



Town of Tusten

Natural Resources Inventory and Open Space Plan

MEETING SUMMARY

Purpose: Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting #2
Date and Time: June 20, 2024, 1:00 pm
Location: Via Zoom
Attendees: See Below

Agenda Item	Discussion	Key Decisions & Outcomes
Welcome	Jane Luchsinger, Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) Chair welcomed everyone. Jane Luchsinger introduced MJ Engineering Team. Jane Luchsinger, CAC Chair, initiated the approval of past meeting minutes.	Meeting minutes for April 18, 2024 approved
Project Schedule Update	Sarah Starke (MJ) presented an update of the project schedule and key milestones throughout the project. Summer 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1st Public Engagement• Community Survey Fall 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft NRI• 2nd Public Engagement• Stakeholder Meetings• Initiate Open Space Plan The MJ Team conducted a site visit on May 16, 2024.	N/A

<p>Natural Resources Inventory</p>	<p>Sarah Starke (MJ) presented an overview of the outline for the Natural Resource Inventory.</p> <p>The Natural Resource Inventory will be an update of the 2011 Natural Resources and Open Space Inventory, align with DEC recommendations, and utilize the most recent available environmental data.</p> <p>The Natural Resource Inventory will include a narrative and map series that identifies the Town’s existing Environmental Resources and Constraints such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildlife Habitats • Flooding & Resiliency • Water Resources • Land Resources <p>The Natural Resource Inventory can be used as a resource to inform future planning, land use, and Open Space and Recreation Plan.</p> <p>There was a discussion on where information such as geology and soils would come from. Sarah (MJ) stated that much of this information is digitally available and can be used for mapping.</p> <p>Outline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction & Community Overview • Background Mapping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Base, Ariel Map ○ Elevation and Steep Slopes • Water Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delaware River and Watershed ○ Drinking Water ○ Wetlands ○ Flood Hazard Areas • Land Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Geology ○ Soils and Agriculture ○ Habitats and Wildlife (forests, rare species, etc.) • Resilience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Climate, Air Quality • Land Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Zoning, Land Use ○ Regulated Facilities ○ Cultural & Historic Sites 	<p>N/A</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">Natural Resources Inventory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilizing the NRI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Open Space Plan <p>Sarah Starke (MJ) provided an overview of the Draft mapping highlights.</p> <p>Base Map</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sullivan County • Town Covers 49.5 square miles of land • Bordered by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Town of Cochecton ○ Town of Bethel ○ Town of Highland ○ Pennsylvania ○ Delaware River <p>Ariel Map</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NYS Imagery 2021 • Hamlets include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Narrowsburg ○ Luxton Lake ○ Tusten ○ Neweiden ○ Lava <p>The CAC noted that Beaver Brook should be included on this map.</p> <p>The CAC also discussed the definition of Hamlets and an alternative name to call these areas.</p> <p>Existing Zoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Zoning Districts • Largest include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rural Residential (R-1) – 78% ○ Scenic Reiver (SR) – 11% <p>Land Use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 County Tax Data • Largest Land Uses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Residential – Low Density (29%) ○ Institutional (including Boy Scout Properties) (26%) ○ Private Forest/Conservation Land (25%) <p>There was a discussion regarding the definition of Conservation Lands.</p> <p>Elevation & Steep Slopes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USGS Digital Elevation Data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High Points > 1400 feet ○ Lowest Point: Delaware River <650 feet 	<p style="text-align: center;">N/A</p>
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<p>Natural Resources Inventory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steep Slopes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Areas of Land grade > 15% ○ Steep slopes cover 27% land area <p>The CAC noted that their zoning does not allow for development on areas with steep slopes.</p> <p>Parks, Recreation & Open Space</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boy Scout Lands ~ 25% • Private Forest/Hunting Grounds ~24% • Campgrounds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Public – Landers • Trails – Tusten Mountain Loop (3.4 Mi) • River Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Narrowsburg Boat Launch (NYSDEC) at Veterans Memorial Park ○ Ten Mile River (BSA) • Private Rafting <p>MJ inquired about digital data available regarding trails and the Flats to include in the map. CAC members suggested the Trail Keeper website or an online brochure or posting of the Flats that could be utilized.</p> <p>There was also a discussion regarding paper copy maps and utilizing them to create digital maps. MJ stated that this is possible and once the digital maps have been created they will be accessible on the project website.</p> <p>A CAC member noted that the Narrowsburg Boat Launch was not part of the Veterans Memorial Park.</p> <p>Delaware River & Key Waterways</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Delaware River – 27 miles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recreational ○ Scenic • Key Waterways <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delaware River ○ Ten Mile river ○ Grassy Swamp Brook ○ Narrow Falls Brook ○ Beaver Brook <p>The CAC suggested that Beaver Brook be highlighted on this map as it is an area many people identify with.</p> <p>The CAC also discussed the classification of streams are made by the DEC and are classified based on trout and fisheries. The CAC suggested this be noted in this section of the habitats map</p>	<p>N/A</p>
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<p>Natural Resources Inventory</p>	<p>Wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State Wetlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regulated by NYSDEC ○ Freshwater Wetlands ○ 1,170 Acres ~ 4% • Federal Wetlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Satellite derived ○ Rivers, ponds, freshwater wetlands ○ 2,493 Acres ~ 8% <p>Flood Zones</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primarily along: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delaware River ○ Tenmile River • 100 Year – A 1% chance or greater of being flooded in a year • 500 Year – A .02% chance or greater of being flooded in a year <p>A CAC member noted that a third of the population lives in the Flats and a significant portion of this area is within a flood zone.</p> <p>Additional Mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedrock and Surficial Geology • Soils • Agricultural Resources • Habitats and Biodiversity • Drinking Water Resources • Regulated Facilities • Cultural and Historic Sites 	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Public Engagement</p>	<p>Sarah Starke Hesse (MJ) presented an update of the Public engagement for the project.</p> <p>Public Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Enagegmt Plan • Project Website • Public Workshop #1 • Community Visioning Survey <p>A dedicated project website has been developed to inform the public about the project, process, and upcoming engagement activities:</p> <p>www.TustenOpenSpaceRecreation.com</p>	<p>N/A</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Public Engagement</p>	<p>Throughout the project, the website will be updated with meeting and project materials including agendas, presentations, and summaries.</p> <p>The website includes a contact form for the public to provide feedback. This feedback will be collected and shared with the CAC.</p> <p>The CAC shared some minor edits for the project website.</p> <p>Public Workshop #1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Person Open House • Town Hall • July/August 2024 • Present Draft NRI Mapping • Interactive Mapping Exercise • Open Space Visioning • Question examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What resources are most important to you? ○ What activities do you participate in and where? • Launch the Community Visioning Survey <p>This public event will be an in-person event with an Open House style format. The public will be provided with an overview of the Draft NRI mapping, an interactive mapping exercise, and Open Space Visioning questions.</p> <p>This public event also provides an opportunity to launch the Community Visioning Survey.</p> <p>Community Visioning Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted questions to help identify Open Space and Recreation Plan vision and goals • Online and hard copy formats • Publicity – website, social media, Committee <p>There was a discussion regarding the possibility of someone submitting the Survey twice. MJ stated that these Surveys are not meant to be statistically valid, if someone were to submit twice this would not severely skew the results. The MJ team will work with the Core team to best identify the format for the Survey.</p> <p>Another CAC member inquired how the CAC can best publicize these events. The MJ team encouraged CAC</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">N/A</p>
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	<p>members to attend the Public Open House if available. The MJ team will also provide publicity materials (flyer, press release, social media posts, etc.) for CAC members to share.</p> <p>The CAC discussed sharing the Press Release with the local newspaper.</p>	<p>CAC to contact newspaper</p> <p>MJ to provide publicity materials</p>
Next Steps	<p>Sarah Starke Hesse (MJ) provided an overview of the next steps in the process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional NRI Mapping • Public Open House #1 & Publicity • Community Visioning Survey • Next Meeting – August 15, 2024 at 1:00 PM 	<p>The next CAC meeting will be held on Thursday, August 15th at 1:00 PM.</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

Conservation Advisory Council

Name	Present
Jane Luchsinger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cathleen Breen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alexandra Climent	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bernie Lohmann	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Donovan Sylvest	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Project Partners

Name	Present
Peter Manning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Consultant Team

Name	Affiliation	Present
Jaclyn Hakes, Project Manager	M.J. Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sarah Starke Hesse	M.J. Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Grace Sherburne	M.J. Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jen Ceponis	M.J. Engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>