#### ROUGH DRAFT

# ZONING AND THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

IN PROGRESS

Presentation No. 1 April 23, 2018

It is not nor will it ever be this boards intention of taking a current zone and changing it without bringing several meetings to the residents of The Village of Washingtonville. We as a board feel the current zone of Office Residential does not comply with the conditions that exist. Nor it our intention to remove the integrity of our village.

## INTRODUCTION

The Village of Washingtonville's Comprehensive Master Plan was last updated in 1995. Since that time, the desires and needs of the community have changed. Its population has also grown three-fold during this time period. In the face of increasing growth pressures, the Village Board decided the time had come to update the Village Comprehensive Plan. In May 2017, the Village Board decided to work on a new comprehensive plan in its effort in creating a new Village of Washingtonville Comprehensive plan. The purpose of the new Comprehensive Plan is to develop the land use policies needed to guide future land use decisions so that our community character is preserved, civic pride sustained and quality of life enhanced.

This new Comprehensive Plan was prepared in accordance with New York State Village Law, §7-722(2)(a) that states that the plan will "identify the goals and objectives, principals, guidelines, policies, standards, devices, and instruments for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development of the Village." While the creation of a Comprehensive Plan is not required under New York State Village Law, §7-722(2)(a), once one is adopted, all subsequent land use regulations must be in accordance with a community's adopted Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan will help to guide land use policies within the Village of Washingtonville

# Some challenges facing our Village today.

- ✓ Protecting the integrity of the Village's historic districts
- ✓ Traffic congestion along major arterials including Route 208 and Route 94
- ✓ Appearance and maintenance of commercial properties
- ✓ Natural resource protection and open space preservation
- ✓ Growth in the school district and the ability to accommodate new students
- ✓ Sustaining a vibrant business community within the proposed historic downtown
- ✓ Maintaining the pedestrian-friendly feel and expanding the sidewalk network
- ✓ Providing community services to serve growing community needs
- ✓ Housing opportunities for a range of household incomes in the Village.

# Purpose of the Plan

This Comprehensive Plan is meant to build upon the 1995 Comprehensive Plan and is intended to guide the Village's growth for the next 5 to 10 years. The Comprehensive Plan serves as the Village's official policy document, providing a general set of planning principals relating to land use; natural, and historic resources; housing, economic development, downtown revitalization and other related issues. The purpose of the Comprehensive Plan is to realize the community's vision for the future and to guide growth in a manner that fosters orderly, coordinated and beneficial development. It should also be periodically reviewed and updated to ensure that it continues to reflect the long range goals of the community.

# **Assets**

Aesthetics
Character of the Village
Local Businesses
Recreation Facilities
Natural Resources
Transportation
Water & Sewer Infrastructure

Understanding resident perceptions of their community's assets is an important step in defining a vision for its future. Generally speaking, things that residents feel are assets are the types of things its future land-use regulations or other public policies should encourage. While the specific assets for the Village varied, they could be generally grouped into several broad categories.

What are the Challenges? Aesthetics Community Facilities Character of the Village Downtown Business District Recreation Facilities Transportation Water & Sewer Infrastructure

# Community Facilities

In 2010 the Village of Washingtonville had a population of 5773 persons. With a population density of 2309 persons per square mile, The Village has relatively dense development pattern. The village Board of Trustees provides a variety of community services and facilities to serve the needs of the community. Services include, police, sewer, water, street and sidewalk maintenance.

The Village also operates and maintains a variety of community facilities. The Term "community facility" includes the physical improvements owned and maintained by the Village on behalf of its residents. These include buildings, equipment, parkland and facilities and interest in other lands (such as easements). This Chapter will be used to discuss the adequacy of the existing services and to propose policies to ensure that the need of the Village is provided for into the future.

### Police Protection

The necessity to provide police protection is a matter of public policy and is also based on the public's perception of security and their satisfaction with the response time of existing entities. The Village of Washingtonville has its own police force that provides police protection. A police chief, sergeants, patrolmen, dispatchers, part-time patrol officers. The Village is also part of the of the County's Emergency 911 System.

- Presently, the Village Police force is housed at 38 Main Street. The police department is presently in a building that used to be a firehouse, prior to their relocation back in? There are plans to relocate our Police Department in the building that now houses our Village Hall Offices and Court offices. This move is an effort to consolidate all Village department outside our Department of Public Works, Water and Sewer Department.
- During the public participation process, residents were asked to identify assets within the Village. Among the assets cited was the Village's Police Force. Depending upon the amount of growth that occurs within the Village, the demand by local residents for additional police protection in the future may increase.

The Village of Washingtonville has a vibrant Downtown Business District that runs along both State Highway 94 and State Highway 208. There are a variety of stores in the PROPOSED HISTORIC DOWNTOWN Business District that serve the needs of the local residents as well as the surrounding region. These include but are not limited to a major chain grocery store, professional offices, banks, insurance agencies, bakery, personal service establishments, pharmacy, restaurants. Together, these businesses provide an attractive alternative to regional shopping centers by providing a quaint and inviting shopping environment in the heart of the historic Village of Washingtonville.

Over this year the Village of Washingtonville has begun to its part to start providing a well-maintained, aesthetically pleasing, comfortable and safe shopping environment within the PROPOSED HISTORIC DOWNTOWN Business District. The Village Police has shown its presence more resulting in a safe and secure environment for merchants and shoppers. The business community has also begun to do their part through the revitalization of the Chamber of Commerce and establishing various events to draw shoppers into the business district. Downtown is also home to the newly renovated and expanded Historic Moffat Library.

The Village's Downtown has many of the attributes associated with a successful business community. These include a safe and inviting environment, attractive businesses and a unique sense of place as defined by its historic architecture. We need to provide the framework for how the public, private and not-for-profit sectors can continue to work together to create an environment that continues to attract new investment to the PROPOSED HISTORIC DOWNTOWN Business District remains so that it remains a vibrant part of the community for years to come.

#### Civic and Cultural Anchors

Successful downtowns are not only places where people shop, but they also are places where many civic and cultural activities occur and where the public can gather at community events. In the Village of Washingtonville, the Moffat Library and Brotherhood Winery are both located in the PROPOSED HISTORIC DOWNTOWN Business District. These civic and cultural activities help to encourage commercial activity and continued investment in the area. It does so by drawing people Downtown that in turn improves consumer and investor confidence in the business district. The Village should adopt a policy of keeping its civic and cultural anchors within the PROPOSED HISTORIC DOWNTOWN Business District.

#### Promotion

The Village Board and business community have worked together over the year to promote a positive image of Downtown. Efforts include the installation of decorative banners throughout the business district, the creation of a local business directory and brochure should be worked on. Together, these activities have helped to promote a positive image of business district that has encouraged residents, customers and entrepreneurs to live, shop, work and invest in the Downtown Business District within the Village of Washingtonville. While the Village can play a supporting role in helping to promote a positive image of the Downtown, it is the local business community that needs to take the leading role in promoting of positive image of their business district. They can do this by sponsoring special events, conducting joint advertising campaigns that promote the entire business district and creating advertising campaigns that market the unique characteristics of the business district in order to attract customers Downtown. [THIS HAS ALREADY BEEN] IMPLEMENTED]. Business owners also need to work together to ensure the highest quality shopping experience for their customers. For example, it is important for the business community to coordinate their hours of operation so that businesses are open when customers are available to shop. Activity breeds activity and the coordination of business hours will benefit the entire business district.