

3/4/20 Public Speaker Meeting with the Dryden Town Historical Society Trustees

Planning Board member John gave a ppt presentation on the Update to the Dryden Comprehensive Plan. Then we asked Trustees to respond to the following questions in writing. 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 written responses is also attached

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

Truths: The people, strong sense of community

Trends: Diverse population, proximity to Ithaca and Cortland/Colleges

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

Truths: Traffic, Loss of business/tax base

Trends: Housing cost

Unique Ideas: Loss of volunteer fire and ambulance

What projects should the Town undertake or promote?

Trends: Business development, climate resiliency, internet, improve transportation

"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 important but is not in great jeopardy compared to other issues such as loss of business, housing cost, deteriorating buildings and infrastructure.

Transcribed from Written Comments

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

- Small community in rural setting.
- Various seasonal activities.
- People from diverse cultures.
- Good public services
- Beautiful countryside
- Dairy Day
- Tight sense of community
- The people
- Small community, sense of belonging
- Cultural diversity
- Proximity to other communities
- Community, we all stick together
- Strong community: community kitchen, library, churches, lots of activities.
- Rural nature of small town
- Diversity of people
- Well educated people
- Proximity to Ithaca and Cortland
- Bus lines and rail trail

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

- Conflicting priorities
- Environmental threats
- Cultural differences
- Area development
- Traffic, trucks
- Loss of volunteer fire and ambulance
- Loss of small business
- High taxes
- Traffic
- Not enough housing
- No businesses
- No businesses
- Climate change: flooding
- Traffic
- High housing cost
- lack of internet

- No businesses, jobs
- High taxes: people getting priced out of area
- Farms getting developed: loss of rural character

What projects should the Town undertake or promote?

- Watershed climate resiliency
- Better public transportation
- Fix roads and bridges
- Encourage business development
- Community center
- Improve downtown Dryden Village
- Transportation
- Water Shed Issues
- Traffic between Cortland and Ithaca
- Internet for all
- Maintain roads, esp in winter
- Internet for all
- Affordable housing
- Work with Tompkins County
- Curb spending
- Promote small business, something besides dollar stores and storage
- Find a use for vacant buildings

"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?

- 2005 Theme is still correct
- Need Dryden to be clean, safe, pollution free
- A viable rural community is work preserving
- The 2005 theme is outdated. "Downtown" areas need attention
- The 2005 theme is ok but it conflicts with the number of people moving to the country and also ignores what is happening on "main street"
- It is important but we also need change/progress
- Outdated: Dryden needs to be a mix of rural and more suburban areas. Both need attention
- Outdated: we need housing for all, rural character is not in jeopardy as long as we stay on top of things like fracking, pollution/spills, logging
- It is still correct. We need to direct development and renewable energy away from agricultural soils.