

Village of Esperance

Looking forward, with hope and a plan



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2004

Introduction

The Village of Esperance is facing increasingly important decisions that will impact residents in the future. The purpose of this comprehensive plan is to help guide the community in making sound decisions for the future.

The Village of Esperance formed a committee in 2003 to discuss problems in the Village and to consider a zoning law. Committee members include Dana Todd, Kirtland Feuz, Charles Hotaling, Betty Lou Hotaling, Joel Updegraff, and Dominic Giuliano. The committee also kept the Village Board of Trustees apprised of their progress. After some initial meetings, the committee determined that more guidance would be needed when considering what problems to tackle. The committee determined that the best way to do so would be through a comprehensive plan for the Village.

A survey was developed and distributed in the autumn of 2003 and early 2004. The results of the survey are contained in Appendix A. Response to the survey was quite high with approximately 50% of the Village population responding. Through public hearings and using the survey results, the Committee devised the goals and actions in this plan that the Village can strive to achieve.

Highlights of 2004 Village of Esperance Survey

The survey undertaken in January and February of 2004 was very successful with a 52% return rate. The surveys are an integral part of what the goals and objectives of the comprehensive plan will be. Here are some highlights from the survey results:

- 80% of the respondents are full-time, property owning residents.
- The park, Presbyterian Church, museum area of the Village is identified as an important area to be protected, improved and capitalized upon.
- Main Street is viewed as an area to promote mixed uses with residences, small businesses, professional offices, and restaurants identified as the prime uses to be encouraged.
- Mobile home parks, heavy industrial, apartments, and town houses should be discouraged Village wide.
- About 75% of the respondents believe that water and sewer is unsatisfactory and is the most important issue to be resolved.
- About 32% of the respondents want light industrial encouraged, but only one respondent identified industrial as a use to be placed near them.
- 69% of residents feel that home based businesses should be encouraged Village wide.
- About 75% of people feel positive about the fire and ambulance service, road conditions, snow removal, electric, and cable services.
- Main strengths of Village:
 - Easy access to Capital District/Cooperstown/Oneonta
 - Fire/ambulance service
 - Rural character/scenic beauty
 - Post Office in Village
- Main weaknesses:
 - Lack of public water/sewer
 - Limited funds for improvements (small tax base)
 - Dilapidated properties
 - Unlicensed/dismantled vehicles and other debris

- 75% of people support mixed use along Route 20 and support some land use controls, but any land use controls should not be overbearing or too detailed.
- A slim majority of people feels that law enforcement, especially in relation to speed enforcement, is lacking.
- 59% of the people believe that unlicensed/dismantled vehicles and junk should be more regulated.
- 38% identified snowmobile usage in the Village as an issue to be more regulated. Although not a majority, when coupled with the 24% of people who have a concern for noise, some sort of control on snowmobiles may be explored by the Committee. This may include hours of operation and/or designated trails.

History of the Village of Esperance

*First bridge
built by State*

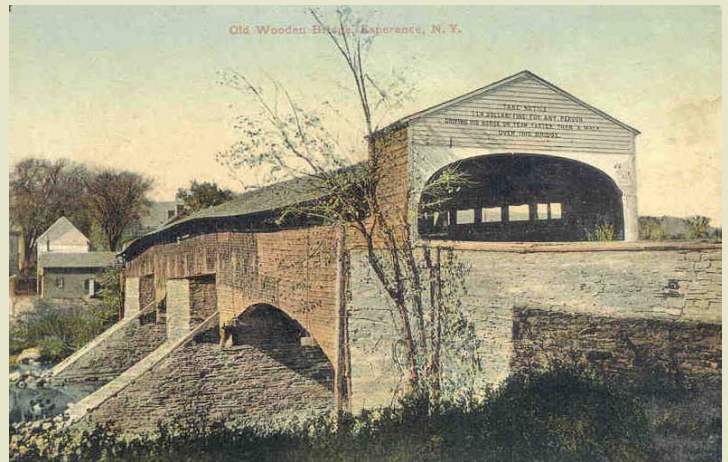
The settlement of "State Bridge", as it was first known, was originally settled in the late 1700's and consisted of three cabins surrounded by dense forest. General William North was managing the vast Duane Estate. Travel was difficult and General North persuaded the Legislature to pass the Act of "laying out and cutting a road through Duaneburg to Cherry Valley" and building a bridge over the Schoharie Creek. This bridge, the first bridge built by the state, was completed in 1793. At which time 60 to 70 acres were made into building lots, surrounding the bridge, by Hermanus TenEyck.

A flood washed the original bridge away six years after being built. In 1799, the state created a committee, with a President and Directors, of the first "Great Western Turnpike". The duties of the committee were to sell stock, improve the road, put up tollgates every ten miles, and rebuild the bridge as a toll bridge. The committee immediately constructed a temporary bridge to allow traffic over the Schoharie Creek until a permanent structure could be built.

Mr. TenEyck, unhappy with the slow sale of building lots, sold his land holdings, 256 acres, to General William North on February 26, 1806. Mary, General North's daughter, excited by her father's plans for the village, suggested the name Esperance meaning, "hope" in French.

Daniel Hare built a home in 1793 which was later adapted into the first hotel in the Village known as the "Red Inn" located at the West end of the Village opposite Meade Dorns. The first mail route was established in 1800. Mail was carried on horseback and the villagers would hurry out when the approach of the mail carrier was made known by his blowing a horn. John Burt's Phoenix Hotel (1806) located near the bridge (approximately where the Town Offices are now located), was the halfway house between Albany and Cherry Valley. It is quite safe to assume that the mail was originally delivered at the Phoenix. Egbert Cumbleton became the first merchant in 1805 and he also became the postmaster in the same year when the first post office was established.

In 1811, the Committee, began construction of the permanent bridge, designed and engineered by Theodore Burr, cousin of Aaron Burr. The "covered" bridge, of wood construction, was as the state required, a toll bridge and remained so until 1887. It was the longest, single span, covered bridge in New York State. A great architectural feat at the time. It was officially opened for use, on January 1, 1812 with toll collection located on the Esperance side of the bridge.



*Longest, single
span, covered
bridge in State*



In 1812 General North deeded 1 ½ acres to the Esperance trustees. The land was to be used for educational and religious purposes. On this site a school was erected, the first records indicate the time to be approximately 1814. The present school building was built 53 years later in 1878. This building now houses the Esperance Museum, operated by the Town of Esperance Historical Society.

*Oldest
incorporated
village in
Schoharie
County*

*5 hotels could
not
accommodate
travelers*

A Presbyterian Church was founded in 1817 with 76 charter members. The church, built with stones from a near by quarry, was dedicated July 4, 1824. Sheldon Jackson, a minister of this church, later became a missionary to Alaska, and a nationally known figure.

Within ten years after the founding of the Village, Esperance became a bustling center of activity and had applied to the Legislature for Articles of Incorporation. Which were granted April 24, 1818, making it the oldest incorporated village in Schoharie county, and the 5th oldest incorporated Village in New York State. The first surveyors map of the Village is dated July 1818 by Surveyor F. Frost. At this time there were approximately thirty active businesses in the Village, and spreading into the nearby countryside. By reason of a plentiful supply of water power Esperance became a manufacturing center of considerable importance whose varied products found ready sale among the early settlers. In 1815 William Simpson, a cabinet maker by trade, headed one of the factories in the Village. Five or six years later, Henry Mandle, James Vilbert, and James E. Dowling headed two other chair factories in the Village.



Esperance grew rapidly, and soon there were 5 hotels in the Village, one stood where the Town Office building now stands, another stood where the Methodist Church is located. There was the 'Feathers House - est. 1820' (originally a store operated by Giddy Lawyer of Schoharie), later called the 'Union House', and still later the 'Elm Hotel'. The Elm Hotel is still standing but was converted to a Multi-family dwelling in the late 1900's. The 'Whitbeck' home on the northwest corner of Main and Church streets was known as the 'Peck House Tavern - est. 1818' operated by Jeremiah Peck, and the 'Fox' residence at the western end of the village was known as the 'Bull head Inn - est. 1826' operated by Levitt Mansfield. Roscoe Schoharie County History starts with these 5 hotels or inns. The first stage coaches ran through the village in the 1826 and Roscoe also tells us the names of some of the stage coach drivers who lived in and about Esperance. Walter Wood, "Jumpy" Sprong, whose wife once kept the gate at the bridge, and a man named "Elder" who was, "the principal driver at this end of the route and, for 18 years, drove a four-horse team daily from Esperance to Sharon. At the time it was noted that the five hotels could not accommodate the traveling public.

On the North side of Main Street, about in the middle of the Village, stood the "Exchange Stable", a stone building originally built by Johy Dickinson, a noted horse-jockey of his day. In 1835 the building was remodeled for a School known as the Esperance Academy. The first Academy principal was Joshua M. Donaldson, but like the other "seminaries" of Schoharie County proved to be a financial loss and was abandoned, after which time Peter D. Shinville used it for the manufacture of fanning mills.

A Methodist Church was organized a few years later, meeting each week east of the Village. The Church building was erected in 1836, a few years later it was rolled down Main Street, on logs, to it's present site. It was remodeled in the early 1900's and again in the late 1900's when an elevator was added to accommodate the handicapped.



*Annexation of
"North Acres"
May 8, 1973*

On May 1, 1846 the State granted permission for the area around the Village to be separated from the Town of Schoharie and henceforth to be known as the "Town of Esperance".

By January 1893 Esperance had its own Newspaper called the "Esperance Star" and later a newspaper called the "Esperance Sentinel and Schoharie and Montgomery Recorder".

The Esperance Cemetery Association was incorporated in 1852 and no more than 15 vacant lots remain.

In 1930 the "Old Covered Bridge" was torn down and replaced with a more modern iron bridge, and that bridge was replaced with the current bridge.

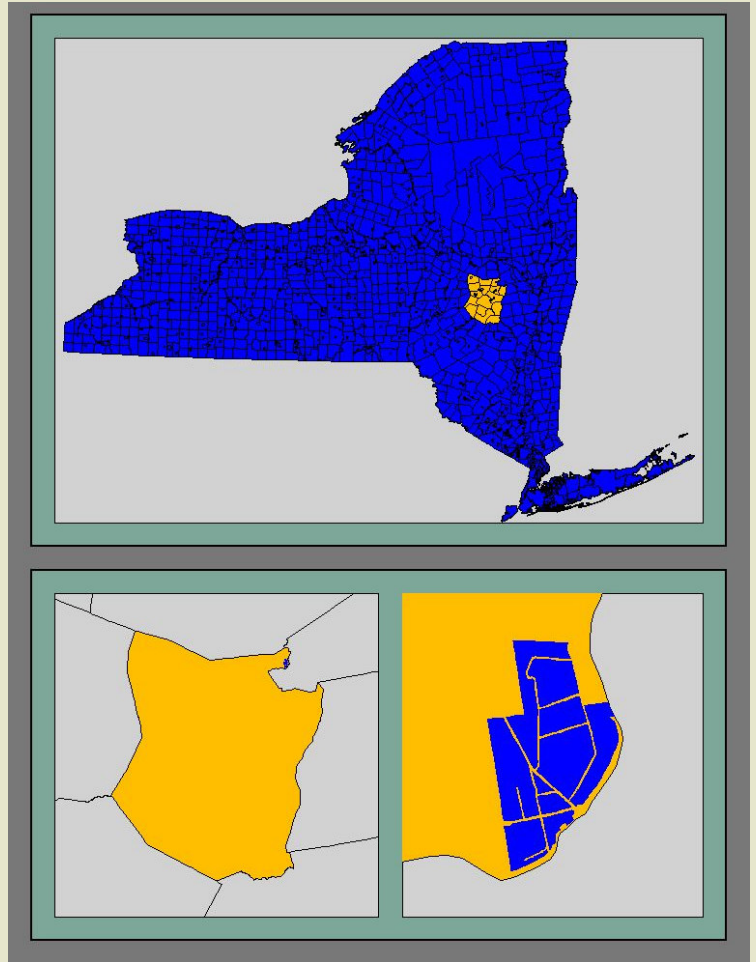
In 1972, Edward and Ramona Feuz petitioned the Town of Esperance to allow annexation to the Village Corporation, of an additional 75 acres of land, which they had purchased from Raymond and Flora Seales on October 23, 1956. The Town granted permission and the Village accepted these additional lands on May 8, 1973, increasing to 331, the total acreage of the Village. This 75 Acres along with 43 acres that they had purchased from a longtime Village merchant Ernest McCarty on May 14, 1949 became known as "North Acres". The name was derived from Lord William North, the founder of Esperance and son-in-law of James Duane, Founder of Duanesburg. The additional streets, (Feuz Terrace, Lake View Drive, and Grandview Drive), increased the Village highway total to 2.9 miles.

And so remains Esperance; with several "firsts" to its credit, not as bustling and busy as it once was, but quiet, pleasant, and historic.

Much of the information contained in the above article was taken from historical records maintained at the Esperance Museum, an article written by Mrs. Perry E Taylor, "Short History of Esperance", "Fred A. Montanye's, "The Village of Esperance, N.Y. - Its Establishment and Development", and author Roscoe's "History of Schoharie County".

Significant Characteristics of the Village of Esperance

The Village of Esperance is situated in northeastern Schoharie County, about 20 miles west of the City of Albany, New York. Schoharie Creek serves as a natural boundary between the Village of Esperance and the Town of Duanesburg, Schenectady County. The Town of Esperance borders the remainder of the Village. U.S. Route 20 crosses through the Village and the Village is easily accessible via this route or Interstate I-88 (New York Quickway). The New York State Department of Transportation reports that the average daily traffic on U.S. Route 20 from Sloansville to the Village of Esperance is 3,663 vehicles (2001). This makes this section the busiest section of U.S. Route 20 in the County.



Map 1 is an aerial view of the Village with important features indicated. The entire Village is relatively flat with 0 to 12% slopes and all of the land drains to the Schoharie Creek, an unusual, north flowing tributary of the Mohawk River. Elevation ranges from 560 feet above sea level near the Schoharie Creek to 740 feet above sea level the northwest. There are no state designated wetlands in the Village, yet several small tributaries and drainage ditches may be Federal wetlands. The majority of the Village is developed or open land, as only 21 acres (6.5% of the Village land area) is wooded. Major water bodies consist of the Schoharie Creek and two ponds in the Feuz Terrace subdivision. The Schoharie Creek has played a major role in how the Village evolved with a bridge crossing and mills key to the historic growth of the area. The Schoharie Creek floodplain (35.5 acres) has remained largely undeveloped; however, approximately 11 structures have been constructed in the floodplain. A major flood in January 1996 caused some damage to one home on Steuben Street and flooded Steuben Street for several hours.

Soils in the Village are generally poorly drained clays and are severely limited for disposal of septic tank effluent. Soils adjacent to Schoharie Creek are the exception, but a high seasonal water table seriously limits proper septic system functions. Major soil series include Burdett and Erie in the north, Schoharie and Hudson, Scio Silt, and Barbour and Tioga in the central and southern more developed areas of the Village. There are no active agricultural enterprises in the Village.

The Village of Esperance has no zoning regulation and no subdivision regulation. This has worked fairly well with a mix of residential and commercial uses along Main Street with the remainder of the Village predominately residential. Over the last several years, problems with incompatible land uses have arisen. Commercial uses are also being proposed in traditionally residential areas. Approximately half of the Village (168 acres) is undeveloped. The developed regions consist of predominately single-family residential land (92 acres) with some multiple-family residential houses and commercial uses, predominately consisting of retail, professional services, and auto repair. Public open spaces include the park on Church and Cumpston Street, Esperance Museum, and Esperance Cemetery. Refer to - Map #2 Village Land Use.

*Village has no
water or sewer
system*

Fire and ambulance services are provided by the Esperance Volunteer Fire Department. About 45 volunteers make up the fire department that responds to approximately 150-160 fire and ambulance calls annually. The department has one ambulance, three pumper tankers, and one van. The department services the Town of Esperance and Village of Esperance, Town of Charleston and Town of Duanesburgh. Police protection is provided by the Schoharie County Sheriff's Office and New York State Police.

The entire Village is located within the Schoharie Central School District.

The Village of Esperance does not have a municipal water or sewer system. Road maintenance is contracted on an as needed basis. Snow removal is under contract with Schoharie County jointly with the Town of Esperance. The Village Board and other committees currently meet in the fire department building, which is handicapped accessible. One part-time code enforcement officer is employed by the Village and one dog officer is appointed annually.

The Esperance Museum (opened in 1970) is located on Church Street across from the Park, next to the Presbyterian Church, and is maintained by the Historical Society. They have special events during the summer period, including weekly concerts during the month of June and July. The museum is open weekends from May to September.

The James Bleser Memorial is located in the park across from the Presbyterian Church, on Church Street. The Veteran's Memorial is located in the Esperance Cemetery, Burtonsville Road, and is the site of the Memorial Day Services each year. A Memorial Day Parade is organized by the Fire Department annually.

The Village of Esperance consists of three elected board members, two trustees and a Mayor. Each holds office for a term that lasts four years. The fiscal year for the Village of Esperance is from June to June. A

preliminary budget is usually submitted in March, and reviewed/discussed at the April meeting of the board. Final modifications are incorporated into the budget in May, and it is voted upon and adopted. This process not only solidifies the budget but establishes the Village tax rate for the following year (Currently at \$5.90 per 1000, based on a total assessed valuation of \$9,950,288).



*Village of
Esperance is
growing and
residents fare
well financially*

Appendix B contains graphs on selected demographics for the Village of Esperance. Some interesting highlights and trends are noted here.

On April 1, 2000, according to the Census Bureau, the population of the Village of Esperance was 380. This is the smallest population for a Village in Schoharie County and only one town, Blenheim, has a lower population with 330 people. This population represented an increase (17.3%) in population from the 1990 level. The Village population is growing as the Village had the greatest percent increase in population from 1990 for Schoharie County villages and is at its second highest decade population since 1940.

In 2000, the median age in the Village was 39.9 years, with 80.9% of people over 15 years old, and 13.1% over 65 years old.

Although an increase in apartments was noted as a concern, the Village of Esperance has the highest percentage of owner-occupied dwellings (74.5%) than any other village in Schoharie County. 75.8% of the structures contain one dwelling unit, the highest of any Village in the County.

The homes in the Village are also old and contain a wealth of historic significance. The Village of Esperance has the highest percentage of structures built before 1939 in the County (58%). Residents of the Village are also long term. The Village also has the highest percentage of householders that moved into their home before 1979 (35.1%) and more than half of the residents have lived in the Village since 1989.

It is important to note that the Village of Esperance has the lowest percentage of low to moderate income people (43.3%) than any other municipality in the county. The median earnings are the highest of any Village in the County and the Village has the lowest percentage of families (3.7%) living below the poverty level.

Other census information and comparisons can be made online for the Village at www.census.gov.

Current Local Laws & Ordinances

(to be reviewed and revised or incorporated entirely into any new land use regulations)

Flood Damage Prevention Law of 2004:

As all Schoharie County municipalities have, the Village of Esperance adopted a new Flood Damage Prevention Law in 2004 with the adoption of new Flood Insurance Rate Maps. This law is up to date and accurate as recommended by the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. This law should be attached to any new land use regulations adopted by the Village as the law contains construction standards and other guidelines for work in the Special Flood Hazard Area of Schoharie Creek.

Local Law #1 2003 Vehicle & Traffic Ordinance:

This recent local law contains parking regulations that will need to be reviewed/revised/incorporated when drafting parking standards as part of any new land use regulations.

Local Law #3 1972 Animals and Poultry:

This local law contains guidelines that restrict the running at large of animals and the housing of certain animals in the Village or the housing of certain animals within a specified distance of defined locations. Such setbacks should be reviewed/revised/incorporated into any new land use regulations.

Local Law #2 1972 Outdoor Storage of Abandoned Vehicles:

This local law defines abandoned or junk vehicles and should be reviewed/revised/incorporated into any new land use regulations. General Municipal Law Section 136 should also be used as a reference.

Local Law #1 1972 Use of Streets:

This local law contains street use restrictions that should be reviewed/revised/incorporated into any new land use regulations.

Local Law #1 1969 Trailer Ordinance:

This local law will need to be reviewed and then updated for incorporation into any new land use regulation. Manufactured housing versus mobile housing will need to be better defined and exclusionary practices will have to be considered.

Goals and Actions - Discussion of Major Concerns

The following goals and actions were devised by using the results of the Village survey, public hearing input (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats Analysis (SWOT) Appendix E) and by reaching a compromise with conflicting opinions. A majority of people felt strongly that something needed to be done about the following:

The lack of a municipal sewer and water system is the number one concern of residents and property owners in the Village. Water quantity and quality varies from poor in the core of the Village to excellent in the most recently annexed northern portion of the Village. The Schoharie County Health Department reports that older septic systems in the older sections of the Village have failed or are failing, threatening drinking water quality and Schoharie Creek water quality. In 2003, the Village started investigating the feasibility of a municipal sewer system. Project cost is a great concern, although property values would increase with the construction of such systems.

The lack of land use control is becoming more of an issue as commercial uses are being proposed in or begin to intrude on traditionally residential areas. People seem to want greater land use control, but nothing that is too overbearing or intrusive. Regulation of uses and how the uses fit in with the surrounding neighborhood should be the main focus of the Zoning Committee. The lack of public water/sewer means that land area requirements for new construction need to be adopted until adequate water/sewer is installed to mitigate pollution problems. Once such infrastructure is in place, smaller land area requirements may be warranted. Main Street has been identified as the most suitable location for commercial uses with careful consideration of impacts to residential uses. The original Village area (non-annexed portion) should have small lot sizes and the ability for people to expand porches, decks, and other rooms (without the addition of new bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens) without the burden of needing to get area variances. The perceived proliferation of single family dwellings to apartments is a concern. Inadequate parking has been identified on Main Street and is a barrier to new commercial uses as well as the primary focus on quick vehicular traffic versus a more village atmosphere and pedestrian needs. Home based businesses should be encouraged as long as the uses do not intrude on the quality of life of residential property. The need to keep the U.S. Post Office within the Village limits within walking distance of residential areas is a concern. Junk cars are a problem.

The park, Presbyterian Church, museum area of the Village is identified as an important area to be protected, improved and capitalized upon. Although not located in the Village, the George Landis Arboretum is a somewhat hidden asset to the Village that should be used for mutual advantages.

The other goals/actions discussed are important but the main priorities to be accomplished are water/sewer infrastructure and a reasonable, workable zoning/subdivision law.

*Water and sewer
infrastructure
and reasonable
zoning are
village priorities*

Goals and Actions

GOAL #1: Protect the historic character and small town atmosphere of the Village of Esperance while promoting economic development/increasing nonresidential tax base.

ACTIONS:

- 1.1 Adopt a Village of Esperance subdivision law and zoning law including, but not limited to, the following five zoning districts: Main Street Mixed (MSM), Residential Conservation (RC), Residential Mixed (RM), Residential Village (RV), and Public (P) (use draft zoning Map #3 as a guideline).

The Main Street Mixed (MSM) district is a residential and commercial district that is designed to offer flexibility of uses. Many different uses can be proposed and reviewed provided that certain performance standards (landscaping, noise, parking, lighting, signage, pedestrian accommodations, visual compatibility) are met. Residences, small businesses, professional offices and restaurants are given priority. Setback requirements for existing buildings should not be required. New construction should have proper setbacks compatible with the surrounding area. New lot sizes should be adequate to compensate for existing water/sewer problems until such municipal infrastructure is established.

The Residential Conservation (RC) district is a primarily single family residential zone with unobtrusive home occupations permitted upon issuance of a special use permit. This district has larger lot sizes than the Residential Village (RV) in order to reduce negative impacts to and from septic and water quantity and quality.

The Residential Mixed (RM) district is a single family and multi-family residential zone with compatible commercial uses permitted upon issuance of a special use permit. This district has lot size requirements similar to Residential Conservation (RC).

The Residential Village (RV) district is a single family and multi-family residential zone with unobtrusive home occupations permitted upon issuance of a special use permit. This district has smaller, traditional lot sizes following the historic pattern of the Village. Setbacks for existing buildings should be small.

The Public (P) district includes cemeteries, churches, parks, museums, open space, and sensitive environmental areas for the enjoyment of all residents. Property and structures in the Public district can be posted against trespassing.

Time: Draft presented to Village Board of Trustees 6-8 months after plan adoption.

- 1.2 Make Village land use administrative procedures as streamlined and user friendly as possible.
- Require existing development that violates any new zoning law use requirement to come into compliance gradually to limit financial burden on the owner.
 - Require existing residential development that violates any new zoning law area requirement (acreage or square footage, not setback) to expand without the need of an area variance.
 - Develop and use written applications and instructions for all types of permits.
 - Develop forms for violations of local codes and require code enforcement officer to investigate written notices of suspected code violations even if notice is anonymous.
 - Require consistent building/zoning code enforcement.

Time: Ongoing. Forms to be developed within first year of plan adoption.

*Adopt zoning
and subdivision
laws*

*Streamline
administrative
procedures*

*Keep post office
in Village*

- 1.3 Adopt sign regulations following the sign design guidelines included in this plan (Appendix C). Limit sign sizes and numbers and develop guidelines for sign types, placement, materials, and colors.

Time: Included in draft zoning presented to Village Board of Trustees 6-8 months after plan adoption.
- 1.4 Encourage home-based businesses Village wide that are compatible with residential uses and require little or no signage/parking.

Time: Included in draft zoning presented to Village Board of Trustees 6-8 months after plan adoption.
- 1.5 Promote the continuation/improvement of the Village of Esperance Post Office within the village limits.

Time: Ongoing.
- 1.6 Pursue façade improvements for the front of commercial buildings on Main Street with grant funding. Utilize grant funds to improve housing conditions wherever needed. Possible funding sources include the Small Cities Program, New York Main Street initiative, and the HOME Program through the Schoharie County Rural Preservation Corporation. (Contacts in Appendix D)

Time: Ongoing.
- 1.7 Promote use of the U.S. Route 20 scenic byway for funding opportunities and to advertise Village businesses/themes.

Time: Ongoing.
- 1.8 Establish Village welcoming signs on U.S. Route 20 and pursue signage for Conover Road. Work with NYSDOT to improve US Route 20 signage to identify Esperance.

Time: Within first 3 years of plan adoption.
- 1.9 Pursue Victorian style street lighting along Main Street. Fixtures should incorporate energy-saving and light pollution reduction measures.

Time: Ongoing.
- 1.10 Maintain and enhance tree plantings along all roads. Explore a cooperative effort with the George Landis Arboretum to enhance Village tree plantings and maintenance while promoting Arboretum visitation.

Time: Ongoing. Cooperative effort to be explored within first 3 years of plan adoption.
- 1.11 Establish a noise ordinance that is enforceable without the use of a decibelmeter.

Time: Included in draft zoning presented to Village Board of Trustees 6-8 months after plan adoption.
- 1.12 Explore the possibility of establishing a Village business association.

Time: Ongoing

*U.S. Route 20
can be more
“village” oriented*

GOAL #2: Improve pedestrian and traffic safety while increasing the supply of parking spaces.

ACTIONS:

- 2.1 Pursue sidewalks/sidewalk improvements where needed in Village. Community Development Block Grants and Transportation Enhancement Act funds can be pursued.
- Time: Ongoing. Sidewalk requirements for new development can be included in draft zoning/subdivision laws within 6-8 months of plan adoption.
- 2.2 Acquire pedestrian crosswalk signage for existing crosswalks. The feasibility of alternative options such as ‘bulb outs’, textured pavement, a pedestrian refuge island, or narrowing the road and extending the frontage of the buildings on the street should be explored on Main Street. Enhance communication with NYSDOT about the need to incorporate these and other traffic calming methods on US Route 20 through the Village. Bike lanes should be explored.
- Time: Ongoing. Communication with NYDOT to begin within first year of plan adoption.
- 2.3 Work to increase compliance with Village speed limits.
- Time: Ongoing. Communication with County Sheriff/State Police to begin within first year of plan adoption.
- 2.4 Regulations should require adequate parking for commercial enterprises. Where adequate parking is not available, the Village could pursue establishing an impact fee program to raise funds to establish a municipal parking lot.
- Time: Included in draft zoning presented to Village Board of Trustees 6-8 months after plan adoption.

GOAL #3: Protect the quality of surface and groundwater supplies, protect the integrity of mapped floodplains, preserve the integrity of unique physical environments and preserve wildlife habitats.

ACTIONS:

- 3.1 Develop a Village sewer district that is adequate for future growth and affordable.
- Time: Ongoing. If feasible, district developed within 10 years of plan adoption.
- 3.2 Explore the feasibility of a municipal water supply.
- Time: Ongoing. Sewer District is first priority.
- 3.3 Revise/aggressively enforce junk regulations to clean up existing violations and to prevent new problems.
- Time: Included in draft zoning presented to Village Board of Trustees 6-8 months after plan adoption.
- 3.4 Pursue incorporating storm water management and erosion control techniques in subdivision reviews.
- Time: Included in draft zoning presented to Village Board of Trustees 6-8 months after plan adoption.

*Sewer system -
first
Water system -
second*

*Take advantage
of Schoharie
Creek access*

- 3.5 Comply with the applicable actions in the Schoharie County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan and enforce the Village Flood Damage Prevention Law as a means to protect existing floodplain structures and to ensure that any new development in the floodplain is properly constructed.

Time: Ongoing. Adopt hazard mitigation plan by November 2004.

GOAL #4: Improve recreational opportunities for Village residents and visitors

ACTIONS:

- 4.1 Promote the Esperance Museum and support efforts of the Esperance Historical Society.

Time: Ongoing.

- 4.2 Improve the Village commons and pursue expansion of property for recreational opportunities.

Time: Ongoing.

- 4.3 Explore the development of a Schoharie Creek access on Steuben Street for boating, fishing and other uses.

Time: Ongoing.

- 4.4 Support the efforts of the George Landis Arboretum.

Time: Ongoing

- 4.5 Permit regulated snowmobile operation within the Village limits. Regulated may include hours of no operation.

Time: Included in draft zoning presented to Village Board of Trustees 6-8 months after plan adoption.

GOAL #5: Secure safety from fire and other hazards

ACTIONS:

- 5.1 Continue support of the Esperance Volunteer Fire Department by maintaining firefighting equipment and instituting volunteer recruitment incentives.

Time: Ongoing.

- 5.2 Create a committee to explore alternative firehouse operations.

Time: Committee to be formed within 3 years of plan adoption.

- 5.3 Adopt and comply with the applicable actions in the Schoharie County All-Hazards Mitigation Plan.

Time: Ongoing. Adopt hazard mitigation plan by November 2004.

Plan Implementation

Implementation of the actions in this plan will be the responsibility of the Village Board of Trustees and Village Zoning Committee. It is recommended that upon the completion of a draft zoning law and subdivision law, the Zoning Committee be disbanded as required by New York Law and a new Village Advisory Committee be appointed. The Village Advisory Committee would:

- 1.) Work towards implementing other actions of the plan.
- 2.) Research and apply (upon approval of the Village Board of Trustees) for possible funding sources.
- 3.) Undertake any other requests of the Village Board (i.e. annexation policy).

The Village Advisory Committee may be responsible for reviewing this plan every three years after initial adoption.

It is recommended that members of the Village Advisory Committee should be residents of the Village of Esperance or have a significant interest in the Village and should have term limits of no less than 4 years.

*Create a Village
Advisory
Committee*