

Explanation of Points: Please be sure to see the [Feedback for Sustainable Comp Plan and NRI Law.pdf](#) for comment corrections.

Support alternative modes of transportation (including strategies for bicycles, pedestrians, public transit, and electric vehicles) Required

UPDATE:

The Town of Roseboom is bisected by State Highway 165, which the Town keeps plowed for the State in the winter. We cannot keep heavy trucks from going through Roseboom's three hamlets. However, the State speed limit of 55 mph is reduced to 45 mph in the hamlets of South Valley and Roseboom and 40 mph in Pleasant Brook. In addition, there is a dangerous blind curve between South Valley and Pleasant Brook where the Town petitioned the State to install a blinking yellow light with a 30 mph speed limit after a fatal accident occurred there in 1999. This encourages truckers to find alternate routes such as I-88, if they are not making direct deliveries here, which keeps traffic relatively low. There really is no place where "safe pedestrian crossings" would be needed. There are no major businesses, factories, stores, hospitals or schools where mass public transportation would be helpful.

There are four State Forests in Roseboom. Bear Swamp State Forest (1729 acres), the Honey Hill State Forest (1017 acres), the Roseboom State Forest (620 acres) and the R. Milton Hicks Memorial State Forest (1293 acres), which has an official Nordic Ski Trail for cross-country skiing. It is also used for hiking and horseback riding year-round. Prior to Covid, local horse owners would gather annually in Pleasant Brook, with their horse vans, in order to go on a group trail ride through our back roads and woods. They would finish the day back where they started, for refreshments at the "Brook", a local bar and grill. Also before Covid, there was an annual Summer bike race through our beautiful rolling hills as part of a course between Cooperstown and Cherry Valley. We expect these events will start up again soon. For now, bike riders are routinely seen individually or by family, cycling along the country roads throughout the year. We are also crossed by many snowmobile trails through the woods and fields, that are maintained by local snowmobile clubs.

Original: The Town of Roseboom has limited ability to adopt this minimum requirement for our Comprehensive Plan. We are a small (pop. 760) rural Town. There is no public transportation, there are no sidewalks. The only vehicles owned by the Town are for road construction and snow removal. Only County and State Roads within the Town are paved. The Town owned roads are all dirt country roads good for bike riding or walking. To this end, we have in our Comprehensive Plan:

Objective 5.4. - Limits on heavy truck traffic on roads in the township particularly as it impacts the farming hamlet and designated historic district of Roseboom, as well as the safety of the residents. (see page 32)

Promote smart growth principles in land-use policies Required

UPDATE:

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (Roseboom Comp. Plan)

5.4 - GOAL 4 - Promote small business growth in the area to increase the tax base and encourage families to move to and stay in the area.

- Objective 4.1 — Acquire higher speed internet services
- Objective 4.2 - Actively pursue a cell tower installation
- Objective 4.3 - Actively pursue telecommunication service improvement and access.

IN 2022, there is still no cell service or broadband available in the Town, only expensive and slow Satellite Internet. As you can see, this has been the Town of Roseboom's Goal from the start. Our major efforts in promoting smart growth principles, have been to try to get any growth at all. As seen in our Comprehensive Plan goals, we have continually been trying to obtain cell service and some form of broadband internet for the Town for years. In March 2017, we even recruited a private developer who was willing to build a tower and offered Town land to build it on for free. He did a land survey of where the optimal coverage in Roseboom for the tower would be, but still was unable to get any cell service or internet provider to sign on. We have written numerous letters, and made countless phone calls to local State and County Representatives to try to bring basic services to our Town. So far, they have all been unsuccessful. Even though a County owned Emergency Tower, already erected in Roseboom for Fire and Ambulance communication, has offered free use to any cell or internet provider, there are no takers. Spectrum cable stopped at our Town border and refuses to give us a franchise. They say there are not enough customers to make it worth their while. Hopefully, with the passage of the new Infrastructure bill, we will finally get some services. Until then, it is impossible to get a new business or developers to even come into Roseboom.

When we finally do get 21st century capabilities, and builders become interested in our Town, we have recently adopted the Natural Resource Inventory Local Law of 2021. The Natural Resource Inventory (see our [PE6 Natural Resource Inventory submission](#)) is based on all the information originally contained in our Comprehensive Plan. This is the guide we would use, now by law, to protect and retain the important natural resources, including agricultural lands, and view sheds, in the town of Roseboom for "smart-growth" land use development. Of course, our Town Codes Enforcement officer would make sure all local, County, State and Federal building codes are followed.

Original: The Roseboom Town Planning Board has been working on a land use ordinance for the past 2 years, and it is almost ready for adoption.

Conserve natural areas (including strategies to designate open space and protect it from development) Required

UPDATE:

By adopting the Natural Resources Inventory law in November 2021, the Town of Roseboom has affirmed its intent to establish a review process to guide land use and conservation planning. Integrating the NRI review into the planning, design, review and approval processes for development, will encourage biodiversity conservation. It will preserve surface and groundwater resources, maintain natural areas, reduce impact on agriculture and prime farmland soils, protect visual scenic areas, and recreational opportunities.

Promote a healthy and safe community Required

Original: This is key to our Comprehensive Plan, as can be seen in this excerpt from the Town's Vision Statement on page 4 of the CP.

"Priorities of the highest order include preservation of and accessibility to open spaces, maintenance of safety and security for residents and future generations, viability of agriculture and the farming community, and safeguarding of the Town's rural character... The people want to assure continued accessibility to all of the Town's plentiful open spaces for their families' recreation and health. We desire safe environmental conditions for future generations to live and grow, while maintaining the town's important national historic character."

Decrease dependence on fossil fuels and support energy efficiency and renewable energy production 3

UPDATE: We are in the process of acquiring 100% renewable energy for all the residents of the Town of Roseboom through a Community Choice Aggregation Program. We passed a resolution and signed a contract with Joule Assets as our Administrator. The Town was unable to do its own Community Solar project, but now this will enable our residents to acquire renewable energy through National Grid. This will help NYS achieve its goal of 70% renewable energy by 2030. We have already had our first Town informational meeting on June 16, 2021 about CCA. It was well attended, with a very positive response.

Original: The Town has recently (see PE4 Action 4.1) signed a contract with NEXAMP Community Solar to provide renewable electricity for both our Town barn and Street Lights. We converted to LED street lights 3 years ago, and have provided that documentation under PE3 Action 3.15

Minimize solid waste (including strategies to promote recycling and composting or anaerobic digestion of organic materials) 3

UPDATE: The Town has no public garbage pick-up or collection sites. We rely on nearby neighboring towns of Cherry Valley and Westford. They have recycling bins for household garbage and dumpsters for metals.

Original: On Oct. 22, 2016 organized a clean-up day to recycle scrap metal, appliances, electronics at no cost to the residents, and old tires for a minimum fee.

Foster equity (including strategies for housing, schools, transportation, recreation, food, and environmental exposures)

UPDATE:

Because there is no cell service or broadband available in the Town, only expensive and slow Satellite Internet, it makes it difficult or impossible for some school children to do their homework remotely during Covid-related school shut-downs. However, they could access the satellite WIFI at the Town Barn. So, we plan to extend our parking lot around the Town building, and put in an electric charging station there using our ARPA Covid funding. There is really no other place in the Town that a charging station would be feasible. This way, residents could even charge an electric vehicle, if they owned one, while they shared the Town's WIFI, and might be encouraged to purchase one.

Original: We have no public housing, no schools, no public transportation, no household garbage collection, no major industry in our Town. There is a small country general store for residents to shop and a local food pantry in the adjacent Town.

We DO have four State Forests, with hiking, Nordic skiing and snowmobile trails. ALL have Free access in the Town of Roseboom.

Foster the efficient use of natural resources (e.g., water conservation) 3

Update: We have no public water system, but will protect all our natural resources.

5.1 - GOAL 1: It is the goal of the town to protect its natural resources in an effort to assure their sustainability and availability by preventing irreplaceable loss, misuse and/or degradation.

Foster green economic development 3 Promote the development of (or the conservation of) local food systems 3

Original: Page 4 excerpt of Comprehensive Plan "It is also important to the economy of Roseboom that we preserve our active agricultural and farming community."

Protect drinking water sources from pollution

Original: We do not have a municipal water system. Town residents have private wells or natural springs for drinking water, with safety codes for septic systems in order to keep them from becoming contaminated.

In addition, the Town of Roseboom has been at the forefront in the fight to preserve clean air and water in New York State. We have done our part in keeping the environment safe from fossil fuel build-out. We have actively joined the fight against nearby natural gas pipelines and compressor stations that would have polluted our streams and air. (see FERC comments)

In 2011, there were many leases for fracking for natural gas in Roseboom. A petition was signed by 333 Roseboom residents at the time, against heavy industry in the Town. It was presented to the Town Board, and in 2012 the Town of Roseboom banned heavy industry by a local Law. See page 26 in the CP.

" In 2012, the Town Board passed a Protection of the Rural Environment Law that affirms and supports the preservation and enhancement of the rural character of Roseboom; a safe, quiet, and scenic environment; a non-industrial, agricultural and tourist based economy. This was two years before the New York State Department of Health and Governor Cuomo decided to ban hydraulic fracking in the State of New York on December 16, 2014, after concluding that the method posed inestimable public health risks."

Promote adaptation to climate change (including strategies related to land use and public education and engagement)

UPDATE :

In our area of Otsego County, flooding is the main concern from climate change. The Town of Roseboom adopted the Otsego County Hazard Mitigation Plan in August 2021. Town Board members and the Town Highway superintendent (All CSC Task Force Members) attended the relevant pre-requisite workshops. Our highway department is consistently maintaining our Town roads, always enlarging existing culverts whenever they need replacement due to deterioration. (See our PE7 Culverts and Dams submission).

In 2017 the Town Board passed two resolutions to move forward and support the Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District application for the Otsego County Mohawk River Culvert Assessment and Education Grant, and the Otsego County Mohawk River Replacement Grant.

In June 2021, we planted a riparian buffer along the banks of a tributary of the Cherry Valley Creek that is adjacent to the Roseboom Town Garage. Our municipal building sits just above the edge of a FEMA designated 500 Year Flood Zone. In 2011, during Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, the County Route 50 Bridge, located next to the Town Barn was washed away. After the bridge was re-built, the trees on the stream banks were never replanted. Now, thanks to the incentive of the Climate Smart Communities Action PE 7 Riparian Buffers, we have planted 89 trees with the help of the Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District, to protect the stream from the Town's sand and salt storage runoff in a storm.

On a personal note, I can attest to the effects of climate change and flooding. I have lived on Adair Road in the Town of Roseboom for 42 years. It is a lovely winding dirt road going up a mountainside, following the course of a stream bed, crossing back and forth over it five times! When we first moved here, the stream was running almost level alongside the narrow dirt road, with a low, hand-built, stone border. It obviously had been thought adequate for over a hundred years, because long ago there used to be a one-room schoolhouse located further up the road from us. The road never washed in the early years we were here. Then, around 20 years ago, it started to wash out in certain spots every few years or so. The Town would restore the road at great expense, sometimes enlarging the culvert where it washed. This started happening more and more frequently and every couple of years the road would become impassable. Finally in 2011, the road washed out three times in one year! That was it. In 2013, the Town did major work with the help of FEMA and the NRCS, putting in 2 new huge culverts, widening the road and lowering the stream bed by several feet, erecting large stone block walls along it. (See our PE7 Culverts and Dams submission) It definitely is not quite as picturesque as it once was. However, Adair Road has not washed since, though many of our recent thunderstorms alone, let alone a named storm, would have been heavy enough to have taken it out in the past. (see photo).

We have listed ALL our Climate Smart Actions, including the Government GHG Inventory on the Townofroseboom.com website. We explain the importance of reducing CO₂ emissions and methane, in order to do our part in mitigating global warming. We stated our plans to convert our current diesel burning furnace heating system in the Town Garage to a more energy efficient heat pump, and we have switched to LED's throughout the Town, to do our small part to slow climate change.



Adair Road 2021

Roseboom Comprehensive Plan 2018

SECTION 5: GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (see Pages 30-33)

LAND USE AND GROWTH MANAGEMENT

5.1 - GOAL 1:

It is the goal of the town to protect its natural resources in an effort to assure their sustainability and availability by preventing irreplaceable loss, misuse and/or degradation.

- Objective 1.1: The conservation, maintenance and protection of environmentally sensitive areas including aquatic and terrestrial resources that include, but are not limited to, wetlands, floodplains, surface and groundwater resources, geologic features, prime and unique soils, steep slopes, woodlands, wildlife habitats, air and sound quality, and scenic views; and public and private land.

- Objective 1.2: Activities and practices that avoid and/or minimize excessive: grading and excavation, vegetative removal; clear-cutting of forested public and private areas; destruction of natural habitats, energy consumption; and solid waste generation.

- Objective 1.3: The use of renewable energy resources such as wind, solar, and hydroelectric that is consistent to the protection of public health, safety and well-being of the community and is at a scale consistent with the goals and objectives in this plan

- Objective 1.4: Foster and encourage additional agriculture growth.

5.2 - GOAL 2 To effectively plan for and manage future changes in land use that allows development while preventing the loss of natural and cultural resources.

- Objective 2.1 - Encourage property owners to put abandoned agriculture property into productive use.
- Objective 2.2 - Agricultural practices in areas having prime soils and/or natural resources that will ensure productivity and competitiveness.
- Objective 2.3 - Preservation of forested and vacant lands to provide for active and passive recreational opportunities, maintain open space, and contribute to the Town's aesthetic character and healthy natural ecosystems and wildlife.

Recommendations:

- Support current legislation prohibiting clear-cutting of more than two acres of woodland.
- Support current legislation prohibiting the extraction of natural Resources without proper permits.
- Encourage the use of renewable energy resources such as wind, solar, and hydroelectric that is consistent to the protection of public health, safety and well-being of the community and is at a scale consistent with the goals and objectives in this plan.

5.3 — GOAL 3 Maintain and restore community character to encourage high quality diversified housing that meets the needs of all age and income groups resulting in neighborhoods that are safe, clean, and promote increased residency.

- Objective 3.1 - Enforcement of New York State codes regarding standards/specifications for potential nuisance uses such as junk yards and abandoned vehicles.
- Objective 3.2- Promote housing development that fosters a sense of community and neighborliness, encourages long term home ownership and creates pride in one's property.
- Objective 3.3 - Consolidation and preservation of the Town's historical records.

BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5.4 - GOAL 4 - Promote small business growth in the area to increase the tax base and encourage families to move to and stay in the area.

- Objective 4.1 — Acquire higher speed internet services
- Objective 4.2 - Actively pursue a cell tower installation
- Objective 4.3 - Actively pursue telecommunication service improvement and access.

TRANSPORTATION

5.5 — GOAL 5 - Maintenance and protection of our town's roads and bridges. Minimizing hazards and congestion of roads within the township.

- Objective 5.1 - Development that considers and respects existing local roadway capacities and does not require or add to the need to make significant upgrades to local road networks
- Objective 5.2 - A transportation network that discourages the use of large trucks, heavy vehicles and other similar vehicles on local roads when those vehicles may be detrimental to the public safety, structural conditions and capacities of local roads and infrastructure
- Objective 5.3 - Prevention and remediation of damage to roads from logging and extractive operations
- Objective 5.4. - Limits on heavy truck traffic on roads in the township particularly as it impacts the farming hamlet and designated historic district of Roseboom, as well as the safety of the residents.
- Objective 5.5 - Minimization of erosion and sedimentation relating to streams and waterways.
- Objective 5.6 - Minimization of impact of road salt on streams, groundwater, wetlands, and vegetation, as well as cars, roads and bridges.
- Objective 5.7 — Establishment of weight levels and exclusionary Permits

NATURAL RESOURCES

5.6 - GOAL 6 - Protection of water resources, flood plains and wetlands in an effort to assure their sustainability by preventing irreplaceable loss, misuse, and/or degradation.

- Objective 6.1 - Need to adequately protect prime and productive agricultural soils from indiscriminate or inappropriate development

- Objective 6.2 - Need to provide local standards in order to protect sensitive, environmental resources as well as the scenic landscape and historical resources

- Objective 6.3 - Need to establish a procedure to review land use so that incompatible or conflicting uses will be identified and land values and quality of life considerations will be secured

- Objective 6.4 - Need to maintain local control of potentially high impact industrial/commercial facilities

- Objective 6.5 - Encourage the use of renewable energy such as wind, solar, and hydroelectric that is consistent and appropriate to the protection of public health, safety and the well-being of the community and is on a scale consistent with the goals and objectives in this plan.