



Town of Esopus Comprehensive Plan

Appendix 2: Public Outreach Results

May 21, 2019



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4 Computer Drive West • Albany, New York 12205
(518) 458-7112 • www.labergengroup.com

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Appendix 2: Public Outreach Results

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1. Town of Esopus Open House Results

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Town of Esopus Comprehensive Plan Update Results from the May 5, 2018 Public Open House

Economic Development

1. The Town of Esopus is in the process of evaluating potential economic development priorities. To assist with this process, please select your top (3) economic development priorities/types of development that should be pursued. <i>The results were calculated using a weighted score.</i>	Ranking
• Recreation and Ecotourism	87
• Agritourism	54
• Renewable Energy	48
• Light Industry/Light Manufacturing	47
• Waterfront Commercial, Entertainment and Tourism	44
• Professional/Medical Offices	33
• Hotels and other Accommodations	27
• Retail	25
• Research and Development	12

Notes were added next to “Other” as follows: ‘No new development. Leave our small town comfort alone.’ ‘Wellness/businesses: Spas, Acupuncture, healing arts, health foods.’

2. When thinking about the future of the Town of Esopus as it relates to attracting visitors, new economic development and investments, what should be the Town’s “tag line” or “brand description?”	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walkable, friendly, affordable. • Focus on the recreational advantages, natural beauty and especially all the walking paths here. • Parkland between: Walkways; historic Roundout areas. Including theme park/headless horseman. • Living History. • [Living history is good.] Dutchess County does this well. • Heart of the Empire Trail. • Best kept secret for now. • Trying to attract young families to move to the Town should be the priority. That is what drives the economics. Unfortunately, jobs (good paying) and schools are the two main driving forces – both areas need improvement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Destination Point – Antique shops, gift shops (more available to make it worth visiting). • Quaint & friendly. • Jem on the Hudson; Hidden Jem on the Hudson. • Nature & Nurture (of Tourism) • Wellness: Healthy food, good recreation; great neighbors • From Ridge to River – Come Play with Us. • Quaint town with appeal • Tourism destination, river access, nice place to live. Natural beauty.

<p>3. In your opinion, are there reuse options for the abandoned quarry located between New Salem Road and the Roundout Creek? Do you have any concerns with reusing this property for a use other than mineral extraction?</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kayak access on Roundout & “lake” (x2). • Swimming/beach (x3). • Watersports. • Recreational Park (x3). Rock climbing, fishing, Ecotourism. • Zipline; possible beach/scuba, paddling. • Scuba Park similar to Dutch Springs in PA. • Community garden. • Eco-town. • Camp grounds. • Look for land acquisition for open public space – recreation. • Golf course X3. • <u>No</u> golf course. • Walks & benches, boardwalks made of <u>recycled</u> plastics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehab facility. • Handicapped equipped playground. • More bars/restaurants with outdoor sections. • Small, clean, private businesses • Manufacturing light industrial. No industry (x2). • No big hotels. • Do not want Town to become an industrial town. • Can’t look worse than it already does.

<p>4. If the following properties were to become available for private use, how would you like to see these properties redeveloped?</p>	
<p>St. Cabrini Property</p>	<p>Christian Brothers Institute</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotel (x2), bar/restaurant (x2), golf course, boat rides • Small boutique hotel/B&B (x3). • Tourists, local jobs, economic driver. • Spa/B&B/Restaurant (x2) with river/harbor views. • Recreational opportunities. • Tourist-related business; river boat rides, etc. • Mixed uses: multi-family rental and waterfront commercial. • Continuing care, retirement community • Rehab & café; public gardens, walking paths. • Beach on Hudson part. • Boardwalk on waterfront only. • Town use – park. • Local jobs. • New Hamlet; mixed use. • No hotels. • We want taxable land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retirement/rehab place – commercial ok. • Restaurant with river views (x2). • Golf course, hotel (x2), restaurant, boat trips to key locations. • Mixed use with river views. • Riverfront development for tourism & resident access. • Anything that is on the tax rolls would be a benefit to the Town. • Need good paying jobs and less tax breaks.

5. Provide any additional suggestions for improving business opportunities in the Town of Esopus	
<p>Image and Community Character:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic nature is our strong spot – let’s not do anything to detract – especially retail chains. • We need to get a handle on signs – they are popping up. • Rehab Port Ewen business district facades. • Enforce zoning throughout Town/Clean up the Town with zoning (x2). • 9W corridor is a mess/clean up the 9-W corridor (x2). • Use Rhinebeck and Red Hook as models – need people to want to stop. • We’ve recently had a butchering of trees in Town – can we regulate “trimming” to seasonal limits? <p>Festivals and Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold monthly events: Flea market, farmers’ market (x2), food festival: strawberries, blueberries, etc. • Hold outdoor cultural gatherings: concerts, films under stars. <p>Desired Projects and Businesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourist welcome center with brochures. • Medrex/Hudson Archival building location: Hotel or B&B with restaurant. • Develop the Roundout basin. • Take a look @ Rhinebeck. • Recycling center utilizing plastic to produce outdoor walks, furniture, like benches. • Locally owned, non-chain stores. • Unique businesses, Mom & Pop stores, gift shops. • More small businesses offering amenities. • Local café/shops – give people a reason to stop here. • Coffee shop, better stores. • Brewery & restaurant (x2). • Local hardware store (x2). • Grocery store/green grocer (x6). • Plenty of super markets next door in Kingston. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh food – local. • Keep quaint: small local shopping, food, coffee shop (x2), places to walk to, lodging and dining opportunities. • Try to attract more film/TV work. List the Town on the Hudson Film Commission as a file friendly-town with list of different locations, food options, etc. <p>Unwanted Business Types:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No gas station at Medrex site/Hudson Archival /9W corridor. • Dunkin Donuts (3 yes’s; 4 no’s). • No corporate business (x2); keep small, keep local, will keep charm. <p>Infrastructure and Related Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking so local businesses can attract visitors (x2). No commercial endeavor can be supported w/out ease of access. • Solar panels as canopy over <u>parking lots</u> creates shade not heat waves. • Sidewalk from Riverview Entrance to Rt. 9W. • Traffic flow across new bridge into PE: Make right hand turn lane (at Old Rte. 9W intersection) start earlier to relieve congestion. • Extend sewage & water to Rifton – will preserve groundwater. • Home mail delivery for anyone unable to get to Post Office. • ADAMS! & other plans for boat drop in across Creek to alleviate Sleightsburgh traffic. • Speed bumps – down Broadway to boat launch in Sleightsburgh. Too much speeding, lots of kids. • Too many vol. Fire Departments. Money & energy wasted.

Recreation

Questions	Yes	No	I Don't Know
6. Should the Town pursue opportunities to increase public waterfront access for recreation?	106	2	1

6a. If yes, what type of new or improved waterfront access would you like to see (if any), and where?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freer Park Beach: Boat launch and more opportunities for day use, sightseeing and hiking. • River Road: Recommendations for day use, sightseeing and hiking; fishing opportunities, and a car-top boat launch. • Black Creek Preserve: Car-top boat launch and fishing opportunities. • John Burroughs Nature Sanctuary: More day use, sightseeing, hiking and fishing opportunities. • Black Creek State Forest: Car-top boat launch. • Sturgeon Pool: Day use, sightseeing, hiking and fishing opportunities.

7. Should the Town make improvements to Freer Park Beach? If so, what types of improvements would you like to see?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town should make a commitment to keep the waterfront clear of water chestnuts. Increased waterfront access/amenities: Docks and ramps. • Rowing & Sailing opportunities. • Motor boat rentals. • Motorized boat ramp; (fix) existing & improve. • Boat launch. • Kayak storage (x2) • Kayak rentals. • No motors unless electric solar powered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Picnic; family outings; row boats; boat safety. • Fishing (x2)/separate fishing area from boat launch. • Swimming (x4)/bring back the beach! • Community Pool (x10). • River pool similar to one at Beacon. • Sprinkler/spray park. • Garbage can needed for the left of Freer Park (rear fishing area). • Connect Kingston waterfront access to Port Ewen. • Clean up brownfields.

Question	Yes	No	I Don't Know
8. Are there sufficient recreation opportunities in the Town of Esopus?	10	28	3

8a. If no, what type of improved recreational opportunities would you like to see (if any) and where?
Insufficient/incorrect dots used by meeting attendees to indicate locations of desired recreational opportunities.

<p>9. Provide additional suggestions for increasing recreational opportunities in the Town of Esopus.</p>	
<p>Ross Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sprinkler Park at Ross Park. • Clean up/update Ross Park (x2). • Improve tennis courts (x4): Not asphalt and fix posts. • Improve baseball fields and possibly create an additional one. • Volleyball field at Ross Park. • Basketball court is in bad shape/Revitalize Basketball Court (x2), lots of kids play there. • Need some handicapped equipment for children at Ross Park playground. • Pay attention to lights in pavilion in Ross Park – should be on all night. • Maintain ice skating rink @ Ross Park. • Ross Park former ice arena which was fenced in. Please leave this area open. No more ice! <p>Community Pool:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community pool recommended (x6). <p>Cas Landi Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add walking track and fix up tennis courts (x2) & basketball courts. <p>Sleightsburgh Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-way road needed (x2) out to boat launch. • Ramps & docks stressed – need more for better access (x2). <p>Freer Park Beach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehab/re-open Town Beach (x2). • Concrete ramp at Freer (for zero-emission boats) similar to ramp at Kingston Point Park. <p>Trails, Connections, Black Creek and John Burroughs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up hiking trails. • Provide a dock & ways to secure boats needed to connect Black Creek from Chodikee Lake to “Chodikee Trail” at John Burroughs. • Increase Black Creek connection to Greenway Water Trail & sources. • Interconnect green spaces, parks and trails. • Connect to biking trails. 	<p>General Rec and Sports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like a weight room/rec facility. • We need sports fields & soccer programs. • More playgrounds. • Winter sports/activities (x2). • Mountain biking trails. • Existing parks and playgrounds in need of repair. • Keep parks clean and up to date. • Would like water events. • Family recreation opportunities, hold a game night. • Fix the pedestrian paths & install lights so people can walk/run safely – also speed limits! Please! Speeding is going to hurt someone someday. • More places to walk – maybe sidewalks. • More walking events for seniors. • Clarify rules of road regarding cyclists & cars. • The addition of hiking trails, river access, etc. in recent years is a real asset. • Improve areas across from historic Roundout area of Kingston. • Summer camps. • No summer camps. • Have Scenic Hudson do more for the Town of Esopus. <p>Indoor Sports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indoor sports/basketball. • Sports dome. <p>Connelly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We need more playgrounds for the kids or update existing ones. <p>River Road:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce speed on River Road – People race! (x3). <p>Rifton:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public access needed at Sturgeon Pool (x2). • More places to walk – sidewalks. • Reduce speed to 25mph on Dashville Rd. (x2). Many children, walkers, bikers and seniors are at risk <p>West Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Joseph H. Clark Recreational Park.

Question	Yes	No	I Don't Know
10. Would you support the Town establishing additional interpretive, recreation and/or exercise trails that connect: Hamlets; Waterfront; Parks; Historical, cultural, educational destinations; and Recreation and Open Space Areas.	33	1	1

10a. If yes, provide your suggestions below, or on the map of trails, of possible trail routes, connections and/or destinations that should be linked.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The natural beauty of Esopus is its finest asset. • We have quite a few places – let's protect it. • Preserve wildlife corridors; hedgerows. • Link nature, art (tugboat), history, scenic Rt. 213, and trails together. • Designate State Route 213 as a bike trail. • Provide Town links to State trails: Greenway Water Trail (Esopus Meadows), other land/hiking trails and Empire Trail. • Connect all the trails; too many are disconnected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide safe bike paths/lanes /trails (x2) that will protect bikes from cars. • Keep roads & sides of roads clean, will allow people to walk/run in town safely and enjoy it. • Speed limit in town should be reduced to 25mph. • More port-a-potties/public restrooms. • <i>[NOTE: Additional recommendations on trail connections are provided above under Question 9]</i>

11. Are there properties in the Town of Esopus that should be permanently preserved for open space, historic preservation, and/or recreational opportunities? If yes, provide your suggestions below, or indicate on the map the location where you wish to see a particular type of preservation.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take scenic Hudson and land trust recommendations. • No more tax exempt (x2). • Look at conserving existing tax-exempt areas. • Protect the watershed (x2), wetlands & marshes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sojourner Truth Park needs to be more prominent. • Re-purpose historic estates to increase taxable property.

Housing

Question	Approx. Count
12. What type of housing would you like to see more of in the Town of Esopus and where?	
• Mixed Residential – Commercial	22
• Apartments	13
• Single Family – Small Lot	13
• Duplex/Two Family	11
• Senior Housing	11
• Single Family – Large Lot	10
• Townhouses	8

Question	Yes	No	I Don't Know
13. In your opinion, is sufficient housing available for recent graduates, young families, and seniors?	3	22	8
14. Would you be in favor of, or participate in, a home improvement program organized by the Town to assist homeowners with repairs funded through state grants and/or low interest loans?	26	2	2

<p>15. Other suggestions regarding housing in the Town of Esopus.</p>	
<p>Housing Needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sr. housing needed. • There needs to be more housing for recent graduates and young families but the area needs more living wage jobs first to bring them into the area. • Local people need to be able to stay in their homes and make a living locally. • More apartments. Young singles and families need rental apartments • No, there isn't enough affordable housing for incomes ranging between \$31,000 & \$40,000. • Need more low income housing. • How can we prioritize housing for people who have lived here their entire lives and are being forced out because housing costs too much? • More single room occupancy housing. • We need reasonably priced private homes, not low income. • Co-op housing with edible gardens and renewable energy; share community space. • Fewer apartments, more homeowners (x3). • No more section 8/ Section 8 is a problem (x5) • Storefronts & way less apartments. <p>Property Maintenance Concerns/Zoning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give homeowners access to grants etc. Might get Main St. on board with fixing up community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Who is going to back the loans? • Need to fix zoning codes first. • Add community-wide pick up day 2 times a year to help residents get rid of yard junk & trash. • More waste collection in Port Ewen. • Leave rural character alone with zoning support. • Mattresses, broken windows, tractor truck trailers, etc. should not be on residential porches, lawns or streets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landlords don't control tenants. • Make landlords responsible for keeping up their buildings and not letting them fall apart (x2); also need yearly inspections. • Property management would resolve section 8 – enforce rules regulations. • We need to enforce good neighbor policies! • Clean up properties in existing small lot residential neighborhoods. <p>Municipal Water:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water from Hudson River is disgusting/condition of the Town's drinking water needs to be improved/find source of spring water open to public as drinking water/work on water issue/we should have clean healthy water! • Get H2O from Kingston (x5). • Make sure no water problems before changing Kingston development. <p>Air B-n-B Concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reasonable Air B-n-B regulations: Speak with hosts & neighbors; think about how it helps owners keep homes; potential great income source for retired, etc. • Regulations on Air B-n-Bs. What's being done? <p>General Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pave Timberline Trail – It's too steep and badly graded. (x3). • Preserve the uniqueness of the various Hamlets & local family pride, we've been here for centuries. • These storefronts are attractive (very country-feel). • Let's get that Port Ewen Post Office fixed. • No pilot programs.

16. Identify areas on the accompanying map that would benefit most by extending public: Water and Sewer.
Insufficient/incorrect dots used by meeting attendees to indicate locations water and sewer.

Hamlets

Question	Approx. Count
17. Which hamlet (chose only one) do you live in, visit the most or identify with?	
• Port Ewen	76
• Ulster Park/Union Center	21
• Rifton	9
• Esopus	7
• Sleightsburgh	5
• Connelly	4
• St. Remy/May Park/New Salem	4
• West Park	4

Misc. Comments Provided: “Old Bridge” a disgraceful intro to our Town; Repair “brick” crosswalks across 9W, they are now an eyesore. Town should petition state to repair & restore the Old Bridge. Add solar & tidal power/renewable energy.

Question
18. Identify on the appropriate Hamlet Map, improvements that would enhance the quality of life in your Hamlet. Examples include, but are not limited to:
• Provide municipal water and sewer
• Repair streets/sidewalks
• Construct sidewalks and/improve pedestrian and bicycle safety
• Encourage new business
• Improve the aesthetic qualities of the streetscapes
• Improve the quality and appearance of commercial and residential buildings
• Create new or improve existing public parks and recreational amenities
Port Ewen: New residential development recommended at current Medrex/Hudson Archival site; improve aesthetic qualities of the streetscapes along Rt. 9W; construct sidewalks in the Tilden Street area; encourage new businesses in the area of the Hidden Harbor Yacht Club and in the vicinity of East Main St. and Rte. 9W; improve the quality and appearance of commercial and residential buildings between Salem and W. Main Streets; and improve recreational facilities at or near the Little League Field.
Ulster Park: Request for municipal sewer and water between Ulster Ave. and Mirror Lake.
Esopus: Create new and improved park and recreation facilities (x2); new residential development; construct sidewalks and improve pedestrian and bicycle safety; and encourage new businesses.
West Park: Create a new/improved park and recreation facilities (x3); encourage new businesses (x2); provide municipal water; construct sidewalks and improve pedestrian and bicycle safety; and improve quality and appearance of commercial and residential buildings.
Rifton: Request for public parks/recreational facility in the vicinity of Main and Maple Streets.
St. Remy: No recommendations identified on map.

19a. Identify Key Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities for one or more Hamlets that you are interested in.			
	Port Ewen	Sleightsburgh	Connelly
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parks look great/well maintained (x2). • Excellent Library (x2); Alex does a great job with kids programs; expand hours. • Storefronts updated. • Small private business development. • Community fostered by the Port Ewen Fire Dept. and library. • Location on River; quaint village with potential. • Tight community, wants to shop local. • Small, safe. • I love to walk the neighborhood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great water source for development. Should be utilized. Grants would help. • Great opportunity for improved aesthetics/ uses & clean up environment. • No more industrial/oil usage. • Green development, restaurant/recreation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum of Historic Ship Building. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Already exists in Roundout. Work with HRMM.
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs more parking to attract visitors and businesses. • Hard to cross Rte. 9W – dangerous. • Traffic lights should be in sync (x2) with others to keep traffic moving after noon at least, to eliminate as much congestion (Joe Sills has an idea about that). • Speeding thru Town/Port Ewen (x3)/ traffic speed through Town unsafe. • Add a traffic light to control traffic • Street pavers ripped up. • NYS needs to repair fake brick crosswalks. • Town should maintain sidewalks. • Clutter and garbage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-way street needed out to boat launch. • Mail delivery to home. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public access to water.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up & maintain what we have/make homeowners responsible for their property. • Garbage cans left out 24/7 365 days, on curb. Need coordinated waste management. • Knock down eye sores in Port Ewen. • Knock down Spinnenweber Building and put new store fronts up. • Neon signs, billboards. • Storefronts need updating. • No shops, no cafes, no gift stores; need to bring small business. • Lack of supermarket. • Small supermarket; also green market/farmers' market. • More stores, shops, and business on Main St (x2). • Need good paying jobs. • No mail delivery (x3) • Make this a walkable community and give buildings a facelift. • Broadway should have tugboats on the street signs. • No tourism information center or bike racks. • Create awareness between Hamlets. • Where is sheriff's presence in Esopus? • Maintain Town streams & drainage especially in Port Ewen, below 9W. 		
<p>Opportunities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great walking traffic just need somewhere to go: antiques, coffee, bakery, gift shop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • View of Rondout Creek. • Speed bumps should be put on Broadway leading to boat launch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean roads of dirt. • Enforce codes – 2nd Street – do some construction – looks like a slum.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motorized boat launch @ Freer Park. • Sports Dome/complex (x4) <i>(no sports complex! Leave that for Kingston Mall!)</i>. • Grocery store. • Nursing home on Berg Property brings other business in. Talk to people who have nursing home on Washington Ave in Kingston. • More medical offices or walk-in clinics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charge a fee for the boat launch, use \$ to pay an attendant to keep an eye on things. 	
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19b. Identify Key Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities for one or more Hamlets that you are interested in.			
	West Park	Esopus	Ulster Park
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great land. • Close to everything. • Beautiful views. • Access to trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close to everything but out of the city. • Access to the river for residents/tourism opportunities. • Relatively quiet, safe, many animals/wildlife, Hudson River within walking distance. • Black Creek Preserve. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good Hamlet for a concentration of residences rather than retail or industry.
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Taxes/tax base needs to be increased. • Joseph Clark Rec. Park needs bathrooms. • Lack of communication/lack of existence. No one knows who we are. • No “center.” • Trains stopping across tracks. • Lack of veterans to join local American Legion Post. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not taking advantage of river and views, tourism opportunities (need small hotels). • Limited tax base. • Tax exempted properties. • Assessments go up every year dramatically with no explanation. • Un-attractive main corridor; 9W uniform storefronts. • Not safe for biking, have to drive everywhere. • 9W traffic cutting thru neighborhood speeding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop the trains from blowing the whistle at crossing at Union Center. • Trains stopped on Esopus & Union Center blocking both roads. • Taxes too high (x4)/especially for seniors and waterfront properties. • Speeding on River Rd (x2). • Speed limit not enforced. •

Public Open House Results

		<p>while rush hour! Need Children at Play sign.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No speed limit control at all on Main St. (NOTE: There appears to be speed limit signs at both ends of Main St.). Speeding & traffic on rural roads a problem. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Walking to trails is dangerous. Roads are dangerous for walking/biking (x2). Need to improve shoulder on Union Center Rd. (County Rd). No shoulder on roads. Check for water problems.
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kick-off point for Nature recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a public access small beach at the end of Park Ave. Recreation needs to be made available by making clear, safe areas for residents & maintaining them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get County to update Ulster Ave. Densify the Hamlet Center. Town pool. Refund school taxes to the elderly (x2). Lower taxes. Tax the River People! Speed cameras that automatically send tickets will curb drivers from speeding on River Rd.

19c. Identify Key Strengths, Weaknesses and Opportunities for one or more Hamlets that you are interested in.		
	St. Remy/May Park/New Salem	Rifton
Strengths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creek view, beautiful trees, home improvement has increased, biking very popular. • Stunning lakes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peaceful/pretty/beautiful, quiet (x3). • Safe. • Rifton Hamlet isolation from rest of Town. • Wetlands provide flood prevention.
Weaknesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow road; danger for bikes. • Need wildlife signs – turtles crossing, etc. • Mail delivery. • Better police visibility – rural area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of control of Town water flowing into streams/stormwater. • Nowhere to pick up coffee or newspaper. • Need mail delivery to homes. • Public land acquisition. • No sidewalks, no safe place for kids to walk, ride bikes, gather. • Speeding (x2), lower speeds through residential areas, current limits too high; reduce to 35. Reduce Dashville Rd speed limit to 25 mph; add Children signs. • Municipal water needed.
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major push for sewage/water. We should not have septic tanks in these built up areas. • Public transport – rare to see a bus on New Salem Rd. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anna Devine: Need to notify locals as to what it is now. • Protect streams & wetlands. • Take advantage of waterfronts. • Need a deli. • Creek/pond.

How Can The Town Serve You Better?

20. How did you learn about the Town’s Comprehensive Planning Process?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town supervisor (x4). • Jared Geuss Facebook (x4). • Facebook post (x6). • Daily Freeman. • Phone call. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thru employee meeting. • EBA (x2). • Word of mouth/friend. • Post Card/Direct Mailer (x10).

21. How would you prefer to get information about community news/events, Town meetings, etc.?	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Email (x11). • Social Media (x3)/Facebook (x7). • Direct mail (x5). • Website (x2)/Town website is good – easy to navigate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connected but independent webpage w/calendar of activities. • Newspaper. • Notice at Post Office.

22. How would you rate the Town’s performance keeping residents and businesses up-to-date about important community information?			
Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much better this year. • Has improved this year, keep it up. • Off to a great start. Keep up the momentum. • Getting better. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting better. • Getting ++ better! A Facebook group helps. • Getting better; too many acronyms e.g. “CPC”. Not enough info to know if a “public” meeting is of interest. • Just learned about Facebook today. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fair-better recently. • Fair, getting better. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Was poor.

23. Provide additional suggestions to improve the Town’s communication with residents and businesses.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facebook (x4). • Website (x3). • Email (x3)/E-newsletters • If the Memorial Parade changes due to weather, update the website & phone message • Community breakfast with Q&A on Sat or Sun mornings. • Maybe kids groups – more community involvement taught @ youth age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set-up tables @ sporting events (PEAA – share info via PEAA network). • Residents should attend Town Board meetings & communicate. • More/various events at Town Hall. • Resolve P.O. problem ASAP (x2). • Home delivery of mail.

Kids Input

24. If you were in charge of the Town of Esopus, what would you do to make the Town the best place for you, your family and your friends?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new playground. • Sports Dome so we can play soccer/field hockey. • Safer roads to ride your bikes on. • More biking trails. • New Mall. • New pool. • More baseball, football & soccer. • Soccer fields or improvement on basketball court. • I want a place that has a café (x2) with a lounge so my friends and I can hang out. • A skate park. • More cookies.

Notes on Land Use Map

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Property Taxes - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Freeze amount of exempt properties at present level. - Remove exempt property from exempt status where possible. - Request <u>all</u> exempt property owners to contribute to the local tax fund. - Fight property taxes at all times to eventually rid us of this most unfair tax. • No more property off tax bills for religious groups. • Don't let any more taxable properties be removed from the tax rolls (e.g., Scenic Hudson, etc.) • A directory as to what is allowed in each zoning designation, big enough to stay on the table. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid linear highway development. • Re-examine Gateway Zoning maybe alt. to L1. • Pave Timberline Trail (x2)– it will add tax revenues/could bring in tax revenue of another 15 houses. • Upgrade to 2+ acres in central R-40 zone; cluster density in walkable hamlets. • Cluster zoning that encourages walkable hamlets (x2). • Always look for water problems when approving building areas.
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Comment Box

<p>Traffic/Pedestrian Safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Town should maintain sidewalks for safety. • Lower speed limits (x2), speed limit 35 MPH (<i>specific location not provided</i>), should be 25 MPH. • Please put more speed limit signs on Main Street in the hamlet of Esopus: People speed through 35 MPH zone and they are cutting from 9W at unreal speeds. • Roads are winding and do not have shoulders. <p>Recreation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like a swimming pool. • Great demand for indoor practice fields in area. Families travel 50+ (Berg Field – Mountain View Road possible location for recreational fields/facility). • Find developer to open indoor/outdoor Recreation fields for soccer, baseball, etc. • Walking track around Cas Landi Park in St Remy for seniors and young families <p>Property Maintenance/Zoning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up properties, junk in front of homes. • Enforce existing zoning regulations (x2). • Rules and code enforcement on existing ordinances for community upkeep. • Need a community clean-up day (twice a year)/free pickup of appliances, furniture, etc.(x2). • Riverkeeper member (Sweep Leader): There are lots of tires dumped on the River Road just north of the lighthouse Park. The town of Esopus has known about them for over a year today. People are really upset that the tires are there and nothing has been done. • Esopus planning: Please address “not occupied” short-term rentals; these are not B&Bs, they are unoccupied unregulated illegal motels; Mr. Ronald Pordy and attorney did research in 2017 supporting this claim. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Non occupied short-term rentals impose themselves on the community. Implications of use (septic and well), security, privacy, noise, and traffic are all affected. ○ Esopus needs to require regulations special permits etc. for this use. • Please don't allow Billboards and do regulate size and appearance of signs.

- Some street trees along 9W in Port Ewen are dead

Police Presence/Crime Concerns:

- Start a Community Watch as there is no police station (NOTE: County Sherriff has a substation at Town Hall).
- Crime should be reported and enforced, police station is needed.
- Police Rifton.
- There is no police presence (x2) unless there is a call made to them.
- Concern that crime has increased due to apartments/Section 8 tenants. All cars on Street got broken into from

Housing:

- Suggestion to create homeowners out of the Section 8 tenants and use programs that they are eligible for to phase them out and into homeownership.
- Pave Timberland Trail – it will bring in tax revenue (x2).
- No Section 8 landlords.
- Landowners are moving and renting.

Parking:

- Rifton-pave road shoulder in front of the post office for more parking.
- We need a parking area at each end of Port Ewen for relief from traffic at 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Look for locations convenient to access existing and future business.
- Solar panels (as a canopy over parking lots to create shade).

Mail/Post Office:

- Need home delivery of mail.
- Post Office delivery in Ulster Park.
- Two mailboxes one at each end of Port Ewen.

Property Taxes:

- Don't let any more taxable properties leave the tax rolls (example Scenic Hudson).
- Tax relief needed, especially seniors.
- Tax exempt properties should not be able to vote.

Town Programs/Information Outreach:

- Library functions: film educators and speakers, social groups and loop with announcements on Channel 23.
- More focus on youth with a place to be mentor to find an ear or to hang.
- Channel 23 – needs to go back up to promote volunteer groups, what they have to offer, what they do, volunteer opportunities, it's needed, current service capability for 7 towns.
- Information distributed on Channel 23 (\$ to support it with a franchise fee and not a tax) distribute information from the Fire Dept, EMS and Building Dept with info on disaster preparedness.

Miscellaneous:

- Small ideas and detail build community.
- Promote live/work at home opportunities.
- Dog tag is provided with an unsecured holder something more hearty would have losing them with even a plastic lock.
- Central Hudson Eastside power outages happening more often (changes were made years ago-wondering why).

Public Open House Results

- Embrace the residence and raise money (for example fill in potholes and have residents pay, then name the pothole after them; this can be done with anything town-owned even toilets).
- Solarize street lights.
- Letter from Linda Cahill to the Supervisor –resident of Riverview condos distressed and concerned about the possibility of a sailboat storage facility being situated on the north end of Freer Park.

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2. Town of Esopus Design Workshop Results and Presentation

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Town of Esopus Comprehensive Plan Update May 24th, 2018 Design Workshop Results

More than 70 individuals attended the Town of Esopus design workshop on Thursday May 24th, 2018. The design workshop was held to seek public input regarding the Town's hamlets and waterfront areas. To facilitate public discussion, aerial maps of each Hamlet and waterfront areas were provided along with transparent paper to allow workshop attendees to sketch ideas and indicate the type and location of desired improvements and projects. Additional opportunities for the public to indicate their recommendations and ideas were provided, including post-it-notes and comment cards.

The workshop culminated in a short presentation by Laberge Group highlighting initial findings of the Community Profile, the May 5th Public Open House results and a general overview of the hamlet and waterfront recommendations received during that evenings design workshop.

The following is detailed summary of all information received at the design workshop. In cases where large numbers of comments were provided, the recommendations were divided into key topic areas. It is important to note that not all recommendations are feasible for a variety of reasons including, but not limited to costs, economic reality and property ownership.

The input received at the workshop will be combined with the May 5th Open House results, the Community Profile and Committee discussions to help craft a Town-wide Vision, Goals and Strategies for public consideration.

Waterfront Areas

The public was asked to provide comments and recommendations on the Town's key waterfront areas which included the Rondout Creek from the Hamlet of Connelly east to Sleightsburgh Park and along the Hudson River from Sleightsburgh Park south to Freer Park Beach/Hidden Harbor Yacht Club in Port Ewen. Additional input on waterfront access and improvements outside of Connelly, Sleightsburgh and Port Ewen were also provided including the Hudson River south of Port Ewen as well as Sturgeon Pool and the Wallkill River on the western side of the Town.

Specific Access and Revitalization Waterfront Recommendations:

- The waterfront is considered an asset and a greater degree of recreational opportunities and increased waterfront access should be pursued.
- Encourage appropriate infill and redevelopment of key areas on the Rondout Creek waterfront for public access, new commercial development with restaurants, lodging and related amenities and seek to integrate, link to, compliment and expand upon amenities and offerings across the creek in Kingston.
- The Town should utilize existing easements and access rights as much as possible in order to achieve increased access and open space goals, including the existing right-of-way in Connelly through Jeff's Yacht Basin.



- Create a public waterfront park with trails on the property between Plantasie Avenue and Connelly Road and the Rondout Yacht Club and Rondout Harbor Condominiums. [NOTE: Subject property is owned by the Rondout Yacht Club.]
- Consider partnerships with both private and non-profit entities, including leasing arrangements, acquisition, land swaps, and other feasible techniques to achieve waterfront goals of increased access.
- Repurpose vacant and underutilized property and buildings on and near the waterfront for business startup space, artist studios, commercial/retail or more productive uses.
- The waterfront area between the US-9W arterial and former 9W (bridge to bridge), was recommended to be redeveloped as mixed use, commercial and retail development with access to the Rondout. This is a convenient and accessible location central to the more populated areas of the Town and could become a key destination.
- Establish a waterfront Trail along the Rondout from Connelly to Sleightsburgh Park.
- A kayak rental facility similar to Kenco at Kingston Point Beach would be a desirable addition to the Town of Esopus.
- Festivals and other community events should occur along the waterfront.
- The anchoring of barges at the Rondout and Hudson confluences should not be permitted.
- The importance of wetlands should be promoted and possibly made part of interpretive panels in key areas along the waterfront.
- Create a brand image for the Town/Waterfront and install signs visible to boaters promoting Esopus.
- Existing publicly-owned waterfront property should stay under public ownership.

Sleightsburgh Park:

- Develop new and improve existing trails.
- Remove the duck blind.
- The park access road should be widened and additional parking provided.
- Motor boats should not be permitted near the wetlands in the Sleightsburgh area.

Freer Park Beach:

- Establish a formal waterfront farmers market at Freer Beach Park.
- Increase the number of outdoor events at the Park.
- Signage was recommended at the end of Tilden Street for pedestrian access to Freer Park Beach. [NOTE: Recommend discussing to determine if the Town intends to designate this location as a formal pedestrian access point to the Park.]

Gateway and Pedestrian/Bicycle Enhancements:

- Make a connection to the Kingston Greenline, across the 9W Bridge. This would provide further regional connections and enhance the Town's attractiveness.
- The Rt. 9W corridor, especially over the Rt. 9W Bridge, needs to be more bicycle friendly and include "sharrows" (pavement markings indicating the road is to be shared with bicyclists) be added to the highway for inclusion of bicycle traffic. This would also help make a connection to the Greenline.
- Connelly Road, between Port Ewen and Connelly was also identified for "sharrows" or a formal bike lane, improving the safety of all Road users.
- The Old Rt. 9W and Rt. 9W gateways into Port Ewen should be enhanced to become more inviting. This could be accomplished by a planted median along Rt. 9W, screening of incompatible development and enhanced property maintenance.
- Establish the Port Ewen Riverside Trail beginning near the 9W Bridge in Sleightsburgh and ending at Freer Beach Park, roughly following the path of Rt. 9W.



Example of a Bike Sharrow

Miscellaneous Comments:

- With the imminent closure of the Wurtz Street/Old Rt. 66 Bridge for repairs, it was recommended that DOT maintain some type of connection granting access to those on both sides of the creek. An alternative approach would be to provide a water taxi to maintain this connection. [NOTE: The Rt. 66 Bridge will continue to provide a connection to Kingston while the Wurtz Street Bridge is under repairs.]
- Seek to position the Town as an artist friendly community that would begin to absorb artists that may be getting priced-out of their existing studio and living spaces in Kingston and elsewhere.
- Reduce local restrictions on home based business, with few employees.

Hamlets of Sleightsburgh and Port Ewen

Due to their close proximity and adjacency to the Hudson River and Rondout Creek, the design workshop results for the Hamlets of Sleightsburgh and Port Ewen have were summarized together.

Preferred Development/Economic Development

- Recommendation to see more attractive, aesthetically compatible mixed uses in Port Ewen.
- With the Kingston Rondout seeing increased development of tourist activities and attractions, the Town should seek opportunities to draw more visitors across the Rondout and into Port Ewen.
- There should be some integration of the Kingston Greenway into the hamlets, particularly over the Wurtz Street Bridge.
- Establish a water taxi service across the Rondout.
- Promote the ecology of the Rondout.
- Support for more restaurants all along Rt. 9W in Port Ewen including additional uses that would enhance the “nightlife” in the core of the Hamlet.
- It is important to preserve older housing structures in an effort to maintain the original character of the hamlets.
- A tourist information center should be established in Port Ewen to greet visitors from outside of the community.
- Diverse housing types should be introduced to the hamlet, particularly for seniors.
- Strong support from both hamlets for a larger scale grocer in the Port Ewan/ Sleightsburgh area.
- Strong support from both hamlets for home mail delivery and a functioning post office as the former post office is now closed, forcing residents to an adjacent hamlet to pick up their mail – which many have seen as an inconvenience.

Traffic and Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety

- Numerous meeting attendees identified roadway safety as a major concern in both Hamlets. Specifically, sidewalks and crosswalks are in unsatisfactory conditions in Port Ewen and are completely missing in Sleightsburgh. High vehicle speeds are a major issue and pedestrian signage, restriping crosswalks, general improvements and stronger enforcement measures need to be implemented in order to ensure that pedestrian and vehicular safety is maintained.
- Due to high speeds of vehicles and the semi-arterial feel of North Broadway, there was a recommendation that speedbumps be added to the road in an effort to reduce speeding. Alternative measure to reduce traffic speeds should also be considered.
- The North Broadway arterial should be “right-sized”, reflecting the character of the hamlet to a greater degree, with medians, smaller lanes, and accommodations for bikes and pedestrians- in essence a “Complete Street.”
- Improve safety for pedestrians walking to riverfront parks and public areas.

Zoning, Property Maintenance and Code Enforcement

- Consider limits and restrictions on political signage.
- Prohibit vehicles from parking in front lawns.
- Update and properly maintain dilapidated properties.

- Improve commercial properties with landscaping.
- Hold landlords, including absentee landlords more accountable for neglected and unkempt properties.
- Establish architectural standards.

Parks

- **Sleightsburgh Park**
 - Provide a phone for emergencies.
 - Provide more parking.
 - Provide greater access for watersports opportunities.
- **Sojourner Truth Park**
 - Hold a weekly farmers market. [NOTE: The park and associated parking area are too small to hold a farmers' market. Larger locations should be considered. Previous suggestions included Freer Park Beach. An additional location could be the large parking area at the end of Legion Court.]
- **Freer Beach Park**
 - Provide a river pool and bathhouse in the Park.
 - Provide a concrete boat ramp.
 - Improve the walkway to Freer Park from Hamilton Court. [NOTE: referring to the asphalt walkway down the hill from Hamilton Court to Herriman Street.]
 - Provide a roller rink.
- **Ross Park**
 - Provide a pool.
 - Maintain the ice rink.
 - Provide a roller rink.
 - Provide improved bathroom facilities.
 - Provide paved parking.
 - Provide an updated ADA compliant playground.
 - Expand Ross Park.

General Comments

- As a way of promoting Town events, school events and conveying other important information to residents, it was recommended that a marquee-type sign be provided at the gateways of the community.
- The Town and residents should practice community composting.
- Provide/host concerts and cultural Events along the River
- Provide more family play and picnic areas and outdoor gathering spaces.

Hamlet of Connelly

- Connelly has a lot of potential, although the hamlet's image needs to be improved.
- Vacant structures need to be addressed – renovated/repurposed or removed.

- There are dilapidated structures, others lacking siding, and likely some structures that are code deficient. In addition, some properties in Connelly have aesthetic and property maintenance issues that will need to be addressed.
- The Town should consider utilizing the services of building programs for youth or BOCES to assist with renovations and cleaning up the hamlet.
- New uses are recommended/desired for the hamlet: general store, laundry facilities, with a goal of increasing the overall commercial tax base.
- There is a strong desire for access to the Rondout Creek, an important historical and prominent feature of the hamlet. Attendees envisioned the following amenities along the creek:
 - Fishing Dock
 - Beach
 - Kayak or Other Boat Launch
 - Commercial Development – particularly on the vacant parcel behind Certified Marina.
 - Water Taxi Service
 - Public Parking
- The Town currently owns a right-of-way through Jeff’s Yacht Basin. However, there is no signage indicating this as public access nor any land devoted to accessing the creek or public parking.
- Waterfront access may be achievable on vacant land owned by the Roundout Yacht Basin, between the marina and the Rondout Harbor condominium. In addition, this area could include a trail along Mill Brook which runs between Connelly Road and Plantasie Avenue (Consistent with recommendations provided above for the “Waterfront Areas,” the trail could connect in with a larger town-wide trail network. The property is within the 100-year flood plain and likely includes pockets of wetlands.
- Vacant land south of 2nd Street and bordered to the east by Center Street was identified as a good site for infill mixed use and/or residential uses.
- Rieker Memorial Park should be enhanced – there is a perception that the current park does not adequately meet the recreational needs of the residents of the hamlet.
- Concerns for flooding risks where noted on the map. [NOTE: The marinas are all within the 100-year floodplain while a very limited section of the Hamlet is within the 500-year floodplain with the remainder being out of the floodplain. Therefore, actual flood risk to the core residential areas of the Hamlet is currently limited. Concerns for impacts of future sea level rise should be taken into consideration however.]
- The channel of the Rondout Creek needs to be properly maintained along the hamlet and further west near the quarry site.

Hamlet of Rifton

- There is a need for increased business, more convenience/service businesses, and better leisure and recreational opportunities.
- Large support for improved water/boat access on both the Wallkill River and Sturgeon Pool, including establishing a partnership with Central Hudson for recreational opportunities and water access at Sturgeon Pool. Some concerns were expressed about water quality in the Wallkill River and Sturgeon Pond, possibly due to residential septic systems.
- Through the Local Waterfront Revitalization Planning Program (LWRP), it was recommended to extend the Waterfront Area up the Wallkill River, to ensure that adequate waterfront planning is achieved for this hamlet and surrounding areas.
- Expand businesses in the hamlet and reduce development restrictions along Rt. 213. Specifically, State Rt. 213 should be treated and developed in a similar fashion as Rt. 9W on the eastern side of the Town of Esopus.
- The speed limit be dropped to 35 MPH on the stretch of Rt. 213 in the Rifton area and the road’s shoulders should be widened – consistency of shoulder width should be maintained for biking. Alternately, dedicated bike lanes on Rt. 213 should be considered.

- The history of Rifton should highlighted, preserved and taken into considering when planning future growth and tourism potential, including the waterway history of the hamlet.
- Support for continued use of the vacant Anna Devine school site on the hamlets edge for educational purposes, including a program similar to BOCES.
- Future subdivisions creating “keyhole” lots should be discouraged.
- Perrine’s Bridge Park along Rt. 213: Request for better parking and signage; there is the covered bridge area and the larger park to the south – improved coordination between the two areas needed. Suggestion that impoundments could help address flooding potential.

Hamlet of St. Remy

- The Town’s rural atmosphere, including the character of St. Remy needs to be maintained and valued.
- Historical integrity is key to the hamlet of St. Remy and highly desirable in this area.
- State Rt. 213 should be officially designated a State Bike Route.
- Subdivision regulations in the hamlet area are ambiguous and need to be clarified [NOTE: No specifics provided on how the subdivision regulations need to be clarified.]
- There needs to be a greater degree of mixed use along NY-213 and within the hamlet center of St. Remy and throughout Town. Mixed-use development should be incentivized.
- Recommendation for the Town to work with Resource Center for Accessible Living (RCAL) – Kingston in order to house individuals.
- Non-profits in the St. Remy area, and throughout the community should be asked to provide easements to desirable features of the community – particularly to waterfront resources, including public slips for functional use of the waterfront.

Hamlets of Esopus and West Park

Due to their general similarities in location and character, comments and recommendations provided for Esopus and West Park have been summarized together.

Recreation and Tourism

- Significant support for improved connections and opportunities to outdoor resources, as well as protection of those resources. In addition to improving these connections and enhancing outdoor recreational type opportunities, small-scale and/or recreational/tourist-type developments will help strengthen the hamlets through utilization of available vacant and underutilized lands and increased non-residential tax base.
- Strong support for increasing publicly accessible connections to the Hudson River.
- Seek to make trail connections to John Burroughs’s Preserve (Slabsides) and John Burroughs Home.
- The Town should support connecting the Black Creek Preserve, Burroughs’s Preserve, Shaupeneak Ridge, and New York State owned Black Creek State Forest, eventually crossing the Town border into the Town of Lloyd.
- Camping should be permitted at Shaupeneak Ridge Park.
- Recommendation for improved access to the Black Creek State Forest and improvements for canoeing and kayaking in Black Creek with signage and adequate dockage space for access and portages.
- Recommendation for the Town to seek ownership of a former Town-owned riverfront site at the end of Parker Avenue for river access. [NOTE: Property currently privately-owned.]
- Between West Park and Esopus, recommendation for a public park along Rt.-9W, which would serve both hamlets.

Preferred Development

- Support for deluxe, or boutique hotel in the Hamlet of Esopus.

- Just outside of and to the west of the hamlet of Esopus, development should only be on parcels one acre or larger, and any subdivisions going forward should consider this. Concerns expressed about septic and terrain issues, as well as a desire to keep the rural character of the community.
- In Esopus – requests for small business development on the Rt. 9W corridor, which would support the hamlet and the Town as a whole.
- Concern expressed that Town regulations related to small scale home-based businesses are too restrictive in the Hamlets of Esopus and West Park. These restrictions create a burden on would-be entrepreneurs.
- The Hamlet of Esopus would be a good location for a public transportation bus stop which would take residents into Port Ewen and Kingston to the north, the particular locations sited were the intersections of 9W and Parker Avenue and Rt. 9W and Main Street.
- In the West Park area, recommendation for the Cabrini Property to be redeveloped as a deluxe hotel, including riding/hiking trails at the rear of the property. This redevelopment would strengthen the tax base and providing an attraction to the Town.

Traffic

- Concern for the safety of vehicles entering and exiting Sacred Heart Church along Rt. 9W – needs to be improved for safety reasons (line of sight and vehicle speeds).
- Immediately adjacent to the core area for Esopus, complaints about train traffic and trains parked on tracks for long durations, blocking traffic and impeding emergency service responses.

Hamlet of Ulster Park

Preferred Development and Character/Tourism

- Significant support for the Hamlet of Ulster Park to be recognized as a distinct location in the Town while at the same time remain less developed in contrast to the more developed hamlets.
- Aesthetics/architecture need to be maintained and improved along Rt. 9W through the hamlet area in support of nearby business and the Town as a whole; would maintain and strengthen real estate values in the Hamlet.
- Ulster Park would be a good agro-tourism center in the Town, especially as the apple orchard draws many visitors from out of town and the Headless Horseman attraction is already a large draw.
- Recommendations for future development to be focused around intersections, where water and/or sewer currently exist and along Rt. 9W in an effort to preserve the character of side roads and residentially concentrated areas.
- The area near the Ambulance Corps was identified as a suitable location for mixed-use commercial development: intersection of Cross Street and Rt. 9W.
- Small scale office development was identified as a suitable development type along the 9W corridor, in the vicinity of Ulster Avenue.
- Recommendation for a B&B-scale lodging facility. This would complement the area and be appropriate in scale, especially along Rt. 9W, in the vicinity of Klyne Esopus, the Headless Horseman, and the Winery.
- River Road, between Rt. 9W and Lighthouse Park and passing by Maynard Farms is described as being very scenic and this scenic corridor should be preserved.

Recreation

- Request for better trails, trail connections and better siting of current and future trails.
- Recommendation for a waterside trail from Esopus Meadows up to Sleightsburgh Park along River Road which would be a strong addition to Town.
- Mirror Lake was identified as a possible public access location and for a beach.
- At Esopus Meadows/ Lighthouse Park, recommendation to repair the bulkheads, addition of a boat launch along with removal of the fencing which would improve access for kayaks.

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

- Several attendees expressed concern for vehicle speeds along Rt. 9W and enhanced speed limit enforcement is needed. In addition, there is strong support for improvements to bike and pedestrian safety through expanded shoulders and bike and pedestrian signage.
- Along River Road, from Rt. 9W, a trail would enhance opportunities for walking and cycling, provided vehicle speeds are better controlled.

Zoning and Land Use Regulations

- Code enforcement and nuisance issues were identified as concerns. The Town should take a more active role enforcing code violations and combating public nuisance issues.
- Light pollution was identified as a concern in Ulster Park and that it should be addressed through the Town code.
- Electric signs were identified as unsightly and they should not be permitted in Ulster Park or the Town as a whole.
- Restrictions for home-based businesses with few employees should be loosened.



Town of Esopus

Comprehensive Plan Update



Town-wide Design Workshop

May 24, 2018



Laberge



Introductions - Committee

Comprehensive Planning Committee

- Shannon Harris - Town Supervisor
- Jared Geuss - Chair / Town Board
- Kathie Quick - Town Board
- Myles Putman, AICP - Town Planner
- Laura Petit - County Legislature
- Frank Skerritt - ZBA
- Fred Zimmer - Planning Board
- Sal Morello, III - Building Inspector
- Mark Ellison- Env. Advisory Chair
- Melanie Marino- Community Development
- John Cutrone- Economic Development
- Mark Phelan- Water/ Sewer Board
- Robert Wells - Recreation Commission



Laberge



Introductions - Project Team

Nicole Allen, AICP Planning Services Manager - Laberge Group

Matthew Rogers, Senior Planner - Laberge Group

Joshua Westfall, Planner - Laberge Group

William Sprengnether, RLA - Cardinal Direction

Ellen Pemrick, Principal – E.M. Pemrick & Company



Agenda

- Comprehensive Plan: What it is, Why are We Doing it, How's it Done..?
- Esopus Today
- Review of May 5th Open House
- What Makes a Vibrant Place?
- Discussion of Designs
- Next Steps
- Q&A



Comprehensive Plan – What and Why

What: A Comprehensive Plan is a broad, long-range document that guides a community's future, based greatly on public input.

Uses decision-makers to establish policy in regard to development, capital investment, zoning changes, economic strength, and sustainability.

Why: The last Town of Esopus Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1994, 24 years ago.

Responds proactively to community change.

To improve access to financial and technical assistance.

Provides direction to multiple government agencies including local and State government.



Comprehensive Plan – How

2017: - Town of Esopus Master Plan Survey distributed via hardcopy and online; over 600 respondents.

2018:

- Planning Process Begins
- Consultant Project Team Hired
- Stakeholder/Focus Group Meetings
- Public Open House (May 5th), Design Charrette (May 24th)
- Draft Plan – June 21st public input
- Public Hearing
- Plan Adoption



Esopus Today/Facts and Figures: Population

Table 1: Historic & Projected Population

	Town of Esopus		Ulster County	
	Number	% Change	Number	% Change
1950	4,738		92,621	
1960	6,597	39.2%	118,804	28.3%
1970	6,974	5.7%	142,334	19.8%
1980	7,605	9.0%	158,158	11.1%
1990	8,860	16.5%	165,304	4.5%
2000	9,331	5.3%	177,749	7.5%
2010	9,041	-3.1%	182,493	2.7%
2017 estimates	9,388	3.8%	185,613	1.7%
2022 projections	9,589	2.1%	187,704	1.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and ESRI (estimates and projections).

- **Town of Esopus is expected to grow faster than the County**
- **By the year 2022, Esopus is projected to have a population just under 10,000.**



Laberge



Group



Esopus Today/Facts and Figures: Population

Table 2: Population Trends Comparison

	Town of Esopus	Town of Lloyd	City of Kingston	Ulster County
1970	6,974	7,032	25,544	142,334
1980	7,605	7,875	24,481	158,158
1990	8,860	9,231	23,095	165,304
2000	9,331	9,941	23,456	177,749
2010	9,041	10,863	23,900	182,493
2017 estimates	9,388	11,126	24,224	185,613
% Change, 1970-2010	29.6%	54.5%	-6.4%	28.2%
% Change, 2010-2017	3.8%	2.4%	1.4%	1.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and ESRI (2017 estimates)

- **Between 1970 and 2010, Esopus added more than 2,000 residents, an increase of 29.6%.**
- **Esopus' growth was less than in Lloyd, but on par with Ulster County as a whole.**
- **However, population in Esopus increased at a greater rate from 2010-2017 than its neighbors.**
- **In contrast, Kingston lost population but is slowly recovering.**



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Esopus Today/Facts and Figures: Population

Table 3: Projected Percent Change in Population by Age Cohort, 2017-22

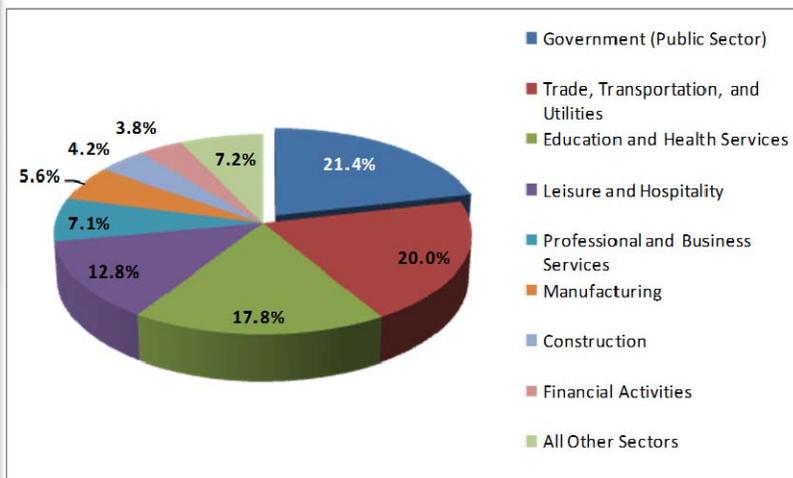
	Town of Esopus	Ulster County
Pre-school (<5)	2.2%	-1.1%
School age (5-17)	0.7%	-1.8%
College age (18-24)	-7.7%	-9.4%
Ages 25-34	8.0%	3.6%
Ages 35-44	11.1%	4.6%
Ages 45-54	-13.9%	-11.4%
Ages 55-64	-3.9%	-0.8%
Seniors (65+)	15.1%	17.2%
Total	2.1%	1.1%

Source: ESRI Business Analyst.

- Working age adult populations are expected to grow.
- School age children populations are expected to remain stable.
- An aging senior population is similar to the County's trend.



Esopus Today/Facts and Figures: Work



- Largest proportion of Esopus' population work in Government (Public) sector.
- Next largest proportion of residents work in the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities sector.



Esopus Today/Facts and Figures: Work

Location	Count	Share
Ulster County	1,477	44.9%
City of Kingston	593	18.7%
Town of Ulster	272	8.6%
Town of New Paltz	150	4.7%
Town of Esopus	149	4.7%
Other Towns	263	8.3%
Dutchess County	557	17.5%
Town of Poughkeepsie	175	5.5%
City of Poughkeepsie	108	3.4%
Other Towns	274	8.6%
New York City (All 5 Boroughs)	339	10.7%
Orange County	190	6.0%
Westchester County	95	3.0%
All Other Counties	569	17.9%
TOTAL	3,177	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, LED OnTheMap Origin-Destination Database (2015).

- Less than 5% of employed Town residents work in Esopus.
- More than 40% work elsewhere in the County:
 - 18.7% in Kingston
 - 8.6% in the Town of Ulster.
- About 17.5% of commute to Dutchess County.
- Other commuting destinations include NYC, Orange County, and Westchester County.



Esopus Today/Facts and Figures: Housing

	Town of Esopus		Town of Lloyd		Ulster County	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Housing Units	3,625	100.0%	4,593	100.0%	83,762	100.0%
Occupied Units	3,226	89.0%	4,074	88.7%	69,335	82.8%
Owner-Occupied Units	2,366	65.3%	2,912	63.4%	48,343	57.7%
Renter-Occupied Units	860	23.7%	1,162	25.3%	20,992	25.1%
Vacant Units	399	11.0%	519	11.3%	14,427	17.2%
Seasonal/Recreational Use	217	54.4%	52	10.0%	7,021	48.7%
Homeowner Vacancy Rate		2.0%		2.3%		2.1%
Renter Vacancy Rate		5.4%		13.7%		6.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2012-16 Five-Year Estimates.

- The Town of Esopus has a total of 3,625 housing units.
- Of these, 65.3% are owner-occupied and 23.7% are renter-occupied.
- Approximately 400 units in Esopus are categorized as vacant;
- However, more than ½ are seasonal units, occupied by part-time residents who may have another home elsewhere.



Esopus Today/Facts and Figures: Housing

Table 2: Housing Units by Units in Structure

	All Housing Units		Owner-Occupied Units		Renter-Occupied Units	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
1 unit	2,676	73.8%	2,147	90.7%	270	31.4%
2 units	236	6.5%	27	1.1%	164	19.1%
3 or 4 units	235	6.5%	21	0.9%	180	20.9%
5 to 9 units	103	2.8%	19	0.8%	83	9.7%
10 or more units	171	4.7%	31	1.3%	80	9.3%
Mobile home	204	5.6%	121	5.1%	83	9.7%
Total Housing Units	3,625	100.0%	2,366	100.0%	860	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2012-16 Five-Year Estimates.

- **Majority of units in Esopus (73.8%) are in single-family structures.**
- **20.6% are multi-family structures:**
 - **Majority of these have 2 to 4 housing units each (13%).**
 - **Relatively few large apartment complexes (10 or more units) compared to Lloyd.**
 - **9.3% versus 28.4% of those in Lloyd.**



Laberge Group

May 5th Open House - Review

- The Town of Esopus Comprehensive Planning Committee held a public open house on Saturday, May 5th from 8am to 3pm.
- This meeting was well attended by over 150 town residents.
- Residents visited multiple stations that addressed key topic areas: housing, parks and recreation, economic development, infrastructure, waterfront and Hamlets.



Laberge Group

May 5th Open House – Economic Development

- **Top Economic Development Priorities:**
 - Recreation/Ecotourism
 - Agritourism
 - Renewable Energy
 - Light Industry/Light Manufacturing
 - Waterfront Commercial, Entertainment and Tourism
- **Additional Recommendations:**
 - Promote locally-owned, small-scale businesses, restaurants, coffee shops, small grocer, lodging opportunities.
 - Identify additional public parking opportunities to accommodate future growth.
 - Improve appearance of commercial and residential areas through Code/Zoning enforcement and grant/loan programs if available.
 - Hold more outdoor festivals and events throughout Town.



Laberge



May 5th Open House – Housing

- **Desired Housing Choices:**
 - Mixed Residential/Commercial
 - Apartments
 - Single Family – Small Lot
 - Duplex/Two Family
 - Senior Housing
 - Single Family – Large Lot
 - Townhouses
- **Additional Observations/Recommendations:**
 - Insufficient housing opportunities for recent grads., young families, seniors.
 - Support for a home improvement program.
 - Building/property maintenance is a concern – address through Code/Zoning enforcements.
 - Airbnb a concern.
 - Municipal water and sewer needed south of Port Ewen and Connelly.



Laberge



May 5th Open House – Recreation

- Town should pursue opportunities to increase public waterfront access.
- Town pool recommended.
- Seek to connect diverse trails and recreation areas throughout Town, add mountain biking trails.
- Improve recreational opportunities and safety for pedestrian and bicyclists.
- More sports fields, indoor recreational facility recommended.
- Offer more winter sports activities.
- Hiking trails need to be better maintained.



May 5th Open House – Recreation

- **Freer Park Beach**
 - Improve boat launch facilities – car top and motorized.
 - Provide a designated fishing area.
 - Bring back the beach or find an alternative location for public swimming.
 - Kayak storage, rowing and sailing opportunities.
 - Keep working to limit spread of water chestnuts.
- **Ross Park**
 - Repurpose skating area/keep skating.
 - Add sprinkler/spray park
 - Improve tennis/basketball courts, add volleyball court
- **Sleightsburgh Park:** Improve launch facilities and widen access road.
- **Cas Landi Park:** Add a walking track and improve tennis and basketball courts.
- **Rieker Memorial Park/Connelly:** Improve ball field and update playground equipment.
- **Joseph Clark Park: West Park:** Add bathrooms and update park facilities.
- **Rifton:** Would like a community park.



What Makes a Vibrant Place?

One goal of **PLANNING** is to provide a framework that will help transform established core areas into **VIBRANT PLACES** – a place where people love to **LIVE, WORK, and PLAY.**



Lacberge



What Makes a Vibrant Place?

1. Municipal/Economic Anchors
2. Architectural Integrity
3. Mixed Uses (Office, Residential, Retail, Specialty Shops, etc.)
4. Transportation and Linkages (Including landmarks and Gateways)
5. Quality Outdoor Community Spaces
6. Recognition of Local History, Local Culture and Regional Context
7. Protection or Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
8. Desirable Residential Options
9. Supporting Commercial & Residential Districts



Lacberge



Vibrant Places – Municipal/Economic Anchors

- Economic anchors within a developed core area draw steady crowds, create active street life, and encourage spin-off businesses. These include **larger commercial business, restaurants, entertainment.**
- Municipal anchors draw residents into a core area during daytime business hours and for evening municipal events. These can include **municipal offices, courts, post offices, and parks.**

"Municipalities that keep public offices, banks, library, and governmental agencies located downtown will retain their architectural integrity and provide important daily destinations for local consumers." – A. Duany



Cohoes Music Hall – City of Cohoes, NY



Open Air Restaurant – Raleigh, NC



Pharmacy – Port Ewen, NY



Sojourner Truth Park – Port Ewen, NY



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Vibrant Places – Architectural Integrity

- Traditional architecture provides a sense of place for a downtown and encourages a mix of uses that support a vibrant and economic structure.
- The reuse and revitalization of aged buildings maintains the community character and identity.
- Protects adjacent property values and creates a degree of uniformity, creating a sense of place - an identity.



Historic Brown's Race District
Rochester, NY



Well-Maintained Homes/
Home - Based Business
Port Ewen, NY



Historic Character
Connelly, NY



Dollar General-Incompatible Architecture
Port Ewen, NY



Laberge Group



Vibrant Places – Mixed-uses

- Mixed-use buildings with restaurants, and pedestrian oriented commercial space on the first floor and office and residential space on the upper floors, creates a steady pedestrian presence, stable consumer population, and solid customer base.
- These developments work towards strengthening existing retail, introduce additional retail, cluster complementary commercial uses and create “lifestyle markets” that optimize the Vibrant Community core’s multi-use potential.



Activated Sidewalk/Outdoor Dining: Asheville, NC



Mixed-Use District, Village of Schoharie, NY



Laberge Group



Vibrant Places – Transportation and Linkages

- Access to Mass or Public Transit
- Interconnected Streets/ Cross Access
- Encourages Mobility
- Safe pedestrian and bicycle zones and crossings, promote an active urbanized core.
- Promotes accessibility for all.



Pedestrian Connection to Parking Lot, Raleigh, NC



Bike Lane – Glens Falls, NY



Temporary Bump-Out – Village of Schoharie, NY



Laberge Group



Vibrant Places – Quality Outdoor Community Spaces

- Quality pedestrian spaces should provide inviting links between important parts of the community- particularly parks, schools, and municipal sites, and other outdoor spaces.
- Outdoor spaces should provide allocations for safe and passive use in multiple sites if possible.
- Landscaped and Green areas serve for aesthetic uses.



Church St. Marketplace – Burlington, Vt.



Performance Area – Lake Placid, NY



Public Fishing Pier on the Hudson – Corinth, NY

“The measure of any great civilization is its cities and the measure of a city’s greatness is to be found in the quality of its public spaces, its parks and squares.” – J. Ruskin



Laberge Group



Vibrant Places – History, Culture, Regional Role

- Recognition of historic, cultural and regional character. Promotes and Sense of identity.
- Maintaining Rural Landscapes
- Preserving Historic Architecture
- Promoting Agri-Tourism
- Industrial Heritage
- Transportation Heritage



Outdoor Art/Culture – Saratoga Springs, NY



Historic Rondout District – Kingston, NY



Brown’s Race – Rochester, NY



Laberge Group



Vibrant Places - Protection or Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

- Preservation, celebration, and effective use of a regions natural resources improves the quality of life and attracts consumers.
- Protect watersheds, wellheads, wetlands and waterways.
- Provides tourist revenue.
- Maintains sense of place.
- Preserves environmental quality.



The Wild Center – Tupper Lake, NY



Student Fish Stocking – Corinth, NY



Freer Park – Esopus, NY



Laberge



Vibrant Places – Residential Options

- Provides housing opportunities for all; younger families, single individuals, elderly, handicapped.
- Advantages to tax base.
- Provides a range of price point options.
- Mixed-use: Live and work environments.



Single Family Dwelling – Sleightsburgh, NY



Market Rate Apts. In Historic Structure
Central Bridge, NY



Mixed-Uses – Rondout District, Kingston, NY



Laberge

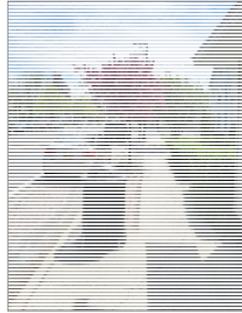


Vibrant Places - Supporting Commercial & Residential Districts

- Encourage Infill
- Beautification
- Compact and Pedestrian Scale Development
- Accessible
- Area Improvements



Infill Building – Saratoga Springs, NY



Streetscape Beautification
Port Ewen, NY



Vibrant Places – How is this achieved?

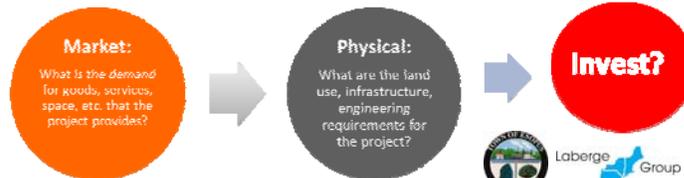
Phase I: Analysis

Phase II: Public Involvement

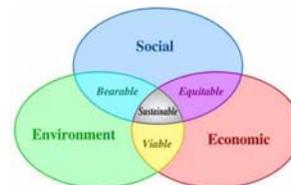


Phase III: Comprehensive Planning

Phase IV: Implementation



Walkable
Quant
Maintain-Farms
Rural-Still
Vibrant
Growing
Cute-Shops
Self-Contained
Industrial Business-Friendly
Progressive
Legacy
Green-Open-Spaces
More-Small-Town Positive
Thriving Convenient
Inviting
Unified



Presentation of Ideas



Q&A

Did we miss anything?

Additional ideas/suggestions/recommendations?

Reminder of next steps...



Next Steps...

1. Preparation of 2 concept designs based on tonight's feedback and future Committee discussions.
2. Preparation of the Draft Comprehensive Plan – key recommendations
3. **June 21st** Public Meeting:
Presentation of Draft Comprehensive Plan & Recommendations
4. Refine the Comprehensive Plan
5. Public Hearings anticipated for August and September
6. Plan Adoption



Contacts

Town of Esopus:

Shannon Harris – Supervisor: supervisor@esopus.com

Jared Geuss – Chair, Councilman: jgeuss@esopus.com

Laberge Group:

Nicole Allen, AICP – Planning Service Manager, Laberge Group: nallen@labergegroup.com

Matthew Rogers – Senior Planner, Laberge Group: mrogers@labergegroup.com



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3. Town of Esopus Goals and Strategies Public Input Results and Presentation

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Town of Esopus Comprehensive Plan Update

Analysis of Public Input on Public Open House and Survey
July 26, 2018

On June 21, 2018 the Town of Esopus held a public open house to receive input on the goals and strategies for the Comprehensive Plan update. The public was asked to identify which strategies they supported and to provide additional comments. The Town also released the goals and strategies as surveys seeking additional public input. The following is a compilation and analysis of all of the input from both sources.

Economic Development and Tourism:

Goal 1: Support business development to strengthen the tax base and meet community needs.

Strategy #1 Compile an inventory of suitable sites for business development. Market available commercial and industrial property on the Town’s website and through a realtor network and by targeting specific businesses who may be interested in expanding, relocating or opening satellite operations in Esopus.

Survey Responses (77)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	5.19%
2- Somewhat Important	19.48%
3- Very Important	74.03%
I Don't Know	1.30%

Boards at Town Hall

13 Respondents support this strategy

- Target Tax Paying Businesses

Comments:

- Unfortunately, a lot of the property that can be used for industrial property is owned by the Woodcrest community so cannot be used and certainly not strengthening the tax base!
- Dunkin’ Donuts
- Focus on assisting businesses currently here.
- Grocery store to pull clients from Route 9 corridors.
- Only if businesses pay taxes
- Are town boards ready to deal with this?
- Traffics bad enough, plus you need to stop the developing to maintain our Town’s quaint appearance. Leave the land stripping to Ulster.

Strategy #2 Work with the Ulster Economic Development Alliance and the Office of the Ulster County Executive to provide financial and technical assistance to qualified business establishments in the Town.

Develop marketing tools to increase awareness of the Town of Esopus Small Business Loan Fund. Seek grant funding for economic development projects.

Survey Responses (76)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	3.95%
2- Somewhat Important	17.11%
3- Very Important	75.00%
I Don't Know	3.95%

Boards at Town Hall

- 8 Respondents support this strategy
- Ulster County for real estate properties
 - Review zoning rules

Comments:

- I didn't know of the small business loan fund... And will look into it myself
- Many of the folks living in the area want to see them/it grow - tap into the growing creative community to help with marketing tools.
- But be careful re: financial assistance; can be a drain.
- How does this benefit the tax paying homeowner?
- Are town employees ready to do this work?

Strategy #3 Develop a campaign to educate local businesses about existing customer demands (e.g., a grocery store, hardware store, medical facility) based on resident feedback. Encourage businesses to adapt their model and products to meet current demands, where practical.

Survey Responses (77)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	2.60%
2- somewhat Important	38.96%
3- Very Important	54.55%
I Don't Know	3.90%

Broads at Town Hall

- 13 Respondents support this strategy
- No medical facility! Can't complete with Kingston and Vassar

Comments:

- I think most of them must already know.
- I believe the phrase goes; you can lead a horse to water... A good business owner knows the demands of his customers and those who don't usually aren't in business long.
- I used to live in a town where they hired a "Community Ambassador" to help with tasks like this. It was a part time job so people couldn't complain about the extra budget going to pay for a full time employee.
- Grocery
- We need a grocery store in Port Ewen.
- Are business owners open minded?

Strategy #4 Develop a plan to identify prospective businesses that align well with what Esopus has to offer. Target and recruit new businesses that can provide goods and services for current and future residents.

Survey Responses (76)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	5.26%
2- Somewhat Important	22.37%
3- Very Important	71.05%
I Don't Know	1.32%

Comments:

- What about employment for residents?
- Kingston close by. Don't need to become a shopping area
- Are good practices and structure in place for new businesses?

Strategy #5 Streamline the planning process by creating a pre-approved project compliance checklist, developing a corresponding “pocket” zoning map, and preparing and marketing online a sector-specific (agribusiness and waterfront development) “Guide to Business Opportunities and Development in Esopus” based on the checklist and zoning map.

Survey Responses (77)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	6.49%
2- Somewhat Important	25.97%
3- Very Important	61.04%
I Don't Know	6.49%

Comments:

- This is an excellent idea!
- I just rezoned property in this town and it was quit the production. I cannot imagine what a prospective business person would have to go through.
- The guide must include an environmental footprint plan. Let's not rely on our bogus federal agencies to create the criteria.
- Set zoning and hold submittals to it.
- Seems smart
- Same question - are the town employees ready?
- Implement a form-based zoning statute and develop design guidelines to create predictable outcomes.
- Great idea as the planning and zoning boards can frustrate and drive opportunities away.

Boards at Town Hall

16 Respondents support this strategy

- Farm to table restaurant, farm market, food trucks
- Mount community exempt from taxes- could they set up and run a farm stand in Port Ewen

Boards at Town Hall

9 Respondents support this strategy

- Smart development of Rt. 9W with commercial pockets, not lining 9W with businesses.

Strategy #6 Support the redevelopment and reuse of vacant and underutilized commercial sites and buildings as an alternative to the development of greenfields.

Survey Responses (76)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	0.00%
2- Somewhat Important	19.74%
3- Very Important	69.74%
I Don't Know	10.53%

Boards at Town Hall

- 9 Respondents support this strategy
 - No Comments

Comments:

- Extremely important
- Repurposing is fantastic. Look at THE LACE FACTORY!
- I'm not sure what is meant by 'greenfields'.
- Excellent! No tax breaks when breaking new ground but tax break or other assistance for reusing existing sites. A good way to get rid of eyesores.
- Under-utilized? Who decides? Dangerous slope.
- Development of greenfields is ok too!
- Existing sites, fine
- If there are already available structures, please do not destroy the natural green spaces that are left.
- Always! and something the ugly town of ulster hasn't figure out with their sprawl and decay

Strategy #7 Work with Ulster County, NYSDEC and other stakeholders to assess potential environmental issues at the former Hercules manufacturing site and other locations and identify the steps necessary to facilitate remediation and redevelopment, as appropriate.

Survey Responses (77)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	1.30%
2- Somewhat Important	31.17%
3- Very Important	58.44%
I Don't Know	9.09%

Boards at Town Hall

- 11 Respondents support this strategy
 - 9W corridor commercial site opposite frozen rainbow putting it kindly is considered an eyesore, living fence (large shrubs/trees to screen)
 - A portion of waterfront in Connelly that was public, once again should be open to the public. The dock at the end of Spring and 1st avenue (Jeff's Yacht Club)

Comments:

- It's what should be done. These sites MUST be dealt with, not swept under some rug. Thank you for including this.
- Let whoever owns or buys the land pay for these things.
- Remediation sounds good but I am unfamiliar with the issues at the site.
- NYSDEC should hold the businesses that caused contamination responsible. They are the responsible party for cleanup by law.
- Not at a cost to residents. Let Hercules pay

Strategy #8 Develop a coordinated Economic Development Strategy to further identify opportunities for business attraction, retention, and expansion based on an assessment of local resources and evaluation of future niche industries.

Survey Responses (77)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	3.90%
2- Somewhat Important	35.06%
3- Very Important	57.14%
I Don't Know	3.90%

Boards at Town Hall

- 9 Respondents support this strategy
- Bicycle Race for fun “Tour de Esopus”

Comments:

- See my note above about “Community Ambassador.”
- Steer away from franchises; they leave the moment profits drop.
- Are town people ready for change?

Goal 2: Improve the condition and appearance of commercial areas in Town to stimulate new investment and make them more attractive locations for consumers, visitors, and businesses.

Strategy #1 Review hamlet business district and waterfront commercial zoning ordinances to ensure they foster growth of targeted/compatible businesses and promote clustered development in compatible locations.

Survey Responses (70)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	5.71%
2- Somewhat Important	28.57%
3- Very Important	64.29%
I Don't Know	1.43%

Boards at Town Hall

- 16 Respondents support this strategy
- No Comments

Comments:

- Clustered development essential
- This would be a great small town hamlet but it needs to be cleaned up and strict maintenance schedules put into effect.
- Cluster regulations aren’t really used well - they should be more restrictive and allow less complete site development. Only buildable/non-restricted land should be included.
- Who can make an owner clean up his property? Please do!

Strategy #2 Evaluate opportunities for additional potential public off-street parking areas in Port Ewen with appropriate signage. Provide more commercial/municipal parking with pedestrian connections through the creation or expansion of Town-maintained public parking as well as an incentive-based zoning approach to promote shared usage of private parking facilities. Review design guidelines for parking lots (including lighting, locations, and landscaping) in the hamlets to ensure compatibility with character.

Survey Responses (70)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	14.29%
2- Somewhat Important	41.43%
3- Very Important	41.43%
I Don't Know	2.86%

Boards at Town Hall

- 12 Respondents support this strategy
- Is parking a problem in Port Ewen?

Comments:

- think Saugerties i.e. partition street
- I don't think we are quite there yet - business wise - to worry about this just yet...
- 9W can't fit in parking so off-street parking areas are essential; people won't stop if they can't park.
- Port Ewen hamlet doesn't have enough parking
- Include parking in site plan approval as businesses come to town. No need to pay for parking studies for businesses that aren't here.
- Ulster County Planning Department has a recently adopted Community Design Manual that provides examples of this.

Strategy #3 Evaluate period façade and architecture for hamlets. Share these findings with business owners and residents. Undertake streetscape improvements and beautification efforts with the goal of a unifying appearance, particularly along the US Rt. 9W corridor. For example, build a budget for landscaping, flowers and shrubs and lighting to enhance the US Rt. 9W commercial corridor, ensure landscaping does not block customer drive by visibility, support undergrounding of overhead power and telecommunications lines in hamlets to avoid storm outages and improve appearances in the densest residential locations should state or federal funding arise.

Survey Responses (70)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	8.57%
2- Somewhat Important	28.57%
3- Very Important	60.00%
I Don't Know	2.86%

Boards at Town Hall

- 14 Respondents support this strategy
- No Comments

Comments:

- Priority
- Port Ewen was the only town I know that was improved by a bank and a Stewart's. Compared to other towns on 9W, it's pretty homely to pass through.
- The town needs more color!! Collaborate with local artists. Can homeowners be encouraged & assisted in painting their houses? Undergrounding is fantastic & we'd benefit greatly from it. It's pretty a massive task, no?
- Wow. You've tired a lot to one question. No, to period facades. Yes to landscaping and lighting. Maybe to powerlines.
- I think it's more than just aesthetics - most of the area looks fine. It's more about gathering community and giving businesses a chance to gain new businesses. Having farmers markets, kid's activities, etc. can help with the look and feel over all!
- Undergrounding only if state and federal help can be obtained.

- MANDATORY
- Low interest loans and grants for maintaining historic homes and structures.
- Hold new applications to standard. Existing should not have to upgrade
- Repair streets especially at crosswalks.
- Waste of tax payer money
- Let's make our green! Brainstorm ways to improve environmental friendliness by coming up with creative ways to make green spaces amongst our buildings and parking lots.
- It could be a lovely town.

Strategy #4 Consider a campaign to offer small grants and loans (e.g., \$5,000 to \$30,000) to facilitate commercial building renovations, façade improvements, equipment purchases and other investments necessary to help start and grow local businesses.

Survey Responses (69)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	5.80%
2- Somewhat Important	34.78%
3- Very Important	53.62%
I Don't Know	5.80%

Boards at Town Hall

- 9 Respondents support this strategy
- Aren't there opportunities for energy efficiency, solar and green infrastructure here? Grants etc.

Comments:

- And where is that money coming from? 759
- We could use some signs on 9W pointing to our business on Old Post.
- Any chance to get local artists to do painted murals on the sides of walls like the pieces done in Kingston (O+ works)?
- Love this idea! Seems like what Kingston is doing to help support techies/creatives.
- Loans are very risky and could backfire, causing Town to raise taxes.
- Prefer loans
- Who would back these loans
- VITAL
- The planning board should review and approve the architecture and improvements
- Whose money is the grant money? Outside resources yes, taxpayer funding no

Strategy #5 Establish a sense of place with a more welcoming environment for visitors in the Port Ewen business district.

Survey Responses (71)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	7.04%
2- Somewhat Important	32.39%
3- Very Important	60.56%
I Don't Know	0.00%

Boards at Town Hall

- 18 Respondents support this strategy
- No Comments

Comments:

- Essential. Devoid of this at present. Not visually appealing AT ALL, at present.
- People need to WANT TO stop their cars in town to walk around. Currently it's visually boring and holds space offerings. The sense of place will help to draw people to explore.
- Would be interested in greater detail here.
- How many out of towners use PE business district?
- What business district?
- Not just visitors, but new residents as well. People need to feel more welcome.

Strategy #6 Encourage interconnection between adjacent lots in business areas and streets in adjoining developments and to ensure emergency services access.

Survey Responses (71)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	2.82%
2- Somewhat Important	40.85%
3- Very Important	45.07%
I Don't Know	11.27%

Boards at Town Hall

- 6 Respondents support this strategy
 - No Comments

Comments:

- Leave out emergency service access as there are plenty of ways in an out

Goal 3: Promote the Town of Esopus as a destination for outdoor recreation, agritourism, history, and the arts, while maintaining the community's existing character and quality of life desired by residents.

Strategy #1 Prepare a tourism action plan and establish an entity that convenes regularly and considers priority areas for Ecotourism, Agritourism (including seasonal), Heritage tourism, Waterfront and Recreation. This plan should also include a marketing and branding plan (potentially with the tag line, "From Ridge to River") to build awareness of local attractions and businesses among residents and visitors.

Survey Responses (66)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	6.06%
2- Somewhat Important	42.42%
3- Very Important	46.97%
I Don't Know	4.55%

Boards at Town Hall

- 21 Respondents support this strategy
 - For tourism we need good restaurants and have very few. They will all go to Kingston to eat.
 - Although River to Ridge has nice alliteration, it provides no info nor does it suggest links to existing sites as well as "parkland between"
 - Between walkways historic Rondout what parks Esopus parks need less horses

Comments:

- That would really help our business.
- Absolutely love this and would be willing to help!
- Maybe "River to Ridge" - everyone knows the River but not everyone knows the Ridge.
- More traffic for home owners. What's in it for us?
- Great idea! Brochures, signs, Facebook, website, events!

Strategy #2 Create a user-friendly, attractive PDF map of the Town to show locations of hiking trails, boat launches, nature preserves, and other features for posting on the Town’s website and placement in local businesses and visitor kiosks.

Survey Responses (67)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	1.49%
2- Somewhat Important	37.31%
3-Very Important	59.70%
I Don't Know	1.49%

Boards at Town Hall

- 21 Respondents support this strategy
- Brochure just for Esopus listing attraction, activities, lodging, food, all businesses
 - Consider other graphics, PDF, not the most user friendly for cellphones

Comments:

- The recent Facebook posts have been great.
- As a newer resident it is hard to find any information!!!
- Consider making this interactive and social media friendly!
- There is a Countywide Tourism app that already shows this info. Redoing what is already done.

Strategy #3 Foster partnerships between the Town and non-profit organizations, business associations, and volunteer groups to draw investment into the community to develop properties in appropriate business areas.

Survey Responses (65)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	4.62%
2- Somewhat Important	40.00%
3- Very Important	52.31%
I Don't Know	3.08%

Boards at Town Hall

- 8 Respondents support this strategy
- No Comments

Comments:

- Isn't this the reason there is an Esopus Business Alliance?
- Leave out the non-for profits they are killing the Town
- Enough nonprofit involvement in town
- One of the first interactions should be with the Bruderhof Community and to ask them to start paying property taxes on the properties they own in Esopus. They run multi-million dollar business in tax exempt properties. They continue to purchase vast amounts of property in Esopus and those properties come off the tax rolls while those of us carry the burden of increased property taxes. Enough is enough

Strategy #4 Consider creating a business advocacy response team tasked with providing support to businesses interested in developing properties with the intent of simplifying the process and overcoming barriers.

Survey Responses (67)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	10.45%
2- Somewhat Important	47.76%
3- Very Important	35.82%
I Don't Know	5.97%

Boards at Town Hall

9 Respondents support this strategy
 ■ No Comments

Comments:

- The approval process isn't that difficult.
- Process isn't the issue. It's that consultants wish to absorb more money by stalling the process and not designing accordingly
- Are the people on boards on board with this?

Strategy #5 Strengthen annual events and consider organizing one or two additional events showcasing recreational resources, the arts, and/or the waterfront in the Town of Esopus.

Survey Responses (67)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	5.97%
2- Somewhat Important	46.27%
3- Very Important	44.78%
I Don't Know	2.99%

Boards at Town Hall

24 Respondents support this strategy
 ■ No Comments

Comments:

- Love this! See previous comment RE: farmer's market and family days.
- Can the community become community minded?
- It would be nice to have a stronger Town identity rather than be reliant on Kingston for events.

Strategy #6 Consider potential trail linkages to and from Port Ewen to connect recreational users with local shops and restaurants.

Survey Responses (66)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	10.61%
2- Somewhat Important	53.03%
3- Very Important	34.85%
I Don't Know	1.52%

Boards at Town Hall

15 Respondents support this strategy
 ■ No Comments

Comments:

- Essential with appropriate tourist related businesses, cafe, pub, gear, etc.

- Cold Spring in Dutchess County benefits immensely from ravenous hikers from nearby trails!
- These will be used less than one might think.

Strategy #7 Encourage infill along secondary streets to Broadway and re-adaptation of buildings of historic character.

Survey Responses (67)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	14.93%
2- Somewhat Important	47.76%
3- Very Important	29.85%
I Don't Know	7.46%

Boards at Town Hall

- 4 Respondents support this strategy
- No Comments

Comments:

- You seem very hooked on this 'bring back the old'. You need a good balance, old and historic will only bring some tourists, you need to think what the younger generations are traveling to and looking for.
- Define Infill
- Never going to be Rhinebeck
- great idea

Strategy #8 Ensure that up-to-date information on local attractions, including trails, natural areas, and historic sites open to the public, are included in printed materials and on the Ulster County Tourism website.

Survey Responses (66)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	3.03%
2- Somewhat Important	24.24%
3- Very Important	71.21%
I Don't Know	1.52%

Boards at Town Hall

- 16 Respondents support this strategy
- National /worldwide sites such as paddling.com, trail maps
 - Include on state wide sites such as Greenway Trails and I love NY
 - What does infill mean?

Comments:

- Tourist - and residents - need this to plan their visits and activities.
- Nice building more use makes sense
- Local hotels, cooperation with other towns and sites?

Strategy #9 Collaborate with neighboring towns on tourism activities and promotion where there is a likelihood of customer spillover.

Survey Responses (67)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	4.48%
2- Somewhat Important	41.79%
3- Very Important	50.75%
I Don't Know	2.99%

Boards at Town Hall

14 Respondents support this strategy

- How does this tie into local businesses?

Comments:

- This is so important - especially with cities/towns like Kingston, Poughkeepsie and New Paltz.
- Hiking and boating for all, wineries for the adults, playgrounds for kids, and healthy food offerings will attract people before they even make it to Kingston!

Strategy #10 Review and enhance wayfinding signage and landscaping on US Route 9W at gateways into the Town and on other roads likely to experience significant use by visitors.

Survey Responses (67)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	8.96%
2- Somewhat Important	40.30%
3- Very Important	46.27%
I Don't Know	4.48%

Boards at Town Hall

12 Respondents support this strategy

- Remove large tree from Keyser Funeral Home-block vision when pulling out on 9W

Comments:

- YES. Both north and south.
- Signage already fairly good.
- IF they are uniform and designed properly

Strategy #11 Consider a establishing a visitor center at the Town’s key gateways along US Rt. 9W that provide information about lodging choices, trailhead information and retail, recreation and dining opportunities. Establish kiosks in Freer, Ross and Cas Landi parks and forge partnership with Scenic Hudson to enhance trailhead kiosks by providing broader information about the Town.

Survey Responses (67)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	14.93%
2- Somewhat Important	47.76%
3- Very Important	29.85%
I Don't Know	7.46%

Boards at Town Hall

13 Respondents support this strategy

- No Comments

Comments:

- Give people a guide.
- No one will stop at them. Anyone coming to town would look online for things to do
- Kiosks exist in most of the parks - currently they are not maintained

- Visitor center in Towns usually not too busy; people check online. Trailhead kiosks however are excellent idea.
- Worth a trial period.
- This can be done at town hall and library
- Love this visitor center idea!!

Strategy #12 Undertake a review of signs, both directional and placemaking, throughout the Town. Review local sign ordinances and develop design guidance. Remove duplicates and identify old signs for replacement. Ensure guidelines provide appropriate guidance, aesthetic specificity, and lighting recommendations so that the character of the hamlets is not compromised.

Survey Responses (67)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	8.96%
2- Somewhat Important	46.27%
3- Very Important	41.79%
I Don't Know	2.99%

Boards at Town Hall

- 7 Respondents support this strategy
- W. Stout definitely needs a stop sign at every corner

Comments:

- Some of the signs are so ugly, enormous, and repetitive, especially on B'way.
- Totally needed!!
- Lighting to avoid nighttime light pollution important; tourists love the night sky and should be able to see it.
- Newer signs look terrible like the Car Wash, Wooden Wheels and other blinking and backlit signs. We need a good sign ordinance.
- No more neon signs like car wash and the roller rink. Port Ewen is not an arcade.
- Signs are a big deal
- Yes please. Current zoning statute is out of date on these topics.

Strategy #13 Consider asking the Klyne Esopus Museum to broaden their scope to develop a strategy that encompasses the following elements: maintaining an inventory of historic and cultural resources and promoting landmarks and heritage tourist attractions.

Survey Responses (67)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	13.43%
2- Somewhat Important	50.75%
3- Very Important	26.87%
I Don't Know	8.96%

Boards at Town Hall

- 10 Respondents support this strategy
- Too late for Freeman House 1739
 - Make KEM Esopus visitor center along with hyper local history museum
 - KEHSM would live to do a visitor center
 - KEHSM has: (1) a library with information on historic culture and attractions; (2) Is an all-volunteer org. w/ big plans only limited by a budget of only \$40K and by lack of paid staff; (3) Focus is on connecting the lessons of the

past with the present to make more informed decisions in the future; (4) collections represent native people to the present & includes a lot of maritime related history-currently an underutilized resource

- Small specialty museums are trending. Make a museum trail map. Queens has one for jazz history (homes)

Comments:

- K.E.M. needs more active volunteers!
- Klyne Esopus needs to improve parking
- It would be nice if the museum were open for more than a few months out of the year, but that's their business not the Town's.
- Yes - Good to build on an existing entity - which needs better parking space desperately. Hard to get in and out - and dangerous.
- Making that inventory available to the public. Not a hoarder situation.
- Nice building more use
- The Museum will need funding to broaden scope to focus on these elements - a very good idea!
- Impressed with Klyne and feel more should be available
- No one visits the museum. This would be futile. The museum needs to develop its own program to first attract more people. It should be more of a social organization than it currently is.

Strategy #14 Forge partnerships with the Hudson River Maritime Museum, Kingston Waterfront Coalition and John Burroughs Association to maximize opportunities to promote Port Ewen, Sleightsburgh and Connelly for maritime heritage, and John Burroughs for ecotourism.

Survey Responses (65)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	3.08%
2- Somewhat Important	43.08%
3- Very Important	50.77%
I Don't Know	3.08%

Boards at Town Hall

- 19 Respondents support this strategy
- No Comments

Comments:

- Also Hudson River organizations.
- Why lot the whole town other locations not listed above
- Very important. it is not an answer here
- Very important - there is an error in the selection of answers for this one as there are two "Not Important" and now "very important"
- I think there's a mistake here- I think this is important!
- 3 is mislabeled! Very important imho

Strategy #15 Create a Sojourner truth museum near her statue in Port Ewen and map her journey through Esopus. Create a John Burroughs interpretive center and explore the feasibility of establish a ship building museum in Connelly.

Survey Responses (66)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	28.79%
2- Somewhat Important	39.39%
3- Very Important	28.79%
I Don't Know	3.03%

Boards at Town Hall

- 12 Respondents support this strategy
- More about activities and ecotourism than museums
 - Seems inauthentic, spent only a small portion of life here

Comments:

- Not a priority but good long term goal.
- The sojourner truth map is a primo idea!
- Not worth the money
- both nice ideas
- Not at this time - however could be future expansion
- Sojourner Truth and John Burroughs ideas good; ship building museum too similar to Maritime Museum.
- Cost
- Useless, especially after wasting \$75,000 on a statue that no one ever visits. There must be better places to spend the public's money.
- Would be nice but is of a larger scope and effort that meets the eye.
- Not at all important. Another tax free burden on the taxpayers?
- This is the best idea on here!

Goal 4: Encourage the preservation and diversification of agricultural activities.

Strategy #1 Target business development, expansion or relocation of craft beverage businesses into the Town of Esopus.

Survey Responses (65)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	13.85%
2- Somewhat Important	40.00%
3- Very Important	36.92%
I Don't Know	9.23%

Boards at Town Hall

- 17 Respondents support this strategy
- Farmer's market- Ross Park Music Fun! (7 additional votes)
 - Perpetual yard sale, crats at the edge of Port Ewen (both north and south) to capture traffic for businesses.

Comments:

- Hot trend. Find out why the distillery left the 9W location in Ulster Park.
- Already happening, I think.
- Choose businesses carefully; craft beverage good but niche is getting full.
- Don't kill the local businesses that have been here for years
- Why so specific?

- encourage restaurants in the Town and Hamlets
- Establish grant opportunities to enhance and expand the wineries in Esopus

Strategy #2 Engage with existing micro-farms and farm stand businesses to learn about their operations, share findings regarding the agriculture focus for the Town, offer loans to improve their products, buildings and diversification, as well as help them seek additional funding through grants for improvements and resiliency.

Survey Responses (65)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	3.08%
2- Somewhat Important	33.85%
3- Very Important	55.38%
I Don't Know	7.69%

Boards at Town Hall

- 16 Respondents support this strategy
- Consider attracting an IGA type supermarket to the town-still miss the old one!

Comments:

- Where will the money come from for Grants or loans
- How about a Farmer's Market in town.
- Agriculture essential!!! Develop CSAs and farmstands.
- They are private businesses

Strategy #3 Evaluate and update Town land use regulations to define agritourism and ensure there are no unnecessary regulatory obstacles for activities such as “u-pick” operations, fruit and vegetable stands, farmstays, and wineries to be located wherever agricultural uses are allowed.

Survey Responses (66)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	1.52%
2- Somewhat Important	27.27%
3- Very Important	68.18%
I Don't Know	3.03%

Boards at Town Hall

- 18 Respondents support this strategy
- No Comments

Comments:

- Unfortunately, the state and the feds have tons of regulations in these areas. Good connection for navigating this would be Cornell cooperative extension.
- Love this!
- Let's not make it any harder for farmers and vineyards!
- The verbiage "unnecessary regulatory obstacles" is a bit loaded. If there needs to be oversight to ensure we're not eating poison, so be it.
- We have a unique brand, in that we are still somewhat agricultural, but don't really take advantage of this very much. Farmstays are nonexistent, and people from NYC would jump at the opportunity.
- If in NYS Agricultural Districts, restrictions should already be pretty limited.

Strategy #4 Work with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ulster County Planning, and other agencies to support agriculture and increase the economic viability of farms in the Town of Esopus.

Survey Responses (65)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	4.62%
2- Somewhat Important	36.92%
3- Very Important	56.92%
I Don't Know	1.54%

Boards at Town Hall

19 Respondents support this strategy

- No Comments

Comments:

- Well, there you go!
- Farms maintain open space, family business, healthy food, and attract visitors.
- Then you have more tax exempt lands causing high taxes to home owners-- why are you burdening there home owner?

Overall Comments:

- Well-developed set of goals.
- Thank you for undertaking this process and opening it up to the entire community.
- Lots of verbiage and bureaucracy. Very concerned about how much our taxes will go up. As I mentioned we pay over \$16,000 a year. We will not use a pool or a park and sell not sure anyone else will either. And then of course with the new tax regulations we are hit with a reduction in what we can even declare on our taxes. Thank you very carefully before you extend money's you do not have.
- i would have much preferred the added choice of IMPORTANT. Many times things were NOT slightly or very important, they were just important.
- Thank you so much for pulling this survey together! I grew up in Kingston and my husband grew up in Ulster Park - after living in Westchester/NYC for over ten years, we recently bought a house here together. I love this area and am so glad you are asking all of the questions that I've been wondering about. I get the sense that there are a lot of creative young minds starting to make their way up to this area from the city who would love to help too.
- I'm willing to help when time permits.
- Lots of good ideas here. Focus on what we already have, and on small business and micro-agriculture. Make sure our history is loud and clear.
- The town needs to expand the tax base and attract more young families with disposable income.
- Great job. Shows a lot of thought went into this.

Housing:

Goal 1: Encourage and facilitate housing options that meet the needs of current and future residents and all income levels.

Strategy #1 Support the provision of housing in the Town to meet the needs of persons of all income levels, age groups, and special needs, where appropriate.

Survey Responses (39)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	20.51%
2- Somewhat Important	28.21%
3- Very Important	46.15%
I Don't Know	5.13%

Boards at Town Hall

12 Respondents support this strategy

- No Comments

Comments:

- This is a bit vague and very difficult.
- This is a bit vague and very difficult.
- Be careful of what you push for.
- We have all of that. We need more similar residential developments similar to what is there and meets the current zoning codes.

Strategy #2 Continue to focus future dense residential growth within Port Ewen, Sleightsburgh and Connelly and northern sections of Ulster Park, where existing water and sewer infrastructure is provided.

Survey Responses (39)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	10.26%
2- Somewhat Important	35.90%
3- Very Important	48.72%
I Don't Know	5.13%

Boards at Town Hall

14 Respondents support this strategy

- Perhaps think of Port Ewen as family oriented
- What about Rifton, Esopus, and West Park? Let's include all of the Town of Esopus.

Comments:

- Yes - prevent sprawl.
- Yes - prevent sprawl.
- Need residents who pay taxes. Welcome land trusts and green spaces but no more tax free people!
- Dense residential growth is not and should not be a goal a rural community
- Why are these areas to be overwhelmed?
- Keep it at its present density or less. Look to add water and sewer to other areas of the Town for increased density.

Strategy #3 Conduct regular evaluations of the Town’s land use regulations to ensure needed and appropriate housing opportunities are not inadvertently prohibited or difficult to obtain approvals including mixed-uses and market-rate multi-family dwellings.

Survey Responses (39)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	12.82%
2- Somewhat Important	46.15%
3- Very Important	35.90%
I Don't Know	5.13%

Boards at Town Hall

13 Respondents support this strategy

- No Comments

Comments:

- I don’t agree with multifamily dwellings.
- Multi-family housing changes rural feel if Hamlet. High proportion of rental units destabilizes community

Strategy #4 Promote and encourage additional attractive and affordable senior living facilities for local residents which will help free up existing housing for new residents, young families and others seeking to own their own home.

Survey Responses (38)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	15.79%
2- Somewhat Important	39.47%
3- Very Important	34.21%
I Don't Know	10.53%

Boards at Town Hall

16 Respondents support this strategy

- And Vets
- Especially since those segments of the population are growing.

Comments:

- This is so market-dependent. Must be careful about having too much of an aged population (and I'm saying this at age 68).
- This is so market-dependent. Must be careful about having too much of an aged population (and I'm saying this at age 68).
- Keeping in mind Green Space
- have birches
- We have enough senior facilities which got major tax breaks to make huge profits
- Encourage services to allow people to stay in home as they have mobility challenges.
- Depends on the developer and these are never just for Town residents
- the town needs to attract more young families, but I’m not sure building more senior housing is the answer
- Already have the birches which pays little to no taxes

Strategy #5 Continue to allow and encourage appropriately constructed accessory dwellings while making sure that community character is preserved and adverse impacts on neighborhoods are avoided.

Survey Responses (39)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	10.26%
2- Somewhat Important	38.46%
3- Very Important	38.46%
I Don't Know	12.82%

Boards at Town Hall

9 Respondents support this strategy

- No Comments

Comments:

- Disagree completely.

Strategy #6 Identify and collaborate, were practical, with state, local and/or regional community based housing organizations to leverage their expertise and resources (i.e., Ulster County of for Aging, Rural Ulster Preservation Company, Ulster County Community Action, Inc., NYS Housing and Community Renewal).

Survey Responses (39)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	10.26%
2- Somewhat Important	43.59%
3- Very Important	38.46%
I Don't Know	7.69%

Boards at Town Hall

16 Respondents support this strategy

- No Comments

Comments:

- Why does town have to be in housing market? keep rural
- Keep the non for profits out of town
- Why do we need more housing? Over ten thousand residents we will have to get a police force

Goal 2: Enhance and protect the character, aesthetics and safety of neighborhoods and hamlet centers.

Strategy #1 Pursue applicable funding opportunities for housing improvement and rehabilitation programs in the Town of Esopus (i.e., Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)).

Survey Responses (37)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	2.70%
2- Somewhat Important	32.43%
3- Very Important	51.35%
I Don't Know	13.51%

Boards at Town Hall

9 Respondents support this strategy

- Tree inventory, maintenance & planting grants from DEC

Comments:

- Previously, residents did not want to participate, because of a possible tax increase.

- Not grants but low-interest loans instead

Strategy #2 Conduct targeted income surveys beginning in the Hamlets of Connelly and Port Ewen to support the Town’s efforts of securing applicable grants for housing improvements and community revitalization projects including sidewalks and water and sewer improvements.

Survey Responses (36)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	2.78%
2- Somewhat Important	33.33%
3- Very Important	55.56%
I Don't Know	8.33%

Boards at Town Hall

- 11 Respondents support this strategy
- Do a walking tour of Connelly with Code Enforcement office

Comments:

- These surveys are a bit invasive. Can you get this info from tax data?
- These surveys are a bit invasive. Can you get this info from tax data?
- Will be needed for grants
- Invasion of privacy?
- Important to those in those Hamlet. Not important to outlying areas at all

Strategy #3 Continue to enforce existing property maintenance-related regulations and consider preparing and adopting a Town property maintenance law that clearly identifies what is prohibited and includes sufficient processes to remedy violations.

Survey Responses (37)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	8.11%
2- Somewhat Important	32.43%
3- Very Important	56.76%
I Don't Know	2.70%

Boards at Town Hall

- 12 Respondents support this strategy
- Explore incentive for less asphalt more permeable surface.

Comments:

- Homeowners should be held responsible.
- Homeowners should be held responsible.
- Difficult to force someone to paint their house if they cannot afford it.
- Vague.
- No thank you. leave people to do as they see fit for their properties if owned
- Address zombie homes
- Important to have follow through on violations. Don't need a nanny State trying to tell people what to do with their property if safe
- This is especially important for rental properties that are not up kept and do not fit into the aesthetic of the neighborhood

Strategy #4 Consider educational outreach efforts about property maintenance through annual Town mailings as an additional effort to encourage increased property maintenance and enhancements to overall community character.

Survey Responses (37)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	10.81%
2- Somewhat Important	37.84%
3- Very Important	48.65%
I Don't Know	2.70%

Boards at Town Hall

- 2 Respondents support this strategy
- Involve other groups too. Returning vets, boy scouts etc.

Comments:

- Some properties are visually unappealing due to debris.
- Fine violators but maybe return fines when violations addressed. But people need to know the laws.
- Fine violators but maybe return fines when violations addressed.
- People may increase priority for maintenance

Strategy #5 Implement an annual cleanup day allowing residents to bring junk and other debris to the Town’s transfer station at no cost. In addition, the Town could arrange to pick up junk and other debris from residents who are not able to reach the transfer station.

Survey Responses (37)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	2.70%
2- Somewhat Important	21.62%
3- Very Important	75.68%
I Don't Know	0.00%

Boards at Town Hall

- 30 Respondents support this strategy
- Get mail boxes in Port Ewen

Comments:

- That should REALLY help. Then no excuses. Ask for volunteers to help with clean up if residents can't perform this themselves.
- Clean-up drop-off day excellent, but residents could abuse pickup.
- Clean-up day excellent, but residents could abuse pickup.
- Pick up a big plus
- Pickups were done in the past. That was a valued service.
- Or just have the town pickup garbage instead of private companies
- This would be amazing
- Good idea

Strategy #6 Conduct a detailed inventory of key neighborhoods with dilapidated structures, property maintenance and other code issues. The purpose of this effort will be to obtain a baseline inventory of properties with existing code violations, existing conditions of structure including those that are vacant, abandoned or dilapidated and in need of corrective actions, property maintenance issues, unlicensed vehicles and other issues that may be adversely impacting community and neighborhood character and overall quality of life.

Survey Responses (37)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	10.81%
2- Somewhat Important	29.73%
3- Very Important	56.76%
I Don't Know	2.70%

Boards at Town Hall

- 17 Respondents support this strategy
- Sections of Connelly especially 2nd and Middle Street are perceived to have been turned into a slum-looks dilapidated-code enforcement. Where/who is necessary view code-to remediate the conditions.
 - 2 houses destroyed by fire remain boarded & deteriorating.
 - Connelly hits the meter of dilapidated building-do a walk through the town.

Comments:

- Residents need to know they must be responsible.
- Residents need to know they must be responsible.
- Provide a road for accessing Sale opportunities to abandoned properties to existing residents
- Especially in has become an orphan, except at Tax Time, Connelly, and Second St. In particular looks like a Third World Country. Old 9W corridor is not representative of the welcome to Esopus that would be presented.
- If they are unsafe condemn them and tear it down
- Trying to tell people what to do
- Absolutely needed!

Strategy #7 Consider adopting a rental property/landlord registry that would allow the Town to more efficiently contact landlords when there are building code violations, complaints and other concerns that require contact with building owners. The registry will be another tool to improve community character, building conditions and quality of life for residents and business owners.

Survey Responses (37)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	5.41%
2- Somewhat Important	48.65%
3- Very Important	40.54%
I Don't Know	5.41%

Boards at Town Hall

- 14 Respondents support this strategy
- Illegal apartments in private homes
 - Illegal apartments lead to fires and criminal charges/consequences

Comments:

- Would the Town already have landlord information from the tax rolls?
- Accountability has to be a part of this process.
- Can't believe we don't already have this
- Easily done now using UC tax records. Why waste time and effort?
- Don't turn into New Paltz

Strategy #8 Support and encourage the development of neighborhood organizations that promote civic activities and empower residents to maintain their properties and patrol neighborhood (i.e., National Night Out, Neighborhood Watch, etc.).

Survey Responses (35)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	22.86%
2- Somewhat Important	45.71%
3- Very Important	22.86%
I Don't Know	8.57%

Boards at Town Hall

- 10 Respondents support this strategy
- Noise pollution target practice? Sunday?
 - C.E.R.T. team (FEMA)

Comments:

- No patrolling. Too divisive.
- Tree committees
- Too much of an invitation for a "Witch Hunt"
- Several Neighborhood watch programs were put in place in the past. Revitalize them.
- There already are air bnb units in town

Strategy #9 Support and help connect residents in need to volunteer programs that help seniors, persons with disabilities and low-income residents obtain housing and make home repairs (i.e., Ulster County Habitat for Humanity, RUPCO) and provision of other services such as shoveling and yardwork that could be accomplished by a local volunteer group.

Survey Responses (36)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	5.56%
2- Somewhat Important	36.11%
3- Very Important	55.56%
I Don't Know	2.78%

Boards at Town Hall

- 16 Respondents support this strategy
- Veterans
 - We'd like to see a noise ordinance-las summer 5 months of jack hammering at Hardenburgh Road- heaving construction (quarrying)

Comments:

- Dutchess Co. has a Rebuilding Together Program. We should too.
- A good part of aging-in-place strategies that could keep municipal costs down.
- A good part of aging-in-place strategies that could keep municipal costs down.
- Something to keep seniors in their own homes.

Strategy #10 Evaluate reasonable options for allowing AirBnB rentals in Town while ensuring community character and neighborhood impacts are avoided and emergency services personnel are aware of which structures are rentals and the approximate number of tenants in each.

Survey Responses (37)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	24.32%
2- Somewhat Important	37.84%

3- Very Important	32.43%
I Don't Know	5.41%

Boards at Town Hall

13 Respondents support this strategy

- We need more AirBnB's

Comments:

- Razor's edge: AirBnBs can help economically stressed residents and bring tourists to Town, but could attract disruptive elements.
- Razor's edge: AirBnBs can help economically stressed residents and bring tourists to Town, but could attract disruptive elements.
- Maybe a maximum 4 day rental and local tax
- Tricky. Needs more research.
- Don't allow Air BnB rentals!
- Already have air bnbs
- Allow only for Owner occupied more than 51% of the time of the year only.

Overall Comments:

- After the midterm elections please.
- Thank you for the opportunity to comment. This is democracy and citizen action.
- Need to protect our local small businesses who have been here and support the community like Van Loans, Smithy's and Port Ewen diner, Marios,
- Review transfer station usage rates to assure that they are not too high. If too high I think that encourages people to throw inappropriate things into the landfill that really should be recycled. Prorate usage permits based on what month of the year they are obtained.
- Don's ask person questions.
- No more non-for-profits and no affordable housing!

Infrastructure and Community Services:

Goal: *Provide, continually enhance and properly maintain high quality, efficient and cost-effective community facilities, infrastructure and services that support a healthy and safe community and the quality of life expected by residents and business owners.*

Strategy #1 Prepare and implement a facilities management plan that establishes long term capital maintenance needs for Town buildings and facilities including, but not limited to Highway Department facilities and equipment, Town Hall and transfer station.

Survey Responses (34)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	2.94%
2- Somewhat Important	20.59%
3- Very Important	73.53%
I Don't Know	2.94%

Boards at Town Hall

14 Respondents support this strategy

- No Comments

Comments:

- The Transfer Station is great. Clean, very well organized and managed. What an improvement!!
- I would think this is already in place

Strategy #2 Prepare and implement a long term water and sewer infrastructure maintenance and replacement plan including the consideration of future costs and opportunities for funding.

Survey Responses (34)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	0.00%
2- Somewhat Important	8.82%
3- Very Important	91.18%
I Don't Know	0.00%

Boards at Town Hall

17 Respondents support this strategy

- Small station for St. Remy to railway tracks, start at St. Remy

Comments:

- Same as above

Strategy #3 Evaluate the feasibility of connecting into the City of Kingston municipal water system.

Survey Responses (34)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	17.65%
2- Somewhat Important	32.35%
3- Very Important	35.29%
I Don't Know	14.71%

Boards at Town Hall

12 Respondents support this strategy

- Yes, yesterday water smelled like bleach followed by dead fish

Comments:

- I need to read more about this issue.
- Can Kingston handle the additional water demand?
- I am unfamiliar with the City's system, but should be evaluated. Generally, sharing helps.
- Must not eliminate Port Ewen's Water facilities
- Keep Port Ewen water as a backup.
- Maintain own system.
- This should be a top priority

Strategy #4 Evaluate and determine the need for and feasibility of future sewer and water district expansions for existing development in areas with challenging geographic and soil conditions inhibiting adequate sewage disposal and to accommodate desired future growth.

Survey Responses (34)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	8.82%
2- Somewhat Important	41.18%
3- Very Important	44.12%
I Don't Know	5.88%

Boards at Town Hall

- 7 Respondents support this strategy
 - Turn off unnecessary street lights

Comments:

- Huh? Sounds like someone has a specific area in mind, but is covering up with jargon.
- Costs
- Prohibitively expensive for taxpayers
- Leave rural character alone
- As long as urban sprawl style design is avoided.

Strategy #5. Continue to support the Town of Esopus Road-Stream Crossing Inventory Study that is being undertaken to improve water quality, reduce flood risks, and reconnect habitat for migratory and resident fish in the Hudson River Estuary. Upon completion of the analysis and prioritization of needed improvements, the Town should pursue necessary funding and begin implementing required improvement and restoration projects.

Survey Responses (34)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1-Not Important	11.76%
2- Somewhat Important	38.24%
3- Very Important	38.24%
I Don't Know	11.76%

Boards at Town Hall

- 9 Respondents support this strategy
 - No Comments

Comments:

- The Hudson River is affected by numerous other communities and government regulations

Strategy #6 Continue implementing the Town’s MS4 Program and conduct regular internal reviews to ensure full compliance.

Survey Responses (34)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	0.00%
2- Somewhat Important	29.41%
3- Very Important	23.53%
I Don't Know	47.06%

Boards at Town Hall

- 1 Respondents support this strategy
 - What is MS4?

Comments:

- Not familiar with MS4.
- Sorry, I don't know what the MS4 program is.
- Had to research what ms4 is
- Not familiar with MS4
- What is MS4?
- Explain what MS4 is.

Strategy #7. Inventory and map all roads and signage in the Town of Esopus using a Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping platform and coordinate the repaving of roads in concert with the replacement of water/sewer mains and piping as feasible.

Survey Responses (34)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	0.00%
2- Somewhat Important	47.06%
3- Very Important	44.12%
I Don't Know	8.82%

Boards at Town Hall

- 13 Respondents support this strategy
 - County has one of the best GIS in NYS

Comments:

- Not already being done?
- 9W is a State Highway.
- What does signage have to do with this?
- Roads outside water/sewer districts should also be addressed in order of conditional need.
- Save money in long me
- The town highway dept. does an excellent job already, however why not be better?

Strategy #8 Advocate for repaving the entire US Rt. 9W corridor through Port Ewen and the undergrounding of all utility lines and the enhancement of all crosswalks to be converted to low maintenance paint at that time.

Survey Responses (33)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	18.18%
2- Somewhat Important	42.42%
3- Very Important	39.39%
I Don't Know	0.00%

Boards at Town Hall

12 Respondents support this strategy

- Yes! Bury the wires

Comments:

- Good long term goal.
- Rte.9 State Funded Project?
- Lower speed limit and take out bad curves and turns in process
- Crosswalks maintenance important; undergrounding less so.
- Where is all of this money to come from/ How about doing only what is necessary
- Prohibitively Expensive
- Not a priority when other roads need work.

Strategy #9 Review the Town’s current sidewalk maintenance law and evaluate the feasibility of taking over the responsibility for repairing, replacing and shoveling of all sidewalks.

Survey Responses (33)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	24.24%
2- Somewhat Important	42.42%
3- Very Important	21.21%
I Don't Know	12.12%

Boards at Town Hall

13 Respondents support this strategy

- No Comments

Comments:

- It looks awful sometimes even with new lights trees etc.
- Is town equipped for this takeover?
- Residents and businesses should be responsible, as they are in most places. This could be a significant expense for the Town.
- Cost to do?
- Repairing and replacing yes. Shoveling no
- Not a priority until enough businesses would demand such pedestrian traffic.
- Please!! It’s not fair that we have to maintain the sidewalks
- Repairing and replacing yes. Snow shoveling no.

Strategy #10 Continue close coordination with and support of the Town’s six Fire Departments and the Town of Esopus Volunteer Ambulance Squad with respect to seeking volunteers, identifying opportunities for sharing services and utility costs; repairing and replacing existing facilities; and cooperatively pursuing grant funding for equipment, vehicles, facilities, training and other needs.

Survey Responses (35)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	2.86%
2- Somewhat Important	25.71%
3- Very Important	68.57%
I Don't Know	2.86%

Boards at Town Hall

- 9 Respondents support this strategy
- Right turn lane at 9W & Salem to alleviate traffic
 - Consolidate Connelly Fire Department into Fort Ewen Fire District

Comments:

- Wow, six fire departments???
- Writing grant proposals is difficult. You need a person skilled at this.
- Not an easy topic
- The fire dept. provides very minimal visibility as to their spend and budget. Meeting notices are posted too close to the meeting date and there is rarely an agenda. I think the fire dept. needs more fiscal oversight and accountability.
- There are FIVE Fire Departments in the Township. Not Six.
- Fire Dept. are a heavy tax with NO oversight into their budget. Grants better than taxes
- Shared services will be important throughout the town, county and state. It’s time has come.
- Talk to the City of Kingston and contract fire protection to them for a lot less money than we are spending now for duplicate equipment with minimal man power.

Strategy #11 The Town will continue coordination with the U.S. Postal Service to find a permanent home for a new Post Office in Port Ewen.

Survey Responses (34)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	5.88%
2- Somewhat Important	23.53%
3- Very Important	61.76%
I Don't Know	8.82%

Boards at Town Hall

- 23 Respondents support this strategy
- Not 1 by 1, but Town-wide rural delivery
 - Make apps for home delivery available at Town Hall, senior meetings, Post Office? Not everyone has computer access

Comments:

- Like many rural towns the number of our post offices seems excessive in light of our present transportation modes. Unfortunately the problem in Port Ewen is in an area of population density.
- USPS is frustrating to deal with. In-efficient and unresponsive.
- Or mail delivery?
- That or get delivery.
- Will we see it in our Life Time

- Make every effort to keep it in its current location. We have no home delivery in Port Ewen and so I think it should stay where it is as it is within reasonable walking distance to most of Port Ewen.
- Permanent
- Seek home delivery instead.
- Seek home delivery in the hamlet
- Need home delivery!!
- This is a HUGE problem I'm glad to see it's on here.
- Do delivery and be done
- Extremely important!!

Strategy #12 The Town will continue to advocate for and provide information to residents and business on how to request curbside mail delivery.

Survey Responses (33)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	12.12%
2- Somewhat Important	21.21%
3- Very Important	57.58%
I Don't Know	9.09%

Boards at Town Hall

- 7 Respondents support this strategy
 - No Comments

Comments:

- Its time has come.
- Most people I talk to want this. I personally have filled out USPS form 4027, and handed in 3 for my neighbors. Town should promote form on website and more on social media. I see people complain on social media but do not actually follow through with form.
- If there is a centrally located post office again, curbside delivery not essential.
- Critical for the handicapped, etc. that are not able to get to the PO. Another reason keep the PO right where it presently is.
- Yes
- I have never received information about this

Overall Comments:

- What considerations are being dealt with regarding traffic flow through Port Ewen during peak and non-peak commuting hours?
- I work for an Engineering firm who works with state and federal transportation departments. I like the direction of your planning.
- Please make every effort to keep the PO right where it is.
- The mail issue is our biggest problem along with the traffic issue when you're trying to merge onto Broadway from a side street.
- Great job. Thank you.

Parks and Recreation:

Goal: *Ensure adequate Town parks and recreation opportunities are available to residents and visitors throughout the Town of Esopus. These facilities should be well maintained and provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities to all ages and skill levels.*

Comments:

Strategy #1 Consider regular evaluations of all Town parks and recreational facilities to ensure proper maintenance and adequate amenities meeting current and future community needs.

Survey Responses (67)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	1.49%
2- Somewhat Important	23.88%
3- Very Important	73.13%
I Don't Know	1.49%

Boards at Town Hall

17 Respondents support this strategy

- Installing ADA equipment in at least 1 park
- Current-fix/repair sign as you enter Ross Park

Comments:

- public safety
- Our parks make Esopus a better place to live. Give young families a place to go to picnic and play. Important to property values.
- We don't need evaluations. We need improvements and upkeep
- We want a pool.

Strategy #2 Encourage siting compatible facilities and uses within Town parks, to complement existing features and create a greater attraction to park locations.

Survey Responses (68)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	0.00%
2-Somewhat Important	45.59%
3- Very Important	51.47%
I Don't Know	2.94%

Boards at Town Hall

10 Respondents support this strategy

- No Comments

Comments:

- Is there adequate staff
- This should also help keep costs down, cluster pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and make monitoring easier.
- Rather vague
- We need a pool.
- Not sure I understand this question.

Strategy #3 Identify and support opportunities to integrate improvements in Town parks with existing tourism and educational resources.

Survey Responses (68)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	4.41%
2-Somewhat Important	38.24%
3- Very Important	55.88%
I Don't Know	1.47%

Boards at Town Hall

11 Respondents support this strategy

- No Comments

Comments:

- Dog parks
- Consider how schools, business and Town facilities can work together.
- Open space on town properties, especially Ross Park, is vital for large gatherings such as festivals
- Statement makes no sense.
- We are hot and grumpy.

Strategy #4 Continue to maintain, through established maintenance planning, all Town parks and associated facilities to ensure any revitalization or improvements are maintained in the highest and best manner possible.

Survey Responses (68)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	0.00%
2- Somewhat Important	22.06%
3- Very Important	77.94%
I Don't Know	0.00%

Boards at Town Hall

11 Respondents support this strategy

- Rosendale has great new signs directing people to all the sites. They're attractive, uniform and make Rosendale seem like a DESTINATION
- Ulster community College's graphic design classes seek clients to work with on a real life projects, great professional, free services!

Comments:

- Grumpy people make horrible neighbors.
- Parks are fine

Strategy #5 Encourage the routing of the Empire State Trail through the Town of Esopus. Should this not be possible, the Town should seek to make connections to the Trail through Port Ewen.

Survey Responses (68)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	17.65%
2- Somewhat Important	32.35%
3- Very Important	45.59%
I Don't Know	4.41%

Boards at Town Hall

- 18 Respondents support this strategy
- Sprinkler splash pool at Ross Park

Comments:

- What and where is this trail connecting
- Rosendale has a pool.

Strategy #6 Collaborate with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Scenic Hudson, and the John Burroughs Association to connect existing contiguous and nearby park/preserve lands via new and existing trails and/or roads.

Survey Responses (68)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	11.76%
2- Somewhat Important	36.76%
3- Very Important	47.06%
I Don't Know	4.41%

Boards at Town Hall

- 15 Respondents support this strategy
- This community is too small to support a pool. We use the Y pool in the summer. A sprinkler/splash pad sounds good.
 - Town could work our programs with Rosendale Town for our folks to use their pool
 - Agree pool is too costly

Comments:

- How could we NOT take advantage of the exceptional Rail Trail and its expansion?
- Excellent - important to establish trail connections and partnerships.
- As long as scenic Hudson doesn't take anymore properties off the tax roles
- Expand to include mountain biking trails in Black Creek forest
- get them all to stop buying land
- It's nice. But I don't live there.
- Enough exempt parcels

Strategy #7 Examine the potential demand and feasibility of creating a new indoor/outdoor town recreational facility, which would be multipurpose and have the capability to meet the needs for all residents and athletes as well as athletes and teams from outside the Town of Esopus. Potential locations include behind Town Hall, and the vacant former ball fields on Mountain View Road.

Survey Responses (68)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	19.12%
2-Somewhat Important	26.47%
3- Very Important	47.06%
I Don't Know	7.35%

Boards at Town Hall

11 Respondents support this strategy

- \$\$\$?

Comments:

- Long term priority at best. Let's work with what exists.
- Where are we getting the money?
- expensive undertaking
- The town hasn't been sports minded in the past to our detriment
- That sounds exciting. Think about the Catskill Recreation Center in Arkville.
- Creating a new facility should be considered only after an evaluation of current facilities' usage.
- Would we be able to afford this?
- Convert part of the Hudson Valley Mall into a regional indoor recreational facility. Which would be especially useful in the winter.
- What about the micro "facility" on 9w??
- We have all we can do to keep up with existing parks without tripling the expense
- How about back by Iron Mountain?
- It could have a pool. Swim teams are awesome.

Strategy #8 Consider the feasibility of the construction of a Town pool facility in a current park or other site. The pool could be combined with a future recreational facility.

Survey Responses (68)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	29.41%
2- Somewhat Important	39.71%
3- Very Important	29.41%
I Don't Know	1.47%

Boards at Town Hall

13 Respondents support this strategy

- Pool is too costly to maintain
- Too much liability

Comments:

- I assume we are investigating the ROI from other Towns like Rosendale that has had a pool and Rec Center for a long time.
- Where are we getting the money?
- expensive
- Costly to run, costly to build, costly, money spent better in town in another area.
- Stated at meeting it was too expensive

- Fabulous! See above comment.
- Pools are expensive and also a potential liability. We have the River and the Creek and should focus on those areas for swimming and water recreation.
- I am concerned about potential liabilities.
- All the costs would out way the benefits, taxpayers could not afford it
- The cost and liability would be my concern
- I oppose a town pool on the basis of current cost and unending future maintenance costs. Just ask the folks in Rosendale about this. Also liability problems.
- Tennis courts and or pickle ball. ???
- OMG your hearing me! Yes!
- Yes a pool!!!
- Too expensive
- That would be fantastic

Strategy #9 Consider the establishment of a community park in Rifton, in the central part of the hamlet with current Town-owned property on the corner of Lakeshore Road and NY-213 as a potential location.

Survey Responses (67)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	16.42%
2- Somewhat Important	50.75%
3- Very Important	19.40%
I Don't Know	13.43%

Boards at Town Hall

- 14 Respondents support this strategy
- Lighting needed when park closes at dusk?
 - Add a sign from Rt. 32 to point to Rifton Park

Comments:

- Where are we getting the money?
- Is this for The Breeder House group??
- Ask those residents specifically
- Not as important as a pool.

Strategy #10 Enhance Ross Park with the following improvements:

- a) Construct an additional pavilion based upon the high usage rate of the current pavilion.
- b) Build a Splash-Pad area.
- c) Improve aesthetics in the park through planned landscaping.
- d) Consider developing a future pocket park off of Bayard Street.
- e) Make improvements to the current parking lot area on the corner of W. Stout Avenue and Browne Street.
- f) Improve basketball, baseball, and tennis court facilities.
- g) Reconfigure parking on W. Stout Street along the southern border of the park.

Survey Responses (67)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	2.99%
2- Somewhat Important	40.30%
3- Very Important	53.73%

I Don't Know	2.99%
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Boards at Town Hall

19 Respondents support this strategy

- Look into using/acquiring the old Berg Park/Field
- Will there be street lights?
- Sounds good- fix what is there first
- Town work out program with Rosendale
- Small parks without foot traffic can be a crime issues will the parks be accessible by sidewalks and well lit?
- Consider ADA equipment

Comments:

- Where are we getting the money?
- Hosting public events at an improved park draws visitors
- Some parks don't have pavilion? How about those first??
- Need staff and security- if that's not in place don't waste money
- It all sound great. Just don't know about the particulars.
- Ross Park is well used and should be well maintained, but no Splash-Pad due to potential cost and liability.
- Not sure we need second pavilion with one common field and amenities
- Watch and check on insurance costs
- Maintain open space at Ross Park for town festivals and celebrations.
- How about some rest rooms? Forget about the ice rink as it has only been useful less than 10 days in the last seven years that I have lived near it.
- OPEN THE BATHROOMS and keep the ice rink
- No additional pavilion needed
- Sounds great... Add a .pool
- Splash pad would be great! I think Cue BBQ in Saugerties has one you could check out in person.
- Yes but consider how increase traffic for splash pad would impact neighborhood as it would be the only one in Kingston area and very attractive to all kids in entire community
- Splash pad/spray park would be nice. Especially considering the camp is held there. If ever there was a pool, this would be a draw for campers from other communities as a more robust camp.

Strategy #11 Enhance Cas Landi Park with the following improvements:

- a) Create an accessible walking trail or track.
- b) Repair deficiencies and revitalize tennis and basketball courts where needed.

Survey Responses (67)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	4.48%
2-Somewhat Important	49.25%
3- Very Important	37.31%
I Don't Know	8.96%

Boards at Town Hall

13 Respondents support this strategy

- No Comments

Comments:

- very underused park
- Same as above - don't keep adding things no one will take care of
- Sounds good, just don't know the particulars.
- Walking track is a luxury
- This would be an awesome place for a pool. It's on a main road.
- Fix courts.

Strategy #12 Enhance Joseph H. Clark Recreational Park with the following improvements:

- a) Restroom facilities.
- b) General improvements to current park infrastructure.

Survey Responses (67)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	10.45%
2- Somewhat Important	44.78%
3- Very Important	34.33%
I Don't Know	10.45%

Boards at Town Hall

8 Respondents support this strategy

- Where is Joseph H. Clark Park?
- Not everyone knows not to get to the parks. Need to always include address for each park

Comments:

- What data do we have regarding its present use?
- Where are we getting the money?
- Same as above
- That would be great. It's a sweet place.
- Parking?
- Too far away from town for a pool.
- Tiny Park, zero need for restrooms needing maintenance

Strategy #13 Enhance James Rieker Park with the following improvements:

- a) Refurbish baseball and basketball courts for use by local residents.
- b) Provide an improved playground.
- c) Established parking area or designated spaces along Spring or 2nd Streets.

Survey Responses (67)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	7.46%
2- Somewhat Important	50.75%
3- Very Important	23.88%
I Don't Know	17.91%

Boards at Town Hall

10 Respondents support this strategy

- Where is James Reiter Park?-Connelly

Comments:

- Not familiar enough with this park to make an informed decision.
- Where will we get the money?
- Perhaps a Pavilion!! And parking!
- Same as above

- Sounds good.
- Should be considered only after ecotourist waterfront options are in place.
- our baseball fields are underutilized
- Add bathrooms
- Meh.

Strategy #14 Enhance Perrine’s Bridge Park with the following improvements:

- a) Identify and implement safe pedestrian connections between the parking lot and the park.
- b) Evaluate opportunities to connect the Town’s park to the covered bridge.
- c) Establish a temporary/movable car top launch in the park for access to the Wallkill River.

Survey Responses (67)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	10.45%
2- Somewhat Important	35.82%
3- Very Important	49.25%
I Don't Know	4.48%

Boards at Town Hall

- 24 Respondents support this strategy
 - No Comments

Comments:

- Perrine's Bridge is a unique historic resource. Enhancing the Park is a wise decision.
- That park would be an ideal place for a kiosk with Esopus info and directions. It brings in a lot of people who never go further into The Town.
- How lovely. Where will we get the money? I already pay \$16,000 a year in taxes. Do you want more?
- flooding is a major issue there
- Same as above
- This is a lovely tourist draw as well as a wonderful place for residents.
- except launch
- To close to the power plant to launch

Overall Comments:

- Enhancement of Parks and Recreation is a wise investment.
- I am so concerned that pure ocracy will get in the way and cost me a fortune
- We need a town range
- I have lived all over the US. This is by far is the most beautiful. But, it is in need of some comprehensive development plans. I lived in Carmel Indiana, possibly the ugliest flat land no water area I have every luvfed it. Buy, its zoning and CDP was so on track it was a beautiful place to live.
- This survey mentions many parks in Esopus, most of which I never heard of. How about putting something on the town website that shows; where they are, what they have, and do they have restrooms.

Pedestrian Safety and Traffic:

Goal: Provide an efficient, safe and connective transportation system that takes into account not only automobiles but also pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and abilities, which is coordinated with existing and future growth needs; this system should also be economical and responsive to existing adjacent land uses.

Strategy #1 Conduct a Town-wide pedestrian and bicycle connectivity and complete streets analysis.

- a) A critical component of fully understanding walking and bicycling conditions in the Town of Esopus is to first understand the existing environment and provision of accommodations for non-motorized users.
- b) Such a study would include a comprehensive inventory of existing on and off road bicycle and pedestrian facilities and related safety issues within and between each Hamlet and other key destinations, including, but not limited to parks, recreational facilities, historical/cultural locations, the waterfront, surrounding communities and regional trails. Key roads that must be evaluated during this study and improvements made to them include, but are not limited to US Rt. 9W, River Road, NY Rt. 213, Connelly, Union Center, and Ulster Roads, along with Dashville Road/County Rd. 16.
- c) The purpose of the analysis should be to identify and prioritize feasible pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements to meet the Comprehensive Plan’s goals of efficient and safe access for all. This study should also include cost estimates for recommended improvements that will help the Town budget for improvements and leverage future funding from applicable funding sources.

Survey Responses (36)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	5.56%
2- Somewhat Important	27.78%
3- Very Important	61.11%
I Don't Know	5.56%

Boards at Town Hall

16 Respondents support this strategy

- No room 9W road should be wider
- Need sign starting STOP for pedestrian it’s the LAW!
- Trail akin to path along rt. 209
- Bike/Hike trails to be open to all non-motorized “vehicles” including horses
- We need to be more bike and pedestrian friendly
- Safe street very dangerous
- Change town speed limit to 25mph- especially side streets

Comments:

- Such malarkey. And my taxes will go up as a result.
- With the addition of the sidewalks and the brick paving on Rt. 9W in Port Ewen there are no longer shoulders on the road for bike lanes. Bike lanes on Port Ewen should be added.
- I watched the small town in FL where my in-laws live totally revitalized by the addition of bike paths connecting the whole island. It helped it become a destination. Although I'm not a mountain biker, I am guessing we have some amazing terrain that could be used to help on this front as well as pursuing the concept of making the town more rideable.
- Pedestrian and biking traffic enhance local business, but safety key.

- Look at what they did along Rt. 209. That walkway is used all the time! Would not asphalt, however, but do fine gravel.
- I am extremely tired of being passed by drivers who ignore the double line - extremely reckless. Primarily these infractions occurred on St Rt. 213 anywhere between Rt. 32 & Kingston
- I live at Lakeshore and feel isolated because I can't drive.
- I would like to see the pedestrian and bicycle access separated
- Salem Street is another road that needs to be looked at in this study
- Coordinate with the Ulster County Transportation Council for funding.

Strategy #2 Coordinate with NYSDOT to evaluate the feasibility of enhancing the shoulders of NY Rt. 213 for safer bicycle use and designating the route as a formal State Bike Route from Rifton with an eventual connection to Port Ewen. Hudson Valley Greenway funding may be available to assist with this project.

Survey Responses (37)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	13.51%
2-Somewhat Important	29.73%
3- Very Important	51.35%
I Don't Know	5.41%

Boards at Town Hall

- 19 Respondents support this strategy
- No Comments

Comments:

- I am a much better judge of what to do with my money than the town of Esopus is.

Strategy #3 Explore with NYSDOT, the Kingston Land trust and Scenic Hudson the possibility of a designated walking trail across the Wurts Street Bridge into Port Ewen and over to Sleightsburgh and Freer Parks.

Survey Responses (37)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	10.81%
2- Somewhat Important	29.73%
3- Very Important	59.46%
I Don't Know	0.00%

Boards at Town Hall

- 18 Respondents support this strategy
- No Comments

Comments:

- And who is going to use it? Maintenance from adjacent Property Owners to the town of Esopus good grief no prepare a long-term sidewalk expansion and maintenance
- A designated walking trail already exists, has signage on all corners. The Port Ewen riverside greenway Trail. Connects with the Kingston Heritage Trail at the Wurts Street Bridge.
- Reduce the speed limit on the Wurts street bridge from 40 mph to 25 mph in the Eastbound direction (enforce the speed limit). 40 mph is much too fast on this bridge and it is 30 mph in the westbound direction. Investigate making the Wurts street Bridge, one way into Kingston, which will alleviate much of the traffic in Port Ewen at the stop light during busy times.

- I know this isn't feasible, but it would be great if they closed that bridge and just made it pedestrian and bikes. You could have street fairs there etc. That's real pie in the sky, but we do have the new bridge...
- Why do we need Scenic Hudson they are a burden to the Town

Strategy #4 Consider shifting the responsibility for sidewalk maintenance from adjacent property owners to the Town of Esopus.

Survey Responses (36)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	16.67%
2- Somewhat Important	38.89%
3- Very Important	36.11%
I Don't Know	8.33%

Boards at Town Hall

- 13 Respondents support this strategy
- No Comments

Comments:

- Probably a good idea but I'm not informed enough. Right now when I walk to the town hall I have to dodge poison ivy.
- Residents and businesses should be held responsible. Too expensive for Town.
- Consider, yes, or enforce present laws. Cost to take over?
- Long term maintenance like replacement yes.

Strategy #5 Prepare a long-term sidewalk expansion and maintenance plan in Port Ewen to allow the Town to adequately budget for needed improvements. The goal of the plan will be to expand the quality and continuity of the pedestrian network by identifying sidewalks in poor condition, establishing a scheduled repair program, identifying and prioritize missing gaps in sidewalks and enhancing the number and quality of pedestrian crossings.

Survey Responses (35)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1-Not Important	5.71%
2- Somewhat Important	34.29%
3- Very Important	57.14%
I Don't Know	2.86%

Boards at Town Hall

- 8 Respondents support this strategy
- No Comments

Comments:

- More tax dollars at work right
- Be careful not to reduce bike lanes as a result of enhancing sidewalks.
- Visitors need to be able to cross the road safely in order to spread their business to different vendors.
- I think people would walk more if the walk was more pleasant. Too much asphalt in Port Ewen, nothing quaint. Few trees. Nowhere to walk to!
- Get rid of the NYSDOT crossing in that fake brick they are junk

Strategy #6 Encourage placement of bicycle racks at key locations in Town, including out front of local businesses and public facilities as appropriate and feasible.

Survey Responses (36)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	13.89%
2-Somewhat Important	47.22%
3- Very Important	38.89%
I Don't Know	0.00%

Boards at Town Hall

- 17 Respondents support this strategy
- Locking posts for kayaks at parks and JBA-will send pictures

Comments:

- Remember those bricks that you put across 9W so people could walk across the road. They are falling apart. more waste of taxpayer money
- I tend to just prop it against a wall...but if they are cheap it's probably ok.
- Why not offer incentives to businesses incentives to do this
- and more parking for cars

Strategy #7 Encourage NYSDOT to plan for and install sidewalks and a separated bicycle lane along the US Rt. 9W arterial connecting Port Ewen to Kingston and the Greenline Trail/future Empire Trail.

Survey Responses (36)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	11.11%
2- Somewhat Important	30.56%
3- Very Important	55.56%
I Don't Know	2.78%

Boards at Town Hall

- 10 Respondents support this strategy
- No Comments

Comments:

- The 9W bridge shoulder needs to be cleaned on a regular basis. The shoulder is not cleaned now and is a hazard to bike traffic.
- Driving in town is tight now a bike lane would make it worst
- Sidewalks yes bicycle lane no way. The shoulder is big enough or ride on the sidewalk.
- and more parking for cars
- The shoulder is more than wide enough for cyclists. Perhaps just a sidewalk

Strategy #8 Consider constructing designated pedestrian connections to Freer Park Beach from Minturn and Tilden Streets.

Survey Responses (35)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	20.00%
2- Somewhat Important	37.14%
3- Very Important	28.57%
I Don't Know	14.29%

Boards at Town Hall

8 Respondents support this strategy
 ■ No Comments

Comments:

- Good idea!
- Keep the neighborhoods the way they are quiet and peaceful.

Strategy #9 Coordinate with NYSDOT to begin the process of seeking speed limit reductions on portions of US Rt. 9W and NY Rt. 213

Survey Responses (34)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	23.53%
2- Somewhat Important	35.29%
3- Very Important	35.29%
I Don't Know	5.88%

Boards at Town Hall

13 Respondents support this strategy
 ■ No Comments

Comments:

- Can be done with posts that have speed reading alert devices similar to those on the Bard Campus
- As well as reduced speed limits on the Wurts Street Bridge.
- People speed much too much and much too often.
- Current speed limits must be enforced
- Enforce local speed laws
- Rt. 213 I agree. 9W seems OK to me right now.
- Too low now
- PUT IN SPEED BUMPS, that will slow people down. Less expensive and more consistent than law enforcement
- River Road as well
- And in town 35 mph in the side streets is crazy

Strategy #10 Routinely coordinate with the Ulster County Sheriff and NYS Police for updates on incidents of speeding and traffic accidents, especially those involving pedestrians and bicyclists to begin identifying and confirming key areas of concern for pedestrian and bicycle safety. In addition, this will help establish a working relationship with each police agency with respect to speed enforcement and traffic safety, a key issue identified by the public.

Survey Responses (37)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	10.81%
2- Somewhat Important	29.73%
3- Very Important	54.05%
I Don't Know	5.41%

Boards at Town Hall

- 8 Respondents support this strategy
- Seems there's already a constant police presence and ticketing in this town- I don't think additional is necessary
 - Texting/distracted driving is a frequent problem on Hardeburgh & Union Centers
 - Speed bumps probably more effected than more police
 - 4-way stop at W. Stout and Green & Bayard St.
 - Speeding on river roads- put in a speeding camera that automatically sends tickets, Town will make money at first and drivers will stop speeding!
 - Change town speed limit to 25 mph on side streets and residential areas.

Comments:

- How many incidents have there been? Haven't heard about any. SPEED BUMPS!
- At least One officer once a day

Strategy #11 Prepare and adopt a “complete streets” policy for new projects. A complete streets policy requires that new applicable development projects plan for pedestrians, bicyclists and transit as well as private vehicles.

Survey Responses (36)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	11.11%
2- Somewhat Important	19.44%
3- Very Important	58.33%
I Don't Know	11.11%

Boards at Town Hall

- 8 Respondents support this strategy
- Not enough bus stops.
 - Keep improving public transport
 - Clean street shoulders more often too

Comments:

- What a lot of nonsense.
- Key to creating a vibrant center in hamlets and villages.
- our street our plenty wide for all of those items and we dont need sidewalks on side streets

Strategy #12 Continue working closely with NYSDOT and regional planning organizations to ensure the Town plays a role in regional planning and transportation decisions, especially those that directly affect the Town of Esopus.

Survey Responses (36)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	2.78%
2- Somewhat Important	25.00%
3- Very Important	72.22%
I Don't Know	0.00%

Boards at Town Hall

- 5 Respondents support this strategy
- Talk to CSX about not blocking train crossings, especially multiple crossings at one time. This is a hazard for emergency vehicles!

Comments:

- No Comments

Strategy #13 Encourage the Planning Board to recommend and/or require new developments (as appropriate and legal) to include sidewalks, pedestrian paths, bike lanes, trails and connections to surrounding destinations which will assist the town in establishing a truly connected community.

Survey Responses (36)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	5.56%
2- Somewhat Important	30.56%
3- Very Important	61.11%
I Don't Know	2.78%

Boards at Town Hall

- 9 Respondents support this strategy
- No Comments

Comments:

- What on Earth are you thinking? People drive through Port Ewen to get to Kingston. There is very little here that we have to offer.
- Businesses should contribute to the well-being of the community; this also enhances tourist attraction.
- Our street our plenty wide for all of those items and we don't need sidewalks on side streets. I would agree with some pedestrian paths.

Strategy #14 Request NYSDOT evaluate the intersection of US Rt. 9W, North Broadway and Old US Rt. 9W, with a specific request to increase the length of the southbound right and left hand turn lanes.

Survey Responses (36)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	8.33%
2- Somewhat Important	30.56%
3- Very Important	44.44%
I Don't Know	16.67%

Boards at Town Hall

- 4 Respondents support this strategy
- No Comments

Comments:

- With the newer design there is a huge traffic back-up during peak times.
- The traffic through town is horrible since they changed that lane.
- This could help alleviate the traffic at 4-6pm
- During rush hour traffic is backed up almost to the diner

Overall Comments:

- Also consider Union Center Road in your use planning for pedestrians/bicycles.
- I've been outspoken on the failure to make vehicles adhere to our roads and the assigned speeds. But, the major concern is the inability of sheriff's department to position themselves and catch more violators running STOP signs. Kids and disability persons in electric wheeled vehicles running up and down on Bayard for one. Not acceptable is the comments that maybe just remove the stop signs and there won't be any violations.
- Realize that pedestrian/bicyclist safety is also on the shoulders of the pedestrians and the bicyclists!
- This survey keeps changing...why??
- Make Esopus great again

Waterfront:

Goal: *Enhance the Town’s waterfront as a recreation, education and commercial/entertainment destination for residents and visitors while balancing these improvements with the long-range protection of the Town’s waterfront ecology and environment.*

Strategy #1 Encourage compatible commercial, tourism, education/interpretive and residential development in key waterfront locations with a focus on the Hamlets of Connelly, Sleightsburgh and Port Ewen.

Survey Responses (47)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	2.13%
2- Somewhat Important	21.28%
3- Very Important	70.21%
I Don't Know	6.38%

Boards at Town Hall

- 13 Respondents support this strategy
- Good luck on this, clean up Connelly first then waterfront project will be worth it.

Comments:

- I prefer public access areas to residential development.
- Non specific
- Would prioritize efforts, and start with one, get it right, and expand. Also, think about starting with opportunities that are not capital intensive, like having weekend festivals with interesting food trucks and craft fairs initially.
- No new condo developments or apartment complexes. Just mimic existing development.

Strategy #2 Identify and support opportunities to integrate improvements in the Town of Esopus with existing tourism and educational resources on the Rondout Creek and Hudson River, including, but not limited to the Hudson River Maritime Museum.

Survey Responses (46)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	2.17%
2- Somewhat Important	26.09%
3- Very Important	69.57%
I Don't Know	2.17%

Boards at Town Hall

- 15 Respondents support this strategy
- No Comments

Comments:

- It would be nice to get places like Kenco or others to do kayak nature tours that leave from say Esopus meadows...things like that would improve vitality. Perhaps get Scenic Hudson to sponsor River Fair Day with kayak tours, hikes on their trails...a whole agenda.
- Yes, the more we can leverage existing assets the better.

Strategy #3 Enhance Freer Park as the Town’s primary destination for waterfront recreation. Potential improvements include, but are not limited to the following:

- a) New bulkhead to reduce erosion and the occurrences and severity of existing and future flooding.
- b) Boardwalk with benches and pedestrian-scaled lighting (if adequate protection can be accomplished by a new bulkhead).
- c) Canoe/kayak launch storage and launch site.
- d) Designated Fishing area.
- e) Improved parking lot.
- f) New combined pavilion and enclosed event space.
- g) Improved pedestrian connections from Minturn and Tilden Streets

Survey Responses (48)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	0.00%
2- Somewhat Important	25.00%
3- Very Important	75.00%
I Don't Know	0.00%

Boards at Town Hall

17 Respondents support this strategy

- Need food service/trucks close by
- Freer Park needs a shelter/covered area for Chester to park

Comments:

- Freer Park will be an essential resource and Town highlight.
- Lighting should not be needed as park closes at dusk
- It would not be a good idea to add a bulkhead to the grassy point on the North end of the park.
- Restrooms?
- But do not asphalt the parking lot, keep it tucked away. The fire department in Ulster Park is an example of what NOT to do. Not sure the enclosed event space is necessary, but I don't know it. Should be focused on the outdoor assets.
- Leave off lighting for boardwalk no connection to Minturn and Tilden Streets. Why not just maintain and enhance what is there?

Strategy #4 Improve Sleightsburgh Park to provide expanded boat launching opportunities:

- a) Enlarge the parking area to allow for increased use and safer parking.
- b) Upgrade and expand launching facilities.
- c) Identify feasible opportunities to improve the safety of vehicles entering and existing the park including widening the access road, providing two pull off locations to allow vehicles to pass or installing a traffic light system.
- d) Determine if the existing trail system should be repaired/expanded in key areas to provide access for fishing and sightseeing opportunities or officially close the trails due to safety concerns.

Survey Responses (48)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	4.17%
2- Somewhat Important	39.58%
3- Very Important	56.25%
I Don't Know	0.00%

Boards at Town Hall

15 Respondents support this strategy

- Coordinate with Kingston re: flooding resiliency for KGN waterfront
- Walking trails populate with residents
- Historic place in use for many years
- HRMM and many others use Sleightsburgh trails, good way to view

graveyard of D&H canal barges and some Hudson barges

- Osprey nest on crane on barge
- Could a boardwalk help with environmental concerns?

Comments:

- This Park can become a wonderful haven.
- The trails are used and should not be closed. They should be improved.
- For the launching facilities: Add a "T" shaped dock to the existing dock so that there is a staging area for boats that are waiting for being taken out or preparing for going out after launching. Change position of Kayak launching platform to go parallel to the shore. Lengthen main dock and add more cleats and rub rails.
- The existing docks need maintenance. An L shaped dock would allow more than one boat to land there at one time. I don't think anyone uses that kayak launch since it's too hard to really use. So a staging dock arrangement. The bumpers on the dock need to be fixed. Right now there is exposed aluminum to hit your boat. Fix the letters that announce our park name. It looks pretty trashy right now from the water.
- Improvements to the Park depend on a study of likely future flooding due to water level rise.
- Looks like a nice area. Maybe it could be used for more than boat launching. Has a great view of the creek.
- I don't know if parking is the bottleneck issue. Maybe access and signage is the first issue to be solved? Perhaps people just don't know about it? I only know it from the river.
- Small playground?

Strategy #5 Identify opportunities and implement feasible options for new and improved public access to the Hudson River waterfront in the Hamlets of Ulster Park, Esopus and West Park including, but not limited to designated/enhanced car-top boat launch facilities at the Black Creek Preserve and Lighthouse Park/Esopus Meadows Preserves.

Survey Responses (48)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	6.25%
2- Somewhat Important	37.50%
3- Very Important	52.08%
I Don't Know	4.17%

Boards at Town Hall

17 Respondents support this strategy

- Thought that Sturgeon Pool access would be addressed

Comments:

- Great resource areas to develop.
- It would be wonderful to see a small sail boat launch park in some of these locations. Rumor has it that Scenic Hudson has another area with a waterfront beach that might serve this purpose. Also, the mess that the rock sculpture lady created should be fixed (approved by town board). It has created erosion and makes launching a kayak there pretty treacherous. Get some scouts to volunteer to spiff up the information boards at the parks. There is one to the North at Lighthouse Park that is in a total state of abandonment.
- With all the other opportunities available and complexities in access to Black Creek and West park, this would be down the line
- Something kid friendly?
- If you enhance the parks on River Rd you need a way to control traffic and speeding first

Strategy #6 Evaluate potential opportunities and implement feasible options to create public access on the Rondout Creek in Sleightsburgh and Connelly including, but not limited to, a new waterside park and designated area for restaurant dining and recreation.

Survey Responses (48)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	2.08%
2- Somewhat Important	31.25%
3- Very Important	64.58%
I Don't Know	2.08%

Boards at Town Hall

- 13 Respondents support this strategy
- No Comments

Comments:

- This should help tourists see "what is on the other side of the Creek?"

Strategy #7 Encourage and facilitate repurposing of Certified Marina and adjacent upland areas to incorporate waterside dinning, entertainment opportunities, and residential development in combination with a well-organized marina and launching facilities.

This question was removed from the on-line survey.

Boards at Town Hall

- 15 Respondents support this strategy
- No Comments

Strategy #8 Evaluate the feasibility of repurposing the Town’s water treatment plant property into a new riverfront park if the Town decides to connect into the City of Kingston water supply (see Infrastructure Goals and Strategies).

Survey Responses (47)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	12.77%
2- Somewhat Important	27.66%
3- Very Important	57.45%
I Don't Know	2.13%

Boards at Town Hall

- 13 Respondents support this strategy
- Maintain water which provides capability to accommodate population growth of Kingston
 - Access to Sturgeon Pool would be Wonderful!

Comments:

- As long as we maintain the water plan as backup.
- Plant should be kept as a backup system.
- ABSOLUTELY!!!! Water is the number one problem!!!! Totally support this idea!!!!
- This would be an amazing small sailboat launch. This has deeper water access and is an amazing spot on the river.
- Must maintain the Port Ewen Facility and use Kingston for back up

- You would need plant to stay active
- Keep our own water. Never be hostage to a larger municipality.
- Interesting idea!
- If the plant is no longer used.
- Anything done on River Rd needs to address Traffic and speeding first
- Current water is terrible.

Strategy #9 Investigate the potential for providing public access to Sturgeon Pool via Central Hudson Gas and Electric lands.

Survey Responses (48)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	10.42%
2- Somewhat Important	31.25%
3- Very Important	47.92%
I Don't Know	10.42%

Boards at Town Hall

- 13 Respondents support this strategy
 - No Comment

Comments:

- Personally I wouldn't look at using this but it seems a good idea.

Strategy #10 Evaluate opportunities to improve Perrine’s Bridge Park, including mitigation of flooding, improvements to the parking area and pedestrian crossing of Rt. 213 with proper signage, designated canoe and kayak launch facilities, connecting the park to the actual Perrine’s Bridge to the north, and additional improvements to enhance visitor experiences and safety.

Survey Responses (48)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	8.33%
2- Somewhat Important	41.67%
3- Very Important	39.58%
I Don't Know	10.42%

Boards at Town Hall

- 18 Respondents support this strategy
 - Signs to draw in people driving on Rt. 32

Comments:

- Fantastic resource to be developed in a way that can accommodate future flooding.
- Kid friendly area?

Strategy #11 Evaluate the feasibility, responsibility and associated costs and potential impacts related to removing abandoned and submerged barges and other watercraft on the south shore of the Rondout Creek from Connelly to the Hudson River.

Survey Responses (48)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	27.08%
2- Somewhat Important	33.33%
3- Very Important	35.42%
I Don't Know	4.17%

Boards at Town Hall

- 12 Respondents support this strategy
 - Barnes they make the Sleightsburgh launch a kayaking destination

Comments:

- Removal permits denied by DEC previously.
- Barges are historical in nature maybe signage as to history and caution when navigating
- Removing the big crane off the top of the big barge is a good idea.
- Although this would be great, I think there are more important priorities. This would be a major undertaking and maybe not the lowest hanging fruit.
- For safety's sake and enhanced tourism, good to look at this.
- They are a part of the experience. Lead to curiosity, questions and learning about the rich River history.
- Including research into available federal and state funds for this purpose.
- NOOOO! Love these industrial artifacts. Look what was done on the other side of the creek where they cleaned up the old war docks/boats. Awful chain link fence and gravel, no vegetation. It is the ugliest spot in the whole creek. Plus, lots of wildlife and vegetation make it visually interesting.
- these are a complete eyesore

Strategy #12 Ensure existing and future development along shorelines adequately address anticipated rising water levels through a combination of proper planning and development practices; shoreline stabilization, education, and land use regulations.

Survey Responses (48)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	6.25%
2- Somewhat Important	20.83%
3- Very Important	70.83%
I Don't Know	2.08%

Boards at Town Hall

- 11 Respondents support this strategy
 - No Comments

Comments:

- Wouldn't develop too much permanent stuff.

Strategy #13 Prepare an update to the Town’s 1987 Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) to establish a revised long-term plan for the protection and enhancement of water resources and to properly plan for economic revitalization and recreational opportunities along the shoreline and in the Town’s key waterfront Hamlets. In addition, the LWRP update should consider expanding the scope of the shoreline areas not previously included in the first LWRP; aligning and comparing LWRP land use policies with actual land use of the properties along the waterfront; and defining the Town of Esopus Waterfront Advisory Board’s (WAB) authority/zoning jurisdiction for areas that are zoned “Waterfront,” among additional components and analyses.

Survey Responses (48)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	2.08%
2- Somewhat Important	25.00%
3- Very Important	68.75%
I Don't Know	4.17%

Boards at Town Hall

- 12 Respondents support this strategy
 - No Comments

Comments:

- The waterfront is a key attraction and potential source of income to the Town residents but should be carefully planned and well-protected.

Strategy #14 As the Town seeks to enhance public access and use of the Hudson River and Rondout Creek, there will be an increasing need to provide adequate responses for in-water emergencies. Therefore, in coordination with local and regional emergency services departments, the Town should explore funding and designated access points for one or more water rescue boats.

Survey Responses (46)	
Answer Choices	Responses
1- Not Important	15.22%
2- Somewhat Important	23.91%
3- Very Important	60.87%
I Don't Know	0.00%

Boards at Town Hall

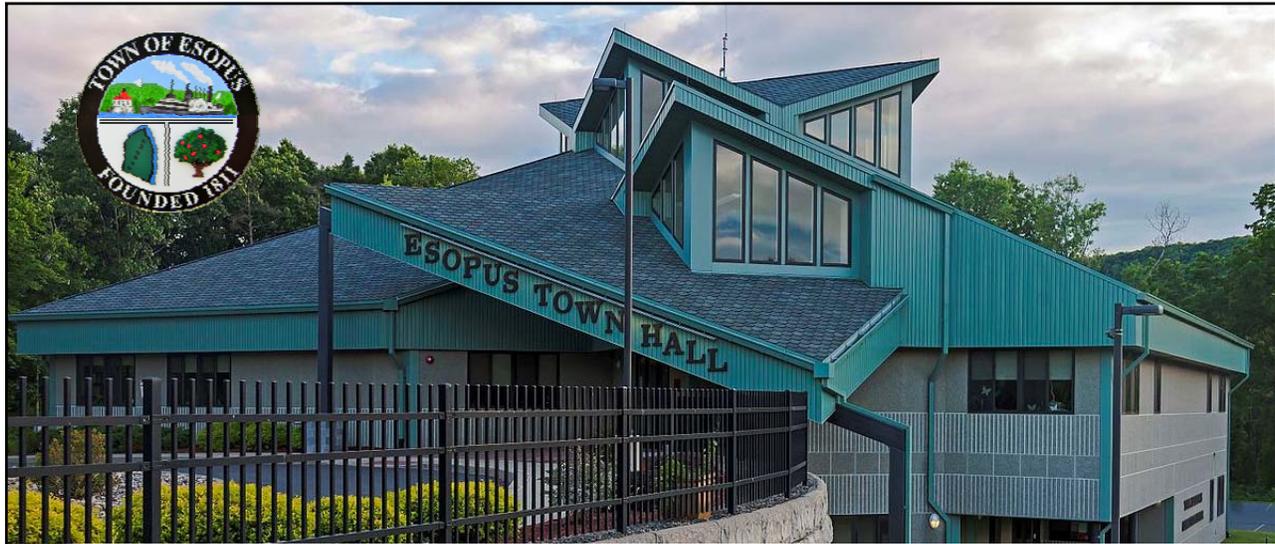
- 10 Respondents support this strategy
- No Comments

Comments:

- There are already more emergency response boats on the river than needed. Boating has dropped off alot. Marinas are empty.
- Or work with rescue personnel already in place along Rondout Creek
- Not sure we need more patrols out there. As it is the Sheriff that patrols is out there alot, you see Sea Tow there a fair amount. The challenges is getting people that have a clue. It's not just getting a boat to do rescue...there is alot involved.
- Kingston and Rifton have boats. So do sheriffs, etc.

Overall Comments:

- Healthy good tasting water and mail delivery are 2 important issues in our families' opinion!
- Worked in national and regional environmental organizations and NYSDEC 1979-2014 (now retired).
- Hi Melanie.
- Thank you for the thoughtful and engaging process!



Esopus Master Plan: Emerging Goals and Strategies June 21, 2018



Agenda

1. Our purpose – Today and beyond
2. Possible outcomes and funding of projects
3. Master plan – What, why and how?
4. Committee and team introductions
5. Our steps to this point
 - a. Community survey
 - b. Initiation of the master planning process
 - c. Community bus
 - d. Committee meetings
 - e. Stakeholder meetings
 - f. May 5 public open house
 - g. May 24 design charrette
 - h. Community profile analysis
6. Summary of what we heard from the public
7. Key insights learned to date – What is the data telling us?
 - a. **Our Waterfront** – What do we have, what is missing and how do we truly embrace our waterfront?
 - b. **Population Trends** – How is the population changing and are we prepared?
 - c. **Housing Trends** – What is the current status of housing, what is needed and where is it lacking?
 - d. **Esopus' Position in the Region** – How do we compare and where can we fill niches, gaps, demands?
 - e. **Future Land Use** – What is needed and where should future development be directed?
8. Today's discussion of goals and strategies
9. Our next steps and schedule
10. Q&A for 25 minutes
11. Public input exercise – Review and comment on the Emerging Goals and Strategies



Our purpose – today and beyond

- **Listen** to what the community wants and needs. Offer you better service.
- **Plan** for future growth, improved amenities and sound infrastructure.
- **Respond** proactively to community change having anticipated what that change through outreach, communications and research.
- **Focus** on economic development, adding small businesses (jobs) and hamlet revitalization.
- **Improve** community access to financial and technical assistance.
- **Seek** grants and partnerships to attract private sector investment and maximize taxpayer dollars.



Strategy for 2018



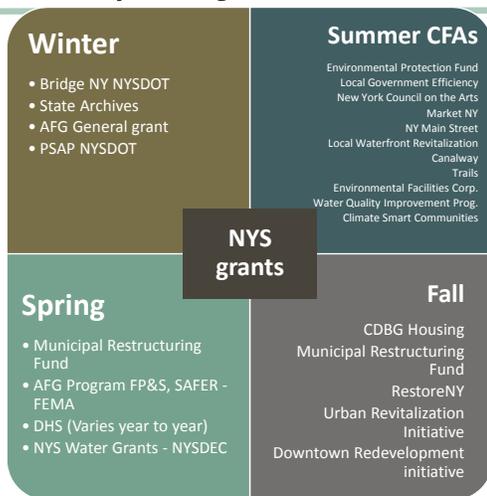
Outcomes of plan

- Multi-year goals for Town Board and volunteer committees.
- Sectors and industries to grow or expand small businesses. Utilize revolving loan fund to build and sustain local businesses.
- Waterfront access and development. Update our LWRP.
- Re-zoning for business districts and to preserve historic heritage.
- Drinking water infrastructure upgrades and water/sewer/highway GIS mapping
- Hamlet revitalization, entrance landscaping and streetscape design.
- Housing mix to support seniors / veterans / young families.
- Enhancements to cultural, historic and recreational / park amenities.
- Transportation, connectivity and wayfinding.



How do we fund these projects?

- Our community identified projects and improvements will be assigned to a specific grant funding program
- Priority, eligibility and urgency will dictate which grants we seek
- Ensure grants support vision and goals for the Mid-Hudson region



Comprehensive Plan - What and Why

What: Inventories where we are now, how the Town is evolving.

States what kinds of change will help us thrive in the future.

A broad, long-range document that guides a community's future, based on public input.

Used to establish policy in regard to development, capital investment, zoning changes, economic strength, and sustainability.

Why: The last Town of Esopus Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1994, 24 years ago.

Responds proactively to community change.

To improve access to financial and technical assistance.

Provides direction to multiple government agencies including local and State government.



Comprehensive Plan – How

2017: Town of Esopus Master Plan Survey distributed via hardcopy and online; over 600 respondents.

2018: Planning Process Begins

Consultant Project Team Hired

Stakeholder/Focus Group Meetings

Public Open House (May 5th), Design Charrette (May 24th)

TODAY – Emerging Goals and Strategies

Public Hearing

Plan Adoption



Introductions – Planning Committee

- Shannon Harris – Town Supervisor
- Jared Geuss – CPC Chair & Councilman
- Kathie Quick – Councilwoman
- Myles Putman, AICP – Town Planner
- Laura Petit – County Legislature
- Fred Zimmer – Planning Board
- Frank Skerritt and Jim Banks – Zoning Board of Appeals
- Janet Bellusci / Mercedes Ross – Waterfront Advisory Committee
- Sal Morello, III – Building Inspector
- Mark Ellison – Environmental Board
- Melanie Marino – Community Development and Outreach
- John Cutrone - Economic Development
- Robert Wells - Recreation Commission



Community stakeholders

- Senior's group and American Legion
- Board of Fire Commissioners for all five Fire Departments
- Church leadership, including the Community of Churches
- Esopus employees / department heads
- Esopus Business Association
- School Board members and individuals from the Esopus Library Board
- PEAA / Recreation Board / Scouts and Scout Leaders
- Reps for local marina/vineyard/farming community
- Scenic Hudson
- TEVAS
- Ulster County Planning and Economic Devt.



Introductions - Project Team

Nicole Allen, AICP Planning Services Manager - Laberge Group

Matthew Rogers, Senior Planner - Laberge Group

Joshua Westfall, Planner - Laberge Group

William Sprengnether, RLA - Cardinal Direction

Ellen Pemrick, Principal – E.M. Pemrick & Company



Our Steps to This Point

- 2017:** - Town of Esopus Master Plan Survey distributed via hardcopy and online; over 600 respondents.
- 2018:** - March 29: Kick-Off Meeting
- April 13: Town Bus Tour
 - April 25: Stakeholder/Focus Group Meetings begin
 - Public Open House (May 5th), Design Charrette (May 24th)
 - **TODAY** – Emerging Goals and Strategies
 - July – August: Revise Goals and Strategies, prepare full Comprehensive Plan Document
 - Fall 2018: Public Hearings
 - Fall 2018: Plan Adoption



What We Heard

May 5th Open House (Over 150) and May 21 Design Workshop (Over 75)

- **Desired Housing Choices:**
 - Mixed Residential/Commercial
 - Apartments
 - Single Family – Small Lot
 - Duplex/Two Family
 - Senior Housing
 - Single Family – Large Lot
 - Townhouses
- **Additional Recommendations**
 - Insufficient housing opportunities for recent grads, young families, seniors.
 - Support for a home improvement program.
 - AirBnB a concern.
 - Improve appearance of commercial and residential areas.



What We Heard

May 5th Open House (Over 150) and May 21 Design Workshop (Over 75)

Recreation:

- Town should pursue opportunities to increase public waterfront access.
- Focus waterfront development in Connelly, Sleightsburgh and Port Ewen.
- Town pool recommended and Splash Pad.
- Seek to connect diverse trails and recreation areas throughout Town, add mountain biking trails.
- Improve recreational opportunities and safety for pedestrian and bicyclists.
- Indoor recreational facility recommended.
- Enhance all Town Parks and provide a park in Rifton.



Key Insights – What's the Data Telling Us

- **Our Waterfront:**

- 24 linear miles of waterfront and limited access.
- Overwhelming support for increased public waterfront access.
- Sleightsburgh Park provides the only motorized boat launch in Town.
- No swimming beach.
- No commercial uses along the waterfront except three marinas in Connelly.
- Connelly, Sleightsburgh and Port Ewen are the primary locations to reconnect with the waterfront for commercial, recreation and tourism opportunities.
- Need for additional in-water rescue boats south of Port Ewen.
- Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan is in need of an update.
- Sea level is expected to rise.



Key Insights – What's the Data Telling Us

- **Population Trends by 2022**

- Town of Esopus is expected to increase by 2.1% to 9,589 by 2022.
- School-age children expected to remain stable, with less than 1% increase.
- Expected increase in ages 25-44 - young families, recent graduates and working adults.
- Residents between 45-54 (prime income earning age) expected to decrease by almost 14%
- Expected increase of Seniors by 15%.



Key Insights – What's the Data Telling Us

- **Housing Trends by 2022**

- 65% of housing in Town is owner-occupied with 24% renter occupied.
- Homeowner vacancy rate of 2% with a renter vacancy rate of 5.4%
 - May be a tight owner-occupied housing market.
 - Rental market does not appear to be tight.
- Median housing value: \$211,000 compared to \$245,000 in Lloyd and \$219,800 for the County.
- 59% of renters and 24% of homeowners in the Town are cost-burdened – paying at least 30% of their household income for housing.



Key Insights – What's the Data Telling Us

- **Esopus' Position in the Region.**

- Waterfront is unmatched – but underutilized for recreation and tourism.
- Have the goods to be a primary destination for outdoor recreation.
- Emerging Agritourism industries – wine, cider, distilleries, apples, entertainment opportunities.
- Spillover from the Kingston Rondout.



Key Insights – What’s the Data Telling Us

- **Future Land Use**
 - Connelly, Port Ewen and Sleightsburgh and Northern Sections of Ulster Park – Primary areas for future development.
 - Need to consider future land uses for large estates in West Park that may become available for private development – Hotels, recreation, tourism-focus.
 - Need for new light industrial/light manufacturing sites.
 - Need for a more balanced tax base supported by more economic development.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Our Waterfront – Revitalization, Recreation and Preservation

Goal 1: Enhance the Town’s waterfront as a recreation, education and commercial/entertainment destination for residents and visitors while balancing these improvements with the long-range protection of the Town’s waterfront ecology and environment.

Strategies:

1. Encourage Compatible commercial, tourism, education/interpretive and residential development in key waterfront locations with a focus on the Hamlets of Connelly, Sleightsburgh and Port Ewen.
2. Identify and support opportunities to integrate improvements in the Town of Esopus with existing tourism and educational resources on the Rondout Creek and Hudson River, including, but not limited to the Hudson River Maritime Museum.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Our Waterfront – Revitalization, Recreation and Preservation

Goal 1 Continued

Strategies:

3. Enhance Freer Park as the Town's primary destination for waterfront recreation. Potential improvements include, but are not limited to the following:
 - New bulkhead to reduce erosion and the occurrence/severity of flooding.
 - Boardwalk with benches and pedestrian-scaled lighting.
 - Canoe/kayak launch and storage.
 - Designated fishing area.
 - Improvement parking lot.
 - New combined pavilion and enclosed event space.
 - Improved pedestrian connections from Minturn and Tilden Streets.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Our Waterfront – Revitalization, Recreation and Preservation

Goal 1 Continued

Strategies:

4. Improve Sleightsburgh Park to provide expanded boat launching opportunities:
 - Enlarge the parking area to allow for increased use and safer parking.
 - Upgrade and expand launching facilities.
 - Identify feasible opportunities to improve the safety of vehicles entering and exiting the park.
 - Determine if the existing trail system should be enhanced or officially closed.
5. Identify opportunities and implement feasible options for new and improved public access to the Hudson River waterfront in the Hamlets of Ulster Park, Esopus and West Park including, but not limited to designated/enhanced car-top boat launch facilities at the Black Creek Preserve and Lighthouse Park/Esopus Meadows Preserves.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Our Waterfront – Revitalization, Recreation and Preservation

Goal 1 Continued

Strategies:

6. Evaluate potential opportunities and implement feasible options to create public access on the Rondout Creek in Sleightsburgh and Connolly including, but limited to, a new waterside park and designated area for restaurant dining and recreation.
7. Encourage and facilitate repurposing of Certified Marina and adjacent upland areas to incorporate waterside dining, entertainment opportunities, and residential development in combination with a well-organized marina and launching facilities.
8. Evaluate the feasibility of repurposing the Town's water treatment plant property into a new riverfront park if the Town decides to connect into the City of Kingston water supply.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Our Waterfront – Revitalization, Recreation and Preservation

Goal 1 Continued

Strategies:

9. Investigate the potential for providing public access to Sturgeon Pool via Central Hudson Gas and Electric lands.
10. Evaluate opportunities to improve Perrine's Bridge Park, including mitigation of flooding, improvements to the parking area and pedestrian crossing of NY Rt. 213 with proper signage along with designated canoe/kayak launch facilities, connecting the park to the actual Perrine's Covered Bridge and additional improvements to enhance visitor experiences and safety.
11. Evaluate the feasibility, responsibility and associated costs and potential impacts related to removing abandoned and submerged barges and other watercraft on the south shore of the Rondout Creek from Connolly to the Hudson River.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Our Waterfront – Revitalization, Recreation and Preservation

Goal 1 Continued

Strategies:

12. Ensure existing and future development along shorelines adequately address anticipated rising water levels through a combination of proper planning and development practices; shoreline stabilization, education, and land use regulations.
13. Prepare an update to the Town's 1987 Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) to establish a revised long-term plan for the protection and enhancement of water resources and to properly plan for economic revitalization and recreational opportunities along the shoreline and in the Town's key waterfront Hamlets.
14. As the Town seeks to enhance public access and use of the Hudson River and Rondout Creek, there will be an increased need to provide adequate responses for in-water emergencies. Therefore, in coordination with local and regional emergency services departments, the Town should explore funding and designated access points for one or more water rescue boats.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Pedestrian Safety and Traffic

Goal 1: Provide an efficient, safe and connective transportation system that takes into account not only automobiles but also pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and abilities, which is coordinated with existing and future growth needs; this system should also be economical and responsive to existing adjacent land uses.

Strategies:

1. Conduct a Town-wide pedestrian and bicycle connectivity and complete streets analysis that includes a comprehensive inventory of existing on and off-road bicycle and pedestrian facilities and related safety issues within and between each Hamlet and other key destinations (i.e., parks, recreational areas, historic/cultural locations, the waterfront, surrounding communities and trails). The purpose of this analysis should be to identify and prioritize feasible pedestrian and bicycle facility improvements to provide safe access for all ages and abilities.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Pedestrian Safety and Traffic

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

2. Coordinate with NYSDOT to evaluate the feasibility of enhancing the shoulders of NY Rt. 213 for safer bicycling use including adding a separated bike lane and designating the road as a formal State Bike Route.
3. Explore with NYSDOT, the Kingston Land Trust and Scenic Hudson the possibility of a designated walking trail across the Wurts Street Bridge into Port Ewen and over to Sleightsburgh and Freer Parks.
4. Consider shifting the responsibility for sidewalk maintenance from adjacent property owners to the Town of Esopus.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Pedestrian Safety and Traffic

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

5. Prepare a long-term sidewalk expansion and maintenance plan in Port Ewen to allow the Town to adequately budget for needed improvements.
6. Encourage the placement of bike racks at key locations in Town, including out front of local businesses and public facilities as appropriate and feasible.
7. Coordinate with and encourage NYSDOT to plan for and install sidewalks and a separated bike lane along the US Route 9W arterial connecting Port Ewen to Kingston and the Greenline/future Empire Trail.
8. Consider constructing designated pedestrian connections to Freer Park Beach from Minturn and Tilden Streets.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Pedestrian Safety and Traffic

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

9. Coordinate with NYSDOT to begin the process of seeking speed limit reductions on portions of US Rt. 9W and NY Rt. 213.
10. Routinely coordinate with the Ulster County Sheriff and NYS Police for updates on incidents of speeding and traffic accidents, especially those involving pedestrians and bicyclists to being identifying and confirming areas of concern for pedestrian and bicycle safety.
11. Prepare and adopt a “complete streets” policy that would require new applicable development projects to plan for pedestrians, bicyclists and public transit in addition to private vehicles.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Pedestrian Safety and Traffic

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

12. Continue working closely with NYSDOT and regional planning organizations to ensure the Town plays a role in regional planning and transportation decisions, especially those that directly affect the Town of Esopus.
13. Encourage the Planning Board to recommend/or require new developments (as appropriate and legal) to include sidewalks, pedestrian paths, bike lanes, trails and connections to surrounding destinations which will assist the Town in establishing a truly connected community.
14. Request NYSDOT evaluate the intersection of US Rt. 9W, North Broadway, Old US Rt. 9W with a specific request to increase the length of the southbound right and left hand turnlanes.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Economic Development

Goal 1: Promote the Town of Esopus as a destination for outdoor recreation, agritourism, history, and the arts, while maintaining the community's existing character and quality of life desired by residents.

Strategies:

1. Prepare a tourism action plan and establish an entity that convenes regularly and considers priority areas for Ecotourism, Agritourism, Heritage Tourism, Waterfront and Recreation and include a marketing and branding plan – **"From Ridge to River."**
2. Create a user-friendly, attractive PDF map of the Town to show locations of hiking trails, boat launches, nature preserves, and other features for posting on the Town's website and placement in local businesses and visitor kiosks.
3. Foster partnerships between the Town and non-profit organizations, business associations, and volunteer groups to draw investments into the community to develop properties in appropriate business areas.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Economic Development

Goal 1 Continued

Strategies:

4. Consider creating a business advocacy response team tasked with providing support to businesses interested in developing properties with the intent of simplifying the process and overcoming barriers.
5. Strengthen annual events and consider organizing one or two additional event showcasing recreational resources, the arts, and/or the waterfront in the Town of Esopus.
6. Consider potential trail linkages to and from Port Ewen to connect recreational users with local shops and restaurants.
7. Encourage infill along streets secondary to Broadway and re-adaption of buildings of historic character.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Economic Development

Goal 1 Continued

Strategies:

8. Ensure that up-to-date information on local attractions, including trails, natural areas, and historic sites open to the public, are included in print materials and on the Ulster County Tourism website.
9. Collaborate with neighboring towns on tourism activities and promotion where there is a likelihood of customer spillover.
10. Review and enhance wayfinding signage and landscaping on US Rt. 9W at Town gateways and on other roads likely to experience significant use by visitors.
11. Consider establishing a visitor center at the Town's key gateways, at Freer, Ross and Cas Landi Parks that provide information about lodging choices, trailhead information and retail, recreation and dining opportunities – forge a partnership with Scenic Hudson to update trailhead kiosks to provide more Town-specific information.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Economic Development

Goal 1 Continued

Strategies:

12. Undertake a review of signs, both direction and placemaking, throughout the Town; review local sign ordinances and develop design guidance.
13. Consider asking the Klyne Esopus Museum to broaden their scope to develop a strategy that encompasses the following elements: maintaining an inventory of historic and cultural resources and promoting landmarks and heritage tourist attractions.
14. Forge partnerships with the Hudson River Maritime Museum, Kingston Waterfront Coalition and John Burroughs Association to maximize opportunities to promote Port Ewen, Sleightsburgh, and Connelly for maritime heritage, and John Burroughs for ecotourism.
15. Create a Sojourner Truth Museum near her statute in Port Ewen and map her journey through Esopus – Create a John Burroughs interpretive center and explore the feasibility of establishing a ship building museum in Connelly.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Economic Development

Goal 2: Support business development to strengthen the tax base and meet community needs

Strategies:

1. Compile an inventory of suitable sites for development and market available commercial and industrial property on the Town's website and through a realtor network and by targeting specific businesses who may be interested in expanding, relocating or opening satellite operations in Esopus.
2. Work with the Ulster Economic Development Alliance and the Office of the Ulster County Executive to provide financial and technical assistance to qualified business establishments in the Town.
3. Develop a campaign to educate local businesses about existing customer demands (e.g., a grocery store, hardware store, medical facility, etc.) based on resident feedback – encourage businesses to adapt their model and products to meet current demands, where practical.
4. Develop a plan to identify prospective businesses that align well with what the Town has to offer – target and recruit new businesses that can provide goods and services for current and future residents.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Economic Development

Goal 2: Continued

Strategies:

5. Streamline the planning process by creating a pre-approved project compliance checklist and develop a corresponding "pocket" zoning map, and preparing and marketing online a sector-specific (agribusiness and waterfront development) "Guide to Business Opportunities and Development in Esopus."
6. Support the redevelopment and reuse of vacant and underutilized commercial sites and buildings as an alternative to the development of greenfields.
7. Work with Ulster County, NYSDEC and other stakeholders to assess potential environmental issues at the former Hercules manufacturing site and other locations and identify necessary steps to remediate as necessary and redevelop.
8. Develop a coordinated Economic Development Strategy to further identify opportunities for business attraction, retention and expansion based on an assessment of local resources and evaluation of future niche industries.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Economic Development

Goal 3: Improve the Condition and appearance of commercial areas in the Town to stimulate new investment and make them more attractive locations for consumers, visitors and businesses.

Strategies:

1. Review hamlet business district and waterfront commercial zoning ordinances to ensure they foster growth of targeted/compatible businesses and promote clustered development in compatible locations.
2. Evaluate opportunities for additional public off-street parking areas in Port Ewen with appropriate signage, with pedestrian connections and encourage shared parking.
3. Evaluate period façades and architecture in each Hamlet and share these findings with business owners and residents – undertake streetscape improvement and beautification efforts with a goal of creating a unifying appearance along US Rt. 9W.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Economic Development

Goal 3: Continued

Strategies:

4. Consider a campaign to offer small grants and loans (e.g., \$5,000 to \$30,000) to facilitate commercial building renovations, façade improvements, equipment purchases and other investments necessary to help start and grow local businesses.
5. Establish a sense of place with a more welcoming environment for visitors in the Port Ewen business district.
6. Encourage interconnection between adjacent lots in business areas and streets in adjoining developments and to ensure emergency services access.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Economic Development

Goal 4: Encourage the preservation and diversification of agricultural activities.

Strategies:

1. Target business development, expansion or relocation of craft beverage businesses into the Town of Esopus.
2. Engage with existing micro-farms and farm stand businesses to learn about their operations, share findings regarding the agriculture focus for the Town, offer loans to improve their products, buildings and diversification, as well as help them seek additional funding through grants for improvements and resiliency.
3. Evaluate and update Town land use regulations to define agritourism and ensure there are no unnecessary regulatory obstacles for activities such as “u-pick” operations, fruit and vegetable stands, farmstays, and wineries to be located wherever agricultural uses are allowed.
4. Work with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ulster County Planning, and other agencies to support agriculture and increase the economic viability of farms in the Town of Esopus.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization

Goal 1: Encourage and facilitate housing options that meet the needs of current and future residents and all income levels.

Strategies:

1. Support the provision of housing in the Town to meet the needs of persons of all income levels, age groups, and special needs, where appropriate.
2. Continue to focus future dense residential growth within Port Ewen, Sleightsburgh and Connelly and north sections of Ulster Park, where existing water and sewer infrastructure is provided.
3. Conduct regular evaluations of the Town’s land use regulations to ensure needed and appropriate housing opportunities are not inadvertently prohibited or difficult to obtain approvals including mixed-uses and market-rate multi-family dwellings.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

4. Promote and encourage additional attractive affordable senior living facilities for local residents which will help free up existing housing for new residents, young families and others seeking to own their own home.
5. Continue to allow and encourage appropriately constructed accessory dwellings while making sure that community character is preserved and adverse impacts to neighborhoods are avoided.
6. Identify and collaborate, where practical, with state, local and/or regional community-based housing organizations to leverage their expertise and resources (e.g., Ulster County Office for the Aging, Rural Ulster Preservation Company, Ulster County Community Action, Inc., NYS Housing and Community Renewal).



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization

Goal 2: Enhance and protect the character, aesthetics, and safety of neighborhoods and hamlet centers.

Strategies:

1. Pursue applicable funding opportunities for housing improvement and rehabilitation programs in the Town of Esopus (e.g., Community Development Block Program).
2. Conduct targeted income surveys beginning with the Hamlets of Connelly and Port Ewen to support the Town's efforts of securing applicable grants for housing improvements and community revitalization projects including sidewalks and water and sewer improvements.
3. Continue to enforce existing property maintenance-related regulations and consider preparing and adopting a Town property maintenance law that clearly defines what is prohibited and includes sufficient processes to remedy violations.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization

Goal 2: Continued

Strategies:

4. Consider educational outreach efforts about property maintenance through annual Town mailings as an additional effort to encourage increased property maintenance and enhancements to overall community character.
5. Implement an annual cleanup day allowing residents to bring junk and other debris to the Town's transfer station at no cost. In addition, the Town could arrange to pick up junk and other debris from residents who are not able to reach the transfer station.
6. Conduct a detailed inventory of key neighborhoods with dilapidated structures, property maintenance and other code issues. The purpose of this effort will be to obtain a baseline inventory of properties with existing code violations, existing conditions of structures including those that are vacant, abandoned or dilapidated and in need of corrective actions, property maintenance issues, unlicensed vehicles and other issues impact community character.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization

Goal 2: Continued

Strategies:

7. Consider adopting a rental property/landlord registry that would allow the Town to more efficiently contact landlords when there are building code violations, complaints and other concerns that require contact with building owners. The registry will be another tool to improve community character, building conditions and quality of life.
8. Support and encourage the development of neighborhood organizations that promote civic activities and empower residents to maintain their properties and patrol neighborhoods (e.g., National Night Out, Neighborhood Watch, etc.).
9. Support and help connect residents in need to volunteer programs that help seniors, persons with disabilities and low-income residents obtain housing and make home repairs (e.g., Ulster County Habitat for Humanity, RUPCO) and provision of services such as shoveling and yardwork that could be accomplished by a local volunteer group.
10. Evaluate reasonable options for allowing AirBnB rentals in Town while ensuring community character and neighborhoods impacts are avoided and emergency services personnel are aware of which structures are rentals and the approximate number of tenants.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Town-Wide Recreation and Parks

Goal 1: Ensure adequate Town parks and recreation opportunities are available to residents and visitors through the Town of Esopus. These facilities should be well maintained and provide a wide variety of recreational opportunities to all ages and skill levels.

Strategies:

1. Consider regular evaluations of all Town parks and recreational facilities to ensure proper maintenance and adequate amenities meeting current and future needs.
2. Encourage siting compatible facilities and uses within Town Parks to complement existing features and create a greater attraction of park locations.
3. Identify and support opportunities to integrate improvements in Town parks with existing tourism and educational resources.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Town-Wide Recreation and Parks

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

4. Continue to maintain, through established maintenance planning, all Town parks and associated facilities to ensure any revitalization or improvements are maintained in the highest and best manner possible.
5. Encourage the routing of the Empire State Trail through the Town of Esopus. Should this not be possible, the Town should seek to make connections to the Trail through Port Ewen.
6. Collaborate with the NYSDEC, Scenic Hudson and the John Burroughs Association to connect contiguous and nearby park/preserve lands via new and existing trails and/or roads.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Town-Wide Recreation and Parks

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

7. Examine the potential demand and feasibility of creating a new indoor/outdoor Town recreation facility, which would be multipurpose and have the capability to meet the needs for all residents and athletes as well as athletes and teams from outside of the Town of Esopus. Potential locations include behind Town Hall and the vacant former ballfields on Mountain View Rd.
8. Consider the feasibility of constructing a Town pool facility in a current park or new locations. The pool could be combined with the future recreational facility.
9. Consider establishing a community park in Rifton, in the central part of the Hamlet on current Town-owned property at the corner of Lakeshore Rd. and NY Rt. 213 as a potential location.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Town-Wide Recreation and Parks

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

10. Enhance Ross Park with the following improvements:
 - Construct an additional pavilion based upon the high usage of the current pavilion.
 - Build a splash-pad area.
 - Improve the overall aesthetics of the park through planned landscaping.
 - Consider developing a future pocket park off of Bayard St.
 - Make improvements to the current parking lot at the corner of W. Stout Ave. and Browne St.
 - Improve basketball, baseball and tennis court facilities
 - Add parking stall lines along W. Stout St.
11. Enhance Cas Landi Park with the following improvements:
 - Create an accessible walking trail or track.
 - Repair deficiencies and revitalize the tennis and basketball courts where needed.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Town-Wide Recreation and Parks

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

12. Joseph H. Clark Recreational Park - Provide restroom facilities and maintain park facilities.
13. Enhance James Rieker Park with the Following improvements:
 - Refurbish the baseball and basketball courts and equipment.
 - Update the playground equipment.
 - Establish designated parking.
14. Enhance Perrine's Bridge Park with the following Improvements:
 - Identify and implement safe pedestrian connections between the parking lot and the park.
 - Evaluate opportunities to connect the Town's park to the covered bridge.
 - Establish a temporary/movable car top launch in the park for access to the Wallkill River.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Community Services and Infrastructure

Goal 1: Provide, continually enhance and properly maintain high quality, efficient and cost-effective community facilities, infrastructure and services that support a healthy and safe community and the quality of life expected by residents and business owners.

Strategies:

1. Prepare and implement a facilities management plan that establishes long-term capital maintenance needs for Town buildings and facilities including, but not limited to Highway Department facilities and equipment, Town Hall and the Transfer Station.
2. Prepare and implement a long-term water and sewer infrastructure maintenance and replacement plan including the consideration of future costs and opportunities for funding.
3. Evaluate the feasibility of connecting into the City of Kingston municipal water system.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Community Services and Infrastructure

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

4. Evaluate and determine the need for and feasibility of future sewer and water district expansions (for existing development in areas with challenging geographic and soil conditions inhibiting adequate sewage disposal as well as to accommodate desired future growth).
5. Continue to support the Town of Esopus Road-Stream Crossing Inventory Study that is being undertaken to improve water quality, reduce flood risks, and reconnect habitat for migratory and resident fish in the Hudson River Estuary. Upon Completion of the analysis and prioritization of needed improvements, the Town should pursue funding and begin implementing required improvements and restoration projects.
6. Continue to implement the Town's MS4 Program and conduct regular internal reviews to ensure full compliance.



Emerging Goals and Strategies

Community Services and Infrastructure

Goal 1: Continued

Strategies:

7. Inventory and map all roads and signage in the Town of Esopus using Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping platform and coordinate the repaving of roads in concert with the replacement of water/sewer mains and related infrastructure, where feasible.
8. Advocate for the repaving of US Rt. 9W through Port Ewen and the undergrounding of all utility lines and the enhancement of all crosswalks to be converted to low maintenance paint at that time.
9. Review the Town's current sidewalk maintenance law and evaluate the feasibility of taking over the responsibility for repairing, replacing and/or shoveling of all sidewalks.



Next Steps...

1. Refined Goals and Strategies based on public input
2. Complete the Community Profile
3. Additional Committee Meetings
4. Prepare full Comprehensive Plan
5. Public Hearings in the Fall
6. Plan Adoption



Contacts

Town of Esopus:

Shannon Harris – Supervisor: supervisor@esopus.com

Jared Geuss – Chair, Councilman: jgeuss@esopus.com

Laberge Group:

Nicole Allen, AICP – Planning Service Manager, Laberge Group: nallen@labergegroup.com

Matthew Rogers – Senior Planner, Laberge Group: mrogers@labergegroup.com



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4. Public and Agency Comments on January 30, 2019 Draft Comprehensive Plan

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**Town of Esopus
Comprehensive Plan 2019
Summary of Public and Agency Comments
On The
January 30, 2019 Draft Comprehensive Plan**

The following is a summary of key revisions to the January 30, 2019 Draft Comprehensive Plan, based on input received during the March 6, 2019 Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC) Public Hearing, written comments received during the public comment period (January 30 – March 9, 2019), Ulster County Planning Board’s initial comments dated April 3, 2019. The summary of additional input provided at the April 8, 2019 Hamlet of Rifton Meeting and the April 24, 2019 Hamlet of Esopus Meeting are found in Section 5 and 6 of this Appendix respectively.

Written Comments Received:

1. Ingrid Haeckel, NYSDEC, February 1 and 9, 2019.

- a. Ms. Haeckel identified a lack of goals and recommendations related to protecting/preserving wildlife, wetlands, forests, and drinking water in the Plan and provided related recommendations/edits.
- b. Recommendations:
 - i. Prepare a natural resource inventory first, then an open space plan.
 - ii. Suggests reviewing the Town of Rosendale Comprehensive Plan which includes some general conservation principles, identifies high priority natural areas and recommends general policies like the use of conservation subdivisions, creating an open space plan and measures to protect water quality.
 - iii. Adding the NYSDEC Habitat Summary for the Town of Esopus as an additional Appendix to the Plan.
 - iv. Minor changes to the Community Profile Key Observations summary in the main Plan document were provided along with detailed recommended edits to Appendix 1 – Community Profile. Comments were made in the PDF document of the Community Profile (See: NYSEC Ingrid Haeckel Comments Appendix 1 Draft 3 1-25-19, separate from this comment summary document). Additional recommended edits are provided below:
 - (a) Under Community Profile Key Observations, Environmental Resources (p12)
 - (i) Add observation that “There are many documented habitats of regional, statewide, and global significance in Esopus, including the Hudson River estuary, Esopus/Lloyd wetlands and ridges, the extensive Shaupeneak forest, and the Black Creek and

Swartekill stream corridors. These areas support a remarkable diversity of plants and animals and provide numerous ecosystem benefits to the town."

(b) Under Waterfront Revitalization:

- (i) Action W3b may contradict W3a (bulkhead installation would generally prevent the use of sustainable shoreline techniques).
- (ii) Consider adding an action to conduct a vulnerability assessment to assess risks due to sea level rise and tributary flooding and identify options and strategies for adaptation. (I think this should be a separate item from the LWRP update, as these studies are typically done separately).

(c) Community Profile Appendix - Environmental Resources

- (i) Are there maps corresponding to this section? [NOTE: Maps were since provided]
- (ii) Headings: There is no distinction between headings and subheadings, which is confusing. I suggest creating a distinct style for subheadings.
- (iii) Organization: I recommend re-ordering this section beginning with environmental resources in the town, rather than with scenic resources. I would place scenic resources at the end of this section, and recognize that the environmental resources described here form the basis of the town's widely appreciated natural scenery. I suggest the following order based on current headings:
 - Hudson River
 - Designated Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitats
 - Other Major Streams (add section, include DEC Protection of Waters info)
 - Rondout Creek (upstream of Eddyville dam)
 - Wallkill River/ Swartekill subwatershed
 - Black Creek
 - Floodplains and Riparian Areas (habitat summary info)
 - Significant Biodiversity Areas (please call by this name, the official name of this designation)
 - Hudson River and Esopus/Lloyd Wetlands and Ridges
 - Wetlands
 - Forests (add based on habitat summary. Mention matrix forest block designation and linkage zones).
 - Invasive Species
 - Climate Smart and Flood Resiliency
 - Stormwater Management (may want to bring in the Ulster County Green Infrastructure Habitat Cores)
 - Scenic Resources

2. Dan Shapley, Riverkeeper, February 8 and 13, 2019.

- a. Mr. Shapley provided recommendations related to the protection of water resources including a new Goal for Community Services and Infrastructure and 19 new recommendations:
- b. Goal 2: Protect Natural Infrastructure and Water Resources: Protect the natural infrastructure of the Town of Esopus, to ensure that surface waters and groundwater are maintained or improved to provide humans and wildlife safe and adequate supplies of freshwater, now and into the future. Specific recommendations supporting this goal (summarized as WR for “water resources”) should include:
 - i. WR-1 Promote the protection and improvement of Hudson River water quality through intermunicipal Drinking Water Source Protection efforts in collaboration with government agencies at all levels. (UC, HR)
 - ii. WR-2 Ensure safe and adequate drinking water resources by protecting aquifers, aquifer recharge areas, and well heads by encouraging through use of overlay districts. (UC)
 - iii. WR-3 Protect forested and natural areas along streams and wetlands (“riparian buffers”) as a natural filter and form of protection, and consider watershed overlay zones to protect water resources. (UC, RC,WR, HR)
 - iv. WR-4 Protect small wetlands, which prevent flooding by acting as natural sponges to absorb stormwater, and reduce pollution by absorbing and filtering certain contaminants. (UC, RC, WR, HR)
 - v. WR-5 Prevent clear-cutting and protect high-quality intact forests, which act as a natural filter for water quality, through implementation of best management practices for timber harvesting. (UC, HR)
 - vi. WR-6 Participate in intermunicipal coalitions to comply with stormwater regulations, which should promote protection and restoration of water quality. (UC, HR)
 - vii. WR-7 Achieve zero increase in runoff from new developments and re-developments, in order to reduce stormwater-associated pollution and prevent downstream flooding risk, through implementation of green infrastructure and low-impact development techniques. (RC, WR)
 - viii. WR-8 Ensure catch-basins and other stormwater infrastructure is maintained, to prevent unnecessary stormwater-associated pollution and reduce the risk of flooding. (RC)
 - ix. WR-9 Identify opportunities to detain stormwater in areas of existing development, in order to reduce stormwater-associated pollution and to reduce the risk of flooding. (RC)
 - x. WR-11 Update engineering design standards to incorporate increasing precipitation intensities anticipated as extreme weather events occur with greater frequency. (RC)
 - xi. WR-12 Prevent dumping in streams, to promote community pride, natural beauty, environmental quality and tourism potential.
 - xii. WR-13 Set up and implement a new water quality sampling and monitoring program to fill gaps and augment existing programs while providing metrics for measuring implementation of water resource protection goals. (RC, HR)

- xiii. WR-14 Restore eroded stream banks, reconnect tributary streams, and restore or enhance flood plains, to restore water quality and prevent downstream flooding along the Plantasie Kill. (RC)
 - xiv. WR-15 Enhance water quality and prevent erosion by seeding grasses in drainage ditches (vegetated swales) along roadways that lack them. (RC)
 - xv. WR-16 Study risks associated with flooding, sea-level rise and storm surge, both along the Hudson and Rondout waterfronts and along streams, taking into account projections for future increases of risk anticipated due to climate change. (RC)
 - xvi. WR-17 Consider incentive zoning such as density bonuses during subdivision, to promote water resource protection. (WR)
 - xvii. WR-18 Protect steep slopes from erosion that can degrade water quality and increase flooding risks through enactment. (WR, HR)
 - xviii. WR-19 Pursue designation of Black Creek as a Wild River, a state designation that would enhance its appeal as a tourist destination, while helping to preserving its quality and natural character. (UC)
- c. Mr. Shapley provided an additional comment related to the Plan’s recommendations on Perrine’s Bridge. Specifically, Orange County has been making progress on establishing a Wallkill River water trail with 14 public access points and identifying new locations on public lands. Perrine’s Bridge could become the 15th site on the trail. The Comprehensive Plan should recognize Orange County’s work and the possibility of integrating the Perrine’s Bridge site into the water trail.

3. Karen Winkle-Gorsline, Town of Esopus, February 13, and March 4, 2019.

- a. Karen provided comments focuses on regulations, policy, short-term rentals and small businesses.
- b. Pg. 48 (H-16) and pg. 83 (H-16): Omit name of “AirBnB” in the Plan. Ulster County Planning Director, Dennis Doyle strongly advises against using this as it is a business name with “rights.” Use short-term rental instead.
- c. Recommends use of two college interns per volunteer board to do research and development, field work, records management.
- d. Include Channel 23 development partnering with community and towns that also utilize the station.
- e. Request monthly report of general activities from all departments (transparency/ progress/accountability). Currently rec: Highway, Bldg. Dept, Town Clerk and Transfer Station.
- f. Establish a Housing Bureau that would impose reasonable fees collected by the Town under registration by landlords and homeowner (hosts) collecting an income for their rentals. The mission would be to establish municipal support for housing and supportive/supporting services, encouraging privately owned small business owners to rehabilitate homes in the Town.
- g. Create a revolving loan to purchase surplus properties at market price with terms included for rehab and mandatory occupancy/rentals for low income.
- h. Examples of short-term rental laws and a residential rehabilitation program provided by Karen are attached.

- i. Post Office: Create a committee tasked with finding a permanent location and help with a plan to implement and map out the needs for home delivery. The Post Office trailer and temporary location is causing difficulty in receiving mail as it is being forwarded several times (missing deadlines resulting in late fees), the Just Court clerks currently pay a fee for the Sheriff's Dept. to hand deliver all Orders of Protection and Subpoenas, as the cannot be sent to a PO Box. Supplementation information regarding the Post Office issue was provided and is attached.
- j. TV 23 Media Forum:
 - i. Create an advisory committee to administer programing or act as a subcontractor for the other Towns participating in collecting a franchise fee.
 - ii. Collect a franchise fee or charge a flat fee to administer the program with staff.
 - iii. Divide the costs evenly with all Town currently collecting franchise fees (Esopus share equal to rent – use of space and administration.
 - iv. Restrict a portion of the funds to implement under contract; provide staff; purchase equipment; have a televised venue for education and emphasize local community resources and agencies.
 - v. Educate the public, promote public health and safety, promote history (with documentaries), artists, televise meetings, workshops, trainings, non-profit offerings, emergency preparedness tips, health and fitness.
 - vi. An example of a current resource that is offered via email (County Agency-Office for the Aging) that could be posted on the Channel.

4. Diane Dintruff, February 16, 2019

- a. Page. 38 Freer Beach Park Preliminary Improvements: It is not clear how far out the kayak ramp will extend at low tide, and whether it will be out of the way of fish hooks. The ground tends to be very shallow and sometimes mushy at the kayak ramp location shown on the concept plan, however, the water is deeper at the north end of the Park.
- b. Kayakers do not need much:
 - i. A safe wat to get to the water at both high and low tide;
 - ii. A place to park cars; and
 - iii. Not to be endangered by fish hooks.
 - iv. It makes sense to keep all small go-zero (emissions) water craft together since their needs are the same. Consequently, one option for a better plan would be to keep the second pavilion at the south end, and build a ramp/dock at the north end which would allow all small craft (sailing school and kayakers) as well as Chester easy access to the water at low tide. Kayak/Canoe Storage would then be moved to the North as well, or be part of the enhancement of the existing pavilion.
 - v. Another option would be to extend the kayak ramp shown on the concept plan further out like the cement ramp at Kingston Point Park, and move the Fishing area east constructing an “L” shape dock so it would not block the view from the new south pavilion or let fisherman snare kayakers on their hooks.

- vi. Because the ground is firm at low tide at Lighthouse Park, kayakers would only need a clear way down to the water. At Sleightsburgh, the biggest problem is not having a 2 lane road or enough pull-offs on the narrow road.
- c. When I've coordinated Lighthouse to Lighthouse Challenges, it was necessary to launch against the tide and return from the Esopus lighthouse during slack in order to use the existing launch with its low tide limitations at Freer Park, i.e., the event was suitable only for strong and/or experienced paddlers. Providing a kayak launch permitting low tide launches at Freer Park would open up the opportunity for all kayakers/canoists/SUPers (stand up paddle boarders) to paddle between the Rondout and Esopus Lighthouses completely out of the main shipping channel...a big draw to the community.
- d. Although I personally would not mind using a cart to pull my kayak to the existing ramp, planners should be aware that some kayakers will launch as close as possible near where their boat is stored. It's always better to separate small recreational boaters from fishermen.

5. Donald Kiernan, Town of Esopus Water Treatment Plan Superintendent, February 19, 2019

- a. I have reviewed the draft comprehensive plan and I have no comments. You and the rest of the committee did a great job. The proposed Water Infrastructure and Assessment Plan and the Hudson 7 application for a Source Water Protection Plan could prove to be useful tools for future planning on issues relevant to both the Water and Sewer District. Both of these plans could also prove to be useful for the Storm Water Assessment Plan.

6. Anonymous 1, February 19, 2019

- a. Transfer Station:
 - i. The transfer station was not mentioned in the Comprehensive Plan. It needs to be in compliance with all DEC laws and regulations by installing roofs on their containers.
 - ii. Black top for entrance and exit from the main gate to the office trailer needs to be installed (pot holes need to be filled in).
 - iii. Recycling needs to be done (collected) at all municipal buildings.

7. Richard T. Hyner, February 25, 2019.

- a. Unregistered Motor Vehicles
 - i. The Town of Esopus should consider, as part of the Comprehensive Plan, addressing the growing problem of unregistered vehicles stored throughout our Town and left to decay and stripped of parts within private properties in our neighborhoods. This has been an ongoing problem and left unaddressed by several administrations. I'm hoping that our current administration would take charge and address this issue with the revisions and updates to the Town's Comprehensive Plan.
 - ii. Recommend establishing a board or committee of volunteers charged with the possibility of inventorying the Town and identifying violators of our current zoning laws and taking the appropriate actions leading up to the removal of such vehicles.

8. Anonymous 2, March 1, 2019.

- a. Sleightsburgh Park

- i. Establish Sleightsburgh Spit park/use hours so that cars are not going in and out all hours of the night – can be opened at dawn 7am and closed by dusk 7pm.
- ii. Update keys for the gate with registrant’s information; address and driver’s license plate number.
- iii. Ask that the police regularly patrol the area.

9. Susan Barbarisi, March 2, 2019.

- a. Ms. Barbarisi provided detailed comments via email keyed to Goals and Recommendations (attached):
 - i. Goal 1 - Economic development & tourism
 - (a) Can the Town work with the Walkway to encourage tourism here? [NOTE: Assuming Ms. Barbarisi is referring to the Walkway over the Hudson State Historical Park.]
 - (b) Are existing BnBs and motels being encouraged to spruce up and to market themselves, particularly to Walkway users?
 - (c) Could there be a shared work space for local businesses and work-at-home consultants, preferably in an existing building that could be upgraded?
 - (d) Would existing businesses such as Mountain View Nursery, the Apple Bin, the Bruderhof furniture production, and others be willing to put some of their wares in an attractive shared retail space, preferably on 9W?
 - ii. Goal 2
 - (a) ED11 - YES - Parking!!** People, both local and tourists, are much less likely to stop and shop and eat if they can't find easily located and accessible parking.
 - (b) ED16 - "Ridge to River" is a good tag/motto, always emphasizing the draw of the River
 - (c) ED28 - Excellent idea to use Klyne Esopus site, but they do need more parking and a safe exit from the parking lot. When I visited I was told not to turn left/north onto 9W but only right/south.
 - (d) ED30 - Excellent to build on Sojourner Truth and John Burroughs; two good stories that still stir people. Connect to NYS Black History Month to highlight Sojourner Truth.
 - iii. Goal 3
 - (a) Need more signage and info about Esopus Meadows Lighthouse and some kind of access. Maybe can take overflow from Kingston and Saugerties lighthouse visitors if marketed. How to work with Save Esopus Lighthouse Commission?
 - iv. App. I
 - (a) Need parking at suspension bridge
 - (b) Is Payne Mansion owned by Marist College? Marist is expanding like crazy and should be encouraged to invest a little over here. They probably have the funds. They are running out of room across the River.
 - (c) Any "green burial" sites in local cemeteries? This may be an expanding market in future.

- v. PR-10
 - (a) Ross Park - Living a block from Ross Park, I pass it daily year-round and it is always wet, even on very slightly higher ground immediately behind the pavilion. A neighbor who played softball there 50 years ago says it was wet then (before climate change heated up). As I do not know anything about the movement of water, my question is: Would planting a water garden in the northeast portion of the park along Bowne Street, where there is just open field and no buildings or play areas, allow water to drain from the rest of the park? A water garden would be an attractive feature - using simply natural grasses requiring little or no maintenance, although a fence around the garden might be needed to keep children out.
- vi. Again, my thanks for all the thought and hard work that has gone into planning for the Town's future.

10. Sal Morello, Esopus Building Department, March 4, 2019.

- a. Housing and Neighborhood Stability.
 - i. H9:
 - (a) Remove bus shelters, drop boxes – not in sight of main corridor;
 - (b) Shorten length of OTR process (violation letter).
 - ii. H10: WBD will write something – Town Board responsible for distribution, mailing, and posting on website.
 - iii. H11: Compile list of “scrapers” and connect residents with a scrapper.
 - iv. H12:
 - (a) Unrealistic – use an intern perhaps?
 - (b) Currently handled on a case by case basis.
 - v. H13: Esopus Building Department (EBD) is compliant.
 - vi. H16: Needs law enacted – should be county-wide.
 - vii. H17: Waiting for new building code to be adopted by Department of State.
- b. Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety.
 - i. PS4: N/A for EBD.
 - ii. PS5: N/A for EBD.
 - iii. PS12: N/A for EBD.
- c. Community Services and Infrastructure.
 - i. CS6: EBD is compliant.
 - ii. CS9: N/A for EBD.
- d. Land Use.
 - i. LU4: Needs clarification.

- ii. LU5: Needs no further change.
- iii. LU6: Needs further discussion by Zoning.
- iv. LU7: EBD concurs.
- v. LU10: EBD concurs – Change to “any property.”
- vi. LU11: Unrealistic.
- vii. LU12: Needs clarification from Esopus Town Board (ETB).
- viii. LU13: EBD concurs with Miles Putman’s draft.
- ix. LU14: Needs architectural review board (Planning Board?).
- x. LU15: EBD concurs with Miles’ Draft.
- xi. LU16: EBD concurs.
- xii. LU18: EBD disagrees.
- xiii. LU20: EBD concurs.
- xiv. LU21: EBD concurs.
- xv. LU22: Chapter 123 Town Code needs to be amended.
- xvi. LU23: Needs clarification from ETB.
- xvii. LU24: EBD concurs.
- xviii. LU25: Currently enforced for parking but not for garbage cans.
- xix. LU26: EBD concurs.
- xx. LU27: EBD concurs.
- xxi. LU28: EBD concurs.
- xxii. LU29: EBD concurs.
- xxiii. LU30: EBD concurs.
- xxiv. LU31: Leave the US Rt. 9 Overlay District as is.
- xxv. LU32: N/A for EBD.
- xxvi. LU33: EBD concurs.
- xxvii. LU34: N/A for EBD.
- xxviii. LU36: DEC currently evaluating proposed cleanup.

11. Anthony Mignone, Director, Resource Center for Accessible Living, March 7, 2019

- a. Recommendations related to ADA accessibility.
- b. Would like to see persons with disabilities and mobility issues considered fully during implementation of the Plan.
- c. Accessible Walking and Hiking Trails are not only possible, but working with the Resource Center for Accessible Living in Kingston, Mohonk Preserve in New Paltz has created them and

they are enjoyed each year by many residents and tourists. They have also purchased and have available an all-terrain wheelchair.

- d. With some thought and proper equipment our Town Parks can be accessible and enjoyed by all residents and visitors.
- e. The City of Kingston, working with the Resource Center for Accessible Living, has created accessible docks down on the Rondout Creek.
- f. When towns and villages in Ulster County reach out for assistance the Resource Center for Accessible Living is available to consult on projects in the community and increase accessibility for all.
- g. Please feel free to reach out to me and the Resource Center for Accessible Living them for assistance and guidance along with assistance with architectural modification and other concerns you may have.

12. Heather Blaikie, Scenic Hudson, March 7, 2019.

- a. Ms. Blaikie provided a series of detailed comments for the Comprehensive Plan and Appendix 1 – Community Profile.
- b. Natural Resource and the Environment: The natural resources are generally recognized as important for the growth of recreational opportunities and tourism that have been identified as key economic drivers for the Town. While part of Key Objective #2 (pg 24), these are significant resources to be proud of and highlighted in the key observations based from the inventory. We also agree with Riverkeeper and DEC that the plan would benefit from a dedicated section of natural resource protection goals and recommendations for to preserving and enhancing aquatic and terrestrial habitats, water quality, and wildlife. These natural assets are some of the most critical elements that make the Town of Esopus so unique. The comp plans of the towns of Lloyd (chapter 7, pg 67) and Rosendale (page 20) are local examples of how this has been done. We offer for your consideration the following suggestions according to the sections formatted in the Comp Plan:
- c. Section II: Community Profile Key Observations - Environmental Resources (*We recommend including the following observations*)
 - i. The Town of Esopus is rich in natural resources and contains large tracts of diverse, high-quality natural habitats and scenic areas (details provided in “A Habitat Summary Prepared for the Town of Esopus” by I. Haeckel of the DEC Hudson River Estuary Program), including:
 - (a) The DEC designated Significant Biodiversity Areas of the *Upper Hudson River Estuary and the Esopus/Lloyd Wetlands and Ridges*;
 - (b) four (4) designated significant coastal fish and wildlife habitats;
 - (c) seven (7) exemplary natural communities as documented by the NY Natural Heritage Program (NHP) of forests, wetlands and tidal wetlands;
 - (d) NHP-designated Important Areas for rare plants and animals (NHP); and
 - (e) The globally rare Shaupeneak matrix forest blocks and linkage zone.

- ii. The natural resources in the Town provide many services to residents and communities, including maintaining water quality, providing recreational opportunities, preserving the rural character of the town, providing habitat for wildlife, and drawing tourism to the area.
- d. Section V: Goals and Recommendations (*Add a new section titled Natural Resources and Environment heading with the suggested following goals and recommendations*):
 - i. Goal 1: Inventory and monitor significant habitats, landscape features and land use patterns:
 - (a) NR-1: Consider developing a Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) with DEC to understand the full extent of natural habitats within the Town of Esopus with which to more specifically identify and assess impacts from potential land use development with recommendations to better inform land use planning decisions through an Open Space Plan. Provide the Environmental Review Board with the authority to review and assess development plans according to adopted policies derived from an NRI and Open Space Plan.
 - (b) NR-2: Consider developing a GIS database and establish a series of maps of these natural resources and landscape features and update every 5 years.
 - ii. Goal 2: Conserve and promote sustainable aquatic and inland water natural resources. (*This includes Riverkeeper’s suggested goals and recommendations: WR3-WR5, WR14, W16, WR-19*).
 - (a) NR-3: Use Scenic Hudson’s ‘Protecting the Pathways’ interactive map to assess those habitats and shorelines under threat of inundation and erosion by sea level rise (SLR), wave action and storm surge and to assess the possible zones for tidal wetland preservation and migration in the face of sea level rise in the Hudson.
<https://scenichudson.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=3a3d0dc3884c4637ad0a51f4aa912189>
 - (b) NR-4 Protect forested and natural areas along streams and wetlands (“riparian buffers”) as a natural filter and form of protection, and consider watershed overlay zones to protect water resources. (UC, RC, WR, HR).
 - (c) NR-5 Protect small wetlands, which prevent flooding by acting as natural sponges to absorb stormwater, and reduce pollution by absorbing and filtering certain contaminants. (UC, RC, WR, HR).
 - iii. Goal 3: Conserve and promote natural habitat connections across the landscape to help maintain healthy populations of native plants and animals, and their ability to move across the landscape as needed. (*Includes Riverkeeper’s comment WR 18*).
 - (a) NR-4: Protect large, contiguous tracts of natural habitats wherever possible.
 - (b) NR-5: Preserve connections between natural habitats on adjacent properties.
 - (c) NR-6 : Restore and maintain broad buffer zones of natural vegetation along streams, shores of water bodies and wetlands, and at the perimeter of other sensitive habitats.
 - (d) NR-7 : Preserve natural disturbance processes such as fires, floods, tidal flushing, seasonal drawdowns, landslides, and wind exposures wherever possible; these processes are vital to maintaining habitats that support healthy plant, fish, and wildlife populations.

- (e) NR-8: Restore degraded habitats wherever possible.
 - (f) NR-9: Promote redevelopment of brownfields, post-industrial sites, and other previously altered areas instead of changing habitat into developed areas.
 - (g) NR-18: Protect steep slopes from erosion that can degrade water quality and increase flooding risks through enactment.
- iv. Goal 4: Conserve and Promote Healthy Forests and Wildlife.
- (a) NR-10: Prevent clearing areas in intact, mature forests wherever possible.
 - (b) NR-11: Implement a Deer Management Program, with public input, to ensure healthy populations of deer that support recreational opportunities such as wildlife viewing, hunting, and photography while avoiding negative impacts to forest regrowth and gardens.
 - (c) NR-12 : Develop and enforce Town regulations for ensuring Best Management Practices, as outlined by DEC and other industry standards, are followed during logging operations.
 - (d) NR-13: Assess invasive plant and forest pest issues in the Town, including impacts to forests and other habitats. Prioritize control of species that most negatively affect forest health and recreational opportunities.
 - (e) NR-14 : Gain an understanding of which rare or threatened species are present in the Town and how to preserve them and their habitats effectively with minimal impacts to economic development and opportunity.
- e. Appendix 1. Reorganize the Environmental Resources section of the as suggested by Ingrid Haeckel of the DEC Hudson River Estuary Program and supplement it with the Habitat Summary Prepared for the Town of Esopus by the same.
- i. Section V – Waterfront – Revitalization, Recreation, and Preservation
 - (a) W-12: We recommend that when the town updates it’s LWRP, it will use *Revitalizing Hudson Riverfronts* (RHR) www.revitalizinghudsonriverfronts.org is used as a resource and guide. RHR is based on NYS Coastal Program policies and is often used by the Mid-Hudson Regional Development Council as a benchmark by which to review grant applications for waterfront proposals.
- f. Section V – Goals and Recommendations – Community Infrastructure and Services. We concur with Riverkeeper’s recommendation to reference key documents (UC: Ulster County Open Space Plan (2010); WR: Wallkill River Watershed Conservation and Management Plan (2007); RC: Tidal Rondout Creek Watershed Management Plan (2015); HR: Drinking Source Water Protection Scorecard Review for Seven Hudson Communities (2018)) and to add another goal with some of the specific recommendations in combination with Hudsonia’s General Conservation Measures for Protecting Areas and Wildlife as below. Re-organize this section include existing recommendations CS-5, CS-6 that deal with stormwater and water quality.
- i. Goal 2: Protect Natural Infrastructure and Water Resources: Protect the natural infrastructure of the Town of Esopus, to ensure that surface waters and groundwater are maintained or improved to provide humans and wildlife safe and adequate supplies of freshwater, now and into the future.

- (a) CS-14: Promote the protection and improvement of Hudson River water quality through intermunicipal Drinking Water Source Protection efforts in collaboration with government agencies at all levels. (UC, HR)
- (b) CS-15: Ensure safe and adequate drinking water resources by protecting aquifers, aquifer recharge areas, and well heads by encouraging through use of overlay districts. (UC)
- (c) CS-16: Protect forested and natural areas along streams and wetlands (“riparian buffers”) as a natural filter and form of protection, and consider watershed overlay zones to protect water resources. (UC, RC, WR, HR)
- (d) CS-17: Follow recommendations provided in the Natural Resources and Environment section of this document to protect small wetlands, prevent clear-cutting and protect high-quality intact forests (UC, RC, WR, HR)
- (e) CS-19: Participate in intermunicipal coalitions to comply with stormwater regulations, which should promote protection and restoration of water quality. (UC, HR)
- (f) CS-20: Achieve zero increase in runoff from new developments and re-developments, in order to reduce stormwater-associated pollution and prevent downstream flooding risk, through implementation of green infrastructure and low-impact development techniques. (RC, WR)
- (g) CS-21: Ensure catch-basins and other stormwater infrastructure is maintained, to prevent unnecessary stormwater-associated pollution and reduce the risk of flooding. (RC)
- (h) CS-22: Identify opportunities to detain stormwater in areas of existing development, in order to reduce stormwater-associated pollution and to reduce the risk of flooding. (RC)
- (i) CS-23: Update engineering design standards to incorporate increasing precipitation intensities anticipated as extreme weather events occur with greater frequency. (RC)
- (j) CS-24: Prevent dumping in streams, to promote community pride, natural beauty, environmental quality and tourism potential.
- (k) CS-25: Set up and implement a new water quality sampling and monitoring program to fill gaps and augment existing programs while providing metrics for measuring implementation of water resource protection goals. (RC, HR)
- (l) CS-26: Restore eroded stream banks, reconnect tributary streams, and restore or enhance flood plains, to restore water quality and prevent downstream flooding along the Plantasie Kill. (RC)
- (m) CS-27: Enhance water quality and prevent erosion by seeding grasses in drainage ditches (vegetated swales) along roadways that lack them. (RC)
- (n) CS-28: Consider incentive zoning such as density bonuses during subdivision, to promote water resource protection. (WR)
- (o) CS-29: Consider developing a Town policy based on the Cary Institute’s report. Road Salt: The Problem, The Solution, and How To Get There, as a means of protecting drinking water quality, stream habitat, and saving taxpayer dollars.

https://www.caryinstitute.org/sites/default/files/public/downloads/report_road_salt.pdf

- g. Cultural and Scenic Resources: The comp plan recognizes the importance of these scenic resources and landmarks for promoting the character and drawing tourism, however, there is no designated sub-section under the Goals and Recommendations. We feel that the existing sections under *Economic Development Goal 2* and *Future Land Use and Regulatory Authority Goal 1* can be further developed to include them. For an example:
 - i. LU-#: The Town should develop define, inventory and designate significant historic, cultural and scenic resources that may include specific landmarks, historic districts, important scenic byways and public viewshed zones. Once identified, historic districts or specific areas of hamlets may be more clearly defined and can shape future regulations within these areas can be established with recommendations for review standards as per Miles Putman’s memo 8/31/17.
- h. Tourism and Recreational Connections to the Empire State Trail: It is critical to be consistent about identifying the opportunities to expand connections between recreational areas, but to clearly highlight and develop goals and recommendations to support the active projects that are currently moving forward, such as the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail and how it directly links to the Empire State Trail, Hudson Valley Rail Trail and Walkway with the potential for additional loops and connections to Port Ewen and the Greenline Trail in Kingston.
- i. Section V – Economic Development Goal 3 – *We recommend the following text revisions (in red and underlined) or adding the following:*
 - i. ED-# Complete the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail and continue to work with partners to ensure that the trail connects to the Empire State Trail to the south, Port Ewen to the north and contributes to the Town’s economic vitality.
 - ii. ED-29 - Forge partnerships with the Hudson River Maritime Museum, Kingston waterfront Coalition, Scenic Hudson and John Burroughs Association to maximize opportunities to promote Port Ewen, Sleightsburgh and Connolly for maritime heritage and John Burroughs Nature Sanctuary/ John Burroughs Black Creek Trail for tourism.
- j. Section V – Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Goal 1 – *We recommend improving or adding the following:*
 - i. PS-8 – Encourage NYSDOT to plan for and establish a formal State Bike Route along US Rt. 9W that would connect with the Hudson Valley Rail Trail, Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park, the Empire State Trail and potential future bike loop of the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail.
 - ii. PS-# Work with the Town of Lloyd, Ulster County, Scenic Hudson, the John Burroughs Association and other John Burroughs Black Creek Trail partners to identify, establish, sign and promote bicycle connections along Floyd Ackert Road and Swartekill Road with the goal of creating a bicycle loop connecting the Empire State Trail/Hudson Valley Rail Trail with the John Burroughs Nature Sanctuary/Slabsides and other John Burroughs Black Creek Trail destinations as well as to Walkway Over the Hudson.
- k. Section V - Parks and Recreation – *We recommend improving or adding the following:*
 - i. PR-6 Collaborate with NYSDEC, Scenic Hudson and the John Burroughs Association to complete the implementation of the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail Plan and continue to work with partners to ensure that the trail connects to other park/preserve lands, roads and

trails including the Sojourner Truth Trail, the Empire State Trail to the south, Port Ewen to the north in order to contribute to the Town’s economic vitality through tourism.

- l. Future Land Use and Projects Map: *We recommend improving or adding the following:*
 - i. To reflect the revised PS-8, add Floyd Ackert Road and Swartekill Roads as a bicycle loop that connects the John Burroughs Nature Sanctuary/Slabsides with 9W (as future State bike route) and the Empire State Trail/Hudson Valley Rail Trail and Walkway Over the Hudson.
 - ii. Show the route for Sojourner Truth Trail as a potential project area to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety.
- m. Solar Energy Facilities: Scenic Hudson supports the recommendation in the proposed Esopus Comprehensive Plan that the Town should adopt regulations for solar energy facilities. As demonstrated by the existing solar installations at Town Hall and at the landfill, Esopus already has an understanding of the benefits of and a commitment to solar energy. As a best practice to promote solar, the comprehensive plan should state clear support for solar energy system development and include planned policies and actions to achieve goals related to solar development, such as eliminating barriers to solar, decreasing dependence on non-renewable energy sources, and supporting state renewable energy goals. These policies and goals may then be translated into clear and enforceable zoning regulations that promote solar energy system development and use. Well-designed solar laws can help to attract beneficial solar development. They should provide clear definitions and permitting requirements in order to prevent misinterpretation and creation of unintentional barriers to development. And they can provide maximum siting options for both rooftop and ground-mounted solar while preserving the community’s character and its visual, historic, agricultural and other resources. Comments on the proposed first draft solar regulations:
 - i. Section 1. Amendment of the “Use Table”:
 - (a) To embrace solar energy as an integral part of an overall strategy for emissions reductions and clean energy development, it should be permitted within a wide range of zoning districts. Proper planning and smart permit standards and criteria can ensure that solar and other development and conservation priorities can successfully co-exist.
 - (b) The Town should consider permitting large-scale solar development beyond just the GC, LI and HI Districts. While this may be where a large part of the energy “load” of the Town occurs, permitting large-scale solar projects only in these districts does not necessarily make sense. Solar energy arrays do not result in the type of impacts associated with regulated commercial and industrial uses (noise, traffic, pollution). They do not need water, sewer and transportation infrastructure, so they should not be made a competing use with other development in these districts that requires it. In addition, the available properties in these districts are likely urban, smaller and expensive, and therefore not attractive to large-scale solar developers.
 - (c) The better approach would be to establish regulations that promote and incentivize the commercial and industrial uses in these districts to install parking canopy, rooftop, or ground-mounted installations that offset the energy needs of the principal use, as well as rooftop or smaller ground-mounted installations as a secondary use that can provide energy off-site, such as community solar projects.

- ii. Section 2. Design, Operating and Review Standards:
 - (a) New Section 123-11(H) Small-Scale Generation Facilities. Scenic Hudson supports the proposed zoning provision that permits rooftop and building-mounted solar collectors, as well as Building-Integrated Photovoltaic (BIPV) systems, as “small-scale solar generation facilities” which serve the building to which they are attached, in all zoning districts as-of-right.
 - (b) We also support the provision allowing “free-standing and ground mounted solar collectors as accessory structures” in all zoning districts. The impacts of provisions such as setback, placement and screening requirements should be carefully considered because of their potential to restrict solar siting, access, and collection. To ensure that this code provision is clear and promotes the development of such facilities, we suggest the following:
 - (c) Ensure that the proposed definition of “small-scale solar generation facility” is written to incorporate such accessory ground-mounted systems. Currently, the proposed definition appears to require attachment to a building.
 - (d) Consider provisions to allow construction within setbacks and in front yards to maximize siting opportunities in certain districts (in addition to LI and HI).
 - (e) Ensure that a 10-foot height maximum is sufficient for a typical accessory ground-mount installation, and will not result in numerous variance requests.
 - (f) Consider eliminating screening requirements, at least in some districts. As long as setback and height requirements are met in accordance with the development pattern in the zoning district, additional screening should not be necessary. Extensive screening can cause shading and impact the solar energy system’s efficiency.
 - (g) Ensure that the code provides a methodology for calculating the “total surface area” of a ground-mounted or free-standing solar collector to ensure clarity and enforceability.
- iii. Scenic Hudson also supports the proposed code provision allowing solar thermal systems in all zoning districts. The code should provide a separate definition for “solar thermal systems,” which use radiant heat from the sun to warm fluid, such as water or antifreeze, in a series of tubes or panels that are typically roof-mounted to heat water or to cool and/or heat buildings. Currently, the proposed code references standards applicable to ground-mounted solar energy systems, only.
- iv. New Section 123-13(W) Solar farm, solar power plant, large scale solar energy facility:
 - (a) In addition to consideration of allowing large-scale solar energy facilities in a broader range of zoning districts, any restrictive special use criteria should be carefully reviewed. For example, the requirement for a 50’ setback may not be necessary or conform with existing development patterns in all districts. Further, the requirement for installation of a 50’ buffer strip of natural vegetation or landscaping could be cost prohibitive for a proposed project, as well as cause shading.
 - (b) The provisions in the proposed code for consideration of potential impacts on farming, designated visual resources, and historic places can be used to develop a site layout for a proposed project that avoids and mitigates impacts to these resources. While the goal of

promoting solar energy development may be seen by some as a competing interest with other policy goals such as agricultural, habitat and historic resource protection, proper planning from a comprehensive perspective can help to assess tradeoffs and balance interests. Even better, rather than view the issue as one where there are winners and losers, plans and codes can be developed to ensure that the various interests can successfully co-exist, maximizing efficiencies and benefits. For example, if properly sited, designed, constructed and operated, solar facilities in agricultural areas can provide support for nearby pollinator-dependent crops, provide an income stream for farmers to continue farming on other lands, and even allow for co-location of energy and agricultural production (grazing, haying or hand crops). Well-designed solar PV installations on historic sites can increase their energy efficiency. And use of previously disturbed sites or long-vacant land for solar energy development can help reduce blight. In this way, the environmental and economic benefits of solar energy development can be optimized, and risks minimized.

- (c) Please refer to the siting principles contained in our publication *Clean Energy, Green Communities: A Guide to Siting Renewable Energy in the Hudson Valley*, for more information. https://www.scenichudson.org/sites/default/files/renewables-siting-guide_web.pdf
- v. Section 3. Related Accessory Standards: Scenic Hudson supports providing a height exception for rooftop systems as well as an exception from coverage limitations where a solar array is designed and located so that underlying lands remain and continue to function in a pervious condition. These proposed supplementary regulations should be reviewed to ensure alignment with proposed definitions of terms. While there is a proposed height regulation for “Rooftop and Building Mounted Solar Collectors,” this term is not separately defined in the proposed local law. In addition, the proposed coverage exception applies to “solar energy facilities as defined in Sec. 123-61.” However, the proposed definition is for a “small-scale solar *generation* facility.” To help provide clarity in the code, terms should be consistent.
- vi. **Section 4. Definitions:**
 - (a) Solar PV systems vary greatly in type, size and capacity. The code should provide clear definitions of the different types of solar energy systems to be permitted and regulated under the proposed law, as well as the various necessary solar-related terms. Different solar PV systems should be defined in a way that is related to their potential impacts. Also, consider defining solar energy system broadly so that it incorporates not just generation but collection, storage and distribution of energy, and includes the “balance of system” equipment in the definition.
 - (b) “Small Scale Solar Generation Facility”:
 - (c) The proposed definition is: “Solar photovoltaic systems that produce up to ten kilowatts (kW) per hour of energy, or solar thermal systems which serve the buildings to which they are attached, and do not provide energy for any other buildings.
 - (d) As mentioned above, this definition appears to preclude smaller ground-mounted systems. It also does not account for roof- or building-mounted systems that can provide energy off-site, such as community solar.

- (e) Finally, system size is typically measured by capacity, i.e. (kW or MW), not generation per hour, as this depends on the amount of sunlight, efficiency of the panels, etc. As an alternative, consider defining “small-scale” systems based on area, rather than capacity, since efficiencies and technologies can change over time, causing a code to become outdated.
- (f) “Solar Farm, Solar-Power Plant, or Large Scale Solar Energy Facility”:
- (g) The proposed local law provides a definition for only one other kind of solar energy system, a “Solar Farm, Solar-Power Plant, or Large Scale Solar Energy Facility.” The definition limits such systems to those whose purpose is to produce electricity primarily for distribution off-site on a wholesale or retail basis, and appears to include only ground-mounted systems. As noted above, the Town should consider including and defining additional types of solar systems to accommodate different arrangements and establishing appropriate use permissions and development standards for these other types of facilities.
- (h) For additional information, please refer to the Model Solar Energy Local Law and other resources included in NYSERDA’s New York Solar Guidebook for Local Governments: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All%20Programs/Programs/Clean%20Energy%20Siting/Solar%20Guidebook>

13. Ulster County Planning Board: The Ulster County Planning Board (UCPB) issued an April 3, 2019 Recommendation Letter the Town of Esopus as part of the Board’s required General Municipal Law § 239-m review. This letter details the results of the County’s interim review on the January 30, 2019 Draft Comprehensive Plan. The County’s final review and recommendation will be provided upon receipt of the revised Comprehensive Plan. The initial recommendations provided are as follows:

- a. **Regional Environment – Required Modification:** Consideration should be given to developing an open space plan that seeks to protect the various parks and preserves in the Town along with Ulster County identified Habitat Cores and associated linkages, to maintain animal habitats and migratory corridors, as well as protect and recharge water resources to support a wide range of ecosystems.
- b. **Pre-Approved Project Compliance Checklist – Advisory Comment:** The UCPB supports methods to help move projects through the planning process as efficiently as possible. However, not all projects and project sites conform necessarily to the same checklist. The Town may wish to undertake a site specific/form-based approach that sets a vision for key sites with development potential.
- c. **Design Guidelines/Standards and Gateway Areas – Advisory Comment:** The UCPB would be happy to help the Town as it goes forward in developing design guidelines/standards for the community. The UCPB generally prefers standards, rather than guidelines, as the former can be incorporated into a municipality’s zoning statute to best achieve predictable outcomes. The Ulster County Community Design Manual is an open-source document that the County encourages the Town to utilize as a tool to aid in its efforts.

Comments Provided at the Public Hearing:

14. Chet Allen, Resident: Asked that if resulting from the planning process, the Town now had any specific focus or concerns regarding rising waters.

15. Sheriff Figueroa. Sheriff Figueroa was introduced by Supervisor Shannon Harris. Sheriff Figueroa complimented the enthusiasm at the meeting, admired the Town’s progress and the Town Hall and related facilities. He offered that if anyone in the room needed anything from the Sheriff’s Office to call or email him or contact the Supervisor as she has his contact information.

16. Diane Dintruff, Resident: Ask if residents will be able to continue with single-stream recycling or if that ability will be affected by what is currently influencing Kingston. An audience member indicated that the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency UCRRA is discontinuing single-stream recycling, however the ultimate decision will be up to individual haulers based on facilities they use as Esopus residents utilize private haulers.

17. Barbara Stemke, Kingston Resident: Noted frequent mention of and relation of recommendations and goals to health and safety. Noted health and safety related to technology was absent in the Comprehensive Plan. Asked how the Town of Esopus intends to handle the oncoming intent of 5G infrastructure – considers 5G technology detrimental to plant, animal and human health. Stemke stated that 5G technology is used in war- weaponry, and crowd control, and is concerned that technology companies want to put 5G poles everywhere- every 500 feet, on every road in New York State including the Town of Esopus. Stemke indicated Federal Government wants to fast track 5G infrastructure and remove home rule provisions from the siting of this infrastructure. Stemke wanted the Town to have a technology committee so that residents will know the facts regarding 5G and can stop it (5G siting regulations).

18. Elizabeth Anderson, Resident.

- a. Concerned that no one stops at crosswalks on 9W even with the new crosswalk signs.
- b. Mentioned the poor conditions of the crosswalks on 9w and cited that she felt like she was taking her life in her hands when crossing due to conditions of infrastructure and poor driver characteristics.
- c. Asked if there was a way to address the safety of the crosswalk on 9W at both Stout and Main Streets.

19. George Heissenbuttel, Resident. Offered his volunteer time to the Economic Development Board and Parks Commission. Mr. Haswell praised the Town Highway Department and current administration on the hard work they do. Mr. Haswell also thanked the Bruderhoff for their contributions to the Town and furthermore thanked members of the Pt. Ewen fire Department for their assistance in Ross Park and the Cas Landi family for their contribution of the Cas Landi Park in St. Remy.

20. Laura Pettit, Resident, Ulster County Legislator.

- a. Ms. Pettit had questions regarding land use and maintaining the character of the hamlets.
- b. Indicted she had heard recommendations to have an R-10 Zoning District which would be “small and dense with 2 and 4 bedroom homes” and mentioned that within this zoning district however residential medical facilities would be permitted with up to 18 rooms.
- c. Would like this examined and like a reduction to 2 or 3 bedrooms in facilities in these areas in order to maintain the character of the neighborhood.
- d. Proposed that the town locate the larger facilities in commercial and industrially zoned areas.

21. Joan Ally, Resident.

- a. Spoke on walkways and sidewalks and mentioned she enjoyed walking all over Esopus due to the scenic views and vistas.
- b. Would like a sidewalk extended down Canal Street to access the River as well as adding sidewalks on Legion Court for the river view near the Fire Houses.
- c. Described the need for sidewalk extension from Clay Road to Mountain View Gardens and put a highway pull-out there as it is one of the best views in Ulster County.
- d. Proposed an idea for long sidewalk/ walkway connection from Freer Park to Mountain View which could include signage pointing to businesses as a way to promote economic development.

22. Mike (last name inaudible), Resident, Hamlet of Rifton. Was impressed by all the work the Town has done on this plan. Wondered if there was any structure for which the specific needs of the hamlets could be examined and focused upon.

23. Marjorie McCord, Resident.

- a. Feels that Cas Landi is underutilized and more could be done at that location.
- b. Indicated parts of Esopus are not walkable and is especially concerned for senior's ability to walk and thought that putting walking areas in parks would be a good way to solve that problem.
- c. Felt there was a major focus on Port Ewen Parks and thought there were alternative ways the town could solicit input from residents in hamlets outside of Port Ewen.

24. Heather Blaikie, Scenic Hudson.

- a. Overall was pleased with planning efforts and the plan.
- b. Would like to see more direct goals to protect, enhance, or even restore environmental resources.
- c. More specific goals related to the John Burroughs Black Creek Trail, connections to the Greenline, and linkages to the Empire State Trail.
- d. Stated that Scenic Hudson would provide written comments.

25. Name inaudible, Resident.

- a. Asked about details of Scenic Hudson trails and access at other sites.
- b. Was concerned about the affordability of hotels that may be built and wanted them to be inclusive of moderate income people and families.

26. Barbara Stemke, Kingston Resident. Concerned about Central Hudson replacing analog meters in residents homes. Concerned these are hazardous to health and wants the Town to adopt a policy to address this that would allow residents to retain their analog meters.

27. George Post, American Legion, Resident. Described declining membership at the American Legion and encouraged all in attendance to consider joining.

28. Hamlet of Rifton Public Meeting Comments (April 8, 2019):

- a. Residents of the hamlet of Rifton requested a special meeting to be held in their hamlet pursuant to the Town's Comprehensive Plan efforts. This meeting was to ensure to specific concerns from residents in the Hamlet could be heard, and consideration of those concerns could be examined as

part of the greater town-wide Planning process. The meeting began with a PowerPoint presentation given by Supervisor Harris, Councilman and Comprehensive Plan Committee Chairman Geuss, and consulting planner Matt Rogers- Senior Planner, Laberge Group. The presentation was akin to the one given at the CPC public hearing in March of 2019 with the exception that recommendations were extrapolated from the larger presentation and presented to the Rifton residents. After the presentation, a question and answer session ensued where residents were given the opportunity to ask questions, raise concerns about the Comprehensive Plan (currently in draft form) or raise concerns not included in the Plan that was related to Rifton. Below please find a general summary of resident's interactions and exchanges with the presenters. Residents of the hamlet of Rifton requested a special meeting to be held in their hamlet pursuant to the Town's Comprehensive Plan efforts. This meeting was to ensure to specific concerns from residents in the Hamlet could be heard, and consideration of those concerns could be examined as part of the greater town-wide Planning process.

b. Garbage/Waste:

- i. One resident discussed the high amount of trash left over along the Wallkill River by those who fish, picnic, or otherwise use the waterfront in the warmer weather months. She indicated there was a problem in both parks and on private lands along the water, and often it was not cleaned in a timely or satisfactory manner.
- ii. In support of this assertion another resident indicated that this was not only a problem along the River, but along the roads in the area too. She particularly spoke about Old Post Road and the State Highway and individuals disposing of bottles, food wastes, and other materials.
- iii. In response to these concerns Matt Rogers indicated that although there is Town staff who could clean these materials up, it is often difficult as they don't know specific locations each day, have additional duties, and staffing assignments may not allow for daily surveillance of these areas.
- iv. Supervisor Harris, in agreement with Mr. Rogers stated that perhaps a community or volunteer road side or park clean up group be established and mentioned the Earth Day Cleanup for later in the month. Supervisor Harris also mentioned that along the roadways, even though they may be State or County purview the Town and residents should take a bigger lead in the elimination of waste as DOT and Ulster County have shown inability to clean this waste sufficiently.
- v. Laberge Group will check littering regulations and penalties in Esopus for consideration of additions to the Plan.

c. Sturgeon Pool:

- i. A resident asked if in consideration of waterfront access the plan includes discussion of access to the Sturgeon Pool and spoke on what an asset it was to the nearby area. M. Rogers did say it was a consideration in the Plan. Supervisor Harris also ensure to Mr. Murry and those in attendance that she was in talks with Central Hudson about community access and so far they had been amenable to discussion on the subject.

d. Ana Devine School:

- i. A resident asked about the Anna Devine School and discussed what a loss it was for the Rifton Community. She stated she took her grandchild to the facility, only to be turned away

by BOCES staff, saying that playing at the schools former playground was no longer permitted. She asked if this is something the Town can work on, for residents to gain access to.

- ii. Many residents reported that the playground was no longer at the former Anna Devine School, and one resident stated that it was removed some time ago.
 - iii. Subsequently, on the subject of the former school residents asked what the real use was of the facility currently, and it was indicated it is owned by the Kingston City School District and utilized part time by BOCES.
 - iv. Other suggestions for use of the former school were given with one resident remembering when adults could use the gym on Thursday nights for open basketball play.
 - v. Another resident suggested it be used as a library facility for area children.
 - vi. Supervisor Harris stated she would like to speak to the School District and understand what precisely is happening at the site and what the ownership structure is. The Supervisor invited Betty to attend a meeting with her, with the school district and any other residents who may be interested as they had a deeper understanding of the history and as living in the community, they could better express their desires for what the facility could be used for. Supervisor Harris said she would talk to the school district about use and if it is an insurance or liability issue that the town may be able to help with.
- e. **General Area Facilities:**
- i. Residents raised the issue that there was no real social area in the hamlet, and residents didn't know each other as they had in years in the past when there was a school, playgrounds, shops, and a bar. They further stated that there was no place for kids to go to play with each other and many neighborhood kids, despite living in close proximity, didn't know each other or couldn't play.
- f. **Stormwater:**
- i. The discussion turned to drainage and how the hamlet was affected in stormwater flooding events within the last year. Supervisor Harris invited the residents to join the newly created Stormwater Taskforce - working with the Town's Engineers.
- g. **Community Parks:**
- i. A resident brought up the possibility and rumor that the Rifton Fire Department would be interested in selling their former firehouse and an adjacent (the site of this meeting) to the Town for the creation of a park. Residents discussed it but had said if they were to utilize it, the park would have to be a unique facility and feature more than "just a swing set" as many would have to get in their cars and cross the State Highway (NY Rt. 213) anyway. They would be more apt to go where they know quality facilities exist.
 - ii. Residents were interested in possibilities but reiterated the need for quality design and unique features.
 - iii. Residents had more desire for improvements to St. Remy Park or a new park at Sturgeon Pool or to have the ability to utilize Central Hudson's Parkland on the Sturgeon Pool.

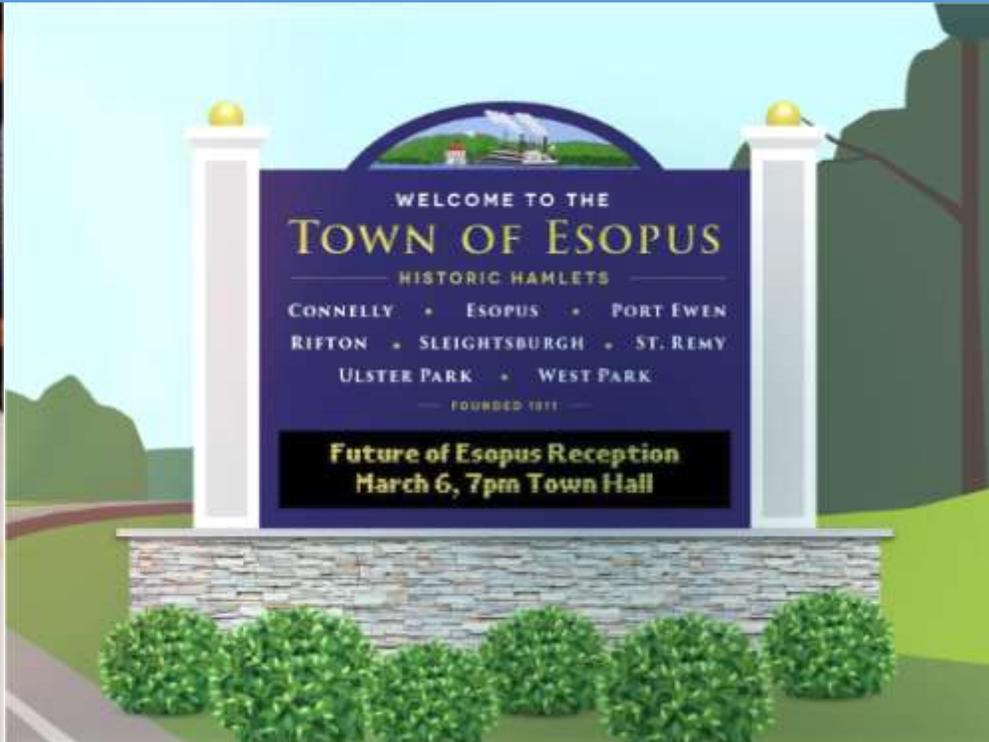
- iv. One resident brought up the possibility of a park at the Anna Devine School and cite adjacent creeks that would be a nice feature for the park.
 - v. Residents discussed a solid trail for walking a biking around St. Remy Park or the discussed Fire District Lands Park and felt this would be a great addition to the Rifton community.
 - vi. Those in attendance did like the idea of staying local for a park and asked what the Town’s role would be in creating a park on the Fire Districts land.
 - vii. Supervisor Harris said there had to be a community consensus and that the hamlet should work together and discuss it with her and the Town Board so they town could have solid plan for the park which would assist them in obtaining funding.
 - viii. Perrine’s Bridge: A resident was upset about the strategy for Perrine’s Bridge Park and asked Mr. Rogers to clarify the recommendation regarding the addition of a boat launch. Mr. Rogers stated that this was one possible strategy and it did not mean that an addition of such a facility would occur. The gentleman cited traffic and road conditions and crossing NY Rt. 213 as his major concerns.
 - ix. Another resident brought up the extreme flooding in that area and that improvements would have to consider this. Mr. Rogers said he and the Town were aware of the flooding and that that would be considered pursuant to any future improvements.
- h. Funding:**
- i. A resident asked about Rifton’s status as an agricultural district. Mr. Rogers asked for clarification and she stated she had obtained funding for an organization she is involved with in Rosendale through the USDA. Mr. Rogers was not aware of the particular program but Laberge Group will explore this as a funding opportunity for Esopus. This is likely a population/ area income eligibility based grant.
- i. Facilities:**
- ii. A resident stated that they would like to know the status of the Rock School House and whether it could be used for a community building. It was discussed whether this was a historically listed structure, it is assumed this is not.
 - iii. A resident requested a store in the community, where they could get basic needs such as coffee, newspapers and other items conveniently.
 - iv. The discussion of the Cemetery on NY Rt. 213 came up and a resident felt the Town should take better care of this. Supervisor Harris did say she had asked the highway Department if it was possible they could remove a toppled tree, they could not fit equipment. Discussion turned to ownership and many residents say the cemetery is abandoned. Supervisor Harris stated it may now, or soon be the Town’s responsibility and that she would look into it.
- j. Public Outreach:**
- i. Discussion related to advertising the Rifton Hamlet Meeting came up as well as for other Town events. Some residents felt there was insufficient advertising and that the Town does minimal outreach which could be improved by a means of a more direct form of communication of current efforts.

- ii. A resident stated that Town parks would be ideal to display such signage as he was at a few on the past weekend and the parking lots were full.

29. Hamlet of Esopus Public Meeting Comments April 24, 2019:

- a. Residents and business owners in the Hamlet of Esopus requested a public meeting, primarily to discuss their concerns related to the recently approved Dollar General Store adjacent to the Esopus Fire Station on US Rt. 9W.
- b. Supervisor Shannon Harris kick-off the meeting and reviewed the purpose of the meeting which was to obtain feedback on concerns related to the Dollar General approval and to discuss the Draft Comprehensive Plan.
- c. The majority of the meeting was dominated by public concerns related to the Dollar General approval including:
 - i. Lack of sufficient public notification and details about the project;
 - ii. Concerns that the project would exacerbate existing traffic issues along US Rt. 9W and in the Hamlet of Esopus specifically;
 - iii. Public request for the Town Board to ask NYSDOT to conduct a detailed traffic study of the US Rt. 9W corridor and for a new traffic study of the project be conducted by Dollar General;
 - iv. Adverse impacts of allowing a national chain store to open in the Hamlet – negative impacts on existing locally-owned business and the rural character of the Hamlet;
 - v. Desire to limit future commercial development in the Hamlet and a preference not to allow national chain stores; and
 - vi. Future development should strive to incorporate site and building designs/architecture in keeping with the Hamlet’s rural character and a prohibition on chain store-style architecture.
- d. Public concerns related to future commercial uses, incompatible architecture and traffic impacts were then discussed in the context of the Comprehensive Plan. Specifically, how the Plan could recommend an analysis of existing zoning in the Hamlet along with options for site and architectural design guidelines and standards to protect community character and the possibility of requiring more detailed traffic studies for future development in and around the Hamlet. Finally, the Town’s current public noticing process, particularly for projects before the Planning and Zoning Boards, were recommended to be improved. These concerns and related recommendations (with the exception of requesting Dollar General prepare a new traffic study) would be incorporated into the revised Comprehensive Plan.

Welcome back!



Future of Esopus Community Reception
Wednesday, March 6th, 2019 – 7 p.m.

Please note...



This is a Public Hearing soliciting feedback and comments from the community on the Draft Esopus Master Plan



Introductions

Shannon Harris
Supervisor



Who is in the room?

- Town employees including Highway, Water & Sewer, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector, Justice Court, Clerk's Office and Parks, Buildings and Grounds staff.
- Fire Dept Personnel, Veterans and First Responders
- Religious Community Leaders
- Ulster County Planning Board
- Scenic Hudson and Riverkeeper
- NYS Dept of Transportation

Special thanks to...



Comprehensive Planning Committee

Shannon Harris – Supervisor

Jared Geuss – CPC Chair

Mercedes Ross / Janet Bellusci (Fmr.) – Waterfront Advisory

John Cutrone – Economic Development

Darin DeKoskie – Planning Board

Mark Ellison – Environmental Board

Sal Morello III – Building Inspector & Code Enforcer

Laura Petit – County Legislature

Kathie Quick – Councilwoman

Robert Wells – Parks & Recreation

Fred Zimmer – Planning Board

Melanie Marino – Outreach Coordinator (Fmr.)

Miles Putnam, AICP – Town Planner (Fmr.)

Town Board

Shannon Harris – Supervisor

Chris Farrell – Councilman

Jared Geuss – Councilman

Kathie Quick – Councilwoman

Gloria VanVliet – Councilwoman

Partners

Matthew Rogers – Senior Planner

Josh Westfall, AICP – Planner

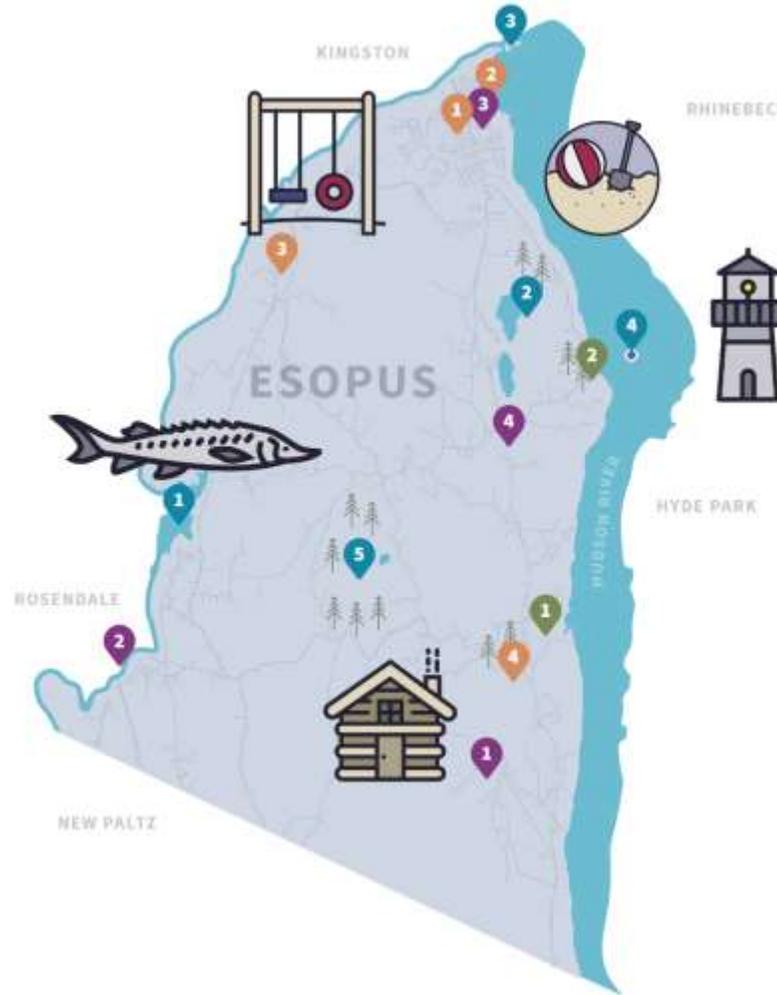
Ellen M. Pemrick – E.M. Pemrick and Company (Demographic Analysis)

Bill Sprengnether, RLA – Cardinal Design (Design)

Agenda



1. Our objectives
2. Town's financial health
3. Collective vision
4. Purpose of Master Plan
5. Journey to this point
6. Key themes
7. Recommended actions
8. Organizing for action
9. Feedback + Q&A



WATER FEATURES

- 1 Sturgeon Pool
- 2 High Banks Preserve, Esopus Lake & Mirror Lake
- 3 Sleightsburgh Park
- 4 Lighthouse Park & Esopus Meadows Lighthouse
- 5 Shaugeneak Ridge & Louisa Pond

PRESERVES

- 1 Black Creek Preserve
- 2 Esopus Meadows Preserve

HISTORY

- 1 John Burroughs Sanctuary
- 2 Perrine's Bridge
- 3 Sojourner Truth Historic Marker
- 4 Klyne Esopus Historical Society Museum

PUBLIC PARKS

- 1 Ross Park
- 2 George H. Freer Memorial Beach
- 3 Cas Landi Park
- 4 Joe Clark Recreational Park

Our objectives tonight



- **Share** with you our financial hear, and what we found through outreach and research.
- **Listen.** Seek your feedback on the draft and recommended actions we've co-developed.
- **Set our strategy.** Town employees hear first hand what the community wants, and will work to serve.
- **Ask for support.** Not *our* plan. *Your* plan. We need your participation to make our collective aspirations come to life.

Esopus snapshot



Population

8,907

▲243% HIGHER THAN STATE MEDIAN



Median home value

\$211,000

▼26% LOWER THAN STATE MEDIAN



Median household income

\$70,647

▲16% HIGHER THAN STATE MEDIAN

2016 US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Home value data includes all types of owner-occupied housing.

Want to see more data on our town? Go to CLEARGOV.ORG and search for Esopus

Esopus trends by 2022

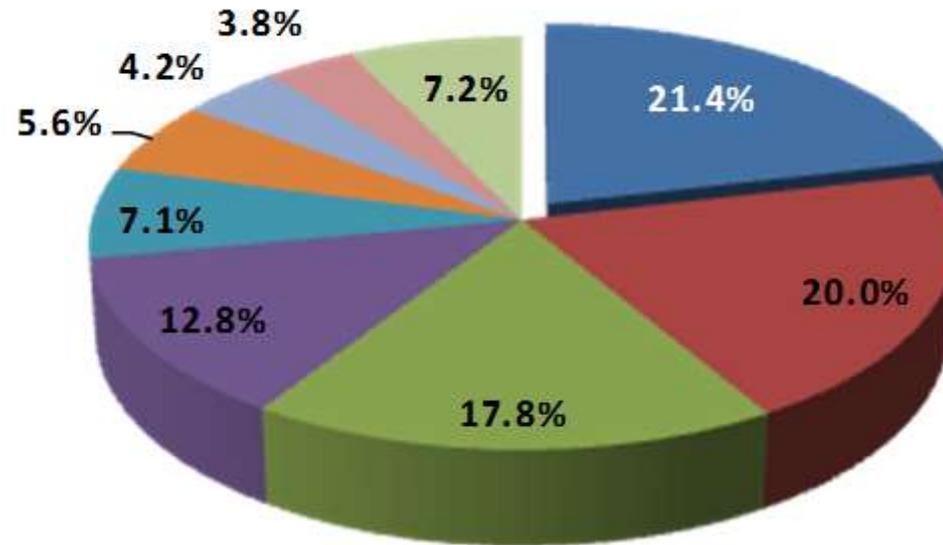


- Town of Esopus population is expected to **increase** by 2.1% to 9,589 by 2022.
- School-age children expected to remain stable, less than 1% increase.
- Expected **increase** in ages 25-44 young families, recent graduates and working adults.
- Residents between 45-54 (prime income earning age) expected to **decrease** by almost 14% - mirroring national trends.
- Expected **increase** of Seniors by **15%**.
- **65%** of housing in Town is owner-occupied with 24% renter occupied.
- **59%** of renters and **24%** of homeowners in the Town are “cost-burdened,” paying at least **30%** of their household income for housing, prompting potential housing affordability concerns.



Working population

- 21.4% - Largest proportion of Esopus' population work in Government sector.
- 20% - Next largest proportion work in the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities sector.
- 17.8% - Followed by Education and Health Services
- 12.8 % Leisure and hospitality



- Government (Public Sector)
- Trade, Transportation, and Utilities
- Education and Health Services
- Leisure and Hospitality
- Professional and Business Services
- Manufacturing
- Construction
- Financial Activities
- All Other Sectors

Esopus: Where most residents don't work



- Less than 5% of employed Town residents work in Esopus.
- More than 40% work elsewhere in the County:
- 18.7% in Kingston
- 8.6% in the Town of Ulster.
- About 17.5% of commute to Dutchess County.
- Other commuting destinations include NYC, Orange County, and Westchester County.

Table 1: Where Town of Esopus Residents Work

Location	Count	Share
Ulster County	1,427	44.9%
City of Kingston	593	18.7%
Town of Ulster	272	8.6%
Town of New Paltz	150	4.7%
Town of Esopus	149	4.7%
Other Towns	263	8.3%
Dutchess County	557	17.5%
Town of Poughkeepsie	175	5.5%
City of Poughkeepsie	108	3.4%
Other Towns	274	8.6%
New York City (All 5 Boroughs)	339	10.7%
Orange County	190	6.0%
Westchester County	95	3.0%
All Other Counties	569	17.9%
TOTAL	3,177	100.0%

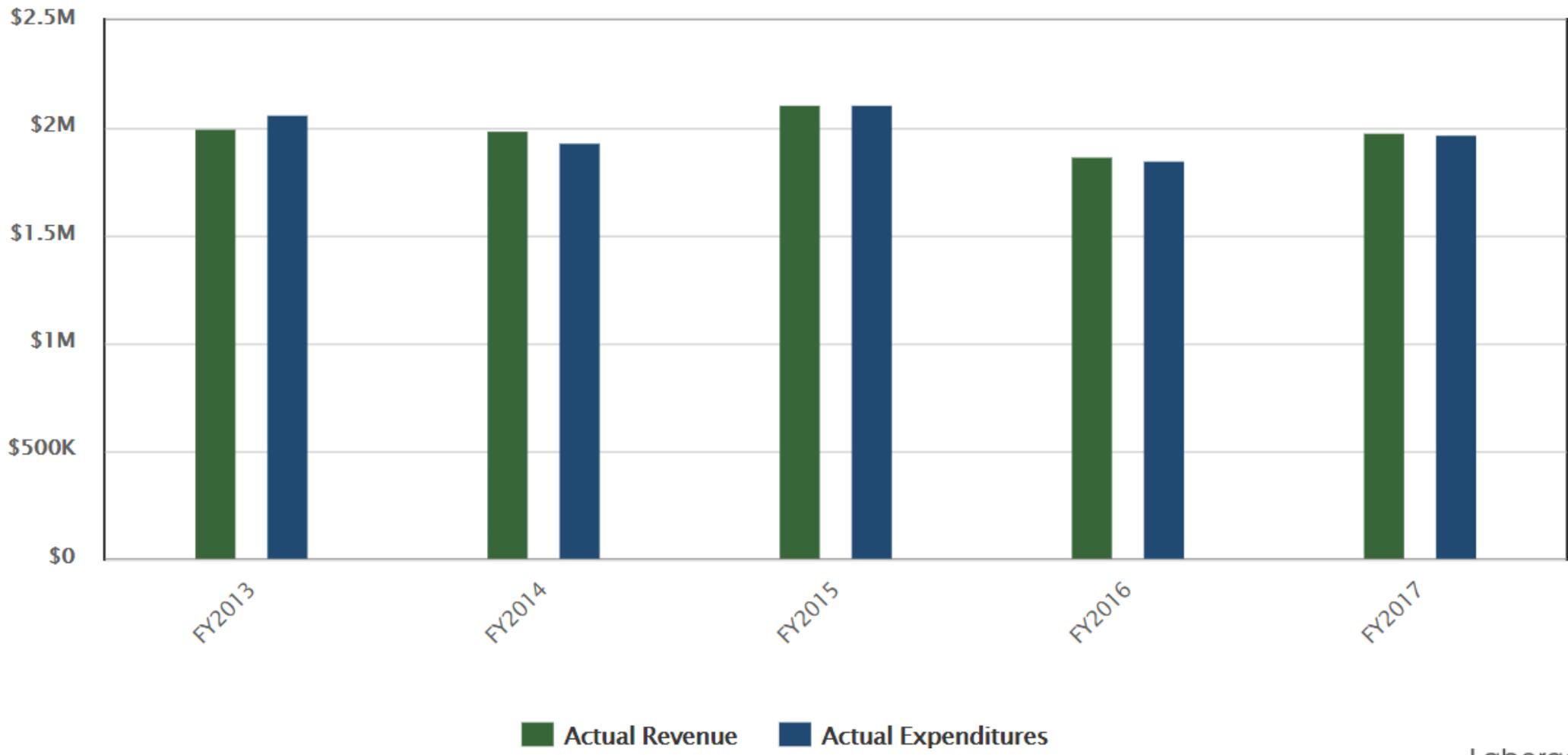
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, LED OnTheMap Origin-Destination Database (2015).

Budget overview



Want to see more data on our town? Go to CLEARGOV.ORG and search for Esopus

Revenue vs. expenses

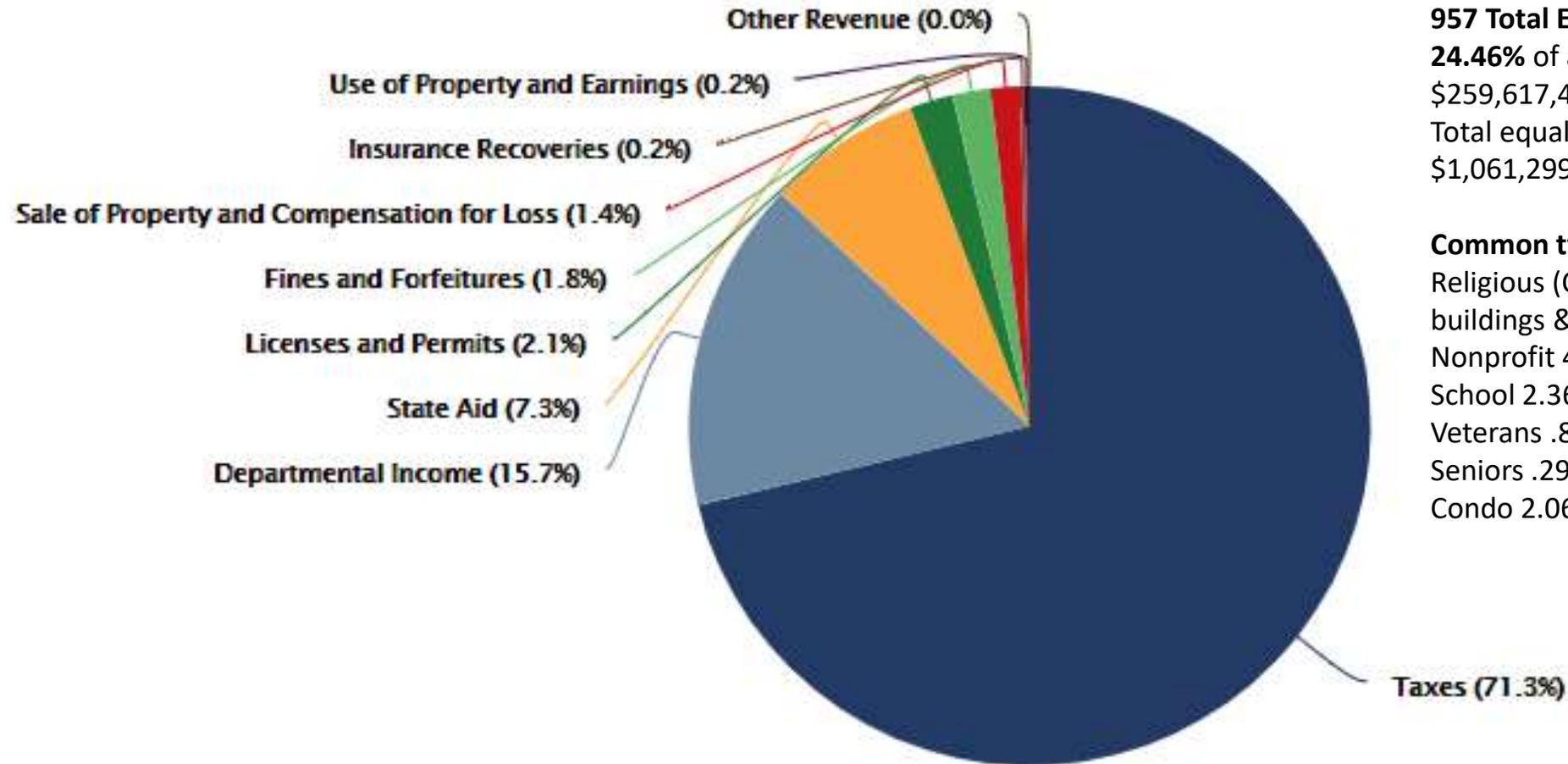


Revenue vs. expenses



Revenue breakdown

\$5,294,026



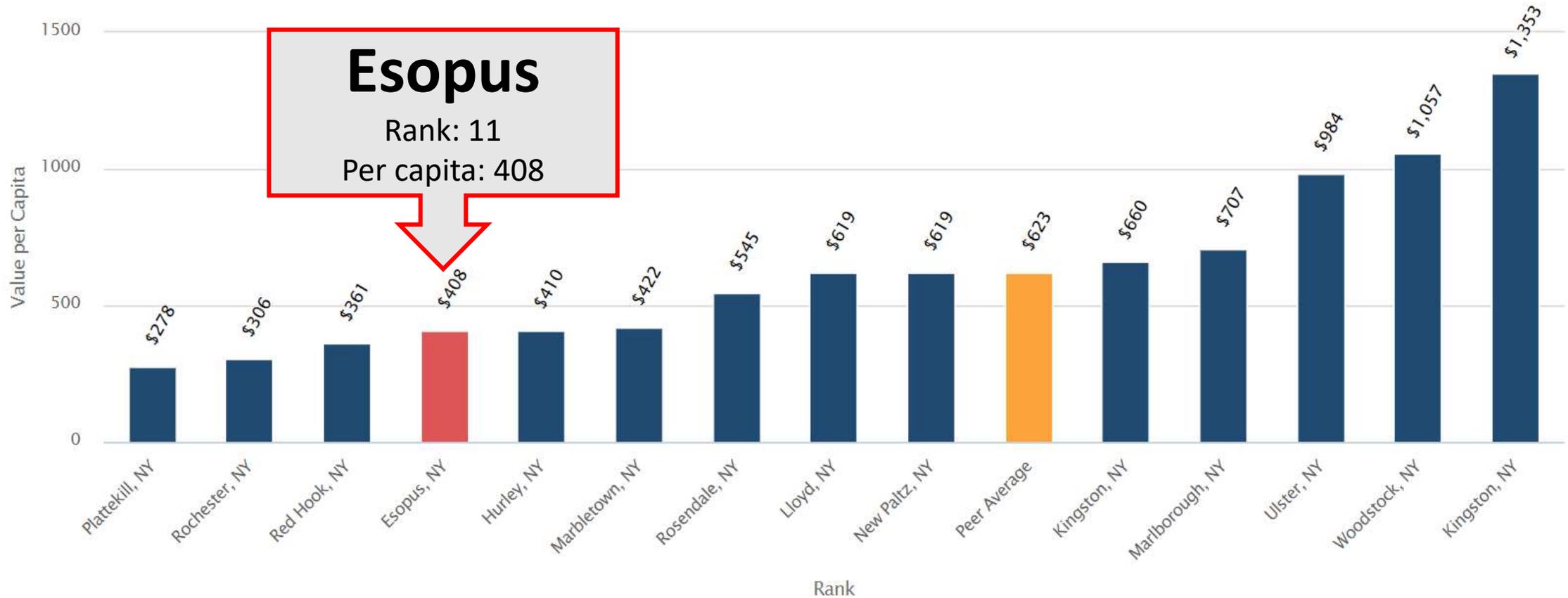
957 Total Exemptions
24.46% of assessed value
\$259,617,450 Total exempt value
Total equalized assessed value
\$1,061,299,364

Common types
Religious (Clergy, Religious buildings & Orgs) 9.92% (40%)
Nonprofit 4.26% (17.4%)
School 2.36% (9%)
Veterans .87% (3.5%)
Seniors .29% (1%)
Condo 2.06% (8%)

Taxes by town



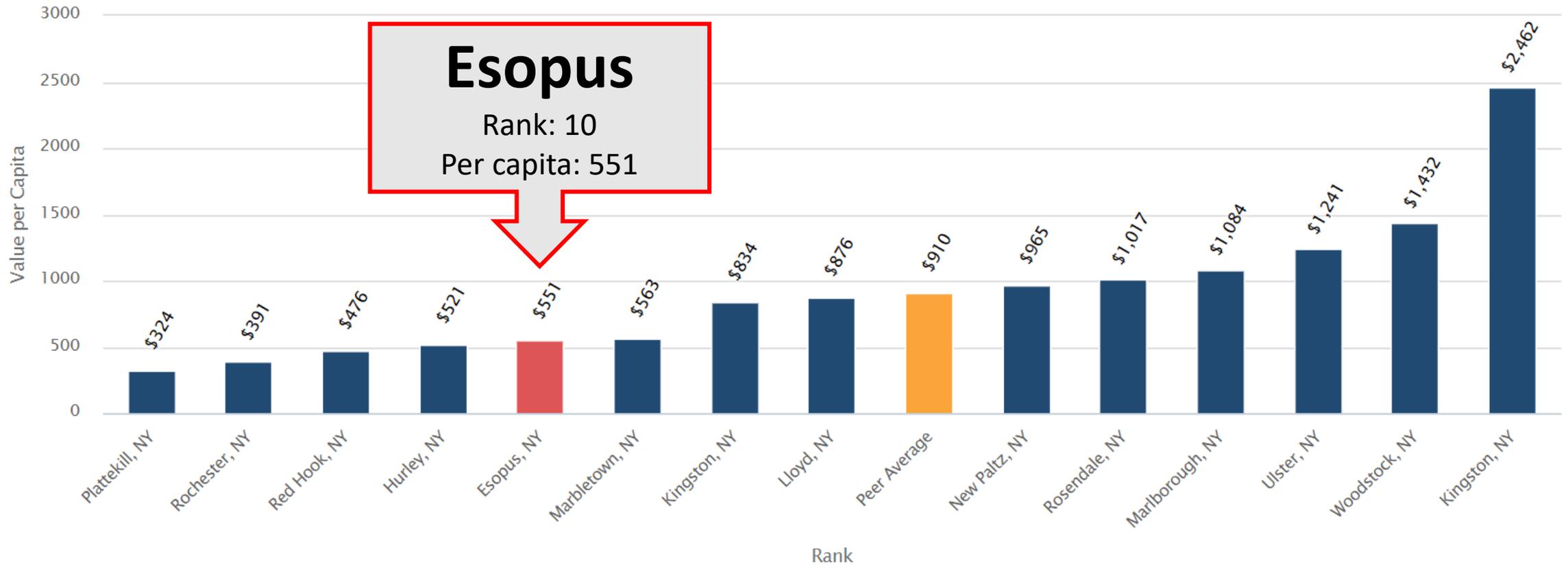
Tax Revenue Only Comparison by Town



Spending by town



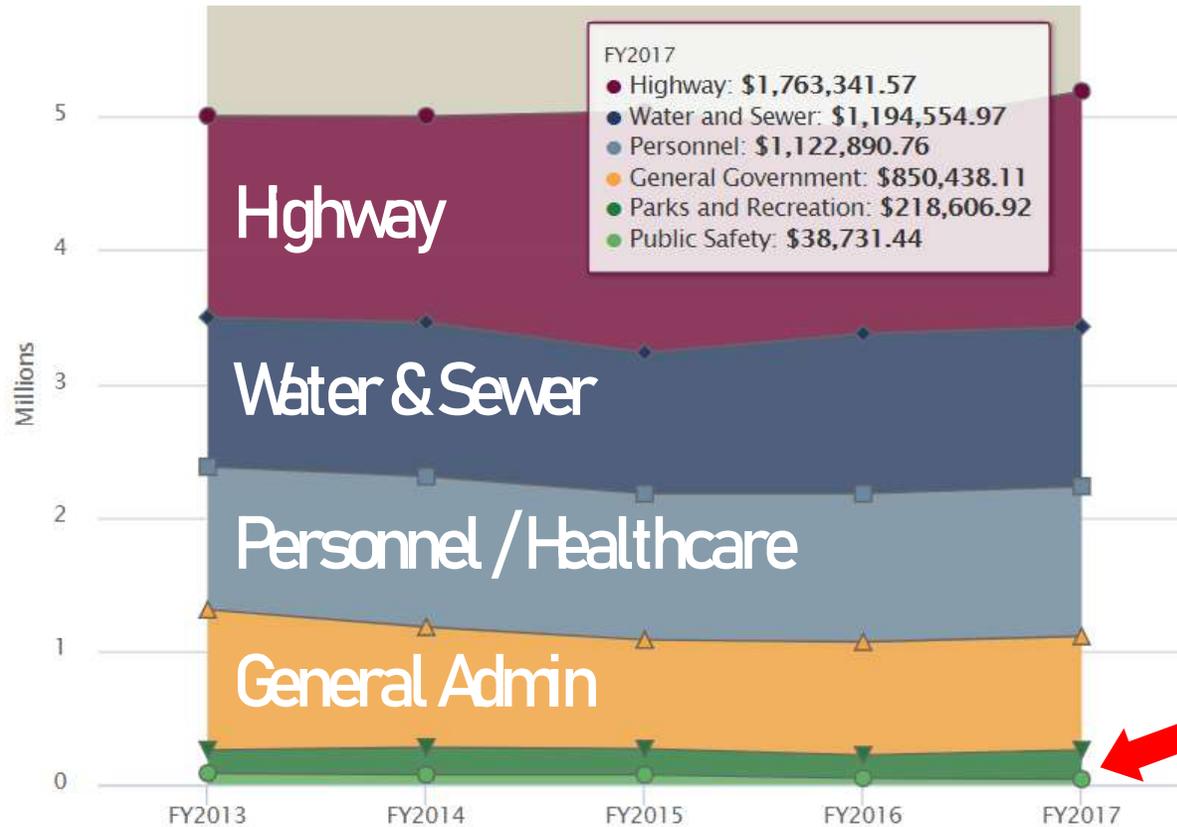
Expenditures Comparison by Town



Spending breakdown



\$5,188,564



Parks spending

Highway Water and Sewer Personnel General Government
Parks and Recreation Public Safety

New initiatives for 2019



Project

- Drinking water infrastructure
- Town of Esopus culvert study (pt. 2)
- Source water protection strategy
- Local waterfront revitalization plan
- Riverfront access and connections proposals
- Drinking water infrastructure upgrade study
- Stormwater drainage plan + taskforce
- Town-wide zoning update
- Conclusion and adoption of Master Plan
- Solarize Esopus campaign
- Business development marketing collateral

How? Grants / Funding

\$2,370,000.00 (EFC grant)
\$101,000.00 (DEP / DEC grant)
est. \$100,000.00 + (Hudson 7)
\$75,000.00 (Governor's grant)
\$50,000.00 (Estuary grant)
\$60,000.00 (FEMA money)
\$50,000.00 (Annual drainage fund)
\$40,000.00 (+ Greenway grant)
\$10,000.00 (Budgeted)
\$5-10,000.00 (NYSERDA grants)
\$5,000.00 (Budgeted)

Stormwater flooding last year

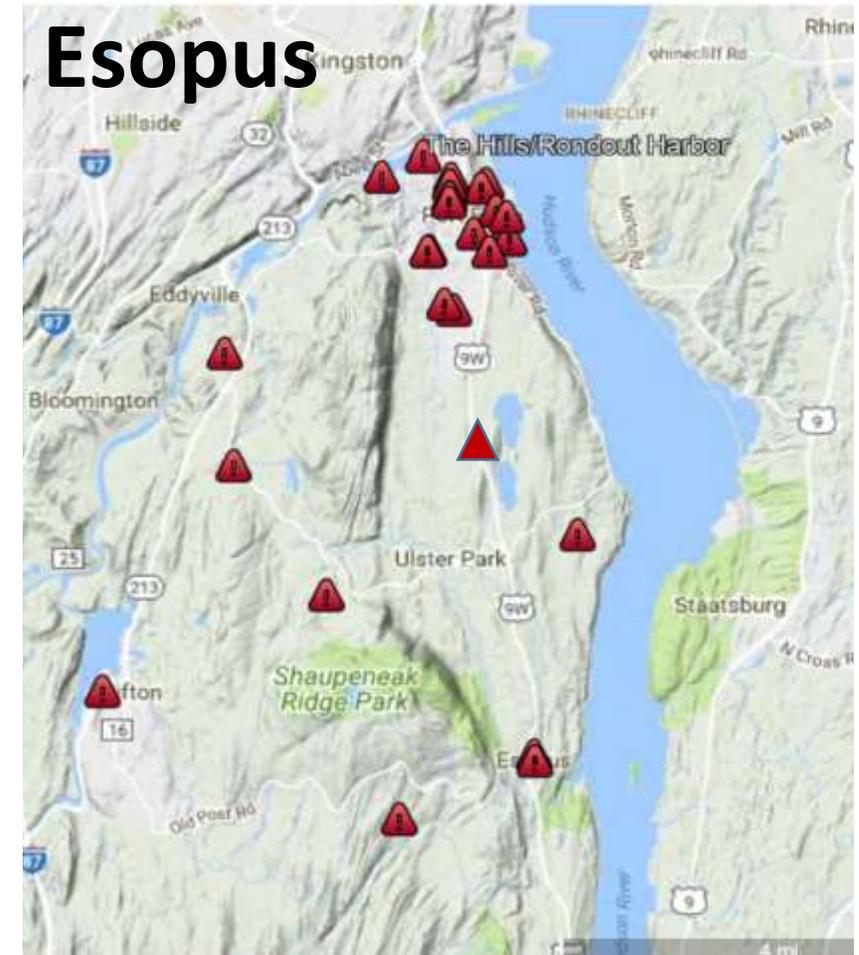


**Remember September
12, 2018? So do we.
And we're taking action.**

Stormwater drainage taskforce



- Kick off Wednesday, March 20 at 7 PM
- Inventory all municipally owned drainage structures including culverts, natural flows and outfalls, drainage easements, catch basins and drainage pipes.
- Site visits to residents who reported flooding.
- Recommend mitigation of flooding areas
- Digitally map all inventoried drainage structures using GIS system, evaluate condition of structures, assess capacity of structures.
- Prepare a capital improvement plan complete with visuals and recommendations for priority of drainage system improvements.



Tired of water main breaks?

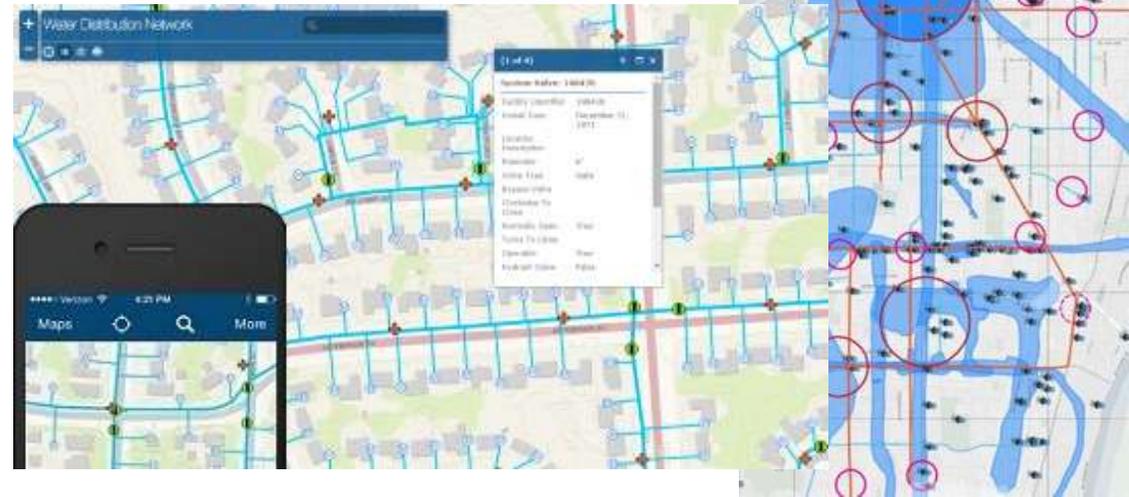
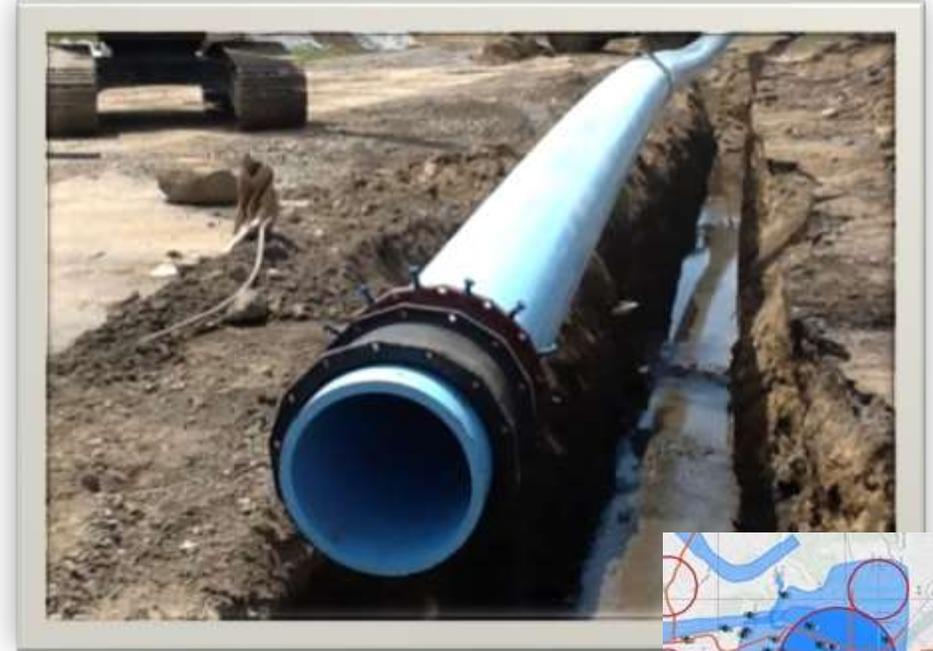


So are we. We're taking action to fix broken infrastructure.

Drinking water infrastructure



- Kick off TBC April or May W&S meeting.
- Inventory and mapping of water distribution system using ArcGIS system.
- Modeling of water distribution system hydraulic and water quality flow.
- Assessment and evaluation of water facilities/infrastructure capacity, age and health of structures.
- Engineer's report and preparation of a capital improvements plan indicating priority of water distribution fixes.



Riverfront access study



Laberge Group

- Lead Consultant.
- Responsible for:
 - Coordinating the overall Study and leading Project Committee and Public Meetings.
 - All Project Deliverables except public outreach for and coordination of public meetings/hearings and Scenic Hudson responsibilities.

Town of Esopus Town Board

- Grant Applicant and Awardee.
- Authority to adopt the Final Study.

Hudson Estuary Staff

- Project oversight and technical guidance.

Waterfront Advisory Board

- To serve as the Project Advisory Committee.
- Responsible for reviewing and approving all Project Deliverables.

Scenic Hudson

- Grant Co-Applicant and Awardee.
- Responsible for:
 - Architectural designs for a future pavilion at Black Creek Preserve.
 - Structural assessment of the bulkhead at Black Creek Preserve.



land ■ parks ■ advocacy



4 Computer Drive West • Albany, New York 12206
(518) 458-7112 • www.labergegroup.com

Ongoing initiatives



Project

- Esopus emergency preparedness/response
- Repair decaying crosswalks + trees on 9W
- New video security surveillance at parks
- Renewed partnership with Sheriff's office
- New welcome gateway signage & landscaping
- New artist painted Tug Boat display
- Plan for upgraded amenities at Town parks
- Budget transparency & open jobs advertising
- Public announcements on Facebook / website

Who?

HELP NEEDED

NYS DOT 2019

Town Board/Supervisor

Sheriff/Supervisor

Beautification Taskforce

Beautification Taskforce

Parks & Recreation

ClearGov.org/Esopus

Supervisor

Collective vision



The Town of Esopus will grow to become a more vibrant, attractive and connected community in the future. New waterfront recreational opportunities will be established with an eye towards planning for climate change and maintaining environmental quality.

New businesses and appropriate industrial and manufacturing opportunities will be cultivated in ways that are compatible with the Town's rural and historic character. The Town's hamlets will be revitalized to reflect their individual histories and culture. Key roads within and surrounding the Town's many Hamlets will be improved for safety and to accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists. Hamlet neighborhoods will continue to improve as residents, businesses and the Town all work together to enhance the Town's image and economic appeal within the Mid Hudson Valley region.



Master Plan

Jared Geuss
Councilman



Why do a Master Plan?

- **Roadmap** for operating and serving the Town.
- Focuses us on **economic development**, revitalizing the hamlets and directing future land use.
- Opens up access for **grant funding** and technical assistance.
- Attracts **private investment** while **preserving** natural resources and key assets.
- Sets goals for **improved infrastructure** and amenities.
- **Responds proactively** to changing demographics and community preferences.

Businesses look for...



- ✓ Updated Master Plan
- ✓ Public waterfront (we have multiple)
- ✓ Proximity to transit, trains, busses, Thruway
- ✓ Within 2 hours of major metropolitan center
- ✓ Pro-business administration
- ✓ Workforce training facilities (BOCESS, UCCC, SUNY)
- ✓ Financial incentives to kick start M-P sanctioned businesses
- ✓ Market value = Affordable



Journey to this point

TONIGHT

Research

- Hire planners
- Community tour
- Engage stakeholders
- Gather census, housing and economic data

LISTEN to the people

- 3 public forums
- Focus groups
- 1:1 Interviews
- Survey
- Social media
- Public input

Set GOALS

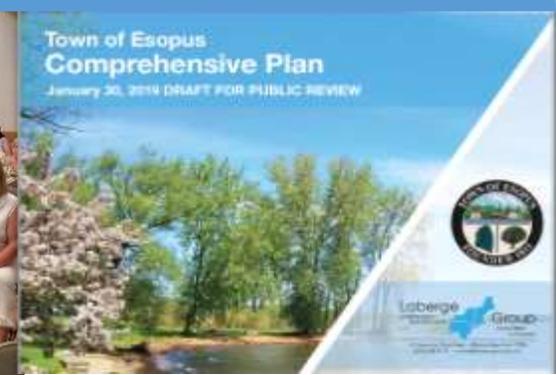
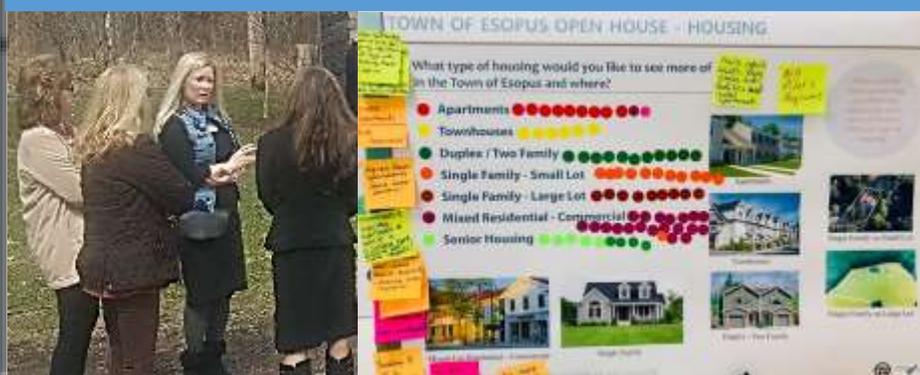
- Key themes
- Develop goals and strategies
- Seek grants for quick wins
- Big ticket items

Feedback & Prioritize

- Share draft with community
- Get feedback Feb 6 - Mar 6
- Final public forum
- Use feedback to prioritize projects

FUND & Implement

- Align projects with Boards and Committees
- Recruit volunteers
- Seek grants for big ticket items



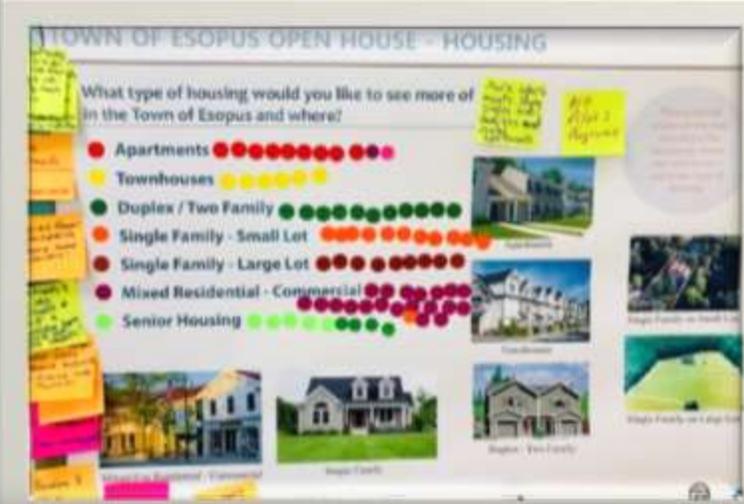
Highlights 2017-18

- **Spring 2017.** Landowner Survey
600+ Surveys Completed and Analyzed
- **March 29 2018.** Kick Off Meeting
- **April 13 2018.** Community bus Tour
- **April 25 2018.** Stakeholder Meetings and - Community Group Interviews
- **May 5 2018.** Public Open House
Over 300 Residents in Attendance



Highlights 2018-19

- **May 24 2018.** Design Workshop – Determined Future Design Preferences for Parks, Hamlets and Town-wide. **Over 80 Residents in Attendance**
- **June 21 2018.** Draft Goals and Strategies Workshop and survey / comment Period to gauge reactions to ideas. **Over 120 Residents in Attendance**
- **July 2018 through January 2019.** Drafts 1-4 – CPC Refined draft, recommendations and goals.
- **February 6 2019.** Public draft released and placed in key locations in the Town for public comment
- **March 6.** Future of Esopus Reception and Public Hearing **TONIGHT**
- **April 23.** Tentative Adoption of Plan



Structure of plan



Comprehensive Plan

- Summary of Process
- Key Observations
- Visions, Objectives, Goals
- Recommendations/Concept Plans
- Implementation Plan

Appendix I: Community Profile

- Supporting Data and Maps

Appendix II: Public Outreach Results

- Survey Results
- Public Input and Presentations

Appendix III: Planning Reports

- Reports to the Town from former Town Planner Miles Putnam – will be integral to the Town's land use law update.



Key themes in plan



Goals and recommendations



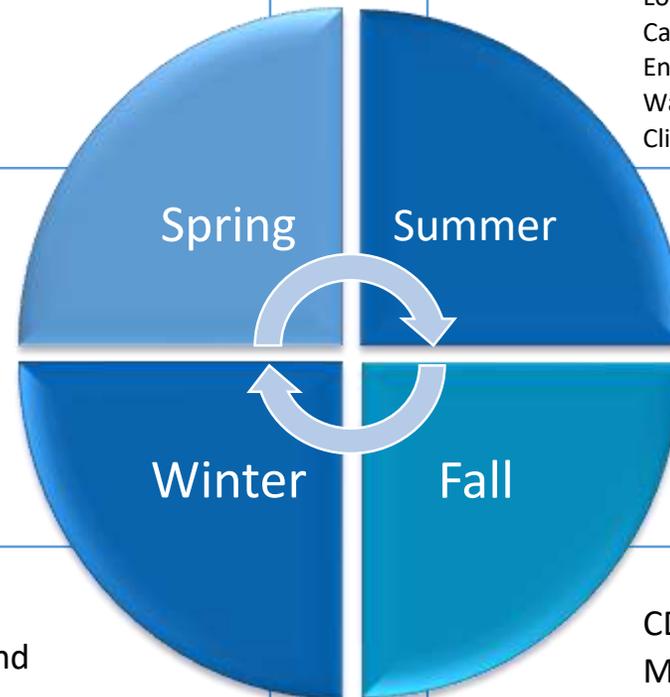
- Goals were determined based on public input, CPC input, and guided by data and other findings.
- Goals focus on Economic Development, Waterfront, Parks and Recreation, Housing, Pedestrian Safety, Community Services and Infrastructure, and Future Land Use.
- Each goal is supported by a series of specific recommendations.
- Recommendations have been assigned to responsible parties and partners, given an ideal implementation timeframe, potential funding sources and programs are identified.

Grants to implement recommendations



Bridge NY NYSDOT
State Archives
AFG General grant
PSAP NYSDOT

Environmental Protection Fund
Local Government Efficiency
New York Council on the Arts
Market NY
Local Waterfront Revitalization
Canalway Trails
Environmental Facilities Corp.
Water Quality Improvement Prog.
Climate Smart Communities



Municipal Restructuring Fund
AFG Program FP&S, SAFER -
FEMA
DHS (Varies year to year)
NYS Water Grants - NYSDEC

CDBG Housing
Municipal Restructuring Fund
Restore NY
Urban Revitalization Initiative
Downtown Redevelopment
initiative



Goals and Recommendations

Matt Rogers
Certified Planner

What makes a place vibrant?



1. Municipal/Economic Anchors
2. Mixed Uses (Office, Residential, Retail, Specialty Shops, etc.)
3. Transportation and Linkages (Including landmarks and Gateways)
4. Quality Outdoor Community Spaces
5. Recognition of Local History, Local Culture and Regional Context
6. Architectural Integrity
7. Protection or Sustainable Use of Natural Resources
8. Desirable Residential Options
9. Support of Commercial & Residential Districts

Economic Development



- Goal 1:** Support economic growth that generates tax revenue exceeding municipal costs to reduce the tax burden on residents and businesses and strengthen local job creation.
- Goal 2:** Improve the condition and appearance of commercial areas in Town to stimulate new investment and make them more attractive locations for consumers, visitors, and businesses. agencies.
- Goal 3:** Promote the Town of Esopus as a destination for outdoor recreation, agritourism, history, and the arts, while maintaining the community's existing character and quality of life desired by residents.
- Goal 4:** Encourage the preservation and diversification of agricultural activities, among other sectors



Goal 1: Support economic growth and business development to strengthen the tax base and meet community needs.

ED1: Compile an inventory of suitable sites for business development. Market available commercial and industrial property.

ED2: Continue to seek future grant funding for economic development projects through other grant sources. Work with the County to provide financial and technical assistance to qualified businesses.

ED3: Develop a campaign to educate local businesses about existing customer demands based on resident *feedback*. Encourage businesses to adapt their model and products to meet current demands.

ED4: Develop a plan to identify, target, and recruit prospective businesses that align well with what Esopus has to offer.

ED5: Streamline the planning process with compliance checklist, “pocket” zoning map, and preparing and marketing online a sector-specific “Guide to Business Opportunities and Development.”



Goal 1: Support economic growth and business development to strengthen the tax base and meet community needs.

ED6: Support redevelopment and reuse of vacant/underutilized sites and buildings.

ED7: Work with Ulster County, NYSDEC, and other stakeholders to assess potential environmental issues and identify the steps necessary to facilitate remediation and redevelopment, as appropriate.

ED8: Develop a coordinated Economic Development Strategy to identify opportunities for business attraction, retention, and expansion based on an assessment of local resources.

ED9: Consider and facilitate the establishment of a local development corporation to assist with and promote economic development with a focus on community revitalization.





Goal 2: Improve condition and appearance of commercial areas to stimulate new investment and make them more attractive locations for consumers, visitors and businesses.

ED10: Review commercial zoning ordinances to ensure they foster growth of targeted businesses and promote clustered development in compatible locations.

ED12: Evaluate period façade and architecture for hamlets. Undertake streetscape improvements and beautification efforts with the goal of a unifying appearance, particularly along the 9W corridor.

ED13: Consider offering grants and loans for equipment and structural improvements in order to help start and grow local businesses.

ED 14: Establish a sense of place with a more welcoming environment in the Port Ewen Business District.

ED 15: Encourage interconnection between adjacent lots in businesses areas and streets in adjoining developments to ensure adequate emergency vehicle access is maintained.



Goal 3: Promote the Town of Esopus as a destination for outdoor recreation, agritourism, history, and the arts, while maintaining the community's existing character and quality of life desired by residents.

ED16: Prepare a tourism plan which includes marketing and branding. Establish an entity that convenes regularly and considers priority areas for tourism and recreation.

ED17: Create an up-to-date user-friendly map of the Town to show locations of trails, launches, preserves, historic and cultural sites, and other features to be placed on the Town's website and in local businesses and visitor kiosks.

ED18: Foster partnerships between the Town and non-profit organizations, business associations, and volunteer groups to draw investment into the community.

ED19: Consider creating a business advocacy response team tasked with providing support to businesses interested in developing properties with the intent of simplifying the process.



Goal 3: Promote the Town of Esopus as a destination for outdoor recreation, agritourism, history, and the arts, while maintaining the community's existing character and quality of life desired by residents.

ED20: Strengthen annual events showcasing recreational resources, the arts, and/or the waterfront in the Town of Esopus.

ED21: Consider trail linkages to and from Port Ewen to connect users with shops and restaurants.

ED22: Encourage infill along secondary streets to Broadway and re-adaptation of buildings of historic character.

ED23: Ensure that up-to-date information on local attractions are included in print and on the Town and County websites.

ED24: Collaborate with neighboring towns on tourism activities and promotion where there is a likelihood of customer spillover.

ED25: Review and enhance wayfinding signage and landscaping on 9W at gateways into the Town and on other roads likely to experience significant use by visitors.





Goal 3: Promote the Town of Esopus as a destination for outdoor recreation, agritourism, history, and the arts, while maintaining the community's existing character and quality of life desired by residents.

ED26: Consider establishing a visitor center at the Town's key gateways along 9W and in parks and preserves that provide information about lodging, trails, and retail, recreation and dining opportunities in Esopus.

ED27: Undertake a review of signage in Town. Review local ordinances and develop design guidance. Remove duplicates and identify signs for replacement.

ED28: Consider asking the Klyne Esopus Museum to broaden their scope to develop a strategy for maintaining an inventory of historic and cultural resources and promoting landmarks and heritage tourist attractions.

ED29: Forge partnerships with local organizations to maximize opportunities to promote the Town.

ED30: Create museums/interpretive centers which focus on the Town.



Goal 4: Encourage the preservation and diversification of agricultural activities

ED31: Target the development of new, expansion of existing, or relocation of craft beverage businesses to the Town of Esopus.

ED32: Engage with existing micro-farms and farm stand businesses to learn about their operations, offer loans to improve their products and buildings.

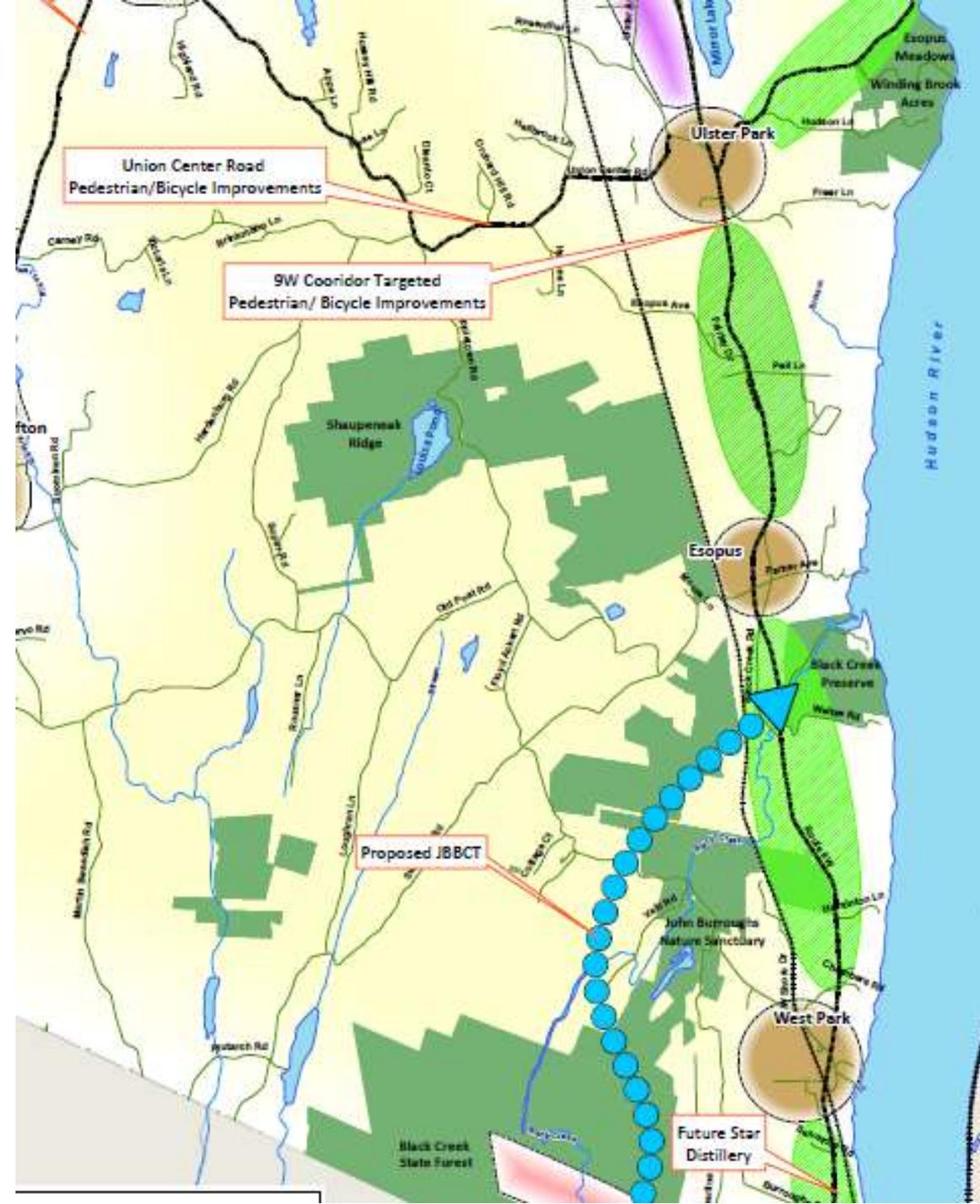
ED33: Evaluate and update Town land use regulations to define agritourism and ensure there are no unnecessary regulatory obstacles for activities.



Goal 4: Encourage the preservation and diversification of agricultural activities

ED34: Work with Cornell Cooperative Extension, Ulster County Planning, and other agencies to support agriculture and increase the economic viability of farms in the Town of Esopus.

ED35: Formally establish and market an Agritourism Corridor between West Park and Ulster Park that focuses the areas farms, wineries, and related attractions and integrate marketing with the corridors eco/recreational amenities.



Update from Star Vodka founder & CEO Charles Ferri



Insights about our Waterfront



- Waterfront is unmatched – 24 linear miles of waterfront, but underutilized for recreation and tourism and limited access.
- Overwhelming support for increased public waterfront access.
- Sleightsburgh Park provides the only motorized boat launch in Town.
- No swimming beach.
- No commercial uses along the waterfront except three marinas in Connelly.
- Need for additional in-water rescue boats south of Port Ewen.
- Sea level is expected to rise. Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan is in need of an update to account for climate change and in response to public sentiment.
- Connelly, Sleightsburgh and Port Ewen are the primary locations to reconnect with the waterfront for commercial, recreation and tourism opportunities.

Waterfront



Goal: Enhance the Town's waterfront as a recreation, education and commercial / entertainment destination for residents and visitors while balancing these improvements with the long-range protection of the Town's waterfront ecology and environment.

W1: Encourage compatible commercial, tourism, education/interpretive, and residential development in key waterfront locations with a focus on the Hamlets.



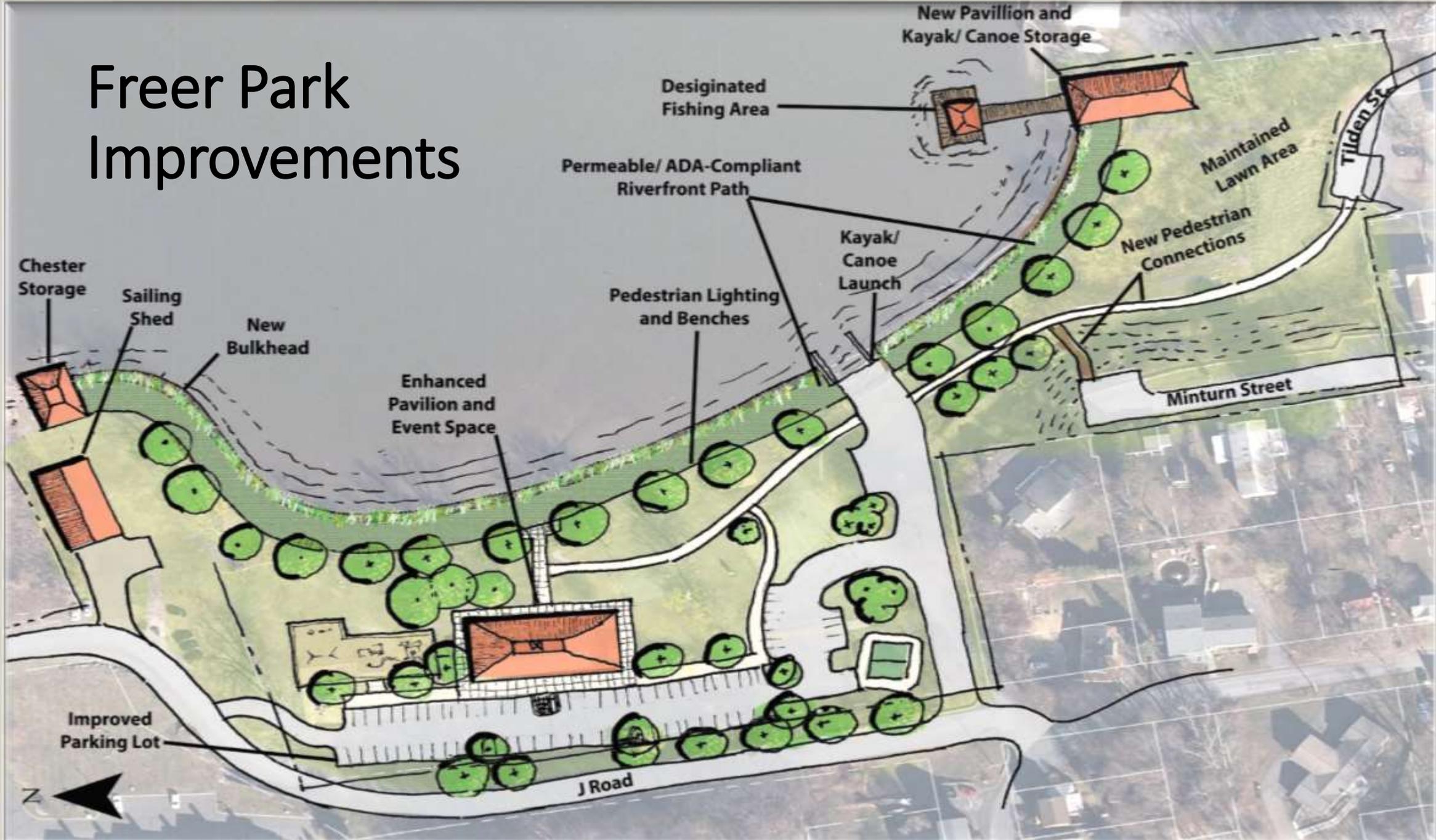
Waterfront



W3: Enhance Freer Park as the Town's primary destination for waterfront recreation.

- **W3a:** Construct a new bulkhead or consider alternative approaches to reduce erosion and the occurrences and severity of existing and future flooding, thereby creating a resilient and more adaptable shoreline. Improvements to Freer Park Beach could serve as a NYSDEC Sustainable Shorelines demonstration project.
- **W3b:** Construct a permeable/ADA compliant riverfront path with benches and pedestrian-scaled lighting (if adequate protection against flooding and sea-level rise can be accomplished by a new bulkhead or other means).
- **W3c:** Canoe/kayak storage and launch site.
- **W3d:** Designated Fishing area.
- **W3e:** Improved parking lot.
- **W3f:** New combined pavilion and enclosed event space.
- **W3g:** Improved pedestrian connections from Minturn and Tilden Streets.

Freer Park Improvements



Waterfront



W4: Improve Sleightsburgh Park to provide expanded boat launching opportunities

- **W4a:** Evaluate options for enlarging the parking area and/or altering the existing parking patterns to allow for increased use and safer parking while minimizing impacts on environmental resources.
- **W4b:** Upgrade and expand launching facilities.
- **W4c:** Identify feasible opportunities to improve the safety of vehicles entering and exiting the park including widening the access road.
- **W4d:** Evaluate the existing trail system to determine if the trails should be repaired/expanded in key areas to provide better access.



Waterfront



W5: Identify opportunities for new and improved public access to the Hudson River waterfront in the Hamlets and a car-top boat launch facility.

W6: Evaluate opportunities and implement options to create public access on the Rondout Creek in Sleightsburgh and Connelly.

W7: Encourage and facilitate repurposing of one or more marinas in Connelly and adjacent upland areas to incorporate waterside dining, entertainment opportunities, and residential uses in combination with a well-organized marina and launching facilities.

W8: Evaluate the feasibility of repurposing the Town's water treatment plant property into a new riverfront park if the Town decides to connect into Kingston water supply.

Waterfront



W9: Investigate the potential for providing public access to Sturgeon Pool via Central Hudson Gas and Electric lands.

W10: Improve the Town's Perrine's Bridge Park with proper signage and designated canoe and kayak launch facilities. Connect with the County's Perrine's Bridge area to the north.

W11: Ensure existing and future development along shorelines address anticipated rising water levels through a combination of proper planning and development practices, shoreline stabilization, education, and land use regulations.



Waterfront



W12: Prepare an update to the Town's 1987 Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan

W13: Work with local and regional emergency services departments to explore funding and designated access for one or more water rescue boats.

W14: The Town should remain committed to monitoring, controlling and when feasible, eradicating invasive species.



Parks & Recreation



Goal: Ensure adequate Town parks and recreational opportunities are available to residents and visitors throughout the Town and properly maintained.

PR1: Consider regular evaluations of all Town parks and recreational facilities to ensure proper maintenance and adequate amenities meeting current and future needs.

PR2: Encourage siting compatible facilities and uses within Town parks to complement existing features.

PR3: Identify and support opportunities to integrate improvements in Town parks, with existing tourism and educational resources.

PR4: Continue to maintain all Town parks and facilities to ensure any revitalization or improvements are maintained in the highest and best manner possible.

Parks & Recreation



PR5: Seek to make connections from Port Ewen to the Empire State Trail in the City of Kingston and construct new pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to ensure safe and efficient connections.

PR6: Collaborate with the NYSDEC, Scenic Hudson, and the John Burroughs Association to connect existing contiguous and nearby park/preserve lands.

PR7: Examine the potential demand and feasibility of creating a new Town multipurpose recreational facility that meets the needs of residents and local athletes as well as athletes and teams from outside of Esopus.

PR8: Consider the feasibility of constructing a Town pool facility, or partner with private establishments for access.

PR9: Consider a community park in Rifton.

Parks & Recreation

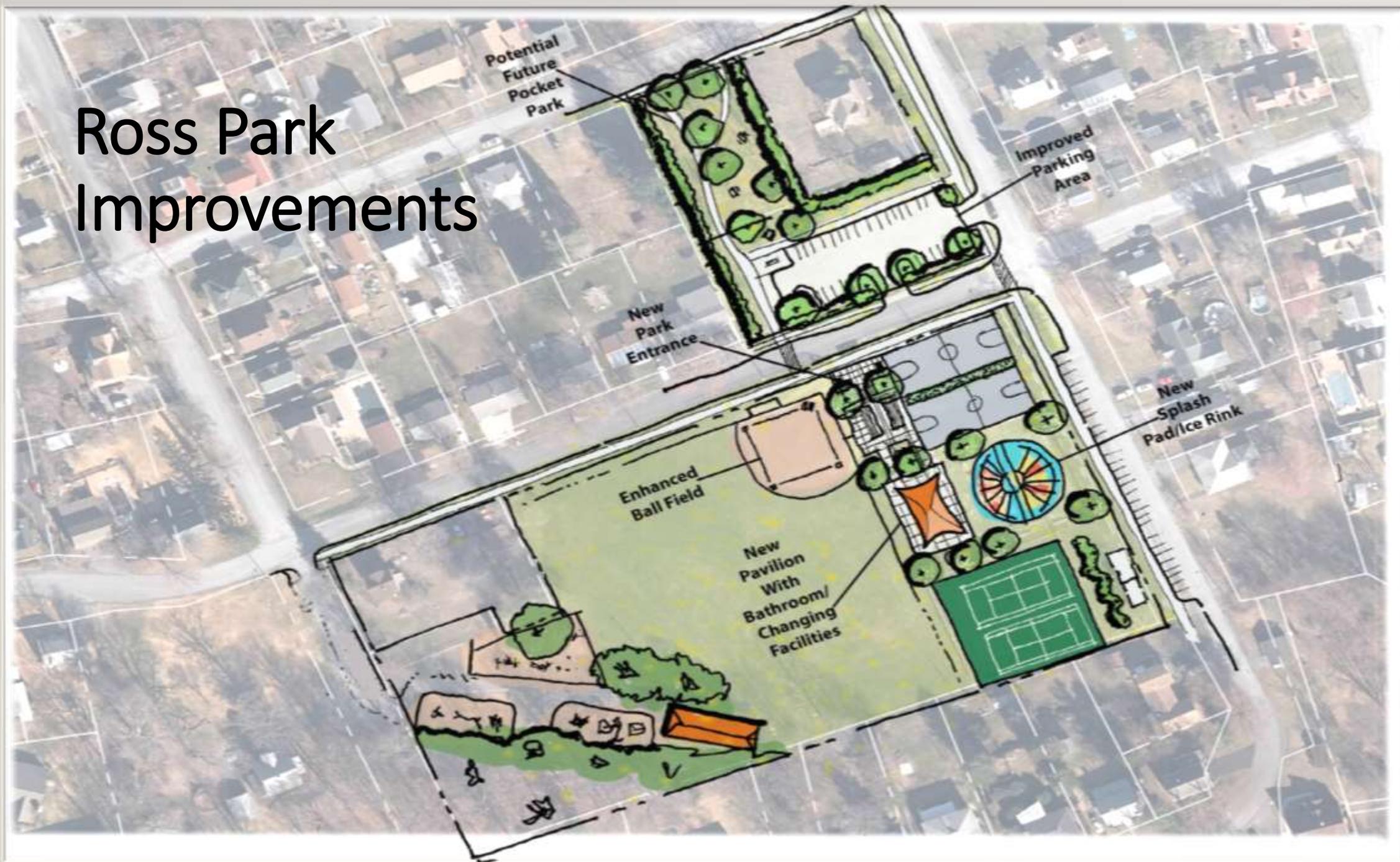


PR10: Ross Park Improvements: Properly plan for and enhance Ross Park.

- **PR10a:** Construct an additional pavilion based upon the high usage rate of existing pavilion.
- **PR10b:** Build a Splash-Pad area that could be converted into an ice rink in the winter.
- **PR10c:** Improve aesthetics in the park through planned landscaping.
- **PR10d:** Consider developing a future pocket park off of Bayard Street.
- **PR10e:** Improve the parking lot area on the corner of W. Stout & Browne.
- **PR10f:** Improve basketball, baseball, and tennis court facilities.
- **PR10g:** Add parking lines for the parking area on W. Stout Street.



Ross Park Improvements



Parks & Recreation



PR11: Cas Landi Park Improvements: Enhance Cas Landi Park with the following improvements:

- **PR11a:** Create an accessible walking trail or track.
- **PR11b:** Add permanent bathroom facilities.
- **PR11c:** Repair deficiencies and revitalize tennis and basketball courts as needed.
- **PR11d:** Create a long-term maintenance and management plan.

PR12: Enhance Joseph H. Clark Recreational Park with the following improvements:

- **PR12a:** Add restroom facilities.
- **PR12b:** Extend chain-link fence along the entirety of Park Lane.
- **PR12c:** Create a long-term maintenance and management plan.

Parks & Recreation



PR13: Enhance James Rieker Park with the following improvements:

- **PR13a:** Relocate basketball court to a more visible location and provide additional hoops.
- **PR13b:** Provide an improved playground surface.
- **PR13c:** Create a long-term maintenance and management plan.

PR14: Enhance Perrine's Bridge Park with the following improvements

- **PR14a:** Identify and implement safe pedestrian connections between the parking lot and the park.
- **PR14b:** Evaluate opportunities to connect the Town's park to the County's covered bridge to the north.
- **PR14c:** Establish a temporary/movable car top launch in the park for access to the Wallkill River.
- **PR14d:** Create a long-term maintenance and management plan.

Housing



Goal 1: Encourage and facilitate housing options that meet the needs of current and future residents and all income levels.

H1: Support housing which meets the needs of persons of all incomes, ages, and needs where appropriate.

H2: Continue to focus future dense residential growth within hamlets, with existing water and sewer.

H3: Evaluate land use regulations to ensure needed and appropriate housing is not inadvertently prohibited or difficult to obtain approvals for.

H4: Encourage additional senior housing in order to free up existing larger housing.

H5: Continue to allow and encourage accessory dwellings and ensure that community character is preserved and adverse impacts are avoided.

Housing



Goal 2: Enhance and protect the character, aesthetics and safety of neighborhoods and hamlet centers.

H7: Pursue applicable funding opportunities for housing improvement and rehabilitation.

H8: Conduct targeted income surveys to support efforts of securing grants for housing improvements and revitalization projects.

H9: Continue to enforce existing property maintenance regulations and consider preparing and adopting a property maintenance law with a processes to remedy violations.

H10: Consider outreach efforts about property maintenance through annual Town mailings to encourage increased maintenance and enhancements to community character.

H11: Evaluate Town cost of an annual cleanup day allowing residents to dispose of junk and other debris.

Housing



H12: Conduct an inventory of neighborhoods with dilapidated structures and maintenance issues.

H13: Consider adopting a rental registry that would allow for more efficient process to contact landlords and address violations.

H14: Support and encourage the development of neighborhood groups that promote maintenance, and safety.

H15: Connect residents in need to volunteer programs that help obtain housing, and make home repairs.

H16: Evaluate options for short-term rentals while ensuring neighborhood impacts are avoided and emergency services are aware of which structures are rentals and the occupancy status.

H17: The Town should evaluate regulatory options for allowing smaller-sized homes in an effort to increase access to housing.

Pedestrian & Traffic Safety



Goal: Provide an efficient, safe and connective transportation system that takes into account not only automobiles but also pedestrians and bicyclists of all ages and abilities, which is coordinated with existing and future growth needs. This system should also be economical and responsive to existing adjacent land uses.

PS1: Conduct a pedestrian and bicycle complete streets analysis to identify and prioritize feasible pedestrian and bicycle improvements in order for efficient.

PS2: Coordinate with NYSDOT to evaluate the feasibility of enhancing shoulders on Rt. 213 for safer bicycle use and designating the route as a State Bike Route.

PS3: Explore with NYSDOT, Kingston Land Trust and Scenic Hudson the possibility of a designated walking trail across the Wurts Street Bridge to connect Port Ewen and Sleightsburgh and Freer Parks.

PS4: Consider shifting the responsibility for sidewalk maintenance to the Town.

Pedestrian & Traffic Safety



PS5: Prepare a sidewalk expansion and maintenance plan – seek to expand the quality and continuity of the pedestrian network and seek to integrate the burial of utility lines.

PS6: Encourage placement of bicycle racks at key locations, including in front of local businesses and public facilities.

PS7: Encourage NYSDOT to plan for and install sidewalks and a separated bicycle lane along the 9W arterial to Kingston.

PS8: Encourage NYSDOT to plan for and create a formal Bike Route on 9W that would link to the Hudson Valley Rail Trail and Walkway Over the Hudson.

PS9: Consider constructing pedestrian links to Freer Park from Minturn and Tilden Streets.

PS10: Coordinate with DOT to seek lower speeds on 9W & 213.

Pedestrian & Traffic Safety



PS11: Coordinate with the Sheriff and NYS Police to identify and confirm areas of concern for pedestrian/bicycle safety and for updates on incidents of drug overdose, speeding accidents, especially those involving pedestrians/bicyclists.

PS12: Prepare and adopt a “complete streets” policy for new projects requiring new development plans for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit as well as private vehicles.

PS13: Work closely with NYSDOT and regional planning organizations to ensure the Town plays a role in regional planning and transportation decisions.

PS14: Encourage the Planning Board to recommend/require new developments including pedestrian/bike connections to surrounding destinations.

Pedestrian & Traffic Safety



PS15: Request NYSDOT evaluate the intersection of 9W, North Broadway, and Old 9W, with a specific request to increase the length of the southbound right/left-hand turn lanes.

PS16: Encourage Ulster County to evaluate options for increased access to public transportation throughout the Town, with a focus on 9W.



Services & Infrastructure



Goal: Provide, continually enhance and properly maintain high quality efficient and cost-effective community facilities, infrastructure, and services that support a healthy and safe community and the quality of life expected by residents and business owners.

CS1: Prepare and implement a facilities management plan that establishes long term capital maintenance needs for all Town buildings and facilities.

CS2: Prepare and implement a long-term water and sewer infrastructure maintenance and replacement plan, including the consideration of costs and funding opportunities.

CS3: Evaluate feasibility of connecting into the City of Kingston water system.

CS4: Evaluate and determine the need for and feasibility of future sewer and water district expansions for existing development and future developments particularly in areas with challenging natural conditions inhibiting adequate sewage disposal.

Services & Infrastructure



CS5: Continue to support the Road-Stream Crossing Inventory Study that is being undertaken to improve water quality, reduce flood risks, and reconnect habitat for migratory and resident fish in the Hudson River Estuary and pursue implementation.

CS6: Continue the Town's MS4 Program and conduct regular internal reviews.

CS7: Inventory and map all roads and signage using GIS mapping technology and coordinate the repaving of roads in concert with the replacement of infrastructure.

CS8: Advocate for repaving the entire US Rt. 9W corridor through Port Ewen, the undergrounding of all utility lines, and the enhancement of crosswalks including converting them to low maintenance paint at that time.

Services & Infrastructure



CS9: Review the current sidewalk maintenance law and evaluate the feasibility of taking over the responsibility for repairing, replacing, and shoveling/plowing of all sidewalks.

CS10: Coordinate with, and support Fire Departments and TEVAS in respect to recruitment, shared services options, repair and replacement, and grant funding.

CS11: The Town will continue coordination with the U.S. Postal Service to find a permanent home for a new Post Office in Port Ewen.

CS12: Advocate for and provide information on how to request curbside mail delivery.

CS13: Explore opportunities for shared services with nearby communities where feasible and beneficial for all involved.



Future Land Use

Goal: Maintain a well-balanced land use pattern and associated regulations and policies that use land efficiently, support urban and rural environments, encourage active living and sustain the Town's residential neighborhoods, business community, and the environment while meeting the current and future needs of citizens.

LU1: Promote compatible medium to high density development in established hamlet areas served by municipal utilities, and encourage reuse of vacant lands and infill development.

LU2: Evaluate applicable regulations of the Waterfront (W), Waterfront Recreation (WR), and Residential (R40) Zoning Districts in Port Ewen and Connelly to determine if changes are necessary to facilitate additional tourism and commercial development.

LU3: Evaluate setback requirements in the Neighborhood Commercial (NC), Broadway Commercial (BC), and General Commercial (GC) Zoning Districts, ensuring conformity.

Future Land Use



LU4: Consider instituting maximum set-backs or build-to lines, as well as lot coverages in key commercial and mixed-use areas.

LU5: Evaluate lot coverages in hamlets with sewer/water, ensuring consistency with community character - efficiently using lands and maximizing developable area.

LU6: Consider the expansion of the BC in Port Ewen north of Horton St. or the like to replace the current GC Zone to extend hamlet-scale development, closer to the Rondout Creek, prohibit suburban-style development.

LU7: Ensure parking requirements are appropriate and do not overburden businesses trying to locate in the community. Consider waiving parking requirements if adequate on-street or other public parking is available in the Hamlets.

LU8: Promote the reuse of vacant/underutilized property as space for startup/ part time business offices, located in the Hamlets where parking and infrastructure is available.



Future Land Use

LU9: Continue to promote compatible light/heavy industrial, manufacturing, and research and development in existing Heavy Industrial and Light Industrial Districts.

LU10: Adopt a property maintenance law inclusive of requirements for lawn maintenance (§96) and prohibition on storing or depositing junk and related debris (§85). Regulations shall include a clear processes for the Town to remedy violations.

LU11: Consider modifying §113, Vehicles, Abandoned; to require adequate screening of vehicles from adjacent private properties and/or public rights-of-way

LU12: Evaluate options for and establish a standalone noise ordinance, including achievable means of enforcement to ensure the continued health, safety, and welfare of Town residents.

Future Land Use



LU13: Evaluate existing regulations for protecting the Town’s scenic resources to determine if new or enhanced protections are necessary.

LU14: Consider the development of architectural and site design guidelines/standards to establish a consistent “look and feel” in hamlets and major highway corridors.

LU15: Evaluate opportunities for, and institute solutions to, protect against incompatible development within the Town’s many gateways, particularly the northern gateway into Port Ewen.

LU16: The Town should assess staffing needs relating to code enforcement duties and determine if current staffing levels are appropriate.





Future Land Use

LU17: Consider policies to require future pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure to connect with adjacent and nearby infrastructure at approval when and where feasible.

LU18: In an effort to discourage unnecessary curb-cuts along major corridors, the Town should consider cross access and cross parking easements between properties.

LU19: Public and private parking lots should be laid out with both pedestrian and vehicular circulation in mind and be inclusive of sidewalks and crosswalks.

LU20: In the absence of comprehensive sign regulations, the Town should prepare a standalone law to protect local character and facilitate consistent themes of signage.

LU21: Billboards should continue to be prohibited and the definition of “Billboard” should to be revised.

Future Land Use



LU22: Evaluate benefits of establishing Purchase of Developments Rights or Transfer of Development Rights programs, to be used to increase density and development in appropriate areas while preserving environmental and ecological areas.

LU23: Evaluate regulations to ensure they are not prohibitive for desired housing types and density necessary to meet the needs of current and future residents.

LU24: Consider establishing a constitutionally sound definition of “Family” and address residential care facilities in the zoning law update.

LU25: Maintain allowances for accessory dwellings, while considering increased protections for community character.

Future Land Use



LU26: Consider preparing and adopting land use regulations related to both small and utility-scaled solar and wind energy collection systems.

LU27: The regulation of additional renewable forms of energy production should be considered, including, but not limited to, geothermal, biomass, and small-scale hydro.

LU28: Land use regulations related to renewable energy should be reviewed periodically to keep pace with advances in technology.

LU29: Examine existing land use regulations to ensure compatible commercial and tourism-related businesses are not prohibited or restricted, especially in the southern portion of Town and areas and along US Route 9W.

Future Land Use



LU30: Conduct a full review of land use regulations in the Code should be conducted to ensure there are no conflicting regulations and full compliance with NYS GML and Town Law.

LU31: The 9W Overlay District should be evaluated to ensure clarity and consistency with current development goals.

LU32: The Town should consider instituting a bi-monthly status meeting between the Planning and Zoning Board Chairs/Vice-Chairs and the Town Supervisor to review current case load, identify issues that need to be addressed, and opportunities to increase efficiency and performance of each Board.

LU33: Revise the current pre-existing, non-conforming requirements to ensure this regulation is not inadvertently prohibiting the reuse of property.

Future Land Use



LU34: Consider streamlining the project approval process where appropriate and through various options, including, but not limited to establishing a pre-approved project compliance checklist and developing a corresponding “pocket” zoning map.

LU35: Encourage the placement of vehicle charging stations at key locations.

LU36: Engage in discussions with the owners of the Dyno Nobel property to clarify future land use restrictions on and near the site due to existing contamination.





Next steps

Ulster County

- **Ulster County Review**
- Await County Planning Board Comments of adequacy of the Draft Plan and consistent with County development goals as required by State law.
- If appropriate, changes will be made reflecting County comments.

Public Hearing & Comment Period

- **Today's Public Hearing and 30-Day Comment Period**
- Hearing to gauge community feedback and solicit comments on the adequacy of the Plan.
- Residents/Stakeholders have until March 8th to comment on the Draft Plan.
- CPC will revise the Draft Plan and forward to the Town Board.

Town Board Hearing & Adoption

- **April 23 Town Board Public Hearing**
- Town Board will review Plan and changes made since the CPC Public.
- The Town Board will conduct their own Public Hearing and determine if additional changes are necessary.
- Will consider adoption of the Plan.



Organizing for Action

Shannon Harris
Supervisor

Volunteers needed!



Group	Dates
Economic Development Committee → Tourism & Beautification Taskforce → Business Development Taskforce	4 th Tuesday, Time 5:30 / 6:30
Environmental Board → Climate Smart Taskforce \$5k+ NYSERDA solar award → Stormwater Taskforce \$45k budgeted capital improvement	3 rd Wednesday, 7 PM
Parks & Recreation Board	3 rd Monday, 7 PM
Water and Sewer Board → BAS and Storage Tank development project \$2.37m grant → Drinking Water Infrastructure Improvement project	2 nd Tuesday, 7:30 PM
Waterfront Advisory Board → LWRP Update project \$75k grant → Hudson River Access/Scenic Hudson project \$50k grant	4 th Wednesday, Time 7 PM
Zoning Board of Appeals	3 rd Tuesday, 7 PM
American Legion Post 1298	1 st Monday, 7 PM

Key meetings



1. **Waterfront Advisory Board** – The WAB will meet prior to Future of Esopus meeting on March 6 at 5 PM at Esopus Town Hall to kick off the DEC / Esopus / Scenic Hudson River Access and Connections project.
2. **NYSDEC Hercules/Dyno Nobel Contamination Meeting** – Public meeting and comment period for State Superfund Site Monday, March 11 at 7 PM Esopus Town Hall. Estimated cost to implement remedy \$10,287,000.
3. **HV Clean Water Success Forum** – Scenic Hudson in collaboration with Riverkeeper will be convening a municipal leaders forum here at Esopus Town Hall on Thursday, March 14 from 2 – 4 pm.
4. **Old Rondout Creek (Wurts Street) Bridge Meeting** – Public stakeholder meeting for bridge rehabilitation project by NYSDOT Friday, March 15 at 10 AM Esopus Town Hall.
5. **UCRRA recycling meeting** – Saturday, March 16 from 9-11 AM at the 999 Flatbush Road address. Continental breakfast provided. Need to RSVP
6. **Environmental Board** – On Wednesday, March 20 at 5:30 PM we will kick off the Stormwater Drainage Taskforce scope of work followed by the Climate Smart Taskforce meeting that same night at 7 PM.



Q&A

Comment / Discussion Period