

**TOWN OF
BROOKFIELD
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Adopted January 2014

This is a plan. It is not a local law. It is not a state law. It is a *community-supported guide* as to how we wish to see the Town develop in the future. It is made with the realization that the world changes, quickly and in unimaginable ways, therefore this cannot be a static, unchanging plan and is subject to interpretation and amendment by the appropriate government and legal authorities in order to take into consideration these factors.

May 22, 2013

To: the Citizens of Brookfield Township - An Introductory Letter

From: Comprehensive Planning Committee

Hello, All!

We are pleased to be able to offer to our Township this Comprehensive Plan. We have worked on this guide for the future development of the Town of Brookfield for nearly 3 years. This involved the very time-consuming process of collecting and reviewing each of the surveys which were sent, in November 2010, to those who reside in the township. All of the questions/responses were tabulated and reviewed in the hope of gaining an understanding of the true wishes of Brookfield's citizens for the future of their community.

It became very evident that the largest percentage of respondents were in favor of maintaining the rural/agricultural nature of our area. Of course, residents also wanted good roads and economic opportunities. After all, we all want to enjoy our lives here, where we have scenic beauty and a lot of opportunity for various forms of recreation, combined with good neighbors and a small-town atmosphere.

We are aware of the possibility of future development within our township which could place a great deal of stress upon our roads, our water and our life-styles in general. With this awareness in mind, we have tried to suggest future steps, to be taken by our Town Board and our Planning Board, which would minimize danger to our roads, our water sources and our life-styles. These steps would include laws regarding road use, water use, maintenance of our rural/agricultural atmosphere, etc.

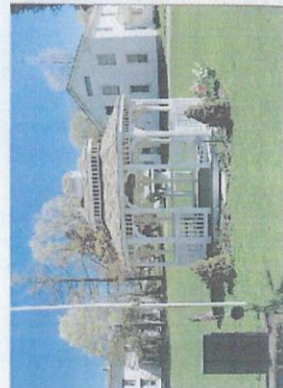
There is a great deal of good information within this Comprehensive Plan. We are in hopes that the Planning Board will give it their full support and that the Town Board (with approval of the Town's people) will adopt it and pass necessary laws based upon it.

We want to say "Thank You" to everyone who helped us with this Plan and to the people who sent letters of support for our great community.

Sincerely,

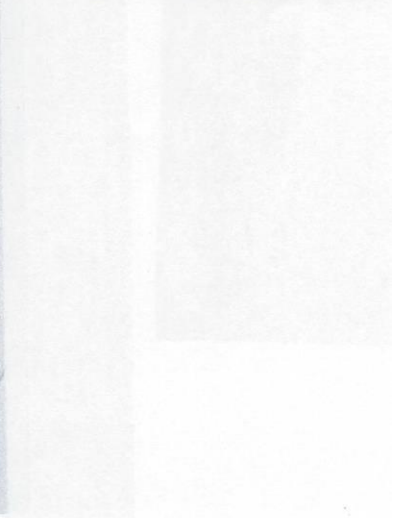
Co-Chairmen Karen Beehm & Chuck Blood; Comprehensive Planning Committee members, Rachel Owen, Kristin Wiles, George Cowen, Kimberly Reed

Brookfield, NY





Leonardsville, NY



North Brookfield, NY



Table of Contents

What is a Comprehensive Plan?	1
Benefits of a Comprehensive Plan	1
1. Purpose, Enactment and Title	2
2. Introduction	3
3. History of Brookfield Township	4
4. Geology of Brookfield Township	6
5. Aquifer of Brookfield Township	12
6. Rural & Small Town Character/Visual Resources	13
7. Wildlife, Plants and Important Habitats	14
8. Preservation of Agricultural Lands	15
9. Land Use Policy	17
10. Residential and Commercial Development	18
11. Heavy Industry	19
12. Attracting Agriculture, Small Business & Alternative Agriculture	20
13. Encourage Economic Development	20
14. Recreation	21
15. Infrastructure	21
16. Emergency Services	23
17. Town Government	24
18. Enforcement of Existing Regulations	25
19. Maintenance of Public Buildings and Historic Monuments	26
20. Future Town Surveys	27
21. Review of Comprehensive Plan	27
22. Addendum Table of Contents	28

WHAT IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN?

A Comprehensive Plan is an assessment of the resources that will guide future development in the town. What do we have? What do we want?

Looks at trends to see where we are headed.

States the community's goals for the future.

Examines our Town's strengths and weaknesses.

Examines our community's strengths and weaknesses.

WHY IS A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPORTANT?

Helps the community plan for the future.

Identifies needs/desires of a community as expressed by those who live there.

Promotes the best use of limited resources; determines most-important needs.

Is a reference for Town officials in their decision making.

Enables the Town to provide efficient services and to evaluate the extension of those services.

Improves/protects property values. Homeowners/businesses invest more in their property when they can predict what will happen nearby.

Improves the Town's position for funding opportunities.

1. PURPOSE, ENACTMENT AND TITLE

(See Addendum #1.A, Townwide Survey; 1.B, Student Surveys; 1.C, Requested Letters of Support)

The lands encompassed by the Town of Brookfield are graced by earth, water and air of exceptional quality. In accordance with the laws of New York State, the Comprehensive Planning Committee of the Town of Brookfield has developed, and the Town Board has adopted, this Comprehensive Plan and its updates to guide use of these lands.

1.1 Purpose: A town-wide survey was conducted in November 2010. A majority of residents stated that they were in favor of a Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Brookfield and rated planning for the future as "important" or "very important". Thus, the process of developing a plan for the Town was initiated. A majority of respondents were long-term or lifelong residents who named the rural atmosphere and natural environment/open spaces as the top two reasons they choose to live in Brookfield. The majority believed that the natural environment is what draws people to Brookfield. The top priorities of residents include farmland and open space preservation, while developing a sustainable local economy. In keeping with these priorities, the majority of respondents opposed gas drilling and, indeed, heavy industry is incompatible with maintaining rural character.

The same survey was given to Brookfield High School Students and their responses were remarkably similar. The majority believed that planning is "important" to "very important". Their top reasons for living here (other than the fact that they grew up here) were the rural atmosphere and the natural environment. The majority were opposed to gas drilling. Their top priority for Brookfield was farmland preservation, even given the fact that programs for youth and recreation were among the choices offered.

This Comprehensive Plan is based on the expressed wishes of Town residents. It is written with the intent of celebrating and protecting our unique resources by promoting efforts that support agricultural sustainability, open space conservation, a balanced approach to economic development, and revitalization of village and hamlet centers. We will strive to effectively balance future growth with the conservation of key community assets through proactive planning in a manner that benefits all residents, both today and in the future.

1.2 Enactment: The Town Board of the Town of Brookfield in the County of Madison on this _ day of _____, under the Authority of Section 272a of Article 16 of Chapter 62 of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York, hereby adopts the following Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Brookfield.

1.3 Title: This document shall be known as the Town of Brookfield Comprehensive Plan.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 The primary industry of Brookfield has always been dairy agriculture. Since the time of the settlement of the Township, farming has constituted the economic backbone of the community. As confirmed by the many families who have lived here for generations, farming is a basic human industry which stabilizes the community in good times and bad. As the number of working dairies declines, it is necessary to attract other agricultural pursuits to maintain the rural character. It may also be desirable to attract environmentally friendly light manufacturing and small businesses that would support this growth. There are many professional businesses, such as computer support, process design, graphic arts, and others who might wish to relocate to this unhurried and serene area.

2.2 The enactment of Land Use laws and regulations should be a goal of the Town. This is necessary to protect the residents, the Town, its tax base and environment. Without effective locally-controlled regulation of land use, growth will occur in an indiscriminate and haphazard manner, marring natural beauty, diminishing historical character, straining local resources and/or polluting the environment. As growth occurs, measures must be taken to maintain air, water and soil quality; to ensure proper waste disposal; to minimize traffic hazards; and to protect the historic, aesthetic and economic values of the Town and its citizens.

2.3 Laws and regulations must be clearly written and understandable, able to stand up in a court of law when contested, and must provide local control without unduly restricting the rights of citizens to pursue personal and/or economic goals.

3. HISTORY OF BROOKFIELD TOWNSHIP

Pre-Iroquoian Native Americans used today's Town of Brookfield extensively. Numerous artifacts documenting their settlements have been discovered near Beaver Creek at South Brookfield and Brookfield hamlet, also along the Unadilla River. While members of the Six Nations occasionally travelled through Brookfield (Chief Joseph Brant's meeting with Tories near the old Carr farm, by the Unadilla, being the most famous sojourn), no permanent Iroquois settlement germinated on Township soil.

Although trappers and traders used the township's trails during the Colonial Era, the first major wave of immigration to Brookfield occurred in the 1790s. Captain Daniel Brown, from Stonington, Connecticut, brought a small group of settlers to the town in 1791, becoming Brookfield's pioneer of what historians term the "Yankee invasion" of Upstate New York. The years after the American Revolution, through the early 19th century, witnessed tens of thousands of New Englanders (the "Yankees") leaving their hardscrabble farms to settle in Upstate's rich, undeveloped hinterlands. Hundreds of other Yankees followed Brown's example and planted roots in Brookfield. Among them were John and Elias Button (from Rhode Island, 1791), Oliver and Phineas Babcock (Massachusetts, 1795), Samuel Gorton (Rhode Island, 1795), Thomas Keith and Eli Bailey (Lenox, Massachusetts, 1796), and John Clarke (Exeter, Rhode Island, 1810). Today, these early Brookfield settlers are memorialized in place names that grace many of Brookfield's roads.

Brookfield's communities grew as economic centers for the surrounding agrarian population and geography played a major role in their location and development. Leonardsville's citizens took advantage of water power from the Unadilla River and the streams that cascaded down the valley's western hillside. North Brookfield industrialists utilized Mill Creek, while Brookfield and South Brookfield capitalists channeled Beaver Creek's thrust into their homespun factories. Railroads utilized the gentle slopes of the Town's major river bottoms.

The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, which connected Utica and Binghamton, steamed along Brookfield's Nine Mile Swamp in the town's western sector, while, to the east, the Unadilla Valley Railroad connected Unadilla Forks, Leonardsville and West Edmeston with the distant mercantile world. Railroads brought prosperity to North Brookfield and Leonardsville, evidence of which can be viewed today in the outstanding 19th century Italianate and Greek Revival homes which add visual flair to those communities.

Since the Town's founding, agriculture provided the primary basis for local economy. Brookfield boasted over five hundred farms in the latter 1800s, but these were primarily small endeavors, limited by available technology. 19th century farming families tended to be larger than contemporary households (children's labor being a necessity) and this factor, in part, accounted for the Town's population. Brookfield's citizens numbered over 3,500 from 1835 through 1890, in contrast to the last census total of around 2,500.

The Town of Brookfield is the home of the Madison County Fair (www.madisoncountymadisonny.com), which was first held in 1839. In 1884, the Brookfield Agricultural Society purchased the present location of the Fair, consisting of 17 acres. In 1856, Frederick Douglas addressed a crowd of 12,000 people at the Madison County Fair. A historic marker, located in front of the present-day Ray Whitford Building, is found on the fairgrounds. Another stands in front of the Whitford House on Beaver Creek Road, where Mr. Douglas stayed. In addition to the County Fair, which is now held in July, several other events are held annually at the fairgrounds. Recently, the horse show arena was completely renovated and several equine events are held at the fairgrounds each year. These events are usually organized by the Brookfield Riding and Driving Association (<http://brda.us>).

The Brookfield State Lands consist of the Charles E. Baker State Forest (9400 acres), the Beaver Creek State Forest (3484 acres) and the Brookfield Railroad State Forest (approx. 870 Acres). These lands originally consisted of farms, which were purchased by the state during the Great Depression. In the Spring of 1934, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) established a camp at Moscow Hill in Brookfield. This program provided jobs for young men during the Depression. They worked at replanting trees on hundreds of acres of fallow farm land, which had once been timberland. This reforestation was done to help prevent soil erosion, retain moisture in the soil and rebuild soil fertility. Today, the 13,750 acres, which contain 130 miles of horse trails and numerous truck trails, are open to the public for recreational use.

There are numerous family, village and church cemeteries in the Town of Brookfield. Some are well maintained and others are abandoned, endangered or obliterated. 63 cemeteries are noted in "The Guide to Madison County Cemeteries", compiled by the Madison County Historical Society in Oneida, N.Y. These cemeteries are a tremendous resource for genealogical research and for furthering our understanding of the Town's history. It is essential that these cemeteries be preserved for future generations.

Any questions regarding the Town's history can be directed to the Brookfield Historical Society (<http://www.brookfieldnyhistory.org/home>), an organization

dedicated to preserving the Town's rich, vibrant past. The society maintains a museum, a research center and a restored one-room schoolhouse on Brookfield hamlet's Main Street.

4. GEOLOGY OF THE BROOKFIELD TOWNSHIP

The Town of Brookfield, in eastern Madison County, New York, lies on the northern edge of the Appalachian Plateau physiographic province. The terrain is hilly, with local relief of 500-800 feet. The uplands are rolling to locally steep and generally forested or pastured, with some tillable areas. NNE-trending valleys (Sangerfield, Beaver Creek, Unadilla) are relatively flat-floored and tilled.

The landscape of the Town of Brookfield reflects regional stream incision into a nearly flat plateau underlain by gently dipping sedimentary strata. Stream incision was followed by relatively more recent glacial erosion and deglacial sedimentation. The regional stream incision pattern is dendritic, with south-flowing streams that are part of the Susquehanna River system. Stream incision occurred over the last 25 million years of earth history. Glacial erosion during the Pleistocene epoch (last 2 million years of earth history) widened and deepened north-south oriented valleys. Sediments, deposited as the glacier melted, cover underlying bedrock and form local smaller-scale landforms, such as kame terraces and rolling upland hills. The last glacial advance, called the Wisconsin, began approximately 90,000 years ago, and reached a maximum about 25,000 years ago. Glacial melting produced active ice fronts in the Central New York area by 14,000 years ago. Near-modern climates were in place by 9,000 years ago.

The bedrock units underlying the Town of Brookfield are generally covered with glacial sediment and soil. The depth-to-bedrock varies from a few feet to over 100 feet in the valleys of the Sangerfield and Unadilla Rivers. The oldest rock strata of the Onondaga Formation consist of limestone with chert. The Onondaga Formation is found only in the extreme northeast corner of Brookfield. Overlying the Onondaga Formation is the Marcellus Formation. It consists of dark brown-to-black shale at its base, with a thin limestone layer, the Cherry Valley, occurring above the dark shale. The rest of the Marcellus Formation consists of gray shale, siltstone and fine sandstone. The Skaneateles, Ludlowville and Moscow Formations overlie, in sequence, the Marcellus Formation. These formations consist of gray shale, gray-to-brown siltstone and gray-to-tan fine sandstone. The Moscow Formation is known for fossils of marine invertebrates, including brachiopods and bivalves. Collectively, the Marcellus, Skaneateles, Ludlowville and Moscow Formations belong to the Hamilton Group., which is Middle Devonian in age. These rocks were deposited as marine

mud and sand some 370 million years ago in an inland sea. Rivers from the southeast carried sediment to the basin from an ancient mountain chain in what is now central and eastern New England.

The bedrock formations in the Town of Brookfield have been quarried for road fill and driveway materials. Sandstone beds have been locally quarried on a small scale for foundation and dimension stone. There is very little potential for economic development of the bedrock units as building materials on a commercial scale.

The surficial geology of the Town of Brookfield is dominated by sedimentary materials deposited during the late glacial and early post-glacial periods of the Wisconsin advance. Upland areas are mantled by lodgement and ablation till, which in general are rich in large cobbles and boulders of locally-derived bedrock, plus sand, silt and clay. Till is directly deposited by melting of the ice sheet. The valley margins are generally underlain by kame materials deposited by flowing meltwater in contact with glacial ice. Kame moraine and kame terrace areas are comprised of relatively well-sorted gravel and sand. These materials, and the well-sorted outwash of the valley floors, are mined locally for gravel and sand. Kame and outwash materials, in sufficient thickness, form high-quality ground water aquifers. Post-glacial marsh and swamp deposits, and modern floodplain and river channel alluvial deposits, are found in mid-valley areas in the Sangerfield, Beaver Creek and Unadilla Valleys.

(The information above is based on data available to the public from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the New York State Museum and Science Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Madison County Planning Department and other sources. Bruce Selleck (Colgate University) can be contacted for further information (bselleck@colgate.edu).

Soil Types

The township's soils consist generally of the following types, not all-inclusive. Descriptions and numbers are taken from "Soil Survey of Madison County". (More detailed information can be found in the Addendum, item 4.A, General Soils Map.)

4.1 Stockbridge, sloping (#10 in Soil Survey...)

Deep, well drained medium textured soils; on uplands and adjacent valley sides.

This map unit consists of gently sloping and sloping soils on glacial till plains on the upland plateau. The landscape consists of broad hilltops, hillsides, and the lower part of valley sides. Slopes range from 3 to 15 percent but are mainly 8 to 15 percent. This

map unit makes up about 4.7 percent of the county. About 65 percent of the unit is Stockbridge soils, and the rest is soils of minor extent.

Stockbridge soils are deep, well drained, and medium textured. These soils formed in glacial till and in conglomerate deposits derived from till that contain fragments of sandstone, shale, and limestone. Permeability is moderate in the surface layer and subsoil and is slow in the substratum. A water table commonly is perched above the substratum for very brief periods early in spring. These soils are on convex hilltops and side slopes.

Soils of minor extent are in the Howard, Lordstown, and Mardin series. Well drained and somewhat excessively drained, gravelly Howard soils are on benches and in rolling areas along the lower part of the valley sides. Well drained Lordstown soils are in a few areas where bedrock is within 40 inches of the surface. Mardin soils, which have a fragipan, are intermingled with the dominant soils in higher areas. Moderately steep Stockbridge soils are in a few areas on hillsides and valley sides.

This map unit is used mainly for hay and pasture and cultivated crops. Most crops are used in dairy farming. Most crops require liberal applications of lime and fertilizer. Some areas are idle or are in woodland. Slow permeability in the substratum and the presence of coarse fragments are limitations to the use of this map unit for some purposes. Some areas are used as campsites and as sites for other summertime recreational activities.

4.2 Bath-Lordstown-Mardin, moderately steep (#13 in Soil Survey...)

Deep, well drained and moderately well drained, medium textured soils that have a fragipan and moderately deep, well drained, medium textured soils; on uplands and valley sides.

This map unit consists of moderately steep and steep soils on glacial till plains on the upland plateau. It is mostly on the side slopes of valleys and on the sides of ridges and hills. Slopes range from 15 to 50 percent but are dominantly 15 to 25 percent.

This map unit makes up about 5.1 percent of the county. Bath soils make up about 40 percent of the unit, Lordstown soils make up about 30 percent, and Mardin soils make up about 20 percent. Soils of minor extent make up the rest.

Bath, Lordstown, and Mardin soils formed in glacial till deposits that contain fragments of siltstone, sandstone, and shale.

Bath soils are deep, well drained, and medium textured. These soils have a dense, slowly permeable fragipan at a depth of 26 to 36 inches that restricts root penetration. A perched water table is above the fragipan for brief periods in spring.

The moderately steep and steep Bath soils are on convex hillsides and valley sides and are dissected by drainageways in many places.

Mardin soils are deep, moderately well drained, and medium textured. These soils have a dense, slowly permeable fragipan at a depth of 14 to 25 inches that restricts root penetration. A perched table is above the fragipan for brief periods in spring. The moderately steep Mardin soils are on convex hillsides and valley sides and are dissected by drainageways in many places.

Lordstown soils are moderately deep, well drained, and medium textured. Bedrock is at a depth of 20 to 40 inches and is mainly siltstone, sandstone, and shale. These moderately steep soils are on valley sides and sides of ridges. They commonly are lower on the landscape than Bath soils and higher than Mardin soils.

Soils of minor extent are in the Arnot, Volusia, and Stockbridge series. Arnot soils are in areas where bedrock is at a depth of 10 to 20 inches. Somewhat poorly drained Volusia soils are on foot slopes and receive runoff from higher soils. Deep, well drained Stockbridge soils, which do not have a fragipan, are in some areas. Alluvial land along a few dissecting drainageways is also in this map unit.

This map unit is used mainly for woodland. Some areas are used for pasture and hay crops or are idle. Slope, the slowly permeable fragipan in some of the soils and moderate depth of bedrock in some of the soils are the main limitations to the use of this map unit. Some areas have potential for development of wildlife habitat, and some areas have potential for some recreational developments, for example, ski slopes.

4.3 Mardin-Volusia, sloping (#14 in Soil Survey...)

Deep, moderately well drained and somewhat poorly drained, medium textured soils that have a fragipan; on uplands.

This map unit consists of nearly level to sloping soils on glacial till plains. The landscape consists dominantly of broad divides and of hilltops, hillsides, and ridges on the upland plateau. Slopes range from 3 to 15 percent but are mainly 8 to 15 percent.

This map unit makes up 17.6 percent of the county. It is the most extensive map unit in the county. Mardin soils make up about 55 percent of the unit, and Volusia soils make up 25 percent. Soils of minor extent make up the rest.

Mardin and Volusia soils formed in similar glacial till deposits derived mainly from local siltstone, sandstone, and shale (fig.2).

Mardin soils are deep, moderately well drained, and medium textured. A dense, slowly permeable and very slowly permeable fragipan is at a depth of 14 to 25 inches. Permeability is moderate above the fragipan. These gently sloping and sloping soils are on broad, convex landforms. A small amount of runoff accumulates on these soils.

Volusia soils are deep, somewhat poorly drained, and dominantly medium textured. A slowly permeable and very slowly permeable fragipan is at a depth of 10 to 20 inches. It causes a perched seasonal high water table in spring. These nearly level to sloping soils are in flats where runoff is slow and on concave foot slopes where runoff accumulates.

Soils of minor extent are in the Bath, Stockbridge, Lordstown, and Chippewa series. Well drained Bath soils are on a few slightly elevated knolls. Well drained Stockbridge soils, which do not have a fragipan, are along some valley sides. Lordstown soils are in places, mainly on hilltops, where bedrock is within 20 to 40 inches of the surface. Poorly drained Chippewa soils are in a few small depressions and along some drainageways. Alluvial land along a few streams is also in this map unit.

This map unit is used for hay and pasture crops and woodland and for some crops associated with dairy farming. Many areas that previously were cropped are reverting to brush and trees. Because this map unit is at a relatively high elevation, short season crop varieties commonly are required. Seasonal wetness and slow or very slow permeability in the fragipan are the primary limitations to the use of this map unit. Some areas have potential as sites for recreational developments, for example, campsites, trails, and ponds.

4.4 Lordstown, sloping (#19 in Soil Survey...)

Moderately deep, well drained, medium textured soils; on uplands.

This map unit consists of gently sloping and sloping soils on glacial till plains on the upland plateau. The landscape consists mainly of the tops and sides of bedrock-controlled hills at higher elevations in the county. Slopes range from 3 to 15 percent but are mostly 8 to 15 percent.

This map unit makes up 6.2 percent of the county. Lordstown soils make up 65 percent of the unit, and soils of minor extent make up the rest.

Lordstown soils formed in a thin mantle of glacial till that commonly is mixed with frost-fractured material derived from the underlying bedrock. These soils are well drained and are medium textured. They are 20 to 40 inches deep to sandstone, siltstone, or shale bedrock. Permeability throughout the soil is moderate. These soils generally do not have a seasonal high water table. They are on convex hilltops and hillsides.

Soils of minor extent are mainly in the Arnot, Tuller, Mardin, and Bath series. Shallow Arnot soils are in areas where bedrock is within a depth of 10 to 20 inches.

Shallow, somewhat poorly drained and poorly drained Tuller soils are in nearly level areas and on concave foot slopes. Moderately well drained Mardin soils and well drained Bath soils are in a few areas where the soil mantle is more than 40 inches thick and where a fragipan has formed. Moderately steep Lordstown soils are on some side slopes. A few small outcrops of bedrock are also in this map unit.

This map unit is used mainly for woodland and for pasture and hay crops. A few areas are used for cultivated crops. Short season varieties of crops should be selected because of the relatively short growing season. Moderate soil depth to bedrock and the presence of coarse fragments are limitations to most uses of this map unit. Some areas have a scenic view and have potential for some recreational activities, for example, picnicking, hiking, and camping.

4.5 Lordstown-Arnot, steep (#20 in Soil Survey...)

Moderate deep and shallow, somewhat excessively drained to moderately well drained, medium textured soils; on valley sides.

This map unit consists of steep and very steep soils on glacial till plains on the dissected upland plateau. The landscape consists mainly of valley sides. Slopes range from 25 to 70 percent but are mainly less than 35 percent.

This map unit makes up about 1.5 percent of the county. Lordstown soils make up about 45 percent of the unit, and Arnot soils make up about 35 percent. Soils of minor extent make up the rest.

Lordstown and Arnot soils formed in a thin mantle of glacial till that commonly is mixed with frost-fractured material derived from the underlying siltstone, sandstone, or shale bedrock.

Lordstown soils are well drained and medium textured and are 20 to 40 inches deep to bedrock. These soils generally do not have a seasonal high water table, but some free water moves downslope across the top of the bedrock early in spring. Permeability is moderate in the soil mantle. These soils are on valley sides and are closely intermingled with Arnot soils.

Arnot soils are somewhat excessively drained to moderately well drained and are medium textured. These soils are 10 to 20 inches deep to bedrock. Early in spring, a temporary seasonal high water table is perched above the bedrock in places where the rock is poorly jointed. These soils are on valley sides that commonly have a stairstep appearance because the underlying bedrock is in ledges.

Soils of minor extent are mainly in the Bath, Mardin, and Aurora series. The well drained Bath soils and moderately well drained Mardin soils are in places where bedrock is at a depth of more than 40 inches. They commonly are on the upper part of valley sides. Moderately well drained Aurora soils are in areas where dark shale bedrock is dominant. Moderately steep Lordstown soils are on the upper part of a few valley sides. A few very steep areas of rock outcrops and some seep spots are also in this map unit.

This map unit is used mainly for woodland. A few areas are used for pasture that generally is poor in quality. Steepness of slopes is the primary limitation to the use of this map unit. Some areas have potential for improvement of wildlife habitat or for some recreational developments, for example, ski slopes.

5. AQUIFER OF THE BROOKFIELD TOWNSHIP (Surface Water, Wetlands, Flood Plain) Data from B. Selleck/Colgate University Aug. 2012 (A very general aquifer map for the Township can be found in Addendum 5.A.)

An aquifer is a body of saturated rock or sediment through which water can move easily. Aquifers are porous and permeable, so wells are frequently drilled into aquifers to reach substantial sources of water. (from Southwestern Advantage Learning System).

A very generalized aquifer map for Town of Brookfield (see addendum...) shows the major aquifers found in glacial outwash and kame terrace gravel and sand deposits of the major valleys (Nine Mile Swamp, Beaver Creek, Unadilla). Many less extensive aquifer systems are also present on the upland areas but are not shown on this map. These upland aquifers are generally sufficient for private wells for residential and farm use. In areas of near-surface bedrock, yields may be limited and water quality compromised by the presence of dissolved iron and sulfur compounds. Fractured bedrock may also form locally important aquifer systems which are suitable for private residential use.

The water quality in the major valley aquifers is generally very good, although elevated hardness levels are of concern. The relatively thin upland aquifers and the aquifer system in the Beaver Creek valley are critical resources. Care should be taken to insure adequate separation of private septic and water well locations and proper well design to prevent infiltration of shallow groundwater into the well. "Dug" wells lined with dry-laid stone, sometimes found on older properties, should be carefully inspected to insure that casings are present, and intact, to prevent soil water and shallow aquifer water infiltration.

Development of larger yielding commercial or municipal groundwater wells would likely be limited to the Unadilla Valley aquifer system. Withdrawal of surface water from the Unadilla River might impact recharge to the aquifer in that area. Similarly, elevated withdrawal of groundwater from aquifers near the river could cause declines in stream flow. Since future development in the township is possible, a thorough understanding of aquifer systems in the Town of Brookfield is needed in order to protect this critical resource. At present, we have essentially pristine water, not polluted by impurities entering the aquifer. DEC is aware of native wild brook trout in Brookfield and in some other locations in Madison County. They are still not common and are less so in this region. DEC is very pleased that a Township is looking at keeping those streams as pristine as possible as a part of their Comprehensive Plan.

6. RURAL & SMALL TOWN CHARACTER/VISUAL RESOURCES

Since the terms “rural” and “small town character” are often used in varying contexts, a visual survey was conducted to more objectively define these terms and to correlate them with specific landscapes that could be used to help judge future environmental impacts.

6.1 "The Town of Brookfield forms the extreme southeastern portion of Madison County. It everywhere presents a broken hilly surface transversed longitudinally by a succession of uplifts, hills, mountainous ridges and correspondingly deeply defined intervening valleys. The beauty and grandeur of the scenery is seldom surpassed." (From: " Remembered Years", the Brookfield Township Historical Society, Homestead Press, Brookfield, NY, 1976, p. 2) Brookfield has hills of great elevation, some over 1800 ft., providing for beautiful scenic vistas. It is remarkable that, in the 21st century, these views are of villages nestled in valleys, farmland dotted with farm buildings, woodland and open land. Thus far, cell towers are the only modern industrial impact on these views.

The Town is bordered by the Unadilla River on the east. This historical river is a tributary of the Susquehanna River, which eventually empties into the Chesapeake Bay. The central portion of Brookfield is marked by Beaver Creek. This creek has a 12 mile course and a fall of 725 feet. In northwest Brookfield is the Nine Mile Swamp, which feeds into the Chenango River, and eventually into the Susquehanna. With both of these rivers coursing through the Town, Brookfield is an important part of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

The Town also features several waterfalls, notable among them Button Falls and Crandall-Hardin Falls. There are innumerable springs coursing through hill and dale. These, along with the aforementioned rivers and creeks, make for spectacularly beautiful and fertile lands, all of which support a tremendous diversity of flora and fauna.

The Town has approximately 13,000 acres of State Land, a large portion of which was former agricultural land reforested by the State. Contained within these lands are 130 miles of horse trails, providing a scenic resource for public use. These areas include the Charles E. Baker State Forest (approx. 11,000 acres), Beaver Creek and Brookfield Railroad. (See DEC website, www.dec.ny.gov or www.madisontourism.com)

7. WILDLIFE, PLANTS AND IMPORTANT HABITATS (See Addendum 7.A.)

7.1 The Nine Mile Swamp (NMS, for notation below) is a state-regulated wetland. The environs are designated as two “Natural Communities” (see definition below). The area consists of a Northern White Cedar Swamp and a Floodplain Forest, which are both classified as S2-S3 (see below). There are also several rare plants found in this ecosystem. The Unadilla River (UR, for notation below) is a classified stream. Its surrounding wetlands, both north and south of Leonardsville, are state-regulated freshwater wetlands. Two rare species of plants have been noted in the river at Leonardsville. The Beaver Creek is also a classified stream, with its surrounding wetlands being state-regulated freshwater wetlands. Within the environs of the Beaver Creek State Forest can be found a Northern White Cedar Swamp, which is designated as a “Natural Community”. The following are rare plants which are recorded in these ecosystems:

Jacob’s Ladder (*polemonium vanbruntiae*); classified as S3; NMS

Spreading Globeflower (*trollies laxus*); classified as S3; NMS

Sparse-flowered Sedge (*carex tenuiflora*); classified as S; NMS

Schweubutz’s Sedge (*carex schweinitzii*); classified as S2-S3; NMS

Yellow Lampmussel (*lampsilis cariosa*); classified as S3; UR

Brook Floater (*Alasmodonta varicosa*); classified as S1;UR

Greater Rhododendron

Trillium

For use above, Conservation Status in NYS, as ranked by NY Natural Heritage Program, is as follows: S1 = Critically imperiled; S2 = Imperiled; S3 = Rare or Uncommon; S4 = Abundant & apparently secure; S5 = Demonstrably abundant & secure.

Natural Community: Types of wetlands, forests, grasslands, ponds, streams, and other habitats and ecosystems. Examples of specific wetland community types include Northern White Cedar Swamp and Floodplain Forest. The occurrences of natural communities are significant at a state-wide level. They are locations where the community is of excellent or good quality, per specific criteria for size, undisturbed condition, and quality of the surrounding landscape. These locations can be considered as significant natural areas. Natural Heritage tracks natural communities because they serve as habitat for a wide range of plants and animals, both rare and common, and because community occurrences in good condition support intact ecological processes and provide ecological value and services. By conserving ecologically functional examples of all the state's community types, the full range of species which live in those communities will also be conserved.

8. PRESERVATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL LANDS (See Addendum 5.A & 5.B.)

8.1 The Town should encourage and protect the agricultural districts that currently exist. Participation in the districts encourages the landowners to preserve their agricultural land, which in turn maintains the rural atmosphere people desire. As land values rise, the impact of the agricultural districts becomes of greater importance to the economic viability of agricultural businesses.

8.2 The Town should maintain and promote agriculture as a major land use. The Right to Farm Law should be retained so that those people actively engaged in farming are not restricted from performing necessary activities and operations.

Residential development should not require changing traditional farming practices. The Planning Board, during its Site Plan Review process, should determine existing farming conditions to ensure that any new proposed land use does not conflict with these farming activities. This Board should assess the following:

- a. Will the proposed new use remove significant land from agriculture?
- b. Will the new use negatively impact a farmer's ability to use existing right-of-ways or roads needed to access fields? Will roads still accommodate agricultural equipment?
- c. Will the proposed new use affect land values and rental rates for agriculture?
- d. Will a proposed new use promote additional non-farm development in the future?

8.3 The Town should promote and protect its agricultural enterprises; i.e. livestock operations, horticultural operations, and the various agri-businesses which accompany them. As the number of working dairy farms decreases, people should be encouraged to participate in alternative agricultural operations. The Town should support, whenever possible, organizations that promote agriculture. Some of these programs and/or agencies are, in random order: MCSWD (Madison County Soil & Water District), NYALT (NY Ag Land Trust), NYS Ag & Markets, the Grange, NRCS (Natural Resource Conservation Service), American Farmland Trust, Farm Bureau, FSA (Farm Service Agency), FFA (Future Farmers of America), Southern Madison County Heritage Trust, County Economic Development Agencies, Farmland Viability Institute, Organic certifiers such as NOFA (Northeast Organic Farmers Assoc.), Center for Agriculture Institute, Cornell University, Morrisville State College, Cobleskill State College, Agricultural Districts, Dairy & Beef Councils, EDGE programs (Economic Development Grant Incentives), Co-operative Extension, insurance companies, banks and other financial institutions, such as First Pioneer (Sangerfield, farm lending), agricultural districts, Co-operative Extension, auction houses, cattle dealers, feed suppliers, consultants (regarding feed, financial, soils, etc.), seed companies, FarmNet, cooperatives, specialized equipment providers.

The Town should encourage participation in these organizations in an effort to maintain a healthy agricultural economy.

9. LAND USE POLICY

9.1 A major objective of the Town of Brookfield is to maintain the rural character and natural environment so that it may be used and enjoyed by all the citizens of the Town. The term "rural" can be defined as landscapes having a mixture of active farm fields, wooded and other undeveloped natural areas, along with farm buildings. Small residential settlements surrounded by woods and fields are more in keeping with a rural landscape than low-density, non-farm residential sprawl. Rural character is further reduced with large, conventional subdivisions, increased density of housing, use of large lot sizes, fragmentation of land with roads and driveways and isolated commercial development. "Small town character" is defined as traditional family homes clustered, together, oriented to the streets and sidewalks. This includes a traditional main street commercial and downtown area, where buildings are generally 2-3 stories tall. Structures taller than 3 stories and strip mall development are examples of features not in keeping with "small town character".

9.2 The Town should develop land use regulations that are based on the suitability of soil types to support proposed usage. Erosion and siltation are two results of activities which damage farmland and destroy habitats for fish and game. Land use policies should encourage practices designed to minimize runoff and erosion and to discourage practices which are contrary to the goal of maintaining rural/agricultural character. Such activities as building on slopes and/or clear cutting woodlands could take place in a "cluster housing" scenario. (Refer to Section 4, Geology of the Town of Brookfield.)

9.3 The Town should adopt land use policies to promote and protect the health of the watershed through the preservation and management of wetlands, forest, and open spaces, especially pertaining to critical and sensitive locations (lakes, streams, slopes greater than 20 %, wetlands and public water supplies). Potentially large water users should be required to provide an estimate of daily water use, current and future, necessary for their business. This estimate should, ideally, be done by a third party. The formula for the estimate can be obtained through NRCS, Soil & Water District, Cooperative Extension. These results should reveal adequate water quantity and indicate that no negative impact on surrounding water sources and wells will occur. (This to be incorporated into the Site Plan Review).

9.4 Local ordinances should be retained and enforced to prohibit the pollution of water, air or soil by toxic and/or noxious materials or conditions. Enforcement and penalties should be Local, as well as State and Federal, responsibilities. The costs of preventing pollution should be borne by the individuals, businesses, and institutions which generate them. The costs of restoring a resource to a usable condition should not become the burden of the taxpayers.

9.5 Site Plan Review

All proposed new land use activities in the Town of Brookfield shall require site plan review and approval by the Town Planning Board. These site plan reviews should take into account the factors outlined in this Comprehensive Plan: namely, a.) the rural and agricultural character of the town, b.) its irreplaceable recreation and tourism sites, c.) the extent of hazard to life, limb or property that may result from the proposed project, d.) health, social and economic impacts of traffic congestion, noise, dust, odors, emissions, solid waste generation and other nuisances, e.) the impact on property values near the site, f.) whether the applicant will use a style of development that will result in degradation of the air quality, water quality or scenic/natural resources of the Town and, g.) whether emergency services vehicles will be able to provide assistance as may be required.

10. RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

10.1 Land removed from agricultural use, or woodland, cannot easily be returned to such use. Therefore, current patterns of land use in the hamlets and rural areas shall continue, in order to preserve the integrity of the Town. Residential & commercial development should be scaled to fit the Town of Brookfield and should integrate with the agricultural/rural nature of the Town.

10.2 The Town should continue to monitor and enforce the Subdivision Regulations, Building Codes, and Sanitary Regulations to promote orderly development. (All laws available at Town Clerk's Office.)

10.3 It is necessary to create land use regulations in order to insure orderly development and growth, to avoid the destruction of the environment and to prevent future liabilities for the Town.

10.4 Clustering commercial developments, interspersed with low density residential, agricultural and/or conservation areas may help maintain the rural atmosphere. Strip Development along the major arteries of the Town, in addition to creating traffic hazards and congestion, would seriously diminish the attractiveness of the Town.

10.5 Regulations should be based on the suitability of native soil types to proposed usage and on compatibility with current usage.

10.6 Land use regulations must define lot sizes that are sufficient, given the soil types, to provide sewage treatment and water supply for the proposed use in question, without adversely impacting neighboring properties. Poorly drained and impervious soils in some areas of the Town may require larger lot sizes than would be necessary in a location with more favorable soil conditions.

11. HEAVY INDUSTRY

The top priorities of residents, as noted from the survey, include farmland and open space preservation, while developing a sustainable local economy. In keeping with these priorities, indeed, "heavy industry" is incompatible with maintaining rural character.

Heavy Industry is a use characteristically employing some of, but not limited to, the following: smokestacks, distillation or reaction columns, chemical processing/storage equipment, scrubbing towers, waste treatment or storage lagoons, reserve pits, derricks or rigs, whether temporary or permanent. Heavy Industry has the potential for large-scale environmental pollution when equipment malfunction or human error occurs. Examples of Heavy Industry include, but are not limited to, chemical manufacturing, drilling of oil and gas wells, coal mining, oil refineries, natural gas processing plants/compressor stations, wind farms, steel manufacturing, large-scale surface mining gravel/sand or other open pit mines greater than 10,000 yards per year. Examples not included in this definition are dairy farms, woodworking/cabinet making shops, auto repair shops, wineries, breweries, small scale (less than

10,000 yards per year) surface gravel/sand mining.

12. ATTRACTING AGRICULTURE, SMALL BUSINESS AND ALTERNATIVE AGRICULTURE

12.1 The Town should work to promote the advantages of Brookfield as a place to do business. Among these are our location between two major North/South highways, our multi-talented workforce, our roads, natural waters and geological formations. If the Town can maintain the growth of small business and agriculture in balance with residential development within our rural surroundings, its tax base can expand to meet the demands of the future. Potential growth needs to be evaluated for compatibility with the Town's goals/wishes to maintain rural character and to help ensure preservation of farmland.

12.2 The Town should maintain its commitment to regional agricultural and business development and support active participation in organizations whose missions are to develop sustainable economic plans, which will enhance the character and well-being of our regional community.

13. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (See Addendum 6.A, example, Business Plans.)

13.1 The results of the Town-wide survey revealed that residents favor the development of cottage businesses in Brookfield. The Town should encourage such businesses, especially those that supply the community's needs. Cottage businesses include, but are not limited to, grocery stores, agricultural supply stores, restaurants, bed and breakfasts, second-hand /antique stores, artisans, recreation-based businesses, furniture/cabinetmaking shops, taxidermy business, car washes, yoga studio, etc. Whenever possible, businesses should be encouraged to locate in one of the hamlet centers, i.e. Brookfield, Leonardsville, or North Brookfield. In addition, the Town should encourage the use of existing vacant structures for these businesses.

13.2 The Town should encourage business ventures which build on existing resources, such as the Brookfield State Lands and the Madison County Fairgrounds, while maintaining the rural character. (See examples in Addendum.)

13.3 The Town should encourage entrepreneurs to use available resources for business start-ups. The Madison County Industrial Development Agency

(madisoncountyyida.com) can help access available grants as well as State tax credits for business, State and Federal incentives, County loan incentives, Madison County IDA benefits and Empire Zone incentives. The Mohawk Valley Small Business Development Center (mohawkvalley.nyssbdc.org/), which serves Madison and surrounding counties, can help with business and marketing plans, as well as with obtaining sources of funding and support. (See 8.3 regarding agencies.)

14. RECREATION (See Addendum 7.A.)

14.1 The Town shall encourage and cooperate with other agencies to promote and protect the State Lands, the DEC Horse Trail System, the Fairgrounds, Nine Mile Swamp, Gorton Lake, Snow's Pond, Bascomb Swamp, Lost Pond, the Unadilla River and all the various streams as important natural and recreational assets within the Town of Brookfield. This would include other natural and recreational lands in Brookfield, for the enjoyment of all our residents.

14.2 The Town shall promote and protect Town Parks. They have been developed by volunteers for the Town to serve as multi-use facilities with pavilions, nature trails, jogging track, and areas for playing baseball, basketball, volleyball, tennis and horse-shoes. The Fairgrounds contains a tractor-pull track used by area tractor-pull clubs. It also contains an improved equine area. These shall be maintained, and their natural assets preserved, for the enjoyment of the community.

14.3 The Town shall support groups of citizens who wish to establish recreational activities within Brookfield for the enjoyment of all our residents and others. Potential activities to include horseback riding and /or driving, hiking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, hunting, fishing, trapping, etc. (See "Town Trail System" in Addendum.)

15. INFRASTRUCTURE ("Town of Brookfield Road Protection Law" is in draft status at present; can be seen at the Town Hall.)

15.1 Roads

(a) The Town of Brookfield is presently served by a network of State, County and Town roads appropriate to its geography and population density. These

roads provide access to all areas of the Town. The network, if suitably maintained, should be adequate for the needs of the Town for the foreseeable future. The Town must develop a Road Use Protection Law, because improvement or repair of Town roads would require a major investment and would have an adverse impact on local tax rates. The Town should give due consideration to avoiding any such activities without substantial compensation.

(b) Some Town roads are of limited suitability for handling the traffic flows associated with intensive development and industry. Low population densities should be maintained in areas served by roads of limited capacity, in order to minimize traffic congestion and hazardous driving conditions. In the case of roads which are noted as “seasonal roads”, it should be understood that the Town is not required to upgrade these roads.

(c) Road conditions are a main concern expressed by the Town residents in the survey. Proper maintenance of the Town roads will reduce the need for recurring repairs. Water run-off, rebuilding poor roads, potholes, and dust control were among the concerns expressed. Long-range maintenance plans for all the roads of the Town would be desirable. Curing maintenance problems saves labor expense in the long run. These and other possible future considerations would add to the desirability of our town and improve safety for those who use our roads.

15.2 Telecommunications

The disparity between technologies available in urban areas, relative to rural areas, can be an economic disadvantage for rural towns. Brookfield currently has services that are at least equal to those found in other central New York communities. These services are important to residents and businesses alike. Encouraging underground installation of utility lines, and fiber optic cables could help to minimize the visual impact and upkeep requirements of telecommunications infrastructure. If a tower is deemed a public service necessity, the antennas and communication towers should meet public health and safety standards. Height and placement must take into consideration the natural features, viewshed and rural character of the Town.

16. EMERGENCY SERVICES

The following is an overview of the Town's fire/emergency services. (A more complete write-up, provided by emergency services personnel, can be seen in the addendum, 8.A.)

The Town is serviced by 7 different and separate fire services. There are 3 main Fire Districts that service the majority of the township: North Brookfield, Brookfield and Leonardsville. Parts of the town are also serviced by Unadilla Forks and Hubbardsville Fire Districts, the Bridgewater Fire Company and the Village of Sherburne Fire Department. In the political arena, there is talk that fire departments should be consolidating. If that occurred, the distances between the various settlements would mean a long travel time before any firefighting would commence. At present, there seems to be a spirit of cooperation between the various departments, which results in emergencies being taken care of as quickly as possible.

Primary issues facing the Fire Departments at this time are:

1. Need for attracting a new generation of people to function as fire & emergency personnel, but young people not remaining in the area due to lack of work.
2. Several hours of training needed (e.g. approximately 90 hours for lowest level of firefighting; approximately 110 hours Basic level EMT training. Additional hours needed for advanced levels of training.) Fire training is free to the members, but emergency medical training is charged to the members or to the departments.
3. Make-up of fires has changed over the past 30 years. Was once basically wood, cotton or wool. Now, engineered wood & synthetics; much hotter and faster-burning. In order for the members to be safe, more training is needed.
4. Many calls are medical in nature now, rather than fires.
5. Rising costs of equipment and vehicles. Thirty years ago, a truck would have cost approximately \$40,000. Five years ago, up to \$250,000. At present, approximately \$500,000. Costs of small equipment have also risen at this rate.

Certainly there will always be a need for the fire/emergency service. The number of calls will increase; more toxic gases given off by the fires, an increase in motor vehicle accidents as more people are on the road, EMT calls for various levels of illness and injury. Given the rising costs of equipment and the reduction in number of young people pursuing training, the Town Planning Board must carefully consider the emergency services needs of any proposed project, residential or commercial.

17. TOWN GOVERNMENT

17.1 Town government should be open and accessible to all our citizens. Public notices of Town government activities and meetings, as posted on the Town Clerk office door and on the signboard, notices in several newspapers which service the area, as well as the development of a Town website (brookfieldny.us) enhance accessibility.

17.2 Town government should work to provide local services with the least cost to our taxpayers. The property tax is the only tax that the Town Board levies and controls locally.

17.3 Town government should work to insure that citizens get their fair share of services from County, State and Federal government without relinquishing local control. The Town should make an effort to provide information about existing services available to its residents, especially for youth, the elderly and those in need. For the youth, the Town sponsors the youth athletics program, which includes T-Ball, Bush League and Little League.

Two county agencies providing a spectrum of services include the Community Action Partnership of Madison County (capmadco.org/) and the Office for the Aging (ofamadco.org/). These agencies can help Town residents to access County, State and Federal services. The Baptist Church in Brookfield is the site for Snack Meals, provided through the Senior Nutrition Program, for those over age 60. This program is administered by Madison County Office for the Aging. A food cupboard for those in need (any age) is housed in the Fellowship Hall of this church. It was started in 1984, by the 7th & First Day Baptist Churches.

It receives food through the Food Bank of Syracuse and from those in the community who wish to donate; receives money each year through the grant process (from Food Bank of Syracuse) and also from some businesses and individuals in the region. Most recently, has served from 3 to 8 families in the school district.

17.4. Since County, State and Federal funds are moneys that come from our citizens, Town government should work to access these funds and return them to our community, whenever possible. In the survey, Town residents overwhelmingly supported the use of grant money for such things as housing, agricultural and equine tourism, and small businesses. Senior housing was a special priority. Since road maintenance is of high importance to most in the Town, and represents a large Town expenditure, infrastructure grants should be pursued when available.

17.5 Town government must set the example for the treatment of the environment, both for maintaining our health and the natural beauty of our town. It must ensure the enforcement of local sanitary and dumping ordinances and be aware of County, State, and Federal laws that will help protect our citizens and the environment.

18. ENFORCEMENT OF EXISTING REGULATIONS

18.1 The Town must enforce existing laws and regulations. The consequence of non-enforcement is aesthetically and physically damaging to our rural environment.

18.2 Local laws which affect roads and land are listed here. Additional laws are also in effect. **All laws are available at the Town Clerk's office.**

Anti-littering Law (Local Law 1984)

Flood Damage Protection (Local Law 1987)

Anti-dumping (Local Law 1988)

Dog Control Law (Local Law 1990) ** Amended 1992

Fair Housing Law (Local Law 1990)

Right to Farm (Local Law 1992)

Mobile Home Parks (Local Law 1992)

Automobile Junk Yards and Graveyards (Local Law 1994)

Regulating/Restricting Weight of Trucks & Other Vehicles Using Town highways (Local Law 2001) ** Amended 2011

Subdivision Regulations (Local Law 2005) ** Amended 2011

Administrative and Enforcement Code (Local Law 2006); pursuant to NYS Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code Regulations.

18.3 Local Ordinances in effect:

Town Building Ordinance (passed 2004).

Sanitary regulations are contained in this ordinance, along with building regulations, set-backs, etc.

(Copies of these regulations are available in the Town Clerk's office.)

19. MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND HISTORIC MONUMENTS

19.1 The Town shall maintain the Town Hall and Town Offices so that they can continue to be used by the community and local government.

19.2 The Town shall maintain and preserve Town cemeteries and historic monuments.

20. FUTURE TOWN SURVEYS

The Town shall always take into consideration the wishes and concerns of the citizens of Brookfield as found in the Town Surveys.

21. REVIEW OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Comprehensive Plan document shall be reviewed at least every 5 years. Surveys are a useful tool in the review process. The Comprehensive Plan may be amended by the Town Board, upon the request of the Planning Board, following the recommendation of the Comprehensive Planning Committee.

Addendum

Table of Contents:

- 1.) Purpose, Enactment and Title:
 - 1.a. Town wide Survey
 - 1.b. Student Survey
 - 1.c. Requested Letters of Support for the Town of Brookfield

- 2.) Geology of the Town:
 - 2.a. Soils Map for Town, by B. Selleck

- 3.) Aquifer of the Town:
 - 3.a. Generalized Aquifer Map for the Town
 - 3.b. Hydrology Map (Local; more detailed)

- 4.) Wildlife, Plants and Important Habitats:
 - 4.a. Official Letter from N.Y. Natural Heritage Program

- 5.) Preservation of the Agricultural Lands:
 - 5.a. Agricultural Statistics for the Town as of 2011
 - 5.b. Photo of Various Ag Enterprises in Brookfield
 - 5.c. The Right to Farm Law

- 6.) Economic Development:
 - 6.a. 10 Steps to Starting a Business/Startup Resources
 - 6.b. Town Trail System (Potential Business Plan)
 - 6.c. 2 sample posters

- 7.) Recreation:
 - 7.a. N.Y. DEC Town of Brookfield Trail System Map & Guide

- 8.) Emergency Services
 - 8.a. Letter from Jim M.

Addendum 1.a

Town of Brookfield Citizen's Survey

(The Town of Brookfield includes: Leonardsville, Unadilla Forks, West Edmeston, South, West and North Brookfield)

MISSION STATEMENT for the TOWN OF BROOKFIELD Plan: To identify **WHO** we are as a community, where we are **NOW** and where we are going in the **FUTURE**.

You are building the foundation for the FUTURE of YOUR COMMUNITY

WE DO NOT NEED YOUR NAME, JUST YOUR OPINION.

1. What is your age?

- 18-35 36-55 56-70 over 70

2. Which of the following best describes your residency in the Town of Brookfield? (Check all that apply)

- Full-time resident Part-time resident
 Lifelong resident Long term resident (10+ years)
 New to Brookfield Planning to leave Brookfield
 Other (explain)

3. Which of the following applies to you? (Check all that apply)

- Homeowner Business owner
 Renter Land owner
 Other (explain)

4. What type of housing unit do you live in?

- Single family home Two family home
 Apartment Mobile home
 Other (explain)

5. Please check the top five reasons you choose to live in the Town of Brookfield from the following:

- Rural atmosphere Close to family/friends
 Grew up here Cost of housing
 Close to work Lower taxes
 Quality of schools Retirement
 Recreational opportunities Proximity to metropolitan area
 Natural environment/Open space
 Other (explain)

6. What do you believe draws people to the Town of Brookfield? (Choose all that apply.)

- Brookfield State Lands (trail system) Horseback riding
 Snowmobiling Hunting
 Fishing Agriculture
 Rural nature/scenery County Fair and its related events
 Historical/genealogy

7. Please answer the following regarding the Town of Brookfield's recreational trails:

Do you feel the trails need more maintenance? Yes No

Do you use the trails? Yes No

If yes, check all that apply: Horseback riding Snowmobiling Bicycling
 Hiking Cross country skiing/snowshoeing
 Hunting/fishing

8. Since the year 2000 (or since you came to the Town of Brookfield), what is your overall impression of the Town?

It has improved It hasn't changed It has declined

Comments:

9. As the Town of Brookfield grows, how important is planning for the future?

Very important Important Not important

10. In your opinion, which of the following are the top 5 priorities for the Town of Brookfield?

- Open space preservation
- Preservation of historical/archeological sites
- Develop parks and recreational facilities
- Beautification/Property maintenance
- Property tax reform
- Improve pedestrian safety (i.e., sidewalks/walking paths)
- Create programs for Brookfield's youth
- Farmland preservation
- Main street preservation/revitalization
- Balanced mix of agriculture and recreation
- Improve code enforcement
- Develop a sustainable local economy
- Manage residential development
- Other (explain)

Comments:

11. Where do you think growth should occur?

Suggestions:

12. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the following aspects of the Town of Brookfield:

Very Satisfied -----Neutral-----Very Dissatisfied

	Very Satisfied		Neutral		Very Dissatisfied
Rural atmosphere	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environment Protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Town government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Notification of issues	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Law enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Road maintenance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Neighborhood appearance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreational opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Job opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Variety of local businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Overall quality of life	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13. If you could change one thing about the Town of Brookfield, what would it be?

Explain:

Questions 14, 15 and 16 are related to county sales tax revenues. (Madison county sales tax stays here.)

From the numbered list of locations, please fill in the number of the location to answer these questions.

1. Brookfield (Madison county)
2. Hubbardsville (Madison county)
3. Waterville (Oneida county)
4. Hamilton (Madison county)
5. Utica/New Hartford (Oneida county)
6. Syracuse (Onondaga county)
7. Cooperstown (Otsego county)
8. Norwich (Chenango county)
9. Oneida (Madison county)
10. Binghamton (Broome county)
11. On-line
12. Other, please specify _____
13. Other, please specify _____
14. Other, please specify _____

14. Where does your household buy the majority of its groceries? _____

15. Where does your household buy the majority of its non-food items (eg: clothing, prescriptions, health and beauty supplies, household supplies, etc) _____

16. Where does your household obtain the majority of its medical services? _____

17. For all adults in your household, please indicate their primary employment status. Put the number of the appropriate response in the space provided for each adult member of your household.

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| 1. Working full-time away from home | Adult 1 _____ |
| 2. Working part-time away from home | Adult 2 _____ |
| 3. Working full-time at home taking care of my children | Adult 3 _____ |
| 4. Working full-time at home in home business | |
| 5. Retired | |
| 6. Retired but still working full or part time | |
| 7. Unemployed | |
| 8. Student | |
| 9. Volunteering | |

18. The highway budget consumes the major portion of the town property tax. Would you consider less highway services for lower taxes?

Yes No

Explanation:

19. Should the town emergency/rescue service maintain a voluntary registry of special needs people in the event of an emergency need?

Yes No

Suggestions:

20. Should the town look into programs to enhance the town's most significant industry of agriculture, with tax breaks or other means?

Yes No

Suggestions:

21. Do you feel that the town controls its expenses relative to the services it provides?

Yes No

Explanation:

22. Taxes are a prime concern to everyone. How would you like to see the town control costs and or lower taxes?

Cut back town provided services Eliminate some town services currently performed

Consolidate services with other towns/county Do not Know

Comments:

23. Would high taxes force you to sell off property you currently own?

Yes No Do not know

24. Would you want your tax money to support a program for the town to advance locally produced or provided business?

Yes No

Explanation:

25. Would you support incentives for start-up businesses?

Yes No

Why or why not?

26. Should Brookfield encourage "cottage businesses"? (ie: coffee shop, library style computer access shop, swap shop/food bank, 24 hour gas station/mini mart, car wash, laundromat, etc.)

Yes No

Comments:

27. Do you feel that the town should do more to obtain grant money for the towns? (ie: HUD, Equine tourism, Agricultural tourism, Bed and Breakfast businesses or similar other grant programs)

Yes No

Explanation:

28. Would you support a Senior Housing Facility in the Town of Brookfield?

Yes No

Comments:

29. Do you use the town web site?

Yes No

30. If you use the town web site how often and for what purpose do you use it for?

Very often Not often General town information (notices, town business hours etc.)

Other: (explain)

31. Does the Town of Brookfield do a good job of communicating what programs are available in the community?

Yes No

Suggestions:

32. How do you feel about the following natural resources:

In favor of-----Neutral-----Against-----Need more information

Natural gas drilling

Wind power

Solar

Comments:

33. Are you in favor of a Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Brookfield?

Yes ___

No ___

Unsure ___

Do Not know ___

Thank you for participating in our survey!

Town of Brookfield Citizen's Survey

Results in Red *Comments in Italics*

WE DO NOT NEED YOUR NAME, JUST YOUR OPINION.

1. What is your age?

15 18-35 88 36-55 89 56-70 39 over 70

2. Which of the following best describes your residency in the Town of Brookfield? (Check all that apply)

164 Full-time resident 4 Part-time resident
79 Lifelong resident 77 Long term resident (10+ years)
9 New to Brookfield 6 Planning to leave Brookfield
6 Other (explain)

3. Which of the following applies to you? (Check all that apply)

217 Homeowner 36 Business owner
2 Renter 98 Land owner
6 Other (explain)

4. What type of housing unit do you live in?

188 Single family home 7 Two family home
1 Apartment 31 Mobile home
8 Other (explain)

5. Please check the top five reasons you choose to live in the Town of Brookfield from the following:

179 Rural atmosphere 139 Close to family/friends
123 Grew up here 68 Cost of housing
61 Close to work 60 Lower taxes
38 Quality of schools 42 Retirement
43 Recreational opportunities 14 Proximity to metropolitan area
153 Natural environment/Open space
 Other (explain)

6. What do you believe draws people to the Town of Brookfield? (Choose all that apply.)

150 Brookfield State Lands (trail system) 128 Horseback riding
75 Snowmobiling 157 Hunting
38 Fishing 58 Agriculture
148 Rural nature/scenery 66 County Fair and its related events
38 Historical/genealogy

7. Please answer the following regarding the Town of Brookfield's recreational trails:

Do you feel the trails need more maintenance? 55 Yes 104 No

Do you use the trails? 84 Yes 123 No

If yes, check all that apply: 26 Horseback riding 22 Snowmobiling
13 Bicycling 53 Hiking
19 Cross country skiing/snowshoeing
49 Hunting/fishing

8. Since the year 2000 (or since you came to the Town of Brookfield), what is your overall impression of the Town?

69 It has improved 87 It hasn't changed 56 It has declined

Comments:

9. As the Town of Brookfield grows, how important is planning for the future?

95 Very important 95 Important 18 Not important

10. In your opinion, which of the following are the top 5 priorities for the Town of Brookfield?

- | | |
|---|--|
| 95 <input type="checkbox"/> Open space preservation | 127 <input type="checkbox"/> Farmland preservation |
| 71 <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation of historical/archeological sites | 37 <input type="checkbox"/> Main street preservation/revitalization |
| 49 <input type="checkbox"/> Develop parks and recreational facilities | 88 <input type="checkbox"/> Balanced mix of agriculture and recreation |
| 72 <input type="checkbox"/> Beautification/Property maintenance | 34 <input type="checkbox"/> Improve code enforcement |
| 136 <input type="checkbox"/> Property tax reform | 103 <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a sustainable local economy |
| 30 <input type="checkbox"/> Improve pedestrian safety (i.e., sidewalks/walking paths) | 38 <input type="checkbox"/> Manage residential development |
| 51 <input type="checkbox"/> Create programs for Brookfield's youth | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain) |

Comments:

11. Where do you think growth should occur?

Suggestions: *Respondents suggests on recreational tourism, equine recreational tourism, use of the fairgrounds more fully, agriculture, small business, youth programs, agritourism, wind turbines and controlling salvage yards. Tap the area for business growth related to sustainable agriculture and it's recreational potential. Recreational activities of all kinds were mentioned numerous times.*

12. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the following aspects of the Town of Brookfield:

	Very Satisfied	Neutral	Very Dissatisfied
Rural atmosphere	113 <input type="checkbox"/>	57 <input type="checkbox"/>	34 <input type="checkbox"/>
Environment Protection	32 <input type="checkbox"/>	58 <input type="checkbox"/>	84 <input type="checkbox"/>
Town government	22 <input type="checkbox"/>	49 <input type="checkbox"/>	92 <input type="checkbox"/>
Notification of issues	17 <input type="checkbox"/>	47 <input type="checkbox"/>	81 <input type="checkbox"/>
Law enforcement	35 <input type="checkbox"/>	57 <input type="checkbox"/>	83 <input type="checkbox"/>
Road maintenance	37 <input type="checkbox"/>	68 <input type="checkbox"/>	52 <input type="checkbox"/>
Traffic	48 <input type="checkbox"/>	53 <input type="checkbox"/>	76 <input type="checkbox"/>
Neighborhood appearance	29 <input type="checkbox"/>	50 <input type="checkbox"/>	59 <input type="checkbox"/>
Recreational opportunities	36 <input type="checkbox"/>	68 <input type="checkbox"/>	79 <input type="checkbox"/>
Job opportunities	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	21 <input type="checkbox"/>	64 <input type="checkbox"/>
Variety of local businesses	4 <input type="checkbox"/>	27 <input type="checkbox"/>	64 <input type="checkbox"/>
Overall quality of life	61 <input type="checkbox"/>	88 <input type="checkbox"/>	45 <input type="checkbox"/>

13. If you could change one thing about the Town of Brookfield, what would it be?

Explain:

Too many comments covering a variety of issues in Brookfield to be summarized here. See copy in town clerk's office for listing.

Questions 14, 15 and 16 are related to county sales tax revenues. (Madison county sales tax stays here.)

From the numbered list of locations, please fill in the number of the location to answer these questions.

1. Brookfield (Madison county)
2. Hubbardsville (Madison county)
3. Waterville (Oneida county)
4. Hamilton (Madison county)
5. Utica/New Hartford (Oneida county)
6. Syracuse (Onondaga county)
7. Cooperstown (Otsego county)
8. Norwich (Chenango county)
9. Oneida (Madison county)
10. Binghamton (Broome county)
11. On-line
12. Other, please specify _____
13. Other, please specify _____
14. Other, please specify _____

14. Where does your household buy the majority of its groceries? _____

- 7 Brookfield (Madison county)
- 0 Hubbardsville (Madison county)
- 24 Waterville (Oneida county)
- 48 Hamilton (Madison county)
- 135 Utica/New Hartford (Oneida county)
- 0 Syracuse (Onondaga county)
- 0 Cooperstown (Otsego county)
- 11 Norwich (Chenango county)
- 5 Oneida (Madison county)
- 0 Binghamton (Broome county)
- 0 On-line
- 11 Other, please specify _____
- 0 Other, please specify _____
- 3 Other, please specify _____

15. Where does your household buy the majority of its non-food items (eg: clothing, prescriptions, health and beauty supplies, household supplies, etc) _____

- 1 Brookfield (Madison county)
- 0 Hubbardsville (Madison county)
- 32 Waterville (Oneida county)
- 20 Hamilton (Madison county)
- 166 Utica/New Hartford (Oneida county)
- 0 Syracuse (Onondaga county)
- 2 Cooperstown (Otsego county)
- 11 Norwich (Chenango county)
- 6 Oneida (Madison county)
- 0 Binghamton (Broome county)
- 3 On-line
- 3 Other, please specify _____
- 1 Other, please specify _____
- 2 Other, please specify _____

16. Where does your household obtain the majority of its medical services? _____

- 6 Brookfield (Madison county)
- 2 Hubbardsville (Madison county)
- 44 Waterville (Oneida county)
- 61 Hamilton (Madison county)
- 65 Utica/New Hartford (Oneida county)

- 4 Syracuse (Onondaga county)
- 26 Cooperstown (Otsego county)
- 7 Norwich (Chenango county)
- 3 Oneida (Madison county)
- 0 Binghamton (Broome county)
- 1 On-line
- 18 Other, please specify _____
- 2 Other, please specify _____
- 4 Other, please specify _____

17. For all adults in your household, please indicate their primary employment status. Put the number of the appropriate response in the space provided for each adult member of your household.

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 128 Working full-time away from home | Adult 1 _____ |
| 34 Working part-time away from home | Adult 2 _____ |
| 7 Working full-time at home taking care of my children | Adult 3 _____ |
| 18 Working full-time at home in home business | |
| 79 Retired | |
| 24 Retired but still working full or part time | |
| 18 Unemployed | |
| 5 Student | |
| 7 Volunteering | |

18. The highway budget consumes the major portion of the town property tax. Would you consider less highway services for lower taxes?

62 Yes 160 No

Explanation:

19. Should the town emergency/rescue service maintain a voluntary registry of special needs people in the event of an emergency need?

177 Yes 34 No

Suggestions:

20. Should the town look into programs to enhance the town's most significant industry of agriculture, with tax breaks or other means?

182 Yes 31 No

Suggestions:

21. Do you feel that the town controls its expenses relative to the services it provides?

114 Yes 63 No

Explanation:

22. Taxes are a prime concern to everyone. How would you like to see the town control costs and or lower taxes?

- | | |
|--|--|
| 26 <input type="checkbox"/> Cut back town provided services | 25 <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate some town services currently performed |
| 85 <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidate services with other towns/county | 79 <input type="checkbox"/> Do not Know |

Comments:

23. Would high taxes force you to sell off property you currently own?

68 Yes 53 No 57 Do not know

24. Would you want your tax money to support a program for the town to advance locally produced or provided business?

105 Yes **93** No

Explanation:

25. Would you support incentives for start-up businesses?

135 Yes **63** No

Why or why not?

26. Should Brookfield encourage "cottage businesses"? (ie: coffee shop, library style computer access shop, swap shop/food bank, 24 hour gas station/mini mart, car wash, laundromat, etc.)

156 Yes **53** No

Comments:

27. Do you feel that the town should do more to obtain grant money for the towns? (ie: HUD, Equine tourism, Agricultural tourism, Bed and Breakfast businesses or similar other grant programs)

180 Yes **25** No

Explanation:

28. Would you support a Senior Housing Facility in the Town of Brookfield?

159 Yes **8** No **2 Maybe**

Comments:

29. Do you use the town web site?

84 Yes **162** No

30. If you use the town web site how often and for what purpose do you use it for?

9 Very often **42** Not often **45** General town information (notices, town business hours etc.)

20 Other: (explain)

31. Does the Town of Brookfield do a good job of communicating what programs are available in the community?

68 Yes **107** No

Suggestions:

32. How do you feel about the following natural resources:

	In favor of	Neutral	Against	Need more information
Natural gas drilling	61 <input type="checkbox"/>	37 <input type="checkbox"/>	73 <input type="checkbox"/>	47 <input type="checkbox"/>
Wind power	156 <input type="checkbox"/>	27 <input type="checkbox"/>	15 <input type="checkbox"/>	26 <input type="checkbox"/>
Solar	156 <input type="checkbox"/>	36 <input type="checkbox"/>	5 <input type="checkbox"/>	19 <input type="checkbox"/>

Comments:

33. Are you in favor of a Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Brookfield?

Yes **114**____ No **37**____ Unsure **69**____ Do Not know **43**____

Addendum 1.b

Town of Brookfield Citizens Survey Students

Completed Surveys = 49 No comments = 10 Comments = 39

COMMENTS

1. What is your age? 49 high school students participated.
No comments

2. Which of the following best describes your residency in the Town of Brookfield?
40 = full-time residents, 3= Lifelong resident, 2=New to Brookfield,
1=Part-time resident, 12=Long term resident (10+yrs), 2=other.
Comment= Outskirts of Madison County

3. Which of the following applies to you?
1 =homeowner, 1 =land owner, 49=students
No comments

4. What type of housing unit do you live in?
35=single family home, 6= mobile home,4==two family home,
2=apartment, comment=Single family home with trailer in back.

5. Please check the top five reasons you choose to live in the Town of Brookfield from the following;
15=grew up here, 14=close to family, 12=rural atmosphere, 12=natural environment/open spaces, 5=recreational opportunities, 2=cost of housing, 2=retirement, 2 quality of schools, 1 =close to work,
1 =proximity to metropolitan area, comments=Parent moved here - related to town official - I was born here - Mom got remarried.

6. What do you believe draws people to the Town of Brookfield (choose all that apply).
44=hunting, 40=Brookfield State Lands (trail system), 33=County Fair and its related events.32=snowmobile, 27=fishing, 25=rural nature/scenery, 22=agricultural, 21=horseback riding,
No comment

7. Please answer the following in regarding the Town of Brookfield's recreational trails:

Do you feel the trails need more maintenance? 27=yes 18=no

Do you use the trails? 39=yes 14=no

If yes, check all that apply;

hiking=20, hunting/fishing=16 country skiing/snowshoeing=1,

No comment

8. Since the year 2000 (or since you came to the Town of Brookfield), what is your overall impression of the town?

It has improved=12, It hasn't changed=25, It has declined=6

Comments-More things to do - they suck at taking care of roads - more involving

9. As the Town of Brookfield grows, how important is planning for the future?

Very important=21, Important=20, Not important=2

No comment

10. In your opinion, which of the following are the top 5 priorities for the Town of Brookfield:

Farmland preservation=29, Improve pedestrian safety (I.e., sidewalks/walking paths)=24.

Develop parks and recreational facilities=23, Create programs for Brookfield's youth=19. Open

space preservation=19, Main street preservation/revitalization=13, Balanced mix of agriculture

and recreation=13, Develop a sustainable local economy=13, Preservation of

historical/archeological sites=11, Beautification/Property maintenance=11, Manage residential

development=8, Property tax reform=7, Improve code enforcement=3,

comments: Maintaining nature due to the fact it is important to many - back roads - clean environment/recycling

11. Where do you think growth should occur? Main street/stripe - farmlands - recreational areas - improving back roads - farms - additions to the park, more businesses/housing - everywhere - helping out farmers - main street - building - building - farming.

21. Do you feel that the town controls its expenses relative to the services it provides?

Yes = 13 No = 30

Comments; We spend too much.

22. Taxes are a prime concern to everyone. How would you like to see the town control costs and or lower taxes?

Cut back town provided services = 1, Consolidate services with other towns/county = 22, Eliminate some town services currently performed = 4, Do not know = 22.

Comment; Spend \$'s smartly.

23. Would high taxes force you to sell off property you currently own?

Yes= 1, No == 0, Do not know == 17.

Comment; Don't own property.

24. Would you want your tax money to support a program for the town to advance locally produced or provided business?

Yes=37 No=9

Comments; It might create new jobs - it would help our local economy - their choice, let them - We need more wind power and solar energy –

33. Are you in favor of a Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Brookfield?

Yes = 10, No=4, Unsure=12, Do not know= 7

YEAH

Addendum 1.c Requested Letters of Support for the Town of Brookfield

Things/Places Which Give Identity to our Community:

Some thoughts from Clint Abrams

School
Churches
Stores
Restaurants
Post Office
Fellowship Hall
Funeral Home
Historical Society
Town Government
Local Justice System
Fire and Rescue
Fairgrounds
Bars
Bed & Breakfasts

Once lost, these places are seldom replaced and each is a part of the fabric which makes up our community.

Be proud of your town and participate.

During the past few years, the Board of Education, the Administration, and the entire staff at Brookfield Central School have worked very hard to maintain quality programs for all our students. The tough fiscal times experienced both locally and at the New York State level has made this task extremely difficult and challenging. Yet, the District remains committed to our mission statement:

Mission Statement

The Brookfield Central School District Community provides a diversity of academic and co-curricular programs and activities with emphasis on the development and demonstration of knowledge, skills, responsible attitudes, and personal growth for our students and community so that they may reach their fullest potential in an ever changing society.

The fulfillment of the above mission has been further complicated by a minimal increase in state aid and yet we have experienced an increase in mandated requirements in the implementation of a Common Core Curriculum and the Annual Professional Performance Review of all teachers. These mandates have added unfunded expenses to our budget.

Our entire staff has been involved in extensive in-service training in both of these areas and are "ahead of the curve" in the actual implementation of these changes. I have been very pleased with the changes our staff is making and also very proud of many of our teachers who have taken a leadership role throughout the entire area in the actual implementation of these changes.

This budget represents a continuing and ongoing commitment to the overall mission for our students. The elimination of programs and staff was examined in specific detail. After careful consideration, it was determined that any further elimination of any Brookfield staff members and/or existing programs would be detrimental to our children both in the short term and most importantly in the long term.

Our small size makes Brookfield unique and it also allows our staff and community to provide a personal sense of belonging that larger districts cannot provide.

Throughout my first year at Brookfield, I have been continually shown how wonderful our students are and how supportive the entire community is of our children and programs. It is our ongoing goal to maintain this sense of achievement and pride during the foreseeable future.

It is important to remind ourselves through our mission statement that our children and a quality educational program remain our Number I priority.

I grew up in the small village of Tivoli, NY on the Hudson River, surrounded by farms. The mileage marker on the railroad read 99 miles to NYC. This proximity would prove problematic. In the 1990s, as people in the city amassed unprecedented wealth, their thirst for second and third homes grew. The real estate market burgeoned, resulting in buyers offering well over the asking price. In a matter of years, people with local roots were unable to afford real estate in the area, and property taxes more than doubled. The local volunteer fire departments were overwhelmed with calls, but not with new volunteers. People would talk about welcoming the increased tax base, yet taxes and the cost of living kept increasing, as demand for services ballooned. As the population changed, demands for big box stores in villages grew. Stores like Hannaford and CVS opened despite local opposition. After 9/11/01, the development pressure increased exponentially. Traffic became unmanageable and traffic lights were installed with regularity. Suddenly, it would take 10 minutes to go from one end of a village to another, when it used to be a snap. The landscape of the area would change from week to week, as longstanding landmarks were razed to make way for convenience stores/gas stations. Farmland and orchards were transformed into suburban type housing developments seemingly overnight. Eventually, we didn't recognize the people or places. The place we loved was gone.

We embarked on a lengthy real estate search, hoping to recapture the rural, agricultural community we had lost. In the process, we saw similar fates befall counties like Delaware and Schoharie. We moved our focus farther west, and were delighted by Brookfield, as it reminded us of Tivoli at its finest. We moved here in 2006. We recognize that we are outsiders, and always will be. However, as refugees from an area that changed beyond all recognition, we feel we can offer a unique perspective on the value of a comprehensive plan. To us, peace and quiet are highly underrated and very difficult to find these days. The absence of heavy traffic is literally a breath of fresh air, rendering traffic lights unnecessary. It is rare to have a landscape unscarred by commercial, corporate installations and large housing developments. It is unique to have only small, locally owned businesses with character. The 13,000 acres of state land is a special feature and it makes sense to maximize the use of the horse trails. Brookfield has a timeless rural/agricultural atmosphere that seems unlikely to change anytime soon. We hope that this proves to be true, and would support anything that maintains a strong rural/agricultural base in the town.

Kristin Wiles

The Musings of A Simple Country Man
Looking Into Brookfield's Crystal Ball

by
Hobie Morris

**Real beauty is in the country,
Old hills possess a charm;
In green meadows, hayracks stand
Beside an old red barn.**

Mary Ann Putman

My family roots were planted deeply in Brookfield over 80 years ago. In the intervening years as have our roots, this community has also grown and changed.

When something is "alive" change is taking place every second. Our body, like our community, is constantly coming to grips with myriad internal and external changes. Change is simply a fact of life. How we respond to change may determine our happiness, success, health and indeed survival. Ultimately our fate, and community's, rests squarely in each of our hands.

Some kind of planning/preparation is thoughtfully necessary to map our way into the future. Failing to do so leaves us wandering aimlessly through uncharted waters. This kind of planning is necessary for you and me as well as our local community. But this isn't easy in your life or mine, let alone a larger and more diverse community.

Complicating our planning/preparations is a changing world unprecedented in the history of mankind. Revolutionary changes that leave us exhausted, confused, bewildered, fearful, etc. Trying to comprehend, understand these changes is like trying to lasso a runaway horse—on foot! The past seems so understandable in retrospect.

But we can never totally "change" back to our understandable past. Brookfield's remoteness was a powerful factor in molding this township into a very unique community. Only in the latter part of the last century has this uniqueness been challenged by outside (and internal) changes.

Brookfield's location "off the beaten path" produced a citizenry that was hardworking, innovative, community minded and fiercely independent in thought and action. They were self reliant and extremely proud and protective of their freedoms. They had a noticeable resistance to unwanted change.

Even though in a "backwater" area Brookfield was for most of its history a very dynamic and prosperous community. Fourteen churches formed a solid foundation corner. People were church goers and theological beliefs strongly influenced the way people lived and conducted their lives.

There were also 32 schools at one time; many civic, fraternal and patriotic organizations; a bank; a newspaper that was a powerful voice for good in this area; five post offices; countless stores, businesses and professional services, including six MD's in the township. More than 100 farms covered Brookfield's landscape.

Local government was non-intrusive. Its primary role was assuring the health, welfare and well being of the populace. In disputes elected officials often serving as a referee in reaching a solution. In the Jeffersonian belief in limited government the consensus of this community was in strong agreement. That the best government was the least government.

But Brookfield's past is largely a faint shadow today as we face a question mark future. And make no mistake, Brookfield is changing in unprecedented ways.

As never before new faces—often with different beliefs and lifestyles—are moving into the township. Land held for many generations by the same family is being sold, divided and resold. Farms are slowly succumbing to market changes, unpaid bills and a younger generation unwilling to transition this way of living into the future. Young people search for meaning in their lives. Their future, in this long standing semi-depressed area, very questionable. Our seniors struggle to make ends meet. These, and many other changes, swirling around us, have reluctantly pulled Brookfield into the cauldron of changes that characterizes 21st century American life.

Despite all this gloom and doom, my crystal ball shows Brookfield's future to be very bright. I rub the ball and speculate why this belief.

Its people, personally and collectively, are our greatest, most vital asset. Every person can contribute his/her unique worth to this community. In goodness, sharing, unselfishly helping and contributing in countless ways, in tears and laughter, in talents used to help others—in so many ways we exhibit the “old time” values that made living here such a rewarding and pleasurable experience. Our government, with our encouragement, tries hard to preserve the best of the past as independently as they are allowed in our government heavy—at all levels—21st century. Our historic love of personal and community freedom and independence is a constant check on our elected officials.

We have the collective talent, brains, and innovative, hardworking citizenry to forge a great future. We must pay special attention and homage to keeping our historic connection to the earth that has sustained and nurtured countless generations throughout our long history. The earth will continue to do so if we strive to be good stewards of it.

To achieve this bright future we must live, work, dream, and govern cooperatively for the common good. We must strive to bring out the best in ourselves and others.

This may require planning. We shouldn't fear it but embrace it. I have great faith in the collective goodness and wisdom of each one of you. I fear not in the least. We are collectively the product of our past. We have the natural and human resources and will, plus talented and dedicated community leaders, to guide Brookfield into the future.

Indeed our future will be hammered out by the collective will on the anvil of change. Each blow will strengthen Brookfield to meet the future with confidence, great excitement and anticipation.

When I was asked to write a little summary on the hamlet of Leonardsville, I thought it would be easy. But I have been doing a lot of thinking and asking some people their views and this is what I came up with.

In the data that was collected by the Comprehensive Plan survey. It was established that we have tiers that support our Township. In the first tier is a school. I will address this issue first. As we all know Leonardsville does not have a school anymore, a school which is described by many as the "heart of the community". So in saying that we have obviously lost the "heart" of our community. The school in years past was a bustling center for the gathering of many people, whether it be for school functions, or a meeting held by various organizations in the community or a fund raiser to help support the community. A gathering place where people could see their neighbors, and keep informed on issues that are important to a community.

While losing this school we obviously lost the children and the programs that they were involved in, which has drawn them away from the community and into another one.

Also in this tier is the Fire Service, which is always struggling to keep volunteers, and this is not common to just our community but all over the country. Years ago when I was a member of the fire service, I did it because I was a stay at home mom, and was available to help during the day while others had to work. There was training that was required at the time, which I attended, along with others in the community. But over the years due to state mandates, it has made it more difficult for people to get the required training. They are busy trying to raise a family and work so they can maintain their households. Do I agree we need to make sure the safety is maintained in the fire service? Of course I do, but I'm not sure it has to be done to the degree that the state feels is necessary. The fire service is ever changing, it has gone from a fire service to mainly a medical service, and with the lack of healthcare for some people in the rural community, the fire service is their Healthcare and when they call 911, the emergencies are most of the time "true" emergencies.

In years gone by there were a lot of farmers in our area, and several people that worked in the community, whether it was at the local auto repair shop, the store, the diner and the like, but those things are gone, hence the manpower to respond to emergencies is also gone. Is consolidation of services a possibility in the future?

Do I have solutions to these problems? Well I sure wish I did, but I do have an idea to possibly help bring some of the "heart" back into the community, wouldn't it be nice to have a farmers' market in town during the growing season? We have several cottage industries in our township, and we could also bring others in from neighboring communities, and having a main thoroughfare running through our community it seems like the location would be ideal. In saying that we are also unique in the aspect that we have an organization in our community that tries to keep the "spirit" in the community. The Leonardsville Community Service group, maybe they would be interested in spearheading a project like that, and possibly turn it into a fund raiser. The former basketball and tennis courts might be a good spot to hold such an event. In closing I would just like to say thank you to all the people that worked so hard gathering information to help move our township forward in a "cautious" manner.

Hopefully in the future more of our neighbors will be willing to contribute information, so that they can have a better idea of the needs felt by all the towns' people.

Respectfully, Barb Howard

My Hopes for Our Township

Karen Beehm

I presently live on Fitch Road in the town of Brookfield. It's a beautiful, rural area along a Town road. There are neighbors, not too close, so I'm not out in the middle of nowhere.

My home is about 30 minutes away from Utica, Norwich and Oneida, about 90 minutes away from Syracuse. There are grocery stores available in the cities noted above, as well as in Waterville, Hamilton, Sherburne, and Clinton. There are smaller stores also available in Brookfield, North Brookfield and Hubbardsville.

To visit my doctor, I go to Waterville. If hospital services are needed, there is Community Memorial Hospital in Hamilton and larger hospitals in Syracuse if necessary. There is a rescue squad available at the North Brookfield Fire Department and, if an ambulance is needed, Waterville area Vol. Ambulance Corps is there.

For over 26 years, I worked in Norwich and I can only recall one time when poor road conditions kept me away. There were many non-travelable roads that particular day! In general, the roads in my area are quite decent.

Most of the properties in this area are free of junk and essentially kept neat. I think homeowners do care about their homes and surrounding land. The drive down Fitch Road is usually quite pleasant.

When I think of this area, I recall several nice farms, which are no longer in operation, farms where hard-working people were able to make a living for their families. I'd like to see a return of active farming to this area, if not "family farms", at least well-run, productive farms of a larger scope.

There are other means of livelihood in this area also, enterprises which are utilized by people who live here as well as by visitors to the area. People can visit Taylor's tack and field for many items as well as to ride horseback across some very beautiful country. The Moscow Hill Horse trail System is just a few miles from me, up in the hills. There are B&B's also available in the area. I would like to see cottage industries of any interesting, useful type become more prevalent in our township. I would also like to see these industries represented at the Madison Country Fair each year.

I would like to see some growth in residential areas, but I feel there is a need for a regulated growth, with some well-thought-out guidelines. Overall, I would like to see our rural character remain as a large part of the appeal of our township.

My Name is Dennis Owens, Farmer and life long resident of Brookfield.

Brookfield, (my town) is situated on Beaver Creek about halfway between Route 12 on the west and Route 8 to the east. Many hills and valleys feed the creek which once long ago had many grist mills and sawmills. Dairy farming has been a main stay of the land while many have left the farms for better paying vocations. To the north and west of the village, about ten thousand acres is State Reforestation; offering many a chance to bike, hike, ride horses, hunting, fishing and of course snowmobile. Easy access from many routes is a plus.

The Madison County Fair is held on Fairground Road each summer. It once was a really big event. Before Route 20 was built and the thruway too, horses and buggies flocked to Brookfield for the annual event in the tens of thousands!!

One hundred years ago Skaneateles turnpike was the main thorough fare from Albany to Skaneateles. It was the stagecoach route. What Brookfield will be like one hundred years from now is what possesses me to write and hope that we can blend the old with the new for all to enjoy!!

Please come and visit!

Dennis Owens
Brookfield farmer and resident

Feb. 2012

The Madison County Agricultural Society was incorporated in 1839, with the goal of having people exhibit their farm produce and show their animals in a fair. The Madison County Fair is one of the oldest fairs in the COUNTRY, not just the county.

At present, the Fair, held here in Brookfield, is one of the earliest to be held in the season each year, taking place the first part of July. This logistic makes it more difficult to have produce to exhibit, since there's not much available so early in the season. There is an open horse show held at the Fair each year. As well as agricultural exhibits and many other exhibits of canning, baking, sewing, arts and crafts, etc., there is also a midway on the grounds, with rides and games which younger folks enjoy. A demolition derby is held, as well as tractor and truck pulls. The Miss Madison County pageant is held at the Fair. A petting zoo allows kids to have contact with small animals. There is also a flea market on-going and several vendors on the grounds. Several organizations from the county and the surrounding area contribute information at various booths. The Brookfield Central School Senior Class usually holds an auction during the Fair also.

The Madison County Fairgrounds have been, and are at present, used for other activities also. Wheel Days is held there in September of each year and usually brings a good crowd. There are many vendors, as well as a showing of antique cars, vintage cars and steam engines. The AMC Motorcycle Show is scheduled for mid-June.

The NYS Horse Council has used the Fairgrounds for 35 years, as a base for trail rides and shows and as a dining facility. There are many trails available in the Horse Trail System in the State land. At the end of June, there will be a 50 mile competitive trail ride held. There is a pleasure trail ride held in October each year.

The Brookfield Riding & Driving Association also holds functions on the Fairgrounds. They have functions scheduled from the end of May, into Sept. ACTHA (trail horse assoc.) uses the grounds and has a ride coming up in Sept. Status is uncertain for the trail competition scheduled for May. At the end of June, Mule Days will be held at the Fairgrounds. This is usually quite well attended.

The Madison County 4-H has not been active at the Madison County Fair since the 1970's, choosing to hold their functions in Morrisville. It would seem that 4-H should be a part of the Fair. In years past, showing/placing at a County Fair was criteria for showing at the State Fair. We don't know how that changed.

As a little more history, stock car races were held in front of the grandstand for many years. These ended in the 1980's. Harness racing also took place but ended in the 1960's. It would cost a great deal of money to upgrade the track for these activities to resume.

Buildings at the Fairgrounds have been repaired in recent years. The horseshow ring was renovated in 2011, with great improvement. The ring is now in excellent condition for shows. The Fair Board receives some funds from Madison County, \$5,000 for advertising and \$5,000 for entertainment. There is also \$15,000 available in matching funds, which means that the County would match donations made to the Fair up to that amount.

There are currently 18 people on the Fair Board, plus 12 "Life Members", who still have a vote but are not active participants. I (Jeff Mayne) have been on the Board since 1978 or 1979 and I am currently the President. Josh Walker, who is the Vice President, has been a member for 3 years. We both feel that the Madison County Fair is important to the area; that it's located in a beautiful setting, which should be no problem to reach during the non-snow months; that it needs to be supported by people and organizations within the County and the nearby areas.

We hope that this letter has been informative and helpful. Thank you.

Jeff Mayne

Josh Walker

The Brookfield Riding and Driving Association

The Brookfield Riding and Driving Association, a non-profit organization, was created in September 2010 to promote the equine businesses in our area, the horse show grounds at the Madison County Fairgrounds and the beautiful Brookfield Trail System.

We strongly believe in open space and the need to preserve agricultural lands. The town of Brookfield's location, midway between the large horse shows in Victor/Pittsfield, Syracuse and Saratoga; is ideally suited to encourage migration of horse owners into our community. The Brookfield Trail System is a big draw for the recreational horse owner.

The increasing urbanization and escalating taxes in the southern part of our state are producing an outward migration of horse owners. We have seen a growth in the number of horse owners relocating to our town from primarily the southern part of the state, but recognized the need to improve our infrastructure to encourage more horse owners to relocate to this area.

What does Brookfield have to offer horse owners?

- Farms of 100+ acres and smaller tracts of land (10 to 20 acres) for sale at reasonable prices with a much lower tax rate than suburbanized areas.
- The Madison County Fairgrounds show arena
- The Brookfield Trail System

At our first meeting, we listed the Equine Industry's potential positive economic impact on Brookfield's economy. Brookfield grows some of the best hay in the state, which is a horse owner's greatest expense. Living "close to the source" benefits both the farmer who harvests the hay and the horse owner by eliminating the usual doubling in price that hay dealers add. Horse owners support tack shops, feed stores/suppliers, farriers, veterinarians, farm equipment sales and repair services, building trades/supplies and so on.

Horse shows and other equine events, such as clinics and competitive trail rides, will benefit Brookfield by bringing non-residents into the area where they spend money on lodging/camping, food, incidentals and other recreational and entertainment activities. The show participants themselves, besides spending money on entry fees and stabling, purchase other goods and services for their horses, including hay/feed, other horse supplies, tack, bedding, farrier and veterinary services.

Offering horse shows/equine events in Brookfield will attract breeders, trainers and boarding facilities, who usually prefer to purchase farms as opposed to the smaller tracts of land favored by the owners of 1 or 2 horses. Our numerous hills and valleys are ideal for raising young horses as the freedom to run in large hilly pastures ensures strong bones and a healthy cardiopulmonary system, both of which reduce the chance of injury once they begin training and competing. Attracting those who breed/train/show and sell sport horses not only helps preserve our farmland, these types of farms offer year-round full and part-time jobs that are sorely needed in Brookfield. Having the trail system in Brookfield is an added "plus" for the conditioning of sport horses as well as for a psychological "break" from the rigors of showing.

With this in mind, our first major task was renovating the horse show area at the Madison County Fairgrounds. We held 2 fundraisers in the early part of 2011. The proceeds were used to purchase paint and other items to renovate the interior of Horse Barn 1 at the Madison County Fairgrounds.

We completely renovated the footing of the horse show arena at the Madison County Fairgrounds. The footing had not been replaced in 20 years and had deteriorated badly over the past decade, rendering the arena unusable for the majority of equine events. We received an allocation of \$10,000 from the Madison County Legislature in June of 2011 and renovated the arena ourselves, using heavy equipment from one of our members with assistance from our association members, citizens of the town, our town supervisor, 2 of our town councilmen and our highway superintendent, who all graciously donated many hours of their time. In addition, one of our members generously donated a number of high quality jumps, to add to the more professional appearance of the Madison County Fair Horse Show. This project proved what can be accomplished when members of a community work together! We heavily promoted the horse show arena renovations and the result was the largest attendance at the Madison County Fair Horse Show in almost 2 decades. We hosted a Parade of Breeds at the Madison County Fair, which was well received and will become an annual event.

We have 11 shows/events scheduled for 2012, one of which is a Driven Dressage Festival. This Festival is a nationally sanctioned show and the first of its kind on the east coast. It is a highly popular event on the west coast and will draw competitors from throughout the northeast. The secondary theme of this show is "support your local farmers and celebrate local foods". All of the food provided will be locally grown/produced, benefitting our local economy.

We are regular contributors to Horse Bits magazine and the Madison County Courier. Our events are publicized in Horse Bits, Horseman's Yankee Pedlar, The Northeast Equine Journal, Steed Read and the Mane Stream horse magazines. This increases our coverage/advertising to all of New England, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania and helps spread the word about this truly beautiful area.

Karen Nowak
President, Brookfield Riding and Driving Association

BROOKFIELD ARTISAN GROUP

The idea of community folks getting together to share their creativity has always been a dream of mine. Together with other neighbors that dream took shape in December of 2012. Our goal was to promote the talents of the people in our area as well as the surrounding areas of Brookfield. Their talents could and would supplement their income as well as bring joy to others.

Thus began the "Brookfield Artisan Group. The group is made up of illustrators, photographers, writers, note card artists, knitters, sewing talents, clothing accessories, soaps and candle makers, jewelry makers, mustard creators, cane makers, painters and folks that grow their own herbs, fragrance, veggies, fruits and make their own foods, pies, cookies, etc.

The ages of our participants range from teens to elders. We have youngsters with challenges that have shown us that they don't let any bumps in the road stop them from achieving their creative goals. Their enthusiasm warms my heart and soul and proves to me that expression is key for all of us.

We welcome others in and around the community to join us. As long as you've made the product yourself you are welcome to become a member of the Brookfield Artisan Group. Our goal is to share our talents amongst our community as well as neighboring folks. It is our hope to utilize our community centers to have monthly showings of our products for the pleasure of all.

Thank you, Marylou Rhodes/artisan founder, 5/2013

Here are my thoughts.

As a farmer and small business owner, I would wonder how much more change lies ahead. Most of my life being spent in agriculture in upstate NY, I draw some conclusions. Many of our neighbors are in the ranks of the retired which shows this is a community well suited. The size and number of active farms continue to change. The farms provide food locally and outside the area. The farms and state land provide recreational activities which attract people with many different interests. We will see more tourism and grass roots farming change the landscape. The town of Brookfield will change with it.

Dave Williams

Endless Trails Farm

Denise and James, Giles Rd.

We bought our property about 12 years ago, knowing that we wanted to someday relocate here from Long Island. We were not sure when that would happen, maybe after retirement which was a long time away. We traveled "Up North" often and camped on our property, enjoying all it had to offer. We would spend long hours mowing the grass with a DR walk behind mower until we found someone that would mow the "grass" for hay that they took to use. We loved all that the beautiful town of Brookfield had to offer, and the desire to be here more permanently grew. In October of 2001, we built the garage. Two years later the house was constructed, and in 2006 our family moved to Brookfield permanently. We left good jobs on Long Island in the green industry to venture forth to what we were sure would be a less constricted way of living. We could have animals, or rather livestock, which we could not have in our previous town of Brookhaven. We have the most beautiful view of our woodland and the state land forest to look at everyday, and we have livestock! Beef cows, sheep, chickens and turkeys. We raised turkeys for our families for Christmas our first year here, and folks started asking if we were interested in selling any of them. We really didn't need 15 of them, so we said OK. We are now "By the Barn Farm and Nursery" and "Coyote Creek Farm", both farm businesses. We started by reselling nursery stock-shrubs, etc. Now we sell turkeys and chickens for meat, eggs and lamb meat and wool products. The sheep started as our son's 4-H project. We raise and sell Shetland Sheep. We pasture raise everything, rotating pasture as needed. We sell our products mostly from the farm or farmers markets, and the wool products I also sell in a local craft shop. The beef we raise for ourselves, and have not bought beef from the store in about 3 years. You can't do that on Long Island! We do not use medicated feed or any chemicals to raise our poultry, and our laying flock is truly free range. Due to the cost of feed for the poultry, it has made it difficult to make any real money with them at this point. The sheep however, do a fairfy decent job of making them worth raising. And of course we can't overlook the joy that all of the animals bring just by being fun and interesting to watch.

If I said that it has been easy living here, that would be a lie. To say that we don't enjoy it would also be a lie. When I can wake up every morning and look out my bedroom window and see a beautiful sunrise, or snow covered trees or the changing colors of the forest or OUR sheep and turkeys grazing in the pasture, or hear the owls and even coyotes at night, I am reminded why we came here. Our kids, the youngest now 13, have also learned alot from living in what others call "the middle of nowhere". Well, we love the middle of nowhere, and the people we have come in contact with in Brookfield have allowed us to feel like we belong here even though we are "outsiders". When we needed help, someone would always be there to lend a hand. For that, we would like to say Thank You!

I'm not sure what changes Brookfield could endure without IOOSing it's Agricultural and recreational feel, which makes it home to us.

Submitted by:
Denise Timms

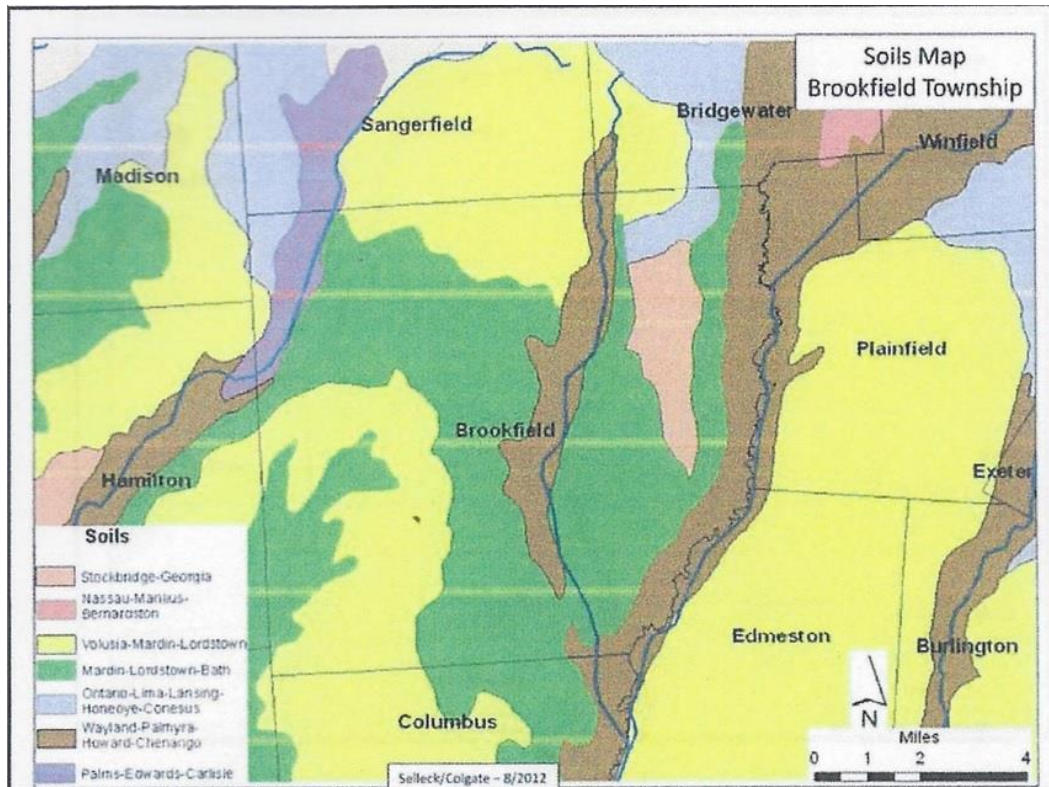
Hello, I am Judy Hinman from Amberfields Morgans on Vidler Rd in North Brookfield NY. I am a local girl, born In Deansboro in 1960, and never strayed far from there. When I was 10 yrs old my cousin brought me up to Moscow Hill to ride the horse trails. That began a life long love of these trails and this area. Not surprisingly, in 1990 when my husband told me about some land for sale on Vidler Rd., the realtor was immediately called and our land purchased. People are always telling me how lucky I am to have my farm here on Vidler Rd. with its close proximity to the Horse Trails,, My reply is,, this was not luck,, we saw it, wanted it, and bought it! Not only is this a great place to raise and ride horses,, it has been a wonderful place to raise our family as well. Community is a big part of this area,, it is truly a place where 'Everybody knows your name.. and is there for you if needed. Maybe I am fortunate to be living here,, but truly would not have it any other way! submitted by Judy Hinman.

Letter from George Cowen re Town financial support to local organizations:

Town government has provided financial support to local organizations which provide valuable public services to our citizens and enhance their lives. In recent years, such support has been given to Town-sponsored summer youth athletic programs, the Madison County Fair, the Town of Brookfield Historical Society, the Baptist Church (which provides facilities for Senior Citizen congregate meals and a food pantry), the Johnson-Rogers American Legion Post and the Gorton Lake Association (for purchase of grass-eating carp to help preserve the quality of water in the lake). The Town should continue to support local organizations as they add to the quality of life in our Town.

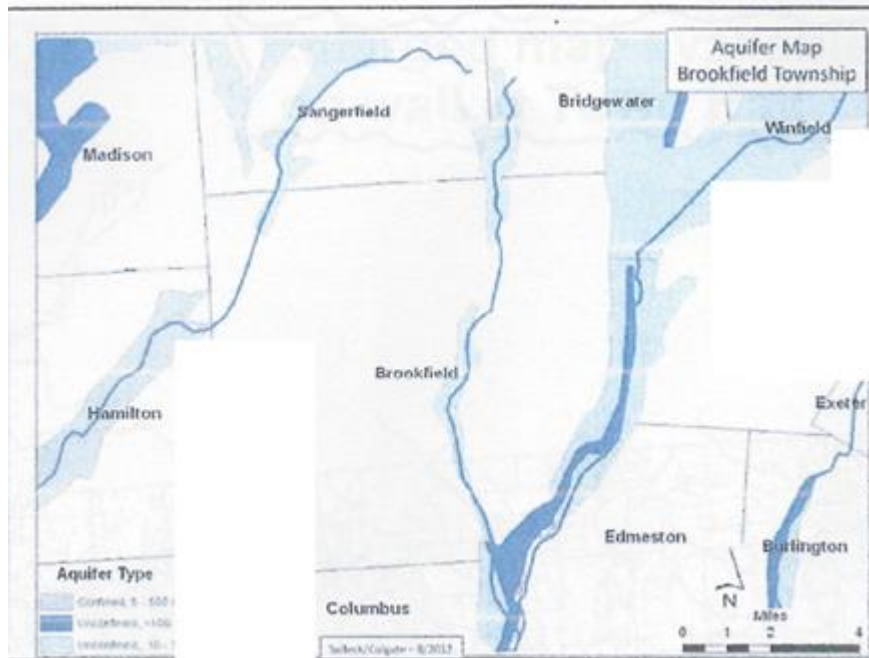
May 1, 2013

Addendum 2a Soil Map of the Town



This very generalized soil map depicts soil groups that are present in the Township. Much more detailed soil maps are available from the US Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service. This map generally shows the relationships between soil group, topography, and the type of surficial geological material on which the soil developed. For example, the Volusia-Mardin-Lordstown and Mardin-Lordstown-Bath groupings are found in upland areas underlain by till. These soils are generally more silt and clay-rich than the Wayland-Palmyra-Howard-Chenango soils that are developed on sandy-gravelly outwash and kame materials. Note the presence of 'muck' soils (Palms-Edwards-Carlisle) in the Nine Mile Swamp area of the Sangerfield River valley.

Addendum 3 Aquifer of the Town

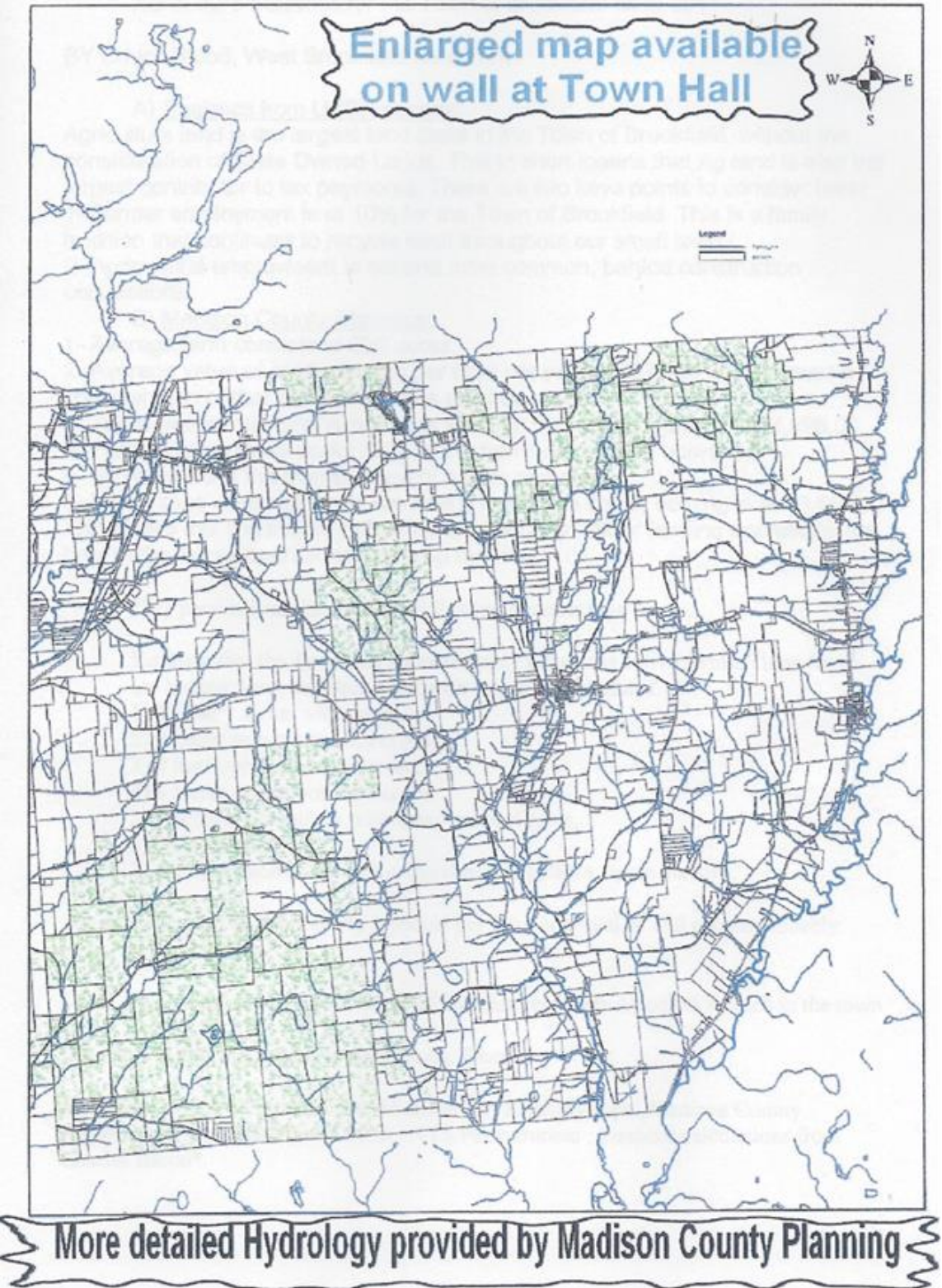


This generalized aquifer map shows the major aquifers found in glacial outwash and kame terrace gravel and sand deposits of the major through valleys in Brookfield. Many less extensive aquifer systems are also present on the upland areas, and are not shown on this map. These upland aquifers are generally sufficient for private wells for residential and farm use, although in areas of near-surface bedrock, yields may be limited and water quality compromised by the presence of dissolved iron and sulfur compounds. Fractured bedrock also may form locally important aquifer systems suitable for private residential use. Additional characterization of these minor upland aquifers, and fractured bedrock water sources would be useful.

The water quality in the major valley aquifers is generally very good, although elevated hardness levels are of concern. The relatively thin upland aquifers, and the aquifer system in the Beaver Creek valley are critical resources, and care should be taken to insure adequate separation of private septic and water well locations, and proper well design to prevent infiltration of shallow groundwater into the well. Shallow (e.g. 'dug' wells lined with dry-laid stone) wells on older properties should be carefully inspected to insure that *casings* are present, and intact, to prevent soil water and shallow aquifer water infiltration. Development of larger yielding commercial or municipal groundwater wells will likely be limited to the Unadilla Valley aquifer system. Withdrawal of surface water from the Unadilla River might impact recharge to the aquifer in that area. Similarly, elevated withdrawal of groundwater from aquifers near the river could cause declines in stream flow. Since future development in the township is likely, including possible drilling for natural gas, a thorough understanding of aquifer systems in the Town of Brookfield is needed to protect this critical resource.

(B.Selsick/ColgateUniversity.Aug.2012)

Town of Brookfield Hydrology



Addendum 4 Wildlife, Plants, Important Habitats



New York Natural Heritage Program

A Partnership between The Nature Conservancy and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway, 5th Floor Albany, NY 12233-4757 (518) 402-8935 Fax (518) 402-8925 www.nynhp.org

November 6, 2012

Jacqueline Mineo

Dear Ms. Mineo:

In response to your request, we have reviewed the New York Natural Heritage Program database with respect to the Town of Brookfield, Madison County.

Enclosed is a report of rare animals, rare plants, and significant natural communities documented from the Town of Brookfield.

Natural communities are types of wetlands, forests, grasslands, ponds, streams, and other habitats and ecosystems. Examples of specific wetland community types include northern white cedar swamp and floodplain forest. The occurrences of natural communities in the enclosed report are significant at a state-wide level; they are locations where the community is of excellent or good quality, per specific criteria for size, undisturbed condition, and quality of the surrounding landscape. These locations can be considered significant natural areas. Natural Heritage tracks natural communities because they serve as habitat for a wide range of plants and animals, both rare and common; and because community occurrences in good condition support intact ecological processes and provide ecological value and services. By conserving ecologically functional examples of all the state's community types, the full range of species which live in those communities will also be conserved.

For most sites, comprehensive field surveys have not been conducted; the enclosed report only includes records from our databases. We cannot provide a definitive statement on the presence or absence of all rare or state-listed species or significant natural communities within the town.

More information about many of the rare and listed animals and plants and the natural community types in New York, including biology, identification, habitat, conservation, and management, are available online in Natural Heritage's Conservation Guides at www.guides.nynhp.org. For descriptions of all community types, go to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals129384.html> and click on Draft Ecological Communities of New York State.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Conrad
Information Resources Coordinator
NY Natural Heritage Program

Enabling and Enhancing Conservation of New York's Biodiversity

4.a-1



NEW YORK NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM
Report on Rare Plants, Rare Animals, and Significant Natural Communities
in the Town of BROOKFIELD

This report does not contain precise locations, and therefore may be included in documents. However, information that does disclose the precise locations of rare plants or animals may lead to the collection or disturbance of those plants or animals. Therefore, information on precise locations should not be included in any reports or maps made available to the public. The New York Natural Heritage Program can offer guidance on presenting rare species location information in such a way as to minimize the risks to the plants and animals

Prepared November, 2012, from the Biodiversity Databases of the New York Natural Heritage Program, NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY, 12233-4757

	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	NY STATE LISTING	NY STATE RANK*
<u>Documented in Brookfield since 1996</u>				
Unadilla River at Leonardsville				
Freshwater Mussels	Yellow Lampmussel	<i>Lampsilis cariosa</i>	Unlisted	S3
Ninemile Swamp				
Natural Communities	Floodplain Forest			S2S3
	Northern White Cedar Swamp			S2S3
Near Cole Hill Road				
Bird	Northern Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>	Threatened	S3
Beaver Creek State Forest				
Natural Communities	Northern White Cedar Swamp			S2S3
<u>Last documented in Brookfield before 1970; current status in the Town is unknown</u>				
Unadilla River at Leonardsville				
Freshwater Mussels	Brook Floater	<i>Asmidonta varicosa</i>	Threatened	S1
Ninemile Swamp				
Plants	Jacob's-ladder	<i>Polygonum vanbruntiae</i>	Rare	S3
	Spreading Globeflower	<i>Trollius laxus</i>	Rare	S3
	Sparse-flowered Sedge	<i>Carex tenuiflora</i>	Endangered	S1
	Schweinitz's Sedge	<i>Carex schweinitzii</i>	Threatened	S2S3

* Conservation status in NYS as ranked by NY Natural Heritage Program on a 1 to 5 scale:
 S1 = Critically imperiled
 S2 = Imperiled
 S3 = Rare or uncommon
 S4 = Abundant and apparently secure
 S5 = Demonstrably abundant and secure

Addendum 5 Preservation of the Agricultural Lands

Agriculture Statistics for the Town of Brookfield as of 2011

BY Chuck Blood, West Brookfield New York

A) Statistics from USDA census:

Agriculture land is the largest land class in the Town of Brookfield, without the consideration of State Owned Lands. This in short means that Ag land is also the largest contributor to tax payments. There are two key points to consider here;

- 1- Farmer employment is at 10 for the Town of Brookfield. This is a family tradition that continues to recycle itself throughout our small town.
- 2- Agricultural employment is second most common, behind construction occupations.

B) Madison County Statistics:

- 1- Average farm consists of 229 acres.
 - 2- Average value of products sold per farm per year is \$83,929.00. However a consideration of that farms expenses must be made.
 - 3- The average total farm expense is \$69,333.00 leaving a profit of \$14,596.00.
 - 4- Family Farms make up for 85 of the farms currently in operation.
 - 5- 54 years old is the average age of a farm operator.
 - 6- Percentage wise milk cows are nearly half of the cattle, coming in at 48.58.
- This shows that the majority of farms are not dairy. Other farming operations are beef cattle, horse operations and crop farming.

*My personal results from the following observations:

Estimate that the Town has approximately Fifty-nine active farms. These farms are broken down as follows but with overlap not counted.

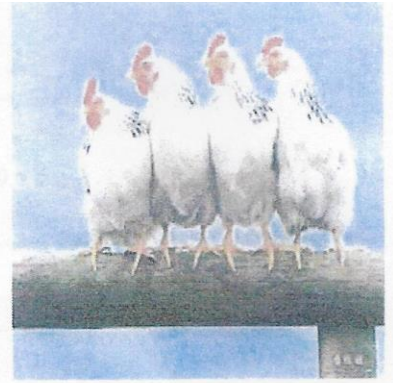
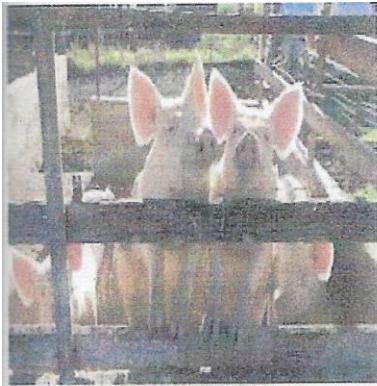
- 1) 27 Dairy farms with crops,
- 2) 9 heifer operations with crops,
- 3) 9 beef operations with crops,
- 4) 8 Horse operations with crops
- 5) 3 organic operations with many more eligible,
- 6) 2 Greenhouses,
- 7) And one each of the following sheep, vegetable, apple orchard.

Therefore employ approximately 3 people per farm or a total of 153 people probably living the town.

There are approximately 17000 acres of farmland and farm woodlots located in the town.

Less than half of this land is located in Ag. Districts.

Data from USDA census website, Madison cty. Planning dept. ,Madison County Agriculture Protection Plan of2005 , NYS Farm Bureau, personal calculations from Charles Blood*



The Town Board of the Town of Brookfield finds that farming is an essential activity within the township. Farming has defined the natural quality of life within the township.

nature of agricultural practices,

Section 1

Various Agricultural Enterprises in Brookfield

Organic and Traditional Practices

all "farm" animals, poultry, egg-bearing animals, aquaculture, fruit and vegetable fields/orchards, Christmas trees, nurseries, greenhouses or other similar

Local Law Filing

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE
162 WASHINGTON AVENUE, ALBANY, NY 12231

(Use this form to file a local law with the Secretary of State.)

Text of law should be given as amended. Do not include matter being eliminated and do not use italics or underlining to indicate new matter.

~~County~~

City of Brookfield

Town

~~Village~~

Local Law No. 2 of the year 1992

A local law titled "THE RIGHT TO FARM LAW"
(Insert Title)

Be it enacted by the Town Board of the
(Name of Legislative Body)

~~County~~

City of Brookfield as follows:

Town

~~Village~~

A LOCAL LAW TITLED "THE RIGHT TO FARM LAW"

BE it enacted by the Town Board of the Town of Brookfield as follows:

Section 1: Legislative Intent and Purpose

The Town board of the Town of Brookfield finds that farming is an essential activity within the township. Farming, as defined herein, reinforces the special quality of life enjoyed by citizens, provides the visual benefit of open space and generates economic benefits and social well-being within the community. Therefore, the Town of Brookfield emphasizes that this town encourages its agriculture and informs and requests understanding of the necessary day to day operations. It is the general purpose and intent of this Local Law to maintain and preserve the rural tradition and character of the Town of Brookfield, to permit the continuation of agriculture practices to protect the existence and operation of farms, and to encourage the initiation and expansion of farms and agricultural businesses. For the purpose of reducing future conflicts between farmers and non farmers, it is necessary for notice to be given to future neighbors about the nature of agricultural practices.

Section 2: Definitions

a. "Farm" includes livestock, dairy, poultry, fur-bearing animals, aquaculture, fruit and vegetable fieldcrop farms, plantations, orchards, nurseries, greenhouses, or other similar operations, used primarily for the raising of agricultural or horticultural commodities.

b. "Agricultural Practices" includes all activities conducted on a farm, necessary to the operation of a farm.
(If additional space is needed, attach pages the same size as this sheet, and number each.)

(1)

Section 3: The Right to Undertake Agricultural Practices

Farmers, as well as those employed, retained, or otherwise authorized to act on behalf of farmers, may lawfully engage in farming practices within the Town of Brookfield at any and all such times and all such locations as are reasonably necessary to conduct the business of farming. For any activity or operation, in determining the reasonableness of the time, place, and methodology of such operation, due weight and consideration shall be given to both traditional customs and procedures in the farming industry as well as to advances resulting from increased knowledge and improved technologies.

Section 4: Notice to Prospective Neighbors

The following notice shall be included in building permits and on plans of subdivisions submitted for approval pursuant to Town Law Section 276. "This property borders a farm, as defined in Town Law 1. Residents should be aware that farmers have the right to undertake farm practices which may generate dust, odor, smoke, noise and vibration."

Section 5: Severability Clause

If any part of this Local Law is any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid, such decision shall not affect the remainder of the Local Law.

Section 6: Effective Date

This Local Law shall be effective immediately upon filing, pursuant to Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

Addendum 6 Economic Development

10 Steps to Starting a Business

(<http://www.sba.gov/content/follow-these-steps-starting-business>)

Starting a business involves planning, making key financial decisions and completing a series of legal activities. These 10 easy steps can help you plan, prepare and manage your business. Follow the links on this page using the URL above to get started.

Step 1: Write a Business Plan

Use these tools and resources to create a business plan. This written guide will help you map out how you will start and run your business successfully.

Step 2: Get Business Assistance and Training

Take advantage of free training and counseling services, from preparing a business plan and securing financing, to expanding or relocating a business.

Step 3: Choose a Business Location

Get advice on how to select a customer-friendly location and comply with zoning laws.

Step 4: Finance Your Business

Find government backed loans, venture capital and research grants to help you get started.

Step 5: Determine the Legal Structure of Your Business

Decide which form of ownership is best for you: sole proprietorship, partnership, Limited Liability Company (LLC), corporation, S corporation, nonprofit or cooperative.

Step 6: Register a Business Name ("Doing Business As")

Register your business name with your state government.

Step 7: Get a Tax Identification Number

Learn which tax identification number you'll need to obtain from the IRS and your state revenue agency.

Step 8: Register for State and Local Taxes

Register with your state to obtain a tax identification number, workers' compensation, unemployment and disability insurance.

Step 9: Obtain Business Licenses and Permits

Get a list of federal, state and local licenses and permits required for your business.

Step 10: Understand Employer Responsibilities

Learn the legal steps you need to take to hire employees.

Startup Resources

There are a number of **available programs** to assist startups, micro businesses, and underserved or disadvantaged groups. The following resources provide information to help specialized audiences start their own businesses.

- Environmentally-Friendly "Green" Business
- Home-Based Business
- Online Business
- Self- Employment
- Minority Owned Business
- Veteran Owned Business
- Woman Owned Business

You can **save money** when starting or expanding your business by using [government surplus](#). From commercial real estate and cars, to furniture, computers and office equipment, find what you need for your business in one place.

Potential Business Plan

TOWN TRAIL SYSTEM

submitted by James Visentin, Sept. 2012

Investigations done by this author consider the following criteria: whatever plan devised will not be a burden on Town government nor on the taxpayers; all segments of the community will benefit; will be minimal impact to the land owners, including protections from law suits as a result of the plan; plan would be self-regulating/self-policing. A spin-off might be the potential to create seasonal jobs and to enhance the local fanning industry. There may also be the potential for increasing property values.

It was found that the township has certain assets which can be used by seasonal recreational visitors, such as equine interests, hiking, bicycling, 4-wheeler use, camping, snowmobiling, skiing, hunting, fishing. Some people come for a day, some for several days. A survey done by the NYS DEC in 2001 dealt with use of the NYS forest lands. Approximately 3000 people had visited the state forest land, also a fair number who had probably not signed in at the sign-in posts. Of this number, roughly 1500 represented some form of equine interest.

If with consent of a series of land owners, a connecting trail system using abandoned roads and unused logging roads can be joined with the State Trail System, this could make it easier for the recreational visitor to access the hamlets of our Township and make use of the businesses which exist in them. I chose the equine traffic because that can involve 6 months of the year, whereas snowmobiling and skiing would usually be a lesser number of months.

The snowmobile group pays \$50.00 for a 2 month season. The equine visitor could contribute \$50.00 for a 6 month season. If 700 equine visitors enrolled in the plan at \$50.00 per season, this would amount to \$35,000.00. Divided 5 ways, that would be distributed as follows: 20% to trail maintenance; 20% to Office for the Aging (benefit to our parents and to the infirm); 20% to the Brookfield Riding and Driving Association, which contributes to the fairgrounds by way of their activities; 20% to emergency services; 20% to programs for our younger citizens so they can be given something to do rather than create problems for themselves or the community.

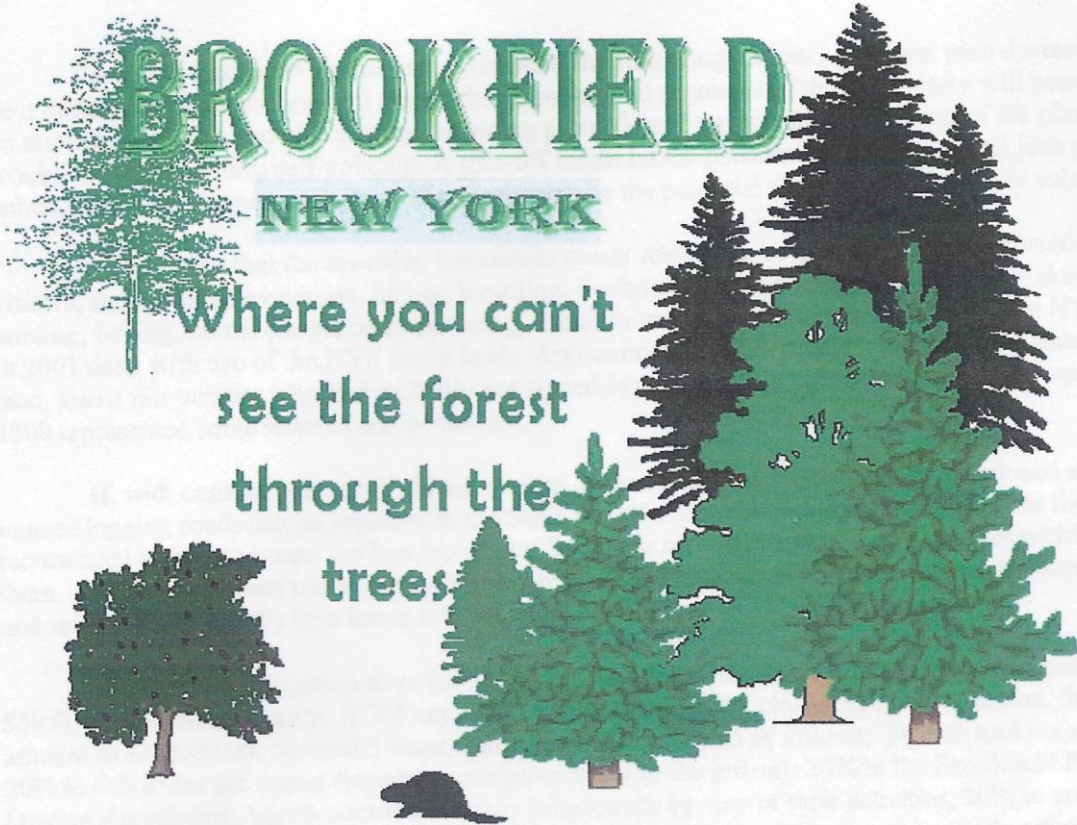
TOWN TRAIL SYSTEM

updated by Town Board, Sept. 2012

BROOKFIELD

NEW YORK

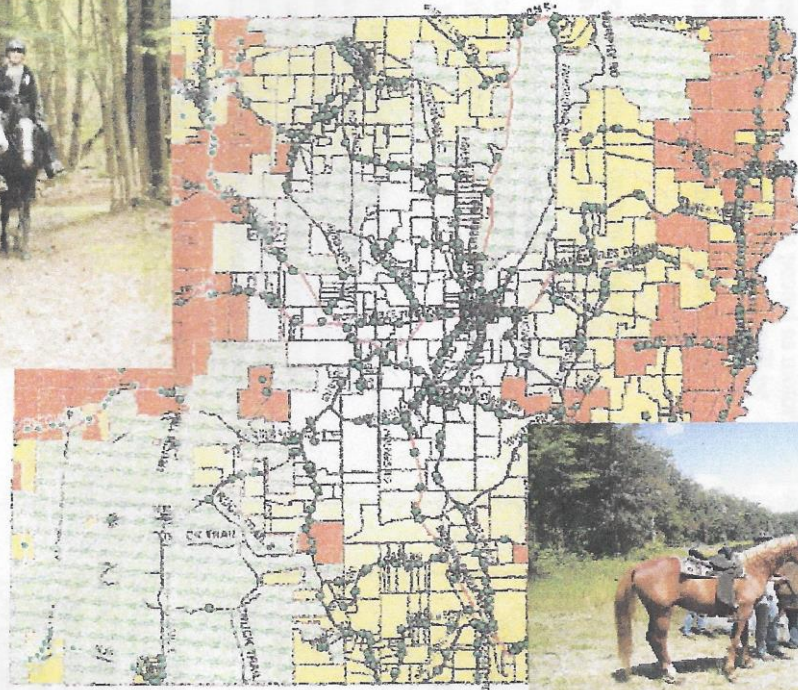
Where you can't
see the forest
through the
trees.



EQUINOMICS

BROOKFIELD WHERE EQUINOMICS LIVES

Come Ride With Us

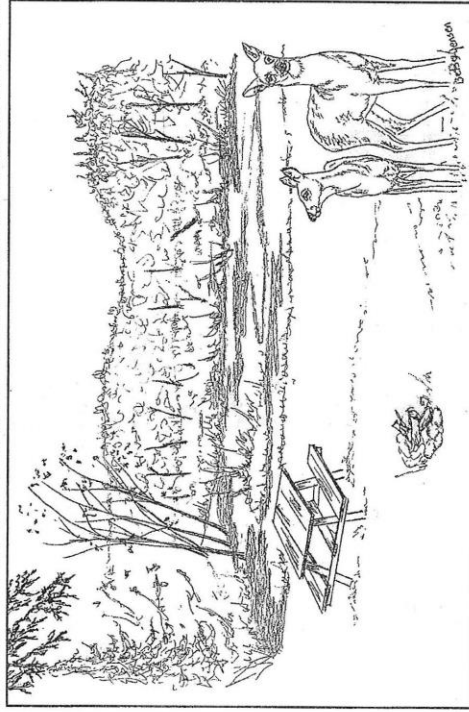


Brookfield Trail Systems
Town of Brookfield Welcomes You

Addendum 7 Recreation

Brookfield Trail System

map and guide



New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

STATE FOREST REGULATIONS

- If you camp for more than three nights, or in a group of ten or more people, you must have a permit. All organized events **must** have a permit.
- Quiet hours are observed from 10 PM to 7 AM.
- Keep your campsites neat, clean and sanitary at all times.
- Be careful with fire. Never leave a fire unattended. Use only wood from dead and downed trees for fuel. Do not cut or injure any standing tree. Please use designated fire rings.
- All motorized vehicles are restricted to access roads posted as motor vehicle trails. Laws pertaining to registration and insurance will be enforced. **All-terrain vehicles are prohibited.**
- Off road trails are closed to horse and mountain bike travel from October 31 to May 1.

Important Notice

- Horse owners may be required to produce a current Coggins certificate in accordance with Agriculture and Markets Rules and Regulations, Part 64.
- ATV use is prohibited on all truck trails and off-road trails on state Lands. A limited number of trails are open for ATV use by permit only for people with disabilities. Contact your local DEC office for further information on these permits.

Using State Forest Lands

Our forests and mountains offer opportunities for recreational pleasure, appreciation of nature and a rejuvenating escape from the urban world. Help care for our wildlands and enhance their enjoyment for yourself and those that follow: What you carry in, carry out. Leave the woods cleaner than you found them. If you must build a fire, do so with care. Always let someone know where you are going and when you expect to return.

Remember, the forest belongs to everyone. Enjoy it, but be considerate of others. Leave it as you found it and take home only memories.

Information

Emergencies/Law Enforcement

Madison County 911
Madison County Emergency Services 315-363-2090
DEC Emergency Forest Ranger Dispatch 518-891-0235

Trails

For trail conditions and maintenance, contact:

Division of Lands and Forests, 2715 State Highway 80
Sherburne, NY 13460

Weekdays, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, call 607 674-4036

Permits/State Forests

For camping, group camping and organized rides, contact:

Division of Lands and Forests, 2715 State Highway 80
Sherburne, NY 13460

Weekdays, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM,
call 607 674-4036


x:brookfield trail system 2006


This highly acclaimed 130-mile horse and snowmobile trail system traverses over 13,000 acres of state forests in southeastern Madison County. The assembly area on Moscow Road is the beginning of the system.

The assembly and camping area accommodates approximately 150 horses and campers with covered and uncovered tie stalls, stallion box stalls, a pavilion and picnicking and camping facilities. Drinking water, accessible toilets and a mounting platform for people with disabilities are also provided.

Hikers and cross-country skiers, as well as equestrians and snowmobilers, are welcome on the trails. The trails are identified on the map and on the ground by horse trail signs and numbers. You can expect to encounter interesting terrain, with many different plants and wildlife species.

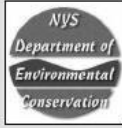
Charles E. Baker State Forest - Madison 1 +4

 Horse and Snowmobiling Trail

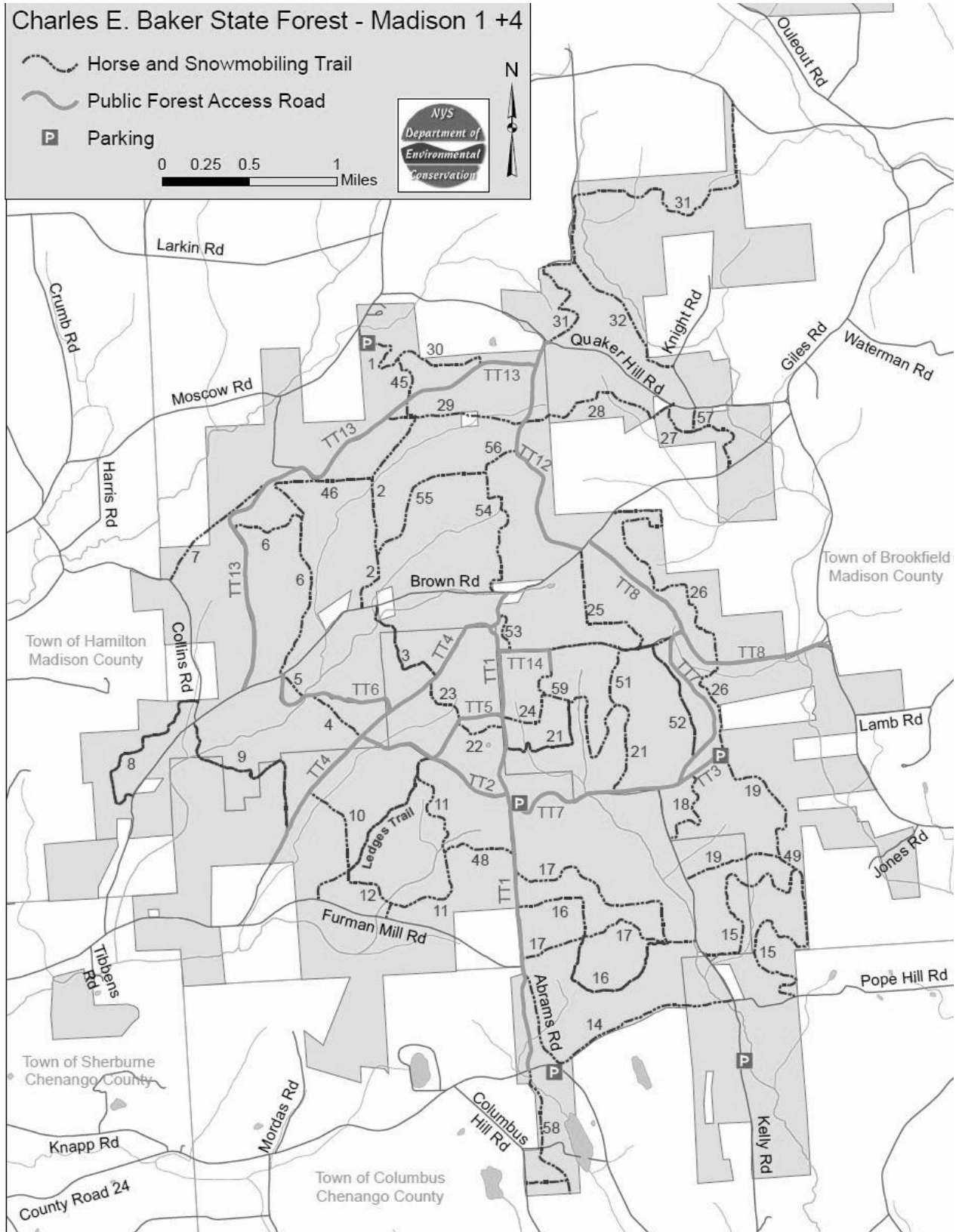
 Public Forest Access Road

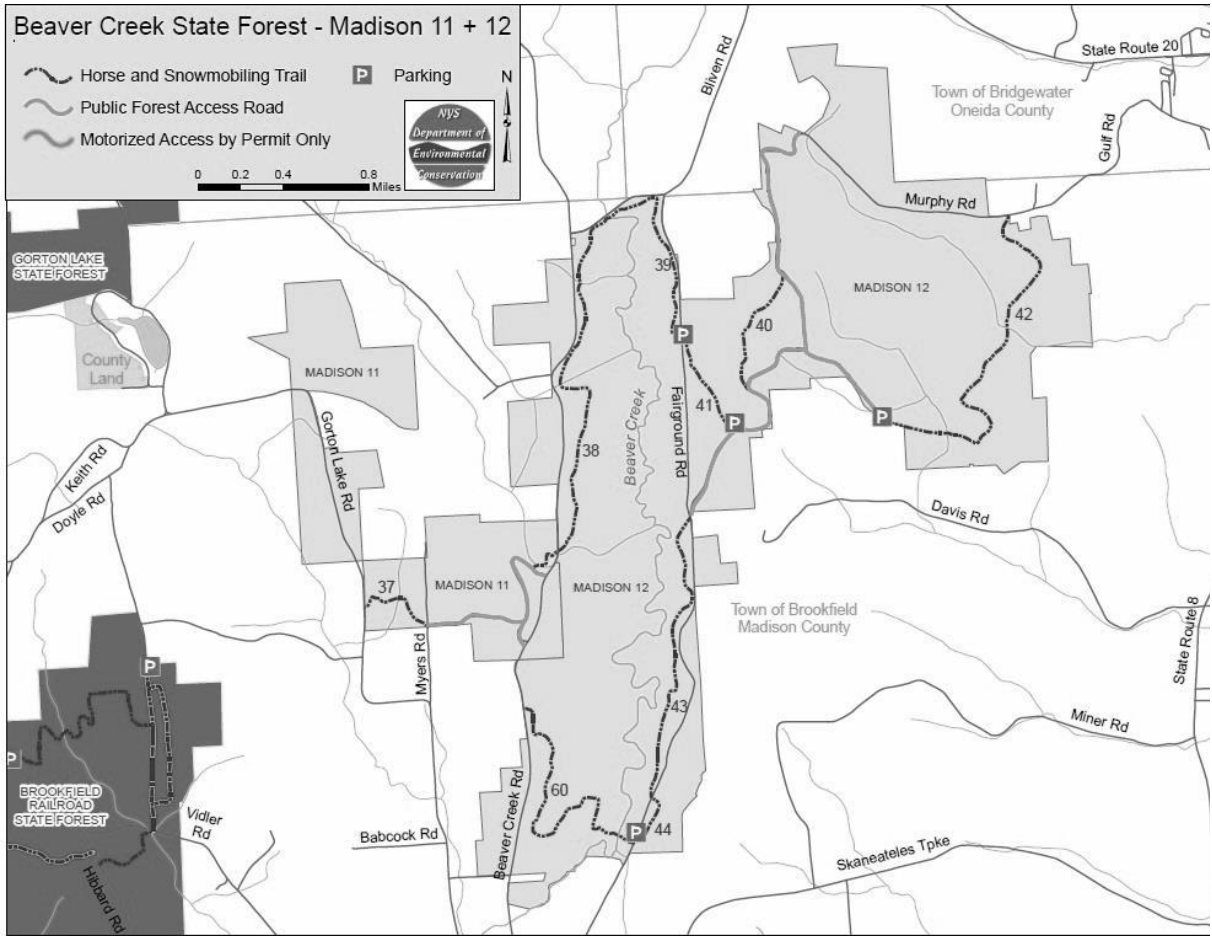
 Parking

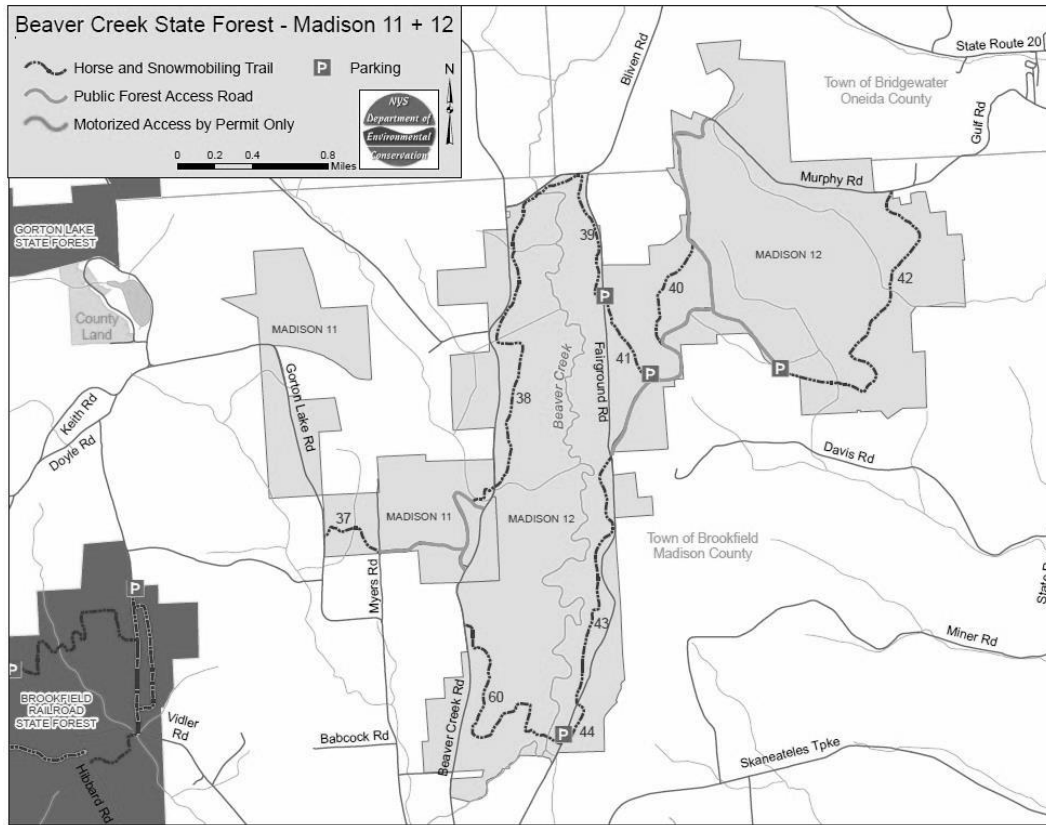
0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles



N







Addendum 8 Emergency Services

April 2012

Jim McFadden Asst Fire Co-Coordinator Madison Cty

To the Comprehensive Planning Committee:

I was asked to provide a "look ahead" for the fire service in the Town of Brookfield. It is extremely hard to do that as things are changing much faster than ever before. I will attempt to give my opinion on what might be expected to happen, as well as giving you some insight as to how I came up with this.

The Town is serviced by 7 different and separate fire services. We have 3 main Fire Districts that service the majority of the Town. They would be the North Brookfield, Brookfield and Leonardsville Fire Districts. We are also serviced by Unadilla Forks and Hubbardsville Fire Districts, the Bridgewater Fire Company and the Village of Sherburne Fire Department. In the political arena, there is talk that fire departments should be consolidating. I am not sure that will work in the Town as we have distances between the various settlements that would mean a long travel time before any firefighting would commence. I do believe that there is a spirit of cooperation between the various fire service agencies that results in emergencies being taken care of as quickly as possible.

Firefighting is a physically challenging activity and it is best performed by younger people. The problem that we are seeing right now is there are no "young people" staying in the Town. We have departments that are getting older as the members stay on, but they are not getting the younger people to stay in the districts because of lack of work. Most of our departments have junior membership that will allow a 16 year old to join, but after high school, college comes, and then it is off somewhere else to work. I see that as a continuing problem if there is no reason for them to stay. It has been said that the amount of training hours is chasing members away and I am not so sure that is true. It is true that to be trained to the lowest level of actual fire fighting the time in the first class will be about 90 hours, but even 20 years ago the same level of training would have been 75 hours, spread over 3 classes. They now get much better training for just a few more hours. You must remember that the fires have changed in the last 30 years. It used to be wood, cotton and wool. Now it is lightweight wood (engineered with lots of combustible glue) and synthetics, making a much hotter and faster-burning fire. If our firefighters are not ready and trained to handle these fires, there will be a tragedy that no one would want. There is some "push back" from older members, but, for the most part, new members just taking the training now are very satisfied with the training and the time spent.

The second part of the training is related to the type of calls that we are responding to now. If we go back 30 years, almost all our calls were fires. Now, only a small number of our alarms are for fires. The majority are medical calls. If a member wants to be able to respond as an Emergency Medical Technician, they have many more hours to be trained. Should that member want to provide a higher level of training, the hours will go up significantly. I personally do not have the exact hours for each level, but I am under the impression that basic level is somewhere around 110 hours and that has to be completed before they can go on to other levels. By the time they are at the highest level, they have hundreds of hours in training and untold number of dollars invested. It is somewhat confusing to me that there is a lot of talk about the fire training hours "killing" the fire service, but many of the same people won't say a word about the hours invested

in becoming an EMT. The other part is the cost of the training. All fire training is free, whereas much of the medical training is charged to the members or the departments.

Another item that needs to be considered is the rising cost of the equipment and vehicles that are needed to provide the service. Equipment today is better than anything in the past, but it has come at a cost. A fire truck that 30 years ago would have been in the \$40,000.00 range, 5 years ago was \$250,000.00 and, today, \$500,000.00. I don't know where that price will go, but I am very sure it won't come down. Part of the increase has been because of product liability. Manufacturers have passed on the increased cost because more and more firefighters have been injured as fires have changed and their training has not kept up. We could also figure in increased raw materials and labor costs and that is where we are at present. Small equipment (both tools and clothing) has followed vehicle costs increases and we will continue to need that equipment and will need it replaced as fire fighting is destructive to that small equipment. We punish our tools doing that labor-intensive work to put fires out. With the changing fires, new equipment is being developed that, at some point, will need to be purchased. We can't stand still; we must change as the fires change or risk being hurt because we aren't protected.

Having said all this, it is very hard to see where we will be going, but rest assured there will still be a need for the fire service. I see the number of calls increasing as there has been no decrease in recent memory and no expectation for that to change in the future. I see a change in the fire calls as new products are invented and they always seem to catch fire and give off more and more toxic gases. I see an increase in motor vehicle accidents as more people are on the road and the expectation of public transportation in the Town does not exist. I see a need for new members to come in, but, for that to happen, we need some reason for them to stay in the area. Without new members, the present membership will continue to decline and we will have to supplement them with paid personnel (a very expensive option). We will need more and more money to operate even at the most basic level because of the increased cost of equipment. That will mean that there has to be some way for the tax base to grow so the burden won't be on the few residents in the Town. I see the only way to make that easier is to allow growth of business and maybe some industry. With the growth of industry, there will be some changes needed to provide fire coverage, but the fire service can add that very easily. It is a double-edged sword, but more business means more money and more people, as well as more calls and other activity. Even if we try and hold growth to recreational activities, that will mean more people coming into the area, with the expectation of the same level of service they receive at home.

I hope that this has helped you in your deliberations. I am available if you want to discuss this subject in a greater depth than I have covered with this short letter. The more that I thought about this subject, the more I realized that there is way more to consider than what I could put into a few words, but that would be more than you need for now.