

DRAFT

Vision Statements

The Comprehensive Plan Committee has updated the Poland Comprehensive Plan. In drafting that update, input was received from residents about what they would like for the future of Poland and the major challenges facing the town. In addition, the Committee conducted thoughtful research and reviewed trends that would influence how Poland could respond moving forward. The Committee did not discard the "*Vision*" developed in the previous plan, but updated it considering new facts and data that help refine the mental picture of what the town's residents want the community to look and feel like in 10 to 20 years. The "*Vision*" is an important part of the Comprehensive Plan and is the foundation on which the rest of the plan builds upon.

In developing the "*Vision*", the Committee engaged residents to ascertain what they like about their town and what are the most important issues that need to be addressed as Poland plans for its future. The Committee conducted an online poll that had a high response rate, has met with all Boards and Committees and briefed them on the Comprehensive Plan update process, held a public meeting on December 9, 2020 via Zoom and held an in person public input session on June 23, 2021.

Based on the public visioning sessions, the following are Poland's Vision Statements.

- The small town character of Poland will be maintained through careful stewardship of clean surface and ground water, clean air, forestlands, open spaces, scenic views, attractive and safe residential areas, and development of community gathering places.
- The town will strive to have a diversified economic base of small business and industry that provide local employment opportunities and a tax base not overly dependent on residential properties.
- There will be a balance of economic growth attracted here due to the benefits of living and working in Poland, a Comprehensive Land Use Code that encourages development consistent with town desires, and community events and spirit that make Poland an attractive place to live and work.
- The quality of our lakes and ponds will a top priority, will support our tourist industry, and add value to our tax base.
- We will endeavor to have a definable "village area" that both locals and passersby stop at to obtain goods and services. They will stop because the "village area" is attractive, is clean and well maintained, is locally orientated not dominated by national franchises or box stores, and is safe.
- Our major Routes, 11, 26 and 122 are attractive and safe with both business and residential areas.
- We will continue to add sewer and water services in more areas of the community that serve businesses and residents.
- There will be senior friendly housing options to allow Poland Senior's to age in place and remain part of the community.
- Poland will remain a good place to raise a family. Consideration should be given to affordable housing for young families and programs, such as an expanded before and after care program at our schools, that enable working parents to continue to work.
- Poland will continue to maintain and support its rich history.