

7/20/13

Hamilton Comprehensive Plan Update Off to a Good Start

The Town of Hamilton's Comprehensive plan is getting an update. The Plan identifies "goals, objectives, guidance and policies for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of (the Hamilton) community. It provides guidance to town leaders and helps ensure the needs of the community will be met." In order to keep up with the evolving needs of a town, comprehensive plans must be periodically updated.

Approved in 1999, Hamilton's Comprehensive plan will be revised to address issues that are important to our community today, and its goals will be updated to reflect the needs and views of residents in response to emerging local and national trends. The Hamilton Town Council, through its recently created Energy Working group, has already identified energy issues, such as gas and wind development, as one of many critical matters confronting our community. Updating the plan is a good way to assess community concerns and shape town policy on these topics, as well as others.

Overseen by the Hamilton Town Council, our newly appointed Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC) is composed of local citizens- Carrie Blackmore, Travis Dubois, Darrell Griff, Peter Klepeis, Harvey Kliman, Greg Owens, Jody Palmer- and town councilors Peter Darby, Chris Rossi and Carolyn Todd. Working with Nan Stolzenburg, principal planner with Community Planning and Associates, the review and update process should take 12-18 months, and includes data collection, community outreach, as well as writing, reviewing and approval of the plan. Nan and the CPC are gathering data now on the town's demographics with the help of Colgate student Mae Staples, from the Upstate Institute.

Included in the Comprehensive Plan is a vision statement which expresses the community's ideas on the best possible future for the town. This fall the CPC will be asking for community input on a wide range of topics affecting Hamilton, from housing to hydrofracking and more. Through a survey, public meetings, and focus groups the community will be invited to share their concerns and hopes for Hamilton. Responses will be incorporated into the plan and help set the future direction for our town.

For more information or to contact any Town Council members visit the Town of Hamilton website <http://www.townofhamiltonny.org> We will post meetings, information and the survey as we move forward.

*From the Town of Hamilton 1999 Comprehensive Plan

- Chris Rossi
Hamilton Town Council and CPC member