Town of Hague
Comprehensive Plan

Warren County, New York

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COMPANIES

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Chapter 4
Goals, Objectives, and Recommendations

Goals and objectives are formal statements of what Hague hopes to achieve over the life of the plan. Goals are broad policy statements, while objectives set out more specific achievement targets. Goals and objectives formalize the broad vision presented in the preceding chapter, and they provide policy framework for the next 10-15 years. In addition to those developed for the broad vision, goals and objectives have also been developed to address other specific issues raised elsewhere in this plan. Specific mechanisms for implementing the goals and objectives are provided. Attached to each recommendation is a responsible party/organization and a time frame under which the recommendation should be implemented. These time frames are either immediate, short, or long term. The goals and objectives are structured by general topic area to promote general legibility and continuity for the reader.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Goals

Strengthen the economy through the attraction of new business.

Expand services and tourism mainly in the primary hamlet.

Objectives

- Promote the development of distinctive niche markets and services.
- Encourage Adirondack theme artist and craft-makers to locate in the Town.
- Bolster the tourism economy by celebrating and promoting the rich history, interpretive themes, and museums of the Town.
- Continue to promote the Town of Hague as a tourist destination.
- Provide adequate docking and trailer parking to encourage tourists to visit Hague by water-based travel.
- Participate in regional tourism initiatives.
- Better communicate economic development opportunities in the

Town.

- Deliver the services of a grant writer to research and prepare grant applications for Town projects.
- Provide economic support to new businesses in the Town via small business loans.
- Ensure that Town residents have access to amenities on a year-round basis.
- Provide support for home-based businesses and telecommuting.
- Promote services that cater to the retirement and elderly population.
- Allow for larger tourist accommodations than are currently permitted.

Recommendations

1) Create incubators for Adirondack arts, crafts, antiques, books, and studios/ galleries.

Time frame:	Short
Responsibility:	Citizen volunteers, Hague Chamber of Commerce, Town Board
First Step:	Create Incubator Committee to explore ideas, find space and funding, create rules, etc.
Funding:	U.S. Small Business Administration: various programs; Warren County Economic Development Corporation: Micro-Enterprise Program; Adirondack Economic Development Corporation: SBA Micro Loan Program & USDA Rural Development; Lake George Lake Champlain Regional Planning Board: Intermediary Relending Program & Revolving Loan Fund II

2) Better promote and expand the hours of the Hague Cartoon Museum and Clifton West Historical Museum.

Time frame:	Long-term
Responsibility:	Curators of the museums; Hague Enhancement Committee
First Step:	Set up meeting with curatars to discuss the idea.

3) Expand upon the efforts of the Lake George/Lake Champlain Waterfront Revitalization Initiative and work with the Initiative to provide visitor information and interpretive facilities. Develop more interpretive displays and materials and expand the number of historical markers.

Time frame:	Long term
Responsibility:	Hague Historical Society; Hague Enhancement Committee; Town Board
First Step:	Appoint a Town Board Committee to interact with the Initiative on Hague's behalf.

4) Promote tourism in the off-season as well as throughout the summer months.

Time frame:	Immediate
Responsibility:	Hague Chamber of Commerce
First Step:	Task the Chamber of Commerce with tourism enhancement and extension as a primary charge.

5) Explore the feasibility of expanding Town owned and operated docking facilities.

Time frame:	Short
Responsibility:	Planning Board; Town Board
First Step:	Form a subcommittee and conduct a survey of potential property options.

6) Maintain an up-to-date database of vacant commercial properties in the Town to communicate to potential users

Time Frame:	Short
Responsibility:	Hague Chamber of Commerce
First Step:	Task a subcommittee with conducting a survey and creating a list.

7) Investigate the applicability of Section 485-b of the NYS Real Property Tax Law to allow for property tax exemptions for improvements to business properties.

Time Frame:	Immediate
Responsibility:	Town Board, Town Assessor
First Step:	Task the assessor with researching with researching the law and preparing a summary memo for the Town Board.

8) Promote the availability of small business loans available through the Warren County Homefront Development Corporation partnership and the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board.

Time Frame:	Immediate
Responsibility:	Citizen volunteers; Hague Chamber of Commerce
First Step:	Task a member to research loan availability and prepare a summary memo.

9) Take steps to promote the Town of Hague, including hiring staff to promote Hague.

Time Frame:	Short
Responsibility:	Hague Enhancement Committee; Hague Chamber of Commerce
First Step:	Prepare a job description.

10) Participate in regional tourism and heritage planning efforts such as the Lake Champlain/Lake George Waterfront Revitalization Initiative, the Champlain Trail and Champlain Canal Byways, as well as the proposed Lake George Scenic Byway.

Time Frame:	Ongoing
Responsibility:	Town Board; Citizen Volunteer
First Step:	Appoint a committee to interact with these initiatives.

11) Conduct a Town-wide survey to learn what sorts of services retirees, second-homeowners and the elderly are demanding but are lacking in the Town. Communicate these business opportunities through the Chamber of Commerce and the Hague Chronicle.

Time Frame: Immediate

Responsibility: Planning Board; Hague Chamber of Commerce

12) Initiate discussion with the volunteer fire department to explore the future use possibilities of the old fire house in the primary hamlet.

Time Frame: Immediate

Responsibility: Town Board

First Step: Form a joint committee to initiate possibilities.

LAND USE AND ZONING

Goals

Regulate land use in a manner that protects the surrounding environment and the quality of residential housing while allowing commerical development in the primary hamlet.

Objectives

- Continue to enforce local codes and regulations.
- Educate Town residents and employees about applicable Town land use law, procedures, and local codes.
- Support the modernization of tourist facilities.
- Provide additional environmental protection in the land use development process.
- Encourage and regulate home occupations while protecting neighborhoods and the environment.
- Regulate telecommunication towers

Recommendations

13) Amend the zoning ordinance to provide regulations for home occupations.

Time Frame: Immediate

Responsibility: Planning Board; Town Board

First Step: Task a committee with drafting amendments.

14) Revise the tourist accommodations regulations of the zoning ordinance as described in the appendices.

Time Frame: Immediate

Responsibility: Planning Board

First Step: Task a Town Board Committee with drafting amendments.

15) Revise the zoning ordinance to regulate telecommunication towers. Such regulation should limit the visibility of towers above ridgelines and require co-location, where feasible.

Time Frame: Immediate

Responsibility: Town Board; Planning Board

First Step: Charge subcommittee with drafting revisions; obtain model ordinance.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Goals

Protect the environmental quality and natural resources of the town and surrounding region.

Objectives

- Require site plan review for new construction on slopes greater than 15%.
- Provide additional regulations along the shoreline, and stream banks and wetlands to promote environmental and aesthetic quality.

- Encourage redevelopment and development in areas that are minimally constrained by natural resources.
- Support region-wide efforts to improve water quality and conserve natural resources.

Recommendations

16) Amend the zoning ordinance to provide a waterfront overlay for year-round streams that would require setbacks, buffering and visual screening. Investigate a similar overlay for Lake George.

Time Frame:	Immediate
Responsibility:	Town Board
First Step:	Task a committee with drafting amendments

17) Amend the zoning ordinance to provide steep slope regulations to preserve the aesthetic value of the mountains and hillsides, guard against property damage and personal injury, minimize the potential for erosion, soil failure and siltation, and conserve existing vegetation and woodlands.

Time Frame:	Immediate
Responsibility:	Town Board; Planning Board
First Step:	Task a committee with drafting amendments.

18) Hold a Town-wide workshop for the Town of Hague to discuss the implications of the report "Lake George - Planning for the Next Century."

Time Frame:	Short
Responsibility:	Planning Board; Town Board
First Step:	Contact preparers and arrange for a workshop

HOUSING

Goal

Provide a greater range of housing opportunities.

Objectives

- Improve access to funding for first-time homebuyers.
- Allow accessory apartments for immediate family members in both residential and commercial settings.

Recommendations

19) Communicate with Warren County about funding programs available for first-time homebuyers

Time Frame:	Ongoing
Responsibility:	Town Board
First Step:	Appoint a member to research opportunities and prepare a summary.

TRANSPORTATION

Goals

Address the current and future parking shortages in the primary hamlet.
Address Route 9 safety issues.

Objectives

- Continue to provide free on-street parking within the primary hamlet.
- Provide additional off-street parking in the primary hamlet.

- Promote the use of commercial parking lots in the primary hamlet.

Recommendations

20) Work with the Ticonderoga School District to obtain title to the vacant lot in the primary hamlet next to the Wesleyan Church

Time Frame:	Immediate
Responsibility:	Town Board
First Step:	Designate a member to negotiate with the School District.

21) Encourage the development and use of privately owned fee-based parking lots.

Time Frame:	Ongoing
Responsibility:	Hague Enhancement Committee; Planning Board
First Step:	Publicize invitation to residents for such use.

22) Conserve the purchase of any suitable lots that become available for use as a parking lot, especially if they are located close to the intersection of State Route 8 and State Route 9

Time Frame:	Long-term
Responsibility:	Town Board
First Step:	None Needed
Funding:	NYS Office of Small Cities: Community Development Block Grant (Comprehensive)

23) Improve pedestrian facilities in the primary hamlet as per the proposed design guidelines to improve mobility between parking lots

Time Frame:	Short
Responsibility:	Planning Board
First Step:	Seek funds and engage consultant to design comprehensive improvements to primary hamlet

Funding: NYS Office of Small Cities: Community Development Block Grant (Comprehensive)

New York State Urban Council: Downtown Development Initiative

24) Address safety issues on Route 9N approaching the Island Harbor Turn.

Time Frame: Short

Responsibility: Town Board

First Step: Initiate discussions with NYSDOT.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Goals

Promote the historic and cultural resources in the Town of Hague and surrounding region and promkote Hague as "Hague, an Adirondack Town on Lake George."

Objectives

- To give Hague a catching image in the minds of tourists and others, and to advertise the town as "Hague, an Adirondack Town on Lake George." (The Adirondack image is very meaningful as well as the location on Lake George.)
- Continue to develop festivals, fairs, craft shows and other event-based attractions to promote the history and arts of the community.
- Ensure that there are policies and procedures in place to manage, expand and enhance the Tow's historical records.
- Continue to build the partnership between the Town of Hague and Silver Bay Association. Discuss with the Silver Bay Association its making available to the residents of the Town of Hague certain basic programs either free or at a reduced charge.

Note: See "Economic Development-Recommendations" concerning the Town museums and interpretation of historic and natural resources. Obtain a qualified person to be in in charge of such museums and resources.

Recommendations

25) Seek grant funding from New York State Archives under the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund for "Archival Records" for preservation, management, and storage of these records. Consider engaging the person who writes the Warren County grant requests for this purpose.

Time Frame:	Short
Responsibility:	Historical Society; Town Board
First Step:	Create and task subcommittee; obtain grant guidelines

26) Convene a joint meeting between the Silver Bay Association and the Town of Hague on an annual basis to discuss issues of mutual interest.

Time Frame:	Immediate
Responsibility:	Town Board; Silver Bay Association
First Step:	Convene a meeting

27) Continue the summer concert series in the Hague Town Park

Time Frame:	Short
Responsibility:	Citizen Volunteers
First Step:	None Needed

28) Explore (i) am enriched year-round recreation program--possibly with the Silver Bay Association; (ii) a study center and resource library equipped with (supervised) internet access; (iii) volunteer tutors, etc.

Time Frame:	Short
Responsibility:	Volunteer Committee of Town residents
First Step:	Town Board to contact prospective members, publicize formation of committee and call an organi zational meeting at which a chairperson will be elected.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES & SERVICES

Goal

Protect and improve the Town's community facilities and services.

Objectives

- Increase the volunteer membership in the Hague Fire Department.
- Develop a walking trail along State Route 9N.
- Promote and expand snowmobile trails.
- Ensure public safety.

Recommendations

29) Actively recruit members for its volunteer fire department and consider developing monetary incentives for individuals to do so through the Length of Service Awards Program authorized by New York State General Municipal Law.

Time Frame:	Short
Responsibility:	Town Board, Hague Fire Department
First Step:	Investigate program and decide whether to participate

30) Designate a subcommittee of the Planning Board with resident volunteers to investigate the feasibility of developing a pedestrian pathway along State Route 9N from the primary hamlet to Tongue Mountain. In addition, identify and publish other presently available routes for walking in the Town of Hague.

Time Frame:	Short
Responsibility:	Planning Board Subcommittee
First Step:	Appoint subcommittee and determine the route and cost of a path.

Funding: NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation: Recreational Trails Program; NYS Department of Transportation: Transportation Enhancements Program

31) Identify existing snowmobile trails in the Town of Hague and put together a plan for their useage and maintenance and for developing linkages with region-wide trails.

Time Frame: Short
Responsibility: Town Promotion Committee, Hague on Lake George Sno-Goers
First Step: Implement a committee to implement the goal.
Funding: NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation: Recreational Trails Program if not in conflict with the Wilderness Act.

32) Investigate options to improve public safety, including increased State Police and/or County Sherrif coverage, hiring a Town Constable or creating a Town police department.

Time Frame: Short
Responsibility: Town Board
First Step: Form a committee to investigate issues and initiate discussions with law enforcement agencies.

33) Consider a Web Site for the Town of Hague which will list meetings and other activites scheduled for hte Town of Hague.

Time Frame: Sort
Responsibility: Town Board; Citizen Volunteer
First Step: Town Board should find a citizen volunteer.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal

Provide the necessary infrastructure to promote economic development, environmental quality, and human health.

Objectives

- Provide municipal wastewater and water supply services.
- Provide cable TV/cable internet service in the Town.
- Explore with a cellular provider the nehancement of cellular service in the Town of Hague.

Recommendations

34) Form sewer district No. 1 and provide wastewater treatment to this district.

Time Frame:	Immediate
Responsibility:	Town Board
First Step:	Form District

35) Investigate the feasibility of constructing small group wastewater treatment systems to service groups of homes with failing or substandard systems.

Time Frame:	Long term
Responsibility:	Volunteer citizens; Town Board
First Step:	Organize and conduct a wastewater treatment survey

36) Investigate municipal water supply service to the primary hamlet by forming a Water district and seeking grant funding to implement this project.

Time Frame:	Immediate
Responsibility:	Town Board
First Step:	Seek Funding

Funding: Environmental Facilities Corporation: Financial Assistance to Business Water Program; Department of Health: Drinking Water Revolving Fund

37) Initiate discussions with Time Warner to provide cable TV/internet service in Town.

Time Frame: Immediate
Responsibility: Town Board
First Step: Designate a member to negotiate with Time Warner

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE

Goal

Improve the appearance and functionality of the primary hamlet and the general appearance of the Town.

Objectives

- Prepare and implement streetscape guidelines, including provisions for the avoidance of lighiting polution, for State Route 8 in the primary hamlet.
- Hold an annual Town-wide clean-up day.
- Support the efforts of community organizations to beautify the Town.
- Eliminate junk vehicles and junk yards.
- Improve the appearance of the sand pit at the south end of Town.
- Install and maintain safe outdoor lighting at the Community Center.

Recommendations

38) Investigate funding opportunities to obtain professional services to prepare streetscape design guidelines for the primary hamlet.

Time Frame:	Immediate
Responsibility:	Citizen volunteers; Planning Board; Town Board
First Step:	Investigate funding opportunities.
Funding:	NYS Small Cities Office: Community Development Block Grant (Comprehensive)

39) Investigate funding opportunities to implement the recommendations of streetscape design guidelines prepared for the Town.

Time Frame:	Short
Responsibility:	Citizen Volunteers; Planning Board; Town Board
First Step:	Investigate funding opportunities.
Funding:	NYS Small Cities Office: Community Development Block Grant (Comprehensive)

40) Continue to engage the cooperation of the Chamber of Commerce, Carillon Garden Club, American Legion, Kiwanis Club and Rotary Club in the beautification of the primary hamlet.

Time Frame:	Ongoing
Responsibility:	Town Board
First Step:	None Needed

41) Develop and enact a local law to control junk vehicles and junk yards.

Time Frame:	Immediate
Responsibility:	Town Board
First Step:	Draft Local Law

42) Hold an annual clean-up day such that the Town transfer station will accept large household items at no cost. Steps should be taken to ensure that this service is available only to Town residents.

Time Frame: Short
Responsibility: Town Board
First Step: Appoint a committee to plan the clean-up day.

43) Improve the appearance of the sand pit by screening it and/or considering an alternate use for the pit.

Time Frame: Short
Responsibility: Town Board
First Step: Develop screening plans