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# VISION STATEMENT

(2018)

## VISION:

- Temple should remain a rural town with a mix of forests, streams, wetlands, open space and farmland. Agriculture, forestry, trails and outdoor recreation should be encouraged to maintain Temple's rural character.
- Temple should have a sense of community that is the core of its rural character. The village should be retained as the center of the town's social, political, and cultural life. The town common, historic buildings, monuments, and cemeteries should be preserved for future generations. The town's public elementary school should be retained as an integral part of the community.
- Temple's residents should have a diversity of socio-economic backgrounds and ages. Housing stock should be primarily owner occupied. Housing types and costs should vary. Temple should provide reasonable housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income residents.
- Home businesses should be allowed and encouraged. Other businesses which have a scale and impact compatible with the town's rural character should be allowed when authorized by special exception. All business, housing and other structures should be developed and integrated into the town's working landscape, be environmentally suitable, and be acceptable to neighboring residents. Sustainable practices, including renewable energy, should be encouraged.
- Temple should provide for fire, police, and emergency response support for its residents and businesses. Temple should provide a sound infrastructure of roads, bridges, and public buildings. Temple should coordinate with electrical and communications utilities to facilitate meeting the needs of its residents and businesses.
- Temple should provide protections for its natural environment including surface waters, aquifers, mountain ridges, view sheds, dark skies, and quiet background noise levels. Permanent preservation of undeveloped or sensitive land or water areas should be encouraged through conservation easements and purchases by private and public entities. Creative land development processes requiring permanent open space and agricultural uses should be encouraged to support the town's desire to retain open space.