

**Colonie North Planning Area Meeting Summary  
 Forts Ferry Elementary School, Forts Ferry Road  
 Monday, October 20, 2003, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM**

**112 Participants**

**Housing**

<b>Assets</b>	
Dots	Comment
6	Single family housing
3	Neighborhood pride

<b>Liabilities</b>	
Dots	Comment
8	Impact of commercial encroachment on property values
8	Need for co-housing
6	Need for mixed-use, traditional development
5	Housing adapted to needs of seniors
3	Commercial encroachment on residential areas
2	Urbanization of suburbs
2	Need for common sense planning for development
2	Need to consider fiscal impacts of development
1	Need to preserve integrity of existing housing stock/density
1	Lack of planning for schools
0	Lack of universal design housing

**Cultural Resources**

<b>Assets</b>	
Dots	Comment
15	Delphuskill Study
14	Mohawk River
10	Bike path
9	Library
5	Town Park
4	Crossings Park
4	School
4	Shaker Historic Site
4	Golf Course
4	Family Residential neighborhoods
2	Pruyn House
1	Schuyler Flatts
1	Weigh Lock - Maplewood
1	Business culture - Wolf Road

<b>Liabilities</b>	
Dots	Comment
14	Imbalance between business interests & open space preservation
11	Fee for Town Park entry
7	Lack of public access TV production facilities
6	Shaker Site needs more attention
5	Lack of Senior Center
3	Loss of historic sites
2	Unsafe section of bike path on Dunsbach Ferry / IslandView
2	Lack of visitor center
1	Loss of farms
0	Lack of awareness of cost of Crossings development & operation

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**Natural Resources**

<b>Assets</b>	
Dots	Comment
18	Mohawk River
14	Mohawk Valley Views
9	Undeveloped Farms
9	Wetlands
6	Fishing
3	Potential landscape along Mohawk River
3	Tributaries to Mohawk River
2	Pine Bush Preserve
1	Proximity of Boght to Cohoes Falls
1	Birding
0	Ann Lee Pond

<b>Liabilities</b>	
Dots	Comment
9	Invasive plants in Mohawk
7	Lack of access to Mohawk waterfront, 1. Fishing 2. Boating
6	silting of Mohawk
4	Lack of runoff management
3	Mohawk flooding - ice jams
2	They are disappearing
2	Mosquito breeding grounds
1	Visual impact of landfill
1	Odor impact of landfill
1	Potential water contamination
1	Pollution of the Mohawk
1	Overpopulation of Canada geese, muskrats
0	Brownfields & toxic waste sites
0	Lack of enforcement education and regulations regarding trash in river
0	Better notice on water level changes in Mohawk

**Community Resources**

<b>Assets</b>	
Dots	Comment
17	Bike Path
8	Tax Base
6	Town Landfill
6	Crossings Park
5	EMS
5	Composting program
3	Airport Access
3	Snow removal
3	Colonie Senior Service Ctr.
3	Location of Town in Capital Region
2	Summer Camp Youth Programs
2	Public Water
1	Fire Departments
1	CYC & After school program
1	Youth Recreation Services
1	Open Meeting
0	Wolf Road
0	Town Nurse
0	Town Recreation Services North End
0	Police
0	Public Participation
0	Public Knowledge

<b>Liabilities</b>	
Dots	Comment
12	Lack of Town water in north end
11	Overhead power lines - unsightly and vulnerable
10	Lack of road carrying capacity
9	Lack of sidewalks
7	Lack of sewers in north end
7	Unsafe section of bike path on Dunsbach / Islandview
2	Lack of street lights
2	Odors from sewage treatment plant
2	Lack of pedestrian/bike access across Latham Circle
0	Lack of storm sewers
0	Need to plan for future landfill
0	Lack of sound control along Northway
0	Landfill odor
0	Need for more community improvements/mitigation from new developments

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**Community Services**

<b>Assets</b>	
Dots	Comment
6	Youth Services
5	Volunteer fire departments
5	Senior Citizen Services
4	Police Department
4	Neighborhood Association
3	EMS Department
1	Dept. of Public Works
1	Town Web Site
0	Quality of Public Vol.

<b>Liabilities</b>	
Dots	Comment
18	Lack of representation on Town Boards from north area
9	Need to integrate commercial needs with residential needs
9	Need for ward system for Town elections
7	Planning Board
6	Lack of Planning for future landfill closure
6	Poor planning of Wade Rd. Ext., neighborhood and school impact
5	Need leaf vacuums
5	Through commercial traffic in residential neighborhoods
5	Lack of planning around Latham Farms
5	Lack of a walkable community
5	Lack of speed limit enforcement
4	Lack of programs for teens
4	Lack of responsiveness to public input
3	Lack of Town garbage pick-up
3	Need for ombudsman
3	Trash pick up time regulation needed
3	Lack of riverfront infrastructure (docking, boat launches for public)
2	Lack of jobs for teens
2	Lack of bike/pedestrian signage
2	Need to revamp ethics committee
1	Need to improve enrollment process for summer programs
1	Lack of public transportation, especially for seniors
1	Lack of innovative land use planning
1	Lack of Town Center
1	Lack of traffic control devices (4-way stops, children at play, etc.)
1	Airport noise
1	Lack of free recreational children's programs
1	Lack of bike access to the bike path
1	Need for waterfront preservation
1	Lack of meaningful public participation in planning process
0	Need for assistance to seniors for independent living
0	Need more information on Town web site
0	Need to implement study-more support for volunteer fire depts.
0	Need more funding for emergency medical services
0	Lack of sound barrier between Wade Rd. Ext. & Harrowgate
0	Availability of summer camp program
0	Isolation of office parks
0	Lack of ethics board
0	Identification & services for sick & frail seniors
0	Lack of fluoridated public water
0	Voter apathy
0	Lack of capacity in CYC before & after school programs
0	Integrity of Planning Board review process

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**Land Use**

<b>Assets</b>	
Dots	Comment
17	Existing open space
12	Undeveloped land along Mohawk River
6	Low Tax Rate
4	Pocket Parks
4	Landfill
3	Current Comp. Plan process
3	Single family housing
2	Delphus Kill Study
2	Housing Values

<b>Liabilities</b>	
Dots	Comment
25	Lack of a building moratorium until comp. plan is completed
7	Lack of separation between commercial & residential
7	Need for more open space preservation
5	Lack of pedestrian-friendly land use
4	Impact on residential property values of commercial development
3	"Undeveloped" zoning district designation misleading
2	Lack of a comprehensive plan
2	Need to redevelop vacant commercial buildings
2	Lack of affordable housing
1	Need for archeological review
1	Need to protect landfill capacity
1	Need for review of land use regulations
0	Lack of action on previous studies
0	Un-elected planning & zoning boards
0	Lack of steno. record for public meetings
0	Disparate treatment of different areas of Town