



TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE

Natural Resources Inventory and Open Space Plan

MEETING SUMMARY

Purpose: Steering Committee Kick-off Meeting
Date and Time: Monday, November 23, 2020, 7:00 PM
Location: Via Zoom
Attendees: See Attached

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
Welcome/ Introductions	<p>Pam Kingsley, Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) and NRI/Open Space Plan Steering Committee Chair welcomed everyone.</p> <p>Mike Welti, Town of Poughkeepsie introduced Jaclyn Hakes, M.J. Engineering (MJ).</p>	N/A
Project Overview	<p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) presented an overview of the project.</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>Ms. Hakes presented an overview of the project tasks. The project tasks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Task 1: Project Coordination• Task 2: Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)• Task 3: Open Space Plan (OSP)• Task 4: Public Engagement <p>Steering Committee meetings will be conducted at key milestones throughout the project.</p> <p>Monthly coordination calls with a core team (Town staff and Steering Committee Chair) will be conducted throughout the</p>	N/A

<p>Project Overview (cont'd)</p>	<p>project. Early mornings are more convenient. A monthly email update to the Steering Committee will follow.</p> <p>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>It was recommended that the consultant team examine data from the Hudsonia Habitat project, previous LWRP and Forest Condition data.</p> <p>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>The committee discussed the goals for the Conservation Analysis Tool. The tool should identify specific areas. Discussion of future uses of the tool.</p> <p>Public Engagement during the project will include an online survey, public workshops, and key stakeholder meetings. A project website will be established to keep the public informed about the project and schedule. The consultant team will draft a Community Engagement Plan.</p> <p>Neighborhood groups and organizations should be kept informed. The committee suggested potential stakeholders include the Hudson Seven, Environmental Coop at Vassar.</p> <p>Jaclyn Hakes gave an overview of the project schedule and milestones throughout the project.</p>	
<p>Mini Visioning Session</p>	<p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) led a mini visioning discussion with prompt questions for the committee.</p> <p>1. What challenges do you see for natural resources and open space in Poughkeepsie (now and in the future)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development should be conducted in a thoughtful way to maintain public open space. • Think of ways to accent Town history. • A lot of farmland throughout the Town, but few areas remain active. Consider encouraging the conversion back to farms. • Drought, pollution and salt in drinking water. • Consider the impact of climate change. Maintain spaces. 	<p>N/A</p>

<p>Mini Visioning Session (cont'd)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of expanding wetland buffers for site plan review • Discussion of the Draft Comprehensive Plan schedule and the schedule of the NRI/OSP. • Recommendation to review the Department of State guidance on Climate Resilience. <p>2. What opportunities do you envision now and in the future?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to engage residents in the Town. • Continue the work from the 2007 Comprehensive Plan which introduced regulations to conserve open space and the Comprehensive Plan Update (currently underway). Focus on other, more pro-active avenues for conservation beyond regulations. • Opportunity for Town to see what history is in the area and attract people to the Town. • Opportunity to identify habitat connectivity to neighboring, shared resources. <p>3. Identify your priorities for open space and natural resources conservation within the Town of Poughkeepsie.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of natural and historic landscape, inventory of history and natural resources, bring awareness to these resources. • Provide a visual resource for the community, bring attention to the community so they will be more invested in these resources • Leverage resource for climate resilience 	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Discussion of Data Collection</p>	<p>Jaclyn Hakes (MJ) led a discussion of the data collection needs and existing datasets.</p> <p>Discussion of historic data resources including the Historic Homes report.</p> <p>Recommendation to identify areas of Native American and African American historical significance.</p>	<p>MJ to prepare matrix of data needs.</p>

Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- MJ to prepare a Public Engagement Plan- MJ to coordinate with the Town in the creation of a project website.- MJ to draft matrix of data needs- Steering Committee Meeting #2 will be held via Zoom on Monday, January 25th at 7:00 PM	The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 25 th at 7:00 PM.
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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

Attendance

Name
Michael Welti
Kristen Taylor
Pam Kingsley
Bill Carlos
Nicole Pionteck
Ingrid Haeckel
Lorraine Mirabella
John Pinna
Susan Karnes Hecht
Bob Nasser
Margaret Slomin
Kerstin Cruger
Caroline Fenner
Jaclyn Hakes
Sarah Starke