

**State Environmental Quality Review
Town of Fishkill Comprehensive Plan Update (CPU)
POSITIVE DECLARATION / SCOPING
Adopted November 16, 2022**

This notice is issued pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law.

The Town of Fishkill Town Board as Lead Agency has determined that the proposed action described below may have a significant impact on the environment and that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, specifically, a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) will be prepared.

Name of Action: Adoption of the Town of Fishkill Comprehensive Plan Update (CPU)

SEQR Status: Type 1 Action

Scoping: A scoping session will be held on December 21, 2022 at 7 PM at the Town of Fishkill Town Hall at 870 Route 52, Fishkill, NY 12524

Brief Description of Proposed Action

The CPU Committee is a dedicated group of people from the community intent on creating an updated plan for the future of the Town of Fishkill. The concept for the plan originally, was an outline based on the goals, objectives and actions recommended in the Town of Fishkill Comprehensive Plan adopted on September 23, 2009. The draft Comprehensive Plan Update includes point-by-point updates on accomplishments since the 2009 plan was adopted. For example, the CPU notes that many revisions were made to the Code of the Town of Fishkill flowing from the 2009 plan's recommended actions, resulting in enhanced zoning for improved land development and to add in environmental protections.

The Comprehensive Plan Update (CPU) Committee, consisting of approximately 17 volunteer members of the community, had their first zoom meeting on September 29, 2021, expressing their ideas, concerns, interests as well as ideas for how to find out more from the community at large. From September 2021 to the present, the CPU Committee focused on a vision for the CPU, the need for a community survey, and the continuing and changing priorities of the Town. The survey questionnaire was launched online and with distributed paper copies and concluded in spring of 2022.

While the survey was being created and completed, the CPU Committee had begun the reprioritize the broader themes of the 2009 plan and adding fresh, specific objectives and actions. The CPU, the updated plan for Fishkill, will focus on community connections, better design of the built environment, including a look at what lands may remain for development; and the need for great places for people to enjoy and live in, with an eye toward ensuring economic and social diversity. The priorities of conserving critical lands, preserving special and significant environmental resources; and the emphasis on the stewardship of historic and scenic resources will continue as important themes in the Town's future.

Attending 1 or 2 meetings per month, the CPU group moved from zoom meetings to their first in-person meeting on July 27, 2022. By the time the Comprehensive Plan Update is adopted, the members of the CPU Committee will have attended 20 or more meetings. Each volunteer member brings with them their unique perspectives about their community and desires and ideas for its future, and importantly in their devotion to the Town of Fishkill, the CPU Committee members juggle their other pursuits to create a better future for all.

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Following SEQRA review, agency referrals and review, and public hearings, the CPU will be revised and adopted.

Location:

The entirety of the Town of Fishkill

Reasons Supporting this Determination:

1. The proposed CPU vision, goals, objectives and strategies will focus on community connections, better design of the built environment, including a look at what lands may remain for development; and the need for great places for people to enjoy and live in, with an eye toward ensuring economic and social diversity. The priorities of conserving critical lands, preserving special and significant environmental resources; and the emphasis on the stewardship of historic and scenic resources will continue as important themes in the Town's future.
2. If the CPU vision, goals, objectives and strategies are implemented via specific types of planning, design, and appropriate funding and construction, for example, the following would occur;
 - a. Traffic improvements and pedestrian improvements including sidewalks would result in a safer more connected community for all.
 - b. Creation of a rail trail through the center of the community will enhance travel through the Town and revitalize business areas by providing more exposure to pedestrian traffic; and would result in a safer more connected community for all.
 - c. More detailed examination of public water and wastewater treatment facilities may result in more compact, well-designed and more environmentally sound land use.
 - d. Enabling better design through review of and potential future amendments to planning processes and code provisions may result in more effective zoning and land development guidelines, standards and requirements and review procedures.

Contact Information:

Town of Fishkill Town Board
Town Hall
870 Route 52,
Fishkill, NY 12524
845-831-7800

This notice will be circulated to the following:

Town of Fishkill Town Clerk
Town of Fishkill Planning Board
Town of Fishkill Water and Sewer Department, Attention Michael Tremper
Town of Fishkill Recreation Department
Blodgett Memorial Library
Town of Wappinger Town Board
Town of East Fishkill Town Board
City of Beacon Mayor and City Council

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Village of Fishkill Mayor and Board of Trustees
Town of Phillipstown Town Board, in the County of Putnam
Beacon City School District
Haldane Central School District
Wappingers Central School District
Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development
Dutchess County Department of Public Works
New York State Department of Transportation