,691+ acres) covers an extensive area in the northwestern portion of the Town. Following the drainage of feeder streams between Keyser Road and Ecker Hollow (Co. Hwy. 41), the district widens to encompass the area from Rickard Road to School House Road; it extends in a narrower reach along the west side of the Schoharie Creek to the crossing of NYS Hwy. 145. The next review of this district is in the year 1999.

Ag District #9 (29+ acres) is a large district in the Town of Schoharie, but only includes about 30 acres in Middleburgh. It reaches into the northeastern corner of the town north of Haverly Hollow Road. The next review of this district is in the year 2003.

Ag District #11 (1,125+ acres) is fragmented into three sections in the southern section of the town; the majority of the district is in the Town of Broome. The largest of these three portions includes the southeast corner of the village, in the flats east of the junction of Cotton Hill Road (Co. Rt. 66), Huntersland Road (Co. Rd. 21) and NYS Hwy 145. From here, it runs southward in a swath from the eastern slope of Hony Hill to Gridley Road (East Hill Road in Broome), continuing on the west side of NYS Hwy 145 to the Middleburgh/Broome line. East of this portion, there is a section that extends from the Little Schoharie Creek, across Huntersland Hill Road, nearly reaching Gridley Road. South of this, two lobes of a larger portion of Ag District 11 in Broome reach into Middleburgh; these include the area near the Taylor Cemetery and the slopes south of the hamlet of Huntersland and west of Campbell Hill Road. The next review of this district is in the year 2000.



Dominant Soil Types of Middleburgh

The history of Middleburgh is, of course, “rooted” in its agricultural success, due in no small measure to its excellent soils and flood plain terrain. In relatively recent geologic time, the genesis of these soils is largely from the flooding and deposition of the Schoharie Creek and associated watercourses. But in earlier geologic time, much of Middleburgh (indeed much of the County) was at the bottom of the enormous glacial Lake Schoharie, actually a successive series of lakes, the latest of which created a shoreline about half way up the side of Vroman’s Nose. As these waters receded, what had been lake bottom sediments became exposed and aerated to form the rich soils of the area’s agricultural prosperity. The surrounding uplands are underlain by sedimentary bedrock formed hundreds of millions of years ago when much of the continent was under seawater. These uplifted hills and rises surround the lowland river valleys and comprise about two-thirds of Middleburgh’s total area.

Middleburgh features five of the county’s ten major soil associations, or descriptions of the landscape based on the distinctive proportional patterns of soil types. Each of these associations contains a matrix of minor soil types. Knowing the soil types helps to understand and predict how land parcels will “perform” in differing uses. The primary considerations for agricultural use are drainage, contour, and fertility. For other uses, such as development, drainage and percolation and proximity to flood-prone areas, as well as importance for wildlife habitat and scenic amenity are principle concerns. For both regulatory and ecological concerns, the presence of wetlands may also be inferred from soil types.

Lordstown-Mardin Association

Yellowish-brown, moderately deep to deep, nearly level to steep, well drained to moderately well drained, strongly acidic soils of the uplands.

Except for the Schoharie Creek valley, all of Middleburgh (and the majority of the County) consist of the Lordstown-Mardin Association. The landscape of these soils is characterized by a series of flat-topped ridges cut by shallow drainageways and a network of small, steep-sided streams; the “stairstep” shape of the exposed bedrock is a common characteristic. The soils in this association are mostly moderately deep, sometimes with a dense, hard layer called a *fragipan*. The Lordstown soil component, which makes up about 50% of the association, is moderately deep, well drained, and medium-textured; commonly, it is the stony mix on steep hillsides. The Mardin soil component, about 30%, is deep, moderately or well-drained, and medium textured; they are in rolling, sometimes very stony landforms with long, smooth, gentle to steep slopes. These soils have a very dense fragipan at about a 2-foot depth that slows permeability. The remaining soil components are medium textured or stony, and moderately drained.

Much of the Lordstown-Mardin Association is too stony and flaggy for cultivation and may be shallow to bedrock with a poor water regime. Because of this, agriculture on these soils has been largely limited to dairy grazing. In recent times, this use has diminished and the lands are idle, reforested, or divided for home site development.

Barbour-Basher-Middlebury Association

Deep, nearly level, mainly well-drained and moderately well-drained soils of the bottom lands.

The river valley of the Schoharie Creek is the main location of this soil association and it generally traces a path about a mile wide along the creek's course (wider at the confluence of the Little Schoharie Creek). The soils are flooded with varying regularity but drain fairly well. The Barbour soils which make up about 55% of this association dominate the Schoharie Creek valley and are deep, medium-textured, slightly acidic, and well-drained. The Basher and Middlebury components constitute about 25% and are deep, medium-textured, and moderately too poorly drained. The remaining components are a mix of soils and are variously gravelly and clayey soils of alluvial fans.

These are among the county's best agricultural soils and they are used for a broad variety of crops. Aside from its high value for agriculture, the frequency of flooding limits the appropriateness of these areas for non-agricultural development.

Schoharie Association

Deep, nearly level to steep, mainly moderately well-drained to well-drained soils of old (ancient) lakebeds.

This association forms a concentric broad band on the east and west sides of the Barbour-Basher-Middlebury association; along the Schoharie Creek north of the Village; a lobe of this association extends northwest toward Ecker Hollow to the junction of NY State Highway 145 and County Highway 41 (Ecker Hollow Road). Another lobe of these soils is south of the Village, west of the Schoharie, on the same path of County Road 41 (Bush Road). These soils were formed from the sediments of glacial Lake Schoharie and are characteristically reddish calcareous clay and silt. The Schoharie soils, which are about 60% of this association, are deep, moderately well-drained and moderately fine-textured with a clayey subsoil. The other minor components of the Schoharie association are formed of generally the same materials but are less well-drained, gravelly till and outwash of fans, deltas, and small islands in creeks and streams. While not well suited for crop cultivation, they are adjacent to Barbour-Basher-Middlebury soils, and they have been used for producing hay and forage and as pasture to support livestock on the bottomland farms.

These soils are among those in the county that are most prone to erosion. They are generally too wet to work in the early spring, and too dry and hard later in the season. For non-agricultural use, low permeability erosion, and proximity to flood areas are primary concerns.

Mohawk-Honeoye Association

Deep, gently sloping to steep, well drained and moderately well drained high-lime soils of the uplands.

Outside of the bands of Schoharie Association is another band that traces the eastern side of the Schoharie Creek, north of the Village. another lobe, bisected by NY State Highway 145 runs from the hamlet of East Cobleskill to the southern end Ecker Hollow Road.

The Mohawk and Honeoye soils are closely intermingled in Schoharie County. The Mohawk soils are moderately well drained to well-drained, medium-textured and formed in calcareous glacial till derived mainly from black shale. Honeoye soils are deep, well drained and medium textured, formed in highly calcareous till derived mainly from limestone. The minor soil components, which constitute about 30% of the association range from moderately well drained to very poorly drained. The soils in this association are among the better soils formed from glacial till in the county. Because of the sloping topography, they are better suited for dairy farming and its support crops (corn, alfalfa and grass hay, oats) than for "truck crop" produce. Areas that are too steep, stony, or wet for cultivation have been used for woodcuts or unimproved pasture. The mixed benefit of good drainage but uneven terrain will influence the development potential of the area.

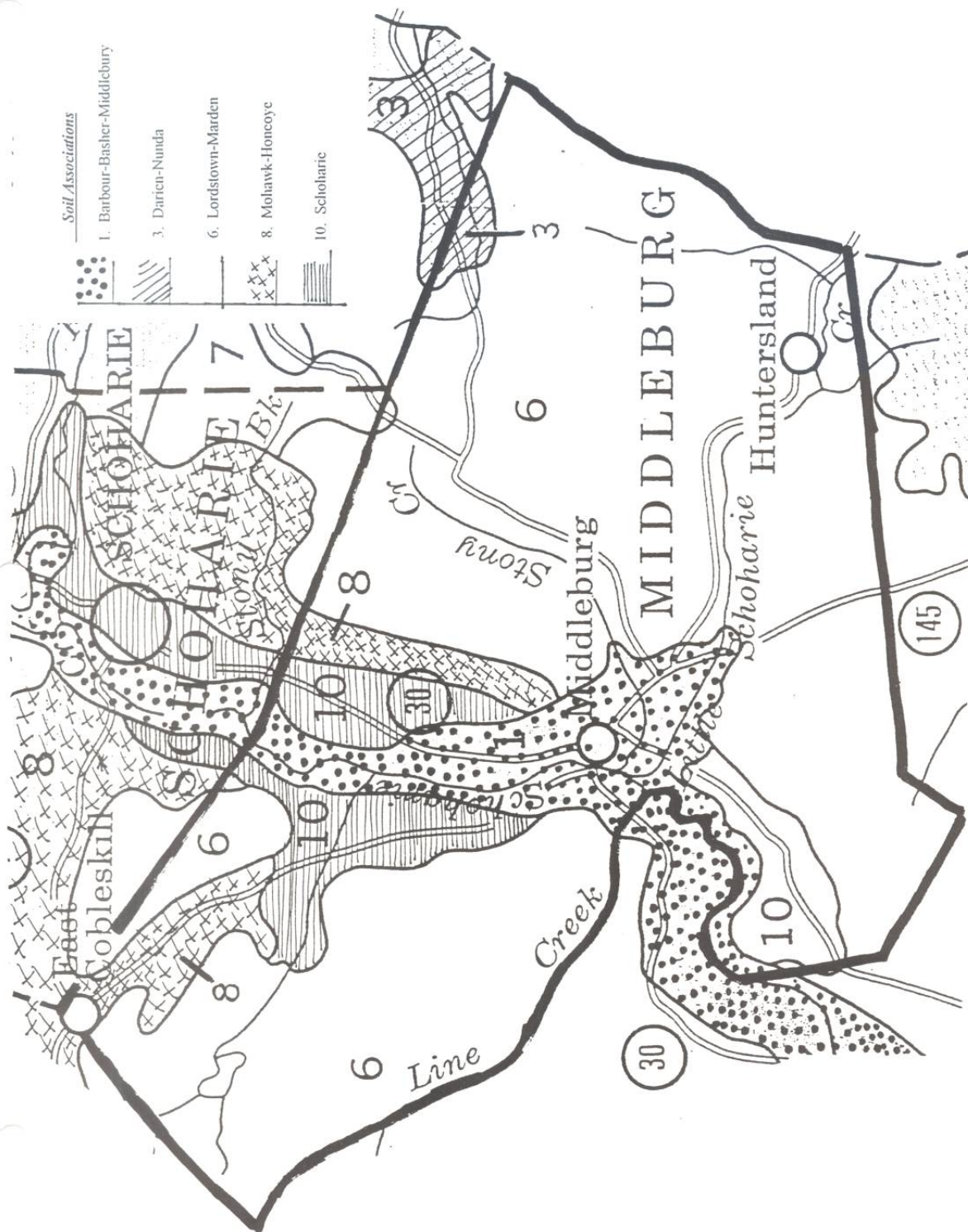
Darien-Nunda Association

Deep, nearly level to moderately steep, somewhat poorly drained to well-drained, medium-lime soils of the uplands.

A small lobe of this association reaches into the northeastern corner of the town, generally tracing the path of County Road 66 (Cotton Hill Road) to its junction with Treadlemire Road. The Darien soils, which are generally on the hilltops and flats in between, are moderately fine-textured and somewhat poorly drained. The better drained Nunda soils are on the sides and convex tops of hills in this association; they are deep, medium textured medium to low-lime soils.

The northwest area, which includes Bear Swamp, has little agricultural history due, of course to its poor drainage; wetland protection laws currently have a potential impact upon other uses. In other areas where these soils are better drained, dairy farming, haying, and pasture have been common uses. However, even in better-drained areas, the minor soil components of this association reduce the soil's permeability, interfering with the disposal of septic waste.

Source: Soil Survey, Schoharie County New York, USDA Soil Conservation Service, 1969



The Terrain of Middleburgh - **Some Planning Considerations**

The rolling hills of southern Schoharie County represent the northern terminus of the Catskill Mountain escarpment; Middleburgh is roughly flanked by these foothills and, to the north and east, the westward reach of the Helderberg Escarpment. In all, the elevations of the county are the edges of the Allegheny Plateau, which in turn, is formed from ancient deposits of the primordial Iapetus Ocean and the rivers that drained into it some half-billion years ago. The predominance of sedimentary rock formed beneath the ocean and lakes accounts for the conspicuously layered look of the exposed bedrock (and the regular discovery of shellfish fossils). Glacial events and subsequent weathering and erosion rendered the landscape we see today. The Schoharie Creek and its tributaries are the remnants of glacial Lake Schoharie, which exposed rich bottomland soils when receding ice shields released its waters some 12,000 years ago.

The topography of Middleburgh is among its most striking features. From the nearly level agricultural floodplains arise, in striking contrast, steep slopes and sheer grades as severe as 85-90% (100% being vertical). However, while abrupt rises and plunging hillsides make for dramatic scenery, they also have important implications as the town plans for growth. As a matter of course, settlement has historically occurred in the nearly level lowlands, adjacent to the agricultural fields and the easiest routes of commerce and transport. In more recent history, however, road building and residential development has begun to reach into more challenging terrain. Outside of the lowlands, many of Middleburgh hillsides have slopes that are categorically "steep," that is, greater than 10% grade, or gain more than 10 elevation feet per 100 feet of lateral distance.

Below are conventional standards for land use according to the grade of slope and the degree of slope that is the angle of repose of different soil type, that is, the degree of slope at which a mound of the soil type will eventually settle naturally.

| Flat grades: 0% to 4% | | Easy grade: 5%-10% | Steep grade: over 10% |
|------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>Standards for Grading</u> | | <u>Angle of Repose for Substrates</u> | |
| 1% | Minimum grade for drainage on paved or planted areas | | Loose, wet clay or silt: 30% |
| 2% | Minimum grade at building perimeter | | Compact, dry clay: 100% |
| 2% | Minimum grade of drainage swales and ditches | | Wet sand: 80% |
| 10% | Maximum grade of drainage swales and ditches | | Dry sand: 65% |
| 25% | Maximum grade of mown grass areas | | Cobbles: 70% |
| 50-60% | Maximum grade of unmown planted banks (up to 100% with special ground cover) | | Forested land: 70-100% |

When excavating or building in lots with significant slope, consideration must be given not only to possibilities of runoff and erosion, but also accessibility to public safety and utility vehicles. Further, the dramatic landscape's awesome vistas are the core of the area's extraordinary scenic values; substantial changes in hillside areas may have visual impact upon scenic amenities ("viewsheds") that are valued by the community.

State Lands in Middleburgh

The Town of Middleburgh has three parcels of land owned by the State for the purposes of forestry and public recreational access. Also called Reforestation Areas, the parcels in Middleburgh are somewhat convoluted in shape. In all, there are 1,510.34 acres of State-owned land in the town.

The largest area of contiguous parcels (632.17 acres) spreads in a patchwork fashion around the Cotton Hill area, beginning east of Treadlemire Road, reaching southward to Cotton Hill Road (Co. Hwy. 66), then broadening west from Brooky Hollow for about three-quarters of a mile; from here it reaches southward almost to the northern-most bend of Lawton Hollow Road.

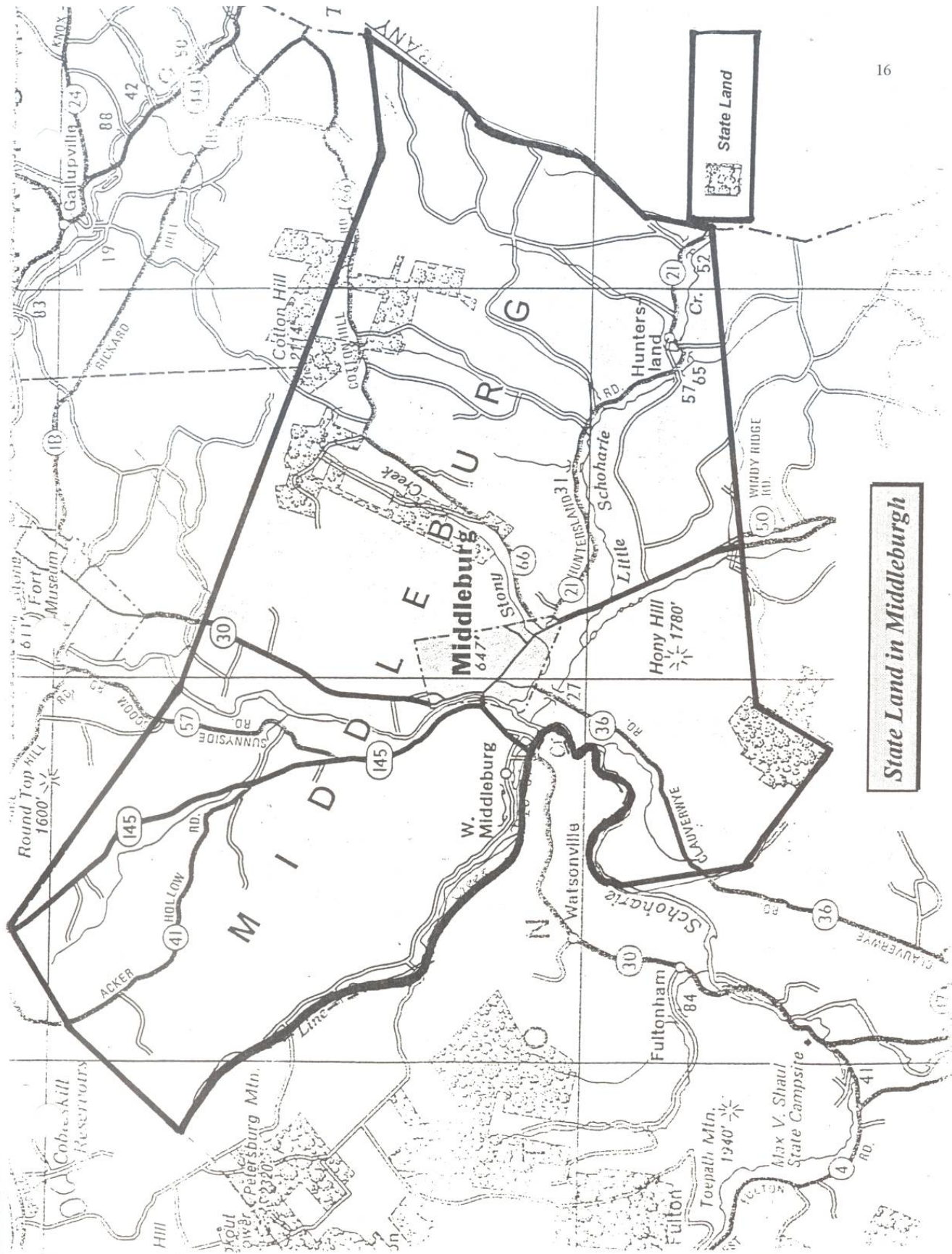
To the west of Cotton Hill Road (CR 66), is another series of adjoining parcels (501.69 acres), bisected by Lower Cotton Hill Road and Durfee Road to the north.

Lastly, there is a somewhat more conventional parcel (376.48 acres) in the southern-most section of the town. Straddling the Middleburgh/Broome town line, this parcel terminates on the Middleburgh/Fulton line.

State-owned forest resources are called Forest Preserves when they are within the Catskill or Adirondack Parks, and are designated, by State Constitutional law to remain "forever wild." The policies for the other forest resources, generically termed "State Forests" are different and include more multiple-use management by the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

The core element of the management policies and procedures is the State Forest Unit Management Plan (UMP). The 472 State Forests have been grouped into 165 State land units based on proximity to each other, similarity in treatment or management needs, and shared characteristics. Where practical, units also include other land use classifications such as Wildlife Management Areas. Regional forestry offices are responsible for the planning and development of the UMPs. The plans include assessment of recreational values, a schedule for treatment and improvement, report of budget request and allocation, and resource inventories. The UMPs, which include public comment, are ten-year plans with a 5-year review requirement.

Schoharie County is in DEC Region 4, Capitol District.
The contact for State Forest Information and UMPs is (518) 357-2048.



- SECTION TWO - KEY ISSUES AND STRATEGIES

Guiding Principles of the Plan

In addition to pursuit of the strategic recommendations set forth in the following sections, it would be helpful in "orienting our thinking" to bear in mind the following nine cornerstone ideals of the Plan:

1. We must protect our open space, visual quality and historic character, as **these are our main "selling points."**
2. We must **take a more entrepreneurial approach to promoting Middleburgh** as a place to visit and as a place in which to live/work/own a business.
3. We need to aggressively pursue available technical support, training, and grant programs to **enhance the efficiency and quality of municipal operations.**
4. Residents and property owners need to be **aware** of what local government is doing and have opportunities to provide **input** into governmental decisions.
5. The **professionalism and sophistication** of municipal management, code enforcement and service provision must be enhanced.
6. Municipal operations must be conducted using **the highest degree of fiscal restraint**, with a constant understanding that **the first responsibility of government is to the taxpayers.**
7. Board members, code enforcement staff, and other officials **must recognize the full impacts of their decisions** both on seemingly unrelated other areas of activity and on taxpayers' stakes in the community.
8. Middleburgh needs to be an **active participant in "outside" decision processes** which will affect its future (decisions on future work on the Gilboa Dam, for example).
9. The zoning ordinance needs to be thoroughly revised, with the aim of making it a **tool for enhancing the community** rather than a simple list of "can dos" and "can't dos."

Within the Plan, there are about 100 strategies set forth in sixteen issue areas. While some may appear to be contradictory, they can in fact all be pursued concurrently. The key is to be flexible rather than rigid in the development and application of actions, regulations and practices, and to use these nine ideals as the overall guides to how we influence our destiny.

Overview: Issues Examined

In its early discussions, the Committee developed a list of sixteen issues to be addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. An "issues survey" conducted at the October 1996 Fall Festival got some early feedback on what the priorities of the effort should be; the June 1997 Resident/Property Owner Survey provided additional clarification of sentiments and ideas on recommendations to amplify.

The issues examined in the Plan are summarized below, followed by detailed discussion.

Group 1: Enhancing our Economic Base

(page 20)

Attracting and Retaining Business: The potential use of policies, regulations and specific actions both to benefit existing businesses and to attract new ones to Middleburgh.

Preservation of Agricultural Lands: Ensuring the continued viability of farming by minimizing both "administrative obstacles" in policies and statutes and "physical obstacles" such as poor road and bridge conditions.

Residential Development: Protecting the quality of the housing stock, addressing the need for low-/medium-income housing, and ensuring that future development is consistent with community goals for intensity and type (style).

Services/Conveniences: The local availability of shops and services, and their impacts on surrounding areas/neighborhoods.

Taxes: Balancing sufficiency of receipts to finance local public services with reasonableness of burdens on taxpayers.

Group 2: Preserving and Promoting our Scenic and Visual Attributes

(page 26)

Open Space: The location, quantity and quality of undeveloped or minimally-developed areas.

Rural and Historic Character: Preserving the condition, quality and accessibility of rural and historic attributes.

Visual Quality: The aesthetics of individual buildings, parcels, streetscapes, greenspaces, and open areas in the Town and Village.

Group 3: Capitalizing on our Human Resources

(page 30)

Community Groups: Their roles in enhancing local quality of life.

Education: Quality of MCS (and, for some, SCS) education as preparation for college, trades, and participation in the community.

Public Participation in Town/Village Activities: Existing and potential input of citizens in civic and government activity, and the training needed to maximize the benefit of this input.

Group 4: Providing Needed Public Services/Ensuring Public Safety

(page 33)

Floodplains/Flood Response: Comprehensiveness of information on flood vulnerability; adequacy of flood response resources; status of flood response plans and dissemination of needed information to the public; steps that can be taken to minimize losses attendant to future floods.

Public Safety: Status of police, fire, emergency medical and emergency management service protection; adequacy of resources to meet current and projected future needs.

Transportation: Physical and operational condition of local street system; adequacy of resources to maintain acceptable conditions; sufficiency of system to meet transportation needs; provisions for transit and non-motor vehicle travel.

Water Quality/Wastewater Systems: Condition and sufficiency of municipal water/sewer infrastructure; protection of water supply.

Municipal Administration and Finance: Municipal management practices; potential for improvements in efficiency/effectiveness.

Group One:
Enhancing Our Economic Base

Attracting and Retaining Businesses

Key Concerns

- (1) Using municipal policies, regulations and tasks to enhance the local business climate.
- (2) Ensuring the capabilities of existing businesses to maintain or expand their operations.
- (3) Ensuring that Middleburgh is attractive to potential entrants.

Goal

"Reinvent" Middleburgh's administrative, regulatory and communications procedures which affect businesses to offer a progressive, business-friendly environment.

Objectives

- Make Town and Village administrative procedures and policies more "user friendly" to business owners.
- Alleviate impact of tax assessments on businesses during "lean times."
- Minimize day-to-day impediments to local business success.
- Enhance the attractiveness of Middleburgh from the perspective of "ease of entry."
- Promote Middleburgh as a place in which to locate a business.
- As a matter of routine, solicit the business community's input on proposed policy steps.
- Ensure that the proper infrastructure exists to support business activity.

Strategies

1. Review administrative processes such as those for building inspections and receiving building permits to ensure that they are as streamlined as possible.
2. Investigate possibility of installment plan for Town tax payments.
3. Working with representatives of the business community, develop a Village parking plan that balances the need for "turnover" in parking near businesses with shopper convenience.
4. Strengthen and enforce Town/Village ordinances on loitering.
5. Meet quarterly with members of the business and agricultural communities, Chamber of Commerce, Merchants' Association to discuss ways to improve the local economic climate. Include the question, "what would it take for you to expand your business?"

as a discussion item as a way of finding ways to create a more business-friendly environment.

6. Encourage use of creative zoning techniques such as performance zoning (in essence, "regulating impacts rather than land uses") to encourage desirable types of commercial development.
7. Explore creation of a business improvement district within which special incentives can be provided to people either expanding existing businesses or locating new businesses.
8. Adopt a "**work with us**" philosophy in dealing with prospective developers -- avoid "being in the business of saying no" or saying, "include these elements in your site plan or we will reject your proposal;" instead, work with developers to arrive at mutually satisfactory layout and architectural features.
9. Solicit a local student to develop (possibly as a for-credit "independent study" project) a "web page" listing items such as local attractions, demographic data, business opportunities, available commercial properties, contact persons.
10. Contact Empire State Development to establish Middleburgh participation in statewide and area-wide (e.g., "Leatherstocking Region") business promotion efforts.
11. Work with Town and Village business and community groups to establish Schoharie Valley-specific economic promotional group.
12. Contact the County Chamber of Commerce and the Merchants' Association for comment in advance of taking policy action.
13. Establish a Town/Village committee, including local business and agribusiness owners, to assess current status of local infrastructure and prioritize needs for improvements.

Preservation of Agricultural Lands

Key Concern

The need to ensure the continued viability of farming in Middleburgh, in the process protecting large amounts of agricultural land from conversion to other land uses.

Goal

Preserve the opportunity to successfully conduct agricultural activity in Middleburgh and the various benefits agriculture provides.

Objectives

- Protect agriculture's status in land use regulations.
- Alleviate impact of tax assessments on farm businesses during "lean times."
- Strive for proper infrastructure to support agricultural activity.

Strategies

1. Promulgate a "right to farm" law which recognizes and protects conventional agricultural activities.
2. Investigate possibility of installment plan for Town tax payments..
3. Establish a Town/Village committee to review the state of local infrastructure and its suitability to needs, and include local farmers in this work.

Residential Development

Key Concerns

- (1) The availability, quality and suitability to residents' needs of the existing housing stock.
- (2) The desired type(s) and intensities of future development, with "desirability" a function of ensuring consistency with local aesthetic goals and local public service provision capabilities.

Goal

Ensure that Middleburgh is a desirable community in which to live by virtue of offering housing appropriate to needs, developed in a manner consistent with local character, in a setting which is attractive compared to other communities.

Objectives

- Improve the condition of existing low- and moderate-income housing units, and (if needed) facilitate development of new low- and moderate-income housing, as needed. Research availability of grants or other funding sources.
- Use administrative and regulatory tools to guide residential development along desirable lines.
- Capitalize on/be prepared for the trend of residential relocation away from the cities of the greater Capital District.

Strategies

1. Enforce building codes consistently.
2. Develop and adopt appearance codes for application to site plan/single-home construction plan review. (Note: the code should be set up so as to provide *guidance*, not just to be an ironclad basis upon which to say "no.")
3. Revised zoning ordinance should include provisions reflecting community desires with regard to the character and intensity of residential development.
4. Revise zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations to include provisions for cluster development as a preferred framework for any larger residential developments, as a way of preserving open space and minimizing new infrastructure requirements.
5. Enforce zoning ordinance provisions consistently and to the letter of the law, with emphasis on minimizing the number of variances granted. (Note: minimizing variances is largely a matter of proper adherence to State and local law.)
6. Prepare a "fact sheet" to highlight safety, area character, value, easy commute times of Middleburgh for real estate association members in the Capital District. Include fact sheet on appropriate web pages..

Services and Conveniences

Key Concerns

- (1) Local availability of shops and services, and the potential to encourage establishment of desired but unavailable services.
- (2) Minimizing the adverse impacts of service/convenience activities on surrounding areas.

Goal

Facilitate the provision of both basic and advanced consumer services.

Objectives

- Raise entrepreneurial awareness of "missing" services.
- Facilitate establishment of "missing" services.
- Create a basic service and promotional infrastructure for tourism.

Strategies

1. Participate in County Chamber of Commerce's upcoming inventory of existing services and conveniences; prepare a directory of local services for resident/visitor use with a "missing elements" section for entrepreneurs to think about.
2. Modify zoning ordinance to make it easier to establish activities such as bed-and-breakfasts, antique shops and artists' studios in residential areas.
3. Web page/fact sheet/promotional materials emphasizing area antiques dealers, scenic areas, Long Path, Vroman's Nose/Route 30 bike path. (Promotional materials already available from Long Path North Hiking Club.)
4. Establish a "tourist information" phone number. Create a basic "script" and fact sheets, or compile brochures on area attractions. Use volunteers to answer this phone or put an answering machine on the line with a "leave your name, address and phone number, and we will send information on area attractions" announcement. Distribute tourism-oriented materials to local businesses.
5. Arrange for inclusion of a Town/Village map in local phone directories.
6. Develop a local map "framed" (and paid for) with business advertisements.

Taxes

Key Concern

Balancing sufficiency of tax receipts to finance local public services with reasonableness of burdens on taxpayers.

Goal

Ensure that fiscal responsibility is institutionalized as a philosophy of government in Middleburgh.

Objective

- Promote fairness in the tax codes.

Strategies

1. Require issuance of a "taxpayer impact statement" whenever an increase in municipal budgets is proposed.
2. Encourage elected State and Federal officials to revisit municipal property tax structures to ensure fair treatment of all property owners.

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| <p style="text-align: center;">Group Two: <i>Preserving and Promoting Scenic and Visual Attributes</i></p> |
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Open Space

Key Concern

Location, quantity and quality of open space areas.

Goal

Preserve and exploit the benefits of open space.

Objectives

- Promote official recognition and protection of our open space resources.
- Conduct and highlight activities that create in residents' and potential visitors' minds an association between Middleburgh and open space.

Strategies

1. Inventory scenic areas and larger areas of open space, and target these areas for large minimum lot sizes, high road frontage requirements and single-story/maximum height provisions in the zoning ordinance.
2. Advise the Schoharie County Land Trust and the County Open Space Committee of scenic areas identified in the inventory above and define our highest priorities for open space protection.
3. Include the new Town Seal, which includes a view of Vroman's Nose, in all promotional materials.
4. Hold one or more annual Town/Village picnics, flea markets, antique fairs or similar outdoor events per year at locations (such as the pavilion on the west shore of the Schoharie Creek) which will remind people of the open space resources available to them.
5. Prepare a simple hiker's/cyclist's guide to Middleburgh which includes descriptions of open space, historic and other attractions along a clearly mapped route.

Rural and Historic Character

Key Concern

Preserving the condition, quality and accessibility of our rural and historic attributes.

Goal

Preserve our rural and historic resources, and use them as the cornerstones of efforts to promote Middleburgh.

Objectives

- Raise official awareness of our historic resources.
- Establish institutional protections for historic and rural areas.
- Maintain the perceived value of historic sites and areas by highlighting such local offerings, e.g., recreation and tourism.

Strategies

1. Develop an inventory of Town and Village historic sites.
2. Designate River Street as a local historic district.
3. Prepare special zoning ordinance provisions applying to and protecting historic districts.
4. Establish appearance codes and architectural review requirements for new development and remodeling of existing structures.
5. Hold an annual "historic homes" walk in the Village, with leaders giving brief histories of each home and, perhaps, with visits to some properties on the walk.
6. Prepare self-guided walking tours of the historic parts of the Village and driving tours of the Town.
7. Apply for State and National Historic District status for River and Main Streets in the Village.

Visual Quality

Key Concern

The aesthetics of individual buildings, streetscapes, greenspaces, and open areas in the Town and Village.

Goal

Facilitate a "continuous improvement" approach to the physical and aesthetic attributes of Town properties and spaces. Engineer the gradual evolution of the Main Street commercial district toward having a more uniform, historic "small town" look..

Objectives

- Manage storefront appearances and the overall "rhythm" of storefronts.
- Use broader municipal powers to enforce the ideals of maintenance and cleanliness of properties.
- Rally community effort to improve site and area-level cleanliness/ condition.

Strategies

1. Revise the Village sign ordinance to discourage the use of internally-lit signs in favor of more historically appropriate signs.
2. Revise the Town sign ordinance to prohibit the installation of "pole-type" signs in favor of "monument-type" signs.
3. Include guidance in site plan regulations on desirable colors for awnings and textures for building facades (the latter, e.g., brick versus stucco) in the downtown area.
4. Improve enforcement of ordinances governing aspects of visual quality.
5. Establish Town and Village appearance codes.
6. Based on the obligation to protect public health and safety, establish local ordinances requiring the quick repair of structural deficiencies to buildings.
7. Based on the obligation to protect public health and safety, establish local ordinances requiring the quick removal of debris on properties not designated as junkyards or recycling facilities.
8. Establish visual quality provisions in the zoning ordinance geared toward improving the looks of our "gateways" (Routes 30 and 145 at the Town lines).
9. Conduct semi-annual "clean-up" days during which individual volunteers and civic organizations clean public spaces. Can be expanded to include cleanups of the grounds of elderly or handicapped residents who are unable to do such things as weeding, mowing, painting, exterior house repairs.

10. Erect special ""Welcome" signage at our "gateways" (Routes 30 and 145 at the Town lines).
11. Where possible, ensure that new construction takes place in a style consistent with surrounding structures or the Town or Village's historic character (for example, the recently-proposed reproduction of the "Baker Hotel" façade as the front of the new Middleburgh Library).

Group Three: *Capitalizing on Our Human Resources*

Community Groups

Key Concern

Existing and potential roles of community organizations in enhancing local quality of life.

Goal

Expand use of existing community organizations as sources of assistance to government decision making and local quality of life initiatives.

Objectives

- Solicit greater participation by organizations with potential stakes in government decisions.
- Encourage organizations to "take the lead" on community initiatives by pledging official support.
- Make better use of existing community organizations in emergency situations and special events.

Strategies

1. Serve as a "clearinghouse" for community group participation in local activities by finding out what such groups are doing in other communities to improve local quality of life and sharing these ideas with local groups.
2. In preplanning for emergencies and special events, provide organizations with opportunities to be "on the team."
3. Strengthen ties with the Youth Commission as a resource in "making special events happen" (e.g., through materials preparation, having a strong presence at events).
4. Ensure that the meetings with business/agribusiness representatives discussed in the "Attracting and Retaining Businesses" include representatives of community organizations (e.g., the Rotary, the Merchants' Association, the Chamber of Commerce).

Education

Key Concern

Quality of MCS (and, for some, SCS) education as preparation for college, trades, and participation in the community.

Goal

Ensure that education is properly valued and supported in Middleburgh.

Objective

- Enhance Municipal-Educational linkages.

Strategies

1. Meet with school district officials to assess operating relationships between schools, Town and Village and to identify opportunities to cooperate on community-based activities.
2. Provide support to the school district's efforts to improve education by providing letters of support when the district pursues grants.
3. Tie the school district into general municipal and Emergency Management Office communications plans and into flood and winter weather communications structures.

Public Participation in Town/Village Activities

Key Concerns

- (1) Existing and potential input of individual citizens in civic and government activity.
- (2) Steps (e.g., securing training for board members) which can be taken to maximize benefit of public input.

Goal

Foster enthusiastic, high-quality citizen participation in government activities.

Objectives

- Conduct activities that highlight the positive things about Middleburgh.
- Give residents the opportunity to directly influence the future of Middleburgh.
- Enhance the quality and amount of citizen participation in government activity.
- Support MCS' Participation in Government classes.

Strategies

1. Hold an annual Town Meeting to review the progress made in the past year enhancing community quality of life, and to set an agenda for the coming year.
2. Establish one or more "implementation committees" to monitor and make recommendations on Town and Village implementation of the Comprehensive Plan.
3. Take advantage of nearby opportunities for training of citizen members of Town and Village boards, committees. Require attendance of new board/committee members and periodic "refresher" courses.
4. Establish a municipal communications plan.
5. Use press releases, inserts in tax bills and other means of "getting the word out" regarding where Town and Village residents should look for official announcements.
6. Erect municipal bulletin boards for posting of meeting announcements, and publicize their whereabouts.
7. Standardize use of Midtel Cable and SCHOPEG community access channels for announcement of meetings and other Town/Village activities.
8. Conduct semiannual "clean-up" day (see "Visual Quality" section).
9. Hold annual "Mayor/Supervisor/Clerk For A Day" as way of introducing students to the principles of government operations.
10. Offer internships in Town/Village offices as opportunities to earn school credits.

Group Four:
Providing Public Services and Ensuring Public Safety

Floodplains/Flood Response

Key Concerns

- (1)Comprehensiveness of information on flood vulnerability.
- (2)Adequacy of flood response resources.
- (3)Status of flood response plans.
- (4)Mechanisms for dissemination of needed information to the public.
- (5)Possible advance planning and regulatory steps that can be taken to minimize losses attendant to future floods.

Goal

Establish a comprehensive approach to flood preparedness.

Objectives

- Improve flood management.
- Improve flood response.
- Improve flood-related communications.
- Change land use regulations to minimize exposure to flood dangers.
- Earn points under the Community Rating System to reduce National Flood Insurance Program rates for property owners.
- Work to influence decisions made outside Middleburgh which influence flood potentials.

Strategies

1. Work with the County Emergency Management Office to prepare and regularly publicize flood evacuation route system.
2. Work with the County Emergency Management Office to designate and regularly publicize flood evacuation shelter locations.
3. Work with the County Emergency Management Office to develop a multi-hazard mitigation plan.
4. Inquire about getting flood information and the official flood response plan included in local phone directories.

5. Starting from the County Emergency Management Office's inventory, establish a complete inventory of emergency equipment and supplies.
6. Conduct a comprehensive inventory of properties in the floodplain and their "levels of vulnerability."
7. Explore the potential benefits of pre-siting emergency response equipment when flooding is possible.
8. Establish a prioritization scheme for mobilizing emergency equipment to various parts of the Town and Village when flooding occurs.
9. Conduct public meetings with residents living in flood-prone areas to get their observations on how flood conditions evolve, what tends to get flooded earliest, et cetera.
10. Prepare *and disseminate to the public* a communications plan covering emergency responder, media and citizen communications.
11. Conduct public meetings and make presentations to community groups to regularly publicize flood response strategies to be used. Include identification of radio stations, public safety radio frequencies to be tuned for information during flood conditions.
12. Establish working arrangement with local ham/amateur radio enthusiast community for provision of additional flood communications capabilities.
13. Investigate the hiring of a consultant who would prepare a survey to recommend ways to reduce flooding along the Schoharie Creek. Use the results of the study to coordinate efforts with the ACOE, NYS DEC, NYPA, NYC DEP, elected officials at County, State, and Federal levels to achieve desired result of flood prevention.

Public Safety

Key Concerns

- (1) The status and quality of police, fire, emergency medical and emergency management service protection.
- (2) Adequacy of public safety resources to meet current and projected future needs.

Goal

Ensure the sufficiency of law enforcement, fire and emergency medical service agency coverage to meet current and future needs.

Objectives

- Ensure the sufficiency of law enforcement coverage.
- Ensure the sufficiency of fire and EMS staffing and equipment.
- Extend the benefits of public safety agency coverage through community information and awareness.

Strategies

1. Establish joint Town/Village Public Safety Committee to hold semiannual public meetings to discuss crime, safety statistics; result would be issuance of a "Sense of the Committee" memo (transmitted to law enforcement agencies, relevant State and County agencies, Town and Village Boards) presenting comment on the sufficiency of area public safety resources.
2. Efforts to encourage greater public participation in municipal activities should also highlight opportunities to/importance of encourage joining fire and EMS agencies.
3. Support and publicize the County's pursuit of a 911 system.
4. Conduct community presentations on crime prevention.
5. Establish a "neighborhood watch" program.
6. Conduct community presentations on fire and flood safety.
7. Conduct community presentations on basic first aid.
8. Coordinate with Red Cross and other organizations to make regular cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training available in the Town.

Transportation

Key Concerns

- (1) Physical and operational condition of local street system.
- (2) Adequacy of public works resources to maintain acceptable conditions.
- (3) Sufficiency of the system to meet transportation needs.
- (4) Provisions for transit and non-motor vehicle travel.

Goal

Ensure that the Town and Village enjoy the benefits of an efficient, well-maintained, safe intermodal transportation system.

Objectives

- Monitor traffic volumes and operating conditions for the emergence of traffic congestion at critical locations.
- Maintain compatibility between land use and the transportation system to prevent traffic conflicts from arising.
- Ensure that through and local transportation access are maintained during emergencies, special events and construction.
- Ensure that Town and Village roads are maintained in good physical condition.
- Ensure that children, older people who do not have cars and people who would like to bicycle or walk instead of driving have reasonable opportunities to do so.
- Ensure safe, comfortable access to county public transportation system stops.

Strategies

1. Annually request copies of traffic count summaries for "tube counts" (directional midblock counts) conducted on roads in Middleburgh and adjacent towns by NYSDOT.
2. Strengthen and strictly enforce zoning ordinance provisions on required road frontages.
3. Identify bypasses to River and Main Streets as "paper streets" (to be developed in the future) on the Town's Official Map; also, identify priority alternate routes which can be relied upon for passability in winter and during floods for roads which tend to be difficult to use or impassable during severe weather.
4. Regularly publicize bypass routes before and after opening, and in announcements of special events necessitating their use.
5. Perform an annual "windshield survey" of the conditions of all Town and Village roads, to aid prioritization of pavement maintenance and rehabilitation efforts.

6. Develop a town/village-wide bicycle and pedestrian circulation plan.
7. Identify a set of "spur" sidewalks along streets intersecting with Main and River Streets, to be developed as extensions of the main routes' sidewalk systems.
8. Provide easily accessible bicycle parking near downtown shops, conveniences.
9. Request that NYSDOT install high-visibility crosswalks at all major intersections along Routes 30 and 145 in the Village, plus at the Post Office and the main entrance to the Middle/High School building.
10. Request that NYSDOT install "STOP FOR PEDESTRIANS IN CROSSWALKS" signage at gateways to Village on Routes 30 and 145.
11. Improve opportunities for motor vehicle parking at the west intersection of Routes 30/145, such that this location can serve as a "staging area" for bicycle rides.
12. Maintain pavement/sidewalks/pads at bus stops.
13. Improve connections between residential neighborhoods and stops via sidewalks, crosswalks.
14. Ensure that waiting areas at transit stops either offer protection from inclement weather or are very close to sheltered areas.

Water Quality/Wastewater Systems

Key Concerns

- (1) Condition and sufficiency of municipal water/sewer infrastructure.
- (2) Protection of water supply.
- (3) Preservation of water quality in streams, ponds, lakes.
- (4) Potential need to expand system to accommodate/encourage future residential or commercial development.

Goal

Ensure the purity of our water resources.

Objectives

- Ensure the future adequacy and integrity of the Village water system.
- Ensure the future adequacy of the Village sewer system.
- Protect Town and Village drinking water supplies.
- Protect the vitality of local streams, ponds and lakes.

Strategies

1. Coordinate water quality planning efforts with county-level group working on local aquifer issues.
2. Contact NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for assistance with groundwater protection planning.
3. The Village should adopt the draft wellhead protection law.
4. Increase the severity of "No Dumping" and liquid discharge ordinances, including establishment of "last dumper caught pays for all cleanup" provision.
5. As an economic development step, improve Village water system and wastewater treatment plant to increase capacities.

Municipal Administration and Finance

Key Concern

Municipal management practices and the potential for improvements in efficiency/effectiveness.

Goal

Ensure that Town and Village government operations are appropriate to needs and represent value and responsibility to taxpayers.

Objective

- "Reinvent" Town and Village management practices with the aim of enhancing efficiency, effectiveness, technical sophistication, and proactivity.

Strategies

1. Aggressively pursue outside grants in support of innovative (not "routine") managerial practices.
2. Provide all municipal department heads/officers with copies of this Plan to clarify the direction in which the Town/Village is looking to go in the coming years.
3. Revise existing municipal ethics laws to clearly state that dismissal is the penalty for failure to discharge official duties thoroughly and consistently. Laws to include an agreement to this principle, to be signed by all public officers. Failure to sign to be grounds for termination or refusal to hire.

Summary of Findings

Since its initial meeting in August 1996, the Comprehensive Plan Committee has worked to identify a comprehensive direction for the Town and Village to pursue in the coming years. The statements of goals and objectives and the set of recommendations set forth hereafter are based on assessments of each issue area studied.

Core Issues

Attracting and Retaining Businesses

The Town and Village must reduce obstacles to locating and growing businesses in Middleburgh. "Business-friendliness" goes beyond merely welcoming businesses when they inquire. We need to be proactive by creating an attractive environment in which to locate.

Preservation of Agricultural Lands

While agriculture is a weakening presence in many parts of the country, locally-owned farms remain prominent in Middleburgh. However, economic pressures on the family farm are significant. We must take steps to ensure the continued viability of farming and the economic and aesthetic benefits it provides.

Residential Development

Schoharie County is in perhaps the one direction one can travel from Albany without seeing the congestion associated with rapid suburbanization. We need to assume and plan for the eventual "discovery" of our area. We must decide how we want residential development to occur and at what scale. In addition, we need to ensure that the local housing stock meets the local need.

Recommended Strategies:

- *Streamline administrative review process by establishing "one stop shopping" for permits;*
 - *establish installment plan for tax payments; meet quarterly with business & agricultural communities to discuss issues;*
 - *develop promotional Web page;*
 - *enhance linkages with State/ regional/ County business promotion efforts.*
-
- *Establish a local "right to farm" law;*
 - *include agribusiness community in discussions with larger business community.*
-
- *Encourage cluster development;*
 - *strengthen content and enforcement of building, zoning codes;*
 - *prepare a "fact sheet" for the real estate community noting some of the comparative "plusses" of Middleburgh*

Core Issues

Services and Conveniences

Across the country, communities have shown that their businesses need not "board up" simply because a big box retailer locates nearby. Middleburgh needs to look in the opposite direction -- it needs to watch the trends and see what services residents demand and work to encourage establishment of businesses offering these services within its borders in manners compatible with surroundings.

Taxes

The Committee sees the reduction of taxes as a critical step in enhancing the attractiveness of our community. There is considerable evidence that high taxes -- both in absolute terms (that is, how much people pay) and in value received (what people get for their money) -- are among the most unattractive features of Middleburgh, dissuading people from moving in, "chasing out" people who already live here, and ultimately putting a greater burden on those who stay.

Open Space

Along with rural character and our residents, open space is probably Middleburgh's greatest attribute. We need to take steps to "exploit" our open space, not by developing it, but by protecting it and making it our "signature."

Visual Quality

Having "open space" or "rural character" is meaningless if properties are not maintained, or if there is not some minimal consistency or visual rhythm to an area. The Town and Village need to take aggressive regulatory and community mobilization-oriented steps to "manage" local visual quality.

Recommended Strategies:

- *Participate in County Chamber of Commerce's upcoming inventory of local services;*
 - *prepare a local directory to help people know what is available;*
 - *facilitate new service provision through encouragement in zoning ordinance;*
 - *develop a business-supported promotional map of the Town.*
-
- *Require a taxpayer impact statement to accompany any new government activities or policies;*
 - *revisit property tax structures to ensure fairness.*
-
- *Inventory scenic areas, and advise County Land Trust of priority areas for preservation;*
 - *protect open space through the zoning ordinance and cooperative efforts with the County Open Space Committee;*
 - *use Town Seal and municipal events to associate Middleburgh with protected open spaces.*
-
- *Establish sign ordinance banning "pole" signs in favor of "monument" signs;*
 - *establish appearance codes;*
 - *pass "quick repair" (of buildings) and "junk removal" ordinances;*
 - *establish special zoning provisions in "gateway" entrances to Town).*

Core Issues

Public Safety

There is general satisfaction with fire and emergency medical services in Middleburgh, with concern for maintaining readiness and sufficient staffing and equipment. As for law enforcement, coverage outside the Village is, and probably will continue to be sufficient for the next few years; in the Village, creative arrangements should be explored with the Sheriff's Department and the State Police to determine whether supplemental or exclusive patrols are in order.

Floodplains/Flood Response

Flood-related issues do not need to dictate our future to the extent that some people may think. The threat of flooding is simply something to be planned around and prepared for. We need to embark on a combined program of flood management, flood response and flood-related communication to deal with flood matters internal to Middleburgh and Schoharie County, while getting actively involved in discussions of future actions involving the Schoharie Creek and the Gilboa Dam.

Transportation

Absent any major problems of congestion, the Town and Village (working with the County and with the State Department of Transportation) need to concentrate on managing and maintaining the local transportation system. Acceptable pavement conditions need to be maintained, alternate routes to the Town and Village need to be identified, marked and publicized, the needs of cyclists and pedestrians need to be met, and public transit use must be accommodated..

Recommended Strategies:

- *Establish a Public Safety Committee to review emergency response data and assess needs;*
- *conduct community presentations on crime prevention, fire safety, first aid, CPR.*
- *Establish and publicize flood communication, response and evacuation plans;*
- *enforce National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) guidelines and local floodplain laws;*
- *use County Emergency Management Office inventories of response equipment for planning;*
- *plan flood response by exploring pre-siting of equipment and "input" meetings with residents of flood-prone areas.*
- *Monitor traffic growth and dynamics for emergence of congestion and unsafe conditions;*
- *identify bypasses to River and Main Streets on Official Map;*
- *facilitate bicycle and pedestrian circulation;*
- *ensure the accessibility of public transportation service.*

Core Issues

Water Quality/Wastewater Systems

The Town must ensure that appropriate regulations for disposal and distribution of sewage and other potential contaminants are in place (and enforced) to protect surface and subsurface water supplies. The Village needs to ensure the future condition and adequacy of its water system by pursuing the most appropriate steps for system improvements in a way that does not impose undue financial hardships on system users. The Town and Village need to work together to explore the potential for either speculative or "imminent need" extension of the water and sewer systems to developable areas outside the floodplain.

Municipal Administration and Finance

The Town and Village need to aggressively pursue operational efficiency, cost-containment and the unnecessary duplication of services, and should seek outside grants to fund enhancement of managerial practices through equipment purchases and training.

Recommended Strategies:

- *Coordinate planning with County and State Department of Environmental Conservation water protection efforts;*
- *use zoning and criminal ordinances to protect wellhead areas, surface water, aquifers (e.g., via adoption of Village's draft well-head protection law).*

- *Pursue grant programs for enhancement of management practices;*
- *strengthen municipal ethics laws and penalties for selective enforcement of codes/ordinances.*

Implementation Timetable

Each recommendation set forth in the previous section would necessitate that one of seven basic types of action be carried out:

- ◆ Direct investments (as might be entailed in developing a bypass route to River Street or Main Street, the "Welcome" signs at the gateways, or the "tourism phone number")
- ◆ Establishing committees to carry out examinations or special initiatives (e.g., the infrastructure review or "historic homes walk" ideas)
- ◆ Exploration and pursuit of outside opportunities (for training, technical support and the like; likely a responsibility for existing municipal staff to pursue)
- ◆ Inventories (that is, fieldwork)
- ◆ Legislation (particularly in the form of revision of the zoning ordinance)
- ◆ Making official requests (e.g., asking NYSDOT to put in crosswalks)
- ◆ Public outreach (meetings)

These seven action types were presented in order of increasing difficulty and/or cost, to illustrate a point: the conditions for much of what the Plan recommends can be in place within six months to one year of the Plan's adoption. The table on the following pages lists each action with an early estimate of whether it could be completed in the short term (within one year, of plan adoption), the medium term (within one to three years) or the long term (more than three years).

| <u>Issue Area/ Recommendation</u> | <u>Short Term (<1 year)</u> | <u>Medium Term (1-3 years)</u> | <u>Long Term (>3 years)</u> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|

Attracting and Retaining Businesses

| | | | |
|---|----------|----------|--|
| 1. Administrative process review | <u>X</u> | | |
| 2. Installation plan for tax payments | | <u>X</u> | |
| 3. Village parking plan | <u>X</u> | | |
| 4. Loitering ordinances | <u>X</u> | | |
| 5. Quarterly meetings w/business, agricultural communities | <u>X</u> | | |
| 6. Creative zoning techniques | <u>X</u> | | |
| 7. Business improvement district | <u>X</u> | | |
| 8. "Work with us" philosophy | <u>X</u> | | |
| 9. Promotional Web page | | <u>X</u> | |
| 10. Linkages with State/regional Business promotion efforts | <u>X</u> | | |
| 11. Schoharie Valley promotion | | <u>X</u> | |

| Issue Area/ Recommendation | Short Term (<1 year) | Medium Term (1-3 years) | Long Term (>3 years) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|

Attracting and Retaining Businesses (continued)

12. Chamber of Commerce/Merchants' Association comment on policy X
13. Town/Village infrastructure review X

Preservation of Agricultural Lands (note: 2 recommendations under "Attracting and Retaining Businesses" also apply to agriculture)

1. "Right to Farm" law X

Residential Development

1. Building code enforcement X
2. Appearance codes X
3. Articulate desired character/intensity of residential devel. in zoning ordinance X
4. Encourage cluster development X
5. Zoning code enforcement X
6. "Fact sheet" for realtors X

Services and Conveniences

1. Inventory/Local directory X
2. Facilitate new activity via zoning ordinance X
3. Promote tourism in Web page X
4. Tourist information phone number/scripting/materials X
5. Phone directory map X
6. Local business map X

Taxes

1. "Taxpayer impact statement" X
2. Revisit property tax structures X

Open Space

1. Scenic area inventory/protection X
2. Advise Land Trust of priorities X
3. Use Town Seal in all promotional Materials X
4. Town/Village events at pavilion, Other open spaces X
5. Hiker's/Cyclist's guide X

| Issue Area/ Recommendation | Short Term (<1 year) | Medium Term (1-3 years) | Long Term (>3 years) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|

Rural and Historic Character

- | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|--|
| 1. Historic site inventory | <u>X</u> | | |
| 2. River Street historic designation | <u>X</u> | | |
| 3. Zoning protections for historic districts | <u>X</u> | | |
| 4. Architectural review requirements | | <u>X</u> | |
| 5. "Historic homes" walk | | <u>X</u> | |
| 6. Self-guided walking tours | | <u>X</u> | |

Visual Quality

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1&2 Sign ordinance changes | <u>X</u> | | |
| 3. Site plan design guidance | | <u>X</u> | |
| 4. Visual quality enforcement | <u>X</u> | | |
| 6. "Quick repair" ordinances | | <u>X</u> | |
| 7. "Junk removal" ordinances | | <u>X</u> | |
| 8. "Gateway" zoning | | <u>X</u> | |
| 9. Cleanup days | <u>X</u> | | |
| 10. Gateway "welcome" signage | | | <u>X</u> |

Community Groups

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. "Clearinghouse" for activity | <u>X</u> |
| 2. Involve in emergency/event Planning | <u>X</u> |
| 3. Youth Commission ties | <u>X</u> |

Education

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Meet with District officials | <u>X</u> |
| 2. Show support for District Grant pursuit | <u>X</u> |
| 3. Tie District into communications Plans (gen'l and emergency) | <u>X</u> |
| 4. Support MCS PIG class | <u>X</u> |

Public Participation in Town/Village Activities

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Annual Town Meeting | <u>X</u> |
| 2. Plan Implementation Committees | <u>X</u> |
| 3. Pursue/Require Board/Committee member training | <u>X</u> |
| 4. Municipal communications plan | <u>X</u> |
| 5. Use press releases, inserts | <u>X</u> |
| 6. Municipal bulletin boards | <u>X</u> |
| 7. Use Midtel Cable/SCHOPEG | <u>X</u> |
| 8. "Mayor/Supervisor/Clerk for a Day" | <u>X</u> |
| 9. Town/Village internships | <u>X</u> |

| Issue Area/ Recommendation | Short Term (<1 year) | Medium Term (1-3 years) | Long Term (>3 years) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|

Floodplains and Flood Management

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. Flood evacuation route system | <u>X</u> | | |
| 2. Flood evacuation shelter locations | <u>X</u> | | |
| 3. Multi-hazard mitigation plan | <u>X</u> | | |
| 4. Flood information/response plan | | | |
| In phone directories | <u>X</u> | | |
| 5. Emergency equipment inventory | <u>X</u> | | |
| 6. Comprehensive floodplain | | | |
| property inventory/assessment | <u>X</u> | | |
| 7. Explore equipment pre-siting | <u>X</u> | | |
| 8. Prioritization scheme for | | | |
| equipment mobilization | <u>X</u> | | |
| 9. "Input" meetings with flood | | | |
| area residents | <u>X</u> | | |
| 10. Emergency communications plan | <u>X</u> | | |
| 11. Public meetings/presentations on | | | |
| flood response strategies | <u>X</u> | | |
| 12. Arrangements with ham radio ops | <u>X</u> | | |
| 13. Hire consultant to study flood | | <u>X</u> | |
| reduction options | | | |
| 14. Work with agencies to implement | | | |
| recommendations of #13 above. | | | <u>X</u> |

Public Safety

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. Public Safety Committee | <u>X</u> |
| 2. Encourage Fire Department, | |
| EMS membership | <u>X</u> |
| 3. Support/Publicize 911 devel. | <u>X</u> |
| 4. Crime prevention presentations | <u>X</u> |
| 5. "Neighborhood Watch" program | <u>X</u> |
| 6. Fire/flood safety presentations | <u>X</u> |
| 7. Basic first aid presentations | <u>X</u> |
| 8. Secure Red Cross CPR training | <u>X</u> |

Transportation

| | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. Annually request NYSDOT | | | |
| traffic count summaries | <u>X</u> | | |
| 2. Strictly enforce road frontage | | | |
| requirements | <u>X</u> | | |
| 3. Identify River and Main Street | | | |
| bypass routes | <u>X</u> | | |
| 4. Publicize/remind of bypass routes | <u>X</u> | | |
| 5. Annual survey of road condition | <u>X</u> | | |
| 6. Town/Village bike/ped plan | <u>X</u> | | |
| 7. "Spur" sidewalks off Main, River Sts | | | <u>X</u> |
| 8. Downtown bicycle parking | | <u>X</u> | |
| 9. Request high-visibility crosswalks on | | | |
| Routes 30, 145 | <u>X</u> | | |

| Issue Area/ Recommendation | Short Term (<1 year) | Medium Term (1-3 years) | Long Term (>3 years) |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|

Transportation (continued)

- | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|--|
| 10. Request "STOP FOR PEDESTRIAN IN CROSSWALKS" signage on Routes 30, 145 _____ | <u>X</u> | | |
| 11. Improve car parking at west intersection of Routes 30 and 145 bike ride "staging area" _____ | | <u>X</u> | |
| 12. Maintain sidewalks, pads at bus stops _____ | <u>X</u> | | |
| 13. Improve pedestrian access to bus stops _____ | | <u>X</u> | |
| 14. Ensure that bus stop waiting areas are weather-sheltered or near sheltered areas _____ | | <u>X</u> | |

Water Quality/Wastewater Systems

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Coordinate planning with county aquifer protection planning _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 2. Contact NYSDEC for assistance with groundwater protection plans _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 3. Zoning ordinance wellhead protection provisions _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 4. Increase "No Dumping" and liquid discharge penalties _____ | <u>X</u> |

Municipal Administration and Finance

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Pursue grants for improvements to management practices _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 2. Distribute Comprehensive Plan to all officers/department heads _____ | <u>X</u> |
| 3. Strengthen municipal ethics laws _____ | <u>X</u> |