



## Town of Tusten

### Natural Resources Inventory and Open Space Plan

# MEETING SUMMARY

**Purpose:** Public Open House Meeting #1  
**Date and Time:** August 1, 2024, 7:00 pm  
**Location:** Tusten Town Hall, 210 Bridge St, Narrowsburg, NY  
**Attendees:** 24

Agenda Item	Discussion
<b>Overview</b>	<p>The Town of Tusten has undertaken an effort to develop a Town-wide Natural Resources Inventory (NRI), Open Space and Recreation Plan. The NRI will identify key environmental and open space resources within the Town including wetlands, wildlife habitats, floodzones, forests and more. The Open Space and Recreation Plan will build upon the NRI and establish a vision for a Town-wide network of open spaces.</p> <p>On Thursday, August 1, 2024, the first public open house for the Town of Tusten Natural Resources Inventory, Open Space and Recreation Plan was held. The event took place at the Tusten Town Hall from 7:00 – 8:30 PM.</p> <p>A total of 24 community members attended the Public Open House.</p> <p>A brief presentation was held at the beginning of the public open house providing attendees with a brief overview of the project, public engagement opportunities, and the station boards. The open house format allowed participants to informally walk through seven (7) activity stations at their own pace and provide their input and ideas. A Participant Guide was provided to attendees to guide them through various stations.</p> <p>The activity stations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Station #1 – Project Overview</li><li>• Station #2 – Natural Resource Mapping</li><li>• Station #3 – Open Space Vision and Values</li><li>• Station #4 – Recreation</li><li>• Station #5 – Other Thoughts &amp; Ideas</li><li>• Station #6 – Community Vision Survey</li><li>• Station #7 – Kids Table</li></ul>

	<p>Additionally, participants had the opportunity to speak with CAC members and the Project Team and also, share written ideas and/or comments on comment cards.</p> <p>A brief Q and A was held after the presentation. Below is an overview of the discussions had:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This plan to be used as a guide for the development of the Boy Scout's Land</li> <li>• The role of the consultant team in the development of the plan</li> <li>• The next steps in the process would be to draft the Natural Resource Inventory and kick off the Open Space Plan</li> <li>• How is open space defined and what it means</li> </ul>
<p><b>Station #1: Project Overview</b></p>	<p>This station provided information about the Natural Resources Inventory, Open Space and Recreation Plan. This station provided context about the purpose of a Natural Resources Inventory, Open Space and Recreation Plan and the roles of the consultant team and the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC). CAC members were identified by name:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jane Luchinger (Chair) – Tusten Deputy Supervisor</li> <li>• Cathleen Breen</li> <li>• Alexandra Climent</li> <li>• Bernie Lohmann</li> <li>• Donovan Sylvest</li> </ul>
<p><b>Station #2: Natural Resource Mapping</b></p>	<p>This station provided highlights of existing conditions and natural resources within the Town.</p> <p>Nine (9) maps were displayed at this station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Base Map</li> <li>• Topography &amp; Steep Slopes</li> <li>• Existing Land Use</li> <li>• Existing Zoning</li> <li>• Known Wetlands</li> <li>• Flood Hazard Areas</li> <li>• Delaware Riverbank &amp; Hydrology</li> <li>• Parks, Recreation &amp; Open Space</li> <li>• Habitats Biodiversity &amp; Ecological Communities</li> </ul> <p>The Base Map depicted the boundary of the Town of Tusten, showing state, county, and local routes as well as waterbodies.</p> <p>The Topography &amp; Steep Slopes Map depicts areas within the town that have slopes greater than 15%. 27.5% of land area within the Town has slopes greater than 15%.</p> <p>The Existing Land Use Map depicts different land uses throughout the Town.</p>

	<p>The Existing Zoning Map depicts the current zoning of all parcels within the Town, using different colors to indicate different zoning districts.</p> <p>The Known Wetlands Map depicts the NWI Federal Wetlands and NYSDEC Wetlands located within the Town. 7.9% of the total land area in the Town is federal wetlands. 3.7% is NYSDEC Wetlands.</p> <p>The Flood Hazard Areas Map depicts FEMA Flood Hazard Zones. 5.2% of the land in the Town is in a flood area.</p> <p>The Delaware Riverbank &amp; Hydrology Map depicts DEC streams and lakes as well as Recreational and Scenic River Areas within the Town.</p> <p>The Parks, Recreation &amp; Open Space Map depicts parks, private forest land, camping, and BSA land within the Town.</p> <p>The Habitats, Biodiversity &amp; Ecological Communities Map depicts state-regulated freshwater wetlands, significant natural communities, rare plants and animals, and important areas.</p>
<p><b>Station #3: Open Space Vision and Values</b></p>	<p>This station asked participants to share their thoughts about their open space and natural resource values.</p> <p><b>Common themes included:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring clean water and air quality</li> <li>• Protection and preservation of open spaces, wildlife habitats and ecosystems</li> <li>• Avoid development in flood zones and respecting wetlands and animal habitats</li> <li>• Providing recreational opportunities</li> </ul> <p><b>What specific types of open space and scenery are most important to you?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Historical Open Space along little Lake Erie and Lake St</li> <li>• Woodlands, water</li> <li>• State land (Boy Scout) usage</li> <li>• Integration into resident life</li> <li>• River cleanliness</li> <li>• Historical views that have not changed – preserve them!</li> <li>• Wetlands</li> <li>• Avoiding further flood zone development</li> <li>• Recreation opportunities</li> <li>• Natural recreation</li> <li>• Protection of wildlife and water</li> </ul> <p><b>What natural resources within Tusten are most important to you?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cant be viewed as separate</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public access for fishing along Lake St on Little Lake Erie</li> <li>• All of the above</li> <li>• Mainting the Delaware River + its tribs as a clean water fishery</li> <li>• Water quality</li> <li>• Water</li> <li>• Air quality</li> <li>• Waterways</li> <li>• Pending Boy Scout property sale</li> <li>• Wildlife consideration and protection</li> <li>• Wildlife habitats</li> <li>• Hiking and biking paths</li> <li>• Low-density housing</li> <li>• River wildlife habitats</li> <li>• All of the above</li> <li>• Water quality</li> <li>• Preserve the open views of Little Lake Erie along lake street</li> <li>• State land that was Boy Scouts</li> <li>• Wetland and rare animal inventory</li> <li>• Protect wildlife from overdevelopment</li> </ul> <p><b>What phrases or words best describe your value or passion for natural resources and open space in Tusten?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respect for ecosystems</li> <li>• Protect preserve</li> <li>• Protect them + the access to them</li> <li>• Maintain low density development</li> <li>• Protect don't build or commercialize</li> <li>• Boy scout camp</li> <li>• The land being sold by the B.S.A should be utilized for public recreation and habitat sustainability</li> <li>• Little Lake Erie fishing area</li> <li>• Don't overpopulate</li> <li>• Protect, protect, protect no invasive commercial enterprises!</li> <li>• Protect wildlife</li> <li>• Keep water clean</li> </ul>
<p><b>Station #4: Recreation Station</b></p>	<p>This station allowed participants to share their thoughts about current and future public recreation within the Town. Participants were asked to identify on a map and board where they go for recreation and what types of recreation they participate in.</p> <p><b>Common themes included:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of trails and paths for different activities</li> <li>• Waterfront and water-based recreation</li> <li>• Utilizing lands such as Boy Scout property for recreation and nature-based activities</li> </ul>

**The following highlights areas in the Town that were most identified as places for recreation:**

- Narrowsburg
- Tusten
- Near waterbodies such as Rock Lake, Daris Pond, Clarks Pond, Turnpike Pond
- A comment was also made that a timber rattlesnake den was located near Trout Pond Road

**What types of recreation do you participate in?**

- Bicycling: 7
- Birding/Wildlife viewing: 15
- Camping: 2
- Cross Country Skiing/Snowshoeing: 7
- Fishing: 12
- Hiking/Walking: 18
- Hunting: 4
- Paddling (canoe/kayak/SUP): 14
- Playgrounds/Picnicking: 4
- Swimming: 7
- Other: none

**What specific types of public recreation would you like to see more of in Tusten?**

- Sports complex, Tennis, football/soccer, Town pool
- Promote eco-tourism (not polluting tourism)
- Bird Watching (x2)
- Hiking/walking trails
- Bike trails (x3)
- Dog park or dog-friendly areas
- Multiple water access/river swimming
- Dog park
- Cross-country skiing trails
- Cross-country ski paths
- Biking tourism
- Snow shoeing winter trials, skiing
- Hiking trails and bike trails (x2)
- More public recreation space for hiking, swimming boating/paddling
- Snowshoeing trails
- Off-road cycling path
- Waterfront public picnic area
- Bike trails and walking trails
- Sled hill ice skating

	<p><b>Where would you like to see more public recreation?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boy Scout property</li> <li>• Beaver brook</li> <li>• On the ridge overlooking the river – beautiful views – would be great hiking</li> <li>• State land that was previously Boy Scout (x3)</li> <li>• Boy scout property idea for cx skiing and snowshoeing</li> <li>• History trail</li> <li>• Areas of Tusten that are not adjacent to the river</li> <li>• Gurdjiell fonolation for sale land</li> <li>• Along the Delaware River</li> </ul>
<p><b>Station #5: Other Thoughts and Ideas</b></p>	<p>This station included an opportunity for any additional thoughts and ideas. The Thoughts shared are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have a plan in place for the state to follow when they control the Boy Scout area</li> </ul>
<p><b>Station #6: Community Vision Survey</b></p>	<p>The station included a QR code where participants can take the online community survey which is available at <a href="http://www.TustenOpenSpaceRecreation.com">www.TustenOpenSpaceRecreation.com</a> Paper copies were also made available at the open house.</p>
<p><b>Station #7: Kids Station</b></p>	<p>This was a place for kids to be creative and share their ideas.</p>

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:  
Grace Sherburne, MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, PC

cc: Consultant Team, Conservation Advisory Council, Peter Manning