

2/17/20 Public Speaker Meeting with the Rail Trail Taskforce

Planning Board members Alice and John gave a ppt presentation on the Update to the Dryden Comprehensive Plan. Then we asked Taskforce Members to respond to the following questions by writing their thoughts on post it notes and sticking them on the wall next to the respective question. Then we had a brief discussion on each topic.

Following is a Truth/Trends/Unique Ideas analysis of the responses. The raw data from the post it notes is also attached

What makes Dryden a good place to live/do business?

Truths: Beautiful natural areas, rural character

Trends: Sense of community, access to higher education and shopping

Unique Ideas: Town is responsive to residents and generally takes time to hear/consider viewpoints.

What are the biggest threats facing Dryden in the coming years?

Truths: Climate change, uncontrolled development/traffic

Trends: Tax burden and over regulation block growth

Unique Ideas: Deteriorating condition of housing

What projects should the Town undertake or promote?

Truths:

Trends: Rt 13 bypass, lower barriers/cost of construction especially diverse housing choices, climate adaptation and sustainable energy, expand tourism, more trails, nodal development

Unique Ideas:

"Preserve the Rural Character of Dryden" was the main goal for land use planning in the 2005 Dryden Comprehensive Plan. Is that still the main goal? If not, what is?

Truths: Rural character is still very important

Trends: Preserve rural character through smart growth, nodal development

Unique Ideas: Community across all villages, rural and less rural residents, across all that divides us. Dryden is multifaceted. Having a central theme is counter to a complete plan. Suggest you get away from a central theme entirely.

Transcribed from Post It Notes

What makes Dryden a good place to live/do business?

- Proximity to markets: Clarks, Agway
- State Forests
- Beautiful scenery
- Lots of chances for community involvement
- Country. Farming.
- Rail trail!
- Dryden Village is on the cusp of growth and now had a good mix of agriculture, educational facilities, affordable housing, goods and services
- Conservation considerations
- Calm, quiet, neighborly, open spaces, green spaces, wildlife: These are characteristics that make Dryden a nice place to return home to.
- Access to natural spaces, good views, vistas
- Great community with small businesses, local sources of needed goods, produce
- Close to larger communities (Ithaca, Syracuse) but less populated and rural
- Benefits of higher educational resources
- Amazing natural resources and public lands and trails.
- Diversity of land uses.
- Town is responsive to residents and generally takes time to hear/consider viewpoints.
- Scenic beauty, vibrant commercial areas, excellent municipal services.
- TCAT. Good public transport
- High interest in community efforts
- Proximity to higher ed: TC3 Cornell, SUNY Cortland
- Sense of community
- Rural, natural environment, parks, preserves, trails
- Sense of community
- Simplicity of life
- Clean water and Fall Creek
- Rail trail
- Great neighbors

What are the biggest threats facing Dryden in the coming years?

- Perceived differences of opinion. Not enough knowledge and understanding.
- Invasive Species: Damage to forests and agriculture
- Infrastructure built for a different climate, particularly storm water and transportation
- Pressure from DOT to change character of infrastructure in inappropriate ways.

- Climate Change
- Conflict between the need to build the tax base thru growth and the resulting effect on the character of the town.
- Climate change weather patterns: floods, ice storms, drought, fires
- Tax burden drives people away
- Proliferation of businesses that are not locally based
- Loss of large woodlots to provide wildlife corridors
- Poor flood management
- Loss of grassland and open spaces
- Over regulation driving up costs
- Lack of senior housing
- Growth in traffic and resulting safety and quality of life issues
- Development sprawl, fragmentation of habitat
- Deteriorating condition of housing
- The way school tax is administered
- Loss of freedom
- Large scale development and resulting loss of open space
- Lack of alternatives for fossil fuel
- Lack of preparation for climate change
- Loss of population, people moving south
- Declining enrolment at TC3
- Loss of local businesses
- Overdevelopment along Rt13

What projects should the Town undertake or promote?

- Municipal consolidation, affordable housing, conservation of natural resources and open spaces
- Roadway widening and clearing road edges
- Rt 13 bypass
- Require developers to include wildlife conservation areas
- Develop climate adaptation plan for critical services
- More trails
- Encourage local businesses and Airbnbs
- Encourage energy conservation project for residents
- More trails, access to public lands
- Expand recreational and tourism opportunities
- Balance economic development between east and west parts of the town
- Rt 13 bypass around Dryden Village
- Promote expanded offering of goods and services, expand learning opportunities at TC3, BOCES. Add health and wellness facility
- Plan for nodal development in core economic/residential areas

- Town wide internet
- Develop strategies for conversion of energy use from fossil fuel to electricity
- Increase sustainable transportation
- Solar energy farms, affordable housing, more parks and trails
- Promote Dryden as a destination
- Promote a robust community by making things simple and easy
- Assist homeowners by making things simple and easy
- Change process for raising tax money to support local schools
- Improve creek and flood management
- Create areas in the town for maximum flexibility to build
- Lower cost of building by making approvals easy and quick
- Encourage nodal development. Make walking and mass transit workable.
- Improve stormwater infrastructure
- Building more choices of housing
- Extend rail trail to Groton, McLean, Cortland, Harford
- Build trail connections between local communities
- Encourage tourism and other outdoor activities. We have amazing green spaces and wildlife
- Expand public water and sewer
- Encourage businesses run by locals
- More electric vehicle charging stations
- Require lead free ammunition and lures for hunting and fishing
- Greatly reduce and simplify regulatory environment
- Rt 13 bypass
- Expand rail trail
- Expand affordable housing. Refurbish existing housing stock.
- Support local businesses: eat local, dress local, home goods local, local recreations.
- Age in place services for elderly
- Appreciation of and support for wildlife and wild space
- Rt 13 bypass around Village of Dryden
- Rt 13 bypass around Dryden Village
- Focus on economic growth and housing in existing nodes
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"Preserve the Rural Character of Dryden" was main goal for land use planning in the 2005 Dryden Comprehensive Plan? Is that still the main goal? If not, what is?

- Smart growth, civic pride, senior housing, walkable parks for all parts of the town
- Preserve open space, capitalize on this!, tourism, wildlife, hiking, winter sports, biking
- Dryden: a place where your kids want to live
- Dryden is multifaceted. Having a central theme is counter to a complete plan. Suggest you get away from a central theme entirely.

- Promote nodal development to preserve rural character
- Theme: develop strategies to increase/support sustainable resources.
- Maintain rural character
- Rural character is still important but development of urban without destroying rural character is also important.
- Strive for highly rated schools.
- Preserve the rural character of Dryden with nodal development and small hamlets.
- Community across all villages, rural and less rural residents, across all that divides us.
- Dryden as a destination - for its nature, landscaping and communities.
- Focus on rural/natural. Focus on sense of community and connection.
- Create Dryden as a dynamic place to live, work and play
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