REALIZING THE VISION

While the Adirondack region is an exceptional stunning gem, the problems facing the hamlets therein are not unique. All settlements, from mega-cities to tiny rural towns face changing economic landscapes, population shifts and perpetual uncertainty. State and regional agencies, private organizations, academics and consultants can bring fresh ideas to bear on community issues; a resources for the community, they can supply knowledge of programs and experience to help enable a community to take action. What they can not supply is community and character—the will for a community to help itself and the determination to continue struggling against challenges.

The challenges are real and significant; the responses are varied. Some communities engage problems directly, focus on solutions and fight together against difficult circumstances. Others reactively bounce from idea to idea, fixate on problems and bemoan the changing times. Others ignore problems and passively accept their self-fulfilling fate. The five participating hamlets are taking part in the Hamlets 3 Phase 2 Training Program because they have shown themselves to be interested and willing to take on daunting challenges.

These challenges can be addressed in part through physical planning solutions. However, designing a new hamlet center, redevelopment of portion of a hamlet, or design of a new residential area is just the beginning of the process. Turning a community "vision" for something to be built into a reality is long, sometimes painful, step-by-step process.

The first step is for the community to own the vision. If communities refuse to take responsibility, no one else will. Local elected and unofficial community leaders must provide leadership. However, frequently town boards have their plate full with running the town. This is an opportunity for community-based organizations to play a critical role.

> The five participating hamlets are taking part in the Hamlets 3 Phase 2 Training Program because they have shown themselves to be interested and willing to take on daunting challenges.

Such organizations are not competitors for town leadership against the town board; they partner in a process to reach shared objectives. Community-based organizations can be an unincorporated group working

Heron in Jennings Memorial Pond. Wildlife must cohabit the region with the hamlet populations.

as a committee of the town government. Alternatively, community based organizations can be formally established as not-for-profit corporations or local development corporations.

Community-based organizations also need leadership, community involvement and participation. Members of the community need to be mobilized as active participants through effective leadership. A community collectively afflicted with apathy and passivity will not survive. Apathy and passivity are toxic; courage and patience are virtues.

The kind of projects that were developed through the training programs are complex and will not be achieved overnight. In order to maintain community interest and involvement, communities must develop a long term plan of action, and set short-term milestones that can be achieved in an incremental, step-by-step process. With focus, patience and persistence, little-by-little, projects will roll forward and positive change will happen.

The Adirondacks are legendary as a bastion of the individualist and communities take pride in "home rule" independence. This is a propitious beginning—no one is sitting around waiting for someone to show up and solve their problems. However, individualism and independence alone are not enough. Leadership and collective community action are essential for success.

The Hamlets 3 project has focused on helping the Adirondack Park hamlets succeed. The project team has provided the Hamlets 3 handbook, in addition to the first two handbooks from Hamlets 1 and 2. In addition, to help facilitate success, the five hamlets selected for this project will be invited to an implementation symposium at the Adirondack Park offices in Ray Brook on November 12, 2013. Each community will have different approaches for moving forward and should come and exchange ideas and support each other in moving forward.

The Hamlets 3 team appreciates the assistance of the participating communities in arranging and promoting the workshops.

One of the most unique and beautiful regions in the world, Adirondack Park hamlets face significant challenges as they continue to evolve in the face of economic realities, public regulation and shrinking population bases.

We look forward to seeing these projects for smart growth in the hamlets come to fruition.

IMAGE CREDITS

All images were produced by the Hamlets 3, Phase 2 team except the following. Any omissions of image credits or inaccurate citations included in this document are unintentional.

Caroga
Pg. 11
Section image
Courtesy of Scott Hense

Pg. 14
Sherman's Amusement Park
Caroga Times: www.carogatimes.com

Caroga Beach Postcard
Caroga Lake, NY: www.carogalakeny.com

Images of Caroga site
Courtesy of Scott Hense

Pg. 15
Caroga 2025 Plan
Courtesy of Fulton County

Town of Schroon, gazebo, beach and lakefront images
Town of Schroon: www.schroon.net

Pg. 16
Caroga post card, waterfront
Caroga post card, beach
www.carogalakeny.com

Sherman's Park Site
Caroga Times: www.carogatimes.com

Pg. 21
Schroon Lake festival
Schroon Lake, NY: www.schroonlakeregion.com

Carousel Wedding Setup
Sherman's Park: www.shermanspark.com

Indian Lake
Section image
Aerial from Bing Maps

Pg. 31
Old post cards of main street and hotel
New York State Historical Association: www.nysha.org

Blue Mountain Lake
Pg. 48
Inside images of Adirondack Museum
Adirondack Museum: www.adkmuseum.org

View of Blue Mountain Lake
Courtesy of Adirondack Museum

Pg. 55
Image of Log Hotel
Adirondack Museum: www.adkmuseum.org

Long Lake
Pg. 61
Section image
www.longlakeny.wordpress.com

Pg. 64
USGS Survey Maps
United States Geological Survey: www.usgs.gov

Pg. 68
Jennings Park Pond design proposal use images: Wikimedia commons used under creative commons license.
Boat rental image
River Ridin' of Lake Luzerne, NY: www.riverridin.com

Gazebo painting
Adirondack Museum: www.adkmuseum.org

Pg. 69
Image of Long Lake Beach
www.longlakeny.wordpress.com

Au Sable Forks
Pg 76
Section image
Help Town of Jay - Jay Irene Relief Fund: helpjayny.org

Pg. 79
Hurricane Irene images
Adirondack Daily Enterprise: www.adirondackdailyenterprise.com

Help Town of Jay - Jay Irene Relief Fund: www.helpjayny.org

Pg. 81
Boiceville Cottage images
Boiceville Cottages: www.boicevillecottages.com

EcoVillage image
EcoVillage Ithaca: www.ecovillageithaca.org

All aerials from Bing Maps (www.bing.com/maps); basemaps from Google Maps (maps.google.com).

[†] The Vision, Values and Cornerstones process used for the Hamlets 3 project was adapted from a workshop process developed by Canin Associates of Orlando, Florida.

Notice: All designs were made with the best data available and should not be considered construction documents. All final designs will require proper on site surveys, research and analysis beyond the scope of this project.