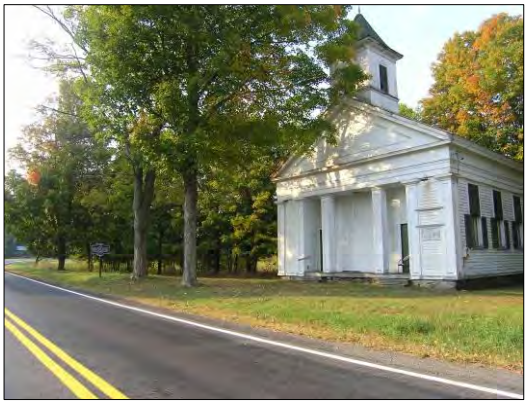
Town of Taghkanic
Comprehensive Plan



Prepared for:
Taghkanic Town Board
September 3, 2009

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This document was partially funded by the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council Grant Program.

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I. Introduction

Like many rural communities in the Hudson River Valley, the Town of Taghkanic is at a crossroads. Taghkanic's assets, including tremendous natural beauty and rural character, face threats from regional trends and growing residential development pressures. Similar to many of their neighbors in surrounding towns, the residents of Taghkanic recognize and seek solutions to some of the most important concerns: retaining the farmland and pastoral landscapes, and protecting important natural resources. To define a vision for the future, this historic community in southern Columbia County is updating its comprehensive plan, first written in 1971. The updated plan represents a multi-year, community-wide effort to identify and address critical issues and opportunities facing the Town – now and in the future.

Regional Context

The Town of Taghkanic is situated between the Hudson River and the Massachusetts border. Located about 110 miles north of New York City and 50 miles south of Albany, the town is about 40 square miles and is surrounded by Claverack and Hillsdale to the north, Copake to the east, Ancram and Gallatin to the south, and Livingston to the west. The town's location among the High Taconics, as the hills are called, marks Taghkanic as an upland town. Taghkanic is the least populated municipality in Columbia County, both in terms of total residents and people per square mile. Major transportation routes include the Taconic State Parkway, which runs north-south, and New York State Route 82, which runs east-west.

The landscape of Taghkanic is dominated by rolling forested hills, interspersed with farm fields and wetland areas, which provide a wide range of habitats. The vistas include the Berkshires to the east, and the higher Catskill Mountains to the west. Within the Town's boundary is a 612-acre New Forge State Forest and part of Lake Taghkanic State Park, although the lake itself is located just south of the Town line. The Lake Taghkanic State Park is also home to some upland forest areas classified as a Significant Natural Community by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Natural Heritage Program. In addition to terrestrial habitats, there is a significant network of surface and groundwater resources in Taghkanic. One of the most important water features within the Town is Taghkanic Creek. In addition to providing a scenic resource with almost a quarter-mile of waterfalls, the creek plays an important role as a local and regional supply of water.

Historic Context

Origin of the Town

Human history in the Town of Taghkanic can be traced back to the Native Americans. In the Mohican language, the name "Taghkanic" means "water enough", a reference to the abundance of water found in the area. Given the lack of evidence of permanent Native American villages or settlements, the

Native American population appears to have used the area as a fishing and hunting preserve. The Town began to be settled in the mid- eighteenth century, which was later than other areas because of its inaccessible location far from the earliest European communities and a navigable river.

The Town was originally a part of the Livingston Manor, a large tract of land awarded Robert R. Livingston by the King of England in 1686. It included much of southern Columbia and northern Dutchess counties and was developed by Livingston to require settlers to be leaseholders in the manner of a European feudal estate.

The earliest emergence of what would become Taghkanic occurred in 1803, when the Town of Granger separated modern Copake and Taghkanic from the Town (but not the Manor) of Livingston. By 1814, the name was changed to Taghkanic, and in 1824 the Town split along its current border between Copake and Taghkanic, creating the municipality that exists today.

Although the Town was officially incorporated, the tenant residents were still beholden to the Lord of Livingston Manor. Throughout the 1830s and '40s, local and state officials were pressured to nullify the manorial lord's titles. The “Rent Wars" movement resulted in the revision of the state constitution in 1845. This ultimately dismantled the rent system and granted residents legitimate title to the land. (They did have to buy it, but at least it was now legally possible.)

The present architecture reflects this history. Very few homes are in the colonial style or date from Livingston ownership. Most of the early homes that remain are of typical mid-nineteenth century farmhouse style found throughout New York State and were built after farmers owned their land.

The one small industry for which Taghkanic is still known today is basketry. It was developed in the early 1900s as a winter occupation. This distinct style of basket was valued for its functionality and for the austere beauty of its craftsmanship. It was the most durable basket made because of its unique design, and because of its construction of hard wood. Taghkanic Baskets are sought by many collectors of American folk art.

The most important road was the Salisbury Turnpike. It was built to bring high-grade iron ore from Salisbury, Connecticut and iron from the Ancram ironworks through Taghkanic on its way to Hudson. This became a primary connecting road and supported Fite Miller's Tavern at Miller's Corners which became West Taghkanic. When the railroads were built, Taghkanic relied on the several stations located outside of Town in Copake, Craryville, Ancram and Hudson. None were built in Taghkanic. The 1954 arrival of the Taconic Parkway had a significant effect on the subsequent development of Taghkanic.

The population of Taghkanic had its greatest growth between 1810 and 1820 when it reached about 1,800 people. Then Taghkanic began to decline in population, and became the first town in the county to experience this loss. By 1900 there were only 894 residents and in 1950, only 575 residents. By the 1960s the population began to rebound. This increase was the consequence of several factors, including improved roads (the 6 hour trip from New York City was shortened to 2 hours), rapidly increasing general population, the relative cheapness of land and homes relative to other vacation destinations, and the allure of Taghkanic's rural character.

Taghkanic Today

Today the economy is no longer dependent on farming or manufacturing. The mills, hotels, and many other activities of the hamlet are gone. One church remains, but many community institutions, such as schools and churches, have been consolidated and are located outside the town's boundaries. What was once the hamlet of West Taghkanic is now centered on Route 82, a state highway. Route 82 continues to have a small commercial area which is geared to the needs of travelers. It is also the location of the Town Hall and the fire department. Taghkanic today is made up of scattered homes in a rural setting. With no defined town center, and few opportunities for employment, most residents work outside the community.

While population numbers appear to remain steady at around 1,118 residents, the number of part-time and weekend residents is not reflected in the census figures; therefore the population is actually higher. Demand in Taghkanic for land and homes persists, and pressures to build and develop land continues to intensify.

Taghkanic in the Future

By recognizing the changes Taghkanic has undergone throughout its history, as well as the current issues facing the town, the Comprehensive Plan has a firm foundation on which the residents may seek to define the role of the community in the future. With this understanding, the Comprehensive Plan provides an opportunity to preserve and enhance those aspects of the community that residents have come to treasure, while plotting a course which addresses current and future trends, both in the town and in the region.

Comprehensive Planning

A comprehensive plan is a tool that a community can use to set a course for the future, by addressing aspects of community life, infrastructure, land use, and a vision for the character of the community. Specifically, a comprehensive plan:

- Produces a vision for the future based on what the community seeks to become, how it will look, how it will function, and how it should evolve and progress
- Recommends actions to achieve that vision
- Considers the development patterns in the town, and encourages the community to have a say in whether or not these patterns should change
- Identifies the assets, opportunities, challenges, and needs of the community
- Creates a process for community collaboration to implement the Plan

The intent of the Plan is to provide the Town with recommendations to address the issues and concerns that are identified during the comprehensive planning process. The recommendations should be feasible for the town to implement.

Why write the Plan?

Taghkanic last drafted a Comprehensive Plan in 1971. New York State Law requires all local land use regulations to be consistent with the locally adopted Comprehensive Plan. The state legislation also encourages a periodic review and update of the Plan. Since the 1971 plan was adopted, housing trends, environmental issues, and the local economy have all changed, both in the town and in the region. The demographic makeup of the town, in terms of population, age, and family size, as well as the number of primary and second-home owners, has also changed. Most importantly, current land use regulations have been amended and may no longer be consistent with the old plan.

In addition, writing a Comprehensive Plan is a way for a community to reflect on its role in the greater region. The recommendations in the plan can work towards addressing larger issues, such as climate change and alternative energy, in a way that benefits the local community as well.

How was the plan written?

In recognition of the need to plan for the future, the Town Board formed the Comprehensive Plan Committee in 2005. Numerous community participation efforts have been instigated on behalf of this plan, including a town-wide survey, public participation meetings completed prior to drafting the plan, public input meetings held to discuss the plan itself, and the public hearing required by New York State Law, see appendix for details. Extensive mapping of the town was also conducted, to provide a firm understanding of the physical conditions in Taghkanic. In preparing the draft plan, the Committee has worked with subcommittees, the community at large, and professionals. It is important to note that the public input process will continue as the recommendations are implemented in the future. In addition, the Town Board should consider reviewing this plan on a regular basis to determine it should be updated.

II. Vision Statement

The vision of this plan is to maintain and enhance traditional rural character, including pastoral farm fields, natural resources, and active community life, given the changing development and demographic patterns in the region. This includes being open to new ideas and being aware of regional and global trends and pressures. The Plan seeks a balance between the rights of individual residents/landowners and the needs of the overall community, recognizing the Town's responsibility to manage all its resources.

To accomplish this vision, the Comprehensive Plan presents goals and recommendations, organized into four major topic areas. The vision for each section is:

- **Rural Character, Open Space, and the Environment:** Preserve and improve the character, beauty, and ecological sustainability of the natural resources in the town. Consider the current and future impact of policy decisions on the natural resources in Taghkanic and the region.
- **Agriculture:** Actively encourage the growth and expansion of farming while recognizing the changing face of agriculture, especially in terms of niche farming and new local and regional markets. Seek innovative methods to address agricultural issues, such as climate change and local food security, so that the most effective planning tools are recommended in the Plan.
- **Economy and Housing:** Discourage development patterns that detract from the rural character. Provide flexible options which allow a range of housing opportunities in keeping with the needs of the community. Respect and recognize all aspects of what it takes to create a vibrant and healthy town.
- **Administration and Community Services:** Provide for the establishment and administration of town services, policies, and regulations that retain rural character and are consistent with the recommendations of the Plan. Encourage open government and the participation of community members. Be open to new and innovative solutions to problems, and seek the most efficient ways to manage resources and provide services.

III. Goals and Recommendations

1. Rural Character, Open Space, and the Environment

GOAL: Protect, maintain, and improve the quality of Taghkanic's natural setting, open spaces, and ecosystems as a way to preserve the rural character of the Town.

Taghkanic draws its beauty and charm from the rural quality of the open spaces, scenic vistas, and roadways and landscapes. According to the results of the public survey, rural character is the number one reason that residents, both full- and part-time, choose to live in Taghkanic. When asked to list the top three strongest assets of the town, responses included many aspects relating directly to rural character, such as scenic views, peace and quiet, open space, wildlife, and trees. A significant number of respondents to the survey (30%) stated that a change in the rural character would influence their decision to move away from Taghkanic.

In addition, these natural areas play an important ecological role, both locally and in the greater Hudson Valley/Berkshire region. For instance, there are several large wetland/floodplain systems in Taghkanic which play an important role in the watershed, and the water supply for the City of Hudson. Other sensitive features include steep slopes, areas of shallow or exposed bedrock, and hydric soils. (See Appendix 1 for detailed mapping of natural resources.) These resources are not only important to the look and feel of Taghkanic, but to the healthy functioning of the ecosystems and habitats in the town and the surrounding region. It is therefore essential that the comprehensive plan recommend actions to retain and improve the rural landscapes and natural systems that make living in Taghkanic so desirable.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Conduct an inventory of natural and cultural resources, to identify areas in Taghkanic that contribute to the rural character and environmental quality of the town.

This inventory can be used for a variety of purposes. It can provide context for Planning Board and Zoning Board members about conditions surrounding proposed development projects. Developers can use it to determine the important development constraints on their property and neighboring properties. Also, by analyzing the functions of ecosystems, the natural resources inventory provides a framework for the location of protected open spaces. With this framework in place, open spaces can be protected in the places they will do the most good, such as important ecosystems or wetlands, or contiguous to other valuable features, such as forests or farm fields. This inventory can integrate or include other detailed studies such as the recently completed water study, or habitat assessments. The scope of the inventory should reflect the final purposes for which the plan will be used, but can include elements such as:

- Hydrological features, such as ground and surface water resources, riparian areas, and watershed boundaries
- Historic properties and locally important structures including farm buildings
- Active farmlands and lands with good farming potential
- Visual resources, such as important views

1.2 Coordinate public/private partnerships to preserve open space.

The preservation of open space is an effective way to promote rural character, by limiting development on certain parcels of land. These lands may be owned by public agencies, such as New York State, or by private non-profit agencies. In addition, individual landowners may place an easement on their land. The town should coordinate where appropriate with these agencies and with individual landowners as well.

Coordinating the preservation of open space will do more than maintain the natural systems in Taghkanic. These open spaces, whether publicly or privately owned, may provide opportunities for hiking, hunting, fishing, bird watching - important ways of life for many residents. In addition, the landscape of Taghkanic would change significantly if these open areas are developed. As such, there should be coordination among public and semi-public agencies, such as land trusts and rod and gun clubs, as well as private residents to encourage that the preservation of these areas takes place in a logical, systematic manner, preferably using the framework established above with these agencies and other individual landowners as well. The intent of this recommendation is not to have the town set priorities for the protection of open spaces by private landowners or non-profit agencies. Rather, the goal is to take an active role in coordinating and communicating with those parties wishing to preserve open space in Taghkanic.

1.3 Consider establishing Critical Environmental Areas for important aquifers, wetlands, ecosystems, or other natural features.

Under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR), a municipality may designate Critical Environmental Areas (see inset). This ensures that development projects within these areas are subject to an extensive review for any

Critical Environmental Areas

According to the NYS DEC, local agencies may designate specific geographic locations as "Critical Environmental Areas" (CEAs). To be designated, the area must have an exceptional or unique character with respect to one or more of the following:

- A benefit or threat to human health;
- A natural setting (e.g., fish and wildlife habitat, forest and vegetation, open space and areas of important aesthetic or scenic quality);
- Agricultural, social, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, or educational values; or
- An inherent ecological, geological or hydrological sensitivity to change that may be adversely affected by any change.

development proposed for that area. All actions subject to SEQR would automatically be classified as Type I actions, requiring the completion of a Full Environmental Assessment Form. The need for Critical Environmental Areas would likely be revealed during the preparation of a natural resources inventory or current groundwater study.

1.4 Review and revise the town's land use regulations so that they protect and maintain rural character. Specific recommendations include, but are not limited to:

1.4.1 Review and, if necessary, revise the town street and roadway design requirements.

The existing standards for the width, geometry, and configuration of town roads are established in various local laws. State highways and county roads have separate design standards. It is important that town roadway standards be reviewed to determine whether the regulations are still appropriate for Taghkanic and to provide for safe use. For instance, the ordinance may call for residential roads to be wider than necessary, which can result in more disturbed area, higher vehicle speeds, more stormwater runoff, higher maintenance costs, as well as affecting the look of the scenic rural roadways in town. Other standards which could be addressed include stormwater management and roadside ditches, as well as options for paved and unpaved roadways. A review and update of these standards should be completed so that any conflicts are minimized or eliminated.

1.4.2 Proactively consider the impact of mining when revising the zoning ordinance.

Local municipalities are currently limited by New York State law in how zoning and other regulations address mining. The Mined Land Reclamation Law gives regulatory control of mines to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The result is that local municipalities cannot regulate the operation of a mine. However, some legal options do exist. For instance, courts have upheld that communities can regulate the location of new mines through zoning, or they may have generally applicable local laws that only incidentally affect mining. In addition, several bills have been put forth recently that would give more authority to local municipalities in the location of mines. These options should be kept in mind when the zoning ordinance is revised.

1.4.3 Address light pollution in the zoning ordinance and other land use regulations.

Dark skies are an important component of the visual character in rural areas. However, the potential impacts of light pollution are sometimes overlooked in land use policies and regulations. The potential for impacts from light pollution should be kept in mind when the town updates the zoning ordinance. There are several options available, including:

- Review the provisions for sign lighting in the zoning and site plan review ordinances. Consider adding provisions for cutoff or full-cutoff light fixtures, which prevent light from

being directed upward into the sky.

- Review the provisions for parking, street, and site lighting. Consider requiring cutoff or full-cutoff fixtures. for commercial development and redevelopment.
- Supplementary ordinances or performance criteria can set a baseline condition for lighting for certain uses, zones, or the whole town.

1.4.4 Address noise impacts in the zoning ordinance and other land use regulations.

Impacts from noise present a slightly more complicated issue than lighting. Over 70% of respondents to the public survey stated that they were "Very Concerned" or "Concerned" about noise pollution. However, there are fewer effective and legal options available to limit noise pollution. Some options include:

- Organize a focused training session about noise impacts and the role of SEQR for the Planning and Zoning Boards and code enforcement staff. The State Environmental Quality Review Act calls for noise impacts to be reviewed by local Boards during project review. Although the NYSDEC has issued a policy document which addresses noise impacts from construction and development, the methods to measure and mitigate impacts are not always thoroughly understood. The town could set up a training session for Board officials and staff on the issues related to noise, to promote informed review and enforcement.
- The town should consider enacting noise controls. This option provides the most protection against noise pollution. Those controls may or may not ultimately include a noise ordinance, if found warranted. However, if the Town chooses to draft a noise ordinance, the potential impacts of noise should be balanced against the ability of residents to have fair use and enjoyment of their land. In addition, noise ordinances present complicated legal issues, which may not apply to other regulatory controls, such as SEQR and zoning regulations. If the town decides to pursue the option of enacting a noise ordinance, coordination with the Department of State may be helpful. In general terms, limits on decibel levels at property lines, and limits on noise generation for a certain time of day have been upheld by the courts. However, limits on a certain kind of noise but not others, such as construction noise or barking dogs, sometimes run afoul of the 14th Amendment's provision for equal protection under the law.

1.4.5 Review and revise the application and engineering requirements for development projects, especially in terms of water and stormwater.

The application requirements for site plan review and subdivision projects should be reviewed to make sure the Planning and Zoning Boards are getting enough information to make informed decisions. The list of application criteria can be expanded to identify viewsheds, surrounding open space, and other sensitive components on or adjacent to the project site, which may not be viable or desirable for development purposes or may otherwise warrant protection. These application components can be mandatory, or the Planning Board may be given leeway to request additional

information depending on the project context.

Similarly, the submittal requirements for development projects should be reviewed for consistency against current state, federal, and county standards. Some projects require permits from State or Federal agencies, such as stormwater or wetland permits. Since the standards for obtaining these permits is not set by the town, the requirements for local projects should be at least as strict as those required by the permitting agency. In addition, consideration for locally important engineering issues should also be included in the application requirements. For instance, some rural municipalities require applicants to perform well draw-down tests for properties within a certain distance of major subdivision projects, which can insure new development does not affect existing wells. The requirements for driveways can also be reviewed, especially in terms of maximum slope and drainage.

1.4.6 Adopt legislation that allows conservation subdivisions as an option for major subdivisions or in certain zoning districts.

Conservation subdivision is an effective way for a community to allow development while maintaining open space (see inset). Up-to-date and functional conservation subdivision language should be included in the zoning ordinance as an option; the town should also give consideration to making the practice mandatory in certain areas or for major subdivisions. As part of this recommendation, the revised regulations should state the specific priorities and goals the town wants to achieve: preservation of open space and farmland, guidance for development, creating community features, and maintaining important ecological and cultural features. Also, consideration should be given to creating suggested design guidelines for homes. This design approach can mitigate the spread of suburban residential patterns into rural areas, while still allowing new homes to be built. This method can allow the same number of homes to be developed as current regulations, so it does not restrict the rights of landowners. Also, this design approach sometimes results in a more compact layout of streets and infrastructure, which can potentially lower the cost to the community compared to traditional development.

The town can also provide more guidance to the design of conservation subdivisions by implementing rural siting guidelines, which deal with the location of home sites in the landscape. Rural siting guidelines typically apply only to new residential subdivisions, not to single landowners seeking to build a house on their lot. In addition, the application of these guidelines to conservation subdivisions may be voluntary, mandatory, or a combination of both. Common topics include minimizing vegetation clearing, retaining stonewalls and hedgerows, placing buildings and roads along tree lines or edges of open fields, and setbacks from streams and wetlands. These priorities are usually identified during the conservation subdivision process; Taghkanic could consider providing more guidance to developers, either on a voluntary or mandatory basis, of how the subdivision design can take these priorities into account.

Suggestions made in the above paragraph, although primarily intended for major subdivisions, can also be adopted in a modified form for minor subdivisions. The town will benefit if guidelines are in place for a group of four or fewer houses just as it will benefit from regulation of major subdivisions. Also, such guidelines will prevent a developer from sequentially building several adjacent minor subdivisions, thus avoiding regulation.

Conservation Subdivision

A conservation subdivision is a clustered subdivision that uses the open space resources present on the site as the starting point for design.

The four-step conservation subdivision design process includes:

1. Identify conservation areas and sensitive resources (wetlands, open space, lakes, ponds, streams, stone walls, etc.)

2. Locate house sites to avoid conservation areas

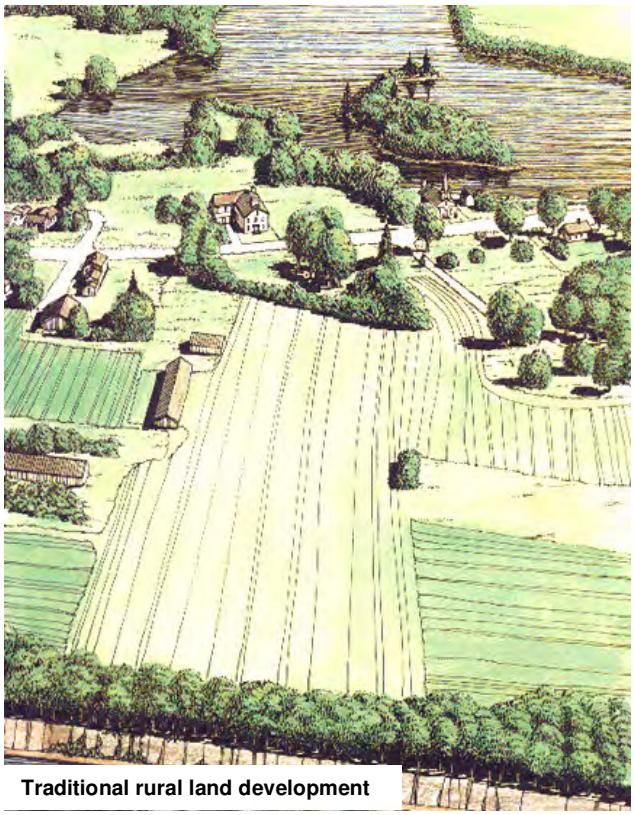
3. Align streets and trails

4. Draw in the lot lines

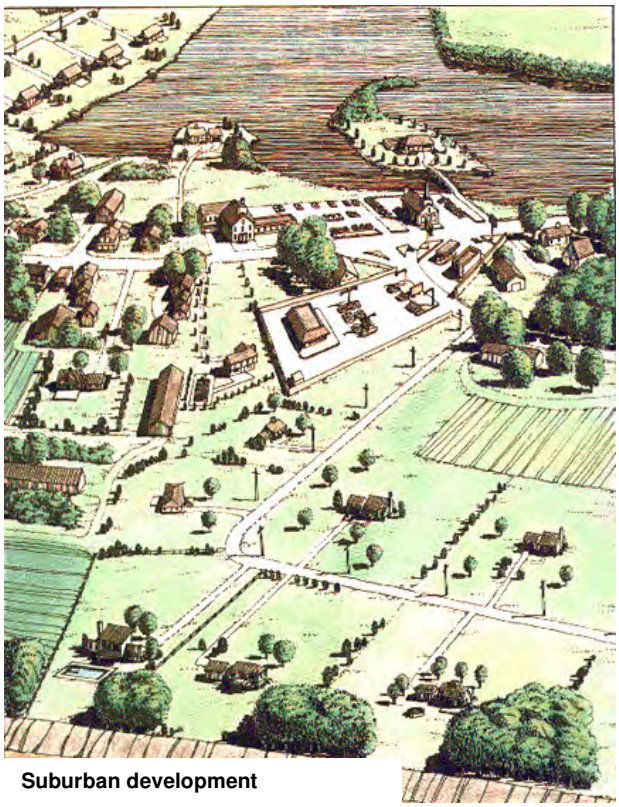
In addition to the environmental and viewshed benefits of allowing homes to be sited in a creative way, a network of conserved open lands can be created in the process (wildlife corridors, wetlands, public hiking trails, etc.).

Conservation easements and deed restrictions are the legal tools that ensure that conservation lands set aside as a result of this process remains undeveloped. Conservation lands may be owned by an individual landowner, several landowners, a homeowner's association, the Town of Taghkanic, or a land conservancy.

Images Courtesy of Randall Arendt, *Growing Greener: Putting Conservation into Local Plans and Codes*, Island Press, 1999



Traditional rural land development



Suburban development

Conservation Subdivision development

1.4.7 Revisit the lot sizes allowed in the zoning ordinance.

Currently, the town's three residential zones allow for 2-, 3-, and 7-acre lots. Ideally, the lot sizes in the zoning ordinance should not be so large as to encourage sprawl, but not be so small as to lead to large areas of high density development, which could alter the character of the town. Careful consideration should therefore be given to lot sizes when updating the zoning ordinance, especially if changes are made along with other zoning techniques, such as conservation subdivisions. In addition to lot sizes, Taghkanic should also consider the density of development. The density of a zoning district determines how many houses can be built on a particular parcel, while the minimum lot sizes contribute to the distribution of homes over the land. The town should also consider the option to determine density based on the development constraints found on site. This would provide flexibility to ensure that the density of development is in keeping with the site conditions on a parcel.

1.4.8. Require Planning Board Approval of subdivisions to be contingent upon compliance with the State Public Health Department and County Administration requirements for wastewater disposal systems.

Due to issues such as soil composition, topography, preexisting nonconforming lot sizes and lots for future development, some potential lots are challenged in finding suitable and adequate conditions for wastewater disposal systems. Many, if not all of the surrounding towns have regulations in effect to ensure any subdivided lot is capable of sustaining appropriate systems. It is recommended that the town enact regulations governing the approval of subdivisions that would require the applicant to demonstrate the proposed lots are capable of appropriate and necessary wastewater disposal systems upon the sites, unless the site or sites are of a nature that confirmation of such systems is not deemed necessary and the requirement waived by the planning board.

1.5 Sponsor a voluntary "Conservation Stewards" program for the public.

Taghkanic could provide informational brochures, sponsor events and educational programs, and have similar initiatives to inform the public about environmental issues in the town and throughout the region. Topics could include local responses to climate change, wildlife habitat and corridor preservation, importance of wetlands and vegetation cover, biodiversity, and alternative methods for lawn care, watering practices, and energy use and production. Some materials and programs may be available through federal, state, and regional agencies at little or no cost. Taghkanic can promote these initiatives by maintaining brochures and resource material at Town Hall, and by providing links on the town's website.

1.6 Investigate the impacts of the City of Hudson drawing water from Taghkanic Creek. Work with City of Hudson and the Department of Environmental Conservation to remedy any problems.

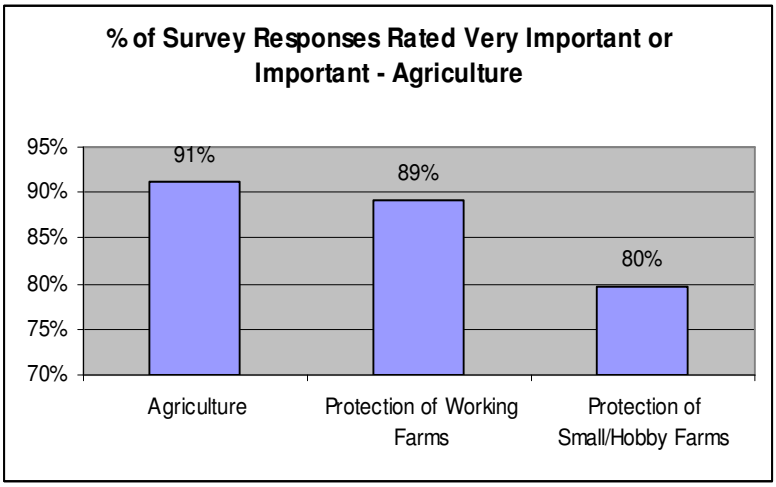
The City of Hudson currently draws water from the Churchtown Reservoir, located within the Town of Taghkanic and fed by the Taghkanic Creek. The arrangement between the two municipalities should be revisited to take into account the possible increased water usage in Hudson. The arrangement should also be reviewed in terms of whether Hudson's water usage will affect development potential in Taghkanic, since the quantity and quality of water available affects the viability of new and existing wells. As such, the amount of water used by Hudson may directly affect the future of residential development in Taghkanic. A full investigation of the impacts should be conducted, preferably working with the City and NYSDEC. This investigation may include the findings of the 2008 groundwater study by the New York Rural Water Association.

2. Agriculture

GOAL: Promote active agriculture and protect farmland, as a way to bolster economic prosperity and to address the future of farming in Taghkanic.

From about 1750, through the 19th century, the foundation of Taghkanic's economy was farming. The first few farms grew grains, including wheat, as a cash crop. When Chancellor Livingston went to France in 1803 to negotiate the Louisiana Purchase, he returned with the first merino sheep. This event transformed Taghkanic. The hills, already deforested for making charcoal to feed the ironworks, were further cleared for sheep grazing. By 1812 there were over 60,000 sheep in the county. By 1875, the Taghkanic sheep population was the third largest herd in the county. There were 6 times more sheep than people. Taghkanic wool probably fed the textile manufacturing and home weavers throughout the county. At one period 68 percent of the plowed land was in rye, used to feed horses in New York City.

While the farms were necessarily spread out, ancillary industries serving the needs of the farmers were primarily located next to Taghkanic Creek at New Forge, and in the hamlets of Taghkanic and West Taghkanic. These were centers of plow making, and the many mills needed to serve farmers such as grist, carding, plaster, cider, feed mills and a circular saw mill. As the automobile replaced horses, and as New York City grew, needing a nearby source for milk and butter, dairy farming replaced sheep and rye. With the ascendancy of dairy farming over sheep, the trees once again claimed the hills, and agriculture's role in the economy of the town decreased.



In addition to playing an integral role in the history and development of the town, farming is an important component of the rural character and scenic beauty of Taghkanic. Based on the results of the public survey and visioning sessions (see inset), residents feel strongly that agriculture is an important community resource and that the protection and preservation of working farms is vital. In order to achieve the goal set above, it is important to understand what constitutes agriculture, as well as the resources in Taghkanic which are integral to the continued viability of farms.

Although there are only two major dairy farms still in operation in the Town, there are about 90 parcels which claim agricultural exemptions (see Appendix 1). These active farm operations play an integral role in the heritage and character of the Town.

Taghkanic is also rich in natural resources important to agriculture. About 30% of the land area in the Town contains important agricultural soils (see Map 6 in Appendix 1). Specifically, there are approximately 1,936 acres of Prime Farmland Soils, and 5,922 acres of Soils of Statewide Importance for Farming in Taghkanic. Much of these lands are located within Columbia County 25-AA Agriculture Districts; Taghkanic contains almost 7,900 acres in agriculture districts. These lands represent a significant and sensitive resource. Once lands with these soils types are developed for other uses, their usefulness for agriculture is significantly degraded or lost altogether. This is an especially important consideration, given the potential implications of the build-out analysis conducted as part of this plan. This analysis, detailed in Appendix 1, indicates only a broad concept of what is possible given current land use regulations, and is not intended to illustrate likely development scenarios. However, the potential for conversion of vacant and agricultural lands to residential uses, which is shown in Map 2, reveals the vulnerability of farming soils to development. The results of this analysis are also at odds with the desire of the community to retain agriculture. As such, if the Town desires to continue to support and protect farms, the retention of these important soils is also crucial.

The role of agriculture in Taghkanic has changed significantly. Development pressure, as well as the changing economic realities of farming, have forced many fields to be fallow or have taken agricultural lands out of potential production altogether. The residents of Taghkanic recognize how important farms are to the community. The recommendations which follow are intended to increase the likelihood that existing farms can continue to operate in Taghkanic, and encourage the establishment of new farms in the future by protecting the farming potential inherent in the land so that agriculture can continue to play a role in the heritage and rural character of the town.

It is important to acknowledge that the Town cannot compel this result by law or regulation. The Town can establish programs and policies such as those discussed herein, which are intended to facilitate and encourage a thriving farm sector. But people cannot be compelled to farm, nor prevented from using their property in accordance with Town land use regulations. The success of strategies implementing the farmland preservation vision expressed in this plan will ultimately depend on the voluntary decision of those who own farm land to take advantage of these programs and policies and keep or return their property to productive agricultural use.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 Formulate an Agricultural Protection Plan for the Town of Taghkanic.

Agricultural Protection Plans can be an effective tool to preserve and promote farm operations. At the county level, these plans organize and develop goals and strategies that support the continuation of agriculture. At the local level, an Agricultural Protection Plan can build on those goals and strategies, focusing the efforts on a project-specific level. Topics can include, but are not limited to:

- Detailed inventories of agricultural lands. This can include active farmlands as well as areas with the potential for farming. In addition, since not all farmers own their land, the inventory

should include a detailed inventory of rented farmlands, if possible. This will provide a more complete picture of where farmlands are located in the town. The plan can also identify those areas of the town which, due to their use or potential for agriculture, should be protected.

- Regulatory and policy changes the town can enact to promote farming, including a Right-to-Farm law, if appropriate. In order to maintain a viable farming economy, farmers should be afforded protection allowing them the right to farm. A Right-to-Farm Law limits the circumstances under which farming may be deemed to be a nuisance and allows agricultural practices inherent to and necessary for the business of farming to proceed and be undertaken free of unreasonable and unwarranted interference or restriction. These laws apply only to farms in agricultural districts, or farm operations subject to an agricultural assessment.
- Realistic, innovative goals and strategies for farm protection/promotion, including connecting farmers to niche and specialty markets, agri-tourism, recreational leasing, and others.

2.2 Develop innovative incentives that strongly encourage landowners to participate in programs that preserve and protect Prime Farmland Soils and Soils of Statewide Importance for Farming.

As mentioned previously, the Town is home to extensive areas of Prime Farmland and Soils of Statewide Importance (see Map 6, Appendix 1). Recommendation 1.1 of this plan calls for the identification of active and potential farms in the Town as part of the Natural and Cultural Resources Inventory. The Town should include agricultural soils in the inventory, to allow for a greater understanding of the location and role of soils within Taghkanic.

As mentioned above, these soils are located largely within the Agricultural Districts, and as such are afforded certain protections under NYS law. Since not all of these important soils are located within agricultural districts, however, and may therefore be vulnerable to development pressures, this recommendation becomes even more important. As such, the Town should also consider local methods to conserve these essential resources. For instance, the Town could consider soils in the conservation subdivision process. Soils should be included as a "sensitive resource" in the conservation analysis process. This does not automatically prohibit development on all Prime Farmland soils and Soils of Statewide Importance; however, it allows landowners, developers, and the Planning Board to have a more thorough understanding of the location of important soil types on a site-specific basis. This will help to ensure that the development which does occur takes into account the need to preserve important agricultural resources.

2.3 Consider encouraging programs that permanently protect valuable agricultural areas from development, including voluntary methods such as conservation easements or Purchase of Development Rights.

Through this comprehensive plan, the Town is establishing a policy which supports the protection of valuable agricultural areas from development, as a way to preserve rural character and promote active

farming. The primary focus of these protection efforts shall be on those lands within Agricultural Districts. These areas, which can be seen in Map 6 in Appendix 1, represent the most valuable agricultural resources within the town.

The town has the ability to balance the protection of farming with the rights of individual landowners to make their own voluntary decisions about how to use their property in accordance with town land use regulations, and there are innovative strategies in use in communities today that can help achieve this balance. There are a variety of methods the town can support which permanently protect valuable farmlands from development, such as the application of conservation subdivision regulations, as described in recommendation 1.4.6 (see page 10). In addition, the following programs should be promoted, which will further protect farms in the Town.

One program, known as Purchase of Development Rights, allows farmers to voluntarily reap financial benefits, which can offset some of the financial impediments to modern farming. This type of program is currently limited in applicability in Taghkanic, but allows for farmers to sell all or some of the development rights to their land. This can be accomplished through a partnership with NYS Ag & Markets and/or land trusts.

Another option is for landowners, who may not be farmers themselves, to donate conservation easements for agricultural lands, thus insuring the land stays available for farming. This option also provides a financial incentive to the owner, through the New York State Conservation Easement Tax Credit (CETC). This is a tax credit of up to 25% of the school district, county, and town real estate taxes paid on the restricted land, up to an annual maximum of $5,000 per taxpayer. In addition, the CETC is a refundable income tax credit, which means that if the tax credit exceeds the amount the landowner owes in state income taxes, the landowner is refunded the difference.

The voluntary donation of a conservation easement may qualify landowners for federal tax incentives as well. The gift of an easement is a charitable donation that may be deducted from Federal income taxes, with the value of the donation determined by an appraisal. Currently, an easement donor can deduct the value of the conservation easement against up to 50% of their adjusted gross annual income, up to the amount of the deduction, for a period of up to sixteen years. Qualifying farmers can deduct the value of the conservation easement against up to 100% of their adjusted gross income. These incentives were recently expanded by Congress until the end of 2009.

2.4 Consider how to promote agriculture when updating the zoning ordinance.

There may be requirements in the zoning and other ordinances that are burdensome to farmers. The agricultural industry changes rapidly; local zoning codes are not always updated to reflect these changes. This can result in the application of outdated regulations to contemporary land uses and gives rise to potentially unreasonable restrictions. In addition to inhibiting agricultural activity, outdated zoning regulations may create a violation of §305-A of New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, which prohibits local regulations from unreasonably restricting farms within agricultural districts. A useful resource when undertaking zoning revisions is the New York State Agriculture and Markets

publication, "Guidelines for Review of Local Zoning and Planning Laws". The town should analyze the zoning ordinance to determine whether any such conflicts exist and amend the zoning ordinance accordingly.

Additionally, the Town should consider how zoning can actively promote agriculture. Consider adopting innovative zoning techniques that benefit farmers, such as:

- The local definition of agriculture should be consistent with the definition of "farm operation" as used in the NYS Agriculture and Markets Law. Agricultural operations are constantly evolving to meet new market needs, take advantage of new technologies, and respond to changes in the environment. As such, any definition of agriculture must be broad and flexible. New York State Agriculture and Markets defines farm operations as the land and on-farm buildings, equipment, manure processing and handling facilities, and practices which contribute to the production, preparation and marketing of crops, livestock and livestock products as a commercial enterprise, including commercial horse boarding operations, timber processing, and compost, mulch or other biomass crops. Farm operations also include the production, management and harvesting of farm woodland. Although not all of these types of farm operations are currently found in Taghkanic, this definition will allow new agricultural operations the potential to become established in Taghkanic in the future. Agricultural operations must be permitted to evolve to meet new market needs and take advantage of new technologies.
- Adopt language which allows seasonal, non-permanent farm stands in some or all zones. This includes small, non-permanent structures as well as informal, "back-of-the-truck" operations.
- Consider revising the zoning ordinance to provide a mechanism to establish buffer zones around development adjacent to working farms and prime farmland. As vacant land is gradually developed next to active farms, the potential for conflicts between farmers and landowners increases as well. Since agriculture is an important component of the character of the town, the burden should be on adjacent developers to minimize potential conflicts between residents and farmers as projects come forth through subdivision or site plan review. As such, provisions for buffers from noise and odor should be made in site plan and subdivision review, so that the Planning Board has the flexibility to establish buffers on a case-by-case basis.
- Consider allowing additional uses supplementary to farming in agricultural zones, such as bed-and-breakfasts, farm equipment repair, commercial composting, on-site storage, etc. These uses could be allowed in conjunction with active farming.
- Consider revising the zoning ordinance to be more flexible concerning direct market farm businesses, especially regarding seasonal or year-round on-site commercial operations. This option could allow small, farm-related commercial operations in

agricultural or residential zones.

- Consider revising sign regulations to allow off-site signage for farm operations with on-site retail operations. The ability to provide off-site signage is often important for farmers with on-site commercial components, such as pick-your-own operations. However, many sign ordinances disallow these signs as billboards. Allowing off-site signage (with restrictions on size, color, and material, if desired) can increase the viability of some agricultural operations without harming the rural quality of the Town.
- Consider allowing some low-impact commercial development related to farming in the town, as a way to support agricultural infrastructure. Farms are often dependent on other uses, such as equipment repair, farm supply stores, large-animal veterinarians, and processing operations. However, these uses may not be allowed within the Town, forcing farmers to travel to obtain the goods and services needed. See recommendation 3.1 for more information on how these types of uses can be considered appropriately in Taghkanic.
- Conservation subdivisions, as outlined in recommendation 1.4.6, can also be an effective way to preserve and protect farmlands. The Town should consider allowing active farmlands to be counted towards the open space in a conservation subdivision, if the landowner wants to continue farming or establish a farm adjacent to the proposed development. By putting an agricultural easement (as opposed to a conservation easement) on the protected portions of the subdivision, active farms can be established, or continue to operate, while allowing development of residential uses on less agriculturally important areas. To further encourage agricultural easements in conservation subdivisions, the Town can also consider establishing a density bonus. This would permit the development of more residential units than would otherwise be allowed, which adds a further incentive for agriculture in the Town.

2.5 Consider forestry and forest health when updating the zoning ordinance.

The forests in Taghkanic are an important asset to the character of the community, as well as playing an important ecological role. When carried out in a responsible way, forestry can be an effective way for rural residents to benefit economically from their landholdings. Appropriate consideration should be given to forestry as a use when updating the zoning ordinance. When the zoning ordinance is updated, agencies with professional forestry expertise, such as the NYSDEC, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and Cornell University, should be consulted for input on crafting local regulations that are “forestry friendly”. The goal should be to encourage responsible forestry which upholds all local and state regulations while maintaining ecological viability and rural character. In particular, care should be taken that other regulations which may be considered, such as land clearing guidelines, do not eliminate the possibility for residents to engage in responsible forestry practices.

2.6 Work with local and regional agencies to promote agriculture in Taghkanic.

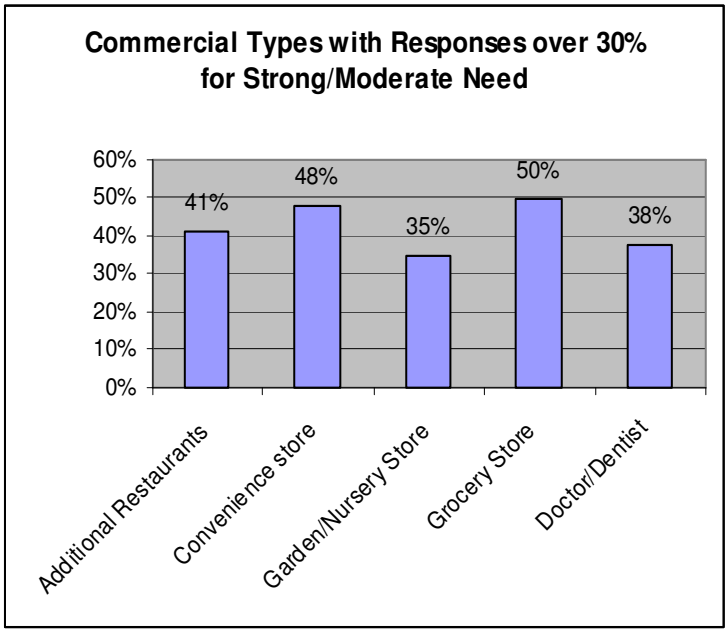
There are a variety of public and private agencies working to support agriculture in the region: the Farm Bureau, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Columbia Land Conservancy, the Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District, Hudson Valley Fresh, Columbia County Ag & Farmland Protection Board, American Farmland Trust, the Agri-Enterprise Initiative of the Columbia Hudson Partnership, Chatham Co-op, Keep Farming, and the Farmscape Ecology Program. The town should cooperate with these agencies to promote their programs and services in Taghkanic. In addition, the town can provide local farmers or those interested in local farming with contact information and resources from these agencies, by having information packets at Town Hall and on the website which list relevant regional programs and farming incentives provided by the Town, County, State, or other agencies. The Town can also provide information on farming programs, such as NYS Farmers School Tax Credit, NYS Historic Barn Credit Program, NYS 480A Program for woodlots, and GROW NY.

3. Economy and Housing

GOAL: Promote land use policies and regulations that support small-scale businesses and residential development patterns that complement the rural character of the Town.

Taghkanic's character is overwhelmingly rural, and its residents are concerned with maintaining that character, as discussed previously. However, to maintain that character, the town has a responsibility to consider the appropriate balance of the types of residential and commercial land uses in the town.

The survey results indicate that 73% of the respondents are not concerned with shopping availability. The responses also indicated a strong or moderate need for certain limited commercial uses (see inset). In addition, 15% of people responding to the public survey indicated that they run a home based business in Taghkanic. This indicates that the Comprehensive Plan should focus on ways to insure that new commercial development is appropriate for the town's character. Since the survey was completed, the regional and local economy has shifted, which may increase the importance of providing services and small business opportunities locally.



The survey results showed that the density of residential development may be more important than the types of housing currently available. For example 63% of the respondents indicated they were very concerned or concerned about greater density, while only 29% indicated concern over the lack of housing diversity. However, housing affordability is a concern for just under half of the population. In addition, in New York, communities may not preclude the provision of affordable housing. In 1975, the Court of Appeals determined that a community's land use regulations must "provide for the development of a balanced, cohesive community which will make efficient use of the town's land…. There must be a balancing of the local desire to maintain the status quo within the community and the greater public interest that regional needs be met." (Berenson v. New Castle, 38 N.Y.2d 102 (1975)) Given these concerns, the focus of the recommendations is to maintain a balance of housing opportunities that complements the character of the town.

RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Revisit the commercial zoning in town, including allowable uses, district boundaries, dimensional requirements, and design guidelines.

The core commercial node on Route 82 evolved without master planning. When the zoning ordinance is updated, careful consideration should be given to all aspects of the commercial zoning. This includes:

- District boundaries. Currently, there is only one commercial zone, located on Route 82. The boundaries of this district should be reviewed.
- Allowable uses. The list of as-of-right and special permit uses should be reviewed to ensure these uses are appropriate for the needs of the community and in terms of rural character.
- Dimensional requirements. These requirements include minimum lot sizes, setbacks, building height, and lot coverage. These standards should be reviewed to make sure that any new development built is of appropriate size and scale for the town. In addition, the standards can be reviewed in terms of more recent local and regional priorities, such as stormwater management and environmental resource protection. More stringent controls for impervious surface or setbacks from sensitive natural resources may be desired.
- Commercial design guidelines. These guidelines commonly deal with building placement, architecture, landscaping, parking, lighting, and other issues that can affect the look, feel, and function of commercial development. The guidelines can be mandatory, voluntary, or a combination of both, depending on the desired level of flexibility for applicants and the Planning Board. Mandatory guidelines are usually expressed as standards in the zoning ordinance; this option can ensure that new development (or redevelopment of existing structures) is undertaken to meet specific standards, but does not allow for much flexibility in the site plan review process. Voluntary standards, conversely, allow for a high level of flexibility, but may result in a less consistent application of the guidelines throughout the zone. It is also possible to implement a combination of mandatory and voluntary guidelines, depending on the specific priorities of the community. Taghkanic should consider these positives and negatives when establishing Design Guidelines for commercial development.

It may be desirable in the future to allow provision for a limited amount of low-impact agricultural support uses, as a way to support farming and economic development in the region. The town should consider whether these uses should be allowed, and where they should be located, when updating the zoning ordinance. In addition, if the town decides to include provision for some low-impact business uses, it is crucial that potential impacts in terms of views, lighting, noise, odor, traffic, and available infrastructure are all considered.

3.2 Establish a Corridor Master Plan to address physical improvements to the Route 82

commercial area.

Taghkanic's core commercial node is located at the intersection of Route 82 and the Taconic State Parkway. This area is home to the Town Hall, a gas station, restaurants, lodging, a real estate broker, a performance arts facility, and Fire House. Currently, although a variety of uses are permitted under zoning, the layout and high speed limit on Route 82 affects the ability of this area to be a true mixed-use center for the community. As the main commercial area and the center of civic activity, as well as an important gateway to the community, this issue should be addressed. One way to accomplish this is by conducting a Corridor Master Plan for the area. This plan, described below, can be used to inform future improvements by the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT), to reflect the needs of the community. Without a local plan in place, the form of future improvements as well as the speed limit will be determined solely by the DOT. If the town adopts a local Master Plan for the area, however, the DOT can work with Taghkanic to implement the recommendations of the plan as changes are made to Route 82 in the future.

A Corridor Master Plan usually involves the study of appropriate development patterns and uses, economics and marketing, infrastructure, vehicular and pedestrian safety, and streetscape improvements for a defined area, such as a length of road or a hamlet. For Taghkanic, a Corridor Master Plan for Route 82 could propose improvements which could mitigate the impact of the State highway on pedestrian safety. The Plan should also address vehicle safety, speed limits, and streetscape amenities. For instance, the current speed limit of 55 miles an hour is not conducive to pedestrian activity in the area. The Plan can propose changes to the vehicle and pedestrian infrastructure which, combined with a lower speed limit, will allow this section of Route 82 to more effectively function as the center of the community.

This Plan could also contain a market analysis for the area. The results of the Comprehensive Plan survey indicate the residents have specific ideas concerning the types of businesses they would like to see in town. A market analysis component could determine which of these commercial uses would be viable, as a first step towards encouraging small-scale, local businesses in the town.

3.3 Encourage the establishment of home-based businesses and other small businesses.

Home occupations are businesses conducted within a residence. These are an effective way to encourage economic activity in a rural setting, as home occupations often involve little to no traffic, noise, odor, or other negative impacts on their neighbors. Given that large-scale economic development is not a priority for the community, Taghkanic should foster the ability of residents to work out of their homes. The town can encourage home occupations by reviewing and revising the zoning ordinance to reduce any regulatory burdens, and encouraging the provision of high speed internet service throughout the town.

When reviewing the zoning ordinance, consideration should be given to the intensity of home occupation uses. Some uses involve little to no traffic, signage, or outdoor storage. Other home occupations may require more intensive usage of these types of activities. As such, it may be desirable

for the town to implement different zoning regulations for some home occupations, so that any potential for impacts from the more intense uses is taken into account. Some communities, for example, delineate home occupations as Type I or Type II, and have different standards for each. This option should be kept in mind when updating the zoning ordinance.

In addition, the town may want to consider allowing other small businesses in the town, as a way to promote economic growth without affecting the character of the community. In rural areas, it was once common to have very small commercial uses located in otherwise isolated residential or agricultural areas. It may be desirable for Taghkanic to consider allowing some forms of business uses in areas outside the Route 82 commercial zone. If this idea is desirable, however, care should be taken that the zoning builds in tools, such as performance criteria or special use permits, which ensure that impacts to surrounding residential or agricultural uses are minimized.

3.4 Establish zoning code and subdivision regulations that allow for housing on smaller lots in certain areas, as a way to provide a diversity of housing.

One reason it is sometimes difficult to keep housing affordable in rural areas is that lot sizes can be quite large. This, in turn, can result in higher sale prices and tax burdens, thus making a home less affordable for many people. However, simply reducing the minimum lot size in zoning could result in development patterns which are not consistent with rural character, since high density housing is not a feature currently found in town. There are a variety of methods that can reduce lot sizes without negatively affecting the character of Taghkanic. These include:

- **Density Bonuses** allow developers to build more units than would normally be allowed in a zoning district in exchange for preserving and enhancing designated resources or providing other public benefits.
- **Conservation Subdivisions** have the same density as required by the zoning ordinance but allow the lot sizes to vary, in exchange for preserving significant portions of the parcel for open space or environmental protection. This tool was described in recommendation 1.4.6 of this plan.
- **Incentive Zoning** provides incentives to developers in exchange for providing community benefits such as affordable housing, recreational facilities, open space, infrastructures, or cash in lieu thereof. The incentives received by the developer can include an increase in permissible number of residential units or gross square footage of development, or waivers of the height, setback, use, or area restrictions in the zoning ordinance.

These tools should be considered when updating the zoning and subdivision regulations. Not all tools may be needed, and it may be desirable to limit their application to certain areas rather than throughout the town. It is also important to note that, even with these tools in place, smaller lots would still need to conform to State or County Department of Health requirements for well and septic setbacks.

The tools above are intended to allow for housing to be built on small lots, while maintaining the rural character of the town. These zoning tools are not intended to promote the wholesale creation of new residential or community centers in Taghkanic. There are several residential development concepts which promote similar ideals to the tools promoted above, such as "New Urbanism", "Transit-Oriented Development" and "Lifestyle Centers". Like the tools recommended above, these concepts promote higher-density housing. The focus of these concepts, however, is to create a pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use community, which provides commercial, civic, and residential uses. To support the mixed-use components, these concepts require the establishment of hundreds or thousands of housing units. This would not be feasible or desirable in Taghkanic, and is not in keeping with the low-density, rural character of the landscape. As such, these concepts are not recommended for Taghkanic.

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping to save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices. ENERGY STAR provides a trustworthy label on over 50 product categories, as well as providing easy-to-use home and building assessment tools so that homeowners and building managers can start down the path to greater efficiency and cost savings.

ASHRAE is an international organization with the mission of advancing heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world through research, standards writing, publishing and continuing education.

LEED is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. LEED gives building owners and operators the tools they need to have an immediate and measurable impact on their buildings' performance. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

3.5 Promote innovative housing initiatives, such as Energy Star, which can provide an economic benefit to homeowners while reducing impact on the environment.

There are a variety of regional, state, and federal initiatives that can benefit homeowners and provide environmental benefits at the same time. By supplying information at Town Hall and on the website, the town can become a local resource about these programs. Some ideas include:

- Participate in Sustainable Hudson Valley to track new and innovative ideas. Sustainable Hudson Valley is a regional organization devoted to sustainable development that builds and shares wealth, restores the environment, and contributes positively to communities. They are also a resource for consultation, training, and education on sustainable economic development methods that Taghkanic can utilize for a number of issues.
- Post information about programs and concepts to organizations such as, but not limited to, Energy Star, ASHRAE, LEED, zero net energy homes and green building technology on the town's website (see inset).
- Refer to published lists of local green builders and architects, which can be obtained from NYSERDA (New York State Energy Research and Development Authority).
- New York State has established building codes for all towns. However, if a town wishes to

establish codes different from the regular state codes, it may do so by applying for a waiver. The town may choose to do so after further analysis and upon advice and consultation of an architectural firm. For example, Taghkanic might wish to establish a certain code(s) that is "greener" than the state code.

3.6 Consider allowing other forms of housing in appropriate areas of Taghkanic

Although large-scale multi-unit developments are not desirable or necessary, allowing for some alternative forms of housing may be beneficial, especially in allowing young families, seniors, and extended families to live in Taghkanic. Options include: two-family housing, conversions of single-family homes to apartments, and accessory living quarters. If these forms of housing are desirable, consideration should be given to where and how these forms of housing are permitted in Taghkanic.

4. Administration and Community Services

GOAL: Improve and encourage the provision of adequate town services and governmental functions, establish appropriate policies and regulations, and encourage community participation.

The provision and administration of services is one of the most important ways in which a government serves its residents. The community survey indicated that, with a few exceptions, the majority of respondents were satisfied with the services provided by the town. Taghkanic should, however, always strive to make the administration of municipal services as efficient as possible, both to make the most of the resources available and to make it easy for residents to benefit from the services provided.

Every community faces new challenges that call for changes in and updates to the policies and regulations that shape its future. Taghkanic can work to secure its positive characteristics and avoid negative changes by establishing and enforcing regulations that are consistent with the goals of the community.

RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Investigate and evaluate the potential to share some municipal services with the County or surrounding towns.

One challenge for towns with a very low population density is to efficiently provide services, including the equipment, staff, and necessary facilities. However, there may be ways to share facilities and equipment with neighboring towns or the county, which would lessen the burden for Taghkanic. The town does currently share some highway equipment; there may be other ways to share services as well. The first step would be for Taghkanic to inventory and evaluate town services and equipment to determine what the town's current and future role can be in the provision of various services. The intent of this recommendation is to seek ways to maintain and improve community services by finding opportunities to make the provision of these services more efficient.

4.2 Create a master plan for Highway Department facilities.

As the inventory of services, equipment, and facilities recommended above is underway, the town should also assess improvements to the facilities used by the Highway Department. This is especially important as the town pursues necessary improvements for salt storage. Since the storage of salt must be upgraded to meet New York State requirements, this presents a good opportunity to evaluate what other changes could be made to the Highway Department facilities in terms of functionality, appearance, and conformance with pertinent federal or state regulations. A master plan for the Highway Department facility should be created to guide these improvements.

4.3 Coordinate with Empire State Development, Columbia County, and adjacent communities to bring high speed internet services to Taghkanic.

Increasingly, home-based and small businesses rely on high speed internet access to be viable. As stated previously in the Plan, these types of businesses can play an important economic role in Taghkanic without causing negative impacts on rural character. As such, providing access to high speed internet will not only create a convenient amenity for residents, but will promote appropriately-scaled economic development as well.

There are a number of initiatives, with agencies such as the Empire State Development Corporation and the USDA Rural Development Telecommunications Program, which are intended to bring high speed internet access to rural areas. The town should identify and work with these agencies to improve internet access for residents and business owners.

4.4 Establish a location and system for storing current and historic documents.

The storage of important town archives is an important consideration, especially as technologies used in the day-to-day administration of the town continue to change. Historical documents should be protected, while still allowing for easy access for research. Current documents should be stored to facilitate access and use by town staff.

4.5 Redesign and restructure the town website.

Taghkanic's website should be viewed as another gateway to the community, or a “virtual Town Hall”. As such, the site should be accessible, up to date, and informative. Several recommendations of this Plan call for the website to play an important role in disseminating information. In addition, the site could provide contact information for members of local government, to allow the public adequate access to their elected officials. Copies of all local laws, meeting minutes, application forms, and similar information should be posted on the website as well.

4.6 Review and revise land use regulations, to make sure they are consistent with the intent and recommendations of the Plan.

The zoning ordinance is perhaps the most important land use tool available to a municipality. As such, many communities update specific provisions within the ordinance on a piecemeal basis, in response to issues that arise periodically. However, this can result in a confusing ordinance with many cross-references, and in worst-case situations can create conflicting regulations.

Given that many of the recommendations in this plan require the zoning ordinance to be revised, Taghkanic should take the opportunity to perform a thorough review and revision of the ordinance, so that it is consistent with the vision, goals, sub-goals, and strategies of this plan. This review would involve the following:

- Review the Zoning Map: The town should review the Zoning map to ensure the Zoning Districts and District boundaries are consistent with the intent of the comprehensive plan.
- Districts and District Purpose: Refine and/or re-define the "Purpose" of each Zoning District to be consistent with the comprehensive plan.
- District Uses: Refine and/or change the allowable/compatible uses for each district.
- Design Guidelines: To assist the Planning and Zoning Boards and the applicants, the Architectural and Site Design Guidelines as proposed in this Plan could be adopted and made part of the zoning ordinance.
- Project Review: The site plan review, special use permit, conservation subdivision, and supplemental regulations should also be reviewed for compliance with the comprehensive plan.

In addition, the ordinance should be reviewed to make it an organized, user-friendly document. Copies of the final document, including the zoning map, should be readily available on the town's website and at Town Hall or Town Clerk's office.

4.7 Develop a Citizen's Guide to Land Use and Development Regulations.

A companion to the town's zoning ordinance, this document explains the town's regulations and project review process. Providing a Citizen's Guide would help developers avoid unnecessary delays during project review, educate the public about current regulations, and improve compliance with land use regulations.

4.8 Update the enforcement and administration provisions in the zoning ordinance.

Administration and enforcement are important components of the Town Code. As such, it is important to ensure that the processes used to administer and enforce the Zoning Ordinance are efficient and in compliance with New York State Town law. For example, provisions for the State Environmental Quality Review Act, or requirements of General Municipal Law, may not be fully integrated into the processes set forth for site plan review or special permits. These regulations should be reviewed to determine how they can be made more efficient and effective within the standards set by State law. This will make it easier for town officials to enforce the provisions of the code consistently and efficiently, as well as ensure that the processes undertaken by the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals conform to the requirements set forth by New York State.

4.9 Review available options concerning local control of junk and litter, and update local laws accordingly.

According to the public survey, 75% of respondents believe the town should regulate junk vehicles, and 85% support local regulations for litter. This is a clear indication that residents are concerned with the impacts that junk and litter can have on the appearance of the town. As such, the town should examine current regulations, regarding these issues. As with all recommendations in this Plan, changes to local laws should balance the need to maintain the health, safety and welfare of the community while allowing residents fair use of their property. This review and, if necessary, revision, should take into account the definitions of junk and litter, and enforcement and penalties associated with infractions.

4.10 Re-establish the Historical Society to preserve and promote Taghkanic's heritage.

A local historical society can provide many benefits to the town. Although not numerous, Taghkanic's historic landscapes and architecture deserve to be celebrated and preserved. In addition, residents and visitors to the town should be afforded every opportunity for greater understanding of the historical context and development of Taghkanic. The locally-based historical society, currently inactive, could play several important roles, including, but not limited to:

- Provide oversight for historical documents
- Encourage coordination with the Columbia County Historical Society, Roeliff Jansen Historical Society, and NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation
- Work to identify and catalogue important buildings, sites, and landscapes in the town

4.11 Explore ways to increase communication between town officials and residents.

This can be done by enabling wider accessibility to town officials, and on a town-wide scale by extensive advertisement and circulation of information. Other ideas include:

- Create a Town Directory. Taghkanic's website contains a directory listing the names and some contact information for some (but not all) town officials and board/committee members. This directory should be expanded, both in print and digital form, to provide complete contact information for all officials, as well as officials in the county and state. Print versions could be made available at Town Hall, while a digital version can replace the current directory on the website.
- Provide email addresses for town officials through the town website. This will allow for open communication without forcing town officials to use personal email accounts for town business.

- Publish a town newsletter. Quarterly or bi-annual newsletters are an effective way to keep the public informed about town business. Taghkanic should mail newsletters to residents, and should provide digital copies of current and past newsletters on the website. Topics can include, but are not limited to: updates about town projects, reports from town staff, and any general issues of local or regional importance.
- Encourage special joint meetings of the Town Board, Planning Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals to cover issues of general importance. Although these three boards operate independently, issues occasionally arise which would benefit from a joint meeting, such as information sessions for large-scale planning efforts or other issues of town-wide importance. Holding a joint meeting not only provides an opportunity for members of the separate boards to gain insight into the issue at hand, but also provides members of the public to address all three boards at once.

4.12 Explore ways to increase the functionality of the Town Hall.

The public survey indicated that 68% of respondents consider Town Hall to be "very important" or "important". In addition, Town Hall was mentioned dozens of times in the open-ended survey responses to be one of the Town's weaknesses, a good use of municipal funds, or the least favorite spot in Town. As such, the town should consider options which would make Town Hall a more usable resource for the community, especially in terms of services provided, hours of operation, handicapped accessibility, and the physical condition of the structure as the traditional seat of civic activity.

4.13 Consider energy generation and communication technology when updating town ordinances.

The technology associated with communication and energy generation facilities continues to develop and change. However, local laws concerning telecommunication towers are often based on outdated or generic land use codes, and may not sufficiently reflect current technology or local priorities, such as maintaining rural views.

Similarly, the provision of alternative energy, such as windmills, is an emerging issue for many communities. Many land use codes do not address wind turbines, however. As the zoning and other land use ordinances are updated, the town should take the opportunity to determine its priorities for windmills and telecommunication towers and integrate these ideas into local laws.

4.14 Promote Senior Services.

Appoint a Senior Advisory Group of local residents to research the needs of senior residents and explore senior services available to town residents. Provide a Senior Services Information Center at the Town Hall with pamphlets and information on available services. Schedule an annual or biannual senior seminar and information exchange with the Town Board, Columbia County Office of the Aging

and other state and national agencies which administer programs to the senior population. Utilize the Senior Seminar to obtain feedback and information from seniors about their concerns on local issues and problems encountered with the availability of county and state services. Consider the need for senior meeting space in plans for a new Town Hall. Seek input from the community for voluntary assistance for seniors. Explore the need and interest of an exchange or trade for services framework for the senior population. Survey the senior population for areas of experience and expertise which they might be willing to mentor, exchange or volunteer to other members of the community. Fund a Senior Hot Line for emergency services. Provide all senior residents with an annual list of telephone numbers for emergency services and public officials.

APPENDIX 1: MAPPING AND DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

APPENDIX 1: MAPPING AND DEMOGRAPHIC SUMMARY

As part of the Comprehensive Plan process, an inventory of existing conditions in the Town was conducted. This inventory examined land use, zoning, buildout capacity, population and housing, natural resources, and agriculture. The results of this inventory provided context for the formation of the vision, goals, and recommendations of the plan.

This appendix contains a summary of the inventory conducted for the plan. It is not intended to be all-inclusive, but to instead provide context for the existing conditions and regional trends which are present in and around the Town of Taghkanic.

A. *Existing Land Use*

Understanding the patterns of land use in a community lends insight about predominant development types. As such, the existing land uses have been included in the inventory of conditions in the Town. Table 1 breaks down the amount of each land use found in Taghkanic. The data is based on an 'assessment code' assigned by the Town Assessor, who is guided by a directory of codes provided by the New York State Office of Real Property Services.

The New York State Office of Real Property Services has developed a simple and uniform classification system that is used in assessment administration in New York State. For more information on property class codes, please visit: http://www.orps.state.ny.us The system of classification consists of numeric codes in nine categories. Each category is composed of divisions, indicated by the second digit, and subdivisions (where required), indicated by a third digit. The nine categories are:

Category Description

100 Agricultural - Property used for the production of crops or livestock.

200 Residential - Property used for human habitation. Living accommodations such as hotels, motels, and apartments are in the Commercial category - 400.

300 Vacant Land - Property that is not in use, is in temporary use, or lacks permanent improvement.

400 Commercial - Property used for the sale of goods and/or services.

500 Recreation & Entertainment - Property used by groups for recreation, amusement, or entertainment.

600 Community Services - Property used for the well being of the community.

700 Industrial - Property used for the production and fabrication of durable and nondurable man-made goods.

800 Public Services - Property used to provide services to the general public.

900 Wild, Forested, Conservation Lands & Public Parks - Reforested lands, preserves, and private hunting and fishing clubs

Table 1 shows the breakdown of land uses by the major categories.

Table 1 - Breakdown of Land Use

Land Use	Property Class Codes	Acres*	% of Total
Agriculture	100-199	1,527.02	7%
Residential	200-299	9,584.77	43%
Vacant	300-399	9,778.00	44%
Commercial	400-499	174.18	1%
Recreation & Entertainment	500-599	0	0
Community Service	600-699	134.67	1%
Industrial	700-799	0	0
Public Service	800-899	159.86	1%
Wild, Forested, Conservation Lands	900-999	719.04	3%
	Total	22,077.54	100%

Source: Columbia County Real Property Services

*Note: Area in Table 1 refers to the sum of acres of parcels with a specific land use class. This does not include parcels missing land use code data, or area not considered a parcel, such as surface water and road right-of-ways. As such, the sum of acreage in Table 1 does not equal the whole area of the town.

As can be seen in the Table 1, 87% of the land in Taghkanic is classified as either residential or vacant land. The next highest land use classification is agriculture, which makes up 7% of the property class total. It is important to note that this percentage is based only on the code assigned to the parcel by the assessor; it is often the case that lands classified as vacant are sometimes used for agricultural purposes, such as haying. The inventory of agriculture contained elsewhere in this appendix provides greater detail concerning agricultural lands in Town.

The remainder of acreage is devoted to commercial, community service, public service, and conservation lands. The town contains no parcels classified as recreation & entertainment or industrial.

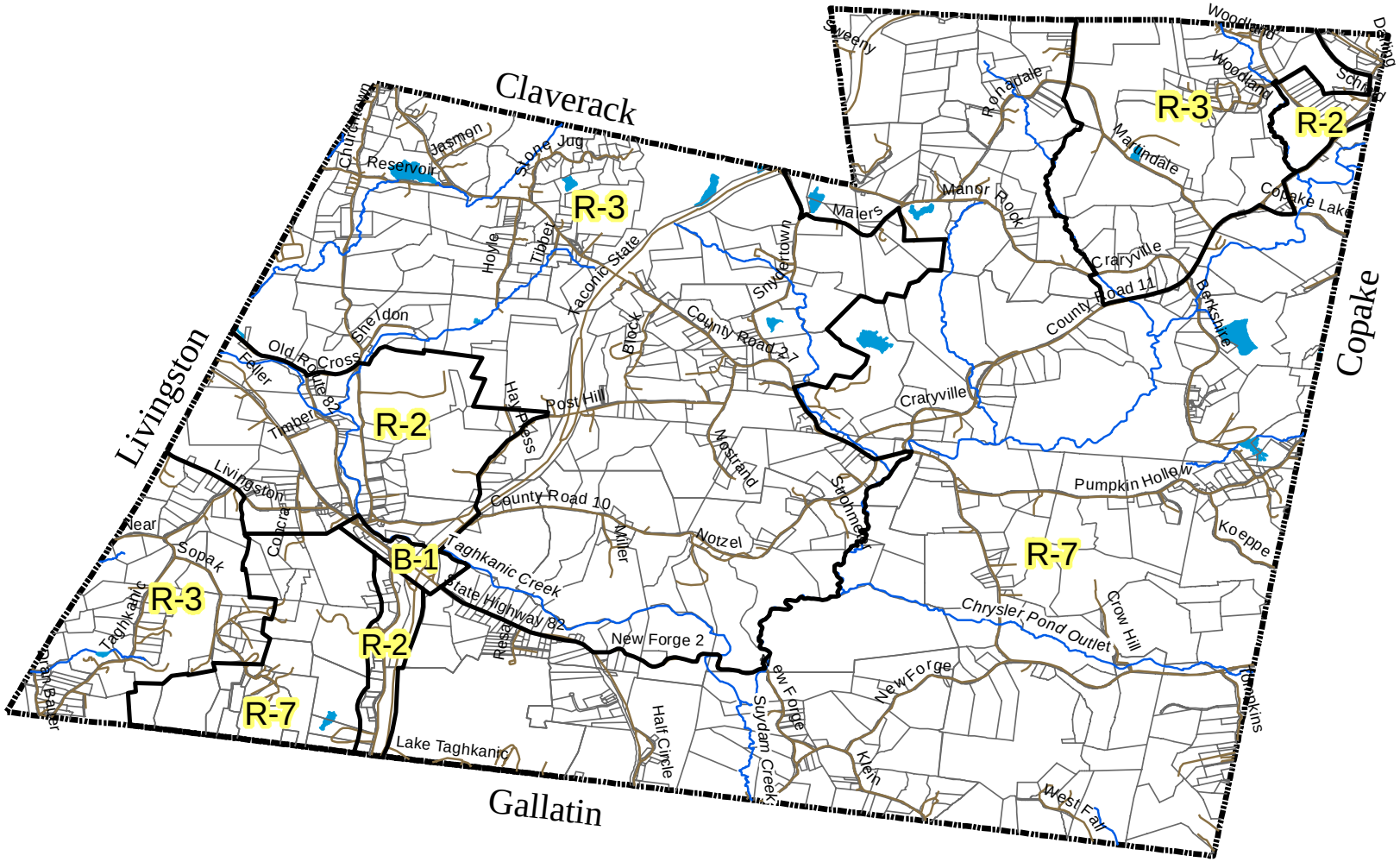
*B. **Zoning***

Districts

A community's zoning ordinance is often the most important tool available to regulate land use in the Town. As such, a general understanding of where the various zoning districts are located as well as the intent of the zones is important to understand how the land uses in the Town are regulated.

Taghkanic's zoning ordinance maps four zoning districts: R-2 Residence - one family per 2 acres, R-3 Residence - one family per 3 acres, R-7 Residence - one family per 7 acres, and B-I General Business. These zones are shown on Map 1. As seen on the map, the majority of land in the town is zoned residentially, with varying densities as indicated. The residential zones allow housing and agriculture, as well as some forms of community service, lodging, recreation, and home occupation uses, either as-of-right or with site plan review or a special use permit. The commercial zone is located along Route 82 and comprises about 105 acres. This zone allows a variety of residential and business uses, many of which require site plan review or a special use permit.

Map 1 – Existing Zoning



Legend

- ZONING
- Streams and Rivers
- Major Roads
- Tax Parcels
- Town Boundaries
- Lakes and Reservoirs

N W E S

0 2,500 5,000 10,000 Feet

Town of Taghkanic
Comprehensive Plan
Existing Zoning

Prepared By:
ELAN

Note: All boundaries are approximate.
Data Sources
Roads: US Census Bureau, Geography Division
Parcels and Town Boundaries: Columbia County
Water Features: NYSDEC

C. ***Buildout Analysis***

To further understand the implications of the existing zoning on the future of the Town, a Buildout Analysis was completed. This analysis, using CommunityViz software, examines the potential for development based on the lot sizes and density allowed in zoning versus the amount of developable land in the Town.

Build-out analyses are based upon a number of general assumptions and the results are neither exact nor explicit. The results are intended to mimic reality, but it is impossible to accurately predict exact densities or amounts of buildable land until site investigations (i.e. topographic surveys, wetland delineation, etc.) are undertaken.

A number of assumptions were made in the creation of this build-out analysis. These assumptions are necessary in order to complete the analysis and are extrapolated from the Town's regulations. The following is a partial list of the assumptions made for this analysis:

- Building constraints - Constraints such as steep slopes over 20%, 100 year floodplains, NYSDEC wetlands, surface water, roadways, and existing buildings were not considered buildable.
- Zoning Densities – The number of units per acre allowed under the Taghkanic Zoning Ordinance was taken into account.
- Site development realities - the results of the analysis are based on what the zoning code would allow, meaning that actual site conditions (i.e. existing buildings, lack of road frontage, setbacks, etc.) lower the development potential for any given parcel.

The results of this analysis is shown in Map 2. The analysis indicates that, were the town to reach full build-out under existing zoning, a total of 3,218 dwelling units could be potentially developed in Taghkanic. This represents a 320% increase over the existing 765 dwelling units in Taghkanic today. These dwelling units are represented by the blue dots. It is important to note that the placement of the dots is randomly generated within the developable areas by the analysis software. These dots are not intended to show actual future building sites, but to give an overall conceptual picture of how the potential housing would be distributed throughout the town, based on existing zoning.

Map 2– Buildout Analysis

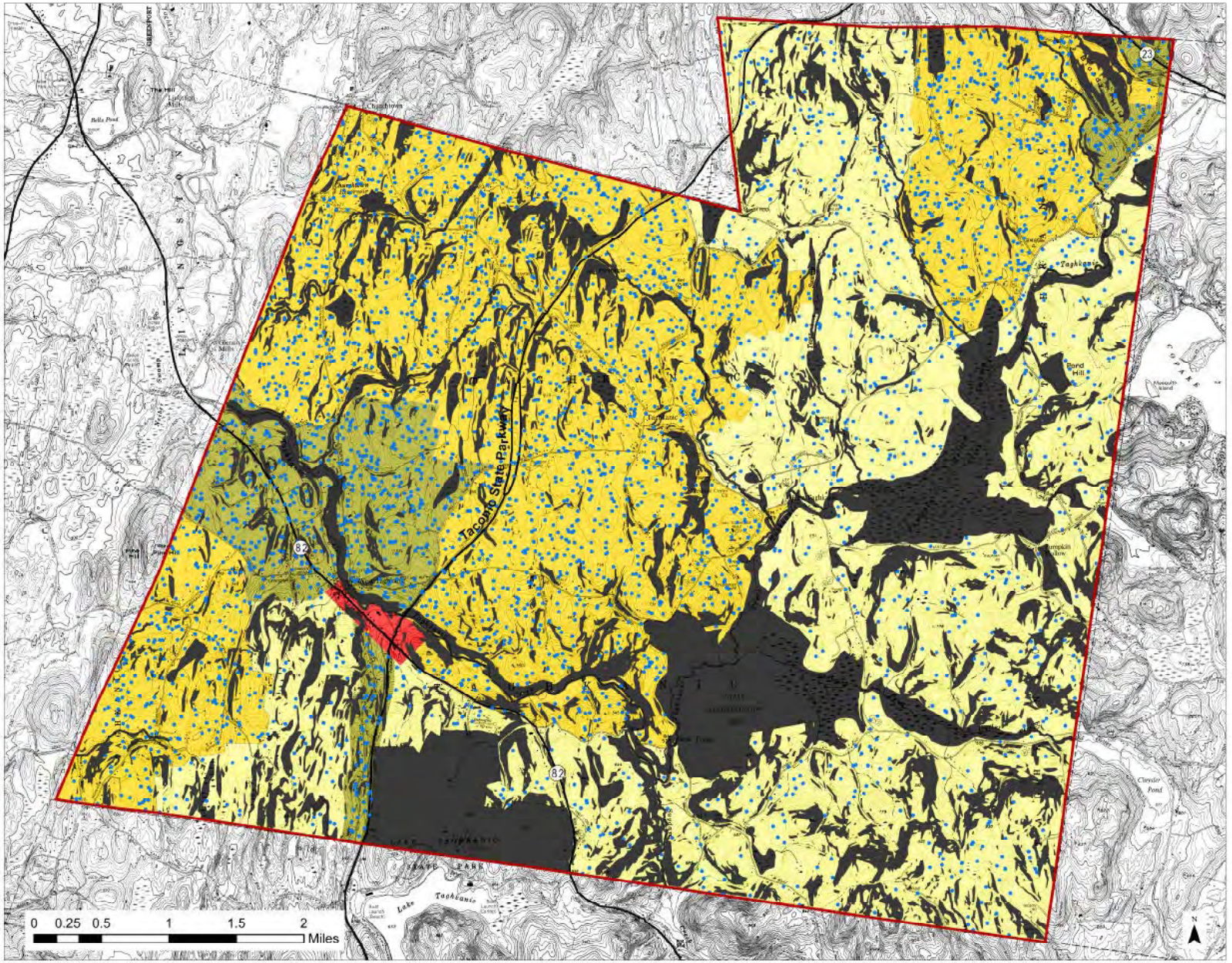


Figure 2

BUILDOUT ANALYSIS -

Town of Taghkanic
Master Plan

KEY

POTENTIAL BUILDING
- SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL
- NON-RESIDENTIAL

MAJOR ROAD

TOWN BOUNDARY

DEVELOPMENT CONSTRAINT

ZONING DISTRICT
- B-1
- R-2
- R-3
- R-7

* Assumptions:
- NYS DEC Wetlands, FEMA 100-yr. Flood Zones, Steep Slopes >20%, State Land & lands within 50 ft. of streams are not buildable
- Existing Buildings are Considered in Build-Out
- No Commercial Buildings Allowed in the Residential Zones

Project Lead Consultant:

ELAN
PLANNING & DESIGN, INC

Project GIS Analyst:

Envision GEO
Geospatial Analyses, 3D Visualizations & Presentation Mapping

January 2008

PROJECT # 2008 - 08001
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This map is computer generated using data acquired by EnvisionGEO & Elan Planning & Design from various sources and is intended only for reference, conceptual planning and presentation purposes. This map is not intended for and should not be used to establish boundaries, property lines, location of objects or to provide any other information typically needed for construction or any other purpose when engineered plans or land surveys are required.

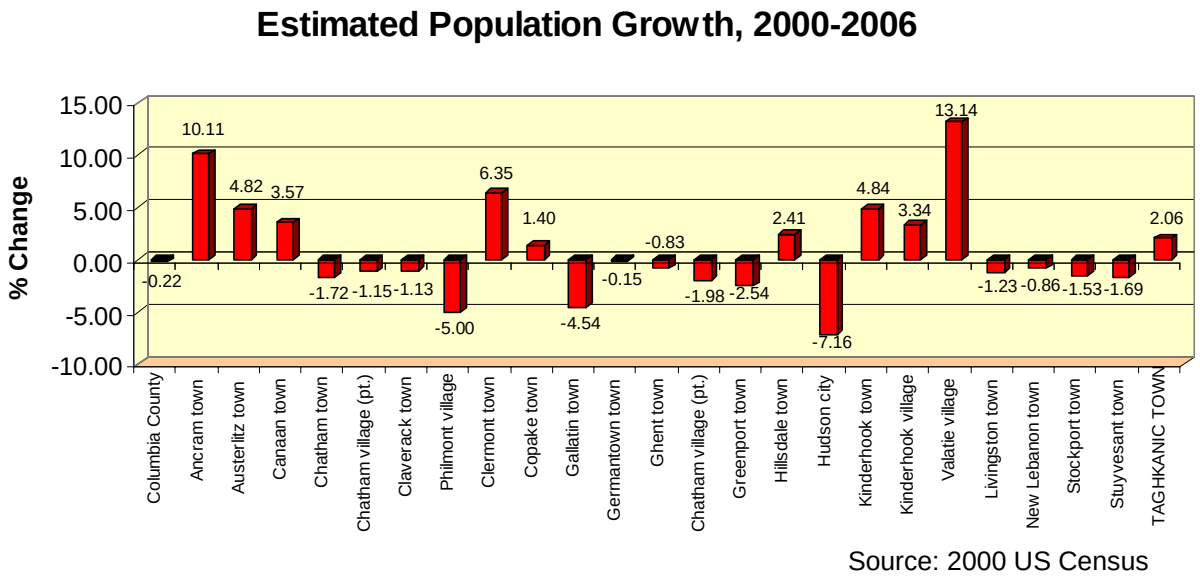
D. ***Population and Housing Trends***

To gain a more complete understanding of the local and regional development trends which may affect Taghkanic, an inventory of population and housing trends was conducted. This inventory indicates how the Town has grown in comparison to other communities in the County, as well as the County itself.

Population

According to the 2006 estimated census, there are 1,141 residents in the Town of Taghkanic. The population increased by 2.06% between 2000 and 2006 (see Figure 1), ranking the town 9 out of the 10 communities in Columbia County which experienced growth in this period. The County itself lost population in this period, a decrease of 0.22%. It should be noted that these figures are estimates based on the 2000 census, and may not fully reflect the shift in economic and demographics which has occurred since 2000. For instance, many Hudson Valley communities have anecdotally reported an increase in population after 2001, as New York City residents moved to more rural areas. In the absence of more accurate data, however, these estimates provide the best approximation of population in the Town.

Figure 1



Source: 2000 US Census

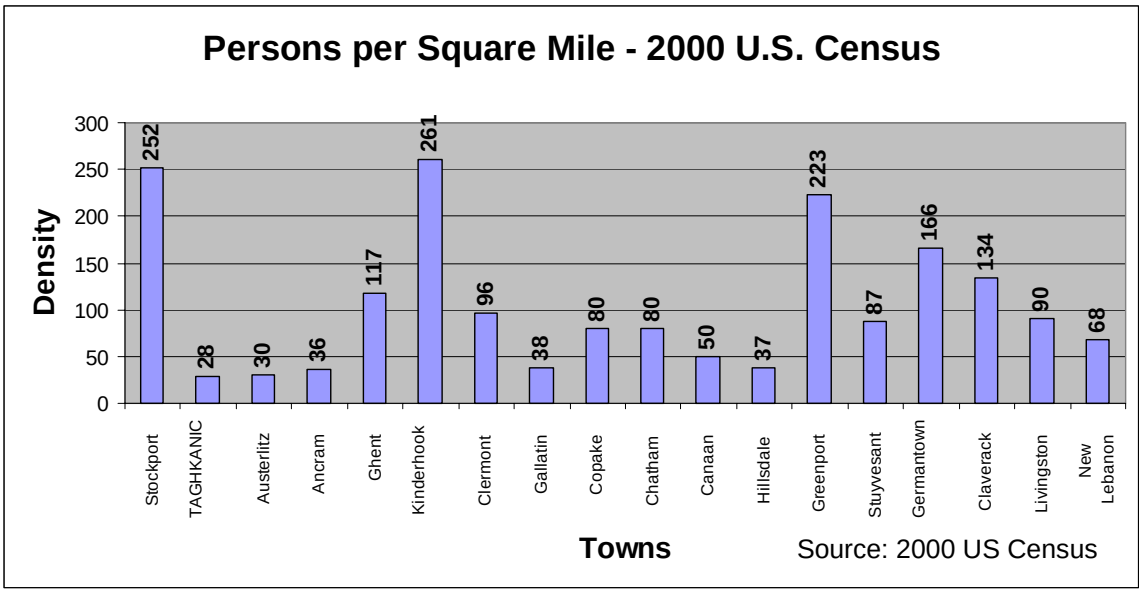
Housing

Taghkanic contained 713 housing units at the time of the 2000 US Census. Of the total, 91% were occupied, with the remaining 9% were indicated to be vacant. In addition, of the occupied units about 66% were owner-occupied, while 34% were occupied by renters. In addition, the census indicated about 23% of the housing units were intended for seasonal use. This is much higher than in the County in general, where only about 11% of the housing units are seasonal.

Since 2000, the number of housing units has grown. Although accurate estimates of housing units are not available at the town level, the Columbia County Real Property Services information used as part of this analysis indicates there may be about 765 housing units in the town, which would represent a 7% increase.

In addition to the number of housing units, the population density was also examined. Taghkanic had a population density of 28 persons per square mile according to the 2000 census. This was the lowest density in Columbia County, which underscores the very rural nature of the community. Since the population and housing units have increased since then, the density today is likely to be slightly higher. Figure 2 indicates how Taghkanic compares to the other towns in Columbia County in terms of population density. Map 3 shows how these densities are located throughout the county, with the higher density communities located closer to the City of Hudson.

Figure 2



Map 3 – Population Density

TM-P002. Persons per Square Mile: 2000
Universe: Total population
Data Set: Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data
Columbia County, New York by County Subdivision

NOTE: For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, definitions, and count corrections see http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/datanotes/expsf1u.htm.

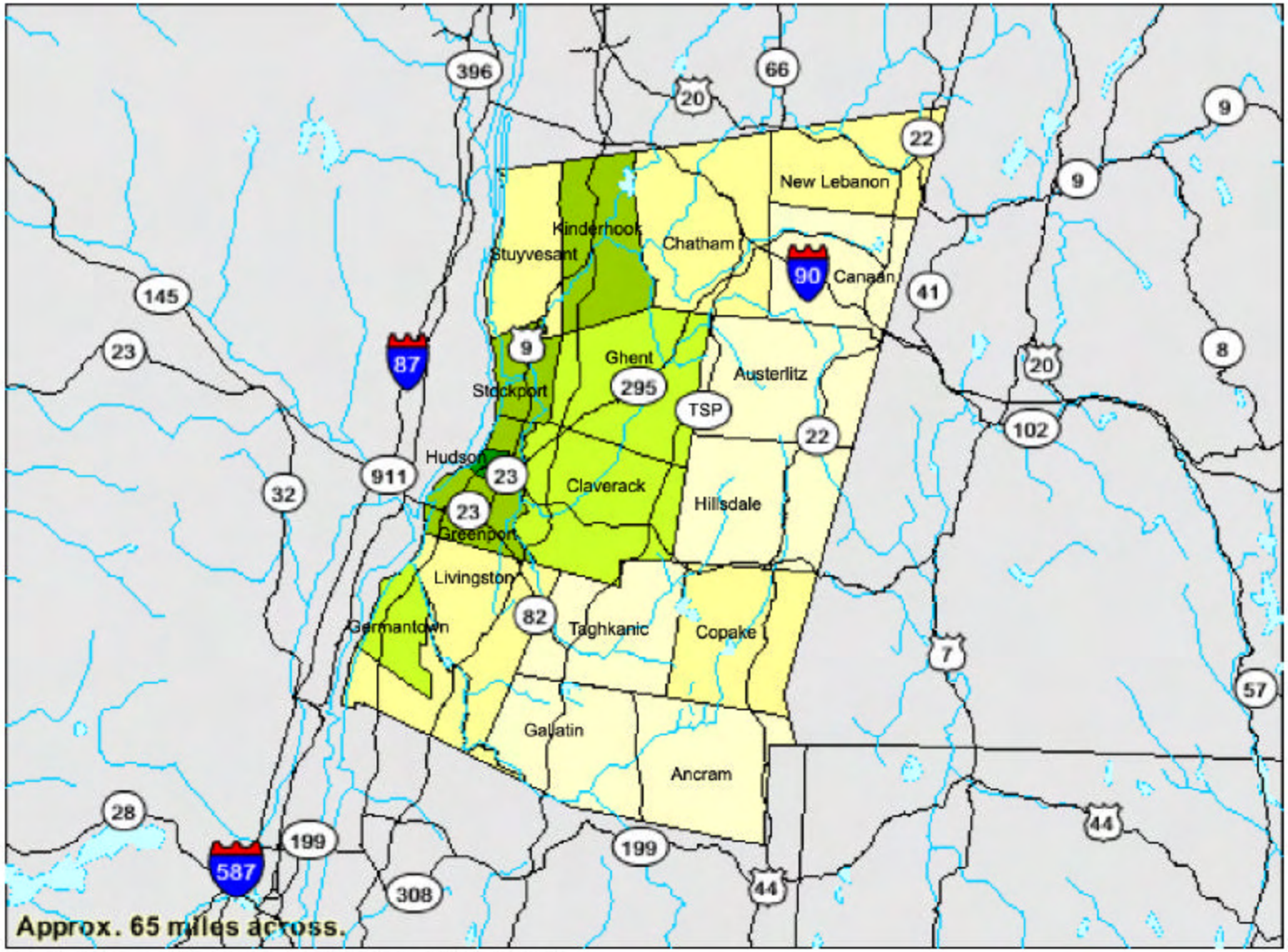
ta Classes

Persons/Sq Mile
28 - 50
68 - 96
117 - 166
223 - 261
3469 - 3469

atures

Major Road
Street
Stream/Waterbody
Stream/Waterbody

ns ingraytext
not visible
this zoom level



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1, Matrix P1.

*E. **Environmental Features and Natural Resources***

Taghkanic is home to many environmental features which play an important role in ecological function and rural character. This section of the inventory examines the environmental features throughout the town.

Lakes & Waterways

Taghkanic contains several important water features, which contribute to the overall function of the regional Hudson Valley watershed. The source for the digital files used to map the lakes and waterways was the NYSDEC. Prominent streams include Taghkanic Creek and the Chrysler Pond Outlet. Taghkanic is home to several small ponds, as well as Churchtown Reservoir, which supplies water to the City of Hudson. Other important waterbodies near Taghkanic include Lake Taghkanic, just south of town, Copake Lake to the east, and Bell's Pond to the west.

Wetlands & Floodplains

Wetlands and floodplains perform important hydrological functions, including providing natural attenuation for stormwater and improving water quality. As such, mapping these sensitive resources provides insight into the hydrology of the Town as well as areas which may be limited for certain land uses. Taghkanic contains several areas of wetlands mapped by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The largest system is located along Taghkanic Creek just north of Pumpkin Hollow Road. It is important to note that this mapping does not account for smaller federal wetlands under the jurisdiction of the Army Corps of Engineers, which are not available as digital maps. Floodplains, as mapped digitally by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, are located mainly along Taghkanic Creek, and in several areas coincide with wetland systems.

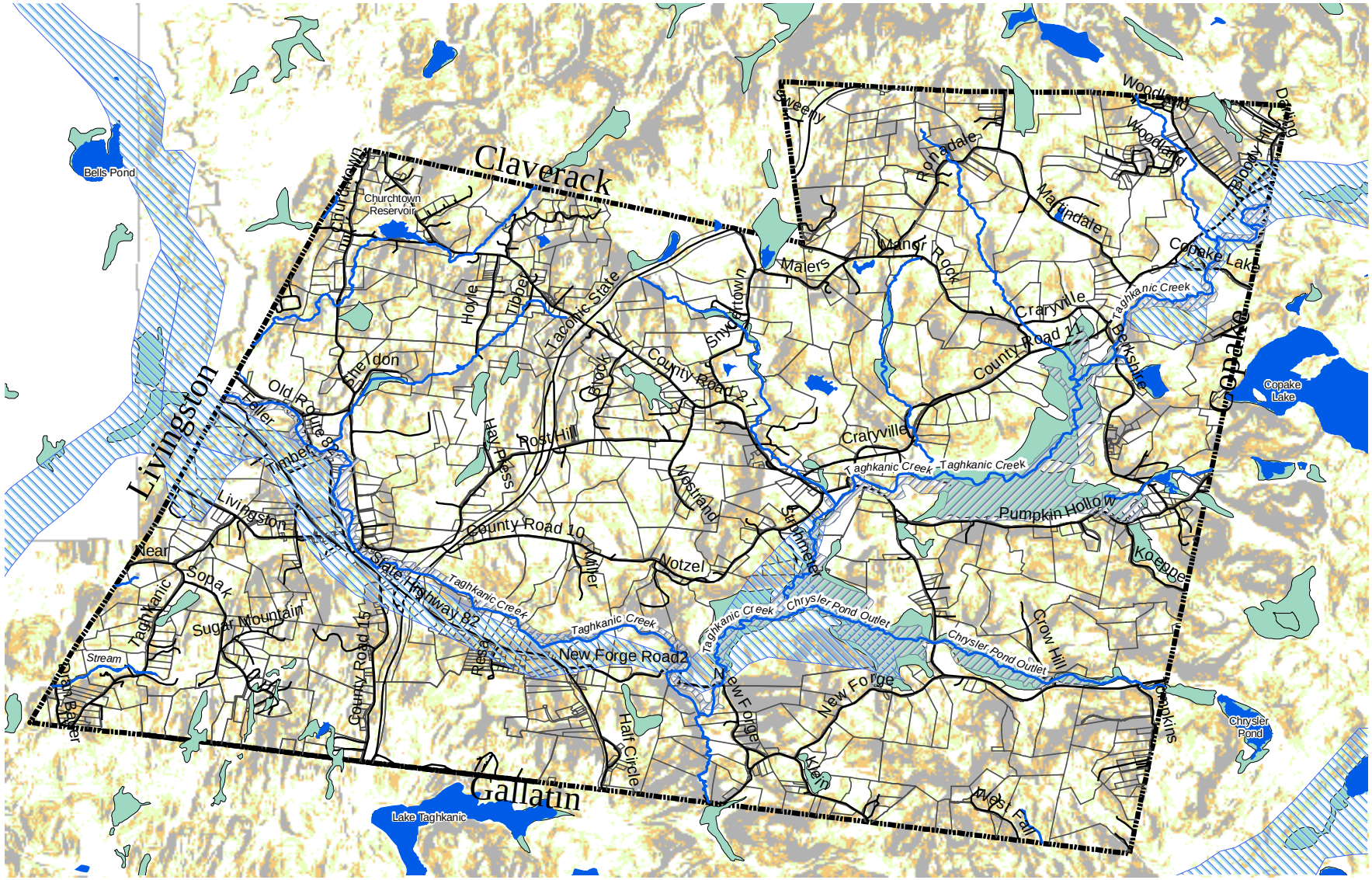
Groundwater Resources

There are two large unconsolidated aquifers mapped in the town; both are located along Taghkanic Creek. The groundwater in an unconsolidated aquifer is located in the water table, as opposed to an artesian spring. Since the water is located mainly in sand and gravel deposits, these aquifers are susceptible to contamination. As such, it is important to know where these aquifers are located. The Town is currently undertaking a detailed study of groundwater in Taghkanic, to further understand the location and extent of this resource.

Steep slopes

Taghkanic is characterized by rolling hills, which, in addition to creating opportunities for scenic views, also limit the potential for building in some areas. Map 3, which shows slopes based on USGS data, categorizes slopes into 0-10%, 10-15%, 15-20%, and 20+% areas. In general terms, the higher the slope, the more difficult it is to build or develop an area. Most communities limit or prohibit development on slopes over a certain point, such as 15-18%. As seen on Map 4, there are many areas of high slopes located throughout the town.

Map 4 – Natural Resources



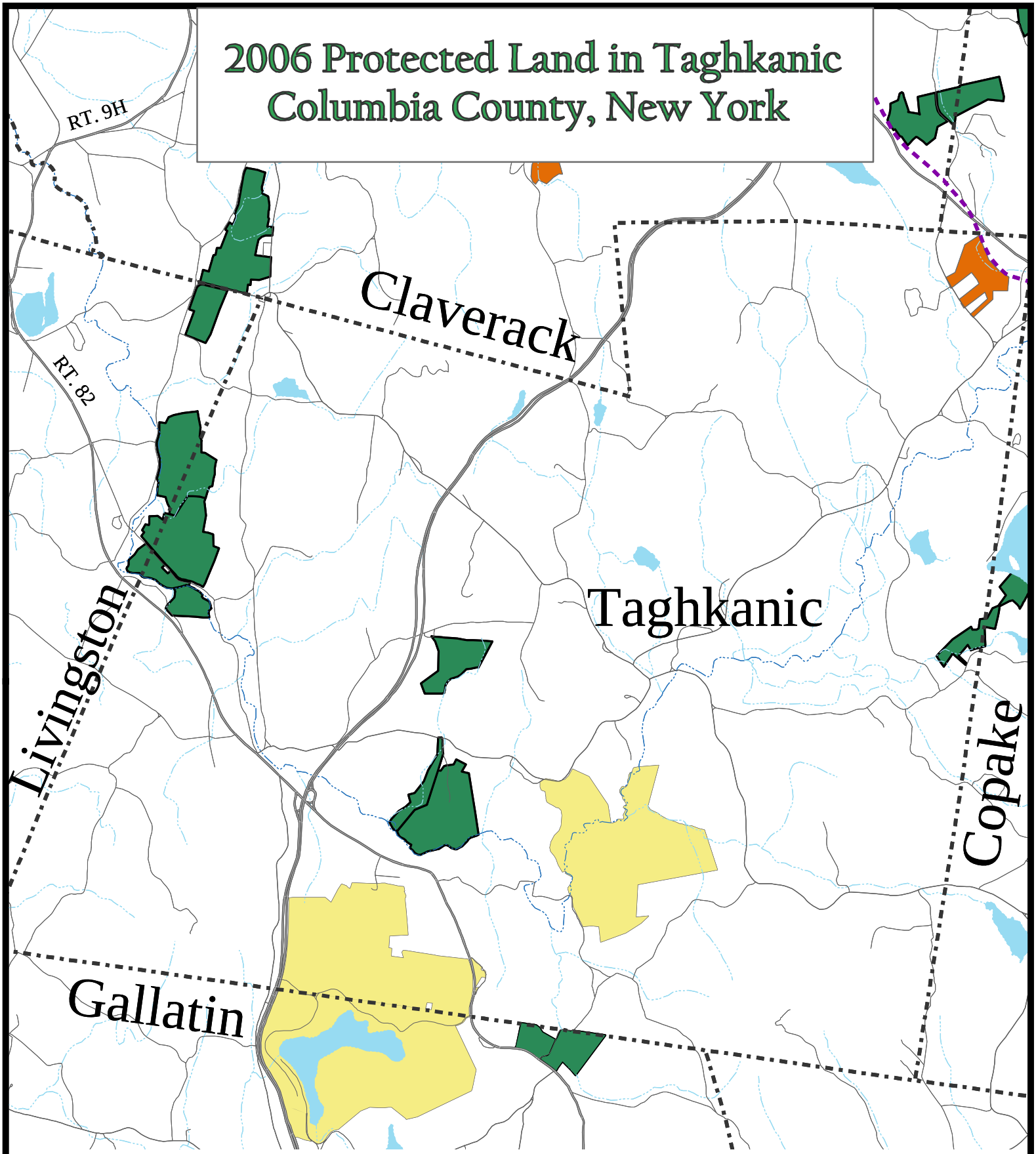
Town of Taghkanic
Comprehensive Plan
Natural Resources Map

Prepared By:
ELAN

Note: All boundaries are approximate.
Data Sources
Roads: US Census Bureau, Geography Division
Parcels and Town Boundaries: Columbia County
Water Features: NYSDEC

Map 5 – Public Lands in Taghkanic

2006 Protected Land in Taghkanic
Columbia County, New York



Legend:

Privately Conserved Lands -
Conservation Easements held by:

- Columbia Land Conservancy
- Other Conservation Organizations, New York State or National Park Service

Public Lands:

- Public by CLC
- Public by Government
- Public by Others

Total Acreage in Columbia County:	411,520
Source: Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District	
Percentage of Public Land:	3.79%
Does not include municipal parks	
Percentage of Protected Private Land:	5.78%
Columbia Land Conservancy:	4.55%
Other Groups:	1.23%

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

1 inch equals 1 miles

COLUMBIA LAND CONSERVANCY
PO BOX 299 | 49 MAIN STREET
CHATHAM, NEW YORK 12037
Visit us at www.clctrust.org

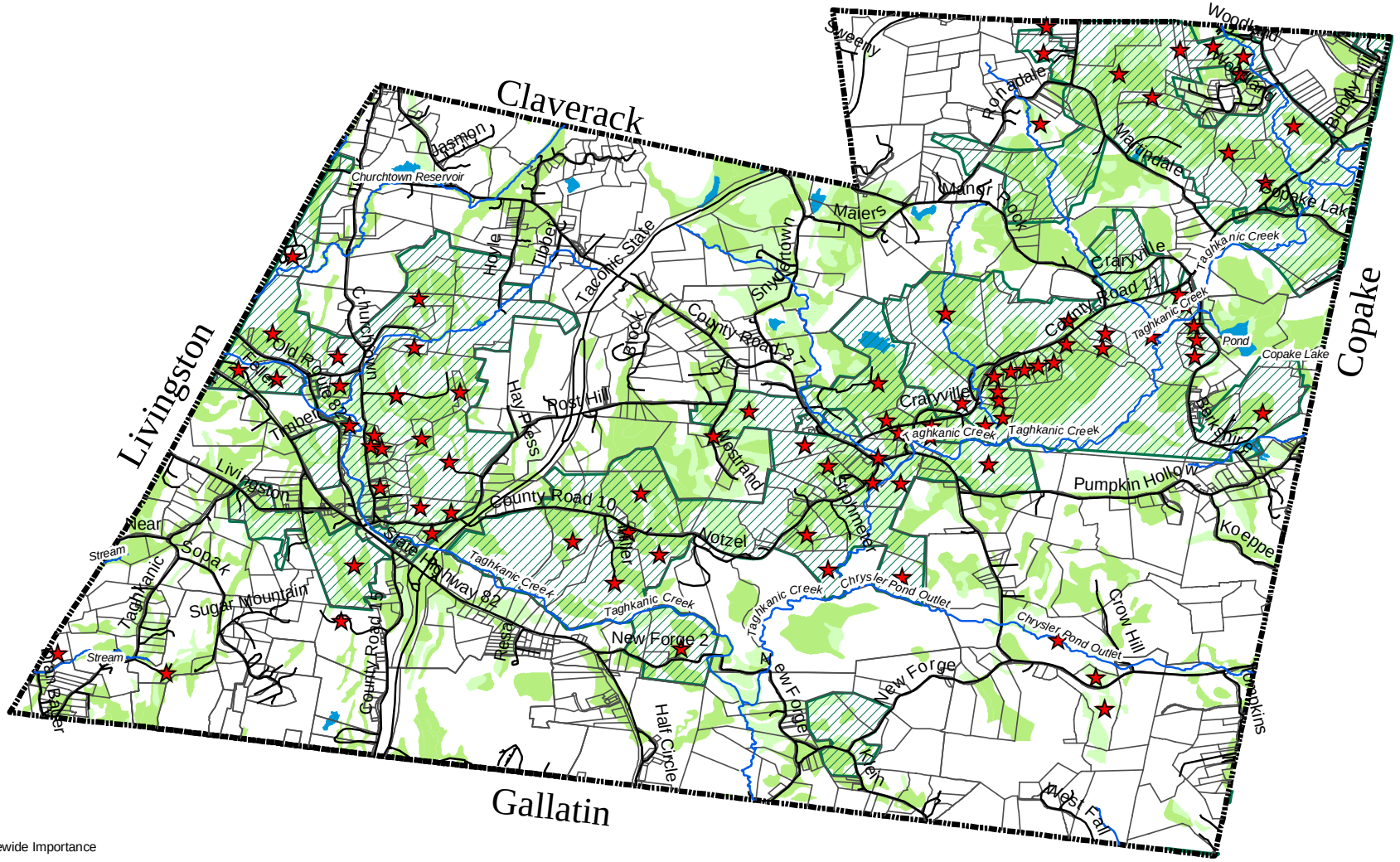
F. Agriculture

Agriculture played a vital role in the historic and cultural development of the town and region. Today, farming continues to be fundamental to the character of the town. Agricultural features which were mapped for this inventory include soils, agricultural districts, and parcels which receive agriculture assessments.

Taghkanic contains almost 7,900 acres of agriculture districts. In addition, about 90 parcels receive the benefit of an agricultural assessment. This assessment reduces the total tax burden on land which is actively used for agriculture and which meets certain state standards. The location of these assessments and agricultural districts is shown on Map 6. As stated previously, not all of these parcels are assigned agricultural property class codes; however, these lands make up the majority of active farmland in the Town.

Another important component of farm viability is the presence of adequate soils. These soils can represent a sensitive resource, since many land use and development activities can preclude the availability of these soils for farming in the future. New York State identifies certain soil types as Prime Farmland Soils or Soils of Statewide Importance for Farming. There are approximately 1,936 acres of Prime Farmland Soils, and 5,922 acres of Soils of Statewide Importance for Farming in Taghkanic. As can be seen in Map 6, most, but not all, of the areas with these soils are located within an agricultural district.

Map 6 – Agricultural Resources



Legend

Parcel Data

- Ag Assessment
- Streams and Rivers
- Major Roads
- Tax Parcels
- Town Boundaries
- Ag Districts
- Prime Farmland Soils
- Lakes and Reservoirs
- Soils: Farmland of Statewide Importance

N W E S

0 2,500 5,000 10,000 Feet

Town of Taghkanic
Comprehensive Plan
Agricultural Resources Map

Prepared By: ELAN

Note: All boundaries are approximate.
Data Sources
Roads: US Census Bureau, Geography Division
Parcels and Town Boundaries: Columbia County
Soils: USDA
AG Districts: Columbia County
Water Features: NYSDEC

APPENDIX 2: SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

From the outset every effort was made to involve the community in the development of the Comprehensive Plan. The first activity was to mail a survey to all households requesting opinions on key issues about the town. (See appendix for results)

The public was welcome at all Comprehensive Committee Meetings, the dates of which were posted on the town website and on the town bulletin board. Additionally, postcard mailings to all residents were done on several occasions to inform residents of upcoming meetings. There were also paid ads and press releases for the various public presentations and hearings. In addition to the regular Committee meetings, the following special public meetings were held.

PUBLIC MEETINGS/HEARINGS

Date	**Meeting Type**	**Purpose**
June 2, 2006	Initial meeting	To describe the role of a Comprehensive Plan
September 29, 2006	Public Survey Results	Presentation of Survey Results
October 20, 2006	Public Survey Results	Continuation of above presentation
January 19, 2007	First Visioning Session	Meeting for public to discuss results and implications of Survey
February 16, 2007	Second Visioning Session	Continuation of above presentation
Mach 29, 2008	Presentation First Draft	Public presentation by Elan Planning and Design of initial draft of the Plan
May 3, 2008	Open House Workshop	Informal “drop-in” session to allow public to ask questions and present opinions about draft
May 17, 2008	Presentation Final Draft	Public presentation by Elan Planning and Design of the final draft of the Plan
June 2, 2008	Public Hearing	Public Hearing on final draft of the Plan
July 11, 2008	Public Hearing	Public Hearing on final draft of the Plan
June 26, 2009	Public Hearing	Public Hearing on final draft of the Plan
October 27, 2009	Public Hearing	Public Hearing on final draft of the Plan

SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

TOWN OF TAGHKANIC
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SURVEY

Prepared for:

Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan Committee

Prepared by:

MORRIS ASSOCIATES

INTRODUCTION

The Comprehensive Plan Survey was prepared by the Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan Committee as a means of soliciting input from the residents of the Town of Taghkanic. It provided an opportunity, in the beginning of the Comprehensive Plan process, for the public to identify their opinions on various topics and issues.

The surveys were mailed to 1,745 residents, merchants/tenants and property owners in Taghkanic. Careful attention was given to developing the database for the mailing and a combination of the tax role, voting registry, and first-hand knowledge was utilized in its creation.

A total of 357 surveys were received and tabulated for this Results Summary. This reflects a 20.46% response percentage. This is a wonderfully high return rate and indicates that the local residents, businesses and/or property owners were interested in expressing their opinions on issues of concern to them and identifying subject matters for consideration in the Comprehensive Plan. In addition to responding to options listed for survey questions, most respondents took the opportunity given them to write comments. The Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan Committee was responsible for the development of the survey and sincerely thanks all that responded.

This summary document is simply that. In the pages that follow are totals, percentages and listings of the responses made in the surveys returned. Pages 1 through 7 contain the information tabulated for questions 1 to 27, and question 34. Appendix A contains the responses to questions 28 to 33, the written opinion and comments questions of the survey, and Appendix B is a list of other comments noted in the survey.

The following is general information regarding the surveys received and the tabulation made. These are presented to give a better understanding of the information presented.

- Some of the respondents did not answer all of the questions, or all of the choices for each question, and, had made multiple selections where multiple selections were not expected. Hence, the total numbers for each question are not the same and can be reflective of numbers less than or higher than the number of surveys received.
- Some surveys were received after the extended deadline of June 28, 2006 and were not included in this tabulation.
- For questions 1 through 27 and question 34, the number of responses, by category and total is always noted. A percentage of total respondents is also given unless there are significant numbers of response categories (this was done to keep lengthy data simple and uncluttered).
- The comment responses for questions 28 to 33 are not sorted in any way, they are merely a listing of all comments. As some comments were very lengthy, those lengthy comments have been paraphrased and an asterisk (*) used to identify the abbreviated comment.

This is a significant first step in the Comprehensive Plan development process. This information will be a key element in the formulation of the Comprehensive Plan. The next process step for this data is an analysis that will determine the basic areas of importance as identified by the survey respondents.

Any question on the content of this document should be posed to the Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan Committee (TCPC). This can be done in writing (mailed to Town Hall) or at a TCPC meeting.

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Summary of Questions 1 through 6 1

Summary of Questions 7 through 9 2

Summary of Questions 10 & 11 3

Summary of Questions 11 continued and through 14 4

Summary of Questions 15 through 19 5

Summary of Questions 20 through 23 6

Summary of Questions 24 through 27 and Question 34 7

Appendix A

Strongest Assets Comments Listing – Question 28 ..... A1 – A10

Greatest Weaknesses Comments Listing – Question 29 ..... A11 – A20

Good Use of Municipal Funds Comments Listing – Question 30 ..... A21 – A30

Favorite Spots in Town Comments Listing – Question 31 ..... A31 – A40

Least Favorite Spots in Town Comments Listing – Question 32 ..... A41 – A50

General Comments Listing – Question 33 ..... A51 – A60

Appendix B

"Other" responses for Questions 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 17 & 20 plus Additional Comments B1-B6

Total Number of Surveys Received **357**

1 *Is your property a?*

	Primary Residence	Second home	Land Only	Rental	Business	Multi-family
Responses	241	80	34	1	15	6
Percentage of total	63.9%	21.2%	9.0%	0.3%	4.0%	1.6%
Total Responding	377					

2 *Are you a tenant?*

	Yes	No
Responses	27	318
Percentage of total	7.8%	92.2%
Total Responding	345	

3 *Are you a full or a part time resident?*

	Full time	Part time
Responses	241	93
Percentage of total	72.2%	27.8%
Total Responding	334	

4 *If you are not living here full time, do you anticipate living full time in Taghkanic in:*

	1 - 3 years	4 - 6 years	7 - 10 years	More than 11 years	Never
Responses	15	31	19	10	20
Percentage of total	15.8%	32.6%	20.0%	10.5%	21.1%
Total Responding	95				

5 *How many years have you lived in Taghkanic?*

	0 - 5 years	6 - 15 years	16 - 25 years	More than 25 years
Responses	52	82	58	103
Percentage of total	17.6%	27.8%	19.7%	34.9%
Total Responding	295			

6 *What most influenced your decision to live here?*

	Born or raised here	Work / commute	Close to family / friends	School district	Rural character	Taxes	Crime rate	Town services	Housing cost	Retirement	Other
Responses	52	38	74	10	219	40	19	1	63	38	41
Percentage of total	8.7%	6.4%	12.4%	1.7%	36.8%	6.7%	3.2%	0.2%	10.6%	6.4%	6.9%
Total Responding	595							Equates to	1.7	average influences per respondent	

7 *What would influence your decision to move from here?*

	School district	Change in rural character	Taxes	Crime rate	Town services	Housing cost	Retirement	Work / commute	Other	
Responses	25	189	196	48	14	36	19	26	37	
Percentage of total	4.2%	32.0%	33.2%	8.1%	2.4%	6.1%	3.2%	4.4%	6.3%	
Total Responding	590							Equates to	1.7	average influences per respondent

8 *Do you operate a home based business in Taghkanic?*

	Yes	No
Responses	48	259
Percentage of total	15.6%	84.4%
Total Responding	307	

9 *How do you rate the need for the following services in Taghkanic?*

Personal Services	Very Important	Important	Not Important	No opinion	Totals
Post Office	75	68	186	13	342
Retail shopping	16	38	251	10	315
Pharmacy	28	52	246	10	336
Bakery	16	40	271	9	336
Grocery store	45	96	192	7	340
Liquor store	7	13	294	15	329
Gas Station	89	105	134	9	337
Other	20	14	96	42	172
Town Services					
Town Hall	91	141	96	12	340
Senior Services	56	126	133	30	345
Cable TV	63	77	193	11	344
High Speed Internet	132	93	100	17	342
Youth Activities	51	102	153	34	340
Community Center	38	91	181	33	343
Public Parks	61	90	168	21	340
Library	38	76	208	19	341
Police	80	108	136	13	337
Other	23	5	34	30	92
Other	17	3	34	29	83

10 How concerned are you about the following?

	Very concerned	Concerned	Not concerned	No opinion	Totals
Traffic increase	141	114	86	7	348
Noise pollution	148	97	98	4	347
Population increase	122	125	92	4	343
Rural character	206	84	52	7	349
Shopping availability	21	64	256	9	350
Burden on Town services	78	144	86	22	330
Recreational facilities	31	85	207	17	340
Open space	176	80	78	9	343
Preservation of property rights	188	90	41	16	335
Lack of housing diversity	34	62	196	31	323
Preservation of agriculture	188	101	51	8	348
More residential density	111	86	90	24	311
Less residential density	40	52	184	27	303
Lack of well water	92	91	132	21	336
Scenic preservation	200	76	69	7	352
Affordable housing	57	113	151	21	342
Excessive speeds on roads	123	121	95	8	347
Senior services	44	135	141	25	345
Other	25	5	22	25	77
Other	11	2	23	25	61

11 Which of the following businesses and services would you patronize or support in the Town of Taghkanic?

	Strong need	Moderate need	Not needed	Opposed to	No opinion	Totals
Additional restaurants	40	101	156	33	13	343
Appliance/electronics store	7	25	218	79	13	342
Book Store	18	60	212	43	13	346
Clothing store	7	27	234	63	13	344
Convenience store	40	123	121	41	14	339
Dry cleaner	7	29	206	86	16	344
Fabric/craft store	7	24	229	60	24	344
Garden/nursery store	18	101	180	30	15	344
Grocery store	50	121	137	30	7	345
Health food store	19	39	224	44	16	342
Home improvement store	11	34	187	102	13	347
Large scale box store	1	10	149	170	16	346
Multi-store mall	8	22	130	179	8	347
Doctor/Dentist office	27	103	158	42	16	346
Mini storage	2	23	173	135	12	345

Response to question 11 continued

	Strong need	Moderate need	Not needed	Opposed to	No opinion	Totals
Theater/movies	9	31	180	113	15	348
Music store	6	17	213	89	20	345
Business cluster plaza style	8	31	127	171	12	349
Sporting goods store	14	28	187	96	21	346
Other	6	3	39	28	28	104

12 Would you support more business zoning in Taghkanic?

	Yes	No	No opinion
Responses	110	171	56
Percentage of total	32.6%	50.7%	16.6%
Total Responding	337		

13 Would you support industrial zoning in Taghkanic?

	Yes	No	No opinion
Responses	78	232	33
Percentage of total	22.7%	67.6%	9.6%
Total Responding	343		

14 Should the Town have local controls for the following?

	Yes	No	No opinion	Totals
Timbering/land clearing	169	151	15	335
Used car sales in residential areas	226	104	17	347
Noise pollution	249	87	11	347
Flea market	162	152	33	347
Yard sales	71	247	27	345
Signs: type and size	223	104	19	346
Dog kennels and number of dogs	197	118	29	344
ATVs, dirt bikes, snowmobiles on private land	169	161	15	345
Night lighting for dark skies	166	142	30	338
Burning of garbage	193	134	18	345
Unattended pets	253	78	10	341
Junk cars/unlicensed vehicles	260	72	13	345
Litter	292	43	7	342
Other	22	20	26	68
Other	7	20	26	53

15 To help the town to develop recommendations for managing and addressing community resources, please indicate the importance of each of the following to you:

	Very important	Important	Not important	No opinion	Totals
Agriculture	209	105	20	10	344
Rural Character	241	73	24	10	348
Property rights	216	65	35	14	330
Town purchasing develop. rights	102	86	72	51	311
3rd parties purch. of devel. rights	110	67	68	60	305
Tax base	199	98	20	11	328
Scenic views	202	77	50	11	340
Property values	210	93	23	9	335
Open space	210	71	48	10	339
Protection of historic resources	197	83	43	16	339
Protection of scenic landscapes	198	68	55	17	338
Protection of working farms	230	75	23	14	342
Protection of small/hobby farms	185	88	51	19	343

16 Do you believe Taghkanic should have:

	Tighter land use regs.	Looser land use regs.	No change to present land use reg.	No opinion
Zoning Law	138	40	135	22
Subdivision Regulation	158	34	118	22

17 Drinking water source: have you experienced any of the following problems?

	Never	Rarely	Regularly	Totals
Quantity/capacity	229	75	9	313
Color	237	63	16	316
Taste	217	68	31	316
Odor	198	74	50	322
Contamination	261	41	10	312
Other	59	18	11	88
Use bottled water	118	98	56	272

18 Well: Did your well driller have any difficult time finding adequate water?

Yes	No	Do not know	Totals
20	179	110	309

19 To assist the Town in identification of important aquifers, please provide us with the following well data:

Average Well Depth per respondent is: 215 ft. There were 156 responses to this question

20 Senior Services: Would you be in favor of any of the following to help Senior Citizens?

	Yes	No	No opinion	Totals
Meals on wheels	250	48	45	343
Senior meeting place	182	89	66	337
Senior transportation (auto)	213	72	52	337
Senior bus route	167	113	59	339
Assisted living housing	136	136	64	336
Parks & recreation facilities	146	119	69	334
Senior citizen housing devel.	105	161	67	333
Other	14	21	30	65
Other	8	21	30	59

21 Are you aware of services available through Columbia County Office of the Aging?

	Yes	No
Responses	149	186
Percentage of total	44.5%	55.5%
Total Responding	335	

22 Should Taghkanic establish a position in the town to coordinate senior citizen outreach?

	Yes	No
Responses	148	145
Percentage of total	50.5%	49.5%
Total Responding	293	

23 How satisfied are you with town services?

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	No opinion	Totals
Ambulance/rescue squad	92	129	26	90	337
Fire protection	141	132	6	61	340
Town Board	41	121	91	83	336
Planning Board	43	105	79	105	332
Zoning Board of Appeals	37	90	78	127	332
Building inspector	48	133	52	104	337
Assessors	37	127	120	53	337
Board of Assessment Review	28	79	108	115	330
Highway Department	85	149	61	44	339
Animal Control Officer	39	123	22	152	336
Preservation of town records	34	106	32	162	334
Town Clerk	86	150	19	82	337

24 How satisfied are you with access to the following town government services?

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Not Satisfied	No opinion	Totals
Town Hall (hours)	37	120	72	110	339
Phone access to officials	46	122	55	113	336
E-mail access to officials	22	69	67	175	333
Response to residents	32	102	71	128	333
Town records accessibility	29	94	61	151	335
Public notification	31	108	102	95	336

25 Grant Writer - Would you support a "Grant Writing" position for the Town to research and write grants to help pay for town projects?

	Yes	No	No opinion
Responses	180	79	71
Percentage of total	54.5%	23.9%	21.5%
Total Responding	330		

26 Number of people in household per age bracket.

	0 - 5 yrs	6 - 12 yrs	13 - 18 yrs	19- 21 yrs	22 - 30 yrs	31 - 45 yrs	46 - 55 yrs	56 - 65 yrs	66 - 80 yrs	81+ yrs	Totals
Respondent totals	23	28	33	15	22	71	128	136	93	17	566
Number responding	19	24	23	12	17	52	89	97	63	14	410
Ave. by household responding	1.21	1.17	1.43	1.25	1.29	1.37	1.44	1.40	1.48	1.21	1.38

27 The person answering this survey is?

Female	Male	Average Respondent Age (yrs)
134	185	57.1

28 - 33 **These questions are included in Appendix A**

34 Where do you live in the Town of Taghkanic?

Tax Grid #	142	143	172	173	174
Total	0	10	65	18	15

Tax Grid #	152	153	154	182	183	184	185
Total	23	8	9	6	4	14	22

Tax Grid #	162	163	164
Total	35	46	22

APPENDIX A

28. What do you consider Taghkanic's three strongest assets?

Beautiful landscape	The Taghkanic Creek	The State Park
Places of Worship	Volunteer Fire Department	Highway Department Snow Removal
Trees, Rural Environment	Sparse Population	High Cost of Ownership
Trees	Sparse Population	No Subsidized Housing
Volunteer Fire House	Volunteer Ambulance Services	Farmers
Tranquility of an agricultural community		
Small	Rural	Quiet
Anonymity	Open Range	No Strip Clubs
Location - just close enough & far enough from NYC, Albany	Rural Character	Transportation- Taconic, Amtrak, Albany Airport
Ruralness		
Location-accessibility to parkway, near lake, rural atmosphere	Variety of local eating places	Local country store- Farm fresh produce & flowers, fire co.
Rural Character	Quiet	Landscape
Low restrictions on living and working		
Rural Character	Access to Highways	Abundant Water
Rural Character	Sparse Housing	Low Industry
Ability to live and work without intrusive Town laws	Open Character	Location near Parkway
Rural Character	State Park(s)	Scenic Views
Local People	Rural	Open Space
Agricultural Community		
Rural Beauty	Taconic Parkway	
Rural Nature	Agricultural Community	Friends & Family
Rural Character	Proximity to NYC, Hillsdale, & Great Barrington	Proximity to Golf
Scenic Beauty	Working Farms	Access to Parks
Rural Character	Low Density Population	Scenic Views
Rural Environment - peaceful & historic	Natural Beauty	Proximity to Cultural Centers
Rural Character	Peace & Quiet	Scenic Beauty
Supervisor Young		
The Supervisor	The farms/farmers still in operation	The absence of housing developments/dense housing
Supervisor Young	Assessors	Locality
Supervisor Young	Assessors	Taconic State Parkway
Beautiful Rural Setting/Character	My neighbors whom I trust and who trust me	Privacy
Farms	Scenic Views	Rural Character
Rural Character	Beautiful Vistas	Tranquil, Peaceful, Quiet Atmosphere
Scenic Views	Farms	Rural Character

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 28 Continued" - Three strongest assets

Natural Beauty	Rural Nature	Taconic Neighbors Association
Rural Character	Scenic Beauty	Low Population
Rural Atmosphere	Quiet Country	
Rural Atmosphere		
Our Town Clerk who goes out of her way and above duties	The view of the mountains and landscape	
Rural Character of the Town		
Rural Character and Township	Low Density Population	Open Land
Mix of meadow and forest	The natural environment dominates scenery	Low population
Rural Character	Privacy	Beauty
Forested Hills	Plenty of good water	Quiet nowhere place
Rural Character of the Town	Lack of overly burdensome rules & regulations	
Open Space/Rural Character	Agriculture	History
Low Population Density - Light use of land	Countryside is beautiful	Good supply of lake, streams; water table is good
Rural	Farmers	Open Space
Low Density; rural character	Emphasis on agriculture	Natural beauty
Rural Character	Open Space	
Rural Character	People (natives & weekenders)	Route 11 Scenic Drive (Beauty Highway)
Scenic Beauty	Rural Character	Low Population Density
Rural Character	Quality of Services (i.e. Highway Department)	Cost of Living
Sparse Population	Trees- or forested hills	Open undeveloped lands/water
Having the Taconic State Park nearby	Rural Atmosphere	
Rural Character/Low Density	Dirt Roads/Stone Walls/old barns & fields	Small town government
Rural Character	Low Traffic	

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 28 Continued" - Three strongest assets

Open Space/beautiful views/quiet pace of life	The Taghkanic creek running through town	Friendliness of residents & caring of one another
Open Space	Rural Character	Friendliness
Rural Character	Agriculture	Proximity to Taconic Pkwy, Hudson, Berkshires, Amtrak, NYC
Rural Surroundings	Sparse Population	Location
It's (basically) unsullied terrain & vistas	It's low density of buildings (of all sorts)	It's agricultural character
Wooded parcel and open fields	Watershed	Limited Population, but also diversity of population
TSP	Rural Character	
Rural Character	Rural Beauty	Peaceful
Scenic Beauty	Rural Character	Low Population Density
Scenic Beauty & Rural Character	Low Population Density	Proximity to areas w/exciting culture
The landscaping	Highway Department	
Quietness	Live & let live attitude	
Rural Character	Farms	Scenic Beauty
Rural Character		
Rural Character	Low Population	Privacy
Rural Character		
Rural Character	Open Land	Operating Farms
Rural Landscape	Open Farm Land	Operating Farms
Near to State Park	Highway Grid	
Lake Taghkanic	"Estate like" houses on large tracts of land	Rural Character and Jo-Jo's
Agriculture	Scenery	
Scenic Beauty	Rural Nature	
Scenic Beauty	Farms	Natural Resources
Rural Character	Recreation Facilities	Scenery
Rural Character	Quiet, uncrowded	
Rural/Agricultural Character	Low Population Density	Open Spaces, Quiet Roads
Rural/Agricultural Character	Low Population Density	Open Spaces, Quiet Roads
Beauty of the area	Rural Quality	Pleasant quality of life
Rural Character	The town's people	Fire department
Rural Character	The Parkway (TSP)	Proximity to NYC, Boston, Albany
Rural Character	Scenic Views	Lack of Urban "sprawl" & housing developments
People	Landowner rights - little interference	Rural Area
Can't think of even one!		
Rural Character	Low Population	Quality of living
Rural Character	Agriculture	People
Openness	Scenic Beauty	Quiet

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 28 Continued" - Three strongest assets

Town's Natural Beauty	Easy access to Major Roadways	
Minding your own business!!		
Open Space	Scenery	Rural Character
Our Open Space	Good well water	The mix of people
Rural Character	Quiet	Dark Night Sky
Rural Character	Farms	Quiet
Lake Taghkanic	Agriculture/Open Space	Scenic Views (remaining)
Open Scenic spaces/agriculture/produce	Taconic Hills aquatic/exercise/events	Lake Taghkanic
Natural Beauty	Relative Isolation	Peace & Quiet
Land/Views	Rural Character	
Rural Character	Not close to city lights- star gazing	Privacy
Rural Character	Small population of the Town	Current amount of undeveloped land - (open space)
No Industry	Agricultural	
Taghkanic State Park	Rural Characteristic	
Live near family	Rural Character	Natural Beauty
Lake Taghkanic	Parkway	
Rural Character	Location within Northeast	Natural Richness
The beautiful Scenery	Overall Friendliness	
Central location to MA & Catskills	Taghkanic Park	
Scenery	Lack of industrial zones	Large plot zoning
Scenery	Agricultural Community	Zoning Enforcement
Open Landscape	Agricultural Quality	
Parks	Land	Lakes
Taghkanic State Park	Convenience to main roads/bridges/parkways	
Husband goes - wife stays home		
Rural	Scenic	Quiet
Country Views	Not overly populated	Original rustic homes
Beauty	Rich land for agriculture	
Fire Company	First Respond	
Country Setting	Schooling	No industry
Preservation of Property rights		
Deer Population	Open Space	State Park

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 28 Continued" - Three strongest assets

Natural Beauty	Rural Character	Peace & Quiet
The two fire houses	New Forge Road area	Lake Taghkanic
Rural Character	Historic Setting	
Rural Character	Scenic Views	Historic situation & housing
Beauty	Rural	Low Population
Open Areas	Deer & wildlife	Lake Taghkanic
Elizabeth Young	Carolyn Sammons	William Hilscher
Scenic outlook	Rural Qualities	People
Rural Character	Peace & Quiet	Open Space
Clean	Nice Land	Quiet
Scenic	Quiet	Great Highway Dept. in winter time for the most part
It's rural character	Closeness to Lake Taghkanic State Park	
We have a beautiful lake, beach, camping etc. (Lake Tagh.)	We still are not commercialized	We still have farm land
Mrs. Young and her committees	Right now Rural areas but will be lost to over population	Our Town Clerk who does an excellent job
Town Supervisor	Town Clerk	Town Judges
Town Clerk	Supervisor	The Judges
Elizabeth Young, Carolyn Sammons, Bill Hilscher	Ed Waldron	Art Griffith
Elizabeth Young as supervisor	Carolyn Sammons	William Hilscher
Scenic View	Open Space	Quietness/peacefulness
Open Spaces	Low Population	Lack of Noise pollution (quiet)
Agricultural Land	Thriving Ecosystems	History
Scenic Character	Lake Taghkanic	Beautiful Old Houses
Nice People	Nice Area	
Access to Parkway	Land Availability for well planned development	
Taconic Hills School	Rural Character	Lake Taghkanic Recreation
Beauty		
Scenic Beauty & quality of rural character	Proximity to cultural resources & NYC	Character & mix of residents
Beautiful Countryside	Easy access to other places/services	Lots of room
The rural character of the county	Quie t- lack of development	Lovely landscape
Beauty of Landscape	Accessibility to Lakes & Skiing	Quietness, beautiful night skies, woods
Rural Character	Hunting	Climate
It's School (Taconic Hills)	It's long time residents (20+years)	It's easy going, non regulated style
It is fine, mostly agricultural, part business.	The other services can be gotten from other cities. (i.e. Hudson)	
Rural Character	Scenic Landscape	Quiet
Rural	Ag. Freedom to pursue	Good Highway Department -Esp. Winter!

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 28 Continued" - Three strongest assets

Open Spaces	Scenic View	Rural Character
Low Traffic Flow	Easy access to Parkway	
Our history/rural & agricultural culture	Town Clerk	Community minded service peoples
Open Space	Clean Air	Quiet
Protected Land	Local Farmer's Markets	Quiet
Hunting opportunity	Deer Herd	Shooting opportunity
It's quiet	People who work hard for the town & get nothing but complaints	
Rural Character	Recreation (Lake Taghkanic, High School)	Reasonable Taxes
Low Population/low density housing	Rural Character	Proximity to Farmland
Agricultural Zoning	Rural Location	Low Density
Beauty	Good People	Non commercial nature
Rural Quality	Natural Beauty	Access to Taconic Parkway
Rural & Agricultural	Unspoiled Natural Beauty	Proximity to Hudson & Shops
Rural Character-views-open lands	Low population limited auto presence	Quiet
Fire Company		
Everybody wants to live here, look at them moving in		
Rural Character, low density population	Friendly Neighbors	Natural Beauty
Rural Character	Low crime rate	Taxes
W.T. Fire Co. strength	Highway Department	
Rural Character/farmland	Peace & Quiet	No commercial buildings
Highway Department	Rural Character	Neighbors
Rural Character	Scenic Beauty/farm traditions	Enough retail w/ diner/gas station
Rural Nature	Proximity to NYC	Religious facilities
Rural Character	Farms	Scenic Views
Natural Beauty		
Rural Beauty	Highway Department	Close to Taconic Parkway
Getty Gas Station	Lake Taghkanic	Fire House
Familiar to me	Like the country	Like my location
Agriculture	Rural Character	Property Rights
Rural Scenery	Wildlife	Air Quality

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 28 Continued" - Three strongest assets

Closeness to T.S. Pkwy. & easy access	Rural Character- landscape & quiet	Lack of big business, condo, etc. = development
Rural, Beauty-convenience to Parkway		
Rural Setting	Family	Scenic Views
Rural, Quiet		
Rural Character		
Rural Settings	Family ties	Local history
Rural Character	Open Space	Scenic Views
Rural Location	Quite Neighborhood	Access to Stores
Landscape	Natural Resources (creek, lakes, ponds)	Rural Character
Maintenance	Ease of living-relative freedom from over-regulation	Openness to newcomers and new homes
Rural	Beauty	State Park
Rural Character		
Rural Nature		
It's ag district	It's scenic	It's North Dakota type fields & meadows
Environmental beauty of the area	Quite, Serene area	Safe, rural community
Deer Population	Open Space	State Park
Landscape	Lack of development	Quiet
Hunting	Nice Roads	Happy People
Rural: Open Fields, Wooded Land		
Rural Character	Quiet	Minimal retail business
Rural	Scenic Route	Open Space
Rural Nature	Liberal & supportive neighbors	
People!	People!	People!
Rural Character	Scenic Open Space	No commercial area
Scenic Views	Working Farms	Historical Buildings
Potential to develop into a truly desirable place to live in future	Great govt. representation due to small population	Small efficient government

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 28 Continued" - Three strongest assets

Modern, educated, community oriented Fire Dept.	New Forge Road	Views of the rolling hills and mountains
Rural Nature	Scenic beauty	Low Taxes
Rural Character		
Rural	Beauty	State Park
Working Together	Honesty	Caring about Neighbors
Ample public access to scenic beauty	The variety of strength & talent & diversity among residents	Proximity to NYC and Boston
The View	Most of the residents	The space
Large homes that don't belong in the town or county	Housing that are put up for sale	Need no more 4 to 5 hundred thousand dollar houses
Rural Setting	Low Crime rate	Scenic Views
Rural Character	Dispersed Population	No Large Government Structure
Beauty of the countryside	Very little traffic	Very low crime rate
Rural Character		
Access to Parkway	Taghkanic Park	The views
Rural Nature	Small, widely-dispersed population	Friendliness of inhabitants
Location	Scenery	People
Country Living	Quiet, Peaceful	View
Rural Character		
Scenic Beauty	Low Population density-small town feel, quiet!	Located close to park, Taconic, Hudson, etc.
Rural Lands	Country Living	Old Fashion Values
Rurality	Woodlands	State Park
Topography	Rural Spaces (farms)	Forested areas
Rural Environment		
Rural Environment		
Rural Character		
Open Spaces	Clean Air	Rural
Rural Area	Access to Parkway & Misc. Locations	State Park & it's services
Rural Character	Fire Company	People
Scenic Location	Quiet	People are nice (neighbors)

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 28 Continued" - Three strongest assets

Low Crime	Few People	Peach & Quiet
Rural Beauty	Small Town feel/great neighbors	
Rural Character	Town Board	Town Clerk
Rural Character	Town Board	
Low Population Density	Rural Beauty	Taghkanic Creek and Lake Taghkanic
Taghkanic Lake	Keeping Taxes down	Rural Scenic
Rural Beauty	Low Population density	Lake Taghkanic
Farm Land	Rural Setting	Wildlife Habitat
Rural Nature	Low Population Density	Proximity to Lake Taghkanic
Rural Setting	Farmland	Wildlife
Quiet for the most part	Most everyone is courteous & friendly	
The simplicity of the Town Hall-real country	Jo-Jo's Pizza	Ivonne Scherrer
Taghkanic Lake	Fairly low taxes	Rural Scenery
Proximity to Taconic Parkway	Proximity to Lake Taghkanic	Gas Station
Rural Character	Low Crime rate	"Nice People"
Rural -scenic character	Proximity to NYC	Affordable land values
Rural		
Rural Character	Small town feel	Still affordable
Rural Character	Sparse Population	Low costs of homes/land
Agriculture	Open Space	Sense of History
Rural Character		
Quiet	Rural Flavor	Lack of heavy commercial areas
Rural Character	Scenic Views	Low Population Density
Wetlands, Open scenic vistas	rural environment w/working farms	Excellent new school
Rural Character	Wetlands	
Scenic	Quiet	Taghkanic State Park
Rural Character	Close enough to retail services (i.e., Hudson)	Lake Taghkanic
Views & open space	Low density housing	Central location
Supervisor	Native People	Rural Atmosphere
One of the more beautiful country scene in Hudson Valley	Common sense if called upon	Potential to be professional in government
Beautiful scenery		

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 28 Continued" - Three strongest assets

Agriculture	Rural Quality	Good Neighbors
Rural character	Proximity to NYC by TSP	Scenic area
Agriculture	Open Space	Rural
It's an agricultural community	Small town feel	Privacy
Affordability	Zoning	Agriculture
Views	Rural roads & landscape	Low Density

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

29. What do you consider Taghkanic's three greatest weaknesses?

Spiraling taxes	Vulnerability to sprawl	
High Taxes for Landowners	Litter on Sides of Land	Bunch of Junk on Land Owners Property, seen from roads
	Not able to vote	
New Residents trying to change the community	Reckless Promotion of greenway land conserv. restrictions	Liberal thinking and Promotion of social programs
Liberal far left thinking-we don't need low income housing	A small core of new residents who think they know best	No high speed internet, just considering deed restriction
Property Taxes too High		
Town Services		
Not Open to Diversity	Not open to all citizens & opinions input	Good Ol' Boy/Girl Run Government
Lack of strip clubs		
No Town Center or Post Office	No High speed internet or cable if wanted	Library where we could meet neighbors, no sense 2 diff. zip's
Roads could be better		
Lacks a brand name hotel	Could mow & trim more-to pull out of driveway for better visual.	No Post Office or Laundromat
Local Government	Lack of Town Law Enforcement	Highway Cleanup & Road Repair
Increasing intrusions from the Town		
Inclusion in the Hudson School District	Rising Taxes	Services not commensurate with taxes
Town Leadership/Specifically - Head of Town Council	Littering	Adversarial relationship between Local leaders & new residents
* Attempts to change character byOfficials, real estate brokers, & develop'rs		
Real Estate Taxes (amount & frequency of increases)	* Towns non-digital way of doing business (poor info. access)	Development pressures
* Minority who want to impose more rules and reg's on others		
Can't get DSL or Cable TV		
Soaring Taxes		
Noisy Neighbor		
Mobile Homes	Unsafe Driving	
Unsightly trailers	Badly maintained properties	No restaurants or bakeries
Lack of electronic access - i.e. internet		
Political Infighting	City people taking over	Fire Department- (too involved in politics)
The amount of city-idiots that live here	High taxes	Can't get high speed internet
City people trying to take over	Providing recreation for children	Lack of affordable housing
Taghkanic Press	Fire Department	Taghkanic Neighbors
Town Government insularity and resistance to public input		
Poor Zoning	Town Government	Lack of Comprehensive Plan
* Town Super. who limits appt. positions to select group of longtime res.	Lack of Post Office and website	No Website that post min. of meetings & other important info
Town Government	Lack of a Comprehensive Plan	Inadequate Zoning

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 29 Continued" - Three greatest weaknesses.

Threat of development	Division between full time & part time residents	
Lack of interest in the opinions of the entire community	Unequal application of the law	Lack of cable and internet service
It was wonderful till the city people moved in to take over		
City people influx	Traffic increase	
Nothing to do for youth i.e.: roller skating, bowling, other	No town baseball games for youth	No high speed internet
The existence of Taghkanic Neighbors b/c they are dividing the Town		
Route 82 Development		
No village or village center	Lack of encouragement byBoard for citizen participation	
Cooperation among residents	High Tax assessments	
* Gov't that may not appreciate it can/should pres. town's unique quality	Government does not lend itself to development	
* The existence of Taghkanic Neighbors - they are dividing the town		
Taxes	Taxes	Taxes
Taxes	Taxes	Taxes
Lack of action seeking funding for land preservation	Need stronger support for agriculture	Proliferation of pre-manufactured housing & building on ridgelines
Lack of activities for youth or elderly, few meeting places	Secretive Town management, until recently apathetic residents.	Insufficient communication of both town & popular subjects
Lack of interest in working together w/supervisor & chairwoman	Lack of open government	Keeping the population divided w/ this local/weekender issue
Lack of circumspect zoning policies	Part time resident -full time "Split"	Lack of Town "meeting place" civic hall
City people trying to run things and change to their liking.		
High property taxes.	un-even property assessments	
Town Supervisor (not working with the Town Board)	Highway Superintendent	
Unwelcoming attitude to new comers	Secretive Town Government.	Lack of Communication on major issues.
Question conflict of interest in local government	Lack of proper zoning	Cronyism
Lack of Town Offices for Public Officials		
The development on Rte 82 is an eyesore	The lack of a unified standard for dirt roads	Maintenance & consideration for the aesthetics of traveled routes
No Town Hall with appropriate facilities	Lack of accessibility of Town officials	
Uncontrolled development	No noise ordinance or that is not enforced	No hunting restrictions/ordinances
Traffic	Noise Pollution	
Overlapping personnel in town agencies	Insufficient citizen interest in open minded town discussions	Small town government
Vulnerability to housing developments & speculators	Property owners who neglect property	

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 29 Continued" - Three greatest weaknesses.

Some members of Town Board do not have open minds	Excessive speeding on Route 82	Secretive issues/attitude of most boards.
Speeding-lack of traffic control on Rt 82 "downtown"	Secretive Town Board & other Boards	Lack of recreational facilities for children
Town looks run down	Car detailing business in town is an eye sore	Pruning of road trees need better maintenance
Abandoned cars & junk on properties	Intersection of 82 & Taconic Pkwy.	
It's extraordinarily long tenure of some town board officials	Appointments *see attached note*	Town Hall has shoddy (in appearance) exterior & interior
Secretive old-style town government	Average age of highway dept. & lack of high speed internet	Persons on zoning & planning boards who are uninterested
Present Town Hall	No rescue squad	Burning of garbage
Abundance of open space-attracting development	Possible lack of awareness of the neg. impact of dev.	
Lacking a strong unified sense of community	Large weekend population & understanding economic implic.	Understanding implication of large scale development
Zoning Board	Zoning Board (one of the ZB members is unprofessional disgrace)	Zoning Board (zoning in this town is a nightmare)
Loss of so much farming land	Attempts of developers to profit mightily masking "destruction"	By calling it "development"
Lack of community feel	Lack of Town Park	
Long time one political party control	Long time inflexibility to cable in town	Lack of Post Office
Lack of Zoning	Lack of Specific Zoning Regulations	
Influx of Wall Street transplants make taxes go up	Gun Shop	Terrain
Lack of Town Hall with offices and staffed hours	Divided community	Aggressive, ill mannered, unprofessional people who hold town positions
Tax increases	Noise pollution	
Although, I go to the gas station often it could look nicer		
No plan for the future	Noise pollution	
Taxes	Junk cars/unkempt properties	
The inequality of tax assessment.	Ignores facts other than comparable price (taxes)	
Insular Town Government	Lack of long range planning for the future	
Insular Town Government	Lack of long range planning for the future	
Town Supervisor	Town Clerk	Town Highway Superintendent
The allowance of burning household garbage	Lack of adequate Town Hall	Lack of Rescue Squad/Ambulance
Lack of clearly architectural vision for maintaining character	No High speed internet	
Lack of high speed internet	No others	
How assessments are done!	How poorly, assessors come up with property value	Property assessments are too high!
Citidiots	Politics	

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 29 Continued" - Three greatest weaknesses.

Poor Road Lighting	Insufficient public phone or roadside phones for emergency	
None (yet) accordingly to this survey		
Constant bickering & back stabbing over nothing	Difficulty in enforcing rules for junk etc.	Too much open government!
Unreinforced laws, rules & policy	Gossip from those that know better	Our lack of vision to control change
Traffic on Route 82		
No Senior meeting place	No Youth Center	Cell Tower that are necessary
No Senior programs	No youth centers/activities	Necessary cell towers
Electronic Isolation (T.V., Internet)	Jobs & Housing for young people	
Lack of Grocery Stores/Restaurants	Land Taxes too high	Garbage/farm dumps
Could use our own post office	Town Center lacks character	
Small Town Politics	Current reactive government instead of pro active	
Taxes	Taxes	Taxes
Roads		
Unequal Taxation	Unattractive government building	Unattractive downtown
Lack of qualified workers (highway)	Lack of qualified workers administration	No Town Center
Lack of government openness	Poor highway maintenance/garage	Wrong people appointed to important positions
None	None	None
Over development	Housing Costs	
No Cable	No high speed internet	Not enough cell towers
No Post Office	Lack of Shopping - Business Service	Lack of Town
No Post Office	No Town to Speak of	No Shopping Area
Noise pollution	Garbage/junk cars/cars in plain view	dumping
Front yard junk piles	Dumping	ATV usage
Control of dogs	Police presence-several break-ins have occurred, incl. myself	Burning Garbage (plastic, etc.) on personal property
Roads Improved	Stores	
Taxes	Taxes	Taxes
Taxes	Taxes	Taxes
Trailer homes	Not enough food courts open late hours	Overly neglected homes should be restored
Poor internet speed		
Assessors	Town Board	The Town Board and Assessors need new blood
High Taxes	Pompous Board Members	Lack of Senior Services & Community Services
Being influenced by outside NYC influences		
Supervisor Betty Young	Zoning Board Chair B. Hermance	Planning Board

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 29 Continued" - Three greatest weaknesses.

Increasing Interference	People trying to change character of town	
Town Hall	No Town Park	Betty Young
Poor response to routine questions	Lack of stores	Little sense of community
Not much sense of community	Lack of stores	
Betty Young	Barbara Hermance	Planning Board
The new council persons w/own agenda and finger pointing	Unneighborly ways	Richard Graham
Divisiveness	Lack of Coordination	Caught between Hudson & Hillsdale
Lack of Public Services	Property Taxes	Property Taxes
Not enough business		
The corner of Cty. Rte. 10 & Taghkanic Churchtown	No place for kids to play like other towns	No regulations for people accumulating garbage
Town road maintenance in pot hole control could be better		
Taxes too high for type, age, land formations on houses	Not enough money for Road Supervisor to work with	Town trying to keep up with the next Big Town
Fighting between people	The possibility of an eminent domain rule	Raising taxes as people coming in are paying way too much
Taghkanic Neighbors Assoc. (creating wedge)	Writer & Taghkanic Press	Not enough businesses & industry
Taghkanic Neighbors Assoc. (creating wedge)	Taghkanic Press	Need more business
The new council person w/her own agenda and finger pointing	The unneighborly ways that have been brought out	A man w/personal vendettas telling lies
Erin Edwards	Unneighborly ways all for me and the hell with you	Richard Graham and his lies
High property taxes.	Unattended pets	Bears
High property taxes.		
Loss of agricultural land & open space	Lack of protective policies	Perceived differences between "locals" & "newcomers"
Proliferation of new housing	Hunting problems (deer shot in yard)	Lack of attractive village downtown
Turning into Copake!		
Developing attitude in Town on limiting personal use of prop.	Use of Comp. Plan for zoning to intrude on personal prop. Rights	
Over development	Allowing excessive junk & cars to build up in yards	Attitude toward outsiders sometime negative
Lack of sense of community	Access to information & awareness of local gov. ser. &people	Division between "weekenders" & "locals"
Terrible tax assessment process	Town government which is an inbred group	
Need to pave New Forge Rd from 27 to Klein Rd.	School bus, trucks, cars, tractor trailers speeding on New Forge	Too many hunters
Arbitrary property value assessments	Unpredictability of assessment increases	Zoning Enforcement
The new direction towards limiting personal/property rights	The new trend towards urban conveniences	The mindset of some officials that we need a Comp. Plan
None		
Non Responsive Town Government	Flawed Assessment Process	

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 29 Continued" - Three greatest weaknesses.

Taghkanic Press		
Town Workers do not have any regard for private property	Taxes out of control	
Rich Graham	Taghkanic Neighbors	Erin Edwards
Bad Neighbors	Greedy Land Speculators	Vicious dogs on the loose
Lack of garbage pick-up	Lack of grocery store, no cell phone service	School taxes imposed on part-time residents
Town Supervisor, Young	Assessor, Griffeth	Zoning Chair-Barbara Hermance
People with personal vendettas	People who don't respect different opinions	Rude people/new councilwoman
Strict Zoning & Enforcement	Town Services (Road Repair, Infrastructure)	Amenities (restaurants, good food shopping, internet access)
The lack of responsiveness/availability of Town officials	The assessment review board	
Potential over-development	Lack of recognition of importance of second home owners	Important town mtgs. On weekday evenings-not all can attend
No high speed web access	Taxes too high	No grocery store
3 acre zoning should be 7-10	Allowing mobile homes	Tolerating junk on properties
3 acre zoning should be larger	Mobile Homes	Allowing junk cars on lawns
No Post Office	The rampant nepotism of town government	
Fire Chiefs truck should only be used for fire co business.	Fire truck not for personal use who pays for the gas?	
Elected officials cannot make a decision w/o bringing politics	Too many people trying to convince the rest how they should live	It's too easy for outsiders to take over the town
Vulnerability of emergency services (fire, paramedic)	Inflated tax assessments	Lack of land use plan
Lack of fire protection		
Cost of gas for chief's truck for personal use - for shame		
No real "town" to speak of	Nor services at all--can't buy milk or even a newspaper	
Taxes	Tax assessment procedure	
Sudden rise in property values/taxes	Not enough information re: town planning for part time res.	
Lack of gun control	Racist attitudes	
Potential over control of prop. Rights & decrease in value land		
Too many junk cars on property	Lack of residents to clean up their property	Absentee landlords who aren't responsible for the outlook
Blight to the town such as: Unkempt property	Junk cars- uncontrolled appearance of homes	
Nothing		
Too many family members involved in politics	Town Clerk not in office at Town Hall	
Taxes		
Poor & late mailings about town affairs	High Tax assessments	

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* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 29 Continued" - Three greatest weaknesses.

Lack protective zoning		
Lack of vision for the future	Being vulnerable to "city-money-power"	Old timer GOP attitudes
This is not a community!		
High Taxes	7 acre zoning	High traffic
Poor Road - i.e. New Forge Rd. 2	No community center for kids	No access to town officials
Over regulated (building codes)	Lack of input by long time residents!	No children's parks/7 acres zoning
Development	Taxes	Housing Cost
Taxes	Price of Homes	Speed of Traffic
Increasing amount of second home residents	Lack of services of competition	Proximity to the parkway
Can't think of any. I'd be happy if Tagh. Continues as is		
Services for taxes		
High Taxes	Bad School District	Same people in office too long.
Town Services		
Too close to New York City	Too little faith	It's the stop between New York City & Florida
Level of taxes (too high) vs. community services (not enough)	More effort to balance budget instead of raising taxes.	
Supervisor Betty Young	Zoning Board Chair B. Hermance	Planning Board
Lack of control on new development	Lack of support for farmers	
Systematic Valuation based on town	Services & desirability of house & land in addition to current factors	
Taxes not commensurate with service-too high!	No communication from Town Board re: mtgs, activities	Too much control over private properties-subdiv; buildings.
Lack of high speed internet	Lack of cable TV	Increase in mobile homes on scenic drives
Lack of cell phone service (Sprint)	Lack of cable or local TV service	
Lack of a Post Office		
No DSL	Dilapidated appearance of highway garage	
Over Population		
Lack of plan to guide the town to become desirable place	Lack of recreational park lands (town)	Loss of open space

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 29 Continued" - Three greatest weaknesses.

Town failure to be proactive to preserve the Town	Lack of town park	Lack of town clerks office
Beginning of new development	Too much litter on roadsides (garbage)	Lack of certain services such as garbage pick up
ATV'S/Snowmobiles	Speed	Taxes
Services for taxes		
New comers don't understand rural life	Rights being given away to appease others	No common sense-$1,800 worth of flowers could have helped seniors
A secretive "old way" town infrastructure	Lack of affordable access to high speed internet	Class based resentment between full and part time res.
No Cable internet		
Town Roads		
Letting more people move on the land then sell	Letting people build on hay lots	Us taxpayers are paying for them big houses
High Taxes		
Policy of influenced by non-residents	Lack of enforcement of zoning (etc) cost of litigation	
Junked care & other trash allowed	No high speed or cable/internet access	
Lack of a Town Center	High Taxes (School)	Declining Agriculture
The Board	No control on the prefab homes	Slow resistant to tighter changes of environmental concerns
Policy of influenced by non-residents	Business Dist. Should be more attractive	Inability to enforce zoning
Too many subdivision regulations	Taxes	Moratorium
Highway Dept. gives poor service	Too much development	Too much traffic @ high speeds
Population Increase		
No community center	No high speed internet	No access to organic food
High Taxes on rural land		
No Town Newsletter	Speeding of Vehicles on many roads	
Speeding on roads	Quality of some "all weather" roads	
Accountability in gov't	More open in board meetings	
Lack of broadband internet-wifi, cable, etc.	Town Hall Building	
Yearly tax assessments	No post office	

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 29 Continued" - Three greatest weaknesses.

High property taxes.	High School Taxes	Too many democratic politicians which will drive out residents
55 mph through West Taghkanic on 82	Lack of communication from officials	
I am not aware of any, except do not have own Post Office		
Lack of Post Office	Internet access (DSL)	Living at the end of unpaved Sopok Rd.
Hudson's drinking water being taken out of Tagh. Creek	Slow to establish proper speed limits on well traveled roads	Slow internet service-no cable
Assessment Review	Town needs some new scenery	Town Hall building
Hudson getting its drinking water from Taghkanic Creek!!	No cable	Slow internet
Over development		
Elevation in Taghkanic Creek due to diversion of water to Hudson	High Speed Internet Access	
Over development		
Very poor phone service (also internet)	Very poor choice for television service	Poor secondary road conditions
No garbage pickup	Small minded politics	No place for children to gather & play Thanks to Grif!
Assessment Review Board	Towns need a wake up	Town Hall building
Road Maintenance	Grass Cutting	Culvert Maintenance
Tax increases if they continue	lack of zoning plan (It is very good if now being done)	
Town is too small	Roads need to be improved	Lack of services like cable, etc.
Too many weekenders who don't contribute to community		
Lack of cohesion on town committees (like town board)	Pickering between parties (republication/democrat)	School district (Hudson)
Small views	Old ways are fine	State highway speeds & traffic
Lack of high speed internet	Meddling outsiders	Communication & dissemination of information
Taxes are too high for services provided	Lack of high speed internet access	Lack of stricter zoning laws
Mobile homes with trash	Litter & trash deposited on sides of roads	Lights on at night at school waste of energy
Inadequate zoning to preserve rural character		
No there enough	No opinion	Not enough to do
Higher & Higher taxes		
High property taxes.	Poor road maintenance	
Road Maintenance	Grass Cutting	Culvert Maintenance
Bickering lack of professionalism	Not enough openness in local government	Too much sophomoric conduct by town board members
No town center	Lack of "community" feeling b/c of no town center	

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 29 Continued" - Three greatest weaknesses.

Town Hall building/access	Road repair	No post office
Lack of services	Poor dirt roads	Narrow dirt roads w/ obstacles on corners (trees)
Road Repair	Lack of Post Office	Town Hall building
Fear of losing 3 strongest assets listed		
Fine as is		
Dog noise	Burn barrels	Speeding on low speed road segments in hamlets

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

30. Of the issues addressed in this survey list three you consider to be good uses of municipal funds.

Anything that would help preserve farm lands	I am not interested in a lot of infrastructure	Improve the Town Hall
Meals on Wheels	Senior Transportation	Senior Services
	Lowering taxes	
Road up grades/Maintenance	Internet access - advocacy	
Road up grades/Maintenance	Paying for Town workers	Advocating for High Speed Internet
Services for Seniors	Bus Transportation for Seniors	
Preserve Records NOW	Road Maintenance	Regular Professional Assistance- Planning & Zoning Mtg.
Parks and Recreational Facility	Roads	
Need some "glue" i.e.. Post Office, library, ball field, mtg. hall		
Park - Playground		
Fire Company	Roads- Plowing and Repair	
Historic Preservation	Rural Preservation	Stop Subdivisions/Protect Environment
None, to be honest		
Planned Land Use	Protection of Environment - Natural Resources	Consideration of Senior Services
Development management	Preservation Rural Character	Traffic Restrictions
Grant Writer		
Protection of Rural Character (farms, scenic views, open space)		
Cutting taxes		
Improve the Town Hall Building	Enforce Ordinances (if we have any)	
Keeping Planning/Zoning Laws current & in logical order	New Town Hall & Highway Department Building	
Rural Preservation	Farmland Preservation	Sensible Zoning Laws
Land use regulation	Preservation of rural character through conservation trust	Preservation of family farms
Preservation of Rural Character	Sustainable agriculture development	Road Maintenance
Increasing Internet Access	Scenic Preservation	Outreach to Seniors - low income
New Town Hall	Senior Services	Town Park
Programs for Senior Citizens	Park for the Children	Preservation of Agriculture
New Town Hall	Town Park	Senior Services
Town Park	New Town Hall	Senior Services
Preservation of Rural Character	Completion of Comprehensive Plan & Follow-up	Useful Town Website
Improve Roads	Purchasing Land	Paying Professional to Write Comprehensive Plan
Creating a Comprehensive Plan that will preserve rural char.	High speed internet for all residents	Town purchasing development rights
Purchasing Development Rights	Better Communication with Town Government	Better Zoning and Planning

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 30 Continued" - Three good uses of municipal funds.

This Survey	Protection from noise & other environmental pollution	
Zoning Enforcement	Unable to answer because we don't know how the money is spent	
Town Roads	Town Government	
Having a grocery store to our area	Dentist office to our area	Youth activity for all ages, esp. teenagers
Maintenance of Town Roads		
Fire Department	Elected Officials Salaries	Plowing Roads in Winter
Highway Improvement	Senior Services	
Compensation for elected personnel	Fire Department	Keeping roads open in the winter
Maintenance of Town Roads		
Land preservation	Protection/support of farming for young farmers	Regulations on environmentally damaging practices
New Town Hall with community meeting place	Explore using Fire Co. for meeting place for civic groups	Explore commercial alliances to get cable, cell, & internet
Open Space	Help for Farmers	Emergency
Thoughtful zoning	Preservation of rural character	Encouragement of agriculture
Highway Department	Fire Protection	Senior Services
Beautification of Town	Restoration of historic buildings/sites	Fixing Dirt Roads (Paving)
More adequate town hall	Marketing facilities for communicating groups	Activities for youths & seniors
Senior Services	Fire Dept./Rescue/ all Service	Purchase for new Town Hall
Town Hall	Highway Garage	
	Fire Dept. and elected officials salaries	Winter snow removal on roads
New Town Hall to accommodate all town services		
Helping senior citizens live more independently	Create and enforce a noise ordinance (i.e. ticket loud vehicles)	
Completion/implementation of the comprehensive plan ASAP	Town Website	Central Town Record Storage/Access
Traffic Signs	Road Maintenance & Plowing	

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 30 Continued" - Three good uses of municipal funds.

Parks, Open Space & Recreation	Proper Town Hall & hours of operation	Tree plantings and green strips
Recreation Facilities	A proper Town Hall with more accessibility	
Protect open spaces	Enforce zoning	Restrict & discourage developers
Mountain Rural nature	Enforce zoning	Increase zoning requirements
Do Municipal fund apply to P.O.? If so Yes spend it	Ambulance Service	Funds to keep land developers from so doing
Keeping Taghkanic rural	Planning for smart and limited growth	Park
Fire Company	Rescue Squad	
Town purchase development & rights	Encouraging Agriculture	Preserving rural character
Work w/ Columbia Land Consv. & explore cons. Measures	Explore community preservation act	Explore programs to encourage farming
Bringing Taghkanic into the 21st century		
Parks	Planning	
Post Office	Town Park	Town Hall
Protect Land		
Protecting Rural Character		
Highway Department		
	Ambulance/Rescue Squad/ Fire Department	High Speed internet access
Road Maintenance	Police	
PT Coordinator for Seniors	PT Grant Writer	
Road Maintenance		
Development of Comprehensive Plan	Protection of rural/agricultural character of the town	Preservation of open space
Development of Comprehensive Plan	Protection of rural/agricultural character of the town	Preservation of open space
Noise pollution enforcement	Enforcement of zoning laws	Preservation
Preservation of town record	Grant Writer	Town Hall/Town Park
Rescue Squad/Ambulance	Sanitation Service	Fire Protection
Creating clear character to maintain rural character		
Fire-Rescue Services	Highway Services	
Highway Department		

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 30 Continued" - Three good uses of municipal funds.

Upgrade all roads lighting		
Noise Control		
Salt Shed is needed	New Town Hall & Storage	Voting Machine update
Update our master plan	Build legal town hall offices	Buy required voting machines
Senior Services	Zoning to preserve rural character & town buying dev. Rights	
Repair of "Town Roads"	Any ponds cleared of algae	Ditches in front of lawns cleaned out of sand & stone from rd.
Keep our roads in good condition -small roads also	Removal of road trees which pose a problem	Necessary funds for Town Board, Assessor, Clerk - etc.
Maintaining rural character	Improving TV, internet access	Senior Services
Keep up roads	Enforcement of zoning	Excess lights/noise (not agricultural)
Build a new Town Hall & Records room	Rec Center for youth(s)	Fixing bad town roads
Plowing & Road Maintenance		
Lower Taxes	Roads	Lower Taxes
Keeping Rural Character	Keeping Agriculture	Senior Services
Maintenance of Town Buildings		
Purchasing Development Rights	Maintenance & Appearance of Town Buildings	
Grant Writer Position		
Attract Business & Service		
Attract Business & Service		
Creation/enforcement zoning & noise regulations	Emergency services	Beautification of town property
Emergency Services	Conservation	
Maintaining good drainage of water on roads/done regularly	Snow Plowing	
Help Seniors	Housing	
Roads	Snow Plow	
Roads	Snow Plowing	
No opinion		
Upkeep of roads		
Senior Services	Youth Center/Activities-rather than posting Town Hall Area	Town Services
Giving it back to tax payers		
Senior Center	Highway Services	Small Business (i.e. grocery store)

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 30 Continued" - Three good uses of municipal funds.

Fire Department		
New Town Hall	Route 82 Business District	New Town Park
Road repair & upkeep		
Road Maintenance	Snow Plowing	
Senior Services	Highway Services	Small Businesses
Youth Parties	Four Town Community Day	Senior Program meals, drivers, flu shots
Establishing appropriate zoning	Coordination of population issues (i.e. aging)	Assessment & issues for all
Youth Facilities	High speed Internet	Community Center
Town Park with more than one park bench		
Support for Fire Companies		
Highways #1	Public Events	Highway Garage
To update Town Clerks equipment to keep up with state	Any schooling necessary to keep everyone on same page	Highway equipment updates to keep town in good shape
Town Park	New Town Hall	Senior Housing
New Town Hall	Rec. Park	Senior Services
Youth parties & Senior programs and community days	Highway Dept.	Assessors
Community Day for Town	Youth Parties	Senior help meals, driver, flu shots
Helping Seniors		
Support for agriculture	Preservation of ecosystems	Preservation of open space
Preservation of old buildings	Open space acquisition	Tax break for farms
None-spend money on roads, fire protection & ambulances		
Maintaining Roads	Fire Protection	Ambulance Service
Enforce regs. concerning excessive junk & cars on Bershire Rd.		
The survey itself	General maintenance of roads & infrastructure	
Roads	Zoning, planning board, bldg. permit issues	
Strong Zoning!	Limit Sub-divisions	Better Town government & open process
Paving dirt roads used by commercial vehicles	Trash collection (recycling)	
Police	Roads	Town Board
Highway Department	Fire Protection	Business Cluster Plaza Style
Police	Fire	
Stronger Zoning Laws	Highway Maintenance	More open & accessible Town Government

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 30 Continued" - Three good uses of municipal funds.

Preserving Rural Character		
Garbage collection or a town refuse drop off with no fees		
Town Clerk	Fire Protection	Highway Department
Control of land speculators	Control of zoning to favor large lots	Encourage more agriculture
Free garbage		
Town Hall	Grant Writer	Etiquette Lessons
Strict Zoning control enforcement	Town Recreation Facilities	Road Improvement
Road Maintenance	Senior Services	Environmental Protection
Examination of zoning code	Road care	Emergency Services
High speed web access	Road repair	Helping the under privileged
Fire Protection	Snow Plowing/Road Maintenance	Establish Preservative standards
Stricter zoning	Financial preservation awards	Nature reserve
Road Maintenance		
Repairing the towns roads	Spend tax monies to see everyone pays his/her fair share	
Emergency Services	Targeted development rights	Enforcement of plan
Town road repairs - necessary		
Cleaning up people's junk-abandoned cars, falling down blgs	Restoring the church in hamlet of E. Taghkanic on Rte. 27	
Meals on Wheels	Scenic Views	
Zoning Enforcement	Senior support/outreach	Highway department
Roadside litter control	Enforcement of zoning codes	
Policing	Highways	
Senior Projects		
Highway Department	Senior Citizens Bus	
Highways	Fire Company	Ambulance
Fire Department	Police Dept.	School Dist.
Ambulance & Fire protection	Control of speed on roads	

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 30 Continued" - Three good uses of municipal funds.

Seniors		
Really developing a plan to keep the rural character	Develop controls to keep the "abusive" behaviors at bay	
Keeping our road litter free		
Park	Keeping rural setting	Notification of changes going on
Road pave New Forge Rd!		
Highway Department		
Children parks	Keeping rural setting	Notify long time residents of pending changes
Senior Center	Rec. Park	Cable/High Speed Internet
Road Repair	Programs for the residents	Repair Town Garage (we don't need flower beds along 82!)
Highway maintenance	Schooling Taghkanic Hills H.S.	
Highway Department	Senior Citizen Transportation	
Roads	Fire Protection	Police Protection
Target Range for gun & bow	Hunting Land for public use	
Better development control	High speed Internet access	Protect more land
Highway	Fire Protection	Ambulance/Rescue Squad
Recreation Facilities	Scenic Preservation	Obtaining high speed internet access
Grant Writers	Stricter enforcement of zoning laws	If possible, purchase of building rights
Fire Protection		
Protection of natural resources & farmland	Affordable housing options	Balance growth with quality of life
Town Hall	Park/recreation center w/adequate parking & meeting space	
Highway Maintenance	Fire Department	
Preserve our greatest asset- open space	Town Parks & trails/bikeways	High speed internet

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 30 Continued" - Three good uses of municipal funds.

Grant Writer	Town center development	Clarifying town zoning & planning laws
Libraries	Parks	Police
Highway Department	Fire Company	Ambulance/Rescue Squad
A town hall/community center	Scenic Preservation	High Speed internet access
No opinion		
Fire Protection	Highway Maintenance	
Long range planning re future development	Planning for Senior Citizen needs	
Supporting Agriculture		
Alternative Energy	Senior Services	Protecting green spaces
Fire Department	Road maintenance	Response to public concerns
Senior Services	Shopping/Stores	Tighter regulations for res. Zoning
Post Office	Health Food Store	Library
Road Services		
Safety of residents	Planning	Zoning
Monitoring (enforcement) of development (zoning &planning)	Building codes	Life & safety suggestions to older residences to get up to code
Road & Equipment upkeep		
Roads	Rescue Squad	Library
Roads	Rescue Squad	Library
Farmland Protection	Environmental Protection Water/Air	Highways
Road Improvement	Emergency Services (Fire)	
Animal control-leash law & fencing for pets & farm animals	Noise	Unlicensed vehicles

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 30 Continued" - Three good uses of municipal funds.

Highway	Cable & high speed internet	Communication-email
Too Vague a question		
To preserve Taghkanic's rural & agricultural character	To control burning of garbage & dilapidated blgs & trailer parks	To control junk yards- (used junk cars)
Roads	4th of July fireworks @ Lake Taghkanic	
Protect & preserve farming & rural character	Control burning of garbage/litter	Control junk & unlicensed cars
Helping seniors		
Bring all roads up to state codes! Safety is an issue!	Better communication services	Senior citizens services
Lowering Taxes	No new Town Hall/Invest in what you have	Garbage pick up
Roads	Fireworks at Lake Taghkanic	
Preserving local character/zoning	Speed limit enforcement	Environmental preservation/pollution control
Maintain rural character	Old people (protection of)	
Improve Town	Improve Roads	Add services
Grant Writer	More frequent staffing of Town Hall	Kids activities
Scenic Preservation	Preservation of rural character	More access to technology (cable/internet)
Town Hall	Speed & traffic controls	Recreation
Town Roads	Fire Protection	
Research what it would take to get cable & high speed internet	Bandwidth cable	Find ways to reduce taxes
Providing high speed internet access and/or cable TV	Otherwise I would prefer lower taxes	
Develop tighter zoning to control development	Snow removal and road maintenance	
No opinion		
Highway repair	Cheap transportation for seniors	
Better road maintenance	cable TV & cable broadband service	Fair & accurate property assessments
Long range plan to prevent booming	No predictability in tax issues; go slow	
Develop business center	Diversify housing choices	

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 30 Continued" - Three good uses of municipal funds.

New Town Hall	Town Park	Road Maintenance
Better roads - more paving of dirt roads	Lower property taxes	More fair assessments
Park	New Town Hall	Road Maintenance
Grant Writer	Better notification of events	
If its not broken don't fix it		
Road Maintenance	Fire	Ambulance (shared with Greenport)

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

31. Please list three favorite spots in the Town.

The State Park
Extra Mart

Home
Home
Williams Lumber

Beauty Highway
Our House
New Forge Falls and State Forest
Our House

Wooden Nickel & Jo-Jo's

Taghkanic Reservoir
Skoda Farm

State Park
Route 82 Diner
So subjective a question as to be ridiculous
Lake Taghkanic State Park

State Park
Lake Taghkanic Park
State Park
My Home
Beauty Highway
County Route 27

West Taghkanic Diner
Beauty Highway
Lake Taghkanic

Lake Taghkanic
Lake Taghkanic
My Home
Route 11 - Beauty Highway
Manor Rock Road - beautiful dirt road
Beauty Highway

Taghkanic Creek
Jo-Jo's Pizza

Beauty Highway
Beauty Highway
Taghkanic Diner and Star Restaurant

County Rt 10 between Taconic & 27

Lake

Taconic Orchards, Lake Taghkanic

Taghkanic Creek
West Taghkanic Diner

Old Route 82
County Route 11

Old Forge
Our House
Taghkanic Diner
State Park Lands
County Rte. 11 between 23 & Woodland Road
Beauty Highway

Manor Rock Road
Martindale Road

Forges
Forges
Lake Taghkanic State Park
Tompkins Road
County Rte. 11 - Beauty Highway
Reservoir Road

Williams Lumber Center

Jo-Jo's
Post Hill & Nostrand Road Intersection
Extra Mart

Farms

Our house & Road- 200 yr. old house & old walls, etc.

Meth. Church Hall (enjoy their flea markets & suppers)

Lake Taghkanic

Jo-Jo's
Route 23 Diner

Home
View of the Mountains

Wooded areas I still have access to for hiking
Back yard

Taghkanic State Park
New Forge Road

Taghkanic Creek
Taghkanic Creek
State Forest
Reservoir Road
Route 82 Diner in West Taghkanic
Churchtown-Taghkanic Road

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 31 Continued" - Three favorite spots.

My own property	Hickory Trails - Land Conservancy	All protected lands- forests, farms
The Beauty Highway (11)		
My Home	Lake Taghkanic	People getting along with each other
Lake Taghkanic		
My house & property view of the mountains	Lake Taghkanic State Park	
Lidos Game Farm		
Tompkins Road	Route 27 from East Taghkanic to Route 7	
Maryburgh Forges	Lake Taghkanic	
Every place where you see forested hills & open fields		
Lido's Game Farm		
Farmlands	Wetlands	Woodlands
Bridge over creek on County Rte 10	County Rte 27 & Taghkanic Churchtown Road	County Route 10 & 11 through East Taghkanic
Route 11	Lake Taghkanic	Diner in West Taghkanic/ Jo-Jo's
My home	Route 11A between Beauty Highway and 23.	Snydertown Road
Most of Taghkanic		
Beauty Highway	Wooden Nickel	
Drive along Taconic Parkway	Scenic beauty of East Taghkanic	
New Forge	Highway 11	Jo-Jo's Pizza
My Property		
Every example of mid-19th century architecture	There is no one wonderful place- all the hills and meadows	
My house	My property	The road I live on
Lake Taghkanic	Jo-Jo's Pizzeria with gas pumps	
My home (but I don't like its surroundings as much)	New Forge State Forest	Area at intersection of Rte 27 &New Forge 1

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 31 Continued" - Three favorite spots.

Views of Catskills, Taghkanic Creek, & Beauty Highway	Views of Skoda Farm & surrounding area.	Animals on numerous farms and 3 very nice restaurants
Taghkanic Creek	Beauty Highway	Several view of the Catskills
Churchtown Taghkanic Road	Beauty Highway	Reservoir Road
Taghkanic State Park	Taghkanic Churchtown Road	
New Forge Road by the Creek	Former Hamlet of Taghkanic (Rte 27)	The views and vistas on Martindale Road
Views from Cty. Rte 10	Open fields on Cty. Rte 11	New Forge Falls & Forest
Lake Taghkanic		
New Forge Forest where the water tumbles down the rocks	Cty. Rte. 10 looking East above Stromier Road	Manor Rock Rd. entering from Craryville Rd.
New Forge Forest	Scenic view on Cty Rte. 10 down hill to Route 27	Beauty Award Highway
My Home	Lake Taghkanic	
Lake Taghkanic	Cty. Rte. 11	
My Home	Taghkanic High School Pool	Any "back" road to walk on
Route 27		
Beauty Highway	Falls @ New Forge	View towards Taconic Range @ Rte. 27 & New Forge Rd.
Beauty Highway	Falls @ New Forge	Route 7 from Copake Lake to Beauty Highway
My Property	Forge	
Lake Taghkanic	Taghkanic Creek	
My Home & Property		
Lake Taghkanic	DEC Falls	
My Yard & Garden		
Lake Taghkanic		
Cows on Cty. 10	Views on County 11 & 11A	
The road I live on	County Route 11 - Beauty Highway	
The road I live on	County Route 11 - Beauty Highway	
Beauty Highway		
New Forge Rd.	Beauty Award Highway	County Rte. 10
Jo-Jo's	Lake Taghkanic	
View from Post Hill Rd. Of blackhead mtn.	View of Berkshires	
Our Home		
My Home	What else is there!!	
My Home	New Forge	Beauty Highway
Taghkanic Diner	Park	My House

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 31 Continued" - Three favorite spots.

Jo-Jo's Pizza	Wooden Nickel	Lake Taghkanic
All		
Town Highways & back roads & views	Forge Stream & bridges	Lake Taghkanic that really is Gallatin
Manor Rock	New Forge Forest	Our place
My Home		
Lake Taghkanic State Park	Taghkanic Creek	
Lake Taghkanic	Taconic Hills Community Events	Taconic Hills Pool & Exercise Room
Taconic Hills school events, aquatic area	Lake Taghkanic	On Route 82 (3 restaurants existing)
Beauty Highway	Martindale Road	New Forge Road
My own property	Driving along rural roads	
New Forge Bridges (Water way underneath)	Beauty Award Highway	View shed while driving on County Route 10
My home		
My Property	Farms	Lake Taghkanic
Lake Taghkanic	My Yard	
Cty 10 view of Berkshires	Taghkanic Creek upstream from parkway	Home
The Beauty Highway (11A)	The Taghkanic Creek	County Road 10
Copake Lake		
Lake Taghkanic		
Lake Taghkanic		
New Forge Road	Beauty Highway	Taghkanic-Churchtown Road
Beauty Highway	Churchtown Reservoir	Churchtown Road
My House	Churchtown Road- Beautiful	
Lake Taghkanic	Claverack Library	
Lake Taghkanic Park	Hunting	
Old 82	Taghkanic State Park	Taghkanic Lake
Where I live	Lake Taghkanic State Park	
Corner of Reservoir Rd. & Route 27		
New Forge State Park	Parkway Auto	West Taghkanic Diner
Martindale Road	Beauty Award Highway	
Jo-Jo's	State Hunting Property-New Forge & Cty. Rte. 10	Chief Taghkanic Diner

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 31 Continued" - Three favorite spots.

My Home		
Lake Taghkanic	New Forge Road	The Diner
My house & land		
Jo-Jo's	Taghkanic Diner	State Hunting Property
Lake Taghkanic	Route 82	Beauty Highway
My Home	My Neighborhood	Back Roads
Jo-Jo's	Getty	Diner
My House	My house	My House
Lake Taghkanic State Park		
Lake Taghkanic	New Forge State Forest	All the dirt Country roads we still have!
Lake Taghkanic	My land looking over scenic views and not so far being destroyed	My House
Lake Taghkanic	The Forge	My House
Lake Taghkanic	The Forge	My back yard
Route 82	Beauty Highway and its views	Lake Taghkanic
Route 82	Lake Taghkanic	Beauty Highway
Farmland	Farmland	Farmland
View from parkway at top of hill N bound	View south on Taghkanic Churchtown Road	
Our Place		
Diner	Jo-Jo's	Wooden Nickel
My own property	Lake Taghkanic State Park	
Empty Taghkanic Lake	Empty and farm fields	Taconic Hills School , Jo-Jo's
My Home & Property	hiking environs throughout land conservancy areas	
Beauty Highway	Manor Rock Road	Lake Taghkanic
The "Forge" & Falls	Taghkanic Creek at "27"	View from Rt. 27 at Post Hill Rd. area
Zap's Falls	Taghkanic Creek - New Forge	
Lake Taghkanic Park	Jo-Jo's Pizza Restaurant	My home/property

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 31 Continued" - Three favorite spots.

Our house/property	Taghkanic State Park	
Taghkanic Creek	Church Town Reservoir	State land on Cty. Rte. 10
My view	Drapers Falls	Taghkanic State Park
My own land & any open fields	Lake Taghkanic	Any county road with birds
Jo-Jo's	Lido's Game Farm	New Forge State Park
New Forge Forest & Waterfall	Beauty Award Highway	
Taghkanic Park (off Rte. 82)	County Route 11	New Forge Road
Taghkanic State Park		
Beauty Hgwy and its bucolic, non-developed views	Tagh.-Churchtown Rd. & rural views	Snydertown Rd between Rt. 27 & Taconic Parkway
My house	The road that cuts north east from the pkwy. Toward 23	The lake
Sitting on terrace watching the pond & birds	That curve on Rte 10 where the view opens east	Lunch at the diner
Old church & cemetery	Old houses in Town center	Taghkanic Creek & Beauty Highway
New Forge Road	Beauty Highway	My campsite along Taghkanic Creek
View from Route 10		
My living room	State property New Forge Road	Fishing Taghkanic Creek where not posted
View from Tagh.-Livingston road	View from route 10	Tagh State Park
Above all the land & views	My house and land	
Lake Taghkanic		
Churchtown/Taghkanic Road	View of Catskills from County Rte. 10	
Own Home	Open spaces & views	Walk on dirt road by Churchtown Reservoir except for litter
Churchtown Road		
Taghkanic Lake	My house	My daughter's house
Future Dance Hall	Happy Clown	
My Home	The Church	Lake Taghkanic
Chiefs Taconic Diner (route 82)	Agway (Claverack)	Churchtown Fire Dept.
Our home		

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 31 Continued" - Three favorite spots.

My home	The Taghkanic Creek	West Taghkanic -Churchtown Road
What is the "town" ??!		
Lake Taghkanic	Home	
My Property	Jo-Jo's	
The Tyler Farms	Lake Taghkanic	Old Forge
My home	Diner	State Park
My home	Lake Taghkanic	All the hilltops in town
Diner	The Wooden Nickel	Old Churchtown Rd. and the Church off 82
My home	State Park	
West Taghkanic Diner		
Zapp's Lower waterfalls on Taghkanic Creek	Lake Charlotte	The Forge series of Falls (water)
Our residence	Churchtown Reservoir	Copake Golf Course
State Forest on New Forge Road	Lido's Game Farm	Jo-Jo's Pizza
Taconic Lake State Park	Martindale Road	County Route 11
State Troopers speed trap on Parkway		
My home	Anywhere I can see the Catskills	Diner
Churchtown-Taghkanic Road	County Route 10	W.T. Diner
Bird sanctuary	Post Hill Road	
My home	Lake Taghkanic State Park	New Forge St. Forest
Taghkanic State Park		
Not too familiar		
New Forge State Forest near creek	My front yard overlooking the creek & pasture	Views from TSP

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 31 Continued" - Three favorite spots.

New Forge Rd.	Crow Hill Rd.	Thompkins Rd.
Route 11 (Beauty Highway)	Taconic Park	Bird Sanctuary in Hillsdale
Lake Taghkanic		
My home	State Park	
My front yard	My back yard	State Parks
Views of wooded hills, fields, Southern Berkshires	Craryville Road, between Manor Rock Rd. & Co. Rte. 11	Crow Hill Rd. about 1/2 mile in from Co. Rte. 27
Recreation Park	The Wooden Nickel	My house
Lake Taghkanic	Nice small time	Public Parks
No Opinion		
Taghkanic State Park		
Beauty Highway-magnificent views	My property-view of the Catskills	
My house	The park	The reservoir
My own home/yard	Taghkanic State Park	
My home/land		
Church School House	Diner	Park
New Forge Road	Taghkanic State Park	Taghkanic Creek
Where I live	Lake Taghkanic	Beauty Highway
Home	Beauty Highway	Part of the State Park
Lake Taghkanic		
Taghkanic State Park	Copake Lake Vicinity	
Copake Lake Vicinity	Taghkanic State Park	
Lake Taghkanic	Home on County Rte. 15	
Home	Lake Taghkanic	New Forge Rd. #2 State Forest
Home	Taghkanic Park (Lake Taghkanic)	Jo-Jo's Pizza

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 31 Continued" - Three favorite spots.

Lake Taghkanic	Carlos Pizza	
Old Forge Rd. -falls, etc.	Taghkanic Churchtown Road	Lake Taghkanic Park
Diner	Jo-Jo's	
My own property and neighbors	Old Forge	Churchtown -W. Taghkanic Road
Lake Taghkanic	Beauty Highway	
Lake Taghkanic	Beauty Highway	
Work hard-don't get out much!		
Jo Jo's Pizza	The drive on W. Taghkanic-Churchtown Road	Lake Taghkanic
Diner	Jo-Jo's	
Jo Jo's Pizza	Diner	Gas Station (convenience only)
Only where you can see well kept houses on "Tiller" Road		
Beautiful country roads		
Center strip of W. Taghkanic (rte 82)	New Forge Rd. & State Park	Anywhere with open scenic mountain views
Route 10 & 11	New Forge area	Churchtown Road
Lake Taghkanic	Scenic Highway	Land I grew up on
Beauty Award Highway		
State Park (I guess this is it in town)		
My property		
Tompkins Road view to Ancramdale	New Forge State Forest	Churchtown Road
My home	Lake Taghkanic	Taghkanic Pkwy.
Vistas hilltops	Route 10	East Taghkanic to Ancram views
Beauty Award Highway		

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 31 Continued" - Three favorite spots.

My farm	New Forge Road (falls)	Manor Rock Road
New Forge	TS Park	Taghkanic Creek
My farm	Old Forge Road Falls	State Park
My home	Lake Taghkanic State Park	Getty
High School public facilities i.e. pool, gym	Lake Taghkanic State Park	

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

32. Please list three of your least favorite spots in the Town.

Town Hall		
Used Car Sales Lot's (Unattractive)	0	
Junk Home on Route 27 by Reservoir	0	
Junk House on Route 27 by Reservoir	Dirt Roads with Pot Holes	Exit from Snydertown Road onto Parkway dangerous
Used Car Lots	Unkempt Garages for fixing cars	Property Owners who don't keep up property seen from rds
Route 82 "Strip"	Any Property with abandoned cars and junk	
Motel	Old vacated gas station next to Jo-jo's (is an eyesore)	
Residence on Rt. 27 used as chop shop/dumping	Newly installed campsite/trailer on Rte 27/Parkway	
Town Hall	Trash along cnty Rte 11 littered by Tag. Hill Students	Highway Dept. unsightliness poor upkeep of area
* Won't answer, may be prejudicial against neighbor, & hope I'm not targeted		
Town Hall		
Trailer Park	Abandoned Craryville Grocery Store	
Town Hall		
Shuzzum's	Unfinished Pond/hole on New Forge Road	Highway Department Garage
1961 County Route 27	Trailers Parked in Front of Houses	Yards that are Junk Yards
Town Maintenance Bldg. & yard - disgraceful	* Inside Town Hall - small bulletin board, junky appearance	Route 82 West Taghkanic, needs street trees.
1961 Route 27	Commercial Strip on 82 West of Parkway	Town Garage

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 32 Continued" - Three least favorite spots.

Businesses along Rte 23 from 11A - Taconic		
Unmaintained properties, especially those on visible from 27		
Schzam's Auto Detailing Place (dirty & rundown!!)		
Any run down or unmaintained property		
Town Hall Building		
Disarray and size of Town Garage	Route 82 in West Taghkanic	Yellow House on hill top (seen from Route 82)
Maintenance shed	Every place where someone leaves it like a junkyard	Yellow House on prominent ridge in W. Taghkanic
Any run down or unmaintained property		
Route 82 Commercial area	New pre-manufactured structure (speculation house) Rt. 10	Ridgeline housing structures
Swampy area south of Town Hall- it is a mess!	Falling down house at junction of Churchtown Rd. & Rt. 10	Creek side near bridge on Old Rte 82
Public Works	Junkie Lawns & Yards	Worn down & damaged dirt roads
"Fork" at Post Hill Rd. & Nostrand - needs stop sign	The beaten up Lutheran Church on 27	The thought of Beauty Highway losing its beauty.
The property between Churchtown Res. & rte. 27. Mess.		
Yards that are strewn with junk		
Junky areas along parts of Livingston Rd. & Old 82	Ill-kempt area along business section of Rt. 82	Town Hall & storage of Highway Maintenance supplies
Salt Shed on 27 (eye sore)	Lido's game farm (Berkshire Road)	
Town Garage- it gets worse and worse each year	Every property or home that makes itself into junk heap.	Route 82 in W. Taghkanic
Route 82 and Taconic Parkway interchange	Shazzam is an eyesore and traffic is too much	
Any place where garbage/litter is dumped	The Town's "business district"	The intersection of East Klein Rd and New Forge Rd 1
Corner of Route 10 and Churchtown Road		

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 32 Continued" - Three least favorite spots.

Route 82 unlawful speeding and passing	Town Hall needs a lot to be desired	Town Hall not large enough, poor air quality, unattractive
Shabaz "junkyard" on 82	The high speed of traffic on 82 "downtown"	Town Hall it's a mess and moldy
Intersection Tag. Churchtown Rd.& City. Road 11	Town itself has poor lighting & is not attractive	Perhaps some trees along 82 -flower tubs & xmas trees
Intersection of 82 & TSP	Intersection of 27 & Reservoir Rd.	
"Downtown" West Taghkanic (for its appearance)	Highway Maintenance HQ (Rte. 27 & Pumpkin Hollow Rd.)	The "shanty" housing cluster @ Rte. 10 & Tagh. Church. Road
Town Hall	Yellow house on ridge line above W. Taghkanic	Old church in East Taghkanic b/c it's in such a sad state
Highway Department	Town Hall	
Route 82, commercial area in West Taghkanic		
Route 82 across from Town Hall		
The growing junkyard on 27		
Town Hall Area		
Town Hall		
New School on Rt. 11	New house on Meadow @ Rte 10 near 27	New House on meadow @ Rte. 10 near TSP
New School Bus Garage- No trees!!	New house on Rt. 10 near 27	New house on Copake Lake Rd. (near Beauty Hwy)
1897 County Rte. 10	419 Rte. 27	
Town Hall	Highway Garage	
None		
The dirty home sites on County 27	The dirty town roadside next to Highway Dept. on Rt 2	The dirty unfinished Highway Dept. site on Rt. 27
Can't think of any		
Town Center on Rt 82	Yellow House on top of hill off of 82	Highway garage
Town Garage	Town Hall	
Route 82/23 area behind Town Hall		
Have None		
Next door, Property		
The parkway south that takes me away from Taghkanic		

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 32 Continued" - Three least favorite spots.

None		
None		
Old Rt 82 Clutter	Junk Yards & cars various areas	My house
Any junkyard-multiple car site	The town highway Garage area	Downtown s.r. 82
Any unshielded bright lights		
Town Roads not Paved	Any unkempt private visible lawns with debris strewn in	Any ponds with algae
Roads with pots holes, etc.	Ponds filled with algae	Any unkempt private visible lawns with debris strewn
Town Center/Town Hall		
Taghkanic Town Hall (very dumpy looking)	General area around route 82/Taconic Parkway	
None		
Yellow House on hill over looking West Taghkanic	Current Route 82 strip from W. Taghkanic to the TSP	Looking at Reesa Road and its houses on the hilltop
None		
Shazam	Town Garage	Town Hall
Car Place- Shazam	Town Garage	Town Hall
Shazam	Route 82 from Parkway to Livingston Road	Town Garage
Bridge	Jo-Jo's	
What Town?		
Town Hall (82/10)		
Route 82 & Route 10 intersection		
Trailers on Old 82		
Empty Gas Stations	Empty Stores	
None		
None		
Next door neighbor		
Wooden Nickel	Taconic Motors	Town Garage-Looks Dumpy!
Town Hall		

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 32 Continued" - Three least favorite spots.

Barbara Hermance's house	Highway Garage- looks bad!	Town Hall- looks bad! Clean them up!
Town Hall		
Junk cars	Unmowed grass	Sazama's
Route 23 in parts	School!!	Parts of Rte. 27
Car Detailer next to Church		
The corner of Cty. Rte. 10 and Taghk-Churchtown Rd.		
Town Centre (so called auto repair garage)	Town Highway Garage	Town Hall building, structure in particular
Looking at top of mountain being scalped	Rte 82 with people who speed and then complain about tickets	
419 Route 27 (all junk around)	Town Hall (need a new one)	Shizem Station Route 82
#419 Route 27	Shazam's garage	Town Hall
Sazamas	Junk Cars	Unmowed grass
Sazamas	Places that aren't made to keep up yard	Junk yards
Route 82 Commercial Zone		
Downtown near Town Hall		
None		
The gas station on 82 next to Taconic Diner	Area around Lido's on Bershire Rd.	
Section on Rte. 23 where motel is located across from x-mart	Rte. 82 near Taconic Pkwy.	
Junky trailers scattered about		
Houses that are kept as junk yards		
West Taghkanic retail store (Rt. 82)		

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 32 Continued" - Three least favorite spots.

Town Hall, why the no trespass signs
There is no No. #1, I love my town
Craryville center slummy buildings
Wooden Nickel (run-down & unattractive)
Town Hall

Old house & corner of Taghkanic Rd. & Livingston Rd.
Route 82 development (West Taghkanic)

East Taghkanic Church and its mess

The abandoned trailer on Livingston Road near 82
Houses w/junk cars in front
The commercial center Rt. 82 - Town Hall

Rough dirt road/mud
The abandoned gas station on Route 82
None

Trailers near bridge
House on E side of Pkway with regular target practice

Parts of frontage on Rt. 82
Corner of Cty. Rte. 10 & Taghkanic Churchtown Road

Nothing

None

The junk yard on Rte. 82
Town Hall
All the rusty trailers
Closed motel next to Jo-Jo's

County Rte. 27 adjoining reservoir junkyard

Radical private landscaping on Post Hill Road

House trailers in disrepair
The slum behind the fire house

other abandoned bldgs, structures in disrepair all over

Convenience store
Littered areas

419 County Rte. 27
Rusty trucks in front yards

419 County Rte. 27

Very dangerous corner of Post Hill Rd. &Nostrand Rd.

Auto junkyard on Rte. 82
The town garage area

Unattractive waterway near bridge
Yards with junked cars, boats

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 32 Continued" - Three least favorite spots.

Area intersection of County Rte. 10 & W/Taghkanic Chur. Rd.		
Intersection of County Rt. 10 & Churchtown Rd.	Old Mobile Gas Station	
The "new" auto repair shop next to Jo-Jo's-awful looking!		
Are none		
Old Route 82 (all of it)	Town Hall	
Parkway	Shazam (old mobile station)	Jo-Jo's
Nothing about the town displeases me at all.		
Where the outhouse lived by the bridge for 10 years	The old Michalko place	The Hudson Reservoir (water supply)
Neighbor's junked front yard (looks like a dump!)	The general litter along sides of town roads	
The Town Hall		
Copake Lake	Route 23	
	State Troopers speed trap on Parkway	
Wooden Nickel- they don't accept credit cards?!!	Corner of Living.-Tagh. Rds-who put ugly reinforcement blocks	Taconic Motors-Clean it up!!
First part of Churchtown-Tagh. Rd/village to Skoda Farm	Route 82	
Around the 82 exit on the Taconic Parkway		
Highway Garage-because of general appearance		
Higher density areas of W. Taghkanic		

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 32 Continued" - Three least favorite spots.

Town Hall	Town Garage	Business center on Rte. 82
Abandoned property on Route 23		
Used Car Lots		
Taghkanic Neighbors.com	Friends of Hudson	Any establishment to congregate
Large yellow house on hill looming above Route 82	Town Highway Garage	Town Hall
Old Mobil Station Route 82		
Intersection of Taghkanic & Livingston Rds. Litter & junk	The new firehouse - ugly bldg. in great need of prof. landscaping	
Intersection of Route 82 & TSP		
Town Hall	The corner of 10 & Churchtown Road	
Unsightly old Mobil Station on Route 82		
N/A		
None		
Pile of gravel & rusting machinery parts by Town Hall		
Pulling up to Rte. 82 from Cty. Rte. 10	It is often necessary to pull almost into north lane	
Town Garage	Town Hall	
Abandoned run down buildings		
Abandoned run down buildings		
Town Hall-we need a new one w/parking & good handicap		

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 32 Continued" - Three least favorite spots.

West Taghkanic Speedway		
Dilapidated houses & trailer parks Car detailer on 82 Junked & unlicensed cars along Old Rte. 82	Front entrance to Motel	
County Rte. 27 - second house on right before Reservoir rd. Hoyle Road (just the road) Wooden Nickel Car detailer on 82 next to Church Motel	Shazaam Auto	
Trailers, unkempt land		
Rt. 82 near the parkway-Jo-Jo's, auto detailing etc. Congested low income housing on old rte 82 "Downtown" West Taghkanic	Not because of the businesses but the shabby appearance Any dirt road that is not maintained like Near Rd. & New Forge Rt. 82	
High intensity lights around school on Beauty Award Hwy.	Any run-down garbage filled junk heaped property	
No opinion		
Rte. 82 near Taconic Pkwy. (strip near diner) Firehouse	None	None
Skodas unkempt trailers-sloppy tenants Town Garage	Churchtown corner unkempt multiple dwelling	Trailers and mobile homes among well established residences

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 32 Continued" - Three least favorite spots.

Town Hall	
Route 82 - Views along it i.e. design of businesses	

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

33. Comments

* Not interested in a lot of infrastructure, more stores, more buildings, people or traffic. But know they are coming. Hope we can shape growth that will preserve the unique and beautiful rural character of town.

Need Post Office

Too many of the ques./ans. can be manipulated either way by whomever has access and/or a personal agenda and the ability to present them wherever.

I don't believe that the goals of this study and the concerns of the "counter group", "concerned citizens"... are really in conflict we'll all benefit from the outcome of this project

It all depends who is asking the question as to how one should answer and I don't know the specific agenda of the person in power.

I am 83 - Started on a farm in 1923 - Never could get used to people. Leave farms alone - cut taxes.

Please do not add silly regulations

We are very concerned that our taxes will be used to pay for infrastructure costs generated by 3rd party developers, as well, noise generated by increased auto traffic.

* Live here by choice - easy going life - but am skeptical/suspicious of the survey questions. If individual subdiv's want to create restrictions for new residents, fine. Impose these on Town residents -major mistake.

It amazes me that people that have their home steads aren't happy unless they can tell other people what to do with their land and property.

We should ban us having pitbull's, Need access to DSL and Cable TV, Need improvement on rec. park.

* We need to update current zoning/planning laws, major change not needed. Please define "open space" we have lots of undeveloped land but it is so constricted by landowners it is not "open".

Re: Question #9 - having "important" services in nearby Hillsdale is adequate. No need to have them in Taghkanic. Re: Quest. #10 - I am opposed to increased residential density.

There is a need to open up communications among the Town's residents and it's government agencies.

* Overall I feel that the Supervisor's & Town Board's reluctance to use the enormous talents, accumulated wisdom, and capabilities of many of their resident's is the largest problem.

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 33 Continued" - Comments

Taghkanic has been our home for 24 years and we very much want it to maintain the lovely rural character and scenic beauty it holds. We oppose sub-divisions and commercial development.
Unable to respond to question #16 as worded. Topics of subdivision and zoning are complex - but to question as worded is too broad.
Unable to respond to question #16 as worded. Topics (subdivision & zoning) are very complex - but the question's as asked is very broad.

* Barns & Farms Realty should at least mow there lawn so I can try to see the pretty buckets w/flowers my tax $ spent to slow people down through that area. Don't want tax $ spent on town park.
We should view planning & zoning as our founding fathers viewed government. It is a necessary evil and we should have as little of it as absolutely necessary.

Planning & Zoning should be designed to protect health and human safety. Anything beyond that is an infringement on property rights.

* There is a strong need for support of existing farmers & agriculture practices. There are grants & programs available which would support town's in this.
* It grieves me that sometimes there is division between old long term residents & new residents. I want to see better communication & comraderie between us.
* Some Town officials are so hostile towards the majority of this town's citizens. Should not matter if full or part time- we all pay full time taxes. Stop this behavior Betty!
* Taghkanic is in the position to set itself apart from the rest of Col. County. Set an example of careful, forward thinking & planning. Town could be "jewel" of Col. Cty.

We do not need a new Town Hall. What do they think we are, New York City!
Town officials need to be more sympathetic to resident needs & queries. Town officials are "public servants" remember this! "Smart" growth very important.
* We should be able to get along better w/ fellow residents, consider arguing points of view, greater efforts to improve the economic growth of the town & county.

* I suggest that we look at other town plans for both ideas and values.

* I wish all involved w/ the Comp.Plan process would pretend there're on jury duty. If you've already made up your mind, won't listen to evidence/facts, won't discuss & consider views you're not qualified

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 33 Continued" - Comments

* The rural character must be preserved. If any development takes place it should be small. We need an architectural review board, Board should travel to observe other communities.
* I fear a Fairview Ave. strip mall on our Rt. 82. I worry about developers like Toll Bros. coming in and putting up huge , ugly developments. Need an architectural review board.
* Taghkanic is a beautiful "treasure". There have been large tracks of land purchased by developers. Town must "police" what is going on. Zoning must be watched & addressed.

Lower Taxes

* Please do not allow Taghkanic to victimized by the same threat that looms over Copake and Pine Plains.
* Please publicize comp. plan committee meeting & activities. Please let public know of other specific activities that will take place to get them involved.

* Taghkanic is a beautiful, rural town. Moved here years ago to escape the neg. aspects of NYC. Would be a shame to destroy what we have here b/c some people like to profit from devel..
* Not much of a town center. It is important to keep character of our town and not allow it to become big & dense w/population or business.

* Leave things as they are, landowner should have the choice to do whatever he or she wants, Don't want wealth weekenders to dictate to others what can be built & where

The information mtg on June 2 and I would have liked to attend. This survey arrived on June 5. Zoning should be strict enough so that the signage development etc. should all be unified.

I am very concerned about preserving the natural beauty of Taghkanic.

This is a difficult questionnaire, took a lot of time, a number of questions are ambiguously phrased. I salute you for the effort, but get some issues clarified.

* I hope the town can work together to establish a comp. plan & related zoning & land use regulations which will preserve the rural character which we all value

We hope the town can work together to establish a comp. plan & related zoning & land use regulations, while allowing for reasonable gov. & affordable housing.

* Please ensure that suburban sprawl doesn't come to Taghkanic or our real estate values will plummet. No "clear cutting"
* Keep things as they are-don't go along w/other towns which are effectively halting growth and tax base growth-too many people leaving this high taxed state.
* Most of the people in town are unfriendly, no helping each other, nothing here-no stores or recreational facilities

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 33 Continued" - Comments

Let's not overpopulate this beautiful town with any type of commercial business.
* You probably wouldn't want to hear my comments about the premadonna politicians. I believe you people should work for a living.
This will be a long struggle as you can't please more than two people at any given time over anything!
* Thanks for your efforts to date, but your choice of Advice guy who spoke of Fishkill 2000 senior affordable homes shocked many. Action speaks louder then words.
It is disconcerting that the PB delivered this survey to my house after the June 2 informational mtg, but thank you for your efforts in planning Taghkanic's future. Preserve the peace & quiet!
Allowing further devel. would drain town resources, b/c of incr. demands for services. Develop a plan that will preserve rural character in a manner that sustains agr. & affordable housing.
Don't want Large developments, condos, etc.
No Large developments of multi-condos, etc.
I hope we can preserve the rural character of the town and discourage over development and noxious subdivisions
Can we get a new sign for the Taghkanic Town Hall? Something other than what is currently on the building- maybe a nice wood sign?
Unable to attend the informational mtg. on June 2, but am grateful for opportunity to contribute to the future of Taghkanic. I love the rural, dark nights, peace, quiet, & privacy

Leave things alone. We voted for years against the new school that looks like a State Prison. It wasn't needed on the 1969 Beauty Award Highway.
* This is a rural/country town I hate to see it turn into another NYC-High Taxes-unnecessary & expensive services & unnecessary gov. interference.

Invite & support Volunteerism, Be creative with funding, grants, etc., be creative with alternative energy on both the consumer and producer (raw mat.) ends.
I do not want Taghkanic to turn into another Hudson. It's what separates our town from the rest. It's the beauty and the friendliness.Word.
* Because I am not sure as to the exact purpose and consequential impact of this survey, I am reluctant to complete it.
* Although there is little a town govt. can do about housing costs, it does have the power over Zoning!
We are in the modern age of computers, phones, etc. & we have none of these services. Ecology is good but progress is progress.
* We don't need land use regulations-increased taxes will force more landowners and farmers to sell & move to areas w/lower taxes & "more services"
We don't need more zoning laws we need more business & service areas we need industry for jobs. Our taxes go up & up & we get nothing in return.
* Zoning restrictions & enforcement are essential to maintaining & enhancing the Town's appeal, leading to higher property values & tax revenues.

* I'm concerned about the # of break-ins into sheds & barns. Unleashed dogs chase people who use the roads to run, bike.

I think you have a well run town. Don't change it.
Some trailer home should not be exposed on residential streets it decreases the value of people who fix and restore there homes. It's really an eyesore!

* My assessment was raised. No improvements since '93. Went to Assessor no reduction.
Very nice to have an informational meeting on the day before the survey was received. Typical poor planning and/or attempt to railroad something else past the local residents.
If you want to maintain rural character do it through property purchases w/non tax payer money. Restricting land rights is robbery!

Highway Services (i.e. snow plowing) are poor! Nepotism in Town Services reigns supreme! Betty Young's family is everywhere!

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 33 Continued" - Comments

Some of your questions were vague & could be interpreted in many ways. I love Taghkanic being small, undeveloped and naturally beautiful.
Have more public input in the process of the Comp. Plan. Town should clean up Town Hall & Highway Garage- they look terrible!

* Would like an announcement of how my taxes are spent printed in the local paper or mailed to residents.

Less Government=Best Government Leave well enough alone!!
Poor Highway Services. Nepotism (Young!!)

* We don't need a new town hall. Just update & refurbish the old one. For a couple of meetings a month we shouldn't have to pay more taxes.

* We don't need to "Keep up with the Jones. "don't need a town hall. To become like Ancram and not have enough money to fix the roads to get to it.
* Living here all my life I have seen mostly bad changes. We lived well then the trouble hit. Friends of Hudson, Taghkanic Neighbors, etc.
Nobody should be allowed to tell me what I can do with my property. Zoning Laws are adequate and should not be changed. I am in favor of ridge top housed.
I feel there should be stronger guidelines to control numerous junk cars on properties in the town. I don't want anyone telling me how to use my property.

Planning should address both support for agricultural & open space while allowing for smaller parcels in some areas to support affordable housing.

* This is a rural town that I don't want urbanized. I enjoy the peaceful atmosphere & don't see any need to make any additional changes to zoning laws.

Good work on this survey Thanks

Need communication from Town Government must address conflicts on board
* Think it was a waste of money to buy radar for State Troopers. Money would have been better spent on paving & improving rds.
* Current zoning regs are adequate. More services mean more taxes and my family has had enough. I have owned my 61 acres for 20 yrs. being forced to sell b/c of outrageous tax increases.
Leave our property rights and existing zoning laws alone. Add zoning to encourage business development on Route 82.
It's fine the way it is & should have no further interference from "Green zones" or business zones.
Town elected officials do not send newsletter or use web for any communication should have stronger conflict of interest and ethics policies
Do we really need more "plans" in our town - is it another excuse to tell people what they can do or not do with their own private land?

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 33 Continued" - Comments

We moved to Taghkanic because of its beautiful open spaces & rural character. We will be strongly opposed to changing that.
I'm a fairly new resident. I hope that one day I may be able to give & put in more opinions. Thank You.

The history of our town could continue if it were not for the "citidiots" who have moved in and want to now throw away the key and not let anyone else in.
We need deer control- they cause too many car crashes. Need permits to take does or to catch and & sterilize them.

Elect an honest Supervisor. Have Planning Board changed. Get rid of Hermance. Use the local law properly.

* Restrict Trailers to only part of the town, don't want hilltop restrictions. Figure out what will happen to taxes before you do anything.

* I very much appreciate the town's attention to second home owners & I hope they will continue to be integrated in a positive way.
Please preserve zoning rules that limit subdivision in rural areas maximize set back space between where a house may be built & another person's property.
* Of course I am concerned about raising taxes but I feel it is important to keep the rural character of our town. Once squandered it is lost forever.
Historic preservation of houses & large farms is currently ignored by township-we have a great past that needs preserving.
* I found several question very vague.
New Forge Road 2 needs to be paved a little at a time.

I believe the taxes are too high for the quality and quantity of services. Make this your major issue.
Hope survey creator wasn't overpaid
* People like to have their property look presentable, so when they improve the looks of their property why are they punished w/increased taxes.
Nothing should be proposed for the Town unless there is a full analysis on houw it would affect the tax base and potential effect on prop. Values.
Looking forward to see how many improvements this survey will bring I'll be looking!!!

Install drop box at Town Hall
Leave Taghkanic as is

I don't like big change; as is

Would not like to see an increase in commercial land use. Lets maintain the rural beauty!

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 33 Continued" - Comments

I received this notice of meeting 2 June on 30 May -That's not right!

* The only complaint I have & it is universal. I do not think it is fair that an individual w/o children should pay full pop on school taxes.
* Like the idea/concept of this survey-keep it up! We need more input & avenues for it-then just the status quo Nov. elections
I received notification of meeting the day after the meeting! Bad communication

Didn't answer most because it was written so any answer given could be taken anyway

7 acres zoning does not let children of long time residents stay or build in there own area. We as locals are being driven away by high taxes!

We need more restaurants, light retail, and a better convenience store that offers more & provides competition.

My only wish is that the town not develop a spirit of exclusiveness and over- protection of the environment to the detriment of sensible growth within the ag. Framework of the area.

Don't waste your time - it's not worth it.

Our town is so involved w/many services with Copake, we would like to see a legal merging of the two townships. It would broaden our resources &fulfill the needs lacking.
Get the lead out and get on with it!

* Loved this survey. First time I felt like the town gave a damn. Need monthly calendar. If I want to build a deck or shed I shouldn't need Towns involvement
Change 3 acre zoning to 5 acre. Stop hilltop developments. Preserve as much farmland as possible.

We recently moved here from the Town of Greenport and wouldn't be happier with more.

My thanks to the committee.
Trees could be planted in appropriate places Important to control accumulation of junk in front yards. Maintain present character of Taghkanic.

Have to reside in this Town a little longer to make comments.
* Originally from LI, I see how places w/the most restrictive development are the most desirable places to live; this is our chance. Our open spaces are our greatest asset.

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 33 Continued" - Comments

* The town is being torn apart, services are suffering & time will not heal wounds. Everyone must swallow a bitter pill & compromise.
* This survey contains questions the responses to which rely on understandings of terminology (e.g., Property rights, open space, tax base) that are not universally shared.

No Tax Increases - Cable internet would be nice - Fewer second home residents

Need junk day, like our neighboring Towns- Hillsdale & Copake. Need salt shed at town garage. Less signs along our highways. Elective officials who get paid when they don't appear at Town mtg.

* Taghkanic should take a look at the land and give a break to the owner of the farm land, lets keep the country and wildlife here.

More effective and uniform enforcement of existing codes & restrictions

N/A

* A grant writer would be useful to find funds to improve the look of the "downtown" area.

Consider laws for buildings which can easily be seen from the Taconic Parkway.

The beauty of this area should not be underestimated. I am very concerned that greed will invite big shopping malls & other businesses damaging to the land

* This form is poorly designed; for example-"excessive speeds on roads" does this mean people drive too fast or is the road speed too high.

The town needs a post office. We have a little over 1/2 acre, and assessment went up $17,000. It's gone up every year we've lived here.

"Responses to Question 33 Continued" - Comments

* I hope Taghkanic is not going to follow in the footsteps of Chatham, Copake and Red Hook by not allowing controlled developments which would increase tax base.
*Last year the fireworks at Lake Taghkanic were set off from a point of land on the beachside of the lake. A lot of litter still not picked up.
* Please leave Taghkanic just the way it is. Don't need a police force, nor garbage pickup. Services are expensive & raise our taxes.

See #32 above - County Rt. 27 Second house on right before Resevoir Rd.
It would be nice if everyone had the basic standards that some have in our area & maybe we could all grow together. Some just keep getting more & others just stand still
Pass a law to not let anymore Alvarez homes to be put on our beautiful land. Too ugly! Instant gratification until a strong wind blows them away. Poo poo on vinal siding.

* Town should be mindful that when encouraging additional business care is given to preserve local character.

* I don't know enough about Taghkanic to be of help but I applaud your effort.
Taghkanic needs to improve its image by creating a better town and improving roads and services.

* We love Taghkanic & moved here b/c of the rural character & affordable housing. Our biggest concern is being able to afford our taxes!

* I think a slow approach using technology w/low impact can address many/most desires here removing the "need" to put up physical structures

Views expressed are from person(s) from New York City vacation, weekend getaway.
Received this survey on June 8. The letter mentioned an informational meeting on June 2. Was this a planned delay to keep us in the dark?? Will our inputs ever be considered?

* I applaud the effort to consider how to protect beauty and value of homes. I hope there can be a mending of minds between opposing points of view.

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

"Responses to Question 33 Continued" - Comments

* I would like to see the town require every one prior to purchasing real estate receive a flyer about agriculture district. Wetlands need protection.
I would like the town to stay much the way it is now. With slow growth.
Don't raise the taxes
* I believe Taghkanic should consider its services and policies together w/ those of adjacent communities.

* indicates response has been paraphrased.

APPENDIX B

"Other" list for Question 6 - What most influenced your decision to live here?

Lower real estate taxes
Rural character; but still close to our NYC jobs
Amount of space between properties
Beautiful architecture; 2 hours to NYC
Train Service
Marriage
Close to work
Moved here from Greene County born and raised
Agricultural zoning
At one time, low property taxes
Marriage
Wanted to live in a quiet area
Train service (Amtrak & Metro North)
Relative remote location & low-density bldgs. & population
Work
Beauty of natural surroundings
Beautiful landscape; low population density

Lots of farms and farmland
Peaceful
Family
Skiing
Husband hunts
Hunting, Golf, Lake Taghkanic
Price was right
Ambience
Land owner only
Vacation; second home
Married a life time resident
Hunting & fishing
Beauty of environment – quite private
Near Hudson Town & River
Went to college in area (Dutchess County)
Liked the look of the area
Hunting, fishing

Its beauty
Close to work in NYC
It was for sale
Hunting, fishing & shooting
Open roads / lack of congestion
Living in harmony, using good common sense to govern & remembering their neighbors

Views and quiet
Family hunting camp
Marriage
Possible future part-time/small family/retirement/vacation
Hilltop, dark @ night, no farms nearby or power lines
Price of house, quiet area, work, nights
Proximity to NYC
Summer home
Bought land from friends

"Other" list for Question 7 - What would influence your decision to move from here?

Loss of train service, suburbanization, industrialization
Health reasons
Sickness
Over development – crowding
City people trying to run us out
Loss of train service

Housing developments! Less than occasional allow. for subdivision

Personal circumstance – family related people moving here or part time residents who feel the need to tell the rest of us how to live

Not specifically Taghkanic, but NY taxes
Type of population
Death

More community living Town Village
Desire for Village life
There are no services
Taxes and Assessor
Overbearing, pompous politicians
Obnoxious people and tax increases in years to come
Over regulation of property rights
Restrictive regulations
Would not move from here now!!
Hunting and shooting
Nasty opinionated people
Over-development
Old age and inability to function
Health
Unable to maintain house & property
Family not here
Loss of open spaces/congestion

Belligerent people taking over, those who have no concept of rural living, those who will no compromise caused by stupidity, selfishness, willful spending causing tax increases

Fatigue from the bitterness & animosity many here exhibit towards my friends and me

More housing on country land, more traffic
Personal health issues
Vacation home

Indiscriminate, unplanned low-grade use of property for trailers, mobile homes, fabricated homes

Lack of central services
Agricultural area
Noise pollution

"Other" list for Question 9 - How would you rate the need for the following services in Taghkanic? Personal Services

Recreation Areas – Very Important
Cell Tower for cordless phones
General Store – Important
Restaurant – Very Important

General Store (less than a grocery/greater than a convenience store) – Important

High Speed Internet – Very Important
Farmers Market – Very Important
Medical & Dental Office – Very Important
Gun & Archery Range – Very Important
Restaurant – Important
Restaurant/Diner – Important
Gun Store – Not Important
Gun Store – Very Important

Fast Internet Service – Very Important
Stewarts – Very Important
Convenience Store – Very Important
Restaurants, cafes – Very Important
Medical – Very Important
Bank – Important

"Other" list for Question 9 - How would you rate the need for the following services in Taghkanic? Town Services

Walking Trails
Updated Fire Dept. – Very Important
Fire Protection – Very Important
Useful Town Website – Very Important
Highway workers & the job they do – Very Important
Medical Center – Very Important
Access to Records – Very Important
Fire Department - Important
Public Transportation – Important
Hunting & Fishing - Important
Enforce Zoning Laws – Very Important
Gun Store – Not Important

Park & Ride Facility – Very Important
Land Preservation Office - Important
Bulletin Boards – Very Important
Historical Preservation - Important
Town Website – Very Important
Highway Services – Very Important
Central records Storage
Shooting Range – Very Important
Town Historian – Important
Gun Smith – Very Important
Beautification Comm. – Important
Bakery

Town Website – Very Important
Sports Store
Easy Access to Town Information – Very Important
Gun Range – Very Important
Volunteer Fire – Very Important
Archery Range – Very Important
Highway Garage – Important
Hiking Trail System - Important
Fire – Very Important
Promote neighbors annual gathering – Very Important
911 – Very Important
Remove all zoning – Very Important

"Other" list for Question 10 - How concerned are you about the following?

Lowering speed limits to unrealistic levels – Very Concerned

People who do not understand rural living making unfair changes; then moving after destroying Town dynamics

High School Tax – Very Concerned
High Property Tax – Very Concerned
Good Zoning – Very Concerned
Good long range plan – Very Concerned
Government Ethics – Very Concerned
Trailers – Very Concerned
Trash in front yards – Very Concerned

Wildlife Preservation – Very Concerned
Conservation – Very Concerned
Taxes – Very Concerned
Assessments – Very Concerned
Taxes – Very Concerned
Valuation/Taxes – Very Concerned
High Speed Internet – Very Concerned
Stop Signs – Very Concerned
True people rep. on county & state level – Very Concerned
Light Pollution – Very Concerned
Gun Store run by an insane man – Concerned
Honest Government – Very Concerned

Cell Tower
Dumping Litter – Very Concerned
Light Pollution – Very Concerned
Protecting Ridgelines
Ground Water
Lack of Cell phone service – Very Concerned
Lack of Cell phone service – Very Concerned
Lack of internet & cable services – Very Concerned
Garbage dumping/litter – Very Concerned
Open Government – Very Concerned
Functioning town web site – Very Concerned

"Other" list for Question 11 - Which of the following businesses and services would you patronize or support in the Town of Taghkanic?

General Store – Moderate Need	Gun Store – Not Needed	Higher School tax – Opposed to
Gun Shop – Opposed to	Gun Store with wack running it – Not Needed	Higher Property tax – Opposed to
General Store – Moderate Need	Gun Store – Strong Need	Car Repair – Strong Need
Gun Shop – Strong Need	Post Office – Opposed to	Pharmacy – Moderate Need
Gun Shop – Strong Need	Gun Shop – Strong Need	

"Other" list for Question 14 - Should the Town have local controls for the following?

Future Subdivision	Gun Store	Accumulations of visible yard debris
Set backs from Creek	Gun Store with wacko running it	Speed limits
Limits on size of subdivisions	The less government interference the better	Junk on yards & streams
No Pit bulls	Storage of personal property outside	Lowering property tax
Trailers (Mobile Homes)	Trailer Parks	Home businesses
Ensuring Water Quality	Hunting	Bed & Breakfasts
Front Yard junk storage	Quality of life issues	Mobile home parks
Zoning Violations	No Zoning	Target practice on your property
Front lawn free of debris	No loss of property rights	Trailers

"Other" list for Question 17 - Drinking water source: Have you experienced any of the following?

Hard Water – Regularly	Filter	Sand – Rarely
Carbon Flakes – Rarely	Iron & Sulfur – have water filter	Filtered
Hard Water – Regularly	Iron – Regularly	Hard – Regularly
Cloudy – Rarely	Hard – Regularly	Sand – Regularly
Sulfur – Regularly	Hard – Regularly	Cloudy - Rarely

"Other" list for Question 20 - Would you be in favor of any of the following to help Senior Citizens?

Oversight for seniors living alone
Parks
Ambulette Service
Tax Reduction
Senior Advocates
Delivery services for seniors who no longer drive
Medical Center
1st time homeowners

Additional comments made on surveys

Claverack is sufficient for Post Office and Retail Shopping.
New Parks are not important.
What does preservation of Property rights imply/mean (multiple comment).
Business and services not needed as these occur in Greenport and Claverack.
Size and appearance is important for senior and assisted living housing.
Good to share some senior citizen services with other Towns.
Would support a part-time, contracted Grant Writer.
Want less residential density.
What does 3rd party purchase and Town purchase of development rights mean (multiple comment).
Want to see the Town require everyone prior to purchasing real estate receive a flyer about Town's agriculture district and what it means to live in such an area. Both positive and negative aspects like noise, smells, hours of work, animals escaping, slow moving vehicles on the road, etc. Flyer should have a sign and return area indicating understanding.
Too many complaints regarding living next to or near agricultural activities.
Wetlands should be protected as a first priority. No draining, polluting or built on or within.
Open space and preservation of agricultural land should be an important consideration in the Town.
Encourage keeping rural character but allow cluster development.
Received survey on June 3.
Allowing industrial zoning would depend upon building appearance, traffic and being non-polluting.
Applaud a thoughtful process on real, hard issues.
The map is not too accurate.
Don't know current business zoning but should have business zoning in areas like Route 82.
Don't know current subdivision regulations but do not want large-scale subdivisions or cluster housing.
Grant writer would be very important.
We should specialize in businesses and services where we do not compete with other Towns.
My taxes went up 100% in the last 3 years. Want a Grant Writer only if it fixes Hoyle Road.
Schoolbus driver is out of control.
Would like to see Smart Growth.
Assessor is unresponsive to letters.
Did not know there was an animal control officer (multiple comment).
Will not agree to anything that will raise property taxes.
What does excessive speeds on roads mean.
Copy of laws and regulations were not included.
Question 16 is not clear.
Laws regarding unattended pets should be within reason. Not like Stockport or Stuyvesant chicken law.
How can we support the services from question 11.
We already have meals on wheels.
No more housing - sickening - "Save the Counrty", please.
A Town Hall and Community Center could be combined.
No police but more radar detection.
Should ban mercury vapor lights.
No plastic "Big Box" signs.

Additional comments made on surveys

Taxes given as a reason for leaving primarily due to school, county and state, not Taghkanic as far less than 10% goes to Town.

A Post Office in Taghkanic is very important both from the standpoint of strengthening the town's identity and sense of community, and because it would offer residents from throughout our town the opportunity to congregate and interact on "neutral ground". Retail shopping and public services seem unwarranted as they can be obtained elsewhere. Taghkanic would not be appropriate for a village-like setting.

A public park would be outstanding. Town leaders have exhibited no inclination for the attractive creation and maintenance of a park. Town has an austere mentality.

Don't know what burden on Town services refers to. Historically, town services have been minimal and there seems to be formidable resistance to expanding them. Perhaps more burdens on town services might inspire a revisitation of what the term public service means come election time.

Preservation of property rights is obviously a code term for the specious notion that a property owner has some fundamental and inalienable right to do anything he or she pleases with their land. When we privilege individual property rights over community benefit, the logical progression of conflict dictates that we will steadily degenerate into a community of warring individuals exercising their property rights at the expense of their neighbor.

I'm confused by the suggestion that there is a lack of housing diversity. Most housing stock in town falls between $100,000 and $5,000,000. Contrary to this prompt, one of our greatest assets is diversity of housing. Sparsely populated towns such as Taghkanic cannot efficiently offer special services to any high-need group and should not allocate its few public resources in an attempt to do so.

The quality and quantity of public access to Taghkanic's government services is perhaps the least satisfying aspect of living in this town. Town Hall hours are minimal. Saturday hours would be good to accommodate those part-time residents who pay full-time taxes. Officials should post e-mail addresses. Officials are routinely hostile, passive aggressive or rude. Access to town records is gained only through foiling and this is adversarial. Public notification of meetings is often done as late as possible and without helpful information.

Senior Services should be private only, not governmental.

Question regarding age and gender is not relevant and invasive.

Would patronize any local merchants over going to Hudson, and wasting gas.

Rural character and property rights are not inconsistent.

Town seems to be a bit closed to all the talents that are around.

Any additional town services should be volunteer and part time (multiple comment).

Question 14 items are really the obligations of being a good neighbor not things we should enforce by Town law.

Regarding question 23, Ambulance/Rescue Squad and Fire Protection are not town services; the remaining items not relevant – will be addressed at next election.

Regarding property rights, what about overall welfare of the community and the rights of the community as a whole? As population grows this must become the higher consideration if anyone has quality of life.

Increasing the tax base is meaningful only in relation to costs. Costs tend to outstrip tax income when population increases.

It is impractical and not realistic to expect so many nearby services when those businesses will not get enough patrons to cover their expenses.

Having a place for residents to meet learn and interact is important.

Town does not have enough population to make it attractive for a business to open and have enough customers to make a profit.

Enforce existing state and county laws that's enough local control.

Farms are protected by the tax structure. You cannot protect them more if the farmers cannot make a living wage.

Actions and conduct of business by town is not transparent or adequately reported to residents.

Town Hall is not well configured for office holders to have meetings or storage space.

Business zoning is useful in establishing a hub or center and will limit sprawl.

Leave things alone.

Map too small unable to read or locate property (multiple comment).

Age or sex should not matter.

Retail in Taghkanic is not important now, but will be important in the future as gas prices escalate.

Additional comments made on surveys

One survey respondent added categories for "patronize or support" to question 11.
Regarding question 20, when I read this question and those that follow I wonder; where are the questions about children and daycare and nurseries/ preschools and playgrounds, etc.
Regarding question 23 unanswered questions are not relevant to a comprehensive plan survey; these questions get answered at the polls in the future.
We feel the town needs a non-partisan organization to advise us. The Open Space Institute is excellent.
We are in favor of parks and recreation for all ages so there will be greater socialization, but not to have separate facilities.
What are the property rights you are speaking of in the survey?
Taghkanic does not need retail shopping.
May support additional business zoning and industrial zoning if appropriate to Taghkanic.
Already have senior services through county.
A little respect and friendliness would go a long way towards raising satisfaction levels with Town services.
Sometimes a high impatience level with the public is felt at town meetings.
One of our challenges is the large weekend population and understanding the economic implications.
Many of the questions are very confusing.
I am very concerned about preserving the natural beauty of Taghkanic.
Would have liked to see a "not necessarily important" column in the survey.
More business zoning and industrial zoning would be a tragedy.
While scenic views are important it should not encroach on landowner/homeowner property rights.
The question regarding well data is none of your business.
Taghkanic Hills School needs to turn down lights and loudspeakers.
No new positions in town.
When I wanted a 911 sign I could not reach town officials and had to get sign from Copake.
If you own atv's, dirt bikes, or snowmobiles you should be able to do what you want.
Senior services are available through county and office of aging.
Town should be listed in phone book under Taghkanic should have answering machine at Town Hall.
The town should leave things as they are. They are presently protected by state, county, and town regulations do not interfere with free property development.
Too many town regulations already.
We need offices in town hall.
Extremely opposed to malls or box stores in Taghkanic.
We are assessed on the value of other homes in area of comparable or higher prices – why aren't the unkempt houses taken into consideration.
Mail always sent too late for town meetings.
How come Taghkanic has not been modernized?
Our concern is the lack of town services available now not in the future.
Many categories in the survey are unclear.
Concerned about the cost of doing any and all of this.
Very concerned about the implications of purchasing development rights.
Very upset at the poor qualifications and/or background of appointed personnel.
Do not allow Taghkanic to be victimized by the same threat that looms over Copake and Pine Plains. Recommend that strict attention be given to subdivisions and variences applied for by anonymous buyers. Do not waste funds on a beautification of Route 82.

APPENDIX 3: TAGHKANIC COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SURVEY ANALYSIS

Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan

Survey Analysis

Contents

Survey Analysis

Appendix A – Survey Results Synopsis

Appendix B – Open-ended Question Breakout

INTRODUCTION

As stated in the Survey Results Summary, the Comprehensive Plan Survey was formulated, with input from the public, by the Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan Committee (TCPC) for the purpose of identifying issues of importance to the residents of the town. This survey is one of several methods by which the TCPC solicited data and opinions from Town residents and property owners. The results can provide useful input regarding issues for the TCPC to consider in conjunction with other information and opinions available and should be evaluated with consideration of the following qualifications.

1. The method of distribution of the survey was never expected to produce a statistically accurate profile of the opinions of all of the Town residents. Responding was voluntary and numbers could not be predicted in advance.

2. A return rate of 15% or better is considered a very good return rate. There was a return rate of 20.4% for the Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan Surveys.

A total of 1,745 surveys were mailed, obtained or delivered, and a total of 357 were returned. A number of identifiers - the tax rolls, the voting registry and first-hand knowledge of the town - were used to conclude that 1,745 surveys were needed. Efforts were made to eliminate duplication and a copy of the survey could be picked up by anyone not on the mailing list who could establish proof of residence. That number is significantly higher than the purported population of the town, which, according to the latest census data (year 2000) is 1,118 persons because the TCPC tried to reach every taxpayer, registered voter and the many interested second home owners, landowners, snowbirds, and others that are important members of the Town.

Per the U.S. Census Bureau, the population of Taghkanic in 2000 was 1,118.

RESPONDENT CHARACTERISTICS

The survey included questions that were designed to give a representation of the demographic makeup of the respondents. What follows is the data obtained about who responded.

Basic Information:

1,745 surveys distributed
357 surveys returned; a 20.4% return

Respondents by Property Type:

Primary Residence:	63.9%	241 respondents
Second Home:	21.2%	80 respondents
Land Only:	9.0%	34 respondents
Rental:	0.3%	1 respondent
Business:	4.0%	15 respondents
Multi-Family:	1.6%	6 respondents

Respondents by Residency:

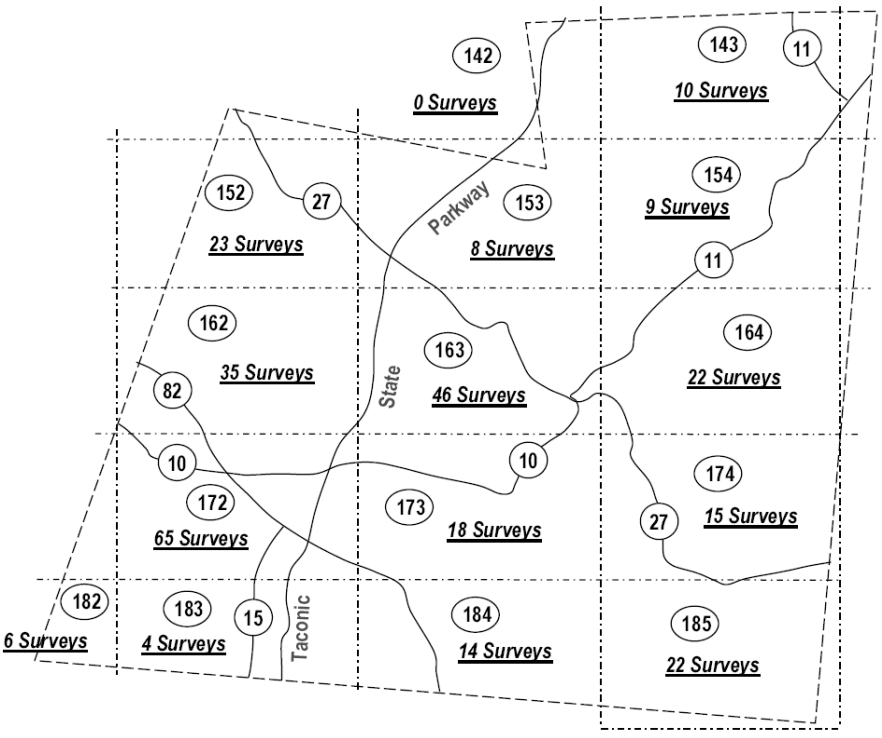
Full-time:	72.2%	241 respondents
Part-time:	27.8%	93 respondents

Years Lived in Taghkanic:

0 – 5 yrs	17.6%	52 respondents
6 – 15 yrs	27.8%	82 respondents
16 – 25 yrs	19.7%	58 respondents
over 25 yrs	34.9%	103 respondents

54.6% of the respondents have lived in Taghkanic for more than 16 years.

Distribution of Surveys



Approximately 57% of the respondents indicating their property location came from tax grid numbers 152, 162, 163 & 172.

The average age for respondents, based upon those who elected to note their age (237 of 357), is 57. The respondent ages break down as shown in the following chart. The age categories indicated are the same as that used by the U.S. Census Bureau. Also included is the percentage of the population, by age, based upon the 2000 U.S. Census data.

Age Range	Survey Responses	Percentage	U.S. Census %
Under 5 years	0 responses	0% of total	3%
5 to 9 yrs	0 responses	0% of total	6.6%
10 to 14 yrs	1 response	0.4% of total	6.9%
15 to 19 yrs	2 responses	0.8% of total	5.7%
20 to 24 yrs	2 responses	0.8% of total	2.3%
25 to 34 yrs	12 responses	5.1% of total	9.3%
35 to 44 yrs	20 responses	8.4% of total	16.5%
45 to 54 yrs	57 responses	22.2% of total	15.9%
55 to 59 yrs	35 responses	14.8% of total	7.7%
60 to 64 yrs	33 responses	12.8% of total	7.2%
65 to 74 yrs	57 responses	22.2% of total	10.8%
75 to 84 yrs	18 responses	7.0% of total	6.5%
85 yrs and over	2 responses	0.8% of total	1.6%

Note: Surveys were not distributed to persons under 18 years of age.

Five (5) of the above age ranges had response percentages higher than the percent of the population for that range. For these five age ranges the response percentage was 79% verses 48.1% of the population for those ranges. The chart above, as is, would indicate that there are a high percentage of older respondents. To better evaluate the response percentage by the above age categories, the chart has been reorganized to reflect percentages of the potential response population. It is expected that questionnaires like this would be completed and returned by a population age that favors maturity and therefore a more widespread understanding of value and importance. Taking that into consideration, the chart was adjusted to reflect responses and age categories for those 25 years and older.

Age Range	Survey Responses	Response Percentage	US Census %
25 to 34 yrs	12 responses	5.1% of total	12.3%
35 to 44 yrs	20 responses	8.5% of total	21.9%
45 to 54 yrs	57 responses	24.4% of total	21.1%
55 to 59 yrs	35 responses	15% of total	10.2%
60 to 64 yrs	33 responses	14.1% of total	9.5%
65 to 74 yrs	57 responses	24.4% of total	14.3%
75 to 84 yrs	18 responses	7.7% of total	8.6%
85 yrs and over	2 responses	0.9% of total	2.1%

After this adjustment, 4 age categories showed a higher level of response percentage than the percentage of population. This was in the age categories encompassing the ages of 45 through 74, reflecting a total of 77.9%, which is approximately 55.1% of Taghkanic's population. While the adjustment did bring the response percentages closer to the population percentage, it is apparent that the primary respondent age was in the range of 45 to 74 years of age.

Of the surveys turned in, 134 indicated completion by a female, and 185 indicated completion by a male.

At a public meeting of TCPC, a presentation was given using graphic representations of "who responded". A copy of that information is included in Appendix A of this document.

RESPONSE VALIDITY

This next step in the overall process is to make some general assumptions and conclusions about the numbers in the surveys in order to define critical issues that will form the basis for a public visioning session (PVS). The PVS is designed to seek additional public input and further define the basics for recommendations for the goals and policies of the comprehensive plan.

In looking at numbers for population in the town and at the number of returned surveys, we can surmise that the rate of return may be higher than originally calculated.

The numbers, 357 surveys, divided by the number of surveys sent out, which was 1745; yields 20.46%, the number used in the summary and quite realistically, an impressive return percentage. For analysis confidence, looking at alternate ways to compute the percentage of residents reached by the survey may be worth a brief discussion.

Taghkanic has a population estimated at roughly 1,128 people. Population, as the U.S. Census Bureau uses it, is based on the primary residence of the individual. An example; if you have a home in Albany, NY and a home in Lake Placid, NY, you need to indicate your primary residence. If you spend several weekends and the summer in Lake Placid, it would be accurate, understandable and natural to declare you residency in Albany, NY. You then appear in the population count for Albany and not Lake Placid. It is known, through more than just the survey that Taghkanic has a sizeable amount of non-primary resident population; sometimes referred to as part-time residents. Determining the actual number of part-time residents is difficult. If the survey return numbers of part-time and full-time persons are used as a barometer, the total number of people that live part-time and full-time in Taghkanic is 1,563. Using this number as a total, the response percentage is calculated at 22.8%. Also, population includes ages (under 18 years) that would not have responded to the survey.

The numbers can also be looked at another way. According to the New York State Office of Real Property (NYSORP), there were 736 agricultural and residential properties in Taghkanic. (NYSORP defines agricultural as property used for the production of crops or livestock and residential as property used for human habitation. Other categories are Vacant Land, Commercial, Recreation & Entertainment, Community Services, Industrial, Public Services, & Wild, Forested, Conservation Lands & Public Parks. Per the U.S. Census Bureau, in the year 2000, there were 2.39 persons per household. Therefore, extrapolating that person per household ratio over all survey respondents (357), one can assume that at least 149 households were reached. Using those numbers, there was a 20.24% minimum return rate. This would be a very significant number of people. Also, vacant land owners and businesses responded to the survey.

Looking at the numbers in various ways supports the conclusion that the town was well represented by the survey responses. The committee went above and beyond to assure that everyone received a survey and their efforts to elicit public participation are to be commended. This conclusion can also be seen by looking at the grid map that shows where the survey respondents live. The TCPC hopes that additional interest will be generated from the survey summary results meeting and that more people will take steps to participate in the public discussion of Taghkanic's future.

ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

The first five questions of the survey provide a snapshot of who responded. The questions focus on whether the property is a primary residence, a second home or whether the respondent is a tenant. Question 4 deals with whether or not the respondent is currently living full-time in the town and if not, will they, and if so, when? Question 5 asks the number of years the respondents have lived in the town.

For reference, the responses for questions 1, 2, and 4 follow:

Q1: What is your property type?

Primary residence	241 responses	63.9%
Second home	80 responses	21.2%
Land only	34 responses	9.0%
Rental	1 response	0.3%
Business	15 responses	4.0%
Multi-family	6 responses	1.6%

Note: there were 377 responses to Q1. 27 more than the number of surveys returned. This resulted from surveys that noted more than one property and/or property type in Taghkanic.

Q2: Are you a tenant?

Yes	27 responses	7.8%
No	318 responses	92.2%

Q4: If not living here full time, do you anticipate living full time in Taghkanic in:

1 – 3 years	15 responses	15.8%
4 – 6 years	31 responses	32.6%
7 – 10 years	19 responses	20.0%
More than 11 years	10 responses	10.5%
Never	20 responses	21.1%

Investigating the data in question 3, the majority of respondents (72.2%) live as full time residents in the town. 27.8% live part time in the town. This mix allows for a diverse group of people of various backgrounds to have an influence in the betterment of the town. It also clearly indicates the town has qualities which engender a desire for people to come and live in Taghkanic given the high percentage of part-time residents that show an interest in becoming full time residents per the response to question 4. Interest in Taghkanic, as a place to live, will likely increase, not diminish, as time progresses.

Question 5 gives a view of the time spread over which residents have lived in the town (17.6% from 0 to 5 years; 27.8% from 6 to 15 years; 19.7% from 16 to 25 years and 34.9% over 25 years). 295 out of the 357 survey respondents checked a response to this question. From the data received, it appears there is a good cross-section of time that people have lived in the town. This indicates there are people who have witnessed changes and can add valuable input into the process.

Taghkanic wants to protect its Rural Character.

Question 6 indicates that the largest single reason for people to live in Taghkanic, by far, is ***Rural Character***. This theme runs throughout the entire survey as the key issue, defined in specific terms, as the following:

Beautiful landscape	Trees
Tranquility of an agricultural community	Scenic beauty
Farms	Scenic views
Peace & quiet	Open space
Dark night sky	Lakes
Clean	Deer & wildlife
Beautiful old houses	Air quality
Nice roads	Minimal retail business
Very low crime rate	Friendliness of inhabitants

These are the main topics, all with numerous variations, which were written in response to the question of what are the three strongest assets of the town. The responses indicate that people value those things that urban and suburban areas either no longer have or are rapidly losing due to increased pressure to develop. Perhaps the ideals raised by the words "rural character" draw us back to a time when life was simpler, the pace was slower, and people took time to talk, to get to know their neighbors. While these things still occur in neighborhoods, the reality is that life for most feels more pressured. The hectic pace of making a living has put strains on all relationships. The roles of men and women have changed. The automobile and the paved highway and the high-speed train have made commuting long distances possible. People are willing to devote more time to get to and from work, as long as they can retreat to towns like Taghkanic to enjoy the fruits of their labors at the end of the day, and for some, at the end of the week.

These are reasons Taghkanic has a contingent of part time residents. The scenic roads and appealing vistas help people unwind as they travel roads that are not congested by streams of commuters. Other lesser, but nonetheless strong, responses for what most influenced decisions to live in Taghkanic were: housing cost (11%); born or raised here (9%); work/commute (6%); retirement (6%); and taxes (6%).

People would move from Taghkanic due to a rise in taxes and a change in rural character.

On the flip side of that question, the largest response why people would be influenced to move from the town is taxes (33%) (assumed as a rise in them), followed very closely (only 1 vote less) by change in rural character (32%), then much lower (less than 10% each) for crime rate, housing cost, school district and retirement. The responses are consistent and logical, indicating that the residents, both full and part time have drawn clear lines about what they want for the town. When the often-problematic issues that larger, more populated towns struggle with come to Taghkanic, residents would be tempted to move.

Many residents want high-speed internet access availability.

This same mentality can be tracked in the questions that pertain to the various services that residents want or would be willing to see in the town (question 9). Interestingly, the largest response to needed services in town went to high speed internet, leading to a plausible assumption that people could run their lives better and possibly stay longer in town if they could connect to the rest of the world by computer. This could also allow for increased home-based businesses. Town Hall services and a gas station appear to be important, as do senior services and police services. The remainder of the services on the list appears to be less important.

Over 15% of responders answered yes to operating a home business in Taghkanic. The lack of "good jobs" has been much discussed, and this may be a countervailing trend the town might like to encourage in its residential areas by loosening some and tightening other parts of its current regulations on customary home occupations and other permitted home businesses.

Residents split on youth activities. Lack of housing diversity seems not to be a concern.

Residents may need to reexamine the need for youth activities as well as alternate housing possibilities. 153 respondents felt youth activities were important and 153 felt they were not important, a 50-50 split; and 60.7% of respondents were "not concerned" about the housing situation when asked about "lack of housing diversity."

Question 10, taken issue by issue, again brings the realization that most residents want the town to remain, as it currently exists, a consistent theme. Young couples, or singles, might be more inclined to establish their lives in a place where diversity of housing opportunities exists. If everything is zoned for lots that are larger than a single person or couple can afford, they cannot adequately live and are forced to find places where they can be better accommodated. Perhaps the item about housing diversity was misinterpreted because there was no definition of housing diversity in the survey.

Some desire for shopping availability, but largely not a concern.

Question 11 indicates that there is little desire for additional retail business. The highest responses were for a grocery store, with a 49.56% positive response, counting both response columns for strong and moderate need, divided by the total responses of 345. The second highest was for a convenience store, with a 48.1% positive response, again counting both strong and moderate need numbers. Those two positive responses, however, do not correlate with the response in Question 10 for "Shopping Availability." The responses to that question were 21 "very concerned," 64 "concerned," and 256 "not concerned." Question 10 asked which businesses would you "patronize or support" but the answers addressed "need." This may explain the discrepancy between the lack of concern about "Shopping Availability" and high numbers of people saying they would patronize a grocery store or a convenience store if one would appear. It may be assumed from the responses that people would favor grocery or convenience stores as the lesser of possible retail "evils." Overall though, the responses are consistent with what is contained in the survey. The indication is that people can get the goods and services they require elsewhere, in neighboring towns and/or the City of Hudson, Great Barrington, Albany, Kingston and Catskill.

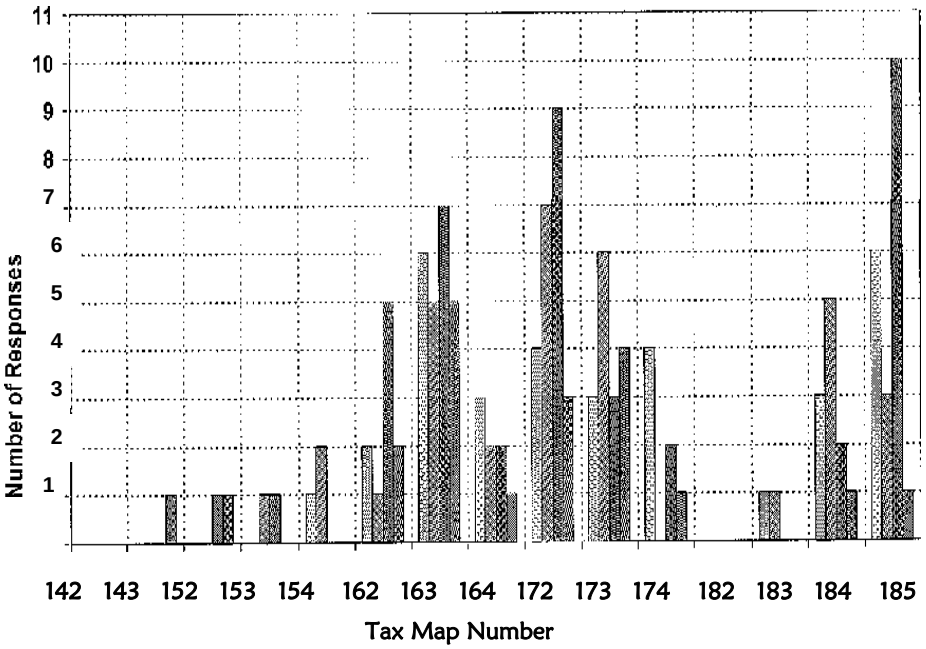
In general, questions 9 through 15 are fairly consistent, as is the case in the entire survey. The number of responses is high and the results point to the strong desire to leave the town as is. The responses to question 12 (343 responses) seem a bit out of balance with the norm. The norm being that, in rural towns with little to no necessity-type services available, people generally desire such necessities closer at hand. 110 respondents or 32% responded they are willing to support more business zoning and 171, or 50%, are opposed to more business zoning. That response may need to be investigated in the visioning process to see what people are willing to promote in the town for retail and/or commercial business.

Business and Service Needs Related to Location of Respondent

Respondents to the survey did not reflect an enormous "strong need" for the businesses and services listed in the survey (question 11). Of those listed, a grocery store and a convenience store obtained the most "strong need" and "moderate" need support. Of interest to the TCPC was evaluating the locational characteristics of those who felt a strong need for business services.

The chart below indicates the tax grid map location for those who responded with a "strong need" for Additional Restaurants, Convenience Store, Grocery Store and Doctor/Dentist Offices; the top four (4) listings in the category question.

Location of Highest "Strong Need" Responses for Businesses and Services



From this chart it can be seen that map grid areas 162, 163, 172 and 185 have the strongest desires for a grocery store and map grid areas 163, 172, 173 and 184 have the strongest desires for a convenience store.

More than two-thirds of respondents do not want industrial zoning.

On Question 13, slightly more than two-thirds of the respondents (67.6%) are opposed to industrial zoning, with 9.6 % having no opinion. The question could have been expanded, as there may be less offensive, light industrial or home office uses that could provide tax base and would not be environmentally destructive to their surroundings. This also is an issue that may need expanding in the visioning process.

Controls favored for nuisance concerns.

Question 14, other than the item on timbering/land clearing, appears to deal with nuisance issues which every municipality must address. Taken as a whole, the items deal with quality of life and affect the rural character that is understandably so important to town residents. It is intriguing, however, that the majority would favor local controls for quality of life issues (85.4% for litter, 75.36% for junk cars, 74.2% for unattended pets), but there is a less favorable return for the issues that will affect the long term life of the town such as housing diversity and business growth potential. It may be that the quality of life issues are more easily identified and are more readily commented on and may show a need for education on the long-term issues and their correlation to quality of life.

Question 15 again indicates clear concern for the rural characteristics that identify the town as a favorable place to live. The two lowest responses that still showed a majority of concern were for town purchase or third party purchase of development rights. That may indicate a contradiction because people want open spaces and scenic vistas preserved, but they do not necessarily want to pay to have them saved. That is one way to interpret the results on that item. Another way to interpret the results is that there may be a need for education on these alternatives.

For the most part, when both columns for "very important" and "important" are combined, the importance of the listed items (excluding the two about purchase of development rights) ranges from roughly 78.7% to 91.3%. There is a clear indication from the residents on the issues of importance. The task for the committee and its consultant will be to find out how the residents want to manage and address the future of the items identified as community resources.

Expect land use regulations to change to preserve rural character and quality of life.

Responses to Question 16 can be considered somewhat contradictory to the responses for Question 15. 41.2% of respondents indicate the town should have tighter regulations for zoning laws, with only 12% in favor of looser regulations. But, 40.3% want "no change to present land use regulations." Also, 47.6% want tighter subdivision regulations, with only 10.24% for looser regulations for subdivision, but 35.5% want no change to present regulations. The percentages for tighter regulations do not proportionally match the high percentages found in Question 15 that find the listed items as important. Again, this may need clarification in the visioning process to understand what the current regulations allow and how this will affect future growth. It is not logical to think that rural character and quality of life issues can be preserved without making changes to existing land use regulations.

There does not appear to be a significant problem with water.

The responses to question 17 indicate that the majority of residents, ranging from roughly 63% to almost 84%, have never had problems with their water. 20.59% of the 272 respondents to that question regularly use bottled water. The conclusion can be drawn that the quality and quantity of water in the town is good. The information could be expanded to track where the respondents live on the grids provided in the survey and may help to establish where plentiful supplies of good water exist. (This is analyzed further, later in this report.) Roughly 8% to 10% of the total 357 survey respondents did not respond to this question and some went so far as to comment about the inappropriateness of the question.

Question 18 shows that 57.9% of the 309 respondents had no difficulty finding adequate water. 35% did not know which is certainly not surprising. 6.47% did have difficulty and 8.65% of the total 357 did not respond.

Question 19 had a variety of numbers for the depths of respondent wells, with the average being 215 feet. Only 156 responses were given to this question, which equates to 43.7% of the total 357 returned surveys. It is reasonable to assume that many homeowners would not necessarily know the depth of their well; therefore a lower response percentage is not surprising.

Well Information Related to Location of Respondent

As in all surveys, respondents do not always answer all questions. 156 survey recipients answered the question on well depth. However, only 130 surveys indicated both a well depth and a tax grid location of their property. What follows is a table that indicates some results from this comparison.

Tax Grid #	Responses	Ave. Well Depth (feet)	Shallowest Well (feet)	Deepest Well (feet)
142	0	n/a	n/a	n/a
143	6	162	120	300
152	12	145	40	350
153	7	155	100	300
154	5	170	60	300
162	19	154	8	640
163	15	215	120	500
164	9	132	20	180
172	28	260	45	380
173	6	380	170	485
174	4	144	75	223
182	5	282	180	400
183	2	125	125	125
184	7	310	50	455
185	5	158	90	260

Given the number of respondents and the potential of single properties giving multiple responses (there were several cases where exact well depths were noted twice), this information may not give the TCPC accurate information. Another question on the survey may better assist the TCPC regarding potential locations of public well sites. Question 19 of the survey also gave respondents the ability to note their well capacity in gallons per minute. What follows is a listing of what may be termed "high yield" wells and their tax grid location.

Tax Grid # 143 1 - 50 gal./min. well
Tax Grid # 152 2 - 40gal./min. and 1 - 50 gal./min. well
Tax Grid # 162 3 - 50 gal./min. well
Tax Grid # 163 1 - 35 gal./min. well
Tax Grid # 172 1 - 30 gal./min. well
Tax Grid # 184 1 - 30 gal./min. well

There was also an 80 gal./min. well noted in the surveys (this is the highest well yield noted in the surveys), however, no tax grid location was given.

Must more information would need to be gathered to accurately assess water resources in Taghkanic.

Some senior services are wanted in Taghkanic.

Question 20 deals with senior services. The total respondents ranged in number from 333 to 343, with a range of between 13% to almost 21% who responded with "no opinion." Respondents seem willing to have meals provided for seniors (72.9% yes, 14% no), are in favor of a meeting place for seniors (54% yes, 26.4% no), are in favor of senior transportation by car (63.2% yes, 21.4% no), are in favor of a senior bus route (49.26% yes, 33.33% no), are split evenly on senior housing (40.48% yes, 40.48% no), are in favor of parks and recreation facilities (43.7% yes, 35.63% no), but are less favorable towards a senior citizen housing development (31.5% yes, 48.35% no). Given the number of residents over 55 in the town, a more favorable response to senior services would be expected. One assumption is that the seniors in the town are, by necessity, independent and mobile due to the rural nature of the town.

Question 21 indicates that the county could do a better job of educating the public to the scope of senior services offered by the county (44.5% yes, 55.5% no) and Question 22 indicates there is not a strong opinion on expanding senior services by establishing a town position (50.5% yes, 49.5% no) and therefore more information needs to be gathered.

Respondents have various levels of satisfaction with town services.

Question 23 indicates that more residents are generally satisfied with town services than not. 23.5% are not satisfied with the ZBA, 23.8% are not satisfied with the Planning Board and 27.08% are not satisfied with the Town Board. The greatest dissatisfaction is with the Board of Assessment Review (32.42% satisfied or very satisfied, 32.7% not satisfied). Other areas ranged from a low of 13% not satisfied with the Highway Dept. to a high of 48.5% not satisfied with the town preservation of records. Not surprising in this question are the high percentages of those who had no opinion about their satisfaction with town services likely because many people do not interact with town government until an issue directly affects them. 24.7% had no opinion about town services. 24.7% had no opinion about the Town Board and 31.6% had no opinion about the Planning Board.

Question 24 indicates that, again, more residents are generally satisfied with town government services than not, although the percentages are high for those not satisfied, ranging from 16% for phone access to officials to 30.25% for the town's public notification. The "no opinion" percentages ranged from 28.27% for public notification to 52.55% for E-mail access to officials.

Question 25 indicates that just over half of the 330 respondents (54.5%), would support a grant writing position. This item should be further explored by the town board or in the visioning process because the town will most likely want to tap into various funding sources for a number of reasons.

Additional demographic responses.

Question 26 shows a spread of the resident age groups, with 59.2% of the 566 residents accounted for being between the ages of 31 to 65 years of age and is an indication of the strength of the town's adult population.

Question 27 indicates a mix of men to women respondents (57% to 43%).

Question 34 indicates there was a good response per grid and we can assume that the respondent numbers are representative of the grid from which they came.

Open-ended questions have similarity in responses.

Questions 28-33 were open-ended and asked for three answers to each question. There were no limitations on the answers and some respondents may have listed one, two, three or no answer(s) for each question. While the responses were varied and could fall into more than one category, they were categorized and sorted (Appendix B) because significant areas of agreement and similarities were found within each question. The top answers to these questions tend to support and be supported by the answers to other multiple choice questions in the survey. Before making recommendations the specific responses should be reviewed because they can provide the detail to the more general questions. Responses to Questions 31 and 32, favorite and least favorite places easily lend themselves to a listing for a visual survey if desired.

Rural character is top town asset.

Question 28 considered Taghkanic's three strongest assets. 736 responses were returned and without a doubt Rural Character (299 or 40%) far out ranked everything else. Of these Rural Character responses, views received 75. Secondly, Cultural with 62 responses is referring to the citizens of Taghkanic as being an asset. Third came Location (56), followed closely by Development (52) responses, although in this case it is a lack of development that is the asset, and Quality of Life with (47). Clearly, these categories also relate right back to the town's Rural Character as something worth preserving.

Government issues are of concern.

Of the 626 responses listed for Taghkanic's weaknesses in Question 29, two main categories emerged—government issues (60%) and quality of life issues (35%). Government weaknesses included, not surprisingly, taxes (80), but also general government including communication and politics (123), development and planning/zoning (55), and municipal services including highway (48). Top responses for quality of life issues included community unity issues (74), lack of high-speed internet (39), and property maintenance/litter (30).

These responses concur and complete other questions within the survey. Taxes and lack of land use planning agree with Question 7's main reasons for moving from the town would be taxes and change in rural character so these two areas should figure highly in the plan's recommendations. Question 9 shows the top need of the community is high speed internet access which is listed prominently as a weaknesses. The responses can provide additional detail to questions such as Question 23 where 25% of respondents are not satisfied with town government.

In Question 30 respondents provided 583 answers when asked to list what are good uses of municipal funds. Municipal Services received 153 responses and the largest response within this category was roads (97). However, using the words, "municipal funds" as opposed to "tax dollar" in the question may have had an undue influence on the responses. The Community Services category ranked second (91), with senior services receiving 44 and 25 responses specifically naming a Town Park. Third and forth are close and certainly related, Government (63) with 30 specifically wanting zoning, followed by Development (50) with 38 specifically wanting planning and preservation.

Question 31 returned a total of 563 answers to Taghkanic's three favorite spots. The six top categories are specifically named Roads (143), Lake Taghkanic (107), a named Location including my own home/property (93), Natural Resources (76), Businesses (75) and Rural Character (31). Within the Roads category the Beauty Highway was noted the most and the New Forge Area was noted most often in the natural resources category.

The areas of agreement appear to extend beyond the specific high scorers when the categories are considered together. Lake Taghkanic's high total should also be within Natural Resources. The Road category likely is not the road itself but the views from it which may fit within the

categories of Rural Character, Natural Resources, or Agricultural. New Forge Road may not really be distinguishable from the reference under Natural Resources. And agricultural could also fall into Natural Resources.

Many places are favored in Taghkanic.

Overall favorite places tend to include water (Lake Taghkanic State Park, the New Forge Area, the Taghkanic Creek, the Churchtown Reservoir, wetlands, etc.) and scenic views, along with people's own homes and the restaurants on Route 82.

There appears to be a correlation between favorite places and the answers to Questions 6, 10 and 15 identifying the importance of rural character and scenic preservation. The low number of favorite agricultural places might seem inconsistent with the concern and importance placed on agriculture and preservation of working and small hobby farms in those questions, but may reflect a distinction between appreciating agriculture for other reasons than being a favorite place to go. Lastly, in spite of the general lack of interest in an expanded business district reflected in answers to Questions 11 and 12, there was a moderate to strong desire for additional restaurants in addition to those so appreciated as favorite places.

Aesthetics are important on the visual landscape.

There were many fewer responses (330) for Question 32, least favorite spots. Most responses were concerned with aesthetics, with many specifically mentioning how properties looked. The least favorite places fell into three main categories: residences that are poorly maintained or with collected junk and/or junk cars (99), the Rte. 82 downtown or commercial strip (84) and municipal buildings (67)—the town hall and the town highway garage. A number of responses concerned the safety of the town roads—pot holes/missing stop signs/speed.—and a few were concerned with development issues.

While residents might like the specific businesses revealed in their favorite places, they aren't as happy with the way the commercial strip looks. And their least favorite spots correspond with Question 29's weaknesses in that they both include the municipal buildings and property maintenance.

Question 33 – Various Comments – (Some are paraphrased)

"Not interested in a lot of infrastructure, more stores, more buildings, people or traffic. But I know they are coming. Hope we can shape growth that will preserve the unique and beautiful character of the town."

"Please do not add silly regulations."

"Planning & zoning should be designed to protect health and human safety. Anything beyond that infringes on property rights."

"It grieves me that sometimes there is division between old long term residents and new residents. I want to see better communication and camaraderie between us. "

"Because I am not sure as to the exact purpose and consequential impact of this survey, I am reluctant to complete it."

This is a very brief sampling of the comments. The comments spanned a wide range of opinions and feelings and it is obvious that there are hard feelings, misunderstandings and confusion about many issues in the town. Many comments pointed fingers and accusations at various individuals or groups. Many people want to be left alone and do not want any changes whatsoever. Many feel they should be allowed to do whatever they want with their own property. Some want new residents to be subject to specific requirements, but not the long time residents. People are leery of higher taxes and rampant development. Some were suspicious of the intent of the survey, as though there were ulterior motives at stake. Some complained that the responses could be taken a number of different ways. Some felt the survey was a good way to obtain input from residents. Many talk of preserving the rural character, but it appears that definition means different things to different people or groups.

Taghkanic can fashion its future using citizens' collective wisdom.

The information, if given freely, helps to establish guidelines for the town to follow to guide development which will come regardless of whether the town acts to prepare for it or not. Without the proper land use tools to preserve wetlands, buffer areas, open space, steep slopes, etc., development may take a course that will spoil the natural beauty of the Town. The Town can fashion its future if enough concerned citizens pool their collective wisdom and work together to hammer out what they see as their future.

Citizens need to be educated on the survey analysis and land use tools.

The Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan Committee needs to proceed with a realization that a portion of the town's residents will need to be educated as to the specific purpose of the survey results and analysis. Viable land use tools will need to be presented and discussed. People will need a full understanding that it is not the intent of the committee to control the destiny of the town. It is only with the fullest amount of public participation that practical results can be obtained that will address the pertinent issues that the town must face.

RELATIONAL ANALYSIS

Diverse opinions are the norm when groups of people come together to discuss matters that are important to them. This case is no exception. An analysis has been performed on the survey data to determine if a true divergence of opinion exists between these purported factions. Survey questions 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, and 20 were investigated and results compared for PT and FT residents.

The results show that there is little difference in what is important to all residents of Taghkanic. The results showed the following:

- There is an excellent and relatively uniform distribution of both PT and FT residents related to the number of years lived in Taghkanic. Additionally, there is a significant number of long-term PT residents;
- 3 of the top 4 decision influences for living in Taghkanic (Rural character, Close to family/friends, Housing cost) are identical to both groups;
- The top 4 decision influences to leave Taghkanic (Taxes, Change in rural character, Crime rate, Housing cost) are identical;
- The top 3 "very important" need for personal services (Gas station, Post office, Grocery store) are identical;
- The top 3 "very important" need for town services (High speed internet, Town Hall, Police) are identical;
- 3 of the top 5 "very concerned" responses of the issues in question 10 of the survey (Rural character, Preservation of agriculture, Scenic preservation) are identical;
- 4 of the top 5 "strong need" businesses and services (Grocery store, Convenience store, Additional restaurants, Doctor/Dentist office) are identical;
- Very similar responses to the more business and more industrial zoning questions;

- The top 5 local control responses (Litter, Unattended pets, Junk cars/unlicensed vehicles, Noise pollution, Used car sales in residential areas) are identical;
- 2 of the top 5 "very important" responses for managing community resources (Rural character, Protection of working farms) are identical;
- The responses to a change in zoning and subdivision regulations are similar; and,
- The top 3 responses to Senior Services (Meals on wheels, Senior transportation – auto, Senior meeting place) are identical.

This analysis was performed as it was felt there was more unity than was generally assumed. This was a result of the significant strength in the total responses in the survey. The analysis bears that out.

SURVEY RESULTS SYNOPSIS

TOWN OF TAGHKANIC
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SURVEY

Prepared for:
Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan Committee

Prepared by:
MORRIS ASSOCIATES

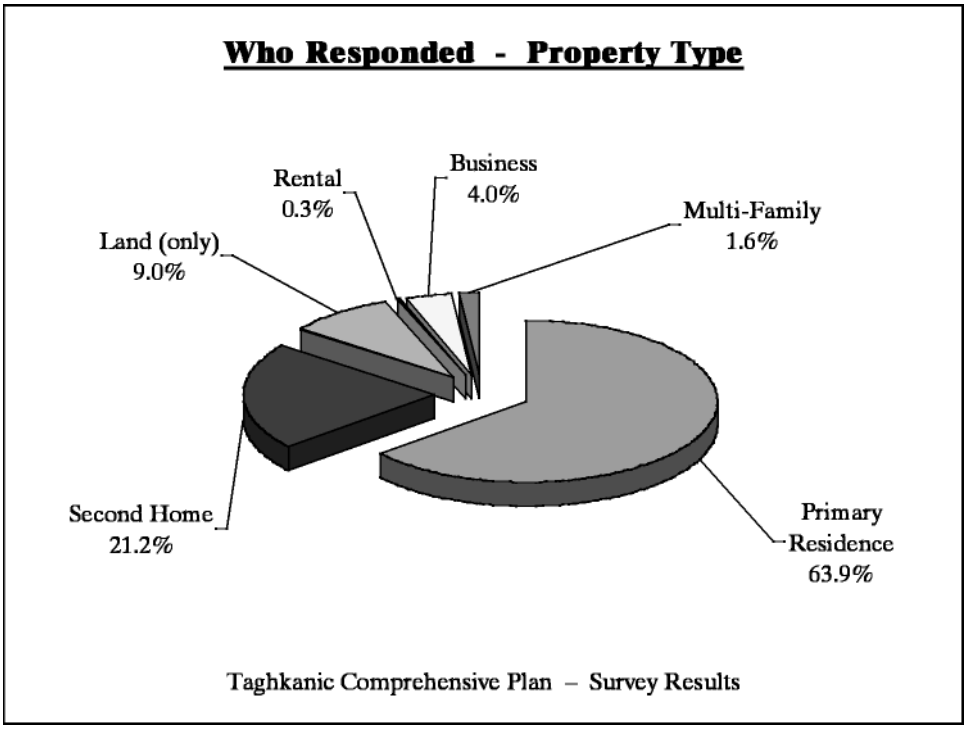
Basic Information

No. of surveys turned in	357
Number of surveys mailed:	1745
Response percentage:	20.46% FANTASTIC!!!

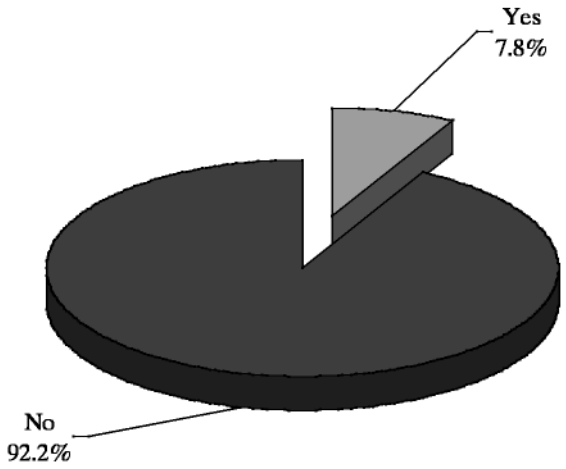
Some respondents simply answered the multi-choice / non-written questions and others returned very complete surveys.

This presentation is just a synopsis. A complete summary of the surveys has been prepared. The Comprehensive Plan Committee each has a copy and there will be several at Town Hall for viewing by those interested. The summary document will be published on the Town of Taghkanic website.

Who responded to the surveys?

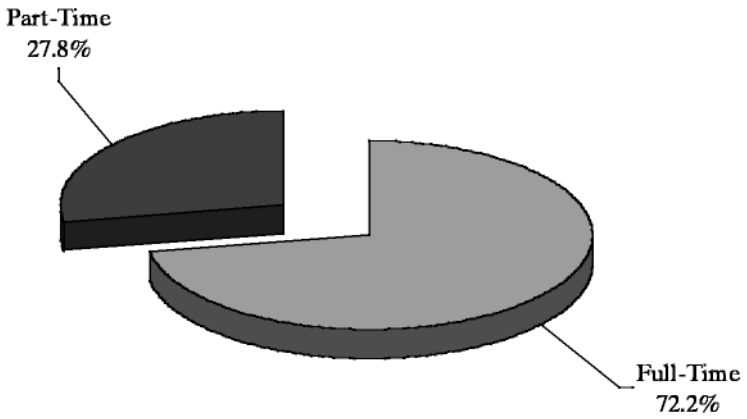


Who Responded - Tenant or Not



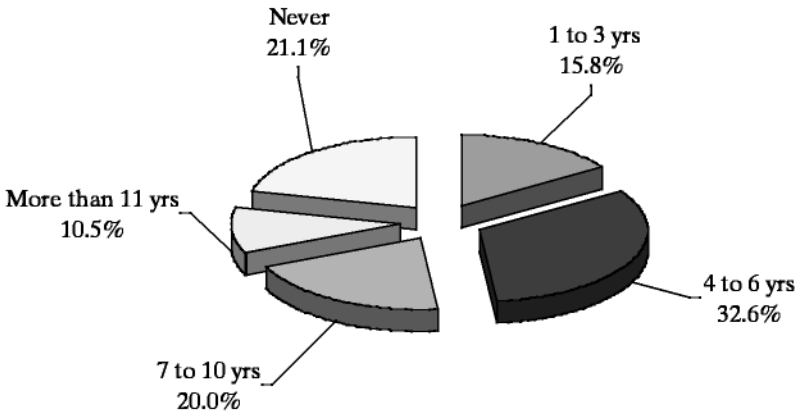
Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan – Survey Results

Who Responded - Residency



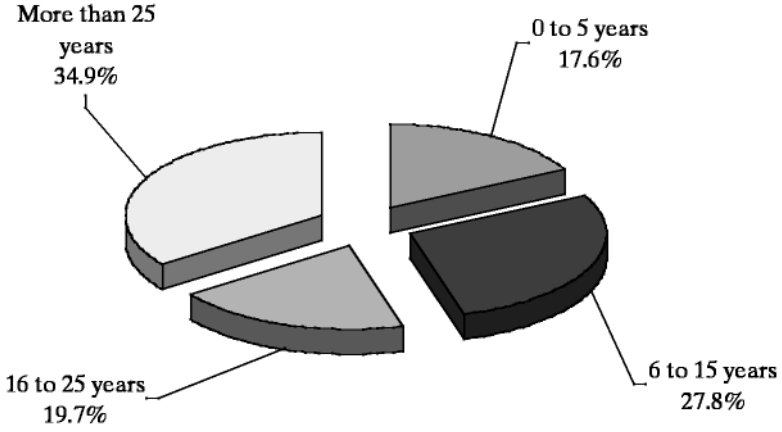
Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan – Survey Results

Who Responded
When Part-Time Residents may be Full-Time



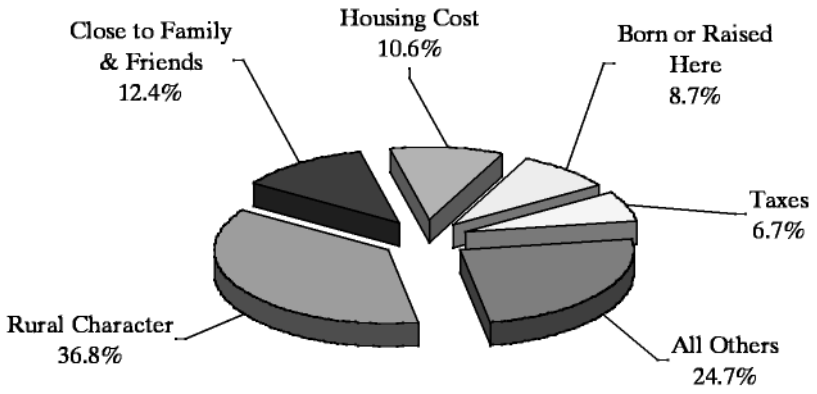
Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan – Survey Results

Who Responded - Years Lived in Taghkanic



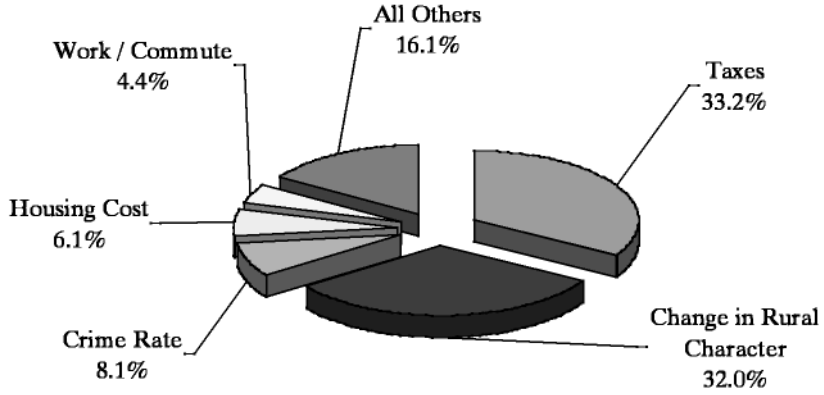
Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan – Survey Results

Who Responded
Top 5 Influences to Live in Taghkanic

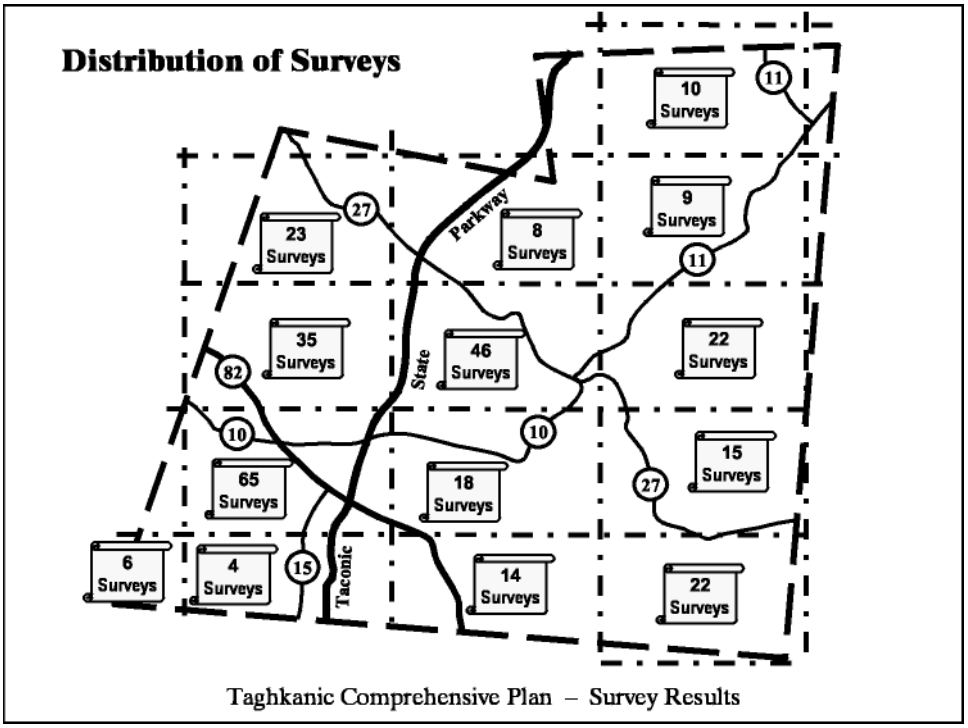


Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan – Survey Results

Who Responded
Top 5 Influences to Leave Taghkanic



Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan – Survey Results



Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan – Survey Results

Some response snapshots

Top 5 “Very Concerned” Responses - Question 10

How concerned are you about the following .....

Rural character	206 of 349 responses
Scenic preservation	200 of 352 responses
Preservation of property rights	188 of 335 responses
Preservation of agriculture	188 of 348 responses
Open space	176 of 343 responses

Other highly selected items: Noise pollution, Traffic increase, Excessive speed on roads, Population increase

Would you support more business zoning in Taghkanic? - Question 12

32.7% 50.7% 16.6%

Would you support industrial zoning in Taghkanic? Question 13

Top 5 "Yes" Responses - Question 14

Should Town have local controls for .....

Litter	292 of 342 responses
Junk cars / Unlicensed vehicles	260 of 345 responses
Unattended pets	253 of 341 responses
Noise pollution	248 of 347 responses
Used cars in residential areas	226 of 347 responses

Other highly selected items: Signs – type and size, Dog kennels and number of dogs, Burning of garbage, Timbering/Land clearing

Top 5 “Very Important” Responses - Question 15

Importance of community resources .....

Rural character	241 responses of 348
Protection of working farms	230 responses of 342
Property rights	216 responses of 330
Property values	210 responses of 335
Open space	210 responses of 339

Other highly selected items: Agriculture, Scenic views, Tax base, Protection of Scenic Landscapes, Protection of historic resources

Appendix B - Open-ended Question Breakout

28. Assets
29. Weaknesses
30. Good use of funds
31. Favorite places
32. Least favorite places

		Survey Question Numbers	28	29	30	31	32
A	**Agriculture**		**41**	**4**	**17**	**13**	
	B	Business	7				
	L	Life style	7				
	R	Rural character	8				
B	**Businesses**		**12**	**24**	**15**	**75**	**84**
	G	General		14			
	I	Indiviual	4				
	R	Restaurant				58	
	S	Specific businesses		10			47
C	**Cultural: All the comments that reflect feelings of either alienation, discrimination or factionalization:**		**62**	**74**	**9**	**9**	**5**
		Lack of meeting place; History; all references to people (friendly/unfriendly, etc)					
	C	Community - lack of unity		9			
	G	Groups		10			
	H	History	6				
	I	Ideology		6			
	L	Lifestyle	6				
	O	Other people, outsiders, newcomers		21			
	P	Personal feelings of alienation, division, people	42	28			
	V	Values	8				
CM	**Communications: Tech Services: Internet, cable, phones, postal services**			**53**	**24**		
	E	Electronic media		39	22		
	P	Post Office		14	2		
CS	**Community services: Senior, youth, schools, library**			**17**	**91**	**7**	
	E	Education		3			
	PARK	Town Park			25		
	R	Recreation		8	23		
	SR	Senior Services		3	44		
D	**Development: land use, comp plan**		**52**	**55**	**51**		**16**
	A	Agriculture		4			
	L	Low density, sparse population	38				
	O	Overdevelopment		13			
	P	Planning		17	39		
	Q	quality of life	6		10		
	R	Rights		11			
	Z	Zoning		3	2		

Actual reponses are categorized and sorted in document Survey Analysis Q 28-32 Coded.xls.

Appendix B - Open-ended Question Breakout

28. Assets
29. Weaknesses
30. Good use of funds
31. Favorite places
32. Least favorite places

E	**Economic: Low costs: business, town center**		**17**	**19**			
	B	Business	7	10			
	C	COSTS	6				
	E	Employment		3			
	H	Housing		4			
G	**Government: collectively and individually, including zoning**		**44**	**123**	**63**		
	B	Boards/Appt's		15			
	C	Communication		32	12		
	CON	Conduct		12			
	E	Elected Officials		25			
	I	Individual	29				
	L	Laws		4			
	P	Politics		10			
	POL	Policy		9			
	Z	Zoning	3	13	30		
L	**Location: Accessibility to Parkway, parks, urban areas, etc.**		**56**	**3**		**93**	**18**
	A	Access	17				
	H	Highways	17				
	O	own home/property				88	
	REC	Recreation	10				
LAKE	**Lake Taghkanic**		**25**			**107**	
MB	**Municipal Buildings: Town Hall, Town Garage, etc**		**3**	**15**	**31**		**67**
	G	Town Garage		1	2		27
	M	Maintenance			10		
	NTH	New Town Hall			19		
	TH	Town Hall		14	19		37
MS	**Municipal Services: road, fire, emergency services**		**20**	**48**	**153**	**1**	**13**
	G	Garbage		3	5		
	H	Highway	11	31	97		10
	S	Safety - emergency / fire	9	8	48		
N	**Natural Resources: air, water, wildlife, forests, lakes, etc**		**35**	**4**	**15**	**76**	**7**
	A	Air	3				
	FA	Fauna	9	1			
	FL	Flora	3				
	NFG	New Forge area (falls/state forest)				42	
	TGC	Taghkanic Creek				18	
	W	Water	10	3			

Actual reponses are categorized and sorted in document Survey Analysis Q 28-32 Coded.xls.

Appendix B - Open-ended Question Breakout

28. Assets
29. Weaknesses
30. Good use of funds
31. Favorite places
32. Least favorite places

Q	**Quality of life: Aesthetics, dogs, junk, mobile homes; peace and quite, Privacy, small**		**47**	**63**	**18**		**81**
	A	Animals		4	1		
	G	Garbage, Litter		10			
	H	Housing		9			
	L	Lifestyle	7	6	1		
	N	Noise	34	6	6		
	P	Property maintainence, junk cars, dumping		20	7		76
	R	Rural character	4		1		5
	REC	Recreation		7			
R	**Rural Character: Scenery, beauty, open spaces, views**		**299**	**1**	**24**	**31**	
	A	Agriculture	11				
	B	Beauty	28				
	C	Character	7				
	L	Land	7				
	O	Open	31				
	Q	Quiet	2				
	V	Views	75			17	
RDS	**Roads(as locations): Cty Rtes 10 and 11: local Rds; 82, 23, etc NOT Maintenance**			**1**		**143**	**7**
	BTH	Beauty Highway				52	
	NFG	New Forge Road				13	
	V	Views				15	
S	**Safety: speeding, crime, traffic**		**8**	**22**	**6**		**9**
	S	Speed		12			
	T	Traffic		6			
SS		**School-Taconic Hills**	**7**				
TX	**Taxes**		**5**	**80**	**15**		
	A	Assessments		19	5		
	E	Lower taxes					
	S	Services		6			
	SC	School		3	10		
No Cat		**No category assigned**	**2**	**20**	**6**	**9**	**23**

Actual reponses are categorized and sorted in document Survey Analysis Q 28-32 Coded.xls.

APPENDIX 4: IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

Implementation Matrix: Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan

		Implementation Leader(s)	Potential Partners	First Steps	Potential Funding Source(s)*	Implementation Timing			Date Implemented
Topic Area						Short-Term	Med-Term	Long-Term	
Rural Character, Open Space and the Environment									
GOAL: Protect, maintain, and improve the quality of Taghkanic's natural setting, open spaces, and ecosystems as a way to preserve the rural character of the Town.									
1.1	Conduct an inventory of natural and cultural resources, to identify areas in Taghkanic that contribute to the rural character and environmental quality of the Town.	Town Board	Columbia County Historical Society, Roe-Jan Hisorical Society, Columbia Land Conservancy	Seek funding for study	NYS DAM, NYS OCS, NYS Parks and Recreation, Hudson River Valley Greenway	X			
1.2	Coordinate public/private partnerships to preserve open space.	Town Board	Land Trusts, Regional Partnerships/ Projects	Form partnerships	OSI, The Nature Conservancy, Scenic Hudson Land Trust, Columbia County, NYS LWCF	X			
1.3	Consider establishing Critical Environmental Areas for important aquifers, ecosystems, wetlands or other natural features.	Town Board	NYS DEC	Conduct inventory as recommended in 1.1	OSI, The Nature Conservancy, Scenic Hudson Land Trust, Columbia County, NYS DEC		X		
1.4	Review and revise the Town's land use regulations so that they protect and maintain rural character.	Code Update Committee	Town Board	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update	NYS OCS, Hudson River Valley Greenway	X			
1.4.1	Review and, if necessary, revise the Town street and roadway design requirements.	Code Update Committee	Town Board, NYS DOT	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update	NYS OCS, Hudson River Valley Greenway	X			
1.4.2	Proactively consider the impact of mining when revising the zoning ordinance.	Code Update Committee	Town Board	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update	NYS OCS, Hudson River Valley Greenway	X			
1.4.3	Address light pollution in the zoning ordinance and other land use regulations.	Code Update Committee	Town Board	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update	NYS OCS, Hudson River Valley Greenway	X			

Implementation Matrix: Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan

Topic Area		Implementation Leader(s)	Potential Partners	First Steps	Potential Funding Source(s)*	Implementation Timing			Date Implemented
						Short-Term	Med-Term	Long-Term	
1.4.4	Address noise impacts in the zoning ordinance and other land use regulations.	Code Update Committee	Town Board, Planning Board, ZBA	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update	NYS OCS, Hudson River Valley Greenway, Dyson Foundation	X			
1.4.5	Review and revise the application and engineering requirements for development projects, especially in terms of water and stormwater.	Code Update Committee	Town Board	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update	NYS OCS, Hudson River Valley Greenway	X			
1.4.6	Adopt legislation that allows conservatio subdivisions as an option for major subdivisions or in certain zoning districts.	Code Update Committee	Town Board	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update	NYS OCS, Hudson River Valley Greenway	X			
1.4.7	Revisit the lot sizes allowed in the zoning ordinance.	Code Update Committee	Town Board	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update	NYS OCS, Hudson River Valley Greenway	X			
1.4.8	Require Planning Board Approval of subdivisions to be contingent upon compliance with the State Public Health Department and County Administration requirements for potable water and wastewater disposal systems.	Code Update Committee	Town Board	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update	NYS OCS, Hudson River Valley Greenway	X			
1.5	Sponsor a voluntary “Conservation Stewards” program for the public.	Town Board	Columbia Land Conservancy, Sustainable Hudson Valley	Investigate possible funding sources & free programs	Dyson Foundation		X		
1.6	Investigate the impacts of the City of Hudson drawing water from Taghkanic Creek. Work with City of Hudson and the Department of Environmental Conservation to remedy any problems.	Town Board	NYS DEC	Contact City of Hudson & DEC; Complete current water study	NYS EFC	X			

Implementation Matrix: Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan

	Topic Area	Implementation Leader(s)	Potential Partners	First Steps	Potential Funding Source(s)*	Implementation Timing: Short-Term	Implementation Timing: Med-Term	Implementation Timing: Long-Term	Date Implemented
	Agriculture								
	GOAL: Promote active agriculture and protect farmland, as a way to bolster economic prosperity, address the future of farming, and protect an important component of life in Taghkanic.								
2.1	Formulate an Agricultural Protection Plan for the Town of Taghkanic.	Town Board	Columbia County, NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets, See Comp Plan section 2.5 for list of other potential partners	Seek grant funding	NYS DAM, Hudson River Valley Greenway		X		
2.2	Develop innovative incentives that strongly encourage landowners to participate in programs tha preserve and protect Prime Farmland Soils and Soils of Statewide Importance for Farming	Town Board	Columbia Land Conservancy, NYS DAM, New York Planning Federation	Complete as Part of the Agricultural Protection Plan	Scenic Hudson, Columbia Land Conservancy, OSI,, NYS DAM		X		
2.3	Consider encouraging programs that permanently protect valuable agricultural areas from development, including voluntary methods such as conservation easements or Purchase of Development Rights	Town Board	Columbia Land Conservancy, NYS DAM, New York Planning Federation	Complete as Part of the Agricultural Protection Plan	Scenic Hudson, Columbia Land Conservancy, OSI,, NYS DAM	X			
2.4	Consider how to promote agriculture when updating the zoning ordinance.	Code Update Committee	Town Board	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update, and as part of the Agricutural Protection Plan	Hudson River Valley Greenway, NYS OSC	X			
2.5	Consider forestry and forest health when updating the zoning ordinance.	Code Update Committee	Town Board, NYS DAM	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update, and as part of the Agricutural Protection Plan	Hudson River Valley Greenway, NYS OSC	X			
2.6	Work with local and regional agencies to promote agriculture in Taghkanic.	Town Board	NYS DAM, See Comp Plan text for list of potential partners	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update, and as part of the Agricutural Protection Plan	NYS DAM		X		

Implementation Matrix: Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan

		Implementation Leader(s)	Potential Partners	First Steps	Potential Funding Source(s)*	Implementation Timing			Date Implemented
Topic Area						Short-Term	Med-Term	Long-Term	
Economy and Housing									
GOAL: Promote and encourage small-scale businesses and residential development that complement the rural character of the Town.									
3.1	Revisit the commercial zoning in town, including allowable uses, district boundaries, dimensional requirements, and design guidelines.	Code Update Committee	Town Board	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update	Hudson River Valley Greenway, NYS OSC	X			
3.2	Establish a Corridor Master Plan to address physical improvements to the Route 82 commercial area.	Town Board	NYS DOT	Seek funding for study	Member Item, Hudson River Valley Greenway, NYS OSC, NYSCA		X		
3.3	Encourage the establishment of home-based businesses and other small businesses.	Town Board, Code Update Committee	Columbia Hudson Partnership, Columbia Economic Dev. Corporation, Columbia County Small Business Administration	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update	Hudson River Valley Greenway, NYS OSC		X		
3.4	Establish zoning code and subdivision regulations that allow for housing on smaller lots in certain areas as a way to provide a diversity of housing.	Code Update Committee	Town Board	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update	Hudson River Valley Greenway, NYS OSC	X			
3.5	Promote innovative housing initiatives, such as Energy Star, which can provide an economic benefit to homeowners while reducing impact on the environment.	Town Board	NYSERDA, Sustainable Hudson Valley	Provide information on Town Website and at Town Hall	NYSERDA		X		
3.6	Consider allowing other forms of housing in appropriate areas of Taghkanic	Code Update Committee	Town Board	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update	Hudson River Valley Greenway, NYS OSC	X			

Implementation Matrix: Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan

		Implementation Leader(s)	Potential Partners	First Steps	Potential Funding Source(s)*	Implementation Timing			Date Implemented
Topic Area						Short-Term	Med-Term	Long-Term	
Administration and Community Services									
GOAL: Improve and encourage the provision of adequate town services and governmental functions, establish appropriate policies and regulations, and encourage community participation.									
4.1	Investigate and evaluate the potential to share some municipal services with the County or surrounding Towns	Town Board	NYS Department of State	Seek funding to conduct study to determine needs and feasibility	NYS Department of State Shared Municipal Services Initiative	X			
4.2	Create a Master Plan for Highway Department facilities	Town Board		Determine needs and feasibility concurrently with shared services effort		X			
4.3	Coordinate with Empire State Development, Columbia County, and adjacent communities to bring high speed internet services to Taghkanic.	Town Board	Empire State Development, Columbia County, Connecting Rural Communities, adjacent communities	Contact agencies to formulate a strategy	Member Item	X			
4.4	Establish a location and system for storing current and historic documents.	Town Board	Columbia County Historical Society	Formulate system and identify safe and accessible location	NYS OPRHP, LGRMIF	X			
4.5	Redesign and restructure the Town Website.	Town Webmaster	Town Board			X			
4.6	Review and revise land use regulations, to make sure they are consistent with the intent and recommendations of the Plan.	Code Update Committee	Town Board	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update	Hudson River Valley Greenway, NYS OSC	X			
4.7	Develop a Citizen's Guide to Land Use and Development Regulations	Town Board	Planning Board, ZBA, and Code Enforcement Officer	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update	Hudson River Valley Greenway, NYS OSC		X		
4.8	Update the enforcement and administration provisions in the zoning ordinance.	Code Enforcement Officer	Planning Board, ZBA			X			
4.9	Review available options concerning local control of junk and litter, and update local laws accordingly.	Code Update Committee	Town Board	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update	Hudson River Valley Greenway, NYS OSC	X			

Implementation Matrix: Taghkanic Comprehensive Plan

Topic Area		Implementation Leader(s)	Potential Partners	First Steps	Potential Funding Source(s)*	Implementation Timing			Date Implemented
						Short-Term	Med-Term	Long-Term	
4.10	Re-establish the Historical Society to preserve and promote Taghkanic's heritage.	Town Board	Columbia County Historical Society	Solicit volunteers	NYS OPRHP, LGRMIF			X	
4.11	Explore ways to increase communication between town officials and residents.	Town Board	Planning Board, ZBA, other Town officials	Bring all Town officials together to formulate ideas, improve website			X		
4.12	Explore ways to increase the functionality of the Town Hall.	Town Board		Investigate alternatives for improving Town Hall	Member Item	X			
4.13	Consider energy generation and communication technology when updating Town ordinances	Code Update Committee	Town Board	Complete as part of zoning update & subdivision update	Hudson River Valley Greenway, NYS OSC	X			
4.14	Promote Senior Services	Town Board	Columbia County Office of the Aging				X		
	*Potential Funding Sources Key:								
	NYS DOT	New York State Department of Transportation							
	NYS DAM	New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets							
	NYS OPRHP	New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation							
	CCSWCD	Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District							
	Member Item	Contact Congressional Representative to request funding							
	OSI	Open Space Institute							
	NYS OSC	New York State Office for Small Cities							
	NYS EFC	New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation							
	NYSERDA	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority							
	LGRMIF	New York State Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund							
	NYS LWCF	New York State Land and Water Conservation Fund							