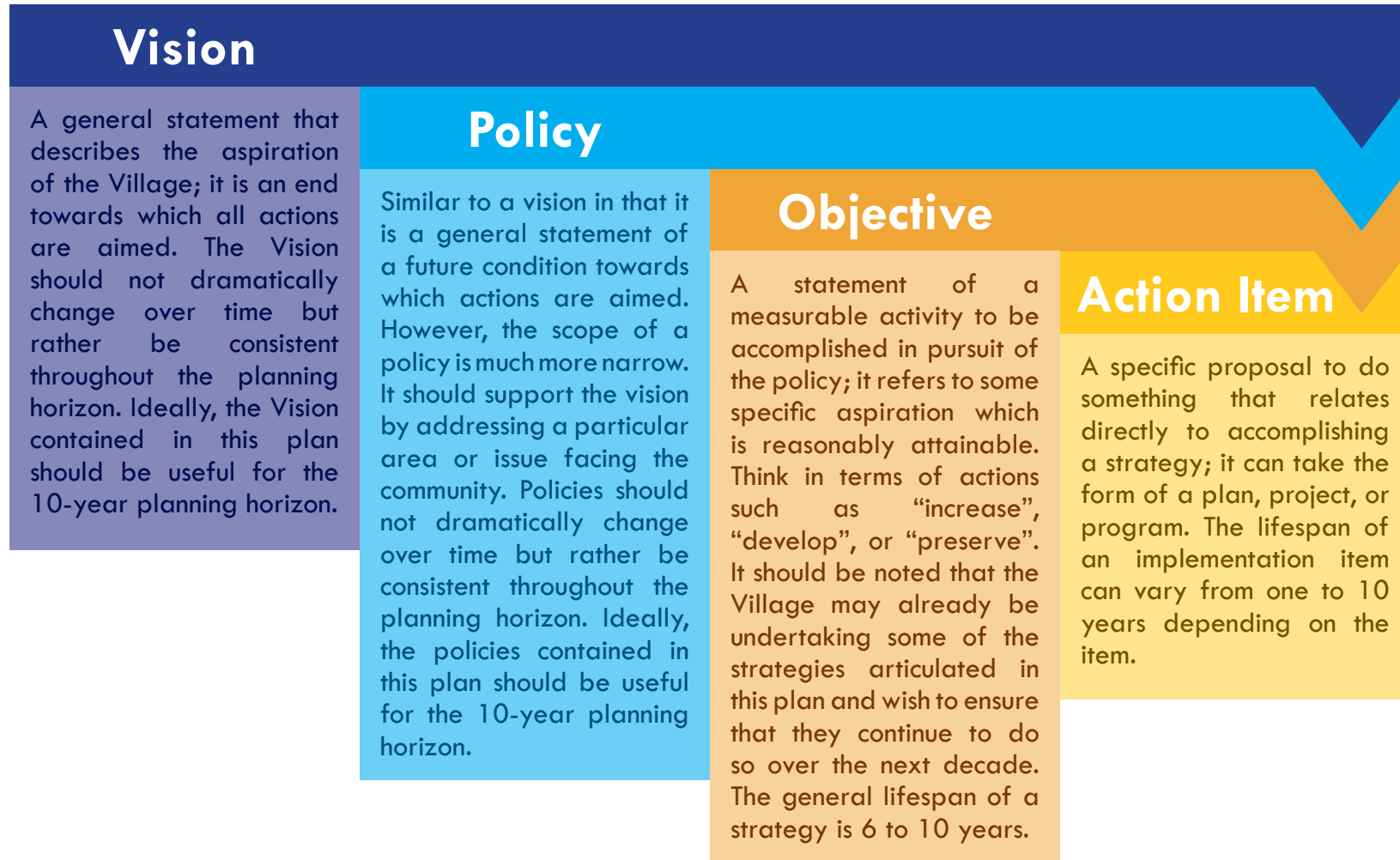


# VILLAGE OF SHERMAN POLICY WORKBOOK

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE | 2020**

# SHERMAN'S POLICY FRAMEWORK

In order to be successful, a Comprehensive Plan must be developed and implemented on multiple levels. It must address the short and long term needs of a community as well as provide varying levels of detail. In an effort to accomplish this, this plan has four key elements:



# OUR VISION:

The Village of Sherman has transformed from its historic roots as a sawmill and dairy farming community to become a Village which cultivates economic, educational, and recreational opportunities for families and residents of all ages. We value our historic character and take pride in our heritage as a hardworking, self-sufficient community. The presence of the Sherman Central School District campus, our traditional Main Street, and the Village's convenient proximity to I-86 has served as the catalyst for our economic growth and prosperity. Sherman's small-scale and tight-knit settlement pattern is complemented by its natural resources, such as French Creek, which provide environmental, recreational, and aesthetic benefits. We value our relationship with the local Amish community, Town of Sherman, and Chautauqua County. The Village and its partners will continue to work with all residents to preserve our assets, keep true to our heritage, and provide a high quality of life for current and future generations.

## To achieve this vision, the Village of Sherman will:

- ◇ **Cultivate local economic development opportunities;**
- ◇ **Provide diverse residential living options and preserve existing property values;**
- ◇ **Protect natural resources and open spaces;**
- ◇ **Showcase the Village's spirit through culture, recreation, and community design; and**
- ◇ **Maintain quality community services to better serve businesses and residents.**

# **POLICY 1: Cultivate Local Economic Development Opportunities**

It is the policy of the Village of Sherman to be a community which cultivates economic development opportunities that foster local employment while providing goods and services that meet the needs of our residents and visitors. We will be strategic in our pursuit of public and private investment to maintain and enhance the unique character of our two commercial activity centers; Main Street and the I-86 Interchange. We will seek to preserve the smaller scaled, mixed-use activity on Main Street, while capitalizing on our location along the I-86 Interchange to provide convenient access to both local and regional markets. We will accomplish this by supporting local businesses and recruiting new commercial and industrial operations.

## **Objective A: Attract businesses that fit into the community's fabric**

### **Potential Action Items:**

- Capitalize on the Village's proximity to I-86 through marketing and business recruitment efforts
- Facilitate opportunities that attract I-86 users to the Village such as better signage of Village amenities, retail, and auto-service stations
- Consider hiring an economic development specialist to assist in the attraction and retention of local businesses (The Village could share this person's services with the Town/County)

## **Objective B: Diversify Main Street businesses with more goods and services**

### **Potential Action Items:**

- Work with local business groups to promote existing businesses and solicit new businesses that are consistent with community objectives
- Identify grant opportunities for business and property owners to make improvements to their buildings and equipment
- Re-establish a grocery store
- Establish a small business loan fund ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000 that is exclusively for Sherman businesses would be a good way to help existing businesses
- Host training sessions for business owners and operators on a variety of business-related topics

## Objective C: Facilitate strategies that encourage community activity and engagement

### Potential Action Items:

- Establish a Welcome Center
- Install community and service signs off of I-86
- Start a 1st Friday Farmer's Market
- Organize events that celebrate and include the Amish community and their products
- Provide a list of Amish businesses in the area
- Create a community web page that highlights local businesses and attractions
- Market the Village to snowmobilers
- Establish a town trail that connects Sherman and Clymer to hundreds of miles of trails

# Your thoughts?

**Please add any additional objectives or action items below:**

### Objectives:

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### Action Items:

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## **POLICY 2:** Provide Diverse Residential Living Options & Preserve Existing Property Values

It is the policy of the Village to foster neighborhoods and residential living opportunities that serve residents of all life stages and are a source of community pride. Ensuring proper maintenance and preserving the architectural integrity of existing residences will continue to be a priority of the community. We will locate future residential development in a manner that efficiently uses available infrastructure capacity, while mitigating potential negative impacts to sensitive environmental and agricultural resources. New development and redevelopment opportunities supported by the Village will be built in a manner that reflects the existing scale and architectural style of our neighborhoods, while accommodating the needs of current and future residents.

### **Objective A: Increase the variety of housing options**

#### **Potential Action Items:**

- Evaluate existing and emerging land use techniques and investigate alternative housing types to address local needs and preferences
- Consider zoning code revisions to permit a broader range of housing types and densities

### **Objective B: Preserve existing residential property values and address any lack of property maintenance and upkeep**

#### **Potential Action Items:**

- Identify incentives for residential property owners to invest in and improve their homes
- Increase building code enforcement efforts for residential properties to reduce/remediate derelict properties
- Educate residents on property tax assessment and values (as it relates to property maintenance)
- Re-evaluate the existing property tax system and how it affects property management and development
- New multi-family housing projects should be sensitive to and encourage compatibility with the developed densities and character of surrounding areas
- Maintain the Village's extensive sidewalk network

# Your thoughts?

**Please add any additional objectives or action items below:**

**Objectives:**

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**Action Items:**

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# **POLICY 3: Protect Natural Resources & Open Spaces**

It is the policy of the Village to preserve and sustain our natural resources and open spaces. These include areas such as the wetlands and floodplains along French Creek, the school's recreational fields, and local farmlands. Our land-based decisions will seek to maximize the environmental, aesthetic, and recreational value of these resources for the health and enjoyment of future generations. Development practices such as proper zoning guidelines, green initiatives, and community stewardship will be exercised to reduce or ultimately eliminate any potential degradation of Sherman's natural resources. Special attention will continue to be given to the protection of environmentally sensitive areas such as wetlands, floodplains, the Village's tree canopy, and watercourses.

## **Objective A: Protect natural resources such as stream corridors, floodplains, and wetlands along French Creek**

### **Potential Action Items:**

- Create public greenspaces which connect the community to its natural environment
- Adopt a wetland/floodplain conservation district as part of a future zoning code update
- Join the Tree City USA program managed by the Arbor Day Foundation
- Provide annual training opportunities on the SEQR process for Planning Board Members
- Install projects to naturally treat stormwater run-off (bioswales, etc)

## **Objective B: Reduce energy use, natural resource consumption, and greenhouse gas emissions throughout the Village**

### **Potential Action Items:**

- Apply for energy efficient and renewable energy grants for solar or LED street lights and solar panels to power public property
- Consider using electric or natural gas powered vehicles

## **Objective C: Encourage the use of cheaper, renewable, and alternative energy sources for public and private property**

### **Potential Action Items:**

- Support use of alternative and solar energy systems in residential and commercial structures. (For example, rooftop solar panels on residences)
- Consider creating renewable energy and "green" incentive programs for residential and commercial properties, such as deferred property tax assessments on green energy improvements
- Expand municipal practices that promote "going green" such as the use of green products and materials and the inclusion of recycling cans in public places
- Place an electric vehicle charging station within the Village



# Your thoughts?

**Please add any additional objectives or action items below:**

**Objectives:**

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**Action Items:**

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# **POLICY 4:** Showcase the Village's spirit through culture, recreation, & community design

It is the policy of the Village to showcase Sherman's spirit through our history, culture, recreation activities, and the design of our community. We celebrate our history and culture through exhibits at the Yorker Museum, school district curriculums, and community events. Our recreation programs and facilities not only create opportunities for physical activity, but also help to keep our residents connected and engaged. We enjoy the friendly and close-knit atmosphere that these community and school related activities have fostered from generation to generation. We also recognize that the physical character and design of our community further defines the identity of Sherman and fosters local pride and a strong sense of place.

## **Objective A: Increase awareness and appreciation of the Village's historical assets**

### **Potential Action Items:**

- Invest in historical signage
- Support initiatives of the Yorker Museum through non-financial and financial means
- Educate the community on the benefits of State and National Historic Registration and promote use of tax credits for historic building rehabilitation and reuse
- Pursue listing the Main Street business district and significant historic Village properties on the State and National Registers of Historic Places
- Expand municipal practices that encourage walking or biking to Village destinations

## **Objective B: Provide activities and programs to meet the recreational needs of all age groups**

### **Potential Action Items:**

- Monitor and address the recreational needs of the community as they evolve
- Provide information on recreational opportunities including park and trail maps, program schedules, and community amenities on the Village website
- Explore opportunities for intergenerational activities such as the shared use of community facilities
- Increase activities available to the community's youth outside of school hours
- Establish a community development/service center
- Pursue trail improvements
- Encourage walking and biking to Village destinations as a lifestyle component and as means of practicing health and fitness

**Objective C: Invest in streetscape amenities including façade improvements, street-lighting, street trees, and well-maintained sidewalks to improve neighborhood safety and attractiveness**

**Potential Action Items:**

- Pursue funding for storefront façade improvements through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program or a NY Main Street Grant
- Complete the streetscape improvements shown in the concept diagrams on page X
- Invest in opportunities to expand the Village’s tree canopy on public and private lands
- Develop design guidelines or renderings of potential façade improvements to preserve Main Street
- Build more spaces for the Amish to park their horses and buggies

## Your thoughts?

**Please add any additional objectives or action items below:**

**Objectives:**

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**Action Items:**

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# **POLICY 5: Maintain quality community services to better serve businesses & residents**

It is the policy of the Village to have community resources that meet the needs of residents and support local businesses at a reasonable cost. The quality of life within Sherman is positively impacted by the health and safety benefits provided by State and County law enforcement, the Stanley Hose Company, and our public water and sewer service. The community's well-being is enhanced by the day to day operations of our school system, public library, Yorker Museum, and faith community. The collective efforts of our volunteers and paid staff are an invaluable asset to the community and it is imperative current levels of service be maintained to meet the changing needs of Village residents.

## **Objective A: Maintain and enhance the Village's aging water, sewer, and local roadway infrastructure in a fiscally-responsible manner**

### **Potential Action Items:**

- Monitor system capacity and identify areas where capacity may be a concern
- Upgrade wastewater treatment plant to address age related deficiencies
- Continue to identify and repair sources of inflow and infiltration of stormwater into the sewer system
- Replace remaining sections of antiquated water main
- Upgrade well-site treatment infrastructure

## **Objective B: Consider adopting strategies to ensure the resiliency of the Village's infrastructure in response to a changing climate**

### **Potential Action Items:**

- Identify areas where there are stormwater issues and alleviate those issues with stream clear-outs and upstream flow attenuation opportunities
- Ensure drainage facilities are safe, attractive, and functional
- Ensure adequate stormwater management and drainage control measures are included in all development and redevelopment proposals. Require the provision of creative stormwater management techniques that are integrated into site design
- Continue compliance with all Federal, State, and Local drainage regulations and updates

**Objective C: Provide quality services necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of residents.**

**Potential Action Items:**

- Continue to work with emergency service providers to ensure efficient operations to remove barriers that delay response times
- Increase handicap accessibility throughout the community
- Invite liaisons from the school district to sit on applicable civic committees and boards
- Continue to foster a symbiotic relationship between the Village and school district
- Establish a community service/development corporation

# Your thoughts?

**Please add any additional objectives or action items below:**

**Objectives:**

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**Action Items:**

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