

2023 SOUTH HERO TOWN PLAN GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES DRAFT 1

Land use Goals	
1	Maintain South Hero's historical settlement pattern of compact mixed-use villages surrounded by agricultural and rural countryside.
2	Allow South Hero's village areas to grow responsibly with respect for its natural beauty, rural environment and to encourage and nurture South Hero's welcoming and inclusive sense of community and civic pride.
3	Ensure that all development within the town is pursued with strict regard to the capability of the land to support it and to limit development in areas which are ecologically sensitive areas, such as wetlands, flood hazard areas, steep slopes and other important natural areas.
4	Maintain the beauty of the gateway entrances to the Town from the east and west, including preventing strip development along Route 2 and 314 outside the village core and village neighborhood planning areas.
5	Ensure that South Hero's land development regulations and town policies allow equitable opportunity to live, play, work and visit South Hero.
Land Use Objectives and Implementation Strategies	
1	Manage, maintain and administer Development Regulations with innovative, effective and high-achieving review standards to implement the goals and objectives of the South Hero Town Plan.
2	Revise South Hero's Development Regulations to conform to the proposed land use planning areas in this plan, specifically the Village Core Planning Area and the Village Neighborhood Planning Area.
3	Provide adequate infrastructure, services and amenities to support vibrant village planning areas, including water and wastewater service, bicycle and pedestrian safety accommodations, streetscape landscaping and beautification, traffic calming and speed enforcement.
4	Allow commercial and light industrial development within the village core planning area with less restrictions and conditions than in other areas of the town.
5	Consider whether to support limited, compact development in South Hero's historic hamlet crossroads.
6	Strictly and consistently enforce the Town's development regulations and ensure that all town officials are well-informed of the regulations.

Natural Resource Goals	
1	Protect the Town's important natural and scenic resources, including agricultural and forestry soils, ground and surface water, Lake Champlain shoreline, wetlands, including the Crick and the area of Round Pond, forest blocks and wildlife habitat, critical habitat on the outer islands, important geologic resources, including fossil sites and flood hazard areas.
2	Improve the quality of South Hero's water resources, including Lake Champlain, groundwater, streams and wetlands.
3	Protect prime agricultural lands and support the continuation of agriculture that follows state of Vermont's required agricultural practices.
4	Maintain adequate public access to the lake in an environmentally responsible manner.
5	Minimize impacts of earth resource extraction on the environment.
Natural Resource Objectives and Implementation Strategies	
1	Encourage planned unit developments, conservation subdivisions, protection of development rights, purchase of development rights, tax incentives and other means to keep agricultural lands in productive use.
2	Encourage the development of accessory on-farm businesses and other value-added opportunities to support farm viability and stimulate the agricultural economy.
3	Control the siting of non-agricultural development and structures to limit impacts on important resources and loss of agricultural lands.
4	Increase public awareness of South Hero's natural areas, recreational assets and environmental concerns to preserve and improve these resources for future generations.
5	Require that "building envelopes" be defined for house sites in subdivisions to ensure coexistence with wetlands, natural areas, and farmland.
6	Ensure that South Hero's historic and scenic resources remain intact.
7	Support, encourage and inform the public about innovative solutions for safe and effective wastewater management.
8	Support and participate in Federal, State and local efforts to improve water quality in Lake Champlain. Ensure Town Development Regulations support that effort.
9	Monitor the effectiveness and enforcement of town regulations in implementing the natural resource goals and policies of the town plan, including protection of wildlife, wetlands, natural areas, and water quality.
10	Coordinate and collaborate with the Town's Conservation Commission.