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~~Draft of the~~ Masterplan for the Township of Middlefield, Otsego
County, New York State

The lands encompassed by the Township of Middlefield are graced by earth, water and air of exceptional quality. In accordance with the laws of New York State, the Planning Board of the Township of Middlefield has developed a Masterplan to control use of these lands.

The Masterplan of the Township of Middlefield establishes four general goals:

- 1) That the senior citizens of the Township, who have stewarded these lands in such a way as to deliver them to a younger generation in a beneficial condition, may continue to live here in a manner which they find harmonious;
- 2) That men and women of the current generation who live and work on these lands may prosper in an environment that is both flexible and secure;
- 3) That, perhaps most importantly, future generations shall inherit these lands in a condition which allows for a healthfull, prosperous and independent way of life;
- 4) That improvement of land be encouraged and fostered in a manner which benefits the community as a whole; but that development of land in a manner which threatens the health or well-being of the community as a whole be prevented.

Addendum: While it is hoped that the above aphorisms may provide direction to the control of land use in the Town of Middlefield, current conditions necessitate a more specific statement of intent of the Planning Board.

Since the time of the settlement of the Township, farming has constituted the economic backbone of the community. As confirmed by the many families which have lived here for generations, farming is a basic human industry which stabilizes the community in good times and bad. At the present time, the human population of the United States and of the world is increasing at an unprecedented rate; while farmlands are disappearing in response to economic, governmental and population pressures. A grim paradox is thus created. In this regard, farm land may soon be more vital than ever to the health, prosperity and well-being of the community.

It is the specific goal of this Planning Board, in accordance with the four general goals stated in this Masterplan, to sustain the viability of farm lands where possible; and to encourage and foster improvement of lands which does not diminish farm lands.

Other specific goals of the Planning Board shall be the preservation of Otsego Lake, of wooded areas harboring game and of important asthetic and historical characteristics of the Middlefield Township.

Per Dr. West

9/27/89