Town of Springfield

Comprehensive Plan

September 2009

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*Maps and some other information included in this Inventory and Profile have been excerpted from the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Capacities of the Cooperstown Region (December 2002). (Copies of full text of GEIS and large scale maps are available at Town Clerk.)

Acknowledgements

Town Board Members

Thomas Armstrong, Supervisor
William Elsey
R. Rick Morris
Richard Rathbun
Daniel Rosen

Comprehensive Plan Committee
Thomas A. Armstrong, Supervisor
Thomas Clarke
Mark Crisman
Betty Fassett
Clyde Goodrich
Ken Ostrander
David Staley, Co-chair
Robert Weaver, Co-chair
Rhonda Sanders, Secretary

Consultant

Community Planning & Environmental Associates, Berne, NY
Nan C. Stolzenburg, AICP
Don Meltz

Chapter 1: Introduction and the Planning Process

A comprehensive plan is a written document that identifies the goals, principles, policies, and strategies for the growth and development of the community. It is not a law in itself, but state statutes require that all land use laws in a municipality be consistent with a comprehensive plan. The town is authorized to develop and adopt a comprehensive plan by New York State Town Law Section 272-a. Since decisions and actions affecting the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth and development are made by local governments, New York State considers adoption of a comprehensive plan to be a critical means to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of the town and to give consideration to the needs of the people. It is the policy foundation upon which communities are built.

Once a comprehensive plan is adopted, there are several implications:

1) All government agencies involved in planning capital projects in Springfield must first consider this plan. That means the town now has a much larger stake in what other governmental agencies want to do when they are proposing a project in town.
2) In New York State, all land use regulations must be in accordance with a comprehensive plan (Section 272-a). The plan provides the basis for regulatory programs. All land use laws should be reviewed, and updated where necessary to be in accordance with this plan.
3) Programs and regulations may be adopted to implement the plan to protect the town's resources and encourage desired development and growth.
4) Comprehensive plans can be important documents to help the town be successful in finding grant monies.
5) Development of the community inventory, shared vision, goals, and strategies can build consensus and support.

This Comprehensive Plan attempts to answer three questions for Springfield:

1) What are the current conditions in the Town now?
2) What do we want for the future of our Town?
3) How can we get to that future?

Chapter 6 (profile and inventory) along with Appendix 2 (public input) of this plan answer the "what are current conditions?" and "what do we want the future to be?" questions. They describe current conditions, demographics, physical and cultural features, and information from the residents. The Vision for Springfield, articulated below, sets the tone and overall direction the Town should take in the future. It was developed directly from the surveys, planning workshop, and public comments received. The vision statement depicts in words and images what the community is striving to become. For each issue identified, one or more goals have been established in this plan and are broad statements that reflect "ideal" future conditions desired by the Town. The goals offer more specific direction and are consistent with the stated vision of the Town of Springfield. The implementation strategies are a series of recommended steps that the

Town can take to accomplish each goal contained in this plan. When put into action, these strategies will help Springfield attain its vision.

The Town Board assigned the task of developing a comprehensive plan to the Town of Springfield Comprehensive Plan Committee. This committee met monthly between October 2006 and December 2008 and organized a planning process that included the following steps:

- Developing and implementing a resident survey
- Preparing background studies on current conditions in the town
- Hosting a planning and visioning workshop for the community
- Outlining issues to be addressed by the plan
- Defining a long-term vision for Springfield and a set of goals to attain
- Drafting recommended strategies to help the town reach those goals
- Presenting the plan to the public for comments

The issues, goals and recommended strategies detailed in this plan are based upon studies of information and data gathered about the Town of Springfield, as well as input from Town residents. Specific sources of information used to prepare this plan included:

- Springfield Resident Survey
- Planning and Visioning Workshop
- Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Capacities of the Cooperstown Region (December 2002)
- Background studies of land use, population, housing, community facilities, transportation, recreation, public services, and environmental conditions of the Town
- Information and perspective from the Comprehensive Plan Committee
- Information from a planning consultant
- Information on subdivision activity from the Otsego County Planning Department
- Public attendance at hearings

Implementing the Plan

This plan offers the town options and guidelines that can chart Springfield's future. However, this comprehensive plan is not a local law. It will be implemented however, through local laws and programs. Each time a local law is amended or developed, public hearing(s), review by the county planning board, and an environmental review will be necessary. It is recommended that the Town Board appoint a committee to translate the options and guidelines presented in the plan into specific language needed for local laws. The Town Board should work on a yearly basis to prioritize the strategies so that they can direct implementation efforts and review progress on an annual basis.

As per NY Town Law 272-a, the whole plan should be reviewed and updated by the Town Board, the Planning Board or a special "Ad-Hoc" committee every five years. The update process should include public input to reassess the vision and goals, a review and update on what progress has been made in implementing the various recommendations, and changes made to keep the plan relevant to conditions in Springfield at the time. The process for updating the plan is the same as adopting the original plan and would include public hearings, county review, SEQRA review, and adoption by resolution.

Background on Springfield's History

Native Americans used the hills and valleys around Springfield for thousands of years. A 4000-year old seasonal encampment is located on the shores of Otsego Lake. Chipped stone projectile points and tools found around the lakeshore and elsewhere suggest Archaic, Woodland, as well as historic Iroquois and Algonquin peoples used the region. Encampments, chert quarries and workshops have been found around marshes and lakes and on prominent hilltops. Summit Lake is positioned at the divide between the Mohawk and Susquehanna River systems. The divide was a likely important travel route for prehistoric people.

European traders likely traversed this region around 1615. The first officially documented visit was by the Surveyor-General Cadwallader Colden in 1737 who was followed by the missionary Gideon Hawley 16 years later. Springfield was mostly within the Waggoner or Groesbeck Patent, a 17,200 acre land grant dated to 1741. The remainder of the town was within the Croghan and Stewart Patents. During the 1760's, Nicholas Lowe and Captain Augustine Prevost settled at the head of Otsego Lake. The families of Gustavus Klumph, Jacob Tygert, George Myers, James Young, William Stancil, Adolph Walrath and others settled in a location just north of East Springfield. Most of these earliest settlers were considered Mohawk Dutch or Scotch-Irish. Indians and Tories led by Joseph Brant destroyed these early settlements in 1778 during the Revolution. After three years, some of these families returned or were joined by a new wave of settlers from New England.

The political history begins during the 1700s, when this area was considered part of Albany County and then part of the Third District of Tryon County. Tryon was divided and this area renamed Montgomery County with Otsego County splitting off in 1791. Springfield was originally part of Canajoharie then Cherry Valley and was incorporated as the Town of Springfield on April 4, 1797.

The earliest industries included the typical sawmills, gristmills, fulling mills, clover mills, blacksmiths and tanneries. Later, Shipman's Spring and Axel Works were located in Springfield Center. However, in general, agriculture and tourism have historically been the predominant industry and commerce in Springfield. The frontier agriculture of ashes (potash) and wheat evolved into orchards, a cheese industry in the early 19th century, sheep and wool during the mid to late 19th century, and hops through the century with its peak in the 1890's. Springfield's agricultural history mimics that of the rest of New York State with the rise of dairying as the successful adaptation during the 20th century.

Otsego Lake has been a tourist destination since the 1870's featuring hotels, inns, lodges, camps, and steamboat travel.

The histories of all regions are integrally linked to its transportation infrastructure. The Third Great Western Turnpike (Cherry Valley Turnpike or today's Route 20) was chartered in 1803 and built through Springfield in 1808. Businesses and residences were located along this important route to the American West. Settlers passed west and droves of animals and produce being transported easterly to the coastal population centers. East Springfield grew up around the crossroad of the 1825 route to Canajoharie and the Otsego Lake Turnpike along the east side of the lake toward Cooperstown and points south. By 1846 a plank road (Route 80) had been built from Springfield Center to Van Hornesville, Starkville and Fort Plain. The development of the Erie Canal, and the canal system in general, removed a considerable amount of freight business from the Great Western Turnpike. Later, during the 20th century, the development of the NYS Thruway drew away much of the automobile traffic.

There are numerous historically and architecturally significant buildings and homes throughout Springfield. The region around Otsego Lake has been designated as a National Historic Register District. Hyde Hall is a National Register site which has been identified as "the most formal architectural achievement" in the county. The Otsego Golf Course is claimed to be one of the oldest in this country and one of the houses in Springfield Center is identified as "one of the earliest buildings in the county". Numerous other homes in the area represent the various periods and styles of architecture from New England saltbox houses to the larger Federal, Greek revival, Gothic Revival houses of the middle 19th century and the Victorian Queen Anne style homes of the later part of that century.

There are several sources of historical information for the Town of Springfield. There are parts of the Otsego County histories and gazetteers (Child 1872, Hurd 1878, Bacon 1902), Kate M. Gray's *History of Springfield* (1935), and a two volume report, *Springfield: the Story of Our Past*, compiled by a local school teacher and her elementary students (Green n.d.). Other publications with information regarding Springfield include *Back Thru Time in Springfield Center* by Mary Maine (n.d.) and *A Region of Romance, Otsego Lake, NY* (Ravage, 1997). Historic architecture is the focus of Schulls (1980) Landmarks of Otsego County.

Chapter 2: Vision for Springfield

A vision statement is a written expression of what the citizens of Springfield want the town to be like in the future and communicates what the Town's long term potential should be. This statement was developed from information received from the public during the planning process. A vision statement can help the Town of Springfield look beyond immediate constraints toward the ideal end state defined below.

"Springfield's quality of life is defined by our small town and rural character. This character is largely shaped by our many open spaces, vibrant farms, woodlands, scenic views, rolling hills, low-density of houses, traditional hamlets, and of course, Otsego Lake. Our community is also enriched by a local economy oriented to small businesses that provide local jobs consistent with our long term goal of keep Springfield rural and with a healthy environment. Our many year round activities provide recreational opportunities for local residents and tourists, and are based upon, but do not detract from our character, environment, and way of life. Springfield promotes quality education for all our citizens. A variety of housing and employment opportunities allow young and old alike to call Springfield home. Our local government provides quality services that meet the needs of our residents and promotes citizen participation. The Springfield community has dedicated itself to balance and plan for our growth, infrastructure needs and economic prosperity in a way that does not compromise those very values and features that make Springfield special - our "ruralness", clean environment, and sense of place."

Chapter 3: Goals for the Future

The following goals build on the vision statement and express more specific desired long term outcomes desired by the Town of Springfield.

1. Maintain the rural, small town and scenic character of Springfield as it grows.

2. Protect environmental resources including drinking water, watersheds, Otsego Lake, streams and wetlands.

3. Foster a sense of pride and place in our community.

4. Provide quality and up-to-date infrastructure including roads, emergency services, and tele-communications. Ensure that all new infrastructure is rural in scale.

5. Enhance recreational opportunities for all ages and capitalize on Otsego Lake.

6. Promote and protect our historic structures and landscapes.

7. Promote agricultural businesses and local farm products, and protect farmlands.

8. Enhance Springfield as a business-friendly community. Promote small businesses that provide local jobs, contribute to the tax base, and that do not detract from our rural and small town character.

9. Maintain and promote use of the Springfield Community Center building.

Chapter 4: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats, and Issues to be addressed in Plan

Based on public input received through the survey, workshop, and meetings, the following list of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and potential issues have been identified. Strengths are characteristics that the public feels are positive features of Springfield and that they desire to remain positive. Weaknesses are negative features that the public feels should be improved. Opportunities are programs or activities that the public feels could be implemented to help improve the quality of life in Springfield. The final column in the table below identifies issues expressed by the public that should and could be addressed in this comprehensive plan. Other issues were identified through examination of the physical features of Springfield such as slopes, soils, groundwater, etc.

Table 1: Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Issues as Identified by the Public in Springfield

Strengths

- Rural Character
- Small Town Feel
- Scenic, picturesque, and natural beauty
- Clean environment
- People in the community
- Sense of Community. Friendly
- Quality emergency services
- Highway maintenance
- Otsego Lake/Lake oriented recreation
- Historic buildings, landscapes, culture
- Opera
- Parks and other recreation
- Amish community
- Farmland/Farms
- Open Space
- Quiet
- Quaint

Weaknesses

- Lack of vision
- Lack of consensus and community divisiveness on land use
- Dissatisfaction with some aspects of Town Government
- taxes
- Town not business friendly

- Lack of centrally located town center
- Limited high speed internet
- Lack job and recreation opportunities for youth
- Lack of enforcement
- Issues related to public landing
- Lack of convenient stores
- Decrease in agriculture
- Few job opportunities
- Community Center not adequate
- Lack of plans for future

Opportunities

- Plan/Negotiate For more high speed internet and tele-communications
- Promote small home based businesses
- Enhance existing or implement new land regulations to accomplish town goals, especially related to residential developments
- Use innovative sewage systems where needed in hamlets
- Take advantage of grants and other funding opportunities to accomplish programs
- Provide tax incentives to support small business development and agriculture
- Enhance lake access for public
- Offer incentives to maintain rural nature
- Protect farms and promote local produce
- Protect rural character of town
- Maintain quality environment in town
- Develop small businesses
- Upgrade community center
- Capitalize better on the Glimmerglass Opera for tax base and economic development

Possible Issues for Plan to Address

- Lack of employment opportunities
- Economic development (location and kind of businesses)
- Affordable housing
- Long term maintenance of roads
- Protecting water quality (drinking water, watersheds, Otsego Lake, streams and wetlands)
- Farmland, open space, and rural preservation
- Control of development (density of development, site design and layout, zoning)
- Protection of historic buildings and sites
- Protection of scenic views
- Emergency services
- Finding funding for programs and needs

- Natural gas development
- Wind energy development
- Improving tele-communications
- Historic Resources (inventory, record and preserve)
- Upgrade community center
- Town government services (improve services from adequate to excellent)

Issues Identified by Analysis of Physical Environmental Features

As a result of the mapping and analysis of the many physical environmental features in the Town of Springfield, the following issues have been identified. These issues have all been raised in the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Capacities of the Cooperstown Region (December 2002) as being important.

Surface water bodies, especially the lake, play many critical ecological and cultural roles including providing drinking water, wildlife and plant habitats, and recreational uses. Future development must take each of these roles into consideration during planning stages. Negative impacts on surface water come from increased turbidity (sedimentation), discharges from parking lots, infiltration of waste and nutrients from septic systems, and other point and non-point discharges.

Development has the potential to adversely affect wetlands by altering surface water and ground water flow patterns, introducing pollutants, and filling wetland areas resulting in destruction of the wetland habitat. Alteration of ground water or surface water flow can also result in an increase or decrease in the volume of water in a wetland area, thereby impacting the aquatic biota and fauna. Pollutants from point and non-point discharges associated with development also have the potential to impact the aquatic fauna and biota. Additionally, certain contaminants tend to absorb to organics, which are typically found in high concentrations in wetland areas. Placement of manmade fill in wetlands destroys the wetland habitat and may alter surface and ground water flow patterns.

Potential adverse impacts from development on flood plains would result from projects that restrict or reduce the capacity of the flood plain and floodway to conduct floodwaters. The placement of fill or structures within the flood plain alters the flow hydraulics during flooding and results in impacts such as increasing flow velocities of floodwaters, increasing erosion, and increasing the level of the flood stage.

Potential impacts on the area's bedrock include contamination from chemicals or petroleum products, physical limitations, or political restrictions (ex. zoning laws), or pollution of aquifers located in bedrock. The type and location of bedrock can also limit development potential of the area. Bedrock is most limiting to development in the Town where it is found at or just below the ground surface. In this situation, shallow soils will likely limit use of septic systems. Shallow bedrock can also limit or hinder installation of sub-grade foundations and buried utilities.

Slopes are important contributors to rural character, scenic views, and wildlife habitat. Vegetated slopes are critical in order to maintain water quality and quantity in streams, rivers, and lakes. Building, road development, inappropriate removal of vegetation and soil are activities that can negatively impact steep slope areas. Development on steep slopes and ridgelines pose problems due to the potential for erosion and sedimentation, alteration of surface water flows and fragmentation of forested habitats for wildlife. Homebuilders often seek to place houses on ridgelines where there is a prominent view. Such development typically makes houses, roads and other changes to the landscape highly visible from the valley or other hills across the valley. Further, ridgeline development can also cause erosion problems, increase sedimentation of streams via surface runoff, present problems for placement of a septic system, and disrupt wildlife travel corridors or critical habitats. The rolling terrain and ridgelines of the study area are prominent features, highly valued as scenic resources and considered by area residents to be prime components of "rural character".

Bedrock aquifers are limited or absent throughout a significant portion of the study area and developments that rely on wells and aquifers in bedrock are likely to be limited by low yield of water. Further, development in areas using wells drilled in bedrock aquifers may result in inadequate water production as well as degradation of water quality. Water quality from limestone wells tends to be poorer than from other bedrock wells. This could be a development limitation in the Town of Springfield due to the presence of large amount of limestone. Water supplies from unconsolidated aquifers are potentially more plentiful in the valley areas of the Town. Here, development is least likely to be restricted by water quantity and water quality issues. Unconsolidated aquifers are particularly susceptible to ground water contamination because of moderate to high permeability of soils and other geologic materials typically located above an unconsolidated aquifer. A variety of point and nonpoint discharges can impact these aquifers including such pollutant sources as septic systems; fertilizer and pesticide application; and storage, handling, transport and use of chemicals and petroleum products.

Chapter 4: Recommended Strategies

The following strategies are specific actions the Town of Springfield can take to implement this plan and meet the long term vision and goals of the community. These strategies are presented by goal with a key set of principles and specific strategies for each. A table is presented in Chapter 5 that outlines priorities and other information to assist the Town Board in implementing this plan over the next few years.

Goal 1. Maintain the rural, small town, and scenic character of Springfield as it grows.

Key Principles

a. Focus development more efficiently in and around traditional centers such as East Springfield and Springfield Center and avoid overdevelopment of the rural lands.
b. Encourage a mix of uses in hamlets.
c. Building form in hamlets should follow traditional lot sizes, setbacks, and other features similar to what exists now. Compatibility with existing buildings can be reached when new building heights, front setbacks, roof shapes, building spacing, scale, and site details complement traditional examples in the hamlet.
d. Building outside of hamlets should be a mix of residences, home based businesses, farming, and farm supportive businesses, and smaller scale businesses that are consistent with the rural character and environment of Springfield. Do not rely exclusively on minimum lot sizes and road frontages to preserve rural character.
e. Maintain the character of rural roads.
f. A Performance based land use law (See Appendix 1) can ensure that rural and scenic character of Springfield is maintained.
g. Strengthen and use site plan review as an important tool to ensure that new development is consistent with maintaining rural character.

Strategies

1) Amend all purpose statements to place more emphasis on protecting and enhancing small town, rural, and scenic character of the town.
2) Amend the existing site plan local law to include enhanced review and specific development standards for features that impact character including lighting, signs, landscaping, parking lots, non-residential building design, etc. The law should give the Planning Board specific development standards that will ensure that new building is consistent with rural character.
3) Amend both subdivision and site plan laws to require a traffic impact study to be included in applications for all projects that will add 100 or more cars per day onto local, county or state roads. Such a study should include overall traffic patterns, volumes, flows, trip generation, design hour volume data, trip distribution, traffic assignment analysis, and existing and projected traffic volume and should evaluate new additions of traffic in this context. The study should answer the question “does

the traffic generated by the proposed development cause a decrease in road service or safety?

4) Regulate development potential by establishing a density that allows for average minimum lot sizes instead of regulating by minimum lot size (see also Appendix 1).
5) Encourage and allow for all forms of senior housing opportunities, especially in the hamlets.
6) Major projects should be carefully evaluated for impacts to rural character. Cumulative and long-term impacts to the town must be effectively evaluated. All project specific environmental impact statements should assess and evaluate impacts to these resources and take into consideration the cumulative impacts of the other proposals. All major projects have the potential to impact rural character and affect the vision and goals established in this plan.
7) Parking lots of new commercial buildings should be located to the side or rear of the structure. Include landscaped islands in large parking lots.
8) When new town roads or potential town roads are created, maintain existing trees and vegetation. Where no trees exist (as in an open field), require planting of new street trees. Projects that propose to change the character of a road by removing road-side trees should be discouraged.
9) Amend sub division law to establish procedures for clustering and conservation subdivisions in Springfield to preserve open space.
10) The Planning Board should ensure that visual resources are inventoried and assessed during project review. Their work should also include determination of significance of those resources and techniques that could be used to mitigate negative impacts.
11) Use deeper front setbacks and more screening as needed to protect both rural and scenic character during site plan review and subdivision.
12) Working in conjunction with the Town and County Highway Departments, develop a philosophy or policy to preserve important roadside features on local roads such as stonewalls and street trees along existing town roads.

Goal 2: Protect environmental resources including drinking water, watersheds, Otsego Lake, streams and wetlands.

Key Principles

a. Use inventories included in this plan and from other sources of important natural, scenic, cultural and recreational features as part of the decision making process.
b. Avoid disturbing steep slopes.
c. Keep buildings in trees and below ridgelines.
d. Protect wetlands and wetland buffers with a goal of no net loss.
e. Identify and maintain scenic roads.
f. Protect aquifers from being polluted.
g. Protect public water supplies.

h. Protect streams and streamside vegetation.
i. A performance based land use law can ensure that the environmental resources of Springfield are protected.

Strategies

1) Concentrate future public infrastructure in hamlet areas. Should the Town of Springfield require public water sources in the future, use the Unconsolidated Aquifer map (in this plan and the Cooperstown Area GEIS) to target areas for future exploration of water sources.
2) The Planning Board, during Site Plan Review and Subdivision Planning, should carefully evaluate all new developments located above unconsolidated aquifers and limestone bedrock to protect ground water resources and soils.
3) Potentially large water users (greater than 1000 gallons per day) should be required to conduct pump tests prior to approval. Incorporate this into subdivision and site plan review requirements. These pump tests should show adequate water quantity and indicate that no impact on surrounding water sources and wells will occur.
4) Recognize the public water system located at Allen Lake and ensure that impacts to that water supply are evaluated during subdivision or site plan review of projects. Notify the Town of Richfield of these reviews.
5) Currently, DEC regulates stream and stream bank disturbances for all streams that are classified as C (t) or higher through state law. They require a minimum area of no disturbance of 50' from the stream bank. Streams with steep slopes (greater than 45 degrees) have additional setbacks. However, a majority of streams in Springfield are not classified as C (t) or higher, and are not regulated by DEC. Consider establishing local regulations to apply the same stream protection standards for all streams in Springfield. (Note that a 50' area along all streams feeding into Otsego Lake is regulated by the Otsego Lake Watershed.)
6) All land use regulations in Springfield should prevent storage of chemicals or petroleum, or placement of critical public infrastructure in floodplains.
7) Provide large scale maps of town resources and establish procedures to ensure that the Planning Board utilizes all data available (such as those included in this plan) during project review. Consider providing a computer for the Planning Board and install the GIS data/maps on it for use by the Planning Board.
8) Consider conducting a limestone bedrock/water quality study to help the town better understand the connections between ground water and surface activities. Should features be found showing connections between ground and surface waters (sink holes, sinking streams, cracked limestone pavements, exposed limestone bedrock, etc.), buffers or setbacks should be required when new development takes place.
9) Amend subdivision law to allow the Planning Board to establish building envelopes within a subdivision specifically to protect environmental resources such as steep slopes (over 20%) and wetlands.
10) Establish low impact erosion and stormwater runoff design requirements in site plan review or any future land use laws.
11) Update all local land use related laws to include proper references to state and federal requirements for erosion and stormwater control.

12) Amend site plan review to establish standards for lighting. All non-residential outdoor lighting should use full cut-off lighting fixtures, lower pole heights (18 to 20' maximum), and have bulb colors and wattages designed to reduce glare and minimize energy use.
13) The Planning Board should notify the Otsego Lake Watershed Committee prior to initiation of projects within the Otsego Lake Watershed.
14) Consult with and implement strategies in the April 1998 Otsego Lake Management Issues: Framework for Watershed Planning.
15) Amend the local subdivision law to strengthen the review of project impacts on wildlife. Prevent forest fragmentation and maintain forested, wet and other natural connections to prevent creating isolated patches of undeveloped land.
16) Avoid negative impacts to the critical habitats in Springfield. New development should consider the following to protect wildlife habitats:
    i. Use native plants when landscaping
    ii. Maintain vegetated buffers along creeks and streams
    iii. Maintain vegetated corridors between habitat types
    iv. Incorporate open space into each project
    v. Avoid placement of structures along migratory paths.
17) Discourage removal of ridge top vegetation as well as all vegetation on steep slopes. Use selective cutting instead to maintain some tree canopy.
18) Consider forming a Conservation Advisory Council to advise the Town on environmental resources, issues, and solutions. Conservation Advisory Councils are authorized under New York State General Municipal Law.
19) Promote green development practices as well as development that use the LEED certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System). LEED encourages and accelerates global adoption of sustainable green building and development practices through the creation and implementation of universally understood and accepted tools and performance criteria.

Goal 3: Foster a sense of pride and place in our community.

Key Principles

a. Foster communication between residents and local officials.
b. Support and promote community activities and events.

Strategies

1) Participate in local and regional partnerships related to cultural, recreational, environmental or other community events.
2) Promote and foster community relations by establishing a community coordinator and/or advisory committee. This person or group could assist in developing a

community pride award program, planning/coordinating/advertising community and youth events like bands, cultural/social events, street/community festivals, lawn sales, speakers, volunteer needs, donations, and other programs to involve government and residents.

3) Establish a community bulletin board in a prominent location to advertise community events and activities. The community coordinator/advisory board would be responsible for the bulletin board.
4) Establish a Town E-Newsletter/Website. Initiate an effort to collect email addresses to create the database for this newsletter. Consider four issues per year at the least. Minutes, documents, application forms, local laws, maps, plans, and other critical information should be on a web site for easy access by local residents.

Goal 4. Provide quality and up-to-date infrastructure including roads, emergency services, and tele-communications. Ensure that all new infrastructure is rural in scale.

Key Principles

a. Enhance options for telecommuting.
b. Reduce traffic impacts.
c. Adequately plan and budget for infrastructure expenditures.
d. Ensure that all roads are maintained as rural roads and that all new roads are built to rural road standards.
e. Evaluate use of rural scaled waste treatment methods for hamlets in Springfield.

Strategies

1) Review and update town road standards, and ensure that they reflect rural road standards. Consider adopting the low volume road classification and maintenance standards advocated by the Local Roads Research and Coordination Council (Manual: Guidelines for Rural and County Roads, December 1992) and the AASHTO Guidelines for Geometric Design of Very Low-Volume Local Roads, 2001.
2) Work with Otsego County to provide an enhanced transportation system with stronger emphasis on walking paths and trails, shared roadways for pedestrians and bikes, and public transportation.
3) Work with DOT to review speed limit sign postings along Route 20 and sight distances.
4) Work with the County Sheriff and NYS Police to enhance speed enforcement along State highways through town.
5) Support land use and site plan decisions that reduce traffic impacts. Decrease the allowable new curb cuts per parcel especially along routes 20 and 80. Because each new curb cut works to slow traffic and create new hazards, work to minimize the

number of curb cuts allowed during project approval. Establish traffic access management standards in all land use related laws. Such standards should include:

i. Limit access drives to one per parcel unless a traffic impact study shows justification for another.
ii. Share access with neighboring parcels whenever possible.
iii. Place entrances at edge of the parcel so driveways or driveway entrances can be shared.
iv. Link adjacent parking lots.
v. Site commercial buildings closer to the road with parking areas in the rear.

6) Establish a policy for how, and under what circumstances the Town will review and accept new roads as official town roads.
7) Establish a Capital Improvement Plan on a rolling 5 year basis to include all capital expenditures such as highway, community center, public access to Otsego Lake, recreation facilities, etc. A Capital Improvement Plan, or CIP, is the tool through which the town can show its plan for capital improvements. It is a document that can show how projects to be built in a particular year relate to those built in other years, shows the relationship among investments in different infrastructure (roads, sewer, water, parks) and relates to the future land use elements of this comprehensive plan. A CIP usually covers 5 years and typically includes details on projects to be built, funding needs and priorities, and equipment and staff needs and priorities. These documents are excellent planning and budgeting tools and are usually "rolling plans" where the plan is updated each year, dropping off the previous year and adding one more year at the end of the cycle.
8) East Springfield and Springfield Center may need public water and/or waste treatment facilities in the future. Should this need arise, consider collective and small community options instead of traditional sewer systems. These include shared septic systems, package plants, and innovative systems such as natural digesters (living technologies) placed in greenhouses and new wetlands.
9) Amend subdivision law to allow and encourage new roads within major subdivisions to use alternative road designs that minimize new curb cuts onto existing roads.
10) The Town should continue to support our local fire and ambulance departments through volunteerism and participation in fund raising activities. Work with volunteer fire and emergency services and continue to look for innovative ways to provide for the recruitment and training of citizens. Offer all available tax incentives to attract new volunteers.
11) Ensure that Town residents are protected with an updated Emergency Preparedness Plan and disseminate the contents of that plan to the community.
12) In order to ensure that emergency service and road safety issues are evaluated and mitigated during project development, create a process to ensure that emergency services and the Town Highway Superintendent are consulted prior to the Planning Board approving a development proposal.
13) Foster improved tele-communications and utility infrastructure, including broadband services, fiber optic, Wi-Fi, DSL, high speed Internet, and/or cable access connections.
14) Establish fees and policies to ensure that new land development pays for its own water, sewer, road, utility, or other site improvements that may be required.

Goal 5. Enhance recreational opportunities for all ages and capitalize on Otsego Lake.

Key Principles

a. Provide facilities and programs that meet the needs of youth, young families, and senior citizens.
b. Involve citizens in planning for recreation needs.
c. Increase public access to Otsego Lake.
d. Promote development of a bike and walking trail system. This should connect important locations and open spaces within the Town.

Strategies

1) Form a Town Recreation Committee to work on open space and recreation implementation activities. Of priority importance, long range recreation plans should consider expanding access to Otsego Lake and area streams.
2) Create a long range strategic plan for the Community Center and other facilities such as walking trails, bike paths and other pathways necessary to meet future recreation needs. Have people from different walks of life come together and work proactively on the recreation plan.
3) Any long range plan should include a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that sets up long range staff, equipment, property, budgetary and other capital needs.
4) Identify funding sources for new recreation facilities or programs.
5) Create an interconnected system of open space corridors to offer recreational opportunities, and protect environmentally sensitive areas. Preserved open spaces should be connected via trails.

Goal 6. Promote and protect our historic structures and landscapes.

Key Principles

a. All historic resources should be mapped. This map should be reviewed during project review.
b. Historic resources play an important cultural role in Springfield. Promote public involvement in the understanding and appreciation of the towns' historic resources.
c. Assess and protect historic resources and landscapes during new project review.

Strategies

1) Support efforts to map all inventoried historic structures, historic landscapes and viewsheds, historical markers, cemeteries, and other historical and cultural sites identified in the town. Consider incorporating this information in the computerized GIS systems for the town. This map could be tied to a database of photographs that show the historic features of the property. Control access to this database to protect sensitive locational information.
2) Support efforts to nominate individual properties and districts to State and National Registers of Historic Places.
3) Support efforts to inventory Springfield's archival resources and to properly preserve and curate those materials. This support may include but is not limited to the support of grant funding to undertake these and other historic preservation projects.
4) Support efforts to exhibit our cultural heritage and educate the public. For example a) Create historic exhibits to educate the public on Springfield's history. b) Record a video history of the town. c) Create a community interpretive guide illustrating the history of the town. d) Expand use of historic markers.
5) Establish local incentives and programs for historic preservation. Seek grants to offer programs, studies, and activities that will serve to protect the Town's historic resources. For example, the Town could apply for money to fund low interest loans to improve building facades of historic structures or offer local tax incentives for preservation and restoration.
6) Consider initiating a historic landowner recognition awards or develop a recognition program for landowners who restore, rehabilitate or otherwise protect a historic resource. Recognize these efforts with a certificate or marker of some kind and publicity.
7) Assure that applicable laws related to historical and archeological resources are followed during project review including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Section 14.09 of the New York State Preservation Act, and SEQR (Part 617). The Planning Board should refer applications for development of individually listed or eligible properties or those within the Glimmerglass Historical District for an opinion from the New York State Historic Preservation Office.
8) Work with the Town, County, and State highway departments during road work to prevent inadvertent destruction of historic sites. It should be a policy of Springfield to maintain the historic character along our roads.
9) Amend subdivision and site plan laws to enhance review and protection of the town's heritage and historic resources in the hamlets or those properties and districts in Springfield that are listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Amend all purpose statements to place more emphasis on protecting and enhancing these historic resources, small town, and rural character of the town.
10) In hamlet areas, establish design standards for new commercial buildings to help them be compatible with the existing traditional hamlet-style neighborhoods. These design standards should be presented in an illustrated format so that all parties understand the community expectations for design. Commercial structures should be of the same scale, design, and layout of existing buildings and should be consistent with the small town nature of the hamlet(s). The items that play critical roles in

preserving historic character to be addressed in these standards are roof pitch and style; parking lot placement, landscaping and location; preventing large expanses of windowless walls; eliminating or modifying trademarked architecture; lighting; tree preservation and planting; and screening of utilities. Some other design standards could include limiting the width of pavement along the front of a property, encouraging shallow setbacks, placing parking to the rear or side, having architecture, signs and lights that are consistent with a traditional neighborhood, and requiring sidewalks if others are present in the area.

11) Outside the hamlets, commercial structures should have ample landscaping and screening from the road and meet performance standards to ensure the structure is consistent with rural character and the environment (See Appendix 1).
12) Encourage adaptive reuse of historic buildings, especially old barns, and in the hamlets. Any future land use laws should specifically allow conversion of buildings to new uses as a specially permitted use, rather than promote demolition of existing buildings.

Goal 7. Promote agricultural businesses and local farm products, and protect farmlands.

Key Principles

a. Ensure that economic development programs and new development efforts are not at cross-purposes with agriculture and farmland protection efforts.
b. Target farmland protection programs to areas having prime farmlands and farmland soils of statewide significance.
c. Protect critical farming areas in Springfield.
d. Promote ag-economic development programs and policies.

Strategies

1) Apply for a NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Farmland Implementation Planning Grant. This would be an excellent opportunity to further implement this plan to promote Springfield's' farmland protection goals. This plan should help the town prioritize farmlands for future protection.
2) Encourage a whole farm planning approach with farm owners. This is a voluntary effort of individual producers where they work to identify practical, cost-effective, and environmentally sound practices for their farms. The planning is done with technical input and support from agricultural agencies and/or certified ag-planners. The State of New York government sponsors the AEM program and offers financial assistance to participants.
3) Establish an advisory committee and recruit agricultural producers to serve on that committee to implement the Town of Springfield Comprehensive Plan.
4) Ensure that the Planning Board follows requirements of NYS Ag and Markets Law

25-AA and 283-a. These require coordination with the ag districts program and require preparation of an Ag Data Statement. For some projects, the town is also required to evaluate potential impacts on agriculture within a NYS Agricultural District.

5) Facilitate initiation of local farmers markets, farm stands, and other similar agricultural activities. Support a direct marketing program to sell Springfield produce to local residents and restaurants.
6) Promote alternative agricultural operations such as organic farming and direct marketing. Consider providing incentives for such operations. Work with Otsego County on developing a "grown locally" theme.
7) Ensure that at least one member of the Planning Board is a farmer. Section 271.11 of New York State town Law authorizes a town to appoint one or more agricultural members to the planning Board.
8) Sellers of land, buyers of land, and real estate agents must be made aware of the disclosure requirements of Ag and Markets Law 25-AA, Section 310. This section requires a disclosure notice be given to prospective residents when buying land within a NYS Agricultural District. Realtors should be sure all disclosures are met.
9) Display a map of the Town's agricultural district so that all parties are informed of its location.
10) The Planning Board should determine existing farming conditions to ensure any new proposed land use does not conflict with these farming activities. The Board should ask the following questions:
    i. Will the new use negatively impact a farmer's ability to use existing right-of-ways or roads needed to access fields?
    ii. Will the new use affect land values and rental rates for agriculture?
    iii. Can roads still accommodate agriculture equipment?
    iv. Will a new use spur additional non-farm development in the future?
    v. Will the new use remove significant land from farming?
11) Review all existing land use regulations in Springfield to ensure they are farm friendly.
12) Support Purchase of Development Rights programs and consider offering a Lease of Development Rights (LDR) program. The LDR program, especially when coupled with tax incentives, has been very successful in other communities where it has been implemented. Work with willing landowners to purchase or accept donations of development rights (easements). The Town could accept these easements and/or work with local land conservancy or other non-profit organizations to hold and manage these easements. Consider several options for funding purchases of priority farmland easements. An LDR program is when a willing farmer agrees to a term easement (usually a 10 to 15 year agreement that no development will take place) in exchange for a greatly lowered tax rate. The benefit of this program is that the farmer retains full use of the property for farming activities, receives a large tax break, and the community is assured of that land as remaining as a farm and open space for many years. A negative would be that the taxes no longer collected on that farm are shifted to the rest of the population.
13) Use subdivision review to lessen the impact of new development on agriculture. Consider land use laws that require a percentage of each subdivision remain as open

space and that they work to preserve areas having prime soils and active farm fields.

14) Encourage new growth to take place in hamlets.
15) Buffers are physical barriers between incompatible land uses and should be required to separate agricultural uses from new residential uses. Change subdivision law to establish farm buffers of at least 50' wide to be provided by the developer of the residential use, not the farmer.
16) During development and where agriculture is taking place, new structures should be sited away from prime farmland soils to the maximum extent practical so that these soils are available for farming activities. Revise subdivision law to reflect this.
17) Work with Otsego County, Cornell Cooperative Extension and other organizations to develop and promote ag-economic development programs. This program should work to encourage and promote agri-tourism, artisan farming, Community Supported Agricultures, food processing, and formation of a town-wide farmers market.
18) Investigate Farmland Loss Mitigation Program. This would be a program that would allow a developer who wants to build on farmland to buy an equal amount of development rights on other existing farmlands. The program would only involve farmers who willingly want to sell their development rights and remain in farming. Ensure proper assessments of any lands protected in this manner.
19) Encourage eligible farmers and landowners to participate in the agricultural exemption program as afforded by New York State Agriculture and Markets law. Landowners who earn $10,000 in gross income from a farm on more than 7 acres of land or those that earn $50,000 or more of gross farm income on less than 7 acres are eligible under state law.
20) Springfield should continue to work to ensure that farms and farm buildings receive the appropriate exemptions and assessment rates.
21) Encourage Otsego County to update its county-wide Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan and encourage the county to prioritize ag-economic development opportunities.
22) Sustain and promote farming and forestry industries. Support the Town's agricultural economy by ensuring prime farmland is retained for agricultural uses. Recognize agriculture and agri-tourism as important economic resources and support the preservation and enhancement of these resources. Assist in the promotion and attraction of agricultural related services and industries to maintain agriculture as a viable business.

Goal 8: Enhance Springfield as a business-friendly community. Promote small businesses that provide local jobs, contribute to the tax base, and that do not detract from our rural and small town character.

Key Principles

a. Springfield should welcome new businesses but establish development standards that

are clear and that reflect the goals of the Town as established in this plan.

b. *Emphasize small business development and business diversity (less than 30 employees).*
c. *Economic development should be scaled to fit into Springfield.*
d. *Local businesses and enterprises should build on the distinctive characteristics of Springfield.*
e. *Devise a 21st century economic development program for the Town that supports technology based businesses and low-impact businesses.*

Strategies

1) Create a Town committee to advocate and spearhead economic related activities. This should be a public/private endeavor. Many individuals and organizations have a stake in the economic viability of Springfield. This committee should build consensus and cooperation among these groups and individuals and take leadership on behalf of the Town to strengthen the existing and diversify the local economic base. Activities include helping existing businesses expand, recruiting new businesses to provide a balanced mix, converting un-used space into productive property, and sharpening the competitiveness of local businesses.
2) Work to attract new businesses that could be decentralized with technology and upgrading infrastructure to support technology based businesses. Aggressively work to provide high-speed internet access and cell service as a priority action step.
3) Concentrate development programs on small businesses that fit with the scale and character of Springfield.
4) Find ways to streamline the review process for applications that fully meet the development standards established by the Town of Springfield and that are consistent with this plan.
5) Encourage senior citizen housing in the hamlets, especially East Springfield and Springfield Center, since that can help create a need for services and retail businesses.
6) Tie open space and recreation into an overall economic development strategy for Springfield.
7) Welcome new commercial development but establish development standards that clearly detail the performance expectations for new commercial growth. Zoning should not place roadblocks to development that meets these standards. Establish commercial development design and layout standards to address architectural design, building form and scale, signage size and design, traffic impact and parking lots, lighting, and landscaping to foster new development that promotes the small town, historic, and rural character of the Town. The design standards should be applicable to all proposed commercial activities, including signage and franchise/chain businesses during site plan review and/or special permit approval.
8) Recognize the important role of home businesses and home industries in Springfield. Support home occupied businesses in all land use related laws in town.
9) Communicate with adjoining municipalities in the planning, siting, and appearance of commercial and industrial development proposed along shared borders.

Goal 9: Maintain and promote use of the Springfield Community Center building.

1) Seek energy grants to improve the energy efficiency of the building.
2) Maintain town offices in the community center.
3) Work with the US Postal Service to establish a Post Office in the Community Center.
4) Maintain the integrity of the Library as an integral part of the community center.
5) Create a long range strategic plan for the community center.
6) Be sure the facilities in the community center are open to town events.
7) Include the Community Center building in the Capital Improvement Plan (see recommendations for details about the CIP in Goal 4).

Chapter 5: Action Plan

This section outlines an action plan to implement the Comprehensive Plan's recommendations. Leadership from the Town Board is critical in putting this plan into action. Although the Town Board has the ultimate responsibility in implementing this plan, they will need assistance from various boards, agencies and organizations for specific strategies recommended in the plan. So that ideas presented in this Plan can become a reality, it is recommended that the Town Board take the following action upon adoption of this Plan:

1. Establish an annual work plan that includes specific tasks from this plan to be accomplished that year. Use the checklist below and establish specific time frames and expectations for implementation.

2. Evaluate implementation activities on an annual basis.

3. Re-evaluate the plan every five years to ensure that it stays current to conditions in Springfield.

4. Enhance public participation by ensuring that citizens have electronic and paper access to this plan. Provide all Town Board and Planning Board members with copies of this plan.

5. Maintain a full set of maps created for this plan (via the GEIS) for use by town officials.

The table below is a summary of all the actions identified in Chapter 4 of this Plan. It includes a prioritization of actions to be accomplished. This action plan should not be a substitute for the details contained in Chapter 4. The table key is as follows:

Type of Action

Policy – any action that results in establishment of a set policy that will govern the actions of the Town.

Program – any action that results in establishment of a plan, activity, committee, proposal or similar items.

Regulatory – any action that results in the development of new or an amendment of existing land use related laws. This typically refers to zoning, site plan review, or subdivision laws.

Review – any action that results in Planning Board project review requirements or procedures.

Time Frame

H = High priority to initiate implementation following plan adoption (all regulatory-related strategies are in first year).
M = Medium priority, within two years following plan adoption.
L = Long term priority, within 5 years after adoption.
O = Ongoing action item

Duty

TB = Town Board (will oversee all aspects of implementation of plan) with assistance from:
PB = Planning Board
A = Attorney, Planner or other professional
HD = Highway Department
C = County
Others are listed as needed

Date Completed	Summary of Task/Action	Type of Action	Duty	Time Frame
Goal 1. Maintain the rural, small town, and scenic character of Springfield as it grows.				
	Amend all purpose statements to place more emphasis on protecting and enhancing small town, rural, and scenic character of the town.	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H
	Amend the existing site plan local law to include enhanced review and specific development standards for features that impact character including lighting, signs, landscaping, parking lots, non-residential building design, etc.	Regulatory, Review	TB, PB, A	H
	Amend both subdivision and site plan laws to require a traffic impact study to be included in applications for all projects that will add 100 or more cars per day onto local, county or state roads.	Regulatory, Review	TB, PB, A	H
	Regulate development potential by establishing a density that allows for average minimum lot sizes instead of regulating by minimum lot size (see also Appendix 1).	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H
	Encourage and allow for all forms of senior housing opportunities, especially	Regulatory,	TB, C, PB,	H, O

Date Completed	Summary of Task/Action	Type of Action	Duty	Time Frame
	in the hamlets.	Program	A	
	Major projects should be carefully evaluated for impacts to rural character. Cumulative and long-term impacts to the town must be effectively evaluated.	Review	PB	O
	Parking lots of new commercial buildings should be located to the side or rear of the structure. Include landscaped islands in large parking lots.	Regulatory, Review	TB, PB, A	H
	When new town roads or potential town roads are created, maintain existing trees and vegetation. Where no trees exist (as in an open field), require planting of new street trees.	Regulatory, Review	TB, PB, A, Highway Department	H
	Amend sub division law to establish procedures for clustering and conservation subdivisions in Springfield to preserve open space.	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H
	The Planning Board should ensure that visual resources are inventoried and assessed during project review.	Regulatory, Review	TB, PB	H
	Use deeper front setbacks and more screening as needed to protect both rural and scenic character during site plan review and subdivision.	Regulatory, Review	TB, PB, A	H
	Working in conjunction with the Town and County Highway Departments, develop a philosophy or policy to preserve important roadside features on local roads such as stonewalls and street trees along existing town roads.	Policy	TB, C, HD	H, O
Goal 2: Protect environmental resources including drinking water, watersheds, Otsego Lake, streams and wetlands.				
	Concentrate future public infrastructure in hamlet areas.	Policy	TB	L
	The Planning Board, during Site Plan Review and Subdivision Planning, should carefully evaluate all new developments located above unconsolidated aquifers and limestone bedrock to protect ground water resources and soils.	Regulatory, Review	TB, PB, A	O
	Potentially large water users should be required to conduct pump tests prior to approval. Incorporate this into subdivision and site plan review requirements.	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H
	Recognize the public water system located at Allen Lake and ensure that impacts to that water supply are evaluated during subdivision or site plan	Regulatory, Review	TB, PB, A	O

Date Completed	Summary of Task/Action	Type of Action	Duty	Time Frame
	review of projects.			
	Consider establishing local stream protection standards for all streams in Springfield, not just those that feed into Otsego Lake or DEC classified streams.	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H
	All land use regulations in Springfield should prevent storage of chemicals or petroleum, or placement of critical public infrastructure in floodplains.	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H
	Provide large scale maps of town resources and establish procedures to ensure that the Planning Board utilizes all data available (such as those included in this plan) during project review.	Program	TB	H
	Consider conducting a limestone bedrock/water quality study to help the town better understand the connections between ground water and surface activities.	Program	TB	M
	Amend subdivision law to allow the Planning Board to establish building envelopes within a subdivision specifically to protect environmental resources such as steep slopes (over 20%) and wetlands.	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H
	Establish low impact erosion and stormwater runoff design requirements in site plan review or any future land use laws.	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H
	Update all local land use related laws to include proper references to state and federal requirements for erosion and stormwater control.	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H
	Amend site plan review to establish standards for lighting.	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H
	The Planning Board should notify the Otsego Lake Watershed Committee prior to initiation of projects within the Otsego Lake Watershed.	Policy	PB	O
	Consult with and implement strategies in the April 1998 Otsego Lake Management Issues: Framework for Watershed Planning.	Policy	TB, PB	H, O
	Amend the local subdivision law to strengthen the review of project impacts on wildlife.	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H
	Avoid negative impacts to the critical habitats in Springfield. Protect wildlife habitats during development.	Review	PB	H
	Discourage removal of ridge top vegetation as well as all vegetation on steep	Regulatory,	TB, PB, A	H

Date Completed	Summary of Task/Action	Type of Action	Duty	Time Frame
	slopes.	Review		
	Consider forming a Conservation Advisory Council to advise the Town on environmental resources, issues, and solutions.	Program	TB	M
	Promote green development practices as well as development that use the LEED certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System).	Program, Policy, Review	TB, PB	M
Goal 3: Foster a sense of pride and place in our community.				
	Participate in local and regional partnerships related to cultural, recreational, environmental or other community events.	Program	TB	O
	Promote and foster community relations by establishing a community coordinator and/or advisory committee.	Program	TB	O
	Establish a community bulletin board in a prominent location to advertise community events and activities.	Program	TB	H
	Establish a Town E-Newsletter/Website	Program	TB	H
Goal 4. Provide quality and up-to-date infrastructure including roads, emergency services, and tele-communications. Ensure that all new infrastructure is rural in scale.				
	Review and update town road standards, and ensure that they reflect rural road standards. Consider adopting the low volume road classification and maintenance standards advocated by the Local Roads Research and Coordination Council.	Regulatory	TB, HD, PB, A	H, M
	Work with Otsego County to provide an enhanced transportation system with stronger emphasis on walking paths and trails, shared roadways for pedestrians and bikes, and public transportation.	Program	TB, C, HD	L
	Work with DOT to review speed limit sign postings along Route 20 and sight distances.	Program	TB, HD	M
	Work with the County Sheriff and NYS Police to enhance speed enforcement along State highways through town.	Program	TB	H, M
	Support land use and site plan decisions that reduce traffic impacts. Decrease the allowable new curb cuts per parcel especially along routes 20 and 80.	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H

Date Completed	Summary of Task/Action	Type of Action	Duty	Time Frame
	Establish a policy for how, and under what circumstances the Town will review and accept new roads as official town roads.	Policy	TB	M
	Establish a Capital Improvement Plan on a rolling 5 year basis to include all capital expenditures such as highway, community center, public access to Otsego Lake, recreation facilities, etc.	Policy, Program	TB, HD	M
	East Springfield and Springfield Center may need public water and/or waste treatment facilities in the future. Should this need arise, consider collective and small community options instead of traditional sewer systems.	Program	TB	L
	Amend subdivision law to allow and encourage new roads within major subdivisions and to use front loaded streets.	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H
	The Town should continue to support our local fire and ambulance departments through volunteerism and participation in fund raising activities.	Policy, Program	TB, Fire Dept.	O
	Ensure that Town residents are protected with an updated Emergency Preparedness Plan and disseminate the contents of that plan to the community.	Program	TB, Fire Dept.	M, O
	In order to ensure that emergency service and road safety issues are evaluated and mitigated during project development, create a process to ensure that emergency services and the Town Highway Superintendent are consulted prior to the Planning Board approving a development proposal.	Regulatory, Review	TB, HD, Fire Dept., Pb	H
	Foster improved tele-communications and utility infrastructure, including broadband services, fiber optic, Wi-Fi, DSL, high speed Internet, and/or cable access connections.	Program	TB, C	H
	Establish fees and policies to ensure that new land development pays for its own water, sewer, road, utility, or other site improvements that may be required.	Policy, Program	TB	H
Goal 5. Enhance recreational opportunities for all ages and capitalize on Otsego Lake.				
	Form a Town Recreation Committee to work on open space and recreation implementation activities.	Program	TB	H

Date Completed	Summary of Task/Action	Type of Action	Duty	Time Frame
	Create a long range strategic plan for the Community Center and other facilities such as walking trails, bike paths and other pathways necessary to meet future recreation needs.	Program	TB, Recreation Committee	M
	Any long range plan should include a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that sets up long range staff, equipment, property, budgetary and other capital needs.	Program	TB, HD	M
	Identify funding sources for new recreation facilities or programs.	Program	TB, Recreation Committee	M, O
	Create an interconnected system of open space corridors to offer recreational opportunities, and protect environmentally sensitive areas.	Program	TB, PB, CAC	L
Goal 6. Promote and protect our historic structures and landscapes.				
	Support efforts to map all inventoried historic structures, historic landscapes and viewsheds, historical markers, cemeteries, and other historical and cultural sites identified in the town.	Program	TB, Historic Orgs.	M
	Support efforts to nominate individual properties and districts to State and National Registers of Historic Places.	Program	TB, Historic Orgs.	M, O
	Support efforts to inventory Springfield's archival resources and to properly preserve and curate those materials.	Program	TB, Historic Orgs.	O
	Support efforts to exhibit our cultural heritage and educate the public.	Program	TB, Historic Orgs.	O
	Establish local incentives and programs for historic preservation. Seek grants to offer programs, studies, and activities that will serve to protect the Town's historic resources.	Program	TB, Historic Orgs.	L
	Consider initiating a historic landowner recognition award or develop a recognition program for landowners who restore, rehabilitate or otherwise	Program	TB, Historic	L

Date Completed	Summary of Task/Action	Type of Action	Duty	Time Frame
	protect a historic resource.		Orgs.	
	Assure that applicable laws related to historical and archeological resources are followed during project review including Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Section 14.09 of the New York State Preservation Act, and SEQR (Part 617).	Regulatory, Review	TB, PB, A	H
	Work with the Town, County, and State highway departments during road work to prevent inadvertent destruction of historic sites. It should be a policy of Springfield to maintain the historic character along our roads.	Policy	TB, HD, C	H, O
	Amend subdivision and site plan laws to enhance review and protection of the town's heritage and historic resources in the hamlets or those properties and districts in Springfield that are listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Amend all purpose statements to place more emphasis on protecting and enhancing these historic resources, small town, and rural character of the town.	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H
	In hamlet areas, establish design standards for new commercial buildings to help them be compatible with the existing traditional hamlet-style neighborhoods. Commercial structures should be of the same scale, design, and layout of existing buildings and should be consistent with the small town nature of the hamlet(s). (See Appendix 1)	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H
	Outside the hamlets, commercial structures should have ample landscaping and screening from the road and meet performance standards to ensure the structure is consistent with rural character and the environment (See Appendix 1).	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H
	Encourage adaptive reuse of historic buildings, especially old barns, and in the hamlets.	Program	TB, Historic Orgs.	O
Goal 7. Promote agricultural businesses and local farm products, and protect farmlands.				
	Apply for a NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Farmland Implementation Planning Grant.	Program	TB	H
	Encourage a whole farm planning approach with farm owners.	Program	TB, C,	L

Date Completed	Summary of Task/Action	Type of Action	Duty	Time Frame
			Farm Orgs.	
	Establish an advisory committee and recruit agricultural producers to serve on that committee to implement the Town of Springfield Comprehensive Plan.	Program	TB, Farm Orgs.	H
	Ensure that the Planning Board follows requirements of NYS Ag and Markets Law 25-AA and 283-a.	Review	PB	O
	Facilitate initiation of local farmers markets, farm stands, and other similar agricultural activities.	Program	TB, C	M
	Promote alternative agricultural operations such as organic farming, direct marketing. Consider providing incentives for such operations.	Program	TB, C	M
	Ensure that at least one member of the Planning Board is a farmer as per Section 271.11 of New York State town law.	Regulatory	TB	H
	Sellers of land, buyers of land, and real estate agents must be made aware of the disclosure requirements of Ag and Markets Law 25-AA, Section 310. The Town should ensure that all disclosure requirements are met.	Regulatory, Review	PB	H, O
	Display a map of the Town's agricultural district so that all parties are informed of its location.	Program	TB	O
	The Planning Board should determine existing farming conditions to ensure any new proposed land use does not conflict with these farming activities.	Regulatory, Review	TB, PB	H, O
	Review all existing land use regulations in Springfield to ensure they are farm friendly.	Regulatory	TB, PB	H
	Support Purchase of Development Rights programs and consider offering a Lease of Development Rights (LDR) program.	Program	TB	M
	Use subdivision review to lessen the impact of new development on agriculture. Consider land use laws that require a percentage of each subdivision remain as open space and that they work to preserve areas having prime soils and active farm fields.	Regulatory, Review	TB, PB, A	H
	Encourage new growth to take place in hamlets.	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H
	Change subdivision law to establish farm buffers of at least 50' wide to be	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H

Date Completed	Summary of Task/Action	Type of Action	Duty	Time Frame
	provided by the developer of the residential use, not the farmer.			
	During development and where agriculture is taken place, new structures should be sited away from prime farmland soils to the maximum extent practical so that these soils are available for farming activities. Revise subdivision law to reflect this.	Regulatory, Review	TB, PB, A	H
	Work with Otsego County, Cornell Cooperative Extension and other organizations to develop and promote ag-economic development programs.	Program	TB, C, Economic Committee	H, O
	Investigate Farmland Loss Mitigation Programs.	Program, Regulatory	TB, Farm Orgs.	L
	Encourage eligible farmers and landowners to participate in the agricultural exemption program as afforded by New York State Agriculture and Markets law.	Program	TB	O
	Springfield should continue to work to ensure that farms and farm buildings receive the appropriate exemptions and assessment rates.	Program	TB, Assessor	O
	Encourage Otsego County to update its county-wide Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan and encourage it the county to prioritize ag-economic development opportunities.	Program	TB, C	H
	Sustain and promote farming and forestry industries. Support the Town's agricultural economy by ensuring prime farmland is retained for agricultural uses.	Regulatory, Review	TB, PB, A	H, O
Goal 8: Enhance Springfield as a business-friendly community. Promote small businesses that provide local jobs, contribute to the tax base, and that do not detract from our rural and small town character.				
	Create a Town committee to advocate and spearhead economic related activities.	Program	TB	H
	Work to attract new businesses that could be decentralized with technology, and upgrading infrastructure to support technology based businesses.	Program	TB, Economic Committee	O

Date Completed	Summary of Task/Action	Type of Action	Duty	Time Frame
	Concentrate development programs on small businesses that fit with the scale and character of Springfield.	Regulatory	TB, Economic Committee	H, O
	Find ways to streamline the review process for applications that fully meet the development standards established by the Town of Springfield and that are consistent with this plan.	Regulatory	PB	H
	Encourage senior citizen housing in the hamlets, especially East Springfield and Springfield Center, since that can help create a need for services and retail businesses.	Program	TB, Housing Orgs.	M
	Tie open space and recreation into an overall economic development strategy for Springfield.	Policy	TB, Economic Committee	H, O
	Welcome new commercial development but establish development standards that clearly detail the performance expectations for new commercial growth. Zoning should not place roadblocks to development that meets these standards. Establish commercial development design and layout standards.	Regulatory, Review	TB, PB, A	H
	Recognize the important role of home businesses and home industries in Springfield. Support home occupied businesses in all land use related laws in town.	Regulatory	TB, PB, A	H
	Communicate with adjoining municipalities in the planning, siting, and appearance of commercial and industrial development proposed along shared borders.	Review	TB, PB	H, O
Goal 9: Maintain and promote use of the Springfield Community Center building.				
	Seek energy grants to improve the energy efficiency of the building.	Program	TB	M
	Maintain town offices in the community center.	Program	TB	O
	Work with the US Postal Service to establish a Post Office in the Community Center.	Program	TB	M
	Maintain the integrity of the Library as an integral part of the community center.	Program	TB	O

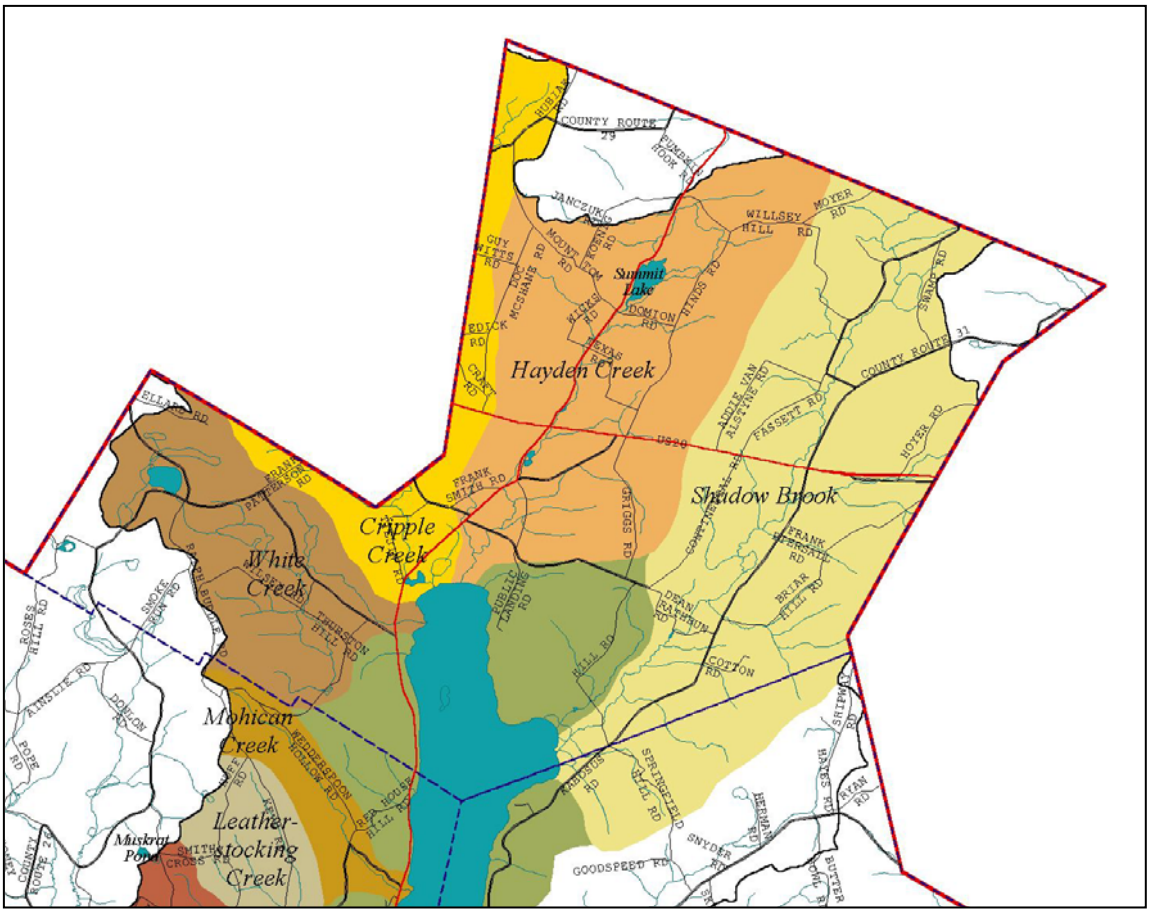
Date Completed	Summary of Task/Action	Type of Action	Duty	Time Frame
	Create a long range strategic plan for the community center.	Program	TB	M
	Be sure the facilities in the community center are open to town events.	Program	TB	O
	Include the Community Center building in the Capital Improvement Plan (see recommendations above).	Program	TB	O

Chapter 6: Community Profile and Inventory**

Environmental Resources of Springfield

Surface Waters

Surface water is a significant environmental resource. Otsego Lake is a drinking water source for about 2,400 people in the Village of Cooperstown and the immediate surrounding area. Streams, wetlands, ponds and Otsego Lake are all surface water bodies and are of significant importance for groundwater recharge, wildlife habitats, aesthetics, sustaining downstream water levels, recreational fishing areas, and for irrigation and livestock support. The Town lies within the Susquehanna River Basin and watershed. A watershed is a geographic area that is drained by, or contributing water to, a stream, lake, or other primary body of water. Within the Town, sub-watersheds include the Hayden Creek, Shadow Brook, Cripple Creek, and White Creek watersheds and these all drain into Otsego Lake. (Map 1)



Map 1: Sub-watersheds in the Town of Springfield

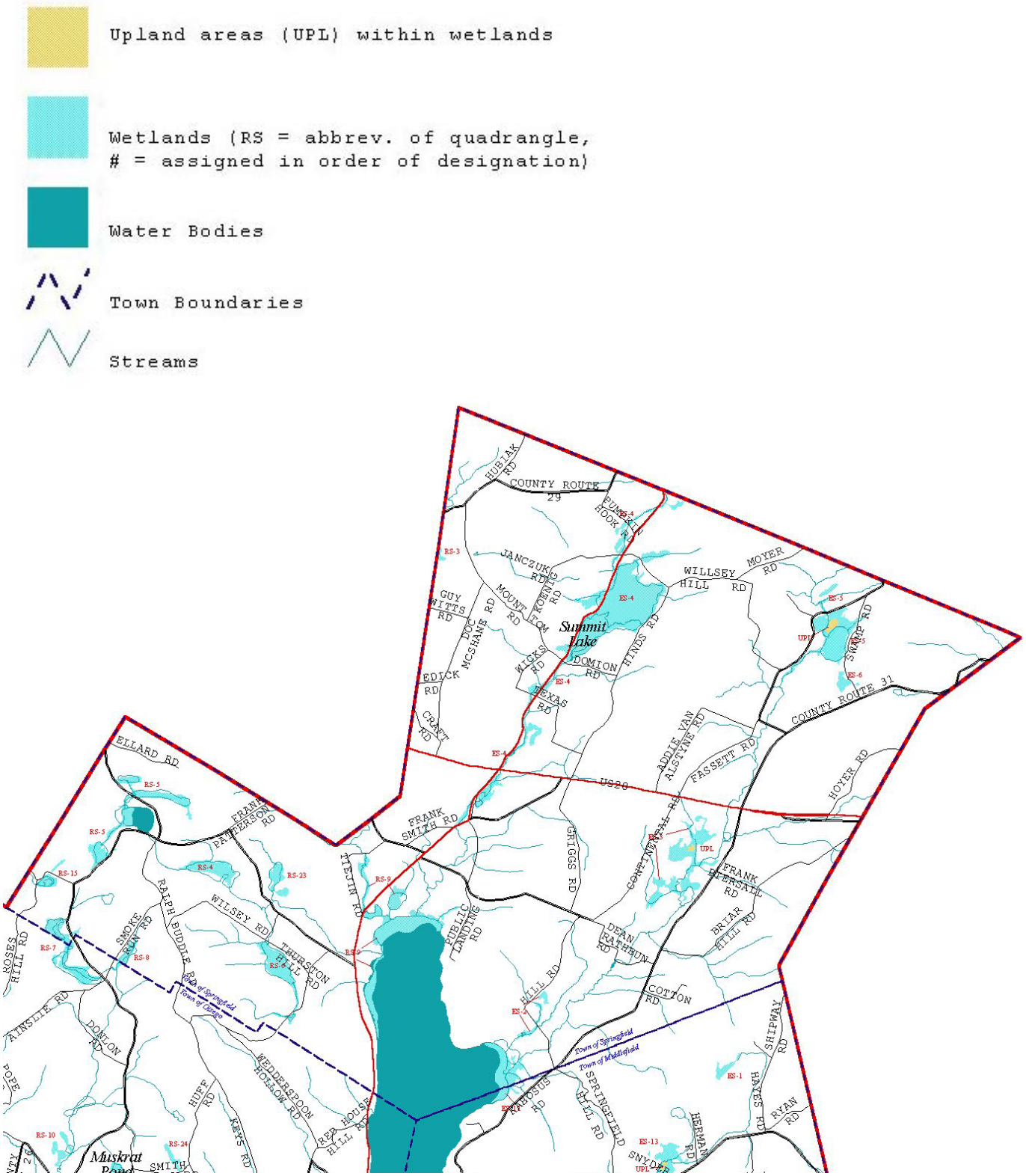
**Maps included in this inventory and profile have been excerpted from the Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement on the Capacities of the Cooperstown Region (December 2002). (Copies of the full text of

GEIS and large scale maps are available at Town Clerk.) The base layer of the environmental maps contains road name errors. A corrected map is attached to this report as Appendix 3

Wetlands

The Wetlands map (Map 2) shows wetlands designated by the NYSDEC pursuant to Article 24 of the Environmental Conservation Law, The Freshwater Wetlands Act (January 5, 1988). All the wetlands in the Town are freshwater wetlands and most are associated with small streams and tributaries to Otsego Lake. Freshwater wetlands and adjacent areas are valuable resources for flood control (runoff and flood water storage), wildlife habitats, ground and surface water quality protection, water resources, shoreline stabilization, open space, recreation, research, education, and aesthetics. Wetlands can remove pollutants such as soil particles, fertilizers, pesticides, heavy metals, and petroleum products, thus protecting downstream surface water and underlying groundwater. Water stored in wetlands during wet periods recharges ground water and maintains stream flow during dry periods, thus protecting stream ecosystems.

In general, to be protected under the Freshwater Wetlands Act, a wetland must be at least 12.4 acres. Smaller wetlands may be protected by the NYSDEC if the NYSDEC Commissioner determines the smaller wetlands are important locally in terms of the benefits listed in the previous paragraph (NYSDEC, 1991). Areas within 100 feet of state-regulated DEC wetlands (buffer areas) are subject to regulation as well. Plant communities and animal populations in wetlands can be affected directly and indirectly during the construction phase of a project. Severe impacts can result from construction on adjacent lands as well if erosion and sediment runoff damage the quality of the wetland area. In Springfield, the largest wetland complex is in the northern part of the Town around Summit Lake. Other regulated wetlands are found scattered throughout the town associated with the many creeks and streams.



Map 2: Wetlands

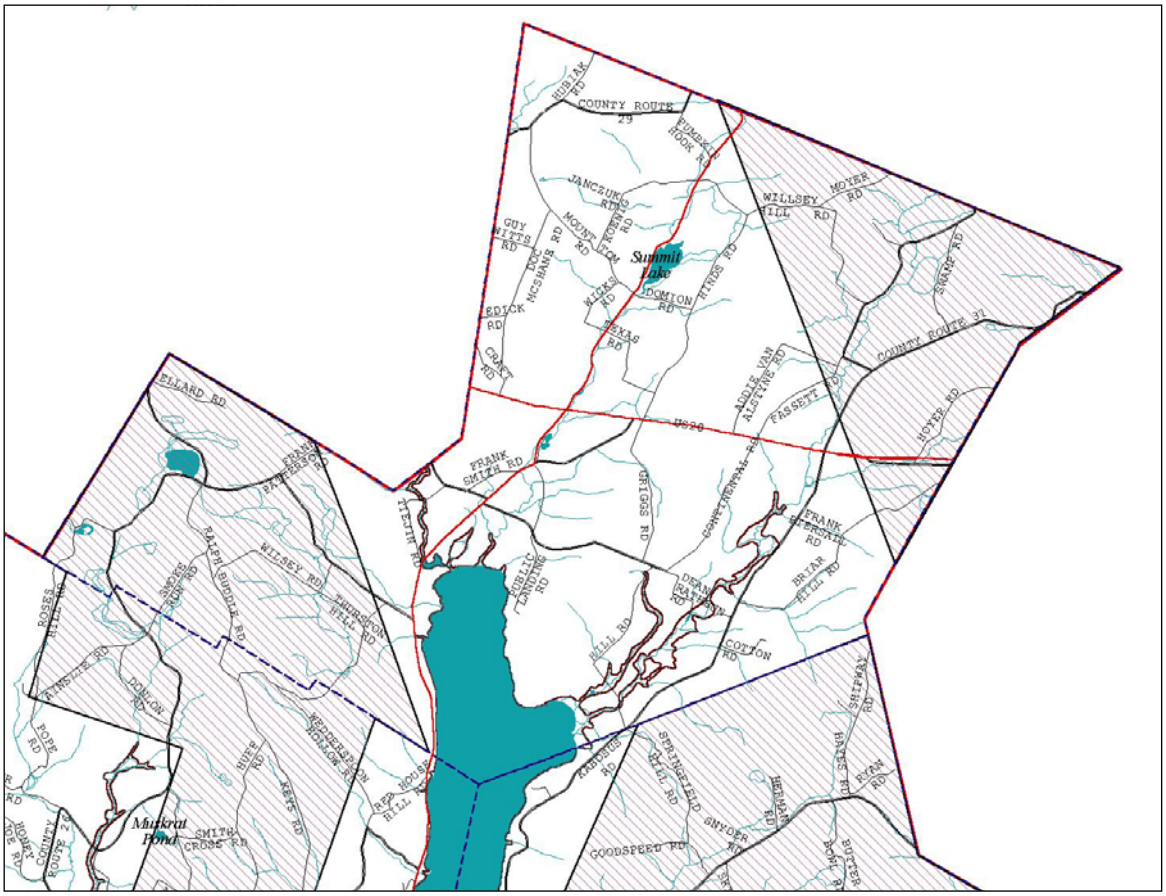
Flood Plains

Flood plain boundaries are shown on the Flood Plain map (Map 3). One hundred year flood boundaries show flood elevations that have a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded each year. The 100-year flood boundaries generally follow a water body, stream and wetland borders, and include the floodway. Mapped flood plains in Springfield are found along Otsego Lake, Shadow Brook and Cripple Creek.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Zone A
100-year flood plain "Special Flood Hazard Area":
Areas of 100-year flood

No Data

Water



Map 3: Floodplains in the Town of Springfield

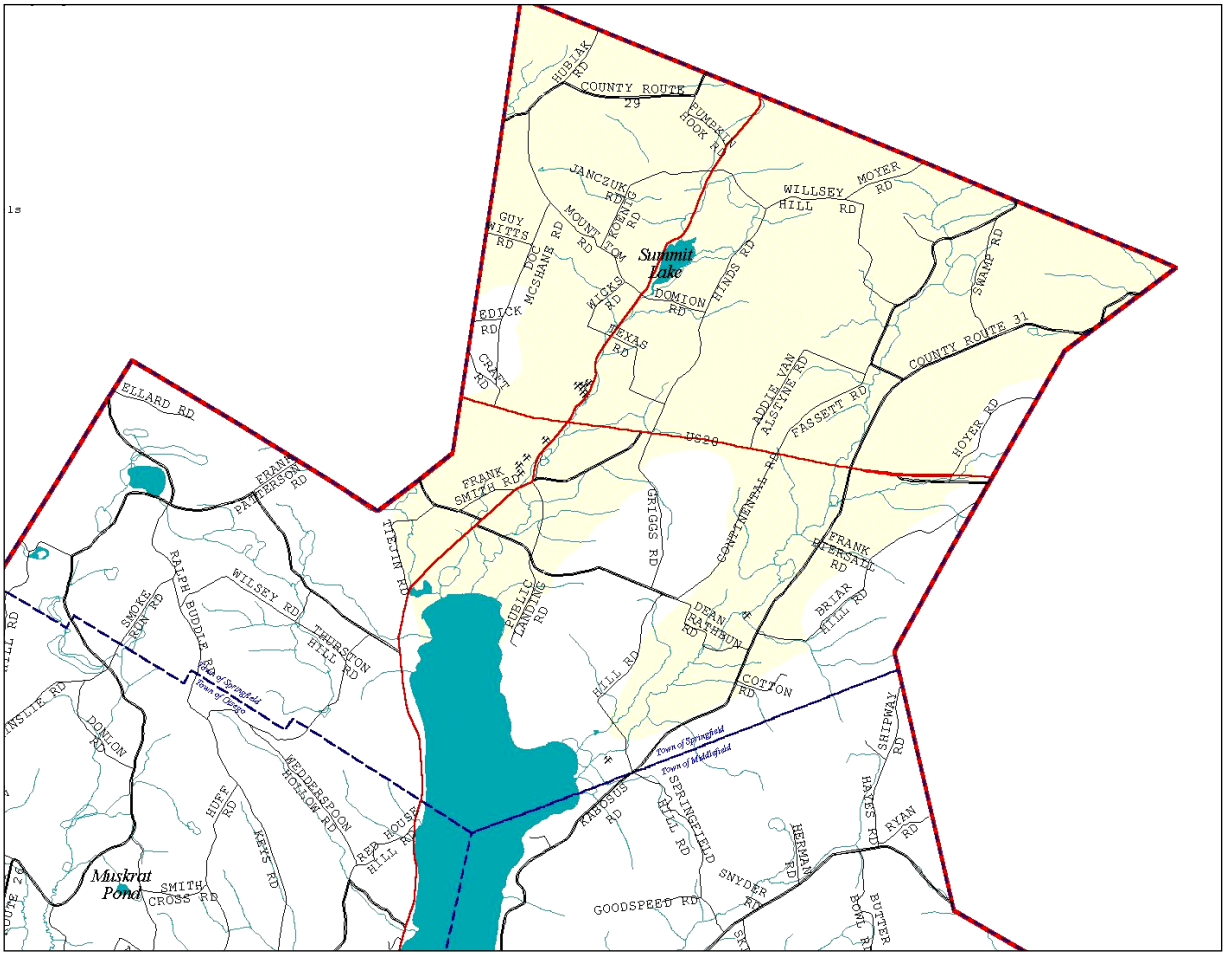
Surficial and Bedrock Geology, and Soils

The bedrock in the Town of Springfield consists of two types (Map 4). Most of the Town is primarily limestone and dolostone including Onondaga Limestone, Schoharie Formation (limestone and shale), Alsen, Becraft, New Scotland, Kalkberg, Coeymans, Manlius Limestone, Rondout Dolostone; some Carlisle Center Siltstone and Esopus Shale (Map 4). The southern portion of Town is primarily shale, sandstone and siltstone. These include the Cooperstown and Portland Point Shales and Sandstones; Panther Mountain Formation (shale, siltstone and sandstone); Marcellus Formation (shales and siltstones); and Union Spring Shale.

Primarily limestone and dolostone units including:
Onondaga Limestone; Schoharie Formation (limestone and shale); Alsen, Becraft, New Scotland, Kalkberg, Coeymans, and Manlius Limestone; Rondout Dolostone; some Carlisle Center Siltstone and Esopus Shale possible.

Remaining white areas

Primarily shale, sandstone, and siltstone units including:
Cooperstown and Portland Point Shales and Sandstones; Panther Mountain Formation (shale, siltstone and sandstone); Marcellus Formation (shales and sandstones); Cherry Valley Limestone; and Union Spring Shale Members



Map 4: Bedrock in the Town of Springfield

Limestone Bedrock

Where limestone bedrock dissolves over time, numerous geologic features can develop such as caves, sinkholes, sinking streams, and fractured "pavement". These geologic features are collectively called "karst features." The majority of the Town of Springfield has limestone bedrock. When karst features such as sinkholes are present, there may be instability of the land surface due to underground dissolving of the bedrock. This could limit development due to instability. Karst features also highly influence ground water supplies and water quality.

There is often a direct connection between the surface and the underground water sources when karst features are present. In these areas, land activities have the potential to negatively impact water quality and quantity. Sediment, septic drainage, fertilizers, and other pollutants in water flowing through the open fractures in limestone are not filtered as effectively as they are from water flowing more slowly through smaller fractures, soils, and bedding planes in other rock types. Consequently, there is a greater potential for ground water pollution from surface activities in the Town of Springfield where the limestone exists than in other locations.

Surficial Geology

Map 5 illustrates the locations of the major surficial geology characteristics in the Town of Springfield. Brief descriptions of these are as follows:

Bedrock: The bedrock within the study area occurs in two units, one is a limestone and dolostone unit, and the other is made up of shale, siltstone, and sandstone.

Till and Till Moraine: This is a dense till unit, and is an unsorted mix of clay, silt, sand, gravel, and boulders deposited above the bedrock. The till has a low capacity to transmit water because of its clay and silt content and its high degree of compaction. Gravels and sands in the area have higher capacities to transmit water than clays and tills.

Kame and Kame Moraine: The kame unit is similar to the till but has a smaller percentage of finer grain materials. Boulders are typically only present in moraine-type kame deposits. Kame deposits are generally more permeable than till. However materials called calcareous cement may be present in certain locations and this can substantially reduce the amount of water transmitted through these materials.

Outwash Sand and Gravel: Outwash sand and gravel deposits were deposited by glacial meltwater at the front of the glacier. Size of grains can range from sand to coarse gravel.

Glaciolacustrine (Glacial Lake) Sand, Silt and Clay: Lakes formed in the valley following retreat of glacial ice from the area. Sediment transported into these lakes settled to the bottom and formed layers of fine sand, silt and clay. These sediment are typically alternating layers of silt, sand and clay or a homogeneous mixture of grain sizes. Glacial lake sediments are made up of finer grains than outwash deposits and typically possess a much lower permeability than outwash sand and gravel deposits.

<u>Swamp or Peat Marsh:</u> Swamp or peat marsh deposits include peat muck and unoxidized or organic silt and sand in poorly drained areas.

Map 5: Surficial Geology in the Town of Springfield

K: Kame

LS: Lacustrine

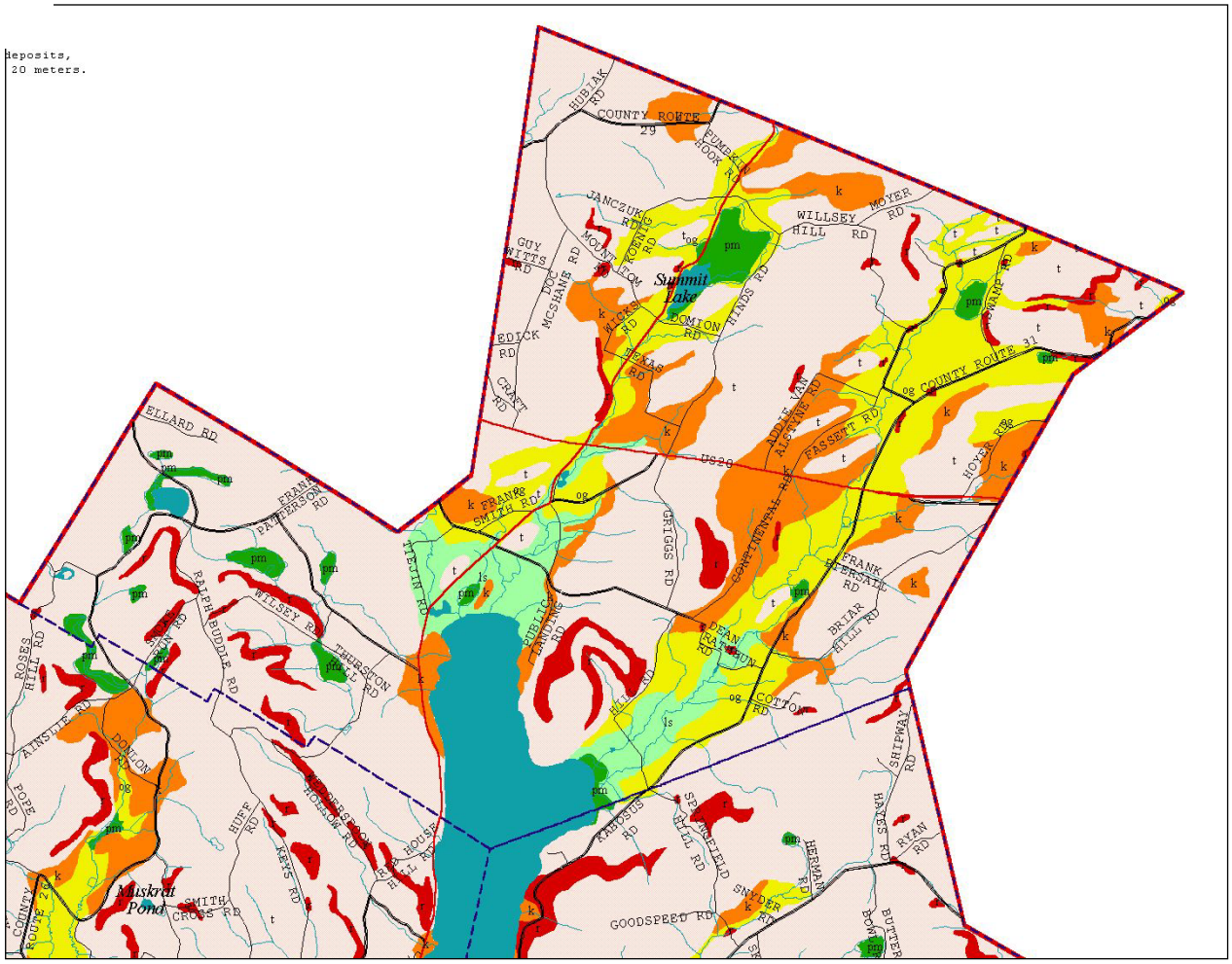
OG: Outwash Sand/Gravel

PM: Swamp Deposits

R: Bedrock

T: Till

Al: Alluvial, Recent Deposit



Soil Conditions

The soils of the Town of Springfield have been studied and mapped by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). NRCS has also evaluated the soil types for their suitability for different land uses. The soils of the area are mostly loams. Loam is defined by the SCS (1992) as a soil material that is a mix of clay, silt and sand. Soils are very important in determining potential land uses, such as building construction, septic system suitability, road construction, housing, agriculture, pasture, recreation, wildlife habitats, woodlands, landscaping, water management, and mining. Map 6 shows the Town of Springfield soils as related to suitability for septic systems. Most of the Town has soils that would prohibit conventional septic systems or require an enlarged absorption field. There are a few areas where the soil conditions would meet criteria for conventional septic systems located near Frank Smith Road and Cotton Road.

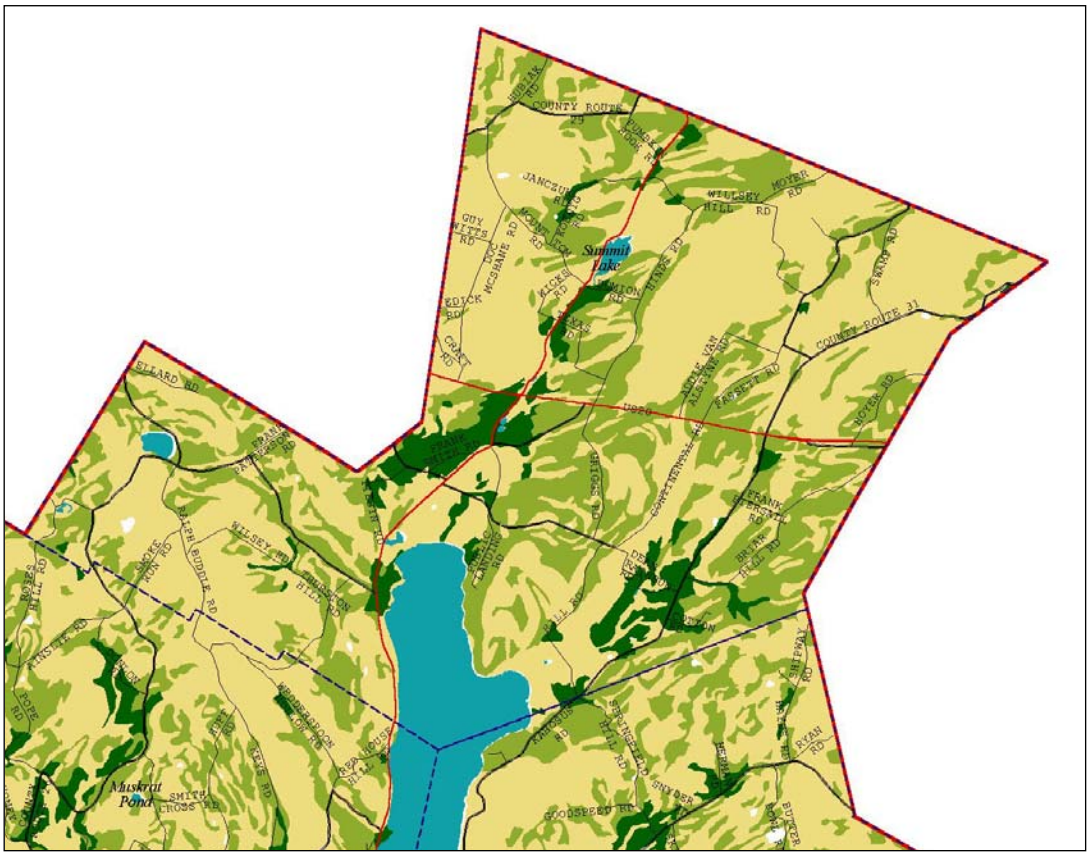
Map 6: Soil Suitability for Septic Tanks in the Town of Springfield

Septic tank absorption field may be prohibited

Probably requires enlarged absorption field

Meets NYS DOH Criteria but other limitations probably exist

Generally amenable to conventional septic tank absorption fields



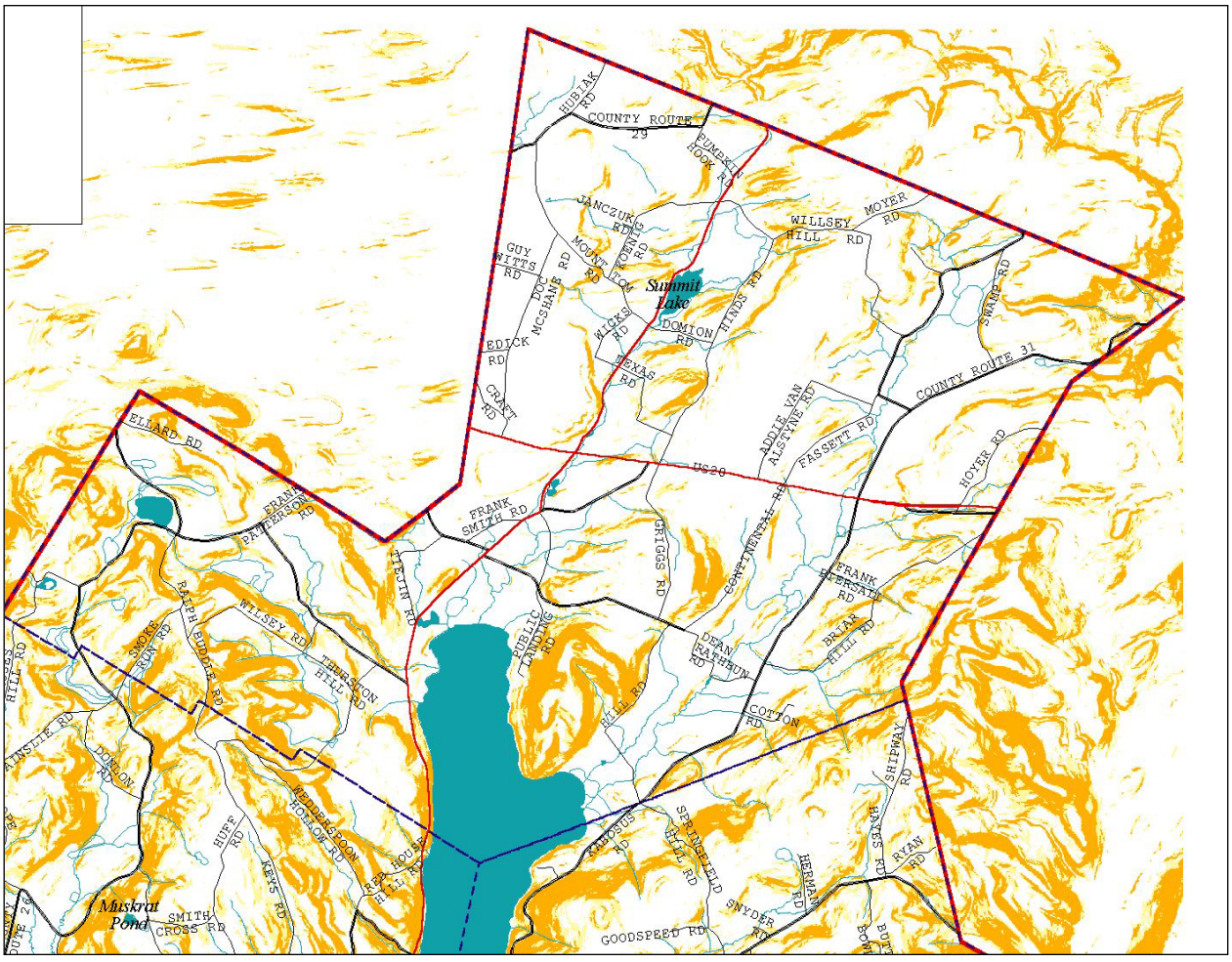
Topography/Slope

Topography is especially important in defining the character of the Town of Springfield (Map 7). Rolling slopes and hilly areas in the Town command diverse scenic views, both from public highways and from interior lands and farm fields. The bedrock features control the topography of the area to a large degree. Though glaciers caused much of the shaping of the area, the rate at which rock types can be eroded controls, in part, the steepness (relief) of the topography (See Map 4). Steep slopes, defined as greater than 20%, are more common in the southern portion of Town, south of Dean Rathbun and Frank Smith roads.

15% - 19.99% Slope

20% + Slope

Map 7: Slopes in the Town of Springfield



Bedrock Aquifers

Ground water supplies can come from either bedrock or unconsolidated aquifers. The amount of ground water that can be removed from a bedrock aquifer (called the "effective yield") depends on the frequency and size of fractures in the rock. Limestone typically yields more water than shale and sandstones, because fractures in limestone are larger. Though limestone tends to yield more water than the shale/sandstone units, the yield in limestone depends largely on the degree of interconnected fractures. Wells drilled into the shale bedrock in the area usually yield between 1 and 10 gallons per minute and limestone wells typically yield from 12 to 15 gallons per minute. On hillsides and hilltops, water runs down slope to the valleys before much of it can infiltrate and recharge the bedrock, resulting in a lower yield in the hills and a higher yield in the valleys. Yields in bedrock wells drilled in the valley may also be higher due to recharge to the bedrock from surface water and overlying unconsolidated aquifers.

Aquifers in Unconsolidated Material

The Unconsolidated Aquifer map (Map 8) shows the deposits that could serve as potential groundwater sources. Unconsolidated materials are cobbles, gravel, sand, silt, and clay that are not cemented together. Water in unconsolidated aquifers exists in pore spaces between the grains of material. Thicker unconsolidated deposits in valleys contain and produce the greatest volumes of ground water. Unconsolidated geologic materials in the area are rarely homogeneous. As such, the characteristics of the area cannot realistically be determined in detail over such a large area. Specific characteristics of the unconsolidated materials, and more importantly, their water production potential, can only be verified by drilling or excavating, and then they are only verified for that exact location.

The Unconsolidated Aquifer map shows that the areas in Springfield having the most water are typically located in the valleys. Here, the overburden is the thickest and surface water bodies and surface runoff from surrounding higher elevations provides greater recharge to these unconsolidated materials. The most productive unconsolidated aquifers in the area are in outwash sand and gravel, and alluvial deposits. The majority of the study area consists of till and bedrock outcrop material where water yields are minimal and generally produce less than 3 gallons per minute. In general, the potential yields associated with the deposits found are presented in Table 2.

Kame: Yield generally < 10 gallons per minute

Till: Yield generally < 3 gallons per minute

Lacustrine: Yield generally < 10 gallons per minute

Outwash Deposits: Yield generally 10 to 100 gallons per minute or greater

Map 8: Unconsolidated Aquifers in the Town of Springfield

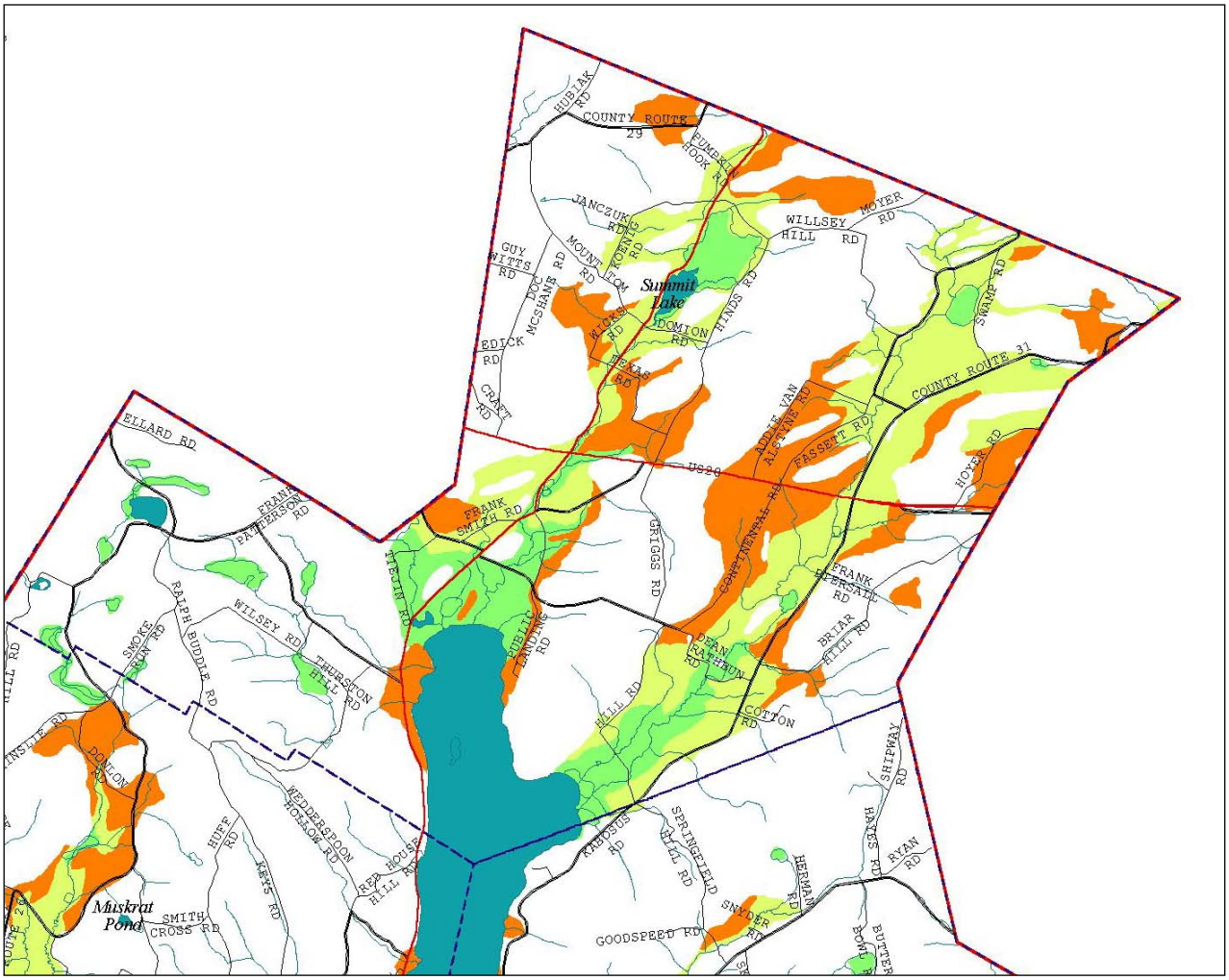


Table 2. Type of Deposits and Expected Yields (From Cooperstown Area GEIS, December 2002)

Type of Deposit	Expected Yield Information
Outwash Sand and Gravel and alluvial deposits	10 to 100 gallons per minute where they are less than 10 feet thick and greater than 100 gallons per minute in thicknesses greater than 10 feet.
Silt and Clay	3 to 120 gallons per minute, with average production rate of 21 gallons per minute in study area wells.
Kame, Kame Terrace and Kame Moraine Deposits	Little published data, but yields likely less than 10 gallons per minute. Yield may be slightly higher where streams or other water bodies are present to provide recharge to the aquifer and wells. Calcareous cement, which may substantially reduce permeability, may be present locally.
Lacustrine Deposits	Typically yield less than 10 gallons per minute because the silt and clay decreases the permeability of the deposit. Peat marsh areas are presented on the Unconsolidated Aquifer map together with the lacustrine deposits. Peat marsh areas themselves yield little water but wells drilled through peat marsh into deposits below the peat can be expected to have yields similar to the yields of wells in surrounding deposits.
Glacial Till and Bedrock Outcrop Deposits	Glacial till deposits are made up of low permeability silt and clays and generally yield less than 3 gallons per minute because they lack open pore space to hold and transmit water. Wells in the study area typically are not completed in till, but usually penetrate through it and are screened in the underlying bedrock which typically yields more water. The till in the study area, is not considered to be an aquifer.

Otsego Lake

According to New York State DEC, Otsego Lake is considered a Class A (TS) waterbody meaning that the best uses for the lake are as a source of water supply for drinking and culinary purposes; for bathing, fishing, and swimming; and for fish propagation and survival. The "TS" designation stands for trout spawning, and results in more stringent water quality standards being set to protect the survival and propagation of cold water fish species.

According to the publication, The State of Otsego Lake, 1936 to 1996, Harman et al (1997), Otsego Lake has undergone many profound changes since the early 1900s. The ecosystem of Otsego Lake has changed dramatically during this time period. The primary causes are increased phosphorus loading to the lake and introductions of exotic organisms. The 1997 Upper Susquehanna River Basin Watershed Management Reconnaissance Study (excerpted in the Plan for the Management of the Otsego Lake Watershed (Otsego Lake Watershed Council, 1998)) states that "Problems identified in Otsego Lake and its contributing tributaries include shoreline erosion, excess suspended sediment and phosphorus, sediment load from tributaries, decreases in number, size and functions of surrounding wetlands, and lack of appropriate habitat conditions for the coldwater lake fishery." Further, it states, that Otsego Lake, Willow Brook, Cripple Creek, Hayden Creek and portions of Shadow Brook are on the NYS DEC priority waterbody list. The following table shows a problem area matrix developed by the Army Corps of Engineers in that Reconnaissance Study (US Army

Corps of Engineers, 1997). See the Cooperstown Area GEIS, December 2002 for further description of Otsego Lake.

Table 3. Problem Areas: From Plan for the Management of the Otsego Lake Watershed (Otsego Lake Watershed Council, 1998)

Town	Sub-watershed	Problem	Scope	Solutions
Springfield Center	Clarke Pond, Cripple Creek, Otsego Lake, Hayden Creek	Flooding and Environmental	12 acre pond	Remove sediment, repair dam, create wetlands to reduce phosphorus
East Springfield	Otsego Lake, Shadow Brook	Environmental	4083 acre lake	Wetlands, stream restoration and stormwater management ponds to reduce excessive phosphorus and sediments
Towns around Lake	Otsego lake	Environmental		Septic lines in place of septic fields to reduce phosphorus to the lake

Lake Ecosystem Trends

An increase in phosphorus in Otsego Lake has resulted in increased algal growth, decreased levels of oxygen in certain locations of the lake, decreased water clarity, and changes in animal and plant populations. These impacts, coupled with the introduction of numerous exotic species to the lake, have resulted in a dramatically different lake ecosystem over the past decades. The State of Otsego Lake (1997) has documented these factors. Otsego Lake is heading towards increasing eutrophy. It is considered to have reached or exceeded its capacity to assimilate certain nutrients. The phytoplankton community is now dominated by different species, there has been a large loss of diversity in macrophytes, a lake-wide reduction of species richness due to alterations in the zoo-macrobenthic community, and decreases in food and cover for insects.

There have been recent efforts to rectify these problems. In 1997, agricultural best management practices have begun to be implemented on farms in the watershed through the Natural Resources Conservation Service's EQIP program. Additionally, a 200' no-wake zone was implemented on the lake and the Clarke Pond dredging and restoration project has been completed. In 2001, a preliminary study of lakeside septic systems was conducted. The Biological Field Station has been working to increase walleye populations in the lake. This project's goals are to increase this fishery to control the alewife populations and to decrease algae growth. According to the Field Station (Harmon, 2001), it is too soon to determine the effectiveness of this program.

Water quality in the lakes tributaries has shown some signs of improvement (Harmon, 2001). Although this is promising, it will take up to several decades for the lake to respond. Because of the way nutrients cycle through the lake's ecosystem, conditions may deteriorate before

they show improvement. The necessary step to improve water conditions in the lake is to stop new inputs of excess nutrients.

Natural Resources/Habitats

Birds: Data from the New York State Breeding Bird Atlas were collected and analyzed to offer an inventory of bird life in the area. This New York State program determines the identification, location, and breeding status of breeding birds. This program does not record migratory birds that may be using the area temporarily during the spring or fall migration periods, however. Numerous birding enthusiasts have recorded many other species in the area, especially during migration seasons.

One hundred twenty different species of breeding, or probably breeding birds have been recorded. Of these, 10 are listed as having "possible breeding" status, 19 listed as "probably breeding", and 91 listed as having "confirmed breeding" status. Out of the 120 species, 9 are considered game birds, and the rest are songbirds.

Northern Harrier	Threatened	Possible Breeding
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Special Concern	Confirmed Breeding
Cooper's Hawk	Special Concern	Probably Breeding
Northern Goshawk	Special Concern	Possible Breeding
Red-shouldered Hawk	Special Concern	Possible Breeding
Upland Sandpiper	Threatened	Confirmed Breeding
Red-headed Woodpecker	Special Concern	Confirmed Breeding
Horned Lark	Special Concern	Probably Breeding
Golden-Winged Warbler	Special Concern	Probably Breeding
Cerulean Warbler	Special Concern	Possible Breeding
Vesper Sparrow	Special Concern	Probably Breeding
Grasshopper Sparrow	Special Concern	Confirmed Breeding
Henslow's Sparrow	Threatened	Probably Breeding

In addition to the status under New York law, the NY Natural Heritage Program also assigns each species a global and a state rank. These ranks carry no legal weight but reflect the rarity of the species in the world or within New York State.

Most species in Springfield are given the rank of "S4" or "S5". This indicates that they are common to very common. However, four species have the rank of "S3" (Common Loon, Upland Sandpiper, Northern Harrier, Spreading Globeflower). This rank is rare to uncommon, with typically 20 to 100 occurrences, or limited acreages where they are found. Some may have few local occurrences but have large populations overall.

Reptiles and Amphibians; New York State also sponsors a project to inventory amphibians and reptiles. This is the NY Herpetological Atlas. Although records are limited for the Cooperstown Area, 19 species have been confirmed in the area. These include the Jefferson Salamander, Blue-spotted Salamander, Spotted Salamander, Red-spotted Newt, Northern Dusky Salamander, Northern Redback Salamander, Northern Two-lined Salamander, Eastern

American Toad, Northern Spring Peeper, Bullfrog, Green Frog, Wood Frog, Northern Leopard Frog, Common Snapping Turtle, Painted Turtle, Northern Redbelly Snake, and the Eastern Garter Snake. Of these, the Jefferson Salamander and the Blue-spotted Salamander are listed as species of special concern. The other species are considered "unlisted."

Critical Natural Areas: The New York Natural Heritage Program also keeps a database of rare and important habitats or locations critical to plants and animals. According to their records, four species of birds (common loon, bald eagle, upland sandpiper, and northern harrier), and three ecological communities are located within the Town and are considered to be significant. The birds were located near Summit Lake and Shadow Brook as well as other locations within Springfield. The ecological communities considered significant include a rich graminoid fen, a rich shrub fen and a white cedar swamp and are located in a wetland area near Summit Lake. Threats to this resource include nutrient enrichment and changes in water quality. The three sub-units at this location are globally ranked "G3" (Either rare and local throughout its range or found locally in a restricted range, or vulnerable to extinction throughout its range because of other factors), or "G4" (apparently secure globally), though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery, respectively. The graminoid and shrub areas are given state ranks as "S1S2". This is extremely rare or very rare, making it very vulnerable in New York State. The white cedar swamp is ranked "S2S3" (very rare and rare to uncommon).

Natural Heritage also has five historical records of species considered to be rare, threatened, or endangered. These include the Blackchin Shiner, Ram's head ladyslipper, northern bog aster, nodding pogonia, and spreading globeflower. All these species have not been recorded since before 1935.

Economic Characteristics of Springfield

Businesses

Economic data specifically at the town-level does not exist. All state and federal economic data is organized at the county-level. However, economic information organized by zip code is available. The Town of Springfield is covered by more than one zip code, and those extend beyond the town into other adjacent municipalities. However, the zip code 13468 is the only one that falls wholly within the Town of Springfield. The data below is for that one zip code and gives information on a segment of the economy in town. Thus, this data does not reflect businesses that may exist outside of the 13468 zip code and shows only those businesses who have employer identification numbers and report to New York State. It does not reflect any home occupations that do not report.

To augment this information, the Town of Springfield Comprehensive Plan Committee completed a local inventory of businesses. That inventory showed over 70 different businesses in Springfield and E. Springfield – some are home-based businesses. In addition to a variety of service and retail businesses, Springfield has two campgrounds, two golf

courses, nine motels, and several significant government enterprises (Glimmerglass State Park, Hyde Hall, and the SUNY Biological Field Station).

Table 4: Number of Businesses and Jobs by Zip Code (1990 – 2000)

Zip Code 13468	Businesses	Number of Jobs
1990	12	89
1994	11	76
1998	12	61
2000	11	53
2003 (Census)	7	20
2006 (Census)	8	19

Source: ES202 Program. New York State Department of Labor and County Business Patterns published by the US Census Bureau.

Household Incomes

The median household income of the study area communities has increased faster than the New York State average over the past decade, and overall the area is becoming more affluent (although it continues to rank well below the 2000 New York State average). In 2005, the estimated household income in the Town of Springfield was $39,000 which is increased over the 2000 level, but still over $10,000 less than the median income level in New York State.

Table 5: Median Household Income by Zip Code

ZIP/Location	1989 Census	2000 CACI*	Percent Increase
13468: Springfield Center	$23,750	$34,444	45.03%
13326: Cooperstown	$29,097	$38,779	33.27%
13337: Fly Creek	$31,750	$41,813	31.69%
13348: Hartwick	$24,583	$34,107	38.74%
13807: Milford	$24,898	$35,278	42.69%
Cherry Valley, Town	$24,798	$39,107	57.7%
Richfield, Town	$24,519	$32,784	33.7%
New York State	$32,965	$43,640**	32.38%

Industries and Occupations

Table 6. Occupation of Town of Springfield residents who were employed persons, 16 years and older in 2000

OCCUPATION	Number	Percent
Management, professional, and related occupations	246	40.1
Service occupations	77	12.6
Sales and office occupations	124	20.2
Farming, fishing, and forestry occupations	26	4.2
Construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations	66	10.8
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	74	12.1
INDUSTRY		
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	110	17.9
Construction	48	7.8
Manufacturing	35	5.7
Wholesale trade	3	0.5
Retail trade	53	8.6
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	29	4.7
Information	9	1.5
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	16	2.6
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, and waste management services	33	5.4
Educational, health and social services	193	31.5
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services	36	5.9
Other services (except public administration)	18	2.9
Public administration	30	4.9

Source: 2000 National Census

Table 7: Employment Status of Town of Springfield Residents, 2000

Subject	**Number**	**Percent**
EMPLOYMENT STATUS		
Population 16 years and over	**1,071**	**100.0**
In labor force	657	61.3
Civilian labor force	657	61.3
Employed	613	57.2
Unemployed	44	4.1
Percent of civilian labor force	6.7	(X)
Armed Forces	0	0.0
Not in labor force	414	38.7

Source: 2000 National Census

Demographics, Housing, and Labor Characteristics of Springfield

Population and Demographics

The following information highlights many of the demographics in the Town of Springfield that illustrate the Town of Springfield. Of particular interest is the high median age (41.9 years), lack of racial diversity, low incomes in comparison to that of the rest of the United States, and lower housing values and housing costs. According to the US Census, the estimated population in Springfield in 2006 was 1396. Although there has not been a large population increase between 2000 and 2006, data does show a 10% increase since 1990.

Table 8: Census 2000 Demographic Profile Highlights

General Characteristics	Number	Percent	U.S.
Total population	1,350		
Male	671	49.7	49.1%
Female	679	50.3	50.9%
Median age (years)	41.9	(X)	35.3
Under 5 years	57	4.2	6.8%
18 years and over	996	73.8	74.3%
65 years and over	235	17.4	12.4%
One race	1,339	99.2	97.6%
White	1,331	98.6	75.1%
Black or African American	2	0.1	12.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	1	0.1	0.9%
Asian	3	0.2	3.6%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0	0.0	0.1%
Some other race	2	0.1	5.5%
Two or more races	11	0.8	2.4%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	16	1.2	12.5%
Household population	1,350	100.0	97.2%
Group quarters population	0	0.0	2.8%
Average household size	2.59	(X)	2.59
Average family size	3.04	(X)	3.14
Total housing units	712		
Occupied housing units	521	73.2	91.0%
Owner-occupied housing units	414	79.5	66.2%
Renter-occupied housing units	107	20.5	33.8%
Vacant housing units	191	26.8	9.0%

Social Characteristics -	Number	Percent	U.S.
Population 25 years and over	936		
High school graduate or higher	803	85.8	80.4%
Bachelor's degree or higher	201	21.5	24.4%
Civilian veterans (civilian population 18 years and over)	149	14.7	12.7%
Disability status (population 5 years and over)	233	18.1	19.3%
Foreign born	64	4.8	11.1%
Male, Now married, except separated (population 15 years and over)	328	60.0	56.7%
Female, Now married, except separated (population 15 years and over)	339	61.4	52.1%
Speak a language other than English at home (population 5 years and over)	80	6.2	17.9%
Economic Characteristics	**Number**	**Percent**	**U.S.**
In labor force (population 16 years and over)	657	61.3	63.9%
Mean travel time to work in minutes (workers 16 years and over)	23.7	(X)	25.5
Median household income in 1999 (dollars)	33,854	(X)	41,994
Median family income in 1999 (dollars)	38,490	(X)	50,046
Per capita income in 1999 (dollars)	16,513	(X)	21,587
Families below poverty level	22	5.6	9.2%
Individuals below poverty level	114	8.5	12.4%
Housing Characteristics	**Number**	**Percent**	**U.S.**
Single-family owner-occupied homes	248		
Median value (dollars)	76,000	(X)	119,600
Median of selected monthly owner costs	(X)	(X)	
With a mortgage (dollars)	840	(X)	1,088
Not mortgaged (dollars)	308	(X)	295

(*X) Not applicable.*

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3)

Table 9: Population

	1980	1990	2000	Percent Change 1980 – 2000
Springfield Town	1,239	1,316	1,350	8.96%
Cooperstown Village*	2,342	2,180	2,032	-13.24%
Hartwick Town	1,796	2,031	2,203	22.66%
Middlefield Town	1,870	2,225	2,249	20.27%
Cherry Valley Town	NA	1,210	1,266	4.6% (90-2000 change)
Richfield Town	NA	2,711	2,423	-10.6% (90-2000 change)
Otsego Town	4,012	3,952	3,904	-2.69%

**Not added to study area totals - Otsego and Middlefield population figures include the Village of Cooperstown*

The 20 year growth rate in Springfield, shown above, has been about 9%. This is much lower than other surrounding towns.

Age Trends

Springfield has a relatively older population and the median age of 41.9 years is quite a bit older than that of New York State (35.3 years). About 28% of Springfield's population is school age, and about 22% is over the age of 60.

Table 10: Age Characteristics, 2000

SEX AND AGE	**Number**	**Percent**
Male	671	49.7
Female	679	50.3
Under 5 years	57	4.2
5 to 9 years	79	5.9
10 to 14 years	127	9.4
15 to 19 years	120	8.9
20 to 24 years	43	3.2
25 to 34 years	124	9.2
35 to 44 years	218	16.1
45 to 54 years	204	15.1
55 to 59 years	83	6.1
60 to 64 years	60	4.4
65 to 74 years	113	8.4
75 to 84 years	86	6.4
85 years and over	36	2.7

Household Trends

Table 11: Number of Households

	1990	2000	Percent Change 1990 - 2000
Springfield Town	471	521	10.62%
Cooperstown Village	972	906	-6.79%
Hartwick Town	761	850	11.70%
Middlefield Town	731	792	8.34%
Cherry Valley Town	446	482	8.07%
Richfield Town	1000	968	-3.2%
Otsego Town	1,660	1,701	2.47%

**Cooperstown numbers not included in totals, Otsego and Middlefield population figures include the Village of Cooperstown*

The number of households in the Town increased by 10.62% since 1990 – one of the largest increase in the region. It is important to note that both the population increase and the increase in the number of households has been similar – at about 10%. However, at the same

time, the number of housing units in Springfield has increased three times that rate, at 33%. This is a common occurrence in rural areas where housing starts have outstripped population and household growth. It can be an indicator of second or seasonal homes, but also indicates rural sprawl (housing growth without population growth).

Household Size Trends

The typical household was smaller in the Town of Springfield than in New York State in 2000, but was slightly larger than the rest of the County.

Table 12: Household Sizes

	Household Size 2000
Springfield Town	2.59
Cooperstown Village	2.05
Hartwick Town	2.59
Middlefield Town	2.52
Otsego Town	2.22
New York State	2.61
Cherry Valley Town	2.63
Richfield Town	2.47
Otsego County	2.43

Source: 2000 US Census

Housing Unit Trends

According to the census data, there has been a large increase in the number of housing units in Springfield, as well as most of the Otsego Lake region. This could be due to second home building.

Table 13: Housing Units 1980 – 2000

	1980	1990	2000	Percent Change 1980 – 2000
Springfield Town	534	704	712	33.33%
Cooperstown Village	1,138	1,116	1,070	-5.98%
Hartwick Town	808	945	1,098	35.89%
Middlefield Town	762	968	1,058	38.85%
Otsego Town	1,996	2,146	2,193	9.87%
Cherry Valley Town	NA	571	629	10.2% (90-2000)
Richfield Town	NA	1355	1,296	-4.34% (90-2000)

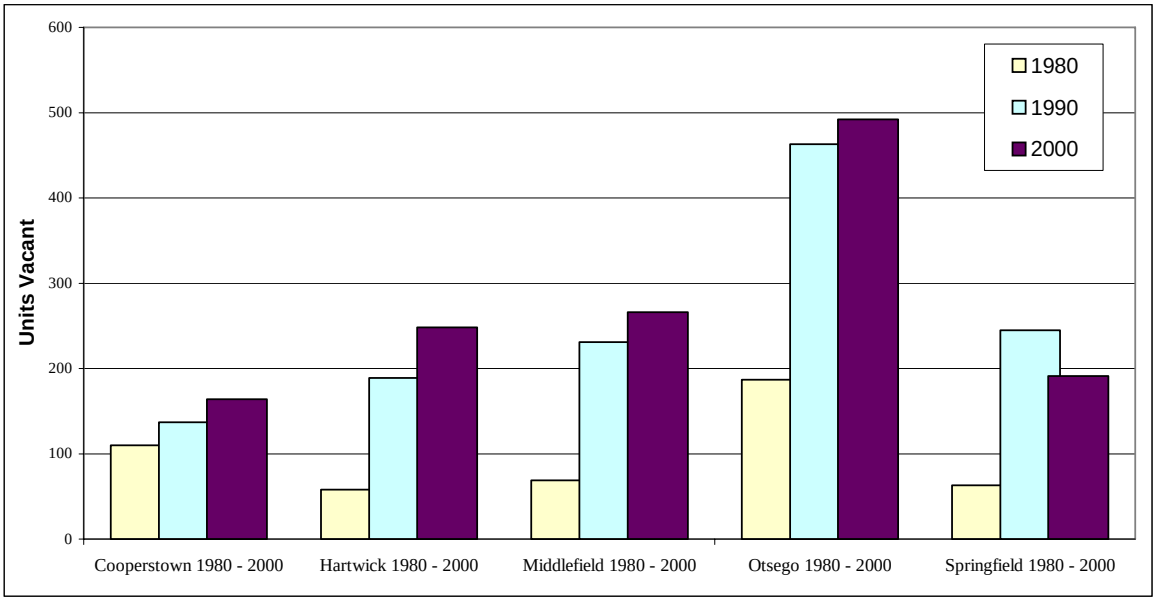
Source: 2000 US Census

Table 14: Details on Housing Units in Springfield, 2000

	Number	Percent
Total housing units	723	100.0
1-unit, detached	596	82.5
2 units	12	1.7
3 or 4 units	7	1.0
5 to 9 units	5	0.7
10 to 19 units	0	0.0
20 or more units	0	0.0
Mobile home	103	14.2
Boat, RV, van, etc.	0	0.0

Source: 2000 US Census

Chart 1: Total Vacant Units 1980 – 2000



Please note that the graph contains all vacant units, including seasonal and recreational units that may be summer residences or second homes.

Table 15: Vacant Units Only 1990 – 2000 (excludes seasonal, recreational or occasionally used units)

	Springfield	Cooperstown	Hartwick	Middlefield	Otsego	Cherry Valley	Richfield Springs
1990	80	111	58	87	107	125	355
2000	59	94	123	65	185	147	328
Change ('90 – '00)	**-21**	**-17**	**65**	**-22**	**78**	**17.6%**	**-7.6%**

**Cooperstown total included within Otsego and Middlefield columns*

According to the US Census, the Town lost about 33 seasonal properties between 1990 and 2000.

Table 16: Seasonal, Recreational, or Occasionally Occupied Units 1990 – 2000

Seasonal Properties							
	Springfield	Cooperstown	Hartwick	Middlefield	Otsego	Cherry Valley	Richfield Springs
1990	165	56	131	144	356	56	288
2000	132	70	125	201	307	78	198
# Units Change ('90 – '00)	**-33**	**14**	**-6**	**57**	**-49**	**22**	**-90**

**Cooperstown total included within Otsego and Middlefield columns*

Housing Costs

Lack of affordable housing in the region is an issue that came up at the workshop and survey results. People are concerned that there is a difficulty finding moderately affordable homes

To quantify and determine if there is a lack of affordable housing, the following analysis was done.

Rental Affordability: The rental index shows the maximum gross rent a given household can afford. Affordable rental housing is generally considered to be no more than 30% of a household's monthly income. The median household income in 2000 was $33,854. This analysis is based on census data from 2000. Taking all households into account, the rental index would be $846.00 per month (the amount of rent the average household could afford). This is greater than the average rent paid. However, there are about 16 households that paid more than 30% of their household income in rent (in 2000) and thus would have difficulty affording rental housing in Springfield.

Home Ownership and Affordability: Another method that evaluates affordability is to look at the ratio between the median value of a single-family house and median household income. Nationally, a ratio of 2 or less is considered to be "affordable". The affordability ratio for the Town of Springfield (using 2000 data) is:

Year 2000: 2.24 (calculated by finding ratio between a median value of a house of $76,000 with a median household income of $33,854).

Year 2005: 2.46 (calculated by finding ratio between a median value of a house of $96,100 with a median household income of $39,000).

This information shows that there is an affordability issue for homeownership for at least part of the population (those earning less than the median income) and that trend is worsening over time.

Purchase Price Multiplier. A look at the purchase price multiplier gives us another indication of affordability in an area. This looks at the maximum mortgage approval amount likely to be given to potential homebuyers. This is usually about 2.25 times the annual income. The figures below show this multiplier plus a 10% down payment. This is the amount of money that would be able to be afforded for a mortgage by the median household. This analysis shows that income levels are not sufficient to cover the average mortgage. The Town's

average household incomes are below that needed to afford the median value of a house. Using the 2006 estimated data, the purchase price multiplier shows that the median household would be able to afford a $96,525 house. In Springfield, that means that about 275 households or 51% the total would not likely be able to afford a median-priced house.

Who Needs Affordable Housing in the study area: Three income groups are presented to analyze the potential need for affordable housing (using 2000 data): those who earn over $100,000; those who make between $39,000 and $100,000 and those who make less than $39,000. This indicates that over the entire study area, about 68% of households earn less than $39,000. These households are those that may have difficulty affording homes in the area. The following summarizes this analysis:

# Households that earn less than $39,000 in income	**# Households that earn between $39,000 and $100,000 in income**	**# Households that earn greater than $100,000 in income**
275	317	26

Residential Patterns

About 74% of all residents lived in the same house from 1995 to 2000. This indicates a relatively stable population. For those that moved to Springfield between 1995 and 2000, 13% came from within Otsego County, and 12% came from outside the area.

Table 17: Where Springfield Residents Lived 1995 to 2000.

RESIDENCE IN 1995		
Population 5 years and over	**1,286**	**100.0**
Same house in 1995	952	74.0
Different house in the U.S. in 1995	330	25.7
Same county	168	13.1
Different county	162	12.6
Same state	92	7.2
Different state	70	5.4
Elsewhere in 1995	4	0.3

Source: 2000 US Census

Educational Attainment

About 41% of Springfield's population has a high school degree, almost 45% have some college or a college degree, and about 14% do not have a high school diploma.

Table 18: Educational Attainment, 2000

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT	**Number**	**Percent**
Population 25 years and over	936	100.0
Less than 9th grade	35	3.7
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	98	10.5
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	382	40.8
Some college, no degree	124	13.2
Associate degree	96	10.3
Bachelor's degree	121	12.9
Graduate or professional degree	80	8.5

Source: 2000 US Census

Poverty Levels

In 2000, 114 individuals were listed by the US Census as living below the poverty level. That translates into about 8.5% of all residents in Town, compared to 12.4% for the entire United States.

Table 19: Poverty Level for Springfield Residents, 2000

	Number	Percent
Individuals	114	(X)
Percent below poverty level	(X)	8.5
18 years and over	79	(X)
Percent below poverty level	(X)	7.8
65 years and over	13	(X)
Percent below poverty level	(X)	5.4
Related children under 18 years	35	(X)
Percent below poverty level	(X)	10.8
Related children 5 to 17 years	25	(X)
Percent below poverty level	(X)	9.3
Unrelated individuals 15 years and over	41	(X)

Source: 2000 US Census

Land Use Characteristics in Springfield

Hamlets in Springfield

There are four hamlet areas in Springfield:

Springfield Center: Centered upon the intersection of Route 80, 29A, Public Landing Road and Smith Road.

Springfield/”Puckertown”: Intersections of Griggs Road, Hinds Road, County route 29A, and US 20.

Middle Village: Intersections of Van Alstine Road, Continental Road, Fassett Road and US 20.

East Springfield: Intersections of US 20, County Route 31 and County Route 54

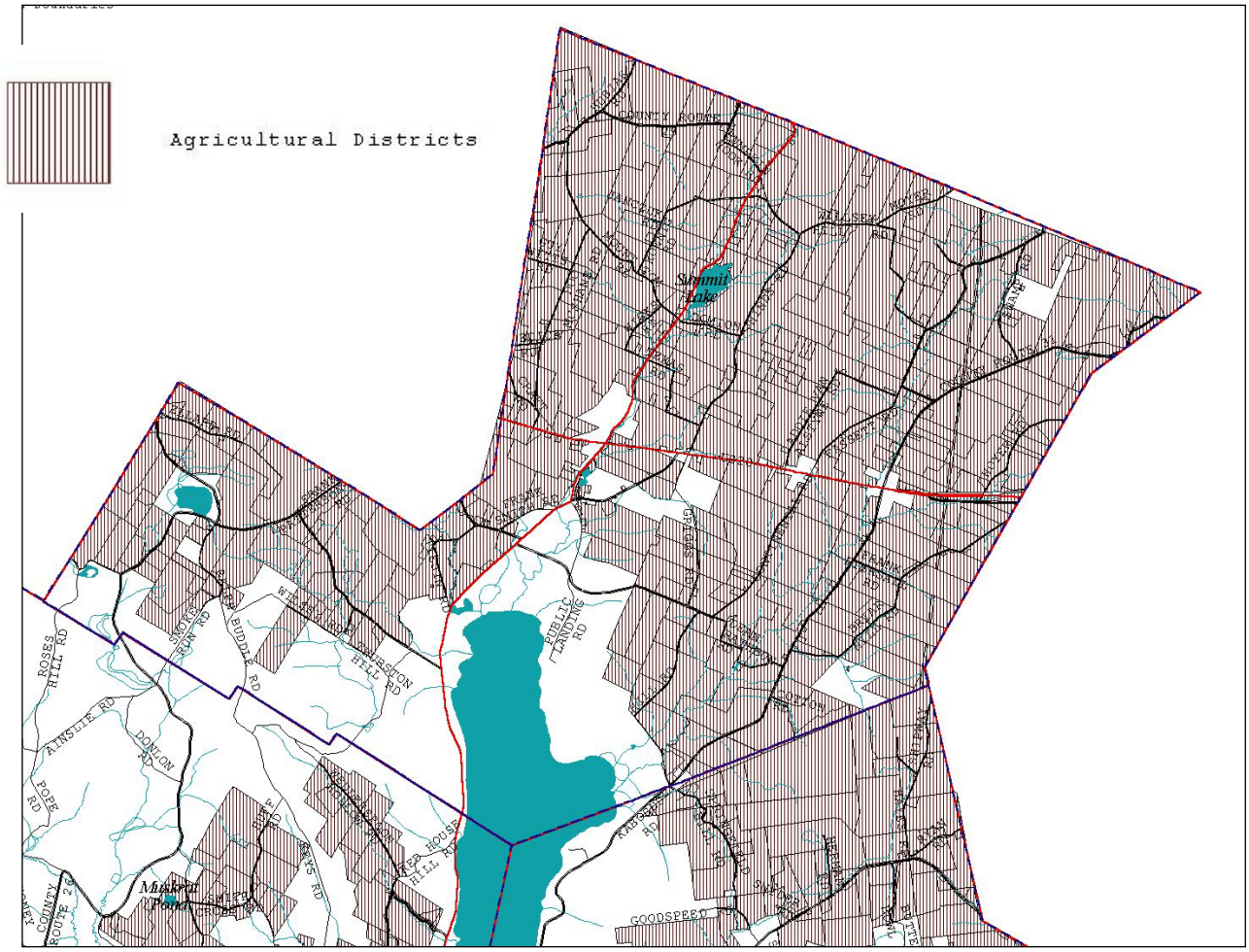
There are 1,112 parcels of land in Springfield with a total of 26,932 acres of land. By acreage, Springfield is somewhat smaller than adjacent municipalities.

Table 20: Acreage of Otsego Lake Towns

Municipality	**Total Parcels**	**Total Acres**
Springfield	1112	26,932.09
Otsego	1836	33,151.55
Cooperstown (Otsego)	895	763.87
Middlefield	1562	39,669.41
Cooperstown (Middlefield)	126	167.69
Hartwick	1457	25,263.04
Totals	**6988**	**125,947.65**

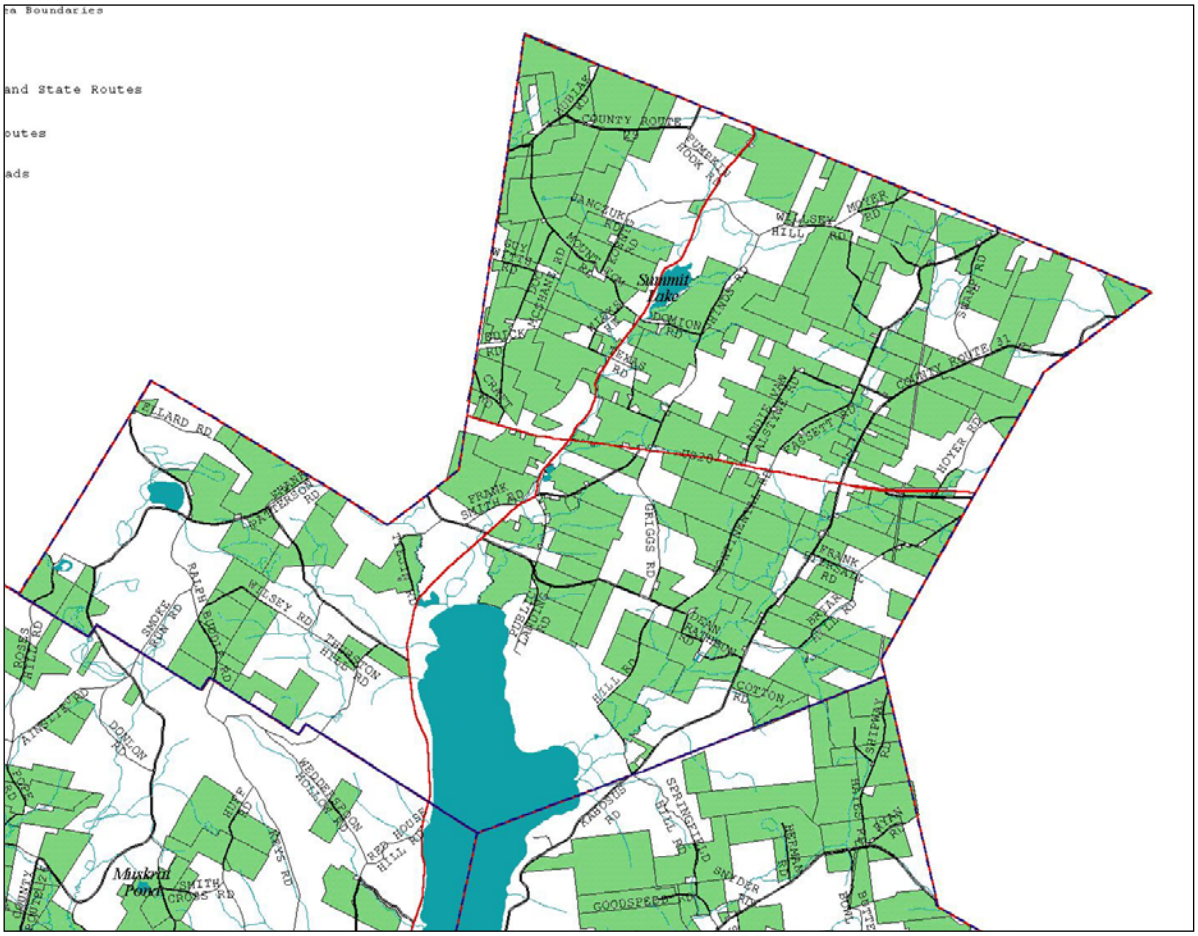
Agriculture

Agriculture remains a dominant land use in town. Most of the Town of Springfield is included in a New York State certified Agricultural District (Map 9). This large agricultural district extends into other nearby towns as well. For all the towns around Otsego Lake, Springfield has the largest area of unbroken land still contained within this Ag District and a very large proportion of its land in agriculture (Map 10). Among the areas municipalities, the Town of Springfield has the highest concentration of contiguous agricultural lands followed by Middlefield, Otsego, and Hartwick.



Map 9: Agricultural District in Springfield

Agricultural Parcels
(land use code = 100)



Map 10: Farmed Parcels in Springfield

Soils of Statewide Importance

Prime Farmland Soils

Map 11: Prime Soils and Soils of Statewide Importance in Springfield

Soils are generally conducive to agriculture as well. Most are classified by the United States Natural Resources Conservation Service and New York State as being of farmland of statewide importance (Map 12). Although there are prime agricultural soils within Springfield, these are less prevalent and found mainly in disconnected pockets. Some areas having the most concentration of prime soils are actually not farmed at all (southwestern corner of Town near the Smoke Run Road).

Although agriculture still dominates the economy and landscape of town, Springfield has lost farmland over the years. The greatest amount of farmland lost and converted in the entire area has been in the Town of Springfield. In Springfield, there was a 26% decrease in the amount of land classified as agriculture between 1996 and 2000. At the same time, there was a 175% increase in the number of acres now classified as residential land uses. These are significant trends.

As of February 2006, there were 28 operating dairy farms and 15 different crop farms. There are a variety of small farms as well including sheep and veal. In the past few years, several farms have been operated by Amish families.

Table 21: Change in Agricultural and Residential Parcels, Population, and Housing Units in Springfield and Adjacent Towns, 1996-2000.

1996-2000	% Change in Acres of Agricultural Parcels	% Change in Acres of Residential Parcels	Population Change (1990-2000)	Change in Number of Housing Units (1990-2000)
Springfield	-26.23%	175.11%	2.6%	1.2%
Hartwick	-6.56%	10.09%	8.5%	16.21%
Middlefield - Cooperstown	0.00%	19.00%	-6.8% (Entire Village)	-4.1% (Entire Village)
Middlefield	-3.02%	7.91%	1.1%	9.3%
Otsego-Cooperstown	0.00%	-0.01%		
Otsego	-2.84%	1.03%	-1.2%	2.2%
Cherry Valley	NA	NA	4.6%	10.2%
Richfield Springs	NA	NA	-10.6%	-4.34%

Building and Subdivision Activity in Springfield

The following building permit data shows the trends facing Springfield. Most of the building permits were issued for single family residences or mobile homes. There were a total of 155 new residential units built between 1991 and 2006, or a rate of about 10 per year. There were 24 building permits for new commercial structures and 29 for additions or remodeling to existing commercial structures.

Table 22: Building Permits Issued in Springfield, 1991 - 2006

Year	Single Family Residential Permits	Apartment or Duplex	New Commercial	Additions to Commercial	Mobile Homes	Institutional and Governmental
1991	8		1	0	5	0
1992	6		3	0	4	0
1993	3		1	1	6	0
1994	5		2	2	5	0
1995	3		1	1	9	1
1996	1		2	2	3	0
1997	5		3	2	10	0
1998	3		2	3	6	0
1999	3		1	2	2	0
2000	5		1	2	3	0
2001	6		1	2	6	1
2002	6	1	0	3	5	0
2003	8	1	1	4	4	0
2004	7		1	0	2	0
2005	5		3	3	2	5
2006	7		1	2	2	0
Total	81	2	24	29	74	7

Build-out Analysis

The completion of a Build-out Analysis results in data that show the potential impacts of growth according to current land use ordinances and development regulations. The analysis can help to measure the long-range effectiveness of local laws and the impact development may have on infrastructure and community resources. The Build-out Analysis estimates the impact of growth upon the Town once all developable land has been consumed and converted to uses permitted under the existing regulatory framework. It does not predict the time frame under which the final build-out will occur. The build-out is estimated after specific environmental constraints such as slope, floodplains, wetlands, and streams are identified and removed from the analysis. Thus the figures estimated in the tables below represent the potential amount of land that could be reasonably built upon. It assumes that water and septic capability are available.

The Town of Springfield does not use zoning as a land development regulatory measure. Therefore, the build-out analysis looked at three development scenarios using minimum lot sizes of 1 acre, 2 acre, and 3 acre lots. Please note that the following table represents three individual scenarios – the columns are NOT cumulative.

This analysis starts with using a population of 1,350 people (from the 2000 US Census). Using a 1 acre scenario, at full build out, there would be a total potential population of almost

35,000 people. In comparison, a build out with three acre lots results in a total population of almost 12,000 people.

Table 23: Town of Springfield Build-Out

	Scenario 1: 1-acre lots	**Scenario 2: 2-acre lots**	**Scenario 3: 3-acre lots**
Land available for development	17,060 acres	16,371 acres	16,314 acres
Number of units	12,795	6,139	4,078
New residents*	33,139	15,900	10,562
Additional Water consumption**	2,485,429	1,192,501	792,152
Roads***	853 acres	819 acres	816 acres
Police and fire****	8 to 9 staff	8 staff	8 staff
Total potential population at build-out	34,489	17,250	11,912

**2.59 persons per household (based on census figures for this municipality)*
*** Based on 75 gallons per day per person*
****5% of developable land*
*****1 officer and 1 fire fighter for each 1,000 persons*

Other Land Use Trends and Analysis

The amount of land that can be expected to be consumed over time, along with changes in the land cover of an area, are factors that are considered in a comprehensive plan. This analysis extrapolates current density and land use trends to the year 2010. The buildout analysis also evaluated potential densities and population levels that could be allowed under existing land use regulations in the region. For Springfield, the 1990 to 2000 rate in housing unit growth was 1.2%. The expected number of housing units in 2010 using the current rate of growth is 721 with a density of 7.6, and acreage needed to support this residential growth of 5,480 acres. At full-buildout (4,078) units, the acreage needed to support that level of residential growth would be 30,993 acres.

Land Trust Properties

The Town currently has three parcels in land trusts: Vilagos Farm, Thayer Farm (part of the Biological Field Station), and the Dan Rosen property.

Exempt Properties

As of 2006, there were four parcels of land wholly exempt from real estate taxes, and a variety partially exempt including agricultural lands and structures, non-profit properties,

veterans, Senior Star exemptions, etc. These exemptions totaled $22,416,398 in value in 2006.

Transportation

An important factor in the growth and development of a community is the transportation infrastructure that connects it to the rest of the world.

In Springfield, Town roads are maintained by the Town of Springfield Highway Department through state and local tax revenues. As of 2006, the Department had 5 fulltime employees and no part time employees. Facilities include two structures, 6 large trucks, three small trucks, and a variety of other equipment. The Town maintains 46.77 miles of local roads. There are 33 miles of roads that are paved and 12 miles of gravel roads. Through a formal agreement with Otsego County, the town plows and sands 32 miles of County roads as well. The 2007 budget for highway was $518,000. Recent major projects include widening and upgrading of Ellard Road (2006) and replacement of the Bartlett Road bridge. Areas of concern include: possible widening of Thurston Hill Road, sealing and paving along Mt. Tom and Addie Van Alstine roads, upgrading of Briar Hill Road, and excessive wear of paved roads by Amish horses and equipment.

County roads include routes 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 53 and 54 for about 32 miles. Otsego County is responsible for all maintenance except for the above mentioned plowing and sanding.

Springfield is located in New York State Department of Transportation Region 9.

Traffic volumes on state roads are shown in the table below. The table shows the traffic volume measured as the annual average daily traffic for both directions of the route segment.

There is no traffic count information for County or local highways. Traffic counts on the two State Highways in town (routes 20 and 80) show a great amount of variation in traffic volumes. Certain road segments have decreased in traffic volumes while others have increased. Along Route 20, west of Route 80, the traffic has increased, but between Route 80 and CR 31, the volume has decreased. A large increase has been seen between CR 31 and CR 54. Along Route 80, traffic volume from Herkimer County to Route 20 has decreased while a large increase has been seen between Route 20 and CR 27.

Table 24: Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) for State Highways in Springfield by Year of Traffic Count

Route	Segment Description	AADT (Year*)	AADT (Year*)	AADT (Year*)	AADT (Year*)	AADT (Year*)	Overall Traffic Count Trend
20	County Line to Rt 80	3090 (06)	2853 (03)	2700 (00)	2700 (99)	2650 (93)	17%
20	Rt 80 to CR 31 E. Springfield	2160 (06)	3260 (03)	2750 (00)	2850 (95)	2800 (92)	-23%
20	CR 31 to CR 54	3400 (06)	3260 (03)	3250 (00)	1700 (93)	2150 (89)	58%
80	County Line to Rt 20	1670 (06)	1610 (02)	2550 (00)	2450 (96)	2000 (92)	-17%
80	Rt 20 to CR 27	2600 (06)	2510 (04)	3000 (00)	2900 (98)	2150 (92)	21%

** The date of traffic count is listed for each route in parenthesis.*

Municipal and Emergency Services

Town Government

Springfield's town government includes the following elected and appointed officials:

- Town Supervisor
- Town Clerk
- Town Council (4 members)
- Highway Superintendent (elected)
- Tax Collector
- Assessor
- Planning Board (7 plus alternate)
- Health Officer
- Historian
- Town Attorney (appointed)
- Town Justice

Town Budget

Over the years, all budget categories have seen increases in budget appropriations in Springfield. The General Fund appropriations increased over 10 years by 27%. At the same time, the highway budget increased 63%. Appropriations to the Springfield Fire District also increased by a large degree (81%) but the expenditure for this service is small in comparison to the general and highway funds. Both lighting districts showed increased appropriations:

The Springfield Center Lighting District showed a very large increase from $700 to $2000 over ten years.

Table 25: Changes in budget Appropriations in Springfield, 1996 - 2006

Fund	1996	1998	2000	2002	2004	2006	Change 1996 to 2006 (%)
General	$247,821	204,996	259,880	271,120	283,500	314,240	+ 27%
Highway	$350,055	420,995	384,635	462,000	503,635	568,962	+63%
Springfield Fire District	$35,000	45,000	60,000	65,000	65,000	63,500	+81%
Lighting District, East Springfield	$3,400	3,400	4,100	3,400	3,600	NA	+6%
Lighting District, Springfield Center	$700	700	NA	700	800	2,000	+186%

Water and Sewer

There are no municipal water or sewer services provided in Springfield.

Solid Waste

The Town has a transfer station site on State Route 80 which is located on two acres of land. They accept paper, plastics, glass and metal cans for recycling. There is a separate dumpster for scrap metals. Wheelock disposal has a dumpster available every Saturday from 8 AM to 12 PM for residents to bring their bagged garbage in which the resident pays Wheelock Disposal directly.

Emergency Services

Otsego County coordinates the E-911 program. Police services are provided by the Otsego County Sheriff's Department and the New York State Police. The entire fire protection for the Town of Springfield is provided by the Springfield Fire Department. The fire district is comprised of the entire Town of Springfield. Ambulance service is contracted to the Village of Cooperstown and the Cherry Valley Joint Fire District. The fire district has two fire stations: Company #1 East Springfield Route 20, and Company #2, Springfield Center, Route 80. The membership is made up of 60 members which provided fire and EMS protection. The District has six major pieces of equipment but no hydrant system. Water sources for firefighting consist of lakes, ponds and streams. There are 9 dry hydrants in the District.

Rescue services are provided by the Springfield Fire Department. Of the membership, there are 11 basic EMT's and 1 Advanced EMT. They provide full basic and advanced life support emergency service care until the transporting ambulance (Cooperstown/Cherry Valley) arrives. The major issue of the Springfield Fire Department is to continue to recruit, train and retain members for firefighting and emergency medical care. Another primary concern is the old and energy inefficient firehouses. Newer fire trucks are larger in size and weight and the current floors are showing wear as a result. The location of the Springfield Center Station places the members at great risk responding at the station, with inadequate parking, and obstructed site distances onto County Route 29A. There are no current concerns related to equipment and the Fire Department has an adequate program to repair and replace equipment on a regular basis.

Public Lands

Community Center: Located on County Route 29A, the former school houses numerous civic and cultural functions such as the court, assessor's office, town boardroom, historical society, library, boy scouts, and others. The facility also has a kitchen and gymnasium. Outside the building the community center grounds features other community recreational facilities such as walking path, playing fields, little league baseball field, and playground. The Springfield Town Board is responsible for this site.

Ryerson Field: Located on Public Landing Road. It has historically been used for youth baseball but most recently has been used for Fourth of July festivity parking.

Public Landing: Located on Public Landing Road at the north end of Otsego Lake. The Springfield Town Board is responsible for the site. The landing has been restricted to use by Springfield residents since 1989. Boat launch access has also been granted to seasonal residents such as residents of Ringwood Campground with six month leases. The site is used for swimming, boat launches, docking and picnicking. The facility has 24 boat slips. Funding comes from municipal taxes. Casual counts of users during the summer months (June – September) have tallied 8 to 20 visitors. The town's summer program for children increases the July usage figures to 44-56 visitors for mid-week days. There are no records of launches and day use.

Springfield Library: Located in the Springfield Community Center on County Route 29A. It is the smallest library member in the Four County Library System. It is operated by the Springfield Library Association and its Board of Trustees. The library services the Town of Springfield and surrounding areas. In 2005, the library had 4,726 users. Library usage is increasing in general with summer season usage the greatest. The library receives funding from private fundraising and association investments (66%), state appropriates (16%), town allocation (14%), and some support from the Cherry Valley-Springfield school district (4%). The Town of Springfield also provides infrastructure of space, electricity, and heat in the community center. The libraries stated needs include increased space for storage and meeting space. Specific plans require removal of the sink and counter to be replaced by storage cabinets. The library will require increased outside funding as association principal funds are depleted.

Utilities

There is a lighting district in East Springfield and Springfield Center.

The Town does have a franchise offering cable services through Time Warner Entertainment.

Medical Services

Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital is a major provider of medical services in the region and is located in Cooperstown.

Charities, Health and Human Service agencies, Clubs, and Recreational Groups serving Springfield residents

The following organizations and recreational opportunities are provided for by non-governmental agencies in Springfield:

Springfield Merchants Association
Otsego Land Trust
Glimmerglass Opera
Hyde Hall, Inc.
Springfield Boy Scouts
Springfield Cub Scouts
Springfield Grange Charter #1523
Springfield 4th of July Celebration and 4th of July Committee
Springfield Youth Baseball
Springfield Historical Society
Otsego Lake Association
Advocates of Springfield
Springfield High Meadows 4-H
Otsego 2000

Regional Planning Efforts

At the present time, there is no regional planning commission in the Town of Springfield or Otsego County.

Soil and Water Conservation District: Services include but are not limited to hydro seeding, pond development, wetlands delineations, mine plans, percolation tests, soil maps, agricultural assessments, and local Conservation Education Envirothon.

Farm Service Agency: Administration of federal government programs such as milk deficiency payments, crop reporting, and government subsidies on crops.

Natural Resource Conservation Service: Helps county farmers be better stewards of the land and water supply via projects such as barnyard construction, milk house waste removal, stream buffers, fencing for grazing, and conservation products.

Otsego County: Otsego County has a county-wide Farmland Protection Plan and a Watershed Protection Plan.

Historic Resources

There are two separate state registers or inventories of historic and archaeological sites, one kept at the New York State Museum and the other kept at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Although there is some overlap on these lists many are unique listings. The other factor to keep in mind is that the lists are continually growing. The vast majority of the listed sites have little associated information. There have been no systematic searches for historic and archaeological sites conducted in Springfield.

The SHPO Inventory includes 124 buildings that are contributing elements to the Glimmerglass Historic District. In addition, it tallies the East Springfield Union School, which is a National Register Site. The same inventory lists the Mill Road Stone Culvert as a structure. Twenty-five archaeological sites are listed and of these, 14 are prehistoric and 11 historic sites such as sawmills, gristmills, and a foundry. The New York State Museum inventory lists 29 prehistoric sites including villages, encampments, quarries, workshops, and individual isolated artifact finds. In addition to these listed or registered sites, other locations have been marked with the New York State Department of Education blue and yellow historic markers. These include the following signs:

- Continental School Log schoolhouse on this site in 1797. First Sunday school in Town organized here 1819. On Town Road, 2 miles south of Middle Springfield

- First Church in Springfield, and first Baptist Church west of Hudson Valley 1787, Used by all denominations and for town meetings, on US 20 at Middle Springfield

- Near Here Stood The log school house, probably first in the town, built before organization of Springfield in 1797. On County Road about ½ mile north of E. Springfield.

- One of the Early toll gates on the third division of the Western Turnpike completed in 1808, on US 20 at E. Springfield.

- Spalsberry Center, an early settlement here burned by Indians under Joseph Brant June 18, 1778, on County Road about 1 ½ miles north of East Springfield.

- Clinton Camp Occupied by 4th Pennsylvania regiment who served as guard for supply wagons 1779 on US 20 at Middle Springfield.

- Camp and Fort at Hyde Bay, Otsego Lake, 1 ½ miles south, occupied by 4th Massachusetts regiment 1779 on US 20 at Middle Springfield.

Another sign is missing and is no longer listed on the state database. A sign along Route 80 once commemorated the Sunken Island in Otsego Lake made famous in James Fennimore Cooper's Leatherstocking Tales. This sign is listed for the Town of Otsego but some people recollect that it was in the Town of Springfield.

Diantha Dow Schull, in her *Landmarks of Otsego County* (1980) identified six architecturally notable structures in Springfield. One of these is Hyde Hall, a historic home listed on State and Federal Registers and also considered a National Historic Landmark. Others include the George Rutler residence (cr. late 18th century) and the Catlin Memorial Library building on County Route 29A, the limestone Francis Carriage Works (ca 1830) on County Route 31, and the Italianate residence on US 20 (currently the Autoshoppe). The sixth structure, the Abby Cotes Winsor Select School for Girls (ca 1825) on US 20 just southwest of County Route 29A was demolished after publication should be considered an archaeological site. Schull's list is definitely not comprehensive as there are numerous residences and buildings throughout the town that are fine examples of historic architecture.

Several other historic sites were listed during interviews with local historians. These include the lime kiln on Hinds Road, another lime kiln on the Bridger Property on Continental Road, the legendary sinkhole along the "Chyle" (see geologic section related to limestone bedrock) near the junction of Jordanville Road and McShane Road, and the historic Thayer homestead sites on Rum Hill.

National and State Register Sites

- East Springfield Union School
- Glimmerglass Historic District
- Hyde Hall
- Hyde Hall Covered Bridge

Sites Considered Eligible for National and State Registers

A National Register District Nomination for the Waggoner Patent has been assembled but is currently tabled. The district included one of the earliest land parcels in the town and was considered significant for its rural farming character. The area contained 26 operating farms when the nomination was assembled. One of the reasons for the nomination being tabled is that the area has transformed with a loss of farms and the subdivision of some property.

Scenic Byways

The Town of Springfield is bisected by US Route 20 which has been designated a New York State Designated Byway. Scenic Byways are typically road corridors of regionally outstanding scenic, natural, recreational, cultural, historic, or archaeological significance. It is managed by the NYS Department of Transportation to protect its character and to encourage economic development through tourism and recreation. At present, the only restrictions in the corridor related to off premise signage. The Byway extends between Lafayette and Duanesburg, NY, and

in Springfield, includes Route 20 as well as an older section that is now County Route 54. Elsewhere along the byway, small branches or spurs extend to points of interest away from the main US route. Otsego 2000 was instrumental in obtaining the designation.

Cemeteries

Cemeteries listed from the historic of Judy Green (n.d), *Springfield: the Story of Our Past.* The list may not be comprehensive or exhaustive.

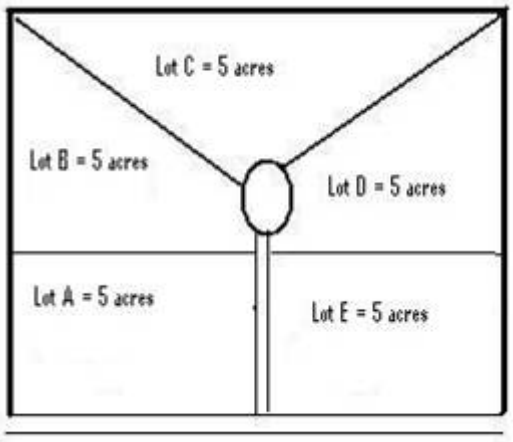
Middle Village	Van Alstine Road
Cary Cemetery	Hoke Road
Gardner Cemetery	Hoke Road
Ryerson Cemetery	Rt 80
Springfield Cemetery	Rt 80 – US 20
Oliver Cemetery	Rt 31 – Piersall Rd
Freebolt Cemetery	Rt 31
Presbyterian Cemetery	Presbyterian Church Yard
Lundholm Cemetery	Rt 31
Sam Smith Farm Cemetery	Rt 80 just south of Stark
Dillenbeck Farm Cemetery	Rt 31
Pumpkin Hook Cemetery	Rt 80 – Pumpkin Hook Rd
Thomas Cook Farm CemeteryCo	Rt 53 (near Fassett)
Hardy Cemetery	Summit Hill Rd (near Steenburgs)
Thurston Hill Cemetery	Thurston Hill Rd.
Allen's Lake Cemetery	Allen's Lake Rd
Dorn Farm Cemetery	One grave behind Barra residence

Appendix 1: Land Use Regulatory and Zoning Options

In addition to the recommended strategies already discussed, other recommended planning concepts to be included in future zoning:

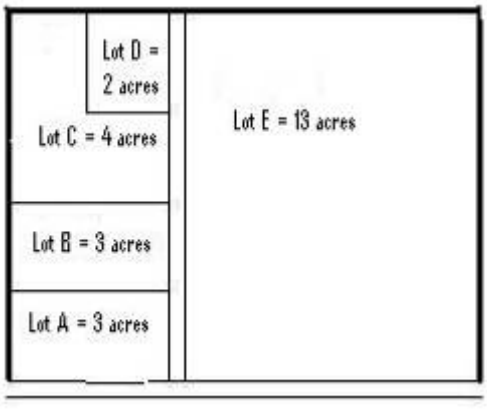
1. Rely on controlling the density of development instead of by minimum lot size.

Controlling Development Capacity with a Minimum Lot Size:



- Communities control growth by establishing a minimum lot size for each new lot created. Some feel that minimum lot sizes are important to spread housing out and to provide room for placing septic systems. However, many communities establish large minimum lot sizes in an attempt to lower the overall density of development and set minimum lot sizes much larger than needed for septic systems. These "large lot sizes" (ranging from 3 or more acres) do spread new houses out and controls the amount of development that can occur. But, they can often result in uniform "cookie cutter" growth patterns, force people to buy more acreage than they may want or can afford, and have not always been successful at maintaining open space. If a 5 acre minimum lot size were to be established, then every lot created would have to be at least that size. The example shows use of a minimum lot size. For example, imagine a 25-acre parcel slated for subdivision. If Springfield established a minimum lot size of 5 acres, then the 25-acre parcel would be able to get five lots sized five acres each. To maximize development, all land in this parcel would be included in a house lot as shown.

Controlling Development Capacity with a Density Measurement



- Another way to control growth is to put less emphasis on requiring a large minimum lot size, and instead, establish an overall density of housing development that must be met. That is done by setting the number of dwellings allowed per acre, with an average density and with the lot size just big enough for water and septic systems. When the lot size is separated from the density of development, the landowner gains the ability to be flexible in lot sizes and more creative in the development of the parcel. This example illustrates the result of using density. Imagine the same 25-acre parcel mentioned above. If Springfield established a density of 1 dwelling per 5 acres, then the 25-acre parcel would get five lots, but the lots could be of many different sizes as long as they average 5 acres

over the entire parcel. Lot size would be dependent on how much space is needed for well and septic.

2. Establish a development capacity of 1 dwelling per 2.5 acres or more with a minimum lot size as permitted by the Department of Health for well and septic. This allows for less residential development potential than exists now, but at the same time allows for smaller lots that are more affordable.

3. Offer incentives in the form of a density bonus so that major subdivisions will take advantage of being designed in a clustered or conservation design layout to protect open space and agricultural lands.

4. Site Plan Review (for commercial development) and subdivision (for residential subdivision) should incorporate rural siting and layout concepts that helps locate new growth on the site in a manner that protects environmental features, open spaces, and agricultural lands.

5. Create one or more hamlet districts whose boundaries are defined by the lighting district and allow for a higher density here with lot sizes and setbacks that are consistent with the existing and traditional hamlet growth patterns. Establish hamlet style dimensions for new development so growth in hamlets is consistent with existing structures.

6. Establish and rely on open space ratios and impervious surface ratios as performance standards for development outside the hamlets. Each parcel would have to have a certain amount of open space and minimized paved/impervious areas.

7. Establish rural siting guidelines and dimensions of new development that are oriented to rural areas. Put less emphasis on road frontage requirements and more emphasis on open space and environmental performance standards (maintaining open space, protecting steep slopes, wetlands, etc.)

8. Allow for business floating districts. In that way, all the standards and rules are established by the town, but the provision is not used until a business comes along.

Rural Zoning Model (Basic model includes hamlets, ag/rural areas, and lakeshore as primary land use districts with the floodplain and Glimmerglass Historic Districts as overlay districts)

Hamlet Districts: Establish hamlet-style dimensions where all setbacks and development standards are consistent with hamlets. Encourage mixed uses, and place less emphasis on controlling uses, and more on controlling impacts of uses. Each hamlet may be slightly different so the district should recognize and plan for slight differences in dimensions and style depending on the hamlet. Allow for one dwelling per parcel with a minimum lot sizes are equal to what is required by the Health Department in order to site well and septic systems. Mixed uses and a variety of housing types should be allowed.

Agricultural/Rural District: Establish this district for the rest of Springfield to allow for agriculture, low-density residential development, and small scale businesses to take place throughout the town, outside the hamlets. This district should place less emphasis on controlling uses, and more on controlling impacts of uses. Allow for 1 dwelling unit per 2.5 acres. Update existing subdivision regulations to include provisions that would allow clustering and conservation subdivision techniques. The subdivision review process should also emphasize siting new residences in a manner that optimizes maintenance of open space, the environment, and rural character. This should be formalized and incorporated into the local subdivision law. Use the development controls discussed in this plan via site plan review and subdivision to control siting, layout and impact of uses in this district. Uses should be primarily oriented to agriculture, residential, and limited commercial uses. Allow for flexibility in the type of residential development, and allow single and double family homes, as well as small apartment buildings, senior citizen housing, and townhouses provided the overall density and open space requirements are met.

Lake Shore: Establish a lake shore overlay district that has the same boundaries and regulations as now controlled with Local Law #2 of 2007 (amended the original Local Law #3 of 1987). This maintains those regulations but incorporates the procedures into one place.

Glimmerglass Historic District Overlay: Establish a Glimmerglass Historic District Overlay that has the same boundaries and requirements as currently exists to ensure review impacts to the historic resources.

Floodplain Overlay: Establish a Floodplain Overlay District that has the same boundaries and requirements as currently exists so that floodplain regulations are incorporated and administered through this coordinated regulatory document.

Appendix 2: Public Input

Visioning Workshop Summary

The Town of Springfield hosted a visioning workshop in April 2007. The development of a shared vision statement is important for the long-term success of Springfield's Comprehensive Plan. A vision statement is necessary to judge future policies, programs, and actions. It also acts as a "consistency test" for decisions made at the local level. Visioning is a strategic tool that will help Springfield:

Develop a greater sense of community consensus
Establish long-term direction for the community
Initiate effective and creative problem solving
Build commitment to implement the vision and plan
Develop priorities for the comprehensive plan

At the workshop held in April, 55 participants worked through a visioning process to develop a vision for the future of the town. Small groups worked together to identify specific elements of their vision and to devise a statement that characterizes that vision. The first step was to identify both negative and positive elements of the Town. These elements, or factors, were recorded, and then ranked by the individual groups by placing a "priority" sticker next to the factor each group member felt was the most significant. The following two tables categorize all of the negative and positive factors identified along with the number of priority stickers each category received at this first stage of the visioning process.

Negative Factors Identified by the Workshop Participants:

Category	Number of Responses in Category	Number of Priority Stickers for this category	Negative Factors Identified
Planning/Zoning	14	15	Unplanned development No protection/concerns about what neighbors do with their property – building and farmland Zoning laws – keep farmlands and building up excessively Over regulation of landowner Minimal development needed Problems for an Amish School re rules and laws Don't like condos (Arrowhead Point) Lack of land use regulation to control growth Poor land use regulations No minimum lot size Local environmental guide lines – burning, homes Lack of simple regulations from Planning Board Over regulations to build No means of expansion along Otsego Lake
Government	10	7	Town Board behavior unproductive Dysfunction of Town Board Public notification of persons property More public votes, not just Town Board More transparency with Town finances Money is a priority Transparency with property People on Town Board and Planning Board should own property in the Village Discourages development which destroys family unit, kids move to find jobs Favoritism and Cronyism
Taxes/Tax Base	7	6	Loss of tax base Tax exemptions Town property off tax rolls Too many tax exempt buildings and land Taxes are too high School taxes Opera (and other things) do not pay taxes
Business/Industry	7	5	No center of commercial activity Miss small business Town not business friendly Demise of local economy in general No type of paper industry (low-keyed) Lack of year-round economic development Need to capitalize on tourism
Internet/Cell Phone Access	3	5	Whole Town is not covered by high-speed internet Limited cell phone reception High-speed internet for Town
Youth	6	3	Lack of opportunities for young people Recreational facilities for youth No industry or opportunities to keep kids here Community Center Gym access for kids – sing-up sheet Nothing to keep children here Lack of jobs for kids
People/Community Attitude	7	4	Stuck in past attitude

Category	Number of Responses in Category	Number of Priority Stickers for this category	Negative Factors Identified
			Lack of pride in community Aging population Lack of young people Inconsiderate of neighbors Lack of participation, lots of complaining Don't feel outsiders should tell us what to do
Enforcement	4	3	Lack of consistent Town enforcement of rules Lack of Code Enforcement Officer No dog ordinance enforcement Lack of law enforcement – speed control in hamlet
Infrastructure	5	3	Water quality/Hamlet septic problems No communications infrastructure Hard to find out what is going on in Town Town water system & sewage (creek goes through center of Town Working more together with adjoining towns
Community Appearance	6	3	Appearance of Town Community Center needs refurbishing and maintenance Lack of Town Center Town Center/Retail base Lack of junkyard ordinance Lack of centralized local businesses and services
Schools	2	1	Too much apathy in school system Schools have less students each year
Public Landing/Recreation	8	0	Public landing better developed Boat spaces at public landing Need to be lottery to pick space Dock space too cheap, raise rates Public landing beach has not enough sand on shore Trout stream poorly stocked No safe places to walk, ride or exercise Outside recreation
Roads	5	0	No control of out-of-date road signs Lack of sidewalks State & County need to do better job with snow removal Traffic Bypass SP Ct R Buggy lane for 20 and 80
Historical Concerns	4	0	Historical concerns Dislike historic district Need to capitalize on Route 20 historic corridor Need to capitalize on Town heritage & historic identity
Stores	4	0	Distance to stores is too far No convenience stores Miss another gas station See more stores and businesses
Agriculture	2	0	Demise of Agricultural economy in general Farms going out of business
Emergency Services	2	0	Fire Dept. and Ambulance Service response and equipment Aging Fire Dept. personnel
Employment	2	0	Too few jobs available Job market limited to Hospital or Otsego County
Transportation	1	0	No bus service

Category	Number of Responses in Category	Number of Priority Stickers for this category	Negative Factors Identified
Post Office	1	0	Post Office to be placed in Community Center
Environment	1	0	Burn paper but not plastic

Positive Factors Identified by the Workshop Participants:

Category	Number of Responses in Category	Number of Priority Stickers for this category	Positive Factors Identified
Rural/Community Character	16	17	Juxtaposition of old and new Laid back atmosphere Low population density Rural farm atmosphere (farmer friendly) Lack of congestion Rural agricultural open spaces Friendliness of people Rural nature – farms, etc. Important agricultural district Quiet nature of area Historic small town feel Small town atmosphere Seasonality of business limits influx Rural America Small community/hamlet Historic architecture and landscapes Quiet (but not on Route 80)
Scenic Beauty	9	15	Beautiful scenery and open space Natural beauty Beautiful countryside Otsego Lake is beautiful Beauty Scenic beauty, rural setting Beautiful scenery Beauty of land Wildflowers
People/Sense of Community	8	6	People have skills useful to community Individual personalities, but still good neighbors Concerned about their community Friendly people Like the people and small community set-up People have sense of pride Close knit community Community involvement
Infrastructure	7	4	Fire Department Quality Fire Department and EMTS Rules in moderation are good Good Library Public landing access No crime - safe Public Landing
Transportation/Roads	5	2	Good Highway Department Less traffic than many areas Good highway maintenance Good Highway Department Taking care of roads better each year
Taxes	2	2	Relatively low taxes Low property taxes in general
Recreation/Attractions	24	7	Access to Otsego Lake Otsego Lake

Category	Number of Responses in Category	Number of Priority Stickers for this category	Positive Factors Identified
			The lake Lake activities Public Landing for residents only Otsego Lake scenery Historic Landmarks Historical sites Hyde Hall Recreation Recreational activities Recreational facilities Recreation in wide open areas, water, snow, hills State Park Glimmerglass State Park Glimmerglass Opera Opera Opera attraction Opera House (economic asset) Opera Community Center Community Center Fourth of July Parade Community activities like Fourth of July Celebration
Business/Agriculture	3	2	Tourist trade seems to be thriving (motels and B & B's) Ability to have home-based business Good farmland still available
Amish Community	4	1	Amish people and farms Educational flexibility – Amish allowed their own school Amish community coming to town Amish are welcome, sustain farming
Environment	5	0	Lack of industry pollution Clean air Large tracts of undeveloped land still exist Fertile soil
Location/Access	4	0	Part of scenic by-ways Good access to suburban and urban positives Central location Route 20 and Route 80 crossroads

Solutions To Negatives

High Speed Internet:
- Install DSL
- WiFi on Verizon Tower
- Negotiate with Time-Warner
- Approach county to support county WiFi

Tax Base:
- Urge Town Board to apply to Council of Arts for loss of tax base in a small community.
- Do research to see if tax-exempt properties pay fire tax.

Unplanned Development:
- Zoning
- Perhaps Springfield should have its own land use regulations as opposed to County Regulations.
- Keep lake view shore intact.
- Educate citizens on places that have benefited from proper land use.

Board Meetings are petty, embarrassing and too personal:
- More participation with public.
- Hold accountable – vote them out, they are public servants.

Make minutes short, brief 1 page, town person?

Small home businesses

Negotiation as a group: Town as a whole to bargain with Verizon, Time-Warner, Road Runner. Equipment, distance.
- In interest of Town to be wired. Hard to build/sell/economics to the Town.
- Some actual phone lines need to be updated.

Land use regulations plan for the town-without dividing the community.

Sewage and water system:
- Residential density regulations for run-off.
- Creek part of watershed.
- Collective septic solution opportunities between East Spring and Spring Center.

Town government need to be more proactive with funds – full-time maintenance staff, improved furnishing, create more pleasing and inviting space. Fix roof and windows.
- Pursue outside grants and funding.

Put in sewer system: address water quality issues. Pursue grants from outside sources.

Tax incentives to support entrepreneurs. Town support of economic development, small grocery/general stores.

Support expansion of Time-Warner system. Internet to expand economic opportunities.

Solutions To Positives:

Otsego Lake:
- Revise local law to allow orderly expansion.
- Increase public lake access.
- Maintain high quality of lake.

Rural Nature:
- Giving tax credits to farms.
- Encourage types of alternate energy generation.
- For subdivisions encourage cluster housing or larger lot size.

Natural Beauty:
- Some land use regulations.

Good farmland: seek incentives to help keep farming viable.
Zoning.
Land use.
Encourage agriculture.
Large percent active farms.
Amish wish to grow.
Inventory of activity - what is the tax base. Lake area paying large amount.
Creative Lake development – restaurant, gas station or fuel access.
Access to Lake not to extend to outside community.
Preserve the Lake.
How do we return the rural atmosphere but yet not infringe on people's rights.
Keep farming alive and well.
Other revenue sources of farming other than just dairy.
Land use regulation.
Farmers Market.
Zoning for different development.
Continued funding for Highway Dept. – addition of a blower.
Community support/Government support/Grants. More shelving and storage.
Zoning and land use ordinances.
Support farming.
Buy and eat local produce.
Farm stands.
Continue to support: Fireman's Oktoberfest – fundraiser like Fourth of July.

Visioning Elements

Economic Development
Infrastructure
Land Use Planning
Rural Character
The Lake
Environment
Scenic Beauty
Historical
Landscape
Values
Community
Agriculture
Housing
Recreation
Citizen and Government
Alternative Energy
Individuality
Education
Youth Opportunities

Post-it Summaries

Economic Development

- A town that promotes low-impact economic development without sacrificing its rural character. Rural integrity kept despite its business growth.
- A Town that does its best to get funding to buy up development rights of farms.
- Web-based presence.
- Opera admits it's in the Town of Springfield.
- Develop businesses which draw new people.
- A Town that does not permit uncontrolled development.
- Economically more to offer to keep our young minds productive.
- Restrained development yet good for families and businesses.
- Good center of commerce.
- Cut and dry building development laws.
- A town where most of the new development consists of green buildings.
- An industrial sector/area dedicated to attracting new businesses of like kind.
- More small business (some near crossroads). More cottage (small) industries.
- A step back in time before Walmart, Home Depot. Picturesque.
- Music Institute operating year round, based on Glimmerglass Opera.
- Some small businesses with wireless connection for easy shopping.

Business

- Good balance of businesses, restaurants and recreational facilities.

- Arts, antiques, pub. Need good restaurants, bakery.
- A Springfield center that has several small businesses that address the needs of the residents.
- Vibrant Mom and Pop businesses growing in the historic center.
- No fast food franchises or "box" stores. No Big Business such as Walmart. Keep our small home shops with our families.
- Local produce available, farmer's market, great cheese made here.
- Gas Station and convenience store in East Springfield.
- Grocery store and general store within driving distance for people who drive horse and buggy.

Employment

- More open employment opportunity. Opportunities for work that keep people here.
- More opportunities for our kids to have jobs near where they were raised. Better education.

Infrastructure

- A place where the agricultural, resident subdivisions and commercial businesses can work together.
- Lucky to have EMT group and FD.
- Victory in Town of Otsego.
- Thriving Public Library, with longer hours.
- Health clinic.
- No defunct signage.
- Better Schools. Schools with activity community involvement. Progressive school systems.
- State of the art communication infrastructure. High-speed internet for the whole town and individual residences.
- Excellent school system.
- Co-op Utilities.
- Almost completely solar.
- Municipal, sustainable power utility owned by the Town.

Environment

- Keep the Lake environmentally sound. The Lake is still clean as rules are in place not to pollute.

- Clean air, alternative energy available. Ethanol Plant.
- Wind Mills.
- Expand our natural resources – land, water, etc. Maintain beautiful surrounding landscape.
- Limit logging – just thin, but keep lots of woods.
- Wildlife.
- Diversity in utilizing resources.
- Receptive to new ideas to sustain a healthy environment.

Citizen and Government

- A Town that does more to promote citizen participation in local government.
- Public officials work together more efficiently. Progressive Town government.
- Residents have an easy way of finding out what's going on in the Town every day.
- Better working Town Board. Efficient and open Town government.
- Town Board should be effective, responsive, respectful, and productive and involve community in Town issues and activities.
- Effective Planning Board.
- Cooperation between Town and Opera and with Amish community.
- Enforcement of speed limits, slow traffic.
- Great dog warden.

Roads/Transportation

- All Town roads should be black-topped.
- Keep roadsides trimmed better.
- Town road crew in wonderful.
- Horse and buggy trails.

Housing

- Centers of housing that meets the needs of young, middle age and elderly families.
- Would like to see everyone be able to keep their home, and in good repair.
- No trailer parks.
- Senior citizen cluster housing. Cluster housing with large amount of green space.

- More single family homes.
- Year-round residents (not just weekends).
- Controlled increase in homes.

Open Space/Agriculture/Development

- No over-development ruining rural views.
- More dairy farms. Thriving, profitable farms are numerous.
- Lots of open space. Vast expanses of green, open space- vibrant agriculture.
- Workable, pastured land; avoid being over-grown from lack of farming.
- Beautiful farmlands and woodlands.

Roads/Transportation

- Good Transportation. Public Transportation (could help save fuel).

Zoning/Land Use

- No zoning
- Orderly, non-chaotic development. Nice lot sizes.
- Larger lot sizes.
- A type of flexible zoning compromise.
- Homes not close together. Limited sub-divisions.
- Reasonable amount of planned development.
- We are not subject to urban sprawl.
- Limited development on major thoroughfares: no commercial drive, no southside ?
- No huge condo projects – keep small town atmosphere.
- No junkyards in Town, sewers, no more sucking out septic tanks.
- Developed Lakefront.
- The lake has not been overpopulated. We can still access the Lake without an overabundance of people.

Taxes

- Lower Taxes

- Equitable housing and taxes (no gentrification).

Historical Heritage

- Springfield has a historic district.
- Historic town – well kept houses of the past. Appreciation of our history.
- Vital historical society, more involvement.

Recreation

- Easy to get to CC. at CC walking path.
- Tourist friendly.
- The Opera
- Community Center a vibrant, active meeting place accepting of all ages and groups.
- Best 4th of July Parade in the world. Continue 4th of July tradition. Longer celebration.
- Otsego Lake – beautiful and clean, access of homeowners, access for all. Continued Lake privileges, swimming, boating (non-motor), jet skis banned on Lake. Signs for parking spots at landing on west side of Lake.
- Golf, horseback riding, museums, opera and theater, hiking trails like at GGS Park with thriving bird populations.
- More Town events; concerts at refurbished Community Center
- Year-round activities of teenagers and young children; more younger people volunteering.
- Safe playground for little children.

Small Town Character/Community/People

- True community feel. Neighbors who care about each other.
- Community pride and involvement. Active community organizations.
- People-friendly. Quaint. Neighborly. Quiet.
- Safe, friendly, family-oriented, multi-cultural families. Preservation of family.
- Amish country. Large Amish community.
- Good values, moral character, helpful, courteous.
- Mixture of race and religions.
- Young families moving here to raise their families.

- Active social groups, garden club, etc.
- Blend of old and new.

Leave Me Alone

- Freedom to do as you please without being over-regulated.
- We don't want outsiders telling us how to live…where to live.
- People leave me alone.
- Individuality – leaving people alone.

Vision Statements

After identifying, categorizing, and prioritizing these negative and positive factors, the groups turned the factors into short phrase and statements about the direction Springfield should be headed in. These were then further developed into more complete sentences and descriptions resulting in the following 8 statements describing what the Town of Springfield should be like in the future.

Group #1: A place where a mix of land uses work together. Small businesses are encouraged. Appreciation for the past and the future.

Group #2: Greater use of alternative energy for our environment. Viable farms exist. High-speed internet for the whole town. Varied choice of restaurants. Recreation and cleanliness of Otsego Lake.

Group #3: We want zoning to support new and existing small businesses. Careful zoning which protects open space, agriculture, and resources. The Town government should be responsive, productive and respectful.

Group #4: Improved government efficiency, communications and citizen participation. Enhanced cultural and natural environment. Promotes business within the context of balanced development. Abundant open space and agriculture outside of town.

Group # 5: Help low-impact businesses to survive and be profitable.
Good old values in a good old town. The sense of active community involvement. The beauty that brings people and keeps people with moderation. Low impact, yet responsible government. Recreation – good time, good people. More community involvement from year-round residents. Individuality needs to be preserved – I want to be left alone.

Group #6: Zoning to encourage proper development and to maintain rural character. Harmonious, friendly, supportive, nice community. Low-impact small industrial businesses properly placed. Protection and maintenance of natural resources.

Group #7: Eat local to support local agriculture and open rural spaces. Local craft support. Vibrant, active, and safe recreational opportunities for all residents in a centralized place. Community has housing opportunities for young and old, rich and poor…community attracts multi-generations while maintaining historic character.

Group #8: Economic growth without negatively impacting the environment or rural character. The Lake is a valuable asset not be commercialized. Continue efforts to maintain prudent access for residents. Maintain historical buildings, possibly regulating to preserve. Organized sense of recreation. Access to landscape and environment of Town without negatively impacting the environment. Education: time for new regime of Board Members. Maintain natural setting – no major eye sores.

Springfield Survey Results

I.1.Age:	Under 18	19-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70+	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	0	22	20	58	118	92	92	404	99%
Percent of Completed Answers	0.0%	5.4%	5.0%	14.4%	29.2%	22.8%	22.8%		

I.2. Gender:	Male	Female	Answered both	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	220	173	5	399	98%
Percent of Completed Answers	55.1%	43.4%	1.3%		

I.3. Are you a: (resident status)	Seasonal Resident	Full-Time Resident	Non-Resident Landowner	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	59	310	30	400	98%
Percent of Completed Answers	14.8%	77.5%	7.5%		

I.4. What type of property do you own? (property1)	Residential	Commercial	Vacant Land	Rental	Vacation	Agricultural	None	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	280	14	14	2	18	46	30	405	100%
Percent of Completed Answers	69.1%	3.5%	3.5%	0.5%	4.4%	11.4%	7.4%		

I.4. What type of property do you own? (property2)	Residential	Commercial	Vacant Land	Rental	Vacation	Agricultural	None	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	1	13	39	12	8	37	0	113	28%
Percent of Completed Answers	0.9%	11.5%	34.5%	10.6%	7.1%	32.7%	0.0%		

I.4. What type of property do you own? (property3)	Residential	Commercial	Vacant Land	Rental	Vacation	Agricultural	None	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	0	0	4	2	4	20	0	30	7%
Percent of Completed Answers	0.0%	0.0%	13.3%	6.7%	13.3%	66.7%	0.0%		

I.5. How long have you lived in the Town of Springfield?	5 or less	6 to 10	11 to 15	16 to 20	21 to 25	26 to 30	31 to 35	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered(out of 407)
Number of Responses	47	41	22	37	37	41	30	378	93%
Percent of Completed Answers	12.4%	10.8%	5.8%	9.8%	9.8%	10.8%	7.9%		
	36 to 40	41 to 45	46 to 50	51 to 55	56 to 60	61 to 65	66 to 70		
Number of Responses	25	14	16	13	12	9	10	378	93%
Percent of Completed Answers	6.6%	3.7%	4.2%	3.4%	3.2%	2.4%	2.6%		
	71 to 75	76 to 80	81 to 85	86 to 90	91 to 95	96 to 100			
Number of Responses	3	4	1	3	1	0		378	93%
Percent of Completed Answers	0.8%	1.1%	0.3%	0.8%	0.3%	0.0%	0.0%		

I.6. How long have you owned property in the Town of Springfield?	5 or less - 50	6 to 10 - 54	11 to 15 - 28	16 to 20 - 53	21 to 25 - 36	26 to 30 - 40	31 to 35 - 36	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	50	5	28	53	36	40	36	391	96%
Percent of Completed Answers	12.8%	1.3%	7.2%	13.6%	9.2%	10.2%	9.2%		
	36 to 40 - 27	41 to 45 - 8	46 to 50 - 10	51 to 55 - 7	56 to 60 - 11	61 to 65 - 3	66 to 70 - 2		
Number of Responses	27	8	10	7	11	3	2	391	96%
Percent of Completed Answers	6.9%	2.0%	2.6%	1.8%	2.8%	0.8%	0.5%		
	71 to 75 - 0	76 to 80 - 0	81 to 85 - 0	86 to 90 - 0	91 to 95 - 0	96 to 100 - 0			
Number of Responses	0	0	0	0	0	0		391	96%
Percent of Completed Answers	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%		

I.7. Are you employed?	Employed	Self-Employed	Unemployed	Retired				Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)

Number of Responses	161	91	11	139		402	99%
Percent of Completed Answers	40.0%	22.6%	2.7%	34.6%			

I.8. If employed or self-employed, how many miles do you commute on average?	0	1 to 5	6 to 10	11 to 20	21 to 30	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	75	26	30	51	32	264	65%
Percent of Completed Answers	28.4%	9.8%	11.4%	19.3%	12.1%		
	31 to 50	51 to 75	76 to 100	101 or more			
Number of Responses	22	13	9	6		264	65%
Percent of Completed Answers	8.3%	4.9%	3.4%	2.3%			

I.9. Do you have any school-aged children in your household, if so how many?	Zero	One	Two	Three		Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered(out of 407)
Number of Responses	320	43	27	6		399	98%
Percent of Completed Answers	80.2%	10.8%	6.8%	1.5%			
	Four	Five	Six	Seven or more			
Number of Responses	0	1	2	0			
Percent of Completed Answers	0.0%	0.3%	0.5%	0.0%			

I.10. Where do you live/own property in the Town of Springfield? (location1)	Springfield Center	East Springfield	Otsego Lake	North of Route 20	South of Route 20	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	57	34	88	89	64	332	82%
Percent of Completed Answers	17.2%	10.2%	26.5%	26.8%	19.3%		

10. Summary: all areas of town were represented in the survey. Slightly more people lived north of Route 20 and in the Otsego Lake area.

I.10. Where do you live/own property in the Town of Springfield? (location2)	Springfield Center	East Springfield	Otsego Lake	North of Route 20	South of Route 20	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	0	4	4	7	6		

Percent of Completed Answers								
I.10. Where do you live/own property in the Town of Springfield? (location3)	Springfield Center	East Springfield	Otsego Lake	North of Route 20	South of Route 20		Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	0	0	1	0	0			
Percent of Completed Answers								

II.1.Which of the issues listed below should be evaluated and considered in the comprehensive planning process?	Extremely Important	Important	Not Important	No Opinion		Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Employment	110	179	46	32		367	90%
	30.0%	48.8%	12.5%	8.7%			
Economic Development	94	207	46	20		367	90%
	25.6%	56.4%	12.5%	5.4%			
Housing	67	209	56	29		361	89%
	18.6%	57.9%	15.5%	8.0%			
Road Maintenance	138	220	17	4		379	93%
	36.4%	58.0%	4.5%	1.1%			
Water Quality	210	147	10	11		378	93%
	55.6%	38.9%	2.6%	2.9%			
Septic/Wastewater	183	158	15	16		372	91%
	49.2%	42.5%	4.0%	4.3%			
Farmland/Rural Preservation	203	129	27	12		371	91%
	54.7%	34.8%	7.3%	3.2%			
Control of Development	195	122	44	13		374	92%
	52.1%	32.6%	11.8%	3.5%			
Public Facilities/Recreation	74	197	69	24		364	89%
	20.3%	54.1%	19.0%	6.6%			
Protection of Historic Buildings/Sites	114	181	60	20		375	92%
	30.4%	48.3%	16.0%	5.3%			
Protection of Scenic Viewsheds	133	131	71	25		360	88%
	36.9%	36.4%	19.7%	6.9%			

Summary: No item received any more than 20% of participants indicating that these topics are NOT important. Water Quality,

Septic/Wastewater, Farmland/Rural Preservation, control of development were considered to be extremely important by the most participants. Protection of scenic resources and public facilities/recreation had the most people (20%) feel they were not important. Overall, these stress that all these features are important to the majority of participants and should be addressed in the plan.

II.2. Are you satisfied with the current status of land use regulations in Springfield?	Yes - 100	No-Too much regulation - 70	No-Not enough regulation - 115	Not aware od Land Use Regulations - 70	No Opinion - 20	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	100	70	115	70	20	382	94%
Percent of Completed Answers	26.2%	18.3%	30.1%	18.3%	5.2%		

Summary: there is a mixed response where slightly more people feel that there is not enough regulation of land use in Town. There are more people who think it is not enough or enough than too much. 18% felt what Springfield has now is too much. About 18% were not aware however, of what the regulations were.

II.3. What is your opinion on the specific existing land use regulations in Springfield?	Needs more standards	Favor as is	Needs less standards	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Subdivision Regulations	133	94	43	16	286	70%
	46.5%	32.9%	15.0%	5.6%		
Site Plan Review Law	122	102	47	16	287	71%
	42.5%	35.5%	16.4%	5.6%		
Local Law #1 of 2006	121	103	30	35	289	71%
	41.9%	35.6%	10.4%	12.1%		

Summary: Similar to above, fewer people feel there needs to be less standards in Town (less than 17% overall). 42% to 47% said There is need for more standards. The general emphasis is keep as is or improve.

II.4a. Should Springfield have additional specific guidelines for the development and layout of future residential projects?	Yes	No	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	222	116	42	380	93%
Percent of Completed Answers	58.4%	30.5%	11.1%		

Summary: More than half want to see more specific residential guidelines and 31% do not. 11% had no opinion. This seems To favor a direction towards some kind of enhanced residential development standards.

II.5. In your opinion, how important is it for the Town of Springfield to regulate the following aspects of or kinds of development?	Average Score:	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered(out of 407)
No land use regulations are needed	10.68	243	60%
Lot size	6.90	296	73%
Set backs	8.16	286	70%
Road frontage	9.08	284	70%
Development density	5.43	302	74%
Size of dwelling	10.40	278	68%
Location for residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural uses	5.21	303	74%
Parking	11.54	286	70%
Lighting	10.36	289	71%
Signs	9.88	291	71%
Commercial building design	8.80	295	72%
Landscaping	11.62	283	70%
Lakeshore development	5.93	302	74%
Junkyards	4.80	307	75%
Mobile homes	7.52	293	72%
Wind turbines	8.28	301	74%
Other	7.17	41	10%

Summary: Eliminate question and explore via other means later in the process.

II.6. How important is it to consider a future project's impact on the following aspects of our community?	Extremely Important	Important	Not Important	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Density of development	170	147	36	14	367	90%
	46.3%	40.1%	9.8%	3.8%		
Drinking water quality	251	118	10	6	385	95%
	65.2%	30.6%	2.6%	1.6%		
Emergency services	197	178	9	2	386	95%
	51.0%	46.1%	2.3%	0.5%		
Farmlands and active farms	173	178	20	6	377	93%
	45.9%	47.2%	5.3%	1.6%		

Forests and woodlands	171	161	30	11	373	92%
	45.8%	43.2%	8.0%	2.9%		
Historic character	116	179	61	21	377	93%
	30.8%	47.5%	16.2%	5.6%		
Landscaping	30	170	138	29	367	90%
	8.2%	46.3%	37.6%	7.9%		
Local, county, and state roads	127	218	27	10	382	94%
	33.2%	57.1%	7.1%	2.6%		
Neighboring properties	113	197	35	21	366	90%
	30.9%	53.8%	9.6%	5.7%		
Otsego Lake	214	117	31	17	379	93%
	56.5%	30.9%	8.2%	4.5%		
Property values	161	166	26	16	369	91%
	43.6%	45.0%	7.0%	4.3%		
Proximity of commercial development to residential or agricultural properties	176	133	44	14	367	90%
	48.0%	36.2%	12.0%	3.8%		
Rural Character	166	148	48	17	379	93%
	43.8%	39.1%	12.7%	4.5%		
Scenic resources	139	143	70	17	369	91%
	37.7%	38.8%	19.0%	4.6%		
Site design and layout	74	191	77	20	362	89%
	20.4%	52.8%	21.3%	5.5%		
Steams and wetlands	187	149	29	10	375	92%
	49.9%	39.7%	7.7%	2.7%		
Town budget	152	199	16	10	377	93%
	40.3%	52.8%	4.2%	2.7%		
Traffic	101	199	64	7	371	91%
	27.2%	53.6%	17.3%	1.9%		
Watershed and water quality	218	129	18	8	373	92%
	58.4%	34.6%	4.8%	2.1%		
Wildlife habitats	150	171	36	17	374	92%
	40.1%	45.7%	9.6%	4.5%		

Summary: Like the other question, most people feel these are all important or extremely important features to be considered

By the town during project review. Landscaping was felt to be not important by about 1/3 of participants. Drinking water, Otsego Lake, emergency services, and watershed/water quality were felt to be extremely important by over half. Taken together, all other categories were felt to be important to be looked at and evaluated for impacts.

II.7. Indicate the importance of each aspect of the town's environment:	Extremely Important	Important	Not Important	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Drinking water quality	285	91	3	5	384	94%
	74.2%	23.7%	0.8%	1.3%		
Stream water quality	221	142	10	7	380	93%
	58.2%	37.4%	2.6%	1.8%		
Historic buildings and districts	108	193	56	19	376	92%
	28.7%	51.3%	14.9%	5.1%		
Air quality	189	160	11	14	374	92%
	50.5%	42.8%	2.9%	3.7%		
Hamlets	81	200	48	29	358	88%
	22.6%	55.9%	13.4%	8.1%		
Scenic views	120	167	65	17	369	91%
	32.5%	45.3%	17.6%	4.6%		
Farmland	175	169	20	10	374	92%
	46.8%	45.2%	5.3%	2.7%		
Open space	165	145	40	17	367	90%
	45.0%	39.5%	10.9%	4.6%		

Summary: Water related resources again are top priority to the Town. Most people felt these were important or extremely important features of the Town. Scenic views had about 18% say it was not important. Historic resources, hamlets, and scenic views had slightly more people saying it was important compared to extremely important. Taken all together, all these resources should be addressed in the plan in a way that moves Springfield to protect these positive aspects.

II.8. Should Springfield develop and adopt a zoning law to control and regulate future developments and their locations?	Yes	No	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered(out of 407)
Number of Responses	275	91	18	384	94%
Percent of Completed Answers	71.6%	23.7%	4.7%		

Summary: There was very strong support for initiation of zoning in town.

II.9. Should the town pursue efforts to preserve farmland and open space?	Yes	No	It Depends	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	283	54	43	13	393	97%
Percent of Completed Answers	72.0%	13.7%	10.9%	3.3%		

Summary: There was very strong support for initiation of efforts to preserve farmland and open space.

II.10. Should the town pursue efforts to preserve the rural character of Springfield?	Yes	No	It Depends	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	291	49	36	18	394	97%
Percent of Completed Answers	73.9%	12.4%	9.1%	4.6%		

Summary: There was very strong support for the town to be involved in preservation of rural character.

II.11. Would you be in favor of spending funds to meet the farmland or open space needs of the town?	No	Yes, but using only private money	Yes, using a mix of public and private funds	Yes, using public money even if no private funds were available	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	99	64	162	38	371	91%
Percent of Completed Answers	26.7%	17.3%	43.7%	10.2%		

Summary: A small number of people were interested in spending only public money on farmland and open space. More people were willing to use a mix of public and private funds however. About 27% did not want any money spent. Remember about 13% did not want

The town to be involved in farmland preservation at all (question above) so it is likely that of the 28% who said no money should be spent, that these people not in support would be included. A cross tabs would tell us that answer. The town should pursue funding opportunities that do not involve tax or other public monies.

II.12. Should the Town of Springfield establish a minimum lot size requirement on land other than those covered under Local Law #1 (the lakeshore)?	Yes	No	It Depends	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	178	101	55	43	379	93%
Percent of Completed Answers	47.0%	26.6%	14.5%	11.3%		

Summary: almost half said there should be minimum lot sizes established beyond that in LL#1. Some people said it depends and if those concerns could be met, then over half would support establishment of a minimum lot size. 27% would not.

III.1. Should the town government make efforts to develop and promote business/commerce in the town?	Yes	No	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	257	93	38	388	95%
Percent of Completed Answers	66.2%	24.0%	9.8%		

Summary: there was very strong support for town efforts to promote businesses and commerce.

III.2. If yes, should the Town use tax incentives to do this?	Yes	No	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	142	137	55	334	82%
Percent of Completed Answers	42.5%	41.0%	16.5%		

Summary: There were mixed feelings as to whether the town should provide tax incentives to promote business development. No strong consensus here at all.

III.3a. Should Springfield have an additional Empire Zone?	Yes	No	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered(out of 407)
Number of Responses	87	141	147	375	92%
Percent of Completed Answers	23.2%	37.6%	39.2%		

Summary: There was no consensus as to whether the town should pursue another empire zone but the results indicate that there is not a lot of support for this.

III.4a. Should businesses be allowed in certain areas of Springfield and not in others?	Yes	No	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	171	147	53	373	92%
Percent of Completed Answers	45.8%	39.4%	14.2%		

Summary: Slightly more people felt businesses should be restricted to certain areas of the town, but not by much. This might be a good one to see if this is a statistical significant difference. About 40% feel that no restrictions should be on location. However, I would be interested in knowing if the question had differentiated between the type of business, the response might have been different since everyone answering this question might be thinking of different kinds of businesses.

III.5. Would you support the development of the following in Springfield:	Yes	No	It Depends	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Large business/greater than 30 employees	150	122	88	20	380	93%
	39.5%	32.1%	23.2%	5.3%		
Small business/less than 30 employees	302	15	51	15	383	94%
	78.9%	3.9%	13.3%	3.9%		
Mega-Farm Agricultural Businesses	123	170	44	42	380	93%
	32.4%	44.7%	11.6%	11.1%		
Natural gas energy development	219	65	47	49	380	93%
	57.6%	17.1%	12.4%	12.9%		
Windmills for individual use such as on farms	307	31	36	13	387	95%
	79.3%	8.0%	9.3%	3.4%		
Commercial wind farms	191	130	50	15	386	95%
	49.5%	33.7%	13.0%	3.9%		

Summary: There was a very significant support among participants for support of small businesses and windmills for individual use on farms in the town. Natural gas development was support by over 1/2 . There was much less support for mega farm businesses. About half also supported commercial windfarms, with 1/3 indicating no support. There were mixed feelings about large business development with about 1/3 indicating support and 1/3 not supporting it. The survey supports promotion of small businesses and individual wind mills.

III.6. As a service to the public and a stimulus for business development and entrepreneurship, should the Town of Springfield support efforts to increase internet access into all areas of the town?	Yes	No	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	286	65	38	390	96%
Percent of Completed Answers	73.3%	16.7%	9.7%		

Summary: There was very strong support for town supportive efforts for increasing access to the internet.

III.7. Should the town aggressively negotiate with current cable and internet service franchise holder Time-Warner to expand service?	Yes	No	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	245	70	68	383	94%
Percent of Completed Answers	64.0%	18.3%	17.8%		

Summary: there was strong support for town negotiations for expanded cable service.

IV.1. Should Springfield support and pursue efforts to develop municipal water and/or community septic systems in hamlets and other densely occupied areas of our town?	Yes	No	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered(out of 407)
Number of Responses	148	173	65	386	95%
Percent of Completed Answers	38.3%	44.8%	16.8%		

Summary: More people did not support efforts for municipal water or sewer than those that did support it.

IV.2. Should the town pursue electronic modes of communication like town websites, e-mail, and other electronic equipment purchases to be used at, and facilitate town meetings?	Yes	No	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	188	109	86	383	94%
Percent of Completed Answers	49.1%	28.5%	22.5%		

Summary: About ½ indicated support for more electronic modes of communication. Many people had no opinion on this one.

IV.3. Should the town support efforts to inventory, record, and preserve historic sites, buildings, documents?	Yes	No	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	300	42	46	388	95%
Percent of Completed Answers	77.3%	10.8%	11.9%		

Summary: There was very strong support for inventory, recording, and preserving historic sites, buildings and documents.

IV.4a. Should the town invest funds in upgrading the community center?	Yes	No	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	265	63	54	383	94%

Percent of Completed Answers	69.2%	16.4%	14.1%			

Summary: there was very strong support for upgrading the community center.

IV.4b. Regarding community events, should the Springfield town government:	Increase involvement and support	Decrease involvement and support	Maintain the existing level of involvement and support	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	127	10	191	58	387	95%
Percent of Completed Answers	32.8%	2.6%	49.4%	15.0%		

Summary: More people indicated the town should maintain the level of support for community events. About 1/3 indicated there should be more support.

IV.5. Would you lik to see term limits on elected officials on the town board?	Yes	No	No Opinion		Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	218	103	66		388	95%
Percent of Completed Answers	56.2%	26.5%	17.0%			

Summary: Just over half indicated support for term limits.

IV.6. Regarding the Public Library, should the town:	Increase level of support	Decrease level of support	Maintain the existing level of support	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	170	9	162	44	385	95%
Percent of Completed Answers	44.2%	2.3%	42.1%	11.4%		

Summary: Very mixed feelings about increasing support to the library resulted. Equal numbers of participants feel it should be increased as compared to those that want to maintain the existing level of support.

IV.7. Regarding the enforcement officer position in Springfield, should the town:	Make greater efforts to keep this position filled	Not fill this position	No Opinion		Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered(out of 407)
Number of Responses	174	68	122		364	89%
Percent of Completed Answers	47.8%	18.7%	33.5%			

Summary: There was a high percentage of people who had no opinion on this. About 19% said to not fill this position and about 48% said there should be greater efforts to keep this position filled. However, this is a misleading question in that most people probably are not aware of the problem and no explanation was given as to what it means to not fill the position.

IV.8. Should health insurance be provided to elected town officials?	Yes	No	No Opinion	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Number of Responses	63	251	62	377	93%
Percent of Completed Answers	16.7%	66.6%	16.4%		

Summary: There was a strong response not to provide health insurance to town officials.

IV.9. Please rate the following town services:	Excellent	Adequate	Poor	Number of Answered Questions	Percent Answered (out of 407)
Dog Control	49	173	84	306	75%
	16.0%	56.5%	27.5%		
Fire and Emergency Services	265	83	8	356	87%
	74.4%	23.3%	2.2%		
Property Assessment	38	247	43	328	81%
	11.6%	75.3%	13.1%		
Board of Assessment Review	31	220	33	284	70%
	10.9%	77.5%	11.6%		
Cemetery Maintenance	141	166	12	319	78%
	44.2%	52.0%	3.8%		
Transfer Station	92	208	22	322	79%
	28.6%	64.6%	6.8%		
Public Landing	79	218	43	340	84%
	23.2%	64.1%	12.6%		
Road Maintenance	177	164	16	357	88%
	49.6%	45.9%	4.5%		
Community Center	66	250	22	338	83%
	19.5%	74.0%	6.5%		
Town Board	37	201	84	323	79%
	11.5%	62.2%	26.0%		
Planning Board	42	202	70	314	77%
	13.4%	64.3%	22.3%		

Summary: Most services were rated as adequate to excellent by the majority of participants. Of the services listed, only fire and emergency services received the most number of people saying it is excellent. The majority seem to feel that services are adequate. Of those who feel they are not adequate, dog control, the Town Board, and the Planning Board seemed to have the most number of negative perceptions.

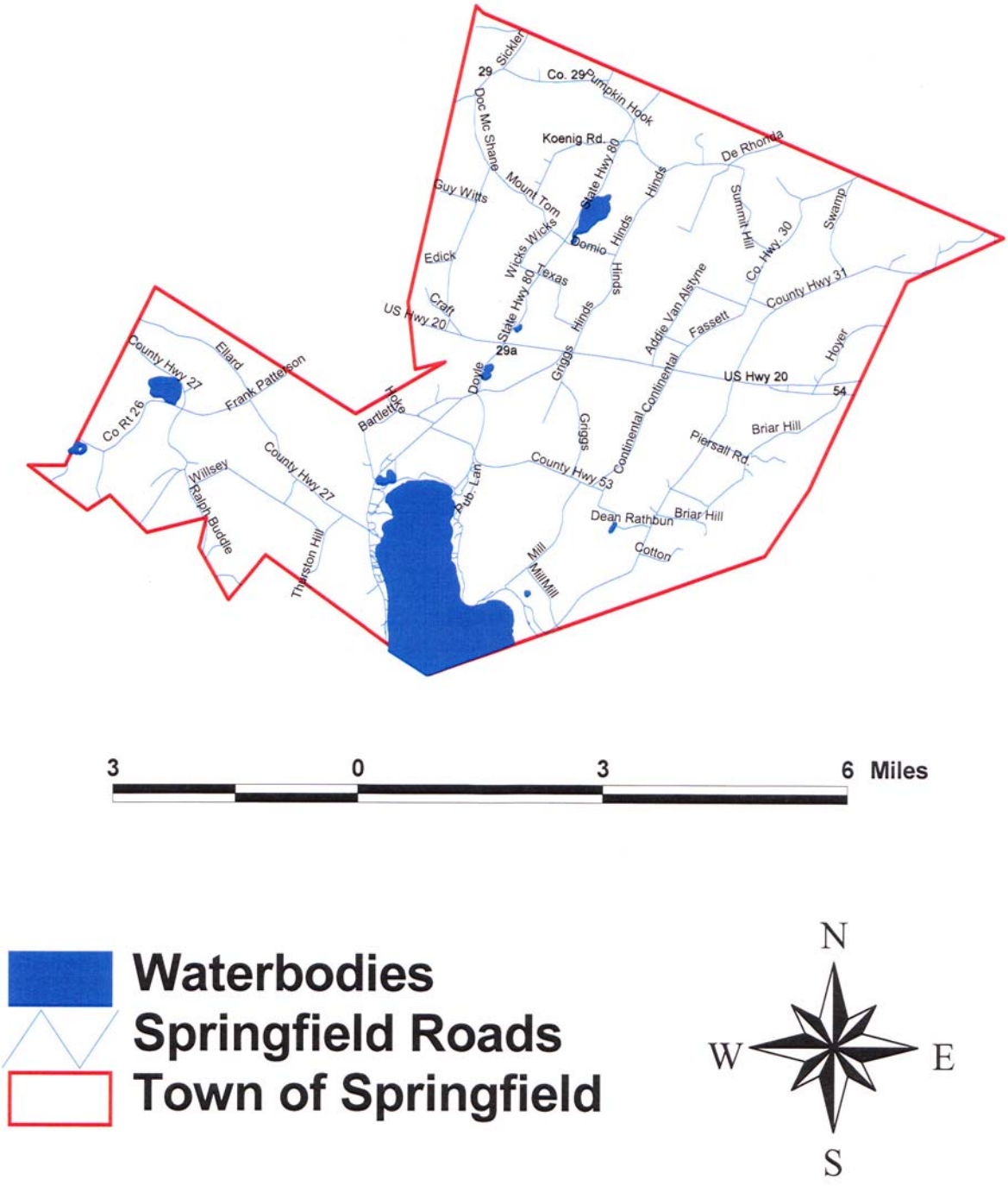
Location	Yes to Zoning	No to Zoning	Depends
Springfield Center	78%	15%	7%
East Springfield	55%	33%	12%
Otsego Lake Area	95%	5%	0
North of Route 20	57%	35%	7%
South of Route 20	66%	28%	7%

Zoning Question Analysis: All locations had the majority of participants favor having zoning in Springfield. The Otsego Lake area and Springfield Center were locations that had the most people favoring zoning. The Otsego Lake area had the most support for zoning. The East Springfield area had more people indicating they did not want zoning.

Location	Yes to Commercial Wind Farms	No to Commercial Wind Farms	Depends
Springfield Center	36.36%	32.73%	27.27%
East Springfield	65.63%	21.88%	6.25%
Otsego Lake Area	29.41%	51.76%	17.65%
North of Route 20	55.42%	30.12%	7.23%
South of Route 20	57.81%	28.13%	9.38%

Windmill Question Analysis: For all participants in all locations, about 50% supported commercial wind farms while 34% did not support this land use, and 13% said it "depends". Most comments offered on what it depended on included the location, the visibility of the wind turbines, the amount of environmental impacts that would result, how many turbines would be part of the farm, whether it would be able to preserve scenic resources, and the economic viability and economic benefits to local residents. For those that live in locations north of Route 20, there were about half of them (55%) that were in favor of wind farms. About 58% of those living south of Route 20 were favorable and about 66% were favorable in the East Springfield area. The most support for wind farms was in the East Springfield area, followed by people who live south of Route 20 and then north of Route 20. The Otsego Lake area was least favorable towards wind farms – about 52% were not in favor. About 30% of participants in the Springfield Center indicated that it "depends" and 17% from the Otsego Lake area said it depended – mostly on the location of the facility.

Location	Yes to Individual Wind Mills	No to Individual Wind Mills	Depends	No Opinion
Springfield Center	78%	7%	11%	4%
East Springfield	85%	6%	3%	6%
Otsego Lake Area	69%	15%	13%	2%
North of Route 20	83%	5%	7%	5%
South of Route 20	86%	5%	9%	0

Windmill Question Analysis: All locations favored individual wind mills to a large degree. The Otsego Lake area had the highest percentage of people indicating they did not want these kind of wind mills (15%). All other areas had about 5 to 7% indicating they did not want individual wind farms. There were about 9 to 13% that said it depends and that answer was mainly that it depends on the size and location of the windmills. A small portion of the participants had no opinion.

Appendix 3: Springfield Road Names