

MINUTES: Town of Gardiner Meeting with the DEC to work on Natural Resources Inventory Mapping.

Date of Meeting: February 24, 2020 Location: Gardiner Library

In Attendance: Ingrid Haeckel, Ashley Curtis and Nate Nardi-Cyrus: DEC; Laura Walls: Town Board, Roberta Clements, Bill Trifilo and Janet Kern: ECC; Jean McGrane and Laura Rose: GOSC; Gerhard Patsch: TOG resident. Minutes by: Laura Rose.

Opening Business:

- We went around the circle to introduce ourselves.
- Ingrid asked what efforts have been made to communicate about this project to other local boards and the community. Roberta wrote an article that was just published in the Gardiner Gazette and has been in touch with the Planning Board as well as the Town Board. Carol Richman, of the Planning Board will be their liaison to this group for the project.
- A description of the NRI project is up on the Town's website.

Draft Map Review:

-Ashley is a DEC intern and student at SUNY New Paltz; she will be assisting us with creating maps until May 1. She has started on the project, using input from this group, and we had full-sized, detailed maps created for the group to review at this meeting.

- There were 12 maps.

These included a Base Map, Topography, Steep Slopes, Bedrock Geology, Surficial Geology, Watersheds, DEC Water Quality Classifications, Floodplains and Riparian Areas, Stream Habitats and Property Preserved in Gardiner.

-Overall, the maps are beautiful, and a great start. There were many comments made about the details, as we reviewed each one. Some of these include:

- The parcel boundaries around specific parcels of the Mohonk and Minnewaska Preserves can be confusing on some of the maps, and will be eliminated.
- Two sets of maps will ultimately be generated/ both with and without parcel boundaries, to help with municipal planning projects.
- Jean would like to see a watershed map that shows the 100 foot currently required buffer along stream corridors as well as the recommended buffer of 535 feet which is already displayed.
- Discussed if the "Municipal" boundary on the base map needs to be in the map key; or maybe change the label to "Municipal Boundary" to better explain it.
- More labeling of roads and the Kills would be helpful, including for Albany Post, Bruynswick Road and the area where the Kills merge and change names (Shawangunk Kill and Wallkill.)
- The Rail Trail should be labeled and the green line made less thick.
- The Ireland Corners hamlet label should be at the 208 and 44/55 intersection.
- The Toll Brothers development on 208 (Mountainview?) isn't on the basemap.. is theirs a Town road?
- Discussed if private roads should be added, or maybe added to a separate map. Ingrid will verify that all classified roads are currently shown.
- On the topographical map, it's confusing that the colors fade outside of the Gardiner boundaries. Ingrid explained that this makes the Town itself pop. The colors can be made to fade less to maintain the emphasis, while keeping the topo easy to read... the Town line could also be made darker and thicker. Ashley will work with this. We noted similar "not-sure-ness" across several maps where the Town was purposely popped out and made darker to emphasize its shape. Ashley will look at all of them.

- We didn't love the colors of the steep slopes map. Ashley to look at this as well. Might prefer colors more similar to the topographical map (?) The Rail Trail line to be continued into the adjoining towns on this map.
- Nate explained that a steep slope ordinance regulates activity at the steepest elevations, so this map is important for the Town in planning.
- Streams and watersheds need more labels. Also discussed creating names for more of the Town's streams, that this would be fun and could very much involve the community. Jean to find out how this works.
- Can arrows be added to the Watershed map to indicate the direction water moves and each stream flows?
- On the Bedrock Geology map, Quartz Pebble Conglomerate and Martinsburg Shale aren't included. Bill Trifilo to look for more resources to potentially increase the detail on this map. Ingrid and Ashley will confirm NY State Museum data.
- Add the words "Glacial Deposits" to the Surficial map so non-geologists might be more interested in understanding and reading it. (The Surficial layer sits above the Bedrock. Soil is above the Surficial.)
- Discussed that there are existing soil maps available in the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey Mapper (from the USDA) that are very detailed, containing county soil survey data. There is no soils map planned for this NRI.
- The aquifer map needs more color contrast.
- Discussed the content of the aquifer map. The data shown was taken from Gardiner's Open Space Plan, which references a 1998 aquifer study. Bill and Roberta will confirm the data source.
- The DEC water quality map is missing some streams. Ingrid and Ashley will track down this information.
- It was also noted that the DEC water quality map didn't show the Tuthilltown Dam.
- Since the eel is the one migratory fish that the DEC is concerned with, it will be added to the Migratory Fish label on the Stream Habitats map.

Community attendee:

Gerhard Patsch lives on Farmer's Turnpike. He was curious about our work and said he is interested in local maps. He was especially interested in the watershed map. He had questions about the Town sewer district; wanted more information about what's in it, and whether it might be affecting local wells, which aren't tested frequently. He also asked if there's a town water district for drinking water.

Laura Rose to email him the draft watershed map.

Review of Timeline:

The goals for the NRI project have been set, and we are on time and up to date in meeting them, so far. Ingrid reviewed the timeline. We expect to have the mapping completed by May. She and Nate will begin to work on the structure of the rest of the NRI report closer to that time.

Closing Remarks, Homework:

Ingrid asked what we would be doing to further incorporate the Town into this project. We discussed being put on the agenda for a Planning Board meeting in April, and Laura Walls said the Town Board could be invited.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting is planned for Friday March 20th at 5 PM but the Library may not be available as expected during that time. Roberta to communicate with the group re our next time and place of meeting. April 13th is set at the Town Hall, at 6 PM.