

## **Draft Visioning Statement for the Town of Washington**

We envision that the Town of Washington will remain a rural community with great scenic beauty, a healthy natural environment, and a high quality of life for its inhabitants. Large tracts of protected land, working farms, and carefully managed development will lead to a beautiful landscape that will maintain its historical character while protecting habitat for plants and animals and sustaining economically valuable natural resources such as clean water and timber. Vibrant and diverse local businesses will provide products, services, and jobs for residents, and support the tax base. Carefully managed development will be designed to stabilize taxes, provide a healthy diversity of housing and preserve the look and feel of the community.

Buildings and institutions dating from the Town's early days will provide links to the region's rich past, and new development will be designed to respect the Town's visual and architectural character. Residents will be able to participate in a variety of cultural, educational, and recreational activities in the Town and Village. We will have a strong and cooperative relationship with the Village of Millbrook, which is active, economically healthy and vibrant, serving as the business, commercial and housing center for the surrounding rural town.