

## **Newcomb Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) Analysis**

### **1. Strengths**

- a. Peaceful, quiet and serene**
- b. Natural resources (i. e. rivers, lakes, forests, wildlife and mountains) and beauty**
- c. Outdoor recreation opportunities (hiking, x-c skiing, snowmobiling, fishing, camping, boating, skating)**
- d. Low taxes and relatively affordable year-round housing**
- e. Good school**
- f. The Adirondack VIC**
- g. Huntington Forest**
- h. Historic resources: Tahawus, Santanoni, Goodnow Mountain Fire Tower**
- i. Golf course**
- j. Strong sense of community: small town atmosphere, helpful neighbors, volunteerism**
- k. Good services such as fire protection, snow plowing and summer youth program**
- l. Although public safety assets are limited, Newcomb is a safe place to live**

### **2. Weaknesses**

- a. Geographic isolation**
- b. Lack of commercial facilities such as a gas station, full service grocery and restaurant/diner**
- c. Aging population**
- d. High percentage of residents who do not live in the Town year round and so cannot take part in activities or contribute economically year-round**
- e. Few businesses to provide jobs**
- f. Limited water and sewer infrastructure**
- g. Limited public safety assets**
- h. Limited high speed internet access**
- i. Low traffic count on Rt. 28N**
- j. Lack of lodging.**

### **3. Opportunities**

- a. Develop and market a shared vision for Newcomb**
- b. Designate area for small scale commercial development and explore ways to attract such development.**
- c. Develop and market Newcomb's historic resources**
- d. Drive vehicular traffic through Newcomb by signage**
- e. Implement and market snowmobile trail system**
- f. Market Newcomb's outdoor recreation resources, including disabled accessible facilities**

- g. Capitalize on Newcomb's green/sustainable potential (i.e. natural resources/the environment, forestry products)**
- h. Explore improving access to Santanoni for the disabled**
- i. Develop a Town Center with facilities such as a pool, library, internet access, youth room, meeting room and exercise facilities.**
- j. Continue to explore ways to attract students to the school system**
- k. Explore employment generators such as backroom corporate facilities (e.g. call centers, redemption centers)**
- l. Explore development of a business park for wood-based products such as wood pellets**
- m. Explore development of a business incubator equipped with technological infrastructure at attract new businesses.**
- n. Form a Beautification Committee and spruce up roadways and town facilities to make them more attractive.**
- o. Explore placing developmental homes in the Town as a way of generating employment.**
- p. Develop a strategy for redevelopment of the National Lead property, possibly as a green energy or manufacturing facility.**
- q. Provide senior housing.**
- r. Coordinate heritage and environmental tourism and educational initiatives/activities between/among Newcomb's institutions (e.g. Huntington Forest, VIC, School, DEC, etc.)**
- s. Potential for expansion of golf course and inclusion of a restaurant**
- t. Opportunity for development of lodging**
- u. Opportunity for redevelopment of Lake Harris House**
- v. Potential for redevelopment of train track as a long-distance trail**

#### **4. Threats**

- a. Closure of school due to small size, declining enrollment and cost to run**
- b. Aging population and lack of jobs leads to continuing spiral of economic decline followed by loss of population and decline in services, leading to further decline**
- c. Aging infrastructure such as water/sewer and roads leads to disinvestment and decline**
- d. Unsightly infrastructure and facilities leads to disinvestment and decline**
- e. Rising taxes if, for example, the State freezes payments on the Forest Preserve**

