

Village of Chestnut Ridge

Vision, Goals and Objectives

For Discussion, CPC Meeting

7 PM, July 8, 2020

Long range planning begins with a community's vision for its future. The vision statement provides a short succinct statement against which all policies can easily be tested. The Village of Chestnut Ridge's vision statement is based on significant citizen input received at the Visioning Workshop meeting held on January 8, 2020. The public was divided into several groups and a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) exercise was conducted to focus stakeholders on the positive and negative attributes of the community as well as evolving opportunities and concerns. Following the SWOT exercise, the public participated in an extensive written survey on potential Comprehensive Plan recommendations based on input from the public workshop.

Based on this stakeholder input from the public meeting, the survey, and the inventory and analysis of existing conditions, we recommend the CPC consider the following Vision Statement:

Vision Statement

In 2030, the Village of Chestnut Ridge will be an orderly and attractive community which provides economic development opportunities, a variety of housing options, and diversity in its population. Collector roads will become more pedestrian and bicycle friendly considering the needs of citizens of all ages and abilities. Architectural standards will be enhanced to reflect the Village's historic identity and a unique sense of place.

In established residential areas, lower densities of single-family residential uses will dominate. Existing institutional uses will be allowed to develop housing for their staff and special needs clients. The Village's wooded character will be preserved and enhanced.

Significant future development will be focused around the Red Schoolhouse Road corridor, and along Chestnut Ridge Road and.... South of the Garden State Parkway extension, options will be expanded to encourage high-quality development consistent with the range of uses permissible north of the Parkway extension and the types of uses developing in the adjacent Borough of Montvale.

Goals

Goals and objectives will serve as the framework for the policy recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan. Each topic examined within this plan shall be looked at with an understanding of these specific goals and objectives.

To distinguish Goals from Objectives, a Goal is generally a broad aspiration. An objective is more narrowly defined and can be objectively measured. These goals and objectives will be the basis for the policy recommendations of the Plan as adopted by the Village Board of Trustees.

Land Use:

Goal 1: *Encourage a land use pattern that reinforces the suburban and Village character of the various parts of the Village of Chestnut Ridge and promotes a sense of community through the strengthening of the Village Center.*

Objectives:

- 1.1 Locate new commercial development along the Village's major road corridors with improved requirements for landscaping and buffers.
- 1.2 Limit development of commercial uses in residential areas unsuitable for intensive building development due to environmental unsuitability or distance from existing utilities, main transportation corridors, and community facilities.
- 1.3 Preserve the remaining agricultural uses in the Village.
- 1.4 Provide a variety of housing opportunities for the Village's workforce, young families and seniors in a sustainable manner, and to promote a diverse community.
- 1.5 Create a Village Center at the Red Schoolhouse Road corridor, to create a central place to bring the community together and provide a stronger identity for Chestnut Ridge.

Environmental Protection:

Goal 2: *Conserve the backdrop of trees and greenery, parks, wetlands, and water courses, which provides Chestnut Ridge with its community character as a beautiful village.*

Objectives:

- 2.1 Protect environmentally stream ecosystems and floodplains, including Hungry Hollow Brook, Pine Brook, and Pascack Brook, and maintain adequate buffers between these systems and adjoining development
- 2.2 Situate developments in a manner that protects or enhances landscaping along travel corridors.
- 2.3 Prevent unneeded erosion by limiting land disturbance in steep slope areas.
- 2.4 Minimize lighting impacts and light pollution throughout the Village.

Community Facilities and Services:

Goal 3: *Ensure that community facilities and services continue to serve adequately the populations they are intended to serve, and to introduce or expand facilities in areas planned for future development.*

Objectives:

- 3.1 Maintain and enhance the Village-provided community services and facilities and expand recreational opportunities.
- 3.2 Participate and cooperate with regional, Town of Ramapo, and Rockland County agencies for regional provision of government services where appropriate.
- 3.3 Assure the timely delivery of emergency services from fire and ambulance providers and the Town of Ramapo Police.
- 3.4 Promote the enhancement of existing parkland throughout the Village and develop new community parks that are readily accessible to existing and planned population concentrations.

Economic Development:

Goal 4: *Promote economic development through a balanced approach to sustainable development that will expand the Village's ratable base and will provide existing and future residents with a range of business and employment opportunities.*

Objectives:

- 4.1 Create additional opportunities for light industrial, warehousing and laboratory uses, building upon the existing employment strengths of the Village, and to increase tax ratable properties.
- 4.2 Revitalize the shopping areas, and build upon the Village's historic charm, to satisfy the needs of residents and to promote shopping visits from outside of the immediate area.
- 4.3 Acknowledge and accommodate changing technology as it relates to expanded/dispersed employment opportunities in residences.
- 4.4 As the "sharing economy" grows, consider regulation of short-term rentals of residential dwelling units ensure that they are respectful of the quality of life of long-term and seasonal residents and do not impact or endanger the health, safety and general welfare of the community or its natural resources.

Infrastructure:

Goal 5: *Provide essential infrastructure in areas planned for higher density residential and planned nonresidential development.*

Objectives:

- 5.1 Tie economic development areas into the existing and proposed utility and drainage infrastructure within the Village.
- 5.2 Ensure that adequate telecommunications infrastructure is available throughout the Village to serve residents and businesses, including broadband internet access, mobile/cellular network coverage, and corresponding network support services.

Transportation:

Goal 6: *Ensure the efficient movement of people and goods and promote economic development activities in areas near major transportation corridors.*

Objectives:

- 6.1 Improve turning movements and lower traffic delays for vehicles entering or turning along major road corridors.
- 6.2 Provide pedestrian and bicycle facilities along existing major roads and within new residential developments, improving safety and providing an alternative to motorized transportation.
- 6.3 Integrate new development near the GSP interchange. Leverage private development contributions so developers will help pay for and provide necessary improvements to remedy existing traffic problems and to accommodate traffic growth.
- 6.4 Encourage non-residential uses only in incentive development areas, where developers will contribute to traffic improvements and other amenities to offset their environmental impacts.

Sustainability:

Goal 7: Encourage the expanded use of renewable energy sources, green building practices, and the principles of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) and smart growth throughout the Village in order to promote energy independence and become a regional trendsetter for the implementation of green, eco-friendly, and sustainable development standards.

Objectives:

- 7.1 Ensure that land use and residential density within the Village is authorized only within the capabilities of natural resources, utilities, transportation infrastructure, environmental constraints to support them, and concentrate future density and land use near existing centers and corridors.
- 7.2 Promote and support the development of alternative energy sources such as solar, geothermal.
- 7.3 Emphasize the importance of energy efficiency, sustainability, and green building design standards to reduce the adverse environmental and economic impacts associated with reliance on fossil fuels.
- 7.4 Review and revise portions of Village Codes to encourage sustainable development and the incorporation of new, innovative techniques in site planning and building design.

Historic Preservation:

Goal 8: Preserve the Village's cultural and historic resources and special places, which reinforce the Village's unique identity, are a source of pride for all residents.

Objectives:

- 8.1 Implement appropriate regulations and controls to preserve remaining historic resources from development and demolition.
- 8.2 Work with the School District to revitalize the Red Schoolhouse Museum.
- 8.3 Develop a uniform sign program for identifying historic resources in the community.

Community Design:

Goal 9: Reinforce the character of Chestnut Ridge and improve the aesthetic appearance of the Village.

Objectives:

- 9.1 Work with the Architectural Review Board to refine standards for the appearance and compatibility of new buildings.
- 9.2 Protect and enhance the visual appearance of the community at the key gateways into the Village by promoting a uniform design aesthetic, signage, and landscaping.
- 9.3 Preserve greenspaces and provide landscaping along major road corridors as they develop, maintaining their wooded appearance to the greatest possible extent.