



Town of Colonie Comprehensive Plan Update Draft Vision and Goals – July 2017

[For Review and Discussion by the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC)]

Vision Statement

In the Year 2030...

The Town of Colonie is a well-managed and forward-thinking suburban community in the heart of the Capital District. It has an exceptional quality of life with strong, well-established neighborhoods, excellent schools, and generous amenities such as parks, trails, and conserved open lands. Its central location makes it both convenient and busy, yet the Town has worked with its regional partners to ensure that the impacts of traffic are controlled and that safe and attractive transportation options are available for all. The Town balances fiscal responsibility with long-term infrastructure maintenance and great community services. It protects its natural resources, promotes environmentally sustainable development practices, and carefully guides development and redevelopment in its existing commercial and industrial areas to support the tax base and create and retain jobs. Colonie's varied housing stock meets the diverse needs of the community and, in combination with relatively low taxes, the Town has retained its status as an affordable and desirable community for living, learning, and doing business.

Goals

To achieve this vision, the Town of Colonie has established a set of goals to guide decision-making. These goals address a wide range of issues that have been raised through the public involvement process and through the development of an inventory and analysis of existing conditions. The goals are as follows:

- Accommodate the provision of a range of housing types in appropriate locations to meet the diverse needs of Colonie's residents. Provide incentives for affordability and to encourage mixed-income developments.
- Protect existing, single-family neighborhoods from encroaching commercial and higher density residential development. Work with neighborhood groups to identify and address quality of life concerns.
- Improve mobility throughout the Town. This includes thoughtful investments in roads and highways to relieve the worst impacts of traffic congestion and to enhance the safety and attractiveness of active transportation modes (walking and biking). Continue to expand and improve access to public transportation.

- Focus commercial and industrial growth in existing areas designated for these purposes. Encourage the reuse or redevelopment of existing commercial sites and buildings. Provide incentives and create opportunities for increasing the value of underutilized commercial areas by permitting higher density mixed-use development/redevelopment, and emphasizing pedestrian friendly, high quality design, in these areas. Facilitate reinvestment in older industrial areas for future industrial and light industrial use, or a wider array of mixed uses if appropriate.
- Maintain an efficient and fair development approval process that is predictable, transparent, and protective of the Town's environment and the residential character of its neighborhoods.
- Provide a business-friendly environment that is supportive of local businesses and that encourages entrepreneurship. Recognizing the Town's locational advantages, critical regional assets, well-developed infrastructure, and attractive quality of life, target economic development initiatives and incentives to industries that generate quality employment and diversify the community's economic base.
- Protect the Town's important natural resources such as stream corridors, steep slopes, floodplains, wetlands, and unique ecosystems. Manage development activity to ensure that necessary clearing and site disturbances are consistent with approvals.
- Conserve a Town-wide network of open lands including, but not limited to, viable farmland, wildlife habitat, special or unique environmental resources and potential trail corridors, river access, and recreation areas.
- Enhance and expand active and passive recreational resources available throughout the Town to meet the growing and changing demand for these amenities.
- Continue to invest in the maintenance and enhancement of the Town's extensive water, sewer, and local roadway infrastructure.
- Encourage low-impact development techniques and green infrastructure to address stormwater management.
- Maintain the Town's high level of public safety services and community services for youth, seniors, and the public at large.
- Protect and promote the Town's significant cultural and historic resources.
- Promote energy efficiency and conservation, and the use of renewable energy in the Town.

- Expand opportunities for sharing information and for encouraging community involvement. Promote volunteerism and community service.

- Cooperate with the Villages of Colonie and Menands, as well as other neighboring and regional municipalities, agencies, and organizations on issues of mutual concern. Look for opportunities to share services when appropriate.