



TOWN OF PORTVILLE COMPREHENSIVE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PLANNING INITIATIVE

What have we accomplished so far...



We have begun the planning process by forming a Comprehensive and Economic Development Committee.

We have analyzed important economic and demographic data. The data show some disturbing trends we would like to change.

We have begun to inventory our assets and identify some of our constraints.

What have we accomplished so far...



We've developed a draft table of contents for our new comprehensive and economic development plan.

We've begun the history section of our comprehensive and economic development plan.

We are developing a new community survey

We continue to reach out the Village and the school in hopes that they will participate in the planning process.



Our analysis of the economic and demographic data revealed the following trends in the Town of Portville:

We have seen that that our children are achieving higher levels of education; however,

- The population of our town is both aging and declining;
- The median household income in our town is declining;
- The number one person households is increasing;
- The number of married households are decreasing;
- The number of no-worker families were on the rise;
- Our housing stock is aging and few new homes are being built;
- More people are working from home;
- Those who work outside of the home must travel farther away to find work; and
- The number of children living in poverty is increasing.

With the exception of increasing educational attainment for our children, the trends we discussed at our last meeting were generally perceived as being negative.

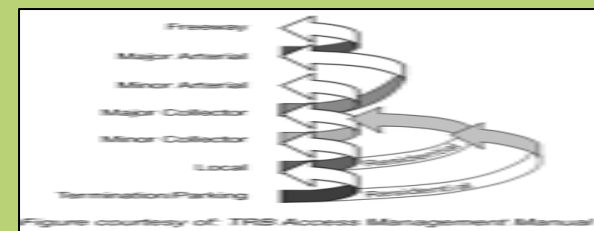




During our last meeting we began a list of concerns we have about Portville.

Community Concerns

- Jobs
- Poverty
- Our young people are leaving
- Providing for persons with special needs
- Appearance of the Town
- Lack of recreational facilities
- Wind power
- Adult entertainment
- Traffic
- Vacant buildings
- Inadequate infrastructure
- Flooding





**During our last meeting we started to
make a list of community assets.**

Let's talk about our assets



Our biggest asset is Portville Central School. We invest in our children when we pay our school taxes. The school also provides important social and recreational activities.



The Village of Portville is our second most important asset. The Village is our most logical place to work, shop and enjoy life, but it falls short in some ways.

Let's talk about our assets



Olean is also very important. Many of our residents work, shop and find recreation there. Portville has always been linked to business in Olean because of the quality of life and the easy commute.



The Allegheny River is another important asset; however, the flood control dikes have caused us to lose our connection with the river. We don't have any formal community access to this important natural resource.



Let's talk about our assets

Other asserts include:

- Sprague's Maple Farms
- Historic Bedford Corners Schoolhouse
- Pfeifer Nature Preserve



Other community assets we identified were:

- Our people self reliant and hard working;
- The scenery is beautiful;
- Clean air and clean water;
- We have all four seasons to enjoy;
- We are secure in our homes; and
- There is very little crime
- Portville is a good place to raise a family



During our last meeting we started to make a list of community needs.



Let's talk about our needs

There is a lack of good paying jobs in the area.

The absence of water and wastewater infrastructure is limiting development along Route 417, Route 305 and the Haskell Road.

Telecommunication infrastructure, particularly hi-speed or broadband internet access is not readily available to all residents.

The railroad overpass on 417 is a problem when there is high water. We need a pump station and a better alternative than Butternut Brook.

We have limited recreational facilities and desire a linkage to the Allegheny River Trail.



Let's talk about our needs

We want better land use regulations that promote local development and preserve community character.

We want to work more closely with Portville Central School and the Village of Portville.

Portville's character is not defined.



We need to begin the community involvement process.

- INPUT

- Committee meetings
- Community surveys
- Dialog with local business owners
- Dialog with adjoining municipalities
- Dialog with regional planners
- Dialog with legislators, assemblymen and senators

- OUTPUT

- Public meetings
- Fact sheets
- Newspaper articles
- Internet
- Community bulletin boards
- Document repository



The goal of the community involvement process is to build a consensus within our community for a vision of the future.

- What is possible?
 - What is achievable?
 - What is the most likely outcome?
 - What will happen if we do nothing?
-
- **CAN WE AGREE ON WHAT PORTVILLE CAN BECOME?**



What will happen if current trends continue?

- Our population will continue to decline. Our individual tax burdens will continue to rise because there are fewer people to sustain the Town and the School
- Our population will continue to age. Tax breaks for senior citizens will be less significant, it will be more difficult to retire and live in comfort.
- Our school may be forced to consolidate with another district.
- The number of low income and no income residents will continue to grow.
- The number of children living in poverty will increase.



What will happen if current trends continue?

- There will be more welfare and public assistance.
- Crime will increase.
- Our housing stock will continue to age.
- There will be more rental properties and absentee landlords
- We will lose our identity and our community will become indiscernible from Olean.
- People will live here as a last resort, those who can leave will leave.



WHAT CAN WE DO TO GET STARTED?

- Better define who we are in terms of demographics from Census Data and surveys.
- Better understand ourselves from a historical perspective.
- Better determine what our assets and liabilities are.
- Evaluate existing local and regional planning documents, land-use and zoning ordinances.
- Build a consensus within our community for a vision of the future.



Brainstorm

Studies indicate there is a strong correlation between age, population growth and economic strength. Young adults (18-34) tend to be mobile and migrate to areas with the most opportunity.

Quality of life issues are most important to these young workers, They are looking for places that offer strong professional opportunities, have good school, and are affordable and clean.



Brainstorm

There are also recent studies that suggest that a slowly decreasing population has economic benefits.

Population decline is usually associated with economic decline, political turmoil, famine and disease. Population decline is a result of these problems, not the cause.

For the first time in human history, population is declining. Now it is affluence that is causing the decline in population.

A smaller population is better for the environment, results in less traffic and congestion, less urban sprawl.

A smaller population means a smaller labor pool, so workers can earn more.

What elements will our Comprehensive and Economic Development Plan contain?

TABLE of CONTENTS

Part 1: Introduction

Chapter 1.1 Comprehensive Planning Process

Chapter 1.2 Issues Facing the Community

Chapter 1.3 A Vision for Portville in the Year 2020

What elements will our Comprehensive and Economic Development Plan contain?

TABLE of CONTENTS

Part 2: Existing Condition and Trends

Chapter 2.1 Land Use, Zoning and Public Safety

Chapter 2.2 Community Facilities and Recreation

Chapter 2.3 Socioeconomic Conditions

Chapter 2.4 Historic Resources

Chapter 2.5 Visual Character

Chapter 2.6 Transportation and Infrastructure

Chapter 2.7 Natural Resources

Chapter 2.8 Environmental Concerns

What elements will our Comprehensive and Economic Development Plan contain?

TABLE of CONTENTS

Part 3: Goals and Objectives

Chapter 3.1 Community Goals and Objectives

Part 4: Implementation

Chapter 4.1 Implementation Plan



**At the end of our last meeting,
we agreed that each of us would
draft 10 survey questions.**

**Lets take a few moment to discuss our
survey questions, how we should structure a
community survey, and when we should
schedule our first public meeting.**

■ ■ ■ ■ Questions ?

