



Village of New Glarus Comprehensive Plan Historic Commission Prioritization Exercise January 11, 2016

1. WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF NEW GLARUS? In answering this question, you might think about:

What New Glarus in the year 2035 looks and feels like

How the community functions

What New Glarus' best future features are

How the community inspires residents, land owners and businesses to improve their lives

- Embrace the “buy local” movement (e.g., independent businesses)—products and services that you don’t need to leave town to get
- Self-sufficient—not dependent on others or as “bedroom role” for our success
- A place for success for local business start-ups
- Preservation of historic buildings in their original state, or in their Swiss state if they were previously converted with a higher-quality Swiss facades
- Continued thriving school district that is a draw for families
- Schools, parks, and library as places of experiences and learning
- Community continuing to function together

This is the Vision Statement from the Village’s 2005 Plan, which was shared with the Commission after the above discussion:

The Village of New Glarus will maintain a high quality living environment, with a full complement of community services, while retaining a relaxed small town character. It will support excellence in education, encourage and support commercial business development, promote light industrial development and maintain and promote its Swiss heritage through its architecture and annual festivals. Property values and the surrounding environment will be protected through partnering and planning with Village residents and the surrounding Towns to assure efficient, coordinated development.

COMMISSION MEMBER REACTION:

- Perception from nearby communities that the Village may be overbearing and arrogant, belying the statement this effect.

- There are challenges maintaining the authenticity of the Swiss image, given the loss of generational knowledge and increasing diversity of community. Some of the more authentic things, including entertainment (e.g., yodelers) and museums should be maintained and updated (e.g., yodeling flash mob?).
- In general, update how we deliver what we have and who we are as a community. Bring in different events, businesses, and themes so we don't get pigeonholed into an unsustainable future of being only the Swiss town.

2. WHAT INITIATIVES SHOULD THE VILLAGE PRIORITIZE OVER THE NEXT 5-10 YEARS? In answering this question, you might want to think about:

Land use or zoning	Recreation and community activities
Economic development	Resource protection
Redevelopment	Community services
Tourism	Public facilities
Housing	Utilities & stormwater management
Neighborhood development	Intergovernmental relations
Historic preservation	
Transportation	

- Build a strong 2nd Street. Create a downtown historic district (2nd Street) as a first priority, of the two districts listed in the Cartwright 2015 report. There ought to be value of having a National Register historic district on the well-being of a community. Consider highlighting this potential district on downtown/backtown concept plan map to be included in comprehensive plan.
- Fill the old downtown bank building with appropriate use and renovation. It might potentially be an eligible historic property if the façade add-ons were removed and windows were replaced. A historic designation would create tax credit incentives for such work and reuse.
- Develop a riverwalk to tie Downtown to Backtown.
- Resurrect discussions with Town of New Glarus on intergovernmental matters. Good example of current collaboration: two park commissions meet regularly.
- Volunteerism is high and good, but can be tiring. Can some more event organizing be professionalized (e.g., Chamber expanding its role)?
- For future residential use areas, revisit larger-scale growth plans for the Village, which were developed in the “boom times” of the mid-2000s. Encourage construction of smaller houses on smaller lots for lower housing cost options.

3. WHAT INITIATIVES DOES YOUR GROUP OR ORGANIZATION HAVE FOR THE NEXT 1, 5, OR 10 YEARS? How can these initiatives be advanced or coordinated through the Village and its updated Comprehensive Plan?
- Community education effort on the benefits of historic district creation, as follow up to Cartwright report. Specifically invite potential downtown and residential district property owners. Communicate the value of historic preservation to the community.
 - Obtain technical assistance for getting a historic district established. A lot of the technical work is done, but community education and ultimately buy-in needed. State Historical Society grants for up to \$30,000 available for National Register nominations or district creation—Village should apply for one of these grants.
 - Advance residential historic district, including enhancing walking tour.
4. IS THERE ANY BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR GROUP OR ORGANIZATION—INCLUDING ITS HISTORY, MISSION, OR ACTIVITIES—THAT YOU THINK WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF FOR THIS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN EFFORT?

Consultant will provide background information from draft Conditions and Issues Report to Commission for comment.