



TOWN OF CLERMONT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

ADOPTED JANUARY 2, 2024



Res # 38-2024

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE TOWN OF CLERMONT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE AND ISSUE A NEGATIVE DECLARATION

WHEREAS, the Town of Clermont Town Board identified that a Comprehensive Plan Update was needed to properly plan for growth and development, protect the environment and enhance the health, safety and welfare of the community and residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board, appointed a Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Laws Update Committee (the "Committee") and charged it with creating a Comprehensive Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, with much public input and with much time and effort, the Committee prepared a draft Comprehensive Plan Update and held a Committee Public Hearing on the draft plan on November 13, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan was referred for comment to the Columbia County Planning Department, consistent with NYS General Municipal Law 239 and the Columbia County Planning Department determined the Action will have no significant county-wide or intercommunity impacts; and,

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2023, the Committee convened, reviewed public comments, approved the Final Comprehensive Plan Update and referred the Final Comprehensive Plan Update to the Clermont Town Board for consideration; and

WHEREAS, said Final Comprehensive Plan Update was made available on the Town's website for examination and review by the public; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board provided public notice and held a public hearing on January 2, 2024 to hear and consider all public comments on a Final Draft Comprehensive Plan Update; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Clermont has final review and approval authority for adoption of the Comprehensive Plan as per New York State Town Law 272-a; and

WHEREAS, on January 2, 2024 the Town Board established Lead Agency status and classified the Action as a Type 1 Action under the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

NOWHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board as Lead Agency makes a negative declaration that the adoption of the Final Comprehensive Plan Update will not have the potential for significant, adverse environmental impact; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, after full consideration of all public comments received and a review of the record of documents and research for this Action, the Town Board formally adopts the Final Comprehensive Plan Update, dated January 2, 2024; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board directs the Town Clerk to make the Final Comprehensive Plan Update available online at the Town website as well as available for review at the Town Clerk's office.

Lucy J. Gallone
1/2/24

RESOLUTION DECLARING LEAD AGENCY STATUS FOR THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

RESOLUTION #:

38-2024

INTRODUCED BY:

May Howard

WHO MOVED ITS ADOPTION:

Lindsay Kuster Shute

SECONDED BY:

Kris Gildersleeve

WHEREAS, the Town of Clermont has prepared, and is in the process of adopting a Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, a Comprehensive Plan is a statutorily recognized instrument under Town Law 7-722 for the immediate and long-range protection, enhancement, growth, and development in a municipality; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Clermont has identified that a Comprehensive Plan was needed to properly plan for growth and development, protect the environment and enhance the health, safety and welfare of the community and residents; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Laws Update Committee (the "Committee") conducted a study of the Town of Clermont that included a full inventory and analysis of the environmental, economic, housing, demographic, cultural and historical resources in the Town; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Comprehensive Plan includes updates to the long-term vision, goals, goals, and recommendations to guide the future growth in the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Committee solicited and utilized the input of the public through a written survey, open public meetings, focus groups, and a Committee public hearing to formulate the plan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Comprehensive Plan is subject to the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) process;

WHEREAS, the Town Board has undertaken an initial review of the Action as required by 6 NYCRR §617.6 of the SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the SEQRA list of Type I actions has determined that the project is a Type I action, as identified in 6 NYCRR Part 617.4; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has sole decision-making authority for the adoption of the proposed Comprehensive Plan, and therefore intends to declare itself as Lead Agency for the purpose of conducting the SEQR review.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Town Board formally declares itself as Lead Agency for the purposes of conducting the SEQR review; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Town Board hereby formally classifies the Action as a "Type 1 Action" as such term is defined in 6 NYCRR Part 617.4.

THIS RESOLUTION WAS DULY PUT TO A ROLL CALL VOTE ON JANUARY 2, 2024, WHICH RESULTED AS FOLLOWS:

AYES:

5

NAYES:

Ø

ABSENT:

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TOWN OF CLERMONT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Mary T. Howard, AICP – Committee Chair

Mary Louise Kalin – Parks Committee

Nathan Hempel – Planning Board

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Michael Allen, ReGrowth Planning – Planner



FUNDING

Funded in part by a Grant from the

Hudson River Valley Greenway



**Hudson River
Valley Greenway**



INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

A Comprehensive Plan is a document that provides recommended direction for local government policy and future actions. A Comprehensive Plan is an opportunity for a community to take stock of the issues and opportunities it faces, to identify residents' shared vision for the future, and to provide recommendations and strategies to guide the Town in pursuing its goals for the future. Comprehensive Plans are important documents to help ensure that communities evolve in line with residents' collective vision. They help set priorities for zoning and land use updates, investments in infrastructure, capital improvements, and economic development initiatives.

WHY UPDATE A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

The Town's previous Comprehensive Plan was created in 2002. Over the past twenty years, the Town and region have experienced changes in demographics, the economy, infrastructure, land use, and community needs. The Town and region have also engaged in several geographic-specific and focused planning efforts since 2002, which relate to topic areas often considered in a Comprehensive Plan. This Plan, therefore, benefits from the research, analysis, and community engagement efforts represented in those efforts and pulls those relevant ideas and strategies forward into the Town's next phases of community decision making.

IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the Clermont Comprehensive Plan will require the dedication of and coordination between local leaders, organizations, and the public. Many of the recommendations outlined in the Comprehensive Plan will take years to fully implement. Some may also rely on grant funding.

Pursuing regional, State, and Federal grants requires patience and a keen awareness of timing. The grant cycle can work in a semi-annual, yearly, or even decade-long cycles. There are also sequencing issues to consider. For example, there are many grants that require municipalities to take part in the initial program in order to apply for funding in subsequent years. Maintaining a realistic expectation for how much work can be done over time is critical to the plan's success.





PUBLIC OUTREACH PROCESS AND SUMMARY

PUBLIC OUTREACH METHODS

Developing a Comprehensive Plan is a process requiring detailed analysis, public engagement, and multiple rounds of feedback from project partners and the community at large. Background information is gathered through the review of prior planning efforts, researching existing environmental and demographic conditions, and soliciting input from a broad cross-section of the community. Full public outreach results are included in Appendix 2. The first phase of the Clermont

comprehensive planning process included a series of activities designed to bring out community values, identify the key issues confronting Clermont now and into the future, and build consensus around priority actions to achieve the goals set by the process.

The Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Laws Update Committee and planning team were able to dive into issues, opportunities, and recommendations through a variety

of methods to gain public input from residents, business owners, local organizations, and Town staff. The public engagement methods employed during the Comprehensive Plan process were developed with the Advisory Committee to ensure meaningful input from residents, business owners, and other local stakeholders, with a particular focus on those areas that were not the subject of other recent planning engagement.

Methods included:

1. COMMUNITY POP-UP EVENTS

A key element of the Town's public outreach process included "Pop-Up" events conducted by Committee Members and LaBella Associates at various locations throughout the Town.

The public was asked to provide input on specific issues displayed on engagement boards. Engagement boards were set up at Hearty Roots, Town Hall, and Tousey Winery from September to early November. Additional pop-up events were held at Lasting Joy Brewery and at the Clermont Fire Department Station #2 during their annual steak dinner fund drive on September 10, 2022.



Informational posterboards from the Pop-Up event at Lasting Joy Brewery.



Tousey Winery provides a welcoming atmosphere and contributes to Clermont's local economy.

2. COMMUNITY SURVEY

Over a two-month period, beginning on November 1st and ending December 31st, in 2022 the Town of Clermont undertook a wide-reaching survey campaign to gain input from its residents and business owners to drive the direction of the Comprehensive Plan Update. The survey was made available through the Town of Clermont Website, numerous social media posts, and through a QR Code provided in a Town-wide mailing delivered to each household in November 2022. Paper copies were available at Town Hall and Hearty Roots Farm Market.

3. COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

In addition to the pop-up events and community survey, a community workshop was held on November 17 at Clermont Fire Department Station #2. The workshop, which included a pot-luck dinner and was attended by over 30 residents, involved a brief presentation by LaBella Associates outlining the planning process, a summary of sociodemographic results and public input received to date, along with an overview of the Town's next steps in the planning process. Following the presentation, a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) exercise was conducted to elicit additional public input. Land Use, Zoning, and Environmental Features Maps, and engagement boards were also available to gain additional public input along with opportunities for children to provide their input.



Clermont residents attend an Open House Event in August 2023 to provide input on the draft Comprehensive Plan's visions, goals, and recommendations.



Residents of Clermont provide input during the comprehensive planning process with interactive poster boards at the public Open House.

4. OPEN HOUSE

An open house event was held on August 19th, 2023 at the Clermont Firehouse to gain feedback from the people of Clermont on the Comprehensive Plan Update draft visions, goals, and recommendations. In total, 56 residents signed in, with members of the Committee and 2 representatives from LaBella Associates also present. The event consisted of a series of poster boards that explained the comprehensive plan process, showed relevant maps, and provided an overview of the visions, goals, and recommendations that were formulated by the Committee based on prior community feedback. The open house event was supplemented with an online survey through SurveyMonkey to gain additional feedback from Town residents.

5. STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

In an effort to gain as much insight into the needs and desires of the community, stakeholder meetings were held with groups and organizations revolving around various topics. To date, these stakeholder meetings have discussed Agriculture, Housing, Business and Economic Development, and Climate Smart initiatives. Future meetings will be scheduled with New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and Columbia County to discuss traffic calming and other infrastructure improvements.

6. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Town formed a Comprehensive Plan and Land Use Laws Update Committee ("Advisory Committee") that consisted of residents, property owners, Town officials, and board members. The Advisory Committee was tasked with overseeing the planning process. The Advisory Committee began meeting in July of 2022 and participated in the following:

- Initial identification of key issues and opportunities;
- An inventory and analysis of existing conditions, which examined trends and current conditions of key topic areas identified by the Advisory Committee;
- Public participation events, which included public workshops, stakeholder interviews/focus groups, participation at local events, and an online survey;
- Development of the plan vision and goals; and
- Identification and prioritization of plan recommendations.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee has been meeting with the planning team approximately monthly since the beginning of the update process. Each meeting lasted for about 2 hours and focused on cataloging and organizing the issues brought forth from public engagement exercises and developing methods to address those issues. Over 15 Committee meetings were conducted throughout the planning process.



Advisory Committee meetings were held at Town Hall.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

Based on community feedback, Town residents feel strongly about the preservation of agricultural lands and open space. Another strong sentiment that was communicated through public input is the need for incentives and business opportunities for agriculture within the Town. Multiple comments were made regarding sustainable agriculture and allowing for new and innovative methods to produce food that doesn't harm the soil and other aspects of the natural environment. Expanding agritourism opportunities was another important topic, though many residents noted that promoting tourism within the Town should not negatively impact the rural character of Clermont. Most residents were in favor of the idea of creating an open space and farmland protection plan to maintain Clermont's unique character, with numerous residents indicating support for setting up a fund operated by the Town to advance preservation efforts.

LAND USE, GROWTH, AND DEVELOPMENT

Housing was identified to be a major area of interest with the majority of residents mentioning the need for an increase in lodging options. This includes transitional housing for younger residents as well as accessible housing that caters to a variety of ages, abilities, and socio-economic backgrounds. The topic of short-term rentals was discussed as an option to diversify housing options, as long as they do not negatively impact Clermont's rural character. Multiple residents also mentioned the need for land use regulations that help minimize negative impacts on the environment and the scenic views within the Town.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Many residents recognized the need to expand economic development within Clermont, contingent upon maintaining the community's "small-town feel." Input from the public engagement events revealed that future commercial development should be concentrated in specific areas so as not to interfere with the largely residential and agricultural land uses currently within the Town. An increase in internet/broadband access was another major issue identified throughout the public input process. Continued town support for home-based businesses was also requested by the public.

TRANSPORTATION

Traffic safety and multi-modal transportation were two main topics that were brought up under the topic of transportation. The majority of residents mentioned wanting to increase pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure. Issues with speeding and other traffic safety issues were also mentioned, with residents heavily supporting an increase in traffic safety measures. Residents mentioned that efforts to improve multi-modal transportation should not negatively impact the commuter population or the existing modes of travel within Clermont. In addition to multi-modal transportation, residents also expressed interest in expanding sustainable transportation options, such as electric vehicles.

SUSTAINABILITY, RESILIENCE, AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

Pursuing options for sustainable energy was mentioned as a priority for Clermont's residents; many

felt that sustainable technologies can and should be incorporated into the Town's infrastructure while maintaining rural character and supporting the Town. Waste management was also mentioned as something that could be streamlined and made more sustainable.

RECREATION

The majority of Clermont's residents felt strongly that the Town should pursue options for expanding water-based recreation. Partnering with nearby communities to combine recreational resources was also mentioned as an idea to increase recreational opportunities for residents. Residents also mentioned that recreational opportunities and facilities should be inclusive of all ages, abilities, and socio-economic backgrounds. Walking and biking trails were popular topics collected from public input, such as electric vehicles.

TOWN SERVICES

Many residents stressed the importance of fire safety and mentioned that fire coverage within Clermont should be improved. Having an emergency response plan to address the increasing effects of climate change was another idea brought up through public input. Many residents also recognized the importance of seeking funding to help the Town maintain its infrastructure; residents mentioned applying for government funding to achieve this. Another common sentiment taken was the need for improved communication between the Town and its residents regarding the facilities and services that are available to them.

COMMUNITY PROFILE KEY OBSERVATIONS

A Community Profile was prepared to update the town's understanding of a variety of elements including demographics and growth trends, housing, education, culture and history, land use and zoning, environmental resources, parks and recreation, economic development, infrastructure, and transportation. The full Community Profile can be found in Appendix 1. The following is a summary of key results from the Community Profile.



Clermont Town Hall is located within the Clermont Civic Historic District.

DEMOGRAPHIC AND GROWTH TRENDS

The Town of Clermont has experienced steady growth in its overall population since 1970. While growth has slowed since the 1990-2000 decade, Clermont continues to grow whereas comparison communities, like the Town of Germantown and the Town of Livingston, have experienced consistent population decline. The Town's population is aging. Seniors (65+ years) represent 20% of the total population and the percentage of the total population represented by seniors has grown significantly since 2010 (+12%). Despite this, Clermont's share of seniors is lower than the towns of Germantown (31%) and Livingston (26%), and Columbia County (24%). School age children (5-19 years) also make up a significant share of the Town's total population (15%), especially when compared to the towns of Germantown (8%) and Livingston (10%). The Town's working age population (20-64 years) is healthy and consistent with comparison the communities. The Town's population is primarily white (96% in 2020) and non-Hispanic (94% in 2020); since 2010 the Town's share of population that identifies as white has grown. Clermont is slightly less diverse than the Town of Germantown and significantly less diverse than the Town of Livingston and Columbia County.

HOUSING AND MARKET TRENDS

Total Units

According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates from 2020, the Town of Clermont has 897 total housing units which represents an increase of approximately 10% from 2010 (816 units). The Town of Clermont

has fewer total housing units than the Towns of Germantown (1,103 units) and Livingston (1,883 units). Additionally, the Town of Clermont experienced a smaller increase in total housing units from 2010 to 2020 than the Towns of Germantown (+12%) and Livingston (+24%) but a greater increase than Columbia County overall (+3%). It is important to note that the ACS data may not reflect the full impact on the local housing market from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Occupancy

According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, 83.2% of the Town of Clermont's housing units are owner-occupied which is greater than Columbia County (73.2%) and the Town of Livingston (69.5%) but slightly less than the Town of Germantown (83.6%). Clermont has a smaller share of renter-occupied units (16.8%) than all comparison geographies except the Town of Germantown. The Town's vacancy rate (19.5%) is similar to the Town of Germantown (19.9%) and significantly lower than the County (24.7%).

The Town of Clermont's overall vacancy rate rose significantly from 2010 (10.5%) to 2020 (19.5%). This is largely due to a potential increase in rental vacancies which rose from 2.8% of housing units in 2010 to 10.4% in 2020. Homeowner vacancy rates declined during the same time from 1.3% in 2010 to 0% in 2020. Clermont had significantly lower vacancy rates than comparison geographies in 2010; while homeowner vacancy rates remained low in 2020, rental vacancy rates are significantly higher than all comparison geographies.

EDUCATION

The Town of Clermont does not have its own school district; instead, the Town is split between the school districts of Germantown, Red Hook, and Pine Plains. The Germantown School District covers the largest geographic area of the Town with households in the west and north of the Town residing within that school district. The Red Hook School District covers the second largest geography, primarily in the center of the Town along either side of US Hwy 9. The Pine Plains School District covers a small area in the east of the Town along the Dutchess County border.

According to data from the New York State Department of Education, statewide enrollment in public schools decreased by 8% between 2012 and 2022 excluding NYC. Columbia County and the school districts serving the Town of Clermont have experienced a more significant decline in enrollment than the state over the same period. The Germantown School District had a total enrollment of 466 students, down 22.7% from 2012; the Red Hook School District had a total enrollment of 1,617 students in 2022, down 22.0% from 2012; finally, the Pine Plains School District had a total enrollment of 822 students, down 23.3% from 2012. Columbia County's overall enrollment declined by 21.5% which is among the most significant decreases in enrollment across the State.

CULTURE AND HISTORY

The Town of Clermont was settled by Europeans in the 17th century when Dutch colonists entered the region. Prior to that, the Munsee Lenape, Schaghticoke, and Mohican Nations inhabited the area and surrounding locations. The Town was officially established in 1788 when Livingston Manor organized as Clermont, named after the Livingstons' Clermont estate which is one of the oldest great estates in the Mid-Hudson Valley. The Livingstons were a prominent family in colonial America, with Robert Livingston playing an instrumental role in drafting the Declaration of Independence as well as negotiating the Louisiana Purchase.

In the 19th century, Clermont became known for its agricultural production, particularly apple orchards and dairy farms. The town was also home to several manufacturing industries, including a brickyard and a woolen mill. Clermont continued to prosper throughout the 20th century, with new businesses and residential developments springing up throughout the town. Today, the town is a thriving community with a rich cultural heritage and a strong sense of community pride.



CLERMONT MANOR-HOUSE.

An illustration of Clermont State Historic Site's Manor House.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Town of Clermont does not provide municipal water or sewer services. The Town Highway Department has a garage directly behind the Town Hall for equipment storage and shared services with Columbia County. The Town also utilizes partnerships and shared services with surrounding communities. The Highway Department issues driveway permits, conducts inspections, and oversees the Town Road Specifications. The Clermont Fire Company/District is an entirely volunteer based fire department with a station on US9 approximately a half-mile north of the Town Hall and a second station on NY9G approximately 1-mile north of the intersection with CR6. Emergency, police, and waste disposal services are provided by Columbia County.

TRANSPORTATION

The road network in the Town of Clermont consists of State, County, and local roads. The State-owned roads in the Town are US9 and NY9G. Both roads travel north-south through the Town with US9 passing through the center of Town and NY9G running parallel to the Hudson River. US9 has an estimated daily traffic volume of 3,440 vehicles, 11% of which are trucks, making it the most significant freight route through the Town. It has a signed speed limit of 55mph in most areas but slows to 45mph near the Town Hall. NY9G has an estimated daily traffic volume of 4,705 vehicles, 5% of which are trucks. It has a signed speed limit of 55mph.

County-owned roads include County Routes 6, 8, 33, and 35. County Route 35 contains an on-road section of



8mm film photo of the Catskills from Nevis, circa 1976.

+Photo credit: Mary Howard

the 750-mile Empire State Trail, making it an important corridor for long-distance bicyclists and bicycle commuters. All other roads in the Town are Town owned roads. Town of Clermont roads generally have low traffic volumes with posted speed limits typically ranging from 35 to 45mph.

All intersections throughout the Town are unsignalized due to low traffic volumes. County-owned roads generally yield to State-owned roads: local roads yield to County-owned roads using stop signs at intersections. There have been no traffic fatalities and very few road injuries between 2018 and 2021 according to data from the Institute for Traffic Safety Management and Research (ITSMR). However, one pedestrian fatality occurred in 2022.

The dominant form of transportation within Clermont is vehicular travel in privately owned cars. There are avenues for public transportation but these resources cater specifically to the elderly and individuals with disabilities. Traffic safety issues have increased as pedestrian and bicycle activity interact with vehicular traffic patterns.

Compliance with the speed limit is another issue that the Town would like to address. Speeding was the most ticketed offense between 2018 and 2021 according to the ITSMR and several residents expressed

concern for speeding particularly near the hamlet and on NYgG near the Clermont Historic Site.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Parks and open spaces are an important resource in the Town of Clermont. They add to the natural beauty of the community, provide spaces for the community to recreate, and offer spaces for entertainment and common social experiences.

The Town currently has two local parks, Clermont and Hettling Park. The parks offer a range of recreational activities such as hiking, picnicking, athletic courts and field, and are popular destinations for families and outdoor enthusiasts. In addition to these resources, the Southern Columbia Youth Sports leagues offers organized athletic leagues for the Town's youth.

One of the largest recreational assets is the Clermont State Historic Site, a sprawling estate that includes hiking trails, picnic areas, and a beautiful mansion with gardens and grounds that are open to the public. The site is a popular spot for nature enthusiasts, who come to enjoy the views of the Hudson River and the Catskill Mountains.

The lack of a parks and recreation department has led to variable and inconsistent improvements to recreational facilities and opportunities within the Town. Access to parks and other opportunities for recreation are a priority for Clermont. Focus areas for the future include park improvements and working towards increasing waterfront access and other water-based recreational opportunities.

ECONOMIC VITALITY

Labor force participation in the Town of Clermont is strong (60.9%) when compared with neighboring towns, though it is slightly lower than New York State (63.1%). Since 2010, all comparison geographies have experienced a decline in labor force participation with the Town of Clermont experiencing the largest decline.

The top employment sector in the Town of Clermont is Educational services, health care, and social assistance which employs 37.2% of the Town's population – more than three times that of the next closest employment sector, Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services (10.6%).

Tourism is a significant driver of the local economy in the Town of Clermont. The Town is in New York's Hudson Valley which is a tourism hot spot, particularly for residents of New York City who account for approximately 50% of all statewide tourism spending. In Columbia

County, the estimated total tourism spending in 2021 was \$209,300,000 and tourism generated employment represents 11.2% of all jobs in the County. The largest spending categories were lodging (\$50.8 million), food and beverage (\$47.3 million), and second homes (\$45.6 million).

Relative to pre-pandemic levels, Columbia County experienced the largest growth in traveler spending of all Hudson Valley counties. The County is also the most dependent on tourism wage income of all Hudson Valley counties, with tourism wages representing 10% of all labor income in the County. It is estimated that the tourism economy saved Columbia County residents \$900 per household in tax savings.

The Clermont State Historic Site is one of the main attractions in the Town with approximately 120,000 visitors in 2021. The Town of Clermont should continue to invest in its historic sites, outdoor recreational assets, and small businesses to advance the tourism economy locally.



Breweries, distilleries, and wineries are key resources in promoting tourism and strengthening Clermont's local economy.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

The Hudson River borders the western edge of the Town of Clermont for approximately 2.85 miles and is a small but defining feature of the Town. Portions of the Town of Clermont along the Hudson River waterfront are within the 100-year floodplain. According to the NYSDEC, this portion of the Hudson River is considered an impaired waterway due to the presence of certain pollutants. Major pollutants cited include metals and organics, with the possibility of pathogens. These pollutants are a result of toxic/contaminated settlement, combined sewer overflow, and urban/stormwater runoff, factors that lead to numerous potential health problems for both humans and wildlife. This has chiefly resulted in advisement against, or restrictions for, the consumption fish from the river.

The Roeliff Jansen Kill (Roe Jan) is another defining feature of Clermont. It is a major stream that borders most of the northern and eastern edges of the Town. The Roe Jan has a NYSDEC Standard Classification of C(T), indicating that the waterbody may support a trout population, and considered a protected stream, subject to the stream protection provisions of the Protection of Waters regulations.

Wetlands are prevalent throughout the Town of Clermont; there are a total of 701 wetlands in the Town. Of the 701 wetlands, there are 669 National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) wetlands and 32 NYSDEC wetlands. The 669 NWI wetlands total approximately 1,067 acres, whereas the 32 NYSDEC wetlands total approximately 502 acres. There are no unconsolidated aquifers in the Town of Clermont. Additionally, no New York Rural Water Association Aquifer data exists for the Town of Clermont.

The Germantown-Clermont Flats fish and wildlife habitat is a 988-acre area located in the eastern half of the Hudson River, extending roughly from the hamlet of North Germantown to the Town of Saugerties, in the Towns of Germantown and Clermont, in Columbia County. This habitat encompasses a five-mile stretch of open river from the Town of Clermont to North Germantown, most of which is shallow (less than 10 feet deep at mean low water), freshwater, intertidal mud flats. Germantown-Clermont Flats is a large, contiguous area of shallow, freshwater, tidal flats in the Hudson River that provides for a safe spawning, nursery, and feeding area for a variety of freshwater and migratory species in the Hudson River.



LAND USE, GROWTH, AND FUTURE ZONING

The current land use pattern in Clermont is largely consistent with agricultural and residential uses. The most common land use in the Town of Clermont is for residential, with residential land use making up approximately 50% of the Town's total acreage. Most residential properties are one family year-round residences followed by rural residences with acreage. These properties are ubiquitous throughout the Town. Vacant parcels make up the next most common land use category (22.5% of acres) and are also distributed throughout the Town. Community services, which includes religious land uses, represent just over eight percent of land within the Town. The Clermont State Historic Site is located along the Hudson River. Religious uses are located along Woods Road and on Hill Dale Road North. Additional community

services on smaller parcels are scattered throughout the remainder of the Town.

Commercial and Industrial land uses generally represent a small portion of the Town's total acreage (1.64% and 0.32% respectively). Commercial uses are generally concentrated along US Hwy 9, County Route 6, and State Hwy 9G. A large industrial site is located along the Town's southern border just south of E. Kerleys Corners Rd.

Agriculture is a defining characteristic of Clermont's economy, landscape, and identity. According to Columbia County Real Property Data for the Town of Clermont, there are 35 agricultural parcels within the Town. These parcels total 2,461 acres representing approximately 17% of the Town's total acreage. Agricultural land uses are dispersed throughout the Town and largely overlap with soils designated as prime farmland

or farmland of statewide importance. Columbia County Agricultural District 4 covers nearly all areas designated as prime farmland or farmland of statewide importance with the only significant gap being farmlands of statewide importance in the southwest corner of the Town around the Clermont State Park.

According to the USDA's Agricultural Census, the number of farms (+24) and land in farms (+3,801 acres) increased in Columbia County from 2012 to 2017. Individual farms are trending smaller as the median farm size over the same time decreased from 82 acres in 2012 to 59 acres in 2018. When categorizing that trend by farm size, the number of farms from 1-9 acres grew while the number of farms declined across nearly all categories from 10 to 999 acres; farms between 180 and 499 acres increased and farms that are 1,000+ acres remained consistent.



Clermont boasts beautiful views of open fields.

VISIONS, GOALS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Visions, Goals, and Recommendations have been prepared by the Comprehensive Committee for public review with assistance from the Planning Team of LaBella Associates and ReGrowth Planning. The Committee formulated seven key topic areas related to Clermont's resources, characteristics, and development opportunities and goals. A vision has been provided for each of the seven key topic areas followed by specific goals and recommendations. A vision statement describes how residents want their community to look or act in the near and distant future. It serves as the organizing feature of the goals and

recommendations. A goal represents general methods to achieve the vision. Recommendations provide more specific steps in achieving a goal or multiple goals.

While the draft Vision, Goals, and Recommendations provided in this Comprehensive Plan offer a framework for Clermont to coordinate planning, zoning, and future community projects, the recommendations are not binding on the Town. The intent of this Plan is to offer general directions and options for the Town to pursue as these items become realistic to implement.



Photo credit: Susannah Bradley

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

VISION

The following Vision Statement was developed by the Comprehensive Plan Committee for the Town's agricultural resources:

"Clermont's agricultural economy is successful, remains strong, continues to diversify, and is essential to the health and well-being of the community."

GOALS

To achieve this vision, the following broad-based goals were identified:

1. Support local farms to strengthen the local economy, provide local fresh foods, and increase tourism opportunities.
2. Promote a sustainable and diverse agricultural economy to protect soils, waterbodies, and clean air.
3. Advance the long-term viability of local agriculture through education, partnerships, voluntary measures, and adjustments to land use laws.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

RECOMMENDATIONS

These goals informed the development of the Plan recommendations, which are as follows:

A1. Form an agricultural advisory committee to promote farming in the Town of Clermont, serve as a direct resource to farmers, and provide educational materials and technical assistance to the Town and public related to agricultural issues.

The Town of Clermont should consider establishing a local agricultural advisory committee focused on promoting agricultural activities, protecting agricultural lands, and providing educational and technical assistance. Specific activities may include, but not be limited to:

- Serve as an information clearinghouse and forum for town-farm relations. This could involve facilitating technical, educational, business, and regulatory assistance for existing and potential farmers.
- Foster a working relationship among farmers, residents, and organizations, such as the NY Farm Bureau, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Scenic Hudson, and the Columbia Land Conservancy.
- Foster public-private partnerships with local and regional organizations to provide necessary resources to existing farmers and actively recruit new farmers to the area.
- Provide education focused on supporting best management practices for soil/crop protection, including climate-smart practices such as regenerative agriculture and the adaptation of cover crops and crop rotation.
- Market, promote, and initiate community agricultural events and awareness programs. Assist the Town Board with implementing agricultural oriented strategies of this Plan.
- Assist in developing a Right to Farm Law (see Recommendation A3).
- Create a program to educate visitors and residents about local agricultural history, current status of agriculture in Clermont, and the town's long-term efforts to maintain and expand agricultural opportunities.
- Assist the Planning, Zoning, and Town Boards in their review of projects in relation to impacts on agriculture. This committee could aid the Board(s) by collecting information and offering advice that would assist in evaluating and reducing and avoiding impacts on agricultural resources.
- Assist the Town Board in seeking agricultural-related grants.
- Create an easy-to-understand brochure on the realities of living in agricultural areas, and make it available for distribution, including adding such information to the Town website.
- Advocate agriculture, farmland protection, and agricultural economic development at county, state, and federal levels.
- Participate in the preparation of the recommended Agriculture and Open Space Plan (see Recommendation A2).



Agricultural businesses within Town fit into Clermont's rural character and support the local economy.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

RECOMMENDATIONS

A2. Prepare an open space and farmland protection plan to aid in prioritizing and protecting Clermont's resources. This plan would establish an inventory of the Town's open space and agricultural assets and provide steps towards preserving them.

An open space and farmland protection plan can be used to identify priorities for a variety of resources, including, but not limited to parks, recreation areas, lands of exceptional scenic and environmental value, public access to land for recreational use, and protection of viable agricultural lands. The process of establishing such a plan would also help to inform Clermont's residents of the resources and opportunities that are available to them while creating a framework to facilitate the protection of those resources.

A3. Consider pursuing a real estate transfer tax on all property sales that exceed the Columbia County median sales price and establish a community preservation fund to help fund the protection of open space and agricultural lands.

To further help facilitate open space and farmland protection, the Town could consider seeking NYS Legislature and Town resident approval for establishing a real estate transfer tax on all property sales in excess of the Columbia County median sales price.

The funds raised by the real estate transfer tax would be available to fund the purchase of conservation



Agricultural land and open space contribute to heavily to Clermont's rural character.

easements and/or land to protect a variety of resources. In addition, the fund would give the Town leverage to seek matching funds from conservation organizations, private donors, and county, state, and federal resources. The state requires that all properties under consideration for use of the fund be identified within a Community Preservation Plan.

The preparation and adoption of a Community Preservation Plan will permit the Town to consider a public referendum which allows voters to decide whether to approve a one-time real estate transfer tax on property sales exceeding the Columbia County median sales price. In 2022, the median sales price in Columbia County was \$370,000. The

tax would be paid by the buyer of property and can only be enacted by referendum approved by Clermont residents.

The Town of Clermont is not currently authorized under New York State law to enact the real estate transfer tax and would need approval by the NYS Legislature. Specifically, Clermont would first need to submit a Home Rule Request through local representatives, which must then be adopted by both the Senate and Assembly, followed by the Governor's signature. The next step would be preparing the Community Preservation Plan. Once adopted, the community is required to schedule a referendum, allowing the voters to decide on the transfer tax.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

RECOMMENDATIONS

A4. Revise Local Land Use Laws and associated procedures to incentivize the preservation of prime farmland and farmland of statewide significance and to avoid adverse impacts to the Town's local agricultural economy.

Key Recommendations:

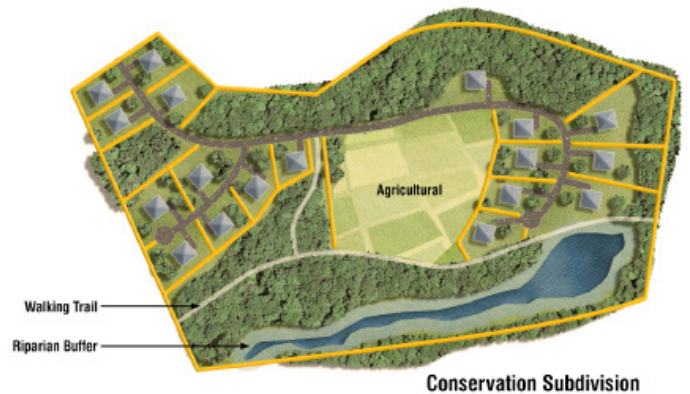
1. Allow for Farm Worker Housing
2. Increase use of cluster/conservation subdivisions
3. Adopt a Right-to-Farm Law

There are numerous tools available to the Town to help protect and incentivize farming, including, but not limited to prioritizing agricultural uses and accommodating business diversification on farms and farm labor housing through adjustments in allowable uses and permitted residential density. The use of conservation easements would also help the Town preserve its agricultural lands.

The Town may also seek to incorporate additional protections for farming and farmland in zoning and subdivision regulations that minimize incentives to subdivide agricultural lands, avoid adverse impacts to agricultural resources proposed to be subdivided, and maintain existing natural buffers between farm and non-farm uses. Increased use of cluster/conservation subdivisions is specifically recommended and further addressed in the Land Use, Growth, & Development Recommendations.

Further adjustments could be considered that encourage more affordable and energy efficient cluster housing development off agricultural lands. Options to incentivize merging of contiguous agricultural lands under the same ownership could also be considered, including reducing or waiving application fees.

The adoption of a Town of Clermont Right-to-Farm law may also be considered. Several municipalities in New York State have passed local Right-to-Farm laws. Such laws typically establish a town policy in support of farming, defines "generally accepted agricultural practices," and affirms a farmers right to employ such



Cluster/ Conservation Subdivisions help balance residential development with conservation of environmentally and agriculturally important resources.

practices. The laws also includes a requirement that purchasers of property within the town be notified of the policy of encouraging farming, and that farm practices may include odors, noise, and other activities.

The law would also establish a grievance procedure to resolve complaints between farmers and non-farm neighbors. A local grievance committee may be formed to hear and resolve complaints. Such a committee should include local farmers as well as non-farm representatives.

LAND USE, GROWTH, AND DEVELOPMENT

VISION

The following Vision Statement was developed by the Comprehensive Plan Committee for Clermont's land use, growth, and development:

"Clermont encourages sustainable growth accessible to people of all ages, abilities, and income levels; preserves and enhances agricultural, historic, rural, scenic, and natural resources; and embraces and supports a diversity of small- and medium-scale businesses."

GOALS

To achieve this vision, the following broad-based goals were identified:

1. Provide adequate provisions and flexibility through land use regulations to increase local diversity of housing prices and styles to meet the needs of residents of different ages, incomes, and lifestyles. Accommodate residents of different ages, incomes, and lifestyles with flexible and appropriate land use regulations.
2. Focus higher density residential and commercial development in and around existing hamlets and commercial areas.
3. Protect the Town's rural character, open space, scenic, agricultural, historic, and natural resources and encourage energy efficiency and resource conservation through a combination of incentives, guidelines, and standards.
4. Continue to balance the public's interest in the management of community growth and its associated impacts while protecting individual property rights.

LAND USE, GROWTH, AND DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

These goals informed the development of the Plan recommendations, which are as follows:

L1. Continue focusing higher density residential and commercial development in existing Hamlet Zoning Districts and commercial areas.

The Town of Clermont lacks municipal sewer and water infrastructure, complicating opportunities for new commercial and residential development, including two- and multi-family developments that would increase access to more affordable housing. The Town of Clermont has nodes of higher density residential and commercial development within the unincorporated Hamlets of Clermont and Nevis and surrounding areas and nodes of higher density residential growth in the unincorporated hamlet of Viewmont.

Land use and development within the Hamlets of Clermont and Nevis are guided by the Hamlet Zoning District, permitting up to one dwelling unit per acre. Development between the hamlets along Rt. 9 is regulated under the Residential Limited Business (RLB) Zoning District, also permitting up to one dwelling unit per acre. Property in the Hamlet of Viewmont is zoned Residential Agriculture (RA), permitting up to one dwelling unit for every two acres.

Lands along Rt. 9 between the northern town line south to Cedar Hill Rd. and primarily in the Hamlet of Clermont are comprised of soils more suitable for on-site wastewater treatment systems. While the majority of soils best suited for on-site systems are found on agricultural lands, there are pockets of suitable soils along the Rt. 9 corridor and in the Hamlet of Clermont. This Comprehensive Plan is not advocating the removal of agricultural lands for new residential or commercial development. The area also lacks any major environmental constraints that would further limit infill growth. Therefore, the Town should, through the zoning and subdivision regulations update process, consider flexible options for residential development at a density higher than one unit per acre only when the site can support the density as determined through the site plan review process.

In addition to the Hamlet of Clermont and along Rt. 9, there are other pockets of more suitable soil in and

around the Hamlet of Nevis, primarily along Lasher and Pleasantvale Roads. While certain environmental constraints are more prevalent in these areas, opportunities for more residential infill should be explored. Outside of the Hamlet Zoning District, higher density conservation subdivisions may be a more appropriate approach to direct new housing.

Within the Hamlet of Viewmont, there are pockets of soil considered "somewhat limited" for on-site septic systems. Similar to the Hamlet of Nevis, Viewmont has some environmental constraints, including wetlands.

Through advances in technology, engineered septic systems can be used in areas with some soil limitations, increasing options for new residential development. The Town should encourage the use of engineered systems to increase opportunities for new housing, including two- and multi-family dwellings.



Hickory Knoll apartments provide some housing diversity for Town residents.

LAND USE, GROWTH, AND DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

In addition to the above suggestions, the following additional recommendations for enhancing the Town's existing land use regulations should be considered:

Promote commercial and mixed-use development in compatible areas of the Town.

- Allow for more than one use on a single lot, clarify the term "mixed-use" and encourage mixed residential and commercial uses in appropriate zoning districts.
- Allow for maker-spaces and incubator/coworking spaces. Maker spaces are places where people can come together to use and learn to use materials as well as develop creative projects while incubator/coworking spaces are located in offices or other buildings that provide more affordable spaces for new and small companies and promotes collaboration.
- Focus project reviews more on impacts and less on the specific use, moving more towards a form-based zoning approach.
- Consider appropriate regulations for short-term rentals.
- Allow for electrical vehicle charging stations.
- Evaluate regulatory options related to campgrounds and the use of travel trailers outside of campgrounds.
- and Open Space and Farmland Protection Plan (see Recommendation A2).

L2. Consider additional regulatory and nonregulatory options for increasing access to affordable housing.

In addition to considering adjustments to permitted residential density, the town should consider further options to keep the town affordable to lower-income residents. Opportunities to reduce barriers for more affordable housing may include but should not be limited to discounted application and permit fees and relaxing unnecessary requirements for tiny homes, accessory apartments (accessory dwelling units), and manufactured (mobile) homes.

Currently, the Clermont Zoning Law requires a minimum of 700 square feet of floor area per single family dwelling. This minimum floor

area does not apply to accessory apartments and apartment units. Appendix Q "Tiny Houses" of the Residential Building Code of New York State now defines a tiny home as a dwelling that is 400 square feet or less in floor area, excluding lofts. A reduction in the minimum square feet of floor area for a single-family dwelling should be evaluated.

Existing zoning regulations require a special use permit for accessory apartments, a process that involves a public hearing and one that can stretch over several months of planning board review. Reducing this to site plan approval would provide as much regulatory oversight with reduced time and costs. Further, the regulations require a minimum of 500 square feet of net floor area. This minimum should be reduced to increase opportunities and lower development costs. In addition, the existing regulations



Tiny homes are one avenue to promote affordable housing.

LAND USE, GROWTH, AND DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

do not allow the placement of an accessory apartment as a new standalone structure on the parcel, instead requiring it to be constructed within the existing dwelling, as an attachment, or partial conversion of an accessory structure. Conversion of an existing residential structure however is permitted. The requirement that the principal dwelling unit or the accessory apartment be occupied by the owner of the parcel is an additional barrier to increasing affordable housing access. The accessory apartment regulations should be reviewed and modified to increase access to more affordable housing options.

In the Town of Clermont, manufactured (mobile) homes are currently not permitted to be located outside of a manufactured home park. Title 2 of Article 21-B of New York State Executive Law became effective November 20, 2015, and it places limits on local government regulation of manufactured homes. Pursuant to this law, municipalities are no longer permitted to prohibit manufactured homes in zoning districts that permit single family homes, provided they are affixed to a permanent foundation and conforms with the identical development specifications and standards, including general aesthetic and architectural standards, applicable to conventional, site-built single-family dwellings. The zoning regulations will need to be modified to permit manufactured homes in all zoning districts that allow single family dwellings.

Currently, manufactured home parks

are only allowed in the Residential Agricultural (RA) Zoning District. To increase opportunities for more affordable housing, the Town could consider allowing manufactured home parks in other residential zoning districts.

L3. Consider increased use of cluster/conservation subdivisions and the use of site design guidelines/standards for all subdivisions to further protect valuable open spaces and agriculture and to facilitate more sustainable and energy efficient designs.

Key Recommendations:

- Increase use of cluster/conservation subdivisions.
- Implement a mix of voluntary and required design elements, including, but not limited to lot design and layout, building orientation for energy efficiency

purposes, buffers, natural resource protection, open space design, landscaping, stormwater and sewage management, scenic view protection, and pedestrian facilities.

The Town of Clermont allows for cluster subdivisions in all zoning districts and only when proposed by applicants, refer to figure 1. In addition to clustering being voluntary, the existing town zoning and subdivision regulations do not include guidance related to clustering nor any standards to design subdivisions in a manner that preserves agricultural lands, open spaces, and other sensitive resources or promote energy efficiency and more sustainable development.

New York State law authorizes towns to approve "cluster development." Specifically, NYS Town Law section 278 defines cluster development as



Tiny homes are one avenue to promote affordable housing.

LAND USE, GROWTH, AND DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

a subdivision in which the applicable zoning ordinance or local law is modified to provide an alternative permitted method for "the layout, configuration and design of lots, buildings and structures, roads, utility lines and other infrastructure, parks, and landscaping." Further, the purpose of cluster development, more commonly referred to as "conservation subdivision" is "to enable and encourage flexibility of design and development of land in such a manner as to preserve the natural and scenic qualities of open lands."

Under this approach, development is clustered, allowing natural, scenic, or historic resources, agriculture, or environmentally sensitive lands within a subdivision

to remain undeveloped. In return, the developer is provided with the flexibility to subdivide and improve the property in a manner that may deviate from the density, bulk, and area requirements. In addition, regulations may require a minimum amount of open or other protected space be set aside for permanent preservation. This could include undeveloped/open space, agricultural lands, and other sensitive environmental resources.

The Town should consider methods to incentivize and/or require cluster/conservation subdivisions in certain zoning districts and/or when the site includes specified resources, including, but not limited to prime farmland, farmland of statewide significance, sensitive environmental

resources, recreational resources, and open space/scenic views that should be preserved and adverse impacts avoided.

In addition to adding cluster/conservation subdivision design procedures and requirements to the Town's subdivision regulations, specific design standards and guidelines applicable to all subdivisions should be considered. These could include a mix of voluntary and required design elements, including, but not limited to lot design and layout, building orientation for energy efficiency purposes, buffers, natural resource protection, open space design, landscaping, stormwater and sewage management, scenic view protection, and pedestrian facilities.



Open fields, woodlands, agricultural lands and other green/open spaces are common within Clermont and contribute to the Town's character.

LAND USE, GROWTH, AND DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

L4. Evaluate and consider implementing new voluntary and/or regulatory approaches to protect the Town's surface and groundwater resources, floodplains, community character, and habitat diversity.

The water quality of streams, rivers, and lakes along with groundwater can easily be degraded by changes in land use and development. The most direct method to protecting these resources is taking a watershed-approach to appropriately direct changes in land use and development patterns and explore opportunities to preserve open space.

The Town of Clermont could consider a variety of voluntary methods and requirements to achieve this recommendation. Maintaining vegetation can significantly minimize the adverse impacts on water quality from land use practices and development. Converting vegetated areas to paved surfaces increases the amount and velocity of water runoff, resulting in stream channel damage, such as erosion and sedimentation. It also reduces the amount of water that recharges the groundwater. All efforts should be taken to avoid unnecessary removal of vegetation, especially on hillsides, steep slopes, within floodplains, and along water bodies, and wetlands by maintaining buffers. These practices will also help preserve and even enhance natural habitats and avoid damaging temperature increases in water bodies that result after the removal of surrounding vegetation. In

addition, maintaining and enhancing vegetated areas will help further maintain temperatures as pavement and the built environment act as heat islands, increasing the surrounding ambient temperature.

Forestlands and woodlots contribute to the environmental and economic health of rural communities. Forest resources including working landscapes provide a livelihood for people in rural areas and serve as important habitats. Limiting the removal of forested areas as part of new development to only what is necessary to site buildings and associated infrastructure, open spaces, and fire safety is a simple technique for maintaining important forest habitats.

Maintaining and enhancing open fields is another simple action landowners can take to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to water resources while also protecting and enhancing the diversity of terrestrial habitats. Preserving and adding wildflowers as part of a land development project will provide food and habitat for many pollinators, including bees, which are important crop pollinators. Wildflowers can also benefit soil health and prevent erosion.

Options to integrate the above techniques during development planning and review should be considered as part of the land use



The Roeliff Jansen Kill is one of the major waterbodies within Clermont.

LAND USE, GROWTH, AND DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

regulation update process. Clermont residents value and appreciate their ability to enjoy views of dark night skies. Outdoor lighting from residences, streets, businesses, and many other sources can create light pollution (wasted light) and degrade the darkness of the night sky. Although lighting is required for public safety, non-essential lighting should be limited, and all lighting should meet dark skies best practices. Existing developments should also be encouraged to implement best practices. It is recommended that the zoning and subdivision regulations be updated to include appropriate lighting standards to avoid wasted light for projects requiring site plan, special use, and subdivision approval. Common techniques for avoiding wasted light include but are not limited to using fully shielded fixtures and directing light downward, use of lower light poles, and use of lower light intensity and motion sensor lighting.

To encourage existing businesses and residences to reduce light pollution, the Town could consider developing a basic educational/public outreach campaign to provide information both online and via mail in combination with other Town notices.

L5. Recommend universal design (accessibility) in both new construction and renovations to help residents age in place.

The Town of Clermont's population is aging with residents 65+ years

currently representing 20% of the total population, growing by 12% since 2010. Columbia County has a higher rate of residents living with a disability (15.9%) when compared to New York State (11.4%) with 50% of those living with a disability over the age of 75 (no disability data is available at the town level).

As a result, ensuring physical access to housing is becoming increasingly important. Designing and constructing homes so that people can age in place is one technique to provide accessible housing – universal design. Universal design is the design and production of buildings and products that promote equal opportunity for use by individuals, whether or not they have a disability.

A related term, "visitability" is a movement to change construction

standards so that new housing is designed to allow people with mobility impairments to live in the units and visit others. Key features includes wide doorways, at least a half bath on the main floor, accessible placement of electrical controls, and at least one zero-step entrance to a building.

The Town of Clermont should consider options to encourage the integration of universal/visitability designs into new housing projects and during certain renovations. These design elements could include zero-step entrances, wider doorways and passageways, convenience facilities (e.g., having at least one bedroom and bathroom located on the ground floor), and adaptability features (shower grab bars, accessible light switches, accessible kitchen facilities).



Photo credit: Susannah Bradley

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

VISION

The following Vision Statement was developed by the Comprehensive Plan Committee for the Town's economic development:

"Clermont maintains a strong economic base and diverse local economy with places for people to live, farm, shop, work, and gather."

GOALS

To achieve this vision, the following broad-based goals were identified:

1. **Maintain and strengthen economic diversity consistent with Clermont's rural character.**
2. **Support opportunities for hospitality resources while protecting neighborhood character and surrounding residences.**
3. **Continue to encourage and foster small businesses, including home-based businesses and occupations.**
4. **Increase local tourism and support local economic development such as agritourism opportunities, including hospitality and educational uses.**
5. **Partner with and cross-promote local and regional businesses, organizations, and other stakeholders to encourage a robust and diversified economy.**
6. **Support improved broadband access.**

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

These goals informed the development of the Plan recommendations, which are as follows:

E1. Establish an Economic Development Committee.

An economic development committee can be a useful tool for implementing economic development-related recommendations in this Plan. In addition, it is important that Clermont stay connected and active in regional economic development initiatives in Columbia County and the Hudson Valley. The committee should be made up of local business owners, members of regional business groups, a Town Board member, and other interested citizens and stakeholders. The committee can meet on a regular basis or may gather only when needed for specific projects. It is recommended that the committee make annual or bi-annual reports to the Town Board, so that progress can be relayed to the residents of the town.

In addition to implementing specific projects on a town-wide basis, the committee could be tasked with keeping track of activities of other business groups, such as the Columbia Economic Development Corporation, Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, Columbia County Tourism, as well as smaller local economic development and tourism organizations. This will ensure that any opportunities created by the activities of these groups do not go unnoticed.

E2. Develop an economic development plan/market analysis to meet local needs, capture travelers, maintain existing commerce and locate new businesses.

One of the more important ways in which the Town can support the Vision of this plan is by making the connection between Clermont's assets and local and regional market conditions. This connection can be achieved by preparing a targeted economic development and marketing plan. This would enable the Town to:

- Solidify the assets of the community into an easily recognized identity. This identity can be used to unify all marketing materials used by the Town (website, newsletter, etc.). The Town can then work with local business and regional agencies to promote community events and amenities which raise awareness of Clermont as a regional destination and a community which is open for business. This aspect of the plan should be coordinated with Recommendation E2 below.
- Identify potential market opportunities which support the Town's identity. The marketing study will also be a major benefit to local

business owners. Working with other local businesses and regional organizations such as the Columbia Economic Development Corporation, Columbia County Chamber of Commerce, and Columbia County Tourism, the Town can disseminate this information to current and potential business owners. Many small business owners do not have the resources or expertise to complete large-scale market analyses. By completing an analysis for the entire community, the Town can provide local businesses with the tools they need to become more successful in the regional market. The local agriculture economy should be an integral part of the recommended economic development planning process.

- Work with Columbia County and Empire State Development to connect new and existing businesses to assistance programs. Equipped with business plans based on the marketing strategy, local business owners will be in a prime position to re-invest in Clermont using Small Business Association Microloans and other economic assistance programs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

E3. Develop a Town of Clermont branding and marketing program.

To help promote the Town of Clermont and local businesses and increase Clermont's brand recognition, a formal branding and marketing program could be established. This branding and marketing program should be part of the economic development plan/marketing analysis (Recommendation E1).

A formal branding and marketing exercise can lay the groundwork for future investments in tourism promotion, placemaking, wayfinding, and related actions. It can help guide the Town in defining/refining its identity. The branding process could also explore the important Town attributes related to nature, agriculture, history, and commerce.

An initial step should focus on creating a new town logo, motto, and town entrance sign. The logo, motto, and entrance sign could be established through a local contest.

E4. Promote partnership with Columbia County Chamber of Commerce.

As an alternative to or in support of establishing a local economic development committee, the Town could explore options for partnering with the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce to further its economic development goals and promote local businesses.

The Columbia County Chamber of Commerce is a private organization



funded by investments from local businesses. The Chamber offers partnerships with these businesses to create and promote an environment where they can grow and flourish. Working under a unified vision, the Chamber sets up beneficial connections with resources, opportunities, and stakeholders needed for a business to thrive which may not be accessible otherwise.

Clermont businesses have the option of joining the roughly 1,100 businesses in the region that have partnered with the Chamber already. The Chamber operates under a tiered partnership schedule designed to allow businesses to invest based on the resources and opportunities they value. Rather than being a 'one size fits all' approach, this tiered schedule allows small businesses to participate as well.



Several businesses operate within Clermont, many of which are agricultural in nature.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS

E5. Permit short-term rentals in the community, including on farms, to enhance local agritourism opportunities.

As the Town continues to market its assets to visitors, it must ensure there are sufficient resources to maintain a steady flow of agritourism. To capture the tourism market as efficiently as possible, the Town should make efforts to incentivize longer stays rather than just day trips to Clermont. One major aspect of this is hospitality and accommodation resources.

There are no hotels or motels in Clermont, with the closest ones being boutique hotels in neighboring communities. The feasibility of a standard hotel being constructed in Clermont and within the price range of average visitors is significantly limited given the rural nature of the area. Short-term rentals can provide a more affordable hospitality alternative than traditional hotels or motels. Having readily available and reasonably affordable accommodations will give tourists the option to stay overnight and thus provide more opportunity to recreate or interact with businesses in Clermont.

In addition to allowing short-term rentals in the community, the Town should seek to permit short-term rentals on farms. Not only will this increase the number of locations to stay in Town, but it will also directly support the local tourism industry and more specifically, the local agricultural economy. Farm owners will be able to supplement their farm

income through short-term rentals and provide hospitality options for visitors who could visit numerous local businesses and attractions, further benefitting the entire Town.

E6. Investigate public-private options to expand broadband internet access.

The Town of Clermont should work more closely with Columbia County, utilities, and other stakeholders to expand access to broadband/high-speed internet throughout the community.

In the contemporary marketplace, for local businesses to operate efficiently, access to broadband is crucial. This need applies to large, small, and home-based businesses. Communities without reliable high-speed internet service are experiencing a growing gap between the resources and opportunities available to their residents.

Beyond the social returns to investment, access to broadband likewise has economic implications such as acquiring digital skills, online education, and job search opportunities. Most businesses now use electronic services that depend on internet connections. As a result, broadband access also helps businesses maintain efficiency and competitiveness. Expanding access will also create opportunities to diversify the job market as it provides employees the ability to work from home and offers home-based businesses and occupations greater flexibility in their operations.

The Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) has been designated by Columbia County as the County's broadband coordinator and has helped secure millions of dollars to expand broadband access through Federal, State, and private sources. According to the CEDC website, as of July 2021, CEDC is commissioning a study to further analyze gaps in broadband accessibility to prepare for anticipated funding opportunities. A series of maps depicting broadband availability and locations where NYS Broadband Program Office grants have been awarded are available on the [CEDC website](#).

Clermont should coordinate directly with CEDC to obtain an update on the current study and status of state-funded broadband expansion programs in Town. Where there continues to be deficiencies and gaps, the Town should strongly petition for additional funding, faster implementation, and alternative approaches to relying on private utility providers.

TRANSPORTATION

VISION

The following Vision Statement was developed by the Comprehensive Plan Committee for transportation:

“Clermont provides a safe, efficient, and accessible biking, walking, and driving transportation system for people of all ages, abilities, and socio-economic levels. The transportation system respects and enhances the Town's rural character, responds to the evolving needs of the community, is environmentally responsible, and supports low carbon transportation options to help improve air quality and to encourage physical activity for improved community health.”

GOALS

To achieve this vision, the following broad-based goals were identified:

1. Promote a safe, connected, and efficient transportation system for all users, including seniors, children, tourists, and the commuter population.
2. Incorporate pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to encourage physical activity for better health, diversify travel options, and to provide safe routes around our community.
3. Plan for a transportation system that is future oriented, environmentally responsible, and supports low and zero carbon options.
4. Maintain and strengthen partnerships and cooperation with Columbia County and New York State Dept. of Transportation to address traffic calming needs and properly plan for road infrastructure improvements to limit impacts on the traveling public and then environment.

TRANSPORTATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

These goals informed the development of the Plan recommendations, which are as follows:

T1. Pursue techniques to improve traffic safety and speed limit compliance on local, state, and county roads, including, but not limited to traffic calming.

Rather than merely reducing the speed limit, traffic calming uses physical design methods and other measures to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists in a way that fits the context of each roadway. In rural and agriculturally focused communities such as Clermont, traffic calming is also important for the safety of farmers, particularly when they drive slower farm equipment on roads.



Radar speed signage can be used to promote compliance with the speed limit as drivers can more easily see their driving speed in relation to the speed limit.

Traffic calming techniques can promote compliance with the speed limit, reduce motor-vehicle collisions, and promote multi-modal transportation. Traffic calming can be implemented at specific intersections and streets or on a larger scale such as neighborhoods, hamlets, and business districts.

While it is not the goal of traffic calming to reduce the posted speed limit in areas where it is not necessary, the Town of Clermont recognizes that existing traffic safety concerns related to speeding in key areas may necessitate speed limit reductions in applicable areas. For example, US Route 9 poses unique safety risks as portions of it are used by school buses to transport students. Issues with speeding are compounded by blind corners and other geographical issues that must be addressed.

As a result, the Town recently petitioned NYS Dept. of Transportation to extend the 45 MPH speed limit on US Rt. 9 to County Route 31 in the Town of Livingston. Reducing the speed limit in this and other similar sensitive areas will facilitate a safer environment for all community members.



Speed limits on roadways provide a more visually direct reminder to drivers of how fast they should be driving.

TRANSPORTATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Comprehensive Plan public outreach process also identified a desire to install a yellow light and crosswalk at the intersection of US Rt. 9 and County Rt. 6, along with requests to reduce speed limits on other roads within the town. While the Town reserves the right to request additional traffic calming measures and speed reductions, it is noted that public comments were also received seeking to ensure the ease of transit is maintained throughout town.

Traffic calming is also community and location specific and not all techniques are appropriate to a given location. Addressing traffic calming in an urban environment can be much different than in a rural community such as Clermont.

Traffic calming treatments in rural communities should focus on notifying drivers that they are entering a community and must adjust their speeds accordingly. Speed reduction is key to improved safety. Numerous strategies are available to slow down drivers physically or psychologically. Common techniques include but are not limited to:

- Traffic control signs – Different types of signs that can draw more attention to slow down including radar speed display signs.
- Pavement markings – Markings on pavement to alert drivers a speed change is occurring or to give drivers the feeling they are speeding up with markings that appear to narrow the roadway.

- Surroundings - A treatment that is placed off the roadway to alert drivers they are entering a community, including gateway treatments and banners.
- Vertical deflections, e.g., speed bumps, speed tables, and raised crosswalks.
- Horizontal shifts, e.g., narrowing wide roadways through increasing shoulder widths.
- Other design elements, e.g., traffic diverters, bollards, or medians.

The primary areas of concern identified through the Comprehensive Plan process includes Rt. 9 through the Hamlets of Clermont and Nevis and the tendency of drivers to exceed the posted 45 MPH speed limit. Techniques to better alert drivers to the posted speed limit and/or force them to slow down are necessary. Similar concerns have been noted

along Rt. 9G in the vicinity of County Route 6 leading to the Clermont State Historic Site and the Empire State Trail.

Potentially appropriate traffic calming techniques for Clermont may include a combination of traffic control signs, pavement markings, and use of the surroundings approach. Regardless of the approaches considered, it is important to avoid sign clutter and adding driver distractions that could exacerbate traffic safety issues.

The initial step will be to reach out and coordinate with Columbia County and NYS Dept. of Transportation to identify and confirm problematic roads and locations and consider the feasibility and safety of different approaches. The Town could consider pursuing public or private funding sources to implement traffic safety improvements.



The intersection at U.S. Route 9 and Commons Road.

TRANSPORTATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

T2. Establish a formal transportation planning relationship with Columbia County and NYS Dept. of Transportation to identify and coordinate necessary road and infrastructure improvements and to advance multi-modal transportation and safety goals.

The topic of transportation inherently focuses on how we move between various locations; coordinating with different governments and organizations can help to identify areas that overlap and aid in maximizing the efficiency of travel between different geographic areas.

Establishing an open dialogue with Columbia County and New York State to enhance planning efforts and roll out necessary improvements to bridges and roads will limit negative impacts on Town residents and visitors while bettering the Town's transportation infrastructure.

Similarly, advocating for pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements in association with NYS and County road improvements not only serves to promote multimodal travel but

also offers a way to advance state and county initiatives that benefit Town residents, business owners, and visitors.

To initiate this recommendation, a Town committee on traffic safety could be formed, with the involvement of the Town's Highway Department, with a goal of working towards traffic calming in key areas of the community, including implementing Recommendation T1. The committee could also help coordinate needed road and related infrastructure improvements with Columbia County, NYSDOT, and neighboring communities to ensure community residents are involved in the planning stages with a goal of limiting traffic disruptions and designing improvements to better serve the traveling public – drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

T3. Improve the safety of bicycle and pedestrian traffic along Town Roads.

Historically, many individuals and communities have been overlooked and underserved by traditional approaches to transportation

planning, which have focused heavily on motor-vehicles. Beyond increased human health benefits, a diverse transportation system promotes community resilience and can cater to a wide variety of abilities and socio-economic groups. Multiple methods for improving bicycle and pedestrian traffic exist, such as the concept of Complete Streets. Utilizing Complete Streets initiatives offers an approach to planning, designing, and building streetscapes that enable safe access for all users and fits the community context. Some examples include, but are not limited to:

- Improved signage and/or lighting along roadways to increase the visibility of pedestrians or cyclists.
- Evaluate the feasibility of dedicated bike lanes and sidewalks for pedestrians.
- Educating drivers and pedestrians on required and recommended safety behaviors.
- Crosswalk installations and/or improvements to promote safe crossing of roadways.
- Consider the creation of biking or walking trails connecting the Hamlet of Clermont to Hettling Park, Clermont Park, and Town Hall.

These recommended approaches could be considered and progressed by the Town committee on traffic safety detailed in Recommendation T2 and in partnership with Columbia County and New York State.



TRANSPORTATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

Clermont's 2006 Hamlet Vision Plan includes recommendations for the addition of sidewalks along Route 9 in the Hamlet of Clermont. The Town's Comprehensive Plan will continue to support the details of the plan, including recommending sidewalks for the Clermont Hamlet area where property owners agree to maintain them.

T4. Promote the installation of electric vehicle charging stations at public and private locations, including, but not limited to local business, Town Hall, and Hettling/ Clermont Town Parks.

The growing shift from fossil fuels to electric power has set the stage for large increases in electric vehicle sales. The Town must be able to respond and support changes in transportation infrastructure as demand continues to increase for this mode of travel. Promoting the installation of both private and public charging stations, where feasible, will improve the Town's ability to serve residents and reach a wider audience.

The Town should seek funding through various grant programs that partially or fully cover the costs of installing E.V. charging stations. In addition, and with the help of the Clermont Climate Smart Task Force, the Town could make available to local businesses and residents, information on grants and tax rebates for E.V. charging stations.

Incentivizing and/or requiring E.V. charging stations for qualifying, large developments within the Town is

another option to progress this effort in the private sector.

T5. Explore public transit options and connectivity within the Town and to neighboring areas.

Public transportation is a vital resource to support community members who are unable to drive or afford the upkeep of personal vehicles. It also has the ability to provide access to educational and medical services, as well as employment opportunities. The only service that is currently available is the Children and Adults Rural Transportation Service (CARTS) provided by the Columbia County Office for the Aging. This service offers free, door-to-door, non-emergency medical transportation to Columbia County residents.

Like many rural communities, Clermont does not have consistent and reliable public transportation options due to a lack of dedicated

infrastructure, population density and fiscal resources. Despite these obstacles, there are avenues for increasing public transit options within town and surrounding areas, including but not limited to:

- Work with relevant stakeholders and organizations to enhance and maintain current infrastructure that serves the needs of the community.
- Explore opportunities to implement non-conventional transit systems such as vanpooling and volunteer transits.
- Identify a hub area that can serve as an interface between different transportation systems, such as a bus station or shelter.
- Encourage and participate in a countywide transit study to identify areas of need, demand, capacity, funding, and possible opportunities to integrate multiple modes of transportation.



Having charging stations within the Town would increase transportation infrastructure for electric vehicles.

SUSTAINABILITY, RESILIENCE, AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

VISION

The following Vision Statement was developed by the Comprehensive Plan Committee for the Town's sustainability, resilience, and natural resource protection:

"Clermont continues to set a regional example with its approach to sustainability, resiliency, and natural resource protection through a combination of voluntary measures and balanced land use regulations."

GOALS

To achieve this vision, the following broad-based goals were identified:

1. Use fact-based education as a tool to advance awareness, generate civic engagement and support meaningful change towards a more resilient and sustainable future.
2. Increase local climate resiliency through a combination of land use regulations, incentives, and voluntary methods.
3. Encourage and seek opportunities to partner with utilities and other stakeholders to improve infrastructure necessary to support renewable energy sources, including, but not limited to solar and wind.

SUSTAINABILITY, RESILIENCE, AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

RECOMMENDATIONS

These goals informed the development of the Plan recommendations, which are as follows:

S1. The Climate Smart Task Force will lead the preparation of a sustainability plan for Clermont to guide municipal actions, including, but not limited to cooling centers and educational outreach, to help the community both mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The concept of sustainability is constantly growing and evolving, and communities will need to evolve with it, including embracing new technologies, new approaches to infrastructure, new government and private sector programs, and evolving standards for energy efficiency and sustainable development.

To assist the Town of Clermont become more sustainable and resilient to the potential impacts of climate change, the Clermont Climate Smart Taskforce will prepare a sustainability plan to guide municipal actions and provide educational outreach to residents, business owners, and visitors.

The Plan may be used in the planning and land use process and provide the means by which the Town may set sustainable priorities via suggestions or recommended actions to consider with mechanisms for measuring success.

As part of the planning process, the Clermont Climate Smart Task Force will craft a community outreach and education program to include special events, workshops, educational materials (print and online), and

coordination with civic groups and local institutions to increase local and regional awareness of climate change and opportunities to become more resilient and sustainable, including through the use of best management practices. The NYS Climate Smart Communities program should serve as the basis for this planning effort.

Subject examples for the plan and outreach program could include but should not be limited to, information on local and regional recycling and composting opportunities, guidance on sustainable landscaping, use of native plants (including providing a list of prohibited and invasive species), local food sources, building site development standards for energy conservation, reductions in impervious areas, use of sustainable/green building materials, green infrastructure and small-scale renewable energy sources, habitat restoration, and minimizing energy use in vacant buildings.

S2. Where practical and financially feasible, seek grant funds and partnerships to implement renewable energy alternatives for the public and private sector.

While using renewable energy alternatives could result in long-term savings and provide environmental benefits, such technologies can be cost prohibitive for many communities. There are numerous grant programs available to communities to cover a portion or in some cases, 100% of local costs.



Solar energy is an increasingly popular form of renewable energy, solar fields can often be designed to work in tandem with agricultural practices such as raising livestock.

SUSTAINABILITY, RESILIENCE, AND NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

RECOMMENDATIONS

Clermont should continually evaluate the costs and benefits of increasing municipal resilience and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Examples may include solar, wind, heat pumps, and other emerging technologies, along with Town vehicles and equipment (e.g. EV or Hybrid trucks, electric/battery mowers) and related costs.

The Town and the Climate Smart Taskforce should also seek opportunities to partner with utilities and other stakeholders to improve infrastructure necessary to support renewable energy sources, including, but not limited to solar and wind, along with public EV car charging stations at Town parks.

S3. Investigate opportunities to partner with the Columbia County Solid Waste Department and other regional entities to develop a “free-cycle” program and food waste composting program.

There are a number of benefits to composting: prevents soil erosion, improves soil health, reduces waste, conserves water, and promotes healthier plant growth, and helps combat climate change, among several other benefits. While many residents already engage in composting, providing a town-wide or regional program will significantly increase opportunities for composting.

The Town, with assistance from the Clermont Climate Smart Task Force, should engage in conversations

with Columbia County Solid Waste Department and other local communities to evaluate the feasibility of a county-wide program. Alternatively, the Town could seek partnerships with one or more communities to establish their own composting program. In addition to or in place of a county- or town-wide program, composting equipment could be purchased and made available to local residents and businesses to increase composting opportunities.

S4. Investigate options to establish more environmentally friendly Town purchasing strategies while balancing cost efficiency.

Municipalities must purchase an array of materials and equipment to provide basic services to residents, businesses, and visitors. In an effort

to consider the environmental impacts of certain purchases, the Town could consider reasonable strategies and guidelines to encourage more environmentally sustainable investments. This may include establishing partnerships with other municipalities to share costs and promote knowledge sharing. The Town should prioritize purchasing products that are durable, long lasting, reusable, or refillable wherever it is feasible to do so. Purchasing equipment second hand is another strategy to reduce waste. In addition, vendors could be asked to eliminate packaging or use the minimum amount necessary for product protection. Requesting packaging that is reusable, recyclable, or compostable, when appropriate, is another approach the Town could take to reduce its overall environmental footprint.



Solar energy is an increasingly popular form of renewable energy, solar fields can often be designed to work in tandem with agricultural practices such as raising livestock.

RECREATION

VISION

The following Vision Statement was developed by the Comprehensive Plan Committee for Clermont's recreational opportunities:

"Clermont offers diverse recreational resources and opportunities that meet the needs of all individuals, families, and communities to help promote public health."

GOALS

To achieve this vision, the following broad-based goals were identified:

1. Ensure a wide variety of land and water based recreational opportunities that foster equity and a sense of community are available to people of all ages and abilities.
2. Continue to enhance and maintain the Town's existing parks and recreational facilities to provide recreational opportunities.
3. Explore opportunities for indoor and outdoor recreation.
4. Explore opportunities for cycling infrastructure, including on- and off-road trails.

RECREATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

These goals informed the development of the Plan recommendations, which are as follows:

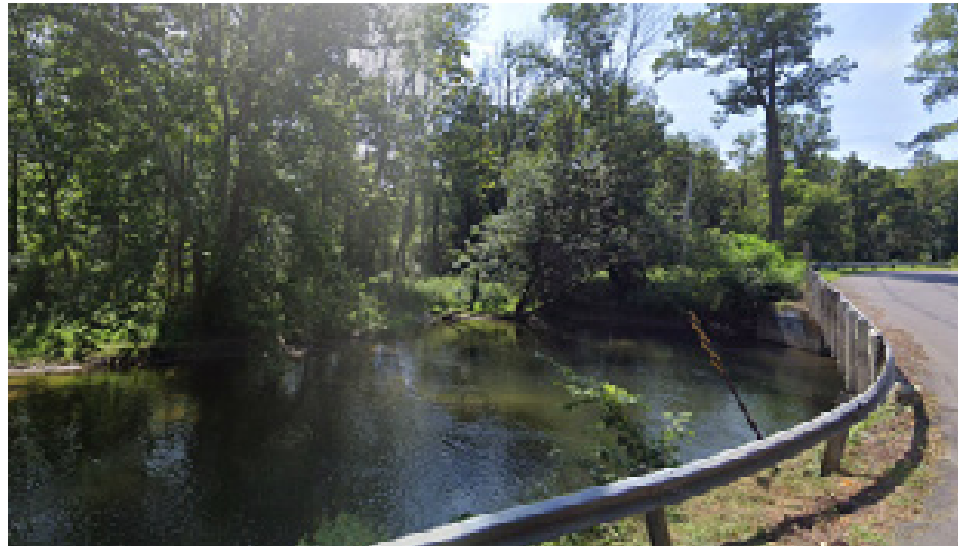
R1. Encourage increased uses and explore opportunities for open air art exhibits, maker's fairs, and other outdoor park gatherings and activities at Hettling and Clermont Parks.

Clermont and Hettling Parks are valuable resources to the Town. While they provide several options for recreation, these parks have the potential to serve the community to an even greater extent. The Town should explore opportunities to better utilize and enhance these resources, including, but not limited to:

- Add new and improved existing park amenities such as benches, bike racks, bathrooms, playground equipment, and pavilions as funding becomes available.



Clermont and Hettling Parks are valuable recreational resources within the Town.



- Update park facilities to be ADA compliant as funding becomes available and ensure ADA accessibility for new facilities.
- Add interpretive and wayfinding signage to promote awareness and use of parks as well as historic resources within the Town.
- Explore opportunities to more regularly apply for grants aimed at park improvements.

R2. Seek opportunities for increased public access to waterways within the Town.

There is no formal waterfront access within the Town of Clermont. In an effort to diversify recreational offerings to residents and visitors alike, the Town should explore options that would increase public access to local waterways such as the Hudson River, the Roeliff Jansen Kill, and other local waterbodies.

- Access should be focused on launching small, boats (e.g., canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, etc.), wildlife viewing, picnicking, and fishing. The Town does not permit swimming at any Town-owned waterfront access site. The following opportunities should be considered to achieve waterfront access:
- Acquire land or easements along the Roeliff Jansen for waterfront park/open space and consider requiring easements as a condition for future waterfront development during the subdivision review process.
 - Partner with Livingston to allow Clermont residents improved access to Twin Lakes.
 - Coordinate with the Clermont State Historic Site to open up access to the Hudson River.
 - Promote access to the Roe Jan via Buckwheat Bridge.

RECREATION

RECOMMENDATIONS

R3. Explore cooperation with local and regional organizations and surrounding communities for recreational and cultural opportunities.

Partnering with local business and public and private organizations may provide additional recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. This approach offers a way to diversify and enrich Clermont's recreational offerings while also establishing positive relationships with the organizations that are located within and surrounding the Town. Possible avenues for partnerships include, but are not limited to:

- Coordinate with the Clermont State Historic Site to increase local promotion of historic education, entertainment, and recreational gatherings.
- Develop and make available an inventory of public recreational resources within the Town.
- Partner with local businesses to promote events and activities.
- Create a walking/biking/driving trail between Clermont State Historic Park and the Town's various recreational and commercial amenities and make the trail map easily accessible throughout Town and online.
- Partner with local school districts to promote Clermont's assets for athletics and afterschool programming.
- Work with the Parks Committee to advance recommendations made in the Park Report 2020.

R4. Develop an operations and maintenance system for Town parks and recreational facilities.

Exploring ways to efficiently maintain existing parks and recreational facilities will help the Town preserve its assets and prioritize desired improvements in the future. In developing a maintenance system, the Town should consider creating a maintenance plan/schedule to help coordinate efforts between individuals and organizations. This plan can inventory both private and public opportunities for recreation and also identify relevant positions/departments that will be in charge of coordinating and maintaining recreational facilities and resources. The Town could also consider creating a parks and recreation department or hiring dedicated staff/volunteers to help create, maintain, and enforce the elements in the plan.

Additional measures such as developing an online park reservation system will improve

accessibility to the parks and help the Town track usage of its resources. The Town could also consider charging user fees to reserve various recreational facilities or locations. This would provide a source of income that can be funneled back into park and recreation improvements.

R5. Consider establishing on- and off-road recreational trails and advocate for pedestrian and cycling infrastructure when New York State and Columbia County plan to improve local road infrastructure.

Being able to safely walk, hike, and bike on and off road provides residents and visitors with increased recreational opportunities and healthy activities. In addition to creating off-road trails, the Town should establish and maintain open communications with state and county authorities to provide safer on-road routes for pedestrians and cyclists as road improvements are planned and implemented.



TOWN SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

VISION

The following Vision Statement was developed by the Comprehensive Plan Committee for Town's services and infrastructure:

"Clermont provides and properly maintains essential services and infrastructure that supports a vibrant economy and high quality of life including helping to reduce exposure to environmental hazards in a fiscally sustainable manner while maintaining the lowest possible tax rate for the Town."

GOALS

To achieve this vision, the following broad-based goals were identified:

1. Provide Clermont with necessary community services while maintaining and strengthening the Town's fiscal health.
2. Strategically assess, prioritize, maintain, and improve vital utilities and community facilities in partnership with stakeholders to ensure the services are properly maintained and sustained over time.
3. Continue coordination and seek opportunities with local, County, and State Agencies to increase shared services between jurisdictions.
4. Educate town officials and residents about emergency response protocols and resources as well as general services and support that are available within Clermont.
5. Work with local and regional organizations to advocate for and maintain an active volunteer base for emergency services and civic organizations.

TOWN SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

RECOMMENDATIONS

TS1. Consider providing a centralized emergency response center that could include warming and cooling resources, and access to other basic needs during power outages and other emergency situations.

Disasters have the potential to deplete available resources as demand on local response agencies and healthcare facilities are heightened. Rural residents and communities located far from established emergency response infrastructure require additional measures to ensure adequate support in the event of these emergency situations.

Individually or in cooperation with one or more neighboring communities, the Town of Clermont should establish a centralized emergency response center. Establishing local resources that provide necessary aid will help to promote community resilience as well as general health and safety within Clermont. The Town should explore options for providing such support in the form of an emergency response center which provides electricity, shelter, and other necessities to residents during a crisis. Warming and cooling centers provide resources to respond to extreme heat or cold that has become dangerous to public health.

TS2. Periodically review and update the Town of Clermont Emergency Preparedness Plan.

The Town's Emergency Preparedness Plan was originally prepared in January 2013 with updates in March

2014 and April 2015. It has been over eight years since the Plan was last updated. In order to ensure the Town's procedures and resources are sufficient to properly render emergency services to citizens within the Town of Clermont, the Plan should be reviewed and updated on an annual basis.

An emergency preparedness plan is a document that outlines a series of steps that will be taken during critical events. This plan identifies relevant points of contact and best practices for a variety of incidents pertaining to natural disasters, technological threats, or infrastructure malfunctions, as well as human-caused emergencies. The planning process requires coordination between relevant organizations and provides a response structure that accounts for available resources within the Town and surrounding communities. Regularly reviewing the plan to identify required updates improves the Town's ability to respond to unforeseen circumstances and safeguards its residents.

TS3. Evaluate and prioritize deficiencies of community services and utilities on a regular basis and in coordination with residents, business owners and utility providers.

It is essential to know whether utilities and services are operating optimally and serving the community to the fullest extent possible. An evaluation of current conditions and ongoing monitoring is required in order to understand current deficiencies and to adequately coordinate with utility providers

and seek local, regional, and state support.

Certain areas in the Town of Clermont have either limited or a complete lack of cellular and broadband services. In addition, the local electrical grid significantly limits the potential for future renewable energy systems from connecting to the grid, including solar.

Recognizing that the Town cannot provide these services directly, close coordination with utilities, local, and state representatives, and other key parties will be necessary to begin addressing these limitations.

TS4. Develop a public information, alert and warning system for emergencies and other important situations.

Building upon Recommendations TS1 and TS2, it is recommended the Town evaluate options for creating or utilizing a public alert system to inform residents of important notices, activities, events, and emergency situations. A public alert and warning system provides alerts and information messaging from town and emergency officials to the public through cell, landlines, and email. The system could alert the public to emergency situations, severe weather events, flooding, road closures, and other key health and safety information, along with more routine information and notices. The system would need to be established by a private vendor. The Town should consider pursuing potential funding sources to cover related costs of the alert system.

TOWN SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

RECOMMENDATIONS

TS5. Establish and maintain a robust community calendar on the Town's Website.

The Town of Clermont website includes an "Announcements, News, and Events" page that provides public notices and information on public meetings and other community news and events. The information currently provided is limited primarily to municipal notices and related information.

It is recommended that a new, more comprehensive community calendar be established that would include postings about government and non-government events and information. This may include, but is not limited to, local business events, sports programs, volunteer events, and events at Hettling Park and other locations in Town. This effort differs from the alert system mentioned in TS4 in that it will disperse non-critical information of a social nature.

The calendar may also be linked to a digital outreach system, such as emails, texts, or an app, which could inform residents of local events and opportunities.

The calendar should allow the public to submit information and events for posting on the website. Recommended postings would be reviewed and approved by a Town official or volunteer who would also be responsible for maintaining the calendar. This recommendation will require a volunteer or paid position to ensure the calendar is properly maintained.

The enhanced website calendar

would improve access to and promote local resources, including events, businesses, and recreation. Having a vibrant community calendar has numerous benefits, including driving new traffic to the Town's website, raising awareness of events and community services, helping to build a sense of community spirit, strengthening bonds between residents, and can also attract tourists and visitors.

A community's website acts as a digital gateway and can often create a positive or negative impression for visitors before they step foot in the Town. In addition, residents and business owners have come to rely on a municipal website to provide a variety of services and information.

In addition, the Town should work with local and regional groups and agencies to ensure consistent and up-to-date links and information. This will increase the usability of these websites and benefit the residents, visitors, and business owners in the community.

TS6. Request increased rural service from USPS and other carriers (UPS, FedEx, etc.).

An adequate number of and properly placed mail receptacles are key to a healthy functioning mail service in town. The Town of Clermont lacks a post office and does not have a rural receptacle, risking theft of mail or packages and forcing residents and businesses owners to travel greater distances for adequate mail service. Town Hall could be a central location for a USPS Mailbox along with drop boxes for UPS and FedEx. The Town could engage the US Post Office to request a USPS box at Town Hall. In addition, the Town could reach out to UPS and FedEx to determine the feasibility of locating their drop boxes at Town Hall.

Rural stations and branches are established according to USPS policies and procedures, characteristics of the area, and the methods needed to provide adequate service. Requests or petitions to establish, change or extend rural delivery service must be given to the postmaster of the post office from which delivery service is desired, or from which the route operates, as applicable. Clermont should coordinate with residents and business owners and organize efforts to submit requests or petitions for increased service.



Fire protection is essential for the safety of Clermont's residents; the Clermont Fire Station is a pillar of the Community.



Photo credit: Susannah Bradley

IMPLEMENTATION

GENERAL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The purpose of a Comprehensive Plan is to establish a community vision and identify the actions necessary to pursue that vision. Implementation of the Town of Clermont Comprehensive Plan will depend upon the commitment of local leaders, continued public participation, availability of funding, and successful partnerships.

Many of the recommendations outlined in the Comprehensive Plan have been in process for years and, in some cases, will take several more years to fully realize. They will also require grant funding. Pursuing regional, State, and Federal grants requires patience and a keen awareness of timing. The grant cycle can work on a semi-annual, yearly, or even decade long cycle. There are also sequencing issues to consider. For example,

there are many grants that require municipalities to take part in the initial program in order to apply for funding in subsequent years or certain related work will ideally be synchronized to avoid multiple construction disruptions. In addition, new Town and Villages leaders and volunteers will replace current team members. Setting up systems that can transfer knowledge and maintain momentum through those changes is critical, as is maintaining realistic expectations for how much can get done over any given length of time.

The Implementation Matrix organizes the recommendations by topic area, identifies the lead organization driving action on the recommendation's implementation, identifies key partners and potential funding sources.

STEPS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

1

ORGANIZE

3

DEVELOP AND LEVERAGE PARTNERSHIPS

2

PRIORITIZE

4

PURSUE FUNDING



1

ORGANIZE

The first step of implementing the plan involves reconvening the Comprehensive Plan Committee to assist with the development of an Implementation Committee. The Town Board should officially appoint the Implementation Committee and task them with developing an organizational strategy and meeting schedule. It is recommended that the proposed Implementation Committee be composed of citizens, business representatives, community organizations, and elected officials that can stay engaged with the

Town's future beyond the routine functions of government. Holding Implementation Committee meetings as a separate function from the Town Board meetings will allow for a more open dialogue in a format more suited to tackling community development issues. An additional benefit of an appointed Implementation Committee is that members do not necessarily turnover with every election cycle, which allows for the continuity required to pursue long range plans and projects.

It is recommended that the Implementation Committee maintain regular communication with the Town Board, including providing updates and sharing an annual status report that records the progress of plan implementation, describing the status of current projects, and identifying projects needing additional information. This information should also be available to the public on the Comprehensive Plan page of the Town's website.

2

PRIORITIZE

As part of the Comprehensive Plan Update process, recommendation prioritization exercises were conducted at public engagement events and with online surveys that ranked recommendations. Results of these exercises have been compiled and assessed. A series of Committee meetings were also held to identify priorities for the Town as it begins to prepare for implementation. These priorities should be reviewed periodically and adjusted as needed based on changing conditions and circumstances.



Residents of Clermont provide insight on their priorities as they give feedback on draft Visions, Goals, and Recommendations formulated by the Comprehensive Plan and Update of Land Use Law Committee.

3

DEVELOP AND LEVERAGE PARTNERSHIPS

The Town of Clermont has a limited budget for fulltime professional staff to address municipal issues. Partnering with other local and regional entities could help the Town take advantage of grant programs, share technical expertise, and exchange ideas. Key partners for priority recommendations were identified in the Vision, Goals, and Recommendation section as well as in the implementation matrix.



Photo credit: Mary Howard

The Town has worked with the volunteer Park Committee to carry out multiple plantings and landscaping improvements at Hettling Park

4

PURSUVE FUNDING

As a smaller community, the Town has a limited amount of funding to pursue all the recommendations of this plan. However, certain grant programs require smaller cash matches, while some grants can be matched using local volunteer efforts

or even funding from a different source (i.e., matching a State grant with a Federal grant).

For priority projects, specific funding sources were identified in the proceeding section. As

funding sources and strategies are everchanging, it is important to continually re-examine priorities and to evaluate possible alternatives and implementation strategies to support the projects identified by residents and included in this plan.

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

The Plan's Implementation Matrix identifies initial potential funding sources and possible partners for implementing each Strategy. The Implementation Matrix is intended to be a guide and should not be relied upon as the primary source of possible funding. In addition, the Implementation Matrix includes recommended Lead Boards / Agencies to undertake or initiate implementation of each recommendation. The Clermont Town Board has been identified as the recommended lead for several of the recommendations. However, the Board should seek to designate one or more other entities to coordinate and lead implementation where appropriate.

As several abbreviations are used in the Matrix, please refer to the Abbreviations Key on the following pages. The Strategies are assigned a recommended timeline for implementation, as follows:

- **Short-term: Year 0-2**
- **Medium-term: Years 2-5**
- **Long-term: 6+ Years**
- **Ongoing: Continuously Implement**

This Implementation Plan should be amended and updated annually – in concert with the preparation of the annual budget as new actions and strategies are introduced and implemented.

ABBREVIATIONS

AFRI: Agriculture and Food Research Initiative

- **ATTAIN:** Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation

CC: Columbia County

- **CCHD:** Columbia County Highway Division
- **CCSWD:** Columbia County Solid Waste Department
- **CCCC:** Columbia County Chamber of Commerce

CCE: Cornell Cooperative Extension

CEDC: Columbia Economic Development Corporation

ConnectALL: New York State ConnectAll Initiative

- **DEGP:** New York State ConnectAll Digital Equity Grant Program
- **RBGP:** New York State ConnectAll Rural Broadband Grant Program

CST: Climate Smart Taskforce

ESD: Empire State Development

- **EJC:** Environmental and Climate Justice Program
- **EjG2G:** The Environmental Justice Government-to-Government Program
- **MarketNY:** Market New York Tourism Grant Program
- **PFS:** Planning and Feasibility Study
- **TASC:** Technical Assistance Services for Communities

FCHS: Friends of Clermont Historic Site

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency

- **EOC:** Emergency Operations Center Grant Program
- **EMPG:** Emergency Management Performance Grant

HRVG: Hudson River Valley Greenway

HUD: United States Housing and Urban Development

LEO: Law Enforcement Officer

- **NYS:** New York State
- **NYSASF:** New York State Agricultural Society Foundation
- **NYSAM:** New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets
- **FPIG:** Farmland Preservation Implementation Grants Program
- **NYSCA:** New York State Council of the Arts

- **NYSDEC:** New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

- **MZEVIG:** Municipal ZEV Infrastructure Grant program

- **MFFSRI:** Municipal Funding for Food Scraps Recycling Initiatives

- **WQIP:** DEC Water Quality Improvement Project

- **NYSERDA:** New York State Energy Research Development Authority

- **NYSDOT:** New York State Department of Transportation

- **NYSHCR:** New York State

- **NYSDOS:** New York State Department of State

- **SG:** New York State Smart Growth Program

- **SGTAP:** Smart Growth Technical Assistance Programs

- **BBSC:** Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities

- **RERC:** Recreation Economy for Rural Communities

- **OPRHP:** New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation

RTP: New York State Recreational Trails Program

PPP: Public Private Partnerships

PTNY: Parks and Trails New York

REDC: Regional Economic Development Council

TOC: Town of Clermont

- **AAC:** Town of Clermont Agricultural Advisory Committee [Recommended Committee]

- **CMF:** Town of Clermont Municipal Funds

- **CPC:** Town of Clermont Parks Committee

- **CPULUL:** Town of Clermont Comprehensive Plan and Update of Land Use Laws Committee

- **CTB:** Town of Clermont Town Board

- **EDC:** Town of Clermont Economic Development Committee [Recommended Committee]

- **FD:** Town of Clermont Fire Departments

- **PB:** Town of Clermont Planning Board

UPS: United Postal Service

USDA: United States Department of Agriculture

USPS: United States Postal Service

Implementation Matrix				
BOLD = Indicates Lead Board / Agency recommended to undertake or initiate implementation				
Number	Recommendation / Action	Responsible Parties and Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline
Agricultural Resources				
A1 (page 20)	Form an agricultural advisory committee to promote farming in the Town of Clermont, serve as a direct resource to farmers, and provide educational materials and technical assistance to the Town and public related to agricultural issues.	CTB , NYSASF, NYSAM, CCE, USDA, AAC	NYSAM	Short-Term
A2 (page 21)	Prepare an open space and farmland protection plan to aid in prioritizing and protecting Clermont's resources. This plan would establish an inventory of the Town's open space and agricultural assets and provide steps toward preserving them.	CTB , CC	NYSAM-FPIG, HRVG	Short-Term
A3 (page 21)	Consider pursuing a real estate transfer tax on all property sales that exceed the Columbia County median sales price and establish a community preservation fund to help fund the protection of open space and agricultural lands.	CTB, State Legislature	HRVG	Medium-Term
A4 (page 22)	Revise local Land Use Laws and associated procedures to incentivize the preservation of prime farmland and farmland of statewide significance and to avoid adverse impacts to the Town's local agricultural economy.	CTB , CPULUL, CCE, NYSAM	NYSAM, HRVG, NYSDOS-SG	Short-Term

Implementation Matrix				
BOLD = Indicates Lead Board / Agency recommended to undertake or initiate implementation				
Number	Recommendation / Action	Responsible Parties and Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline
Land Use, Growth, and Development				
L1 (page 24)	Continue focusing higher density residential and commercial development in existing Hamlet Zoning Districts and commercial areas.	CTB , PB		Ongoing
L2 (page 25)	Consider additional regulatory and nonregulatory options for increasing access to affordable housing.	CTB , CC	HRVG, NYSHCR, NYSDOS-SG	Ongoing
L3 (page 26)	Consider increased use of cluster/conservation subdivisions and the use of site design guidelines/standards for all subdivisions to further protect valuable open spaces and agriculture and to facilitate more sustainable and energy efficient designs.	CTB , CPULUL, PB	HRVG, NYSDOS-SG, NYSAM-FPIG	Short-Term / Ongoing
L4 (page 28)	Evaluate and consider implementing new voluntary and/or regulatory approaches to protect the Town's surface and groundwater resources, floodplains, community character, and habitat diversity.	CTB , CPULUL, NYSDEC	NYSDEC-WQIP, NYSDOS-SG, HRVG	Short-Term
L5 (page 29)	Recommend universal design (accessibility) in both new construction and renovations to help residents age in place.	CTB , CPULUL, HUD, PB	HUD, NYSHCR	Ongoing

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Number	Recommendation / Action	Responsible Parties and Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline
Economic Development				
E1 (page 31)	Establish an Economic Development Committee.	CTB		Medium-Term
E2 (page 31)	Develop an economic development plan/market analysis to meet local needs, capture travelers, maintain existing commerce and locate new businesses.	CTB , EDC, REDC, CEDC, ESD	ESD-PFS	Medium-Term
E3 (page 32)	Develop a Town of Clermont branding and marketing program.	CTB , ESD, EDC	ESD-MarketNY	Short-Term
E4 (page 32)	Promote partnership with Columbia County Chamber of Commerce.	CTB , CCCC, EDC		Ongoing
E5 (page 33)	Permit short-term rentals in the community, including on farms, to enhance local agritourism opportunities.	CTB , CPULUL, PB		Short-Term / Ongoing
E6 (page 33)	Investigate public-private options to expand broadband internet access.	CTB , ConnectALL	ConnectALL-RGBP, ConnectAll-DEGP	Ongoing

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Number	Recommendation / Action	Responsible Parties and Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline
Transportation				
T1 (page 35)	Pursue techniques to improve traffic safety and speed limit compliance on local, state, and county roads, including, but not limited to, traffic calming.	CTB , NYSDOT, CCHD		Short-Term / Ongoing
T2 (page 37)	Establish a formal transportation planning relationship with Columbia County and NYS Dept. of Transportation to identify and coordinate necessary road and infrastructure improvements and to advance multi-modal transportation and safety goals.	CTB , CC, CCHD, NYSDOT		Ongoing
T3 (page 37)	Improve the safety of bicycle and pedestrian traffic along Town roads.	CTB , CC, CCHD, NYSDOT	AFRI-ATTAIN	Medium-Term / Ongoing
T4 (page 38)	Promote the installation of electric vehicle charging stations at public and private locations, including, but not limited to local business, Town Hall, and Hettling / Clermont Town Parks.	CTB , CST, NYSERDA	DEC-MZEVIG, AFRI-ATTAIN	Ongoing
T5 (page 38)	Explore public transit options and connectivity within the Town and to neighboring areas.	CTB , CC, CCPT, CCHD, NYSDOT	AFRI-ATTAIN	Long-Term / Ongoing

Implementation Matrix

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Number	Recommendation / Action	Responsible Parties and Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline
Sustainability, Resilience, and Natural Resource Protection				
<p>S1 (page 40)</p>	<p>The Climate Smart Task Force will lead the preparation of a sustainability plan for Clermont to guide municipal actions, including, but not limited to cooling centers and educational outreach, to help the community both mitigate and adapt to climate change.</p>	<p>CST, CTB, NYSERDA</p>	<p>ESD-EJG2G, ESD-TASC, NYSERDA</p>	<p>Short-Term</p>
<p>S2 (page 40)</p>	<p>Where practical and financially feasible, seek grant funds and partnerships to implement renewable energy alternatives for the public and private sector.</p>	<p>CTB, CST, NYSERDA</p>	<p>ESD-EJC, SGTAP-BBSC, NYSERDA</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>S3 (page 41)</p>	<p>Investigate opportunities to partner with the Columbia County Solid Waste Department and other regional entities to develop a "free-cycle" program and food waste composting program.</p>	<p>CTB, CST, CCSWD</p>	<p>ESD-EJC, NYSDEC-MFFSRI</p>	<p>Long-Term / Ongoing</p>
<p>S4 (page 41)</p>	<p>Investigate options to establish more environmentally friendly Town purchasing strategies while balancing cost efficiency.</p>	<p>CTB, CST</p>	<p>CMF</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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Number	Recommendation / Action	Responsible Parties and Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline
Recreation				
R1 (page 43)	Encourage increased uses and explore opportunities for open air art exhibits, maker's fairs, and other outdoor park gatherings and activities at Hettling and Clermont Parks.	CTB , PPP, CC, CPC	ESD-MarketNY, NYSCA, NYSAM, SGTAP-RERC	Short-Term / Ongoing
R2 (page 43)	Seek opportunities for increased public access to waterways within the Town.	CTB	HRVG, OPRHP	Ongoing
R3 (page 44)	Explore cooperation with local and regional organizations and surrounding communities for recreational and cultural opportunities.	CTB , OPRHP, FCHS		Medium-Term / Ongoing
R4 (page 44)	Develop an operations and maintenance system for Town parks and recreational facilities.	CTB , CPC		Short-Term / Ongoing
R5 (page 44)	Consider establishing on- and off-road recreational trails and advocate for pedestrian and cycling infrastructure when New York State and Columbia County plan to improve local road infrastructure.	CTB , CC, CCHD, NYSDOT, PTNY, OPRHP	NYSRTP, SGTAP-BBSC, OPRHP-RTP	Long-Term / Ongoing

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Number	Recommendation / Action	Responsible Parties and Potential Partners	Potential Funding Sources and Programs	Timeline
Town Services and Infrastructure				
TS1 (page 46)	Consider providing a centralized emergency response center that could include warming and cooling resources, and access to other basic needs during power outages and other emergency situations.	CTB , FD, LEO, CST	FEMA-EOC, SGTAP-BBSC, FEMA-EMPG, NYSERDA	Long-Term
TS2 (page 46)	Periodically review and update the Town of Clermont Emergency Preparedness Plan.	CTB , CC, FD, LEO		Ongoing
TS3 (page 46)	Evaluate and prioritize deficiencies of community services and utilities on a regular basis and coordinate with residents, business owners and utility providers.	CTB , FD, LEO, CC	FEMA-EMPG	Ongoing
TS4 (page 46)	Develop a public information, alert and warning system for emergencies and other important situations.	CTB , CC, FD, LEO	FEMA-EMPG	Short-Term / Medium-Term
TS5 (page 47)	Establish and maintain a robust community calendar on the Town's Website.	CTB		Short-Term / Ongoing
TS6 (page 47)	Request increased rural service from USPS and other carriers (UPS, FedEx, etc.).	CTB , UPS, USPS, FedEx		Short-Term