

New Lebanon Comprehensive Plan

Vision

New Lebanon will be an attractive, friendly, and well- maintained community that values its diverse population, rural character, scenic beauty, natural resources, cultural and historic heritage. It will be a community that promotes carefully thought out commercial and residential growth, responsible land use, public services, social and recreational opportunities that effectively seeks to address the needs of all community members.

Goals & Objectives

April 15, 2003

Tourism

Goal:

Develop and promote New Lebanon as a destination for tourism.

Objectives:

- **Develop and promote recreational opportunities.**
- **Promote historical features.**
- **Promote cultural and entertainment resources.**
- **Support development of the Shaker Museum project.**
- **Promote and capitalize on the Town's proximity to cultural and recreational resources of the surrounding area.**
- **Promote orderly development of the Town's infrastructure to support tourism.**

Agriculture

Goal:

Encourage the preservation of existing farms and open farmlands and the creation of new economically viable farms.

Objectives:

- **Encourage and aid in the continuation of existing farms.**
- **Maintain the Town's rural character through active preservation of the open farmlands.**
- **Preserve open spaces for future agricultural use.**
- **Encourage the creation of new niche or hobby farms.**
- **Ensure that agriculture and forestry operations do not negatively impact the environment.**

Recreation

Goal:

Expand recreation opportunities in keeping with the rural nature of the Town and “small town” nature of its commercial center.

Objectives:

- Target areas in the Town’s center (rtes. 20/22 overlap) for commercial recreation such as bowling, skating rinks and a movie theater.
- Promote availability, with appropriate conditions, of multi-use trails for activities such as walking, biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobling & horseback riding.
- Designate bicycle routes along Town, County and State highways.
- Protect and expand public access to fishing and boating resources of the Kinderhook and Wyomanock Creeks.
- Promote and enhance links to Hudson Valley Bikeway, Taconic Crest Trail and Pittsfield State Forest.
- Expand existing Town Park facilities to provide safe children play areas, winter skating rink, skateboard park, soccer fields and other improvements.
- Encourage the development of indoor community facilities and programs for basketball, soccer, weight training, aerobics, skating and other activities.
- Provide safe and adequate parking and pedestrian access to recreational facilities.

Community Facilities & Services

Goal:

Provide convenient, safe facilities and maintain appropriate services that meet the needs of the community.

Objectives:

- **Develop a multi-use community center, with emphasis on the needs of seniors and youth.**
- **Provide well-designed facilities for local government, with adequate space for staff and public meetings and security for records and judicial proceedings.**
- **Evaluate the need for residential trash collection and address, if deemed necessary.**
- **Continue to maintain a safe Town road system with adequate staff and equipment.**
- **Promote the availability of a community-wide wireless telephone system.**
- **Ensure continuation of effective emergency services and public safety.**
- **Evaluate the need for municipal water and sewers and address, if deemed necessary.**
- **Ensure continued support of the Library.**
- **Enhance communication between Town Government and the residents**

Traffic & Transportation

Goal:

Maintain and improve the safety and functionality of the roadway infrastructure and promote opportunities for alternative means of public and private transportation.

Objectives:

- **Improve safety in areas of high vehicle and pedestrian usage and Ensure safe pedestrian access to areas of identified need.**
- **Plan for changing traffic patterns and volumes and promote traffic access management techniques to control traffic congestion when new development occurs.**
- **Design, build and maintain roads and parking lots consistent with rural road standards and small town character.**
- **Ensure safe, adequate and accessible parking to meet commercial and public needs.**
- **Promote opportunities for public transportation.**
- **Promote scenic enhancement of roads and highways.**

Community Appearance

Goal:

Protect and enhance the natural scenic vistas and the publicly visible aspects of the man-made environment, in keeping with the Town's rural and "small town" character.

Objectives:

- **Preserve scenic vistas of the area's natural beauty including vistas of woodlands, fields, ridgelines, hillsides, hilltops and valleys.**
- **Preserve and/or improve scenic vistas that involve man-made structures.**
- **Develop and implement mechanisms to improve the appearance of facilities, signs, buildings and yards visible from roads and highways.**
- **Develop and implement a concept of "small town" appearance to guide improvements and developments in the Town's commercial center, other commercial corridors and residential areas.**

Natural Resources & the Environment

Goal:

Preserve and protect our environment and responsibly manage our natural resources. Avoid adverse impacts to the environment wherever possible and minimize where unavoidable.

Objectives:

- **Protect surface water, wetlands and groundwater from potential sources of pollution and reduce or eliminate existing sources of water contamination.**
- **Preserve the Town's clean air and reduce air pollution sources.**
- **Prevent development of steep slopes that can lead to erosion.**
- **Prevent the filling or disturbance of wetlands.**
- **Prevent development within the floodplain that can impact upstream properties.**
- **Protect scenic vistas, open space and sensitive wildlife habitats.**
- **Minimize noise pollution.**
- **Protect the dark skies and minimize glare and light pollution.**
- **Encourage restoration, preservation and protection of the Lebanon Warm Mineral Spring.**
- **Encourage the preservation of prime agricultural lands and the promotion of environmentally sensitive management and use of agricultural resources.**
- **Encourage preservation of woodlands and promote environmentally sensitive management and use of forest resources.**
- **Ensure that mining, including the extraction of sand and gravel deposits, is done in an environmentally/ visually sensitive manner.**

Historic Resources

Goal:

Preserve and promote New Lebanon's historic heritage as an integral part of the Town's culture, character, attractiveness and economic future.

Objectives:

- **Support and assist in the preservation of historic resources, properties and structures within the Town.**
- **Support the relocation of the Shaker Museum to the New Lebanon site.**
- **Document and publicize historic sites (maps & markers).**
- **Support the Historical Society and Town Historian to promote suitable, permanent display and storage of artifacts of Town history.**

Housing

Goal:

Promote housing opportunities for all economic levels & age groups.

Objectives:

- **Promote the development of housing options for seniors with emphasis on safety, affordability and access to daily needs.**
- **Promote the availability of a variety of affordable housing options.**
- **Ensure that the location and density of homes matches the ability of the land to support them and the community's desire to preserve the Town's rural and small town character.**

Economic Development

Goal:

Promote an environment, which supports the constructive growth plans of existing businesses while attracting appropriate new businesses.

Objectives:

- **Develop an overall framework (requirements, type etc.) for the attraction of new business.**
- **Support the development of tourism.**
- **Develop the infrastructure needed to concentrate growth in designated commercial and/or light industrial districts.**
- **Promote, and actively pursue, a variety of business and commercial entities to meet the needs of the community and contribute to the economic viability of existing businesses.**
- **Ensure avoidance of heavy industrial and high pollution businesses and big box stores.**
- **Ensure effective commercial/industrial zoning enforcement.**

LAND USE GOAL STATEMENT

GOAL:

Land Use Patterns Will Promote Reaching The 10 Goals Set Forth In This Plan.

OBJECTIVES:

- **The existing zoning law will be evaluated for its compatibility with the goals and objectives.**
- **Land use tools (such as cluster housing, minimum lot sizes and set back limits) will be examined for their ability to assist in achieving the goals and objectives.**
- **Amendments and additions to the zoning law will be made so as to promote the achievement of the goals and objectives.**
- **Zoning regulations will be easily understood.**
- **The zoning law will be enforced, and it will be enforced uniformly.**