

# TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE

## Natural Resources Inventory and Open Space Plan

# DRAFT

## MEETING SUMMARY

**Purpose:** Virtual Public Workshop #1  
**Date and Time:** Wednesday, March 31, 2021, 7:00 PM  
**Location:** Via Zoom  
**Attendees:** See Attached

Agenda Item	Discussion
<b>Overview</b>	<p>As part of the public engagement component of the Town of Poughkeepsie Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) and Open Space Plan, a Virtual Public Workshop was held on Wednesday, March 31st, starting at 7:00pm. The purpose of the public workshop was to introduce the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) and Open Space Plan project to the public. The workshop included a presentation featuring an overview of the purpose, scope, and schedule of the project as well as the draft NRI mapping.</p> <p>Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the public workshop was held virtually via Zoom. Approximately 49 members of the public logged on to participate in the meeting and 52 pre-registered for the event. Registration for the event was required and participants could register through the project website (<a href="http://www.TownofPoughkeepsieOpenSpace.com">www.TownofPoughkeepsieOpenSpace.com</a>).</p> <p>The Virtual event was publicized through a variety of platforms which included the Town Website, Town Email distribution list, hard copy and digital flyers, Social media, Town TV as well as the project website.</p> <p>Members of the Town of Poughkeepsie, NYSDEC, Steering Committee and consultant team participated as panelists during the event. The presentation included live polling as well as a Q&amp;A session.</p>

<p><b>Welcome/ Introductions</b></p>	<p>Town Supervisor Jay Baisley provides an introduction and welcomes participants to the meeting. Supervisor Baisley introduces Pam Kingsley.</p> <p>The project has been funded in part through a grant from the New York State Environmental Protection fund through the Hudson River Estuary Program of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)</p> <p>Pam Kingsley, Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) and NRI/Open Space Plan Steering Committee Chair welcomes everyone and introduces the panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Michael Welti, Director of Municipal Development</li> <li>• Kristen Taylor, Town Planning</li> <li>• Susan Karnes Hecht, CAC</li> <li>• Caroline Fenner, CAC</li> <li>• Bob Nasser, Planning Board</li> <li>• Nate Nardi-Cyrus, NYSDEC</li> <li>• Jaclyn Hakes, MJ Engineering</li> <li>• Sarah Starke, MJ Engineering</li> </ul> <p>Pam Kingsley introduces Jaclyn Hakes, MJ Engineering, the project manager for the consultant team.</p> <p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) introduces the consultant team including Sarah Starke and Andrew Gillcrist.</p>
<p><b>Agenda Overview and Webinar How-to</b></p>	<p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) presented an overview of the agenda for the evening which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Webinar How-to</li> <li>• Project Overview</li> <li>• Natural Resources Inventory Draft Mapping</li> <li>• Next Steps</li> <li>• Q&amp;A</li> </ul> <p>Ms. Hakes gave an overview of webinar format which included directions on how to participate in interactive polls, how to post questions and use the raise hand feature within Zoom.</p>
<p><b>Participant Polls</b></p>	<p>Ms. Hakes (MJ), let a series of participant polls. Participants had the opportunity to respond to several polling questions utilizing Zoom’s online polling features. The purpose of the polling questions was to gain a better understanding of who was participating in the virtual event. The questions and results are presented below:</p>

<p><b>Participant Polls (cont'd)</b></p>	<p><b>Poll #1: Who is joining us this evening? Select all that apply.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 83% - Town Resident</li> <li>• 57% - Property Owner (in Town)</li> <li>• 35% - Work in Town</li> <li>• 9% - Business Owner (in Town)</li> <li>• 9% - Visitor</li> <li>• 9% - Other</li> <li>• 0% - Student</li> </ul> <p><b>Poll #2: How did you find out about the Virtual Public Workshop? Select all that apply.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 65% - Town Email Notification</li> <li>• 26% - Town Website</li> <li>• 26% - Other</li> <li>• 22% - Word of Mouth</li> <li>• 4% - Social Media</li> <li>• 4% - Project Website</li> <li>• 0% - Flyer</li> </ul> <p><b>Poll #3: How familiar are you with a natural resources inventory and/or open space plan?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 43% - Not at all familiar</li> <li>• 38% - Somewhat familiar</li> <li>• 19% - Very familiar</li> </ul>
<p><b>Project Overview</b></p>	<p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) presented an overview of the project. Following is a summary of topics discussed during the overview presentation.</p> <p>Roles and Responsibilities for the Town, Steering Committee, and Consultant Team were introduced. The Steering Committee was appointed by the Town Board and includes the CAC members in addition to a Town Board representative and Planning Board representative.</p> <p><b>Project Tasks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Task 1:</b> Project Coordination</li> <li>• <b>Task 2:</b> Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)</li> <li>• <b>Task 3:</b> Open Space Plan (OSP)</li> <li>• <b>Task 4:</b> Public Engagement</li> </ul>

<p><b>Project Overview (cont'd)</b></p>	<p><b>Task 1: Project Coordination</b> Steering Committee meetings will be conducted at key milestones throughout the project.</p> <p><b>Task 2: NRI</b> The Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) will include a narrative and map series which examines a range of data including water resources, soils and topography, habitats, open space, land use, etc.</p> <p><b>Task 3: Open Space Plan</b> The Open Space Plan will establish a vision for a Town-wide network of Open Spaces. The plan will include the results of the Conservation Analysis Tool, a GIS-base model that objectively identifies priority open space.</p> <p><b>Task 4: Public Engagement</b> Public Engagement during the project will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Project Website</a></li> <li>• Public Outreach &amp; Engagement Plan</li> <li>• Online survey</li> <li>• Key Stakeholder Meetings</li> <li>• Committee Ambassadors</li> <li>• Public Workshops <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ #1 – Present the Draft NRI</li> <li>○ #2 – Engage community in development of the vision, goals, and strategies for the Open Space Plan</li> <li>○ #3 – Present the preliminary Draft Open Space Plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Jaclyn Hakes gave an overview of the project schedule and milestones throughout the project.</p>
<p><b>Natural Resources Inventory Draft Mapping</b></p>	<p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) presented an overview of the Natural Resources Inventory.</p> <p>A Natural Resources Inventory:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Includes a narrative and resource mapping</li> <li>• Identifies &amp; maps important environmental resources such as water resources, ecological features, habitats, etc.</li> <li>• Serves as a planning resource for municipalities for conservation, future land use, and zoning.</li> <li>• Helps to inform the Open Space Plan</li> </ul> <p>Sarah Starke (MJ) introduced the Draft NRI Mapping.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with Town Staff, CAC and NYSDEC, 22 inventory maps were identified for analysis</li> <li>• Data was gathered from a variety of public and nonprofit sources and included over 80 unique datasets</li> </ul>

**Natural  
Resources  
Inventory Draft  
Mapping  
  
(Cont'd)**

- Mapping is in draft form and will continue to be refined through coordination with the Town, Steering Committee, NYSDEC and through public feedback
- All mapping will be posted to the project website for public review following the meeting:  
[www.townofpoughkeepsieopenspace.com](http://www.townofpoughkeepsieopenspace.com)

The Draft NRI mapping list includes:

1. Base Map
2. Aerial Imagery
3. Elevation & Steep Slopes
4. Bedrock Geology
5. Surficial Geology
6. Soils
7. Drinking Water Resources
8. Watersheds
9. Flood Hazard Areas
10. Stream Habitats
11. Wetlands
12. Wetland Habitats
13. Habitat
14. Important Biodiversity Areas
15. Coastal Habitats
16. Hudson River Shoreline
17. Large Forests
18. Sea Level Rise & Climate Resilience
19. Zoning, Tax Parcels
20. Brownfields, Waste Sites, & Regulated Facilities
21. Agricultural Resources
22. Cultural & Historic Sites

Mrs. Starke walked through the overview mapping which included the Base Map, Aerial Imagery and Elevation & Steep Slopes.

**Base Map, Aerial Map**


- Town covers over 28 square miles of land
- Includes the Village of Wappingers Falls
- Hamlets include:
  - Fairview
  - Rochdale
  - Arlington
  - Crown Heights
  - Red Oaks Mill
  - Spackenkill
  - New Hamburg
  - MacDonnell Heights

**Elevation & Steep Slopes**

- Represents areas of land grade >15%
- Highest Point – Peach Hill (485ft)

<p><b>Natural Resources Inventory Draft Mapping (Cont'd)</b></p>	<p>The remaining NRI mapping was grouped by similar theme and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Resources</li> <li>• Water Resources</li> <li>• Resilience</li> <li>• Land Use</li> </ul>
<p><b>Natural Resources Inventory Draft Mapping: Land Resources</b></p>	<p>Mrs. Starke (MJ) introduced the Land Resource mapping which included the following maps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soils</li> <li>• Agricultural Resources</li> <li>• Large Forests</li> <li>• Habitat</li> <li>• Important Biodiversity Areas</li> <li>• Bedrock Geology</li> <li>• Surficial Geology</li> </ul> <p>Following the overview, participants were asked to participate in a real time poll. The results are listed below:</p> <p><b>Q: What are the most important Land Resources to you? Select all that apply.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 36% - Forests</li> <li>• 36% - Wildlife Habitats</li> <li>• 0% - Soils</li> <li>• 29% Biodiversity</li> </ul>
<p><b>Natural Resources Inventory Draft Mapping: Water Resources</b></p>	<p>Mrs. Starke (MJ) introduced the Water Resource mapping which included the following maps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drinking Water Resources</li> <li>• Watersheds</li> <li>• Stream Habitats</li> <li>• Wetlands</li> <li>• Flood Hazard Areas</li> </ul> <p>Following the overview, participants were asked to participate in a real time poll. The results are listed below:</p> <p><b>Q: What are the most important Water Resources to you? Select all that apply.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16% - Hudson River</li> <li>• 24% - Streams</li> <li>• 19% - Wetlands</li> <li>• 8% - Lakes</li> <li>• 32% - Drinking Water</li> </ul>



<p><b>Next Steps</b></p>	<p>Ms. Hakes (MJ) provided a series of next steps in the project which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refine the Draft NRI Mapping</li> <li>• Refine DRAFT NRI Mapping</li> <li>• Prepare NRI Document</li> <li>• Initiate Open Space Plan</li> <li>• Continue Community Engagement</li> <li>• Steering Committee Meeting #4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ May 24th at 7:00 PM</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Participant Poll</b></p>	<p>Participants were asked to participate in a final real time poll. The poll asked participants to answer the following questions in a few words:</p> <p><b>Q: How do you interact with the natural resources in your Town? (ex. Fishing, boating, hiking, birdwatching, etc)</b></p> <p>A word cloud of the received responses is shown below:</p> 
<p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>	<p>Ms. Hakes gave an overview of how to participate in the Q&amp;A. Participants were able to post questions using the Q&amp;A function in Zoom. Participants were also able to select the “Raise hand” function to speak.</p> <p>A summary of each question and comment is listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desire to have greenspace integrated into neighborhoods so that they are accessible.</li> <li>• Interest in landmark like mechanism to protect greenspace from development.</li> <li>• Was the 2008 Hudsonia Biodiversity Study incorporated into the mapping. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Yes, this data was incorporated into many of the maps presented including the Ecologically Significant Habitats and Wetland Habitats.</li> <li>○ Hudsonia intermittent stream data was also mapped.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Invasive species in Wappingers Creek are a concern for kayaking</li> </ul>



<b>Thank You</b>	Participants were encouraged to leave additional comments on the project website. All meeting materials including the presentation, recording and Draft NRI mapping have been posted to the project website:  <a href="http://www.townofpoughkeepsieopenspace.com">www.townofpoughkeepsieopenspace.com</a>
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This meeting summary conveys our understanding of the items discussed and agreements reached at this meeting. Please forward any additions, corrections and/or questions to my attention.

Submitted by:  
Sarah Starke, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, PC

cc: Consultant Team, Steering Committee, Town Planning & Zoning Department, Project File

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