

Esopus Master Plan: Emerging Goals and Strategies June 21, 2018



Agenda

1. Our purpose – Today and beyond
2. Possible outcomes and funding of projects
3. Master plan – What, why and how?
4. Committee and team introductions
5. Our steps to this point
 - a. Community survey
 - b. Initiation of the master planning process
 - c. Community bus
 - c. Committee meetings
 - e. Stakeholder meetings
 - f. May 5 public open house
 - g. May 24 design charrette
 - h. Community profile analysis
6. Summary of what we heard from the public
7. Key insights learned to date – What is the data telling us?
 - a. **Our Waterfront** – What do we have, what is missing and how do we truly embrace our waterfront?
 - b. **Population Trends** – How is the population changing and are we prepared?
 - c. **Housing Trends** – What is the current status of housing, what is needed and where is it lacking?
 - d. **Esopus' Position in the Region** – How do we compare and where can we fill niches, gaps, demands?
 - e. **Future Land Use** – What is needed and where should future development be directed?
8. Today's discussion of goals and strategies
9. Our next steps and schedule
10. Q&A for 25 minutes
11. Public input exercise – Review and comment on the Emerging Goals and Strategies



Our purpose – today and beyond

- **Listen** to what the community wants and needs. Offer you better service.
- **Plan** for future growth, improved amenities and sound infrastructure.
- **Respond** proactively to community change having anticipated what that change through outreach, communications and research.
- **Focus** on economic development, adding small businesses (jobs) and hamlet revitalization.
- **Improve** community access to financial and technical assistance.
- **Seek** grants and partnerships to attract private sector investment and maximize taxpayer dollars.



Strategy for 2018



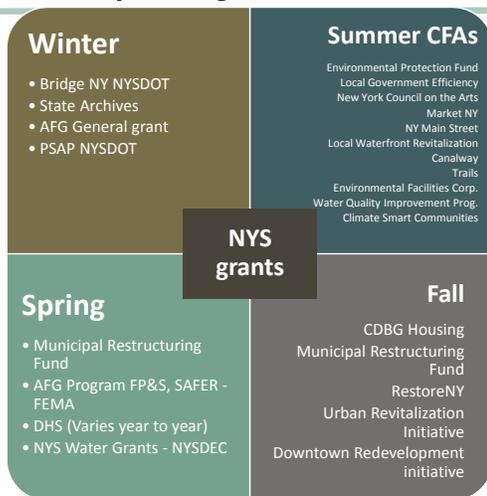
Outcomes of plan

- Multi-year goals for Town Board and volunteer committees.
- Sectors and industries to grow or expand small businesses. Utilize revolving loan fund to build and sustain local businesses.
- Waterfront access and development. Update our LWRP.
- Re-zoning for business districts and to preserve historic heritage.
- Drinking water infrastructure upgrades and water/sewer/highway GIS mapping
- Hamlet revitalization, entrance landscaping and streetscape design.
- Housing mix to support seniors / veterans / young families.
- Enhancements to cultural, historic and recreational / park amenities.
- Transportation, connectivity and wayfinding.



How do we fund these projects?

- Our community identified projects and improvements will be assigned to a specific grant funding program
- Priority, eligibility and urgency will dictate which grants we seek
- Ensure grants support vision and goals for the Mid-Hudson region



Comprehensive Plan - What and Why

What: Inventories where we are now, how the Town is evolving.

States what kinds of change will help us thrive in the future.

A broad, long-range document that guides a community's future, based on public input.

Used to establish policy in regard to development, capital investment, zoning changes, economic strength, and sustainability.

Why: The last Town of Esopus Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1994, 24 years ago.

Responds proactively to community change.

To improve access to financial and technical assistance.

Provides direction to multiple government agencies including local and State government.



Introductions – Planning Committee

- Shannon Harris – Town Supervisor
- Jared Geuss – CPC Chair & Councilman
- Kathie Quick – Councilwoman
- Myles Putman, AICP – Town Planner
- Laura Petit – County Legislature
- Fred Zimmer – Planning Board
- Frank Skerritt and Jim Banks – Zoning Board of Appeals
- Janet Bellusci / Mercedes Ross – Waterfront Advisory Committee
- Sal Morello, III – Building Inspector
- Mark Ellison – Environmental Board
- Melanie Marino – Community Development and Outreach
- John Cutrone - Economic Development
- Robert Wells - Recreation Commission



Community stakeholders

- Senior's group and American Legion
- Board of Fire Commissioners for all five Fire Departments
- Church leadership, including the Community of Churches
- Esopus employees / department heads
- Esopus Business Association
- School Board members and individuals from the Esopus Library Board
- PEAA / Recreation Board / Scouts and Scout Leaders
- Reps for local marina/vineyard/farming community
- Scenic Hudson
- TEVAS
- Ulster County Planning and Economic Devt.



Introductions - Project Team

Nicole Allen, AICP Planning Services Manager - Laberge Group

Matthew Rogers, Senior Planner - Laberge Group

Joshua Westfall, Planner - Laberge Group

William Sprengnether, RLA - Cardinal Direction

Ellen Pemrick, Principal – E.M. Pemrick & Company



Our Steps to This Point

- 2017:** - Town of Esopus Master Plan Survey distributed via hardcopy and online; over 600 respondents.
- 2018:** - March 29: Kick-Off Meeting
- April 13: Town Bus Tour
- April 25: Stakeholder/Focus Group Meetings begin
- Public Open House (May 5th), Design Charrette (May 24th)
- **TODAY** – Emerging Goals and Strategies
- July – August: Revise Goals and Strategies, prepare full Comprehensive Plan Document
- Fall 2018: Public Hearings
- Fall 2018: Plan Adoption



Laberge Group

What We Heard

May 5th Open House (Over 150) and May 21 Design Workshop (Over 75)

- **Desired Housing Choices:**
 - Mixed Residential/Commercial
 - Apartments
 - Single Family – Small Lot
 - Duplex/Two Family
 - Senior Housing
 - Single Family – Large Lot
 - Townhouses
- **Additional Recommendations**
 - Insufficient housing opportunities for recent grads, young families, seniors.
 - Support for a home improvement program.
 - AirBnB a concern.
 - Improve appearance of commercial and residential areas.



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What We Heard

May 5th Open House (Over 150) and May 21 Design Workshop (Over 75)

Recreation:

- Town should pursue opportunities to increase public waterfront access.
- Focus waterfront development in Connelly, Sleightsburgh and Port Ewen.
- Town pool recommended and Splash Pad.
- Seek to connect diverse trails and recreation areas throughout Town, add mountain biking trails.
- Improve recreational opportunities and safety for pedestrian and bicyclists.
- Indoor recreational facility recommended.
- Enhance all Town Parks and provide a park in Rifton.



Key Insights – What's the Data Telling Us

- **Our Waterfront:**
 - 24 linear miles of waterfront and limited access.
 - Overwhelming support for increased public waterfront access.
 - Sleightsburgh Park provides the only motorized boat launch in Town.
 - No swimming beach.
 - No commercial uses along the waterfront except three marinas in Connelly.
 - Connelly, Sleightsburgh and Port Ewen are the primary locations to reconnect with the waterfront for commercial, recreation and tourism opportunities.
 - Need for additional in-water rescue boats south of Port Ewen.
 - Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan is in need of an update.
 - Sea level is expected to rise.



Key Insights – What's the Data Telling Us

- **Population Trends by 2022**

- Town of Esopus is expected to increase by 2.1% to 9,589 by 2022.
- School-age children expected to remain stable, with less than 1% increase.
- Expected increase in ages 25-44 - young families, recent graduates and working adults.
- Residents between 45-54 (prime income earning age) expected to decrease by almost 14%
- Expected increase of Seniors by 15%.



Key Insights – What's the Data Telling Us

- **Housing Trends by 2022**

- 65% of housing in Town is owner-occupied with 24% renter occupied.
- Homeowner vacancy rate of 2% with a renter vacancy rate of 5.4%
 - May be a tight owner-occupied housing market.
 - Rental market does not appear to be tight.
- Median housing value: \$211,000 compared to \$245,000 in Lloyd and \$219,800 for the County.
- 59% of renters and 24% of homeowners in the Town are cost-burdened – paying at least 30% of their household income for housing.



Key Insights – What's the Data Telling Us

- **Esopus' Position in the Region.**
 - Waterfront is unmatched – but underutilized for recreation and tourism.
 - Have the goods to be a primary destination for outdoor recreation.
 - Emerging Agritourism industries – wine, cider, distilleries, apples, entertainment opportunities.
 - Spillover from the Kingston Rondout.



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Key Insights – What's the Data Telling Us

- **Future Land Use**
 - Connelly, Port Ewen and Sleightsburgh and Northern Sections of Ulster Park – Primary areas for future development.
 - Need to consider future land uses for large estates in West Park that may become available for private development – Hotels, recreation, tourism-focus.
 - Need for new light industrial/light manufacturing sites.
 - Need for a more balanced tax base supported by more economic development.



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Emerging Goals and Strategies

Our Waterfront – Revitalization, Recreation and Preservation

Goal 1: Enhance the Town's waterfront as a recreation, education and commercial/entertainment destination for residents and visitors while balancing these improvements with the long-range protection of the Town's waterfront ecology and environment.

Strategies:

1. Encourage Compatible commercial, tourism, education/interpretive and residential development in key waterfront locations with a focus on the Hamlets of Connelly, Sleightsburgh and Port Ewen.
2. Identify and support opportunities to integrate improvements in the Town of Esopus with existing tourism and educational resources on the Rondout Creek and Hudson River, including, but not limited to the Hudson River Maritime Museum.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Our Waterfront – Revitalization, Recreation and Preservation

Goal 1 Continued

Strategies:

3. Enhance Freer Park as the Town's primary destination for waterfront recreation. Potential improvements include, but are not limited to the following:
 - New bulkhead to reduce erosion and the occurrence/severity of flooding.
 - Boardwalk with benches and pedestrian-scaled lighting.
 - Canoe/kayak launch and storage.
 - Designated fishing area.
 - Improvement parking lot.
 - New combined pavilion and enclosed event space.
 - Improved pedestrian connections from Minturn and Tilden Streets.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Our Waterfront – Revitalization, Recreation and Preservation

Goal 1 Continued

Strategies:

4. Improve Sleightsburgh Park to provide expanded boat launching opportunities:
 - Enlarge the parking area to allow for increased use and safer parking.
 - Upgrade and expand launching facilities.
 - Identify feasible opportunities to improve the safety of vehicles entering and exiting the park.
 - Determine if the existing trail system should be enhanced or officially closed.

5. Identify opportunities and implement feasible options for new and improved public access to the Hudson River waterfront in the Hamlets of Ulster Park, Esopus and West Park including, but not limited to designated/enhanced car-top boat launch facilities at the Black Creek Preserve and Lighthouse Park/Esopus Meadows Preserves.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Our Waterfront – Revitalization, Recreation and Preservation

Goal 1 Continued

Strategies:

6. Evaluate potential opportunities and implement feasible options to create public access on the Rondout Creek in Sleightsburgh and Connolly including, but limited to, a new waterside park and designated area for restaurant dining and recreation.

7. Encourage and facilitate repurposing of Certified Marina and adjacent upland areas to incorporate waterside dining, entertainment opportunities, and residential development in combination with a well-organized marina and launching facilities.

8. Evaluate the feasibility of repurposing the Town's water treatment plant property into a new riverfront park if the Town decides to connect into the City of Kingston water supply.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Our Waterfront – Revitalization, Recreation and Preservation

Goal 1 Continued

Strategies:

9. Investigate the potential for providing public access to Sturgeon Pool via Central Hudson Gas and Electric lands.
10. Evaluate opportunities to improve Perrine’s Bridge Park, including mitigation of flooding, improvements to the parking area and pedestrian crossing of NY Rt. 213 with proper signage along with designated canoe/kayak launch facilities, connecting the park to the actual Perrine’s Covered Bridge and additional improvements to enhance visitor experiences and safety.
11. Evaluate the feasibility, responsibility and associated costs and potential impacts related to removing abandoned and submerged barges and other watercraft on the south shore of the Rondout Creek from Connelly to the Hudson River.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Our Waterfront – Revitalization, Recreation and Preservation

Goal 1 Continued

Strategies:

12. Ensure existing and future development along shorelines adequately address anticipated rising water levels through a combination of proper planning and development practices; shoreline stabilization, education, and land use regulations.
13. Prepare an update to the Town’s 1987 Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) to establish a revised long-term plan for the protection and enhancement of water resources and to properly plan for economic revitalization and recreational opportunities along the shoreline and in the Town’s key waterfront Hamlets.
14. As the Town seeks to enhance public access and use of the Hudson River and Rondout Creek, there will be an increased need to provide adequate responses for in-water emergencies. Therefore, in coordination with local and regional emergency services departments, the Town should explore funding and designated access points for one or more water rescue boats.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Pedestrian Safety and Traffic

Goal 1: Provide an efficient, safe and connective transportation system that takes into account not only automobiles but also pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and abilities, which is coordinated with existing and future growth needs; this system should also be economical and responsive to existing adjacent land uses.

Strategies:

1. Conduct a Town-wide pedestrian and bicycle connectivity and complete streets analysis that includes a comprehensive inventory of existing on and off-road bicycle and pedestrian facilities and related safety issues within and between each Hamlet and other key destinations (i.e., parks, recreational areas, historic/cultural locations, the waterfront, surrounding communities and trails). The purpose of this analysis should be to identify and prioritize feasible pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements to provide safe access for all ages and abilities.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Pedestrian Safety and Traffic

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

2. Coordinate with NYSDOT to evaluate the feasibility of enhancing the shoulders of NY Rt. 213 for safer bicycling use including adding a separated bike lane and designating the road as a formal State Bike Route.
3. Explore with NYSDOT, the Kingston Land Trust and Scenic Hudson the possibility of a designated walking trail across the Wurts Street Bridge into Port Ewen and over to Sleightsburgh and Freer Parks.
4. Consider shifting the responsibility for sidewalk maintenance from adjacent property owners to the Town of Esopus.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Pedestrian Safety and Traffic

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

5. Prepare a long-term sidewalk expansion and maintenance plan in Port Ewen to allow the Town to adequately budget for needed improvements.
6. Encourage the placement of bike racks at key locations in Town, including out front of local businesses and public facilities as appropriate and feasible.
7. Coordinate with and encourage NYSDOT to plan for and install sidewalks and a separated bike lane along the US Route 9W arterial connecting Port Ewen to Kingston and the Greenline/future Empire Trial.
8. Consider constructing designated pedestrian connections to Freer Park Beach from Minturn and Tilden Streets.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Pedestrian Safety and Traffic

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

9. Coordinate with NYSDOT to begin the process of seeking speed limit reductions on portions of US Rt. 9W and NY Rt. 213.
10. Routinely coordinate with the Ulster County Sheriff and NYS Police for updates on incidents of speeding and traffic accidents, especially those involving pedestrians and bicyclists to be identifying and confirming areas of concern for pedestrian and bicycle safety.
11. Prepare and adopt a “complete streets” policy that would require new applicable development projects to plan for pedestrians, bicyclists and public transit in addition to private vehicles.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Pedestrian Safety and Traffic

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

12. Continue working closely with NYSDOT and regional planning organizations to ensure the Town plays a role in regional planning and transportation decisions, especially those that directly affect the Town of Esopus.
13. Encourage the Planning Board to recommend/or require new developments (as appropriate and legal) to include sidewalks, pedestrian paths, bike lanes, trails and connections to surrounding destinations which will assist the Town in establishing a truly connected community.
14. Request NYSDOT evaluate the intersection of US Rt. 9W, North Broadway, Old US Rt. 9W with a specific request to increase the length of the southbound right and left hand turnlanes.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Economic Development

Goal 1: Promote the Town of Esopus as a destination for outdoor recreation, agritourism, history, and the arts, while maintaining the community's existing character and quality of life desired by residents.

Strategies:

1. Prepare a tourism action plan and establish an entity that convenes regularly and considers priority areas for Ecotourism, Agritourism, Heritage Tourism, Waterfront and Recreation and include a marketing and branding plan – ***"From Ridge to River."***
2. Create a user-friendly, attractive PDF map of the Town to show locations of hiking trails, boat launches, nature preserves, and other features for posting on the Town's website and placement in local businesses and visitor kiosks.
3. Foster partnerships between the Town and non-profit organizations, business associations, and volunteer groups to draw investments into the community to develop properties in appropriate business areas.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Economic Development

Goal 1 Continued

Strategies:

4. Consider creating a business advocacy response team tasked with providing support to businesses interested in developing properties with the intent of simplifying the process and overcoming barriers.
5. Strengthen annual events and consider organizing one or two additional event showcasing recreational resources, the arts, and/or the waterfront in the Town of Esopus.
6. Consider potential trail linkages to and from Port Ewen to connect recreational users with local shops and restaurants.
7. Encourage infill along streets secondary to Broadway and re-adaption of buildings of historic character.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Economic Development

Goal 1 Continued

Strategies:

8. Ensure that up-to-date information on local attractions, including trails, natural areas, and historic sites open to the public, are included in print materials and on the Ulster County Tourism website.
9. Collaborate with neighboring towns on tourism activities and promotion where there is a likelihood of customer spillover.
10. Review and enhance wayfinding signage and landscaping on US Rt. 9W at Town gateways and on other roads likely to experience significant use by visitors.
11. Consider establishing a visitor center at the Town's key gateways, at Freer, Ross and Cas Landi Parks that provide information about lodging choices, trailhead information and retail, recreation and dining opportunities – forge a partnership with Scenic Hudson to update trailhead kiosks to provide more Town-specific information.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Economic Development

Goal 1 Continued

Strategies:

12. Undertake a review of signs, both direction and placemaking, throughout the Town; review local sign ordinances and develop design guidance.
13. Consider asking the Klyne Esopus Museum to broaden their scope to develop a strategy that encompasses the following elements: maintaining an inventory of historic and cultural resources and promoting landmarks and heritage tourist attractions.
14. Forge partnerships with the Hudson River Maritime Museum, Kingston Waterfront Coalition and John Burroughs Association to maximize opportunities to promote Port Ewen, Sleightsburgh, and Connelly for maritime heritage, and John Burroughs for ecotourism.
15. Create a Sojourner Truth Museum near her statute in Port Ewen and map her journey through Esopus – Create a John Burroughs interpretive center and explore the feasibility of establishing a ship building museum in Connelly.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Economic Development

Goal 2: Support business development to strengthen the tax base and meet community needs

Strategies:

1. Compile an inventory of suitable sites for development and market available commercial and industrial property on the Town's website and through a realtor network and by targeting specific businesses who may be interested in expanding, relocating or opening satellite operations in Esopus.
2. Work with the Ulster Economic Development Alliance and the Office of the Ulster County Executive to provide financial and technical assistance to qualified business establishments in the Town.
3. Develop a campaign to educate local businesses about existing customer demands (e.g., a grocery store, hardware store, medical facility, etc.) based on resident feedback – encourage businesses to adapt their model and products to meet current demands, where practical.
4. Develop a plan to identify prospective businesses that align well with what the Town has to offer – target and recruit new businesses that can provide goods and services for current and future residents.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Economic Development

Goal 2: Continued

Strategies:

5. Streamline the planning process by creating a pre-approved project compliance checklist and develop a corresponding “pocket” zoning map, and preparing and marketing online a sector-specific (agribusiness and waterfront development) “Guide to Business Opportunities and Development in Esopus.”
6. Support the redevelopment and reuse of vacant and underutilized commercial sites and buildings as an alternative to the development of greenfields.
7. Work with Ulster County, NYSDEC and other stakeholders to assess potential environmental issues at the former Hercules manufacturing site and other locations and identify necessary steps to remediate as necessary and redevelop.
8. Develop a coordinated Economic Development Strategy to further identify opportunities for business attraction, retention and expansion based on an assessment of local resources and evaluation of future niche industries.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Economic Development

Goal 3: Improve the Condition and appearance of commercial areas in the Town to stimulate new investment and make them more attractive locations for consumers, visitors and businesses.

Strategies:

1. Review hamlet business district and waterfront commercial zoning ordinances to ensure they foster growth of targeted/compatible businesses and promote clustered development in compatible locations.
2. Evaluate opportunities for additional public off-street parking areas in Port Ewen with appropriate signage, with pedestrian connections and encourage shared parking.
3. Evaluate period façades and architecture in each Hamlet and share these findings with business owners and residents – undertake streetscape improvement and beautification efforts with a goal of creating a unifying appearance along US Rt. 9W.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Economic Development

Goal 3: Continued

Strategies:

4. Consider a campaign to offer small grants and loans (e.g., \$5,000 to \$30,000) to facilitate commercial building renovations, façade improvements, equipment purchases and other investments necessary to help start and grow local businesses.
5. Establish a sense of place with a more welcoming environment for visitors in the Port Ewen business district.
6. Encourage interconnection between adjacent lots in business areas and streets in adjoining developments and to ensure emergency services access.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Economic Development

Goal 4: Encourage the preservation and diversification of agricultural activities.

Strategies:

1. Target business development, expansion or relocation of craft beverage businesses into the Town of Esopus.
2. Engage with existing micro-farms and farm stand businesses to learn about their operations, share findings regarding the agriculture focus for the Town, offer loans to improve their products, buildings and diversification, as well as help them seek additional funding through grants for improvements and resiliency.
3. Evaluate and update Town land use regulations to define agritourism and ensure there are no unnecessary regulatory obstacles for activities such as “u-pick” operations, fruit and vegetable stands, farmstays, and wineries to be located wherever agricultural uses are allowed.
4. Work with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ulster County Planning, and other agencies to support agriculture and increase the economic viability of farms in the Town of Esopus.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization

Goal 1: Encourage and facilitate housing options that meet the needs of current and future residents and all income levels.

Strategies:

1. Support the provision of housing in the Town to meet the needs of persons of all income levels, age groups, and special needs, where appropriate.
2. Continue to focus future dense residential growth within Port Ewen, Sleightsburgh and Connelly and north sections of Ulster Park, where existing water and sewer infrastructure is provided.
3. Conduct regular evaluations of the Town's land use regulations to ensure needed and appropriate housing opportunities are not inadvertently prohibited or difficult to obtain approvals including mixed-uses and market-rate multi-family dwellings.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

4. Promote and encourage additional attractive affordable senior living facilities for local residents which will help free up existing housing for new residents, young families and others seeking to own their own home.
5. Continue to allow and encourage appropriately constructed accessory dwellings while making sure that community character is preserved and adverse impacts to neighborhoods are avoided.
6. Identify and collaborate, where practical, with state, local and/or regional community-based housing organizations to leverage their expertise and resources (e.g., Ulster County Office for the Aging, Rural Ulster Preservation Company, Ulster County Community Action, Inc., NYS Housing and Community Renewal).



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization

Goal 2: Enhance and protect the character, aesthetics, and safety of neighborhoods and hamlet centers.

Strategies:

1. Pursue applicable funding opportunities for housing improvement and rehabilitation programs in the Town of Esopus (e.g., Community Development Block Program).
2. Conduct targeted income surveys beginning with the Hamlets of Connelly and Port Ewen to support the Town's efforts of securing applicable grants for housing improvements and community revitalization projects including sidewalks and water and sewer improvements.
3. Continue to enforce existing property maintenance-related regulations and consider preparing and adopting a Town property maintenance law that clearly defines what is prohibited and includes sufficient processes to remedy violations.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization

Goal 2: Continued

Strategies:

4. Consider educational outreach efforts about property maintenance through annual Town mailings as an additional effort to encourage increased property maintenance and enhancements to overall community character.
5. Implement an annual cleanup day allowing residents to bring junk and other debris to the Town's transfer station at no cost. In addition, the Town could arrange to pick up junk and other debris from residents who are not able to reach the transfer station.
6. Conduct a detailed inventory of key neighborhoods with dilapidated structures, property maintenance and other code issues. The purpose of this effort will be to obtain a baseline inventory of properties with existing code violations, existing conditions of structures including those that are vacant, abandoned or dilapidated and in need of corrective actions, property maintenance issues, unlicensed vehicles and other issues impact community character.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization

Goal 2: Continued

Strategies:

7. Consider adopting a rental property/landlord registry that would allow the Town to more efficiently contact landlords when there are building code violations, complaints and other concerns that require contact with building owners. The registry will be another tool to improve community character, building conditions and quality of life.
8. Support and encourage the development of neighborhood organizations that promote civic activities and empower residents to maintain their properties and patrol neighborhoods (e.g., National Night Out, Neighborhood Watch, etc.).
9. Support and help connect residents in need to volunteer programs that help seniors, persons with disabilities and low-income residents obtain housing and make home repairs (e.g., Ulster County Habitat for Humanity, RUPCO) and provision of services such as shoveling and yardwork that could be accomplished by a local volunteer group.
10. Evaluate reasonable options for allowing AirBnB rentals in Town while ensuring community character and neighborhoods impacts are avoided and emergency services personal are aware of which structures are rentals and the approximate number of tenants.



Laberge Group

Emerging Goals and Strategies

Town-Wide Recreation and Parks

Goal 1: Ensure adequate Town parks and recreation opportunities are available to residents and visitors through the Town of Esopus. These facilities should be well maintained and provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities to all ages and skill levels.

Strategies:

1. Consider regular evaluations of all Town parks and recreational facilities to ensure proper maintenance and adequate amenities meeting current and future needs.
2. Encourage siting compatible facilities and uses within Town Parks to complement existing features and create a greater attraction of park locations.
3. Identify and support opportunities to integrate improvements in Town parks with existing tourism and educational resources.



Laberge Group

Emerging Goals and Strategies

Town-Wide Recreation and Parks

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

4. Continue to maintain, through established maintenance planning, all Town parks and associated facilities to ensure any revitalization or improvements are maintained in the highest and best manner possible.
5. Encourage the routing of the Empire State Trail through the Town of Esopus. Should this not be possible, the Town should seek to make connections to the Trail through Port Ewen.
6. Collaborate with the NYSDEC, Scenic Hudson and the John Burroughs Association to connect contiguous and nearby park/preserve lands via new and existing trails and/or roads.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Town-Wide Recreation and Parks

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

7. Examine the potential demand and feasibility of creating a new indoor/outdoor Town recreation facility, which would be multipurpose and have the capability to meet the needs for all residents and athletes as well as athletes and teams from outside of the Town of Esopus. Potential locations include behind Town Hall and the vacant former ballfields on Mountain View Rd.
8. Consider the feasibility of constructing a Town pool facility in a current park or new locations. The pool could be combined with the future recreational facility.
9. Consider establishing a community park in Rifton, in the central part of the Hamlet on current Town-owned property at the corner of Lakeshore Rd. and NY Rt. 213 as a potential location.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Town-Wide Recreation and Parks

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

10. Enhance Ross Park with the following improvements:
 - Construct an additional pavilion based upon the high usage of the current pavilion.
 - Build a splash-pad area.
 - Improve the overall aesthetics of the park through planned landscaping.
 - Consider developing a future pocket park off of Bayard St.
 - Make improvements to the current parking lot at the corner of W. Stout Ave. and Browne St.
 - Improve basketball, baseball and tennis court facilities
 - Add parking stall lines along W. Stout St.

11. Enhance Cas Landi Park with the following improvements:
 - Create an accessible walking trail or track.
 - Repair deficiencies and revitalize the tennis and basketball courts where needed.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Town-Wide Recreation and Parks

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

12. Joseph H. Clark Recreational Park - Provide restroom facilities and maintain park facilities.

13. Enhance James Rieker Park with the Following improvements:
 - Refurbish the baseball and basketball courts and equipment.
 - Update the playground equipment.
 - Establish designated parking.

14. Enhance Perrine's Bridge Park with the following Improvements:
 - Identify and implement safe pedestrian connections between the parking lot and the park.
 - Evaluate opportunities to connect the Town's park to the covered bridge.
 - Establish a temporary/movable car top launch in the park for access to the Walkkill River.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Community Services and Infrastructure

Goal 1: Provide, continually enhance and properly maintain high quality, efficient and cost-effective community facilities, infrastructure and services that support a healthy and safe community and the quality of life expected by residents and business owners.

Strategies:

1. Prepare and implement a facilities management plan that establishes long-term capital maintenance needs for Town buildings and facilities including, but not limited to Highway Department facilities and equipment, Town Hall and the Transfer Station.
2. Prepare and implement a long-term water and sewer infrastructure maintenance and replacement plan including the consideration of future costs and opportunities for funding.
3. Evaluate the feasibility of connecting into the City of Kingston municipal water system.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Community Services and Infrastructure

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

4. Evaluate and determine the need for and feasibility of future sewer and water district expansions (for existing development in areas with challenging geographic and soil conditions inhibiting adequate sewage disposal as well as to accommodate desired future growth).
5. Continue to support the Town of Esopus Road-Stream Crossing Inventory Study that is being undertaken to improve water quality, reduce flood risks, and reconnect habitat for migratory and resident fish in the Hudson River Estuary. Upon Completion of the analysis and prioritization of needed improvements, the Town should pursue funding and begin implementing required improvements and restoration projects.
6. Continue to implement the Town's MS4 Program and conduct regular internal reviews to ensure full compliance.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Community Services and Infrastructure

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

7. Inventory and map all roads and signage in the Town of Esopus using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping platform and coordinate the repaving of roads in concert with the replacement of water/sewer mains and related infrastructure, where feasible.
8. Advocate for the repaving of US Rt. 9W through Port Ewen and the undergrounding of all utility lines and the enhancement of all crosswalks to be converted to low maintenance paint at that time.
9. Review the Town's current sidewalk maintenance law and evaluate the feasibility of taking over the responsibility for repairing, replacing and/or shoveling of all sidewalks.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Community Services and Infrastructure

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

10. Continue close coordination with and support of the Town's six Fire Departments and the Town of Esopus Volunteer Ambulance Squad with respect to seeking volunteers, identifying opportunities for sharing services and utility costs; repairing and replacing existing facilities; and cooperatively pursuing grant funding for equipment, vehicles, facilities, training and other needs
11. Continue coordination with the U.S. Postal Service to find a permanent home for a new Post Office in Port Ewen.
12. Continue to advocate for and provide information to residents and business on how to request curbside mail delivery.



Next Steps...

1. Refined Goals and Strategies based on public input
2. Complete the Community Profile
3. Additional Committee Meetings
4. Prepare full Comprehensive Plan
5. Public Hearings in the Fall
6. Plan Adoption



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