



Town of Stanford Supervisor's Five Year Strategic Plan

February 26, 2021

Mission

Unify the Stanford Community to enhance the quality of life for our citizens. What unites us is far greater than what divides us.

Achieve long-term financial stability coupled with affordable taxes.

Support our business community and bring new businesses to Stanford.

Goals



Strengthen **community** ties, building on Stanford's tradition of volunteerism to both enhance our sense of Community and save taxpayer dollars.



Stabilize Town **finances**, regulate taxes, and implement wise cost saving measures, utilizing funding raising and grants whenever possible.



Support and expand our local **business** and **agricultural** communities, collaborating with county agencies to assist our local businesses.



Preserve the **natural resources** of the town and promote additional opportunities for recreation.



Plan for the protection, maintenance and rehabilitation of **facilities** and the replacement of **equipment** in a cost-effective manner.



Develop and implement **policies and procedures** that reflect best practices as guided by the state while improving the efficiency, effectiveness, and security of local government.



Complete and implement a **Comprehensive Plan** for Stanfordville and initiate zoning measures that meet the long-term interests of the Town and its residents.

Actions



Community

1. Issue frequent newsletters to the community regarding issues of concern.
2. Increase the number of email addresses of residents in order to reach more citizens.
3. Continue to create and support new Town committees and project groups to advance engagement in Town activities and to promote the goals of Town residents.
4. Expand engagement, cooperation and support of service organizations including but not limited to the Lions Club, the Stanford Free Library, the Stanford Grange #808, the Stanford Fire Company, the Garden Club and the American Legion.
5. Continue the position of Youth Ambassador as a way to connect the Town with our students. Work with the Recreation Commission and the Grange to engage more our youth in civic participation.
6. Establish additional liaisons with our neighboring towns, institutions and organizations within the county that have the potential of enriching the lives of residents.
7. Remain engaged with the volunteers who worked through the COVID pandemic to be prepared in the event of future emergencies.
8. Work with the Dutchess County Legislature and other Dutchess municipalities to address the problem of broadband accessibility in our rural communities.



Finance

Stabilize the Town's Finances

1. Develop a five-year financial plan taking into consideration all elements of the town's income, expense, and growth. This will be monitored regularly with the goal of controlling property taxes.
2. Regularly update the Town Board on the status of Capital Projects and any adjustments in their budgets.
3. Deliver annual budgets at or below the tax cap established by the State of New York.
4. Apply the Town's savings wisely to avoid or reduce dramatic decreases in revenues and increases in costs.
5. Receive from the Highway Superintendent multi-year schedules for vehicle and equipment replacement and develop acquisition and funding plans that fit within the Town's long-term financial plans.
6. As part of yearly budget preparation, develop annual expense and revenue budgets based upon prior year's performance, market trends and evidence to support each major expense line and revenue.
7. Receive from the Supervisor a monthly report of revenues, expenses and account balances.

Cost Saving Measures

1. Assess the Town buildings' energy efficiency and use of heating fuel.
2. Develop an energy reduction plan which takes into consideration the long-term cost/benefit of each element.

3. Investigate solar panel opportunities for cost reduction and/or revenue production on the roofs of the Town Hall building, salt shed, Highway Garage and other potential locations.
4. Continue and expand where possible the use of State contracts, buying cooperatives and purchasing options that reduce the cost of all acquisitions.
5. Review insurance costs periodically and survey competitive providers.

Grow Revenues

1. Resume operation of the Haunted Fortress beginning in 2021.
2. Continue to implement PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreements with land conservancy designations and expand where possible.
3. Increase and expand recreation services and recreation income.
4. Increase investment of cash flow and dormant funds.
5. Assess long term comparability of Town fees for services without imposing unnecessary burdens on local residents.
6. Monitor growth in Town assessments.
7. Proactively pursue grants as they may be available.



Business & Agriculture

1. Identify a liaison with the Dutchess County Health Department to press the interests of the Town's businesses and institutions relative to water and health regulations.
2. Develop a liaison with the Stanford Business Association to be better informed on their needs and aspirations.
3. Form a Business Development Council, tapping resources from within the community as well as State and County services to implement incentives to grow our Town's commercial corridor while meeting the needs of our community.
4. Recruit members for the Farm & Ag Committee to enable the Town Board to become more informed about the agricultural community's interests and needs.
5. Change zoning law to allow for Farmer's Markets and promote farm stays.
6. Launch a BUY LOCAL campaign involving as many local farms and businesses as are interested.
7. Create a volunteer Chamber of Commerce to promote tourism, while actively partnering with the Dutchess County Bureau of Tourism



Natural Resources

1. Launch an ambitious capital fund raising campaign to rejuvenate Sparc Park.
2. Actively promote the recreational resources available in Stanfordville: Sparc Park, Whitlock Preserve, Buttercup Sanctuary, the Trevor Zoo at Millbrook School and the Stanford Wildlife Preserve to encourage tourism in our Town.
3. Deploy volunteer services to implement the creation of Dot Burdick Park on land donated to the Town by a Stanford resident.

4. Work with the CAC to assess and complete repairs and perform appropriate maintenance to the Whitlock Preserve.
5. Create a volunteer Community Garden in the Stanford Wildlife Preserve for citizens who wish to grow their own produce but lack the property to do so, and to bring together disparate members of our community with youth from the F.F.A.
6. Hold public hearings to discuss becoming a Climate Smart Community with citizens of our Town.



Facilities & Equipment

1. Conduct facility condition and safety reviews of all structures and facilities; develop long range plans to address safety concerns as well as potential repairs and maintenance.
2. Review and document useful life of all large equipment and operating systems; develop multi-year plans for cost-effective replacements or upgrades.



Planning & Zoning

1. Hold public hearings when the Comprehensive Review Plan Committee has submitted their final report and adopt a Comprehensive Plan for the Town that meets a consensus of citizens' vision of what Stanford will be in the future.
2. Initiate a Comprehensive Study of our Zoning Laws and make changes according to the adopted Comprehensive Plan.



Policies & Procedures

1. Continue to adapt our Town Meetings to make them accessible and transparent for all community members.
2. Reassemble the Corrective Action Plan Committee to research, review and develop policies and procedures, all of which will meet the legal requirements of the State of New York, the high standards of the Office of the State Comptroller and the needs and interests of the citizens of the Town of Stanford.
3. Address deficiencies identified in independent annual financial audits, recommendations from the State Comptroller and review of New York law and best practices.