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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Formation of Special Board**

Town of Inlet Regular Meeting on February 9, 1999 Resolution #50.99 - Comprehensive Plan - On the motion by Councilman Norkus, seconded by Councilman Schmid, the following resolution was adopted 5 Ayes to 0 Nays: Resolved, to have members of the Town Board, Planning Board and the Economic Development Group develop a Town of Inlet Comprehensive Plan that the Town of Inlet may adopt.

Resolution #103.00 - Councilman Schmid offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption - whereas, the Town of Inlet Town Board has officially approved a formal group of Inlet residents including Planning Board members to develop and present a Comprehensive Master Plan per Town Law, be it Resolved, that the following include the updated list of members to the TCP Board: Daniel Levi, David Scranton, Richard Willis, Greg O'Hara, JR Risley, Virginia Germer, Arthur Brockner, Paul Chambers, Connie Perry, Carol Schmid, John Townsend II, John Reittinger Seconded by Councilman Cislo and duly adopted by the following vote Ayes: Bird, Norkus, Cislo, Schmid, Risley Nays: none

### **Mission Statement**

The Mission of this Town Comprehensive Plan is to present the collective vision of our community as a tool for building upon our current assets. This plan will guide us into the future as we seek to preserve our environment while improving the quality of life, economy and image of Inlet.

### **Land Use Plan**

Prior to 1993, Inlet had only a Zoning Ordinance, approved in December 1966. Then in 1989, the Town Board passed a Local Law regulating mobile homes, travel trailers, mobile home parks and travel trailer parks in the Town of Inlet. In 1992 the Town Board began to compile information for the Inlet Land Use Plan.

The need for such a Land Use Plan arose from a possible change in ownership of a well known resort, requesting to build and restructure its housing and land use. The board, then working with a consultant, contacted the residents of Inlet. All residents received a survey, which was similar to one used in 1972. The survey covered the residents' needs and what they believed Inlet should offer to residents, seasonal and year round. The Inlet Area Chamber of Commerce questioned business owners and visitors, and determined that additional year round visitor housing was sorely needed.

This Land Use Plan also incorporates existing development patterns as well as future development possibilities, natural and cultural resources, Adirondack Park Agency classifications for both State and private lands, and existing zoning.

Inlet's Land Use Plan is one part of the foundation for the current Inlet Town Comprehensive Plan. While the Land Use Plan document is narrow in focus due to time constraints, its use as a building block for the Comprehensive Plan was beneficial. The Inlet Land Use Plan was approved in April 1993.

### **Visitor Survey & Inlet Property Owner/Registered Voter Survey**

An ad-hoc group of Inlet citizens was formed and the first organizational meeting was held on 10/14/97 under the direction of J.R. Risley, former Inlet Town Supervisor, and Ginny Germer, then President of the Inlet Area Chamber of Commerce. Many more meetings were held to establish the group's Mission, get sanctioned and receive support from the Inlet Town Board (11/20/97) and the Inlet Area Chamber of Commerce (11/26/97), and to develop a Visitor Questionnaire and an Inlet Property Owner/Registered Voter Questionnaire.

#### **ORIGINAL MISSION:**

- Develop and administer a survey for the Inlet Property Owners and Registered Voters to determine what they think is good about Inlet and should be retained, and what should be changed or improved in Inlet.
- Develop and administer a survey for the Visitors to determine what brought them to Inlet, what they presently enjoy about Inlet, and what they would like to have available for their future enjoyment in Inlet.
- Compile, summarize and publish the results of the surveys.
- Develop a Plan for Inlet Economic Development to be presented as a recommendation to the Inlet Town Board and the Inlet Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Visitor Questionnaire was completed in January 1998, printed and distributed to visitors through local businesses and the Inlet Area Chamber of Commerce. To date, 141 Visitor Questionnaires have been returned, responses tabulated on spreadsheets and summaries written.

A draft of the Inlet Property Owner/Registered Voter Questionnaire was critiqued by John Zogby, President of the Zogby Group, at a Communities 2000 meeting on 3/26/98. He gave the questionnaire high marks and provided valuable constructive criticism. The Inlet Property Owner/Registered Voter Questionnaire was then completed and tested over a period of six months, 990 questionnaires were sent out in late September 1998, with 273 completed questionnaires being returned. The return rate was 27% for both year round

Inlet residents and seasonal property owners. 271 responses were received in time for input into the SPSS data analysis software by the Inlet Police Dispatchers in December 1998. Bill Pelz, a professor on the faculty of Herkimer County Community College, who was contacted through the Communities 2000 initiative, processed the data on his own time, which provided us with four binders of survey results. The results of the surveys were then compiled, summarized and published in 1999 and are a resource to the Special Board in developing the Inlet Town Comprehensive Plan.

## **OVERVIEW**

### **Maps**







## **OVERVIEW**

### **The Hamlet of Inlet**

The Town of Inlet, located in Hamilton County in the west-central Adirondack Mountains, is situated along the Route 28 corridor of New York State's six million acre Adirondack Park. Inlet encompasses approximately 66.4 square miles.

Inlet's abundance of natural features contributes to the strong rustic and natural character of this Adirondack hamlet. It is considered a gateway to a more primitive and pristine portion of the Adirondack Park and has been characterized as one of the "Adirondack Wilderness Outposts" by an Adirondack Park Association report. Inlet, as a township and a hamlet, is a tourist destination predominately summer through winter months. As such, the hamlet offers visitors lodging, dining, shopping, recreational equipment sales, rentals and services. Other businesses such as the hardware store, convenience store/gas station, laundromat, movie theater, grocery store, book store, barber, liquor store, insurance/real estate business, contractor, Adirondack furnishings stores, gift shops, and a marina offer tourists, seasonal residents, and year round residents a variety of products and services. Outside of the hamlet boundaries are several other restaurants, lodging, and marinas, most of which are on or near one of the lakes within the Fulton Chain of Lakes. A number of these businesses, however, operate only summer and fall months during the peak tourist seasons.

The hamlet also includes three churches, the post office and a public library. The Town Governmental Offices, the Information Office, the Police Department, and a Senior Center are housed within the Inlet Town Hall, adjacent to Arrowhead Park. Arrowhead Park, located downtown, and Fern Park, located within easy walking distance of downtown, offer a variety of recreational facilities and host numerous local events. The vast majority of the hamlet is comprised of commercial and public structures, with residences falling at either end of the downtown area along Route 28. Seasonal and year round residences fall predominately along this route, the shores of Fourth, Sixth, Seventh, and Limekiln Lakes, with scattered residences elsewhere along Fifth Lake, Uncas Road, South Shore Road, Loomis Road, Gilbert Road, Sixth Lake Road, Deerwood Drive, Limekiln Road, Parkhurst Road, and Seventh Lake Road.

### **Natural Features**

Outside of the hamlet, New York State owns approximately 87% of the land located within the Town of Inlet, much of which they have declared "Forever

Wild.” These lands fall into two New York State Preserve management areas, the Moose River Plains Wild Forest and the Pigeon Lakes Wilderness. With the exception of the New York State campground lands, all Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) lands located north of the Uncas Road are within the Pigeon Lakes Wilderness, while all lands south of the Uncas Road are within the Moose River Plains Wild Forest. At the southern end of this latter designation, the Moose River Recreation Area (MRRRA) comprises the largest block of remote public land in the Adirondacks, readily accessible by motor vehicle. Although the MRRRA overlaps several different townships, the state maintains the “Limekiln Gate” within Inlet as one of the two entry points into this primitive wild forest area. The MRRRA is a major resource for a variety of recreational activities from bird watching, hiking, and fishing to snowmobiling, and provides some 100 primitive campsites. New York State operates public campgrounds at Eighth Lake, Brown’s Tract and Limekiln Lake, while primitive campsites and/or lean-tos can be found at Seventh, Eighth, Bug and Cascade Lakes. The State also maintains public boat launches at Seventh Lake, Fourth Lake, Eighth Lake and Limekiln Lake.

## **Topography**

The Town of Inlet’s natural character and topography are typical of the Adirondacks, with more than a dozen mountains, heavy forests, and numerous lakes, ponds, and streams. Elevations range from about 1700 feet at Fourth Lake to 2890 feet on Seventh Lake Mountain. The Fulton Chain of Lakes spans both the Town of Inlet and the Town of Webb, with the easterly lakes located within Inlet. These and the many other lakes, ponds, and streams within the Town of Inlet provide recreational opportunities for visitors and residents alike and serve as an important resource to the community.

## **Geology, Soils and Water Resources**

Classification of development suitability, soils, wetlands, critical environmental factors, hydrology and surface water classification are described in the Land Use Plan, April 1993, found in Appendix F.

## **Climate**

Inlet’s climate is typical of the region, with winter temperatures ranging from a record 52\* F below zero to 50\* F above zero. Summer temperatures generally range from 50\* F to 80\* F. Average rainfall is about 50”, with annual snowfall recorded as high as 250”.

## History and Historical Structures

### People and Buildings

Before the white man came to the Adirondacks, Inlet was a tourist destination. It wasn't known as Inlet until 1902, but Native Americans were enjoying their summers here in Inlet. This was the location of the summer campgrounds for Iroquois hunting parties. The Iroquois lost many of their arrows here over the years; so later, as this site was developed and built upon, arrowheads were frequently found on the ground. They used the "North Woods" for hunting and fishing purposes and the waterways and trails were their highways.

In the nineteenth century, the first whites to arrive were the guides and sportsmen who stopped at the "Head of Fourth Lake" before continuing on a highway of lakes and carries commemorated today by the annual "90 Miler" Adirondack Classic. They also stopped at "Big Moose Landing" near present day Becker's Resort and traveled to Big Moose Lake using a series of trails and skiffs, crossing Bubb, Moss and Darts Lakes. Today, visitors can walk this route from the hike/bike trail on Route 28. Before steamers arrived on the Fulton Chain, early transportation to Inlet was by foot and guide boat. Early camps erected by guides along the Chain were used to house the sports and the hospitality industry arrived to stay.

In March, 1889, five businessmen, one of which was Carthage's James Galvin, started an association called the Fulton Chain Club and later that year purchased over 6,000 acres surrounding the Head of Fourth Lake and extending to Limekiln and Seventh Lakes. They hoped to sell memberships and establish a preserve like the neighboring Adirondack League Club. They hired Fred Hess, a famous Fulton Chain guide who quickly sold his Cedar Island camp, as their forest superintendent. Hess built a sawmill at Fifth Lake from the Club's tract for lumber and club revenue. In late 1890, the Club sold Hess 30 acres, which he soon partitioned, on the shores of Fourth Lake by the "inlet" to Fifth Lake. Fred Hess built "Hess' Inn" in 1892-1893 and in 1893, the Club sold land to the builders of Rocky Point Inn. Hess sold his hotel to William Moshier in late 1896 who renamed it "The Arrowhead" when Hess opened a newly built hotel next door during 1898 which he named "Hess Camp". Charles O'Hara arrived in 1896 and built the Inlet Inn on the channel to Fifth Lake. Duane Norton purchased Club land in 1898 for his Seventh Lake Hotel.

The Fulton Chain Club's failure to attract investors prompted the directors to subdivide the shores of Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Limekiln Lakes into lots which were sold for \$200 for campers. From 1895 to 1902, pioneering families with names like Delmarsh, Harwood, Murdock, Tiffany, O'Hara and Kirch bought lots from James Galvin, the Club's local agent, built homes and stayed.

The increase in residents and transportation needs, as well as the long distance to County offices at Lake Pleasant, helped to convince Hamilton County to partition the area of Morehouse north of the South Branch of the Moose River in November 1901 and “erect” the new “Town of Inlet”.

William Moshier donated land in 1900 for the Church of the Lakes. Moshier’s Company also owned the Fifth Lake mill at this time and he briefly operated a stage-steamer transportation line to Raquette Lake. Heavily in debt, Moshier lost the Arrowhead to his brother-in-law Albert C. Boshart in 1904 and left for Massachusetts. Boshart soon subdivided unused Arrowhead property into village lots for stores. In November 1907, Charles O’Hara purchased the property. The Arrowhead burned in September 1913 and O’Hara rebuilt it adjoining his Inlet Inn. What is now Arrowhead Park was once the site of this second Arrowhead Hotel. In 1963, the O’Hara family donated the Arrowhead property to the Town. The hotel was demolished and we have the popular Arrowhead Park patrons enter by passing the original hotel’s stone light towers. Inlet’s Main Street (Route 28) results from Boshart’s village lots sold to Charles O’Hara.

Fred Hess sold his Hess Camp to Henry Covey in 1903 and left to operate hunting camps in Maine. Covey sold Hess Camp to Philo Wood in 1908. Wood had been the first proprietor of Big Moose Lake’s Hotel Glenmore (1900-1902), leaving to operate the famous Forge House (1903-1907) at Old Forge. Wood expanded Hess’s hotel and renamed it “The Wood” in 1908, operating it until the 1940s. Today this hotel survives as “The Woods Inn”, a popular hotel, restaurant and host of family events. Many other summer resort hotels sprang up in Inlet: The Neodak Hotel, The Araho Hotel (now Holl’s Inn), and the Parquet Hotel. So it was that Inlet continued to be a summer tourist destination.

### **Transportation**

As more people came to the area, demand grew for accommodations so camps were expanded into hotels and then new hotels were built. Transportation was enhanced with the completion of Dr. Webb’s railroad through the Adirondacks in 1892 with stations at Fulton Chain (Thendara) and Big Moose. Highways were built from Old Forge to Eagle Bay (1899) and from Eagle Bay to Raquette Lake (1896) (most of today’s Uncas Road) to connect with the new line. Steamboats in the 1890s plied the waters of the Fulton Chain of Lakes from Old Forge to Inlet giving the growing number of tourists access to the new hotels and housekeeping camps emerging along the shores of the lakes. The railroad was extended, first two miles from Thendara to Old Forge Pond (1896) and then from Clearwater (Carter Station) to Fourth Lake (north of Rondaxe Road) to Raquette Lake (1900) with stops along today’s Route 28 with a station that stands today in Eagle Bay. Tourists could now come to Eagle Bay and Inlet without the

lengthy steamboat rides from Old Forge through the Chain, today available to visitors for sightseeing. This railroad led to the construction of a road from Eagle Bay to Inlet and tourists had an even easier time getting to Inlet. The road was extended to Seventh Lake from the hamlet of Inlet and then in 1929, Route 28 was finished and connected Inlet to Raquette and Blue Mountain Lakes.

### **The Town of Inlet**

Inlet became a township and hamlet in 1902 when it was decided to break off from the Town of Morehouse and form the Town of Inlet. Frank Tiffany was the first Town Supervisor and held office for twenty-four years. Charles O'Hara, the first Postmaster and the first Town Clerk, was also involved in this political subdivision and is credited with naming the town. The first church in Inlet was Church of the Lakes built in 1901. Saint Anthony's, a Roman Catholic Church, was built next to the Presbyterian Church in 1915 on a lot donated by Galvin's widow, Jennie Galvin. The Inlet Community Church was established in 1950 when a dispute over the church organ split the congregation of the Church of the Lakes. This new church purchased the camp of Anna and Rose Flanagan. Services were held in the cottage until 1970 when the present Inlet Community Church was built; the cottage became the pastor's residence. The Inlet Common School was also built in 1906 on land sold by the remaining members of the Club.

### **Inlet in the Modern Era**

Early clientele were wealthy and would frequently vacation for the whole summer or for at least one month in the summer. But with the advent of the automobile and the resulting improvement and construction of roads, the large hotels, steamer lines and railroads quickly fell in decline. Summer long vacations had contracted to month long vacations, then week long vacations and finally with the convenience of automobile travel, weekend tourism became big in Inlet. Hotels with their elegant hospitality started to lose business to motels and cottages. The depression years from 1929 to 1932 took its toll on the wealthy and subsequently on the tourist industry in Inlet. World War II was the next significant event to have an impact on tourism in Inlet with rationing and a major focus on winning the war. In 1946, the war was won, soldiers returned home and the post-war economy was booming. The middle class grew in numbers and wealth; they bought cars and hit the road. The road led to Inlet and motels became popular. It was "a hot time in the old town" when college students found Inlet. The bar business grew, and at its peak, Inlet had eleven bars in town. Then the motorcycle crowd found Inlet. Eventually, bars burned or closed, the "bikers" were discouraged from returning to Inlet by a strong police effort, college students lost interest in an Inlet without bars and things quieted down.

There are a few buildings still standing in the Town of Inlet that date back to the late eighteen hundreds, but many of the earliest buildings have been lost to fires over the years. Today, the Inlet Supply Company, Parquet Hotel, Mary’s Gift Shop and the Woods Inn survive. A comparison of today’s Inlet hamlet with early postcards will reveal some original shop structures remain as do several early camps along the South Shore Road. Most of the existing camps and buildings were constructed in the period prior to the “Great Depression” in 1929 and were intended and built for summer use only. Some of these have been restored or updated for year round use, and some have been changed significantly through major additions. In recent years, a few large homes of modern design and construction have been built on previously undeveloped land or have replaced old camps that have been torn down to make room for these new homes.

## **Government Structure**

The following is a list of government officials and personnel, listing the county positions before the town. For more information see Appendix O. Positions marked with an asterisk (\*) are elected.

### **Hamilton County Government**

- Chairman of the Board \*
- Deputy Chairman of the Board \*
- Clerk of the Board
- Deputy Clerk
- Assistant Deputy Clerk
- Board of Supervisors (9) \*
- Alcohol Beverage Control Board
- Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Council
- Board of Elections
- Board of Ethics
- Budget Officer
- Civil Defense
- Commissioner of Jurors
- Community Services
- Cooperative Extension
- Coroners (4) \*
- County Attorney

Assistant County Attorney  
County Clerk \*  
Deputy Clerk  
County Historian  
County Treasurer \*  
Deputy Treasurer  
Judge of Family, County & Surrogate Court \*  
Secretary to Judge  
District Attorney \*  
Emergency Manager  
Deputy Emergency Manager  
Highway Superintendent  
Housing Assistance Director  
Office for the Aging Director  
Personnel Department Officer  
Tourism Director  
Tourism Assistant  
Probation Assistant in Charge  
Probation Officer  
Public Health Services Director  
Patient Services Director  
Real Property Tax Service Director  
Secretary of State  
County Sheriff \*  
County Undersheriff  
Social Services Commissioner  
Social Services Attorney  
Social Services Assistant Attorney  
Soil & Water Conservation District Manager  
Soil & Water Conservation District Clerk  
Solid Waste Coordinator  
Stop D.W.I. Program Coordinator \*  
Substance Abuse Prevention & Treatment Director

Veterans' Service Agency Director  
Weights & Measures Director  
Workforce Investment Director

## **Town of Inlet Government**

Positions marked with an asterisk (\*) are elected. Positions marked with a double asterisk (\*\*) are appointed by the Town Board.

Supervisor \*  
Town Board (4) \*  
Town Clerk (1) \*  
    Deputy Clerk (1)  
Assessment Review Board (4) \*\*  
Assessor / Codes & Zoning Enforcement Officer (1)  
    Assessor / Codes & Zoning Enforcement Assistant (1)  
Attorney for the Town \*\*  
Building & Parks Department Head (1)  
    Building & Parks Department Staff (4 : 2 Full-time, 2 Part-time)  
Election Officials \*\*  
Engineering for the Town \*\*  
Highway Superintendent (1) \*  
    Highway Staff (4)  
Justices (2) \*  
    Justice Clerks (2)  
Transfer Station Manager (1 Part-time)  
    Transfer Station Staff (2)  
Personnel Officer (1) \*\*  
Planning Board (5) \*\*  
    Alternate Planning Board Members (2) \*\*  
    Planning Board Clerk (1)  
Police Chief (1)  
    Police Dispatcher (1)  
    Police Officer (1)  
Tax Collector (1) \*

- Tourism Director (1)
- Tourism Assistant (1)
- Tourism Clerk (1 Part-time)
- Youth Commission Board (9) \*\*
- Zoning Board of Appeals (5) \*\*
- Zoning Board of Appeals Clerk (1)

## **Economy**

The Town of Inlet's economy is based primarily on tourism. There are a handful of local government jobs and some private industry, such as logging, but the vast majority of town businesses are related directly to tourism. The main attractions for visitors are Inlet's natural resources – mountains, lakes, streams, trails and campsites set in a stunning northern forest landscape.

The largest number of tourists visits the area during the summer months, the busiest time of year for most businesses. The fall foliage season is also busy with visitors, allowing most shops to stay open through Columbus Day. Snowmobiling is king of the winter sports, but Inlet also offers skating, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, fireworks and numerous other activities within a short drive, including downhill skiing.

Recent years have seen a small wave of retirees opting to make this area their year-round home, which has spurred growth in the need for pertinent services.

## **Infrastructure & Services**

### **Electric**

Electric service is currently provided by National Grid, and is available to all developed properties in the Town of Inlet with the exception of some properties on the Uncas Road. The transmission facilities are all above ground and are reported to be at or near maximum capacity. Service interruptions are frequent, but generally are of short duration. Rates are considered to be above average.

### **Telecommunications**

Local phone service is currently provided by Frontier and is currently available to all developed properties in the Town, with the exception of a few on the Uncas Road. Transmission facilities are above ground and service interruptions are rare.

Fiber optic cable allows Frontier and Time Warner, the current cable TV company, to offer high-speed internet with phone and cable packages. Rates are considered to be average.

Mobile phone service is still a work in progress. Service is consistent only on Fourth Lake and spotty elsewhere. There are no cell towers in Inlet yet, the nearest ones being in Old Forge and Blue Mountain Lake.

Satellite television and phone services are available.

### **Public Water and Sewage**

Inlet has no public water services. A wastewater treatment facility servicing the hamlet area (District #1) became operational in the summer of 2013. The Onsite Wastewater Treatment Local Law (Inlet Code, Chapter 129) passed in 2006 governs the design and installation of all onsite septic systems. Turkey Water Works, a private water system, serves approximately 28 properties on South Shore Road. A seasonal private water system serves about a half-dozen camps on Parkhurst Road.

The Inlet Clean Waters Committee, which was formed in 2003, has facilitated the engineering of sewer and water district proposals and supervised the drilling of public water test wells. In 2012 this committee disbanded and since then the Inlet Town Board remains active in researching other possibilities for public water and sewage.

## **Police**

The Town of Inlet established a police department in 1970 to provide police protection for residents and visitors. Today, the department consists of two sworn officers. The Department is able to provide full time law enforcement coverage. This is accomplished through a cooperative agreement between the Town of Inlet and Town of Webb police forces. Generally, one patrol is deployed on the day shift and one patrol is deployed on the late afternoon shift. Between shifts, officers work on a call-out basis.

The Police department has two patrol vehicles. Additionally, the Department maintains two snowmobiles, which are essential in the winter months, particularly for enforcement relating to the widespread recreational use of snowmobiles in the Town.

The Department also employs one dispatcher who handles police, fire, and ambulance calls within the Town, as well as calls for the Highway and Parks departments. The dispatch function is staffed during the day. During the late afternoon and night shifts, dispatching is covered by Herkimer County, which also provides enhanced 911 dispatch services.

The New York State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigations provides assistance to the Inlet Police Department for the investigation of serious crimes, and the Hamilton County Sheriffs Office patrols the lakes and waterways in the Town.

Much of the land area in the Town of Inlet is wilderness. However, there are campsites and trails throughout the township which require police response to these areas. Access is frequently by foot, small plane, or by boat, presenting a unique problem, not only to law enforcement but to other emergency personnel as well.

## **Volunteer Fire Department**

In June of 1923, twenty-one years after the incorporation of the Town of Inlet, the Inlet Hose Company was started, which was later incorporated.

The early equipment was an old Ford purchased in Boonville and had a pump installed on it. The newly organized department needed to look at real fire apparatus, so a salesman from American LaFrance came to talk to them and produced a figure of over \$10,000. The down payment was to be \$3,500. The truck was ordered due to a promise from Archie Delmarsh that he would help out if funds were insufficient.

The new truck came to Eagle Bay in a boxcar on Friday afternoon. About 10:00am Sunday morning Walt Rosa came running across the road yelling “Mingo Lodge is on fire!” In their excitement, they drove the new truck over the hill, over the cesspool and to where they could get water. The whole roof was on fire and the bid line was able to knock down the fire fast. After the fire was out, there came the job of getting the truck back up the hill. It took fifty men, ropes, and bridging of the cesspool to get the truck out.

They had the truck about two weeks when it was put to the big test. The Pavilion Theater caught on fire and Fred Trottier ran across the street yelling “Fire!” That night the town would have been lost without the fire truck. Within a few days Chief Joe Sullivan came up from Utica and looked the job over. He concluded that his men in Utica could not have saved the building, which gave the local men a vote of confidence.

Over the years, the Inlet Volunteer Hose Company has evolved into a modern firefighting unit, still maintaining its volunteer status. In 1995 the Inlet Volunteer Hose Company formed a corporation with the Inlet Volunteer Ambulance Squad, each having its own independence, but under the umbrella of the Inlet Volunteer Emergency Services (IVES). A new emergency services building was erected on the corner of Limekiln Road and Route 28, which remains the site of the IVES. In this building is a 1936 American LaFrance fire truck that is still working and known as “Big Red.”

The Hose Company now has an air boat for ice water rescues and remote waterfront fires. They also have an ATV equipped with a litter for remote rescues and a trailer hookup that is setup for forest fires. This is in addition to their four fire trucks.

### **Inlet Volunteer Ambulance Squad**

Inlet Ambulance was started and run by the Inlet American Legion Post #1402 in 1956. In the mid 1990’s the ambulance members formed a new organization called Inlet Volunteer Ambulance Squad. The new organization joined with the Inlet Volunteer Hose Company to form the Inlet Volunteer Emergency Services, Inc. (IVES). IVES is comprised of two separate organizations that contain shared assets and liabilities. Each group however has its own contracts for service, budgets, members and officers.

The commitment that people must give as a volunteer is very extensive. Our average call lasts about four hours; the ambulance squad averages about 200 calls a year. To become qualified to be an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) requires 150 hours of classroom training. To go on a higher level involves many

more hours. This does not include travel, drills and meetings. Also, most calls are not predictable, therefore members may experience loss of time from work and family. Another deterrent is the pressure of the calls. We have many Advanced Life Support (ALS) calls that are truly life and death.

The Ambulance Squad has begun paying ALS personnel to cover their EMS calls. During the summer months and one weekend a month the remainder of the year they hire a paramedic to standby at the station. This paid paramedic checks that the rigs are stocked to specifications set by the New York State Department of Health. The paramedic also provides training sessions to the volunteer EMTs and drivers. This also saves the volunteers from driving to Utica for the training. The Ambulance Squad maintains two ALS rigs and a third support vehicle.

### **Transportation, Highways, Parking**

The Town of Inlet Highway Department maintains and plows seven miles of Town roads, seven miles of County roads and eighteen miles of State roads. Within the Inlet highway system are Deerwood Drive, Evans Road, Gilbert Road, Jones Road, Limekiln Road, Loomis Road, North Star Road, Parkhurst Road, Seventh Lake Road, Sixth Lake Road, South Shore Road and Uncas Road. The remaining of the 911 identified roads within the Town of Inlet are privately owned and maintained. These roads are Ackey Road, Barkeater Avenue, Butler Boulevard, Campsite Road, Carp Drive, Channel Road, Cliff House Road, Corr Lane, Deerwood Drive South, Deerwood Drive West, Demming's Main Street, Drake Lane, Gaiety Road, Glen Iris Road, Gloo Road, Heroux Hill, Highland Trail, Island Avenue, Jasper Day Trail, Kelley Road, Ledge Dale, Murdock Mountain, Neodak Shores, Paownyc, Reis Lane, Rocky Point Circle, Rocky Point Lane, Shady Lane, Solvay Lane, Stock Lane, Tamarack Road, Tiffany Place, Tyler Road and VanTassel Lane.

In 2010 the Town of Inlet Highway Department began assisting the state with maintenance of the Inlet end of road through the Moose River Recreation Area. They started this to help ensure that the road remains open to the public for recreational use and will continue to do so as long as reasonable and necessary.

The Highway Department is involved in the bike and walking paths between Rocky Point and Clark's Marina known as the TOBIE Trail (TOBIE stands for Thendara, Old Forge, Big Moose, Inlet & Eagle Bay). This is funded through a grant from the New York State Department of Transportation. Route 28 underwent a partial reconstruction from Cedar Creek through the Town of Inlet to Drake's Inn in 2001. In 2009 a grant was obtained to extend the sidewalk along Route 28 from the Inlet Volunteer Emergency Services building to the Seventh Lake House. This portion of the bike and pedestrian trail will be known as the Elaine Townsend Trail.

The Highway Department does more than just maintenance of roads. Some other services provided are working with the Landfill Department as well as Parks and Recreation Department, the Youth Commission, the Inlet Area Business Association, the New York State Department of Transportation, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Hamilton County Highway Department. Other services provided are plowing sidewalks, cleaning snow from the downtown area, as well as sweeping the streets in the spring and weekly summer street sweeping in the downtown area. The department also maintains and replaces sidewalks as necessary.

Since the Inlet tourist business is growing, the Highway Department has expanded the parking area at Fern Park for the various events that are so well attended. For the winter season, the Department has built a sledding hill for the tourists and residents to enjoy in Fern Park.

### **Transfer Station**

In the fall of 1990 Hamilton County in cooperation with the Town of Inlet opened a recycling center to handle the recyclables from the northern towns of the County.

In 1993 Inlet started to haul its solid waste to Indian Lake. At that time the County entered into a contract with Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) for the disposal of all Hamilton County trash.

The Town of Inlet during the months of July and August generates about 20 tons of trash a week, and during this same time Inlet generates 2,600 pounds of corrugated cardboard, 1,000 pounds of milk jug plastic, 1,000 pounds of clear plastic, 500 pounds of #2 colored plastic, 3,000 pounds of newspaper per week and 15 tons of glass for the two months. During the winter months Inlet generates about 5 tons of trash, 500 pounds of corrugated cardboard, 200 pounds of milk jug plastic, 150 pounds of clear plastics, 50 pounds of #2 colored plastic per week, 10 tons of newspaper for the next 10 months and 20 tons of glass for the same period of time.

The Town of Inlet employs one full time person and one part time, 20 hours a week, during the summer.

Inlet is still able to burn brush and clean lumber but this could be stopped by the State at any time. The town can still dispose of tires, metals, batteries and stumps.

Hamilton County is looking to expand its recycling market and hopes to be able to recycle a greater variety of products.

## **Parks, Docks, Boat Launches**

Inlet has two parks. Arrowhead Park has public restrooms, a picnic area, lighted ball field, children's playground, tennis courts, sand beach, pavilion and rental cottages. Fern Park has a ball field, sliding hill, cross country ski trails, indoor and outdoor basketball court, playground/fitness equipment, a pavilion with ice-skating and public restrooms. A dock is located in Arrowhead Park along the inlet and extends into Fourth Lake. Inlet has four public boat launches owned and maintained by the State of New York located on Fourth, Seventh and Eighth Lakes.

## **Public Education**

The Inlet Common School was established in 1906 when the smaller of the two existing buildings was built. The larger building was built between 1921 and 1926, and these buildings have served as an elementary school ever since with the capacity to accommodate up to 50 students. The buildings are inspected every year and are maintained according to New York State mandates. The small school building has been renovated and is used for art, music, speech and the principal's office. Until 1946, junior high and senior high school students were bused to Raquette Lake School and since then, they have been bused to the Town of Webb Union Free School District. The Town of Inlet pays the Town of Webb UFSD for tuition and bussing for all Inlet children who attend school there. The Town of Inlet Board of Education and the Town of Webb Board of Education have a good working relationship, meet annually and have the best interests of the students' education and welfare as their main objective.

In addition to the normal academic program, the Inlet School offers Alpine and Nordic skiing, kayaking, music and art. All students take the New York State Assessments. The Inlet Common School is a school in good standing via the State Education Department. The Parent Teacher Partnership (PTP) purchases season passes for the students at McCauley Mountain Ski Center. In the past the PTP purchased computers for the school. Most recently, computers are funded via the Rural Schools Grant. Students use technology in classrooms beginning in Kindergarten. The school has established a partnership with the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake. Staff from the museum bring programs to the school each year. Students also visit the museum for special programs. Students in grades five and six take class trips to Albany and Niagara Falls on an alternating year basis. Any special needs programs outside the resources of the Inlet School are subcontracted for through the Town of Webb UFSD and/or BOCES.

The student population has fluctuated over the years. In the 1960s, enrollment was high. It declined somewhat during the 1970s and 1980s. For the past five years enrollment has been relatively stable with between 36-42 students in attendance. The school is staffed with five full time teachers, part time art and music teachers, a teaching assistant and a part time principal. The school also employs a part time custodian. Bus service is contracted privately.

## **Outdoor Recreation**

Residents and visitors alike find Inlet's abundance of natural resources to be a major attraction and valuable resource for a variety of outdoor recreation activities.

**SPRING** marks the beginning of **fishing** season in the Adirondacks. Inlet's streams, lakes, and ponds hold a variety of fish species including lake trout, brown trout, splake, landlocked salmon, tiger muskies, northern pike, large and small mouth bass, perch, bullhead, and the typical assortment of small panfish, a favorite of the younger angler. The larger lakes offer the trolling or spin casting fisherman ample opportunities for "the big catch", while the smaller rivers and streams of the Moose River Recreation Area are the fly fisherman's favored destination.

Spring and **SUMMER** also bring **canoeists, kayakers and boaters** out onto Inlet's many waterways. A popular trip for paddlers is the Historic Adirondack Passage which begins at the Fulton Chain of Lakes and continues north to the Saranac Lakes through a series of lakes, rivers, and carries. On September 13, 2008 Inlet hosted the Central Adirondack Paddlers Society's "One Square Mile of Hope" which set a Guinness World Record and raised over \$50,000 for Susan G. Komen's research and awareness of breast cancer. The event saw 1,104 canoes and kayaks forming a giant raft on Fourth Lake near Arrowhead Park. This event was repeated on September 24, 2011 setting a new Guinness World Record with 1902 canoes, kayaks and guide boats, raising over \$90,000 for the same cause. Inlet's larger lakes are frequented by motor boaters for a variety of activities, including water skiing, tubing, fishing, and sightseeing. **Sailing** is also enjoyed along the lakes of the Fulton Chain. New York State maintains free boat launches at Fourth and Seventh Lakes while boat access areas are provided at Limekiln and Eighth Lake Campgrounds for campers. A day use fee may be required during the summer season for admittance to these areas.

A myriad of **hiking and biking** trails in Inlet allow the outdoor enthusiast to enjoy the scenery and solitude of the surrounding forests. Fern Park's mountain bike trails, much of the snowmobile trail system, and many trails within the Moose River Recreation Area (MRRA) provide an extensive and varied mountain biking experience. The Black Fly Challenge mountain bike race, the longest

destination race in the Eastern United States, rolls through the MRRA between Inlet and Indian Lake every year in mid-June. The race changes direction every year with the start alternating between the two towns. The TOBIE (Thendara, Old Forge, Big Moose, Inlet and Eagle Bay) Project multiuse trail connects several towns along the Route 28 corridor. The Elaine Townsend Trail connects the sidewalk at Limekiln Lake Road to Drake’s Inn, with plans to extend the trail to the Seventh Lake House.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) manages a large hiking trail system within the town of Inlet. Black Bear Mountain and Rocky Mountain summits offer spectacular views, while Bug Lake/Eagle’s Nest Lake trail and Cascade Lake trail provide great destination hikes. The MRRA contains many trails, including Mitchell Ponds, Rock Dam, Lost Ponds, Icehouse Pond, Helldiver Pond, and Bear Pond. Limekiln Lake and Brown’s Tract State Campgrounds also have trail systems within them. The trails to Shallow Lake and West Mountain emanate from Brown’s Tract. The Old Uncas Road from Eighth Lake Campground makes a nice loop to Mohegan Lake and back to the Seventh Lake Boat Launch. For shorter nature hikes, the Cathedral Pines trail meanders through a stand of old growth white pines. A boardwalk stretches through Ferd’s Bog, off the Uncas Road, where orchids, wildflowers, and a variety of birds and other wildlife can be found. **Bird watching** opportunities abound in the Inlet area with Ferd’s Bog and the MRRA being the most popular destinations.

Many visitors utilize the New York State (NYS) **Campgrounds** at Limekiln, Eighth Lake and Brown’s Tract, while those seeking more primitive recreation utilize the Moose River Recreation Area, Cascade, Seventh, and Bug Lakes. Three Lean-tos are located at both Seventh and Eighth Lake.

**Swimming** is a popular activity during the summer season. A number of swimming areas exist on the shores of Inlet’s many lakes. Beaches with lifeguards are found at Arrowhead Park as well as all the State campgrounds. The Inlet Youth Commission offers youth swimming programs at Arrowhead Park during July and August.

Inlet is home to one stable that offers **horseback riding** ranging from trail rides to overnight and weekend excursions. One **seaplane base**, on Seventh Lake, offers charter service and popular sightseeing trips. The Inlet Golf Club is an 18-hole, championship resort **golf course** adjacent to Sixth Lake. The golf course has a long tradition, and has been totally renovated to provide visitors with a superb layout and well-manicured conditions. Bottle Brook and the surrounding mountains offer many different views and all add to the pleasure of the golfer’s experience. Expect to see a multitude of wildlife.

**FALL** is arguably the most beautiful season in the Adirondacks. Many visit the area to enjoy the colorful **fall foliage**. Those who come to the area for outdoor activities find solitude easier to attain and the absence of bugs to be a pleasant surprise. The crisp, sunny days are perfect for hiking, paddling, or almost any outdoor activity. Fall also brings **hunting season**. Early bear season begins mid to late September. Primitive hunting season for deer and black bear follows. Regular season for bear and deer begins in late October and continues until the first week in December. The region is well known for its abundance of game and draws hunters from all over the northeast. The Moose River Recreation Area is a popular destination for big game hunters. The fall small game seasons begin in mid-September and run to as long as March, according to species. Rabbit, ruffed grouse, turkey, fox, coyote, bobcat are all among the many small game seasons permitted in the area.

Autumn also is the stage for some special events in the Inlet area. The Adirondack Canoe Classic or “90 Miler,” as paddlers know it, is held the first weekend after Labor Day. Starting at Old Forge Pond, the various classes of canoe, guide boat and kayak racers follow the Fulton Chain through Inlet along the Adirondack Passage in a three-day paddling marathon to end at Lake Flower in the Saranac Lake Region. It is a spectacular scene to witness the throng of watercraft as they make their way through the lakes, rivers, and various carries along the route.

Inlet’s Fall Festival is held the third weekend of September at Fern Park. The two-day event offers art, crafts, and antiques, as well as music, food, children’s activities and demonstrations.

**WINTER** is the second largest tourist season in the Inlet area. Snow brings the snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, snowshoers, ice skaters, ice fishermen, and those who just enjoy the beauty of the winter vista. **Downhill skiers** can enjoy the slopes at nearby McCauley Mountain, Big Tupper Ski Area, and Gore Mountain.

The Central Adirondack region, along with the Tug Hill Plateau, is widely recognized as one of the premier **snowmobiling** destinations in the United States. Thousands of miles of interconnecting trails comprise one of the most extensive snowmobiling networks in the Eastern U.S. The groomed and patrolled trails of the Inlet/Old Forge area are consistently ranked among the best in the country by top snowmobiling magazines.

The Town of Inlet grooms forty-four miles of trails, of which approximately half are on private property with the remainder on Town and State land. To the north, trails lead to Eagle Bay, Big Moose, Stillwater and beyond. Old Forge and Tug Hill trails lie to the west. Trails heading north from Raquette Lake flow past

Tupper Lake all the way to the St. Lawrence. All these places are accessible from Inlet but certainly the most popular destination is a local one – the Moose River Recreation Area. The Towns of Inlet and Indian Lake share grooming of the trail between the Limekiln and Cedar River gates.

The Inlet-based Barnstormer’s Snowmobile Club promotes safety and family snowmobiling by sponsoring safety programs, charitable fund-raisers, family picnics in the Moose River Recreation Area, and other social events. A vintage snowmobile race was introduced in 2000 and the Barnstormers continue their efforts to recover New York State fuel tax revenues and re-distribute these monies to local rescue organizations toward the purchase of snow rescue equipment.

The Town of Inlet grooms an extensive **cross-country ski** trail system at Fern Park, Inlet Golf Course, and Limekiln Lake State Campground. There is a 3.5-mile set track for classical skiing of all levels, as well as a wide lane for skate skiing the Inlet Golf Course. For those seeking a more varied and wooded skiing experience, the Fern Park network contains beginner to expert trails with scenic views atop Fern Mountain. From classical to backcountry skiing, the Fern Park Trails have something for everyone. The Limekiln Lake trail system traverses the State campground along the lakeshore. These trails also connect with a Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) trail system off of Limekiln Road and can be reached via the Fern Park system.

DEC designated trails can be found at Black Bear Mountain, Cascade Lake and Moss Lake (in the adjacent town of Webb). The Black Bear Mountain ski trail, accessed from a trailhead behind the phone company building, stops short of the summit as it converges with a hiking trail. Cascade Lake, a 5.8-mile loop, and Moss Lake, a 3-mile loop, are accessed from Big Moose Road, just north of Eagle Bay. Both are very popular cross-country ski destinations for the intermediate skier.

The Black Bear Mountain hiking trails, from both Rocky Point and Uncas Road, make a perfect **snowshoeing** network to the summit, which affords a spectacular view of the surrounding area. Fern Park also offers ideal terrain for the snowshoer, particularly the back trails which are generally not groomed and seldom are utilized by anyone but the true backcountry skier. Snowshoers can find ample opportunities as well in Limekiln State Campground, Brown’s Tract Ponds area on Uncas Road, nearby Windfall Pond and Queer Lake (Town of Webb), which are located just north of Cascade Lake on Big Moose Road, or upon virtually any state lands within the Town of Inlet.

**Ice skating** and **sledding** are available at Fern Park. Fern Park Pavilion offers enclosed skating, restrooms and a warming room and is open to the public daily from 9:00 AM to 10:00 PM, weather permitting.

Inlet is active throughout the winter months with a variety of community events produced by a host of local organizations, clubs and businesses. One community event is Inlet's Frozen Fire & Lights, which replaced Winterfest. Activities during Inlet's Frozen Fire & Ice include ice-skating, cross-country skiing & sledding during the day with evening entertainment featuring fireworks and a community bonfire. The Adirondack Bank Sled Dog Races began in 2007 and this event continued for three years. With the help of the New England Sled Dog Club, the Inlet Area Business Association was able to bring the excitement of sled dog racing back to Inlet, with hope that it may again return. The races are held on cross-country ski trails behind Murdock Trucking behind Fern Park.

## **Social, Cultural and Educational Resources**

The various churches of Inlet provide year round residents, seasonal residents, and visitors not only a place of worship, but also a sense of community and social identity. Inlet offers places of worship for three different denominations, including the Catholic faith at **St. Anthony's Church**, the Presbyterian faith at the **Church of the Lakes** (summer months), and a biblical-based Protestant faith at the **Inlet Community Church**.

The **Inlet Public Library** moved to the center of town in the late 1990's. This larger structure provides an improved environment for reading comfort, book displays, and Internet services for the public.

The **Senior Citizen's facility** was added to the Town Hall Building in 1994-1995 to accommodate the needs of Inlet's senior population. The center currently provides luncheons and other social activities for the area residents and visitors. The center also hosts a weekly respite program sponsored by the Resource Center for Independent Living (RCIL) out of Utica, NY.

The first **Adirondack Park Community Information Center (ACIC)** was completed in 2000 with the purpose of "providing information among institutions, organizations, residents, and visitors in order to foster greater understanding and appreciation for the stewardship of the Adirondack Park's natural resources and human settlements." The ACIC gives historical and practical information to the visitor about the immediate community as well as the Adirondack Park. Inlet's ACIC also serves as the major information resource for Inlet's waterways. This was discontinued in 2003.

The **Town of Inlet Information & Publicity Department**, housed in the Town Hall Building adjacent to Arrowhead Park, serves to promote the hamlet of Inlet and surrounding area, its businesses, social, cultural, and recreational resources to the visitor. It provides information regarding local events, programs, and services through the publication of calendar and event schedules, and sponsors many local events throughout the year that attract visitors to the area.

The **Fulton Chain of Lakes Performing Arts Council, Inc.** was formed in 1998 in order to bring the Syracuse Symphony to Inlet for an annual summer event. The first concert in 1999 at Arrowhead Park was such a huge success that additional space and an afternoon youth concert were added during 2000. In 2011 the Rochester Philharmonic replaced Syracuse for various reasons. The community looks forward to the orchestra's appearance as an annual event.

The **Inlet Youth Commission** offers a variety of programs to the youth of the area. With a summer program offering baseball, softball, swimming, tennis and golf lessons and excursions such as to New York City to see the Rockettes or to watch the New York Yankees. They also have offered ice hockey lessons and other activities during the winter and make sure every child in the area receives a gift from Santa. In October they host a Halloween Party and have hosted a Haunted House.

The **American Legion and Auxiliary Leonard-Mick-Roberts Post #1402** was established in 1946. The post includes members from both the Towns of Inlet and Raquette Lake. In 1956 they purchased a used Cadillac ambulance and housed it in their garage to be used for emergencies. They ran this service until the early 1990's when the Volunteer Ambulance Squad was formed. The legion and the auxiliary send one boy and one girl from the area to Boys State and Girls State every year. They are hosts to the Hamilton County Memorial Day Parade every three years. They participate in memorial services for departed comrades. And they are always willing to participate in programs that will benefit the area especially those involving area youth.

On June 20, 2009 a group of interested individuals held the inaugural annual membership meeting of what they established the **Inlet Historical Society**. They elected officers and approved bylaws. The society was granted a provisional five-year charter by the New York State Education Department Board of Regents on January 12, 2010. On May 5, 2012 they met for the first time in their own building and a transfer of property was made to them of this building, which had been donated by the American Legion Post #1402. The purpose of this society is to record and preserve historical information for the public by collecting, cataloging, storing and displaying historical artifacts, pictures, documents, books and other historical items relative to the Town of Inlet and surrounding Adirondack communities.

## **Assets**

### **New York State Owned:**

#### Campgrounds

Brown's Tract

Eighth Lake

Limekiln

#### Canoe Carries

Eighth Lake / Brown's Tract

Fifth Lake / Sixth Lake

Seventh Lake / Eighth Lake

#### Hiking Trails

#### Moose River Recreation Area

#### Public Boat Launches

Eighth Lake (2)

Fourth Lake

Limekiln Lake

Seventh Lake

#### State Land for Other Recreation

### **New York State Agencies:**

Adirondack Park Agency

Department of Environmental Conservation

Department of Health

Department of Transportation

### **Inlet Organizations:**

Alcoholics Anonymous

American Legion (& Auxiliary) Post #1402

#### Churches

Church of the Lakes

Inlet Community Church

St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church

Fourth Lake Association

Fulton Chain of Lakes Improvement Association

Fulton Chain of Lakes Performing Arts Council, Inc.

Inlet Area Business Association

Inlet Barnstormers Snowmobile Club, Inc.

Inlet Fire Ladies

Inlet Historical Society

Inlet Volunteer Emergency Services, Inc.

Limekiln Lake Association

Parents & Teachers as Partners

Sixth and Seventh Lake Association

Volunteer Trail Group (Central Adirondack Trailblazers)

Young at Heart

Youth Commission

**Inlet Owned / Maintained:**

Arrowhead Park Complex

- Boat Docks (Boardwalk)

- Lighted Baseball Field

- Picnic Area

- Playground

- Public Beach

- Public Parking

- Public Restrooms

- Rental Cottages

- Tennis Courts

Elaine Townsend Trail

Fern Park Complex (Recreation Area)

- Baseball Field

- Basketball Court

- Pavilion (Ice Rink, Basketball Court, Warming Hut, Year-round Public Restrooms)

- Public Parking

Sledding Hill  
Playground/Fitness Equipment  
Trails - Hike, Mountain Bike, Cross-Country Ski, Snowshoe (5K Lighted)  
Common Planting  
Cross-Country Ski Trails  
Hiking Trails  
Mountain Biking Trails  
Pedestrian Walkways  
Seasonal Displays on Street Poles  
Seating Areas  
Sidewalks  
Snowmobile Trail System  
T.O.B.I.E. (Thendara, Old Forge, Big Moose, Inlet, Eagle Bay) Project  
Transfer Station

**Other Inlet Recreation Areas:**

Horseback Riding Stable  
Inlet Golf Course (Also used for Cross Country Ski Trails)  
Putterfingers Mini Golf  
Waterways - Lakes, Creeks, Streams Used for Swimming, Boating, Fishing

**Inlet (Area\*) Services:**

Central Adirondack Association\*  
Drug Store\*  
Hamilton County Tourism\*  
HASCA-Community Transportation Service\*  
Houses of Worship  
Inlet Area Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (dormant as of October 1, 2002)  
Inlet Information Office  
Inlet Public Library  
Inlet Police  
Inlet Post Office

Inlet Public School

Inlet Volunteer Ambulance Squad

Inlet Volunteer Emergency Services, Inc.

Inlet Volunteer Hose Co.

inletny.com

Old Forge Professional Offices, Health Center\*

Workforce Investment Board\*

**Inlet Infrastructure:**

BTI Program

Cable (Most Areas)

Cellular Phone (Some Areas)

Codes & Zoning Enforcement Officer

Electric (Most Areas)

Existing Plans/Ordinances

    Land Use

    Zoning

    Trailer

Highway

Internet

Parks & Recreation

Personnel & Departments

    Planning Board

    Town Comprehensive Master Plan Special Board

    Zoning Board of Appeals

Phone

Public Parking

Public Restrooms

Roads

Satellite Television

Wastewater Treatment Facility

**Natural Resources:**

Bodies of Water

Clean Air

Clean Water

Forests

Mountains

Peacefulness

Wildlife

**Major Tourism Assets:**

Apartments

Bed & Breakfasts

Cottage Colonies

Cottages

Hotel/Resort

Motels

Public Restrooms

Public Showers at State Campgrounds

Town Homes

**Other Inlet (Area\*) Services:**

Auto Repairs\*

Bakery

Barber

Bike Sales, Rentals & Services

Book Store

Builders

Contractors

Cross-country Skis, Snowshoes & Ice Skates, Sales, Rentals & Services

Florist

Gas Station

General Store

Gift Shops

Grocery Store

Hair Salons\*

Hardware Store

Insurance Company

Kennel & Pet Grooming

Laundromat\*

Law Offices

Local Newspapers\*

Lumber Yard

Marinas

Motorized & Non-motorized Boat Sales, Rentals & Services

Movie Theater\*

Outdoor Gear & Apparel Store

Outfitters, Licensed Guides

Photography

Real Estate Agency

Restaurants

Sea Plane Services

Snowmobile Sales\*

Snowmobile Rentals & Services

Video Rentals

Wine & Liquor Store

\*Located in neighboring towns

## FOCUS AREAS FOR PLANNED CHANGE

### Preferred Character and Image of Inlet

1. GOAL: Improve the image and appearance of Inlet while retaining its unique character. Ensure that Inlet remains a good and safe place to live and work with the opportunity for a high quality of life.

- a. ACTION ITEM: Develop Architectural/Maintenance Guidelines, based on the 1998 Inlet Property Owner/Registered Voter Survey Results and the 2002 Visual Preference Survey Results and make them available to property owners as a guide for property improvement and maintenance.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Planning Board
- Inlet Codes & Zoning Enforcement Officer

*The 1998 Property Owner/Registered Voter Survey Results are available in Inlet Information Office.*

- b. ACTION ITEM: The Town of Inlet should identify and maintain a list of financial resources available to property owners with financial need to repair, refurbish or rehabilitate their properties through the town newsletter.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Town Clerk
- Inlet Information Office

*Currently the Inlet Information Office and the Inlet Town Clerk's Office will pass this information on as it comes to them, but they do not always seek out this information.*

- c. ACTION ITEM: Pursue grants and/or special funding to assist property owners who have property in need of repairs, refurbishing and rehabilitation.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Hamilton County
- Town of Inlet

*Currently the Inlet Information Office and the Inlet Town Clerk's Office will pass this information on as it comes to them, but they do not always seek out this information.*

- d. ACTION ITEM: Establish incentives to induce property owners to maintain their property such as beautification awards and public recognition.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Information Office
- Central Adirondack Association

*The Inlet Information Office gives public recognition to businesses who make physical improvements to their businesses by noting so in the quarterly newsletter.*

- e. ACTION ITEM: Make property owners aware of Local Law 1976 #1 that provides for the removal or repair of buildings in business, industrial and residential sections that, from any cause, may now be or shall hereafter become dangerous, unsightly or unsafe to the public and enforce this law.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Town of Inlet Codes & Zoning Enforcement Officer

*The Inlet Codes Department has started and will continue this – also refer to State Law Property Maintenance.*

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: Some buildings/properties in the Town of Inlet will remain unattractive or others may degenerate with peeling paint, rusty roofs, unfinished siding and junk in yards leaving a negative visual image.

- f. ACTION ITEM: Request Utility Companies to place their utilities underground when future major upgrades or changes are needed.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Town Board
- Public service providers
- National Grid
- Time Warner (cable television service)
- Frontier (telephone service)

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: Aboveground wires and cables will remain unsightly and vulnerable to damage from falling trees and being struck by motor vehicles.

- g. ACTION ITEM: Make business owners aware of unsightly signs through the Visual Preferencing Survey by viewing signs as visitors see them.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Planning Board

*The Inlet Planning Board worked on a Sign Ordinance that was adopted by the Town Board on June 14, 2005.*

- h. ACTION ITEM: Revise the Zoning Ordinance to specify standards for signage. Consider adopting the Adirondack Park Agency sign guidelines.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Planning Board

*The Inlet Planning Board worked on a Sign Ordinance that was adopted by the Town Board on June 14, 2005.*

- i. ACTION ITEM: Establish guidelines for signage and sign placement based on the Results of the Visual Preferencing Survey showing a range of positive sign examples.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Planning Board

*The Inlet Planning Board worked on a Sign Ordinance that was adopted by the Town Board on June 14, 2005.*

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: Some signs will remain unattractive and a continued proliferation of signs will pose visual clutter.

- j. ACTION ITEM: Provide pedestrian lighting along all Town sidewalks, based on the results of the Visual Preferencing Survey.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Highway Department
- Inlet Parks Department
- Inlet Town Board

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: Some pedestrian areas along sidewalks will continue to have dark areas making it difficult to navigate at night.

2. GOAL: Keep Inlet clean and trash free.

- a. ACTION ITEM: Educate the public through signage, publications, etc. to take responsibility for proper disposal of trash.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department
- Inlet Highway Department
- Inlet Information Office

*The Inlet Information Office and the Inlet Highway/Parks Department have been doing this and will continue to do so.*

- b. ACTION ITEM: Place more easily identifiable, easy to use trash receptacles at convenient locations in the Town, at boat launches, parking areas, trailheads and exits from camping areas.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department
- Inlet Highway Department

*The Inlet Parks Department has researched this. New cans (bear proof) are very expensive. They continue to work on better signage so people will know the current receptacles are trash cans.*

- c. ACTION ITEM: Empty trash receptacles regularly to prevent overflow and minimize attracting animals.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department
- Inlet Highway Department

*The Inlet Parks Department is currently taking care of this and will continue to do so.*

- d. ACTION ITEM: Enact enforce litter laws.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Police Department
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

*The Inlet Police Department continues to enforce these laws.*

- e. ACTION ITEM: Establish frequent clean-up efforts; utilize Town of Inlet employees and citizen volunteers. Ex. “Adopt A Highway” Program.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department
- Inlet Highway Department
- Inlet Information Office

*The Inlet Information Office continues to hold Community Pride Day in May that encourages locals to clean up the streets and do small projects around town. The Inlet Volunteer Fire Department adopts a stretch of Route 28 from the Fourth Lake boat*

*launch to the county line. The Town of Inlet & the Inlet Highway/Parks Department along with the Inlet Volunteer Emergency Services all work with the Sheriff's Departments to arrange for prisoners come to Inlet to help clean up the town.*

- f. ACTION ITEM: Keep trash receptacles at strategic locations year round.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department
- Inlet Highway Department

- g. ACTION ITEM: Place signs at parking lots, trailheads and boat launches to indicate where and when to dispose of trash.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department
- Inlet Highway Department

- h. ACTION ITEM: Place signs at strategic locations to direct visitors to the Town Transfer station for trash disposal and hours of operation.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department
- Inlet Highway Department
- Inlet Transfer Station Department

*f. g. & h. These have been done and will continue to be done.*

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: The streets, highways and trails in the Town of Inlet will continue to be littered with trash.

## **Economic Development and Town Revitalization**

1. GOAL: Enhance the tax base and economy of Inlet, improve on its assets and preserve the surrounding environment.

- a. ACTION ITEM: Develop and maintain an inventory of commercial property designating the “Highest and Best Use” options for development or re-development.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Information Office
- Inlet Planning Board
- Assessor
- Codes

*The Town of Inlet will work on this – there could be a list in Inlet Information Office and Inlet Assessor’s Office of every property for sale.*

- b. ACTION ITEM: Advertise to find entrepreneurs to start new businesses identified as needed to improve the business mix.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Information Office
- Adirondack Economic Development Corporation

- c. ACTION ITEM: Inventory existing visitor attractions and brainstorm new attractions that could enhance the local economy during low visitor periods.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Information Office

- d. ACTION ITEM: Develop a new or revised marketing strategy to more effectively promote the area and the unique things Inlet has to offer visitors. Market to major metropolitan areas as a less crowded, pristine place to visit.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Information Office

*This is currently being done and will continue to be done.*

- e. ACTION ITEM: Rejuvenate the Inlet Area Chamber of Commerce, Inc.

- Inlet Area Business Association has taken the place of the Inlet Area Chamber of Commerce, Inc. and works closely with the Inlet Information Office.

f. ACTION ITEM: Establish a full service restaurant downtown.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Private Entity

*The Woods Inn opened in June of 2004 and Screamen Eagle opened Matt's Draft House in August of 2006.*

g. ACTION ITEM: Research and create additional markets for winter, spring and fall businesses.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Information Office

*There is still a need to find non-weather dependent activities.*

h. ACTION ITEM: Seek grants/funds to winterize and upgrade commercial properties.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Information Office

*CAP-21 has helped the Town of Inlet a great deal by finding and writing grants for many projects, and we hope will continue to do so. The Information Office will certainly share with the Town Board any grants or funding opportunities that they may come across.*

i. ACTION ITEM: Seek assistance from the Workforce Investment Board of Hamilton County to conduct a seminar for local businesses on teamwork, employee training and employee recruitment.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Hamilton County Workforce Investment Board
- Inlet Businesses
- Inlet Area Business Association

j. ACTION ITEM: Identify grant money opportunities for funding.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Information Office
- Inlet Town Clerk
- CAP-21

*CAP-21 has helped the Town of Inlet a great deal by finding and writing grants for many projects, and we hope will continue to do so. The Information Office and the Inlet Town Clerk will certainly share with the Town Board any grant money opportunities for funding that they may come across.*

- k. ACTION ITEM: Identify Economic Development Programs for funding.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Information Office
- CAP-21
- Adirondack Economic Development Center

- l. ACTION ITEM: Offer tax incentives for repair/renovation of commercial property, if feasible.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Town of Inlet
- Inlet Assessor
- Inlet Planning Board

- m. ACTION ITEM: Maintain an inventory of developable/re-developable Commercial properties considering highest and best use potential.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Information Office
- Inlet Assessor

- n. ACTION ITEM: Encourage the startup of an employee agency to hire, train and provide benefits for employees leased out to area businesses.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Area Business Association
- Hamilton County Workforce Investment Board

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: The Inlet economy will stagnate and some commercial properties will continue to be underutilized, underdeveloped and poorly maintained.

## **Zoning, Land Use and Development and Preservation of Historic Sites and Buildings**

1. GOAL: Use Inlet Zoning and Adirondack Park Agency Land Use Classifications to protect property values, improve the maintenance and appearance of properties, allow for a mix of housing options including affordable housing, ensure the peace and safety of residential areas, control the location, type and extent of commercial development. This will achieve a balance of commercial uses while not restricting residential living. Building Codes will ensure safe and appropriate development.
  - a. ACTION ITEM: Rewrite the zoning ordinance to establish a set of zoning districts with permissible property uses in support of desirable development and/or redevelopment and to protect community property owners from unwanted and/or undesirable development.

### RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Planning Board

*The Inlet Planning Board completed a comprehensive review of the zoning ordinance and an updated zoning ordinance was approved and adopted by the Inlet Town Board on September 10, 2013.*

- b. ACTION ITEM: Change zoning districts to fit the principle existing property uses to protect property values and property owners to permit desirable development and/or re-development as follows:
  1. Change R-1 to C along the West side of the Limekiln Rd. from Bill Payne's to Lamphear's to the depth of the existing lots linking the present sections zoned C along the West side of the Limekiln Rd. *Done*
  2. Change C to R-R on the East side of the Limekiln Rd. across from the entrance to the Limekiln Campground removing a spot zone.
  3. Change R-R to C on the East side of Rt. 28 from the State land South to the present section zoned C-2 within the area classified Hamlet.
  4. Consider changing other sections to Commercial within the area classified Hamlet.
  5. Change C to R-1 along the North and South sides of the Uncas Rd. from the horse stables east.
  6. Consider changing other areas to Residential.

### RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Planning Board

2.-6. are still being worked on.

- c. ACTION ITEM: Consider applying to the Adirondack Park Agency for Land Use Plan approval.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Town Board
- Inlet Planning Board

*The Town Board is considering this.*

- d. ACTION ITEM: Determine desired changes in APA Land Use Classifications to be compatible with zoning districts and file a request for amendments to the official Adirondack Park Land Use and Development Plan Map with the APA.
1. Change Seventh Lake Public Boat Launch from Wild Forest to Intensive Use. *This has been done.*
  2. Change Low Intensity to Hamlet along the North side of Rt. 28 from existing Hamlet classification to Heroux's across from the EZ Mart.
  3. Change Rural Use to Hamlet along both sides of the Limekiln Rd. from existing Hamlet classification to past Levi Lumber to the Southerly boundary of the Commercial zoning.
  4. Change Moderate and Low Intensity to Hamlet from the Herkimer County line in Eagle Bay East to encompass the National Grid substation, Kliffside Kennel, the horse stables, the North Star Motel and North Star Rd. on the North side of Rt. 28 and Clarks Marina on the South side of Rt. 28 West to the Herkimer County line.
  5. Change all of the remaining rural use to moderate intensity from the above proposed hamlet northeast.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Adirondack Park Agency

*2.-5. are in the process of being worked on.*

- e. ACTION ITEM: Inventory the existing non-conforming use properties.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Codes & Zoning Enforcement Officer

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: Property owners will not be adequately protected from unwanted or undesirable development and/or allow desirable uses. Non-conforming uses will continue and may grow, defeating the purpose of zoning.

2. GOAL: Identify and preserve historic sites and buildings in Inlet.

- a. ACTION ITEM: Gather data on old buildings and establish a catalog of historic sites and buildings with detailed descriptions giving locations, existing and former uses, date built, former owners, etc.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Town Historian
- Inlet Historical Society

*This is in the very early stages of being worked on.*

- b. ACTION ITEM: Establish a Historical Preservation Organization composed of Planning Board members, Town Historian and Inlet citizens interested in Town of Inlet history.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Historical Society

*The Inlet Historical Society was formed in 2009. In 2011 they acquired a building and have been collecting historical artifacts and documents pertaining to the Inlet area.*

- c. ACTION ITEM: Establish a Historical Preservation Fund and/or other sources of funds to finance preservation of historic properties.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Town Historian
- Inlet Historical Society

- d. ACTION ITEM: Consider historical designation for sites and buildings after creating an inventory of historic sites and buildings.

ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- Inlet Town Historian
- Inlet Historical Society

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: Historic sites, buildings, artifacts, pictures and documents may be lost due to demolition, destruction and decay.

## Infrastructure and Services

1. GOAL: Provide the necessary infrastructure and services to the Inlet property owners, residents and visitors in a cost-effective manner.
  - a. ACTION ITEM: Identify all problem properties with subsurface contamination, brownfield and wastewater problems, inadequate septic and well separation, and/or insufficient setbacks from bodies of water. Bodies of water may include but are not limited to lakes, ponds, streams, wetlands, etc.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Codes & Zoning Office

*This is ongoing.*

- b. ACTION ITEM: Create water and/or sewer districts to serve properties with wastewater problems and/or inadequate septic and well separation problems.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Town Board

*A sewer district was formed for an area in downtown Inlet in May of 2009 and went into service in June of 2013.*

- c. ACTION ITEM: Retain an engineering firm to design water and/or sewage systems.

Note: See Appendix for “Town of Inlet Request for Proposals for Engineering Services Planning for Wastewater Collection and Treatment Facility”

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Town Board

- d. ACTION ITEM: Develop funding to finance the building of water and/or sewer infrastructure.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Town Board

- e. ACTION ITEM: Build and operate the water and/or sewage systems.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Town Board.

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: Permits to expand businesses will continue to be denied by the State of New York Department of Health because there is not sufficient space in the hamlet area to allow for expansion of septic systems, due to close proximity of water supplies. Residents may be at risk of disease from drinking water from contaminated wells due to septic systems that are too close to wells and of unsatisfactory condition. Treatment of these contaminated wells such as filtering and disinfecting the water to remove or destroy microbiological contaminants is not practical or economical for most residents, leaving no alternatives. Seventh, Sixth, Fifth and Fourth Lakes are gradually being contaminated with Fourth Lake already showing evidence of deteriorating water quality putting swimmers' health at risk.

- f. ACTION ITEM: Partner with adjacent communities to develop continuous sidewalk network.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Town of Inlet

*The TOBIE Path connects Thendara, Old Forge, Big Moose and Inlet. Including Raquette Lake through Uncas Road would make the path TOBIER.*

- g. ACTION ITEM: Complete the sidewalk network.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Highway Department
- Inlet Town Board

*The Town of Inlet and the Inlet Highway Department are still working on funding to complete the Elaine Townsend Memorial Trail, which would add sidewalk from Limekiln Road towards Seventh Lake. Thanks to a grant from the Laura Musser Fund, a portion of this trail was completed from Limekiln Road to Drake's Inn in 2012.*

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: Pedestrians will continue to encounter a safety hazard by having to walk on the shoulder of the road in parts of Inlet.

- 2. GOAL: Ensure that Emergency Services will have the capability and resources to respond to and serve all emergency calls.

- a. ACTION ITEM: Hire full time and part time emergency services personnel in cooperation with surrounding communities.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Volunteer Emergency Services, Inc.

*The Inlet Volunteer Emergency Services has hires a paramedic during the busy seasons.*

- b. ACTION ITEM: Compensate emergency services volunteers on a per call basis.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Volunteer Emergency Services, Inc.

- c. ACTION ITEM: Recruit and train new emergency services volunteers.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Volunteer Emergency Services, Inc.

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: Diminished ability of emergency services to respond to emergency calls, putting people’s lives in jeopardy.

3. GOAL: Ensure that there are adequate public restrooms available year round and that they are easily identified.

- a. ACTION ITEM: Continue to identify the restrooms at Fern Park and at Inlet Town Hall as open in the winter.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department

- b. ACTION ITEM: Maintain signs directing the public to restrooms.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: The public will continue to be unaware of the existence of public restrooms and will be inconvenienced by limited access to year round public restrooms.

4. GOAL: Maximize the salvage and recycling of waste products.

- a. ACTION ITEM: Maintain contracts with vendors to purchase these potentially recyclable waste products and explore new opportunities.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Town Board
- Inlet Transfer Station Department

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: Many potentially recyclable waste products will continue to be disposed of as trash adding to landfill volumes and unnecessary depletion of natural resources.

5. GOAL: Maintain collection capability and/or information to dispose of hazardous products.
  - a. ACTION ITEM: Maintain contracts with vendors to receive and dispose of hazardous waste products dropped off at the transfer station either on designated days or on any day with storage provided between vendor visits.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Town Board
- Inlet Transfer Station Department

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: Inlet residents will continue to have no place to dispose of certain “hazardous waste”.

6. GOAL: Maintain reliable phone, high-speed internet access and digital television and pursue better communication with reliable wireless phone service for emergency communications.
  - a. ACTION ITEM: Continue to pursue wireless and fiber optic options by encouraging companies to build cell phone towers/transmitter – receivers in the Town of Inlet.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Town of Inlet
- Telecommunications Companies

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: Internet users will continue to have periodic delays in getting access, will continue to get annoying disconnects, and will have slow data transmission. Cell phone users will not have services in most areas of the town and emergency calls cannot be made from remote areas.

7. GOAL: Ensure adequate day care services for children.
  - a. ACTION ITEM: Encourage the establishment of childcare facilities in Inlet.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Private Entity
- Town of Inlet

**POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION:** Parents will continue to be limited in their ability to work and/or pursue other out of home activities.

## Transportation and Parking

1. GOAL: Ensure adequate affordable public transportation to meet the needs of those who do not drive and to alleviate congestion and pollution during the high traffic periods.

- a. ACTION ITEM: Establish a public shuttle service.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Private Entity
- Transit Authority

- b. ACTION ITEM: Encourage the startup of a taxi service/car service.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Private Entity
- Transit Authority

*With funds made available through the Stuart Foundation, the SS Minnow is able to provide transportation Friday and Saturday evenings during July and August.*

- c. ACTION ITEM: Continue to publicize availability of the Community Transportation Services shuttle service to Utica on designated days and publicize the need for drivers.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Community Transportation Services
- Hamilton County
- Inlet Information Office
- Central Adirondack Association

- d. ACTION ITEM: Encourage the expansion of rail service for passengers and freight with an emphasis on logging.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Adirondack Scenic Railroad
- Town of Inlet
- Hamilton County
- Northern Forest Alliance

- e. ACTION ITEM: Encourage the startup of a water taxi service.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Local Marina(s)
- Private Entity

**POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION:** A lack of public transportation will continue to impede access to medical services and shopping for residents who do not drive. Drivers will continue to be frustrated with slow traffic at peak traffic periods and visitors may not return to Inlet. Unnecessary air pollution will continue.

2. **GOAL:** Ensure adequate off street parking in and near the Hamlet of Inlet for visitors with automobiles, recreational vehicles (RVs) and trailers and loading zones to keep delivery trucks from obstructing traffic.
  - a. **ACTION ITEM:** Designate parking for RVs and vehicles pulling trailers at Fern Park and Rocky Mountain and run shuttle service to and from these locations.

**RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Inlet Planning Board
- Town of Inlet
- Inlet Parks Department
- Inlet Highway Department

*The Inlet Information Office has added Fern Park as a location for short-term RV Parking on their downtown map, with hopes that a sign at Fern Park can be added in the future.*

- b. **ACTION ITEM:** Designate loading zones for deliveries.

**RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:**

- Private Businesses
- Town of Inlet

*Police & Highway will address this problem on South Shore Road corner.*

- c. **ACTION ITEM:** Town of Inlet purchase property and create parking lots for public parking.
      - d. **ACTION ITEM:** Town of Inlet should establish contracts with the Churches to fully utilize church parking lots for public parking when not in use by the church congregations . There is currently an agreement with St. Anthony's.
      - e. **ACTION ITEM:** Town of Inlet should establish contracts with local businesses to create off-street public parking lots.

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: A lack of public parking will continue to frustrate visitors, remain a safety hazard and harm the local economy.

## Recreation

1. GOAL: Ensure that hiking, cross-country ski, snowshoe, bike and snowmobile trails are well maintained for ease of use and safety and are well marked for easy identification and navigation.
  - a. ACTION ITEM: Continue to utilize local volunteer groups, ex. Inlet Barnstormers Snowmobile Club, for regular trail maintenance.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department

- b. ACTION ITEM: Encourage the State of New York to continue funding driven by Unit Management Plans (UMPs) for trail improvement, stewardship and maintenance.
  - c. ACTION ITEM: Set up donation boxes at Fern Park & Inlet Town Hall to be administered by the Town of Inlet.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department

- d. ACTION ITEM: Continue to budget for use of Town of Inlet employees for more trail maintenance.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department
- Inlet Highway Department

- e. ACTION ITEM: Continue to work with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and Parks & Recreation employees for additional trail maintenance.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Town of Inlet
- Inlet Residents
- Inlet Highway Department
- Hamilton County Highway Department
- Trail Clubs

- f. ACTION ITEM: Continue to solicit local schools, colleges, clubs & other communities to provide volunteers for trail maintenance.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Information Office

- g. ACTION ITEM: Promote the use of underutilized trails as an alternative to high use trails.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Information Office

- h. ACTION ITEM: Reconstruct/repair heavy use areas on trails/roads.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department
- NYS DEC Department of Lands and Forests
- NYS Department of Transportation

- i. ACTION ITEM: Segregate conflicting/competing uses of trails, ex. Cross-country ski vs. snowshoe or motorized vs. non-motorized.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department
- NYS DEC Department of Lands and Forests

- j. ACTION ITEM: Redesign and/or reroute to improve the safety of problem areas on all trails and roads.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department
- NYS DEC Department of Lands and Forests
- NYS Department of Transportation

- k. ACTION ITEM: Utilize the expertise of Forestry & Ranger schools and clubs for trail redesign.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Town of Inlet
- Inlet Parks Department

- l. ACTION ITEM: Set up a method to identify trail sections needing more attention with notification to maintenance crews.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department
- NYS DEC Department of Lands and Forests
- Volunteers

- m. ACTION ITEM: Continue to schedule consistent grooming hours for trails considering weather and trail conditions.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department

- n. ACTION ITEM: Seek and secure grants for trail maintenance.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- CAP-21
- Inlet Parks Department
- Inlet Town Board

- o. ACTION ITEM: Identify specific prohibitions/impediments to trail maintenance and develop recommendations for revisions to Park Master Plan through the APA and changes to DEC regulations through DEC. Ex. Maintaining cross-country ski trails via snowmobiles.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Town Board

- p. ACTION ITEM: Continue to work with property owners to get agreement and permission for proper trail maintenance.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Town of Inlet
- Inlet Parks Department
- Inlet Highway Department
- NYS DEC Department of Lands and Forests

- q. ACTION ITEM: Continue to work on developing a schedule for routine trail maintenance on all trails.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department
- Inlet Highway Department
- NYS DEC Department of Lands & Forests

- r. ACTION ITEM: Set up a crisis management plan with funding for major natural disasters affecting trail systems and other public recreational facilities.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Hamilton County Emergency Management
- NYS DEC

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: People who hike, backpack, mountain bike, snowshoe, cross-country ski or snowmobile will continue to encounter obstacles on trails and confusion at trailheads and intersections discouraging them from recreating in Inlet, thus hurting the local economy.

2. GOAL: Ensure accessibility and continuity of hike, cross-country ski, snowshoe, bike, and snowmobile trails, and assure that they are routed to maximize safety, that they are routed over public lands where ever possible, long term easements are in place when routed over private lands and adequate parking is provided to include accommodations for handicapped and elderly.

- a. ACTION ITEM: Reroute trails over public land to avoid crossing private property where possible.

*Problem: Public land designation could change – route trails on property lines and work with the property owners.*

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- NYS DEC Department of Lands and Forests
- Town of Inlet

- b. ACTION ITEM: Continue to establish permanent or long-term easements with property owners to route trails over private property where public land is unavailable. Route trails on property lines where available.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- NYS DEC Department of Lands and Forests
- Town of Inlet

*Subdivision Law addresses this.*

- c. ACTION ITEM: Town of Inlet should purchase private property from willing sellers for trail routes where rerouting and/or easements are not an option.
- d. ACTION ITEM: Continue to encourage private property owners, through incentives, recognition and insurance protection, to allow public use of trails over their land.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- New York State
- Town of Inlet

- e. ACTION ITEM: Conduct a study to identify problem areas of access to trails and lakes and acquire land and build parking lots where needed.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Town of Inlet with or without the assistance of a group formed by the Inlet Town Board

- f. ACTION ITEM: Install a floating platform at the Sixth Lake canoe access for periods of low water.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Town of Inlet
- NYS DEC

*Completed Fall 2013.*

- g. ACTION ITEM: Designate canoe and kayak launch/docking area adjacent to swimming area at Arrowhead Beach.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: Trails accessed from or crossing private property may be cut off or be closed. Some trailheads and water access points will continue to be hard to reach and use.

- 3. GOAL: Minimize accidents involving participants of all recreational activities in the Town of Inlet.

- a. ACTION ITEM: Continue to develop, conduct and distribute educational programs to ensure safe and responsible recreation utilizing the proper equipment.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Town of Inlet
- State of New York
- NYS Police Department
- NYS DEC
- NYS Forest Rangers
- Hamilton County Sheriffs Department
- Local Marina(s)
- Local Snowmobile Rentals & Sales Business(es)
- Local Outfitter(s)
- Local Sporting Goods Store(s)
- Inlet Information Office
- Inlet Police Department

- b. ACTION ITEM: Reroute snowmobile trails off roads and sidewalks.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department
- NYS DEC Department of Lands and Forests

- c. ACTION ITEM: Reroute snowmobile trails to minimize the need to cross public roads.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Parks Department
- NYS DEC Department of Lands and Forests

- b. ACTION ITEM: Continue to enforce laws associated with recreational activities.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- i. Inlet Police Department
- ii. NYS Police Department
- iii. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- iv. NYS Forest Rangers
- v. Hamilton County Sheriffs Department

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: Emergency Services will continue to be overloaded responding to an unnecessarily high incidence of recreational accidents and injuries.

4. GOAL: Minimize misuse of recreational resources, noise and offensive behavior of recreationists.

- a. ACTION ITEM: Lobby for additional DEC and other agencies' personnel to educate the public on responsible recreation and to enforce the rules.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Town of Inlet

- b. ACTION ITEM: Review and revise laws to maintain practical and enforceable control over the operation of recreation craft.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Town of Inlet
- New York State

- c. ACTION ITEM: Encourage operators to take responsibility for their actions through clubs, organizations and information media (magazines, newspapers, television, etc.)

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Information Office

- d. ACTION ITEM: Educate the public through signage at boat launches, literature distributed to the public, boater safety courses and involvement of lake associations, clubs and dealers.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Town of Inlet
- Inlet Information Office
- Inlet Parks Department
- Hamilton County Sheriff's Department
- Inlet Barnstormers Snowmobile Club, Inc. and other clubs
- Sixth and Seventh Lake Association and other lake associations

*Inlet Information Office has many brochures with such information.*

- e. ACTION ITEM: Lobby snowmobile and PWC manufacturers and after market to produce only clean and quiet machines and equipment.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Residents

- f. ACTION ITEM: Enhance signage and literature to comprehensively cover rules, courtesy, laws, noise, pollution, occupancy, parking, etc.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Town of Inlet with the assistance of Inlet Parks Department, Inlet Police Department, Inlet Information Office

- g. ACTION ITEM: Enforce laws associated with recreational activities with emphasis on aftermarket modifications.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Police Department
- NYS Police Department
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
- NYS Forest Rangers
- Hamilton County Sheriff's Department

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: The environment will continue to be damaged and littered. People will continue to be annoyed and offended by others exhibiting irresponsible behavior.

## Environment

1. GOAL: Preserve and protect the natural environment from global and local contamination and physical damage.

- a. ACTION ITEM: Request the New York State Department of Transportation to install filters in catch basins.

*In process*

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- New York State Department of Transportation

- b. ACTION ITEM: Encourage responsible use of salt on roads while snowplowing and sanding of roads and explore alternatives to salt.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Highway Department
- New York State Department of Transportation

- c. ACTION ITEM: Lobby State and Federal governments to enact and enforce stricter Clean Air and Water Laws.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Town of Inlet Residents

- d. ACTION ITEM: Encourage the creation of alternate sources of power generation.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Town of Inlet

- e. ACTION ITEM: Strictly enforce Health Department laws.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Inlet Codes & Zoning Officer
- NYS Department of Health

- f. ACTION ITEM: Require boats to be cleaned and cooling systems purged prior to launching. Seaplane bases should be purged of contamination on a frequent basis.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- NYS DEC
- Hamilton County Sheriffs Department

- Aquatic Institute, Paul Smiths
- g. ACTION ITEM: Continue to retain a consultant to conduct a study to confirm sources of invasive plant species and advise on effective prevention/remedies.

RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

- Town of Inlet
- Hamilton County Soil & Water
- Local Lake Associations

POTENTIAL CONSEQUENCES OF INACTION: Lakes, streams and the forest will continue to deteriorate from pollution. ATV use will damage trails, plant life and animal habitat.

## **PUTTING THE PLAN INTO ACTION**

The Focus Areas for Planned Change section of this Town Comprehensive Plan contains Goals, and Action Items and the following State of New York and Town of Inlet government organizations, government departments and non-government organizations have been identified as having responsibility for and the authority to take the necessary action for implementation of the plan.

- Town Board
- Planning Board
- Building Codes & Zoning Office
- Assessor
- Police Department
- Highway Department
- Parks and Recreation Department
- Transfer Station
- Inlet Volunteer Emergency Services, Inc.
- Inlet Information Office
- Inlet Common School
- Inlet Area Business Association
- Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
- Adirondack Park Agency (APA)
- Department of Health
- New York State Legislature
- Inlet Area Chamber of Commerce, Inc. (dormant as of October 1, 2002)

Action items have been specified by organization for implementation of the Goals, Objectives and Policies, and each of these organizations will be given copies of the plan. It is expected that the Inlet Town Board, as the governing body of the Town of Inlet, will take the lead role in monitoring implementation of action items and follow up with the various organizations to ensure completion of action items as specified in the plan. In some cases priorities have been assigned, and in other cases a sequence of implementation has been specified for execution of the action items. For example, some things will require immediate action to protect the safety, health and welfare of the citizens of Inlet, where other things are of a less critical nature and can be accomplished within a reasonable period of time, as resources can be made available. In the cases where a sequence has been specified, the interrelationships of action items has been taken into account such that completion of one action item will not undo another action item previously completed.

## KEEPING THE PLAN UPDATED

It is recognized that as time progresses, events will occur and new information will become available that was not anticipated or known when this version of the Inlet Town Comprehensive Plan was completed and adopted by the Town of Inlet. Therefore, updates and changes to the plan will be necessary to ensure that the plan continues to be a constructive guide that will lead the Town of Inlet into the future. The Inlet Planning Board, the Inlet Town Board or a Special Board appointed and empowered by the Inlet Town Board should, on each five year anniversary of the adoption of the Inlet Town Comprehensive Plan, or sooner, convene to review and update the plan as necessary and ensure that the updates and revisions conform to the will and expectations of the citizens of Inlet to the greatest extent possible. More frequent updates and revisions should be made as needs dictate.

Write a draft revision of the TCP using the following steps and at each step, review & revise as necessary.

- Brainstorm & list problems facing Inlet (see Problem Solving Process Appendix J).
  - Catalog problems by TCP category.
  - Brainstorm root causes of identified problems & list under applicable problem.
  - Brainstorm probable solutions for identified problems & list under applicable root cause. Develop action items for implementation.
- Brainstorm opportunities for enhancing/improving Inlet & write action items under the appropriate TCP category.
- Identify interdependencies between action items, where they exist, and sequence action items in order of interdependence to determine timing for implementation.
- Determine approximate cost for implementation where possible and identify who is responsible to take action.
- Produce draft TCP, publish copies for review & schedule reviews by necessary agencies (Inlet Planning Board, Inlet Town Board, APA, Legal, other?).
- Schedule, publicize and conduct Town meetings and public hearings on draft TCP.

- Revise & publish final draft TCP and present to the Inlet Town Board for review, final public hearing and adoption by resolution as the officially revised TCP.

## **APPENDICES**

- A. Visitor Survey Results Summary and Sample Questionnaire
- B. Inlet Property Owner/Registered Voter 1998 Survey Results Summary and Sample Questionnaire
- C. Visual Preference Survey Results
- D. A Summary Report of Workshops held in the Towns of Forestport, Inlet and Webb
- E. Land Use Plan April 1993
- F. Town of Inlet Ordinances
- G. Town of Inlet Laws
- H. Legal Requirements and Administrative Procedures for Approval of Town Special Improvement Districts Sewer and Water Improvements
- I. Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement MA99-4
- J. Bernier, Carr & Associates Wastewater Collection & Treatment Presentation for Hamlet of Inlet
- K. Problems-Causes-Solutions
- L. Water Quality-Sixth and Seventh Lakes
- M. Investigative Report to Determine Sources of Increased Levels of Dichloro Diphenyl Trichloroethane (DDT) in Lake Trout and Furbearers in the Fulton Chain of Lakes Area of the West/Central Adirondack Mountains
- N. Trends Data (To be attached)
- O. Hamilton County Directory
- P. Environmental Impact Study Report (To be attached)