



GOAL DEVELOPMENT
SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

On the evening of October 23, 2008, the Department of Economic Development (DEDP) and Planning in association with the Citizens Advisory Committee on Conservation (CACC) hosted a public meeting for the Open Space Plan. At the May 2008 public orientation meeting, residents identified Recreation and Pathways, Natural Systems, and Agriculture and Farming as topic areas to be addressed in the Plan. This meeting presented an overview of the existing conditions of these topics, and provided an opportunity for community discussion and development of the Plan’s goals for these topics.

The DEDP and CACC received excellent feedback from the sixty attendees at this meeting. Attendees were randomly separated into three groups. The facilitators (Behan Planning Associates, American Farmland Trust, and DEDP) represented each of the three topics and rotated amongst the three groups to discuss potential goals. The facilitators recorded the comments and prepared a summary of the goals based on attendee feedback.

Natural Systems

Facilitators: Jeff Lipnicky and Melissa Barry

- Water resource protection
- Stormwater Management
- “Urban Forests” Trees, small, micro-scale
- Connected open space
- Respect what we have before taking on more
- “Green” development

Agriculture and Farmland

Facilitators: John Behan and Laurie Ten Eyck

- Allow hobby farms in residential zones
- Community Farm in Town
 - Network of Community Farms
- Town help CSA’s get started
 - Combine conservation subdivision with CSA
- Educate community on agriculture
- Create way for people to buy locally grown food
- Farm – School Program
 - Kids gets local food & educate them about agriculture and local farms
- Maintain ratio between farmland and development (develop here – preserve there)
- Enforce no trespassing laws
- Lower taxes on agriculture land
- Have a Town Agriculture coordinator
 - Farmer education
 - Grant writing



Recreation and Pathways

Facilitators: Mike Morelli and Rob Leslie

- Develop a viable – priority network (safe) for non-vehicular traffic that facilitates access to parks, services, and daily activities
- Education for all users (bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists) on “rules of the road”
- Define pathways and subcategories (e.g. sidewalks, trails, multi-use paths, bicycle lanes, shared roadways)
- Provide pathways consistent with their surroundings and compatible with adjacent landowners
- Mitigate impacts of pathways and trails on adjacent property owners
- Provide non-vehicular access to the Hudson River
- Connect neighborhoods to Town parks