A Community Preservation Plan
For the Town of New Paltz

Town Board Meeting
June 18, 2020
Presentation by Cara Lee, Julie Seyfert-Lillis, Ted Fink, and Ingrid Haeckel
on behalf of Community Preservation Task Force
New Paltz - Our Setting

Photo: Bob Fagan
Natural Resources

• Clean Water
• Forests and Farms
• Recreational Open Space
• Habitat and Wildlife
• Scenery
Community Character

- Historic Properties and Features
- Rural, Small-Town Feeling
- Living Near Nature
- Cultural Richness
Recreation and the Economy

- Proximity to Shawangunk Ridge
- Expanded Trail Network
- Agro-tourism
- Vibrant Economy
Conservation Has Worked in New Paltz But Isn’t Done.....

- Conservation has created value in New Paltz

- Millbrook Preserve, Taliaferro Farm, Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, Testimonial Gatehouse, River to Ridge Trail, Historic Huguenot Street......

- Next chapter for conservation is now
2020 Community Survey

- On-line Survey (Survey Monkey)
- Questions Created by Task Force
- Goal: Learn About Public Priorities for Preservation
- Social Media, Town Web Site, and Postcard invite
- March 28th thru April 30th (5 weeks)
- 506 respondents
Who Responded

79% of Respondents were 34 and Older
Who Responded

Largest % have lived in New Paltz More than 10 Years

Combined Years Lived in New Paltz

- 14% (1 to 4)
- 17% (5 to 9)
- 69% (10+)

Tell Us What You Think
Conserving Resources

“Very Important” and “Important” Combined

Combined Responses (%)

- Clean water: 97%
- Wildlife habitat: 92%
- Working farms: 94%
- Historic character: 84%
- Scenic views: 90%
- Parks and trails: 93%
Concern for Loss of Resources

• “Concerned” and “Very Concerned” Combined

[Bar chart showing concern for the decline and loss combined in various resources like clean water, wildlife habitat, working farms, historic character, and scenic views. The percentages are 82, 77, 79, 61, and 56 respectively.]
Concern about Sprawl

62% were “concerned” or “very concerned” about sprawl in New Paltz.
“I appreciate the work that has been going on for a long time in New Paltz - preservation of nature and natural areas for recreation and environmental protection. That's a big part of our decision to move here.

How much is enough? As much as we can afford, I guess. The natural beauty of the area has been a priceless resource to help make the current "Pause" more tolerable. Such a wise investment for now and the future!”
**Community Preservation Plan**

Must Meet State’s Hudson Valley Community Preservation Act Requirements

- Describes Purposes of Community Preservation Program
- Maps and Defines 7 Focus Areas
- For Each Focus Area, Identifies Parcels by Identification Numbers, Acreage, & Priority
- Identify & Evaluate Other Town Land Use Tools
Prior Plans and Studies

- Comprehensive Plan (1995)
- Open Space Inventory (2003)
- Open Space Plan (2006)
- Farmland Preservation Plan (2010)
- Historic Inventory of Open Space Areas (2007)
- (and others)
New Data Collection

• Scenic Views and Roads (update of 2003 inventory)

• Candidate Local Historic Districts (based on 2007 Historic Inventory)
Information for Focus Areas

- Water Resources (8)
- Agricultural Lands (5)
- Habitat & Natural Areas (10)
- Historic Resources (5)
- Recreation Lands and Trails (4)
- Scenic Resources (2)
- Open Space Areas (1)
Water Resources

1. Mountain Rest Reservoirs Watershed
2. Aquifers
3. Streams and Waterbodies
4. Flood Hazard Areas
5. Riparian Areas
6. DEC Wetlands
7. National Wetlands Inventory
8. Hydric Soils
Agricultural Lands

1. NYS Agricultural Districts
2. Agricultural tax exemptions
3. Prime Farmland Soils
4. Farmland Soils of Statewide Importance
5. Farmland “Clusters” (Open Space Plan)
Habitat and Natural Areas

1. DEC Significant Biodiversity Areas
2. Audubon Important Bird Area
3. Important Area for rare animals
4. Significant natural communities
5. Northern Wallkill Biodiversity Plan priority areas
6. Meadows, shrublands, or fields >25 acres
7. Forests >100 acres
8. Matrix forests or linkage zones
9. Climate resilient lands
10. Parcels adjoining protected lands
Historic Resources

1. National/State Register of Historic Places
2. National Historic Districts
3. Designated Local Landmarks
4. Candidate Local Landmarks
5. Candidate Local Historic Districts
Recreation Lands and Trails

1. Lands adjacent to existing parks and public recreation lands
2. Lands adjacent to the River to Ridge Trail, Wallkill Valley Rail Trail, or Empire State Trail
3. Lands adjacent to the Wallkill River
4. Lands providing potential for extension of major trails or the Mill Brook Preserve

Photo: Ingrid Haeckel
Scenic Resources and Open Space Character Areas

1. Scenic Byway
2. Inventory of local scenic roads and views
3. 2006 Open Space Plan Character Areas
Example: Water Resource Priorities

- Reservoirs
- Aquifers
- Floodplains
- Wetlands

(4 more criteria) = Water Score
Overlapping Values

Water + Agriculture + Habitat + Historic

Recreation + Scenic + Open Space = Total Score
Summary

1572 parcels were identified containing priority resources, with scores ranging from 1 to 23 attributes.

The plan is a decision-support tool to prioritize eligible parcels for conservation under a community preservation program.
Community Preservation Plan

Next Steps

• Comments on draft plan by Thursday, June 25

• Public Notice – July 2

• Public Hearing on Plan + SEQR Review – July 16

• Adopt Community Preservation Plan by Local Law – August
Thank you.

For More Information, Contact: ENCB@townofnewpaltz.com