

The Town of Colonie's Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) has completed its year long task of laying out an agenda for the future of Colonie. It unanimously voted on May 25th to accept the final draft provided by its consultants The Saratoga Associates (TSA) and to forward the draft to the Town Board for its consideration. In a town with nearly 80,000 residents covering approximately 57 square miles, it is unlikely that there will be, or could be, a consensus that we have crafted a perfect plan. We do, however, believe we have delivered a vision for Colonie that incorporates its rich history, its role as THE hub community of the Capital Region, and its need to continue the delicate balance of continued economic growth with the need to preserve key areas of open space in the Town.

The Plan's credibility is derived not from the hours of work by CPAC or TSA, but by the process that invited public input at every stage of development. From the initial public survey conducted by Colonie's Planning Department in 2003 to the series of eight public forums held in the fall of 2004 and concluding with several draft plan review meetings and finally a formal public hearing on May 17th, the residents of Colonie made it clear how they feel about their Town and its future. On behalf of the entire CPAC, I would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all those people who contributed their thoughts and ideas to our deliberations. It is our hope that your overall vision of Colonie's future is reflected in the Plan. It is also our hope that the residents with opinions that were passionately expressed at several meetings but not fully adopted into the Plan will know that your viewpoints were given serious weight before the final Plan was drafted. I'd also like to thank the Times Union for allowing us to meet with your editorial review board to help us get the message conveyed that the public's input was a critical component of the plan's development.

The Town Board for Colonie will now schedule a public hearing to discuss the Comprehensive Plan as presented by CPAC. We encourage the Town to adopt this Plan as its collective vision of Colonie for the next 20 years. Lastly, allow me to publicly acknowledge and thank the following individuals who served on CPAC for their hard work and tireless commitment to making Colonie still a great place to live, work and play: Maggie Vinciguerra, Ellen Pemrick, Bill Herman, Chris Einstein, Brian Hogan.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Sleasman
Chairman
Colonie Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee