

**Town of Washington Visioning Workshop
November 13 2009, 7:00 PM**

Introductions by Tom Beaumont, Co-Chair, Comprehensive Planning Committee

- Introduced Comprehensive Plan Committee and Subcommittee Members
- Provided history of the planning process to date
- Each subcommittee took a section of community profile
- Survey was sent to every resident and was available at local businesses and sent to out of Town property owners
- Described the difference between a comprehensive plan and a zoning ordinance
- Announced that the next visioning workshop will be Friday Nov 13th
- There will be at least 3 public hearings on Draft Comp Plan

Agenda:

- Is everyone here? By a show of hands, there were a lot of participants from the Village. The Town and Village are influenced by each other – but the Town’s plan will focus on actions within the Town’s control, respecting the Village’s responsibility to plan for itself as a separate municipality
- Who are we missing? How do we reach them?
- Why a comprehensive plan? To establish a vision, protect resources, articulate local priorities and coordinate existing plans, encourage planned growth and ensure zoning is consistent.
- Steps in the Process- Met with working groups and focus groups, developed community profile, conducted community survey and community outreach, facilitated visioning workshop. Will draft vision statement, facilitate action plan workshop, draft and revise Town plan, SEQR and adoption
- Community Profile-describes land use, housing, community services, demographics, local economy, historic preservation and community character, transportation, infrastructure, Environmental Resources
- Survey Results. (The majority of participants at the Visioning Workshop completed the survey)
 - Available on Town website
 - Hard copies available at Town Hall and the Library
- Described what visioning is: forward looking, describes your preferred future, and focuses on what is unique about the Town of Washington?

What Do You Love About Washington?

- Smell beef cow manure and dairy cow manure
- It’s the country – not a suburb
- Smell of new mown hay and silage
- Deep country only 1½ hour from city
- Not suburban – no strip malls
- Horses everywhere
- Frogs
- Lands preserved by Land Conservancy

- Wild turkey
- Innisfree
- Protect East Wappinger Creek
- Green space
- Cary Institute
- Existence of Village helps Town stop strip development
- Preserving more historical buildings especially barns
- No traffic or congestion
- Organic food supply
- There are wildlife corridors and (we need to) preserve them
- Extensive forests
- Coyotes and bears
- Old fashioned country flavor – Town has remained traditional environment
- Clear difference between Town and Village (density) – 2 distinct characters
- Incredible eggs
- Locally owned businesses
- Land for the Millbrook Hunt
- Recognize 2/3 of faces at a community workshop – strong sense of community
- Great place to raise children
- Preserving the beauty of land
- Rural character
- Natural resources
- Wetlands, scenic view, habitat
- Huge difference between Southern Dutchess County and the Town of Washington – need to protect this (seeing kind of development that has occurred there)
- A unique place
- Coming from Poughkeepsie into Washington – what a difference
- Son's lead level dropped once moved to Washington from City – air cleaner
- Restoration of monument
- Walkability of Village
- The opportunity to volunteer
- Not a franchised community – no corporate stores (locally owned stores)
- Can drink the water
- Gardens – vegetable
- Watching tractors and activity of farms
- Big rolls of hay
- Salamanders, bees and bats
- Seasons - changes of seasons
- Stone walls
- Private land owners opening land (interconnected properties) to each other for trail uses
- Spring peepers and frog songs
- Farmers
- Beautiful dirt roads
- At night can see the stars (not a lot of electric lights)
- Great place to bike

- Low traffic-safe to bike
- Not a lot of state operated buildings and facilities
- Surrounded by lots of other great places
- Fields and Black Angus cattle
- Library
- Cornell cooperative extension
- Rolling hills
- Weathersfield
- Cary Institute
- Views of the Catskills
- At night – dark and black – very little light
- Proximity to Hudson / proximity to colleges
- All the horse events – Fitch’s Corners, Millbrook Trials
- Hunters pace – 12 miles of uninterrupted riding with children
- Sunday beageling
- Appreciative of volunteer fire department
- Quiet
- Churches
- Privacy
- Lots of good places to hunt
- Lots of good places to eat
- Respect

What Would You Like To Change?

- Big trucks that have to go up 82 to go through the Village
- Overhead wiring (underground utilities)
- Community garden
- Something to lower the deer population
- Control of noxious plants / trees
- Need to get into schools without busing them - So they can walk/bike to
- Greater cooperation between education and government– take advantage of world class scientists who work in the Town
- More life after 5pm
- People driving too quickly – impact on wildlife
- Movie house
- Improving the roads that are paved (like Nine Partners Road)
- Greater planning by Town and Village to address workforce housing
- More business diversity in Village (different mix of uses) – like Rhinebeck – more active – cater to broader range of incomes
- Bring back general store
- Make sure the comprehensive plan is enforced by local government
- More respect for historic preservation – strengthen committees (different systems of architectural review)
- Renovation of Thorne Building (maybe art center), see some of the wealth in community transferred to centers

- Demolition of Bennett College
- Work with Pleasant Valley to control the growth at the gateway to Town of Washington (western gateway)
- Control Sprawl (once started has a rapid pace) – controlling the pace of development if it can be controlled
- Give up some conveniences in order to preserve character– balance is critical
- Redundancy in the Village – renovate old buildings – don't build something new
- Encourage good growth (like Rhinebeck) promote healthy growth – promoting assets
- Progressive, professionally trained, and environmentally enlightened PB members who enforce the zoning laws." A lack of enforcement is a pervasive problem in Washington. Less development oriented – enforcement of aesthetic character – design standards that help new development blend with character of community; community conservation on planning boards
- Water conservation resources – impact that density would have on water supplies – problems especially during the dry years
- Strong support for water conservation
- Severe problem with sewage treatment plant – Village water and sewer – system is very old – cooperation between Town and Village – Town is subject to Village decisions – new development will have greater impacts on systems
- Approach Stewart's to change their appearance/design of store
- Revisit renaming of 82 and 44a – route names confusing
- More walking paths
- More progressive and enlightened planning board members
- Protect all water supplies and aquifers
- Elanthus trees – taking over

When Things Have Changed ?

- 1950 Norman Rockwell
- Younger people
- More inclusive (local politics) government
- Stay the same
- Vibrant working landscape
- Open government - dialogue
- Place to buy underwear
- Vibrant Village
- Destination
- More high tech jobs paying more money
- More summer activities
- Community skating rink
- Winter activities to bring people downTown
- Community meetings on Saturdays
- Weekenders founded community
- Second homeowners – not represented in government
- Manure

- Clean-fresh air
- Quiet
- Birds
- Working landscape – tractors harvesting, seeding plowing
- Horses galloping
- Smells of dairy farms
- Smell of compost
- Exactly the same
- Preserve the trees
- More artists
- Very few sex offenders – keep it that way
- Safe community and crime rate low – remain this way for the future
- Ability to leave house unlocked because it’s a safe place
- Do not want it to become like places in Connecticut – (don’t be too cute/precious/don’t be dull)
- More inclusive of immigrant community (more diversity and more acceptance)
- Control taxes
- There are large land holdings in the Town (risk of losing these parcels as large land areas) – pressure to develop this land
- Still wants to volunteer and more opportunities – there is a lot of need for volunteers
- Survey respondents represent 1/3 of the community – need to make sure we do other outreach to get better representation from the overall community
- Strong leadership to bring people together; high quality; respecting diversity of community; broad base of needs reflected – critical for leadership to be high quality and open to all people in the community
- Will these view be considered in final plan and zoning – continue to be involved
- Non respondents might be perfectly happy with things the way they are
- Need open planning process – everything announced
- Suggest visioning session at high school
- Stan Morse (Village Board) read letter into record
- Cost analysis of implementing versus not implementing the comprehensive plan

Next Steps:

- Stay Involved! Provide your email address on the sign-in sheet to receive notices of upcoming meetings
- Planning documents available on the web site
- Action Planning Workshop will be held in the Spring (On a Saturday)