

Village of Central Square, Oswego County

The Village of Central Square is located in southern Oswego County, approximately three miles north of the outlet of Oneida Lake at the Oneida River. It is situated at the intersection of U.S. Route 11 and County Route 49, in the western portion of the Oneida Lake watershed. The Village encompasses 1.85 square miles of land area, all of which lie within the watershed. According to the Census, the Village had 1,646 people in 2000 and had experienced a 1.5% population decrease between 1990 and 2000. The median age in 2000 was 39 years and the average household size was 2.1 persons. Median household income at that time was \$31,875. Developed land in Central Square is primarily residential. There were 796 housing units in the Village, 12% of which had been built between 1990 and 2000. Some sections of the Village are designated wetlands.

Assessment Results

Village of Central Square	Full or Partial Implementation	Not Applicable
1. Development - total	30 of 42 (71%)	1
1a. Existing	12 of 20 (60%)	0
1b. New and substantial redevelopment	18 of 22 (82%)	1
2. Forestry / Agriculture - total	1 of 12 (8%)	11
2a. Forestry	1 of 10 (10%)	9
2b. Agriculture	0 of 2 (0%)	2
3. Waterways / Wetlands - total	15 of 16 (94%)	0
3a. Modified waterways	9 of 10 (90%)	0
3b. Wetlands and Riparian Area Mgmt/Restoration	6 of 6 (100%)	0
4. Marinas - total	0 of 48 (0%)	48
4a. Existing Marinas	0 of 20 (0%)	20
4b. New Marinas	0 of 18 (0%)	18
4c. Existing and New Marinas	0 of 10 (0%)	10
5. Roads and Bridges - total	23 of 26 (88%)	1
5a. New Roads and Bridges	4 of 6 (67%)	0
5b. Existing Roads and Bridges	13 of 13 (100%)	0
5c. New & Existing Roads & Bridges	6 of 7 (86%)	1
OWTS	4 of 7(57%)	0

Central Square formally adopted a Comprehensive Plan in 2000 and remains proactive in addressing water resource issues. A sewer plant was constructed and put into service in the mid 1960s and all village homes converted from septic tanks to the new village sewer system. This resulted in several significant land annexations to the village. It also cleared the way for the creation of major subdivisions and doubled the size of the village from 640 to 1290 acres. In November of 1996 the sewer plant was expanded to accommodate increased and projected

growth. In 1998 the waterlines in the village were replaced and the village water system was taken over by the Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA).

Central Square remains active in the MS4 Phase II Stormwater Program. The DPW Superintendent and Codes Enforcement Officer are responsible for inspections on construction sites and Phase II enforcement. Several areas experience seasonal flooding, but the properties are not part of the DEC Floodplain. Dry Bridge Road and Green Acres Road periodically flood when the lake level is high.

A Village of Central Square SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Exercise was conducted with community leaders in 2004. The charm, small town atmosphere, and proximity to Syracuse were identified as some of the many assets. Village zoning and code administration were perceived as limitations. The potential loss of historic buildings (especially at the intersection of 49 and 11) also posed a concern for community leaders.

Summary and Recommendations

Based on the assessment process, CNY RPDB recommends that Central Square update its comprehensive plan to incorporate goals and BMPs that protect water quality. Municipal officials are currently working with the Tug Hill Commission on this initiative. Comprehensive plans, zoning laws, and subdivision regulations establish a community's overall vision and means for its implementation. They are considered the building blocks of municipal land use regulation in New York State. The comprehensive plan defines a community's goals for the future and is developed through widespread community participation and visioning. It provides an opportunity to identify goals such as the type and intensity of development, open space preservation, and infrastructure and is normally used by planning boards, code enforcement officers, and other elected officials. A model comprehensive plan is available in Appendix G. Additional information about this is also available in the Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council resource titled, "Protecting Water Resources Through Local Controls and Practices: An Assessment Manual for New York Municipalities."

Central Square shares equipment with Hastings and other neighboring municipalities. The CNY RPDB recommends that this arrangement be formalized through the use of an intermunicipal agreement (found in Appendix G), which serves as an effective way to improve regional efficiency and cut municipal costs. Article 12-C of New York State General Municipal Law authorizes formation of joint survey committees to study and plan cooperative measures. Survey committees may be formed between two or more cities, towns, villages or school districts. The statute authorizes governments to make surveys and studies to aid the cooperative solution to local government problems. These intergovernmental agreements are normally based on criteria such as economic benefits, convenience, natural resources, and amount of surplus facilities. Most cooperative agreements are based on Article 5-G of the General Municipal Law, which provides broad authority for the joint provision of any municipal facility, service, activity, project or undertaking.

Municipalities have authority and primary responsibility for local roadway, bridge, and drainage maintenance. The CNY RPDB recommends that municipalities continue to implement stormwater controls and provide educational opportunities to update highway and public works department staff on current road, bridge, and drainage BMPs. Additional recommendations are found in IV B of the introductory narrative, in a section titled “Road, Drainage Way, and Bridge Recommendations.”

Municipal Contacts

- Mike Wildrick, Code Enforcement Officer / Building Inspector
- Mike Avery, Superintendent of Highways
- Donna Taggart, Code Enforcement
- Mike Avery, DPW
- Karen Noyes, Oswego County Planning Department
- Paul Baxter, North Shore Council of Governments

Local Laws and Reports Reviewed

- Municipal Code for Central Square
- Village of Central Square Comprehensive Plan (adopted in 2000)
- Village of Central Square SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) Exercise (2004)