

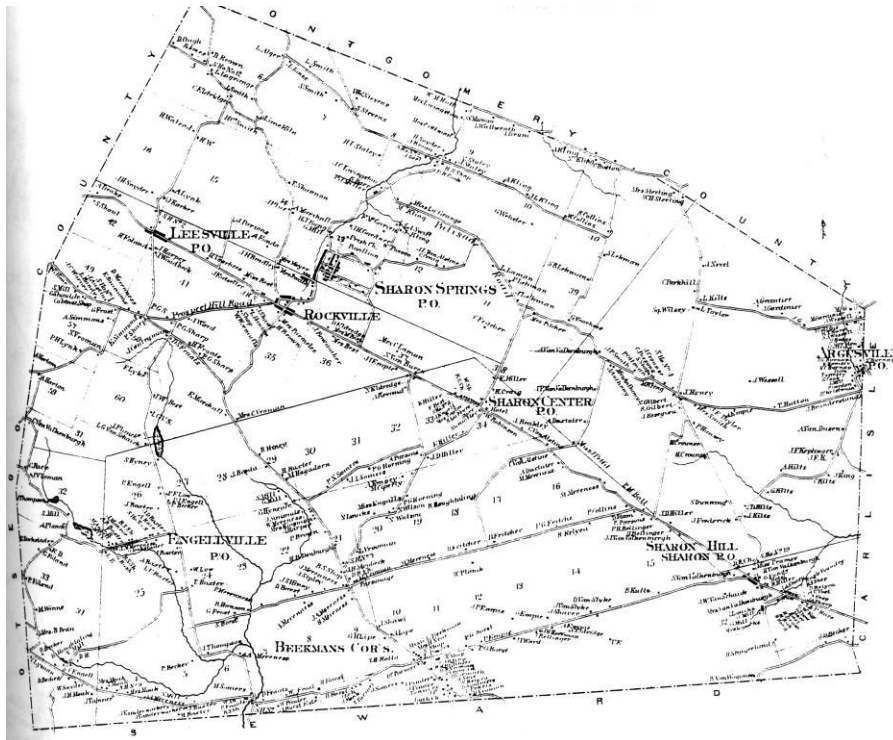
The Town of Sharon Comprehensive Plan

September 2009



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Part I



The Town of Sharon has long felt the pressures that are typical of most rural Upstate New York communities such as providing its citizens with safe living and a stable tax base while balancing the growth of residential, commercial, and industrial land uses with the perception of a rural environment. Sharon is a rural community whose history is deeply rooted in agriculture and whose boundaries contains the Village of Sharon Springs that has strong ties to tourism. Recent proposals to redevelop the Spas in the Village has caused the Town of Sharon to re-view its current situation and to evaluate its current land use plan to align any resulting development in the Town with the sentiments of its citizenry.

The basis of this plan is to provide a sensible foundation for progression, to gain a sense of how the community feels pressures should be dealt with, and assist in relaying that message to the Town.

One common tune heard throughout the community is the worry of the occurrence of development without a proper plan. It is safe to say that the Town must then prepare for its own future and create the frame work for which development and land use may fit.



The Comprehensive Plan Process:

The comprehensive plan provides the medium for the community to lay out its concerns and identify its needs, wants, and desires. This can then be organized to develop community goals, strategies and actions. With this information in place, the framework develops so that decision making can be based on concepts that have attempted to balance the needs and wants of the community.

It is important to realize that the current perception in the Town of Sharon is one of satisfaction. The concept of the Town of Sharon remaining as a rural community dedicated to agriculture, rings strong with a majority of the people surveyed. Growth in the Town of Sharon should be done first and foremost with agriculture and the rural nature of the Town in mind.

The Town of Sharon started the comprehensive planning process July 2007 by appointing seven members to the comprehensive plan committee. The comprehensive plan committee met every month to discuss a multitude of topics, based on public input.

Early in the process input was sought in crafting the plan by means of a public meeting. These ideas and those of the comprehensive plan committee were used to develop a public survey that was sent to all property owners and registered voters in the Town and Village. Results from the survey were then used in comprising the original draft of goals and strategies. (Appendix A)

A second public meeting was held in May 2008 to listen to the concerns from the business and agricultural community.

In March 2009 a third public hearing was held. The purpose of the meeting was to give the public the opportunity to comment on



the draft plan. The draft document was made available three weeks prior to the meeting at the Town Clerk, Town Library, and the Town's Web Site. At the meeting there were no concerns resulting in a change in the plan. In April 2009, the Comprehensive Plan Committee moved to forward the plan to the Town Board for official adoption.