

Community Vision for the Future

The purpose of comprehensive planning is to identify a clear and compelling vision for the future and to develop strategies to reach that vision. The 4-Town Comp Plan identifies this vision along with a set of goals that will help lead the towns toward a bright future. The plan sets the path for helping the towns to continue to be a beautiful, comfortable, peaceful, and desirable place to live.

20-Year Vision for 4-Towns

Working together as a community, we envision the 4-Town area twenty years from now as a place where:

-  Environmentally sensitive land and “special areas” in the towns are protected for future generations. The need to protect important natural areas and resources continues to be a high priority for town residents. With careful planning, they preserve the town’s rural character, unique natural areas, and high quality of water, air and land.
-  Farming continues to be a viable way of life. Some family farms have developed specialty items and others have found unique niches. The preservation of the best farmland has attracted a stable farming community, encouraged by the dependable sources of water and good soil within the towns. Preservation of quality woodland has contributed to sustainable and responsible forestry practices within the towns as well.
-  Historically aware and informed citizens take pride in passing along important historic resources to future generations. By careful planning, they preserve and promote the towns’ historical heritage, historic sites and structures, and cemeteries.
-  Residents enjoy a well-planned and maintained highway system with town, county and state highways functioning properly.
-  Outdoor recreational activities of all kinds are enjoyed by town residents as well as recreation enthusiasts from around the northeast.
-  Open space is plentiful, enabling sustainable agriculture and forest production, providing outdoor recreational opportunities, and preserving important natural resources from development.
-  The local economy flourishes with locally-owned small businesses. Scattered throughout the four towns, businesses complement the peaceful rural nature of the towns.

Town Law § 272-a. Town comprehensive plan.

1. Legislative findings and intent. The legislature hereby finds and determines that:

(a) Significant decisions and actions affecting the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of the state and its communities are made by local governments.

(b) Among the most important powers and duties granted by the legislature to a town government is the authority and responsibility to undertake town comprehensive planning and to regulate land use for the purpose of protecting the public health, safety and general welfare of its citizens.

(c) The development and enactment by the town government of a town comprehensive plan which can be readily identified, and is available for use by the public, is in the best interest of the people of each town.

(d) The great diversity of resources and conditions that exist within and among the towns of the state compels the consideration of such diversity in the development of each town comprehensive plan.

(e) The participation of citizens in an open, responsible and flexible planning process is essential to the designing of the optimum town comprehensive plan.

(f) The town comprehensive plan is a means to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of the town and to give due consideration to the needs of the people of the region of which the town is a part.

(g) The comprehensive plan fosters cooperation among governmental agencies planning and implementing capital projects and municipalities that may be directly affected thereby.

(h) It is the intent of the legislature to encourage, but not to require, the preparation and adoption of a comprehensive plan pursuant to this section. Nothing herein shall be deemed to affect the status or validity of existing master plans, comprehensive plans, or land use plans.