

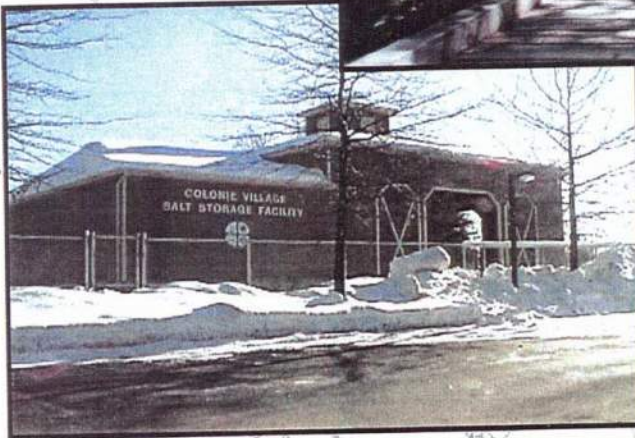


VILLAGE OF COLONIE

Albany County, New York

MASTER PLAN

Adopted March, 2003



Frank A. Leak - Mayor

Trustees

Michael J. Aidala Betty Film John Murphy Tom Tobin

Village of Colonie

MASTER PLAN

*Prepared by
Laberge Group, 2003
4 Computer Drive West
Albany, New York 12205*



4 COMPUTER DRIVE WEST ALBANY, NEW YORK 12205
NEW YORK STATE OFFICES IN ALBANY, PLATTSBURGH & UTICA

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgments

Master Plan Advisory Committee

Christopher Dennis, Chair
Robert Allen
William Baptista
Betty Film
Kenneth Hart
Mark Keegan

Anne Krause
Henry Landau
Thomas Mitchell
Thomas Tobin
Carole Trifiletti
Kay Walker

Planning Commission

Christopher Dennis, Chair
Sally Flannery, Coordinator
Kenneth Hart
Doug Hays
Anne Krause
John Martin
Frank Murray
Bryant Stevens

Zoning Board of Appeals

Rose Barba
Patricia Gorman
Bob Piurowski
Frank Prevratil
Lou Van Buren

Traffic Committee

Thomas Mitchell, Chair
Harriet Layman
William Levy
John Moran
Frank Prevratil

Sign Committee

Henry Landau, Chair
Sharon Coy, Coordinator
Robert Clingerman
Jim Rubino
Carol Trifiletti

Village Historian

Kay Walker, Village of Colonie Historian

Town Historian

Jean S. Olton, Town of Colonie Historian

Acknowledgments

Village Youth Director

Ed Sim

Municipal Consultants

Laberge Group
4 Computer Drive West
Albany, New York, 12205

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary

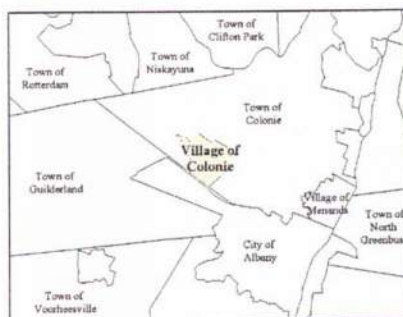
OVERVIEW



The Village of Colonie, located in the north-central area of Albany County, was incorporated as a Village on March 2, 1921. Since its original small-community persona, the Village has experienced major growth during the past 80 years. New York State Route 5 and Wolf Road corridors have become heavily developed and remain the major commercial areas of the community. Residential homes are situated along a network of connected Village streets and several cul-de-sac single-family housing developments.

In 1959 the Village prepared its first Master Plan. The plan was developed to, survey, evaluate, and address changes in demographic data, land use patterns, public facilities and community needs. The plan, prepared more than 40 years ago, has become out-dated in addressing the modern day needs of a bustling and active community. Goals that were established in the 50's have been achieved and built upon. A new Master Plan was needed to identify Village resources and characteristics and to provide a vision of where the Village wants to be in the future and a logical and well thought out plan on how to get there.

METHODOLOGY



In April of 2001, the Village of Colonie began the planning process by establishing a Master Plan Advisory Committee. The Committee was created with the intent of representing a large cross section of the community, including members of the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Traffic Committee, Sign Committee, residents and business owners. The development of the Village of Colonie Master Plan was partially financed by the Hudson River Valley Greenway. As a participating Hudson River Valley Greenway community, the Village of Colonie was awarded a grant of \$10,000 through the Greenway Communities Council to create this plan.

Consultants conducted a thorough review and analysis of previous reports and planning studies, on-site condition inspections, reports on community resources, and demographic studies of population growth and community needs. The Master Plan Advisory Committee, realizing the importance of public participation in the development of a Master Plan, held monthly open meetings throughout the entire process. Consultant information was provided to the Committee with public input received and incorporated into the plan's development.

To ensure effective community outreach and participation, the Village provided many opportunities for public participation. Residents were invited to participate in written community surveys; business surveys; a community visioning public meeting; a community Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (S.W.O.T.) workshop; and a Community Image Survey workshop.

Advance notice of the public hearings and meetings were posted in the Village Hall and were also advertised through articles in *The Villager* newsletter, which is distributed to all residents of the Village of Colonie. As the project reached its conclusion, the final draft plan was presented for public review on two occasions. A special reminder post card was mailed to every household one-week prior the meeting. Prior to the final public hearing, the Village Board distributed a summary of the proposed Master Plan Goals, and a short survey asking the public to agree or disagree on the proposed goals. A chronological listing of the planning process and community events is available in section I-03, the *Planning Process*.

MASTER PLAN CONTEXT

The Village of Colonie Master Plan is divided into four main sections:

- I Introduction
- II Inventory and Analysis
- III Goals and Recommendations
- IV Action and Implementation Matrix

The Master Plan also contains a series of detailed, engineered utility-specific drawings, thematic maps, tables, charts, and graphs.

Section II, Existing Conditions contains an in-depth inventory and analysis of existing conditions within the Village. This section contains information on the **History; Demographic Features, Natural Resources, Municipal Resources, Recreational & Community Facilities, Educational Resources, Transportation, Existing Land Use, Existing Zoning, and Public Opinions**. The information in this section is very useful for documentation of the current socio-demographic status of the community. It also serves as a record of the various features of the Village.

Section III, Goals and Recommendations is based on analysis of the information presented in Section II and the public participation process. This section outlines issues facing the Village of Colonie and the responding goals and recommendations that are suggested in addressing these issues.

Section IV, Action and Implementation Matrix, lays out the actions that are to be undertaken to meet the needs of the community. This section contains a comprehensive list of actions, the type of action, and a time frame for each activity.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Conclusive research documents that residents of the Village of Colonie enjoy a high quality of life. Goals and strategies are developed to protect today's resources and services while planning for the Village's future. The planning committee, based on research and the community involvement process, established the following lists of goals. Recommendations for activities to achieve the goals are included within the document.

Land Use – Goal 1: Encourage future development that is of quality design and will enhance the existing character of the Village and meet the necessary long-term needs of the community.

Land Use – Goal 2: Create Planned Unit Developments (PUD) in order to transform under-utilized or inactive commercial areas into active mixed-use (housing, recreational/open space, and commercial space) areas that are pedestrian friendly.

Land Use – Goal 3: Protect and enhance the visual character and design quality of the Village along transportation corridors, Village municipal boundaries and gateways to the community.

Land Use – Goal 4: Explore, identify and conserve existing vacant land and buildings for adaptive re-use for recreation, senior housing and other needed public services in order to meet the necessary long-term needs of the community.

Land Use – Goal 5: Encourage future development that minimizes negative impacts on natural resources, infrastructure, and neighboring uses in order to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the community.

Transportation – Goal 1: Provide safe and efficient circulation of pedestrian, bus, and automotive traffic, to minimize the impact of traffic on the Village's quality of life.

Transportation – Goal 2: Maintain and enhance the aesthetics of the Route 5 corridor.

Transportation – Goal 3: Continue to improve traffic safety for pedestrians in residential and commercial areas through the use of various traffic calming devices.

Housing – Goal 1: Preserve and enhance the existing residential neighborhoods in the Village.

Housing Goal - 2: Provide a balanced blend of quality housing opportunities including a desirable range of housing types and price ranges, which are affordable and accessible for all residents.

Housing - Goal 3: Provide a range of housing choices for Senior Citizens.

Economic Development – Goal 1: Develop a business friendly environment to retain and expand the Village's tax base and provide existing and future residents with a wide range of business, employment and career opportunities.

Economic Development – Goal 2: Develop a Marketing Plan for the Village.

Economic Development – Goal 3: Improve and enhance the business environment to offer amenities to residents and visitors.

Community and Recreational Facilities – Goal 1: Maintain and enhance Village buildings and properties to adequately serve their function for all residents.

Community and Recreational Facilities – Goal 2: Promote existing Village programs and activities, and continue to cooperate with the Town for the provision of needed services to the citizens of the Village.

Community and Recreational Facilities – Goal 3: To continue to provide the desired recreational and community services to Village residents.

Natural Resources – Goal 1: Protect and enhance environmentally significant and or sensitive land areas in order to minimize adverse impacts due to man-made development.

Natural Resources – Goal 2: Preserve and protect areas of open space that are important to the Village for use as public recreational or leisure purposes.

Natural Resources – Goal 3: Preserve and enhance the scenic tree-lined streets within the Village.

Historical and Cultural Resources – Goal 1: Develop a more identifiable and unique Village historical/cultural theme in order to reinforce a sense of community identity and pride and reconnect residents and visitors to the community's roots.

Administrative Actions – Goal 1: Ensure that the community efforts in crafting the Village of Colonie Master

Plan for the future of the Village of Colonie will result in actions to achieve the goals.

Administrative Actions – Goal 2: Promote and encourage inter and intra-municipal cooperation and communication with other local, state, and regional agencies when making land use decisions.

SUMMARIZATION

In the development of a Master Plan, a community must first visit its past, inventory its present, and prepare a blueprint for its future. A well-prepared Master Plan is a planning tool that develops a vision for the community; identifies specific community development goals, and sets forth clear steps that can be taken to implement and achieve these goals.

The Master Plan can be used to understand changing economic conditions; identify community attitudes toward community characteristics and needs; and provide development opportunities. In addition, information must be provided in sufficient detail to ensure that the developed goals are attainable. Included within the document is an action matrix listing out the activities needed to successfully achieve each goal. The success of the Village of Colonie's Master plan will be gauged on the achievements reached by the Village as they continue to support and implement the goals that they and the residents of the community have established.

I. INTRODUCTION

What is a Master Plan?

WHAT IS A MASTER PLAN?

A Master Plan sets forth a community's vision for its future by establishing a series of goals, objectives and recommended actions which will assist in making a community the ideal place to live, work and recreate. A Master Plan acts as a "guide" or a "blueprint" for the future. The plan summarizes the historical context of a community, analyzes the present conditions, sets forth issues, objectives and actions for the future, and outlines an implementation strategy to meet those objectives. In short, the plan tells us where we have been, where we are, where we want to be, and how we are going to get there.

The Village of Colonie is authorized by Village Law §7-722 to undertake "comprehensive planning and to regulate land use for the purpose of protecting the public health, safety and general welfare of its citizens." Village Law further strengthens the role of master planning by stating that any new land use regulations and/or amendments, and all plans for future capital projects of another governmental entity on land within the Village, must take into consideration the adopted Master Plan. As such, the Village of Colonie has gone to great lengths to create a vision for the community that will set the tone for years to come.

The Village of Colonie Master Plan identifies and examines a comprehensive list of existing conditions, including demographics, economic features, natural resources, municipal resources, recreation and community facilities, education resources, transportation and land use. In concert with a strong public participation process, the Village of Colonie Master Plan blends data analysis with the future needs of the community to create and establish goals, recommendations, and actions from which to construct a new future.

WHY UPDATE THE VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN?

In 1959, the Village of Colonie prepared a Master Plan. The document includes a **Survey and Evaluation**. The Plan surveyed and evaluated historical growth, existing environmental resources, existing land use patterns, existing community facilities, public utilities, and other characteristics of the time period. The Plan further made proposals and recommendations for future land use changes, zoning changes and expansion of community facilities and public utilities.

Major changes in population, new development, and shifting of needs and concerns of the citizens has necessitated the development of an updated Master Plan. The 2002 Village of Colonie Master Plan incorporates public opinion and up-to-date information to guide the Village's future. The development of the Plan created an opportunity to study current issues and coordinate new ideas with those of previous planning efforts.

The 2002 Village of Colonie Master Plan will serve as a guide to future public and private decisions. The public planning process is an opportunity to establish a consensus on the Village's goals and objectives regarding the location of future development, design of new development, restrictions of certain types of development and the general path for the community's future.

The Village of Colonie understands the positive and negative impacts of growth, the planning tools legally available, and residents' expectations for the Village. The Master Plan offers an opportunity to fully understand the issues and reaffirm or redirect the goals set out in previous planning efforts.

In order for the Village of Colonie to continue to be socially and economically sustainable, it must respond to changing conditions. The vitality of the Village requires a strategic vision that weaves together the facts of changing economic conditions, the importance, and value of limited open space, and the needs and desires of a diverse population.

Previous Plans & Village Studies

ORIGINAL MASTER PLAN - 1959

The Original Village of Colonie Master Plan outlined the basic development patterns we see today. Although the Original Master Plan has not been updated in total, various elements have been reviewed and updated over the years.

RECODIFICATION - 1985

Although not a "Master Plan," this action was a result of previous planning efforts and incorporated a great deal of input from the Planning Board, Zoning Board, and the Public.

PATROON CREEK CORRIDOR STUDY - 1987

This document studied the Patroon Creek Corridor to determine the necessary steps needed to preserve and improve creek aesthetics and reduce siltation of Cook Pond.

FEIS FOR COMMERCIAL "D" ZONE - 1988

This document set forth the Concept Plan and Conditions of Development of what is now the Commercial "D" Zone. This rezoning eliminated the heavy industrial use allowed in the area and provided for the protection of the Patroon Creek Corridor. The document underwent much public scrutiny prior to adoption.

EMERGENCY WATER SYSTEM PLAN - 1992

This document outlines procedures to be followed in the event of a water emergency. The Emergency Water System Plan is currently in effect.

PEDESTRIAN/ BICYCLE CIRCULATION PLAN MAP - 1995

This Plan, presented in map format, outlines the pedestrian and bicycle circulation patterns within the Village of Colonie in order to create a user-friendly system for the enjoyment of residents and visitors alike.

**TRAFFIC
MANAGEMENT
STUDY - 1996**

This document identifies and addresses local traffic, pedestrian and bicycle transportation issues within the Village. The study addressed the reduction of traffic volume and speed on residential streets, traffic flow and signal issues and pedestrian/bicycle circulation improvements.

**COOK PARK MASTER
PLAN MAP - 1997**

This Plan, presented in map format, outlined the results from Village-wide survey of desired recreation components for the future development of Cook Park.

The Planning Process

PLANNING PROCESS

The Village of Colonie began the Master Plan update planning process in April of 2001 by establishing a Master Plan Advisory Committee. The Committee was created with the intent of representing a large cross section of the community, including members from the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Traffic Committee, Sign Committee, residents, and business owners.

The Master Plan Advisory Committee, realizing the importance of public participation in the development of a Master Plan, held monthly open meetings throughout the entire process. The Village of Colonie sought methods of community outreach beyond simply inviting the public to the Committee meetings. Several opportunities for public participation were available to residents, including: community surveys, business surveys, a community visioning public meeting, a community Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (S.W.O.T.) workshop and a Community Image Survey workshop. The meetings were advertised through articles in *The Village* newsletter that is distributed to all Village residents. The draft and final Master Plan was also presented at public meetings.

Planning Process and Events

Listed below are events that took place over an 18-month period beginning in April 2001 for the development and adoption of the Master Plan.

- Appointment of the Master Plan Advisory Committee.
- April 2001 - Master Plan Advisory Committee Orientation Meeting.
- June 2001 - Review of the master planning process.

- July 2001 - Presentation by Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC), NYS Route 5 Corridor Study.
- August 2001 - Issue discussion: transportation and land use. Review and discussion of the 1959 Master Plan.
- September 2001 - Discussion of content of residential and business surveys, physical and environmental features and community and municipal facilities.
- October 2001 - Review of draft residential survey, discussion of historical resources and preservation, cultural and education facilities.
- November 2001 - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Workshop and Analysis and discussion of Community Image Survey.
- December 2001 - Meeting with Youth Director for the Village. Review of draft land use map and discussion of the Community Image Survey Workshop.
- January 2002 - Joint meeting with Town of Colonie Planner to discuss mutual issues and concerns. Review of business survey results.
- February 2002 - Review of Community Image Survey questionnaire and review of residential survey results.
- March 2002 - Community Image Survey Workshop.
- April 2002 - Visioning Workshop. Review of results of the Community Image Survey.

- May 2002 - Review of Inventory and Analysis. Discuss future goals and objectives.
- June 2002 - Present the Draft Plan to the Committee. Develop draft Goals and Recommendations.
- July-August 2002 – Summer Recess
- September 2002 – Present the Draft Goals and Recommendations to the Committee.
- October 2002 – Present the Draft Plan to the Committee.
- November 2002 – Solicit public input and forward Draft Plan to Albany County Economic Development, Conservation and Planning Department for review. Master Plan Advisory Committee Public Hearing.
- December 2002 - Master Plan Advisory Committee votes to recommend the adoption of the Master Plan by the Village Board.
- January 2003 – Village Board distributes a community-wide survey to gather public opinion on the Master Plan Goals.
- February 2003 - Village Board Public Hearing.
- March 2003 – State, Environmental, Quality, Review Act (SEQR) Determination. Village Board adopts the Master Plan.

II. INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

History of the Village

The Village of Colonie has a very rich history. Native Americans of many different religious backgrounds and lifestyles originally inhabited the area. Archeologists have found evidence of these people who lived here during prehistoric times, roughly twelve to twenty thousand years ago. The last of the local Native American tribes were the Mohawks, an Iroquois speaking tribe and the Mohicans, an Algonkian speaking tribe. These tribes were in control of all of the Capital District, as well as the territory between Lake Champlain and the Lower Hudson River Valley.

Native Americans once used Central Avenue as a trail between Albany and Schenectady. The area was once covered with pine trees, hence the Indian name Ska-Nek-Ta-De, or "trail of open pines." This once Native American migration route was just the beginning of today's booming Central Avenue, and the development of the Village of Colonie around this main thoroughfare.

The European heritage of the Village of Colonie dates back to the 17th Century. Henry Hudson, a Dutch navigator, was sent here to find a Northern navigable route to Asia. He explored the Hudson River and the area encompassing present day Albany and Rensselaer Counties. Henry Hudson discovered that the area had an abundance of coveted fur bearing animals, forests and opportunities for trade with the Native Americans. The Dutch government established a monopoly of trade with the Native Americans and in 1621 the Dutch established a colony of new settlements here and called it New Netherlands.

Kilean Van Rensselaer, one of the original wealthy Dutch patrons to transport colonists here, purchased 700,000 acres of land including the area now known as the Town and Village of Colonie from the Mohawk Indians. The colonists rented land from Van Rensselaer, often paying their rent with bushels of wheat or furs. While the majority of settlers were primarily occupied by trapping, some settlers moved farther away from the Hudson River and established farms,

saw mills and gristmills along the many streams in the area.

The colony was taken over by the English in 1664 and what followed were years of battle for territory between the British and the French. Many of the original Dutch settlers were required to fight for the British in the French and Indian War, between 1754 and 1763. The British imposed very high taxes on required imports; the colonists desire for freedom grew strong.

The War for Independence began in 1776, and although no major battles occurred here, many colonists joined the militia and those who did not, offered food and refuge to the soldiers. Militia trained for war with the British at the mustering site located near Hillside Avenue in the Village.

The Anti-Rent wars began after the death of Stephen Van Rensselaer III in 1839. The heirs to Kilean Van Rensselaer provoked this by trying to collect overdue rents from tenants of the original manor. Many tenant farmers refused to pay the rent, and skillfully used the news media, conventions, politics and the ballot box to win the war. They elected local and state government representatives who supported their cause. A New York Supreme Court decision finalized the conflict virtually ending leasehold tenure in New York State.

By the time the Town of Colonie, meaning "the settlement outside the city," was formed in 1895 it was an established agricultural town whose residents grew farm and garden products for the Albany markets. Since the early 19th Century, the Albany area had an established agricultural society with strong legislative support for the movement of improved agricultural technology and practices. Before this period, almost all of the original forested land had been cleared for timber and wheat production and the soils were becoming exhausted due to lack of crop rotation and fertilization. Changes in agricultural techniques and the discovery of more productive land in the west, led to the growth of dairy farming in the area.



Trolley, Schenectady Trolley Line

The completion of the construction of the Erie Canal in 1825 also significantly changed the region, making it a major area for travel and commercial trading. In 1831, shortly after the construction of the Erie Canal, the first railroad in New York State was constructed along the present Amtrak route, which runs through the south side of the Village adjacent to the border with the Town of Guilderland.

In 1800, Central Avenue was a plank road. For almost 90 years, it was operated as the Albany-Schenectady Turnpike, with tollgates at either end. The State began taking over sections of the road and gradually improving it with cobblestones and large flat stones for wheel tracks. The turnpike was discontinued in 1891. At this point Central Avenue had many established businesses such as hotels and taverns for those passing through on horse drawn vehicles. The Village was already becoming the commercial hub between Schenectady and Albany. At the turn of the century, the Schenectady Trolley Line was constructed on the south side of Route 5. At the corner of Route 5 and Old Karner Road there was a hotel/tavern called the Empire Hotel, which was later called the "Halfway House." This area was the "halfway point" between Schenectady and Albany. For a time this area was known as the Hamlet of Karner named after Theodore Karner who planned to build the first suburban community in the late 1800's, but his plans were never realized. The trolleys ran along Central Avenue for more than thirty years until they were shut down and replaced with busses and automobiles. A powerhouse used for the trolley cars still stands on Central Avenue near Karner Road in the Village.



Empire Hotel, "Halfway House"

The advent of the trolley, the automobile and the bus along Central Avenue prompted the community to grow. As the Village grew, the need for a Village form of government grew. The citizens who lived in the area around the Village felt they were not being properly represented by the distant Town Hall. The Village of Colonie was incorporated on



*Colonie Fire Department Junior
Band*

March 2, 1921 with Charles Collins presiding over the first Board of Trustees. The Village government started with a loan of only \$500. Their chief source of income was a speed trap set up at Route 5 and Wolf Road. The Village collected \$14,000 during the first year the speed limit was posted. The speed trap was discontinued in 1928 when the State Police were assigned to the area. In an effort to create jobs for unemployed people in the late 1930's, the federal government funded the construction of four underground tunnels to help pedestrians cross Route 5. The tunnels were very important for the safe crossing of school children to and from the Colonie Village School (now the Town of Colonie Community Center). For many years the tunnels were lighted at night and open twenty-four hours for everyone. During the 1980's the tunnels were closed due to safety concerns.

During the 1930's the Village continued to develop and citizens required more services. The first volunteer fire department was incorporated in the Village in 1931 with 100 members. Today the Colonie Fire Company has the latest equipment and a newly renovated firehouse. The fire company and the Ladies Auxiliary have earned many trophies and commendations for their contributions to the Village.

From the 1930s to the 1950s, the Village had slow and gradual commercial and residential development primarily along Route 5, still one of the only east west routes for traveling between Albany and points west. The end of WWII brought fast changes to the Village of Colonie, and many other suburban communities across the United States. The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, popularly known as the GI Bill, greatly affected the Village. The GI Bill not only offered returning soldiers funding for higher education, but also encouraged suburban home development with the Guaranteed Home Loan Program that came with it. In a nine-year period between 1950 and 1959 there was an increase of approximately 340% in the construction of homes within the Village, or approximately

95 new homes per year. With the baby boom and the promotion of the *American Dream*, more and more families moved to the suburbs to build new single-family homes. The Village school was so crowded that some students were taught at available church facilities. In 1956, the Interstate Highway Act brought the construction of the New York State Thruway and other highways around the Village, making fast travel between work and home much easier. Many new retail establishments and workplaces soon followed.

The 1960 Village election of trustees made history, when Edward Mahoney and Bill Cook each received the same number of votes. The Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court decided that each candidate would draw a card from a deck, with the holder of the highest card winning the seat. Mahoney drew an 8 of diamonds, and Cook drew a Jack of diamonds. This election was the beginning of Bill Cook's successful political career until he retired in 1971.

In 1961 a seven member Planning Commission was established, without pay, to serve the Village residents. The Planning Commission's job was, and still is, to review site plans for new businesses, housing, and development that would be located in the Village of Colonie.

The 1960's were a time in the Village of booming growth that caused the Village to increase the budget by \$382,645 over a ten-year period. In 1964 the population had soared to 8,072 residents and the Village purchased 49 acres of land from the City of Albany for \$1500 to be used as a recreation site known as Cook Park. Cook Park is now approximately 55 acres and heavily used by the residents of the Village. In late 1965, the Holiday Inn donated a house to the Village to be used for a senior citizens center, and on Mothers Day 1966, the center opened. Mayor Bill Cook and Edward Skinner conceived the idea of a senior center and moved the house that was dedicated to the Village municipal property. Since then, the center has been



Early Sand Creek Road

expanded twice and has been very successful throughout the years.

In March of the same year, the Board of Trustees adopted the codebook of ordinances. A new Village Hall was built and was dedicated in 1968.

The past 30 years have been very successful in the Village. Beginning with the groundbreaking for the sanitary sewers, vast public works improvements were developed to increase the quality of life for the Village residents.

After the boom of the 1960's the population growth remained relatively stable. Commercial business on Route 5 increased significantly in the 1980's, with many commercial businesses and shopping centers replacing the existing single-family homes are creating a regional commercial center. This commercial and retail boom was due in part to the fact that by the middle of the 1980's Wolf Road was reaching its capacity of development. With the rise of commercial development, the Village tax base increased.

Over the past 25 years, the Village of Colonie's commercial and residential growth has stabilized. Commercial and retail businesses still consider the Village to be an attractive place to work, and residents enjoy a high standard of living. Today, the Village of Colonie is ready to embark on a new voyage, one that recognizes the past, preserves the present, and creates a new future for the residents of this proud and vibrant community.

Demographic Features

COLONIE TODAY

This section provides information about the Village of Colonie in a variety of subject areas and will help paint a picture of the community's social, physical, and economic conditions. An integral part of any comprehensive plan is a study of population past, present and future. By examining socio-economic data, recommendations can be made concerning the future land use and demographic make-up of the community. In addition to the village data provided in this section, comparisons to the Town of Colonie, Albany County and the State of New York have made where appropriate. These comparisons will provide a level of context that is required to understand the health and future of the Village of Colonie.

The information contained herein has been compiled utilizing data from the 1990 U.S. Census, the 1997 Economic Census, the 2000 U.S. Census, & the Capital District Regional Planning Commission. The data presented is the most up to date available at the time of printing, and sources have been documented under each table and chart.

POPULATION DATA

Local population growth or decline is often dependent upon several factors, including economic expansion, environmental capacity, housing suitability, varying needs within age cohorts, and overall regional desirability.

Overall population in the Village of Colonie has declined slightly during the 1990's, with a population loss of approximately 1.3%. From 1980 through 2000, the Village of Colonie lost 10.7% of its population. The population shift within the Village is in contrast to both the surrounding Town of Colonie and Albany County as a whole. During the 1990's, the population of the Town and County grew 3.6% and .67% respectively. A review of the last 20 years shows the Town grew 6.3% and the County grew 3%. Table 1 illustrates the population trends of the Village of Colonie as compared to the Town, County, and New York State.

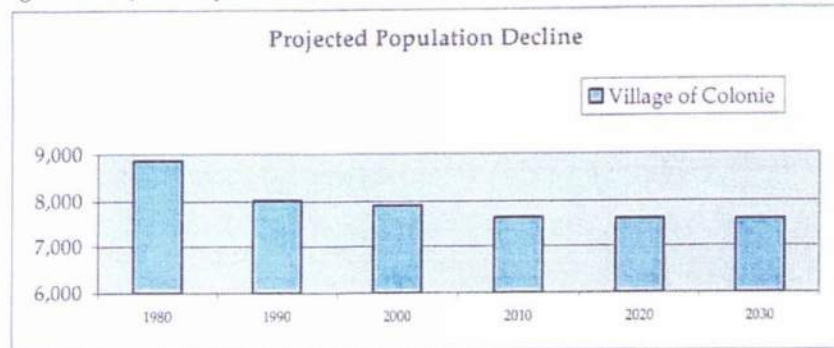
Table 1 - Population Change

	1980	1990	2000	% Change 1980-1990	% Change 1990-2000	% Change 1980-2000
Village of Colonie	8,869	8,019	7,916	-9.6%	-1.3%	-10.7%
Town of Colonie	74,593	76,497	79,258	2.6%	3.6%	6.3%
Albany County	285,909	292,793	294,565	2.4%	0.6%	3.0%
New York State	17,558,072	17,990,455	18,976,4	2.5%	5.5%	8.1%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census, CDRPC

Figure 1 illustrates the projected population decline of the Village of Colonie for the next thirty years.

Figure 1 - Projected Population Decline



Source: CDRPC w/2000 Census adjustment.

When reviewing population trends within communities, it is often helpful to look at the age breakdown of the population to determine where the population shifts occurred. Table 2 depicts the general age demographics from the 2000 Census for the Village of Colonie as compared to the Town of Colonie.

Table 2 - 2000 Demographic Characteristics, Village and Town of Colonie

Village of Colonie	Number	Percent	Town of Colonie	Number	Percent
Male	3,824	48.3	Male	38,148	48.1
Female	4,092	51.7	Female	41,110	51.9
Under 5	401	5.1	Under 5	4,000	5
5 to 9	487	6.2	5 to 9	4,905	6.2
10 to 14	508	6.4	10 to 14	5,263	6.6
15 to 19	491	6.2	15 to 19	5,637	7.1
20 to 24	352	4.4	20 to 24	4,586	5.8
25 to 34	958	12.1	25 to 34	9,378	11.8
35 to 44	1,229	15.5	35 to 44	12,695	16
45 to 54	1,296	16.4	45 to 54	12,320	15.5
55 to 59	427	5.4	55 to 59	4,142	5.2
60 to 64	401	5.1	60 to 64	3,400	4.3
65 to 74	835	10.5	65 to 74	6,622	8.4
75 to 84	425	5.4	75 to 84	4,756	6
85 and over	106	1.3	85 and over	1,554	2
Total	7,916	100	Total	79,258	100
Median Age	41.2		Median Age	39.7	

Source: U.S. Census, 2000

In addition, Table 3 illustrates the shift of population within the Village of Colonie from 1990 to 2000 within age cohorts.

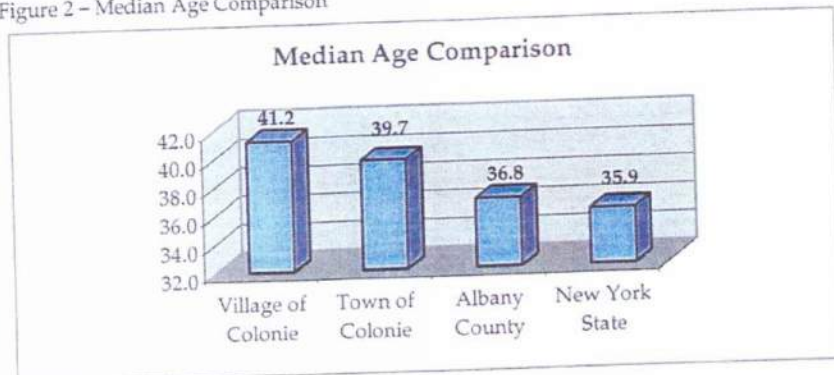
Table 3 - 1990 - 2000 Village Population by Cohort Comparison

1990	Number	Percent	2000	Number	Percent
Under 5	471	5.9%	Under 5	401	5.1%
5 to 14	1,044	13.0%	5 to 14	995	12.6%
15 to 24	1,016	12.7%	15 to 24	843	10.6%
25 to 34	1,206	15.0%	25 to 34	958	12.1%
35 to 44	1,280	16.0%	35 to 44	1,229	15.5%
45 to 54	936	11.7%	45 to 54	1,296	16.4%
55 to 64	1,007	12.6%	55 to 64	828	10.5%
65 & over	1,059	13.2%	65 & over	1,366	17.3%
Total	8,019	100.0%	Total	7,916	100.0%
Median	36.8		Median	41.2	

Source: U.S. Census, 2000

From this information, it can be determined that the decline in the population of the Village of Colonie is directly linked to the aging of the residents. Figure 2 illustrates that the average age in the Village is significantly higher than the Town of Colonie, Albany County, and New York State.

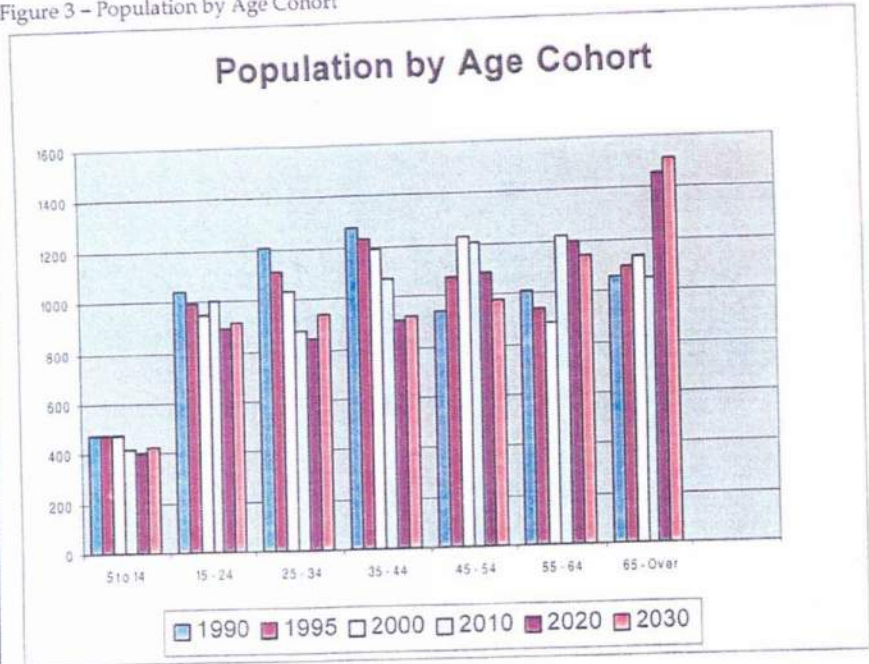
Figure 2 - Median Age Comparison



Source: 2000 U.S. Census

While the population is getting older, the younger generation is not being replenished. This is evident by the fact that the Village has decreased by 1.3%, yet has experienced a 4.3% increase in the senior citizen population over the last ten years. An aging population, coupled with a statistically shrinking percentage of people below age 44 (-6.7% in the 1990's) and a national trend toward smaller families, depicts a large decrease in the population of the Village by Year 2030 (Figure 3). Based upon information compiled by the Capital District Regional Planning Commission, the population of the Village of Colonie will be 7,596 in the Year 2030, a loss of almost 1,273 people based on 1980 census figures or 14.35 % of the residents.

Figure 3 – Population by Age Cohort



Source: 2000 CDRPC Projections

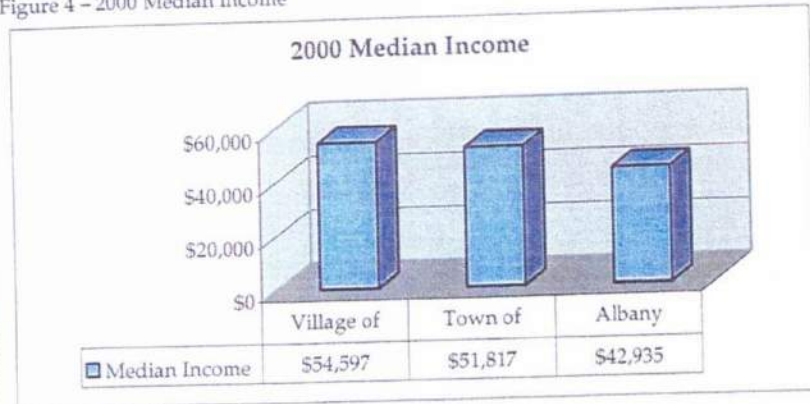
Furthermore, nearly 23.4% of the loss of population occurred in the childbearing age brackets of 25 to 35 years, and 36 to 44 years. Coupled with the large increase in the senior population, it can be determined that there will be a greater need for increased senior services, housing, and programming over the next ten years than ever before. In addition, it should be noted that while there has been a decrease in the 25 to 35 years and 36 to 44 years age groups, there has been relatively little change in the 5-14 age bracket. As such, youth and recreational programming should still be a priority in the community.

Based upon the 2000 Census, 7,824 of the residents are of one race, and 92 are two or more races. Furthermore, 7,257 or 98.8 percent of the total population are white. The minority population includes African American (280 residents); American Indian, Eskimo or Aleut (7 residents); Asian (244 residents); and Native Hawaiian or others (36 residents).

INCOME

The relatively high level of education within the Village is reflected in the higher income levels and lower poverty rates. As illustrated in Figure 4, the 2000 median household income for the Village of Colonie was \$54,597, which is approximately 27% higher than that of Albany County, and slightly higher than that of the Town of Colonie.

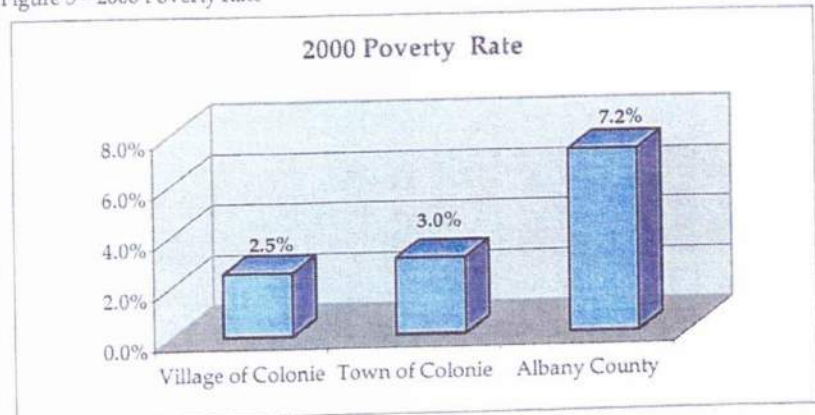
Figure 4 - 2000 Median Income



Source: 2000 U.S. Census & CDRPC

Another indicator of a community's income status is the percent of its population living in poverty. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the Village of Colonie had less than a 2.5% poverty rate. As depicted in Figure 5 this is in contrast to the Town of Colonie and Albany County, which registered 3.0% and 7.2% respectively.

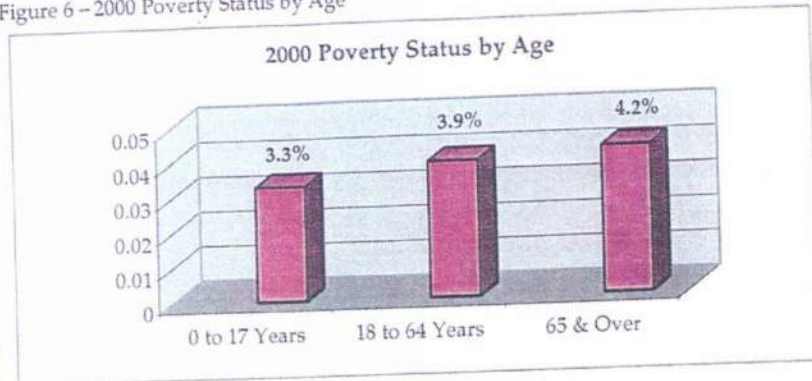
Figure 5 - 2000 Poverty Rate



Source: 2000 U.S. Census & CDRPC

It is interesting to note that of the total population, the senior population is being hit the hardest by poverty. As Figure 6 indicates, the age group with the largest percentage of people living in poverty is adults age 65 and over.

Figure 6 – 2000 Poverty Status by Age



Source: 2000 U.S. Census & CDRPC

Existing community services that are provided through public and non-profit sectors should be reviewed to ensure that the proper mix of services is offered. With a greater number of residents achieving retirement age, community services should be reviewed on a continual basis to ensure that the proper mix of public and not-for-profit services are being offered to the community.

EMPLOYMENT

Employment of people aged 16 and over living in the Village of Colonie is predominately geared towards the services industry, with the greatest percentage of workers located in administrative support occupations. This may be due in part to the type of jobs located within the Village and due to the close proximity of the Village to the New York State capital. Table 4 further illustrates the impact that the New York State government has on employment.

Table 4 – Class of Worker

Class of Worker	
Employed persons over age 16	4,218
Private Wage and Salary Workers	2,786
Government Workers	1,255
Self-Employed Workers	177

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Table 5 illustrates employment breakdown by type of worker in 2000. The Village has less people employed as management and professionals as compared to the Town of Colonie. This may be because the Town of Colonie has a greater number of people with higher levels of education than the Village. In addition, the Village has a greater number of individuals in sales as compared to both the Town and the County. This may be because of the location of three malls within a five-mile radius of the Village, and the predominance of retail oriented businesses within the Village.

Table 5 - 2000 Employment by Occupation & Place of Residence

Occupation	NYS	Village of Colonie		Town of Colonie		Albany County	
Management/Professional	36.7%	1,462	34.7%	16,497	41.1%	61,112	42.3%
Services	16.6%	554	13.1%	4,992	12.4%	20,106	13.9%
Sales & Office	27.1%	1,451	34.4%	12,504	31.1%	41,701	28.9%
Construction/Maintenance	7.6%	279	6.6%	2,600	6.5%	8,945	6.2%
Production/Transport	11.7%	472	11.2%	3,538	8.8%	12,448	8.6%
Other			0.0%				
Industry							
Construction	5.2%	218	5.2%	1,910	4.8%	6,413	4.4%
Retail/Trade	10.5%	495	11.7%	4,162	10.4%	15,069	10.4%
Farming, Forestry & Fishing	0.6%	25	0.6%	115	0.3%	415	0.3%
Financial	8.8%	371	8.8%	3,675	9.1%	11,565	8.0%
Education/Health/Social Service	24.3%	810	19.2%	8,618	21.5%	35,963	24.9%
Public Administration	5.2%	706	16.7%	6,313	15.7%	22,142	15.3%
Arts/Rec/Food Service	7.3%	335	7.9%	3,108	7.7%	10,330	7.1%
Other			31.0%				

Source: 2000 Census

EDUCATION

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, residents are generally considered well educated (see Table 6). In 2000, 89.4% of the population of the Village of Colonie over the age of 25 had attained a minimum of a high school diploma, with 54.2% going on to higher education. In addition, 15.6% of the population over the age of 25 had received a minimum of a bachelor's degree. This is an important factor in measuring the quality of the Village's labor force. In general, higher educational attainment should result in higher paying jobs, which should have a beneficial impact on the Village.

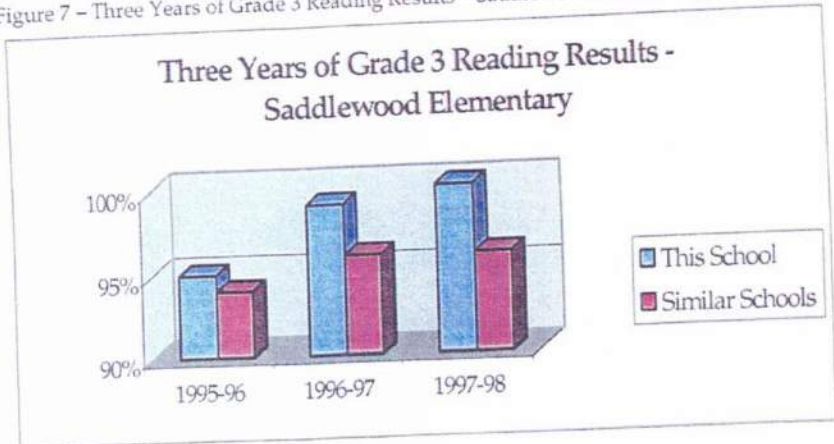
Table 6 - 2000 Educational Attainment of Persons 25 and Over

Level of Education	# of People Village of Colonie	Percent of Total Population		
		Village of Colonie	Albany County	New York State
High School Diploma	2,006	35.2%	27.0%	27.8%
College				
Some College	999	17.5%	9.6%	16.8%
Associates Degree	604	10.6%	9.6%	7.2%
Bachelor's Degree	891	15.6%	17.5%	15.6%
Graduate/Professional	596	10.5%	15.8%	11.8%

Source: 2000 U.S. Census/ CDRPC

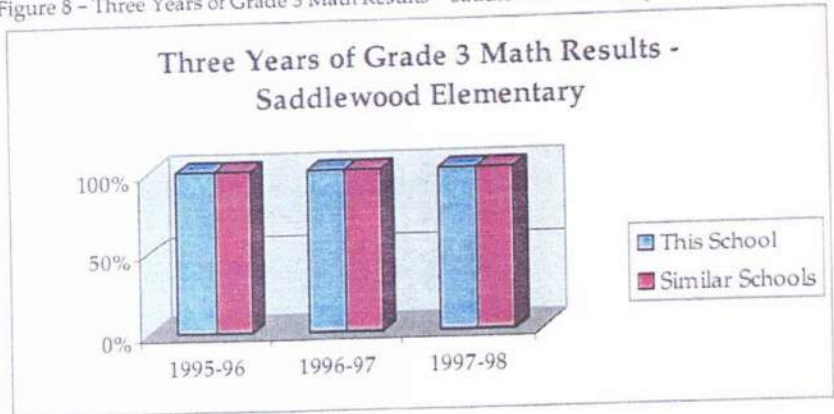
The Village of Colonie is part of the South Colonie Central School District, and is home to Forest Park and Saddlewood Elementary Schools. One of the measures of performance of school age children is the required standardized Third-Grade Performance Tests (Figures 7-10). On both tests, the reading performance and the mathematics performance, both schools scored at 95% and above for the latest results available.

Figure 7 - Three Years of Grade 3 Reading Results - Saddlewood Elementary



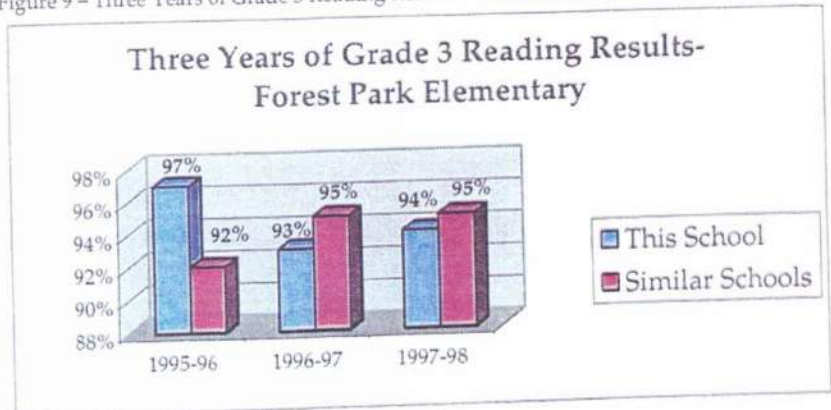
Source: New York State Department of Education

Figure 8 - Three Years of Grade 3 Math Results - Saddlewood Elementary



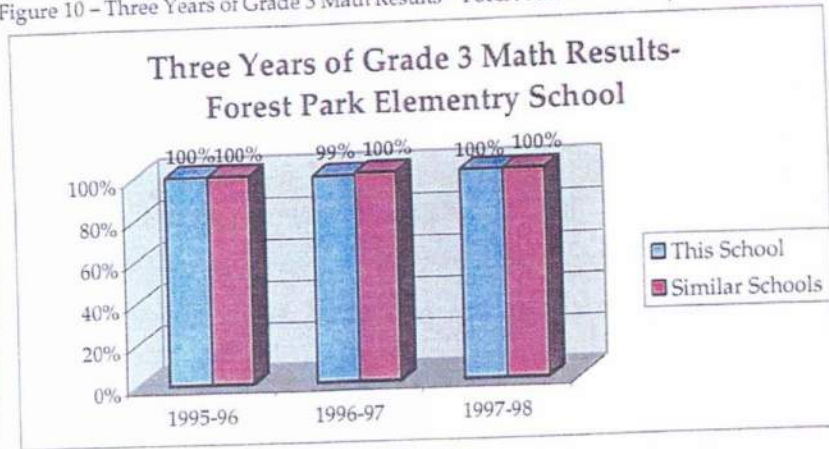
Source: New York State Department of Education

Figure 9 - Three Years of Grade 3 Reading Results - Forest Park Elementary



Source: New York State Department of Education

Figure 10 – Three Years of Grade 3 Math Results – Forest Park Elementary



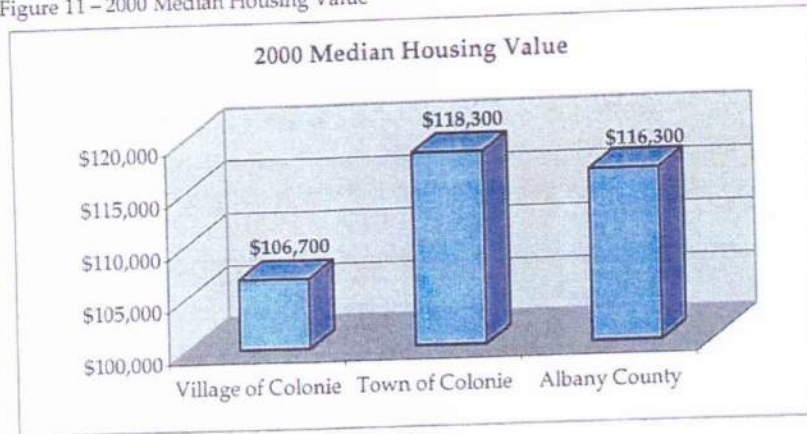
Source: New York State Department of Education

HOUSING

Housing stock in the Village of Colonie consists of various periods of architectural styles and a diversity of housing types. Although some of the homes date back to the early 1900's (generally along NYS Route 5, Vly Road, and adjacent side streets), the vast majority of homes were constructed after 1950.

Owning a home is part of the "American Dream." Typically, it is also the largest investment an individual or family will make in their lifetime. Therefore, it is important to understand if the Village's housing stock is affordable and desirable when compared to the surrounding communities. Figure 11 represents the median selling price for a house within the Village, Town, and County. Median home cost is determined by taking the middle-selling price of all houses sold annually. The Village of Colonie had the lowest at \$106,700, roughly 9% below the Town of Colonie.

Figure 11 – 2000 Median Housing Value



Source: 2000 U.S. Census

Another indicator of housing affordability and desirability in an area is the number of housing units owned, rented, or vacant. According to the 2000 Census, more Village residents own their homes than rent, 83.2 % to 16.8% respectively. The homeowner vacancy rate is 0.8%, while the rental vacancy rate is 2.6%. Table 7 illustrates the stability of the Village housing market, as compared to the Town of Colonie, Albany County and New York State.

Table 7 – Housing Tenure

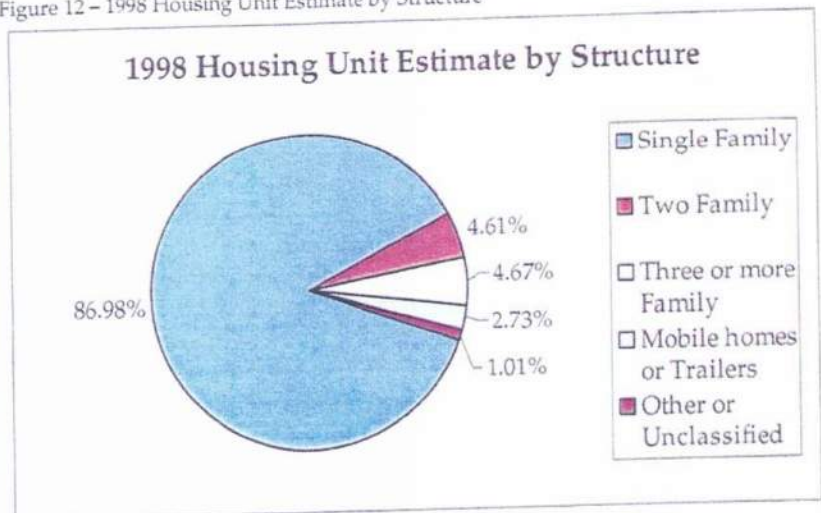
Subject	Village of Colonie	Town of Colonie	Albany County	New York State
Housing Tenure				
Owner-occupied Housing	83.2%	71.8%	57.7%	53.0%
Renter Occupied Housing	16.8%	28.2%	42.3%	47.0%
Housing Occupancy				
Occupied Housing Units	97.2%	96.0%	92.7%	91.9%
Vacant Housing Units	2.8%	4.0%	7.3%	8.1%
Homeowner Vacancy Rate	0.8%	0.9%	1.8%	1.6%
Rental Vacancy Rate	2.6%	5.7%	6.5%	4.6%
Household Type				
Average Household Size	2.49	2.43	2.32	2.61
Average Family Size	2.95	3.00	2.99	3.22

Source 2000 U.S. Census

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, the Village of Colonie has a higher percentage of owner -occupied housing than the Town, County, and State. Furthermore, the homeowner vacancy rate is the lowest of the four, and the rental vacancy rate showed the same strength. These numbers further depict a strong residential base within the Village.

Another important factor in determining the housing residential base of a community is the housing unit breakdown by structure (Figure 12). It is interesting to note that the current breakdown of housing structures mirrors the opinions of the public as it pertains to future growth. According to the 1990 U.S. Census and estimates from CDRPC, almost 87% of the housing is classified as single-family.

Figure 12 - 1998 Housing Unit Estimate by Structure



Source: 1990 U.S. Census & CDRPC Estimate from Building Permit Data

This suggests that the Village of Colonie has a strong, stable residential base. The neighborhood appeal, the relatively low median housing price, low vacancy rate and longevity of homeowners depict a stable community. This theory is further validated by the results of the residential community survey, the business community survey and the community image survey.

Natural Resources

ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

The Village of Colonie is blessed with a number of natural areas that residents can enjoy for both aesthetic and recreational purposes. Natural areas such as the Patroon Creek, Cook Pond, (the Village's only recreational water body), the New York State regulated wetland area that is preserved as parkland (Bauer Park), and the nearby Albany Pine Bush Preserve are important features that contribute to the recreational assets of the Village and the community's quality of life.

Geology & Topography

The landscape of the Village was shaped ten to fifteen thousand years ago during the period of environmental changes when the last of the continental glaciers began to recede. The glacier gradually melted and created a large glacial lake known as Lake Albany covering the entire Hudson River Valley. Glacial deposits formed gravel and fine sand that eventually settled to the bottom of the lake. In time, as the lake drained, a large inland sand delta was left behind and wind formed deep sand dunes. This sand delta formed the Pine Bush, which originally covered over forty square miles between Albany and Schenectady. The water of Lake Albany eventually drained to the Hudson River, and created all of the area streams that feed the Hudson such as Patroon Creek and the Lisha Kill.

The elevation of the Village of Colonie has not changed much since Lake Albany drained and formed all of the rivers and streams in the drainage basin. The topography is relatively flat to gently rolling. Elevations rise from 290 to 370 feet above sea level with slopes ranging from 0 to 8%, with the steepest slopes located along the banks of the North Branch of the Patroon Creek.

Soils

The soils and topography of this region are associated with sediments of glacial Lake Albany. According to the *Soil Survey of Albany County* and the *New York General Soil Map*, the Village of Colonie is divided into two major soil categories, Udipsamments-Urban land complex, and Udorthents, loamy-Urban land complex. These soils are associated with areas that consist of urban land that is

mostly covered by concrete, asphalt, buildings or other impervious surfaces and soils that have been smoothed, filled, cut and otherwise disturbed. The soils are very deep with depth to bedrock at about 60 feet, and consist of well drained to somewhat excessively drained fine sandy loam. In general, the soils in the Village are easily eroded, unstable and difficult to establish vegetation without irrigation. Areas with slopes ranging from 0-3% also sometimes present drainage problems. Other minor soil types exist where development is less intense and include the Colonie Series, which consists of very deep, well drained to somewhat excessively drained soils on lake plain, deltas and dunes.

WATER FEATURES

Streams

The Northwest Branch of the Patroon Creek is the dominant natural water feature in the Village. The creek is located in the Southwestern portion of the Village, flowing behind Stella Terrace, Walker Way, Richards Drive and Cook Park in a southwesterly direction. The Northwest Branch of the Patroon Creek flows into Cook Pond. After this point, the waterway is diverted through a number of culverts and otherwise disturbed from its natural condition through the City of Albany. Two other small un-named creeks in the Village flow into Rensselaer Lake, which drains to the Main Branch of the Patroon Creek and eventually to the Hudson River.

Urban development has impacted the natural conditions of this branch of Patroon Creek, and has severely impacted the lower reaches of Patroon Creek, which flows through the City of Albany. The entire watershed is developed with residential, commercial and light industrial development, which has significantly increased the impervious surfaces within the watershed. This has led to reduced absorption of liquids to the groundwater, increased transport of sediments and pollutants to the waterway and overall increased sediment load, which discharges, into Cook Pond where the sediment eventually settles. Increased stream

velocity caused by the increase of impervious surfaces also causes the stream banks to be scoured during heavy rain or snowmelt, adding more sediment to the water column.

The urban infrastructure of the Village has also disturbed the natural state of the waterway, with the installation of culverts to control water flow and levels. Portions of the Village's storm water collection system empty directly into the creek at several locations. In cases of severe rain, water will not reach the creek directly due to the overloading of the Village storm sewers and ponding of water occurs in other places up stream.

In September of 1987, the Village completed a study of the Northwest Branch of the Patroon Creek and Cook Pond. This study concluded that in order to protect and improve the condition of the Patroon Creek and Cook Pond for aesthetic and recreational value a few actions would have to be taken. The first action taken by the Village was to prohibit any development within 50 feet of the creek by establishing the Patroon Creek Drainage Way as a permanent easement extending 50 feet from the center of the creek. Secondly, the Village constructed a sedimentation basin upstream of Cook Pond and downstream of the major inflows to the creek to reduce sedimentation of Cook Pond. Lastly, the Village dredged Cook Pond and has a plan to regularly maintain the retention basins, storm sewers, drains and culverts. In addition, the Village requires developers to construct and design retention ponds so that total discharge from their site does not exceed the existing flow. Developers must also plant proper landscaping to filter runoff and install stone or riprap to control erosion.

The Patroon Creek is identified by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Division of Water (DOW) as a sub-tributary of Rensselaer Lake (P340-1) and classified as a Class C stream. This classification is described in the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) Title 6 Part 701, Classification

Surface Waters and Groundwater. All of the creeks within the Village are Class C streams. A Class C stream is defined as being best suitable for fish propagation and survival. The water is also suitable for primary or secondary contact recreation (swimming, boating, fishing etc.). However, the Patroon Creek has recently been listed on the Priority Water Bodies List (PWL) also produced by the DEC/DOW. The PWL for the Lower Hudson was completed in 1999 to determine stream classification, or best use. The streams on the list are those that do not meet the water quality standards of the ECL Title 6 classifications. This list indicated that the "fishery and aesthetics of Patroon Creek are significantly impaired by a variety of sources."

According to the Town of Colonie Land Use Management Program, the Patroon Creek watershed is nearing complete development. Water quality is of greatest importance when considering that the majority of aquifers are recharged through infiltration from surface streams. If water quality of a surface stream is such that it is considered unsuitable for human consumption, there is great potential for contamination of the aquifer.

Floodplains

There are no designated flood plains within the Village.

Wetlands

Approximately 100 acres of New York State regulated wetlands are found within the boundaries of the Village. These wetlands are located in both the Northeastern and the Southwestern corners of the Village.

The largest wetland is located in the Northeastern corner of the Village between Sand Creek Road and Sunset Boulevard. In 1996 Bauer Park was developed on 58 acres of this wetland area. The park has a slightly raised, handicapped accessible boardwalk looping through the wooded wetland area.

Municipal Resources

VILLAGE GOVERNMENT



Colonie Village Hall

The Village of Colonie was incorporated in 1921. The Village government consists of a Mayor and four Trustees all of who are elected to a four-year term. All other positions within the Village are appointed by the Mayor and Board of Trustees, including the Village Clerk, Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Works, Code Enforcement Officer, Assessor, and members of the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Traffic Committee and Sign Review Board.

In general, all village boards and committees meet on a regular basis. The Village Board of Trustees meets twice a month, with special meetings as may be required from time to time. The Planning Commission meets twice a month, while the Zoning Board of Appeals, Sign Review Board and Traffic Committee meet once a month.

The Village Board of Trustees is responsible for all aspects of the Village government, with the exception of those delegated to other entities. In general, however, the Mayor and the Board of Trustees are responsible for the fiscal well being of the Village along with the provision of all services to the residents and business owners. The Planning Commission, although appointed by the Mayor and Trustees, is an independent body commissioned with the authority to review all proposed site plans, subdivisions and business occupancy changes. The decisions of the Planning Commission are final and can only be appealed to the Village Zoning Board of Appeals or a court having jurisdiction over such matters. Like the Planning Commission, the Zoning Board of Appeals is an independent body, appointed by the Mayor and Trustees to rule on appeals to the decisions of the Codes Enforcement Officer and Planning Commission. These decisions typically revolve around use and area variances.

MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The Villages fiscal year runs from June 1 to May 31. Among the Mayor's duties, is the preparation and presentation of a tentative budget to the Board of Trustees by March 21. The budget must include all proposed expenditures and anticipated revenues. The Village Board of Trustees makes the tentative budget available to the public for input at the required public hearing prior to adoption. The budget is used to determine what the necessary real property tax rate will be for the fiscal year. After public review, the Village Board must approve the municipal budget by May 1.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Village of Colonie, in cooperation with the Town of Colonie, provides a high level of emergency services for the community.

Police Protection

The Village of Colonie is provided police protection through the Town of Colonie Police Department. This service is paid through the Town's real property tax assessment on all properties within the Village. As illustrated in the community survey, the Village residents feel that the police protection is very good.

Fire Protection



Colonie Fire Department

The Colonie Fire Company provides the majority of the Village of Colonie's fire protection. The fire company is a volunteer organization established in 1931. Over the past seventy-one years, the Village Board has provided the Fire Company with the latest equipment, including two 1,500-gallon-per-minute pumpers, a 500-gallon-per-minute jeep, and a rescue truck. The Village's infrastructure provides an excellent system of fire hydrants and water yield for the fire department to utilize. A consolidation agreement was established in 1995 with the nearby Midway and Fuller Road fire departments to create a coordinated effort to provide fire and rescue services in the area.

The Ladies Auxiliary to the Colonie Fire Company was established in early 1932, with only 13 members and is still a major asset to the Fire Company, and the community. The Auxiliary coordinates blood drives, assists the elderly, participates in a variety of charitable works, and conducts a number of fund raising activities for the Fire Company and the community as a whole.

Emergency Medical Services

As with the police department, emergency medical services are provided through the Town of Colonie.

Refuse Disposal

The Village provides curbside trash removal for residential properties. Additionally, the Village provides recycling services on the same day and seasonal collection of heavy trash items, grass clippings, leaves and branches.

Sewage Disposal

The Village of Colonie has in place a sewage collection system servicing nearly every parcel within the Village. The collection system consists of gravity sewers with two major pumping stations. Waste treatment is provided by contract with the Albany County Sewer District. The system is maintained by the Village's Department of Public Works.

Stormwater Collection

The Village of Colonie has in place a separate stormwater collection system throughout the Village. Section V includes a map of the existing storm sewer system. The Village is included in the list of urbanized areas that will be in the near future subject to the new Phase II regulations of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater program.

Water Supply

The Village of Colonie has in place a water distribution system servicing every parcel within the Village. The Village purchases water from the Latham Water District,

which is the entity that serves the remainder of the Town of Colonie. All users are metered and billed for water use. The system is maintained by the Village Department of Public Works.

Energy

Residents and businesses in the Village are provided electricity and natural gas service through the Niagara Mohawk Power Company. Numerous fuel oil services are available to those who choose not to heat with natural gas.

Other Utilities

The local phone network is owned and maintained by Verizon. Cable television is provided by the Time Warner Cable Company, which also provides high-speed broadband Internet access.

Department of Public Works

The Village Department of Public Works is charged with the following duties

Snow plowing/salting

Village street maintenance and repair

Water system maintenance and repair

Sewer system maintenance and repair

Parks maintenance

Building maintenance and repair

In addition to the above, the department takes on special projects as time permits to help reduce the cost of contracted services.



Department of Public Works



Salt Storage Facility

Street Lighting

contracted services.

The department currently has a staff of 21 full time employees and is housed in the Village highway garage located at the municipal complex.

The Village of Colonie currently provides street lighting through an agreement with the Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation.

Recreational & Community Facilities



Basketball Court, Cook Park

VILLAGE OF COLONIE *Cook Park*



Cook Pond

Currently the Village of Colonie has approximately 115 acres of public parkland, which is comprised of four parks. These parks provide a variety of recreational and scenic opportunities for the residents and visitors to the Village of Colonie. The two elementary schools located in the Village, as well as the Town of Colonie Community Center, provide additional recreational space and organized programs for the surrounding neighborhoods. The schools and parks are evenly distributed throughout the Village in order to provide the majority of resident's public parkland or open space within a reasonable distance.

The Village's largest active recreational area is Cook Park, which is approximately 55 acres. The other parks are smaller and are used by the surrounding neighborhoods or residents that are within walking distance. The location of these parks and schools are shown on the map entitled "Village of Colonie Base Map."

In November 1964, the Village purchased the first 49 acres of land for \$1,500 from the City of Albany to be used for the development of Cook Park. Cook Park is named after former Mayor William Cook; it is the largest recreational park in the Village and is used by residents of the Village of Colonie and of the Towns of Guilderland and Colonie. The Patroon Creek flows through the park and into Cook Pond, and is the only water body located in the Village of Colonie. The entrance to Cook Park is off Lincoln Avenue, a secondary road off Central Avenue and is located in the southeast corner of the Village.

Cook Park has many recreational opportunities for every age. Amenities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Fields where baseball leagues such as Babe Ruth and Little League play.
- Girls' softball



Ball Fields, Cook Park

- Youth Soccer
- Shuffleboard
- Bocce
- Horseshoes
- Basketball
- Tennis
- Volleyball
- Open areas for recreation
- Two playgrounds for children
- Walking trails throughout the park and around the pond.

Cook Park also offers a pavilion that may be rented, which includes seating, a kitchen, and a barbeque pit outside. Along with the pavilion, there are picnic areas that include picnic tables for individual groups.



Pavilion, Cook Park

The existing facilities in Cook Park are slightly inadequate and undersized. The Village Board of Trustees has authorized improvements that started with the recent dredging of Cook Pond to remove silt and sediment that was reducing the pond size. Future developments will include:

- An amphitheater near the water
- A dock
- Additional small gazebo
- Installation of a fountain in Cook Pond
- Updated court facilities

Bauer Park

Bauer Park is located on Sand Creek Road in the Northeastern section of the Village and was built in 1996. With 58 acres, it is the Villages' largest passive park and is named after former Mayor Fred Bauer. Bauer Park offers a 3,000-foot long boardwalk loop that wanders through the New York State wetlands on the site. The boardwalk is handicap accessible and provides benches along the trail. No significant improvements are scheduled at this time. Residents and employees of the surrounding area that are



Bauer Park Boardwalk

Milton Park



Milton Park

Locust Park

Albany Pine Bush Preserve

looking for an attractive location for low impact exercise, such as walking, make use of this area.

The park's surrounding neighborhoods consist of densely populated residential single-family and multi-family housing. The surrounding residents are able to access the park by walking or biking on the sidewalks on Sand Creek Road that lead to the entrance of the park. Residents that travel by car are provided with a small parking area in front of the entrance.

Milton Park was named after former Mayor Charles Milton and is located on the corner of Rapple Drive and Gail Avenue. It is a small attractive neighborhood park of approximately two acres. The park is often used by the surrounding single-family residential homes, which are in walking distance.

The residents of the Village can take advantage of the playground set for the smaller children and the sandbox for the toddlers. For teenagers and adults, there are two tennis courts and a basketball court. The park is open from April 1 to September 30 and the hours are 9 A.M. to 9 P.M. seven days a week.

Locust Park is located in front of the Village Hall and the Department of Public Works on Locust Park. It is a small park that contains a tennis court, basketball court, small gazebo, and a resting area. Most of the use of the park is by the Senior Citizen Center and the single-family residential homes, which are all within walking distance.

The Albany Pine Bush Preserve is an open space resource to the Village of Colonie. The Preserve was established by the New York State Legislature to protect the rare pitch pine-scrub oak barrens habitat. The preserve is made up of gently rolling sand plains with well-drained soils that are characterized by a variety of plant species. The ecological environment is made up of communities that are well



Albany Pine Bush Preserve

adapted to dry conditions and periodic fires. The habitat of the Pine Bush Preserve supports the Karner Blue Butterfly, a federally endangered species. The area also includes oak and pine forests with a diversity of wetlands, as well as several successional communities that have resulted from historic land use and fire suppression.

The Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission manages approximately 84 protected acres and 91 partially protected acres that are located in the Southeastern corner of the Village. The larger properties of the Albany Pine Bush are located adjacent to the Village of Colonie between the Cities of Albany and Schenectady. The Albany Pine Bush Preserve offers:

- Twenty miles of scenic trails for hiking, walking, and horseback riding
- Hunting
- Nature study for a growing number of students and others interested in this unique ecosystem

The Albany Pine Bush Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, April 2002, identifies lands recommended for protection for reaching an overall goal of limited fragmentation and increased contiguity between protected parcels. Nearly half of the Village of Colonie lies within the Study/Protection Area Boundary delineated by the Pine Bush Preserve Commission.

TOWN OF COLONIE *Heritage Park*



Heritage Park

Heritage Park is located in the Town of Colonie and lies between the Village and Albany International Airport off Watervliet-Shaker Road. In 1983 the Town of Colonie and Albany County entered into an agreement to build a multi-purpose sports facility which is maintained by the Town of Colonie Parks & Recreation Department.

Heritage Park has had several athletic teams throughout the years such as the Oakland Athletics and New York Yankees Double A baseball teams. Currently, the Diamond Dogs

VILLAGE SCHOOL RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Baseball Organization use the facility, along with Siena College Football, area colleges and high school baseball, professional boxing, and car and trade shows.

The recreational facilities of the South Colonie School District is considered a Village resource as many of the residents that live near the schools utilize the school facilities for their recreational purposes.

There are two elementary schools located in the Village: Forest Park, and Saddlewood. Forest Park Elementary School has the following recreational amenities:

- Swing sets
- Two Playgrounds
- Two basketball hoops

There is a large open field next to the school that may be used for activities such as soccer, baseball, softball, and kickball.

Saddlewood School also has many amenities available to the residents which include:

- Two swing sets
- One Playground
- One slide

There is also a field next to the school that has a baseball/softball field, a green space area to play soccer or kickball, and a small area with wooden apparatuses to use for balancing and agility exercises.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Village of Colonie Senior Citizen Center

Mayor Bill Cook and Edward Skinner, Sr. established the Village of Colonie Senior Citizen Center on Mothers Day in 1966. The original center was a house that was donated to the community and moved to the Village's municipal



Village of Colonie Senior Citizen Center

property. By 1978, the house was too small for the sixty members of the center, meetings were then moved to the Village Hall, and the activities were held at the Colonie Community Center. A new Senior Citizen Center opened in 1981 as an addition located at the rear of the Village hall. The Center is named after former Mayor Herbert B. Kuhn, and currently has approximately 400 members. The center was expanded again in 1989 due to the growing and popular demand. A wide array of activities are offered at the Senior Citizen Center, they include:

- Bingo
- Cards – Bridge, Pinochle
- Exercise Class
- Language Class – German and Spanish
- Lunches and dinners on special occasions
- Dancing – Line Dancing, Square Dancing and Country Western
- Quilting Class
- Sewing Class
- Tai Chi Class
- Yoga Class
- Day and Overnight trips

Town of Colonie Community Center



Town Community Center

The Town of Colonie Community Center is located on Central Avenue in the Village of Colonie. Owned by the Town it is located in a building that was once used as the Colonie Village School. The Community Center has several rooms, an auditorium, gym, two lounges, and fields for community members.

The following are some of the programs that are offered by the center:

- Support groups for those who care about a person with alcoholism
- Adventure programs
- Disabled children's camp
- School vacation camp

- After school mentoring
- Step aerobics
- Summer camp program,
- A toddler program
- Parent support group

In addition, the Youth Employment Service program is available to help youths ages 14-21 find jobs and arranges for an American Red Cross babysitting certification course four times a year.

*Town of Colonie
Youth Center*

The Colonie Youth Center (CYC) opened in 1965 and is a private not-for-profit center that provides young people and families with programs and services to enhance their life. The center is located in the Town of Colonie and serves all the residents of Colonie.

A wide variety of spring and summer programs for youth, adults and families are offered that includes many popular summer travel camps such as white water rafting, caving, rock climbing, and hiking. CYC also offers specialty programs for learning arts and crafts, photography, acting, and culinary arts. Other sports camps include golf, lacrosse, cross-country, volleyball, wrestling, soccer, basketball, softball, tennis, and cheerleading.

In addition to these programs, family assistance programs and school age childcare in the form of before and after school programs and vacation camps are offered. Parents are welcome to visit their child's program and have unlimited access to their child.

*Town of Colonie
William K. Sanford
Town Library*

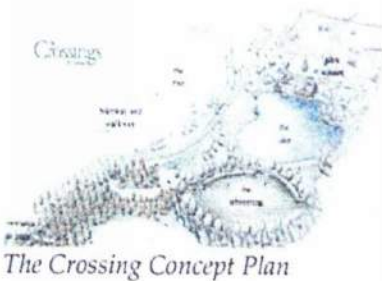
The William K. Sanford Town Library is located in the center of the Capital District and caters to a diverse population of 450,000. The library was opened in 1963 in the basement of a building located at 429 Albany-Shaker Road. In 1973, land was purchased for \$120,000 at 629 Albany-Shaker Road where the new library was completed on July 6, 1976. The Library has become a community

center for the Village and Town and offers many opportunities and programs for community gatherings and education. There is a medium sized meeting room that may be used for lectures and related activities. A variety of daily and weekly programs such as children story hours for all different age groups, children's drawing, and writing contests, summer reading club, craft programs, adult programs and a youth service program.

Adult programs include internet, finance and job workshops, book and lecture series and musical performances.

Any resident who is interested may join the library. Day care centers and nursery schools may arrange a story time visit to the library or it may be arranged for a staff member to travel to the nursery schools and day care centers.

Colonie Crossings



The Crossings is a new Town Park that is presently under development in the Town of Colonie and is adjacent to the Village. The main entrance will be located off Albany-Shaker Road, East of the William K. Stanford Library with a secondary car entrance proposed off Metro Park Drive. There will be multiple entrances for pedestrians and bicyclists located off surrounding streets in the area and behind Sand Creek Middle School.

The Crossings is a 130-acre passive park that will include walking paths, fields, bike trails, picnic areas, arboretum, and a 3-acre pond. The park is projected to open late in 2003 and will have terrific recreational opportunities for Village and Town residents.

Town of Colonie Park And Pool

The Town of Colonie Park and Pool are in the Town of Colonie and consist of a 160-acre complex that was opened in the summer of 1967. The Park and Pool are located along the Mohawk River just north of the Latham Traffic Circle and feature:



Colonie Town Pool

- Olympic sized pool with a diving area
- Training pool
- Bath house
- Two pavilions
- Picnic area
- Tennis courts
- A playground
- Boat launch on the Mohawk River
- Nature trails
- Cross-country ski trails

In addition to these features, the park has five softball fields, a North Colonie Pop Warner football field, and is home to the Latham Lassies.

This is the only public pool available to the Town and Village residents so it is heavily used and is open only to residents. Non-residents are welcome as guests of residents.

Town Of Colonie Golf Course

The Town of Colonie Golf Course opened in 1969 with a scenic 18-hole course, restaurant, locker rooms, driving range and a putting green. The course is located off Consul Road in the western portion of the Town of Colonie. By 1978, the popularity of the Golf Course was overwhelming and another nine holes were constructed in 1980, along with 5 new tennis courts and a golf cart storage building. In 1996, the Town purchased additional land to design another nine holes and is now a 36-hole course, and one of the largest publicly owned golf courses in the Country. In the winter, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing are allowed on the course.

Mohawk And Hudson Bikeway

The Mohawk and Hudson Bikeway trail opened in 1975, and helped Colonie become a front-runner in trail development from Buffalo to Albany. The Colonie section of the bikeway is 5.5 miles long and is called the Colonie Riverfront Bike & Hike Trail. The bike trail offers pedestrians and bicyclists a scenic and recreational activity.

It is located along the Mohawk River, between the Town Park and the Niskayuna town line and. Presently, bicycling enthusiasts can travel eastward along the Mohawk River from Niskayuna, through Colonie, Cohoes, and Watervliet, along the Hudson River to the Corning Preserve in Albany.

**REGIONAL
CULTURAL
INTERESTS**

Museums

There are many regional assets located near the Village of Colonie of which residents may take advantage. Some of the most popular opportunities are:

- The Pruyn House
- Shaker Heritage Society
- Schuyler Mansion
- Albany Institute of History & Art
- New York State Museum
- Junior Museum
- The Empire Center State Plaza/The Egg

Sport Arenas

- Pepsi Arena
- Rensselaer Houston Field House
- Albany County Hockey Facility
- Joe Bruno Stadium

Performance Centers

- Saratoga Performing Arts Center
- Troy Savings Bank Music Hall
- Proctors Theatre
- Palace Theatre
- Curtain Call Theater
- Capital Repertory Theatre

Educational Resources



Saddlewood Elementary

The Village of Colonie provides a myriad of opportunities for students and residents of all levels of learning and of all ages. Education related statistics provided by the New York State Department of Education for school years 1996 and 1997 provided interesting comparatives between South Colonie School District, Albany County schools, and total public school averages. A brief analysis of the information provided depicts that South Colonie students receive an above average education while educational expenses fall below those of the county and the state.

The South Colonie School District was formed on July 1, 1949. Per 1997 statistical data, the student enrollment stands at 5,682. Of this number, 91.3% are non-minority, whereas, Albany County serves a non-minority base of 77.1%.

The school district is comprised of one high school, two middle schools and four elementary schools. The middle schools and two of the elementary schools are located outside of the Village boundaries. Classroom instruction is provided for grades kindergarten through 12. Pre-Kindergarten instruction is provided as the district's school budget allows. Pre-elementary education and activities are available at a number of day care programs located in the Village and the Town, as well as the surrounding area.

Elementary, middle and high school classroom sizes range from 21 to 24 students; kindergarten classes average 18 students in number. The number of students is in direct correlation to those of Albany County schools and below the total New York State public schools averages.

Special education studies are designed for those students requiring an alternative source of learning support. Emphasis is placed on providing these students with the least restrictive environment while integrating studies at a level and of subject matter to the appropriate learning



Forest Park School

levels demonstrated by the individual child. In 1996-97, special education full time equivalent (FTE) enrollment was at 659 with an instructional expense per FTE at \$11,361.

Attendance rates for both South Colonie and Albany County remain above the total public school averages with Colonie's attendance at 95.7%, Albany County at 94.3%, and the public school averages at 91.6%.

Of those students graduating in 1997-98, 63% received New York State Regents Diplomas, as compared to 58% of Albany County students and 43% of total public schools.

Instruction expenditures per full time equivalent student (FTE), for school year 1996-97 was \$5,268 while Albany County's is similar with \$5,415, and total public is \$5,335. The annual turnover rate for South Colonie (11%) is higher than that of Albany County (9%) and total public schools (10%). The turnover may tie directly to the median teaching salary. The Fall 1997, median salary for teachers in South Colonie was \$44,624 while Albany County's average was \$46,472 and the total public, \$48,712.

South Colonie Central High School houses an off-campus site for Hudson Valley Community College. High School students have the opportunity to combine college level courses into their high school curriculum.

Spring and Fall continuing education programs for Village and Town residents are designed to meet the cultural, employment, and educational needs of the community. Classes are scheduled at South Colonie District schools and are well attended by adults of all ages.

Privately funded, secular education is provided by two Christian denominations located nearby in the Town of Colonie. Technical and vocational schools are located throughout the tri city area.

Due to its centralized location, residents of the Village are

within a half hour travel time of many of the States premier college and university facilities which include:

- Siena College
- The State University of New York at Albany
- Albany Medical College
- Albany Law School
- Albany College of Pharmacy
- Maria College
- Russell Sage College
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- The College of St. Rose
- Union College
- Schenectady County Community College
- Hudson Valley Community College
- Empire State College

Transportation

Transportation facilities and services within the Village fall within one of three general categories. These include

1. **Highway:** Pertaining to the movement of motorized vehicles
2. **Public:** Pertaining to mass transit facilities or services
3. **Pedestrian/Bicycle:** Pertaining to facilities for walking or non-motorized vehicles

HIGHWAY



Central Avenue

The Village of Colonie contains a countless number of highway facilities owned and maintained by various levels of government. By far the two largest facilities are the State owned Route 5 (Albany-Schenectady Turnpike) and Interstate 87 (Adirondack Northway). Route 5 is a 5-lane thoroughfare bisecting the Village in a north/south direction. It is a primary access to the local Village streets as well as a major commuter corridor. Average daily traffic on this highway approaches 50,000 vehicles per day. Route 5 is also the confluence of the Village's commercial activity, and as such, has many commercial driveway access points or curb cuts. These curb cuts lend to an extensive number of turning movements within each block, many of which conflict.

The New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) has adopted an access management policy in this corridor to help reduce the number of curb cuts while maintaining the necessary access to businesses. The Village Planning Commission has been working with DOT in this regard on a lot-by-lot basis as they come before the Commission for various approvals. In addition, the Capital District Transportation Committee has completed a critical analysis of the Route 5 corridor and identified a *Preferred Future* for the corridor in the New York Route 5 Corridor Land Use and Transportation Study. The CDTC Study offers a



Lincoln Avenue Intersection

number of solid recommendations for economic development, downtown revitalization, street design, and pedestrian, bicycle and public transit improvements.

Interstate 87 is a limited access highway containing 6-lanes in an east/west direction. The highway is situated in the eastern portion of the Village and separates the Wolf Road commercial area from the rest of the Village. Access to and exits from Interstate 87 connect with Route 5. Average daily volume on Interstate 87 between I-90 and Exit 2 is approximately 116,000 cars per day. Interstate 87 handles approximately 100,000 cars per day between Exit 2 and Exit 4. The combination of these to major facilities has given the Village the nickname *Crossroads of the Capital District*.

Aside from the State highways, another heavily traveled road is the County-owned Route 155, which traverses the western end of the Village. Although not much of the road is within the Village itself, Route 155 is a major destination for many of the vehicles traveling the NYS Route 5 corridor. Route 155 is a major connection to Washington Avenue in the City of Albany and Western Avenue (NYS Route 20) in the Town of Guilderland. On average Route 155 handles 18,000 cars per day between Washington Avenue Extension and Central Avenue.

The Village of Colonie itself owns and is responsible for maintaining the majority of roadways within the Village. All residential streets are owned and maintained by the Village as well as commercial access roads within the Village. Depending upon location, these streets handle various volumes of traffic throughout the day. The busiest Village streets are those that connect other major highways. Sand Creek Road, in the Northerly portion of the Village, connects Route 155 and Wolf Road resulting in daily traffic exceeding 10,000 vehicles per day. Lincoln Avenue, in the Southeasterly portion of the Village connects Route 5 with Washington Avenue Extension resulting in use by over 7,000 cars per day. Many of the streets on the Northerly

Lincoln Avenue Bridge Project

side of the Village connect Sand Creek Road to Route 5. As a result, many people use these streets as "cut through" streets to and from their place of business to avoid the congested intersections of Wolf Road.

The Village of Colonie has been working closely with the New York State Department of Transportation to eliminate the existing at-grade railroad crossing on Lincoln Avenue. The State has determined that due to the danger of the high-speed rail traffic, alternatives to this crossing should be explored. The elimination of the at-grade crossing will not only improve the safety for travelers of Rapp Road and Lincoln Avenue, but will also reduce cut-through traffic to/from Washington Avenue Extension and Central Avenue, while maintaining a connection by utilizing commercial roads within the Village. The project will also enhance the residential character of the area. Currently the project is entering the preliminary design phase, and is expected to be completed by 2006.

Service/New Roads

In an effort to improve the quality of life, service/new roads, which include provisions for bicycle and pedestrian access, are proposed to be constructed at the following locations:

- West of Route 87 (I-87), from Sand Creek Road to Central Avenue - This service/new road would reduce cut-through traffic on residential streets and help relieve congestion along Sand Creek Road and Central Avenue (Route 5) by increasing the operational capacity of the transportation corridor. The new road would include new sidewalks and shared use lanes.
- East of Route 87 (I-87), from Computer Drive South to Wolf Road - This service/new road would help relieve congestion along Wolf Road between Central Avenue (Route 5) and Sand Creek Road by increasing the operational capacity of the

transportation corridor. The new road would include new sidewalks and shared use lanes.

- Extension of Petra Lane to Karner Road - This service/new road would provide an alternative parallel route for Village residents traveling west or east and currently utilizing Central Avenue (Route 5). The new road would relieve congestion along Central Avenue (Route 5) by increasing the operational capacity of the transportation corridor. The new road would include new sidewalks and shared use lanes.

The Village is currently seeking federal and/or state funding to assist in the construction of the proposed roads.

Traffic Mitigation Study, 1996

Due to the concerns from the residents in the affected neighborhoods, the Village Traffic and Environmental Commission undertook a *Traffic Mitigation Study* in 1996 to address traffic, pedestrian and bicycle transportation issues. The study specifically addressed the reduction of high volume and the speed of vehicular traffic on various residential streets, the development of future connector roads to improve traffic flow, the need for traffic signals to improve level of service, the development of a pedestrian/bicycle circulation plan, and the review of traffic signs for compliance with the Village Code. The study made several recommendations, some of which are in place today including the use of speed humps and pavement painting to slow down and eliminate some traffic on Village streets. The basic recommendations of the report are as follows:

Reduction of Traffic Volume and Speed

After evaluating all the strategies, the Traffic and Environmental Commission decided to address the reduction of cut-through and overall traffic volume and speed in a phased approach.

The recommendations were established in three phases. If Phase 1 strategies did not produce adequate results, then

*Lincoln Avenue
Phase 1*



Lincoln Avenue sidewalk

Phase 2

Phase 3

Phase 2 was recommended to the Village Board for implementation. The following were recommended strategies of each phase with respect to specific residential streets. *Recommendations in italics represent those that have been implemented to date.*

- *Re-stripe the double yellow centerline markings and install white edge line markings. The travel lane width will be reduced to 10'-0".*
- *Install "No Through Traffic" signs at the intersections with Central Avenue and Petra Lane.*
- *Install 3-way or 4-way stop signs at the intersections with Robert Drive and Omaha Terrace, Ridge Terrace and Village Park Drive.*
- *Review existing "Weight Limit 4 Tons" signs and "Except Local Delivery" signs. Determine if signs are placed in accordance with the NYS Manual of Traffic Control Devices.*
- *Construct sidewalks from Central Avenue to Cook Park access road to accommodate pedestrian traffic.*
- *Install a portable special monitoring device for speed control.*
- *Install one-way street signs on Lincoln Avenue at the intersection with Petra Lane and Cook Park access road to convert this section of Lincoln Avenue to one-way south.*
- *Dead-end Lincoln Avenue, north of the Colonie Block Company after realignment of Jupiter Lane at Central Avenue is completed (recommendation has been delayed pending the outcome of the Lincoln Avenue Bridge Project).*

*Nicholas Drive
Phase 1*

- *Petition NYSDOT for the placement of a traffic signal at the intersection of Central Avenue, Nicholas Drive, and Woolard Avenue.*

Phase 2

- *Construct a connector road from Nicholas Drive to Parkwood Drive.*

*Delafield Drive &
Mordella Road
Phase 1*

- *Install double yellow centerline markings.*
- *Install 3-way or 4-way stop signs at the intersections with Gert Lane.*
- *Install stop bar and crosswalk markings at Mordella Road/Gert Lane and Delafield Drive/Gert Lane intersections.*
- *Install a portable speed-monitoring device for speed control.*

Phase 2

- *Install speed humps as required to reduce cut-through traffic and, particularly, vehicular speeds to an acceptable level.*

Phase 3

- *Dead-end both Delafield Drive and Mordella Road south of Sand Creek Road.*

*Hunting Road & Birch
Avenue
Phase 1*

- *Install double yellow centerline markings and white edge line markings. The travel lane width will be reduced to 10'-0".*
- *Install 3-way or 4-way stop signs at the intersections with Barker Street, Red Fox Drive, Locust Park and Bridle Path, Thoroughbred Lane and Stirrup Drive.*
- *Install stop bar and crosswalk markings at the above mentioned intersections.*
- *Install warnings signs at locations of limited sight distance to advise motorists of stop signs ahead and for blind driveways.*

ahead and for blind driveways.

Phase 2

- *Install a portable speed-monitoring device for speed control.*
- *Install speed humps as required to reduce cut-through traffic and, particularly vehicular speeds to an acceptable level.*

Phase 3

- *Dead-end Hunting Road south of Sand Creek Road.*

General

The Traffic & Environmental Commission recommends the installation of two speed humps on Thunder Road, near the Village Hall to monitor their effectiveness. The speed hump will be analyzed to determine their suitability in reducing traffic speeds, durability, and concerns with snow plowing activity. If the speed hump is found acceptable to the residents and performs its intended function, then this device is recommended for permanent use where it has deemed appropriate.

Pedestrian & Bicycle Transportation

The Traffic & Environmental Commission recommends implementation of sidewalks and bicycle lanes on Village Streets as per the Pedestrian & Bicycle Circulation Plan. The Mayor and Board of Trustees will then need to determine the funding and time period for implementation. Lincoln Avenue has been determined to be a top priority for placement of sidewalks. Therefore, the Traffic & Environmental Commission has recommended placement of the sidewalks on Lincoln Avenue as soon as funding is available.

Traffic Signals

The Traffic & Environmental Commission recommends the installation of a traffic signal on Central Avenue, Nicholas Drive and Woolard Avenue intersection. In addition, the Commission will further study and analyze the installation of traffic signals at the intersections of Sand Creek Road with Hunting Road and

Sunset Boulevard. The installation of a traffic signal at Sand Creek Road and Hunting Road would be considered an alternative to dead-ending Hunting Road.

Connector Roads

The Traffic & Environmental Commission recommends the construction of a connector road (Nicholas Drive to Parkwood Drive), if NYSDOT has determined that a signal is not warranted at the intersection of Central Avenue and Nicholas Drive/Woollard Avenue.

Traffic Signs

The Traffic & Environmental Commission recommends the placement of traffic signs as indicated in Section XVI of this Report.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Public transportation within the Village is limited to bus service provided by the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA). CDTA provides service through the Village along the Route 5 corridor, Wolf Road and Route 155. The #1 bus services the Albany International Airport, Central Avenue, and downtown Albany. The #55 bus service runs from downtown Schenectady and downtown Albany along Route 5. CDTA also offers an express bus service between downtown Schenectady and downtown Albany. The "Shuttle Bug" service runs from Route 5 and Karner Road to Crossgates Mall and 20 Mall in the Town of Guilderland. The "Shuttle Fly" service runs between Colonie Center and the Albany International Airport. The "STAR" (Special Transit Available by Request) service is available for people with disabilities. It provides curb-to-curb transportation on an advanced registration basis. CDTA also provides service to all area hospitals, public libraries, museums, performing arts centers, (major public parks including Cook Park), and major malls and shopping areas and all major sports venues and arenas. The amount of utilization of public transportation by Village residents

and business owners is not known, however, according to CDTA Route 5 is the most heavily used of all their services. Other major transportation facilities available to businesses and residents of the village include the Albany/Rensselaer Train Station and the Schenectady Train Station, all within a half hour drive.

Located on Albany-Shaker Road, just a few minutes drive from almost anywhere in the Village, the Albany International Airport is a major asset to the community. The newly expanded 230,000 square foot terminal, which re-opened in June of 1998, accommodates 135 Average Daily Arrivals and Departures. The facility offers parking for over 5,000 vehicles, and shuttle bus service from more distant parking areas. Commercial airline services include; Air Canada, American/American Eagle, Continental/Continental Connection, Delta, Northwest, Southwest, United/United Express, US Airways/US Airways Express/Metrojet.

PEDESTRIAN / BICYCLE



*Sand Creek Road Sidewalk
near Bauer Park*

Pedestrian and bicycle facilities are provided along some of the major roadways in the Village. While no separate bicycle paths or lanes exist, shared lanes, meaning wider than normal vehicular travel lanes to provide enough room for cars and bicycles, accommodate them. Sidewalks are provided along the north and south sides of NYS Route 5 the west and east sides of Wolf Road, along the east side of Lincoln Avenue, and the north side of Sand Creek Road. The sidewalks along Wolf Road, Sand Creek Road, and Lincoln Avenue have been constructed within the last five years. The residential neighborhoods do not contain any separate amenities for bicycle or pedestrian traffic. The Village of Colonie 1996 Traffic Management Study identifies the need for improved pedestrian and bicycle facilities within the Village and specifies the areas where Village residents have expressed a need or desire for pedestrian/bicycle facilities.

Existing Land Use



Single-Family Housing

The description of existing land use patterns represents a snapshot of the Village's current pattern of activities and level of development. The Village contains 3,130 parcels comprising approximately 1,600 acres. The overall land area of the Village covers approximately 3.2 square miles. Land uses in the Village are concentrated on what can be generally described as a core commercial district along Central Avenue. Surrounding the commercial strip are fairly uniform size single-family lots with evenly dispersed multi-family lots, recreation, institutional, educational uses, and community services.

The following narrative is based upon the Village of Colonie Existing Land Use Map, which can be found in the Appendix of this document. The map was prepared from Geographic Information System data that was provided to the Village of Colonie by the Town of Colonie. The evaluation of the data for the creation of the map is taken from the parcel based Real Property Assessment Database, which does not include the road areas of the Village. The Existing Land Use Map depicts the general patterns of development in the Village by categorizing each individual land parcel based on how that parcel is coded for full value assessment. Accuracy and completeness of this information is not guaranteed.

RESIDENTIAL

The Village of Colonie contains residential development at moderate densities on both sides of the commercial strip along Central Avenue. Single-family housing is the dominant land use in the Village, making up about 47% of the total parcels in the Village. The total acreage of single-family home parcels is approximately 750 acres. Generally, these areas are designated as *Residential A* on the Village of Colonie Zoning Map and are currently developed with single-family housing and a very small amount of scattered multi-family housing within the single-family neighborhoods.



Multi-Family Housing

COMMERCIAL



Commercial Business on Wolf Road

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Multi-family housing makes up about 3% of the total parcels in the Village, equaling approximately 50 acres. Multi-family residences are defined as consisting of two or more units in a building, but do not always include apartment buildings because they are sometimes assessed as a commercial establishment.

The second most common land use within the Village is commercial. Commercially assessed parcels within the Village equal approximately 25% of the total parcels, or about 400 acres. The most intensely developed areas in the Village occur along the Route 5 and Wolf Road corridors. Route 5 was the catalyst for both residential and commercial development in the Village. Strip commercial development has almost completely replaced the original homes that were once located on Route 5.

Another intensely developed area is located Southwest of Route 5 off Jupiter Lane, Walker Way and Petra Lane. This area has a number of different services and warehousing land uses. The commercial establishments in the Village serve the local community and have a regional market base due to the amount of traffic that uses Route 5 to travel to and from downtown Albany. The Northway Mall also has a regional market that attracts shoppers from all around the Capital District. The Village of Colonie Zoning Map depicts the location of the majority of commercial uses in the Village, which are within the *Commercial A, B and D* Zoning Districts.

Community services such as religious facilities, schools and school district offices, community centers and the Village offices make up only about 5% of the parcels within the Village, but are very valuable properties. The total acreage for community services is approximately 80 acres. These

facilities are scattered throughout the Village, with the largest acreage consisting of Forest Park and Saddlewood Elementary Schools.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

Public utility uses in the Village include electric and communications utilities such as Niagara Mohawk transmission lines, substations, and cellular towers. About 1% of the parcels or 18 acres in the Village are used for public utilities

RECREATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

Recreational opportunities within the Village include both public and private facilities, depending on the facilities assessment code. There are five public parks within the Village totaling approximately 118 acres, however about 9% of the parcels or 140 acres are assessed for recreation or entertainment. These parcels include the Village parkland such as Cook Park and Bauer Park, the portion of the Northway Mall that was once Cinema 10, and land of the Albany Pine Bush Nature Preserve that is within the Village.

VACANT LAND

According to the Existing Land Use Map, approximately 10% of Village land remains vacant. These properties are scattered throughout the Village and total approximately 160 acres. Currently, much of this property is Village owned, privately owned and under review for a development proposal or cannot be developed due to environmental constraints such as wetlands.

BUILDING TRENDS

Between 1999 and 2001, 337 building permits were issued in the Village of Colonie. The majority of permits issued (184) were for renovations or additions to existing homes in the



Kristole Manor Subdivision

Village. Forty six building permits were issued for new residential structures, 12 permits were issued for new commercial structures, 45 permits were issued for renovations or additions to commercial buildings, six permits were issued for the demolition of dilapidated structures, and 44 were issued for tenant changes.

The building permits issued for the construction of new residential structures include single-family homes, two-family homes, and mobile homes. Only two building permits were issued for construction of single-family homes in 1999 for the subdivision known as Kristole Manor located on the west side of Lincoln Avenue off Ridge Terrace. Of the 19 building permits issued for residential structures in the year 2000, 14 were for the construction of single-family homes in Kristole Manor. In 2001, two additional building permits were issued for single-family homes in Kristole Manor, however of the 17 building permits issued for new homes, 13 were given for the development of two-family homes on Garden Terrace.

The building permits for commercial structures include office buildings, warehouses, restaurants, auto service businesses and storage buildings. Some examples of newly constructed buildings on Central Avenue are the new Dunkin Donuts and the new Jiffy Lube. The majority of other new commercial construction within the Village has occurred in Clark Industrial Park.

VARIANCES

The Village of Colonie granted 11 variances in the year 2000, 9 variances in 2001 and as of April 2002, there were six variances granted. During the year 2000, the variances that were granted are of similar subjects; six dealt with street frontage and setbacks, four were for signs, and one was for fence height. In 2001, the trend was the same four variances for signs, four for setbacks and one for fence height and setback. In 2002, there was variance for the one

setback of a cell tower, three variances for signs and two for sideline setbacks.

In conclusion, most of the variances that were granted involved problems with side and rear setback requirements for fences, pools, houses and signs. This trend is not unusual because the Village of Colonie is almost completely built-out with little available vacant land. When new construction or additions to previous construction is desired on available land in the Village, it becomes difficult to meet the existing zoning requirements for setbacks and side yards.

Existing Zoning

ZONING

The Village of Colonie has an adopted zoning ordinance that is used to promote the health, safety and welfare of the Village residents. The Village has eight different zones that are identified in Chapter 242 of the Village Code

CONSERVATION – RESIDENTIAL

The Conservation-Residential District is considered a residential district. The two sections of the zone are located in the far Southwest corner and extend as a small strip Northeast towards Route 5 in a small strip of the Village and the area known as Bauer Park. This district currently allows one single-family dwelling or one two-family dwelling on land that is no less than one acre in size. Some of the uses that are allowed but may require a special permit are: churches, public libraries, parks and nature preserves. Other allowed uses are conference centers, research libraries, and establishments that are operated by non-profit organizations.

RESIDENTIAL-A DISTRICT

The Residential-A District is the largest residential district in the Village of Colonie, and covers more than half of the Village. The following uses are allowed in this district: single-family dwelling, churches, schools, public libraries, farms, garden or nursery, two-family dwellings, playground or park, accessory apartments in a one-family dwelling, a home occupation in a one-family or two-family dwelling and the keeping no more than two horses on at least two acres of land as an accessory use to single-family dwelling.

RESIDENTIAL-B DISTRICT

The Residential-B District covers a substantially smaller area than the Residential-A District. There are two sections in the Village that are zoned Residential-B and are located adjacent to the largest wetland in the Village and to the

**RESIDENTIAL-C
DISTRICT**

Southwest of the Northway. Allowed uses in the Residential-B district include those in Residential-A with the addition of multi-family housing and single-family attached dwellings.

**COMMERCIAL-A
DISTRICT**

The Residential-C District is the smallest residential district in the Village and located in the Southwest portion of the Village. All uses that are allowed in Residential-A are allowed in Residential-C. In addition, mobile home parks are allowed with special provisions.

**COMMERCIAL-B
DISTRICT**

The Commercial-A District is the largest commercial district in the Village of Colonie, and is located in the middle of the Village along Route 5, extending \pm 400 feet in from Route 5. All the uses that are allowed in Residential-A and B are also allowed in this district, along with retail, professional, personal, business and financial services, restaurants or food services, theater and nightclubs, appliance repair, printing, and a shopping center of two or more uses. In addition, gasoline stations, motor vehicles sale and service, motels and hotels, greenhouses, warehouses, veterinarian and adult entertainment services are allowed with special provisions.

COMMERCIAL-D

The Commercial-B district is located on the East side of the Northway between Wolf Road, Sand Creek Road, and the Northway Mall. All of the allowed uses in Residential-A, B and the permitted uses in Commercial-A district comprise this zone.

The Commercial-D District is approximately located on the Southwestern side of Route 5 encompassing parts of Jupiter

DISTRICT

Lane, Petra Lane, and Lincoln Avenue and contains the highest industrial use in the Village. The uses that are permitted in this district are wholesale uses, warehouses, storage facilities, business and professional uses that include administration; scientific establishments, research and development, training and financial, legal services, distribution facilities, theaters, equipment repair and sales, and light industrial excluding the use in any form of hazardous or toxic substance without specific approval. All uses that are located in this district require a special permit. Uses defined as heavy industrial not permitted in this district.

Public Opinions

Visualizing a future for the Village of Colonie is an intensive and integral component of the Master Plan. It requires the input of the Village's elected and appointed leaders, business owners, and residents, as well as the knowledge contained within village resources to provide an arena for the development of coordinated goals and objectives. It is common knowledge that the foundation of a good Master Plan is the incorporation of public input early and often throughout the development of the document. To facilitate this, the Village of Colonie has both created a broad based Master Plan Advisory Committee and developed a Comprehensive Community Outreach Program aimed at incorporating varying levels of public participation throughout the planning process.

MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Master Plan Advisory Committee meetings were held monthly throughout the planning process. The Committee consisted of twelve residents that included members of the Board of Trustees, Village Planning Commission, Village Zoning Board of Appeals, Village Transportation Committee, Village Sign Committee, and representatives of the senior population, youth population, business owners, and homeowners.

The Master Plan Advisory Committee meetings were designed to include representatives of a large cross section of the population in the development of the Plan. The main purpose of the Committee meetings were to review the work prepared by the consultants, and to have a forum to develop the community's vision statement, goals, objectives and recommendations, and to discuss actions and implementation plans. All of the Committee meetings were publicized and open to the entire community.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Recognizing the importance of public involvement, the Village of Colonie sought methods of community outreach beyond simply inviting public to the Master Plan Advisory Committee meetings. Several opportunities for community outreach were afforded to the residents, including: community surveys, business surveys, a community S.W.O.T. Analysis workshop where Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats were identified, a Community Image Survey workshop and analysis, a community survey to gather opinions on the draft Master Plan Goals, articles in *The Villager* newspaper, and both draft and final Master Plan presentations given at public meetings.

RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY SURVEY

A community survey was distributed to every household in the Village (3024 mailings). The purpose of the broad distribution was to afford the majority of people in the Village the opportunity to participate in the planning process. It was also a means of informing everyone about the planning process, a process that relies upon community input in order to be successful.

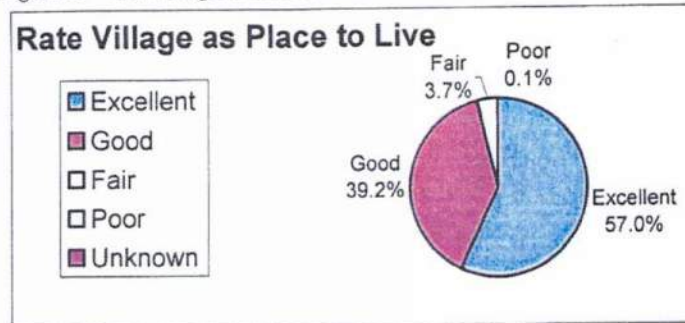
Approximately 960 written surveys were returned to the Village, resulting in a return rate of 31.7%. Responses were tabulated and presented to the Master Plan Advisory Committee for inclusion in this report. The following provides the highlights of the community survey.

QUALITY OF LIFE

The overall quality of life in the Village was rated high. When asked to rate the Village as a place to live (Figure 13), 57% of the respondents stated that the Village is an excellent place to live, and 92% of the respondents would recommend a friend or relative to purchase a home within the village (Figure 14). In addition, 85% of the respondents felt that the Village was an affordable place to live, and 97% thought that the Village is a safe place to live. An

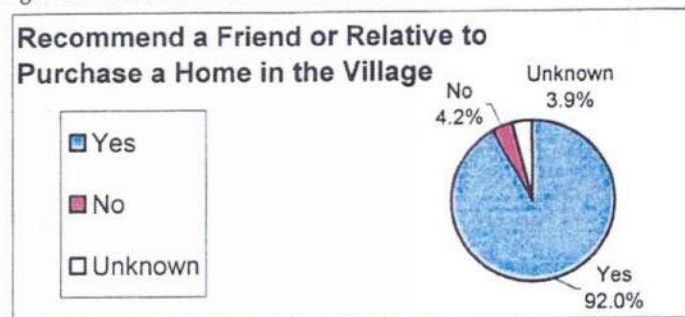
astounding 61% of the respondents have lived in the Village for over 15 years.

Figure 13 – Rate Village as Place to Live



Source: 2002 Community Survey

Figure 14 – Recommend a Friend or Relative to Purchase a Home in the Village



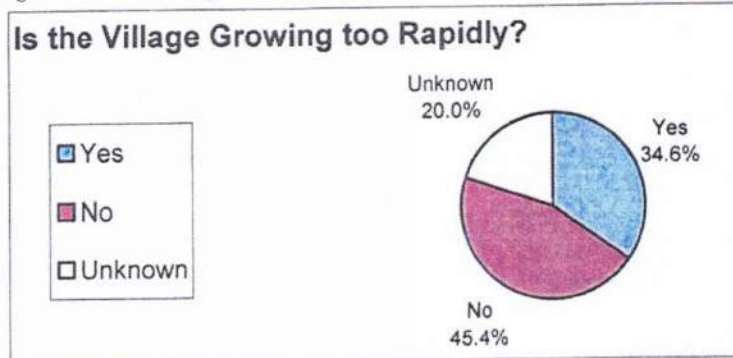
Source: 2002 Community Survey

ATTITUDE TOWARD GROWTH

The survey questioned residents' attitudes towards growth. Interestingly, there is a split in how residents perceive the past and future growth. 45% of the respondents feel that the Village has not grown too rapidly, and 35% feel that the Village has grown too fast.

When asked about future growth, 59% want the Village to stay just the way it is, and only 24% want the Village to continue to grow.

Figure 15 – Is the Village Growing to Rapidly?

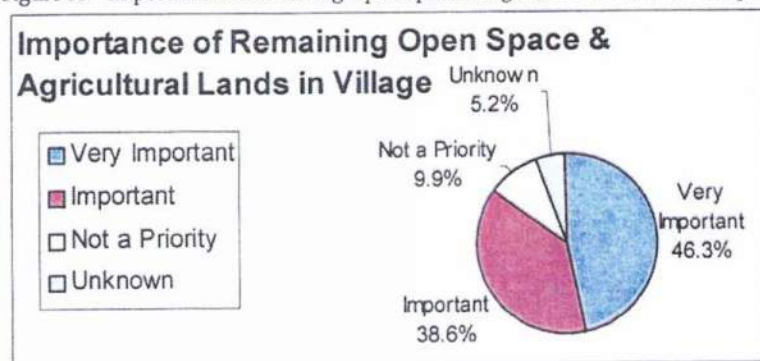


Source: 2002 Community Survey

While the respondents are split on the perceptions on how much growth can be sustained, they are all on the same page in regards to future growth. 70% of the residents stated that future growth on undeveloped land should be residential in nature. Approximately 40% stated that new growth should be in the form of single-family housing.

In terms of land use, about 70% of the respondents claimed that they were satisfied with the current zoning, 85% stated that they wanted to preserve the limited open space in the community, and 65% believed that there should be architectural review and design guidelines within the Village.

Figure 16 – Importance of Remaining Open Space & Agricultural Lands in Village



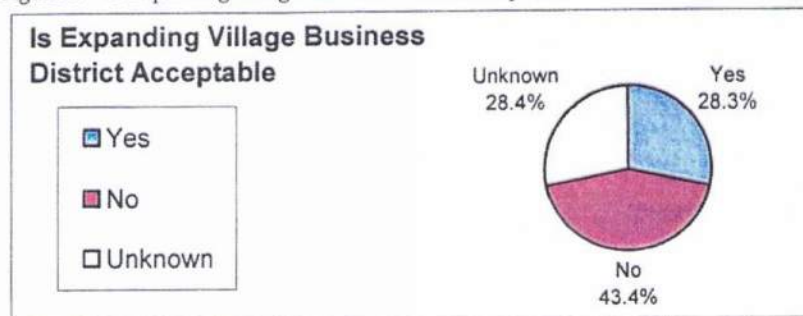
Source: 2002 Community Survey

Residential attitudes towards business development were sought based on the current and future needs of the community. Not surprisingly, 65% of the respondents felt that the current level of business activity is adequate.

When asked whether or not there should be more opportunities for businesses to locate in the village, the respondents were almost evenly split. Roughly, 30% felt that there should be more opportunities, 40% said that there should not be any more, and 30% were undecided. This confirms the first finding that the amount of businesses is "just about right."

Over half of the respondents stated that they would not want any more small-scale convenience retail stores near the neighborhoods. Almost 30% of the respondents stated the type of business that they did want to locate near them. Of these, 14% want a bakery, 9% wanted small boutiques, and 11% wanted a drug store.

Figure 17 – Is Expanding Village Business District Acceptable



Source: 2002 Community Survey

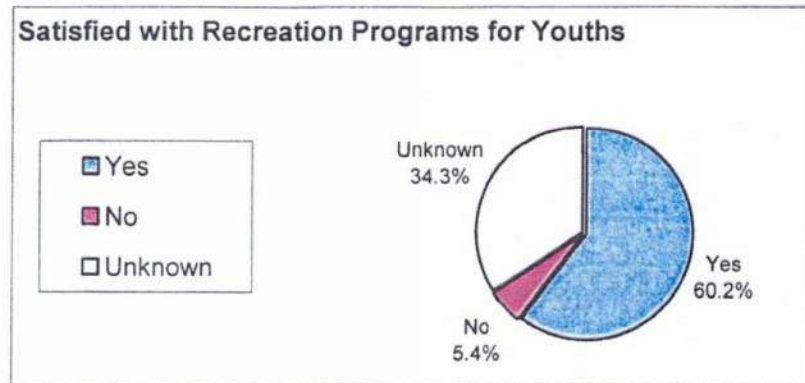
Further substantiating the residents' views concerning the future land use of the Village, when asked if expanding the Village Business District to accommodate new growth, 45% said they would not favor any expansion. This may suggest that residents are impacted by business development, whether by land use conflicts or secondarily by noise, odors, or traffic.

RECREATION

Recreational resources are valued amenities in most communities, especially those that are residentially based. It is interesting to note that while 85% of the respondents said that it was very important to preserve open space, only 14% stated that they used the village parks often. This, along with the fact that an additional 38% of the respondents claimed that they occasionally used the village parks, depicts a situation in which Village residents want open spaces, know where they are, yet do not use the recreational spaces due to either access, location, or a combination of both.

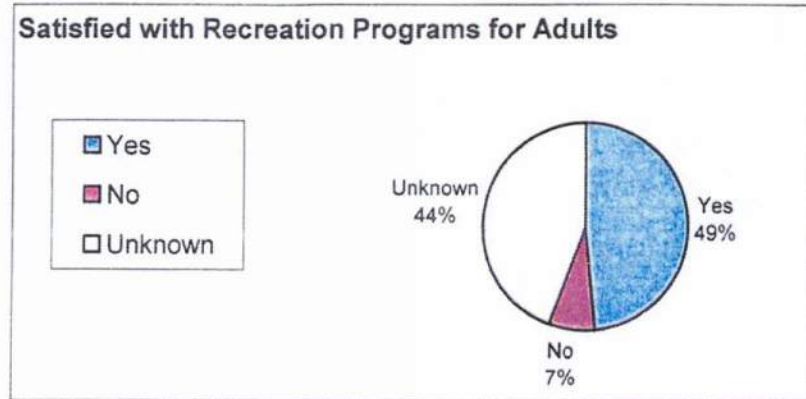
When asked about youth and senior programming, 60% and 49% of the residents responded that they were satisfied with the programming.

Figure 18 – Satisfied with Recreation Programs for Youths



Source: 2002 Community Survey

Figure 19 – Satisfied with Recreation Programs for Adults



Source: 2002 Community Survey

The survey of demographic information indicates that the population is aging, which is important when making determinations or recommendations regarding the types of services and municipal programs that should be offered to residents. A copy of the complete Residential Survey and results can be found in the Appendix.

BUSINESS SURVEY

A business survey was distributed to every business in the Village (375 mailings). The purpose of the broad distribution was to afford the business owners a unique opportunity to participate in the planning process. It was also a means of gathering important information regarding the business climate in the Village and to aide in developing measures to both improve existing business services and to assist in creating new opportunities.

Approximately 56 written surveys were returned to the Village, resulting in a return rate of 14.9 percent. Responses were tabulated and presented to the Master Plan Advisory Committee. The following provides the highlights of the business survey.

Of the respondents, 36% of the businesses were retail, 32% were in the service industry, 19% were professional, 2% were manufacturing, and 11% were listed as "other."

Of the respondents, 13% were created in the 1990's, 41% were established in the 1980's and, 47% were established before 1978. It is interesting to note that five of the respondents or 9% of the businesses had a business that was created before 1938. This indicates that the strategic location of the Village's business district along NYS Route 5 has aided in the creation of an environment conducive to long lasting business endeavors.

According to the survey responses, 50% of the employees were full time and 31% were part-time employees. Fourteen percent of the businesses listed themselves as self-employed, and 5% of the employees were seasonal.

It is intriguing to point out that 78% of the business owners did not live in the Village, and 42% of the employees did not live in the Village. Only 32% of the business owners own their property, while 68% rent.

In addition, the respondents state that 71% of their customers come from outside the Village boundaries. This is indicative of the retail and service industry. The Village is host to a large number of hotel/motel establishments, restaurants, strip malls, automotive dealerships, beauty salons, and shopping centers.

When asked about village services, the respondents were very positive. 53% of the business owners claimed that the services were good and/or excellent.

When asked about the responsiveness of the Village government, 43% of the business owners stated that the Village was responsive to their needs. The high level of satisfaction, coupled with the large number (38%) that claimed "unknown" illustrates that there are no significant issues that negatively affect the business community. A copy of the complete Business Owner Survey and results can be found in the Appendix.

S.W.O.T ANALYSIS

Strengths

Weaknesses

Opportunities

Threats

During the November Master Planning Advisory Committee meeting, the Committee performed an exercise called a S.W.O.T analysis. A S.W.O.T analysis is a method for describing your community in terms of its Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. Essentially, the Committee discussed and listed those factors that have the most impact on the community. The Strengths are characteristics of the community that allow it to take advantage of opportunities or reduce the impact of barriers. Weaknesses are characteristics that could stand in the way of the community's taking advantage of opportunities or reducing the impact of barriers. Opportunities are factors that allow the community to take action or encourage something to be done. Threats are factors that stand in the way of a community's efforts to get something done.

A S.W.O.T analysis is an easy, understandable way of identifying the key issues and communicating them to others. The aim of a S.W.O.T analysis is to identify the critical issues in any situation and to organize them in a way that enables a community to come up with a sound strategic approach. The approach should enable you to do the following:

- Build on **Strengths**
- Minimize **Weaknesses**
- Seize **Opportunities**
- Counter **Threats**

To identify strengths of the community the group facilitator asked a series of questions. What does your community do well? What distinct advantages does your community offer? Why do residents enjoy living in the community?

To identify weaknesses of the community the group facilitator might ask: What could be improved about the community? What stumbling blocks does the community continue to encounter? What do other communities do better than yours?

To identify opportunities the group facilitator asked: What needs are not being met by the community that are being met by other municipalities. How can the community meet these needs and improve the community?

To identify threats to the community, the group facilitator asked: What are the obvious obstacles in your way, both potential and actual? What are neighboring communities doing that might cause negative impacts on your community?

The Committee was given a blank form in which to list Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats. The Committee broke into two groups and worked together to fill in the blanks, discussing issues relating to land use, physical and environmental resources, community and municipal resources, historical and cultural resources, and recreational and educational resources.

After about one hour, the two separate groups joined to discuss their results. A speaker for each group reported what they had listed as strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. The following is the results of the S.W.O.T analysis completed by the Master Plan Advisory Committee with all of the responses given. The top four issues/items are ranked from 1-4 in order of importance:

S.W.O.T Analysis Final Results

Strengths

1. Village government
 - Small size of the community-citizens/administrative official ratio
2. Central location
3. Municipal services
4. Commercial depth/tax base
 - Inter-municipal services
 - Senior programs
 - Parks
 - Town Community Center

- Newton Medical Center
- School System
- Religious community
- Police support

Weaknesses

1. Traffic management
2. Lack of space to expand
 - Limited flexibility—land use codes
3. Noise (train, airport, highway)
4. Vacant buildings/properties
 - Land fill odors
 - Lack of senior housing
 - Limited cultural amenities
 - Lack of control over police

Opportunities

1. Route 5 corridor project, CDTC
2. Improvement to land use codes for more flexibility
3. Lincoln Avenue bridge project
4. New youth services facilities
 - Village-sponsored community center
 - Sound barriers for I-87
 - Cook Park expansion
 - Landfill closure in the future
 - Senior assisted housing
 - Alternative to Route 5

Threats

1. Lack of consideration from surrounding municipalities
2. Watervliet-Shaker Road expansion
3. Over commercialization
4. Landfill encroachment
 - Loss of commercial revenue sources
 - Airport proximity issues

COMMUNITY IMAGE SURVEY



Positively rated image



Negatively rated image

SUMMARY OF SLIDES

In order to identify and document the community's preferences for design styles and various scenes and landscapes, a visual survey was conducted. Residents, landowners and business owners were invited to attend a program where one hundred-nineteen (119) 35mm slides were shown. Fifty (50) people attended. Participants rated each slide on a scale of -5 to +5 according to how the scene was aesthetically pleasing to them. A variety of scenes from around the region were portrayed in the visual survey. Images that illustrate the visual and spatial qualities and the functional characteristics of the Village's existing growth patterns were included. The slides reflected what participants already see, or could see, as they move through the village. Images that suggest alternative approaches to land use and design were also included for the community to respond.

The results allow for the evaluation of the community's visual preference for commercial buildings, including stand-alone and strip mall designs, multi-family housing, single-family housing sited on individual lots and in subdivisions, and views from a variety of common styles of streets. This technique was also used to assess preferences for signs, general building design, landscapes, and other factors that influence visual preferences such as utility poles and wires, sidewalks road widths, and preferred setbacks. A full copy of the Community Image Survey results can be found in the Appendix.

Positively rated images had one or more of the following characteristics:

1. Commercial structures of small scale with peaked roofs, shutters, dormers, columns, and windows.
2. Buildings made of brick, or with wood-like siding.
3. Buildings with parking that was well screened and landscaped, or not visible.



Positively rated image



Negatively rated image

4. Scenes with an abundance of landscaping and green space especially mature shade trees and sidewalks.
5. Single-family dwellings of all styles and settings.
6. Small-scale commercial signs.

Negatively rated images had one or more of the following characteristics.

1. Box-shaped buildings with flat rooftops.
2. Large open parking lots in front of commercial buildings.
3. Scenes with little or no landscaping mature trees or green space.
4. Wide multi-lane highways made for speed and heavy traffic.
5. Large commercial signs.

MASTER PLAN GOALS SURVEY

Following the Public Hearing held by the Master Plan Advisory Committee, the committee made a resolution to the Village Board in support of the adoption of the Master Plan. In order to gather further public opinion and support of the Master Plan, the Village Board distributed a summary of the proposed Master Plan Goals, and a short survey asking the public to agree or disagree on the proposed goals. The overwhelmingly positive results of this survey informed the Village Board that the Master Plan Advisory Committee was on target, and the community at large supported the Master Plan Goals. A complete copy of the survey and results can be found in the Appendix.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Two public hearings were held in accordance to Village Law § 7-722. The first was conducted by the Master Plan Advisory Committee on 11-21-02 for approval and recommendation to the Village Board. The Village Board held the second public hearing on 2-24-03.

In conclusion, public participation is integral to reach goals and objectives that satisfy the majority of the community. The Village of Colonie, in recognizing that consensus is key not only to the development of a Master Plan, but also to the future implementation of the goals and recommendations, went to great lengths to offer the opportunity for citizens to provide input into this plan. To this end, Village officials are confident that the goals, actions and recommendations set forth in this document effectively represent the ideals and vision of the entire community.

III. GOALS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Goals & Recommendations

This section of the Master Plan identifies the issues, goals and recommendations that, when implemented will guide development in the Village. The issues facing the Village were identified through demographic research and analysis, community resident and business owner surveys, public meetings and workshops, and thorough analysis of the existing conditions in the Village. The Master Plan Advisory Committee shaped the goals and recommendations into a form that will guide future land use decisions in the Village. Public comments received from the resident and business surveys and the results of the Community Image Survey were also considered when developing the goals and recommendations.

Land Use

Throughout the planning process, Committee members and residents alike continually focused on the high quality of life in the Village. This can be attributed to the close-knit community character, low crime rates, and availability of services. According to the Residential Survey, 66% of the respondents believed there should be architectural review and design standards for new development in the Village. Residents want to maintain the current land use patterns, preserve the architectural diversity of the housing, create a stronger sense of place in the commercial district, and continue to promote the separate, but solid balance between the residential and commercial areas.



Current conditions of the corner of Karner Road and Central Avenue.

Goal 1: Encourage future development that is of quality design, will enhance the existing character of Village, and meet the necessary long-term needs of the community.

Recommendations

1. Maintain a balanced mix of commercial, residential, and recreational properties.
2. Develop an overall set of specific, detailed, architectural and site design guidelines, which govern the physical layout of the Village.
3. Develop design standards for new development that will maintain the integrity of existing residential neighborhoods.
4. Encourage the use of aesthetically pleasing architectural design, signage, landscaping, setbacks, and parking area placement in commercial areas.



United States Post Office, across from the vacant Capital Plaza on Karner Road.



Gateway to Village of Colonie

5. Develop a system of incentives for existing businesses to improve their signs, parking areas, or landscaping, i.e., incentive zoning.

Goal 2: Create Planned Unit Developments (PUD) in order to transform under-utilized or inactive commercial areas into active mixed-use (housing, recreational/open space, and commercial space) areas that are pedestrian friendly.

Recommendations

1. Attract a better mix of businesses to locate in the PUD, such as dry cleaners, beauty salons, specialty food shops, craft stores etc.
2. Reduce parking areas in front of existing buildings by moving some parking to the back, and changing the angle of the parking spaces.
3. Create small public parks in unused parking areas that might include a small gazebo for musical entertainment, benches, lighting, and picnic tables.
4. Encourage the development of housing for senior citizens.
5. Develop sidewalks and raised textured crosswalks to facilitate safe and efficient travel via non-motorized methods of transportation.
6. Provide a covered bus shelter and bus pull-off area.
7. Beautify the area with pedestrian-scale lighting, shade trees, and underground utility wires to encourage residents and visitors to shop and stay in the area.

Goal 3: Protect and enhance the visual character and design quality of the Village along transportation corridors, Village municipal boundaries, and gateways to the community.

Recommendations

1. Establish a stronger gateway image at the east and west entrances to the Village on Central Avenue.
2. Sponsor a design competition to elicit the most desirable gateway image.
3. Incorporate existing buildings or bridge abutments when developing the gateway image.
4. Develop a more recognizable signage and landscaping pattern for gateways of the Village and transportation corridors.
5. Enhance the community gateways and transportation corridors by using landscaping, lighting, and artwork that is unique and attractive, i.e., plant vegetation that will withstand harsh winter and drought conditions, but also plant seasonal flowering perennials and annuals.

Goal 4: Explore, identify, and conserve existing vacant land and buildings for adaptive re-use for recreation, senior housing, and other needed public services in order to meet the necessary long-term needs of the community.

Recommendations

1. Create an inventory of vacant land that includes the selling price, size of the parcel, contact information, and development constraints (environmental and zoning).
2. Create an inventory of vacant buildings that includes the gross floor area of the building, selling price, contact information, and constraints (zoning or other).
3. Study and identify vacant land that would be valuable for open space, recreation, or for other needs of the public.
4. Create shovel-ready sites for senior housing, assisted living facilities, or other needed public services.
5. Acquire vacant land that could be used for other needed public services.
6. Create a system of landowner incentives to keep land undeveloped or to donate land to the Village for recreation or other needed public services.
7. Create incentives to combine small parcels where feasible.

Goal 5: Encourage future development that minimizes negative impacts on natural resources, infrastructure, and neighboring uses in order to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the community.

Recommendations

1. Encourage and promote non-polluting businesses that are energy and waste efficient.
2. Establish performance standards to control negative environmental impacts such as: noise, odors, smoke, gas, light, dust, physical hazards, and other side effects from industrial and commercial activities.
3. Develop a notification system to prospective land buyers/developers of potential noise impacts in the *Albany County Airport Exposure Area*.

Transportation



Current conditions of Central Avenue

Traffic through the Village has increased over the years, and as such, people perceive more problems relating to traffic volume and speed. The Village of Colonie Residential Survey illustrated that 49% of the respondents believe speeding is a minor problem, and 34% believe it is a major problem. The survey also showed that 45% of the respondents believe that traffic volume is a serious problem and 38% believe it is a minor problem. A vast majority of the residents also stated that traffic and speeding vehicles are the least positive aspects of living in the Village.

Central Avenue (NY Route 5) has the highest traffic levels and the greatest number of public transit riders in the Village. It is apparent that steps should be taken to improve public transportation options, and traffic circulation for through traffic, and local traffic to shopping areas and jobs. Improved access management to existing businesses will decrease traffic delays and accidents.

The Village of Colonie has been diligently working to solve the traffic problems throughout the Village and on Route 5. The Village Board passed a Resolution to endorse the NY5 Land Use and Transportation *vision* articulated by the Capital District Transportation Committee. The *vision* for the corridor includes economic revitalization, transit system improvement, bicycle, and pedestrian travel accommodations, travel safety enhancement, streetscape and landscaping amenities and technology-based traffic flow management for Route 5.

Sand Creek Road is another residential area in the Village that has witnessed a considerable growth in traffic over the years. The future reconstructions of Watervliet Shaker Road will only make conditions worse. Mitigation measures associated with the traffic increase needs to be considered. Mitigation should also include maintaining or enhancing the usual character of the area.

Goal 1: Provide safe and efficient circulation of pedestrian, bus, and automotive traffic, to minimize the impact of traffic on the Village's quality of life.

Recommendations

1. Continue to participate in the planning efforts of regional entities such as the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) and the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC).
2. Continue to participate in the planning process involving the implementation of the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) Bus Rapid Transit System (BRT).
3. Study the feasibility of an alternative transportation route to divert traffic from Central Avenue.
4. Manage congestion along Central Avenue by encouraging various access management measures, such as combining curb-cuts.
5. Encourage public transit ridership through the support of dedicated bus lanes, alternative, more efficient bus routes and provision of covered bus shelters.
6. Analyze residential street parking conditions and develop a plan for solving associated problems.
7. Continue to maintain, enhance and expand the sidewalk and trail system that connects residential and commercial areas throughout the Village.
8. Continue to pursue a design alternative for the elimination of the at-grade railroad crossing on Lincoln Avenue

Lincoln Avenue.

9. Pursue installation of decorative mast arm traffic signal systems at the intersection of Sand Creek Road with Hunting Road and Sunset Boulevard.

Goal 2: Maintain and enhance the aesthetics of the Route 5 corridor.

Recommendations

1. Develop an overlay-zoning district to implement standards for architectural and landscaping design.
2. Cooperate with NYSDOT and major utility companies to bury the above ground utility wires where feasible and practical.
3. Eliminate overhead traffic signal lights that require cables over the roads and replace them with stand-alone signal lighting fixtures where feasible.
4. Replace highway-style galvanized metal street lighting fixtures with more energy efficient, ornamental stand-alone lighting fixtures.
5. Review Village parking standards to encourage business owners to design increased parking area behind buildings, where it will not greatly impact existing residential properties.
6. Establish a system of incentives to encourage landowners to make aesthetic improvements to the Route 5 corridor, i.e., incentive zoning.

Goal 3: Continue to improve traffic safety for pedestrians in residential and commercial areas through the use of various traffic calming devices.

Recommendations

1. Improve enforcement of speed limits.
2. Install curb bulb-outs at intersections.
3. Utilize speed humps, landscaped medians, or islands.
4. Widen sidewalks and narrow streets.
5. Plant vegetated buffer strips to protect pedestrians from traffic.
6. Utilize textured crosswalks and bike lanes for better visibility.
7. Improve lighting to allow for safer pedestrian travel.

Housing

The response from the Village of Colonie Residential Survey indicated that the majority of residents wanted the Village to stay just the way it is, however, 70% of the respondents felt that if growth occurred on available land in the Village, it should be residential in nature. The results of the Community Image Survey showed that all styles of housing are acceptable to Village residents; however, buildings with brick or wood-like siding are preferred. Box-shaped buildings with flat rooftops are disliked. New housing in or near existing residential neighborhoods should blend with the existing neighborhood.

Sixty-five percent (65%) of survey respondents also believed that the Village should develop and adopt architectural review and design guidelines that would be applied to future development within the Village.

In addition, 75% of the respondents to the Village of Colonie Residential Survey said they would favor the development of senior housing. This is an important point because the 2000 United States Census illustrated that 17% of the total population in the Village are ages 65 or older.

Goal 1: Preserve and enhance the existing residential neighborhoods in the Village.

Recommendations

1. Develop architectural guidelines for future residential development including, architectural styles, building materials, preferred detailing, landscaping and other visual and structural preferences.

2. Apply the architectural guidelines to the site plan review and building permit process.
3. Where appropriate, develop neighborhood overlay-zoning districts to implement standards for architectural and landscaping design of new development.

Goal 2: Provide a balanced blend of quality housing opportunities including a desirable range of housing types and price ranges, which are affordable and accessible for all residents.

Recommendations

1. Encourage residential development as the preferred development on lands that are not recommended for open space.
2. Conduct an inventory to identify properties for residential use.
3. Discourage the rezoning of any property from residential to commercial.
4. Apply architectural guidelines during site plan and building permit review process for new housing units.
5. Determine the appropriate location of multi-family housing units in conjunction with the land uses in the surrounding neighborhoods.
6. Discourage the development of residential units in areas that are unsuitable for housing.

7. Include mixed-type housing opportunities; i.e., townhouses, condominiums, or apartment complexes, within future planned unit developments.

Goal 3: Provide a range of housing choices for Senior Citizens.

Recommendations

1. Identify the preferred types and styles of Senior Citizen housing, i.e., high-rise condominiums, apartments, low-rise single-family clusters, assisted living centers and others.
2. Identify potential locations for Senior Citizen housing, which consider, proximity to public transit routes, the natural setting, or other desirable site features.
3. Encourage quality design for new Senior Citizen housing units during the site plan review and building permit process. New Senior Citizen housing in or near existing residential neighborhoods should blend with the existing neighborhoods

Economic Development

Commercial businesses are very important to the well being of the Village, not only to satisfy the needs of the community and to provide economic opportunities, but also to help define the character of the Village. Most residents are satisfied with the level of commercial activity within the Village and believe that future commercial activity should be contained within the existing commercial districts. Occupancy of existing vacant commercial buildings is also desirable. The existing businesses should be nurtured and the Village should encourage small service oriented businesses to locate where appropriate.

The general goal of encouraging economic development has numerous objectives including expanding the Village's tax base, increasing the vitality of the area, providing residents with a wide range of business, employment and career opportunities, as well as providing a diversity of goods and services for residents. The following Goals and Recommendations support these objectives.

Goal 1: Develop a business friendly environment to retain and expand the Village's tax base and provide existing and future residents with a wide range of business, employment and career opportunities.

Recommendations

1. Create an Economic Development Committee to promote and market business opportunities within the Village.
2. Conduct a vacant land and commercial building inventory to identify developable properties.

3. Create a Commercial Development Grant/loan Program, which may include but is not limited to: a 50/50 grant/loan façade improvement program and/or a micro-enterprise loan pool.
4. Designate an Economic Development Coordinator.
5. Create a program that gives incentives to businesses to locate in existing vacant buildings.
6. Identify or create recruitment or business assistance programs.
7. Develop better cooperation with existing regional economic development agencies (Albany County Chamber of Commerce). Appoint a liaison to these existing entities.
8. Offer tax incentives for environmentally friendly businesses.
9. Design a *Village of Colonie* web site for the promotion of existing and forthcoming economic development programs to attract and retain village businesses.

Goal 2: Develop a Marketing Plan for the Village.

Recommendations

1. Work with the local Chambers of Commerce and County to develop the marketing plan for the Village.
2. Develop a promotional package, a web site and brochures to be used to promote the Village to potential residents and visitors.

Goal 3: Improve and enhance the business environment to offer amenities to residents and visitors.

Recommendations

1. Encourage the establishment of new entertainment/cultural-based businesses within the Village.
2. Explore creating a Business Improvement District within the Village to direct investment into the appearance, marketing, and functionality of the thriving business community.
3. Support and reward current businesses through programs such as awards to businesses that improve the aesthetic appearance of the community.
4. Design and implement a street/landscaping program to visually enhance commercial areas.
5. Establish a system of incentives to encourage landowners to make aesthetic improvements to their properties, buildings and landscaping, and to provide pedestrian accommodations, i.e., incentive zoning.

Community & Recreational Facilities



Existing conditions of the Town of Colonie Community Center, located within the Village of Colonie.



Proposed improvements to the Town of Colonie Community Center

Copyright 2001 Capital District Transportation Committee, New York Route 5 Corridor Land Use and Transportation Study

Community and recreational facilities are very important to the Village, to satisfy the needs of the community and to help define the character of the Village. According to the results of the Residential Survey, when asked if they are satisfied with the recreational facilities and programs offered by the Village, 60% of those surveyed said yes. Most residents would however, like to see the remaining open space in the Village preserved. In addition, many residents would like the Village to offer more park space in general; recreation and community facilities should be family oriented and include trails, an ice skating rink, a swimming pool, and more programs. The following Goals and Recommendations support these concepts.

Goal 1: Maintain and enhance Village buildings and properties to adequately serve their function for all residents.

Recommendations

1. Continue annual maintenance of all municipal buildings.
2. Expand the Senior Citizens Center to meet the future needs of the citizens.
3. Acquire the Town of Colonie Community Center, located in the Village for development into a Village Center or civic gathering place, which would include a variety of activities for young and old.
4. Work with the Town of Colonie to improve the Town Community Center.
5. Develop a Family Recreation Center in an appropriate location.

Goal 2: Promote existing Village programs and activities, and continue to cooperate with the Town for the provision of needed services to the citizens of the Village.

Recommendations

1. Appoint a citizen committee to be responsible for organizing community enhancement and Clean-up Days.
2. Appoint an Activities Director to be responsible for coming up with new ways to inform and involve the public in community activities and programs.
3. Provide alternative transportation services for Senior Citizen residents.

Goal 3: Continue to provide the desired recreational and community services to Village residents.

Recommendations

1. Develop an interconnecting trail system between the existing parks for walking and jogging.
2. Coordinate with the Town of Colonie to avoid duplication of recreational services.
3. Expand the functions of the existing parks to better serve the needs of the community.
4. Work with Albany County to develop a direct trail connection between the Ann Lee Pond Preserve and Bauer Park.

Natural Resources



Bauer Park, located off of Sand Creek Road, within the Village.

The response to the Village of Colonie Residential Survey illustrated an interest in preserving the remaining open spaces and natural resources in the Village. Forty-six percent (46%) of the respondents said it was very important to preserve the remaining open spaces and natural resources within the Village and 58% said they would like more public trails and greenways in the Village. In order to maintain the Village's quality of life, it is important to identify the remaining sensitive natural areas and open spaces, and preserve and enhance these areas for aesthetics, recreation, and the good of the local economy.

Goal 1: Protect and enhance environmentally significant and or sensitive land areas in order to minimize adverse impacts due to man-made development.

Recommendations

1. Conduct an inventory to identify the remaining sensitive natural areas in the Village and create a priority list for protecting and managing these areas.
2. Continue to prohibit inappropriate development within the Patroon Creek Drainage Way.
3. Preserve and protect wetland areas that serve as important natural drainage channels and habitat.
4. Regularly maintain and upgrade the Village stormwater drainage system to avoid excessive surface water pollution from runoff.
5. Identify the effects of the potential expansion or closure of the Albany Landfill.

Goal 2: Preserve and protect areas of open space that are important to the Village for use as public recreational or leisure purposes.

Recommendations

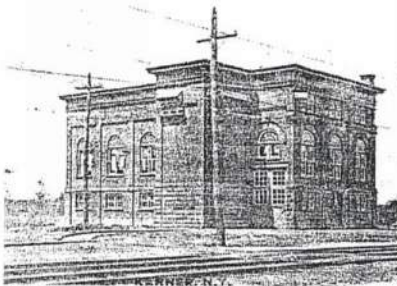
1. Conduct an inventory to identify the remaining open spaces in the Village and create a priority list for protecting and managing these areas.
2. Maintain and enhance Cook Pond through periodic dredging and bank stabilization and protection.
3. Protect the natural environment in and around Bauer Park.
4. Develop a system of bike/hike trails and greenways that connect the neighborhoods of the Village.
5. Promote local natural resource protection by cooperating with local schools to educate students of the importance of natural areas such as Bauer Park.

Goal 3: Preserve and enhance the scenic tree-lined streets within the Village.

Recommendations

1. Initiate a Village-sponsored program for tree planting and maintenance of street trees.
2. Create a memorial tree garden in Cook Park or some other appropriate place in the Village.
3. Develop guidelines for tree planting and landscaping in residential and commercial areas.

Historical & Cultural Resources



Historic Albany-Schenectady
Trolley Line, Power House

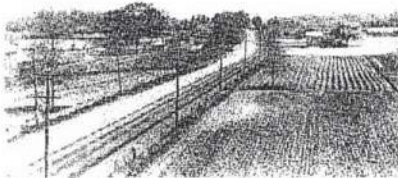
Preservation and promotion of history and culture can help to reinforce a strong sense of pride and identity within the community. The response to the Village of Colonie Residential Survey illustrated a high commitment to preserving the history of the Village of Colonie, with over 78% of the respondents noting the importance of safeguarding the historic nature of the community. It is apparent that steps should be made to recognize the past and maintain the unique qualities of the Village for its future.

Major historical events have shaped the development of the Village of Colonie. Although a majority of the historic structures in the Village have been destroyed, a stronger Village identity can be built through the recognition of important historical events that have shaped the development of the area. The strongest historical theme within the Village is centered around Route 5 and the Village as the *commercial hub* between Schenectady and Albany. The history of differing modes of transportation should be celebrated and recognized, for it is the main reason why the Village of Colonie has prospered in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

Goal 1: Develop a more identifiable and unique Village historical/cultural theme in order to reinforce a sense of community identity and pride and reconnect residents and visitors to the community's roots.

Recommendations

1. Complete an inventory of the existing historic sites and structures, historic documents, and artifacts and designate a place to display it.



Historic Route 5 (Central Avenue)

2. Identify historic sites and structures with thematic signage.
3. Adapt and re-use the historic trolley powerhouse building, located on Central Avenue, for an appropriate cultural facility.
4. Create a cultural events program at the new Cook Park outdoor amphitheater.
5. Establish a *history museum* centering around Route 5, the railroad, the trolley and the automobile, and its effect on the growth of the region.
6. Enhance knowledge of the significance of history and culture, with a public information program that includes, a Village web site, brochures, tours, and a dedicated column in *The Villager* for historical stories.
7. Preserve and enhance the Revolutionary War militia-training site on Hillside Avenue.

Administrative Actions

Goal 1: Ensure that the community efforts in crafting the Village of Colonie Master Plan for the future of the Village of Colonie will result in actions to achieve the goals.


Recommendations

1. Appoint an *Implementation Committee* that will meet regularly and focus on accomplishing the goals and recommendations within this plan.
2. Review the Village of Colonie Master Plan every 5 years.
3. As necessary, review and update the various Village regulations, policies and programs in accordance with the goals and recommendations of the Plan.

Goal 2: Promote and encourage inter and intra-municipal cooperation and communication with other local, state, and regional agencies when making land use decisions.

Recommendations

1. Work closely on planning projects with the Towns of Colonie, Guilderland, the City of Albany, Albany County government agencies, the Albany County Airport Authority and New York State agencies to ensure that development proposals that have regional impacts will take into consideration the interests of the Village.

- 
2. Appoint individuals that will attend the public meetings of other local, state, and regional agencies to ensure the Village is informed and up to date on upcoming projects and development proposals.
 3. Work more closely with regional agencies such as the Capital District Transportation Committee and the Capital District Regional Planning Commission to implement concepts for the improvements to the State Route 5 Corridor and other regional planning projects.
 4. Continue to cooperate with the Albany County Planning Board referral process required by New York State General Municipal Law Article 12-B Section 239-m and 239n, for proposed zoning changes, future comprehensive plan updates, and certain development applications.

IV. ACTION & IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Action and Implementation Matrix

The vision of the Village of Colonie Master Plan can only come about through the efforts of its government and residents in carrying out the tasks recommended in the Master Plan. The following pages present an Implementation Matrix which sets out the proposed *Action-Recommendation* for each **Goal** described thoroughly in the previous section, the *Type of Action* (Policy, Program, Administrative, Legal Amendment) and the *Time Frame* in which the Action-Recommendation should be completed in (Short term, Mid-term (intermediate), and Continuous).

Policy actions refer to those that require the Village to state a specific policy and then work towards implementing that policy. *Administrative* actions refer to those that require administrative procedures to be implemented to carry out the recommendation. *Program* actions are those that are specific programs, activities and tasks to be accomplished. *Legal Amendment* actions are those that require making amendments to the zoning, subdivision, highway or other local laws. The *Action-Recommendations* are shown in the order they appear listed under the **Goal** in the previous section, under the headings of the sections in which they appear.

The recommended time frame is indicated by the following code:

S - Short term - 0-3 years after adoption of the Master Plan.

M - Midterm (intermediate) - 3-6 years after adoption of the Master Plan.

C - Continuous throughout the life of the Master Plan.



Land Use

Goal 1: Encourage future development that is of quality design, will enhance the existing character of the Village, and meet the necessary long-term needs of the community.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Maintain a balanced mix of commercial, residential, and recreational properties.	Policy	C
2	Develop an overall set of specific, detailed, architectural and site design guidelines, which govern the physical layout of the Village.	Legal Amendment/ Program	S
3	Develop design standards for new development that will maintain the integrity of existing residential neighborhoods.	Legal Amendment/ Program	S
4	Encourage the use of aesthetically pleasing architectural design, signage, landscaping, setbacks, and parking area placement in commercial areas.	Policy	C
5	Develop a system of incentives for existing businesses to improve their signs or landscaping, i.e. incentive zoning.	Legal Amendment/ Program	S

Goal 2: Create Planned Unit Developments (PUD) in order to transform under-utilized or inactive commercial areas into active mixed use (housing, recreational/open space, and commercial space) areas that are pedestrian friendly.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Attract a better mix of businesses to locate in the PUD, such as dry cleaners, beauty salons, specialty food shops, craft stores etc.	Program	C



Land Use

Goal 2: continued:			
	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
2	Reduce parking areas in front of existing buildings by moving some parking to the back, and changing the angle of the parking spaces.	Program	C
3	Create small public parks in unused parking areas that might include a small gazebo for musical entertainment, benches, lighting, and picnic tables.	Program	M
4	Encourage the development of housing for senior citizens.	Program	M
5	Develop sidewalks and raised textured crosswalks to facilitate safe and efficient travel via non-motorized methods of transportation.	Program	M
6	Provide a covered bus shelter and bus pull-off area.	Program	S
7	Beautify the area with pedestrian-scale lighting, shade trees, and underground utility wires to encourage residents and visitors to shop and stay in the area.	Program	M

Goal 3: Protect and enhance the visual character and design quality of the Village along transportation corridors, Village municipal boundaries, and gateways to the community.			
	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Establish a stronger gateway image at the east and west entrances to the Village on Central Avenue.	Program	S



Land Use

Goal 3: continued:

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
2	Sponsor a design competition to elicit the most desirable gateway image.	Program	S
3	Incorporate existing buildings or bridge abutments when developing the gateway image.	Program	S
4	Develop a more recognizable signage and landscaping pattern for gateways of the Village and transportation corridors.	Program	M
5	Enhance the community gateways and transportation corridors by using landscaping, lighting, and artwork that is unique and attractive, i.e., plant vegetation that will withstand harsh winter and drought conditions, but also plant seasonal flowering perennials and annuals.	Program	M

Goal 4: Explore, identify, and conserve existing vacant land and buildings for adaptive re-use for recreation, senior housing, and other needed public services in order to meet the necessary long-term needs of the community.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Create an inventory of vacant land that includes the selling price, size of the parcel, contact information, and development constraints (environmental and zoning).	Program	S
2	Create an inventory of vacant buildings that includes the gross floor area of the building, selling price, contact information, and constraints (zoning or other).	Program	S



Land Use

Goal 4: continued:			
	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
3	Study and identify vacant land that would be valuable for open space, recreation, or for other needs of the public.	Program	S
4	Create shovel-ready sites for senior housing, assisted living facilities, or other needed public services.	Program	M
5	Acquire vacant land that could be used for other needed public services.	Program	M
6	Create a system of landowner incentives to keep land undeveloped or to donate land to the Village for recreation or other needed public services.	Legal Amendment/ Program	M
7	Create incentives to combine small parcels into larger parcels where feasible.	Legal Amendment/ Program	S

Goal 5: Encourage future development that minimizes negative impacts on natural resources, infrastructure, and neighboring uses in order to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the community.			
	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Encourage and promote non-polluting businesses that are energy and waste efficient.	Policy	C
2	Establish performance standards to control negative environmental impacts such as: noise, odors, smoke, gas, light, dust, physical hazards, and other side effects from industrial and commercial activities.	Policy	C



Land Use

Goal 5: continued:			
	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
3	Develop a notification system to prospective land buyers/developers of potential noise impacts in the <i>Albany County Airport Exposure Area</i> .	Policy	S



Transportation

Goal 1: Provide safe and efficient circulation of pedestrian, bus, and automotive traffic, to minimize the impact of traffic on the Village's quality of life.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Continue to participate in the planning efforts of regional entities such as the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) and the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC).	Administrative/Policy	C
2	Continue to participate in the planning process involving the implementation of the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA), Bus Rapid Transit System (BRT).	Administrative/Policy	M
3	Study the feasibility of an alternative transportation route to divert traffic from Central Avenue.	Program	M
4	Manage congestion along Central Avenue by encouraging various access management measures, such as combining curb-cuts.	Program	M
5	Encourage public transit ridership through the support of dedicated bus lanes, alternative, more efficient bus routes and provision of covered bus shelters.	Program	M
6	Analyze residential street parking conditions and develop a plan for solving associated problems.	Program	S
7	Continue to maintain, enhance and expand the sidewalk and trail system that connects residential and commercial areas throughout the Village.	Program	C
8	Continue to pursue a design alternative for the elimination of the at-grade railroad crossing on Lincoln Avenue.	Program	C
9	Pursue installation of decorative mast arms at the intersections of Sand Creek Road with Hunting Road and Sunset Boulevard.	Program	S



Transportation

Goal 2: Maintain and enhance the aesthetics of the Route 5 corridor.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Develop an overlay-zoning district to implement standards for architectural and landscaping design.	Legal Amendment/Policy	S
2	Cooperate with NYSDOT and major utility companies to bury the above ground utility wires where feasible and practical.	Program	C
3	Eliminate overhead traffic lights that require cables over the roads and replace them with stand-alone lighting fixtures where feasible.	Program	M
4	Replace highway-style street lighting fixtures with more energy efficient, aesthetically pleasing stand-alone streetlights.	Program	M
5	Review Village parking standards to encourage business owners to design increased parking area behind buildings, where it will not greatly impact existing residential properties.	Program	S
6	Establish a system of incentives to encourage landowners to make aesthetic improvements to the Route 5 corridor, i.e., incentive zoning.	Policy	M

Goal 3: To continue to improve traffic safety for pedestrians in residential and commercial areas through the use of various traffic calming devices.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Improve enforcement of speed limits.	Policy	C
2	Install curb bulb-outs at intersections.	Program	M



Transportation

Goal 3: continued:

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
3	Utilize speed humps, landscaped medians, or islands.	Program	M
4	Widen sidewalks and narrow streets.	Program	C
5	Plant vegetated buffer strips to protect pedestrians from traffic.	Program	S
6	Utilize textured crosswalks and bike lanes for better visibility.	Program	M
7	Improve lighting to allow for safer pedestrian travel.	Program	M



Housing

Goal 1: Preserve and enhance the existing residential neighborhoods in the Village.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Develop architectural guidelines for future residential development including, architectural styles, building materials, preferred detailing, landscaping and other visual and structural preferences.	Legal Amendment	S
2	Apply the architectural guidelines to the site plan review and building permit process.	Legal Amendment	S
3	Where appropriate, develop neighborhood overlay-zoning districts to implement standards for architectural and landscaping design of new development.	Legal Amendment	S

Goal 2: Provide a balanced blend of quality housing opportunities including a desirable range of housing types and price ranges, which are affordable and accessible for all residents.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Encourage residential development as the preferred development on lands that are not recommended for open space.	Policy	C
2	Conduct an inventory to identify properties for residential use.	Program	S
3	Discourage the rezoning of any property from residential to commercial.	Administrative/Policy	C
4	Apply architectural guidelines during site plan and building permit review process for new housing units.	Program	C



Housing

Goal 2: continued:

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
5	Determine the appropriate location of multi-family housing units in conjunction with the land uses in the surrounding neighborhoods.	Administrative	M
6	Discourage the development of residential units in areas that are unsuitable for housing.	Policy	C

Goal 3: Provide a range of housing choices for Senior Citizens.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Identify the preferred types, and styles of Senior Citizen housing, i.e., high-rise condos, apartments, low-rise single-family clusters, assisted living centers, and others.	Administration/Policy	S
2	Identify potential locations for Senior Citizen housing, which consider, proximity to public transit routes, the natural setting, or other desirable site features.	Administration/Policy	S
3	Encourage quality design for new Senior Citizen housing units during the site plan review and building permit process. New Senior Citizen housing in or near existing residential neighborhoods should blend with the existing neighborhoods.	Administration/Policy	C



Economic Development

Goal 1: Develop a business friendly environment to retain and expand the Village's tax base and provide existing and future residents with a wide range of business, employment and career opportunities.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Create an Economic Development Committee to promote and market business opportunities within the Village.	Administration	S
2	Conduct a vacant land and commercial building inventory to identify developable properties.	Program	S
3	Create a Commercial Development Grant/loan Program, which may include but is not limited to: a 50/50 grant/loan façade improvement program and/or a micro-enterprise loan pool.	Program	S
4	Designate an Economic Development Coordinator.	Administration	S
5	Create a program that gives incentives to businesses to locate in existing vacant buildings.	Program	S
6	Identify or create recruitment or business assistance programs.	Program	S
7	Develop better cooperation with existing regional economic development agencies (Albany County Chamber of Commerce). Appoint a liaison to these existing entities.	Administration	C
8	Offer tax incentives for environmentally friendly businesses.	Program	M
9	Design a <i>Village of Colonie</i> web site for the promotion of existing and forthcoming economic development programs to attract and retain village businesses.	Administration	S

Economic Development



Goal 2: Develop a Marketing Plan for the Village.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Work with the local Chambers of Commerce and County to develop the marketing plan for the Village.	Program	C
2	Develop a promotional package, a web site and brochures to be used to promote the Village to potential residents and visitors.	Program	S

Goal 3: Improve and enhance the business environment to offer amenities to residents and visitors.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Encourage the establishment of new entertainment/cultural-based businesses within the Village.	Program	M
2	Explore creating a Business Improvement District within the Village to direct investment into the appearance, marketing, and functioning of the thriving business community.	Administrative/Program	M
3	Support and reward current businesses through programs such as awards to businesses that improve the aesthetic appearance of the community.	Program	S
4	Design and implement a street/landscaping program to visually enhance commercial areas.	Program	S



Economic Development

Goal 3: continued:			
	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
5	Establish a system of incentives to encourage landowners to make aesthetic improvements to their properties, buildings and landscaping, and to provide pedestrian accommodations, i.e., incentive zoning.		



Community & Recreational Facilities

Goal 1: Maintain and enhance Village buildings and properties to adequately serve their function for all residents.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Continue annual maintenance of all municipal buildings.	Administration/Policy	C
2	Expand the Senior Citizens Center to meet the future needs of the citizens.	Administration/Policy	M
3	Acquire the Town of Colonie Community Center, located in the Village for development into a Village Center or civic gathering place, which would include a variety of activities for young and old.	Program	M
4	Work with the Town of Colonie to improve the Town Community Center.	Program	S
5	Develop a Family Recreation Center in an appropriate location.	Program	S

Goal 2: Promote existing Village programs and activities, and continue to cooperate with the Town for the provision of needed services to the citizens of the Village.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Appoint a citizen committee to be responsible for organizing community enhancement and Clean-up Days.	Administration	S



Community & Recreational Facilities

Goal 2: continued:			
	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
2	Appoint an Activities Director to be responsible for coming up with new ways to inform and involve the public in community activities and programs.	Administration	M
3	Provide alternative transportation services for Senior Citizen residents.	Program	S

Goal 3: Continue to provide the desired recreational and community services to Village residents.			
	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Develop an interconnecting trail system between the existing parks for walking and jogging.	Program	M
2	Coordinate with the Town of Colonie to avoid duplication of recreational services.	Administration	C
3	Expand the functions of the existing parks to better serve the needs of the community.	Program	C
4	Work with Albany County to develop a direct trail connection between the Ann Lee Pond Preserve and Bauer Park.	Administration	M



Natural Resources

Goal 1: Protect and enhance environmentally significant and or sensitive land areas in order to minimize adverse impacts due to man-made development.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Conduct an inventory to identify the remaining sensitive natural areas in the Village and create a priority list for protecting and managing these areas.	Program	S
2	Continue to prohibit inappropriate development within the Patroon Creek Drainage Way.	Policy	C
3	Preserve and protect wetland areas that serve as important natural drainage channels and habitat.	Policy	C
4	Regularly maintain and upgrade the Village storm water drainage system to avoid excessive surface water pollution from runoff.	Program	C
5	Identify the effects of the potential expansion or closure of the Albany Landfill.	Program	S

Goal 2: Preserve and protect areas of open space that are important to the Village for use as public recreational or leisure purposes.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Conduct an inventory to identify the remaining open spaces in the Village and create a priority list for protecting and managing these areas.	Program	S
2	Maintain and enhance Cook Pond through periodic dredging and bank stabilization and protection	Program	C



Natural Resources

Goal 2: continued:			
	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
3	Protect the natural environment in and around Bauer Park.	Program	C
4	Develop a system of bike/hike trails and greenways that connect the neighborhoods of the Village.	Program	M
5	Promote local natural resource protection by cooperating with local schools to educate students of the importance of natural areas such as Bauer Park.	Program	C

Goal 3: Preserve and enhance the scenic tree-lined streets within the Village.			
	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Initiate a Village-sponsored program for tree planting and maintenance of street trees.	Program	M
2	Create a memorial tree garden in Cook Park or some other appropriate place in the Village.	Program	M
3	Develop guidelines for tree planting and landscaping in residential and commercial areas.	Legal Amendment/ Program	M



Historical & Cultural Resources

Goal 1: Develop a more identifiable and unique Village historical/cultural theme in order to reinforce a sense of community identity and pride and reconnect residents and visitors to the community's roots.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Complete an inventory of the existing historic sites and structures, historic documents and artifacts, and designate a place to display it.	Program	S
2	Identify historic sites and structures with thematic signage.	Program	S
3	Adapt and re-use the historic trolley power house building, located on Central Avenue, for an appropriate cultural facility.	Program	M
4	Create a cultural events program at the new Cook Park outdoor amphitheater.	Program	M
5	Establish a <i>history museum</i> centering around Route 5, the railroad, the trolley and the automobile, and its effect on the growth of the region.	Program	M
6	Enhance knowledge of the significance of history and culture, with a public information program that includes, a Village web site, brochures, tours, and a dedicated column in <i>The Villager</i> for historical stories.	Program	C
7	Preserve and enhance the Revolutionary War militia-training site on Hillside Avenue.	Program	S



Administrative Actions

Goal 1: Ensure that the community efforts in crafting the Village of Colonie Master Plan for the future of the Village of Colonie will result in actions to achieve the goals.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Appoint an <i>Implementation Committee</i> that will meet regularly and focus on accomplishing the goals and recommendations within this plan.	Administrative/Policy	S
2	Review and update the Plan every 5 years..	Policy	C
3	As necessary, review and update the various Village regulations, policies, and programs in accordance with the goals and recommendations of the Plan.	Policy	C

Goal 2: Promote and encourage inter and intra-municipal cooperation and communication with other local, state, and regional agencies when making land use decisions.

	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
1	Work closely on planning projects with the Towns of Colonie, Guilderland, the City of Albany, Albany County government agencies, the Albany County Airport Authority and New York State agencies to ensure that development proposals that have regional impacts will take into consideration the interests of the Village.	Administrative/Policy	C



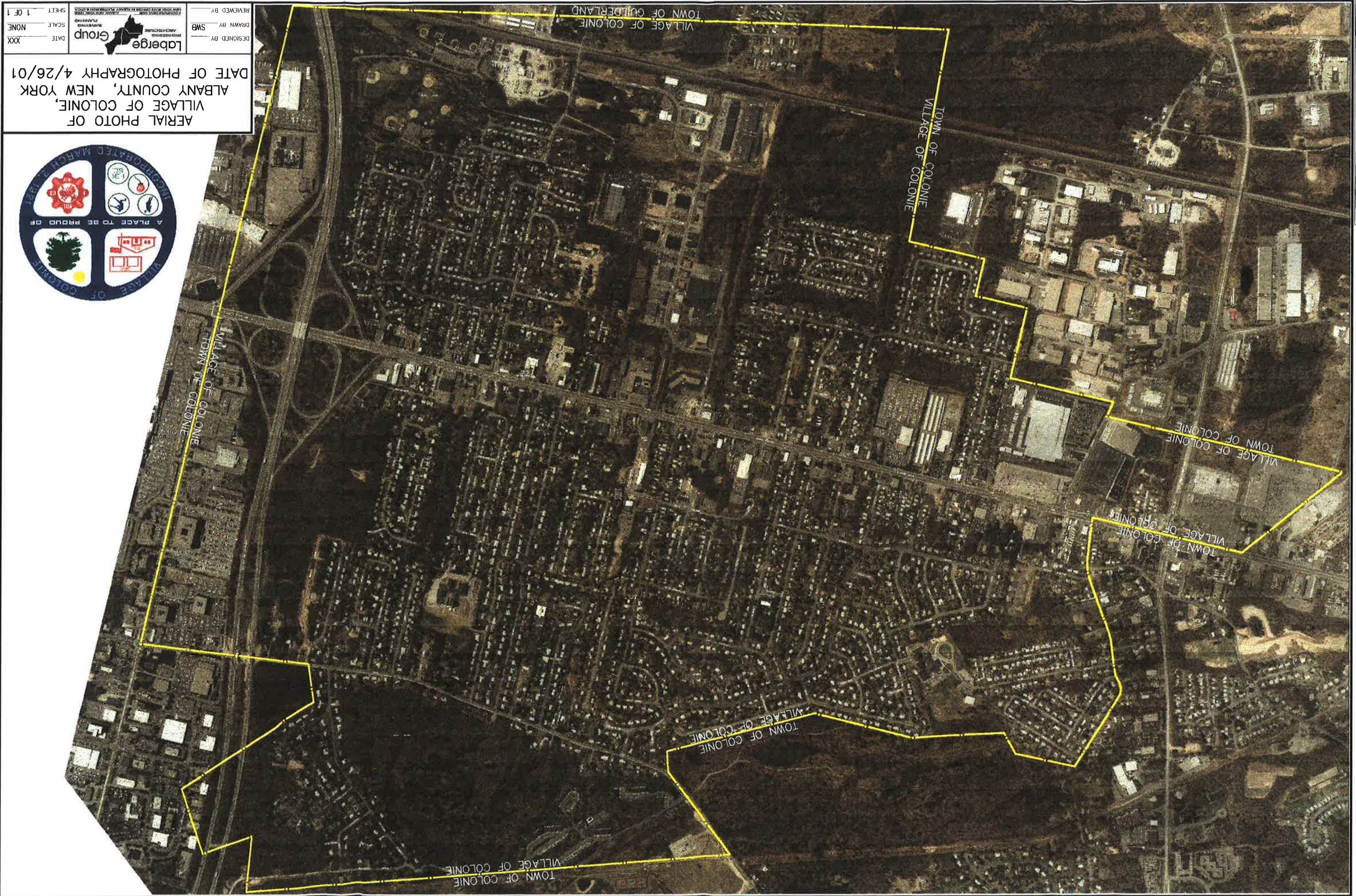
Administrative Actions

Goal 2: continued:			
	Action-Recommendation	Type of Action	Time Frame
2	Appoint individuals that will attend the public meetings of other local, state, and regional agencies to ensure the Village is informed and up to date on upcoming projects and development proposals.	Administrative	S
3	Work more closely with regional agencies such as the Capital District Transportation Committee and the Capital District Regional Planning Commission to implement concepts for the improvements to the State Route 5 Corridor and other regional planning projects.	Administrative/Policy	C
4	Continue to cooperate with the Albany County Planning Board referral process required by New York State General Municipal Law Article 12-B Section 239-m and 239n, for proposed zoning changes, future comprehensive plan updates, and certain development applications.	Administrative/Policy	C

DESIGNED BY: _____
DRAWN BY: SMB
REVIEWED BY: _____
DATE: XXX
SCALE: NONE
SHEET: 1 OF 1



AERIAL PHOTO OF
VILLAGE OF COLONIE,
ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK
DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY 4/26/01



DESIGNED BY MEH
DRAWN BY GJM
REVIEWED BY EMD
DATE FEB. 1996
SCALE 1"=500'
SHEET 1 OF 1

BASE MAP
VILLAGE OF COLONIE
ALBANY COUNTY * NEW YORK

REVISION : DECEMBER 2001 BY M.E.H.




VILLAGE OF COLONIE
ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK
N.Y.S. D.E.C. Wetlands and Streams

LEGEND

- Tax Parcels
- ▨ Wetlands
- Streams
- Roads
- + Railroads

Copyright © 2002
Loberg Group
State Plane Coordinate, NAD 83
Scale: 1" = 100'



EFFECTIVE 9/25/95

NOTE: THIS IS A GENERALIZED MAP. FOR PRECISE DETAILS AND DIMENSIONS, SEE THE MAPS ADOPTED BY THE VILLAGE BOARD AND ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE CLERK.

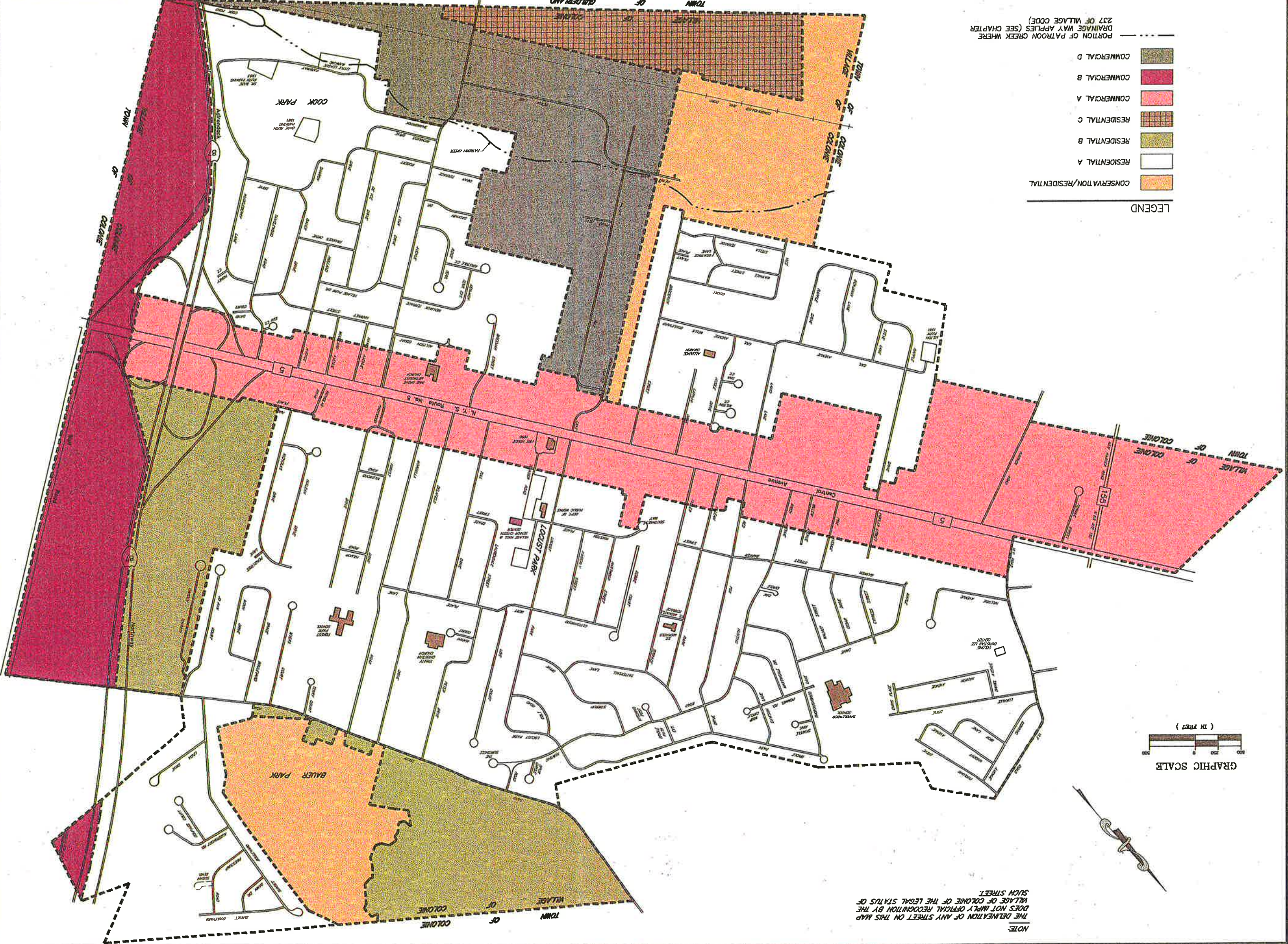
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
 MICHAEL AIDALA
 BETTY FILM
 JACK MURPHY
 THOMAS TOBIN

HON. FRANK A. LEAK,
 MAYOR

ALBANY COUNTY
 NEW YORK
 ZONING MAP

V I N O L O C F O R G A L L I V

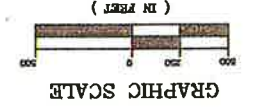
STREETS UPDATED DECEMBER, 2001/MEH



LEGEND

CONSERVATION/RESIDENTIAL	ORANGE
RESIDENTIAL A	WHITE
RESIDENTIAL B	YELLOW-GREEN
RESIDENTIAL C	ORANGE GRID
COMMERCIAL A	LIGHT RED
COMMERCIAL B	RED
COMMERCIAL D	DARK GREEN

PARTION OF PATROON CREEK WHERE DRAINAGE WAY APPLIES (SEE CHAPTER 237 OF VILLAGE CODE)



NOTE: THE DELINEATION OF ANY STREET ON THIS MAP DOES NOT IMPLY OFFICIAL RECOGNITION BY THE VILLAGE OF COLONE OF THE LEGAL STATUS OF SUCH STREET.

EXISTING LAND USE MAP

Village of Colonie
Albany County, New York



Data provided by Town of Colonie GIS Department
State Plane Coordinates, NY East Zone NAD27 Datum.
Accuracy & completeness is dependent on the accuracy of
the Real Property Tax Data, updated April, 2001.
Last Revision 4/28/02 Project # 20097
MAP IS NOT TO SCALE
ORIGINAL AVAILABLE AT VILLAGE HALL.



Municipal Boundaries
Roads
Railroads
Streams

- Generalized Land Use Categories
- Vacant Land
 - Multiple-Family Residential
 - Single-Family Residential
 - Recreation & Entertainment
 - Public Utilities
 - Community Services
 - Commercial

- NOTES:
- 1 - ALL SANITARY SEWERS ARE 8" UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
 - 2 - THIS MAP IS A GENERAL CONFIGURATION OF STREETS & UTILITIES WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF COLONIE. IT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE AN OFFICIAL MAP OF THE VILLAGE.



REVISION : DECEMBER 2001 BY M.E.H.

VILLAGE OF COLONIE
ALBANY COUNTY * NEW YORK
SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM
GENERAL PLAN
RECORD

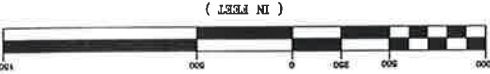
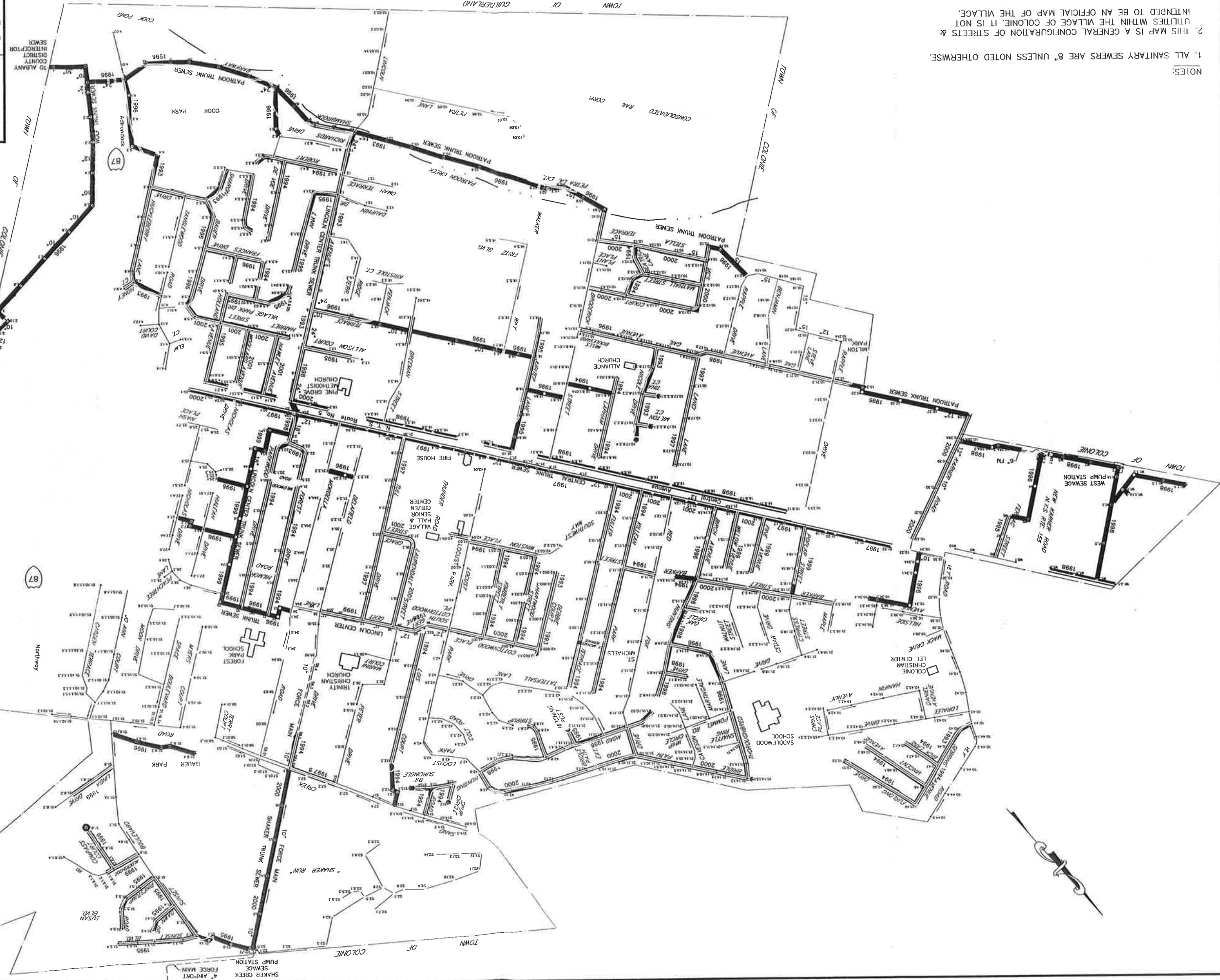
Laberge Group
ARCHITECTURAL
ENGINEERING
PLANNING

DESIGNED BY: MEH
DRAWN BY: RD
REVIEWED BY: EMD

DATE: JAN., 2000
SCALE: 1"=500'
SHEET: 1 OF 1

GRAPHIC SCALE (IN FEET)
0 100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000

NOTES:
1. ALL SANITARY SEWERS ARE 8" UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
2. THIS MAP IS A GENERAL CONFIGURATION OF STREETS & UTILITIES WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF COLONIE. IT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE AN OFFICIAL MAP OF THE VILLAGE.



GRAPHIC SCALE (APPROX)

LEGEND

1993	_____
1994	_____
1995	_____
1996	_____
1997	_____
1998	_____
1999	_____
2000	_____
2001	_____

DESIGNED BY MEH
DRAWN BY SWB
REVIEWED BY XXX

LABERGE ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING & PLANNING GROUP

VILLAGE OF COLONIE
PROGRAM SANITARY SEWER
SYSTEM GENERAL PLAN

ALBANY COUNTY • NEW YORK

REVISION : DECEMBER 2001 BY M.E.H.

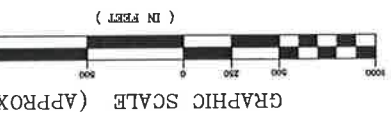
DATE : JUNE, 1996
SCALE : 1"=500'
SHEET : 1 OF 1

- NOTES:
1. - ALL STORM SEWERS ARE 12" UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE.
 2. - THIS MAP IS A GENERAL CONFIGURATION OF STREETS & UTILITIES WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF COLONIE. IT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE AN OFFICIAL MAP OF THE VILLAGE.



VILLAGE OF COLONIE
 ALBANY COUNTY * NEW YORK
 STORM SEWER SYSTEM
 GENERAL PLAN
 RECORD

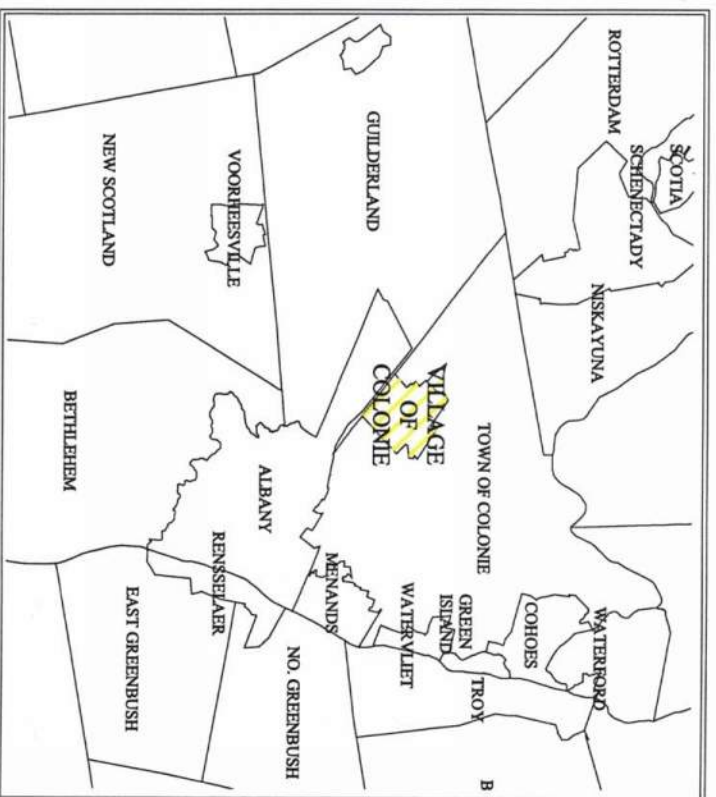
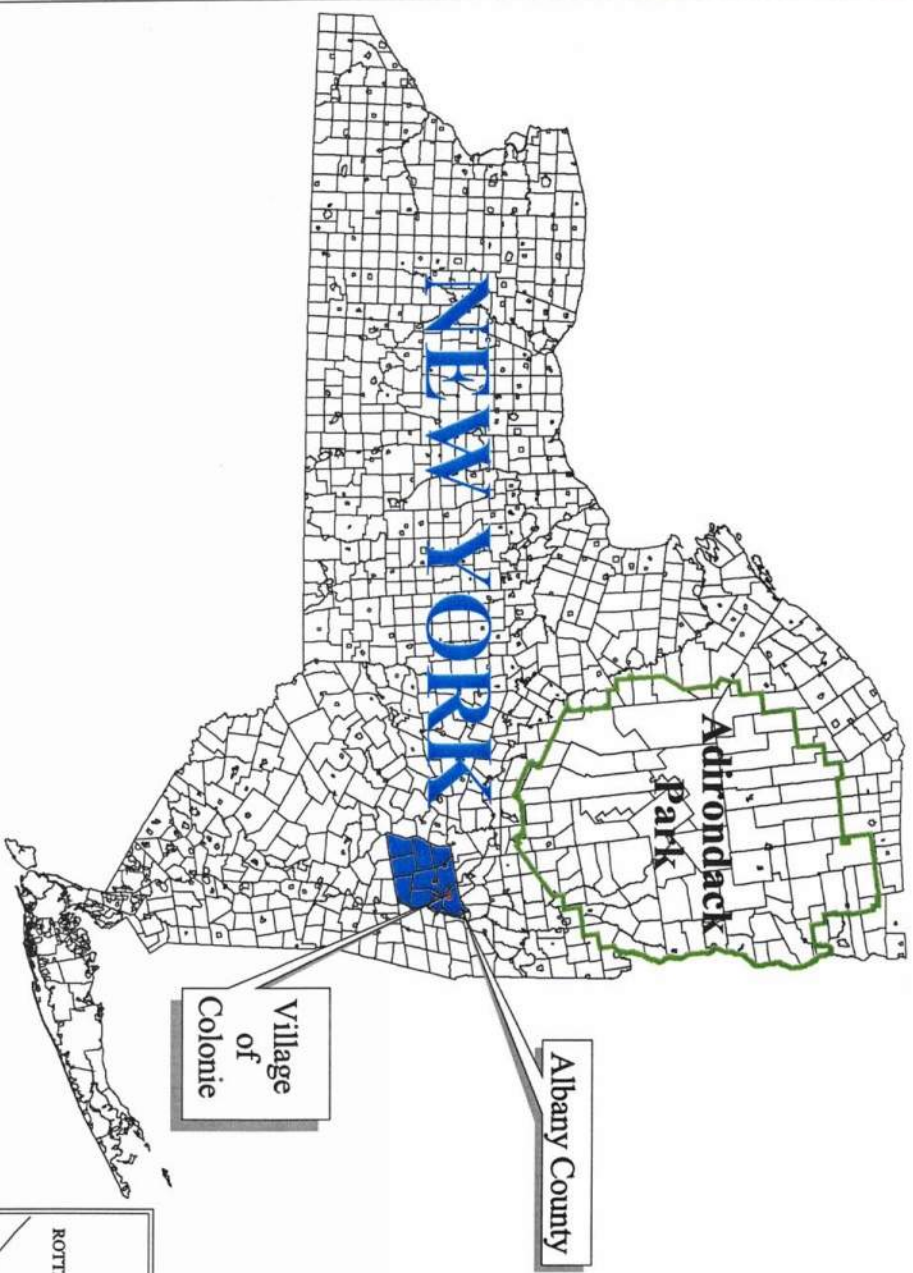
REVISION : DECEMBER 2001 BY M.E.H.



DESIGNED BY	MEH
DRAWN BY	RO
REVIEWED BY	XXX
DATE	JULY, 1996
SCALE	1"=500'
SHEET	1 OF 1



VILLAGE OF COLONIE Albany County, New York Regional Location Map



4 COMPUTER DRIVE WEST ALBANY, NEW YORK 12206
NEW YORK STATE OFFICES IN ALBANY, PLATTSBURGH & UTICA

Prepared by: Laberge Group
Data provided by Capital District Planning Commission
GIS Data Cooperative
Accuracy or completeness is not guaranteed.

APPENDICES

MEETING AGENDAS & MEETING NOTES

**VILLAGE OF COLONIE
MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE SELECTION MEETING
AGENDA**

Tuesday, February 27, 2001
(5:30 PM - 6:30 PM)

- I. Review of Proposed Master Plan Committee List & Map Additions / Deletions**

- II. Make Final Committee Member Selection(s)**

- III. Method of Invitation To Potential Members**
Via Letter ?
Via Phone Call (From Trustees, Mayor, Laberge?)
Time Requirement

- IV. Discuss & Set Date of First Advisory Committee Orientation Meeting.**

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENDA

Thursday April 5, 2001
7:00 pm – 8:00pm

- I. Introductions (20 minutes)**
- Members of the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC)
 - Consultants

Review the Comprehensive Planning Process (30 minutes)

- What is a Comprehensive Plan**
- Description of the Comprehensive Plan
 - Action and Implementation Plan
 - Flow Chart
 - Sample Data Inventory

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENDA

Thursday June 7, 2001
7:00 pm – 8:00pm

- I. Introductions
- II. Review the Master Planning Process.
- III. Establish the various committee groups.
- IV. Layout ideas of what each group should be thinking about with respect to their committee.
- V. Discuss & Set Dates for the next meetings with respect to the items listed in the May 10th letter to committee members (attached in packet).
- VI. Discuss any questions the committee has regarding the Master Plan process.

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #3

AGENDA

Thursday July 12, 2001
7:00 pm - 8:00pm
Village Offices

- I. **Introductions** (Chris Dennis – Committee Chairman)

- II. **Presentation: NYS Route 5 - Central Avenue Corridor Improvements** (By John Poorman – Staff Director, Capital District Transportation Committee)

- III. **Presentation Questions & Answers**

- IV. **Distribution of Master Plan Advisory Committee Information & Agenda for August 2nd, 2001 Meeting.**

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #4

AGENDA

Thursday August 2, 2001
7:00 pm – 8:00pm
Village Offices

- | | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| I. | Introductions | (5 Min.) |
| II. | Review & Discuss 1959 Master Plan | (10 Min.) |
| III. | Issue Scoping & Discussion: | (35 Min.) |
| | ▪ Transportation | |
| | ▪ Land Uses | |
| IV. | Sub-Committee Group Assignments | (10 Min.) |

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Notes Summary Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #4

*Thursday August 2, 2001
7:00 pm - 8:00pm
Village Offices*

Outline of Topics Discussed:

1. Transportation

- Develop progressive, Village-wide, traffic plan
- Explore developing a Light Rail System on Central Avenue
- Build a by-pass around the Village
- Better defined Village Gateways
- Reducing traffic congestion on Central Avenue
- Reconfiguration of Central – dual arterial design
- Develop an access management plan – curb cut sharing
- Railroad grade crossings
- Inter-connection of Village (and Town) parks and green spaces
- Pedestrian access
- Development of an intra and inter-municipal pedestrian trail system
- Cooperation with CDTC Route 5 Corridor Improvements Plan
- Truck access to business/industrial park
- Pedestrian connections and trail systems throughout neighborhoods and to the park

2. Land Uses

- Develop a defined sense of Village identity
- Create defined nodes of commercial concentration
- Reuse, redevelopment, and in-fill opportunities
- Support more business development
- Balance commercial and residential uses
- Support the industrial park development
- Re-define/re-shape the strip development on Central Avenue

- Develop a stormwater management plan for new development
- Develop small nodes of commercial uses in neighborhoods
- Develop incentive/performance based zoning regulations
- Protect and preserve residential uses adjacent to (behind) Central Avenue commercial uses
- Develop architectural design guidelines
- Develop enhanced green spaces
- Promote the Village's cultural assets better
- Develop a historic preservation ordinance
- Improve sign ordinance guidelines
- Protect streams – access to stream – trails along streams
- Pedestrian access to the park(s)
- Inter-municipal trail linkages (with Town of Colonie)

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #5

AGENDA

Thursday September 6, 2001
7:00 pm – 8:00pm
Village Offices

- | | | |
|-------------|--|------------------|
| I. | Introductions | (5 Min.) |
| II. | Review & Discuss Residential & Business Surveys | (15 Min.) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Form / Content / Questions▪ Distribution – Timing / Method | |
| III. | Issue Scoping & Discussion: | (35 Min.) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Physical & Environmental Features▪ Community & Municipal Facilities | |
| IV. | Next Steps | (5 Min.) |

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Notes Summary Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #5

*Thursday September 6, 2001
7:00 pm – 8:00pm
Village Offices*

Outline of Topics Discussed:

- Reviewed & discusses Residential & Business Surveys

Transportation

- Create a boulevard of Central Avenue into the Village CDTC Presentation
- Create a rail system on Central Avenue
- Trail system interconnected with Village parks along the Patroon Creek

Commercial

- Commercial growth and business retention should be a goal of the Village
- Concentration of businesses
- Business interests should be represented
- Commercial Nodes
- Neighborhood shopping areas
- Incentive Zoning
- Design Standards
- Historic Preservation ordinance

Current Projects

- Lincoln Avenue by-pass
- Shaker Road, Sand Creek Road by-pass

Drainage Issues

- Rapple Road, Elken area, Gail

Other Key Issues

- Retain the population
- More recreation areas accessible to all
- Youth Center
- Work with schools for development of recreation areas
- Establish a sense of identity
- Enforcement issues
- Business interests

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #6

AGENDA

Thursday October 4, 2001
7:00 pm – 8:00pm
Village Offices

- | | | |
|------|--|-----------|
| I. | Introductions | (5 Min.) |
| II. | Review Revised Residential Survey | (15 Min.) |
| III. | Issue Scoping & Discussion: | (35 Min.) |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Historical Resources and Preservation▪ Cultural, Recreational and Education Facilities▪ Physical & Environmental Conditions▪ Community & Municipal Facilities | |
| IV. | Next Steps | (5 Min.) |

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Notes Summary Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #6

*Thursday October 4, 2001
7:00 pm – 9:00pm
Village Offices*

Outline of Topics Discussed:

- Reviewed & Discussed Residential & Business Survey Formats and Questions
- Survey Cover Letter format
- Survey mailing list – who to receive the surveys
- Survey reproduction and mailing – to include a self addressed, stamped envelope
- Draft survey approval by advisory committee – October 26, 2001.
- Release dates for surveys – November 1, 2001
- Return date for surveys – November 21, 2001
- Number of surveys to be mailed – 3000+/-

Historical Resources

- Cook Park
- Pine Grove Methodist Church
- Trolley Depot (1818 Central Avenue)

Cultural & Recreational Resources

- Town Community Center
- Cook Park
- Senior Center
- Patroon Creek Corridor

Educational Resources

- South Colonie Central School District
- Saddlewood School
- Forest Park School

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #7

AGENDA

Thursday November 1, 2001
7:00 pm – 9:00pm
Village Offices

- | | | |
|------|--|-----------|
| I. | Introduction | (5 Min.) |
| II. | Public Comment/Background Activities | (10 Min.) |
| | ➤ Identification of Issues relevant to the master planning process (i.e., Environmental, Transportation, Historic, Open Space, Municipal Resources, Land Uses, etc.) | |
| | ➤ Coordination of and attendance at all monthly Master Plan Advisory Committee meetings (which includes all meeting preparation tasks and supporting activities.) | |
| | ➤ Technical preliminary review of existing/previous plans, studies and relevant documents. | |
| | ➤ Technical preliminary review of local codes, site plan review, subdivision regulations, etc. | |
| | ➤ Technical preliminary review of plans and policies prepared by Albany County, CDTC, CDRPC, Pine Bush Preserve and State Agencies. | |
| | ➤ Residential survey development and coordination. | |
| | ➤ Commercial survey development and coordination. | |
| | ➤ GIS mapping - data research, data acquisition, and preliminary base mapping. | |
| III. | Physical & Environmental Resources
Community & Municipal Resources
Historical & Cultural Resources | (20 Min.) |
| IV. | S.W.O.T. Analysis | (45 Min.) |
| | S-trengths
W-eaknesses
O-pportunities
T-hreats | |
| V. | Visual Character Survey – Overview | (10 Min.) |
| VI. | December & January Meeting Agendas | (5 Min.) |

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Notes Summary Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #7

*Thursday November 1, 2001
7:00 pm - 9:00pm
Village Offices*

Outline of Topics Discussed

- Reviewed & discussed final draft of Residential & Business Surveys and cover letter
- The consultants produced a draft existing land use map based on the Village of Colonie property class assessment codes
- The October 4, 2001 notes have an error when referring to the Locust Park School

Physical Environmental Resources

Identification of other issues and areas to be considered in the Plan

- Patroon Creek
- Cook Pond
- Bauer Park (wetland area)
- Milton Park
- Locust Park playground
- Other wetlands and large sensitive areas should be considered
- Identify target areas that are managed or are a concern of the Albany Pine Bush Commission. Issues with development near the Pine Bush and the future expansion of the Pine Bush Preserve further into the Village.
- Landfill expansion

Other Municipal or Community Resources

- The Plan should identify issues with the proposed Lincoln Avenue bridge project, concern with layout of the bridge and the alternatives
- The need for a Village Community Center
- Schools, play areas, fields, parks, support facilities, DPW, fire house

- The committee will invite the youth council to get their opinion on what services are needed in the Village for youth.

S.W.O.T Analysis Final Results

Strengths

1. Village government
 - Small size of the community—citizens/administrative official ratio
2. Central location
3. Municipal services
4. Commercial depth/tax base
 - Inter-municipal services
 - Senior programs
 - Parks
 - Town Community Center
 - Newton Medical Center
 - School System
 - Religious community
 - Police support

Weaknesses

1. Traffic management
2. Lack of space to expand
 - Limited flexibility—land use codes
3. Noise (train, airport, highway)
4. Vacant buildings/properties
 - Land fill odors
 - Lack of senior housing
 - Limited cultural amenities
 - Lack of control over police

Opportunities

1. Route 5 corridor project, CDTC
2. Improvement to land use codes for more flexibility
3. Lincoln Avenue bridge project
4. New youth services facilities
 - Village-sponsored community center
 - Sound barriers for I-87
 - Cook Park expansion
 - Landfill closure in the future
 - Senior assisted housing
 - Alternative to Route 5

Threats

1. Lack of consideration from surrounding municipalities
2. Watervliet-Shaker Road expansion
3. Over commercialization
4. Landfill encroachment
 - Loss of commercial revenue sources
 - Airport proximity issues

Next meeting Thursday December 6, 2001

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #8

AGENDA

Thursday December 6, 2001
7:00 pm -9:00pm
Village Offices

- I. Introductions (10 Min.)
- Public Input
 - Spotlight Article
 - S.W.O.T. Analysis Overview
- II. Background Activities (15 Min.)
- Surveys: 3,024 Residential, 375 Commercial
3,399 Total Surveys Distributed
 - Total Surveys Received as of 12/01 = 956 (28.1%)
 - Draft Land Use Map
 - Coordination of and attendance at all monthly Master Plan Advisory Committee meetings (which includes all meeting preparation tasks and supporting activities.)
 - Data research, data acquisition, and preliminary base mapping.
 - Preliminary data collection and analysis (i.e., natural resource information, land use information, demographic information, transportation facilities, housing, utilities, community facilities, local historical resources, visual resources, economic conditions, recent building trends and activity.)
 - Village-wide photo inventory collection (in progress).
 - Preliminary development of a Community Image Survey.
- III. Visioning Workshop (50 Min.)
- Vision Statement
 - Goals Development
 - Implementation Plan
- IV. January & February Meeting Agendas (10 Min.)
- Preliminary Survey Results (January)
 - Community Image Survey/Workshop (February)

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Notes Summary Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #8

*Thursday December 6, 2001
7:00 pm - 9:00pm
Village Offices*

Outline of Topics Discussed

- Mr. Ed Sims, Youth Director explained the Youth Program to the committee
- The consultants produced a draft existing land use map based on the Village of Colonie property class assessment codes and a draft map of the Pine Bush lands in relation to the Village
- Discussed the Community Image Survey/Workshop

Discussion of Youth Issues

The Youth Council is made up of kids from the community that meets and coordinates projects.

Identification of the Youth Council involvement

- Drug & Alcohol Awareness Day
- Spruce Up for Spring
- Family Fun Day
- Ice Cream social
- Newsletter for Village
- Booking of Cook Park Pavilions, schedule and maintenance of fields
- Coloring contest at Easter time and the Holidays.
- Halloween and Christmas parties
- Santa Claus Parade
- The Park Program

The Youth Council is looking towards a multi-use family center that will be used for large events.

- Would like to see the center in a central area such as the Village complex
- Basketball court to be included

- Used by community members in-between teenagers and seniors
- A place for ice-skating is a issue
- The building needs to be approximately 100x65 feet

The Master Plan Committee would like to have a Teenager from the Youth Council attend the next meeting to gain insight on what the youth in the community would like to see happen in the Village.

Review of draft Pine Bush Lands Map

- The Plan should identify lands outside the Village boundary
- Explanation of the terms Full Protection, Partial Protection, Open Space....

Other topics discussed

- 956 surveys returned as of December 1, 2001
- Kristole Court will be surveyed
- Mike Lyons from the Town of Colonie to be invited to the next meeting
- Traffic concerns on Central Avenue and Sand Creek Road due to the expansion of Waterverliet-Shaker Road and Exit 3.
- Should the Master plan be given to the Town of Colonie and Guilderland for comments?

We would like to welcome new members _____.

Next meeting Thursday January 3, 2001

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #9

AGENDA

Thursday January 3, 2002
7:00 pm -9:00pm
Village Offices

- I. General (30 Min.)
- Public Input
 - Guest Speaker – Kevin DeLaughter, Phillip Pearson, Town of Colonie
 - The Villager
 - December Advisory Committee Meeting Notes Review
 - Business Survey Review
- Master Plan Background Activities:
- Survey Results Analysis (Business & Residential)
 - Data research, data acquisition, and preliminary base mapping.
 - Plan data collection and analysis (i.e., natural resource information, land use information, demographic information, transportation facilities, housing, utilities, community facilities, local historical resources, visual resources, economic conditions, recent building trends and activity.)
 - Preliminary Plan drafting (demographics, history)
 - Preliminary development of a Community Image Survey Workshop.
- II. Visioning /Goals Workshop (80 Min.)
- Vision Statement (Sample Handout)
 - *The vision reflects the community ideal and provides a sense of direction in policy development.*
 - Goals & Recommendations Development
 - *The goals provide a framework for the Village's Master Plan. They are developed based upon the vision for the village, and designed to meet the issues facing the village.*
 - *The goals are statements that summarize the general philosophy of the village and provide direction for future decision making.*
 - *The recommendations are tied to and address specific issues identified by the Master Plan Committee and from supplemental citizen input.*

- Goals & Recommendations Implementation Plan
(Purpose and Description)

III. February Meeting Agenda

(5 Min.)

- Preliminary Survey Results
- Inter-municipal workshop

IV. March Meeting Agenda

(5 Min)

- Community Image Survey/Workshop

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Notes Summary Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #9

*Thursday January 3, 2002
7:00 pm - 9:00pm
Village Hall*

Outline of Topics Discussed

- Mr. Kevin Delaughter, Planner, Town of Colonie, spoke about some of the towns' plans for future development or changes in land use or zoning that may concern the Village of Colonie.

Discussion of Town of Colonie issues

Mr. Delaughter brought in two maps to display the existing Town of Colonie Zoning Districts and the existing land use in the adjacent areas surrounding the village. The maps were prepared with the towns' Geographic Information System, using digitized tax parcel lines, zoning districts and information from the real property tax database.

The following is a summary of topics discussed by the Committee and Mr. Delaughter:

- Depth of the Town of Colonie commercial zoning district along Central Avenue is 300-500 feet and toward the city of Albany, about 100 feet on either side of Central Avenue.
- The Town of Colonie is currently trying to remove the "Undeveloped District", from the Zoning Code and replace it with a new zoning district that will encourage uses that are compatible with airport related uses. The new zoning district will apply to the area adjacent to and northeast of Bauer Park. The new district will probably allow office uses, schools, religious facilities, hotels, and convention centers, but will exclude large retail uses.
- A portion of this area adjacent and northeast of Bauer Park contains significant wetlands that are deed restricted from development. The Town of Colonie may change the zoning in this area to a "Land

Conservation District". This could represent an opportunity for the village and the town to work together to expand the trail system from Bauer Park into the town.

- The Town of Colonie has adopted a resolution to support the initiatives set forth by the New York State Route 5 Corridor, Land Use and Transportation Study, prepared for the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC). The town realizes that zoning changes along this corridor will be needed in order to accomplish CDTC's goals and objectives. Implementing the goals of this plan may be difficult.
- Traffic concerns on Central Avenue and Sand Creek Road due to the proposed changes to Watervliet-Shaker Road and I-87 Exit 3. Certain transportation projects may face state funding cutbacks this year.
- Access management issues on Route 5 and Wolf Road.
- Route 155/Central Avenue truck traffic.
- New access road around the Albany County Airport.
- The Town of Colonie has no current plans for the future of the Town Community Center or for any programs to support the improvement of gateways into the town or village. Most efforts for the improvement of gateways come from neighborhood organizations.
- The Committee discussed the series of pie graphs and charts that show the preliminary results of the Confidential Business Survey.
- Item II, on the meeting agenda, the Visioning/Goals workshop will be moved to the February meeting agenda.
- The preliminary results of the Confidential Residential Survey should be available to the Committee at the February meeting.
- The Community Image Survey/Workshop will be held in March. This event will be advertised in the February edition of *The Villager* in hopes to ensure good attendance.

Next meeting Thursday February 7, 2001

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #10

AGENDA

Thursday February 7, 2002
7:00 pm -9:00pm
Village Offices

- I. General (10 Min.)
- Public Input
 - January Advisory Committee Meeting Notes Review
- Master Plan Background Activities:
- Community Image Survey Workshop development.
 - Community Image Survey Questionnaire
 - Plan data collection and analysis (i.e., natural resource information, land use information, demographic information, transportation facilities, housing, utilities, community facilities, local historical resources, visual resources, economic conditions, recent building trends and activity.)
 - Preliminary Plan drafting (demographics, history)
- II. Residential Survey Review (45 Min.)
- III. Visioning Workshop (45 Min.)
- Vision Statement Review (Sample Handout)
- The vision reflects the community ideal and provides a sense of direction in policy development.
 - Vision Statement Drafting
- IV. March Meeting Agenda (5 Min.)
- Community Image Survey/Workshop
- V. April Meeting Agenda (5 Min.)
- Preliminary Community Image Survey Results
 - Inter-Municipal Workshop
 - Goals & Recommendations Development

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Notes Summary Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #10

*Thursday February 7, 2002
7:00 pm – 9:00pm
Village Hall*

Outline of Topics Discussed

- Community Image Survey Development.
 - The Community Image Survey Workshop will be held on March 7th at 7:00 pm at the Village Hall/Senior Center.
 - Advertisement for this workshop will be in the February Villager.
 - Laberge will prepare a flier for the workshop. Next week the flier will be available for members of the public at the Village Hall.
 - The flier will be distributed about 2 weeks before March 7th by the public works department.
 - Committee members should invite their family, friends and teenagers to participate in the workshop (they must be Village residents, or Village business owners).
 - Brian Casey will pass out fliers to some teenagers that he knows.

- Discussion and Review of the Results of the Confidential Residential Survey.
 - Most interesting results from questions:
 - 1. This question showed 46.4% of those surveyed are 36-59 years old, and 42.8% of those surveyed are 60 or older.
 - 5. This question showed a very high percentage (95%) of homeowners as opposed to renters live in the Village.
 - 6. This question showed that a vast majority (61.6%) of the residents surveyed have lived in the Village for 15 or more years.
 - 7. This question showed that a majority of residents (91.6%) do not work in the Village.
 - 13. This question showed that 85% of those surveyed think that the Village is an affordable place to live.
 - 14. This question showed that 75.2% of those surveyed are in favor of developing senior housing.

- 15. This questions showed that 97.2 % of those surveyed think the Village is a safe place to live.
 - 16. This questions showed 87.9% of those surveyed rate the Town of Colonie Police as good to excellent.
 - 17. This questions showed 65.5% of those surveyed do not believe the Village should have its own police force.
 - 18. This questions showed 83.8% believe speeding is a problem.
 - 19. This questions showed 83.9% believe traffic volume is a problem.
 - 31. This questions showed 58% of those surveyed believe there should be more trails and greenways in the Village.
 - 32. This questions showed 46.6% of those surveyed believe home based businesses are appropriate.
 - 38. This questions showed most (43.4%) of those surveyed do not want the business district in the Village to expand any more.
 - 40. This questions showed most (53.3%) of those surveyed do not want any more small retail businesses in their neighborhood.
 - 42. This questions showed 72.4% of those surveyed are satisfied with the existing zoning.
 - 45. This questions showed 84.9% of those surveyed believe that preserving the remaining open space in the Village is important.
- After going over the results of the Residential Survey in its entirety, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. The Visioning Workshop will be put on the April agenda

Next Meeting Thursday March 7, 2002

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #11

AGENDA

Thursday March 7, 2002
7:00 pm -9:00pm
Village Offices

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|-----------|
| I. | Introduction | (5 Min.) |
| II. | Community Image Survey Workshop | (2 hours) |

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #12

AGENDA

Thursday April 11, 2002

7:00 pm -9:00pm

Village Offices

- | | | |
|------|--|-----------|
| I. | General | (15 Min.) |
| | ➤ Public Input | |
| | ➤ Introduce new Committee Members | |
| | ➤ Introduce new Planning Consultant, Benjamin H. Syden, AICP | |
| | ➤ February Advisory Committee Meeting Notes Review | |
| II. | Report and Discussion of results of the
Community Image Survey Review | (1 hour) |
| III. | Update Project Schedule | (10 Min) |
| IV. | Goals & Recommendations Development | (30 Min) |
| V. | May Meeting Agenda | (5 Min.) |
| | ➤ Goals & Recommendations Development | |

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Notes Summary Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #12

Thursday April 11, 2002
7:00 pm – 9:00pm
Village Hall

Outline of Topics Discussed

- Community Image Survey Results.
 - Nan Stolzenburg, AICP and Michael Buser, AICP of Community Planning & Environmental Associates presented a written summary of the results of the Community Image Survey Workshop held on March 7th at 7:00 pm at the Village Hall/Senior Center. The results of the survey were tabulated and interpreted by the firm using their experience of interpreting patterns to compare positives and negatives. The firm also discussed some of the most important highlights of the results of the Community Image Survey using a computerized slide show.
 - The most positively rated images were by and large those that portrayed single family residential of all styles and designs, commercial scenes and structures with traditional architecture and abundance of landscaping, mature canopy trees along streets and sidewalks and green space. (See the *Village of Colonie Community Image Survey Results* report for a complete discussion of these issues).
 - The most negatively rated slides were commercial structures or strip mall developments surrounded by clutter, large signs, large open parking areas and little or no landscaping. Other negatively rated slides included large tall stand-alone apartment complexes, industrial sites, highways, and large urban centers. (See the *Village of Colonie Community Image Survey Results* report for a complete discussion of these issues).
- Discussion of project schedule (tentative project schedule that was discussed at the meeting is attached).

➤ Master Plan Goals Development Exercise:

- The Committee was divided into two groups to work together to develop goals for the Master Plan. Group one worked on the development of goals for the future of the natural environment and natural resources. Group two worked on the development of goals for the future land use of the Village.
- After about one hour of group work, the Committee discussed concerns of how the exercise was progressing. Some Committee members were concerned with the fast pace of the exercise and the Committee as a whole decided that all would like to attempt to do the goals formulating exercise as a homework assignment.

➤ May Meeting Agenda

- The Committee will come together and go over the goal formulating homework assignment. The Committee will together decide what goals will be used in the Master Plan and will at the same time discuss actions or recommendations that should be taken to reach those goals. Committee members are encouraged to contact each other or the consultants with any questions or concerns about the goal formulating exercise before the May meeting.

Next Meeting Thursday May 2, 2002

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #13

AGENDA

Thursday May 2, 2002

7:00 pm -9:00pm

Village Offices

- | | | |
|------|--|-----------|
| I. | General | (10 Min.) |
| | ➤ Public Input | |
| | ➤ April Advisory Committee Meeting Notes Review | |
| II. | Land Use Goals & Objectives Workshop | (25 Min) |
| III. | Natural & Environmental Resources
Goals & Objectives Workshop | (25 Min) |
| IV. | Historical & Cultural Resources
Goals & Objectives Workshop | (25 Min) |
| V. | Economic Development
Goals & Objectives Workshop | (25 Min) |
| VI. | Wrap-up and June Agenda | (10 Min.) |

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Notes Summary Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #13

Thursday May 2, 2002
7:00 pm - 9:00pm
Village Hall

Outline of Topics Discussed

➤ Public Input

Village citizens Mr. and Mrs. Ben Garry and Steve Garry expressed their opposition to any development of a bike/hike trail along the Patroon Creek corridor. According to the Garrys, this stream corridor is a public hazard due to fast flushing water during spring snow melt and the build up of sand and silt along the banks of the stream that acts like quicksand. Children are attracted to water, and there have been cases when children have become stuck in the muck along the stream banks.

➤ The Committee discussed the draft Existing Conditions portion of the Master Plan that was provided to Committee members at the April meeting. Some members pointed out minor typographical errors in the draft, but overall a majority were satisfied with this section of the plan. Some members will take more time to review it and follow up with the consultants with any additional comments.

➤ The list below includes the Goals derived at the meeting as well as the remaining sample goals and some recommendations that were discussed.

Draft Master Plan Goals

Land Use

Goal 1 To maintain and enhance the aesthetics of the major commercial thoroughfares of the community with the implementation of improved architectural and landscaping design standards. (*Recommendations: bury utility wires and eliminate overhead traffic lights*)

Goal 2 To preserve and enhance the existing character of Village while accommodating a balanced mix of recreational, residential and commercial uses to ensure that property taxes are kept reasonable for existing and future residents.

Goal 3 To promote and encourage inter and intra-municipal cooperation and communication with other local, state and regional agencies when making land use decisions.

Goal 4 To explore, identify and conserve existing vacant land for adaptive re-use for recreation, senior housing and other needed public services. *(Recommendations: study and identify vacant land that would be valuable for open space, recreation, or for other needs of the public. Give landholders incentives to keep land undeveloped. Acquire lands.)*

Goal 5 Encourage the future development of an alternative to Route 5.

Land Use Examples Not Used

Goal 1 To preserve and enhance the unique features of the Village that make it a quality place to live.

Goal 3 To encourage future development that is of quality design, will meet the necessary long-term population needs, and will lead to fiscal stability of the community.

Natural & Environmental Features and Resources

Goal 1 To protect and enhance lands within the Village, which are environmentally significant and or sensitive, and to minimize any adverse impacts man-made development may have on land, air, water quality, natural habitats, unique land formations and scenic resources for resource conservation and recreational opportunities.

Goal 2 To enhance and protect the aesthetics and water quality of the Village's natural waterways for resource conservation and recreational opportunities. *(Recommendations: improve storm water control of pollutants, silt and sediment. Improve drainage especially within the Patroon Creek and Cook Pond watershed.)*

Goal 3 To manage and protect sensitive environmental areas and lands that serve as important natural drainage channels and natural habitats in order

to prevent development, which would endanger the environment or public health. *(Recommendations: identify the effects of the possible future closure or expansion of the Albany Land fill, and make efforts to protect the natural environment in and around Bauer Park.)*

Goal 4 To encourage and promote businesses that are "clean" and have few environmental impacts and discourage those that put the Village environment at risk.

Goal 5 To discourage land uses that cause severe noise impacts on existing residential neighborhoods.

Historic & Cultural Resources

Goal 1 To preserve and enhance the Village's cultural and historic resources which reinforce a sense of identity and pride for the residents. *(Recommendations: develop a campaign to inform residents about the significance of history and culture in the Village)*

Goal 2 Identify, establish and promote new unique cultural resources that will foster greater pride in the community. *(Recommendations: develop a theme museum, develop more identifiable gateways to the community)*

Goal 3 Identify, and promote the Village's unique cultural and historical traits and assets. *(Recommendations: establish historic markers; develop a thematic sign program that is unique to the Village)*

Goal 4 To encourage the protection and restoration of existing structures to maintain the historic character of the Village.

Transportation

Goal 1 To promote safe and efficient circulation of pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and minimize the impact of traffic on the Village's quality of life. *(Recommendations: reconstruct Route 5 into a boulevard; develop an alternative transportation route to divert truck traffic from Route 5; reduce or manage congestion along Route 5 through various access management measures; support the use of public transit by encouraging the dedication of bus lanes or alternative bus routes; analyze residential street parking conditions and develop a plan for solving associated problems.)*

Goal 2 To support and participate in the planning efforts of regional entities such as the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC), the Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC) and the Capital District

Transportation Authority (CDTA). *(Recommendation: appoint an appropriate citizen representative to attend meetings held by CDTC and CDRPC on issues that impact the Village)*

Goal 3 To provide and maintain a safe and contiguous sidewalk and trail system that connects residential and commercial areas throughout the Village.

Goal 4 To continue to improve traffic safety for pedestrians in residential and commercial areas through the use of various traffic calming devices. *(Recommendation: improve enforcement of speed limits, install curb bulb-outs at intersections, speed humps, speed dips, landscaped medians or islands, widen sidewalks and narrow streets, plant vegetated buffer strips to protect pedestrians from traffic, textured crosswalks and bike lanes for better visibility)*

Goals that were mentioned for topics to be discussed at the June meeting

Economic Development

Goal 1 To promote cultural opportunities by encouraging the establishment of new theater-based businesses within the Village.

Goal 2 To attract tourism by developing a thematic sign program throughout the Village which will pinpoint interesting features.

Community Facilities and Resources

Goal 1 To fund and promote an outreach program to better inform Village citizens of Village activities and services.

Goal 2 To provide alternative transportation services for senior residents.

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #14

AGENDA

Thursday June 6, 2002

6:00 pm -9:00pm

Village Offices

- | | | |
|------|--|--------------|
| I. | General | (10 Minutes) |
| | ➤ Public Input | |
| | ➤ May Advisory Committee Meeting Notes Review | |
| II. | Review
Goals and Objectives from the May meeting | (30 Minutes) |
| III. | Review Draft Existing Conditions of the Plan | (30 Minutes) |
| IV. | Economic Development
Goals & Objectives Workshop | (30 Minutes) |
| V. | Community Facilities & Resources
Goals & Objectives Workshop
Municipal
Parks and Recreation | (30 Minutes) |
| VI. | Housing Goals & Objectives Workshop | (20 Minutes) |
| VII. | Wrap-up & Miscellaneous Items | (30 Minutes) |

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Notes Summary Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #14

*Thursday June 6, 2002
6:00 pm – 9:00pm
Village Hall*

Outline of Topics Discussed

- Public Input
- The list below includes the issues discussed at the meeting in an attempt to formulate draft goals and/or recommendations for the future of the Village of Colonie.

Recreation and Community Facilities

- Maintain Village buildings and properties to adequately serve their function for all residents.
- Continue annual maintenance of all municipal buildings.
- Expand the Senior Citizens Center to meet the future needs of the citizens.
- Work with the Town to improve the Town Community Center.
- Develop a Youth Center in an appropriate location.
- Appoint a citizen committee to be responsible for organizing community enhancement (clean-up days).
- Promote existing Village programs and activities.
- Cooperate with the Town of Colonie for the provision of needed services to the citizens of the Village.
- Develop a Village of Colonie web site.
- Appoint an Activities Director to be responsible for coming up with new ways to inform and involve the public in community activities and programs.
- Provide alternative transportation services for senior residents.
- Continue to provide the desired recreational services to Village residents.
- Develop an interconnecting trail system between the existing parks for walking and jogging.

- Coordinate with the Town of Colonie to avoid duplication of recreational services.
- Expand the functions of the existing parks to better serve the needs of the community.
- Plant more trees within the Village for improved shade and green space areas.

Housing

- Offer safe, affordable, quality housing to all residents in the Village.
- Provide a blend of quality housing opportunities including a range of housing types and price ranges which are affordable for residents.
- Senior Housing.

Economic Development

- Encourage theater based/ entertainment businesses.
- Create a program that gives incentives for businesses to locate in existing vacant buildings.
- Create a Commercial Development Program.
- Create an Economic Development Committee.
- Improve marketing of the Village.
- Identify or create recruitment or business assistance programs.
- Hire a CEO of Economic Development.
- Cooperate with existing regional economic development agencies (Albany County Chamber of Commerce). Need a liaison to these existing entities.
- Create of Business Improvement District within Village.
- Give tax incentives for green/clean businesses.
- Give awards to businesses that work hard to make community look good (business enhancement award).
- Support existing businesses.

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #15

AGENDA

Thursday September 5, 2002

7:00 pm -9:00pm

Village Offices

- | | | |
|------|--|--------------|
| I. | General | (10 Minutes) |
| | ➤ Public Input | |
| | ➤ June Advisory Committee Meeting Notes Review | |
| II. | Review Draft Goals and Recommendations | (40 Minutes) |
| III. | Review Draft Implementation Matrix | (30 Minutes) |
| IV. | Wrap-up & Miscellaneous Items | (10 Minutes) |

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Notes Summary Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #15

*Thursday September 5, 2002
7:00 pm – 9:00pm
Village Hall*

Outline of Topics Discussed

- Advisory Committee accepted the meeting notes from the June meeting.
- Review draft Goals and Recommendations and Action and Implementation Matrix.
 - Committee wants all acronyms within the draft spelled out.
 - Committee discussed issues surrounding the neighboring municipal zoning.
 - Committee gave positive feedback regarding the Goals and Recommendations.
 - Committee gave positive feedback regarding the Action and Implementation Matrix.
 - Committee wants to do a mailing with an executive summary or the draft goals to all Village residents.

Next Meeting: Thursday October 3, 2002, 7:00pm

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #16

AGENDA

Thursday October 3, 2002

7:00 pm -9:00pm

Village Offices

- I. **General** **(10 Minutes)**
 - Public Input
 - September Advisory Committee Meeting Notes Review

- II. **Review Draft Master Plan** **(1 Hour 30 Minutes)**

- III. **Wrap-up & Miscellaneous Items** **(20 Minutes)**

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Meeting Notes Summary Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #16

*Thursday October 3, 2002
7:00 pm – 9:00pm
Village Hall*

Attendees

Christopher Dennis, Chair
Thomas Tobin
Anne Krause
Henry Landau
Robert Allen
Mark Keegan

Outline of Topics Discussed

- Advisory Committee accepted the meeting notes from the September meeting.
- Reviewed the **Draft Village of Colonie Master Plan.**
 - Committee requested that all of the mapping included in the draft Plan reflect accurate revision dates. .
 - Committee discussed some typographical errors within the draft Plan that will be corrected by the consultant.
 - Committee decided that due to the lack of attendance to this meeting, a letter will be sent to Committee members requesting they review the draft Plan and submit any changes to Laberge Group by Monday October 21st.

Next Meeting: Thursday November 7, 2002, 7:00pm

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Advisory Committee PUBLIC HEARING Agenda

Thursday November 21, 2002
7:00 pm -8:00pm
Village Hall

- | | | |
|-------------|---|---------------------|
| I. | Introductions
Christopher Dennis, Chairman | (10 Minutes) |
| II. | Master Plan Overview
Laberge Group
Benjamin H. Syden AICP
Stephanie L. Baron, Planner | (30 Minutes) |
| III. | Public Input | (20 Minutes) |

VILLAGE OF COLONIE MASTER PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Master Plan Advisory Committee Meeting #17

AGENDA

Thursday January 9, 2003

7:00 pm -8:00 pm
Village Offices

- | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| I. | General | (10 Minutes) |
| | ➤ Public Input | |
| II. | Review Draft Master Plan Changes | (40 Minutes) |
| III. | Roll Call and vote on memorandum | (10 Minutes) |

Final Draft Village of Colonie Master Plan Edits

	Section/Page Number	Change	Recommended By:
1	I&A II-01.1	Photo removed, not in the Village.	NA
2	II-01.4	First paragraph, last sentence changed: "During the 1980's the tunnels were closed due to safety concerns."	Betty Film
3	II-02.15	Table 7 Housing Tenure Vacant Housing Units changed to 2.8%.	Betty Film
4	II-04.1	Second paragraph, last sentence: "The Planning Commission meets twice a month, while the Zoning Board of Appeals, Sign Review Board and Traffic Committee meet once a month."	Betty Film
5	II-04.2	Added text on the Ladies Auxiliary: "The Ladies Auxiliary to the Colonie Fire Company was established in early 1932, with only 13 members and is still a major asset to the Fire Company, and the community. The Auxiliary coordinates blood drives, assist the elderly, participate in a variety of charitable works, and conduct a number of fund raising activities for the Fire Company and the community as a whole."	Betty Film
6	II-04.3	Statement on refuse disposal changed: "The Village provides curbside trash removal for residential properties. Additionally, the Village provides recycling services on the same day and seasonal collection of heavy trash items, grass clippings, leaves and branches."	Betty Film
7	II-04.3	Statement on Stormwater Collection added: "The Village of Colonie has in place a separate stormwater collection system throughout the Village. Section V includes a map of the existing storm sewer system." "The Village is included in the list of urbanized areas that will be in the near future subject to the new Phase II regulations of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater program."	Albany County Planning Board
8	II-05.2	Cook Park: "Future development will include the installation of a fountain in Cook Pond."	Betty Film
9	II-05.4	Paragraph added "The Albany Pine Bush Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, April 2002, identifies lands recommended for protection for reaching an overall goal of limited fragmentation and increased contiguity between protected parcels. Nearly half of the Village of Colonie lies within the Study/Protection Area Boundary delineated by the Pine Bush Preserve Commission."	Albany County Planning Board

Final Draft Village of Colonie Master Plan Edits

	Section/Page Number	Change	Recommended By:
10	II-05.5	Text changed, "Mayor Bill Cook and Edward Skinner, Sr. established the Village of Colonie Senior Citizen Center in 1966 on Mothers Day in 1966. The original center was a house that was donated to the community and moved to the Village's municipal property. By 1978, the house was too small for the sixty members of the center, meetings were then moved to the Village Hall, and the activities were held at the Colonie Community Center. A new Senior Citizen Center opened in 1981 as an addition located at the rear of the Village hall. The Center is named after former Mayor Herbert B. Kuhn, and currently has approximately 400 members. The center was expanded again in 1989 due to the growing and popular demand. A wide array of activities are offered at the Senior Citizen Center, they include: Bingo, Cards - Bridge, Pinochle, Exercise Class, Language Class - German and Spanish, Lunches and dinners on special occasions, Dancing - Line Dancing, Square Dancing and Country Western, Quilting Class, Sewing Class, Tai Chi Class, Yoga Class, Day and Overnight trips"	Betty Film
11	II-07.1	Rearranged paragraphs. Moved paragraph three to the end of paragraph one. Moved paragraph four after the discussion of Route 5. Moved paragraph 2 (regarding Interstate 87) after discussion of Route5.	RJL
12	II-07.1	Text added "In addition, the Capital District Transportation Committee has completed a critical analysis of the Route 5 corridor and identified a <i>Preferred Future</i> for the corridor in the <u>New York Route 5 Corridor Land Use and Transportation Study</u> . The CDTC Study offers a number of solid recommendations for economic development, downtown revitalization, street design, and pedestrian, bicycle and public transit improvements.	HRVG & Albany County Planning Board
13	II-07.5	Phase 3, added (recommendation has been delayed pending the outcome of the Lincoln Avenue Bridge Project).	RJL

Final Draft Village of Colonie Master Plan Edits

	Section/Page Number	Change	Recommended By:
14	II-07.9	Added paragraph on airport, "Located on Albany-Shaker Road, just a few minutes drive from almost anywhere in the Village, the Albany International Airport is a major asset to the community. The newly expanded 230,000 square foot terminal, which re-opened in June of 1998, accommodates 135 Average Daily Arrivals and Departures. The facility offers parking for over 5,000 vehicles, and shuttle bus service from more distant parking areas. Commercial airline services include; Air Canada, American/American Eagle, Continental/ Continental Connection, Delta, Northwest, Southwest, United/United Express, US Airways/US Airways Express/Metrojet."	T. Tobin
15	G & R III-01.4	Moved Goal 4 to Administrative Actions section Goal 5 becomes Goal 4 Goal 6 becomes Goal 5	Albany County Planning Board
16	III-01.5 III-01.6	Goal 5 reworded: "Encourage future development that minimizes negative impacts on natural resources, infrastructure, and neighboring uses in order to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the community." Reworded Recommendations, 1 "Encourage and promote non-polluting businesses that are energy and waste efficient", 2. "Establish performance standards to control negative environmental impacts such as: noise, odors, smoke, gas, light, dust, physical hazards, and other side effects from industrial and commercial activities" and added Recommendation 3 "Develop a notification system to prospective land buyers/developers of potential noise impacts in the <i>Albany County Airport Exposure Area</i> ".	HRVG & Albany County Planning Board
17	III-02.3	Goal 2 recommendation #6 added, "Establish a system of incentives to encourage landowners to make aesthetic improvements to the Route 5 corridor, i.e., incentive zoning."	HRVG
18	III-03.1	Removed the words "single-family"	HRVG
19	III-03.2	Goal 2, Recommendation #6, removed the word "commercial"	HRVG
20	III-03.1 III-03.2	Goal 2 recommendation #7 added, "Include mixed-type housing opportunities; i.e., townhouses, condominiums, or apartment complexes, within future planned unit developments."	HRVG
21	III-03.3	Deleted Goal 3, contradictory to land use goals.	HRVG
22	III-04.2	Goal 1 recommendation #9 changed, "Design a <i>Village of Colonie</i> web site for the promotion of existing and forthcoming economic development programs to attract and retain village businesses."	HRVG

Final Draft Village of Colonie Master Plan Edits

	Section/Page Number	Change	Recommended By:
23	III-04.3	Goal 3 recommendation #5 added, "Establish a system of incentives to encourage landowners to make aesthetic improvements to their properties, buildings and landscaping, and to provide pedestrian accommodations, i.e., incentive zoning."	HRVG
24	III-05.2	Remove Recommendation # 2, repeated	NA
25	III-05.2	Goal 3 recommendation # 3 added, "Work with Albany County to develop a direct trail connection between the Ann Lee Pond Preserve and Bauer Park."	Albany County Planning Board
26	III-06.1	Goal 1 recommendation reworded, "Conduct an inventory to identify the remaining sensitive natural areas in the Village and create a priority list for protecting and managing these areas."	HRVG
27	III-06.2	Goal 2 recommendation reworded, "Conduct an inventory to identify the remaining open spaces in the Village and create a priority list for protecting and managing these areas."	HRVG
28	III-08.1	Added Goal 2 (copied from original Land Use section Goal 4).	HRVG
29	III-08.2	Goal 2 recommendation #4 added, "Continue to cooperate with the Albany County Planning Board referral process required by New York State General Municipal Law Article 12-B Section 239-m and 239n, for proposed zoning changes, future comprehensive plan updates, and certain development applications".	Albany County Planning Board

RESIDENTIAL SURVEY

VILLAGE OF COLONIE

ALBANY COUNTY
NEW YORK

VILLAGE HALL
2 THUNDER ROAD
COLONIE, NY 12205
(518) 869-7562
FAX (518) 464-0389

KATHLEEN A. HAAS
CLERK/TREASURER

FRANK A. LEAK
MAYOR

THOMAS J. TOBIN
DEPUTY MAYOR

MICHAEL J. AIDALA
TRUSTEE

BETTY FILM
TRUSTEE

JACK MURPHY
TRUSTEE

November 5, 2001

Dear Village of Colonie Resident,

The Village of Colonie, under the guidance of Mayor Frank Leak and the Master Plan Advisory Committee has undertaken to commission the update of the Village's 1958 Master Plan in an effort to further define and assess the condition of its neighborhoods, and set a course for the future growth and development of this suburban upstate community.

As you may be aware, a master plan is a written document formally adopted by the Village that contains goals, objectives, policies and strategies for the immediate and long-range development, enhancement, growth and protection of the community. This plan creates a blueprint for future development and the preservation of our community, guiding not only the physical and economic development, but also accommodating social, environmental and regional concerns.

As a resident of the Village, your valued and unique input into this important planning process will ensure that the future growth and development decisions made within the Village of Colonie will not only meet the needs of its residents, but will ensure the long term health, safety and welfare of our vibrant community. Please take a few minutes to complete and return the enclosed survey questionnaire by November 21, 2001. **Your answers are confidential, as you are not required to sign or reveal your name anywhere on the form. Thank you for your time and valued input.**

Village of Colonie
Master Plan Advisory Committee

16. How would you rate the Police protection in the Village provided by the Town of Colonie?
 Excellent Good Fair Poor Unknown

17. Should the Village have its own Police force? Yes No Unknown

18. Is speeding a problem within the Village?
 Serious Problem Minor Problem Not a Problem Unknown

If so, where? _____

19. Is the volume of traffic a problem within the Village?
 Serious Problem Minor Problem Not a Problem Unknown

If so, where? _____

20. Is noise a problem within the Village?
 Serious Problem Minor Problem Not a Problem Unknown

If so, where? _____

21. Is litter a problem within the Village?
 Serious Problem Minor Problem Not a Problem Unknown

If so, where? _____

22. Please rate the following services that are provided by the Village of Colonie:

SERVICE:	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	UNKNOWN
Fire Protection					
Trash Removal					
Snow Removal					
Road Maintenance					
Sidewalk Maintenance					
Water/Sewer Service					
General Tidiness (Litter, Etc.)					
Tree Trimming					
Planning Commission					
Zoning Board of Appeals					
Sign Review Board					
Traffic Committee					

23. Are you satisfied with the Village recreational programs offered for youth? Yes No Unknown

24. Are you satisfied with the Village recreational programs offered for adults? Yes No Unknown

25. Currently, both the Village and Town operate separate summer programs for children. Should the Village continue its programs or should Village children go to the Town's programs?
 Continue in Village Go to Town Program Unknown Continue both

26. What additional recreational facilities or programs would you like to see in the Village? _____

27. On a regular basis, in which of these activities do you participate? (You may choose more than one)
- Walking / Jogging Bike Riding Team Sports Hiking / Canoeing
 Private Gyms Swimming Other _____ None
28. How often does anyone in your home use a Village Park?
 Quite Often Occasionally Seldom Never Unknown
29. Would you like to see additional sidewalks within the Village? Yes No Unknown
If so, where are they needed? _____
30. Should sidewalks connecting neighborhoods be required for new residential/commercial developments in the Village?
 Yes No Unknown
31. Would you like to see more public trails and greenways throughout the Village? Yes No Unknown
32. Do you feel that home-based offices are appropriate in residential neighborhoods?
 Yes No Unknown
33. How often do you shop or seek services in the Village?
 Quite Often Occasionally Seldom Never Unknown
34. Is parking a problem when you shop or seek services in the Village?
 Quite Often Occasionally Seldom Never Unknown
35. In your opinion, is the Village a good place to operate a business? Yes No Unknown
36. What is your opinion of the current level of business activity in the Village?
 Too Much About Right Not Enough Unknown
37. Should there be more opportunities for businesses to locate in the Village? Yes No Unknown
38. If so, do you think expanding the Village business district is an acceptable option?
 Yes No Unknown
39. Would you like to attract more tourists to the Village? Yes No Unknown
40. Would you like to see more small-scale convenience retail stores near Village neighborhoods?
 Yes No Unknown
41. What types of businesses would you like to see come to the Village? _____

42. What is your level of satisfaction of the existing zoning regulations in the Village?
 Very Satisfied Satisfied Not Satisfied
Why or Why Not? _____
43. Would you support a revised zoning code to address current land use issues? Yes No Unknown
Why or Why Not? _____
44. How important is it to preserve the remaining open space and agricultural lands in the Village?
 Very Important Important Not a Priority Unknown

45. How important is it to preserve the historic nature of the Village?
 Very Important Important Not a Priority Unknown
46. Are there any special or unique buildings, landscapes, or landmarks within the Village of Colonie that need to be protected from future development?
 Yes No Unknown
 If Yes, please list the areas including streets names that they are located on or nearby _____

47. Do you believe the Village is growing too rapidly?
 Yes No Unknown
48. Looking ahead, what would be the ideal population for the Village in 20 years?
 Fewer Residents Than Now About the Same Size Somewhat Greater
 Much Greater Unknown
49. What type of development should be permitted on the undeveloped lands in the Village? (You may choose more than one)
 Single Family Homes Condos Industrial
 Townhouses Apartment Buildings No Development
 Duplex Homes Commercial Unknown
50. Overall, how do you feel about the appearance of commercial signs for businesses in the Village?
 Superior Adequate Poor Unknown
 Why? _____
51. Overall, how do you feel about the appearance of Central Avenue and neighborhood roads leading into and out of the Village?
 Superior Adequate Poor Unknown
 Why? _____
52. Should there be architectural review and design guidelines for new development throughout the Village?
 Yes No Unknown
53. Please provide any additional comments about the quality of life in the Village, opportunities to improve the Village, or threats to what you value in the Village?

The Village of Colonie Master Plan Advisory Committee thanks you for your cooperation and support.
 For additional information, please contact Chuck Voss, Senior Planner, Laberge Group, 4 Computer Drive West, Albany, New York, 12205. (518) 458-7112

BUSINESS SURVEY

VILLAGE OF COLONIE

ALBANY COUNTY NEW YORK

VILLAGE HALL
2 THUNDER ROAD
COLONIE, NY 12205
(518) 869-7562
FAX (518) 464-0389

KATHLEEN A. HAAS
CLERK/TREASURER

FRANK A. LEAK
MAYOR

THOMAS J. TOBIN
DEPUTY MAYOR

MICHAEL J. AIDALA
TRUSTEE

BETTY FILM
TRUSTEE

JACK MURPHY
TRUSTEE

November 5, 2001

Dear Village of Colonie Business Owner,

The Village of Colonie, under the guidance of Mayor Frank Leak and the Master Plan Advisory Committee has undertaken to commission the update of the Village's 1958 Master Plan in an effort to further define and assess the condition of its neighborhoods, and set a course for the future growth and development of this suburban upstate community.

As you may be aware, a master plan is a written document formally adopted by the Village that contains goals, objectives, policies and strategies for the immediate and long-range development, enhancement, growth and protection of the community. This plan creates a blueprint for future development and the preservation of our community, guiding not only the physical and economic development, but also accommodating social, environmental and regional concerns.

As a business owner in the Village, your valued and unique input into this important planning process will ensure that the future growth and development decisions made within the Village of Colonie will not only meet the needs of its residents and business owners, but will ensure the long term health, safety and welfare of our vibrant community. Please take a few minutes to complete and return the enclosed survey questionnaire by November 21, 2001. **Your answers are confidential, as you are not required to sign or reveal your name anywhere on the form. Thank you for your time and valued input.**

Village of Colonie

Master Plan Update
CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS SURVEY

This survey has been designed to aid in the development of an updated Master Plan for the Village of Colonie. Your responses to the questions below will be tallied and presented to the Village Master Plan Advisory Committee to gather a consensus as to what the goals and objectives of the Master Plan should entail. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. Your answers are confidential, as you are not required to sign or reveal your name anywhere on the form. Please return your survey by November 21, 2001 using the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope. Thank you.

About Your Business:

1. Please circle one that best describes your business:

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Retail | <input type="checkbox"/> Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional (Lawyer, Doctor, Architect, Etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturing | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

2. What year was your business established? _____

3. How long has your business been in the Village of Colonie? _____

4. How many people do you employ?

Full Time _____ Part-Time _____ Seasonal _____

5. Approximately what percentage of your employees live in the Village? _____

6. Do you live in the Village? YES NO

7. Do you OWN or RENT your place of business?

8. Where do most of your customers come from?

WITHIN the Village OUTSIDE the Village UNKNOWN

9. Would your business benefit from a reconfigured Central Avenue design? YES NO UNKNOWN

How or Why Not? _____

10. What percentage of your customers are tourists? _____ UNKNOWN

11. To which of the following organizations does your company belong?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colonie Rotary | <input type="checkbox"/> Albany County Board of Realtors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colonie Business & Professional Association | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Albany County Lions Club | <input type="checkbox"/> None |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Albany/Colonie Chamber of Commerce | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Albany County Board of Realtors | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | |

About Village Services:

12. Please rate the following services that are provided by the Village of Colonie:

SERVICE:	EXCELLENT	GOOD	FAIR	POOR	UNKNOWN
Fire Protection					
Road Maintenance					
Sidewalk Maintenance					
Water/Sewer Service					
General Tidiness (Litter, Etc.)					
Tree Trimming					
Planning Commission					
Zoning Board of Appeals					
Sign Review Board					
Traffic Committee					

13. What is your level of satisfaction of the existing zoning regulations in the Village?

- Very Satisfied
 Satisfied
 Not Satisfied

Why or Why Not? _____

14. How would you rate the Town Police protection provided to the Village?

- Excellent
 Good
 Fair
 Poor

15. Is the Village Government responsive to needs of the business community?

- YES
 NO
 UNKNOWN

How or Why Not? _____

16. Would you support efforts for future consolidation of any Village and Town government services?

- YES
 NO
 UNKNOWN

Please Specify: _____

17. Do you have any additional comments about how the Village can improve the business climate?

The Village of Colonie Master Plan Advisory Committee thanks you for your cooperation and support.

For additional information, please contact Chuck Voss, Senior Planner, Laberge Group, 4 Computer Drive West, Albany, New York, 12205. (518) 458-7112

RESIDENTIAL SURVEY RESULTS

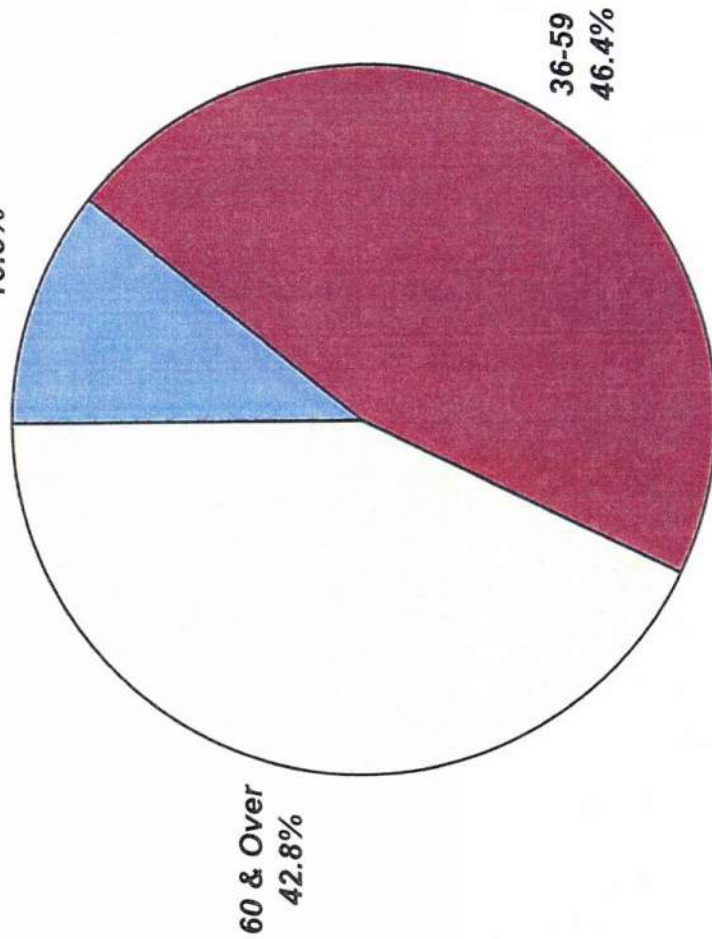
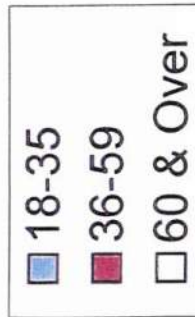
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies
960
100%

Age Group	Tally	Percentage
18-35	104	10.8%
36-59	445	46.4%
60 & Over	411	42.8%

1 Age Group

Age Group



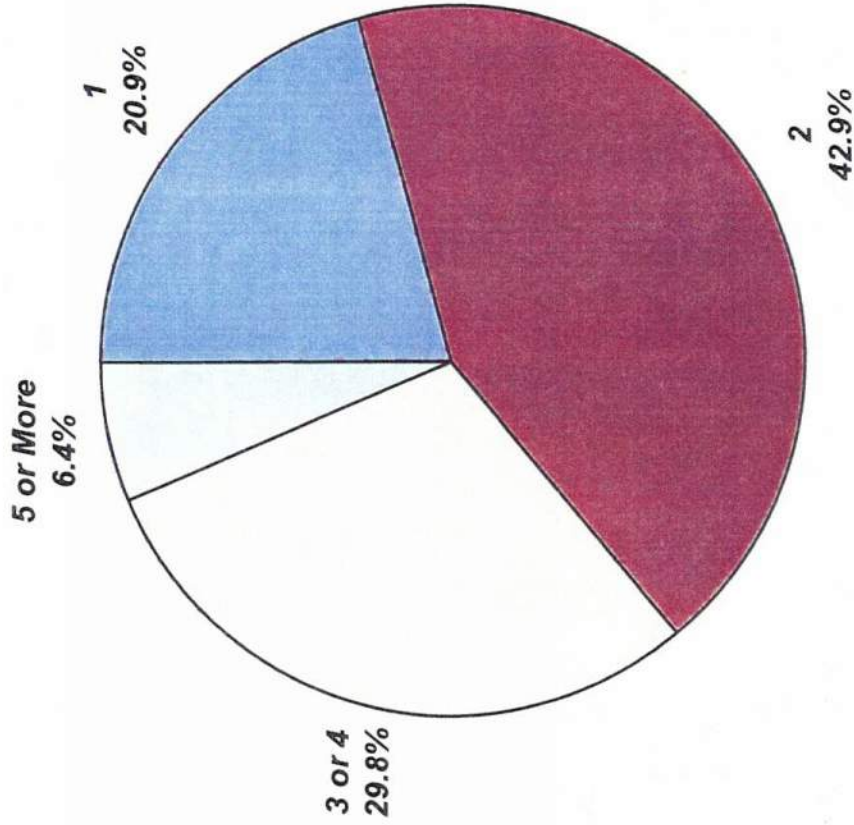
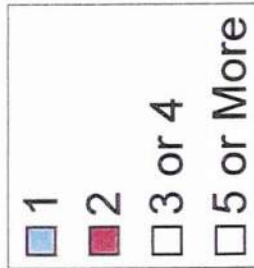
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies
960
100%

1	2	3 or 4	5 or More
201	412	286	61
20.9%	42.9%	29.8%	6.4%

2 Size of Household

Size of Household



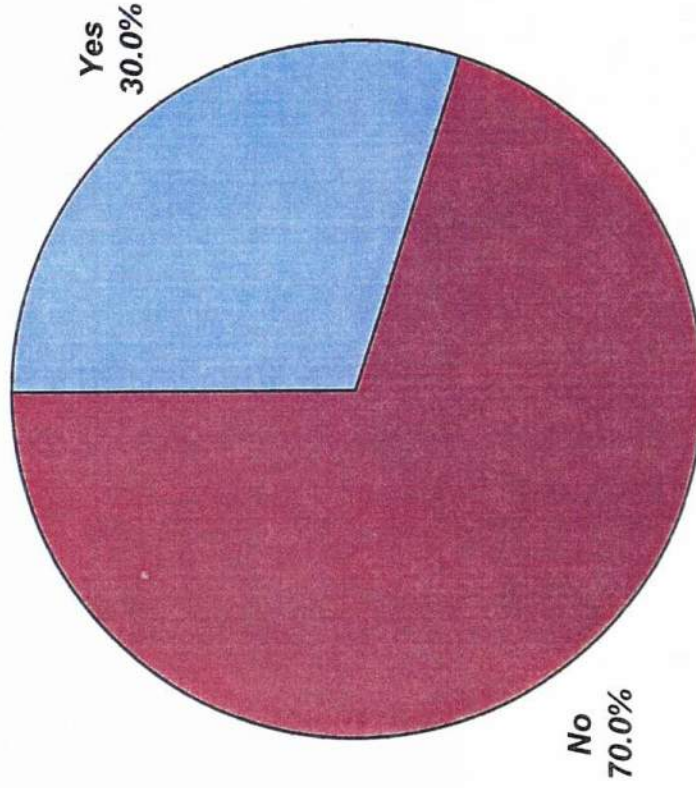
Village of Colonie Master Plan
Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies
862
100%

Yes 259 30.0%
No 603 70.0%

3 Under 18 Live in Home

Under 18 Living in Home



Yes
No

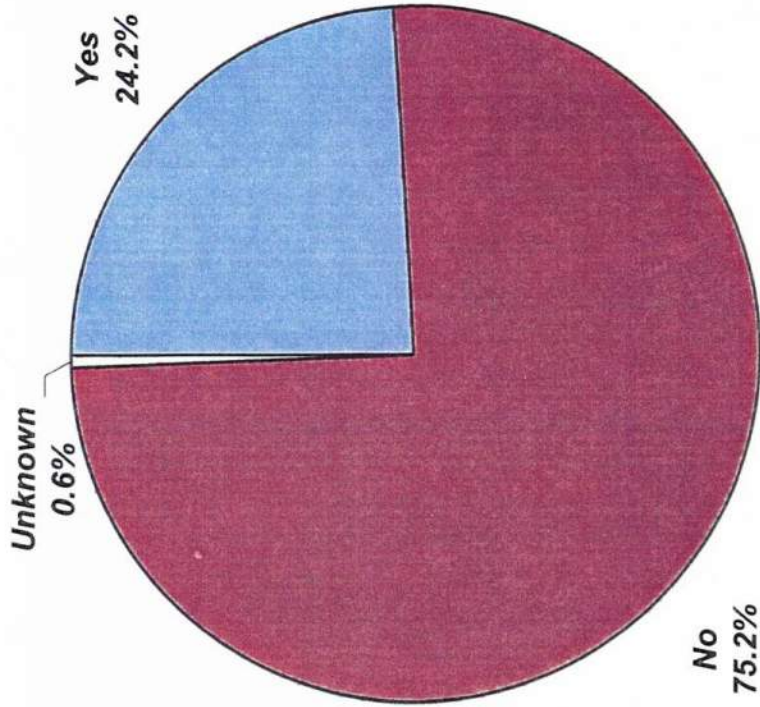
Village of Colonie Master Plan
Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies
862
100%

Response	Count	Percentage
Yes	209	24.2%
No	648	75.2%
Unknown	5	0.6%

4 Commute 25 min or to Work

Commute 25 Minutes or More to Work



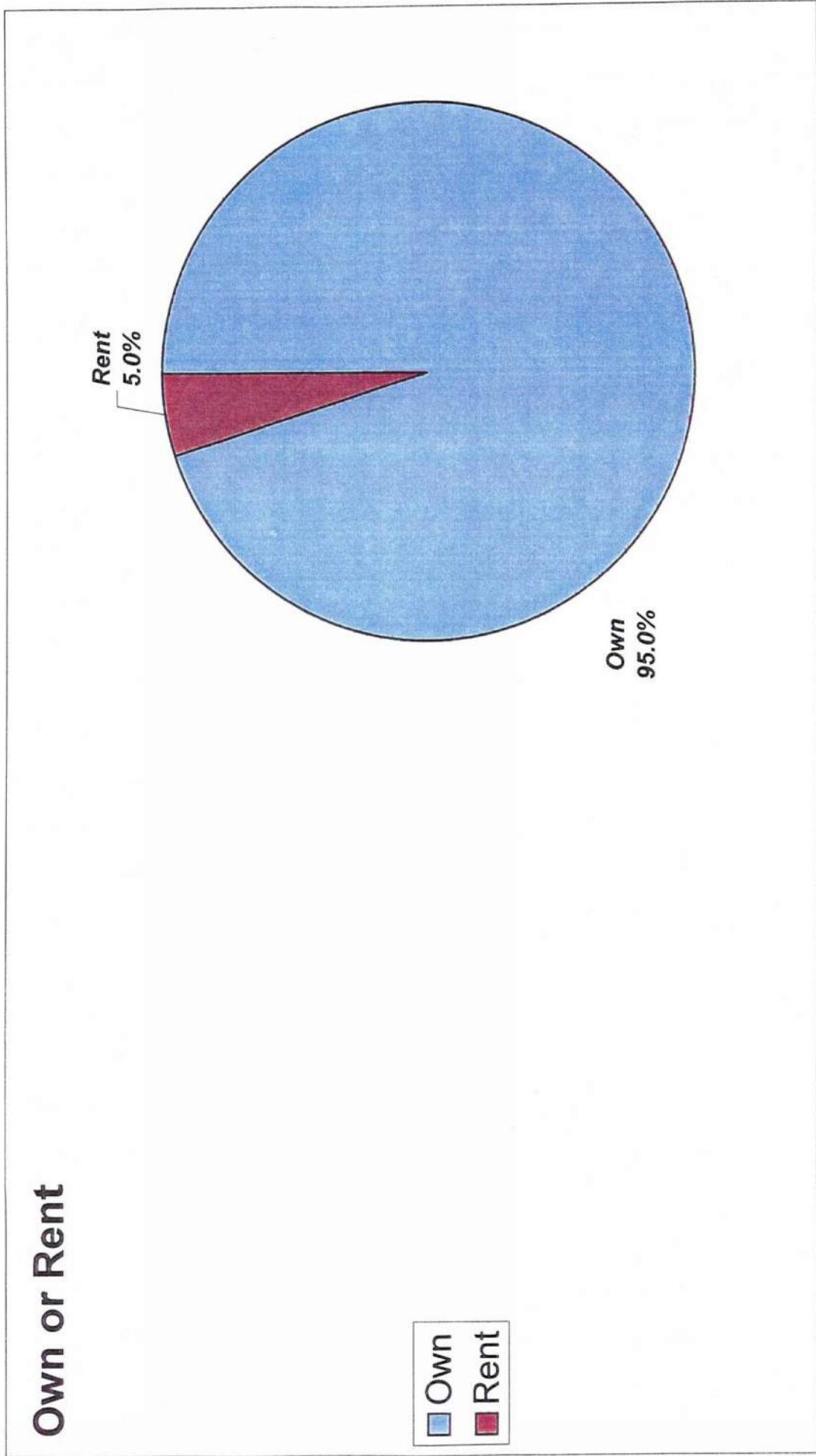
- Yes
- No
- Unknown

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies
826
100%

Own 785 95.0%
Rent 41 5.0%

5 Home Own or Rent



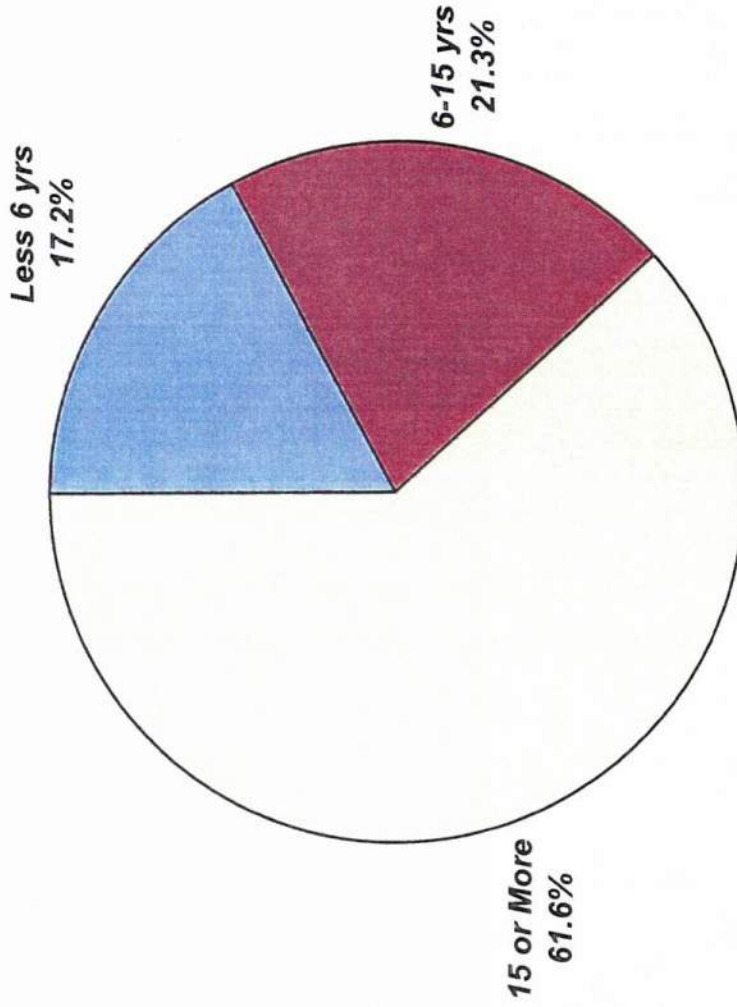
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Lived in the Village

Less 6 yrs	167	17.2%
6-15 yrs	207	21.3%
15 or More	599	61.6%
Tallies	973	100%

6 Lived in the Village

Years Lived in Village



- Less 6 yrs
- 6-15 yrs
- 15 or More

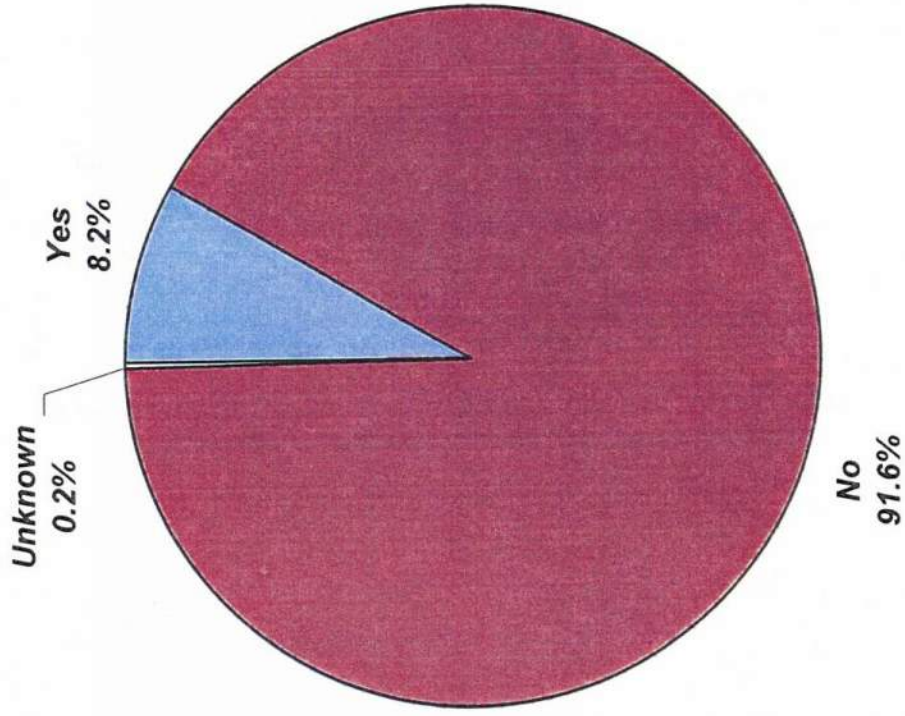
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies
1019
100%

Response	Count	Percentage
Yes	84	8.2%
No	933	91.6%
Unknown	2	0.2%

7 Employed within Village

Employed within Village



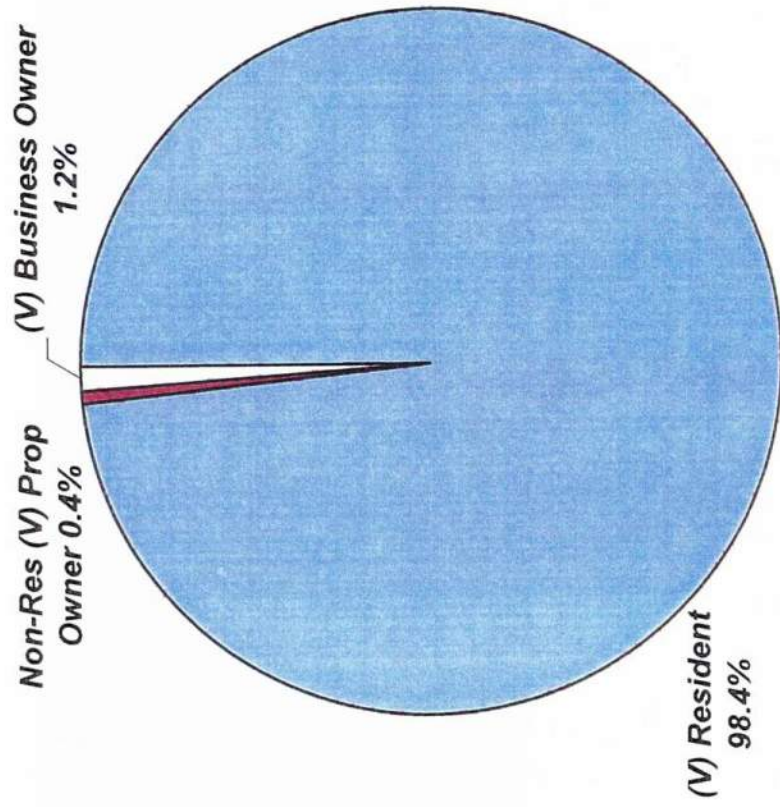
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies
956
100%

Adjective that Describes You	Tally	Percentage
(V) Resident	941	98.4%
Non-Res (V) Prop Owner	4	0.4%
(V) Business Owner	11	1.2%

8 Adjective that Describes You

Adjective that Describes You



- (V) Resident
- Non-Res (V) Prop Owner
- (V) Business Owner

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

9	Positive Aspects of Village	
	Activities - Community	3
	Atmosphere	127
	Buses	1
	Businesses	7
	Clean	17
	Code Enforcement	1
	Crime - Low	34
	Fire Department	9
	Government - Good	53
	Highway & Street Maintenance	13
	Location	196
	Malls	1
	Neighborhoods - Good	99
	Parks	26
	Population	2
	Restaurants	2
	Roads	7
	Schools	32
	Senior Programs - Good	6
	Services - Recreational	242
	Small Town Atmosphere	6
	Snow Removal	5
	Taxes - Low	121
	Trash Removal	43
	Youth Programs - Good	8
	Tallies	1061

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

10	Least Positive Aspects of Village	
	Activities - Communities	2
	Animal Control	1
	Bad Youth	2
	Become Town	2
	Building Codes - Too Many	5
	Business - Not Friendly Toward Business	1
	Codes not Enforced	2
	Commercial Business - Too Many	31
	Curfew - Need One	1
	Developed - Over	1
	Government	18
	Guidelines for Property Maintenance - None	2
	Homelessness	1
	Homes - Uncared For	25
	Homes & Lots - Too Small	1
	Ice Cream Trucks	1
	Leaf Pick Ups	9
	Littering Problems	3
	Noise - Airport	12
	Police	1
	Pollution	1
	Population	3
	Region Controlled	1
	Residents - Rude	2
	Schools	2
	Services	1
	Snow Removal	3
	Speed Bumps	5
	Taxes & Waste of Taxes	9
	Thru Streets	3
	Traffic & Speeding Vehicles	331
	Traffic Lights	10
	Vacancies	3
	Welfare - Get Rid of Hotel-Motels for Welfare People	5
	Zoning Laws	3
	Tallies	503

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies
973
100%

11 Rate Village as Place to Live

Category	Tally	Percentage
Excellent	555	57.0%
Good	381	39.2%
Fair	36	3.7%
Poor	1	0.1%
Unknown	0	0.0%

Rate Village as Place to Live



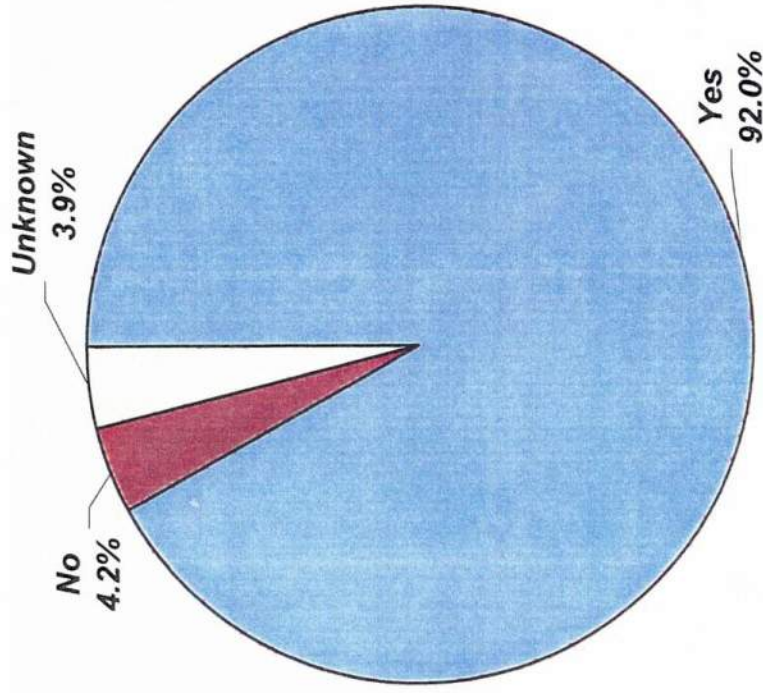
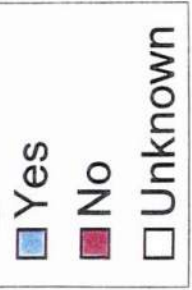
Village of Colonie Master Plan
 Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies
 935
 100%

Response	Tally	Percentage
Yes	860	92.0%
No	39	4.2%
Unknown	36	3.9%

12 Recom Purchase of Home (V)

Recommend a Friend or Relative to Purchase
 a Home in the Village

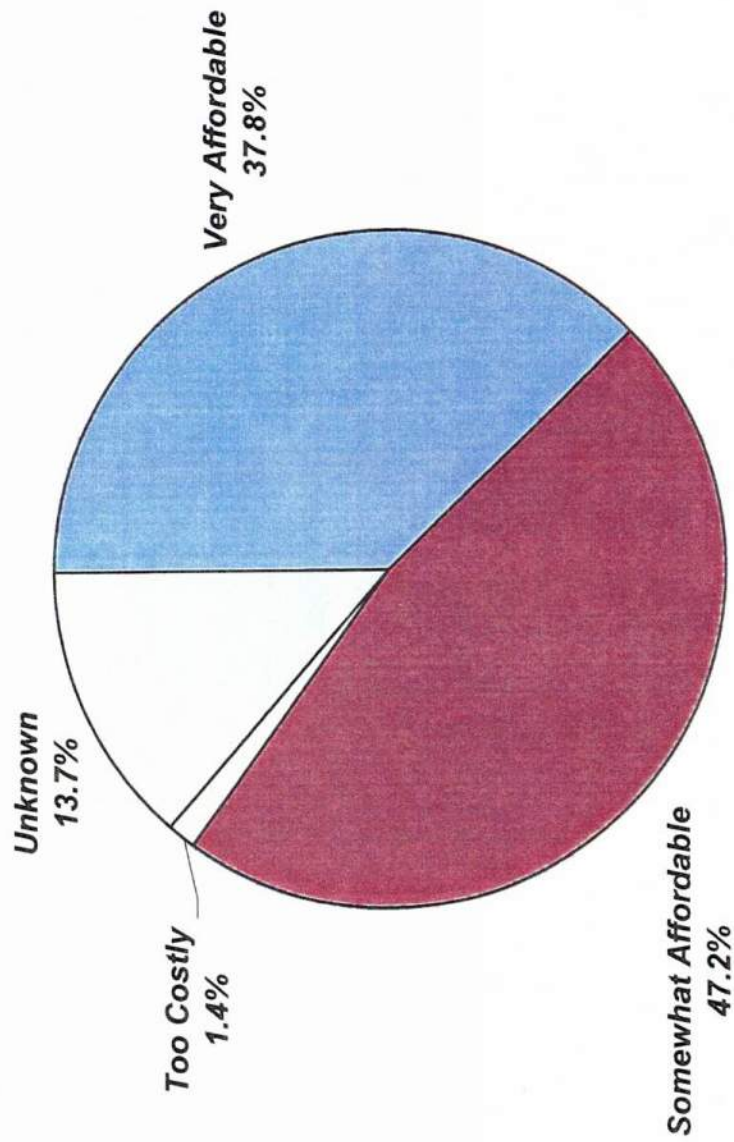


Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies 950
100%

	Very Affordable	Somewhat Affordable	Too Costly	Unknown
13 Housing Affordable within (N)	359	448	13	130
	37.8%	47.2%	1.4%	13.7%

Housing Affordable within Village



- Very Affordable
- Somewhat Affordable
- Too Costly
- Unknown

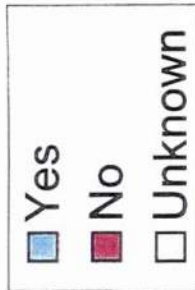
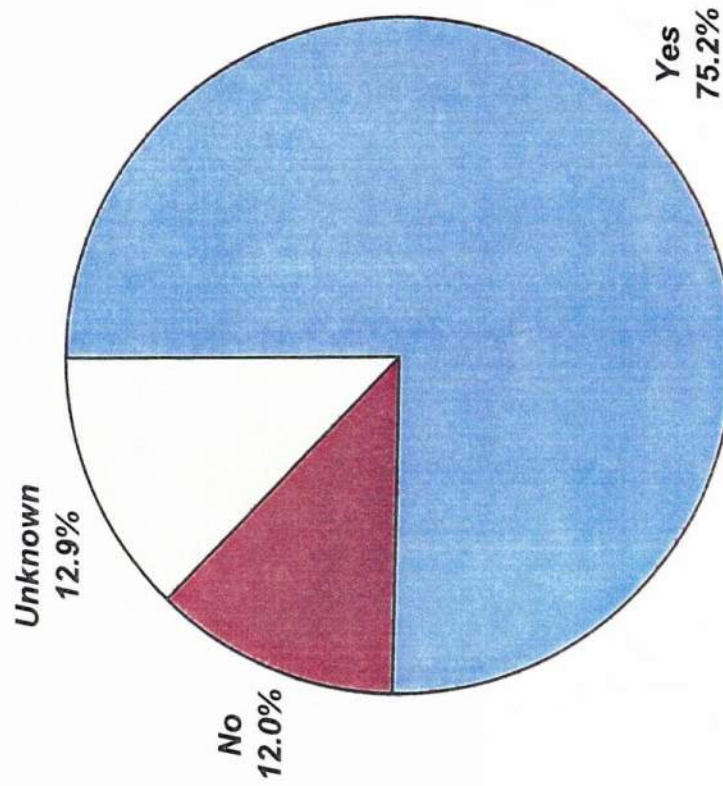
Village of Colonie Master Plan
Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies
979
100%

Response	Tally	Percentage
Yes	736	75.2%
No	117	12.0%
Unknown	126	12.9%

14 Favor Senior Housing in (V)

Favor Senior Housing in Village



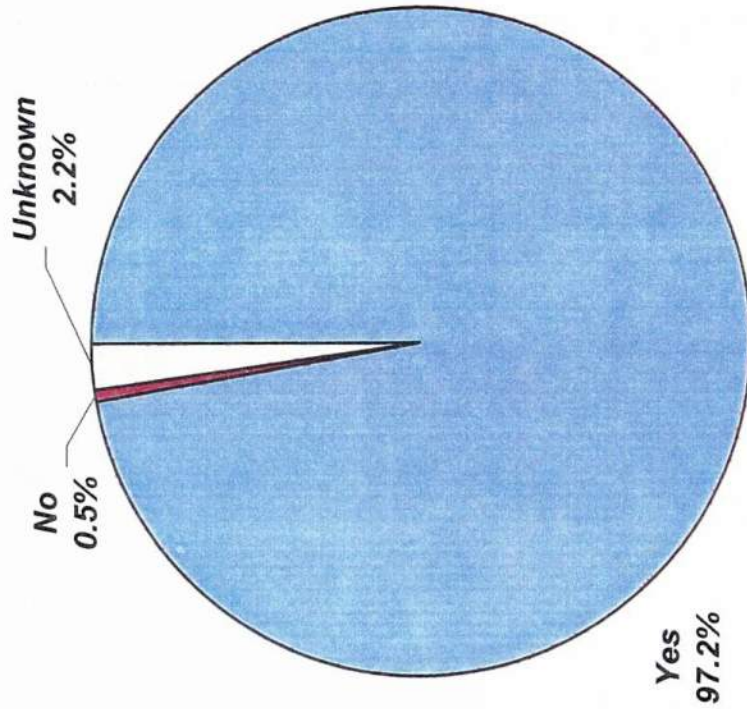
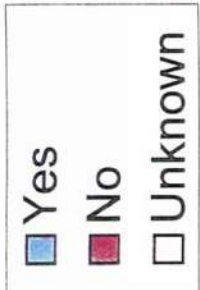
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Yes	No	Unknown
912 97.2%	5 0.5%	21 2.2%

Tallies
938
100%

15 (V) Safe Place to Live

Village Safe Place to Live

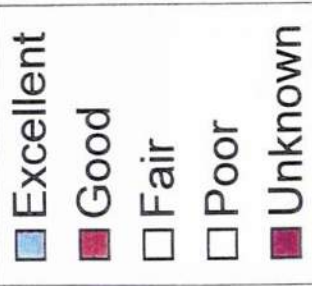
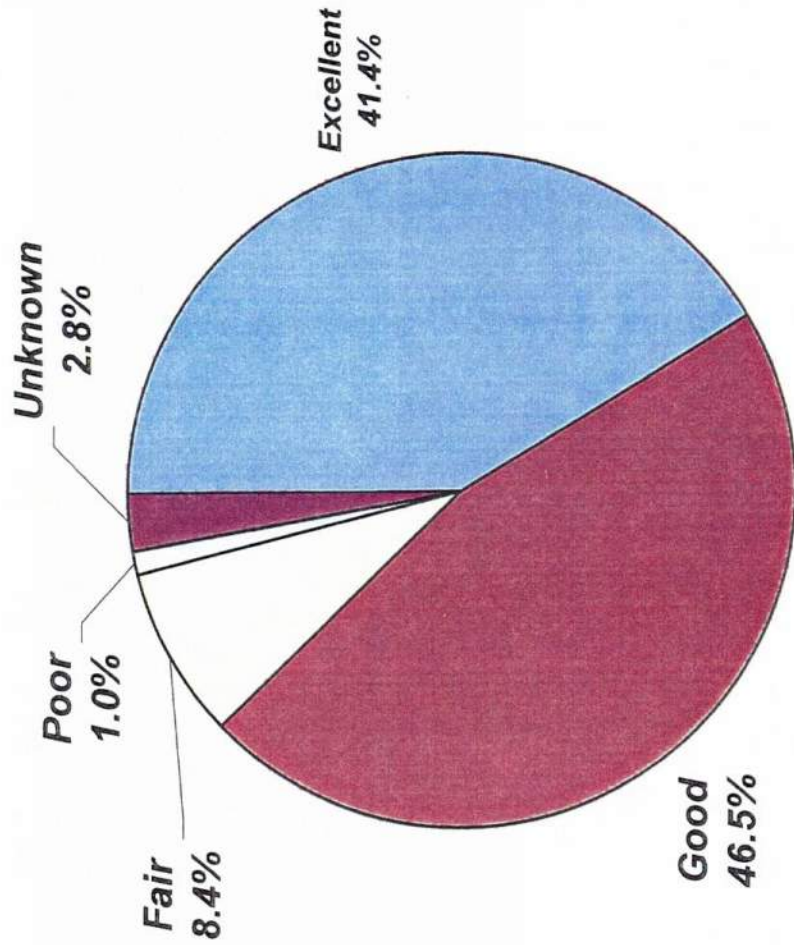


Village of Colonie Master Plan
Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Rating of Town Police Protection	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unknown
	386	433	78	9	26
	41.4%	46.5%	8.4%	1.0%	2.8%

Tallies
932
100%

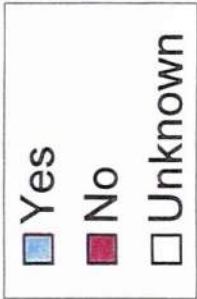
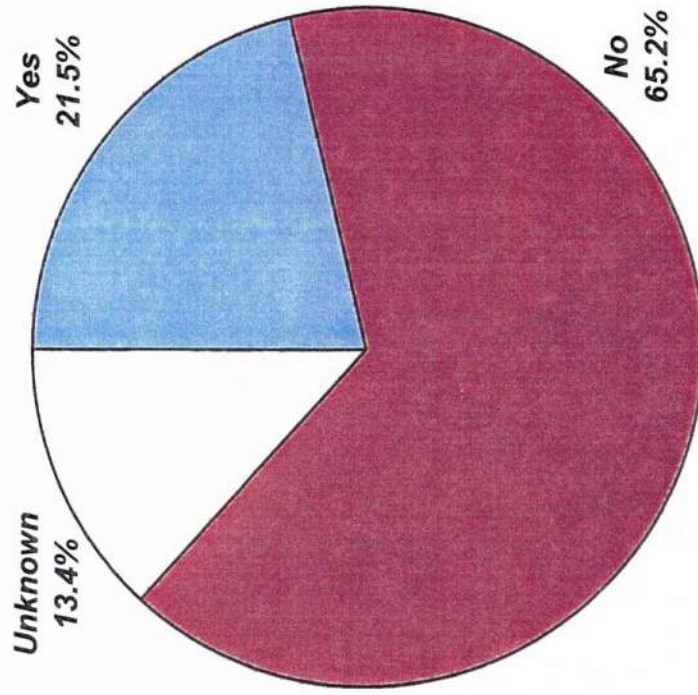
Rating of Town Police Protection



Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

	Yes	No	Unknown	Totals
17 (V) have Own Police Force	188 21.5%	571 65.2%	117 13.4%	876 100%

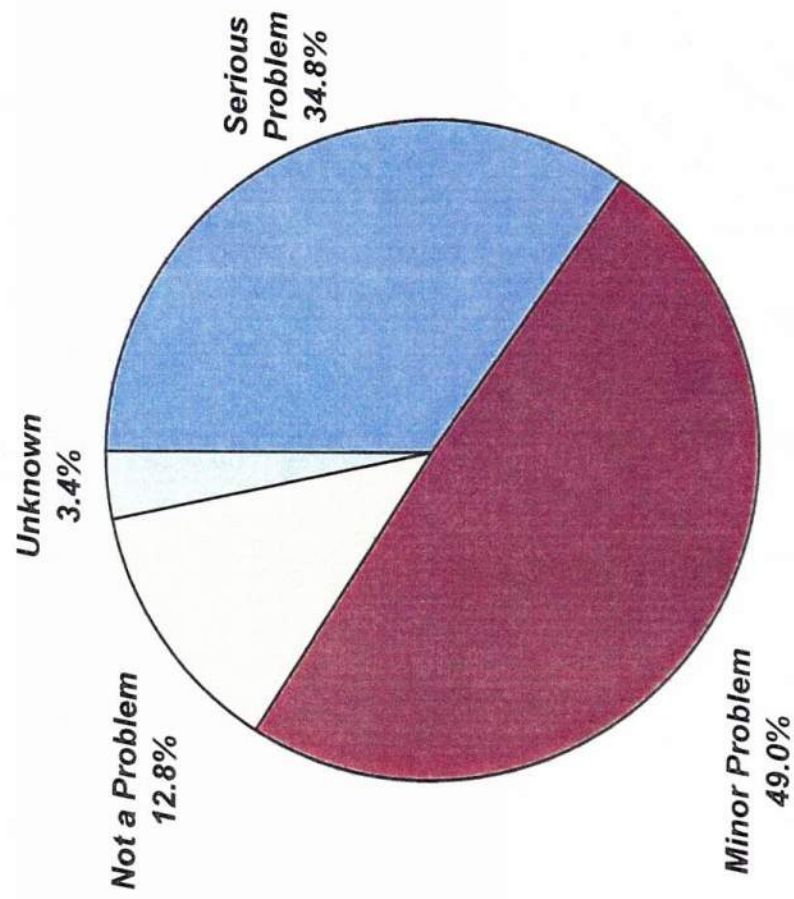
Should Village have Own Police Force



Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Speeding Problem in (V)	Serious Problem	Minor Problem	Not a Problem	Unknown	Tallies
18	316	444	116	31	907
	34.8%	49.0%	12.8%	3.4%	100%

Speeding Problem in Village



- Serious Problem
- Minor Problem
- Not a Problem
- Unknown

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

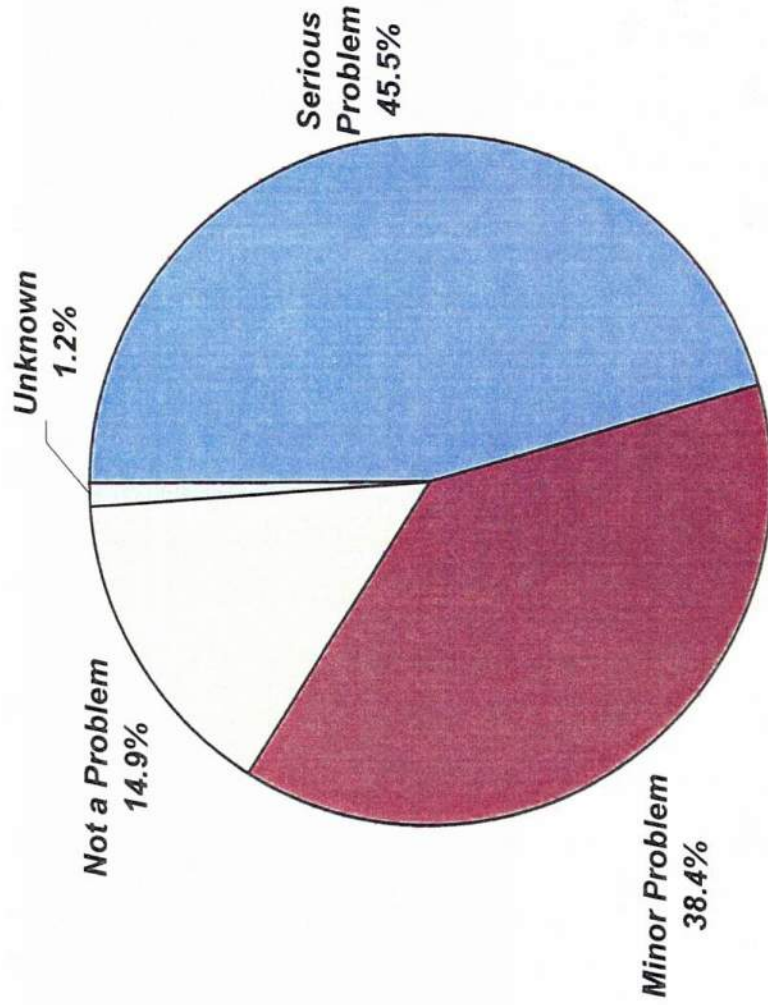
18 Speeding Problem in (V)

All Over	5
Barker	1
Bridle Path	2
Broderick	10
Central Ave	62
Connecting Roads	4
Cottonwood	1
Delafield	5
Fuller Terrace	4
Gail	3
Hunting Rd	16
Killean	1
Lanci	2
Laurendale St.	1
Lincoln Ave	25
Locust Park	21
Mordella	2
Parkwood	1
Rapple	1
Red Fox	2
Robert Dr	1
Rte 155	1
Sand Creek	33
Sebring	1
Side Streets	66
Sunset	4
Tanglewood	1
Thoroughbred	3
Thru Streets	6
Vly Rd	3
Watevi-shaker	1
Wolf Rd	8
Woolard	1
Tallies	298

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Volume of Traffic Problem in (V)	Count	Percentage	Tallies
Serious Problem	452	45.5%	994
Minor Problem	382	38.4%	100%
Not a Problem	148	14.9%	
Unknown	12	1.2%	

Volume of Traffic a Problem in Village



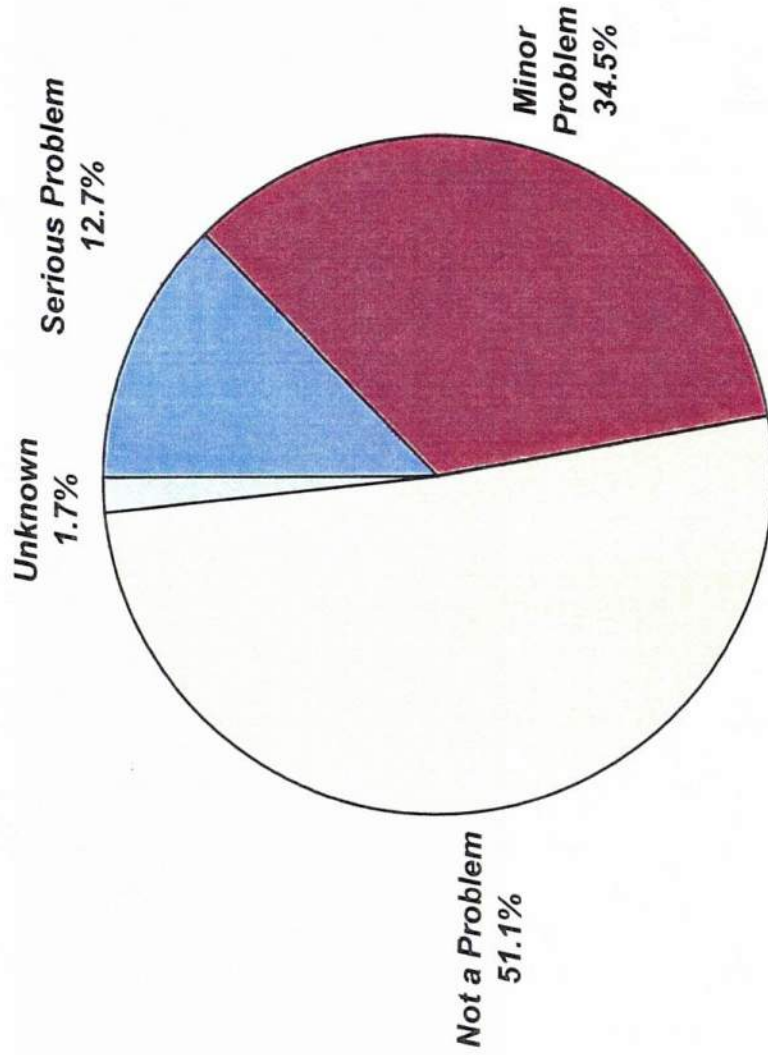
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

19	Volume of Traffic Problem in (V)	
	Albany- Shaker	4
	All Over	2
	Central Ave	170
	Cook Park	1
	Cottonwood	1
	Delafield	3
	Fuller Terrance	1
	Hunting	4
	Lanci	1
	Laurendale St	1
	Lincoln Ave	16
	Locust Park	4
	Near Malls	2
	New Karner	2
	Nothway to 155	1
	Petra	1
	Red Fox	2
	Rte 155	2
	Sand Creek	79
	Side Streets	7
	Thru Traffic	2
	Vly Rd	1
	Wolf Rd	32
	Tallies	339

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

20	Noise Problem in (V)	Serious Problem	Minor Problem	Not a Problem	Unknown	Tallies
		119	323	479	16	937
		12.7%	34.5%	51.1%	1.7%	100%

Noise Problem in Village



Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

20	Noise Problem in (V)	37
	Airport	2
	Albany Ladder	16
	Car Radios	18
	Central Ave	3
	Commercial Vehicles	6
	Dogs	1
	Early AM Business Rubbish Removal	2
	Lincoln Ave	16
	Northway	2
	Overhead Roads	1
	Parties	6
	Post Office	1
	Rapple	1
	Saddlewood School	2
	Sand Creek	2
	Side Streets	1
	Tanglewood	1
	Train	3
	Trash PU	1
	Trucking Co. behind Neigh	122
	Tallies	

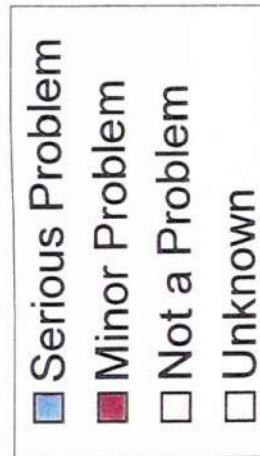
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Category	Count	Percentage
Serious Problem	38	4.2%
Minor Problem	276	30.5%
Not a Problem	565	62.4%
Unknown	26	2.9%

Tallies
905
100%

21 Litter Problem in (V)

Litter Problem in Village



Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

21 Litter Problem in (V)	
Along Roads	3
Bus Stops	1
Central Ave	16
Cook Park	1
Delafield	1
Garbage PU Men Messy	3
Karner Rd	1
K-Mart	2
Lincoln Ave	4
Petra	1
Price Chopper Plaza	1
Rapp Rd	1
Resident's Yards	9
Sand Creek	3
Side Streets	6
Sunset	1
Tattersall	2
Thoroughbred Rd House	3
Trailer Park	1
Unlicensed Cars & Bikes	2
Wolf Rd	1
Tallies	63

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unknown	Tallies
22 Services Provided						
Fire Protection	611	216		6	2	910
Trash Removal	708	193		21	5	933
Snow Removal	540	300		37	11	912
Sidewalk Maintenance	310	304		36	5	850
Water/Sewer Service	497	314		26	7	883
General Tidiness (Litter, Etc.)	365	413		83	10	881
Tree Trimming	235	323		89	37	871
Planning Commission	158	273		95	36	862
Zoning Board of Appeals	131	245		75	37	876
Sign Review Board	133	238		61	46	838
Traffic Committee	102	236		105	63	819
Road Maintenance	370	332		57	6	774
Total	4160	3387		691	265	10409

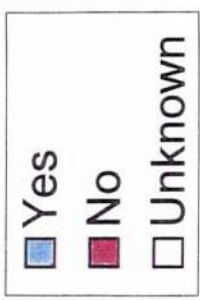
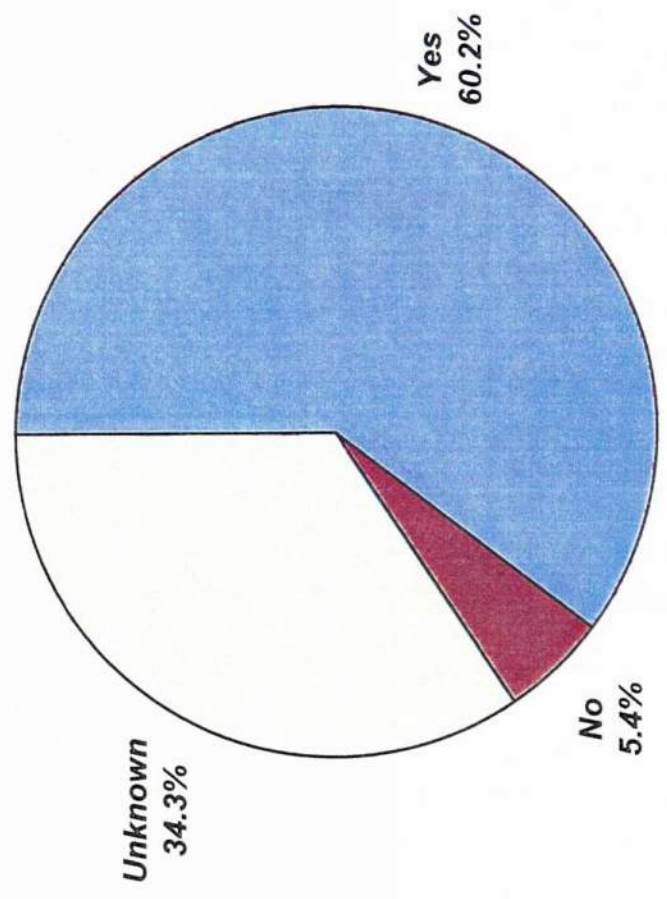
Village of Colonie Master Plan
Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies
938
100%

23 Satisfied w/ Recreat. Prog for Youths

Yes	565	No	51	Unknown	322
	60.2%		5.4%		34.3%

Satisfied with Recreation Programs for Youths



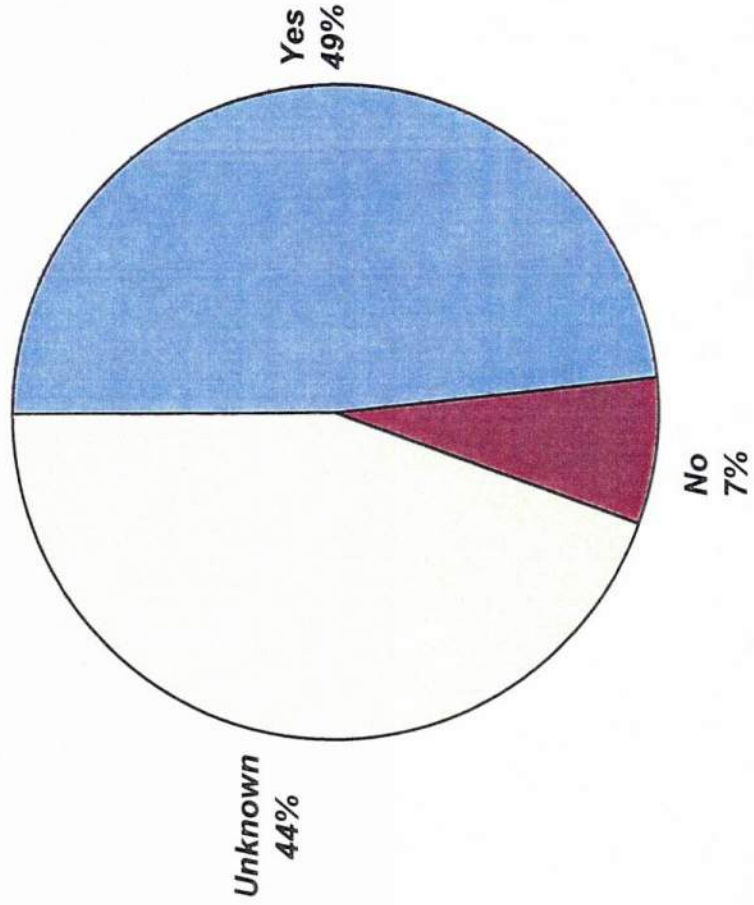
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies
929
100%

Yes	448	48.2%
No	69	7.4%
Unknown	412	44.3%

24 Satisfied w/ Recreat. Prog for Adults

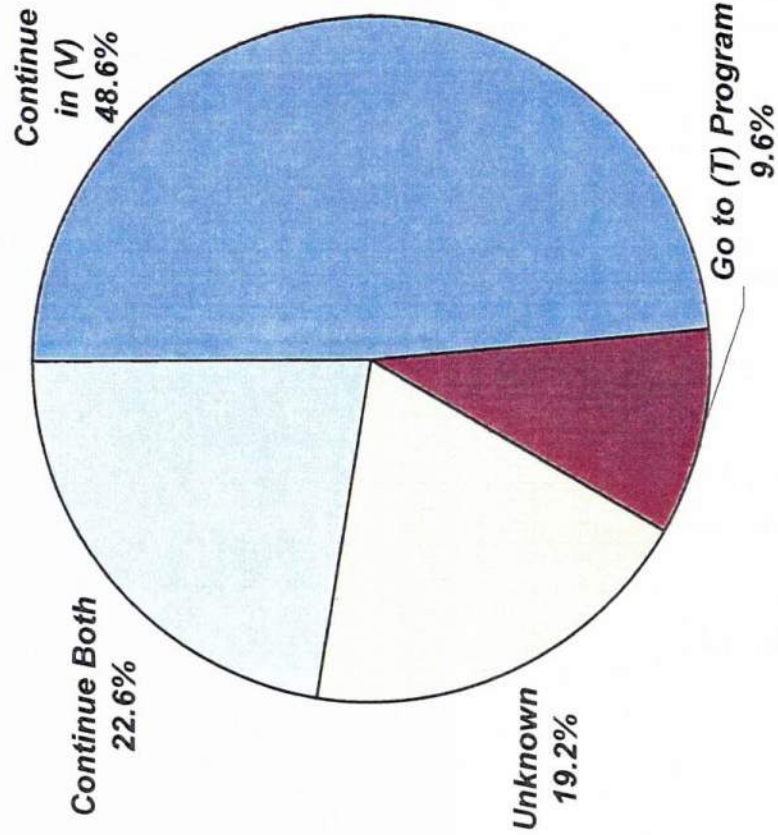
Satisfied with Recreation Programs for Adults



Village of Colonie Master Plan
 Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Summer Prog for Child- Should (V) cont w/ own or (V) go w/ (T)	Continue in (V)	Go to (T) Program	Unknown	Continue Both	Tallies
25	435	86	172	202	895
	48.6%	9.6%	19.2%	22.6%	100%

Summer Program for Children - Should Village Continue with Own or Combine with Town



- Continue in (V)
- Go to (T) Program
- Unknown
- Continue Both

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

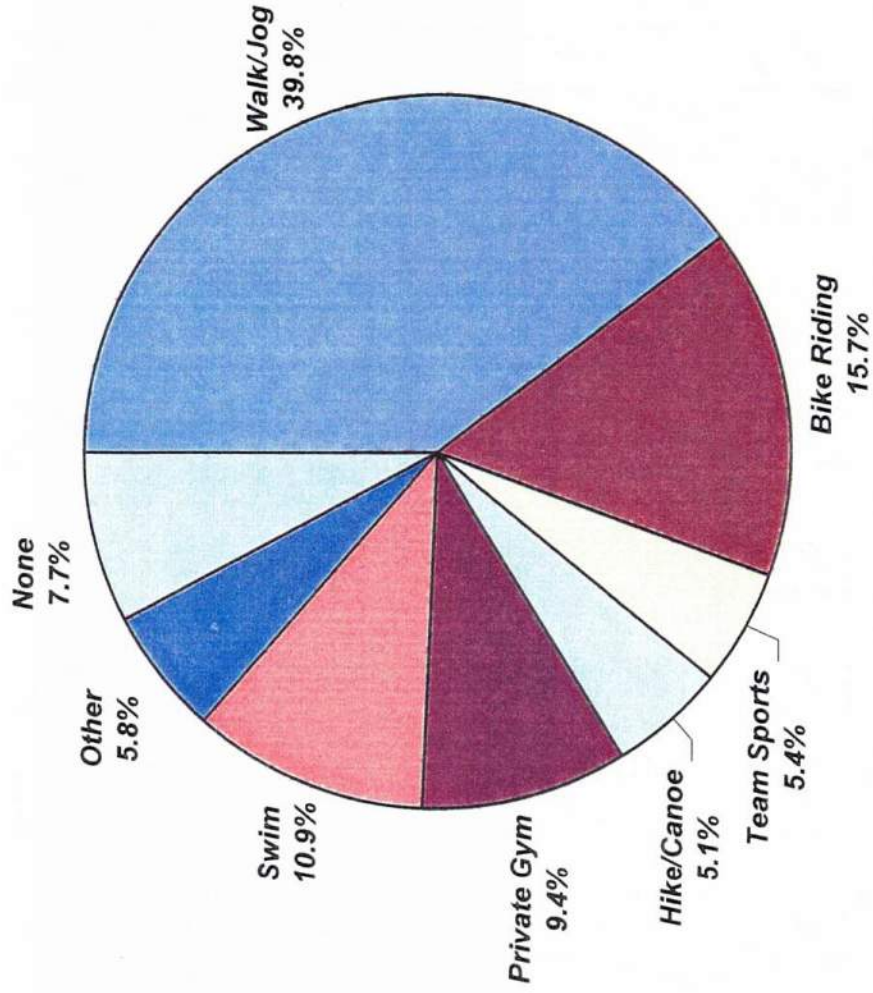
26 Additional Recreational Fac or Prog would
you like to see in (V)

Adult Sports	2
ATV-Snow Mobile Trails	1
Ball Fields - Better	2
Banquet Hall	1
Bike-Hike Paths	9
Bingo	1
Counciling	1
Cross Country Sking	1
Dog Path	7
Evening Activities	2
Events for Charities	1
Exercise Facility	4
Golf Course	2
Handball Courts	2
Ice Skating Rink	22
Indoor Track Field	1
In-Line Skate Paths	1
Kids Park	5
Movie Theater	2
Music Events	9
None	9
Parks - More	12
Picnics	1
Pool	117
Senior Programs	13
Soccer	1
Summer Programs for Wkg Parents	4
Tennis Courts	4
Trips	3
Village Resident Daycare	3
Walk-Hike Trail	2
YMCA	2
Youth Center & Programs	13
Tallies	46
	302

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

27	Activities Participated in	Walk/Jog	Bike Riding	Team Sports	Hike/Canoe	Private Gym	Swim	Other	None	Tallies
		659	259	90	85	156	181	96	128	1654
		39.8%	15.7%	5.4%	5.1%	9.4%	10.9%	5.8%	7.7%	100%

Activities which You Participate In



- Walk/Jog
- Bike Riding
- Team Sports
- Hike/Canoe
- Private Gym
- Swim
- Other
- None

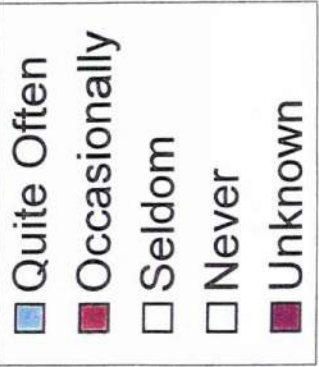
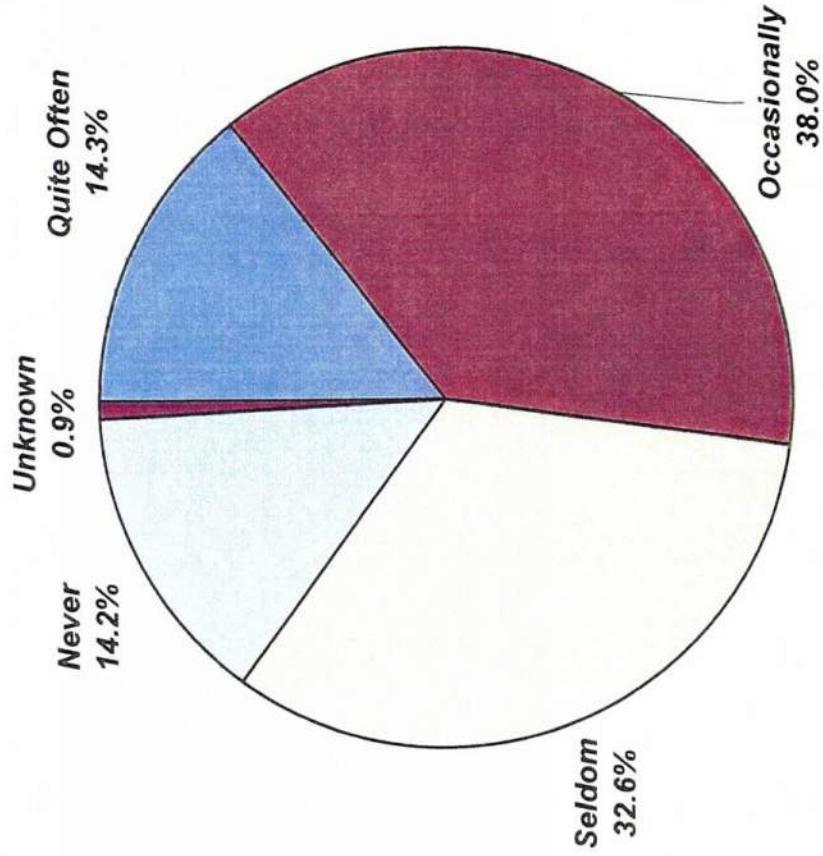
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies 927
100%

Use of Village Park	Count	Percentage
Quite Often	133	14.3%
Occasionally	352	38.0%
Seldom	302	32.6%
Never	132	14.2%
Unknown	8	0.9%

28 Use of Village Park

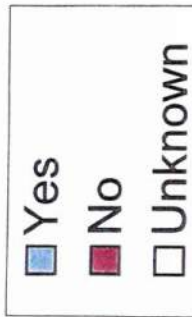
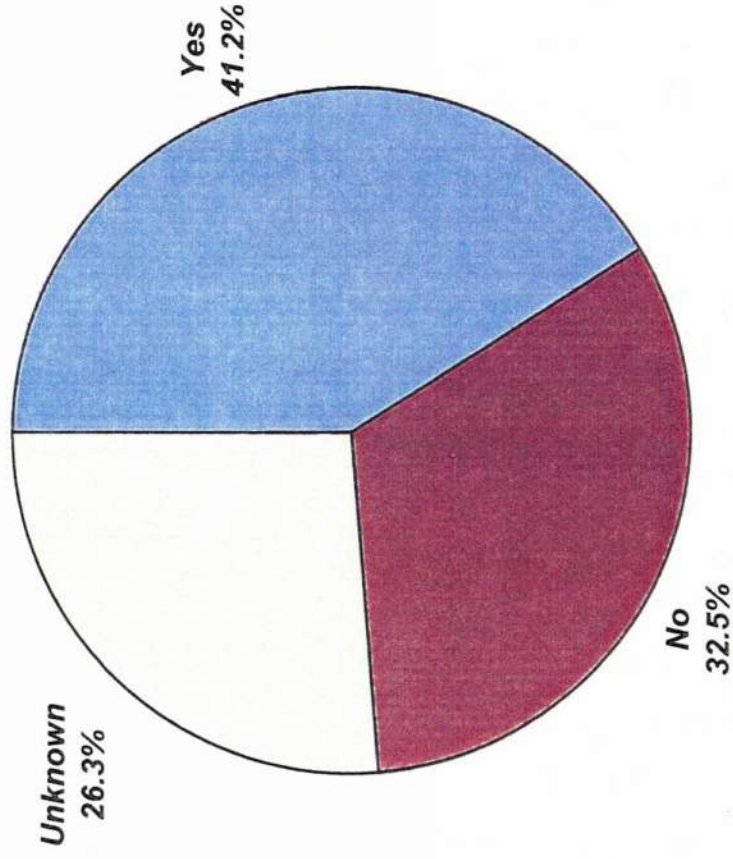
Use of Village Park



Village of Colonie Master Plan
Preliminary Residential Survey Results

29	Additional Sidewalks in (V) Comments	Yes	No	Unknown	Tallies
		346 41.2%	273 32.5%	221 26.3%	840 100%

Additional Sidewalks in Village



Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

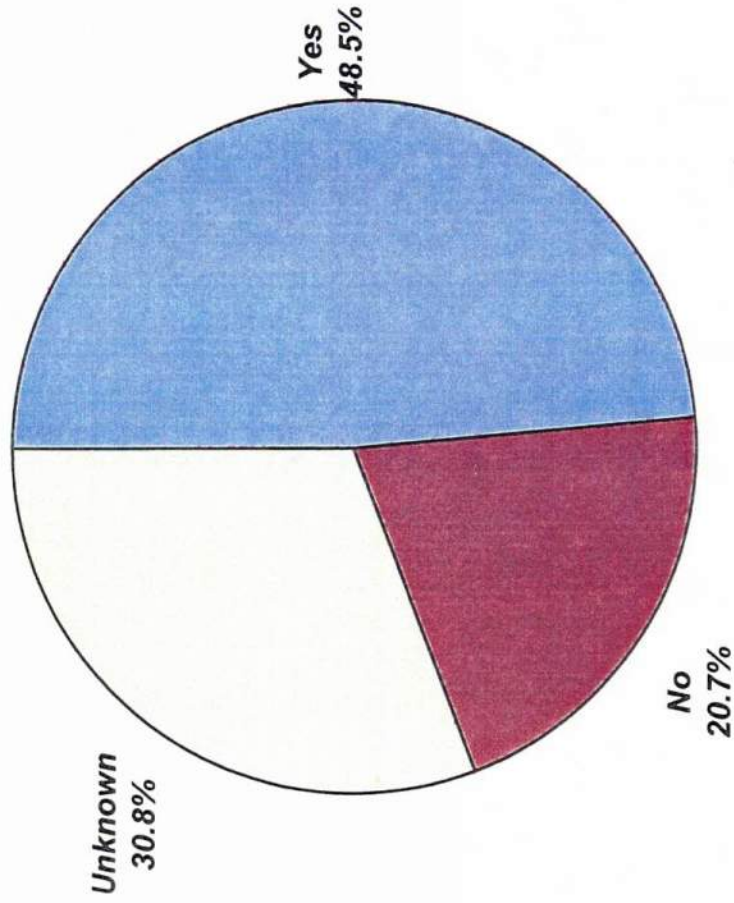
29 Additional Sidewalks in (V)

Albany-Shaker	1
All Over	30
Broadrick	2
Central Ave	3
Delafield	3
Fuller-Central	1
Hunting Rd	22
Lanci Ln	2
Locust Pk	23
Loralee	2
Mordella	3
Near Schools	3
Red Fox	4
Rte 155	4
Sand Creek	17
Side Streets	35
Tanglewood	1
Thoroughbred	1
Vly Rd	16
Wheelchair	1
Tallies	174

Village of Colonie Master Plan
 Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Sidewalks for New Resid/Commercial Dev	Yes	No	Unknown	Tallies
30 in (V)	429	183	272	884
	48.5%	20.7%	30.8%	100%

Should Sidewalks Connecting Neighborhoods be Required for New Residents/Commercial Developments in Village



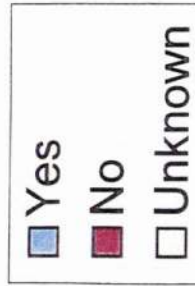
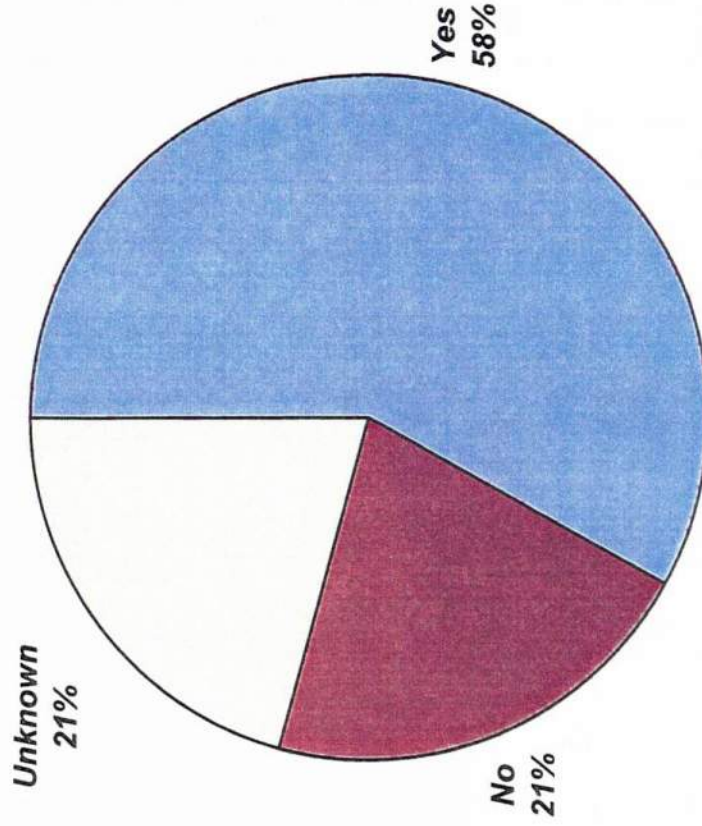
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies
909
100%

Response	Tally	Percentage
Yes	528	58.1%
No	191	21.0%
Unknown	190	20.9%

31 More Public Trails & Greenways in (V)

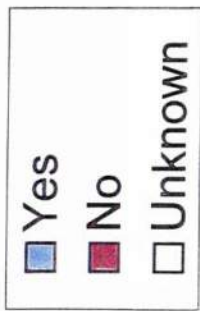
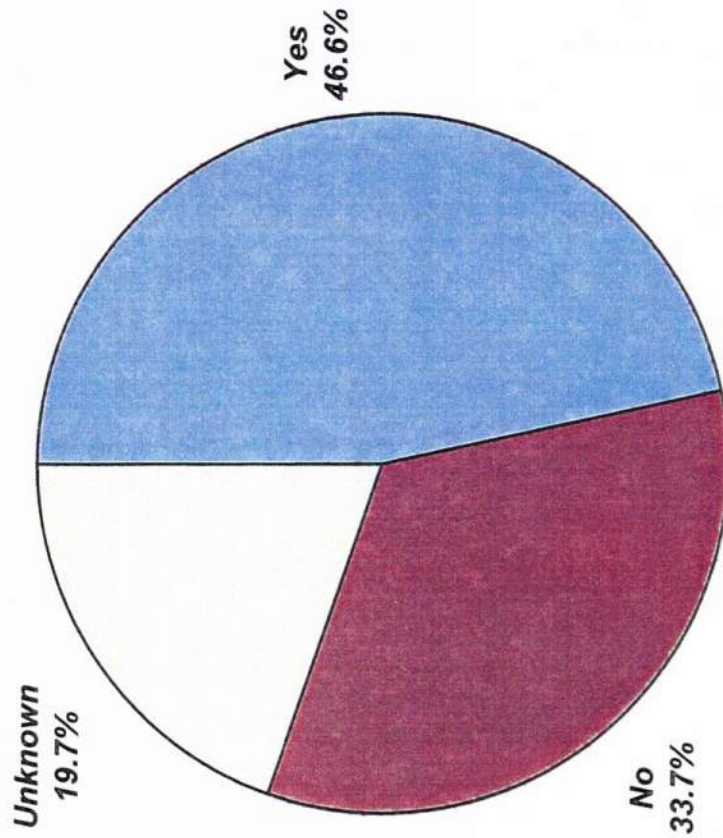
More Public Trails & Greenways in Village



Village of Colonie Master Plan
Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Home-Based Offices Appropriate in Residential Areas	Yes	No	Unknown	Tallies
32	417	301	176	894
	46.6%	33.7%	19.7%	100%

Home-Based Offices Appropriate in Residential Areas



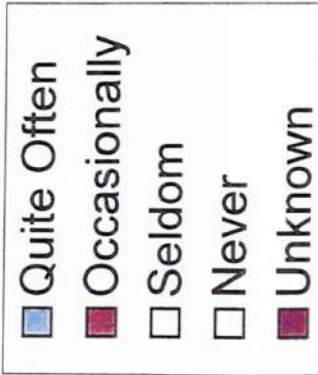
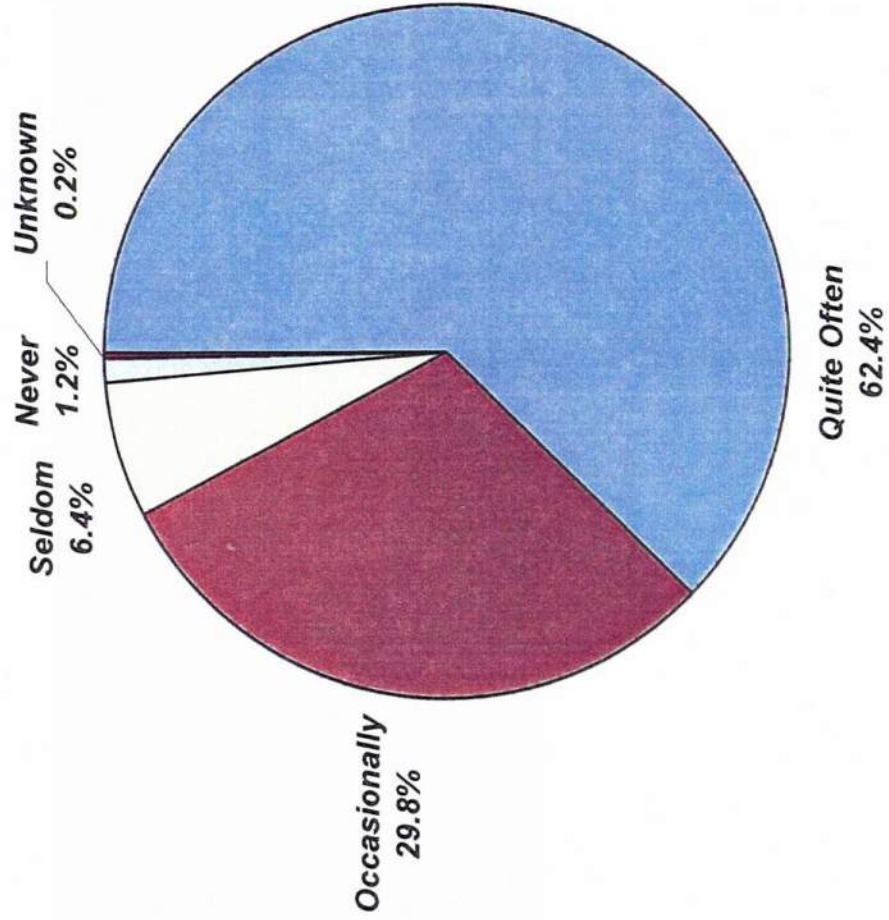
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies 935
100%

Response	Tally	Percentage
Quite Often	583	62.4%
Occasionally	279	29.8%
Seldom	60	6.4%
Never	11	1.2%
Unknown	2	0.2%

33 Shop or Seek Services in (V)

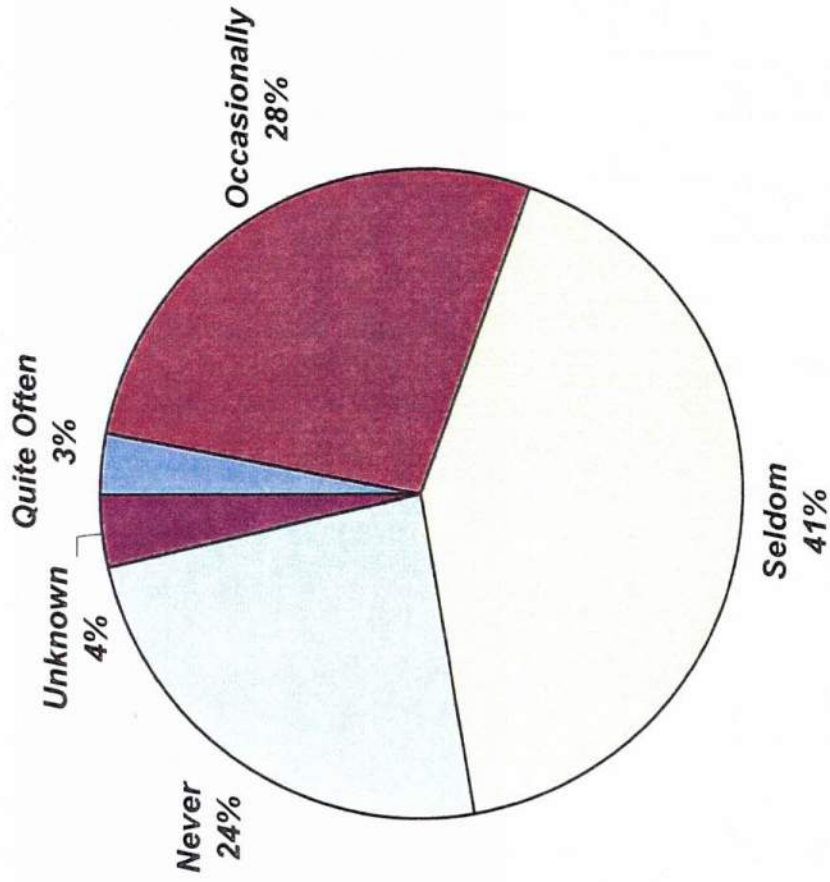
Shop or Seek Services in Village



Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Parking Problems when Shopping or Seeking Services in (V)		Quite Often	Occasionally	Seldom	Never	Unknown	Tallies
34		27	254	381	222	33	917
		2.9%	27.7%	41.5%	24.2%	3.6%	100%

Parking Problems when Shopping or Seeking Services in Village



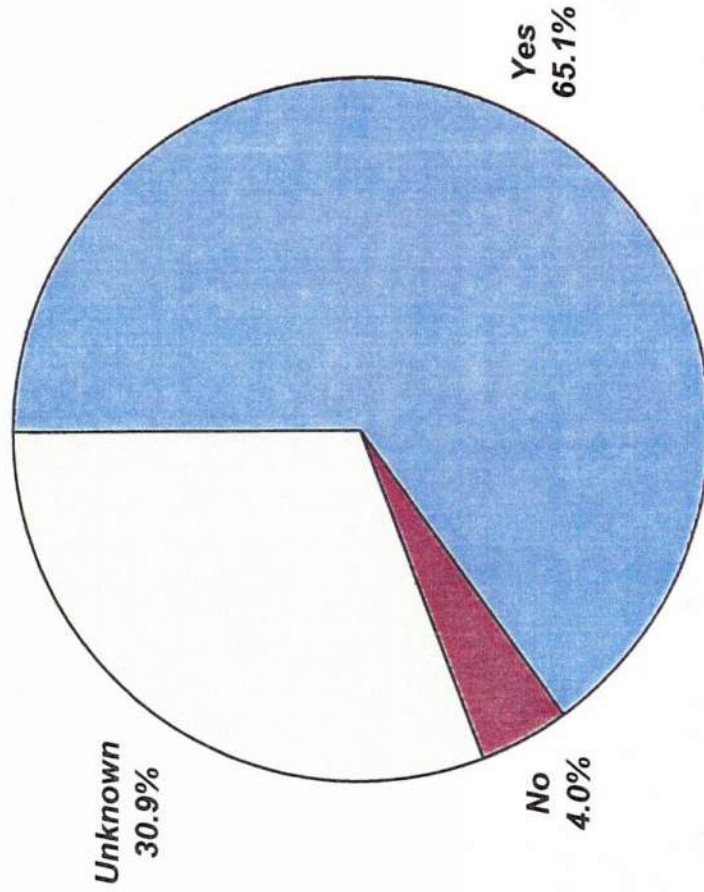
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies
920
100%

Yes	No	Unknown
599 65.1%	37 4.0%	284 30.9%

35 (V) a Good Place to Operate a Business

Is Village a Good Place to Operate Business



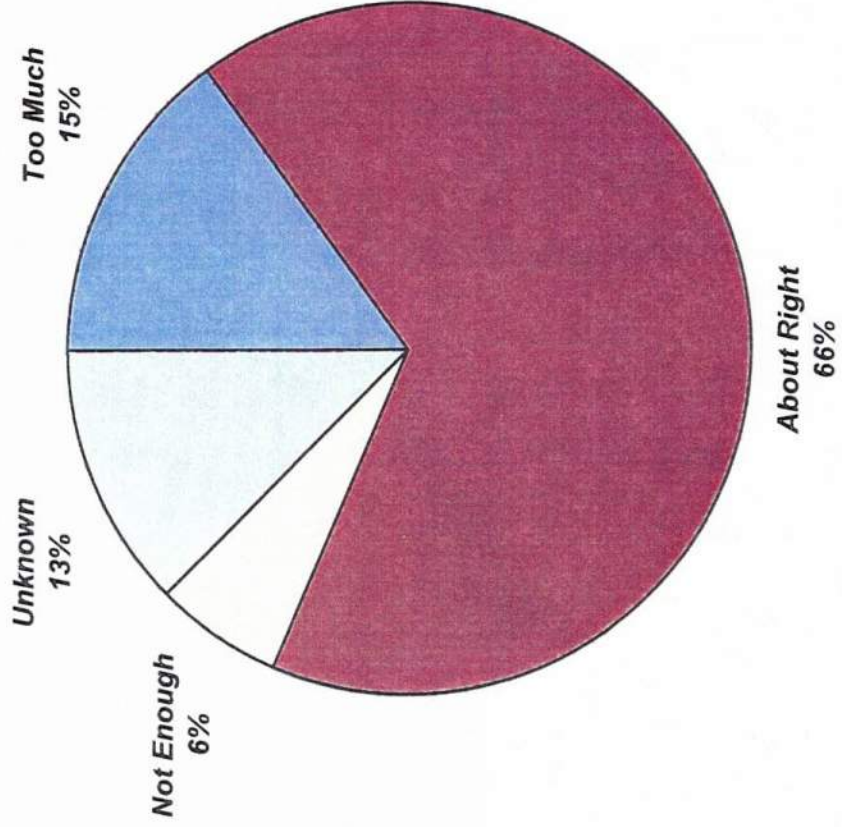
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies
873
100%

Current Level of Business Activity in (V)	Too Much	About Right	Not Enough	Unknown
	130	580	53	110
	14.9%	66.4%	6.1%	12.6%

36 Current Level of Business Activity in (V)

Current Level of Business Activity in Village

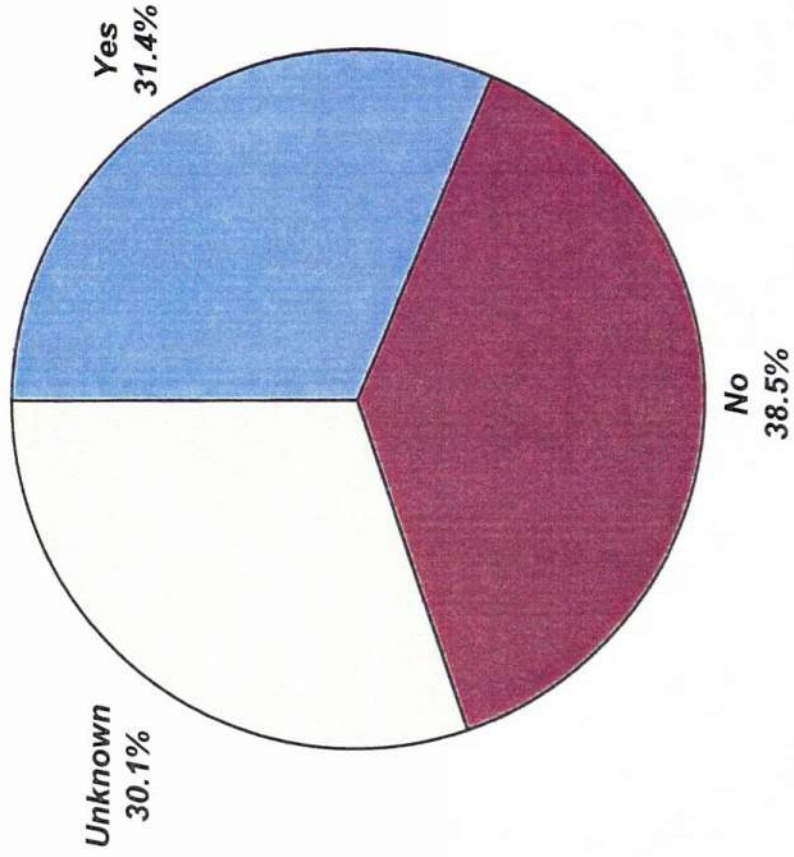


- Too Much
- About Right
- Not Enough
- Unknown

Village of Colonie Master Plan
 Preliminary Residential Survey Results

More Opportunities for Business to Locate in (V)	Yes	No	Unknown	Tallies
37	279	342	268	889
	31.4%	38.5%	30.1%	100%

Should there be More Opportunities for Business to Locate in Village



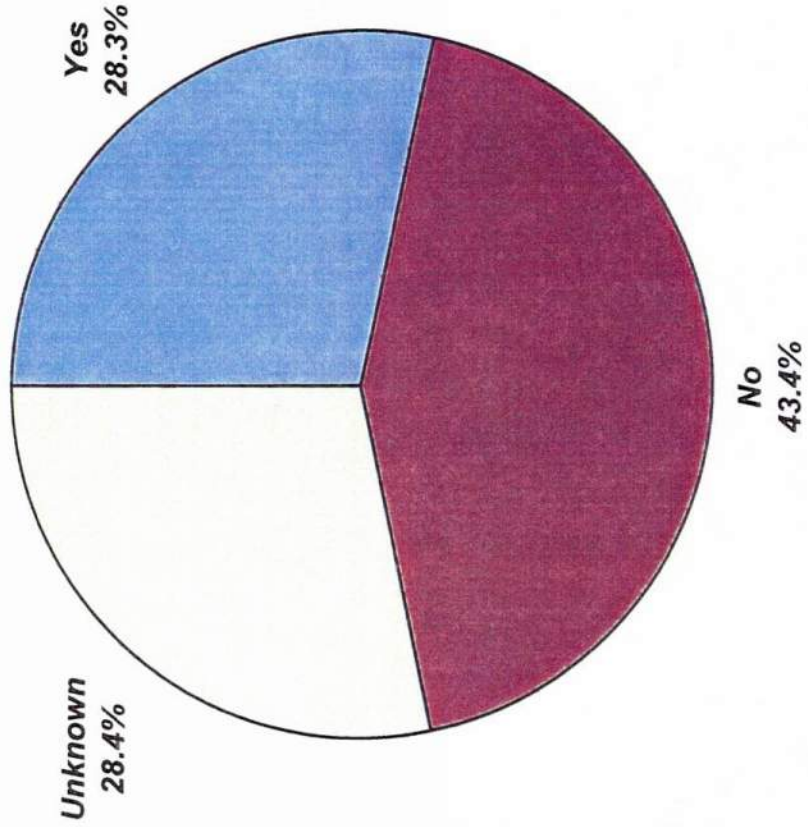
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

38 If So, is Expanding (V) Business District
Acceptable

Yes	230	No	353	Unknown	231
	28.3%		43.4%		28.4%

Tallies
814
100%

If so, is Expanding Village Business District Acceptable



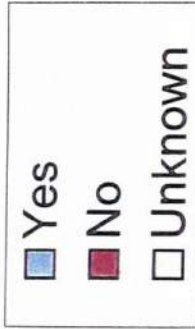
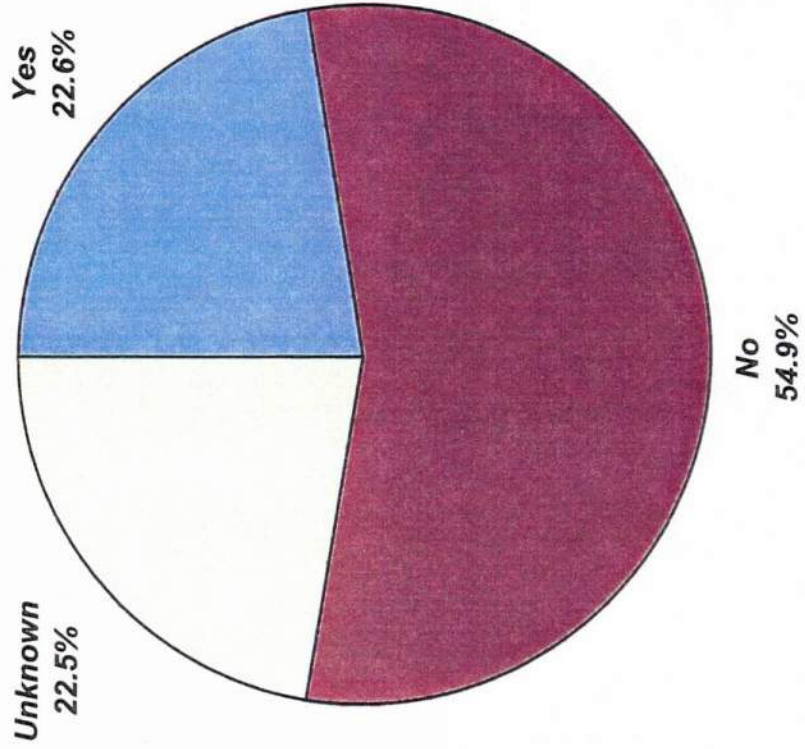
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Tallies
924
100%

Yes	209	No	507	Unknown	208
	22.6%		54.9%		22.5%

39 Attract more Tourists to (V)

Attract more Tourists to Village



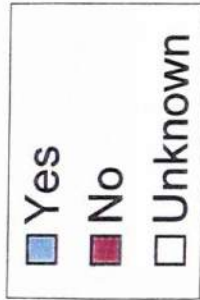
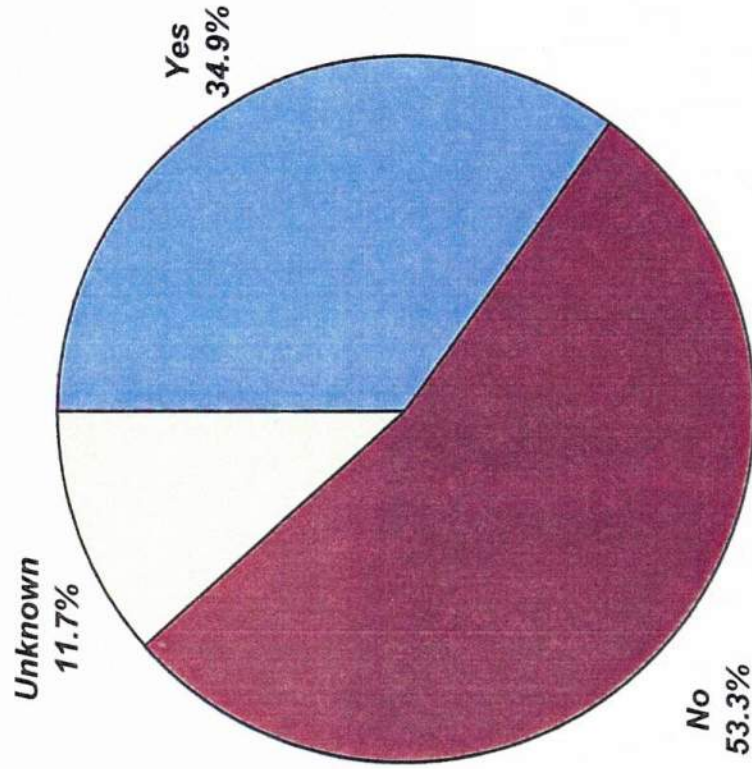
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

40 More Small-Scale Convenience Retail
Stores near (V) Neighborhoods

Yes	310	77.5%
No	473	53.3%
Unknown	104	11.7%

Tallies
887
100%

More Small-Scale Convenience Retail Stores near Village Neighborhoods



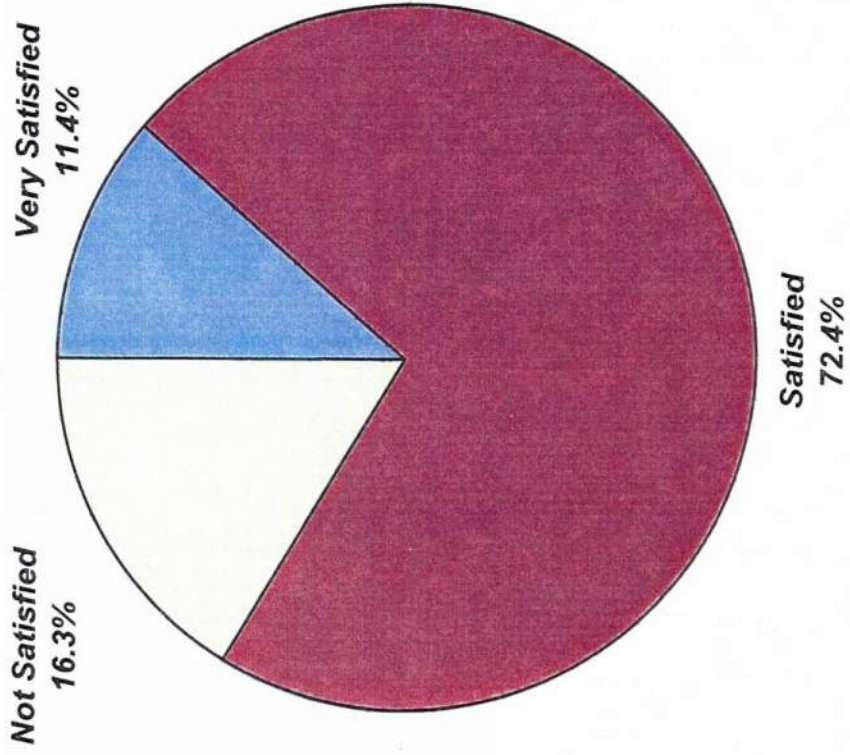
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

41	Businesses you would like see come to (V)	
	Bakery	45
	Book Store	2
	Boutiques or Small Shops	29
	Car Repair	1
	Department Stores	1
	Drug & Convenience	36
	Eateries & Grocery	20
	Fill Existing Malls	1
	Gym	5
	Hardware Store	28
	Home Business	7
	Laundry	3
	Manufacturing	1
	Micro Brewery	1
	Movie Theater	1
	None	75
	Parks	2
	Pizza & Sandwich	1
	Price Chopper	2
	Professional Offices	7
	Restaurants	5
	Retail	36
	Starbucks	1
	Stewarts	1
	YMCA	3
	Tallies	314

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	Tallies
42 Satisfaction of Existing Zoning Comments	65 11.4%	414 72.4%	93 16.3%	572 100%

Satisfaction of Existing Zoning



- Very Satisfied
- Satisfied
- Not Satisfied

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

42 Satisfaction of Existing Zoning

Albany Ladder

Business to Close to Res

Codes Not Enforced

Dup too Rigid

Dup not with SF Homes

Forever Wild

No Sign Law

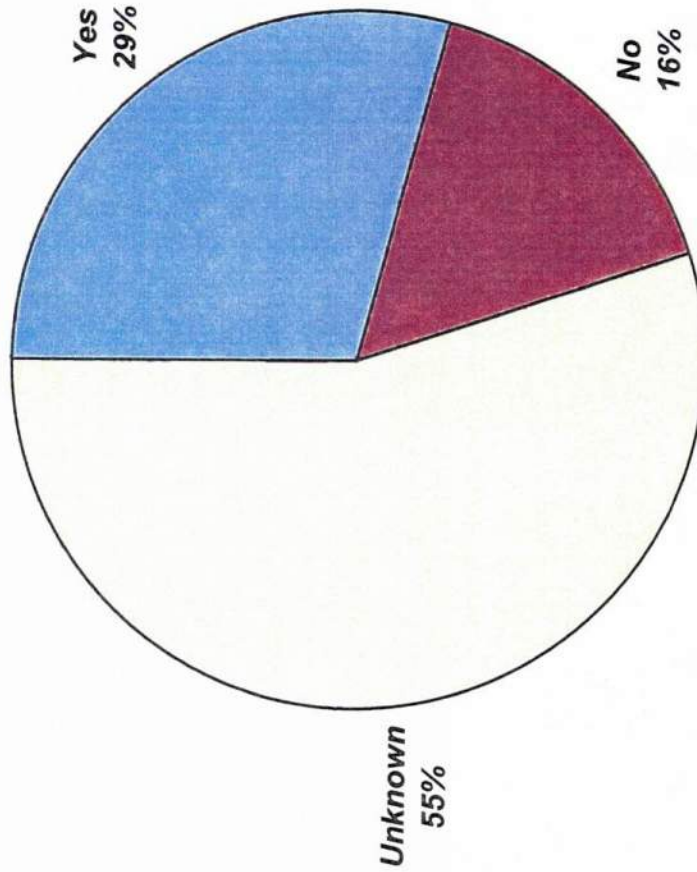
Wetlands

1
1
3
1
1
4
1
2

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Support Revised Zoning Code to Address Current Land Use Issues Why or Why Not	Yes	No	Unknown	Tallies
43	253	139	479	871
	29.0%	16.0%	55.0%	100%

Support Revised Zoning Code to Address Current Land Use Issues



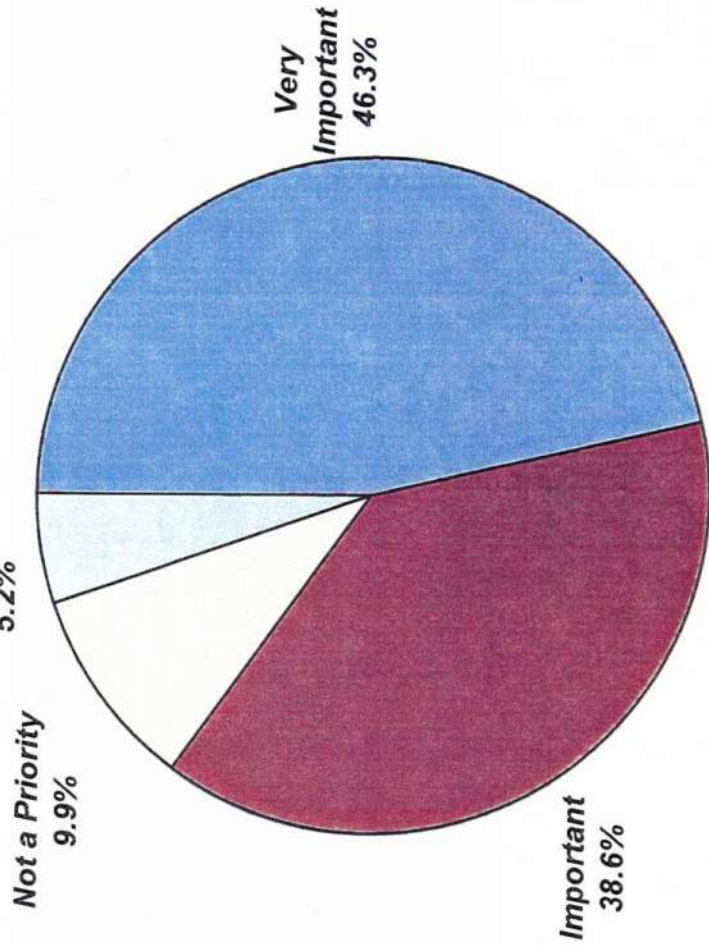
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

44 Importance of Preserving Remaining
Open Space & Agricultural Lands in (V)

Response	Count	Percentage
Very Important	417	46.3%
Important	347	38.6%
Not a Priority	89	9.9%
Unknown	47	5.2%

Tallies
900
100%

Importance of Remaining Open Space & Agricultural Lands in Village



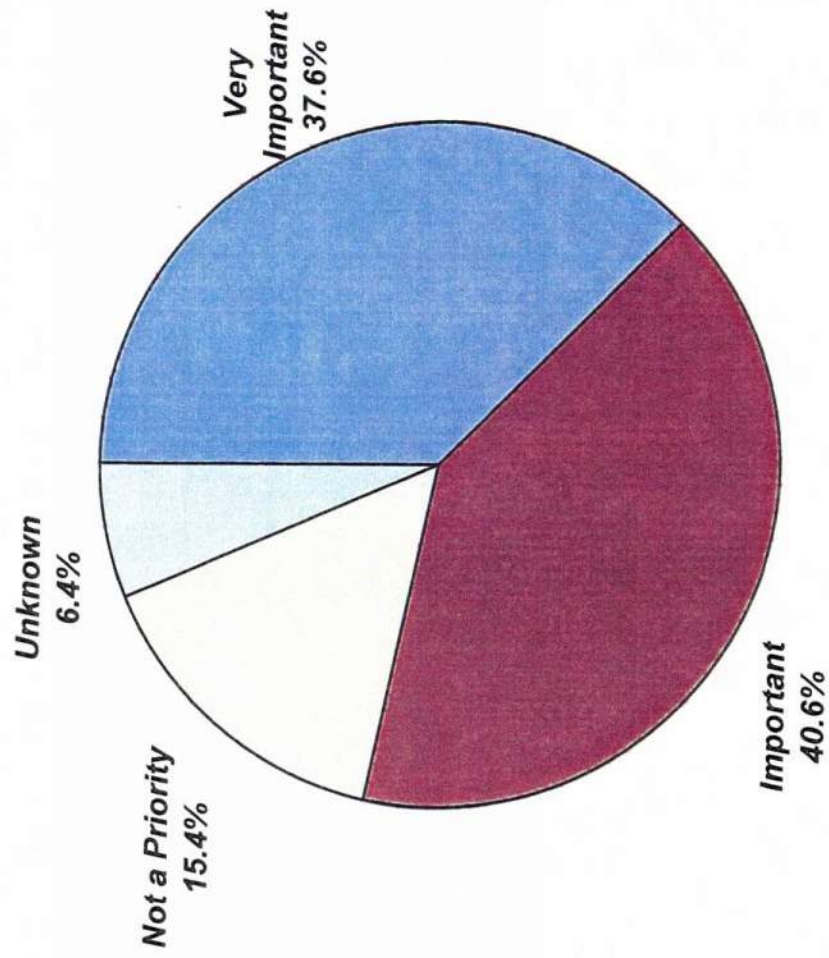
- Very Important
- Important
- Not a Priority
- Unknown

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

	Very Important	Important	Not a Priority	Unknown
	335	362	137	57
	37.6%	40.6%	15.4%	6.4%
Tallies				891
				100%

45 Preserve the Historic Nature of (V)

Preserve the Historic Nature of Village



- Very Important
- Important
- Not a Priority
- Unknown

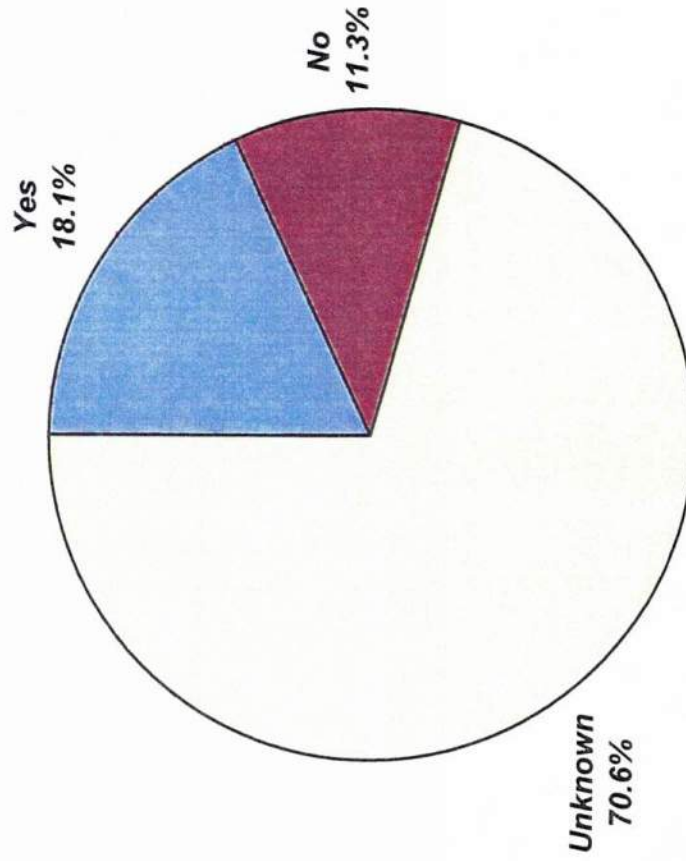
Village of Colonie Master Plan
Preliminary Residential Survey Results

46 Spec or Uniq Bldg, Ldsceps or Ldmks that need to be Prot from Future Dev
List the Areas which include

Yes	No	Unknown
137	86	536
18.1%	11.3%	70.6%

Tallies
759
100%

Any Special or Unique Buildings, Landscapes or Landmarks within the Village Need to be Protected



Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

46 Spec or Uniq Bldg, Ldiscps or Ldmks that need to be Prot from Future Dev

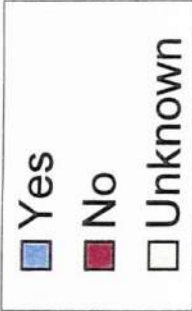
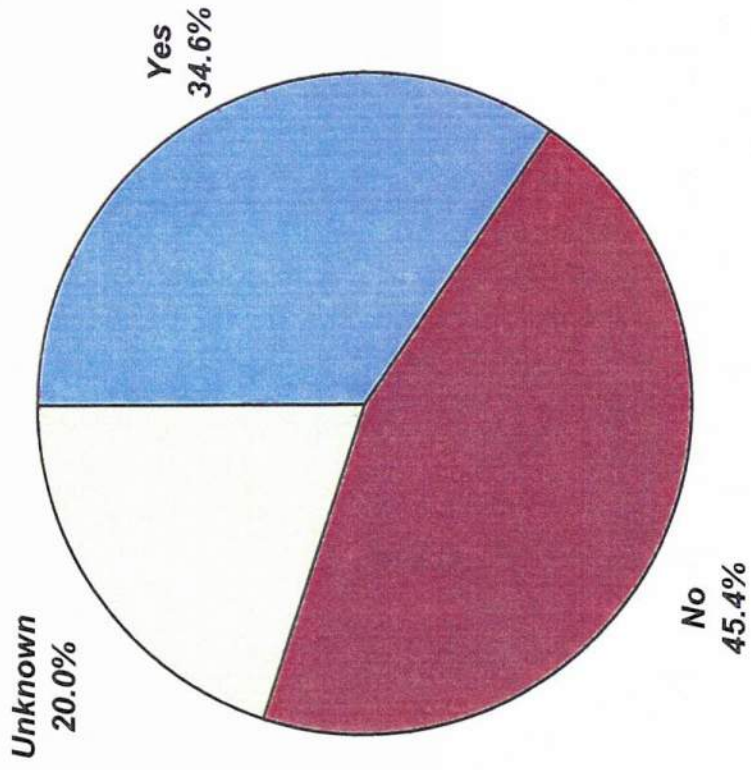
Ann Lee Pond
 Bauer Pathway
 Bridle Path
 Col VLG School
 Community Center
 Cook Park
 Fire House
 Green Spaces
 Nash Land
 Pine Bush
 Pine Grove Church
 Power House
 Quiet Dead Ends
 Resselear Lake
 Sand Creek Lands
 School
 Shaker
 Shaker Cemetary
 Truman's
 Urban
 Wetlands
 Tallies

1
 2
 1
 1
 3
 2
 5
 35
 2
 19
 2
 1
 1
 1
 2
 3
 1
 3
 1
 2
 11
 99

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

	Yes	No	Unknown	
47 (V) Growing to Rapidly	295	387	171	Tallies
	34.6%	45.4%	20.0%	853
				100%

Village Growing too Rapidly

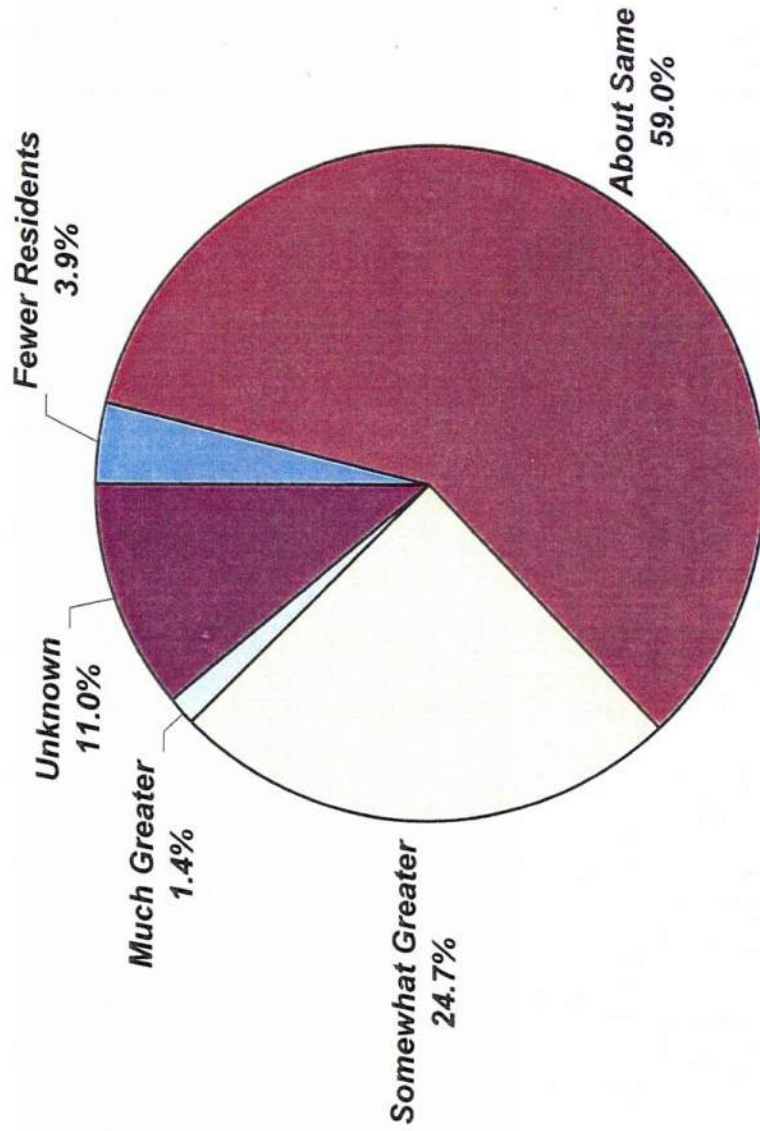
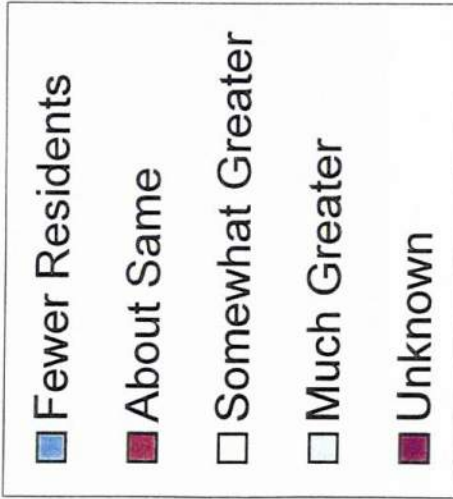


Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

	Fewer Residents	About Same	Somewhat Greater	Much Greater	Unknown
48 Looking Ahead, Ideal Population for (V) in 21	35	535	224	13	100
	3.9%	59.0%	24.7%	1.4%	11.0%

Tallies
907
100%

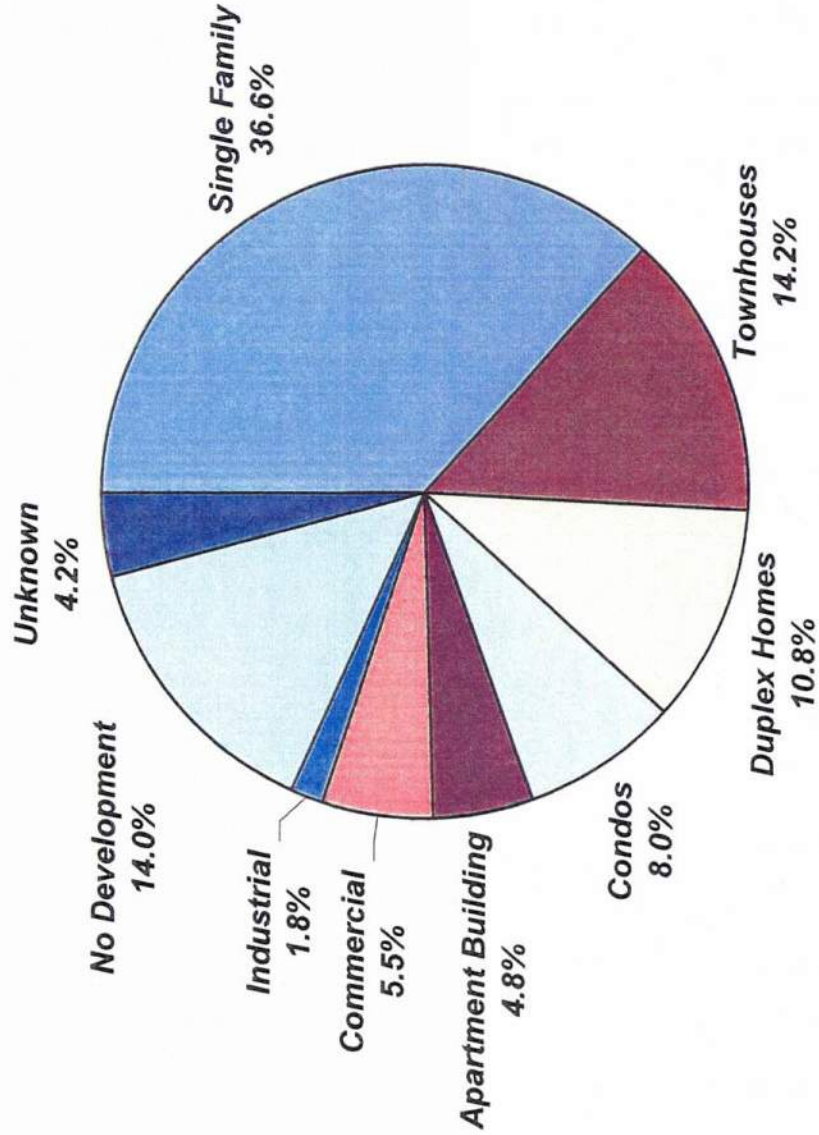
Looking Ahead, Ideal Population for Village in 20 Years



Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Type of Dev Permitted on Undeveloped Lands in (V)	Single Family	Townhouses	Duplex Homes	Condos	Apartment Building	Commercial	Industrial	No Development	Unknown
49	561	217	165	122	74	84	28	215	65
	36.6%	14.2%	10.8%	8.0%	4.8%	5.5%	1.8%	14.0%	4.2%

Development that Should be Permitted on Undeveloped Land in Village



- Single Family
- Townhouses
- Duplex Homes
- Condos
- Apartment Building
- Commercial
- Industrial
- No Development
- Unknown

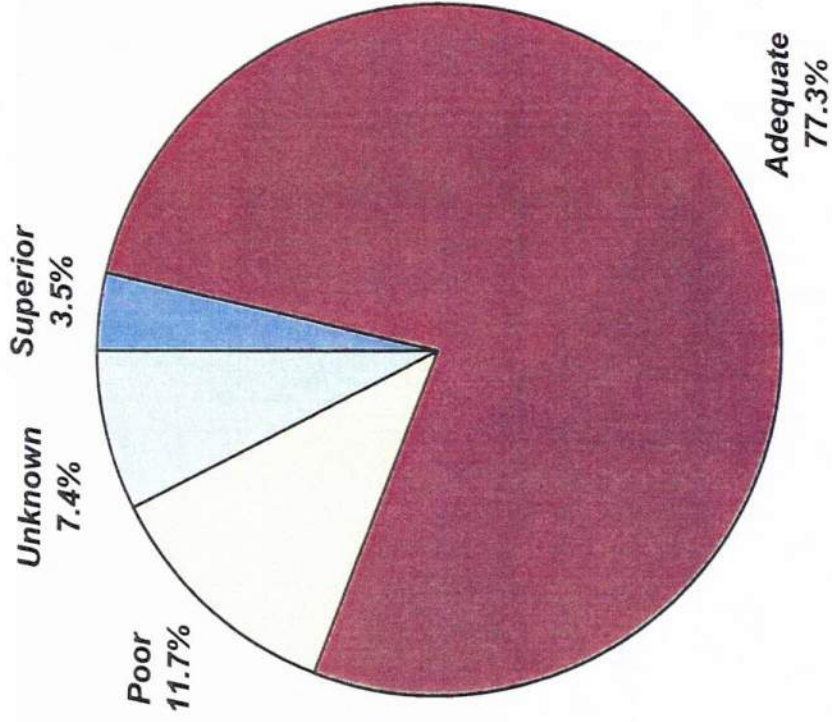
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

50 Appearance of Commercial Signs for
Businesses in (V)

Superior	Adequate	Poor	Unknown
32	699	106	67
3.5%	77.3%	11.7%	7.4%

Tallies
904
100%

Appearance of Commercial Signs for Business' in Village

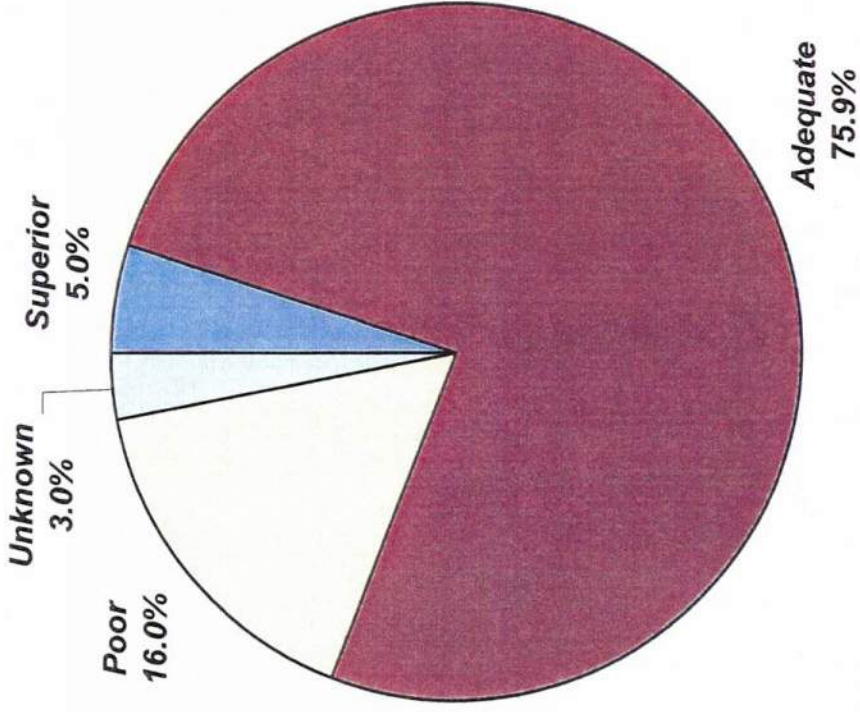
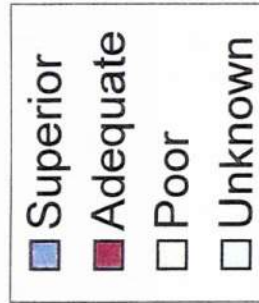


- Superior
- Adequate
- Poor
- Unknown

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Appear of Central Ave & Neighborhood Rds	Superior	Adequate	Poor	Unknown	Tallies
51 Leading In/Out of (V)	45 5.0%	678 75.9%	143 16.0%	27 3.0%	893 100%

Appearance of Central Ave & Neighborhood Roads Leading In/Out of Village



Village of Colonie Master Plan
 Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Architectural Review & Design Guidelines
 for New Dev in (V)

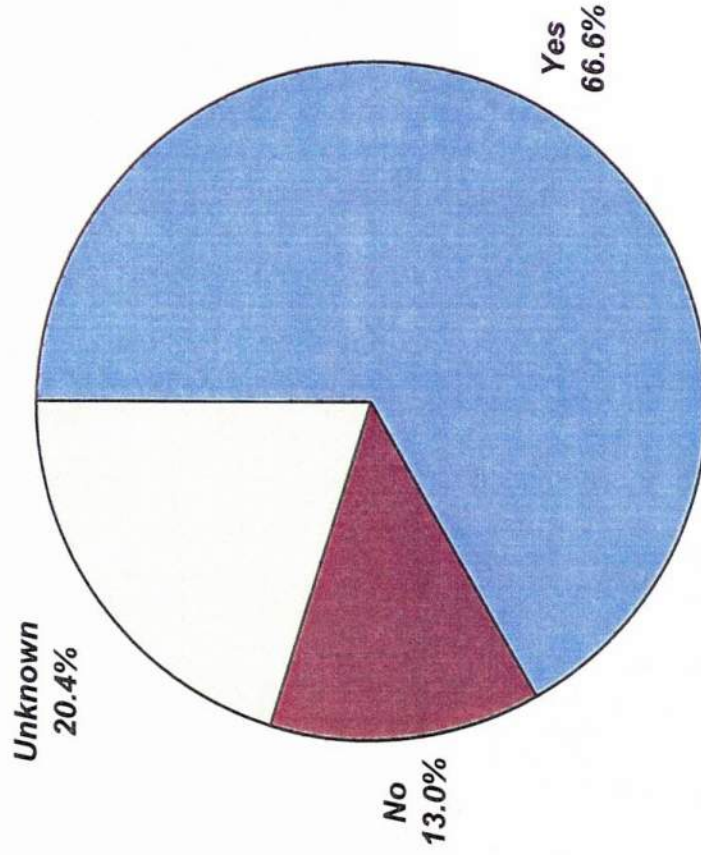
Yes
 609
 66.6%

No
 119
 13.0%

Unknown
 186
 20.4%

Tallies
 914
 100%

Should there be Architectural Review & Design Guidelines for New Development in Village



Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

53	Comments re: Quality of Life, Opport to Impr or Threats to values in (V)	
	Bag Leaves	1
	Board Services - Limit Time	1
	Buses - Too Many	1
	Cars - Junk Cars on Lawns	4
	College Student Housing - Don't Allow	1
	Commercial Development - Too Much	50
	Dogs Barking - Penalty	1
	Expansion of Auto Dealers - No More	1
	Gangs	1
	Give Notice of Curbside Leaf Removal	1
	Green Space	8
	Laberge - Get Rid of Them	4
	Lease Law Not Enforced	1
	Music - Too Much & Too Loud	2
	New Homes - No	1
	Noise Ordinance	2
	Parking - None During Snow Removal	1
	Parking - None on Streets	2
	Parking - Need Side Street	1
	Parking - Not Enough	1
	Power Lines - Move Underground	1
	Road Maintenance	1
	Safety - Increase	8
	School - Activities for After School	1
	Senior Housing - Much Needed	2
	Senior Transportation	1
	Sidewalks - Need More	3
	Not Kept Up	3
	Snow Removal - Poor	1
	Special Codes for Community Buildings on Residential Streets	1
	Stella Terrace - Stop Development	1
	Stop Signs - at Locust Grove Rd	1
	Stop Signs - Too Many	1
	Traffic - Speeding	8
	Traffic Congestion - Too Much	56

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Residential Survey Results

Traffic Lights - Need More	1
Trash in Yards	13
Trash PU too Early	2
Vacant Buildings - Get Rid of them	6
Vacant Buildings - Use Instead of Building New Ones	1
Village into City	1
Village into Town	2
Wildlife Protection	1

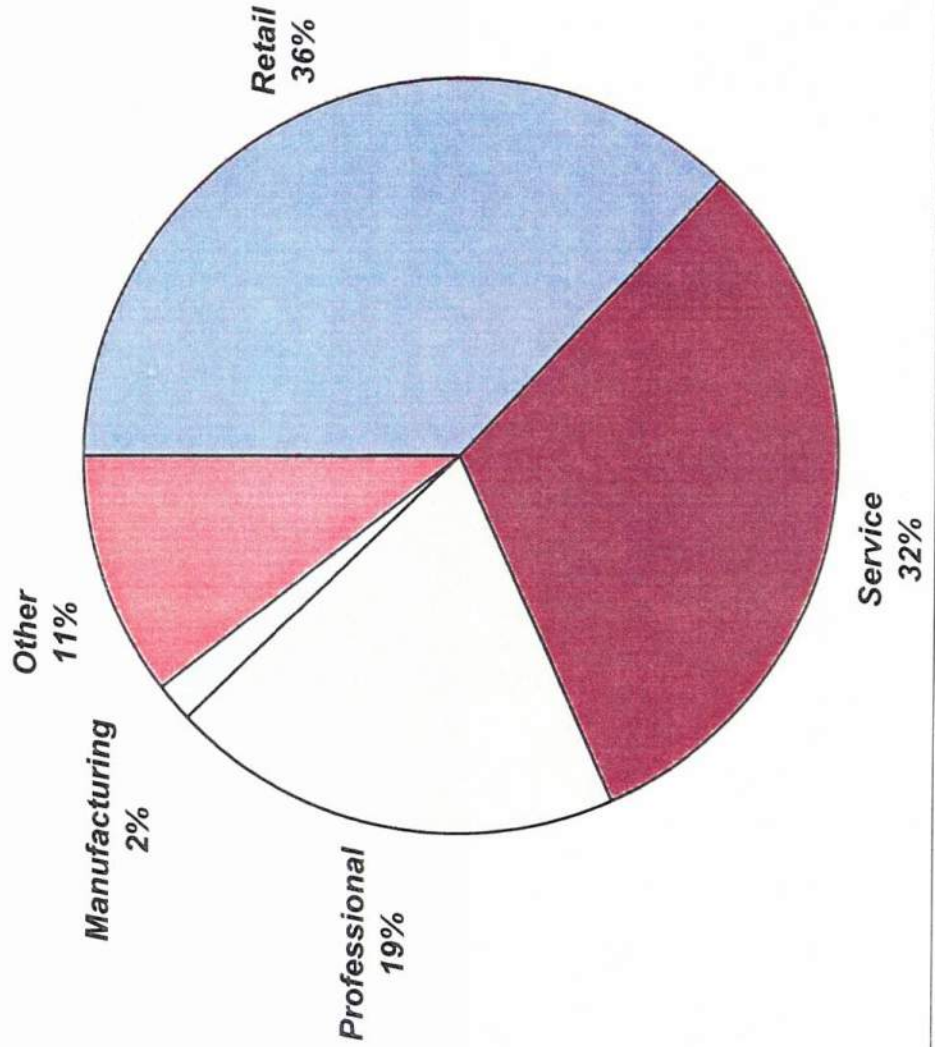
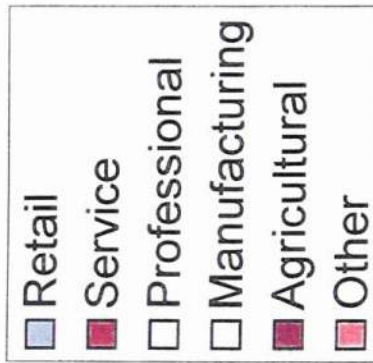
BUSINESS SURVEY RESULTS

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Business Survey Results

56 Total Business Surveys

Business Description	Tallies	Percentage
Retail	21	37%
Service	18	32%
Professional	11	19%
Manufacturing	1	2%
Agricultural	0	0%
Other	6	11%
Total	57	

Business Description

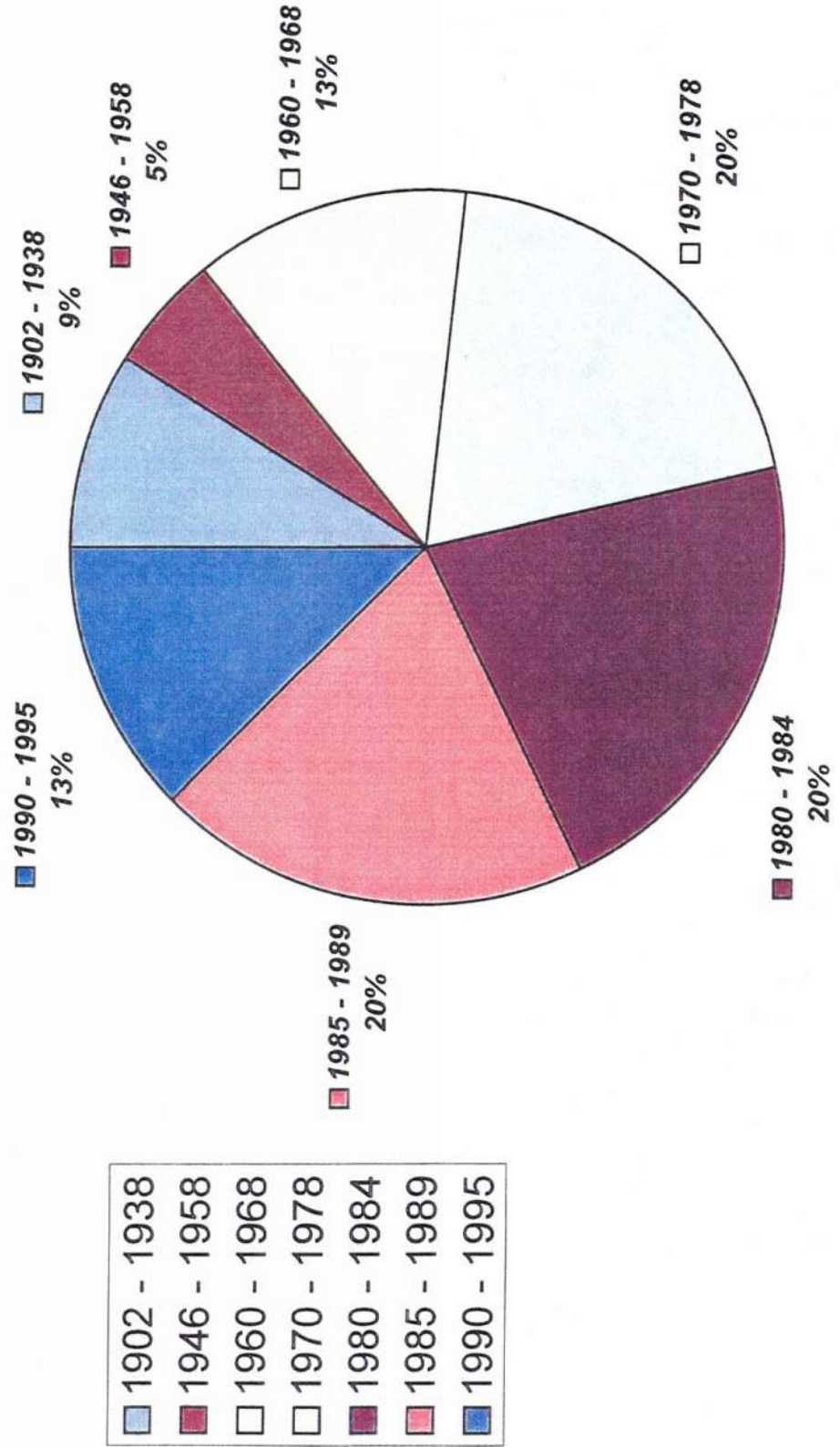


Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Business Survey Results

56 Total Business Surveys

Year Established	1902 - 1938	1946 - 1958	1960 - 1968	1970 - 1978	1980 - 1984	1985 - 1989	1990 - 1995
2	5	3	7	11	12	11	7
	9%	5%	13%	20%	21%	20%	13%
							56

Year Established



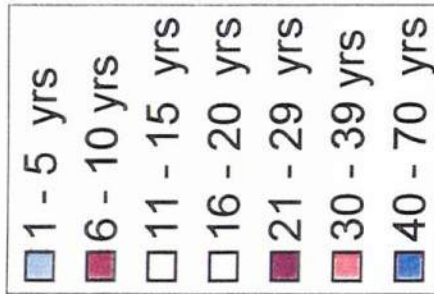
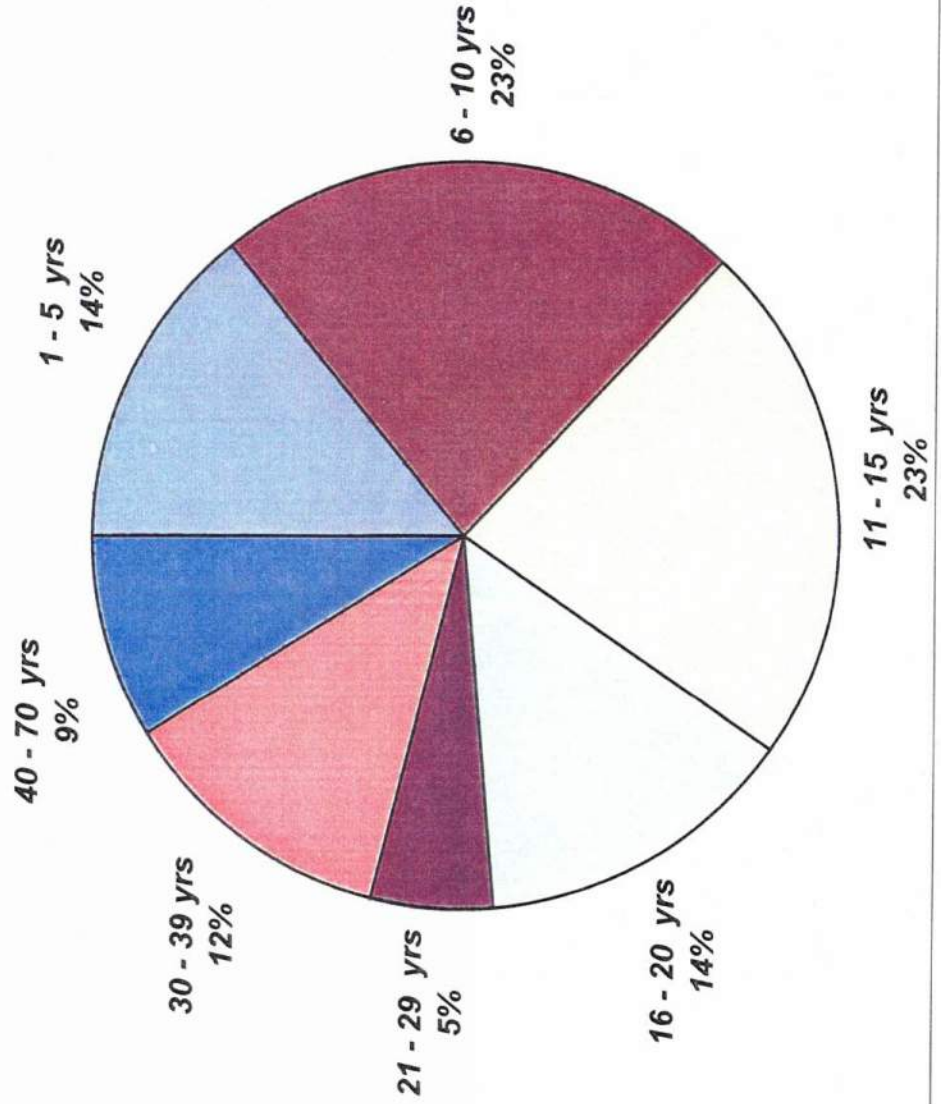
1902 - 1938
1946 - 1958
1960 - 1968
1970 - 1978
1980 - 1984
1985 - 1989
1990 - 1995

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Business Survey Results

56 Total Business Surveys

Business in (V) Colonie	1 - 5 yrs	6 - 10 yrs	11 - 15 yrs	16 - 20 yrs	21 - 29 yrs	30 - 39 yrs	40 - 70 yrs
3	8	13	13	8	3	7	5
	14%	23%	23%	14%	5%	12%	9%
							57

Years in Business - Village of Colonie



Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Business Survey Results

56 Total Business Surveys

4 People Employed

FT 1105
50%

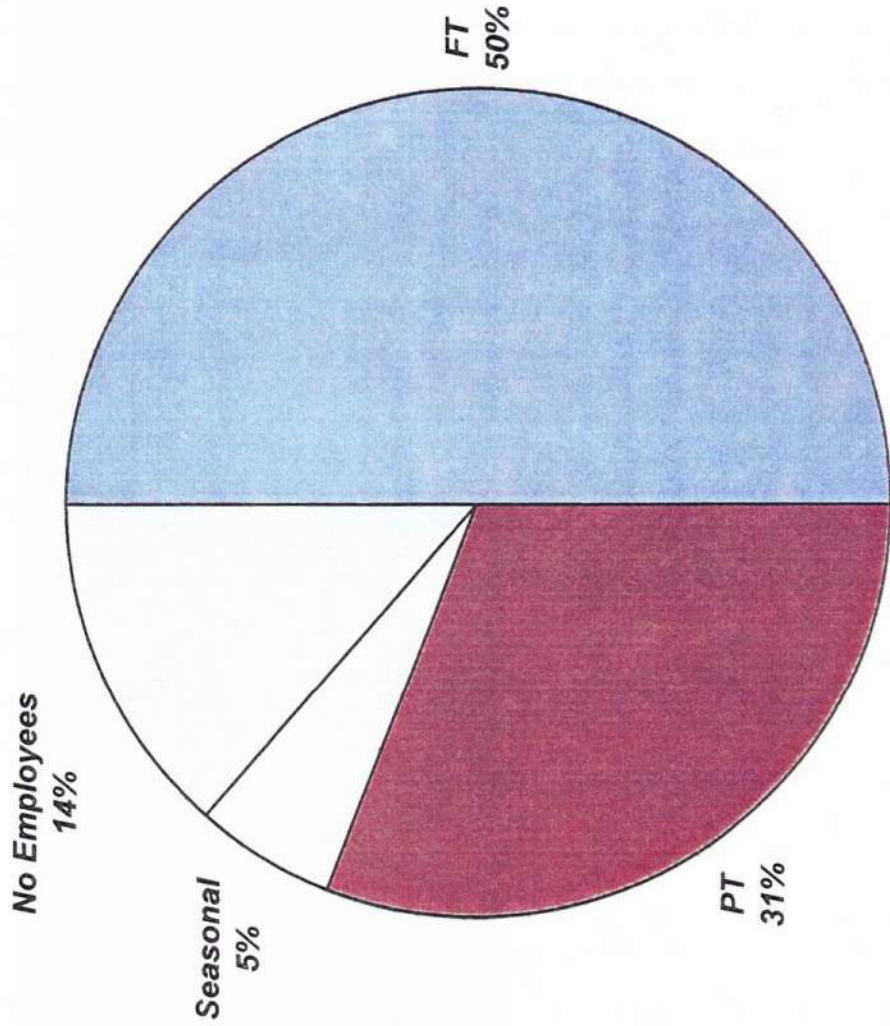
PT 684
31%

Seasonal 121
5%

No Employees 302
14%

2212

People Employed

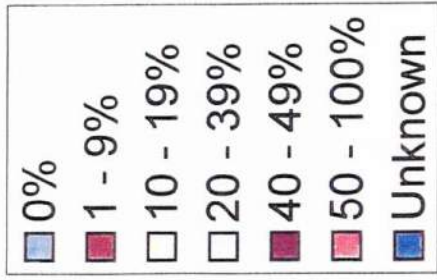
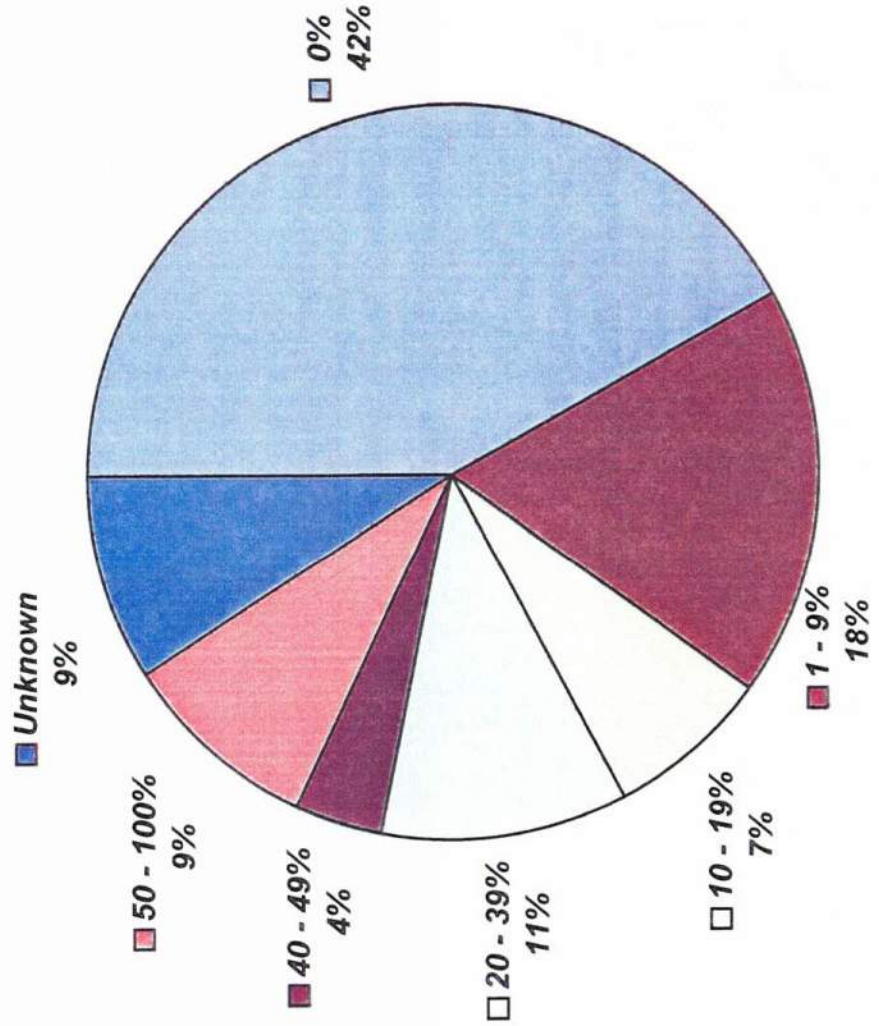


Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Business Survey Results

56 Total Business Surveys
5 % of Employees Living in Village

0%	23	42%	10	18%	10 - 19%	4	7%	20 - 39%	6	11%	40 - 49%	2	4%	50 - 100%	5	9%	Unknown	5	9%	55
----	----	-----	----	-----	----------	---	----	----------	---	-----	----------	---	----	-----------	---	----	---------	---	----	----

Percentage of Employees Living in Village of Colonie



Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Business Survey Results

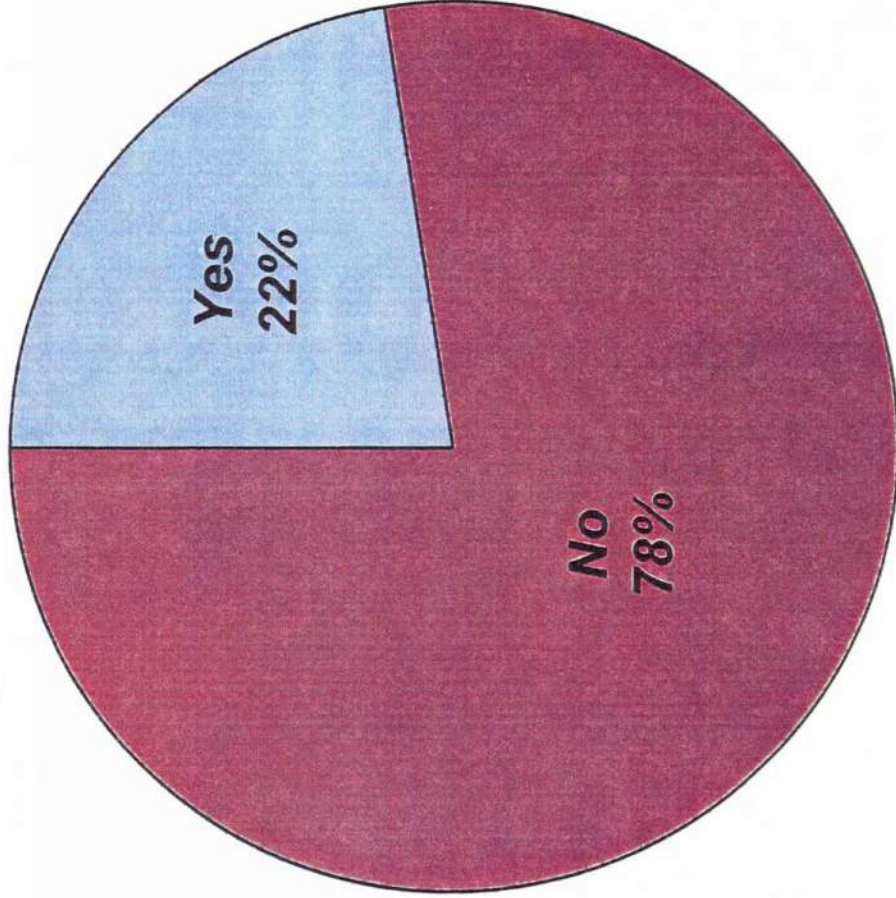
58

56 Total Business Surveys

Yes	13	No	45
	22%		78%

6 Business Owners Living in Village

Business Owners Living in Village of Colonie



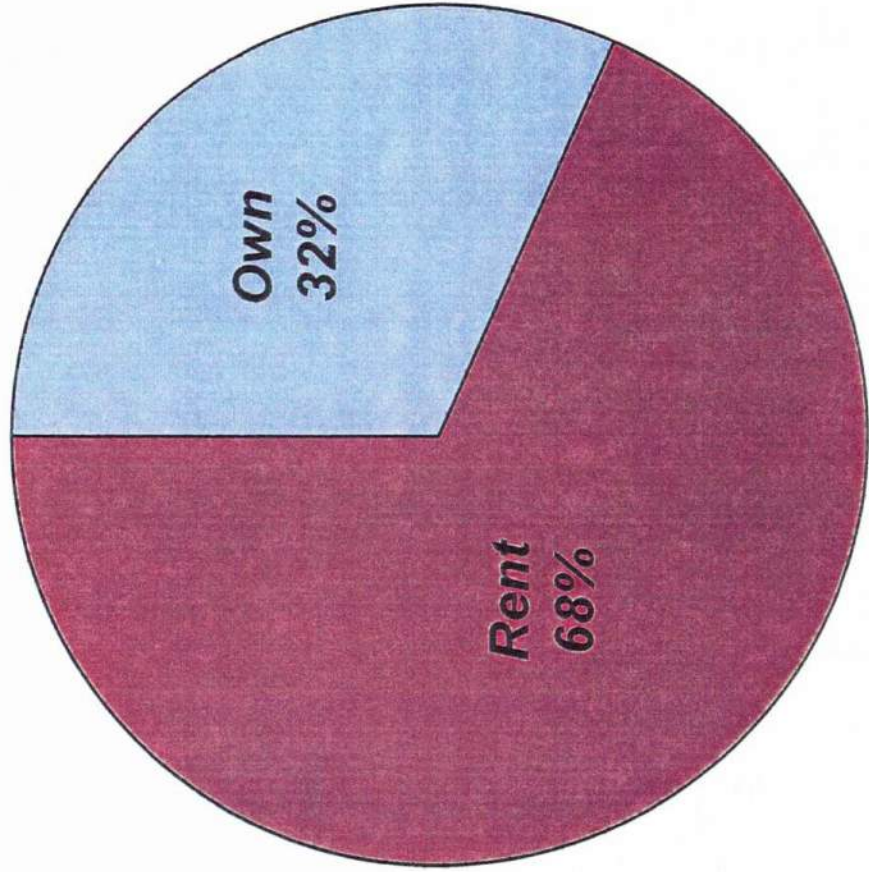
Village of Colonie Master Plan
Preliminary Business Survey Results

56 Total Business Surveys

Own	18	32%
Rent	39	68%

7 Business Own or Rent

Business' Who Own or Rent



Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Business Survey Results

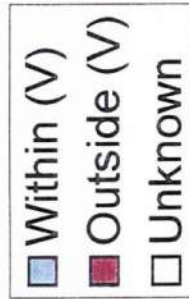
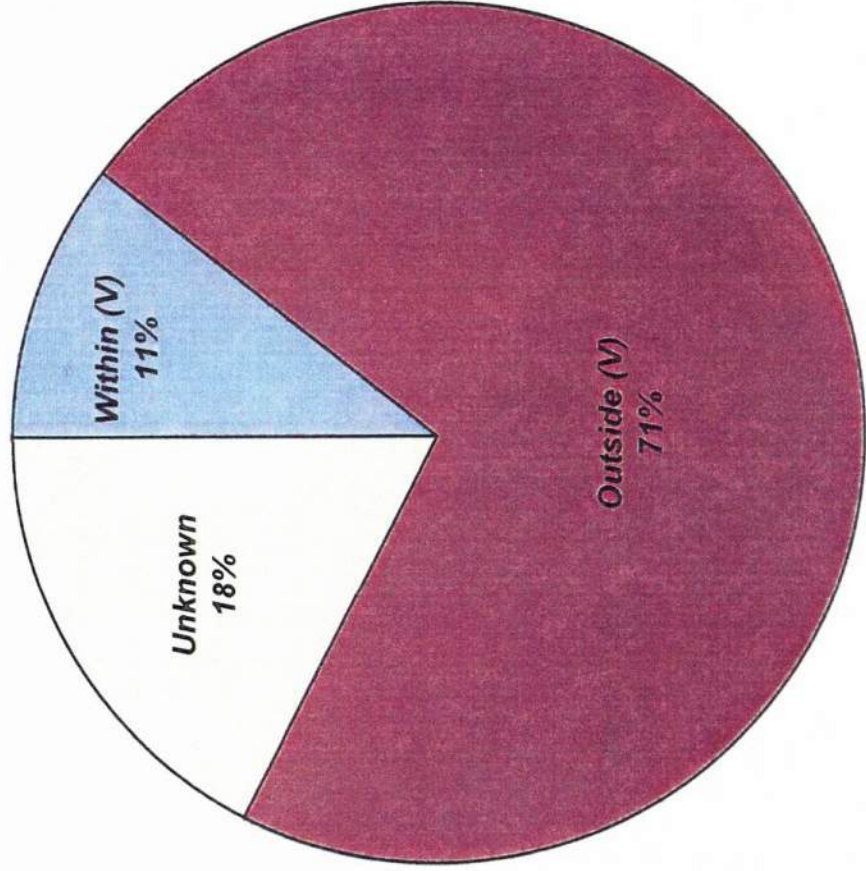
56 Total Business Surveys

Within (V)	Outside (V)	Unknown
6	41	10
11%	72%	18%

8 Customers Come From

57

Where Customers Come From



Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Business Survey Results

56 Total Business Surveys

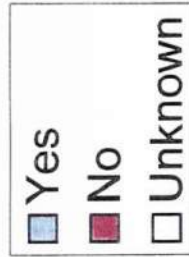
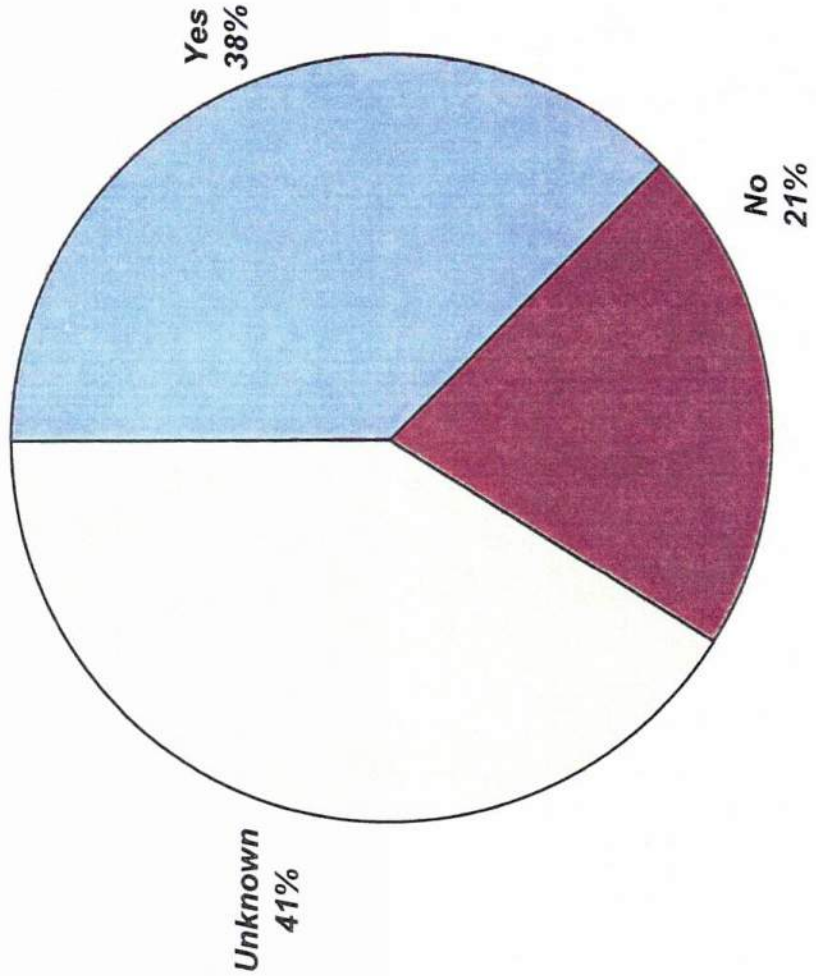
9 Business Benefit from
Reconfiguration of Central Ave

Yes	No	Unknown
21 38%	12 21%	23 41%

56

- 1 Would have more front parking
- 1 Right now access to parking lot from Central Ave is not "customer friendly".
- 1 At the moment it is difficult to exit left.
- 8 Believe there would be less traffic & accidents.
- 1 Needs more traffic lights.

Benefit From Reconfiguration of Central Avenue

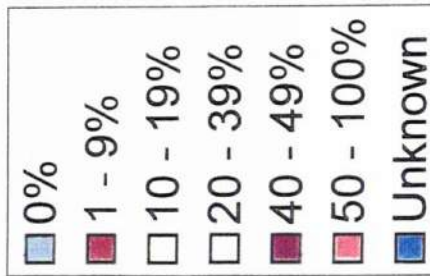
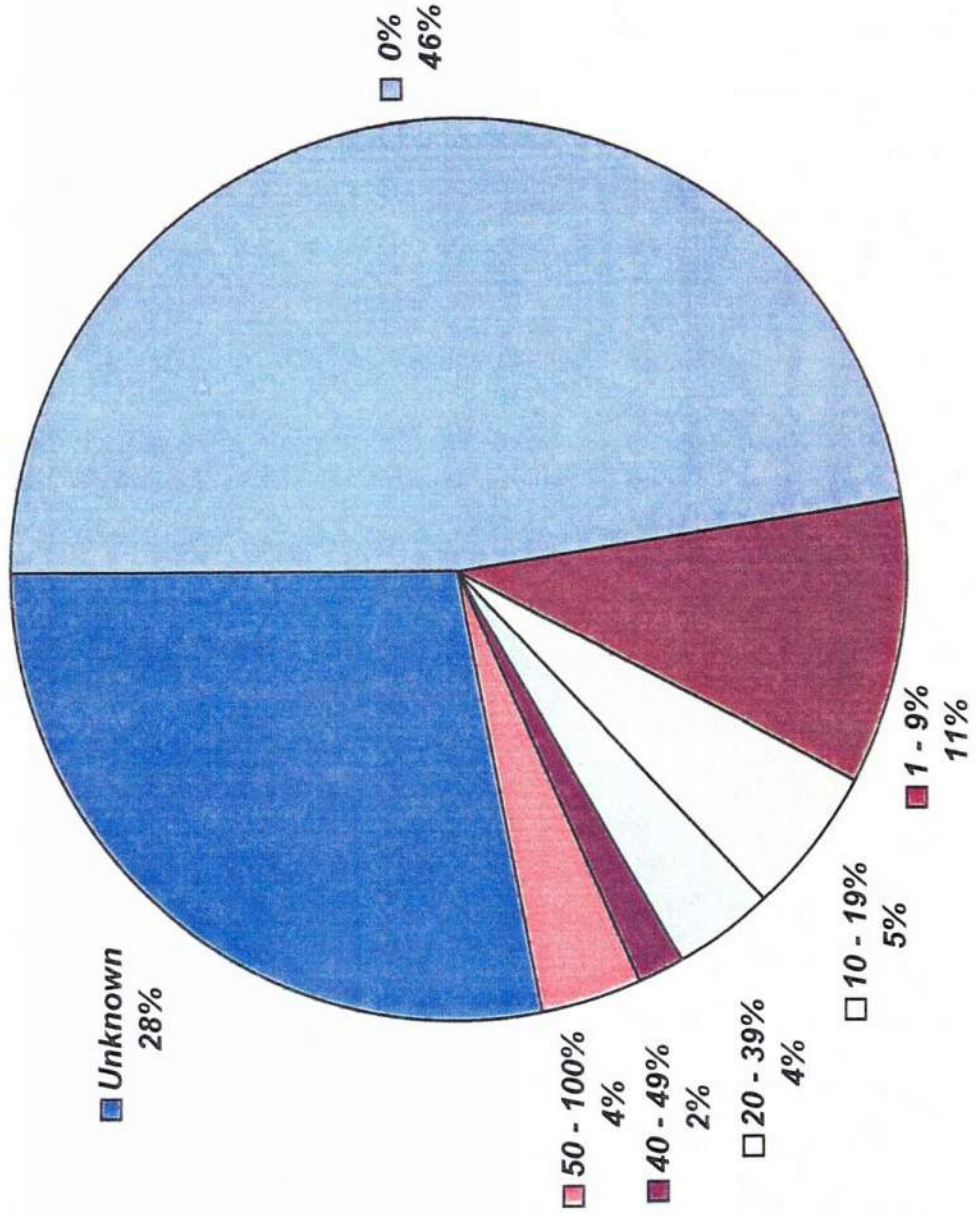


Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Business Survey Results

56 Total Business Surveys
10 % of Customers which are Tourists

0%	1 - 9%	10 - 19%	20 - 39%	40 - 49%	50 - 100%	Unknown
27 47%	6 11%	3 5%	2 4%	1 2%	2 4%	16 28%

Percentage of Customers which are Tourists



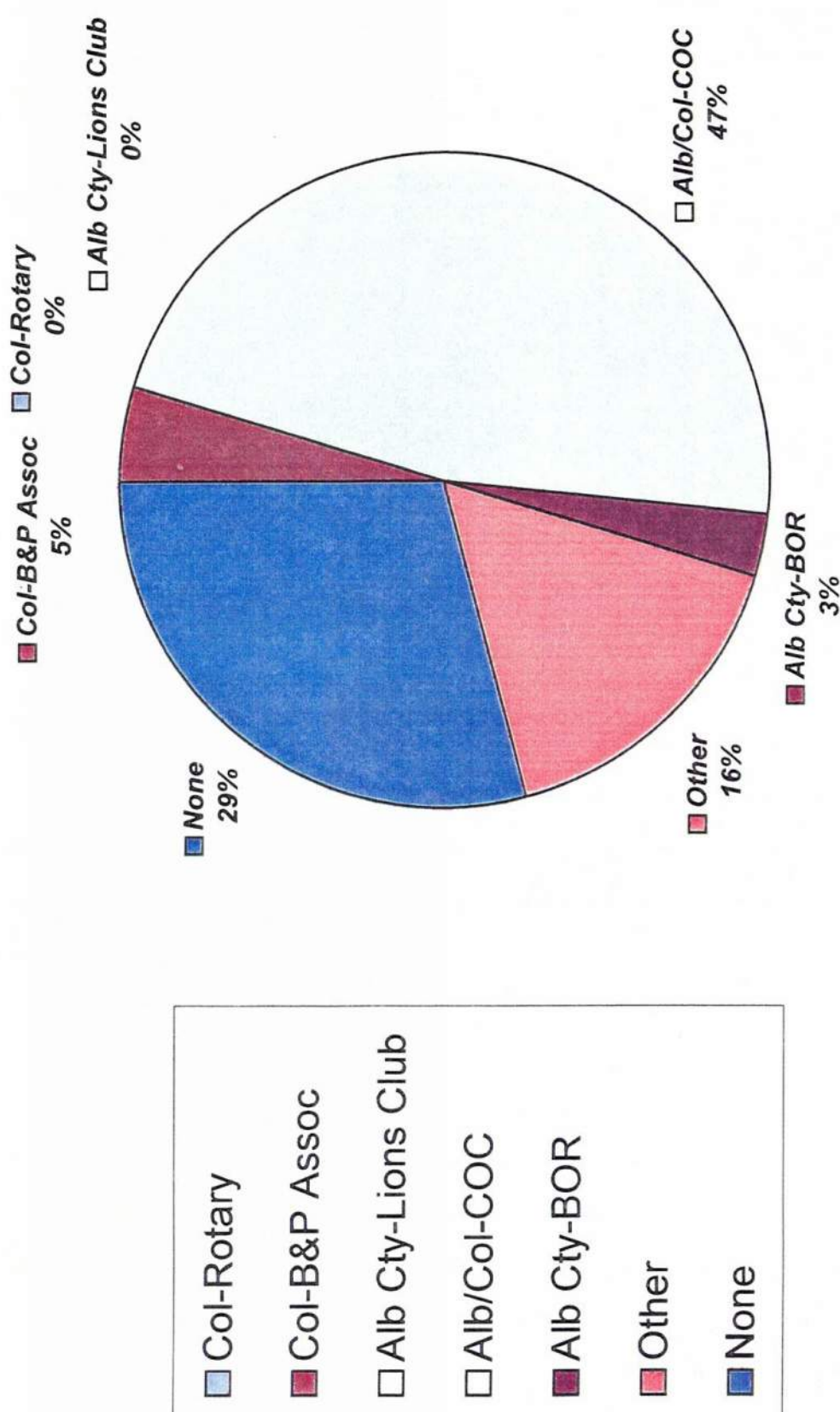
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Business Survey Results

56 Total Business Surveys

Col-Rotary	Col-B&P Assoc	Alb Cty-Lions Club	Alb/Col-COC	Alb Cty-BOR	Other	None
0%	3	0%	29	2	10	59
	5%		49%	3%	17%	31%

11 Organizations Business' Belong to

Organizations Business' Belong to



- Col-Rotary
- Col-B&P Assoc
- Alb Cty-Lions Club
- Alb/Col-COC
- Alb Cty-BOR
- Other
- None

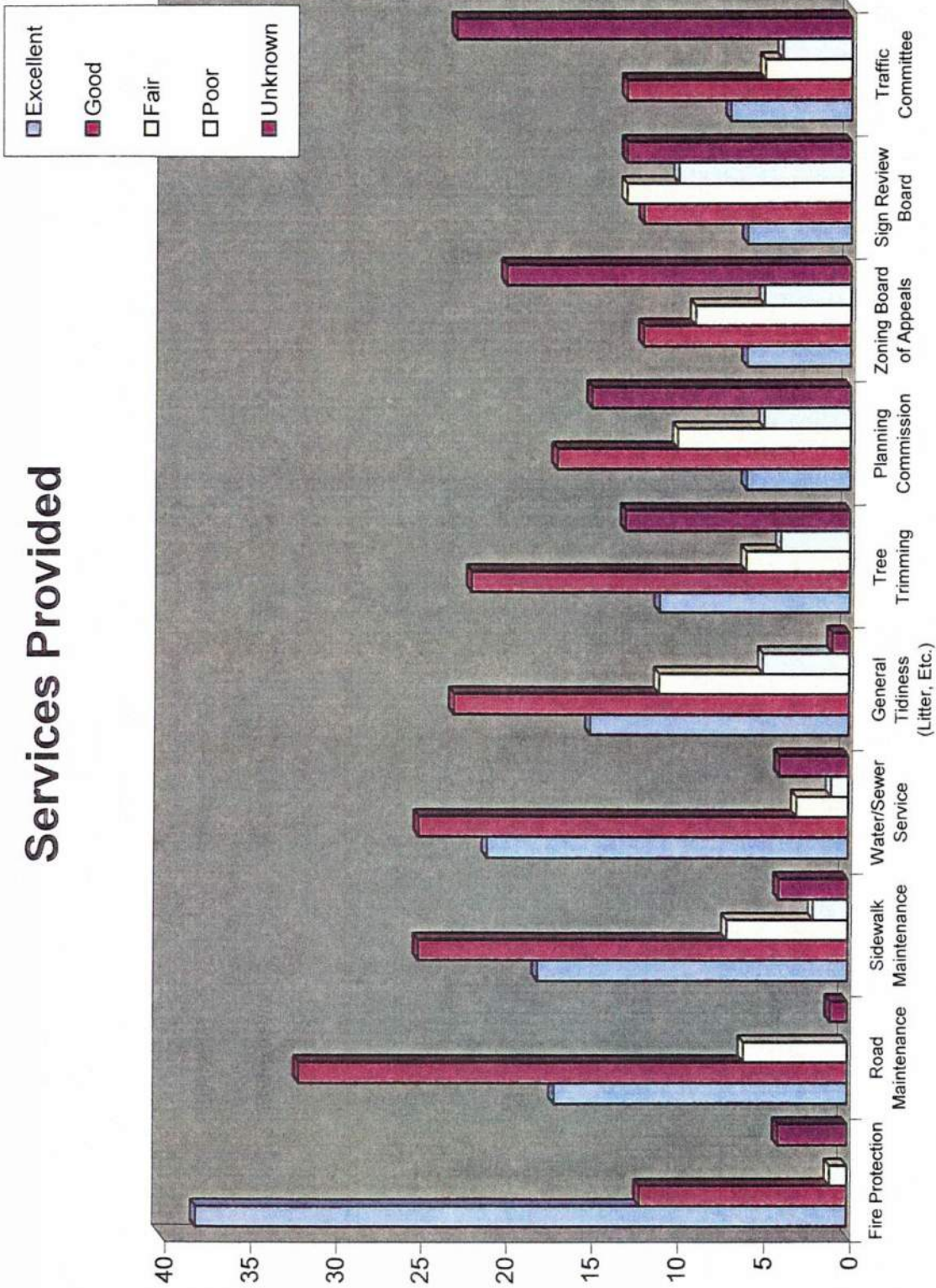
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Business Survey Results

56 Total Business Surveys 12 Services Provided	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unknown	
Fire Protection	38 69%	12 22%	1 2%	0%	4 7%	55
Road Maintenance	17 30%	32 57%	6 11%	0%	1 2%	56
Sidewalk Maintenance	18 32%	25 45%	7 13%	2 4%	4 7%	56
Water/Sewer Service	21 39%	25 46%	3 6%	1 2%	4 7%	54
General Tidiness (Litter, Etc.)	15 27%	23 42%	11 20%	5 9%	1 2%	55
Tree Trimming	11 20%	22 39%	6 11%	4 7%	13 23%	56
Planning Commission	6 11%	17 32%	10 19%	5 9%	15 28%	53
Zoning Board of Appeals	6 12%	12 23%	9 17%	5 10%	20 38%	52
Sign Review Board	6 11%	12 22%	13 24%	10 19%	13 24%	54
Traffic Committee	7 13%	13 25%	5 10%	4 8%	23 44%	52
Totals	145 27%	193 36%	71 13%	36 7%	98 18%	543

Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Business Survey Results

56 Total Business Surveys

Services Provided



Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Business Survey Results

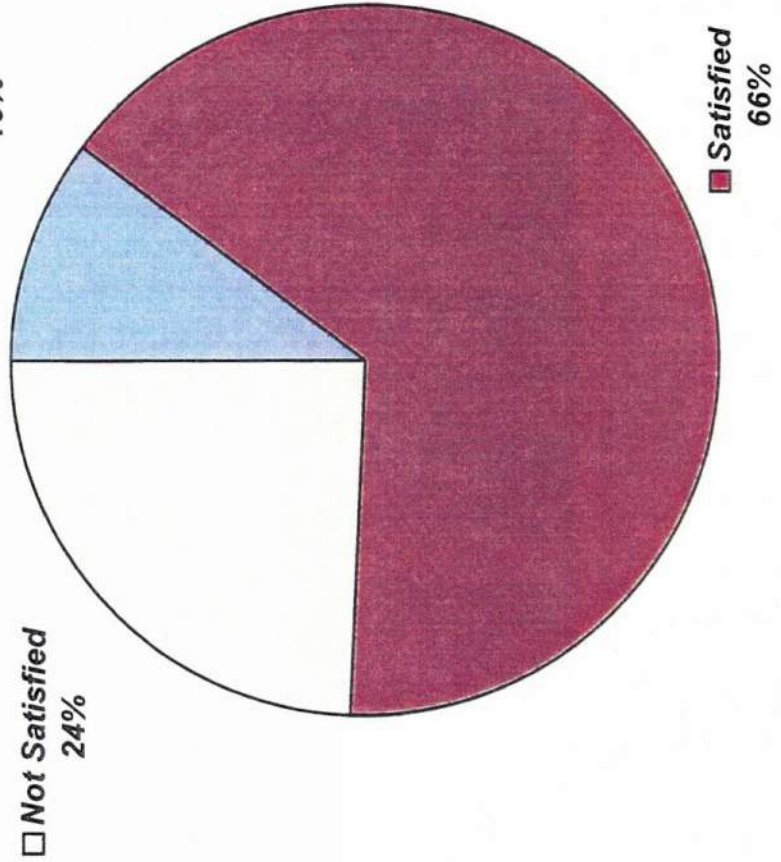
56 Total Business Surveys

Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied
5	32	12
10%	65%	24%

13 Satisfaction of Existing Zoning

- 2 Biased towards Residents
- 2 Too difficult to understand.
- 1 When sidewalks were installed, lost parking spaces causing difficulty for customer parking.
- 2 Too much regulations.

Satisfaction of Existing Zoning

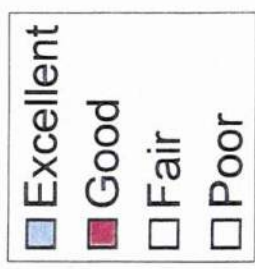
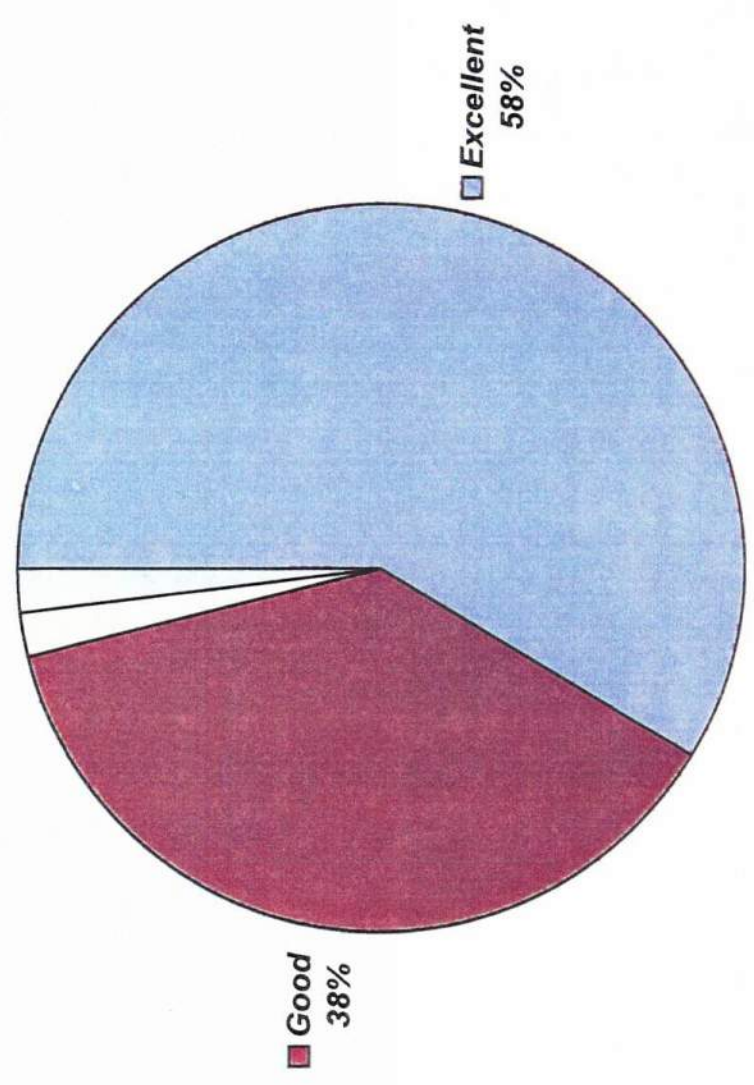


Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Business Survey Results

56 Total Business Surveys
14 Rating of Town Police Protection

Rating	Count	Percentage
Excellent	31	58%
Good	20	38%
Fair	1	2%
Poor	1	2%

Town Police Protection Rating



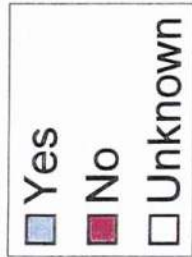
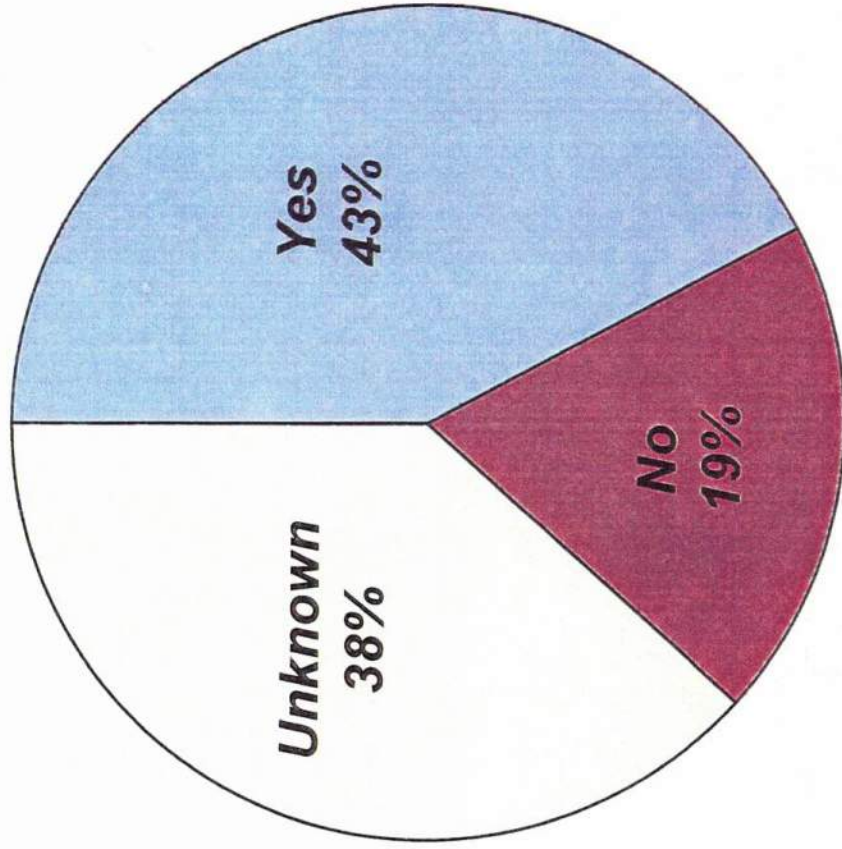
Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Business Survey Results

56 Total Business Surveys
(V) Government Responsiveness to
15 Needs

Yes	No	Unknown
22 42%	10 19%	20 38%

52

Village Government Responsive to Needs



Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Business Survey Results

51

56 Total Business Surveys

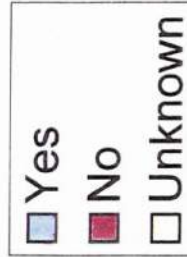
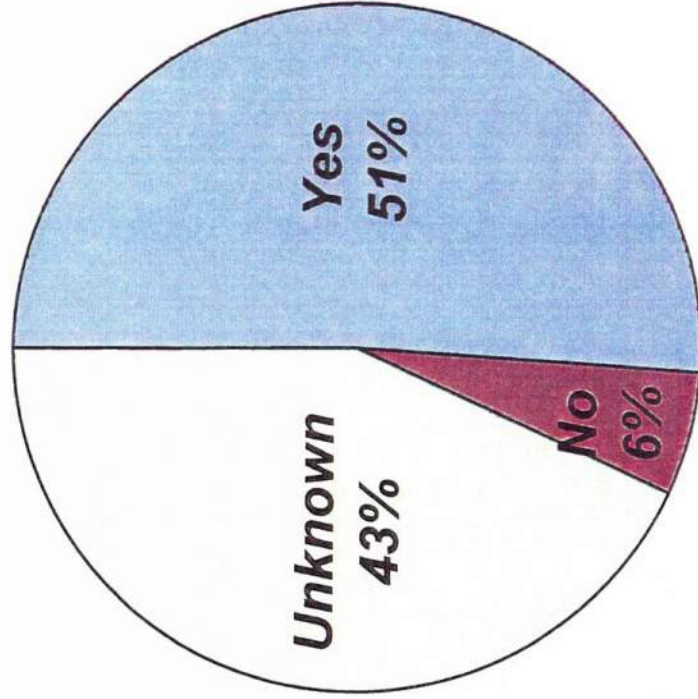
Sup Efforts for Future Cons. of
16 (V)&(T) Govern Services

Yes	No	Unknown
26 51%	3 5%	22 43%

1 If there is no Problems now, don't look for them.

6 Anything to support the non-duplication of services to reduce the cost.

Support Efforts for Future Consolidation of any Village & Town Government Services



Village of Colonie Master Plan Preliminary Business Survey Results

56 Total Business Surveys

17 Additional Comments

- 1 Deserve same services as Residents (especially because of the cash flow which is brought into the (V) Transportation Issues - Because of the turmoil in Air-transport, other avenues should be looked at, perhaps a Bus/Rail Station in the same building. Old station facility on Lincoln Ave by the tracks.
- 2 Have difficult time dealing with Village and find them not user friendly.
- 1 Temporary signage restrictions are to tough.
- 1 Residents dictate how businesses are run.
- 1 Inspectors are PT & have limited knowledge base, they serve to harass.
- 1 Have brush pickup available for owner owned business property.
- 1 Get rid of sales tax on clothing
- 1 Need better enforcement of the Village codes.
- 1 New Park will be a very nice addition.
- 1 Village of Colonie is very business friendly.

COMMUNITY IMAGE SURVEY RESULTS

Village of Colonie Community Image Survey Results

In order to identify and document the community's preferences for design styles and various scenes and landscapes, a visual survey was conducted. Residents, landowners and business owners were invited to attend a program where 119 35 mm slides were shown. 50 people attended. Participants rated each slide on a scale of -5 to +5 according to how the scene was aesthetically pleasing to them. A variety of scenes from around the region were portrayed in the visual survey. Images that illustrate the visual and spatial qualities and the functional characteristics of Colonie's existing growth patterns were included. The slides reflected what participants already see, or could see, as they move through the village. Images that suggest alternative approaches to land use and design were also included for the community to respond to.

The results allow us to evaluate the community's visual preference for commercial buildings, including stand-alone and strip mall designs, multi-family housing, single family housing sited on individual lots and in subdivisions, and views from a variety of common style of streets. This technique was also used to assess preferences for signs, general building design, landscapes and other factors that influence visual preferences such as utility poles and wires, sidewalks, road widths, and preferred setbacks.

This summary explores common preferences and discusses any consensus on vision. The results reveal desired community image (in the positive images) and what should be avoided (in the negative images.) The desired elements can be translated into specific building designs that reflect the desired character of Colonie's vision. Local zoning and planning practices should be analyzed to determine the "end-product" or the result of implementing the regulations. If they result in buildings, design or streets that are not desired, local regulations should be changed to reflect the positive visual character that is desired.

The analysis of the images specifically looked for patterns of design and planning features including:

- Signs
- Setbacks
- Streets and Streetscape Elements
- Colors
- Windows
- Roof Pitches
- Doors and Entrances
- Style and Massing of Building
- Decorative Elements
- Landscaping
- Treatment of Parking

Positive Rated Slides – Summary

Positively rated slides included both commercial and residential structures. Most of the images showing downtown style development and residential subdivisions were rated positively. Participants rated those slides with an abundance of green space (lawns, parks, yards) and mature shade trees very high. Positive images of streets included those with a continuous canopy of trees. As the amount of large trees and foundation landscaping decreased in the scene, so did the ratings. Narrower streets or those heavily lined with street trees were rated very positive.

Commercial buildings that were smaller in scale, having traditional architectural features and windows (such as panes, shutters, dormers, and columns) and peaked roofs were rated positive. Doors and windows on these buildings emulate traditional and historic buildings. Buildings typically found in a pre-1950 style downtown were rated positively. These were flat-topped, two story buildings with commercial space below and residential above. Flat-topped buildings were rated positive only in a traditional downtown setting.

Positive rated buildings were constructed of brick, or with wood or wood-like siding. Positive images also included on-street parking, landscaped or screened parking lots, and lots that were not visible. Small, wooden signs were also rated positively. Although Central Avenue does have some examples of this type of commercial development, especially that in converted residential structures, most of the commercial development in the Village does not have similar characteristics to that found in positively rated slides.

Single-family residential subdivisions typical of that found in the Village were rated positively. There did not appear to be much discrimination among participants of different characteristics of a subdivision: all the images representing small to mid-size lot subdivisions were visually acceptable regardless of other features such as density, setbacks, and amount of trees and landscaping. Positive residential images depicted, for the most part, single family dwellings.

Negative Rated Slides - Summary

The majority of negatively rated slides were commercial structures. Of these slides, disorderly strip mall developments along commercial corridors received the lowest ratings. Additionally, negative slides included the larger urban centers with continuous and substantially sized brick structures, tall stand-alone apartment complexes, industrial sites, highways, and slides without attractive landscaping.

The commercial and strip mall slides shown in the presentation were similar to those found on Central Avenue, the main thoroughfare through the Village. These slides presented ordinary structures typical of chain store development that do not represent the local architectural vernacular. They had oversized parking lots in the front of the site, broken and insufficient (or non-existent) sidewalks and walkways, limited or no vegetation or tree cover, large signs, overhead utility wires, and seem to be somewhat unkempt.

The lowest rated residential slides were the stand-alone apartment complexes. These slides showed structures that were tall and/or massive. Further, they were large, poorly landscaped, and surrounded by generous asphalt parking. A strong bias was shown against those sites without vegetation, green lawns or ample tree cover.

Apartment Comparison: While the participants negatively rated stand alone, bulky apartment complexes, there were several apartment structures that received positive or neutral ratings. These structures have no more than two stories, have pitched roofs, and look similar to townhomes. The following slides show how respondents rated different styles of apartment complexes. The density of the first three images is not a detractor or significant issue because the structures are well maintained, well landscaped and are built at a neighborhood scale.



Slide 1, Average Score: 1.12



Slide 2, Average Score: 1.10



Slide 3, Average Score: 0.20



Slide 4, Average Score: -0.18



Slide 5, Average Score: -1.61



Slide 6, Average Score: -2.06

Slides with no Consensus

There were some slides where no consensus emerged. These are slides whose ratings hover around zero. Out of the 119 slides, 21 fall in this category. Lack of consensus can mean that participants had mixed reactions (scores varied greatly between -5 and +5) or that they had no strong opinions on them (with most participants ranking the slide close to zero). A closer look at the statistics for each slide shows that most of the slides receiving average or median ranks close to zero actually represent a "mixed reaction". In other

words, there were many participants who felt positive about the image at the same time that others felt negative. Thus, these slides represent images with wide opinions. Many of the neutral slides have similar features to others rated slightly higher or lower, such as similar architectural styles. However, the defining difference was that they lacked the green vegetation and brightness found in the more positively rated images.

Community Image Written Survey

The Community Image Survey included several written questions designed to explore how participants describe the existing visual character of the Village of Colonie, where the most aesthetically pleasing locations are, and where the most negative or visually displeasing locations are found.

The existing overall aesthetic or visual character of the Village of Colonie received an average score of 1.38 (scale of -5 to +5) with two respondents rating the area a +5. There were no -5 or -4 responses. The following table breaks down the average score for this response from each age group. Since only one respondent was categorized in the youngest bracket (19 to 35), the high average score of 3 for that group should be disregarded. Otherwise, while there is not significant difference between the other age brackets, each older group gave the visual character of the village a higher score than the last.

Table: Age breakdown of response to question 10 (Rate the existing overall visual character of the Village from -5 to +5).

Age Group	Average Score
19 to 35 (one respondent)	3.00
36 to 55	1.17
56 to 65	1.30
65+	1.66

The most positive, or most visually pleasing, locations in the Village were identified as Bauer Park and Cook Park. They were both noted as well landscaped, clean, safe and enjoyable places to be. Cook Park was singled out for having ample open space and a wide range of activities for all ages. Bauer Park was found to be a pleasant natural area while the nearby neighborhoods also received high praise for being orderly, clean, and well landscaped.

The most negative, or most visually unpleasing, locations in the Village were identified as Central Avenue throughout the Village boundaries and the old row houses along Broderick Street and Vics Court. Some individual structures and sites along Central Avenue were selected as sited as specific examples of unpleasing locations including the intersection of Central Avenue and Vly Road. However, many respondents felt the entire roadway was visually unpleasing, disorderly, and dirty.

Age Breakdown Comparisons

For the most part, slides were rated consistently and there were not major deviations among the age brackets. However, some interesting divergences can be seen in the responses to the industrial and Main Street slides.

Industrial Slides: The oldest age bracket (65+), while still rating the industrial uses negatively, gave those slides substantially higher scores than the scores given by the younger age groups.

Table: Comparison of scores for industrial sites by age brackets

Age Category	Average Score: Slide 1	Average Score: Slide 2
36-55	-3.22	-3.87
56-65	-3.10	-3.10
65 +	-0.93	-1.73



Slide 1



Slide 2

Main Street: The younger age bracket (36-55) consistently gave the main street slides higher positive ratings than the other age groups. It seems that this group did not find the urban-style density of these slides to be a significant detraction.

Age Bracket	Average Score: Slide 1	Average Score: Slide 2	Average Score: Slide 3	Average Score: Slide 4
35-55	1.17	1.83	1.30	1.39
56-55	0.20	0.30	0.30	0.50
65 +	-0.07	-0.33	0.27	0.27



Slide 1



Slide 2



Slide 3



Slide 4

Analysis of Slides

Images Rated Positively

Tier 1: Most Positive Slides (Averages from 3.2 to 2.0)

The most positive slides all had very large mature shade trees in the image with a lot of green grass. Some of the scenes have sidewalks. Building colors were brick or light gray and windows were traditional with panes or grills. All the buildings in this tier have peaked roofs. Doors and entrances on commercial buildings were traditional with small porches and columns. One slide has a well-buffered parking lot. The last slide in this tier shows a four-lane boulevard that has a vegetated island. The general theme of this tier is green space and large shade trees.

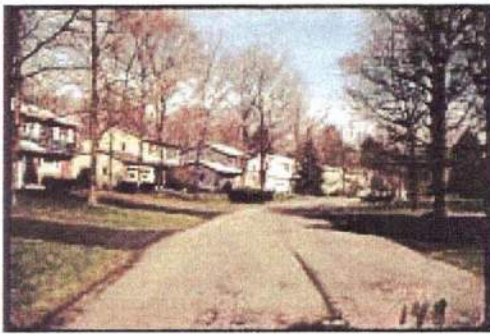




Tier 2 (Averages 1.8 to 1.6)

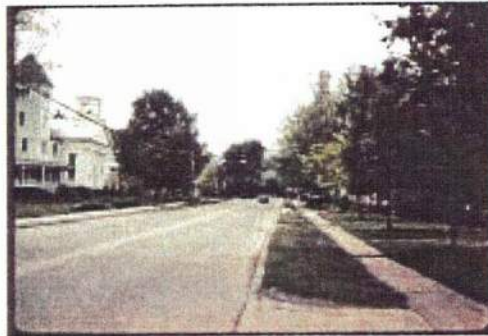
This tier shows more variety in the desired images. Some of the characteristics of these slides include commercial buildings that are in a traditional downtown setting or with narrower setbacks than conventional development provides. The streets often have additional streetscape elements including very visible pedestrian crossings, sidewalks, benches, and wall mounted or ground mounted signs. Windows are also traditional with multiple panes and doors of commercial buildings are in scale with the windows. Building styles are all red brick or wood (or wood-like) façade treatments. The landscaping in these images show grass, tree-lined streets, and well-landscaped intersection corners. Some decorative elements here include dormers. Except for one scene from a traditional style downtown, all the buildings have peaked roofs, including new commercial buildings.





Tier 3 (Averages 1.5 to 1.4)

This tier shows similar images that were rated positively. Commercial buildings have peaked roofs, wood or wood-like facades, and landscaped foundations. Signs are wooden building or ground-mounted styles.



Tier 4 (Average 1.3 to 1.2)

Participants rated many of the “house-like” commercial buildings similarly. The setbacks depicted in these images are very shallow. Buildings have wood or wood-like facades and are light colors. All have peaked roofs. Some decorative elements include cupolas and shutters. The landscaping in these images tend to focus on foundation plantings, rather than large shade trees. Signs, as in the above tier, are building or ground mounted, made of wood, and are not illuminated. Some of the parking is on-street, but there are no visible parking lots.





Tier 5 (Average 1.1 to 1.0)

Many of the positively rated images in these scenes represent higher density housing via apartments or townhouses, along with single-family housing. The one commercial building in this tier has similar characteristics of other positively rated slides: peaked roof, a columned entranceway, and traditional window styles with shutters. The residential streets are shady with large trees. Other buildings have landscaping concentrating on foundation plantings and small trees. The conventional subdivision style without sidewalks is positively rated.





Tier 6 (Average .97 to .81)

This tier includes two traditional downtown scenes. All but one show red brick buildings. Three of the four have decorative light fixtures. Sidewalks and pedestrian crossings are predominant.



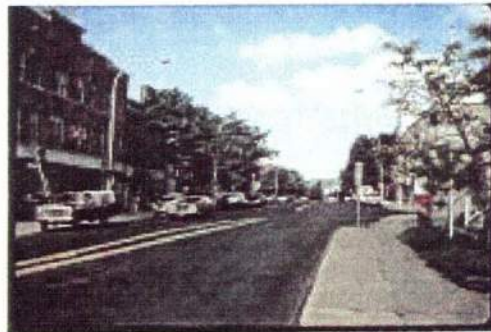
Tier 7 (Average .79 to .61)

Again, a higher density subdivision similar to that found in the Village of Colonie was rated positively. Commercial buildings have peaked roofs, and have decorative elements such as dormers. Except for the image of the Dunkin Donut shop, the other commercial buildings have traditional paned-windows. Many images show on-street parking. There are some street trees visible, but the major landscaping element is sparse foundation plantings.



Tier 8 (Averages .60 to .35)

Five out of the eight scenes in this tier illustrate traditional downtown settings. Buildings have narrow setbacks, brick or wood facades, and decorative elements such as dormers, awnings, columns, and peaked entranceways. Shade trees are not prevalent, and foundation plantings constitute most of the landscaping. The mall located in the Village of Colonie received a positive average ranking, and shows some of the elements of other desired commercial buildings: red brick, dormers, and other interesting decorative elements on the roofline.



Tier 9 (Neutral to slightly positive with averages < .34)

These images were on average, rated positive, but actually had a wide dispersal of scores ranging the entire scale from -5 to +5. A review of these images does not reveal any features or visual components that are common to all of them. Thus, these slides represent images that evoked very mixed reactions, and no consensus on their preference can be reached.

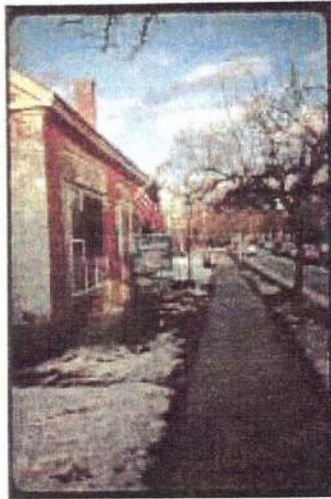




Images Rated Negatively

Tier 10 (neutral to slightly negative with averages 0.0 to - 0.3)

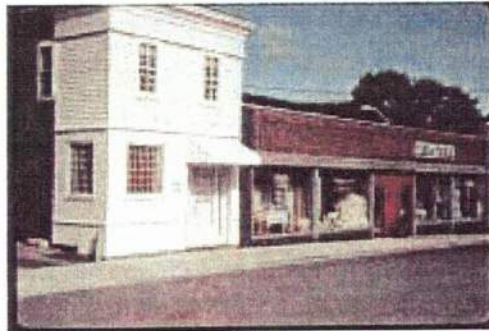
These images were on average, rated negative, but actually had a wide dispersal of scores. These slides, like those that are slightly positive represent images that evoked very mixed reactions, and no consensus on their preference can be reached. Within this category are several of the urban or downtown slides that show higher density than is typically seen in Colonie. Importantly, most of the pictures in this category were taken during winter months and the slides have very limited amounts of vegetation.





Tier 11 (Averages -0.31 to -0.55)

Four out of the six slides in this tier show strip development typical to Central Avenue or other urban corridors. The commercial structures have flat roofs, a limited number of trees and/or vegetation for shade and inadequate pedestrian amenities. The final slide in this group shows a village downtown scene where the structures do not complement one another, the sidewalk is too small, there is no vegetation, tree cover or plantings, and no uniformity in color, size, or style.



Tier 12 (Averages from -0.6 to -1.0)

Four of the six slides in this tier show commercial scenes. One of the slides shows a crowded road that, while there is ample tree cover for shade, there are no crosswalks and the street may be too busy for pedestrians. The two residential slides in this group show older homes and neighborhood scenes where the sidewalks are in slight disrepair and lawns are somewhat cluttered or unkempt. The commercial slides (three on the left) show sites with some vegetation and landscaping. However, overhead utility wires clutter the site of the first two, while the final slide has a dry lawn and insufficient green plant growth.



Tier 13 (Averages from -1.1 to -1.9) The slides in this tier can be categorized by large expanses of asphalt for parking and/or roads. The slides show parking lots for strip malls, apartments and offices, wide roads with no pedestrian amenities, as well as a gas station with no landscaping. One of the slides is a residential block with homes that seem to be in slight disrepair, no sidewalks, overhead utility wires, and poor or disorderly landscaping. Two of the larger apartment complexes that appear in this tier are stand-alone, bulky and tall structures that would not fit into neighborhood scale development typical of the Village.





Tier 14 (Averages between -2.0 to -2.3) The images in this tier, for the most part, are strip malls and scattered urban development similar to commercial entities found along Central Avenue within Colonie's boundaries. One of the images shows an apartment complex with no landscaping or pedestrian features. The commercial entities have flat roofs, insufficient sidewalks, giant curb cuts, oversized parking lots, and overhead utility wires.



Tier 15 (Averages from -2.4 to -3.36)

The images in this tier are those that were rated the most negatively. They included industrial uses, large parking lots without landscaping, and sites with large, out of place signage. These sites made no recognition of pedestrian activities and were designed solely for the automobile. There are no crosswalks or pathways for walking, and the lots themselves are old and disorderly.



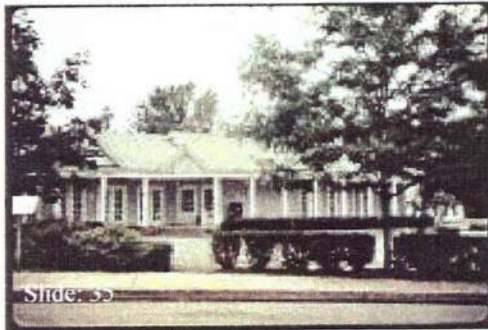
Comparison of Positive and Negative Rated Slides

The following images show a side-by-side comparison of positively rated images to negatively rated images. They are presented from most positive or negative to least positive or negative. In this manner, differences in signs, setbacks, streetscape elements, colors, windows, roof pitches, doors and entrances, building style, decorative elements, landscaping, and parking can be illustrated. Refer to Appendix A for ranks and scores associated with each slide.

Commercial Buildings

Positive

Negative





Slide: 69



Slide: 104



Slide: 52



Slide: 30



Slide: 60



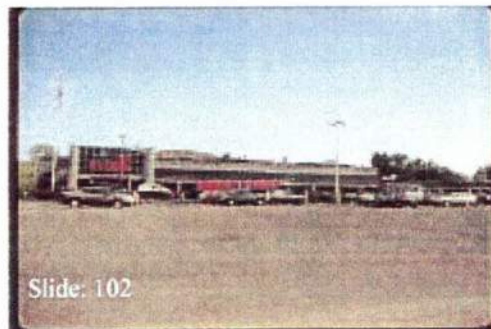
Slide: 107



Slide: 56



Slide: 88





Slide: 98



Slide: 22



Slide: 94



Slide: 96



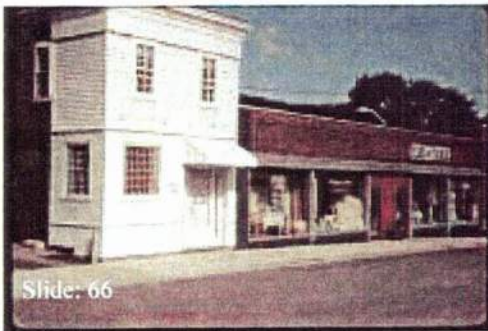
Slide: 103



Slide: 57



Slide: 75



Slide: 66





Slide: 79



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Slide: 20



Slide: 97

Street Scenes

Positive

Negative



Slide: 68



Slide: 12



Slide: 54



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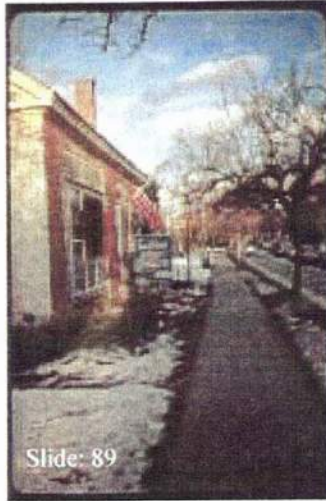
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Residential Streets and Scenes
Positive

Negative







Slide: 6



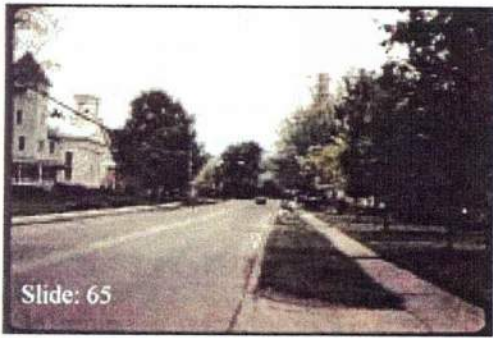
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MASTER PLAN GOALS SURVEY

VILLAGE OF COLONIE

ALBANY COUNTY NEW YORK

VILLAGE HALL
2 THUNDER ROAD
COLONIE, NY 12205
(518) 869-7562
FAX (518) 464-0389

KATHLEEN A. HAAS
CLERK/TREASURER

FRANK A. LEAK
MAYOR

THOMAS J. TOBIN
DEPUTY MAYOR

MICHAEL J. AIDALA
TRUSTEE

BETTY FILM
TRUSTEE

JACK MURPHY
TRUSTEE

January 30, 2003

Re: **Final Draft Master Plan Goals Survey**
Village of Colonie, New York

Dear Village Resident:

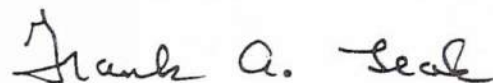
As you are aware, over the past eighteen months, the *Village of Colonie Master Plan Advisory Committee* has been working to prepare the update to the Village's 1958 Master Plan. At this point in time, the Committee has completed the final draft of the Village of Colonie Master Plan, and has recommended that the Village Board formally adopt the Plan.

As a resident of the Village, your opinion is valued, and your input into this planning process is important. As such the Village Board would like to present to you the draft Issues and Goals. The issue statements detail a variety of needs identified from data collected by the *Master Plan Advisory Committee*, and input received from residents and business owners. Each issue statement has one or more goals that the Master Plan will address.

Prior to the adoption, we would appreciate if you could take a few moments to review the enclosed material, complete the quick survey, and return it by February 10, 2003. **Please note that your answers are confidential, as you are not required to sign or reveal your name anywhere on the form.**

Again, thank you for your valued input in this process.

Sincerely,



Frank A. Leak, Mayor

Enc.

Draft Master Plan Issues and Goals

Land Use

Throughout the planning process, Committee members and residents alike continually focused on the high quality of life in the Village. This can be attributed to the close-knit community character, low crime rates, and availability of services. According to the Residential Survey, 66% of the respondents



believed there should be architectural review and design standards for new development in the Village. Residents want to

maintain the current land use patterns, preserve the architectural diversity of the housing, create a stronger sense of place in the commercial district, and continue to promote the separate, but solid balance between the residential and commercial areas.

Goal 1:

Encourage future development that is of quality design, will enhance the existing character of Village, and meet the necessary long-term needs of the community.

Goal 2:

Create Planned Unit Developments (PUD) in order to transform under-utilized or inactive commercial areas into active mixed-use (housing, recreational/open space, and commercial space) areas that are pedestrian friendly.

Goal 3:

Protect and enhance the visual character and design quality of the Village along transportation corridors, Village municipal boundaries, and gateways to the community.



Goal 4:

Explore, identify, and conserve existing vacant land and buildings for adaptive re-use for recreation, senior housing, and other needed

public services in order to meet the necessary long-term needs of the community.

Goal 5:

Encourage development that minimizes negative impacts on natural resources, infrastructure, and neighboring uses in order to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of the community.

Transportation

Traffic through the Village has increased over the years, and as such, people perceive more problems relating to traffic volume and speed. The Village of Colonie Residential Survey illustrated that 49% of the respondents believe speeding is a minor problem, and 34% believe it is a major problem. The survey also showed that 45% of the respondents believe that traffic volume is a serious problem and 38% believe it is a minor problem. A vast majority of the residents also stated that traffic and speeding vehicles are the least positive aspects of living in the Village.

Central Avenue (NY Route 5) has the highest traffic levels and the greatest number of public transit riders in



the Village. It is apparent that steps should be taken to improve public transportation options, and traffic circulation for through traffic, and local traffic to shopping areas and jobs. Improved access management to existing businesses will decrease traffic delays and accidents.

The Village of Colonie has been diligently working to solve the traffic problems throughout the Village and on Route 5. The Village Board passed a Resolution to endorse the NY5 Land Use and Transportation *vision* articulated by the Capital District Transportation Committee. The *vision* for the corridor includes economic revitalization, transit

Draft Master Plan Issues and Goals

system improvement, bicycle, and pedestrian travel accommodations, travel safety enhancement, streetscape and landscaping amenities and technology-based traffic flow management for Route 5.

Goal 1:

Provide safe and efficient circulation of pedestrian, bus, and automotive traffic, to minimize the impact of traffic on the Village's quality of life.

Goal 2:

Maintain and enhance the aesthetics of the Route 5 corridor.

Goal 3:

Continue to improve traffic safety for pedestrians in residential and commercial areas through the use of various traffic calming devices.

Housing

The response from the Village of Colonie Residential Survey indicated that the majority of residents wanted the Village to stay just the way it is, however, 70% of the respondents felt that if growth occurred on available land in the Village, it should be residential in nature. The results of the Community Image Survey showed that all styles of single-family housing are acceptable to Village residents; however, buildings with brick or wood-like siding are preferred. Box-shaped buildings with flat rooftops are disliked. New housing in or near existing residential neighborhoods should blend with the existing neighborhood.



Sixty-five percent (65%) of survey respondents also believed that the Village should develop and adopt architectural review and design guidelines that would be applied to future development within the Village.

In addition, 75% of the respondents to the Village of Colonie Residential Survey said they would favor the development of senior housing. This is an important point because the 2000 United States Census illustrated that 17% of the total population in the Village are ages 65 or older.

Goal 1:

Preserve and enhance the existing residential neighborhoods in the Village.

Goal 2:

Provide a balanced blend of quality housing opportunities including a desirable range of housing types and price ranges, which are affordable and accessible for all residents.

Goal 3:

Provide a range of housing choices for Senior Citizens.

Economic Development

Commercial businesses are very important to the well being of the Village, not only to satisfy the needs of the community and to provide economic opportunities, but also to help define the character of the Village. Most residents are satisfied with the level of commercial activity within the Village and believe that future commercial activity should be contained within the existing commercial districts. Occupancy of existing vacant commercial buildings is also desirable. The existing businesses should be nurtured and the Village should encourage small service oriented businesses to locate where appropriate.

The general goal of encouraging economic development has numerous objectives including expanding the Village's tax base, increasing the vitality of the area, providing residents with a wide range of business, employment and career opportunities, as well as providing a diversity of goods and services for residents. The following Goals and Recommendations support these objectives.

Draft Master Plan Issues and Goals

Goal 1:

Develop a business friendly environment to retain and expand the Village's tax base and provide existing and future residents with a wide range of business, employment and career opportunities.

Goal 2:

Develop a Marketing Plan for the Village.

Goal 3:

Improve and enhance the business environment to offer amenities to residents and visitors.

Community and Recreational Facilities

Community and recreational facilities are very important to the Village, to satisfy the needs of the community and to help define the character of the Village. According to the results of the Residential Survey, when asked if they are satisfied with the recreational facilities and programs offered by the Village, 60% of those surveyed said yes.



Most residents would however, like to see the remaining open space in the Village preserved. In addition, many residents would like the Village to offer more park space in general; recreation and community facilities should be family oriented and include trails, an ice skating rink, a swimming pool, and more programs. The following Goals and Recommendations support these concepts.

Goal 1:

Maintain and enhance Village buildings and properties to adequately serve their function for all residents.

Goal 2:

Promote existing Village programs and activities, and continue to cooperate with the

Town for the provision of needed services to the citizens of the Village.

Goal 3:

Continue to provide the desired recreational and community services to Village residents.



Natural Resources

The response to the Village of Colonie Residential Survey illustrated an interest in preserving the remaining open spaces and natural resources in the Village. Forty-six percent (46%) of the respondents said it was very important to preserve the remaining open spaces and natural resources within the Village and 58% said they would like more public trails and greenways in the Village. In order to maintain the Village's quality of life, it is important to identify the remaining sensitive natural areas and open spaces, and preserve and enhance these areas for aesthetics, recreation, and the good of the local economy.

Goal 1:

Protect and enhance environmentally significant and or sensitive land areas in order to minimize adverse impacts due to man-made development.

Goal 2:

Preserve and protect areas of open space that are important to the Village for use as public recreational or leisure purposes.

Goal 3:

Preserve and enhance the scenic tree-lined streets within the Village.

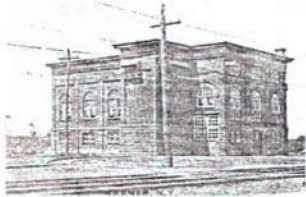


Draft Master Plan Issues and Goals

sense of community identity and pride and reconnect residents and visitors to the community's roots.

Historical and Cultural Resources

Preservation and promotion of history and culture can help to reinforce a strong sense of pride and identity within the community.



The response to the Village of Colonie Residential Survey illustrated a high

commitment to preserving the history of the Village of Colonie, with over 78% of the respondents noting the importance of safeguarding the historic nature of the community. It is apparent that steps should be made to recognize the past and maintain the unique qualities of the Village for its future.

Major historical events have shaped the development of the Village of Colonie. Although a majority of the historic structures in the Village have been destroyed, a stronger Village identity can be built through the recognition of important historical events that have shaped the

development of the area. The strongest historical theme within the Village is centered around Route 5 and the



Village as the *commercial hub* between Schenectady and Albany. The history of differing modes of transportation should be celebrated and recognized, for it is the main reason why the Village of Colonie has prospered in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

Goal 1:

Develop a more identifiable and unique Village historical/cultural theme in order to reinforce a

Administrative Actions

Goal 1:

Ensure that the community efforts in crafting the Village of Colonie Master Plan for the future of the Village of Colonie will result in actions to achieve the goals.

Goal 2:

Promote and encourage inter and intra-municipal cooperation and communication with other local, state, and regional agencies when making land use decisions.

MASTER PLAN GOALS SURVEY RESULTS

Instructions

Please carefully read over the attached Issues and Goals and indicate if you agree with these statements or not. Feel free to write down any specific comments, suggestions or recommendations on what you feel could be done to enhance, change, or implement these goals.

Do You Agree With the Goal Statements? (Please check only one box)

Land Use

- Goal 1 Yes No Not Sure
Goal 2 Yes No Not Sure
Goal 3 Yes No Not Sure
Goal 4 Yes No Not Sure
Goal 5 Yes No Not Sure

Comments or Suggestions

Yes (77.8%) - No (6.2%) - Not Sure (6.2%) - No Response (9.8%)
Yes (68.5%) - No (10.6%) - Not Sure (8.6%) - No Response (12.3%)
Yes (80.2%) - No (2.8%) - Not Sure (5.6%) - No Response (11.4%)
Yes (80.64%) - No (4.3%) - Not Sure (4.3%) - No Response (10.9%)
Yes (80.6%) - No (3.8%) - Not Sure (4.7%) - No Response (10.8%)

Transportation

- Goal 1 Yes No Not Sure
Goal 2 Yes No Not Sure
Goal 3 Yes No Not Sure

Comments or Suggestions

Yes (90.3%) - No (1.5%) - Not Sure (1.7%) - No Response (6.5%)
Yes (78.1%) - No (3.4%) - Not Sure (5.6%) - No Response (12.9%)
Yes (79.1%) - No (3.9%) - Not Sure (5.8%) - No Response (11.2%)

Housing

- Goal 1 Yes No Not Sure
Goal 2 Yes No Not Sure
Goal 3 Yes No Not Sure

Comments or Suggestions

Yes (87.9%) - No (1.9%) - Not Sure (1.7%) - No Response (8.5%)
Yes (76.5%) - No (6.0%) - Not Sure (6.9%) - No Response (10.6%)
Yes (81.9%) - No (3.2%) - Not Sure (5.0%) - No Response (9.9%)

Economic Development

- Goal 1 Yes No Not Sure
Goal 2 Yes No Not Sure
Goal 3 Yes No Not Sure

Comments or Suggestions

Yes (82.3%) - No (4.1%) - Not Sure (8.2%) - No Response (5.4%)
Yes (68.1%) - No (6.1%) - Not Sure (14.4%) - No Response (11.4%)
Yes (75.0%) - No (5.0%) - Not Sure (8.4%) - No Response (11.6%)

Community and Recreational Facilities

- Goal 1 Yes No Not Sure
Goal 2 Yes No Not Sure
Goal 3 Yes No Not Sure

Comments or Suggestions

Yes (87.6%) - No (1.9%) - Not Sure (1.9%) - No Response (8.6%)
Yes (84.3%) - No (2.4%) - Not Sure (3.2%) - No Response (10.1%)
Yes (83.1%) - No (3.4%) - Not Sure (2.1%) - No Response (11.4%)

Natural Resources

- Goal 1 Yes No Not Sure
Goal 2 Yes No Not Sure
Goal 3 Yes No Not Sure

Comments or Suggestions

Yes (91.9%) - No (0.8%) - Not Sure (2.6%) - No Response (5.6%)
Yes (86.4%) - No (0.4%) - Not Sure (2.6%) - No Response (10.6%)
Yes (83.3%) - No (0.6%) - Not Sure (3.0%) - No Response (13.1%)

Historical and Cultural Resources

- Goal 1 Yes No Not Sure

Comments or Suggestions

Yes (75.2%) - No (6.5%) - Not Sure (13.6%) - No Response (4.7%)

Administrative Actions

- Goal 1 Yes No Not Sure
Goal 2 Yes No Not Sure

Comments or Suggestions

Yes (85.4%) - No (0.4%) - Not Sure (7.3%) - No Response (6.9%)
Yes (72.8%) - No (6.2%) - Not Sure (10.5%) - No Response (10.5%)

COMMENTS

LAND USE:

- 11 Try to fill or get rid of the many vacant commercial buildings
- 10 Keep some land for back-up & forever wild
- 7 Over developed
- 5 Use vacant land for Colonie Park
- 5 No more commercial neon signs & no more car dealers
- 4 Central Avenue is an eye sore
- 2 Sand Creek Road @ Watervliet Shaker – no more construction
- 2 Leave vacant lands vacant
- Turn vacant buildings into apartments for elderly & single parents
- It is very difficult to know when you enter or leave village on Rte 5
- No more shopping centers
- Do not change zoning
- Plenty of commercial space
- Clean up Redwood Bowling and in front of Builders Square
- Commercial development is good for our tax base
- Lots too small on Jo-Ann Court for new duplexes
- Need more environmentally friendly development
- Albany Ladder Problems

TRANSPORTATION:

- 30 Traffic problem all through Village
- 29 Delafield Drive is a major concern, speed humps are useless & ugly, too many speeders
- 17 More speed limit signs on Lincoln Avenue & reduce speed limit to help with traffic speeding, also should dead end as soon as possible.
- 11 Too much truck traffic at 5pm, need a cop part-time during those hours
- 10 More sidewalks & maintenance
- 7 Pedestrian lanes at traffic lights
- 4 No parking on village streets & on one-way streets during winter
- 3 More overall speed humps
- 2 Better senior services
- 2 Noise levels of car radios & homeowner stereos
- 2 Traffic light in front of Firehouse, the new light at Redwood Bowling Alley has added to traffic delays, and abolish right on red on Central Avenue
- 2 Widen streets that lead to Central Avenue
- 2 Make it look like Saratoga, re-pave Central Avenue

-
-
- 2 Traffic light at Sand Creek & Sunset
 - 2 Need more Traffic lights
 - 2 Get rid of ugly power line poles and make all utilities underground
 - There are enough buildings on Central Avenue
 - Traffic problem in front of Smokey Bones at intersection of Lincoln & Central
 - Stewart's parking lot corner of Lanci La & Central Ave has many problems
 - No more new traffic lights
 - Increased Traffic on Peter Drive a problem
 - Ban left turns on Central Avenue
 - CDTA shuttle is needed on Sand Creek Road, Village side
 - Enforce the No Left Turn from Old Karner Rd to Central Avenue
 - Fix streetlights that go out
 - CDTA buses are not dependable & would like park & ride with ½ off prices for village residents
 - Minimize blind spots for cars turning into traffic
 - Bike lanes on Central Avenue
 - Route new traffic patterns away from Sand Creek Road

HOUSING:

- 21 Need more senior housing, affordable senior housing, and housing for handicapped or disabled in a community complex
- 8 No more developments in the village
- 5 No low income housing or trailers
- 4 Encourage higher end housing
- 3 Totally in favor of affordable housing for seniors
- 2 More code enforcements
- 2 No high-rise buildings
- Removal of older unlicensed vehicles on properties
- Restrict dog barking
- Keep kids off the streets
- Have enough senior housing
- Add one more apartment complex with strict guidelines
- Townhouses & Condo's are needed
- No businesses run out of private homes
- Limit the number of pets and vehicles per household

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

- 10 Have new business take over unoccupied commercial properties
- 6 No more commercial buildings throughout the village
- No more porn clubs

-
-
- Would not like business development to be the key to the future of village
 - Do not change zoning
 - Village should be community not business area
 - Buffers at least 150 feet between existing residences and commercial property

COMMUNITY & RECREATIONAL FACILITIES:

- 14 Plans for swimming pool
- 5 More family & children's programs
- 5 More biking trails, tennis & and parks
- 3 Need youth center
- 3 Need dog park
- 3 Ice skating
- 3 Cooks Park looks great
- 2 Safe biking to Cook Park and throughout the village
- 2 Non-residents should pay a fee to use village facilities
- 2 No football or basketball in the streets
- 2 More open space
- Stop spending so much money on Cook Park
- No pool
- Need winter activities
- Make trails for ATV's & snowmobiles .
- Holiday activities are a waste of taxpayer monies
- Clean up the corner of Central Avenue & Lapham Drive
- Clean up gateway to Pine Bush

NATURAL RESOURCES:

- 18 Niagara Mohawk ruins our trees & flowers
- 5 Offer help for house that are not kept up
- 2 Need full-time forester to take care of trimming over grown trees
- 2 Clean up garbage village wide
- Nothing other than Cook Park
- Insure water on natural lands is kept clean of debris
- Village map should be available to all residents and visitors showing local attractions, dining, shopping, etc.
- Drain land between Parkwood & Hialeah to get rid of mosquitoes

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL RESOURCES:

- 4 Restore and make use of vacant historical buildings
- Trolley type vehicle to transport people around village

Stop destruction of historical places

Bring some history back

Collect old pictures for display

ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS:

4 Keep up the good work

2 Create a village web site

Do not believe you are doing a good job, could be better

Do not disband the traffic committee

Have commercial involvement in planning

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