

**Consultants Summary**

The Greater Athens community is a unified, vibrant, and active place to live. Revitalized through the ongoing efforts of an engaged citizenry, Athens residents have a wealth of cultural and recreation activities to participate in as well as access to a convenient and diverse downtown shopping area. The community's pristine pastoral areas and waterfronts allow residents access to enjoyable outdoor recreational activities, while the communities' ongoing commitment to cooperation has resulted in a well-run and efficient municipal operations and infrastructure system. Proactive decisions related to smart growth and stewardship has ensured the continued preservation of the qualities that make Athens unique –its scenic open fields, traditional small town character, waterfronts, lighthouse, Middle Ground flats, historic resources, diverse population, housing variety, and family-friendliness.

**Group 1**

*Growth Population* – population Village/Town – concentrated growth

*Riverfront* – Nice riverfront, nice park, waterfront docks

*Municipality* – Truck traffic, one government, public trans, garbage service, Trans for seniors, clean water, easy access, one-fire services, rail service to Albany, eon postal service

*Economic development* – Pristine lakes

*Community* – Unique, not mentally divided

*Housing* – Affordable senior housing

*Village* – Stay small, tree lined straight, scenic village/town, store fronts little shops, nice paved straight sidewalks, Rockwell village, orthogonal straight pattern

*Quality* – Family centered, safe, diverse, senior friendly, no sprawl

*Business Development* – White-collar development, scenic. 4 – star restaurants, good eateries, hamlet shops, small retail, medical services, no strip malls

*Schools* – excellent one district

*Recreation* – YWCA, all year recreation

**Group 2**

*Buildings* – Put buildings together for efficiency and convenience.

*Cultural* – Provide a greater variety of activities in the Village of Athens.

*Senior Housing* – Continue to provide affordable housing

*Business* – We need to create incentives to attract businesses to the area

*Intrastate* - Increase the capacity and quality to handle increases in housing and businesses

*River* – Continue to develop the riverfront area

*Zoning* – We need for Athens redefine the zoning.

**Group 3**

No vision statements identified.

**Group 4**

No vision statements identified.

**Group 5**

*Village Character/ Character and cultural feel of Athens* - Historic Athens is a safe, friendly place that is cozy, warm, and inviting, maintaining its small town feel as a vibrant Hudson River Village/Town with nestled in the country with people out and about walking on our park-like streets, shopping at our stores and frequently our eateries.

*Waterfront* - Properly maintained, park on water to serve community with safe river access, marina, swimming, and other recreational facilities; utilize middle ground flat, boat lunch, lighthouse; protect wild life.

*Main street revitalization* – Athens Main Street will be a destination location with small boutique shops in historic or historic appearing buildings. The street will also have some small shops that will provide basic needs (drug stores, liquor stores, etc.). The street will maintain historic buildings as well as historic appearing lamp-posts, sidewalks, (or no lamp posts), benches and will provide some off-street parking. Flowers will be on poles and/or near benches on streets.

*Community activities* – The Village of Athens is seen as a place with social activities including Athens street festival, children playground, good school district, a local elementary school with kids & pet friendly community, ball parks, active cultural centers, library, pool, senior center, bike trails and pools.

*Historic Mission* – Retain and enhance the historic character of buildings and streetscapes in the Village and Town. For example, sidewalks, lamp-posts, benches, trees, flowers, upkeep of homes, community center, town/village hall, use existing buildings for new/unique shops.

**Group 7**

Athens is growing and developing, moving forward in a positive way but maintaining our small town character.

**Group 8**

A revitalized Town and Village of Athens with arts, cultural activities and outdoor recreation, which respects preservation of open spaces and government services, equate to high quality of life for residents.

**Group 9**

*Cultural* – The future Athens will have an active community center and a variety.

*Education* – The future will invest in the education of its youth and promote family involvement.

*Economic Development* – the future Athens will have increased diversity of retail opportunities.

*Government Public Works* – The future Athens will have a government that solves problems, has the respect of its citizens.

*Housing* – The future Athens will have well maintained homes and improved code – enforcement.

*Hudson* – The future of Athens will involve the Hudson River in its development and daily life.

*Youth* – The future of Athens – joyful and safe meeting places.

**Group 10**

No vision statements identified.

**Group 11**

Our Town and Village revitalization will help to maintain small Town atmosphere with affordable well-regulated housing where people can enjoy river recreation and the Town will sustain economic development. Heart of Village should be people friendly and provide all necessary services.

**No Group Name (Assume Group 6)**

Channel the growth to preserve small town atmosphere.

*Quality of life* – educational opportunities, retain slow pace and friendly environment, keep small town flavor.

*Services* – Make the Town/Village economically stable.

*Recreation* – Increase public access and facilities for all ages.

*Housing* – More moderate housing, development and preserve character of existing houses.