

Hudson River Estuary Grants Webinar Series  
Conservation Planning Grants  
April 18, 2024, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

1 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:00:04.904 --> 00:00:24.259

My name is Ingrid Haeckel and I'm manager of the Hudson River Estuary Program at the DEC. Thank you for joining us and welcome to our Hudson River Estuary Grant Webinar series. Today's webinar will focus on grants for a variety of conservation planning projects, including natural resources

2 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:00:24.259 --> 00:00:27.810

inventories and open space plans.

3 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:00:27.810 --> 00:00:30.840

And so I'll be starting off the program.

4 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:00:30.840 --> 00:00:50.840

with a quick review of some webinar details and, background information about our program and estuary grants. And then my colleague Christine will continue with more information about examples of project types, for conservation planning. And then we'll be hearing from some of

5 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:00:50.840 --> 00:01:10.840

our grantees, including Anne Campbell from the town of Kent sharing their natural resource inventory project and Michael Welty, from the town of Poughkeepsie who will

talk about their NRI and open space plan and we're hoping to leave the final 10 minutes open for questions and answers. And I also want to note that we have

6 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:01:10.840 --> 00:01:17.310

Susan Pepe or Hudson River grant coordinator on the line to help answer any questions that may come up.

7 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:01:17.310 --> 00:01:38.450

So, for those of you, who are not familiar with Webex, if you're having difficulty with audio connection through your computer, you can choose to switch audio by clicking the 3 dots next to the red exit button at the bottom of the screen. And then you'll find options to request a callback or to call in by phone.

8 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:01:38.450 --> 00:01:57.030

If you need help, please reach out to us through chat. If you have questions for the speakers, once we get started, please use the Q and A function. And if it's not already open, you can get to Q and A by clicking the 3 dots next to chat in the bottom right corner of the screen.

9 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:01:57.030 --> 00:02:08.520

, note that your phone lines are muted the webinar is being recorded, and we will notify you when the recording is available. Probably sometime next week and.

10 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:02:08.520 --> 00:02:19.200

it will also be posted to the Hudson River Estuary Grants webinar page and lastly, at the end of the webinar, there'll be a brief survey that pops up and we kindly request your feedback.

11 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:02:19.200 --> 00:02:39.200

Thank you. The Hudson River Estuary program is a special program at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation that helps people to conserve, restore, and enjoy the Hudson River and its Valley. And we work throughout the counties, bordering the tidal Hudson from New York City harbor to Troy

12 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:02:39.200 --> 00:02:46.710

to achieve many key benefits, including fish, wildlife and habitats, clean water, healthy streams,

13 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:02:46.710 --> 00:03:05.100

conserved natural areas in the watershed, climate adaptation, education and access to the river. And our success relies on numerous partnerships and in addition to grants, we also offer a variety of outreach and education and technical assistance and we fund research and restoration projects.

14 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:03:05.100 --> 00:03:12.630

The Hudson River grants program provides funding to municipalities and nonprofits

15 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:03:12.630 --> 00:03:32.630

located within the estuary watershed boundaries to help communities, improve water quality, enhance environmental education and river access, and advance stewardship of habitat and natural areas. Estuary grants implement priorities from the Hudson River estuary action agenda with funding from New York state's environmental protection fund.

16 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:03:32.630 --> 00:03:52.630

And our recent grant opportunities have included grants for local stewardship, planning, tributary restoration and resiliency, river education and river access. Last week in our first webinar in the series we heard about projects for watershed studies and

17 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:03:52.630 --> 00:04:09.510

projects to restore aquatic habitat connectivity or reconnect streams. And if you missed that one, let me know, I can send you the link to the recording. Today we'll be speaking more about local stewardship planning projects for conservation planning.

18 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:04:09.510 --> 00:04:23.700

Eligible projects or applicants, rather, include a variety of governmental entities and non for profit organizations, as well as community based organizations with a fiscal sponsor.

19 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:04:23.700 --> 00:04:34.169

For more information, visit our grants webpage, which is shown at the bottom of the screen and, Christine, maybe you can put these links in the chat as well. They were in my notes.

20 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:04:34.169 --> 00:04:56.539

The request for applications for 2024 are not yet available. They're not open, but typically they're announced on an annual basis and the announcements are made through press releases and shared through the Hudson Rivernet newsletter. If you're not signed up for that, you can sign up for it at the bottom of

21 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:04:56.539 --> 00:05:16.539

the main page for the Hudson River program, and perhaps you can share that as well Christine. In 2023 for local stewardship planning grants, the minimum awards were 10,500 dollars and the Max, where was 75,000 dollars, with a minimum rat match requirement of

22 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:05:16.539 --> 00:05:37.819

15%. Starting this year applicants, sorry, applications will be submitted through the state financial system, statewide financial system and we also anticipating offering webinars for each of the RFAs, as they're released. Those will be announced at the time that the

23 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:05:37.819 --> 00:05:58.049

RFAs become public, so those will be a great opportunity to learn more about these funding opportunities and ask questions. If any general grant questions come up during today's webinar that we can answer, we will try to get to those at the very end, or we'll try to answer them through the Q and A interface.

24 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:05:58.049 --> 00:06:04.859

So, thank you for listening. I'm going to hand it over now to my colleague, Christine Vanderlan to

25 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:06:04.859 --> 00:06:08.969

talk a little bit further about project types for conservation planning.

26 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:06:12.034 --> 00:06:17.915

Thanks Ingrid I didn't have the document with those links open and

27 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:06:17.915 --> 00:06:20.163

I need to share my screen.

28 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:06:20.163 --> 00:06:32.029

So, yeah, if you could put those links up for folks that you mentioned. There are links in my presentation and to let everybody know that my slides will be available,

29 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:06:32.029 --> 00:06:39.509

as a PDF, and so these links will be available for you to click through to after the presentation.

30 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:06:39.509 --> 00:06:42.869

And let me share my screen.

31 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:06:49.109 --> 00:07:09.109

So, I'm going to run through the types of projects in this category of grants, types of eligible projects. And because we have our speakers from the town of Kent and from the town of Poughkeepsie, Anne and Michael, who are here to talk about their projects

32 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:07:09.109 --> 00:07:24.209

experience, I'm going to focus on the project types, other than what they're talking about so you'll hear more from me about different kinds of conservation plans and policies and not so much on the natural resources inventory and open space plan.

33 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:07:24.209 --> 00:07:31.469

Because they'll be covering that. But I want to start just to talk a bit about the big picture of.

34 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:07:31.469 --> 00:07:38.459

Why it's important that conservation planning at the local level .

35 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:07:38.459 --> 00:07:51.299

You know, why is it, we offer grants for this and what the big idea is about doing this kind of work locally. And so this quote, sort of sums it up in a really nice way. The idea that

36 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:07:51.299 --> 00:07:58.589

our communities are relying on important services that come from functioning

37 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:07:58.589 --> 00:08:01.889

functioning natural ecosystems. And

38 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:08:01.889 --> 00:08:06.929

the kinds of projects that you can undertake with funding from this program.

39 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:08:06.929 --> 00:08:17.999

support local decision making that recognizes those systems, helps keep them intact, and minimize ecological impacts of development choices.

40 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:08:17.999 --> 00:08:33.569

So that's the big idea. Our program recommends a conservation planning approach and there's a delay with my slides. So it's either going to jump to or finally advance. I'm not sure which.

41 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:08:33.569 --> 00:08:39.433

But for me, it's not advancing.

42 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:08:39.433 --> 00:08:44.191

Check clicking on it. Mm. Hmm.

43 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:08:44.191 --> 00:08:48.179

Yeah, that didn't work. All right there we go.

44 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:08:48.179 --> 00:08:52.919

So, the conservation planning process that

45 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:08:52.919 --> 00:09:08.009

we recommend, and I'll talk about the project types that kind of relate to these phases. Really it is 3 basic phases, starting with identifying what you have - projects that gather information about local resources.



46 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:09:08.009 --> 00:09:23.279

Say putting together maps and descriptions of your community's streams and ponds and watershed,s describing the soils and the large natural features like the valleys and hills, mountains, ridgelines.

47 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:09:23.279 --> 00:09:27.569

Gathering all of that kind of information together in one place.

48 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:09:27.569 --> 00:09:35.789

That's really foundational to the other steps of conservation planning, and your project may be a natural resources inventory

49 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:09:35.789 --> 00:09:38.939

project that does that.

50 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:09:38.939 --> 00:09:57.179

And stops there, or your project may involve moving on to another phase of conservation planning, where you're analyzing that information, you are bringing in what your community cares about and setting priorities and this prioritization

51 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:09:57.179 --> 00:10:07.529

phase and again, my slides aren't doing what they're supposed to be doing so sorry, if I'm pausing a little bit here. Maybe they'll catch up with me in a minute.

52 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:10:07.529 --> 00:10:17.969

But you may be in a prioritization kind of project, , when you're analyzing information and bringing in

53 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:10:17.969 --> 00:10:26.249

public input to understand local priorities. You might be developing something like an open space inventory or index or plan.

54 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:10:26.249 --> 00:10:30.029

or an open space plan of some kind.

55 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:10:30.029 --> 00:10:33.809

Another kind of conservation plan

56 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:10:33.809 --> 00:10:37.019

that I'll talk about in a moment is a connectivity plan.

57 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:10:37.019 --> 00:10:43.409

And my slides, since they're not advancing, so.

58 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:10:43.409 --> 00:10:49.139

The third, phase of conservation planning involve.

59 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:10:49.139 --> 00:11:09.139

figuring out and setting out what you're planning to do, setting goals, a vision, perhaps and identifying strategies. So your project may be a plan that does that, or you might already know what your conservation priorities are in your community, and you might be seeking to implement some kind of policy that

60 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:11:09.139 --> 00:11:22.409

protects or manages those resources. In this funding category, we would fund a development of designation of a critical environmental area development of a conservation overlay zone.

61 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:11:22.409 --> 00:11:34.067

And also a study to explore possible funding for open space protection, or acquisition of conservation easements.

62 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:11:34.067 --> 00:11:38.062

Christine, do you want me to put up your slides and at the.

63 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:11:38.062 --> 00:11:41.519

I'm going to try to back up and just, okay, here we go.

64 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:11:41.519 --> 00:11:46.559

Okay, now it's functioning. Okay great. Let's just, it got stuck. Okay.

65 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:11:46.559 --> 00:11:51.479

So, now I'm just clicking through the little titles of project types.

66 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:11:51.479 --> 00:11:55.289

So, you can kind of see where in the conservation planning process, they are.

67 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:11:59.039 --> 00:12:02.399

And now we're stuck again. All right.

68 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:12:02.399 --> 00:12:12.479

So, this slide just kind of lists them for referring back to, these are the types of projects that are eligible for funding under this category.

69 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:12:12.479 --> 00:12:17.609

And they tend to be talked about in the RFA as individual

70 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:12:17.609 --> 00:12:22.679

project types, but you might apply for grants that combine

71 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:12:22.679 --> 00:12:42.679

a couple of these into one project. You might find that this really efficient way of going about it if you can apply for and to manage one grant and accomplish both say an NRI and an open space plan. That could be really efficient for you. At the same time just be aware that typically the full maximum grant

72 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:12:42.679 --> 00:12:53.249

duration would be 2 years. So, as you're thinking about how far you want to go with your conservation planning project, just think about what you can realistically get done in that timeframe too.

73 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:12:53.249 --> 00:13:07.379

We have this little 6 minute video, and you can click through to see a description from the town of Wawarsing, which kind of illustrates conservation planning process and a couple of these kinds of projects.

74 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:13:07.379 --> 00:13:15.869

I've talked about open space plans. I mentioned open space plans, but didn't talk about what open space actually is. And I know that doesn't necessarily

75 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:13:15.869 --> 00:13:35.869

you know, that term doesn't necessarily mean anything to a lot of people. So there's this generic definition that it's land that's not intensively developed for these other purposes. Depending on your community, and depending on the interests of your project, what your goals are, open space planning may

76 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:13:35.869 --> 00:13:43.409

involve any mix of these possible types of open space that you might have. I would just say that.

77 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:13:43.409 --> 00:13:52.229

thinking back to the overall purpose and goal of our conservation planning, and our support for conservation planning from this program,

78 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:13:52.229 --> 00:14:07.859

that, say a plan that was focused only on recreational trails, that there's other grant sources out there to do trail planning and that we're really focused on planning that involves recognizing the

79 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:14:07.859 --> 00:14:13.829

values of natural areas and trying to sustain the benefits of those areas for our communities.

80 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:14:13.829 --> 00:14:17.219

So, keep that in mind.

81 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:14:17.219 --> 00:14:34.619

One of the project types I just mentioned earlier by name is a connectivity plan and this is a special type of open space planning that really focuses on the need for natural systems to allow for a movement. And

82 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:14:34.619 --> 00:14:54.619

That can be movement of plants and animals, water, nutrients, energy. Typically, these kinds of plans, and this diagram illustrates, that's taken from the green corridors plan for the eastern highlands, They typically look at areas of existing intact, natural

83 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:14:54.619 --> 00:15:08.309

area and the potential connections between them to allow for movement to continue into the future, or perhaps restore some connections between natural areas that may have been lost, or maybe challenged by existing development.

84 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:15:08.309 --> 00:15:26.819

And the kinds of movement that we think about, thinking about wildlife and needing to move encompass, not just their day to day movements to meet their needs. But also over time over their life cycle. And even in the context of a changing climate, the need for

85 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:15:26.819 --> 00:15:34.589

animals and plans to kind of shift their ranges over time. And this kind of planning can look at that as well.

86 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:15:34.589 --> 00:15:40.949

Conservation overlay zones are a kind of

87 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:15:40.949 --> 00:15:50.699

policy that can be, you can fund the steps to develop this kind of policy for your community with a grant from this program.

88 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:15:50.699 --> 00:15:56.579

Conservation overlay zones are a really flexible kind of tool. They create

89 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:15:56.579 --> 00:16:07.769

protection for either areas where there's a concentration of important resources or for individual types of resources in your community.

90 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:16:07.769 --> 00:16:19.199

By setting special standards, or regulations, or creating special review processes that really consider those resources in the context of your development decisions.

91 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:16:19.199 --> 00:16:38.909

It gets added to your town's code and this example, from the town of Warwick is just one example. You can apply this in many different ways. It's a very flexible tool. So, developing your mapping, developing your policy language, that kind of project would it be eligible for funding through this grant program.

92 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:16:38.909 --> 00:16:47.759

As would development of the mapping and the narrative and description that's part of setting a

93 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:16:47.759 --> 00:16:54.959

a designation of a critical environmental area and that designation is a special.



94 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:16:54.959 --> 00:17:04.769

component of the state environmental quality review regulations. Cities, towns, villages, counties can all designate critical environmental areas.

95 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:17:04.769 --> 00:17:13.499

They would a particular area that may have one or more of the characteristics that are described on the slide here. And again, just

96 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:17:13.499 --> 00:17:18.389

preparing the documentation, preparing a map to protect

97 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:17:18.389 --> 00:17:23.549

Or designate an area in your community and give it this kind of, .

98 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:17:23.549 --> 00:17:28.679

regulatory review under SEQR, that is an eligible project type.

99 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:17:28.679 --> 00:17:31.769

Under this program.

100 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:17:31.769 --> 00:17:46.259

I wanted to talk about, you know, I've mentioned maps and narrative. These kinds of conservation planning projects really do involve a lot of engagement with the community and we'll hear from both Michael and

101 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:17:46.259 --> 00:17:53.189

Anne about, the volunteers who contributed time to serve on committees, to be part of their projects.

102 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:17:53.189 --> 00:17:58.829

Engagement with the community is a really key part of your project to be thinking about

103 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:17:58.829 --> 00:18:18.829

early on, as you're thinking about developing your application talking with folks who could play a role, or who might be impacted by your project and its outcomes, is a really good thing to do to help kind of scope out your project. They can have ideas to contribute and I have my little superhero.

104 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:18:18.829 --> 00:18:28.229

images here, because you also can find some champions that you didn't know about by talking with folks early and then they can play a role in your project.

105 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:18:28.229 --> 00:18:35.399

The be creative sticker, there is, you know, this could be the most fun part of your project and

106 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:18:35.399 --> 00:18:43.649

within the context of local government, I think a lot of folks have seen, you know, you can put in the effort to

107 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:18:43.649 --> 00:18:51.179

organize a meeting at town hall, and it can be really hard for people to get to that kind of thing. So, .

108 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:18:51.179 --> 00:19:03.149

finding different ways, and engaging with folks, outside of town hall. and in many different ways, it's something we really encourage and hope you can have fun with too, as part of the project.

109 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:19:03.149 --> 00:19:24.739

So, I could only just kind of give a snippet of information about these project types. This website Conservation planning in the Hudson River. Estuary watershed is a great place to begin. If you are trying to better understand the different types of conservation planning options you have at the local level, this has

110 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:19:24.739 --> 00:19:29.099

concise information and descriptions of the different kinds of

111 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:19:29.099 --> 00:19:33.269

projects I've talked about today as well as some others and

112 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:19:33.269 --> 00:19:40.979

links to many examples. so I would recommend you start here. Especially if a lot of this is new and you're just trying to get started.

113 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:19:40.979 --> 00:19:46.049

And then if you know what project type you're interested in, then

114 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:19:46.049 --> 00:19:56.819

the links on this slide can offer you resources that go deep into these different kinds of conservation projects with either webinars or guidebooks, fact sheets.

115 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:19:56.819 --> 00:20:01.349

And that kind of thing and then, of course, you can reach out to me.

116 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:20:01.349 --> 00:20:21.349

My job is really involves this kind of extension role of talking with people serving in local communities, about conservation planning, about their options and helping connect them to resources and technical assistance. So please take advantage of giving me a call or sending me an email. I'll just give the caveat that once

117 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:20:21.349 --> 00:20:39.959

there's a request for applications published, and the grant period is open then I can't discuss individual project ideas or applications. So with that, I want to make sure we have plenty of time to hear from Anne and Michael, and I'll just introduce them briefly.

118 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:20:39.959 --> 00:20:50.784

And I'll stop sharing my slides. My screen just did a funky thing. So did I manage to stop showing my slides?

119 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:20:50.784 --> 00:20:57.248

No, not yet. Okay. All right there you go. Go.

120 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:20:57.248 --> 00:21:13.949

Okay, so Ann Campbell is joining us from the town of Kent, and she's lived in Kent for 40 years, and served on the conservation advisory committee for 10 years before becoming elected to the town board in 2021.

121 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:21:13.949 --> 00:21:27.299

And she serves as a town board liaison to the Kent and coordinator for the climate smart task force and is an associate professor at SUNY New Paltz and an avid cyclist and gardener.

122 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:21:27.299 --> 00:21:45.605

And Michael Welti is director of municipal development for the town of Poughkeepsie. He's an AICP certified planner, and he has over 25 years experience working with local governments throughout New York State. Anne will speak first, followed by Michael.

123 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:21:45.605 --> 00:21:51.059

So, I'm attempting to share my window here.

124 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:22:00.239 --> 00:22:09.149

So, sorry, I'm not seeing the conventional share icon. There's something that's blocking it that says share this window. Let me try this other one. okay. This is working.

125 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:22:16.409 --> 00:22:21.479

But, hopefully you're not seeing my cover slide and.

126 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:22:21.479 --> 00:22:38.609

We started at the beginning of this journey with the natural resources inventory. I'm going to give you some background on what we did in Kent and what I've learned along the way some of which, I hope will be helpful to those of you who are considering undertaking this kind of a project.

127 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:22:38.609 --> 00:22:58.609

So, a little bit about Kent, we're just on the edge of the watershed area of the Hudson River estuary area in Putnam County. And as you can see, we're a relatively small town with a relatively low population about 13,001 of the things that makes Kent perhaps somewhat.

128 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:22:58.609 --> 00:23:18.609

Usual is that a large portion of the town is actually owned by, , county and so forth about 42% is publicly owned. We also have many lake communities the most known of.

129 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:23:18.609 --> 00:23:27.689

This is the lake Carmel community was a manmade lake from 929. we're about 60% of our population resides, but we have many other.

130 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:23:27.689 --> 00:23:42.479

Human created lakes and late communities, and all of the water supply, and Kent is from ground water. So we have lots of reasons to be concerned about knowing our natural resources and resources and finding ways to protect them.

131 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:23:42.479 --> 00:23:50.729

So, I'm going to talk a little bit about how we got started and found funding through DEC Hudson River estuary.

132 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:23:50.729 --> 00:24:09.839

A bit about how we worked with estuary, too, and the steering committee to accomplish the project, some of the nuts and bolts of how we learned how to manage the grant and got the public involved. And then a little bit about how we went through the process of adopting the final result.

133 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:24:09.839 --> 00:24:29.839

So, this goes back a number of years when Nate Nardi-Cyrus, who was a conservation and land use specialist with the Estuary program at the time, came down to our town and met with our conservation advisory committee. And this is well aligned with obviously, with the charge, of, if you have.

134 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:24:29.839 --> 00:24:40.679

one, in your community, you can see the charge here. We really need to be concerned with being able to take action to preserve and protect what we have.

135 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:24:40.679 --> 00:24:46.379

Now, at the same time that we were talking about.

136 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:24:46.379 --> 00:24:57.419

Creating an NRI we also had a goal of having a biodiversity inventory and this is somewhat unusual and it would not be a requirement for an NRI.

137 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:24:57.419 --> 00:25:17.419

But we happen to have 2 naturalists. One, a botanist Bill Buck, and the other Beth Herr, artist and naturalist who had long, had a goal of documenting as many of the different species we have in Kent as possible. And to get that started, they created what we called the

138 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:25:17.419 --> 00:25:32.909

Nature almanac, but it wasn't quite what you would call citizen science, but it was community sourced kind of a newsletter where people would submit observations. Sometimes almost like nature journals and

139 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:25:32.909 --> 00:25:51.749

that was something that we did while we were hoping to find a way to do a more full blown biodiversity inventory as well as an. And once the funding came through and both Bill and Beth actually retired from their regular jobs, the biodiversity work could begin.

140 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:25:51.749 --> 00:26:13.249

So here's an example, a couple of postings from the Kent nature almanac, and you can see there were photographs of different species, different landscapes and interactions



and people's remarks about what they were seeing, whether something had arrived earlier one spring than another and so forth.

141 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:26:15.929 --> 00:26:35.929

So, once we got involved with the estuary program, we were able to move forward. Our town hired a grant firm and through that firm, we became aware of the opportunities and so, things kind of came together when we recognized that the biodiversity work, which could be done on a volunteer basis.

142 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:26:35.929 --> 00:26:55.929

could be counted towards the required 15% match and I should point out that Hudson River Estuary's requirement of 15%, as a lot of you probably know, is quite low, quite generous compared to many other grants. So, you wouldn't have to have biologists doing a biodiversity inventory to take advantage

143 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:26:55.929 --> 00:27:15.929

of that. You could have just your own steering committee volunteer time, and perhaps a municipal time that would make up the match. So we submitted a grant proposal for this dually focused project of a conventional NRI plus the bio diversity inventory in 2021 and we're rewarded, fortunately,

144 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:27:15.929 --> 00:27:21.479

49,960 dollars to create these 2 projects.

145 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:27:21.479 --> 00:27:41.479

And I have to say, I was somewhat naive. I was new to the town board, and I just kind of assumed, okay, we got our funding, we contract with an engineering firm or something

like that. And boom, it's done. And that is not actually how this works. So first of all, if you don't have volunteers or

146 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:27:41.479 --> 00:28:01.479

with the time and expertise to develop an NRI then having some external support outside consultants is vital. That could be an engineering firm. In our case. We went with Hudsonia, which is a nonprofit Institute and at the same time, we formed a steering committee because those

147 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:28:01.479 --> 00:28:22.969

partners do not have the same knowledge of our community that we have. And so a lot of decisions had to be made about how this work would be guided, whether it was going to be more prescriptive in terms of recommendations or more general and so forth. And so

148 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:28:22.969 --> 00:28:42.969

we put together a steering committee, and as part of that we thought about, who, you know, what different constituencies in the town should be recommended, or should be included. Obviously the chair of the CAC, and some members were important and our biodiversity heroes here. Beth and Bill.

149 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:28:42.969 --> 00:28:52.349

We also engaged the town's environmental consultant. We don't have a full time environmental engineer so our consultant was asked to join

150 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:28:52.349 --> 00:29:12.349

We knew that it's important for the planning board to be involved so that there is buy in, on using the document once it's complete. So we included 2 planning board members and although it's not a key focus, the natural resources inventory does include some information about

151 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:29:12.349 --> 00:29:29.669

historical and cultural resources. So we had a couple of people associated with our historical society, one of whom was also there, just as a regular community member. And then we had town board members involved. Now, I think it could be productive to have a larger.

152 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:29:29.669 --> 00:29:36.299

committee and also perhaps a somewhat smaller committee. I would say we were on the low end of what's productive.

153 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:29:36.299 --> 00:29:56.299

So, Here's some of the kinds of things that a steering committee might do, we were involved in gathering various kinds of documents.. As our consultants from Hudsonia got started, they started asking us for different kinds of reports and information. Was there a groundwater protection plan? Yes. Well, we found one that

154 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:29:56.299 --> 00:30:16.299

The county had that was old. And provided that, historical documents, any kinds of resources that we could come up with, information on the, the stone chambers of Kent, and so forth. Once they got started on the NRI, there was an outline that we commented on and we spent a lot of time as I will show you looking at

155 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:30:16.299 --> 00:30:36.299

the maps, which are sort of the core essence of the NRI. There were about 30 maps, and we had lots of discussion about those. We also were reviewing and commenting on drafts as the document was being written, and as was pointed out earlier community engagement is important. So, we worked on that as

156 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:30:36.299 --> 00:30:56.299

well, trying to ensure through communications and meetings and trainings that the key users of this document would be motivated and knowledgeable on its use. We also spent a lot of time discussing recommendations and then getting that document into a final state of readiness with editing and proofreading.

157 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:30:56.299 --> 00:31:16.299

As well as participating in the different meetings and events, and as part of that, of course, we needed to manage the grant and I'll say a little bit about how that works from the municipality perspective. So here's an example of one of the maps in this case, watersheds. You can see we're pretty much all watershed. It's just a question of

158 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:31:16.299 --> 00:31:36.299

which creek, and we spend a lot of time discussing things, such as what particular sets of data should be included in this map was it legible and readable and understandable to those of us who were looking at it with fresh eyes as the work was being done. We even talked

159 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:31:36.299 --> 00:31:49.829

about whether the different color contrast would be workable for somebody who might have color blindness or other forms of limited vision. So, there was lots of discussion early on as these maps were being developed.

160 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:31:49.829 --> 00:32:09.829

Here's another example of special biological areas and areas where there might be rare species and so forth. So again, altogether about 30 maps that took up a lot of our steering committee meeting time. And by the way we started out because of the pandemic working with virtual meetings.

161 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:32:09.829 --> 00:32:16.769

And we mostly stayed with that, even though face to face engagement is obviously beneficial in many ways.

162 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:32:16.769 --> 00:32:26.429

It was also more feasible to bring that diverse group of people who had many other commitments together using a virtual platform.

163 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:32:26.429 --> 00:32:48.229

Now, as part of the development Hudsonia actually came up with some specific recommendations and yes, I saw the question, the expert at Hudsonia developed all of those maps. We talked about some of the different maps that would be available, made some suggestions, but basically they

164 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:32:48.229 --> 00:32:55.529

guided that process most of the way. And again, we were just commenting on some of these specifics.

165 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:32:55.529 --> 00:33:15.529

So, we started to discuss the recommendations that were being made by Hudsonia, and some of those included possible regulatory changes as well as just citing a wealth of

information about best practices and things that individual residents can do to preserve habitat connectivity and so

166 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:33:15.529 --> 00:33:37.399

Forth. And we some NRIs don't include recommendations, but ours that was being done Hudsonia, and we got into some conversations about whether we had to all on the steering committee agree on those recommendations because there might be a different point of view from somebody

167 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:33:37.399 --> 00:33:46.979

on the planning board, as opposed to somebody on the conservation advisory committee about whether a particular change is a good idea. And what we finally decided.

168 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:33:46.979 --> 00:34:06.979

Is that that was not the place to work that out. That we should just accept the recommendations of the experts at Hudsonia, as part of our document, and then leave it to the town later on to discuss these different recommendations and determine which ones we would implement or which ones we

169 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:34:06.979 --> 00:34:18.539

might not, and so that led us to determine that we would want to adopt the through a resolution as opposed to a more stringent local law.

170 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:34:18.539 --> 00:34:29.009

And there's a wealth of information here available through Hudson River Estuary. I've put the link for the document here, and I'm sure it's readily viewable on the website,

171 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:34:29.009 --> 00:34:49.009

for the different possible modes of adoption. So we decided just to go with the resolution, that way we could keep in those full blown recommendations, even if we didn't necessarily all agree on them, or commit to implementing them. So, I'll say just a little bit about the nuts and bolts of managing the grant. It's important that for the

172 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:34:49.009 --> 00:35:09.009

committee you have someone involved that is going to be the organizer facilitator, keeping things moving, communications, meetings and so forth and it's also important that somebody be keeping track of the nuts and bolts of the grant. It doesn't necessarily have to be the same person. You can budget in

173 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:35:09.009 --> 00:35:19.259

some funding to pay for someone to do the grants management, or if the municipality or a volunteer does that work then that can be part of your 15 match.

174 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:35:19.259 --> 00:35:34.139

And so that begins with developing a contract once the funding is awarded and some of you may be very familiar with this. I was not. This is a whole new thing for me. So before going to contract, we had to have a specific work plan and budget.

175 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:35:34.139 --> 00:35:54.139

And for that, we did get support and feedback from the staff. They were consistently involved throughout this process. Then we went to contract. And as part of that, we needed to attempt, at least to achieve the minority and women owned business requirements.

176 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:35:54.139 --> 00:36:16.669

We did find a way to meet that because Hudsonia likes to subcontract with a graphic designer to finalize the document. And so we had a women owned business for that. As part of this, there were quarterly reports that needed to be submitted. A lot of that information actually came from Hudsonia in our case because.

177 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:36:16.669 --> 00:36:36.739

the person who was mostly doing the work would write up the progress that they had made and then we would add in the work that we were doing. In addition, we needed to have time sheets, and for the volunteers, those hours would be logged in at a standard volunteer rate and all of that had to be totalled up. And then there's some.

178 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:36:36.739 --> 00:36:56.739

Forms of voucher affidavit, so forth that have to be submitted so that copies of checks and invoices so that the funds could come back to the town after they were expended. And then at the very end of the process, there was a final report. So these are all things that would be involved in managing the grant. So I wanted to say a bit about working with volunteers.

179 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:36:56.739 --> 00:37:16.739

This is a long term project. It can be challenging to keep people engaged. We definitely had some meeting attendance drop off at times, or what I would call meeting fatigue. And the other thing I found was that it was challenging. Some of the members just did not want to submit time sheets. No matter how politely I requested and

180 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:37:16.739 --> 00:37:36.629



we had the biologists working on the bio diversity inventory logging in the end over 1000 hours of their time. We kind of let that slide, but obviously, if you're using that volunteer time to make up the match, you would need to be sure that they did submit the time sheets.

181 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:37:36.629 --> 00:37:40.979

So, getting the town and the community involved.

182 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:37:40.979 --> 00:37:50.009

It was kind of a 2 fold process. We wanted to make sure that town board members, planning, board members and so forth were familiar with the project and what was coming our way.

183 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:37:50.009 --> 00:38:01.589

And we also wanted to have a lot of public engagement. So some things that can be done press releases, we did a number of those about the, and also about the biodiversity project.

184 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:38:01.589 --> 00:38:21.589

, social media presence, if you have someone that's comfortable doing that. We tabled at some events. We had a large print out of a couple of the maps from the on a foam board, and put those up to kind of attract interest. So, we could talk about the project. We also had a comment period, not a formal

185 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:38:21.589 --> 00:38:41.589

review and comment, as you would have on some kind of a regulatory change, but just a time that we let it be known that the document was out and ready for comments and

that the community was welcome to submit them. We also presented and had Hudsonia presenting at town board meetings and at the public meetings and trainings.

186 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:38:41.589 --> 00:38:52.410

So, Here's an example of a press release about the biodiversity inventory and also a photo from a tabling event, this was Kent community today.

187 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:38:52.410 --> 00:39:12.410

And we also were requested early on to develop a sort of a corpus of photographs that could be used to illustrate the document. And this was a great way to get the public involved. We set up a Dropbox, and we publicize the link for that and requested.

188 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:39:12.410 --> 00:39:32.410

submissions in a variety of venues so, newspapers, the email that goes out to all of the school districts and so forth, social media and we were amazed at the quality and quantity and diversity of photos. That came through a lot of excellent nature photographers in our town, as we found out.

189 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:39:32.410 --> 00:39:39.360

So, here's some examples of the kinds of photos that were submitted and were used to illustrate the final document.

190 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:39:39.360 --> 00:39:59.360

So things that I learned along the way, that might be helpful to other people. It definitely takes a village to do this project again. You don't just go buy the NRI. We found out that the type setting and graphic design was a much larger proportion of the budget than we had anticipated. We had budgeted about

191 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:39:59.360 --> 00:40:19.360

3000 dollars that was way too low and we had to work to find other sources of funding for that through the town. We also realized that indexing the NRI would be a good idea. And that was something we hadn't budgeted for. And that was about another 1500 dollars. We realized that having the maps available -

192 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:40:19.360 --> 00:40:29.520

shape files at the end would be beneficial. So not just the print document, but ultimately getting those maps out on the web.

193 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:40:29.520 --> 00:40:49.520

so, we ensure that those maps were submitted to us at the completion of the project. And with those maps, you can then do what the town of Gardiner did, which is to create a so called story map website where you can go in, anybody can go in put in a parcel location and click on all the different map layers. So someone who's doing

194 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:40:49.520 --> 00:41:09.520

development projects, the planning board member, anybody can to go in and click on this, the different map layers and learn about their area. We realized that we needed copies for lots of people in the town. And what surprised us was how many community members want to purchase a copy. So, the PDF is out there for free.

195 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:41:09.520 --> 00:41:21.690

But I would recommend having enough copies to be able to sell them to those who are interested. We also then went ahead and did the adoption of the and we had a very detailed

196 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:41:21.690 --> 00:41:29.856

resolution that explained the whole process of development and the intended uses of the document, and where it should be posted and so forth that it should be.

197 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:41:29.856 --> 00:41:35.040

Publicly available, Christine: Anne, we're starting to

198 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:41:35.040 --> 00:41:41.257

run short on time. I appreciate all of the lessons learned.

199 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:41:41.257 --> 00:41:54.113

And is this your last slide anyway? Anne: Pretty much yes, so the story map website I would encourage people to do, and our next step is an open space plan. I'm looking forward to hearing about that from, from Michael Welti

200 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:41:54.113 --> 00:42:01.815

Thanks for your patients. Christine: Thank you so much and I'm going to invite Michael to put his slides up.

201 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:42:01.815 --> 00:42:03.291

Okay.

202 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:42:03.291 --> 00:42:09.213

And if you do have questions and want to pop those into the Q and A panel.

203 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:42:09.213 --> 00:42:31.080

We'll be monitoring for those. Micheal: Are you seeing the presentation now? Yes, it's up. Thanks. All right. Great. Well, thank you. Everyone. , so, yes, my name is Mike Welti. I am the director of municipal development for the town of Poughkeepsie town, because he's actually the largest municipality in duchess county. , we have a population of about 45000.

204 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:42:31.080 --> 00:42:35.670

We surround the city of Poughkeepsie on 3 sides. , I have about.

205 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:42:35.670 --> 00:42:53.400

8 miles of Hudson River shoreline though, not much of it that where people can actually get to the river. We have you know, the benefit of having some staff, which I think is a little bit different maybe than the experience in Kent. And I'll just explain that, as we go through the

206 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:42:53.400 --> 00:43:08.010

the presentation, for some background I got here in 2018, and 1 of the things that the town board had asked me to do when we started was to start a process of updating the comprehensive plan, which we did pretty much right away.

207 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:43:08.010 --> 00:43:17.010

That process that process, you know, ended, and the plan was adopted in October of 2021. We,

208 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:43:17.010 --> 00:43:33.900

In that work, knew that we wanted to focus a little bit more on some of the open space planning items. And so we went ahead and apply to the Hudson River Estuary program in the summer of 2019.

209 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:43:33.900 --> 00:43:52.740

And this, I think is useful for people to realize that, you know, you're not just going to apply and then be able to get started. Right? So, we, we applied in the summer of 2019. we were awarded the grant late that that year. , We had a contract with New York state executed in April of 2020.

210 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:43:52.740 --> 00:44:11.910

We had to develop an RFP to hire a consultant to work with us and so our 1st, steering committee steering committee meeting with the consultant didn't happen until November 2020, more than a year after we had applied for the grant. And I think that's useful to keep in mind.

211 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:44:11.910 --> 00:44:22.680

Timing was good for us because we were kind of at the tail end of our comprehensive plan. , and, , you know, ready to focus more on this effort. , at that point.

212 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:44:22.680 --> 00:44:42.680

We applied for 40,000 dollars grant and received 40,000 dollars grant and we matched that with, , 12,000 dollars. In our case we did it completely as a cash match. So we had a 52,000 dollars budget for consulting services, the steering committee time, staff time.

213 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:44:42.680 --> 00:45:02.680

That was all just donated to the project. , our steering committee was made up primarily of members of our CAC. Actually Pam Kingsley was going to do this presentation with me, but was unable to make it today. But we had our members of our CAC, and then we had a member of the town board, and the planning board who

214 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:45:02.680 --> 00:45:15.720

with us, we have a small planning staff and so I worked on this directly as did Kristen Taylor, who was our senior planner and we hired a consultant team to work with us.

215 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:45:15.720 --> 00:45:21.120

And ultimately, we did both the natural resources inventory and an open space plan.

216 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:45:21.120 --> 00:45:32.310

The work was completed mostly at the end of 2022. We adopted the plan formally the town board did in April of 2023, just about a year ago are hard to believe. Actually.

217 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:45:32.310 --> 00:45:51.780

So, just, you know, I'm going to cover these are some of the slides that our consultant had put together as we presented to the town board early in 2023. I'll move through some of these fairly quickly, but the natural resources inventory, of course, was the 1st step. We had a lot of data.

218 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:45:51.780 --> 00:46:11.780

Already from doing the comprehensive plan, , we also had, Hudsonia had done a biodiversity study for our community several years ago. So there was a lot of material to work with. So, for us, the natural resource inventory's really about pulling together all of that data from different places and putting it

219 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:46:11.780 --> 00:46:27.030

One location, that's easy for everybody to review. It identifies our existing resources and it's meant to really be informative for future planning and land use.

220 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:46:27.030 --> 00:46:37.680

We then took the next step, which was to develop an open space plan. We wanted to create a vision for a network of open spaces in the town,

221 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:46:37.680 --> 00:46:51.780

Identify specific resource protection projects and goals, suggest some tools to achieve that vision and really, you know.

222 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:46:51.780 --> 00:46:56.340

make sure the NRI, and the public input that we.

223 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:46:56.340 --> 00:47:03.030

, tried to get throughout this process is reflected in the in the open space plan.

224 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:47:03.030 --> 00:47:06.690



I'll talk a little bit about the public engagement. .

225 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:47:06.690 --> 00:47:26.690

We did have a project website, which was very useful and user friendly. , we did an online survey, , using survey monkey. We had a lot of targeted questions related to our open space plan, envisioning goals in that survey. We also kind of similar to Kent, we encouraged people to

226 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:47:26.690 --> 00:47:38.790

Add photos at the end of the survey, there was a way to do that and we collected quite a number of beautiful photos of the town that way as well. And I think it was a fun way for people to engage.

227 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:47:38.790 --> 00:47:46.020

,We had a number of stakeholder meetings, for example, we met with, large landowners in the town.

228 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:47:46.020 --> 00:48:06.020

, as part of the process, since they would have a particular interest, we thought, in the process, and then we did a series of public workshops as well. Ours were also done virtually this, of course, changed the way we all had to operate. And at this point, we.

229 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:48:06.020 --> 00:48:26.020

We're still doing a lot of that work virtually. So, we got pretty good attendance that way. People seem to, and our town's pretty big, people, I think might have found it more convenient even to, to attend this way than, than they would have if they had to come today to, to town hall, alternatively, we could have gone around to the town. But.

230 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:48:26.020 --> 00:48:35.880

It worked out quite well for us so at different points in the process, we, we did have a workshop to engage the community and check how we were doing.

231 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:48:35.880 --> 00:48:55.740

A little bit more on the natural resources inventory, you know, this is again, it's, it's primarily about, you know, mapping and describing the resources in the community. We did not include any recommendations in our document because again we were already planning to do the open space plan afterward.

232 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:48:55.740 --> 00:49:15.740

, you know, the in addition for being fodder for the open space plan, you know, it's very useful in a number of other ways. It informs our planning and development review process. We can use it for other work that we may do in the future. For example, that we update our local waterfront revitalization plan, or if we

233 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:49:15.740 --> 00:49:26.520

designate some critical environmental areas, which we've been discussing. So, you know, it's a document that will continue to have use for us going forward.

234 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:49:26.520 --> 00:49:35.010

These were the maps that we created, , as part of the process, you can see they covered a whole range of different items. .

235 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:49:35.010 --> 00:49:43.890

Roughly what they look like, these documents are available on our town website. So, if anyone's interested in looking at anything more, you know.

236 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:49:43.890 --> 00:49:54.960

Specifically, , I'd encourage you to do so, under the planning department, you'll find the open space the NRI and open space plan, , links to those are pretty easy to find.

237 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:49:54.960 --> 00:50:08.250

I'm going to spend a little bit more time in the open space plan. You know, we did a combination again of using the natural resources inventory and public input. We also did a

238 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:50:08.250 --> 00:50:20.640

mapping exercise, basically where we took the, the different layers of data that we had and that public engagement. , and we tried to quantify areas where we had the most

239 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:50:20.640 --> 00:50:31.890

overlap of resources that were of importance to the community to help us, you know, identify locations in the town that were specifically

240 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:50:31.890 --> 00:50:38.250

important for us to work toward preserving in one way or another.

241 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:50:38.250 --> 00:50:47.310

And so, in the end, we ended up with a a vision map that looks like this, it shows, you know.

242 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:50:47.310 --> 00:51:02.790

Some public or public parks, other land that's already been conserved, some of the larger pieces of open space, the agricultural parcels, the rail trail, and other existing trails in the town and it focuses as well on

243 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:51:02.790 --> 00:51:06.630

some key areas for conservation .

244 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:51:06.630 --> 00:51:10.980

And, we actually highlighted 5 specific.

245 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:51:10.980 --> 00:51:21.180

pieces of the town, that we spoke quite a bit about in the project as well as sort of the agricultural area that's in the

246 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:51:21.180 --> 00:51:24.540

Northeast corner of the town. Not a lot of people.

247 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:51:24.540 --> 00:51:28.350

are familiar with the fact that we still do have a fairly

248 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:51:28.350 --> 00:51:38.490

undeveloped rural section of the town, and the Northeast quadrant, , that you know, we, we do want to focus a little bit on going forward.

249 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:51:38.490 --> 00:51:58.490

A lot of our resources where the resources overlap really followed stream corridors, pretty closely. The importance of those stream corridors really rings, , you know, pretty high in in the plan and we talked a lot about connections around the town, to those resources, to the rail trail.

250 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:51:58.490 --> 00:52:09.390

So forth some of these key areas that we identified, where things like, 100 acre piece of property that IBM owns along the waterfront, which we are

251 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:52:09.390 --> 00:52:20.550

actually now working to conserve thanks to the open space plan, we were able to continue a conversation with IBM, and we are now working with Scenic Hudson.

252 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:52:20.550 --> 00:52:31.230

We recently got a grant from the DEC through the community forest program to help us towards this acquisition so that, you know, is an example of a project that's.

253 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:52:31.230 --> 00:52:34.680

kind of been gaining traction and is moving

254 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:52:34.680 --> 00:52:39.090

in a positive direction that was identified really in this document.

255 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:52:39.090 --> 00:52:50.280

You know, and then we included like, a whole number of different tools that, , that that the town can use to achieve its goals. We didn't

256 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:52:50.280 --> 00:53:00.960

We also left it kind of up to, you know, future conversation with the town board. Exactly which of those tools to pursue, but they fell into different categories.

257 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:53:00.960 --> 00:53:15.870

There's regulatory tools, some of those changes to zoning and subdivision regulations that we could make to help our development review process. some of those things we're working on now, , as well.

258 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:53:15.870 --> 00:53:35.870

We talked about incentive based tools, ways to reach out to landowners, focusing on things like purchase and development rights and funding mechanisms for doing more open space conservation. We talked about partnerships with different entities in

259 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:53:35.870 --> 00:53:39.540

the community, and some of the non for profit partners that we have.

260 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:53:39.540 --> 00:53:51.420

And we talked about, you know, future efforts, we've considered maybe doing a farmland protection plan for the northeast corner of the town. Doing a bike and pedestrian plan.

261 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:53:51.420 --> 00:53:56.730

You know, and designating some areas as critical environmental areas under SEQR.

262 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:53:56.730 --> 00:54:04.440

You know, funding again, is very important. you know, for a project like the IBM

263 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:54:04.440 --> 00:54:07.980

north 100, we don't have currently

264 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:54:07.980 --> 00:54:27.980

A set aside fund for open space acquisition, but, you know, we do talk about in this plan a number of different ways to begin setting aside money for that purpose. Thankfully, we've been very lucky and fortunate to really, you know, through grants and to our partnership with Scenic Hudson and to still be in a position that we

265 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:54:27.980 --> 00:54:33.060

work towards, , you know, acquiring that property from IBM.

266 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:54:33.060 --> 00:54:43.080

And this is our town and website. Again, the planning department page is where you'll find links to the open space plan.

267 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:54:43.080 --> 00:55:02.610

and I just a couple more things very quickly, you know, in addition to the IBM, North 100, I didn't want to point out that. You know, we also, another one of the properties that we identified was the Casperkill golf club, off of route 9. And that dialogue in the in the open space plan has really helped us now, as we've been

268 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:55:02.610 --> 00:55:19.290

having conversations with the owner who has some ideas about development on that site, we hope to steer that development towards Route 9, and maybe preserve a significant chunk of that land, especially in the rear near the Casperkill.

269 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:55:19.290 --> 00:55:26.820

We are now working on a flood study and in the hamlet of New Hamburg it's also funded through the program, although it's a different, it's not the

270 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:55:26.820 --> 00:55:35.730

same section of grants. But and we found that the, and all of this information has been really useful for us

271 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:55:35.730 --> 00:55:50.820



as part of the project review process. We have an environmental consultant that works with our planning board, and she often references, the open space plan and the NRI as part of her reviews. So, a lot of different ways that

272 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:55:50.820 --> 00:55:55.290

this work has really benefited the town and will continue to benefit the town.

273 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:55:55.290 --> 00:55:59.858

going forward. I tried to keep it short because I want to leave some time. I think we want to question.

274 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:55:59.858 --> 00:56:08.220

So, thank you. Thank you Michael. Yeah, I appreciate, .

275 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:56:08.220 --> 00:56:11.730

Everything that you shared and, .

276 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

00:56:11.730 --> 00:56:22.807

I haven't seen questions. I know some people put in questions or chat to specific speakers and panelists. So, I don't know if you all have received questions that I'm not seeing.

277 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:56:22.807 --> 00:56:25.041

I see some nodding heads, so.

278 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:56:25.041 --> 00:56:29.430

, oh, I'll let you jump in, .

279 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:56:29.430 --> 00:56:41.358

Yeah, there, thank you to both of the presenters for your excellent presentations. There is a question for Michael about the consultant that you worked with on

280 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:56:41.358 --> 00:56:44.640

projects and whether you would share that information.

281 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:56:44.640 --> 00:56:54.150

I mean, I can. We were very happy with them. It was MJ engineering. They're in Clifton park outside of Albany. There's a lot of good firms however, so I'm not.

282 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:56:54.150 --> 00:57:12.659

, you know, there are a lot of good firms that do this kind of work and not for profits like Hudsonia. So I encourage you, and as we did, we did an RFP. We had, I think 6 or 7 respondents. We interviewed 3. Ultimately, the steering committee was most comfortable with the one we selected, but I'm sure you can get great work

283 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:57:12.659 --> 00:57:17.880

With any number of these these companies,

284 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:57:17.880 --> 00:57:32.280

And there was, there was also a question about I think, and this was in response to your presentation about whether you worked with to prepare the budget and work plan or

285 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:57:32.280 --> 00:57:37.039

whether that was before or after the grant, maybe if you could talk about the

286 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:57:37.039 --> 00:57:58.880

the timing of how that fit in, with the project. Anne: I have to say that that's also still something of a mystery to me because when the application went in, initially the budget wasn't, a little bit sketchy. And I would say that the work plan also was not fully fleshed out. And so after they.

287 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:57:58.880 --> 00:58:17.160

A word was, we were notified of the award very ecstatic over that. Then we had to refine and improve that plan and that was done in concert with Hudsonia and then with feedback back from Hudson River estuary.

288 "Anne B Campbell" (2716322304)

00:58:17.160 --> 00:58:21.837

Mm, hmm. And maybe maybe you could explain that better than I did because I felt that

289 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:58:21.837 --> 00:58:28.860

we were meandering through. Ingrid: Thanks. Actually, Susan, that might be a good

290 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:58:28.860 --> 00:58:32.070

thing for you to just to explain briefly how.

291 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:58:32.070 --> 00:58:35.880

How we work with grantees

292 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:58:35.880 --> 00:58:39.378

once an award is announced.

293 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

00:58:39.378 --> 00:58:43.699

Susan, are you here?

294 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:58:43.699 --> 00:58:46.097

So, can you.

295 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

00:58:46.097 --> 00:58:53.610

Okay, you can hear me now. Yeah. Yeah. So the, the contracting process, once we receive approval.

296 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

00:58:53.610 --> 00:59:03.330

From the DEC, we were able to work with the grantees on their contracts and as part of that, we review the budgets and work plans that were submitted with the applications.

297 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

00:59:03.330 --> 00:59:09.660

And project managers are selected to work on these individually from the program.

298 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

00:59:09.660 --> 00:59:12.810

And those project managers review the budget and work plans.

299 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

00:59:12.810 --> 00:59:17.190

And if there's any comments or edits, that needs to be made, .

300 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

00:59:17.190 --> 00:59:21.480

They'll get back to me with that, and then we work with the grantees

301 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

00:59:21.480 --> 00:59:31.421

to change that officially in the system. So it's a, it's a multi step process. Everyone's sort of involved and, you know, there's, there's a lot of latitude

302 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:59:31.421 --> 00:59:33.237

to make changes.

303 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:59:33.237 --> 00:59:45.330

Thanks . Yeah, I will say that we needed an extension, for example, right? , we did need more than the 2 years to finish our work. Partially I think, you know.

304 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

00:59:45.330 --> 00:59:58.942

Oh, it didn't really make anyone's life easier, right? So, , but, you know, we were able to work with Susan and everyone in the staff at the Estuary program and get a little extra time to work on that. That was very helpful.

305 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

00:59:58.942 --> 01:00:03.330

Great.

306 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

01:00:03.330 --> 01:00:07.001

Well it is 2 o'clock. Christine.

307 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

01:00:07.001 --> 01:00:11.481

I'm not sure if you're seeing other questions. I don't see any other

308 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

01:00:11.481 --> 01:00:17.880

questions at this time. Nope. Do you see a thank you from Red Hook

309 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

01:00:17.880 --> 01:00:24.543

and that they're also looking at alignment and overlaps of a potential NRI

310 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

01:00:24.543 --> 01:00:33.030

and comprehensive plan projects. Yeah, I mean, generally, I, I, you know, I, I think the order.

311 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

01:00:33.030 --> 01:00:42.030

Might be more logical to do the NRI first and then and then, you know, either an open space plan, or or your comprehensive plan. .

312 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

01:00:42.030 --> 01:00:56.730

We here for a particular set of reasons, the town board was really focused on doing a comprehensive plan update when when I got here. And so that was the thing we worked on right away. And we realized though that, because I think partially because our town is

313 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

01:00:56.730 --> 01:01:15.750

Is so big and so diverse and there are so many issues that we wanted to address in the comprehensive plan that we were only going to focus in sort of cursory way on, on the natural resource piece and the open space piece in the comprehensive plan. It's obviously it's very important, but we wanted to be able to come back and spend a little bit more time on that

314 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

01:01:15.750 --> 01:01:22.682

itself and so that's why we did it in the order that we did it. But, you know, there's, there's more than one way to get

315 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

01:01:22.682 --> 01:01:26.340

to where you want to go my guess is.

316 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

01:01:26.340 --> 01:01:31.350

So, we are a little couple minutes over time and I did just see a question. .

317 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

01:01:31.350 --> 01:01:36.930

About expenses and charging expenses to a grant.

318 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

01:01:36.930 --> 01:01:42.090

Before an actual grant award, or before contract and.

319 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

01:01:42.090 --> 01:01:45.330

So, Susan, I think can address this, but I also.

320 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

01:01:45.330 --> 01:01:52.290

want to make sure that folks know that typically, this is like a reimbursement grant so you would

321 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

01:01:52.290 --> 01:01:56.670

expend your funds to undertake

322 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

01:01:56.670 --> 01:02:01.921



activity under the grant, and then seek reimbursement for those from the state and.

323 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

01:02:01.921 --> 01:02:05.460

Susan, could you just address the time period of.

324 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

01:02:05.460 --> 01:02:14.040

Yeah, yeah, so when the RFA requests for application, we project the anticipated start and end dates for the contract.

325 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

01:02:14.040 --> 01:02:20.370

Those are usually somewhat accurate. It depends on a review process here. Sometimes we are held up.

326 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

01:02:20.370 --> 01:02:27.000

For various reasons, and we may need to change those anticipated dates, but generally they're pretty pretty good.

327 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

01:02:27.000 --> 01:02:33.840

You're not, expenses are not eligible before that contract start date.

328 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

01:02:33.840 --> 01:02:40.530

So we do caution people, you know, you should make sure that, you know what the contract start date is.

329 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

01:02:40.530 --> 01:02:46.890

And also that the contract is in place prior before starting any work I mean, it's.

330 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

01:02:46.890 --> 01:02:54.330

It's not something you can't do. There's a risk involved if you do proceed with work before the contract is in place.

331 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

01:02:54.330 --> 01:03:02.160

As long as, you know the contract start date, those expenses will be eligible from that start date regardless of when the contract's actually executed.

332 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

01:03:02.160 --> 01:03:06.090

So, it can be up to the grantees, but we really don't

333 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

01:03:06.090 --> 01:03:13.320

We don't encourage people to do that because it is a risk. It's

334 "Susan Pepe" (2250777088)

01:03:13.320 --> 01:03:19.185

probably a small risk. There's always a chance that the contract doesn't go through for one reason or another.

335 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

01:03:22.920 --> 01:03:34.620

Thanks, Susan, though, because we're over time and I don't want to keep people longer than they committed. And I know folks probably have other places to go to. There was one person who just asked what.

336 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

01:03:34.620 --> 01:03:53.700

would be the biggest benefit of an NRI and I thought, maybe we could each sort of respond to that in the chat if we wanted to and then let folks go. Just to say, again, I really appreciate Michael and Anne taking their time to prepare and present their experience today with all of us and.

337 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

01:03:53.700 --> 01:04:00.090

Ingrid and Susan for organizing and offering this webinar because I think it's a great way for.

338 "Christine Vanderlan" (2222984448)

01:04:00.090 --> 01:04:06.442

folks curious and interested to get a little kind of in depth look at how these things get done and that experience.

339 "Michael Welti" (1632375296)

01:04:06.442 --> 01:04:10.050

It's really valuable.

340 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

01:04:10.050 --> 01:04:17.700

Thanks for having us. Yes, thank you so much for taking time to share your projects and for everyone

341 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

01:04:17.700 --> 01:04:30.030

who joined us today and feel free to follow up. I know there may be questions we didn't get to. , but you can follow up with any of us outside of the webinar and we'll be happy to chat further.

342 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

01:04:30.030 --> 01:04:34.080

So have a great afternoon Thank you.

343 "Ingrid Haeckel" (4027070976)

01:04:34.080 --> 01:04:41.124

Bye bye.