



1. Below is a collection of words and ideas shared by both you and the community at the focus groups, interviews and open house? Read through the list and look for common themes and ideas.

- Fresh local foods and products at farmer's markets
- Great location needs to be used to potential
- An awesome place to raise a family
- Active Main Street, see people walking
- Peaceful, quiet, friendly, considerate
- Quiet, peaceful, well respected community
- Capitalize on it's location relevant to Cooperstown and the Valley
- Walkable, vibrant economic community
- Quiet family oriented bedroom community
- Historical resources
- Agriculture land
- Proximity to populated centers for potential commerce
- Natural beauty
- High quality farmland
- Hardworking people
- Farming – produces local jobs
- Beautiful scenery
- The Historical character of the Village,
- Our night sky is relatively clear of light pollution.
- The quiet of our hillsides
- Good people, friendly
- Beautiful landscape
- History
- Colorful history and museum
- Support agriculture – it is a huge economic boost for the town
- People are our greatest asset
- Agriculture – our land – our farming community
- Great neighbors
- Excellent school system which is the heart of the community.
- Natural resources such as the lake.
- Beautiful landscape with rolling hills, agricultural land, great location.
- Clean, abundant, sacred, rural
- Transit hub, quaint historic village, lake school, community events, organizations
- Peaceful, tranquil retreat, clean air and water, beautiful rolling hills and pastoral scenery, historical importance
- Quiet, rural
- Agriculture, scenic, historic
- History, landscape, agriculture, school
- Family, integrity, history, teamwork, hard working, caring
- Beautiful, peaceful, country living
- Quaint, historical, peaceful, lake, home, scenic
- Rural, inexpensive, infrastructure, lake, home

Record where you see the common themes emerging with the thoughts and words above?

2. Imagine the town and village the way you would like it to be. Write out your ideas. Don't worry about how they sound. This is an individual brainstorming exercise - get everything you're thinking out on paper without judging it. When we come together as a group we can start to clarify and focus. Use some of the questions below to help stimulate your thinking:

- What does the town and village look like physically? What kind of buildings are there? What kind of public spaces? Is it safe to walk around during the day and at night?
- What kind of work are people doing? Who has what kind of jobs? What's the mix of jobs like? Are there different types of jobs in different areas? Is downtown the place for chance encounters and economic vitality?
- How do people get along with each other? Do people from different groups communicate and share ideas? Do people come together to make things happen?
- How do decisions get made? Does everyone have an opportunity for input? Is everyone involved in sharing their ideas and solving problems?
- What role does sustainability play in the area? Is the area recognized for its blend of varied uses? Is there a common value for sustainability in the environment, the economy and social values?
- Where and how do people play? Are there recreational events and opportunities for people in the community to recreate together? What possibilities are there for young people, old people and everybody in between?

3. Based on everyone's input, writing the Vision Statement will be the next step in the process.

This is where we will begin to work together at our meeting. It's important that you take the time to think about and record your thoughts before our meeting. Together at the meeting we'll sift through everything the group wrote down and pick out common points to build the Vision Statement and Goals.

At the meeting, we'll use Post-It Notes to record your statements and words, then post them on the wall. We'll move the Post-It Notes around, clarify thoughts that express the most important ideas and add compelling phrases or words that get to the heart of what's most important. It will be a very interactive process in which we're all collaborating on the wording of the Vision Statement and Goals.

Everyone should come with a draft version of their own visions statement, or at least a sentence in which you would like to see folded into the vision statement. In addition, you should come with at least one goal statement written for the following topic areas:

- Housing & Neighborhoods
- Recreation & Environment
- Business & Economic Development
- Sustainability

The success of this meeting will depend on everyone coming prepared and with open minds. It should be a fun, collaborative process...hopefully with a little laughter.