

Town of Gardiner Open Space Plan

Response to Comments Received on the July 2006 Draft Plan
Compiled by Behan Planning Associates, LLC; December 22, 2006

Below is a summary of our response to comments received on the July 2006 draft version of the Town of Gardiner Open Space Plan. Comments were received by the public through review of the open space plan at various public sessions, as well as from the Town of Gardiner Planning Board (memo dated 10/4/06) and the Ulster County Planning Board (memo dated 11/14/06). Comments are organized by chapter.

Chapter 1:

1. Modifications to section entitled “Open Space Planning Process” to provide more detail on the links between the open space plan and the town’s comprehensive plan, specifically the plan’s goals of more compact, conservation-oriented development patterns. (page 3)
 - Response to Ulster County Planning Board comment #1 requiring more discussion of links to town’s comprehensive plan.
2. New section entitled “Priorities for Open Space Conservation” describing how the priority resources for this plan were established. (page 5)
 - Response to Gardiner Planning Board comment #1 requiring more discussion of open space priorities and how they were established. Also note that we have made our best attempt to make references throughout the plan more consistently follow this resource prioritization structure.
3. New section entitled “Introduction to the Plan’s Major Components and Terms” describing the plan’s major terms and how they relate to each other. (page 5)
 - Response to Gardiner Planning Board comment #2 to provide more explanation on the organizing terms and themes used in the plan and the relation between them.
4. Reference to Town of Shawangunk’s Open Space Inventory and Analysis added to “Related Plans and Policies” section.
 - Response to Gardiner Planning Board comment #6 to include this reference. (page 16, second paragraph)

Chapter 2:

5. “Cultural and Recreational Resource” section has been modified to provide more detail on the identification and application of scenic roads in the rating process. (Page 14, last 3 paragraphs)

- Response to Ulster County Planning Board comment #4 (non-binding) suggesting more explanation on scenic road classification and appropriate protection of the character of scenic roads.

Chapter 3:

6. A sentence in the plan has been modified as follows: “The Forest Glen hamlet, site of a stop on the Walkill Valley Railroad, contains numerous historic LeFevre houses and the Kettleboro School.”

- Response to public comment noting a recent addition to NYSHPO of the Abraham & Maria LeFevre House at 56 Forest Glen Rd. (page 25, last paragraph)

Chapter 4:

7. New section entitled “How the Conservation Network Was Identified” that provides additional explanation on the rating process that helped to identify the priority conservation network. (page 37)

- Response to Gardiner Planning Board comment #3 to provide more explanation on rating process and establishment of priorities.

8. New section entitled “Reading the Conservation Network Map” that describes the interpretation and uses of the map. (page 40)

- Response to Ulster County Planning Board comment #3 requiring more translation of the conservation network map and how it relates to settlement patterns in the town.

9. New section entitled “Conservation Goals” that establishes five-year acreage goals for conservation of lands within the priority conservation network. (page 50)

10. New chart entitled “A Summary of Gardiner’s Conservation Hubs” that summarizes the values, resources, and conservation goals for each of the eight conservation hubs. (page 52)

- Response to Ulster County Planning Board comment #7 (non-binding) suggesting a summary chart of the conservation network and goals.

Chapter 5 (pages 53-66):

11. **Modifications to Chapter 5:** While the recommendations have not been changed significantly, this chapter has been modified to provide more detail and clarification to help the town focus efforts strategically. In specific, the chapter has been reorganized and

provides more detail on land conservation tools, financing strategies, and land use planning actions that are recommended for Gardiner. It also provides more detail on the types of committees that are recommended for the town and the roles of each.

- Response to Ulster County Planning Board comment #8 suggesting a CAC formation and more discussion of the connections between local boards.
- Response to Gardiner Planning Board comments #4 and #5 to provide more detail on recommended tools, financing strategies, short-term actions, etc.

12. New chart entitled “Summary Chart: Recommended Actions” summarizes the major recommendations of this chapter.

Chapter 6:

13. Recreational River designation of the Shawangunk Kill has been added to the list of tools. (page 71)

- Response to Ulster County Planning Board comment #2 requiring identification of the recreational river designation of the Shawangunk Kill and the protection it affords. Please note that the Ulster County Planning Board required modification to identify the management plan for the Shawangunk Kill was not incorporated because no such plan exists, per DEC staff comments. Also note that recommendation #1 under “Develop a Comprehensive approach to Conservation and Development” (page 59) includes the following reference “Training in the use of existing conservation tools, such as the recreational river designation of the Shawangunk Kill, should also be incorporated into this process model.”

Chapter 7 (page 73):

14. A conclusion chapter (Chapter 7) has been added.

Appendices:

15. “Map 7: Cultural and Recreational Resources” has been modified to reference the historic LeFevre Houses

- Response to public comment noting a recent addition to NYSHPO of the Abraham & Maria LeFevre House at 56 Forest Glen Rd. (page 25, last paragraph).