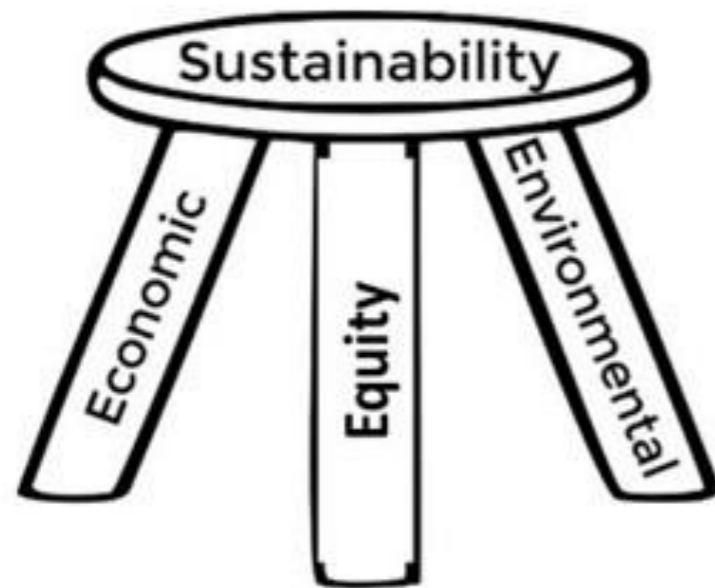


The purpose of the Town's Sustainability Chapter to the Comprehensive Plan Update



- to educate and empower town officials to develop and implement town policies and programs that advance goals of sustainable growth and development
- help residents learn, internalize and implement more environmentally-sustainable and responsible choices and practices in their every day lives.



A 2023 random sample survey of 64 Dover residents selected the following definitions of **sustainability** and **equity** for use in preparing the sustainability chapter:

Sustainability:

“to sustain the beauty, culture and history of the Town of Dover and protect its essence so what we treasure most will remain for years to come.”

Equity:

“the fair treatment, access opportunity and advancement of all people while striving to identify and eliminate barriers that prevent full participation of some.”

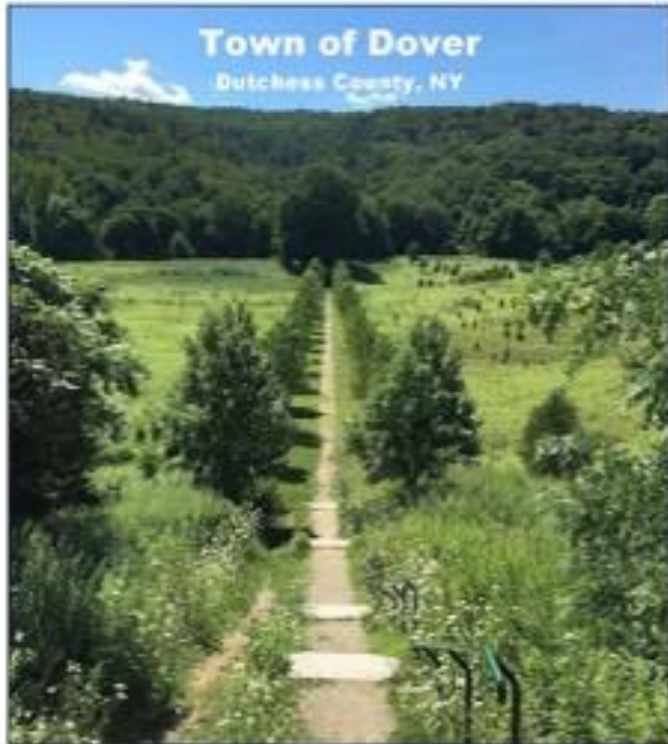
(barriers such as income, age, race, ethnicity and disabilities have been found to disproportionately affect residents’ capacities for climate change adaptation and resilience.

Objectives and Assumptions of the Sustainability Chapter



- sustainability is a journey, not a destination
- evidence-based data and research inform the chapter's recommendations
- focus on protection and stewardship of Dover's natural resources in future community development planning

- Build upon foundational knowledge acquired from studies and report
- Use insights as stepping stones to achieve more far-reaching climate adaptation climate goals



Comprehensive Plan Update 2022



Sustainability Chapter of the Town of Dover
2022 Comprehensive Plan Update



This chapter was funded in part by the Climate Smart Community Grant Program, Title 19 of the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation.



The Sustainability Chapter focused on the following areas with recommendations from the Town's Comprehensive Plan and additional suggestions for programs and services that also can foster greater social equity for all Dover residents:

Alternatives Modes of Transportation

Smart Growth Principles in Land Use Policies

Conserving Natural Areas

Promoting a Healthy and Safe Community

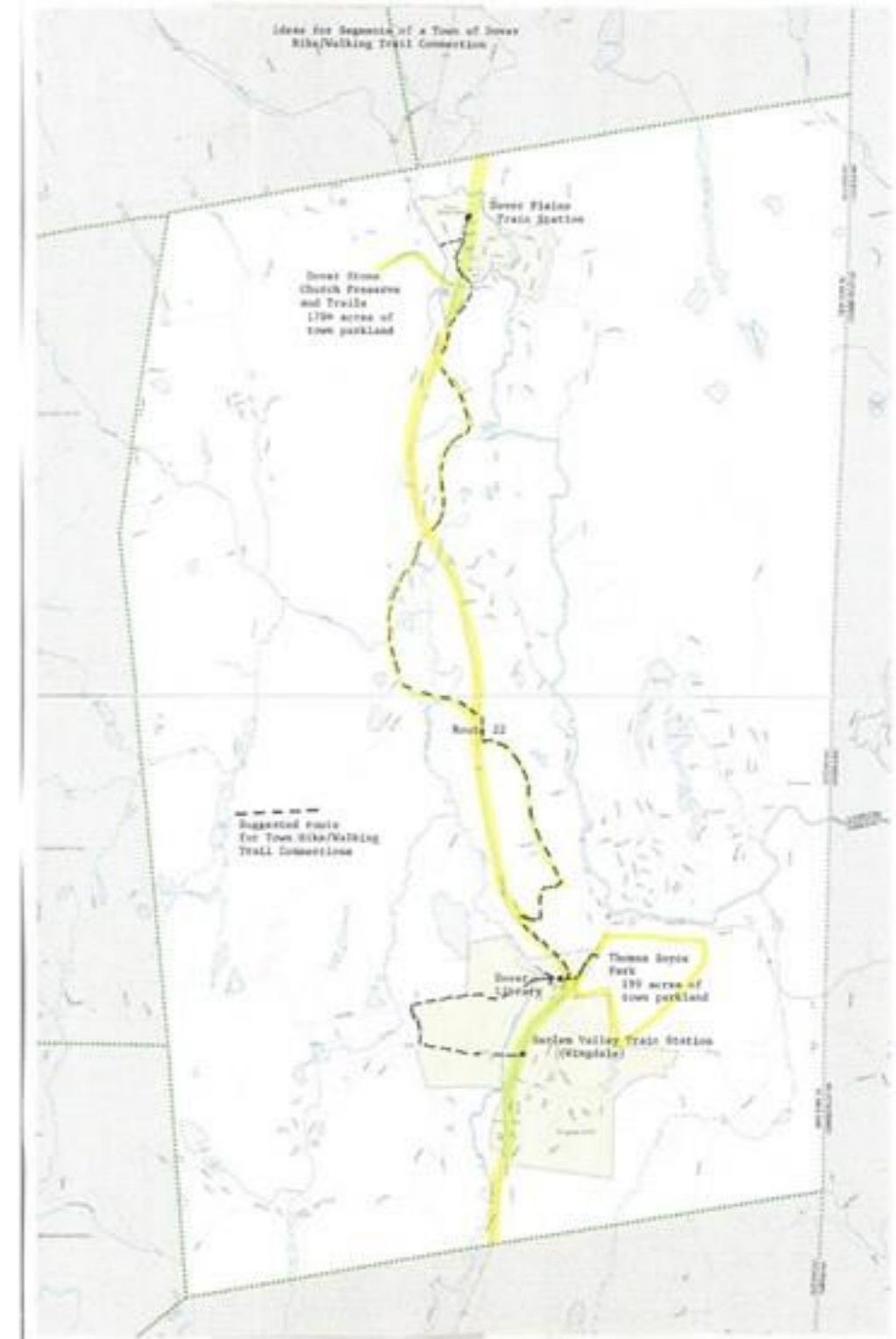
Promoting Local Food Systems

Protecting Water Supply and Quality

Sustainability and Alternative Modes of Transportation

Comprehensive Plan Update and Sustainability Chapter Recommendations:

- Repair and expand sidewalks and develop public parking in the DP and Wingdale hamlets
- Authorize ride-sharing services and more EV charging stations
- Implement “Complete Streets Policy” with ordinances and designs for safer access for pedestrian, bicyclists and motorists
- explore creation of a walking/bike path to connect Dover Plains and Wingdale
- Sustain Northeast Dutchess Transit Service and investigate contracts for town-sponsored service routes from mobile home parks to hamlet retailers and to popular big box shopping
- Implement recommendations of the “Route 22 Corridor Opportunities Study” (sidewalks, hamlet revitalization, transit-oriented development, bicycle storage, off-street parking)



Idea for bike/walking route from
Dover Plains to Wingdale

Sustainability and Smart Growth Principles in Land Use

Comprehensive Plan Update and Sustainability Chapter Recommendations:

- Develop a Ten Mile River recreational access plan
- Amend the Zoning Code to include renewable/alternative energy uses
- Promote open space and ag protection with Transfer of Development Rights and Conservation Easements
- Construct a central sewer system in Dover Plains and Wingdale hamlets
- Promote tourism by allowing restaurants, breweries, wineries and outdoor recreation on large agricultural parcels under special permit
- Develop incentives for businesses to locate in hamlets to support economic growth and historic preservation
- Preserve large tracts of forested, agricultural and mountainous land while increasing density and uses in town centers



View of the Ten Mile River



Farmland vista, Dover Plains

Sustainability and Conserving Natural Areas

Comprehensive Plan Update and Sustainability Chapter Recommendations:

- Educate residents (especially those who reside near rivers and tributaries) about benefits of riparian borders, buffer zones and stream stewardship
- Continue implementing goals of Ten Mile River Watershed Management Plan
- Encourage native plantings for new development to reduce necessity of pesticides and develop more resilient local ecosystems
- Avoid solar development on scenic viewsheds, wetlands, critical habitats and lands with high ecological value
- Educate residents about Dover's exceptional native biodiversity to heighten awareness and build support for conservation measures
- Develop a list of all naturally significant resources and compile them in a map for ecotourism
- Protect active farmland from non-farm development wherever possible



Ten Mile River Watershed Management Plan

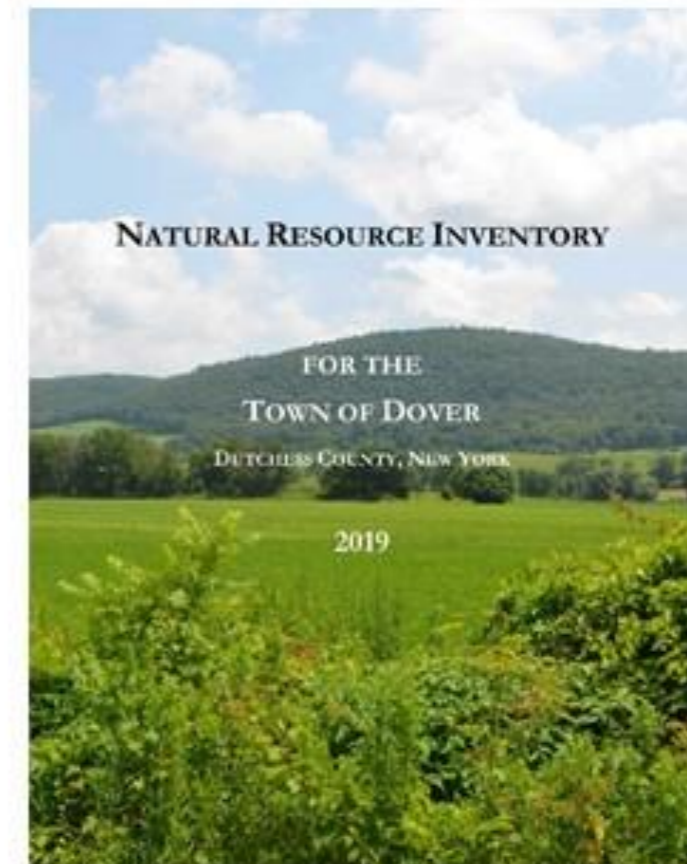
Prepared by the Hudson Valley Association for



The Ten Mile River Cooperative



NFWF The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Long to and Sound Futures Fund



Sustainability and Promoting a Healthy and Safe Community

Comprehensive Plan Update and Sustainability Chapter Recommendations:

- Offer community workshops on energy efficiency audits, weatherization, community solar subscriptions, affordable internet connectivity and applications for other federal and state income-eligible cost-saving programs
- Establish a community/student health and wellness center through community-school collaboration including screenings, medical and behavioral health services
- Improve and expand town facilities for year-round recreation and community-building programs (i.e. indoor year-round local farmers' market, public Wi-Fi, sliding scale fees, cultural events, teen and afterschool programs)
- Establish partnerships with nonprofit organizations to assist residents with home repair needs and "Safe at Home" safety checklist for seniors and with Dutchess County to receive annual affordable housing intervention allocations
- Adopt town legislation to register foreclosed and abandoned properties to prevent blight and corrosive effects on neighborhoods and facilitate dispositions.



Rendering of proposed New Boyce
Community Recreation Center



Sustainability and Promoting Local Food Systems

Comprehensive Plan Update and Sustainability Chapter Recommendations:

- Provide a year-round space for residents to purchase locally grown and regionally-produced food at affordable prices
- Assist local food assistance agencies through periodic food drives, food rescue services, grant applications to help increase agencies' capacities, outreach, food transport and deliveries to vulnerable residents and food insecure families
- Collaborate with local farms and producers to retrieve and offer gleaned crops to Town recreation program youth and senior participants and families, for Dover School student lunches and snacks and local food pantries
- Host and sponsor community programs and workshops to promote reducing food waste, tending home and community gardens and the benefits of community-supported agriculture
- Collaborate with a local college or university to conduct a food access mapping study to engage residents and businesses in addressing practical and societal barriers to food access.



Dover Senior Recreation Program participants and Stonewood Farm Produce Donations



Sustainability and Protecting Water Supply and Quality

Comprehensive Plan Update and Sustainability Chapter Recommendations:

- Explore enrollment in the NYS DEC's Water Source Protection Program
- Establish a Town Water Committee to develop a town-wide water protection and conservation plan
- Provide town businesses with EPA's Water Sense at Work Recommendations during annual inspections
- Provide free workshops on water conservation measures (i.e., water smart landscaping, rainwater harvesting)
- Monitor and track stream gauge data on the Swamp and Ten Mile Rivers to better understand seasonal and atypical fluctuations and inform residents about conservation measures
- Expand conservation easements of parcels in Dover Plains to protect water quality from contamination due to overdevelopment
- Develop a drought emergency ordinance with proactive measures and incremental instructions for residents in the event of short and long-term drought conditions.

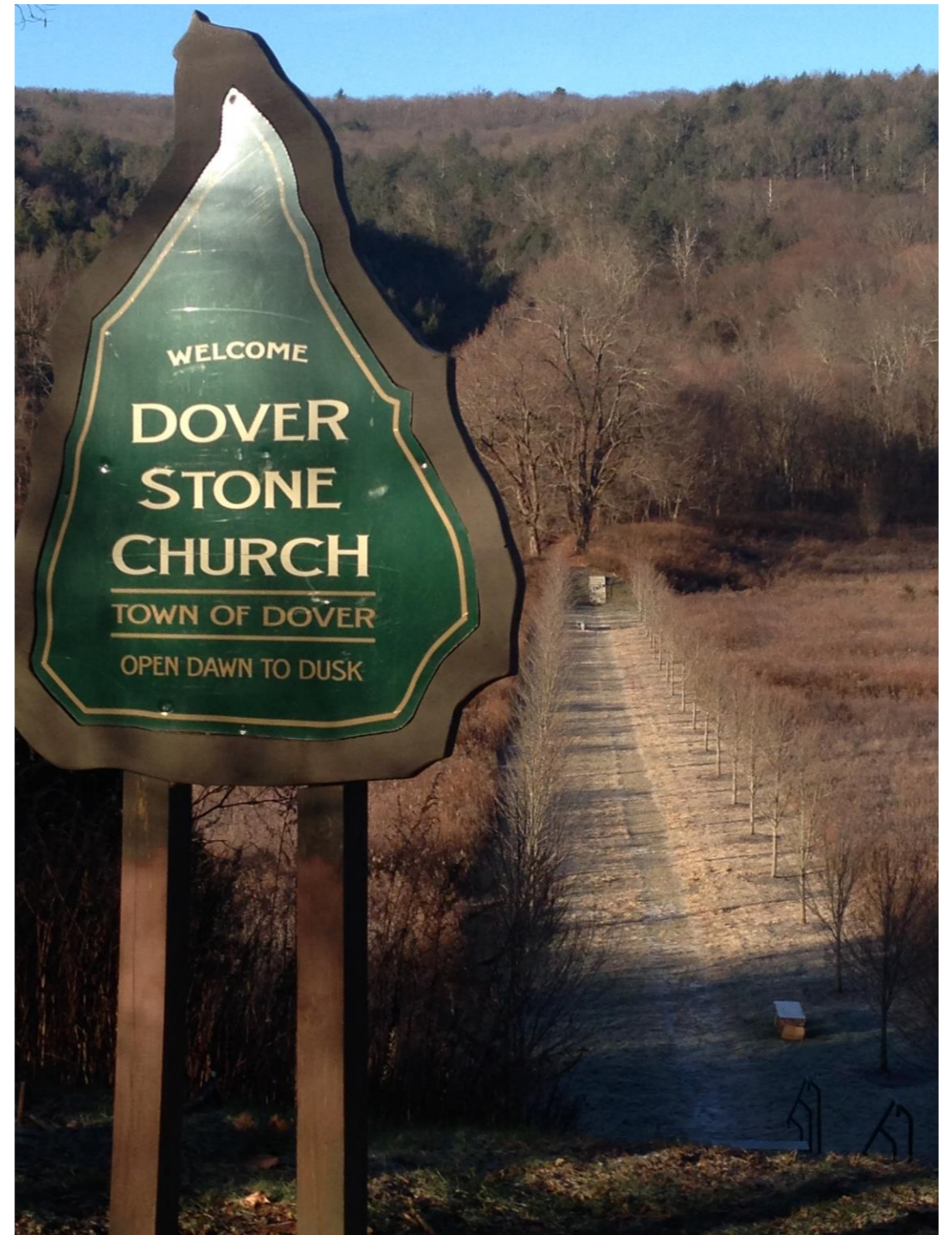


The Path to Sustainability-

Cultivating Residents' “Ecological Identity”

“the study of ecology leads to changes in identity and psychological perspective...

to a reframing of a person’s point of view which restructure values, reorganizes perceptions and alters the individual’s self-directed, socially and environmentally-directed actions.”



Borden, R. (1986) Ecology and Identity.

Strategies for Community Engagement

- 1) Establish a municipal-community sustainability-focused organization “Sustainable Dover”
- 2) Create a municipal position of Town of Dover Sustainability Coordinator
- 3) Convene and help create a “Sustainable Dutchess” organization

