

Town of New Paltz
52 Clearwater Road, PO Box 550
New Paltz, NY 12561



For Release: Immediately (6/4/20)
Contact: Neil Bettez – 845-255-0604x1
Cara Lee – 845-802-4082

New Paltz Community Survey Results

An overwhelming majority of the New Paltz residents who responded to a recent community survey say that clean water and protection of habitat and natural areas are important or very important. This is among the key findings of a survey that the New Paltz Community Preservation Plan Task Force conducted to learn about the community’s priorities for protection of the Town’s natural and historic resources.

The task force conducted the survey electronically, making it available through Facebook and the Town website. In addition, 1,440 randomly selected residents (about 30% of households) received a postcard asking them to participate. Of the respondents, 79% were 34 or older, and 69% have lived in New Paltz for more than 10 years.

The survey showed New Paltz residents place a great deal of importance on the Town’s open space and historic resources. Clean water came out on top. A full 97% considered clean water ‘very important’ or ‘important’.

“This is not surprising,” said Neil Bettez, New Paltz Town Supervisor. “Clean water is always paramount, but awareness was heightened this spring when our supply was compromised for a short period,” he added.

Protection of habitat and natural areas was also at the top of the list for residents, with 78% saying it is ‘very important.’ A high value – 76% - also expressed that parks and trails were ‘very important’. “New Paltz has invested in protecting open space for two decades and today more than ever, our residents can appreciate the value of access to natural areas close to home,” said Ingrid Haeckel, Chair of the Environmental Conservation Board.

“Working farms and scenic landscapes are intertwined in our community,” said John Gotto, Chair of the Clean Water Open Space Protection Commission. Both also scored high in the survey – 94% and 90% as ‘very important’ or ‘important’. “Protecting these areas provides a multitude of benefits including fresh food, clean water, scenic views and economic value,” notes Gotto.

Town of New Paltz
52 Clearwater Road, PO Box 550
New Paltz, NY 12561

In addition, 84% of respondents said conserving the historic character of New Paltz is either “very important” or “important.”

The survey revealed the strong conviction that New Paltz residents have for the protection of the resources that make up the community character of the Town. These results also confirm the value of having a Community Preservation Plan, which the Task Force is developing. The committee will include the survey results in the plan.

The Task Force will present the draft Community Preservation Plan to the Town Board and the public at the board’s June 18 meeting. The plan combines and updates the Town’s Open Space Plan, Farmland Protection Plan and Historic Resource Survey and will include new geospatial information that has been collected in more recent years. The Plan will identify New Paltz’s open space and historic preservation priorities and be a tool to help guide open space and historic preservation activities in the future.

#