

Planning for Pittsford’s Future

A Comprehensive Plan identifies a shared vision for the community. It provides guidance, defining goals and policies to direct and accommodate future growth. It furnishes the legal basis for a municipality’s zoning laws. It also can improve opportunities for funding of municipal projects.

Pittsford’s Comprehensive Plan was last revised in 2009. In May a committee of residents who indicated interest and willingness to serve, representing a broad cross-section of the community, convened for the first time. Including Village Mayor Bob Corby and me, as Town Supervisor, we met with our advisors, Bergmann Associates, to begin the project of updating the plan.

The Committee’s work began with three questions:

- What aspects of Pittsford would you like to preserve?
- What would you like to see change in the community?
- What words would you like your grandchildren to use to describe Pittsford?

Features of life in Pittsford the Committee would like to preserve include the view from major corridors, especially in the southern part of the Town with a bucolic, hilly character; our agricultural roots, including existing farms; character and authenticity; uniqueness and scale of neighborhoods; integrity and business health of the Village, as the Town center; and a balance of land uses: residential, commercial, agricultural.

Items identified for changing include transportation planning that doesn’t focus solely on accommodating more cars; reviewing “50/50” zoning to avoid creating fragmented and scattered open spaces; flexibility to adapt to changing needs regarding parks; more walking trails; more centers for families and friends to gather, including neighborhood greens; sidewalks; preservation of historic landscapes.

And as to the kind of Pittsford our grandchildren would live in, as they might describe it: a vital neighborhood life; accessible; beautiful; a place worth living in; special; balanced; happy; welcoming; a sense of community; progressive without sacrificing heritage, charm and history; green, livable, sustainable and welcoming.

How would you answer the three questions? I hope you’ll let me know.

The Town has created a website dedicated to the Comprehensive plan project. You can follow its progress and learn about the public visioning process and upcoming meetings at <http://pittsfordplan.com>.

You can reach me at 248-6220, or at bsmith@townofpittsford.org.