



***TOWN OF PORTVILLE
2020 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN***



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1.1 Comprehensive Planning Process

In 2009 the Town of Portville Planning Board began the process of completing a new Comprehensive Plan and Economic Development Strategy (CPEDS) called “Vision 2020” for Portville. (The final goals in the previous Comprehensive Plan for Portville were completed in 2003.) Vision 2020 is a reference to the future focus of our community into the year 2020. This endeavor, Vision 2020, is critical because community needs and opportunities for development can change over the years and the existing plan did not fully address current and emerging concerns regarding potential environmental and developmental issues. One thing that will not change is the “coordination between state and local government”; working together to ensure that Portville continues to be a growing and thriving place.

One key component to comprehensive planning is to include the community’s input. Through the use of surveys, town meetings and public forums, participation of Portville residents was sought on a continuous basis. The finished plan provides a framework of preferred directions and solutions that will be implemented with its’ success being a reasonable economic certainty. Successful community planning depends upon participation by local residents. The Comprehensive Planning Committee was established with initial members including Robert Fischer, Bernie Baldwin, Chuck Daley, Joann McAndrew and Dave McCoy.

In order to assure the Committee’s visioning, and the process in identifying local issues was representative of the community’s concerns, the Portville Community Survey was constructed as the first public input component of the planning process. The Committee discussed positive and negative aspects of our community, opportunities and threats facing our community and the planning process.

The survey’s purpose was to gather and incorporate the opinions, concerns and insight of the community. Most importantly, it was designed to provide residents with an opportunity to share likes and dislikes about the community and be a part of the finished plan. As a part of the process, in the first part of 2010, residents were asked to complete and return the Comprehensive Plan Community Survey. Seventy-eight (39 percent) of the surveys were completed and returned, which was a reasonable response rate for this type of survey.

In October of 2010 the survey responses were compiled and the committee held the first in a series of community informational meetings for residents to share and discuss survey results, to gather more input from the community and to identify the next steps in the Comprehensive Plan process. This survey analysis and report was the Committee’s first step in reporting their progress to the community. The Committee continued to encourage community participation throughout the planning process by holding another Community Information Meeting September 28, 2011. Both meetings were held in the Westons Mills Community Center. Following the September 28th meeting, Portville Comprehensive Plan Vision 2020 progress information became available on the Town of Portville website at www.portville-ny.org.

This Comprehensive Plan is intended to be a “living” document which will be reviewed and augmented annually, or as circumstances change. There will be a public hearing in December of each year prior to that review in which the public can provide their input.

Survey results on issues that are a priority to the community as well as quality of life issues such as development and community services were included in this final Portville’s Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Finished copies of the plan will then be available on website. PDF, CD, and hard copy formats will also be made available upon request.

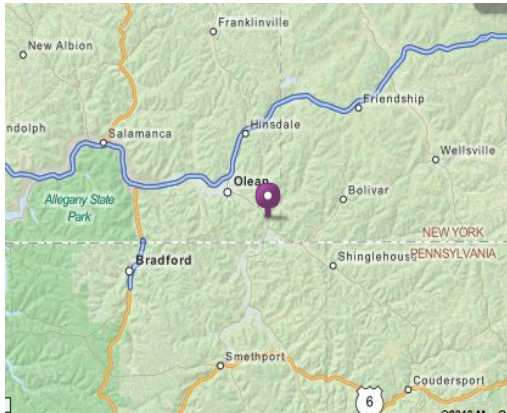
Members of the Portville Planning Board who worked on this document include: Bernie Baldwin, Chuck Daley, Robert Fischer, Holly Fischer, John Kaiser, Joann McAndrew, Dave McCoy, and Cindy Wagner. The committee welcomes your questions, comments and continued input. For information contact the Portville Town Clerk at 716.933.6658 or email planningboard@portville-ny.net.

1.2 A Vision for Portville 2020

Portville will be a vibrant, thriving, and growing community that cares for the families who live here and welcomes those who visit and explore all our community has to offer.



Brief History of the Town and Village of Portville



The Town of Portville is located in the southeast corner of Cattaraugus County in the State of New York, bordered by Pennsylvania on the south and Allegany County on the east. Until 1837 it was located in the Town of Olean. When white men began arriving in the early 19th Century, they found settlements of Native Americans. The Senecas were a subdivision of the greater Iroquois Confederacy. Southwestern New York was one of the last undeveloped areas in the state in the early 19th century. Virgin pine, hemlock and deciduous trees covered the hills and valleys.

The first settler was James Green, who built a saw mill on Haskell Creek in 1805. In 1813 Alfred, Daniel and Lynds Dodge purchased a large track of land that encompassed what is presently the Village of Portville. They built a saw mill on the waterway that became known as Dodge Creek. It flows southeast through Portville into the Allegheny River and benefits from the tributaries of Deer and Wolf Creeks. That made it an ideal place to build a water mill in what is known as Mayville, an area in the northeastern part of the Town. Another early settler and lumberman was William Pinkerton Jr. who purchased over 500 acres in the area.

The abundant pine forest soon came to the notice of a lumberman from Deposit, NY who had operations in the Delaware River Valley. Forming the company of Dusenbury, Wheeler and May, they purchased the mill and land owned by the Dodge family in 1833 and expanded the operation. Soon rafts of lumber were sent down the Allegheny River in the spring of the year to markets in Pittsburgh and beyond.





Rough log cabins and a boarding house were built for the lumberman and workers who arrived. They also built a gristmill to grind grain when more families moved into the area. A store was built and Dusenbury began stocking it with merchandise he brought from Deposit. Other large lumber operations soon arrived in Portville. These were mills located on the banks of the Allegheny operated by the Weston Company in Weston Mills and the Mersereau Company in the eastern part of the Town.

By 1850, most of the large pine trees had been felled. Allied industries began to spring up utilizing the lumber from the maple, hickory, basswood, cherry, and ash trees. Among these were basket, shingle, veneer, sash and lathe and kindling wood mills and factories. Good quality lumber could not be cut from the abundant hemlock trees. However the bark of the hemlock was necessary for the tanning of hides. Two large tanneries were established.

In 1856 the Genesee Valley Canal was extended to Olean and Portville connecting the Allegheny River to the Erie Canal. Its use was short lived with the coming of the Western New York and Pennsylvania Railroad in 1874.



After trees were cut, land was cleared in the valleys for cattle and dairy farms, sheep farms and the production of maple sugar. Population grew and a cluster of stores selling food, shoes, dry goods and all the necessities of life centered on what is today the Village of Portville, incorporated in 1895. A post office and company store was built in Weston Mills.

During the 19th century, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Catholic churches were established in the Village and a Seventh Day Baptist church was built in Main Settlement, an area east of the Village. Later the Lutheran and Baptist churches were built in the Village and a Catholic and Methodist church were built in Weston Mills.

A water supply for the Village was funded in 1896. Previously water wells supplied the water and still do for people who live in the Town. A fire department was formed the same year. Later a fire department was built in Weston Mills. Fires had destroyed the business block in the Village in 1875 and 1885 and the Presbyterian Church in 1895.



An association in 1898 established the Chestnut Hill Cemetery. Earlier cemeteries were the Old Portville Burying Ground on Pine Street, East Portville Cemetery in Main Settlement and the Oakley Cemetery in Weston Mills.

In the 1890's gas for illumination purposes was supplied for houses and streetlights. Electricity arrived to power the trolley of the Olean Street Railway Company. It was extended to Portville and later south and east to other towns when a new plant in Ceres, PA boosted the power. Electricity later became available for houses and businesses. In 1901 The Pittsburgh, Shawmut and Northern Railroad began constructing tracks and bridges, utilizing the towpath of the canal for the railroad bed.



The first one-room schoolhouse was built in 1830 followed by nine others throughout the town. In 1875, a large frame schoolhouse was built in the Village followed by a brick school in 1904. In 1952, the Portville Central School building was formerly opened for elementary and high school students.



Pioneer Memorial Park was built in the Village in 1938. The gazebo there honors early settler John Morris. Another park with a playground for children and picnic facilities is located along Dodge Creek in the Town. It honors former Police Chief and Village Superintendent Lyman Baker.

Portville contributed and lost its sons during the American Civil War, Spanish American War and World War I and II. Memorials in the cemetery and Pioneer Park honor these men.



The Portville Free Library and the William E. Wheeler House in the Village and Bedford Corners in the Town are listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places.

During the 20th Century, employment opportunities in Portville declined while those in the neighboring city of Olean grew. At the same time transportation improved and allowed people to easily travel to work, and for shopping and medical care. As a result, many services and businesses in Portville closed.

Today the village has a small but busy downtown area with the post office, library, two restaurants, fire department, truck repair, used book store, antique store, and other small businesses. In the Town are found a nature center, large furniture and carpet store, small furniture store, gift and house wares store, RV Park, a large restaurant with maple syrup processing equipment, and several small fast food stands.

Today Portville is a quiet, walkable community located along the Route 417 bike trail. The dyke system that was constructed after the 1942 flood provides another hiking option for our residents who love the outdoors.

This allows access to the natural area around the banks of the Allegany River, perhaps our most distinctive natural resource.

Existing Conditions and Trends: Assets and Liabilities

The following section describes Portville as it **currently** is in 2013

Section 3.1, Portville 2010 Demographics, is current census information detailing the people, employment and housing in the town.

Section 3.2, Socioeconomic Conditions, details the current social and economic life in Portville as seen by the respondents of the community survey, as well as other data sources.

Section 3.3, Natural Resources, describes the bounty of resources that are currently available in the area

Section 3.4, Land Use and Zoning, describes how the survey respondents currently feel about the appearance of the town

Section 3.5, Community Facilities and Recreation, illustrates the current facilities and opportunities currently within the town and the surrounding area

Section 3.6, Transportation, describes the current transportation corridors through town and the outlying areas

Section 3.7, Infrastructure, details the publicly and privately owned utilities, water and sewer systems, and telecommunication services that are currently available in the town



3.1 2010 Portville Demographics

Age and Sex

According to 2010 census data, there are an estimated 3,730 individuals; 1,816 males and 1,914 females, living in Portville. The median age is 43.1 years. This latest census data shows an increase of 513 people, or almost 16 percent growth, over the last census taken in 2000, when there were 3,269 people; 1,816 males and 1,914 females.

Ages	2000	2010
19 and under	28.8 %	25.5 %
19 – 64	57.7 %	67.2 %
65 and over	13.5 %	7.3 %

Nativity and Race

99.4 percent of Portville residents were born in the United States; 80 percent being born in New York State, 19 percent in a different state and .6 percent foreign-born. Almost an identical number identify as White, comprising 97.2 percent and .9 percent identifying as African American. The rest identify as American Indian, Asian or Other. 1.4 percent identify as bi-racial.



Education

93.4 percent of Portville’s population have obtained a high school diploma or better, with 21.2 percent of residents hold a bachelor’s degree or higher.

Income

Ten years ago, the median income was \$38,147; household income in 2010 was \$50,680.

Occupations

In 2010, the most common occupation remained “management and professional”, however those residents working in this field increased by almost five percent.

Occupation	2000	2010
Management, professional	26.7 %	32.8 %
Production, transportation	25.6 %	15.7 %

Sales, office	24.4 %	29.8%
Service	13.9 %	13.4%
Construction, maintenance, repair	8.7 %	8.3 %
Private wage/salary	80.4 %	70.4 %
Federal, state or local government	12.2 %	23.2 %
Self employed	6.5 %	6.2 %

Travel to Work

More people were driving themselves to work in 2010 than 2000. 91.2 percent drive alone; 8.5 percent carpool, .4 percent walk.



Households

In 2010, families make up 69.6 percent of households, a significant drop from 2000, when it was 85.8 percent.

Married-couple households comprise 54.8 percent; 21.5 percent of which have children under the age of 18. 5.3 percent of Portville's households are headed by males; 9.4 percent by female, a decrease of one percent from 2000.

30.4 percent are nonfamily households; 28.2 percent are single persons living alone.

Housing Characteristics

Year Housing Unit was built	Number of Housing Units
2005 or later	30
2000 – 2004	55
1990 – 1999	126
1980 – 1989	211
1970 – 1979	191
1960 – 1969	151
1950 - 1959	192
1940 – 1949	151
1939 or earlier	673
Total number of houses	1,780

As you can see, the housing stock in Portville is aging. Most are wooden and in need of ongoing maintenance.

Housing Occupancy

In 2010, there are a total of 1,780 housing units, of which 1,599 (89.8 percent) are occupied. Of those, 76.7 percent are owner-occupied and 23.3 percent by renters. 14.5 percent of the rental units are available for under \$300, 78 percent range from \$300 - \$999, and 7.5 percent rent for \$1,000 - \$1,499.

181 units (10.2 percent) are vacant. Of those vacancies, the majorities are seasonal and the rest are comprised of homes for sale or rent.

Median value is estimated at \$72,500, as opposed to the 2000 figure of \$64,200.

The above statistics show an environment where housing values are predominantly low and the housing stock is generally affordable in the Portville community. There are plenty of homes on the market within the price range of low- to moderate-income households. One concern is for the quality of the homes due simply to the age and low maintenance of existing housing stock.

3.2 Socioeconomic Conditions

Employment

Based upon the survey response, our community is overwhelmingly concerned about the lack of jobs. Eighty two percent considered the lack of jobs a “very important” concern and an additional ten percent believed the lack of jobs was “somewhat important”. Only three percent believed the lack of jobs was “not important”.

There are job opportunities in Portville, but they are somewhat limited when compared to Olean and other communities in Western New York. This is one reason why many who live in Portville commute to other communities for employment. Issues with the Nation’s financial markets have tightened credit and made for uncertainty for many employers. In 2010 there were 1,831 (59.3 percent) individuals aged 16 years and over in the workforce. 4.3 percent unemployed.

Population

Many of us have seen our young people grow up and leave the area for employment. This concerns us because we believe opportunities for employment are limited here in our community. (Census data indicate that our community’s population is not only becoming smaller, it’s also growing older.) An analysis of the survey data revealed that 65 percent of those who responded to the survey considered our young people leaving “very high” as a community concern. An additional 27 percent of the respondents ranked this concern “high”. Just eight percent of the respondents believed our young people were leaving to be of “little” importance.

Residents

Self-reliance and a solid work ethic are important qualities in a person and in a community. Thirty one percent of the respondents ranked self-reliance and strong work ethics of our residents “high” as a community asset, while 15 percent ranked these community assets as “very high”. Twenty three percent were neutral. Only five percent of those who



responded ranked self-reliance and strong work ethics “low” or “very low” as a community asset. Five percent of the respondents chose not to answer the question.

Poverty

2010 United States Census data indicated that 7.8 percent of Portville residents (Five percent of families) live below the poverty line. This is particularly true for those households headed by a single female parent, 23.8 percent. 35.8 percent have children under the age of 18; 70.7 percent under five years of age. Census data shows this trend has been increasing for the last two decades and is likely to continue into the future.

Security and Crime

The need for security is a large part of human nature. At the national level we are concerned about secure borders; on the local level we are concerned about secure homes, schools, and places to work. We listen to the news and constantly hear about issues concerning the security of our economic, national, global, and social security systems. Not having to be overly concerned with the safety of our family and property is an important community asset. Rarely does crime have a serious impact on our community.



According to the Sperling Index (SperlingsBestPlaces.net) for violent crimes (murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault) Portville (zip 14770) is the lowest ranking of one, which compares favorably to the United States average of three. Property crime includes the offenses of burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. The object of the theft-type offenses is the taking of money or property, but there is no force or threat of force against the victims. Sperlings reported that property crime in the 14770 zip code is one. Again, the average for the United States is three. The violent crime and property crime indexes for the 14760 zip code (Olean) are both two.

Violent and property crime in Cattaraugus County also has indexes of two. Therefore overall crime rate in Portville is less than the average for the Nation, is comparable to Olean and Cattaraugus County, and is lower than the national, county and the 14760 zip code with respect to violent crime.



Family Life

Given a choice, people who have children would live in a community that is a good place to raise a family. Most of us who were born here and those who have moved here and stayed here believe Portville is a good place to raise a family.

3.3 Natural Resources

Waterways

As evidenced by our name, “Portville” has always been linked to the water, namely the Allegheny River. The river flows into the Town from the south, near the hamlet of Mill Grove and leaves the west side of the Town, in the hamlet of Weston Mills. Dodge Creek and the Oswayo Creek also flow to the Allegheny River along the way. In the early days, the Allegheny served as a mode of transportation for people and supported commerce associated with the lumber industry.

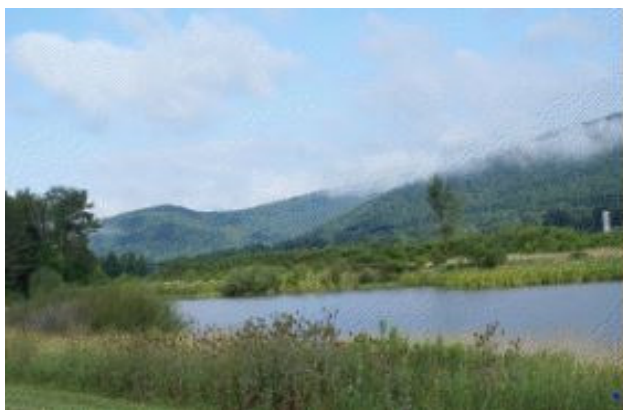
These water bodies, lowland flood plains and wetland areas are important habitat and offer significant recreational opportunities. Conversely flood plain development and wetland protection regulations are important factors to those who may consider building here. Our rivers and streams are also the reason for our Town’s land use regulations, which were mandated in the early 1970s by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to provide eligibility for federal flood insurance for our residents.

Scenery

The hills, streams and forests are all important components of our natural environment. The unique visual qualities of the Town and Village contribute equally to the overall image of our community. The rolling hills, forests, open land, rivers and streams are components that offer rural character to the Town, while the village has an appealing “small town” charm. Cattaraugus County has greatly emphasized the value of the county’s geography and uses the phrase “Welcome to the Heart of the Enchanted Mountains” in their promotional campaigns.

Clean Air and Water

Beginning in the 1970s, the importance of clean air and clean water has been underscored by federal legislation intended to protect these resources. New York State has followed suit by enacting legislation and developing regulatory programs that in many cases are more stringent than the federal regulations and programs. Of course, Portville adheres to these regulations.



Four Seasons

Climate statistics indicate there are 157 sunny days per year in Portville. The warmest month is July with high temperatures around 79 degrees, while January is the coldest month with low temperatures near 11 degrees. Our town receives an average of 34 inches of rain per year, which is slightly less than the US average of 37. Our annual snowfall is 63 inches and the number of days with measurable precipitation is 167.

Communities in the Mid-Atlantic Region of United States experience all four seasons. Portville’s cold winter, fickle spring, warm summer, and colorful fall give us a variety of seasons to enjoy each year. We

have snowmobiling in the winter, maple syrup making in the spring, gardens, garage sales and little league baseball in the summer and leaf peeping and cider mill visits in the fall.

3.4 Land Use and Zoning

Appearance

Given a choice, most of us would choose to live in an attractive community. We like to see well maintained homes and a community that is free from blight and clutter. Inoperable cars and trucks, old appliances and other junk have a negative effect on the appearance of a community and on the outlook of the people who live there.

An analysis of the survey data revealed that 55 percent of those who took the survey ranked the appearance of the Town “very high” as a community concern. An additional 39 percent of the respondents ranked appearance “high”. Five percent of the respondents thought the appearance of the Town was of little importance and only one percent failed to answer the question. The results indicate that 94 percent of those who responded ranked the appearance of the Town “high” or “very high” as a community concern.

Flooding



Much of Portville lies within the flood plain of the Allegheny River. There are also flood plains associated with the Oswayo Creek, Dodge Creek and even some of the smaller tributaries such as the Haskell Creek. Many of us can remember the catastrophic flooding that occurred in 1972 in association with Hurricane Agnes, which inundated large portions of the Town and Village. There have also been lesser events that have caused

property damage, such as the February 1996 flood that was the result of melting snow and heavy rain. One of the most noticeable impacts associated with flooding is closure of local roads such as the Barbertown Road.

Vacant Buildings

Vacant commercial buildings can be problematic for a community. When a commercial building becomes vacant, it frequently leaves a hole in the fabric of a community, especially if the building formerly contained an important community asset. Regardless of the reasons for vacancies, these empty structures can also be problematic and suggest that a community is distressed in some way.

3.5 Community Facilities and Recreation

Adult Entertainment

Many of us would not want to live next to an adult entertainment establishment, yet we understand there are certain provisions in the



United States Constitution that allow for adult entertainment. Like many other communities, Portville has made decisions in the past concerning adult use facilities; however, the 2003 Comprehensive Plan did not discuss the need to regulate this type of development. To date, there are no regulations.

Dining



There are occasions when a local community asset is also a regional asset. Portville is lucky to have a number of restaurants, some of which have been in existence for many years due to their popularity. Portville's scenic location and appeal have made our restaurants a destination for regional travelers and a part of our community's identity.



Education

Portville Central School

Educational facilities are often one of the most important factors in choosing a place to live. All things being equal, a family with school aged children is more likely to choose a community with a highly respected school system over a community where the school system is struggling or underperforming. Aside from being an important part of our community's identity, Portville Central School is the largest employer and is a strong influence on the character and values of our children. The school also serves a center for recreational and social activities in our community.

Jamestown Community College

Jamestown Community College is a source of education and recreation for all area residents. In addition to its classrooms, labs, counseling and career planning for students, there is The Cutco Theater, which features a 190-seat theatre and an adjacent reception room. The Training and Conference Center, located in an historic railroad depot, houses the Center for Continuing Education. This facility includes a variety of conference and seminar rooms as well as a state-of-the-art computer lab designed specifically to meet the needs of area businesses and industries through non-credit offerings. The Olean Family YMCA serves as JCC's Physical Education Center.





St. Bonaventure University

St. Bonaventure College held its first commencement exercise in June 1860, graduating a class of 15 students. Since then the University has grown to more than 2,700 students.

The permanent art collection at The Regina A. Quick Center for the Arts encompasses a broad spectrum of art history, including: European and American paintings, sculpture, works on paper, and Asian and Native American art and artifacts.

Portville Free Library

The presence of a library in Portville dates back to 1857 when the Portville Library Association was formed. The Library is an example of colonial Georgian architecture and was originally constructed in 1847 by Smith Parish as his residence. The property was purchased in 1909 by E. G. Dusenbury, who converted the structure into a library. Dusenbury supported the library with an endowment and frequent contributions. On March 31, 1910 the Library was granted its Charter by the Board of Regents and in 2010, the Portville Free Library celebrated its one hundredth anniversary. The Portville Free Library was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. Many residents have enjoyed the Library while growing up in Portville and continue to use the Library today.



Bedford Corners

Bedford Corners Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003. The district is located on Route 305 and includes the Jacob Bedford residence and a one-room school house that were built in 1864, as well as the Bedford Corners Cheese Factory/Grange Hall that was built in 1886.

Recreational Facilities

We are fortunate enough to have parks, restaurants and a few other recreational facilities in our community, but sometimes we feel our options for recreation in Portville are limited. There are movie theaters, shopping centers, fitness centers and other recreational opportunities within a short drive of

Portville; however, we sometimes forget that not everyone has an automobile or shares our preference in recreational activities.

Pfeiffer Nature Center



The Pfeiffer Nature Preserve is a non-profit organization that maintains 518-acre nature preserve on the Lillibridge Road. The Center's scenic location and appeal have made it a regional attraction that fits well with our rural character. The Center includes interpretive trails, a structure for activities and a historic cabin constructed from chestnut wood.

The Nature Center also owns 460 acres on Yubadam Road, the Eshelman property, which has an active sugar bush, on-going scientific research projects, and a small farm. There are three miles of trails through forests, meadows, transitional zones, near ponds and wetlands. More trails are being developed to support snowshoeing and cross country skiing.

Parks

When we talk about community assets, parks are one of the first assets that come to mind. The Village maintains several parks. The best known park in Portville is Pioneer Park, which is located in the center of the Village on Route 417. The park, with its historic monuments and pavilion, is attractively illuminated during the holiday season and is often the location for community activities such as weddings, barbeques, summer concert series, and annual Heritage Days celebration in the summer.

Across Route 417 is a basketball court, sports fields and a concession stand, which are operated by the recreational leagues that use these facilities



The Lyman Baker Memorial Park is located on Route 305 on the north side of the Village. The playground and comfort facilities at this park make it a favorite of families with young children. In 2007, the Town leased one park, which is located behind, the New Beginnings Church of God (formerly St. Andrews Methodist Church) in Weston Mills. The park features a basketball court, playground facilities and a softball field. This lease expired in 2012 and is currently under review.

There is also the privately owned Riverhurst Park located on the Allegheny River in Weston Mills and is currently operated as a campground. (In the early 1900s, the park was linked to a trolley system that served nearby communities and was a center for social and recreational activities.)

Village of Portville

For most of the people in Western New York, Portville is a place where there is little distinction between the Town and the Village. This is especially true from the perspective of a non-resident. A motorist traveling on State Route 417 or 305 for the first time probably wouldn't consider the Town and the Village as two distinctly different places. Although most of us who live in the Town and Village understand there are separate units of government, we share a strong connection to each other.



City of Olean

The Town of Olean adjoins the west side of the Town of Portville and within the Town of Olean is the City of Olean. With a population of approximately 12,000 people, the City of Olean is the largest city in Cattaraugus County and is the largest city within a 65 mile radius of Portville. For most of us, Olean is a place with little distinction between the City and the Town. The Olean area offers regionally significant opportunities for employment, education, commerce and recreation.

3.6 Transportation

Traffic

Traffic can be a vexing concern to a community. Sitting through several traffic signal cycles without getting through the intersection; waiting behind someone who is trying to turn left against traffic; witnessing road rage incidents. These are all factors of too much traffic.

Route 417 is our primary transportation corridor for those of us traveling east or west. Route 305 is the north-south corridor. Although there is not often a problem with traffic on Route 417 or 305, there are certain times of the day when traffic gets heavy; there are longer waits at signals, and turns across traffic are difficult.

The proximity of Interstate 86, with the Olean, Hinsdale, Cuba and Friendship ramps within 20 – 30 minutes from Portville, makes transportation easier when traveling throughout the Western New York, Northwestern Pennsylvania, and Eastern Ohio region.

3.7 Infrastructure

Infrastructure is a broad term used to describe the utilities, roads, bridges and other structural items that we depend upon to make our lives easier; it can be divided into two categories, publicly owned and privately-owned. Good and reliable infrastructure is essential for supporting the economic viability of a community and creating a business-friendly environment.

Publicly-owned infrastructure includes:

- Streets and highways, sidewalks, public parking lots, and street lights
- Storm sewer systems and roadside drainage ditches
- Public water systems (treatment, storage and distribution)
- Sanitary sewer systems (wastewater collection systems and wastewater treatment plants).

Private infrastructure, although often referred to as public utilities, includes:

- Electric generating facilities and electric distribution systems
- Natural gas distribution systems
- Telecommunications facilities (telephone lines, cable television lines, and cellular towers, microwave antennae and devices, broadband Internet service, etc.).

Private transportation includes:

- Public and private railroad services and facilities,
- Private trucking services and facilities
- Public airports and private air passenger and freight carriers.



Good transportation systems are essential to industrial and manufacturing businesses for receiving supplies and materials as well as for shipping the products they manufacture. Retail businesses rely on good transportation systems to provide their customers with quick and easy access to their businesses and to receive and ship goods and merchandise.

All businesses must have adequate supplies of water and a means for disposing of sewage which are of paramount importance. Although very small businesses may be able to utilize private, on-site wells and septic systems, most businesses need public water and sanitary sewer services in order to be able to operate.

Aside from its roads, the Town of Portville has very limited infrastructure. The Village has water and wastewater infrastructure which extends into the Town to serve a few locations along Route 417.

Generally, however, there is no municipal water or wastewater in the Town. There is electric and telephone service available to almost all of our residents. Natural gas, cable television and high-speed internet service is available to some of our residents.

Public Water Service

Most of the Village's water distribution system is comprised of very old water mains constructed in the early 1900's. The condition and integrity of these water mains are in poor condition, with random leaks and a problem of rusty water on areas of Main Street. To remedy this problem phosphate is currently being injected in the system to stabilize the inside of the pipes.

The sewer pipes in the village are still the original pipes and over the years have deteriorated. The Village of Portville underwent a study of the sewer pipes and since 2006, has treated the interior walls with a material that is cured in place to prolong use of the present pipes.

In the mid-1990s, the Happy Hollow neighborhood, which is located in the Town of Portville, had many residents with failing private sewer systems. Many could either not afford the cost, or did not have ample property to replace these systems, therefore the Happy Hollow Sewer District was formed by the town and is connected to the City of Olean's sewer system. There is also a short waterline that serves a local business on Route 417. Both of these utilities are extensions of districts in the Town of Olean.

Village Sanitary Sewer Service

In 1986, the Village of Portville undertook steps to replace the aging waste water treatment plant to a new state of the art facility. It has been upgraded over the years, resulting in a well maintained plant that currently is running at approximately 40% capacity and provides service to virtually the entire village.

The Village's Waste Water Treatment Plant is located near downtown Portville next to Dodge Creek into which the effluent is discharged. The sewer pipes range from 6-inch diameter to 15-inch diameter pipes. Much of the waste water collection system was installed over 60 years ago.



Storm Water Drainage System

Storm water sewers provide for storm water drainage within the Village. Storm water drainage outside the Village is provided by roadside drainage ditches and cross-road culverts. The Town is responsible for maintaining the drainage ditches and culverts that are along town roadways.

The Village owns and operates its own public water system. The Village's water system is comprised of two wells, one water storage unit and the water distribution system and appurtenances, but as the

water is not filtered, there is no water filtration plant. The well is located on Lillibridge Rd., as is the reservoir. There is another well on Wellington Drive that is currently not being used. The system is comprised of mainly four, six, and eight inch pipe.

The Town of Portville currently only has a water district in the hamlet of Westons Mills and is supplied from the City of Olean for a few residents and businesses.

Electric and Natural Gas Service

Electric power available throughout the Town and Village of Portville is currently provided by National Grid. Natural gas service is currently provided by National Fuel. Natural gas service is available throughout the Village and along the major highway corridors in the Town.

Telecommunication Services

The Town and Village of Portville are currently within the Verizon and Time Warner service area. High Speed Internet access is available throughout the village and in portions of the Town of Portville primarily along State highway and County Road corridors. There is one cellphone tower located to the south of the Village of Portville.

Volunteer Fire Department

In many rural places, the volunteer fire department is tightly woven into the fabric of the community. Their fire halls are used for wedding receptions, barbeques, bingo and other community activities. Portville is lucky to have two volunteer fire departments. Both organizations are active and have a long and proud history of providing fire protection and emergency response to our community.



Statistics for each fire department were available from Firehouse.com. The Portville Fire Department has 36 active members who protect 6,000 people living in a fire district that is 68 square miles in size. In 2012, the Portville Fire Department responded to over 300 calls. The Weston Mills Fire Department (aka Kinney Hose Company) has 53 active members that protect 1,200 people living in a fire district that is 19.2 square miles in size. In 2012, the Kinney Hose Company responded to over 320 calls.

Village Police Department

As was noted earlier in the section on the Village of Portville, most people consider Portville as one place, with little or no distinction between the Village and the Town. While the Town of Portville relies upon the Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Department and the New York State Police, the Village has its own police department with a full-time Chief and part-time Deputies. The Village Police Department has an important and beneficial presence in the community and is responsible, in part, for the relatively low crime rate in our area.

Alternative Energy

Several nearby communities have been approached by wind power developers as to their willingness to enact wind power facilities. These communities have enacted local land use regulations in an effort to regulate the development of wind parks and small scale windmills for private use. The regulation of wind and other alternative power facilities has been a topic of discussion by the community since.

Another topic that is getting a lot of interest is hydrofracking for natural gas. The benefit from this is a steady supply of reasonably price fuel for a large consumer group. The downside is the possibility of pollution and damage to the water table. The well site does not look good during the installation but it can easily be landscaped to blend in after the well is finished.



The installation of gas wells is providing several well-paying jobs and is a source of income for suppliers; much of the revenue is spent locally and helps the economy. However, the income is short-term and long-term consequences are still being investigated and debated.

Considerations for 2020

The following section describes things to consider and plan for as Portville moves into the next decade

Section 4.1, Portville's projected 2020 Demographics, *detailing the people, employment and housing that may exist in Portville given the current trends*

Section 4.2, Socioeconomic Conditions, *discusses the possible social and economic life in Portville if the current trends continue*

Section 4.3, Natural Resources, *describes the bounty of resources that will remain available in the area, barring extreme unseen circumstances*

Section 4.4, Land Use and Zoning, *describes the considerations that must be taken as technological and other advances are introduced into the community*

Section 4.5, Community Facilities and Recreation, *illustrates the possible facilities and opportunities that may be available, with planning, in the town and the surrounding area*

Section 4.6, Transportation, *describes the transportation corridors likely available through town and to the outlying areas*

Section 4.7, Infrastructure, *details the need for the planning and future financing of our infrastructure*

Section 4: Things to Consider for 2020

It is clear from the results of the survey that the residents of Portville enjoy the benefits of living in Portville and believe that they will continue to do so. The seasons and the recreational opportunities they offer; the closeness and safety of the community; and the education of its citizens are important to each of us.

That is the reason that Portville will continue to promote “economic development while preserving natural lands, protecting water and air quality and reusing already-developed land”. Portville believes in reinvesting in our existing infrastructure, reclaiming our historic buildings, and revitalizing our neighborhoods.

This promotion and reinvestment in Portville should be marketed toward those areas within a day’s travel of Portville. Residents of metropolitan areas such as Buffalo, Cleveland, Pittsburgh and NYC have demonstrated interest in the resources that the southern tier region has to offer. Promotion of our natural land and its seasons, our historic areas and buildings, and the recreational activities we can offer are all possibilities for marketing Portville.

4.1 Portville 2020 Demographics

It is difficult to project what the demographics of Portville will look like in 2020. While there was an increase in population from 1990 – 2000, that is not the case for New York State. It is expected that the remaining population will continue to age. It is also expected that Portville will remain primarily ethno-centric.

The residents living in these households are changing, however. An almost 20 percent drop over the last ten years in families living together is dramatic. Almost one-third of those families are grandparents raising their grandchildren.

The homes they live in will likely not change much. Only a few houses are built each year; the housing stock is adequate to meet the needs of the population. These aging houses will need regular maintenance and repair to remain habitable, however. The “diversity and affordability of housing in proximity to places of employment, recreation, and commercial development, and the integration of all income and age groups” ensures that Portville will be a thriving and vibrant community with something to offer every citizen.

4.2 Socioeconomic Conditions

Education will continue to be important to the residents of Portville as it directly impacts their livelihood. It is not likely that the percentage of occupations in the area will remain steady. The lack of jobs in the immediate Portville area will likely remain, with residents commuting to other locales for employment.

The population decline among young people, while a very high concern among residents, will likely continue until the right mixture of employment and recreational opportunities keep them in Portville.

As the population ages and families are separated, poverty increases. This trend has been seen in the last two decades and will likely continue.

The good news in this is that Portville will likely remain a safe place; to reside and raise a family or to live out remaining life in peace and security. As previously noted in this document, violent crime is almost unheard of. It is expected to remain that way.

4.3 Natural Resources

Our natural resources include our waterways, clean air and water, our scenery and the four seasons that we enjoy. It is our responsibility to protect these natural assets from exploitation to the point where they cannot be naturally regenerated.

Equally important is our responsibility to look at these natural resources as an asset to protect if we are to continue providing a quality of life for residents as well as for any efforts put forth for future growth and revitalization.

Because Portville has adhered to strict state and federal environmental guidelines, as mentioned in Section 3.3 it sits poised and ready to take advantage of its natural strengths with regard to revitalization and growth. Beautiful waterways, scenic hillsides and ample green space can all be viewed as opportunities for our community's growth and increased focus on healthier lifestyles.

4.4 Land Use and Zoning

Portville will attempt to make every effort to use, maintain and/or improve our existing infrastructure. It believes in the "broken window" theory, in which neighborhoods that show the slightest bit of decline that is left unalleviated will span further deterioration. Vacant buildings are detrimental to the community; the existing infrastructure should be adequate to fulfill the residential and business needs of its citizens without experiencing the neglect that leads to deterioration.

Further projects will be located in developed areas, or areas that are designated for development in the upcoming zoning regulations currently being reviewed. Participation in "community-based planning and collaboration, as well as "predictability in building and land use codes" will ensure that the residents of Portville will be treated fairly and equally.

4.5 Community Facilities and Recreation

Portville's community and educational facilities, as well as its recreational activities, will likely remain into 2020 since many have been here for decades. There are many things to look forward to, however.

- The Portville Historical Society and Preservation Society is planning a move to the renovated Bedfords Corners schoolhouse and be open regular hours.

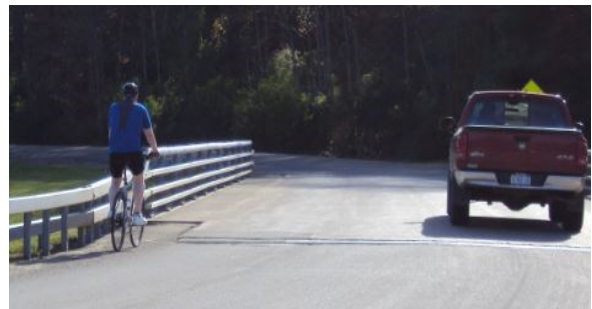
- A sidewalk is anticipated for Lyman Baker Park, enabling more walkers and bikers to access the park safely. Also anticipated is the restoration of the sidewalk located in Westons Mills. There has been discussion about a sidewalk which will connect the west end of the village to the Town Hall; however that is considered a long-term project due to the cost estimates.
- Trail expansion is being planned for Pfeiffer Nature Center
- A boat launch is hoped for on the Oswayo/Allegany Rivers



It is to everyone’s benefit to “protect, preserve, and enhance...” our local resources. It is clear from the survey results that residents believe in “mixed land use and compact development, downtown revitalization” as new and existing businesses thrive. Portville will continue to enhance the beauty in our public spaces so that all may enjoy them in the future.

4.6 Transportation

It is anticipated that transportation will likely remain the same. With two main roads in and out of town, there are few options for change. While at times travel can be a little lengthier, it is adequate. There are portions of town roads that need rehabilitating, however, and Haskell Road is one of the biggest problems. It is expected that the entire length of Haskell Road will be completed within the decade.



There are other modes of transportation available to the residents of Portville, and these should be enhanced and expanded. A bike lane is on Route 417, which is the Main Street through town. Communities in which people are walking and biking are good for the economy of Portville, as it affords those residents the ability to stop and enjoy the products and services that Portville has to offer. “Mobility through transportation choices and reduced automobile dependence” will also lead to a healthier population as well.

It is important that Portville strengthens our community, “reducing greenhouse emissions” that do not compromise the needs of our future generations, who should enjoy Portville as we do.

4.7 Infrastructure

Planning For and Financing Future Infrastructure Improvements

Municipalities with stagnant or diminishing financial resources often defer replacing their infrastructure when its useful life cycle has elapsed. Instead, many municipalities choose to rely on continued maintenance in efforts to gain a few more years of useful life. This approach is understandable, in view of the high cost involved in replacing infrastructure. If this strategy is used long-term, however, the municipality will eventually be confronted with widespread failures that will require comprehensive replacement at a very high expense.

Often it can take several years of planning and effort to bring an infrastructure replacement project to fruition, especially in communities that must rely on federal and/or state financial assistance. Although a municipality may be eligible for federal or state financial assistance, obtaining such funding is often a competitive process with municipalities competing with each other on a state-wide basis. In other cases, although the process is not competitive, municipalities are required to document that they meet the eligibility requirements. Eligibility requirements are often based on the income level of the community or of the residents who would benefit from the infrastructure improvement if the project does not provide a community-wide benefit.

Virtually all federal and state funding agencies require municipalities to demonstrate the feasibility of infrastructure projects and to provide accurate cost estimates before the agencies will consider providing financial assistance.



Some of the agencies have a multiple-step application process and various application requirements that must be satisfied before financial assistance will be provided. In order for a municipality to successfully seek and obtain financial assistance, it usually must incur some initial expenses to document its eligibility, demonstrate the feasibility of its project(s), and provide accurate cost estimates.

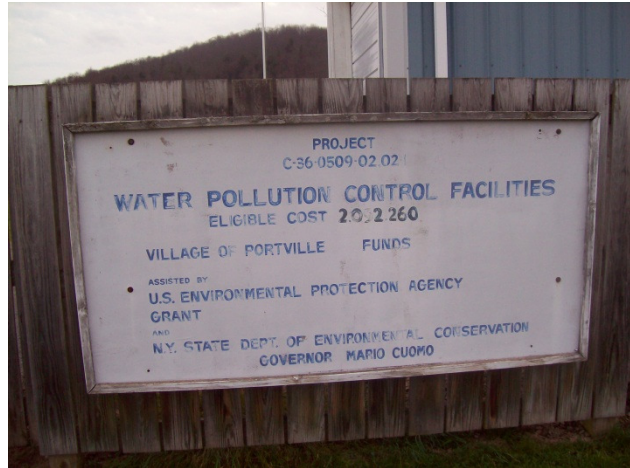
The lack of a long-range, Comprehensive Plan can, and often does, prevent a community from obtaining Federal and State financial assistance. Without this Plan, the need for replacing various infrastructure components on a timely basis is often lost as municipal board members and staff change over time.

The lack of a Comprehensive Plan can also make it difficult for municipal officials to acquire a complete view of a municipality's capital improvement needs or to establish priorities for capital improvement projects. As a result, the preliminary steps necessary to obtain financial assistance are not taken, resulting in the community missing out on financial assistance opportunities. The use of a plan can also

enable communities to schedule capital improvements so that the fiscal impact on residents is lessened over time to avoid large cost.

Public Water Service

The Village of Portville water and sanitary sewer infrastructure is, in parts, decades old and exhibits significant problems and deficiencies. These have developed over time as components of the systems have aged beyond their useful life and are displaying advanced, but normal, deterioration for such old systems. A tax base that is not increasing and the state tax cap which is resulting in lack of funds have prevented the Village from upgrading components in a timely manner.



Water System Issues

Opportunities in the future for further development should be pursued. The Town should plan towards having a public sewer and water system available. To do this the Town of Portville will have to work with the City of Olean and the Village of Portville to develop a plan.

Priority should be given to replacing the water mains as soon as is practical with consideration of some larger diameter pipes in some areas for future development. A plan to replace the water pipes should be made and in place before the next major street construction begins.

Replacing deteriorated water mains in conjunction with street reconstruction can result in substantial future cost saving. NYSDOT requires municipalities to restore state highways to their prior condition when excavations are made into the highways to repair or replace water mains. If water mains and sanitary sewers are replaced in conjunction with the reconstruction of a state highway, a municipality is relieved of the cost of street reconstruction. The cost savings can be as much as 15 percent of the total cost! Replacing the South and North Main Street water main at the time NYSDOT repaves the street would be financially advantageous to the village.

Telecommunication Services

With the lack of high speed internet throughout the town, growth is hampered and property values are lower than what they could be because of this need. Local government and Southern Tier West have recognized this need in recent years and are currently working for grants and funding to bring wireless high speed internet to residents that do not currently have access. Due to the ever-increasing importance of the Internet for conducting business, high-speed Internet access is crucial.

5.1 Goals, Actions, and Timelines

Goals	Action Item	Timeline	Data Source	Responsibility
4.1 Demographic				
Monitor the demographic information available from the US Census as it becomes available	Assess number of available housing units for sale/rental	Annually January	Census	Planning Board
	Assess public services currently available	Annually January	Word of Mouth Newspaper Websites	Planning Board
	Track attendance at school to determine student accommodation	Annually January	Portville Central School (PCS)	Planning Board
4.2 Socioeconomic Conditions				
Monitor the socioeconomic information available from the US Census as it becomes available	Track unemployment rate	Annually January	Census	Planning Board
	Track new employment opportunities/growth	As necessary	Licenses/Building Permits	Town Board Planning Board
	Track available public transportation options	Annually January	OTH, Websites, Word of Mouth	Planning Board
	Track recreational and educational opportunities	Annually January	Enchanted Mountains of Catt County Tourism, Local nonprofits and civic service organizations, PCS	Planning Board
Publish a business directory	Promote a business friendly environment that supports mixed use to encourage a stronger economic base	2014	Public records Greater Olean Area Chamber of Commerce	Planning Board
4.3 Natural Resources				
Protect our natural resources	Enact zoning laws to protect our resources from depletion	2013		Town Board

Goals	Action Item	Timeline	Data Source	Responsibility
4.4 Land Use and Zoning				
Fair zoning and regulations for both businesses and residents of the town	Consider stronger property maintenance codes	2013		Town Board
	Continue to enforce NYS and local ordinances, including ADA regulations	Ongoing		Code Enforcement Officer
	Consider updating community ordinances for property management, junk, and vehicles	2013		Town Board
	Consider more diligent enforcement of existing ordinances			Town Board
	Encourage property owners and businesses to improve the appearance of their properties	Ongoing		Code Enforcement Officer
	Develop a strong local ordinance that fairly regulates adult entertainment establishments	2013		Town Board
	Develop a strong local ordinance that will fairly regulate wind and other alternative power projects			Town Board
	Increase enforcement of existing environmental regulations			Code Enforcement Officer
	Foster a business friendly attitude in local government	Ongoing		Town Board Planning Board
4.5 Community Facilities and Recreation				
Promote community events and fundraisers to increase the socioeconomic health of the town	Develop a task force or ad hoc committee of members of the community to undertake community development projects	2013		Planning Board
	Encourage volunteerism and involvement in community-based organizations	Ongoing		
	Encourage more special events			

Goals	Action Item	Timeline	Data Source	Responsibility
Parks and Trails Plan	Evaluate the need for park expansion	2015		Planning Board
	Investigate possibility of partnering with the Village to improve existing parks	2013		
	Assess support for a multi-purpose trail between Olean and Portville	2015		
Portville Travel Guide	Raise awareness among residents and visitors of other attractions and activities in our community	Ongoing		Town Board Planning Board
	Raise awareness of the recreational activities that exist in the area			
	Actively promote Portville and it's amenities to the WNY area			
Expand recreational water activities	Consider developing river access for boating and other activities	2015		Planning Board
4.6 Transportation				
A community in which vehicles, bikers, and walkers travel safely in conjunction with her	Encourage alternative transportation (i.e.: biking, walking)	Ongoing		Town Board Planning Board
4.7 Infrastructure				
Maintain a functioning infrastructure system	Determine stability and condition of infrastructure	Ongoing		Town Board Planning Board
	Keep sidewalks and crossings in good repair			
Encourage participation in the fire departments	Raise the level of awareness of the value of police and fire protection, as well as emergency responders, in the community	Ongoing		Planning Board
Share our community resources in order to be more efficient and to minimize the tax burden	Encourage Portville Fire Department and the Kinney Hose Company to share equipment and personnel	Ongoing		Town Board Planning Board
	Look for opportunities to share activities and services between the Town and the Village			
	Focus on improving communications between the Town and the Village			

Goals	Action Item	Timeline	Data Source	Responsibility
Decreased response times	Consider the need for increased police presence in Town beyond what is currently provided by NY State Police and Cattaraugus County Sheriff's Department	2013	Public records	Town Board Planning Board