

BROOKLYN'S PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

2011-2021



Prepared by
CME ASSOCIATES, INC.
Woodstock, CT

April 2011

BROOKLYN PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

Carlene Kelleher, Chair

| | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Paul Camara | Donald Francis | Barbara Repko |
| Thomas Doherty | David Fuss | Deane Rettig |
| Craig Dunlop | Henry Moses | Albert Sandholm |

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
of the Brooklyn Planning and Zoning Commission

Thomas Doherty, Chairman

Holly Drinkuth

Donald Francis

David Fuss

Dana Heilemann

Lyn LaCharite

Chris Landis

CONSULTANT TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE

John Guskowski, AICP, LEED-AP
Director of Planning
CME Associates, Inc.

DOCUMENT LAYOUT AND GRAPHIC DESIGN

Susannah Judd
Marketing Communications Specialist
CME Associates, Inc.

CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Introduction. | 7 |
| Agriculture. | 17 |
| Economic Development. | 21 |
| Education. | 25 |
| Emergency Management & Homeland Security. | 29 |
| Finance | 33 |
| Governance & Administration | 37 |
| Historic Preservation | 39 |
| Housing. | 41 |
| Municipal Facilities | 45 |
| Open Space & Natural Resources Conservation. | 49 |
| Parks & Recreation. | 59 |
| Public Safety Services | 63 |
| Public Utilities & Infrastructure. | 65 |
| Transportation | 69 |
| Plan of Conservation & Development 2010-2020 | |
| Implementation Matrix | 73 |

INTRODUCTION

Brooklyn's Plan of Conservation and Development

The Plan of Conservation and Development is a critical tool for guiding the future of Brooklyn. It is intended to be both broad in its vision and specific in its action-oriented recommendations. Its broad aim is to identify common goals for the Town's future. These goals involve targeting an ideal future circumstance and positive direction for Brooklyn to pursue. The more specific aim is to outline actionable steps, that when implemented, will help the Town realize that vision.

This Plan of Conservation and Development is primarily an advisory document intended to provide a framework for consistent decision-making by the Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC), other town boards and commissions and local residents with regard to conservation and development activities in Brooklyn over the next decade and beyond.

The Connecticut General Statutes (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 8-23) also require municipalities to adopt a Plan of Conservation and Development every ten years. Brooklyn's previous Plan was adopted in 1999. The municipal Plan of Conservation and Development should also seek to be harmonious with the Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG) Regional Plan and the State of Connecticut Plan of Conservation and Development. While the statutory responsibility to adopt the Plan rests with the PZC, implementation will only occur with the diligent efforts of the residents and officials of the Town of Brooklyn. The Plan will only be effective if it is understood and supported by the people of Brooklyn, and implemented by local boards and commissions.

If steadily implemented by Brooklyn residents and officials, this plan will help protect important resources, guide appropriate development, protect community character, and enhance the quality of life for current and future Brooklyn residents.



INTRODUCTION

Brooklyn's Process

The Town of Brooklyn designated the task of updating the 1999 Plan of Conservation and Development to the Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC). In 2008, the PZC established an ad-hoc Committee to update this document, and invited representatives from PZC, Economic Development Commission, and the Conservation Commission to sit on the Committee. While this Committee led and oversaw the process, extensive input was also sought from virtually every Board and Commission established by the Town of Brooklyn, as well as input from Town residents, Town staff, and regional groups with which Brooklyn is affiliated. The Committee met monthly throughout 2009 and 2010 to establish goals and update the 1999 Plan. In addition, a survey was developed and conducted encouraging Brooklyn residents to assess current conditions in Town and weigh in on key priorities. The results of this survey, referred throughout this Plan as the "2009 Residents Survey" are included as an appendix to this Plan.

At the beginning of this process, the Committee agreed upon several guiding priorities around which the Plan would be based. These priorities would serve to inform and frame the goals and recommendations established in each section of this Plan, and included (in no particular order):

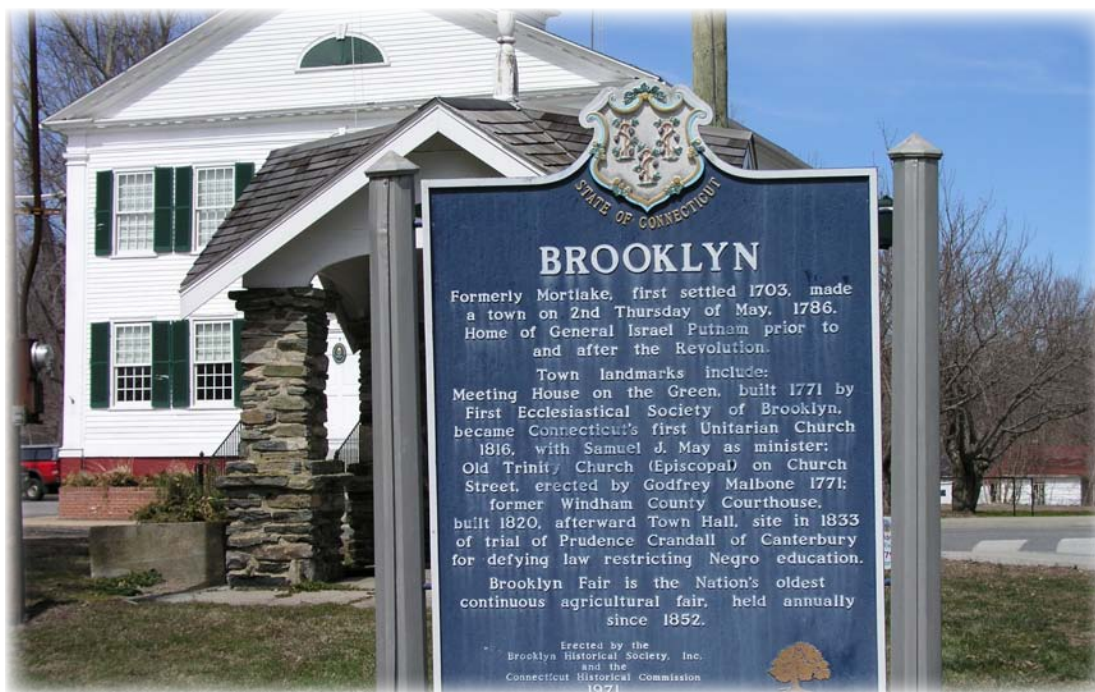
- **Route 169 Corridor & Village Center District:** This priority focuses on safeguarding and enhancing the traditional character of the Nationally-designated scenic byway of Route 169 and the historic Town center of Brooklyn.
- **Route 6 Commercial Corridor:** This section of Town is recognized as the current and future engine of economic growth in Brooklyn.
- **Balancing the Grand List Between Residential/Commercial/Preserved Lands:** In order to maintain the high quality of life in Brooklyn, a balanced encouragement of each of these elements is needed.
- **Agriculture:** A vibrant, viable agricultural industry is needed to maintain Brooklyn's farming heritage and ensure the protection of its productive soils.
- **Acquiring Open Land:** Preserving lands for habitat, water supply and quality, and recreation opportunities is a major community goal.
- **Regional Cooperation:** The limited resources available to any single small town makes inter-municipal coordination and resource sharing an attractive approach.
- **Housing Initiatives:** Providing opportunities for a variety of housing types, densities, and cost levels is both a Statutory and philosophical obligation.
- **Community Humanitarian Resources:** This priority includes provision of services for elderly, low-income, and special needs residents.
- **Industrial Development:** Encouraging appropriate expansion of manufacturing opportunities in designated locations will help generate jobs and balance the grand list.
- **"Green" Concerns:** Through regulations and incentives, the Town should pursue environmentally-conscious initiatives such as recycling, low-impact development, green building standards, renewable energy, and energy efficiency measures.

Coordination with Regional and State Plans

Per Conn. Gen. Stat. § 8-23, the development of a municipal Plan of Conservation and Development must also consider the municipality's relationship to its Region and the State of Connecticut. Specifically, municipal goals need to be measured against criteria and principles established by these larger authorities. In preparation of this plan, the Committee reviewed and considered the "growth management principles" established by the Office of Policy and Management and codified in the Statutes:

(i) Redevelopment and revitalization of commercial centers and areas of mixed land uses with existing or planned physical infrastructure; (ii) expansion of housing opportunities and design choices to accommodate a variety of household types and needs; (iii) concentration of development around transportation nodes and along major transportation corridors to support the viability of transportation options and land reuse; (iv) conservation and restoration of the natural environment, cultural and historical resources and existing farmlands; (v) protection of environmental assets critical to public health and safety; and (vi) integration of planning across all levels of government to address issues on a local, regional and state-wide basis.

In addition, efforts to coordinate with the Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments in their planning processes in order to ensure that local conservation and development goals and approaches were in harmony with those for the Region. The Committee believes that the recommendations for action found in each section of this Plan are in harmony with both State and Regional Plans of Conservation and Development, and are supportive of the growth management principles as may be applicable to each section.



INTRODUCTION

A Snapshot of Brooklyn

The Town of Brooklyn is in the core of Northeast Connecticut and central to many population and business centers in Southern New England. Brooklyn is 44 miles from Hartford, CT, 32 miles from Providence, RI, 40 miles from Worcester, MA, and 43 miles from New London, CT. The closest interstate highway is I-395, just across the Quinebaug River in Killingly. State highways 6, 169, and 205 link Brooklyn with its immediate neighboring towns of Pomfret, Killingly, Hampton, Canterbury, and Plainfield. The historic village center of Brooklyn is situated at the crossroads of Routes 6 and 169, where the Town Hall still sits.

As of 2009, Brooklyn's population was listed by the Connecticut Economic Resource Center (CERC) at 7,534. This population has grown slowly and gradually at about 0.6% annually since 1990, when the Town population was 6,681. This population, however, includes approximately 450 "group quarters" residents housed at the Brooklyn Correctional Institution. Moving forward over the next ten years, the slow rate of population growth is expected to continue. The Connecticut State Data Center (CtSDC) released updated population projections in 2009 that anticipate essentially flat growth- between 0.01% and 0.15% annual increase between 2010 and 2030. Over this time, the approximate median age of Brooklyn residents is anticipated to go from 37.8 (from the 2000 Census) to 41.5 in 2030, reflecting the overall aging of the population nationwide. While the number of residents 65 and older is expected to nearly double over the time frame 2000-2030, the number of children 0-19 years old will likely remain nearly unchanged. These anticipated trends will go a long way to informing the type of needed infrastructure investments and municipal services required over the next two decades. Fewer capital expenditures may be needed for expanded school facilities, but more may be needed for senior services.



Brooklyn is approximately 29 square miles, which gives the town a low population density of 260 persons/square mile. The overall state population density is approximately 700 persons/square mile, so the sparsely populated rural nature of Brooklyn fits in well with Windham County as a whole, with a county-wide density of 230 persons/square mile. In addition to being located within Windham County, Brooklyn is also within the Quinebaug-Shetucket National Heritage Corridor (known as "The Last Green Valley"), the Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments, the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, and the 2nd U.S. Congressional District.

An economic and business profile provided by the Connecticut Economic Resource Center is included as an appendix to the Economic Development chapter of this plan, and a brief history of Brooklyn as written by former Town Historian Myrtle Morse is also included on the page to follow.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

By Myrtle Morse, Former Town Historian

Brooklyn was incorporated in May of 1786. Its first town meeting was held in its much esteemed meeting house on the Green (the present Unitarian Church) on June 26, 1786. Israel Putnam was called to Chair the meeting.

Brooklyn's early history reaches back more than one hundred years from the date of incorporation. This area originally belonged to Joshua, the third son of the Mohegan Chief Uncas, who gave it to settlers from Norwich in 1666. Among these settlers was Major Fitch, from Canterbury.

In 1685, following the restoration of the British Monarchy, a noted puritan, Captain John Blackwell, came to New England to inquire if he and other followers of Cromwell might be welcome here. He was welcomed by the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which helped him buy a tract of land in the Connecticut wilderness from Major Fitch. On October 12, 1687, Blackwell secured confirmation of his purchase from the General Court of Connecticut, and also received a patent for a separate township within his 5750 acres. This he named Mortlake, after Mortlake in Surrey, England.

With the restoration of the Monarchy in England came more liberty and freedom than the Puritans had imagined possible. Thus Blackwell returned to England, leaving his wilderness land, and settlers began to drift in. Richard Adams, Junior, in 1703, was among the first to make a permanent settlement.

Mortlake territory was sold in 1713 to Governor John Belcher of Massachusetts, who in turn established two manor farms – Kingswood, bought by Godfrey Malbone, and Wiltshire, bought by Israel Putnam. Israel Putnam, a hero and a legend, contributed much to his town in war and in peace.

Mortlake was left to govern itself, and grew in its spirit of independence and freedom. Before incorporation, the name of the township was changed to Brooklyn. With its strong historical background, the town now faces the contemporary problems of growth and development with the same spirit of independence and freedom.

INTRODUCTION

Explanation of Plan of Conservation & Development Policy Map

The Plan of Conservation and Development Policy Map is intended to be a compilation and reflection of the goals and recommendations contained throughout this Plan. The Policy Map is a vision for the future growth and preservation of the Town of Brooklyn. It is intended to be a guide to assist the Planning & Zoning Commission and others make decisions about the use and disposition of the land in Brooklyn. While municipal policy decisions ought to reflect the vision contained in this Policy Map, the Map does not in and of itself carry the weight of legally-binding regulation.

Route 169 Corridor: Maintaining character of National Scenic Byway.

PZC to consider overlay district to encourage traditional uses, density, and character of development within 100-200' of Route 169

Conservation Corridor: Priority conservation area for permanent land protection, low density development, connection between open space holdings, priority on recreation and wildlife protection

Development Core: Major commercial and industrial districts.

Most new non-residential development to be focused here at higher densities and with appropriate design

Expanded Village District: Potential area to add to existing Village Center District, promoting appropriate mixed uses at traditional densities and design that reflects the historic character of Brooklyn

Co-Occurring Critical Resources: Based on analysis done by the Brooklyn Conservation Commission, critical natural resources such as wetlands, stream corridors, wildlife corridors, prime farmland soils, and other factors were weighted. This layer suggests the environmental sensitivity to development, and conversely, the priority for permanent protection. "High Resource Priority" areas should be targeted for conservation, or for environmentally-friendly development such as cluster subdivisions

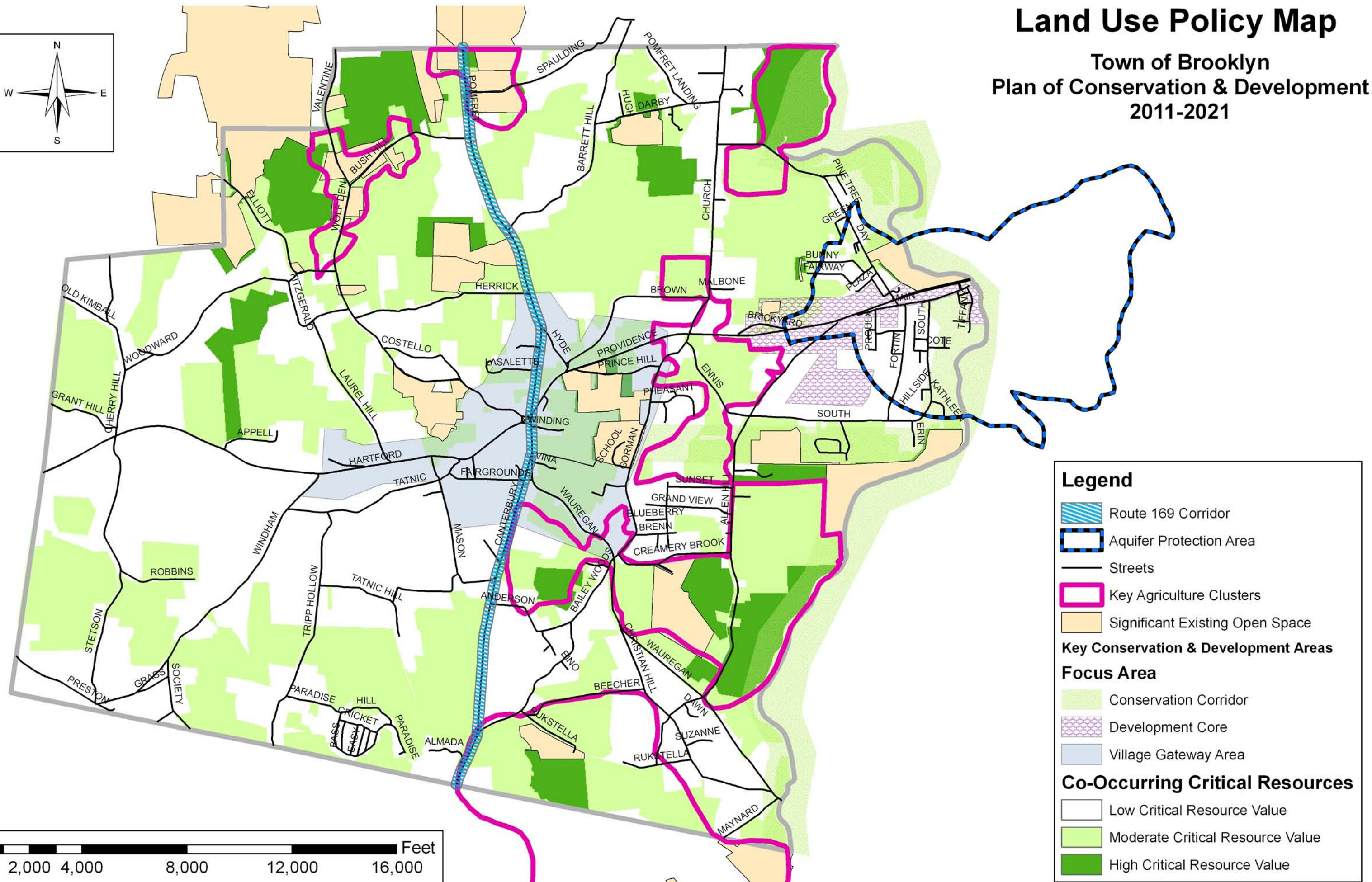
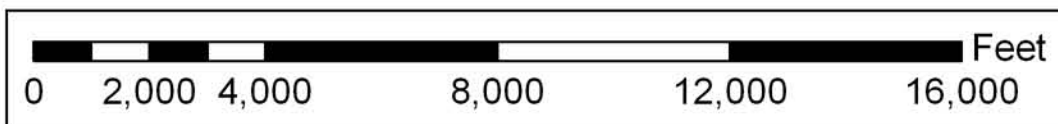
Zoning Districts: As of August 2011, per Brooklyn Zoning Regulations

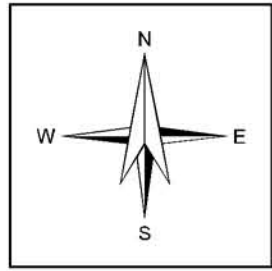
Significant Open Space: Permanently preserved open spaces owned by the State of Connecticut, the Town of Brooklyn, or a nonprofit land trust. This layer includes properties encumbered by permanent conservation easements

Key Agricultural Areas: Lands defined as having prime and important farmland soils by the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Aquifer Protection Area: Existing Level A area, to be specifically addressed and protected by Zoning Regulations

**Town of Brooklyn
Plan of Conservation & Development
2011-2021**

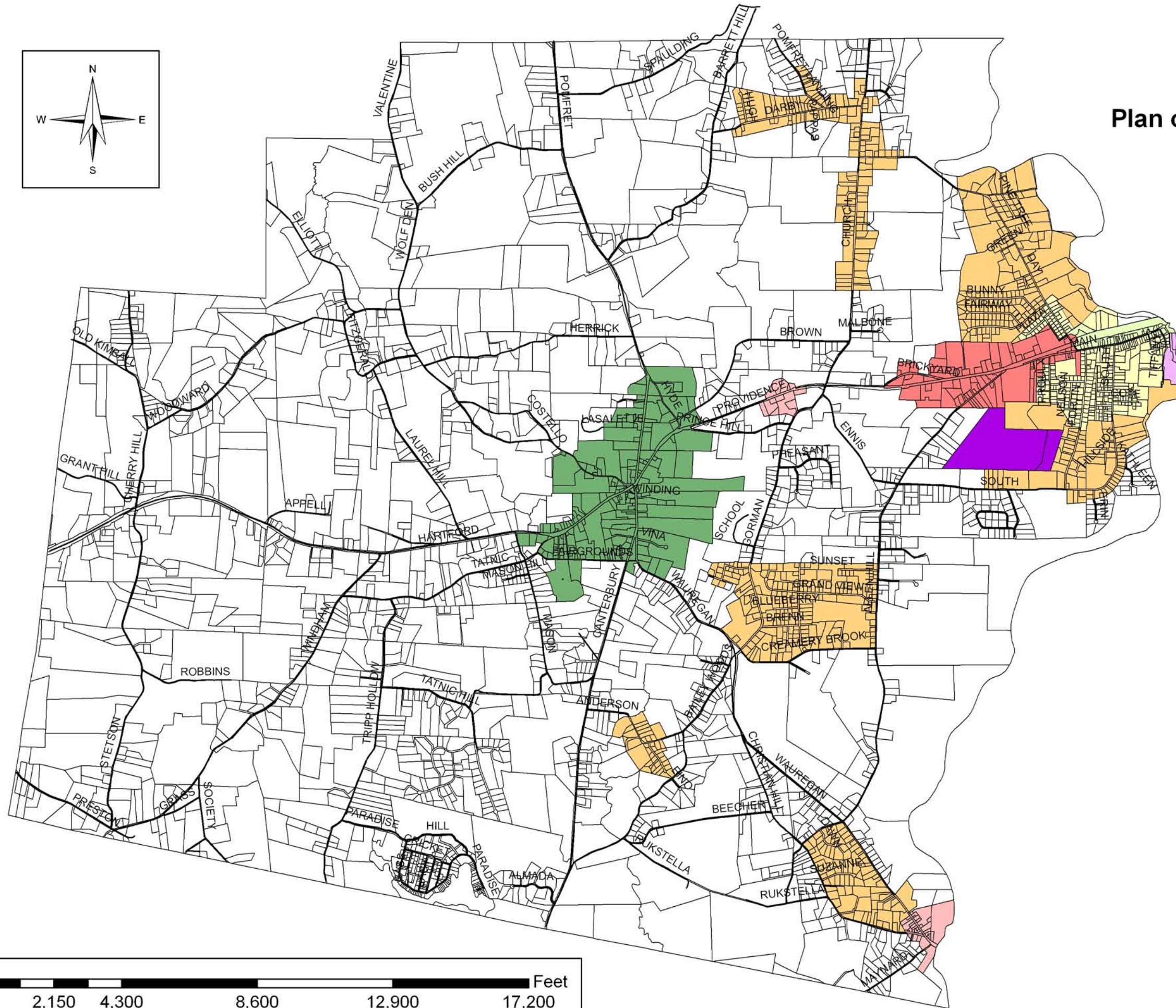




Zoning Districts

Town of Brooklyn

Plan of Conservation & Development 2011-2021

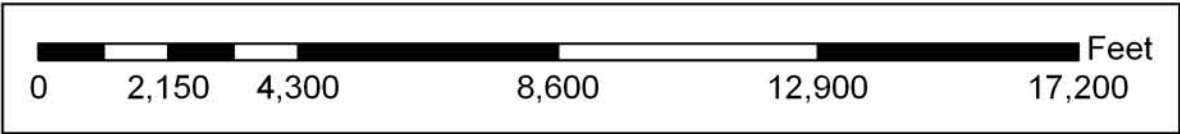


Legend

Brooklyn Parcels

Zone

- Village Center District Zone
- Industrial Zone
- Mill Mixed Use Development District
- Neighborhood Commercial Zone
- Planned Commercial Zone
- R10 Residential Zone
- R30 Residential Zone
- Restricted Business Zone
- Rural Agriculture Zone
- Streets



AGRICULTURE

Background / Status

Situated in the Quinebaug Valley, Brooklyn's agriculture past dates back to the earliest settlers of the region. It is a pursuit that has stayed the history of Brooklyn and continues today as an active and significant part of the community. New residential development and the economics of agriculture both present major challenges to those presently farming and to those contemplating it as a pursuit.

Recently both in its 1999 Plan of Conservation and Development (PoCD) and as a key guiding principle of the 2011-2021 Plan of Conservation and development, the Town of Brooklyn has established the viability and protection of its farmlands to be very high priorities. A 2007 study entitled "Public Preferences and Willingness to Pay for Farmland Preservation" as well as the 2009 Residents Survey revealed the viability and preservation of Brooklyn farmland to be a consistently high priority.

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 1-1(q) defines "agriculture" as the cultivation of the soil, dairying, forestry, and the raising or harvesting of any agricultural or horticultural commodity, including the care and management of livestock such as horses, bees, poultry, fur-bearing animals and wildlife. Agriculture also includes the raising or harvesting of oysters, clams, mussels, and other molluscan shellfish or fish; the production or harvesting of maple syrup or maple sugar; the hatching of poultry; and the harvesting of mushrooms. The term also includes their handling, planting, drying, packing, packaging, processing, freezing, grading, storing, delivering to storage or to market any agricultural or horticultural commodity as an incident to ordinary farming operations, or, in the case of fruits and vegetables, as an incident to the preparation of such fruits and vegetables for market or for direct sale.



AGRICULTURE

Cost of Community Services Studies (COCS) use municipal data to determine the fiscal contribution of various local land uses. Over 20 years of COCS from around the country have shown that farmland and other open space generate more public revenue than they require in services. Even when farmland, for example, is assessed at its current agricultural use value under Public Act 490 (Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 12-107a to 107f), farmland generates a surplus to offset the shortfall created by residential demand for public services.



A review of COCS research in eight Connecticut Towns shows that for each dollar of property tax revenue generated by working and open space land, on average, only \$0.31 is required in municipal services, whereas, on average, residential uses require \$1.11 in municipal services.

To support agriculture in Brooklyn, the Town had the foresight to adopt a Right-to-Farm Ordinance in 1993 and a Dairy Farm Tax Abatement Ordinance. In December 2009 Brooklyn established an Agriculture Commission.

The Town has diverse agricultural operations including dairy, Christmas trees, nurseries, and greenhouses, bison, corn, hay, vegetables, equestrian operations, orchards, poultry, and a vineyard. In addition to farm produce, these operations add immeasurably to the aesthetic beauty and rural landscape of Brooklyn. Our main north/south roadway, Route 169, has been designated a scenic highway. The Brooklyn Fairgrounds is the home of the Windham County Agricultural Society which sponsors the longest continuously operated agricultural fair in the nation.

The eastern region of the Town contains substantial areas of Prime Farmland Soil and is the location of many large clusters of actively farmed property. Currently, 226.7 acres of farmland on three farms have been permanently preserved through the State of Connecticut Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) programs.

Objectives & Relation to Key Priorities

- 1) To preserve key important farmland areas
- 2) To promote viable agricultural clusters
- 3) To promote economic and environmental sustainability of agriculture
- 4) To resolve conflicts between agricultural and non-agricultural land uses
- 5) To serve as a conduit for agriculture issues between agencies, boards, commissions, elected officials, and local farmers

As one of the Key Priorities of the PoCD is to promote agriculture, this topic is of major importance to the Town of Brooklyn. Surveyed residents consistently cited farmland preservation, the rural quality of the Town, and agricultural heritage as very important priorities.

Recommendations

1. Prioritize Key Strategic Farmland Parcels.
2. Coordinate funding opportunities including Open Space Land Acquisition Fund and State/Federal Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Programs.
3. Consider Purchase of “Right of First Refusal” on Key Farmland Parcels.
4. Encourage educational and outreach programs to promote the further understanding of the benefits of locally produced foods, local farm operations, and how agriculture can be continued to be supported in Brooklyn.
5. Ensure the commission is the primary Town Hall contact for farmland issues.
6. Encourage periodic Agricultural listening sessions.
7. Review/Modify Zoning and Subdivision regulations for “Farm Friendliness” and consider establishment of appropriate guidelines for buffer zones.
8. Encourage coordination with neighboring Towns/regions to support and preserve agricultural interests and promotion projects.
9. Consider establishing a community garden.
10. Encourage the sales and purchase of Brooklyn-grown products through the support of farmers’ markets and locally-grown initiatives.
11. Promote additional signage in key locations to support local farm operations, farm stands, and farmers’ markets.
12. Designate locally important farm soils through USDA.
13. Encourage the use of properties both private and Town owned for viable agriculture production.
14. Consider transfer of development rights program with agricultural lands as sending zones.
15. Write and adopt additional property tax reduction policy for certain agricultural properties and buildings, as provided for in the Connecticut General Statutes, due to the lower cost of services when compared to the residential use.
16. Identify future innovative opportunities for farming additional lands in Brooklyn.
17. Support regional and statewide efforts to improve agricultural viability.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Background / Status

Brooklyn is clearly a town with the best of both worlds, old and new. Although most of Brooklyn is rich in history with a distinct New England charm, the eastern corridor is home to the Planned Commercial District. This zone is the area designated by the Planning and Zoning Commission as the principal commercial area of the Town, for retail shopping and compatible uses. It is currently home to a diverse group of businesses from small to large in size and locally to nationally owned.

The center of town is home to the crossroads of a federally designated Scenic Highway, Route 169, and Route 6, the major route between Hartford and Providence. This is also the home of Brooklyn's Village Center District where smaller businesses and residences neighbor the historic town hall, churches and monuments. Additional commercial zones in Brooklyn include the Restricted Business Zone and the Neighborhood Commercial Zone which allow for smaller scale business in various areas of town.

Brooklyn's Economic Development Commission (EDC) is overseen by both the office of the First Selectman and a group of appointed volunteers. The Commission was created by ordinance in 1967 and is further governed by Connecticut State Statue. The Commission's role is advisory and is charged with studying economic trends and making recommendations to town officials in an effort to promote economic development. The current Commission includes five regular members and two alternates, all appointed by the First Selectman for four year terms.

The retention of existing businesses currently operating in the Town is the most important goal as it relates to economic development. Local businesses are the backbone of the local economy in a Town such as Brooklyn. To promote business retention, open lines of communication with businesses and the determination of the needs and wants of the Town and its residents is crucial. The EDC has recently embarked on a business recognition program. The EDC Chair and member(s) make a brief presentation and award a plaque recognizing the business and its contribution to the community. The EDC also welcomes new businesses with a plaque presentation and a ribbon cutting. Not only does this program provide a business with some free publicity, but also makes residents and businesses aware of the efforts of the EDC.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

During 2009, the Planned Commercial District was the subject of controversy with the application and approval of a 162,000 square foot retail and food store. From a planning perspective, the focus on this application has created opportunity for dialogue about the type and scale of development in Brooklyn's commercial districts. The EDC is an active participant in this ongoing discussion and shall continue to support projects that meet the current applicable zoning regulations.

In order to generate maximum growth of the Grand List, development of the Planned Commercial (PC) zone should be fostered and encouraged. The commercial grand list has grown from 19,402,950 in 1998 to 28,967,110 in 2008, an increase of 49.3 percent. During the same period the residential grand list has grown from 202,303,401 to 383,293,510, an increase of 89.5 percent. The residential growth far outweighs the commercial. Ensuring an appropriately balanced growth will provide the town with viable tax revenues from both sources.

Objectives & Relation to Key Priorities

- 1) Balancing the Grand List between Residential, Commercial and Protected Lands which is key to a healthy economy that promotes business, provides goods and services to its residents and supports our education system
- 2) Route 6 Commercial Development should be encouraged in an effort to increase the Grand List and reduce the burden to residential taxpayers
- 3) Route 169 Scenic Corridor and Village Commercial District should encourage businesses that provide goods and services on a smaller scale while preserving its historic character
- 4) Regional cooperation with Economic Development Commissions of neighboring towns is essential to promote Economic Development on a larger scale across northeastern Connecticut
- 5) Retaining and growing existing businesses remains critical to the economic health of Brooklyn

In the 2009 Residents Survey, the highest level of support for location of new businesses was in the Route 6 Planned Commercial Zone around Day Street and Brickyard Road (3.34/5) and the redevelopment of a mixed-use zone for the former Arrow Hart property near Tiffany Street (3.38/5). Support was low for commercial development in the Village Center District (1.75/5) and the Route 6 Restricted Business District between Brickyard Road and Brooklyn Center (2.15/5). Generally, smaller scale businesses under 15,000 square feet were preferred (3.89/5) to larger scale retail. The preference for development of new business parks (2.56/5) was higher than that of industrial parks (1.98/5), though neither represented a major endorsement. It should be noted that the survey was conducted in the midst of a highly controversial large-scale retail development application process, and questions concerning commercial development were by far the most polarizing in the entire survey.



Recommendations

1. Review existing goals for development in Planned Commercial district relative to existing regulations to ensure that the permitting and development of appropriate uses is encouraged, enabled, and streamlined.
2. Develop an inventory of available buildings and developable land throughout the town that can be accessed by potential developers, real estate professionals, and Town officials.
3. Research and pursue development, as appropriate, of a Business Park Zone for Brooklyn that could foster smaller start-up businesses and lighter industry that would not require major highway or rail infrastructure.
4. Establish and fund Town staff position of economic development coordinator to be responsible for the daily operations of the office of Economic Development; meeting with potential businesses; marketing of the Town; managing the website; providing professional guidance to the EDC and encouraging the coordination between Town commissions, particularly EDC, P&Z and the Board of Selectmen.
5. Identify and prioritize infrastructure improvements for STEAP and other grant opportunities.
6. Work with landowners and developers to explore the pre-permitting of priority development sites.
7. Support formation of local business owners association to promote Brooklyn businesses and pool resources for encouragement of local economic development activity.
8. Conduct a build-out analysis of the Planned Commercial District.
9. Consider the appropriateness of the Zoning District designation of the Industrial Zone located between Route 6 and South Street.



EDUCATION

Background / Status

The Brooklyn school system provides a pre-kindergarten through grade eight program and is governed by a six member Board of Education. Tracing its origins back to the early days of the 20th century when the town had nine district schools, The Brooklyn School today is a centralized district, located on Gorman Road.

The Board of Education directs the operation of the school system through a committee structure and, when appropriate, involves members of the school staff and community. Committee focus areas include: Budget, Special Education, Curriculum, Staff Negotiations, Educational Planning, Technology, Facilities, Transportation, and Policy. In addition to Board of Education committee activity, Board members serve as liaisons to town-wide and regional committees in order to provide communication between groups - EastConn Regional Education Center; Woodstock Academy; Killingly High School; School Readiness; School Safety; Town Recreation; Capital Improvement; Board of Finance; and the Town Insurance Committee.

Enrollment

During the past decade, our total enrollment in pre-kindergarten to grade 12 has ranged from 1,292 students in 1999 to 1,404 in 2009, an increase of 8.7% with very little racial diversity but an increasing level of economic diversity which has presented a number of education problems of concerns to staff members and Board of Education members. In 2009 a comprehensive program was provided to 1,015 students. Brooklyn sent 349 students to designated high schools (Killingly High School in Dayville and Woodstock Academy in Woodstock) during 2008-2009 and 3 students to other high schools as a result of the Board's Freedom of Choice policy. Thirty-nine Brooklyn students attended the Harvard H. Ellis Technical School during 2008-2009.



EDUCATION

Programs

In response to the educational needs of our students, The Brooklyn School has provided a variety of curricular projects during the past decade to help students enrich and broaden their perspective - the best known and widely accepted program is the Pre-Kindergarten Program for three and four year old children. With emphasis on preschool education, Brooklyn has been able to address the developmental and learning problems of our preschool population. It is believed this emphasis on early childhood education has contributed to an improvement in our Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) scores and a reduction in the number of students referred for special education services. Brooklyn's preschool program has received national accreditation by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs and has a strong parent education and parent involvement component with an emphasis on parent literacy.

Brooklyn has also made progress through the past ten years in reducing class size at both the elementary and middle schools. The change from classes of 23-25 to the present average class size of 18-20 in grades two through four and 21-23 in grades five through eight has had a positive influence on the school climate, has provided more individual attention to the educational needs of students and has resulted in a low incidence of disciplinary problems in comparison to other schools of our size. The Educational Resource Room Program at the Middle School has been extremely valuable in addressing both disciplinary problems and education needs of students, and one future goal is to have a similar program for both education and disciplinary needs at the elementary school.

Future Outlook

Looking ahead to the education needs for this community during the next decade, growth in enrollment is not expected to be as large as the last ten years, and therefore, the need for additional facilities is not anticipated. The elementary school was built in 1954 and renovated and expanded in 1995 with a new Early Childhood Center added in 2008. The middle school was built in 1969 and renovated and expanded in 1995. There are presently no plans for additional space and the only major capital improvement needed in the near future is renovation of the middle school gym because of serious moisture problems and damage to the walls and the floor.

However, with the reduction in the 2009-2010 budget and the prospect for budget problems during the next few years, there is concern the Town's ability to provide a comprehensive educational program with a teacher-student ratio that provides the support needed for each student to be successful. Concern also exists about the Town's ability to provide the variety of special programs needed for students with special needs. The Brooklyn School has been fortunate for years to have a dedicated and committed staff and Board of Education. The results are seen in many successful programs and students who have graduated from Brooklyn well prepared for their future. Looking to the next decade, several concerns are at the forefront for the Brooklyn School system:

- ability to address staff costs that are competitive with salaries across the state;
- the increasing costs of health insurance for school employees;

- the performance of students on the Connecticut Mastery Test, specifically if budget problems result in increases in class size and/or reductions in programs;
- the level of state financial support and the burden of unfunded mandates; and
- the possibility that Brooklyn, with a predominantly residential tax base, may not be able to maintain the educational system that generates pride and respect.

Objectives & Relation to Key Priorities

- 1) Balancing the Grand List between Residential, Commercial, and Protected Lands will be key to ensuring adequate funds for the school system, which remains the largest portion of the annual municipal budget
- 2) Increased Regional Cooperation can create opportunities for cost and resources benefits to the Town

Though it is not directly a land-use issue and is not explicitly addressed in the Key Priorities of the PoCD, the Town of Brooklyn's educational system is central to its future. Providing quality education is a major component of Brooklyn's quality of life and attractiveness to future residents and businesses. The affordability of that education will continue to be a major driving influence of the Town's financial decisions. In the 2009 Residents Survey, Brooklyn residents rated satisfaction with the Town's education at 3.84/5, with nearly 70% of residents were either "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with Brooklyn's school system.

Recommendations

1. Review Cost of Community Service Studies (CoCS) to develop understanding of appropriate balance between residential development, commercial development, and open space protection relative to its impact on school system size and costs
2. Work with town agencies on growth projections to assess future educational facility needs
3. Work with neighboring towns to consider regional educational facilities, including a High School
4. Assess properties for potential to support future educational facilities
5. Perform outreach to civics, social studies, and government classes in Brooklyn schools on local land-use decision-making process



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

Background / Status

The Brooklyn Emergency Management/Homeland Security Commission (BEMHS) was created by the Board of Selectmen in 2003, and is comprised of five regular members and one alternate. The adopted mission statement, for the BEMHS states: “The purpose of the Commission is to provide planning, trained personnel, equipment, coordination, logistics support, direction and management to the Town of Brooklyn in the advent of a declared emergency. The Commission members are NOT in themselves first responders to emergencies, but provide assistance to local emergency agencies via the Emergency Operations Center during emergency episodes and then to the Town and its citizens with remedial/restoration aid.”

From inception to the present, the BEMHS members have provided both direction and implementation of activities. In these formative years, the planning and execution were relatively simplistic; however, as more complex Federal and State requirements are imposed upon local communities, a different approach is required. For smaller communities, like Brooklyn, with a small corps of volunteers to provide emergency management, it requires significant coordination with Town emergency response agencies and officials as well as with surrounding community emergency services.

With the establishment of the Brooklyn Emergency Operations Center (EOC), at the Town Hall, the appointment of an Emergency Management Director (EMD) was required to assume responsibilities for this operation. A number of positional responsibilities exist for the EOC, including: Assistant Director, Communications Officer, Shelter Operations Manager, Supply Officer, Administrative Officer, Public Information Officer, etc. Currently these functions are handled by commission members.



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

The EMD is responsible to the First Selectman and to the Region IV Coordinator of the State Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Department (DEMHS). The operation of the EOC is the responsibility of the EMD, with oversight by the BEHMS.

The EMD is a non-voting member of the Brooklyn Fire Commission, is a founding member of the Northern Tier EMD group (12 towns NE CT), NECCOG representative to DEMHS's Region IV Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT), Co-Chair to the REPT Steering Committee and member of the REPT Steering Committee's Environmental Support Function (ESF).

Moving forward, it is obvious that there is a need to expand the number of volunteers involved with emergency management in Brooklyn; it is also obvious that the current structure limitations upon BEMHS make it impossible to fully accomplish its mission. Therefore, it would make sense to formally separate the EOC operations from the BEHMS and let BEMHS provide oversight of EOC activities, while the EOC, with no limits upon membership numbers, will handle actual operations.



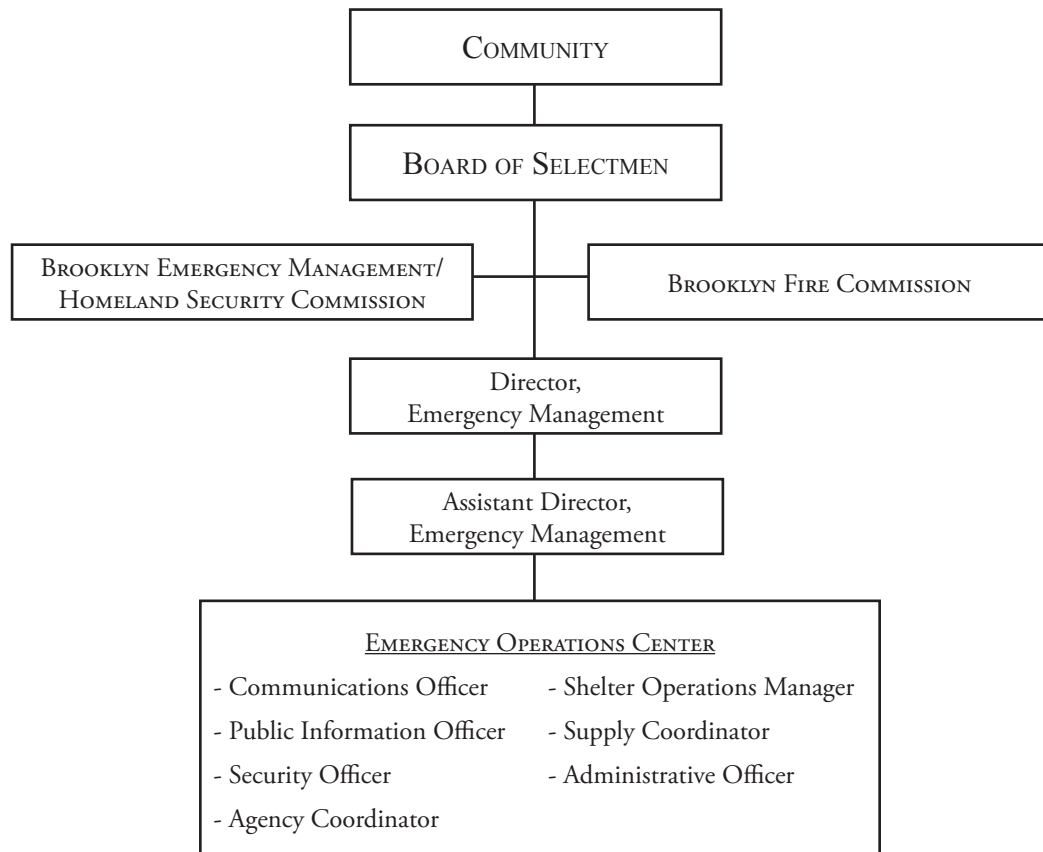
Objectives & Relation to Key Priorities

Though the 1999 Plan of Conservation and Development addressed and established goals for Public Safety, the topics of Homeland Security and Emergency Management did not become major concerns for Brooklyn or other areas until later. Events of September 11, 2001 and major natural disasters over the last decade have driven home the importance of this preparedness. While the major priority areas of the 2011-2021 Plan of Conservation and Development do not specifically address these issues, it is clear that a focus on efficient, effective Homeland Security and Emergency Management are critical to providing and maintaining the high quality of life enjoyed in Brooklyn.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY

Recommendations

1. Provide adequate funding to Emergency Management and Homeland Security resources in Brooklyn
2. Develop and provide a fully trained and staffed Emergency Operations Center, including the EMD, Assistant EMD, Communications Officer, Shelter Operations Manager, Public Information Officer, Supply Coordinator, Security Officer, Administrative Officer and Agency Coordinator
3. Maintain a fully staffed BEMHS to provide oversight and support to the EOC operations
4. Enhance Brooklyn's emergency preparedness through continued participation and coordination of efforts with area EMDs, NDDH and other agencies, as well as the reactivation of the CERT program
5. Participate in regional emergency management groups in training and exercise activities
6. Improve cooperative efforts with local emergency response agencies
7. Establish an effective public awareness program in the Town so that its citizens are prepared in the event of an emergency either at home, in town or in the region



FINANCE

Background / Status

The goal of the Brooklyn Board of Finance is to monitor and manage the financial matters of the town. In doing so, the Board of Finance strives to meet the financial needs of the town and ensure that the town functions properly because of solid budgeting, sound financial management, maintaining proper liquidity, and a balanced approach in the management of our assets and liabilities. There are several key components to achieving this and the Board of Finance has chosen to provide guiding principles for various critical financial and administrative matters for the town.

Undesignated Reserves

Undesignated reserves remain an important part of the town's liquidity (particularly, the reserve against unanticipated expenses and the source of working capital between tax revenue collection periods). Based upon the Town Auditor's recommendation, the Board of Finance will target a specific percentage range of the previous year's revenue as the size of the reserve. The Board will endeavor to maintain this goal of the recommended range of our previous year's revenue as the acceptable level of our undesignated reserves; however, the range is no way binding by either statute or ordinance.

Capital Funds

The Board of Finance created a mechanism to allow for town-affiliated boards, commissions, departments and entities to access capital through the Capital Funding Program (CFP). The CFP allows for funding requests to be received on a specified date so that a Capital Review Committee can evaluate all the proposals simultaneously and rank the proposals based on merit and recommend the selected proposals to the Board of Finance for funding. Capital requests are funded through direct appropriations in the annual town budget or from the proceeds of a municipal bond sale or from a combination of these sources.



FINANCE

In addition to these mechanisms to fund capital requests, the Board of Finance will endeavor to appropriate base capital funds to the Capital Non-Recurring Account to fund such requests provided that the undesignated reserve account is not below a minimum consistent with the Auditor's recommendations.

These funds will be available to use on an annual basis or they may be allowed to accumulate for a designated or targeted capital use.

Operations/Staffing

The Brooklyn Board of Finance has recognized that the administrative infrastructure has not grown to meet the complexities of the town's administrative needs. Separate individuals handle financial administration functions of town hall and the Board of Education. Exploration of an overarching Finance Director position to bridge the functions may have some merit. In addition to having overall responsibility the financial management of the two functions, a Finance Director would coordinate annual audit functions, manage the day-to-day financial position of the town, and perhaps encompass the town treasurer function.

Liaisons

The Board of Finance will maintain liaison positions with other town boards and commissions to provide guidance to these groups or to maintain a dialogue/communication path with the Board of Finance.

Board Structures

The Board of Finance may want to consider the creation of Alternate Positions for the Board of Finance. If members are ill, traveling, or otherwise unable to attend a meeting, an alternate member could be designated to act in a permanent member's place. Doing so will increase the likelihood of achieving a quorum for the meeting and providing a broader perspective within the discussion of issues.

Special Working Group Assignments

From time to time, the Board of Finance may establish working groups that may function as sub-committees to the Board of Finance. These study groups may receive appropriated funds to pay for third-party reports, consultant's fees, or other expenses necessary to carry out the directive of the working group. An example of such a committee would be the Audit Committee.

Objectives & Relation to Key Priorities

The objectives of the Board of Finance remain largely unchanged since the 2000 Plan of Conservation and Development, and include:

- 1) Maintaining adequate funding to provide needed municipal services;
- 2) Administering financial resources to provide needed support to Town of Brooklyn Boards and Commissions; and
- 3) Maintaining the lowest possible property tax mill rate.

The manner in which the Town, through the Board of Finance, manages municipal funds and promotes investments or expenditures could dramatically affect the key priorities of Acquiring Open Land, Balancing the Grand List, Keeping Agriculture Viable, and the provision of Community Humanitarian Resources. In the 2009 Residents Survey, there was strong general support for preservation of farmland and other open spaces. Solid majorities of those responding to the survey expressed Support or Strong Support for the idea of having property taxes increased by a portion of a mill to dedicate funds for Open Space for Recreation (55.9% “support” or “strongly support”), Open Space for Natural Resource Protection (61.3%) or Farmland (56.3%).

Recommendations

1. Create by ordinance a position of Finance Director, appointed by the Board of Selectmen
2. Create Alternate positions for the Board of Finance
3. Balance provision of key municipal services with maintenance of lowest realistic property tax mill rate.

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Background / Status

The Town of Brooklyn is primarily governed by an elected Board of Selectmen, and individual commissions and boards that are appointed or elected. The First Selectman coordinates the daily activities of the Town and acts as a liaison with all departments within the Town. Directives channeled to Town ordinances, and these ordinances are acted on by the residents of the Town through means of a Town meeting or referendum.

Objectives & Relation to Key Priorities

To represent the citizens of the Town of Brooklyn as administrators and custodians of all activities pertaining to the financial and administrative duties of the Town. The Board of Selectmen (BOS) sets the tone on pursuing a number of the key objectives of the Plan of Conservation & Development. Providing guidance to the Planning & Zoning Commission, Conservation Commission and Economic Development Commission, the BOS can promote land conservation and careful development of the Route 6 and Route 169 corridors. The BOS can take the lead in increasing regional cooperation via the Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH), NECCOG, and other intermunicipal groups. Through its general governance of Town Hall and municipal facilities, the BOS can influence the interface between Brooklyn residents and their government.



GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Recommendations

1. Create by ordinance the positions of Town Manager/Administrator and Financial Officer, appointed by the Board of Selectmen
2. Create positions in the Town Administrations, if feasible, that will enhance the financial status and orderly growth of the Town, such as, Economic Development Coordinator, and Town Planner
3. Retain an active role in regional policies in the best interest of the Town's financial and service status
4. Retain membership with the Council of Governments, and continue to support the Northeast District Department of Health and Social Service agencies in the area
5. Support those organizations that will maintain the rural character of Brooklyn, such as the Route 169 Scenic Advisory Committee, The Last Green Valley, and the Brooklyn Agricultural Commission
6. Continue to encourage residents of the Town to participate in the Town government through appointments to Town commissions and or boards
7. Maintain the elected positions on the Board of Finance, Board of Education, and Board of Tax Review
8. Continue to provide and expand public services, such as Parks and Recreation, Education, Public Safety and other resources that will maintain quality of life of our citizens
9. Establish in writing a description of responsibilities for each of the boards and commission members
10. Establish a Public Safety Board or Commission within the Town Hall to investigate issues of Public Safety and hold regular meetings
11. Convene annual summit meeting to set goals and communications of Town Agencies
12. Follow the Plan of Conservation and Development to guide future growth of the Town
13. Continue to develop our commercial zone with help of appropriate committees to enhance our tax base and encourage viability of present businesses
14. Pursue initiatives that use emerging and networking technologies to encourage greater participation in public meetings

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Background / Status

Brooklyn has inherited an important legacy of historical character. In recognition of this legacy, the Brooklyn Historical Society, founded in 1970, has supported the National Register designations of the following buildings and districts, listed in chronological order: [Old] Trinity Church (1970), Unitarian Meeting House (1972), Brooklyn Green National Register District (1979), Putnam Farm (1982), Quinebaug Mill/Quebec Square Historic District (1984), and Bush Hill Historic District (1986). At the present time Brooklyn is a growing town whose growth mandates the expansion of its economic base to provide the best services to its people. The challenge is to expand in ways that do not destroy its heritage. In keeping with the key elements of education and preservation found in the mission statement of the Brooklyn Historical Society, the society continues to sponsor programs and exhibits to create awareness and appreciation of Brooklyn's heritage.

Objectives & Relation to Key Priorities

The major objective relative to the historic preservation of Brooklyn is to preserve and protect the historical character of Brooklyn within its growing economic pattern without imposing unreasonable burdens on property owners or residents.

The focus on Historic Preservation is an important issue carried over from the 1999 Plan of Conservation and Development. The key priorities of protecting Route 169 and the Village Center District are very much linked with Historic Preservation initiatives and the maintenance of the character and legacy of those areas. In the 2009 Residents Survey, the level of satisfaction with local efforts on Historic Preservation merited a 3.09/5, which was an indifferent to below-average score relative to other issues.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Recommendations

1. Establish an official Town Historical Commission to undertake advocacy and projects for the protection and enhancement of local historic resources
2. Regularly update and maintain the inventory of historic structures and places, establishing a priority list for grant purposes
3. Provide incentives and support for the renovation of historically significant structures in lieu of demolition
4. Provide local funding support and/or tax credits for local historic preservation initiatives
5. Protect historic materials from damage or theft by providing archival space for materials and records to the extent this is possible
6. Seek and pursue funding for historic inventories, surveys, and preservation efforts through the State of Connecticut, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, 1772 Foundation, and other sources
7. Consider creation of a Local Historic District for the Brooklyn Green Historic District
8. Establish working groups on traditional village centers in Wauregan and East Brooklyn
9. Increase participation in regional working groups on Route 169 corridor



HOUSING

Background / Status

Brooklyn is primarily a rural town, distinguished by single-family homes on lots over one acre in size, and includes historic colonials and capes, as well as traditional New England farmhouses and newer ranch houses. Multi-family housing is located primarily in the East Brooklyn area. Higher density is allowed in areas served by sewer and water, while the more rural areas have larger lots sizes required because of the lack of such facilities. Housing is regulated by subdivision and zoning regulations, wetlands regulations, health department regulations, and existing infrastructure.

Brooklyn's affordable housing stock has historically exceeded the State's 10% target to be exempt from the Affordable Housing Appeals Act (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 8-30g), though over the last decade the steady creation of traditional single-family subdivision residences has brought this number right to the threshold of ten percent. The 2008 Affordable Housing Appeals List put out by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development listed Brooklyn as having 285 total "assisted" units that qualify under Conn. Gen. Stat. § 8-30g, which represented 10.52% of the housing stock. In the past, the town has pursued successful housing efforts with the Brooklyn Housing Authority and the Northeastern Connecticut Community Development Corporation/Rural Homes Limited. Quebec Square, Tiffany Square, and South Main Street rehabilitation projects have made effective use of Small Cities Community Development Block Grants in the East Brooklyn area. The town maintains a Fair Housing Plan. Approximately 31% of housing units are renter-occupied, and the town has a rental unit inspection program in force. Through its Fire Marshal, Building Inspector, Zoning Enforcement Officer, and the Northeast District Department of Health, the town oversees the safety of its housing and the welfare of its residents. Continued support for these types of housing initiatives and support for these organizations is needed to ensure that Brooklyn meets the housing needs of its residents.



HOUSING

Though the Town has been exempt from the Affordable Housing Appeals Act for the last decade, the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Plan of Conservation & Development Committee recognize that substantial planning efforts must be undertaken to assure that there is an adequate, sustainable mix of housing for all income levels



in Brooklyn to continue healthy growth in Town. The town's current (2010) mix of 69% owner-occupied housing units/31% renter-occupied units is slightly higher than both Windham County and the State of Connecticut (both of which have a 63%/37% split), but this is not inconsistent with the small, residential-town character. The critical components moving forward will be to encourage both new development at various income levels and "green" development that has a small environmental footprint and uses sustainable practices and materials.

Objectives & Relation to Key Priorities

- 1) To ensure that residents of the town have reasonable access to housing, while maintaining the historic and rural character of the town
- 2) To maintain existing housing stock in sound condition
- 3) To provide for housing development sensitive to the town's natural resources
- 4) To promote the revitalization of older neighborhoods

The Plan of Conservation & Development Committee identified Housing Initiatives and Green Concerns as key priorities of the 2011-2021 Plan, as well as placing a focus on balancing residential and commercial development for the Grand List. Housing development and availability interact closely with each of these priorities, making this one of the truly central issues for Brooklyn over the next ten years. The 2009 Residents Survey indicated that most were satisfied with housing conditions and opportunities in Brooklyn. The "Availability of Suitable Housing" question received a 3.85/5. For development of new housing opportunities, the respondents preferred "small neighborhoods with conserved lands" (3.85/5) and "single family dwellings on large lots" (3.69/5), as well as some "senior housing" (3.3/5) over "two-family or single family with accessory apartments" (2.31/5), "condominiums" (2.11/5) and "apartments" (1.96/5). This feedback seems to support the general status quo of housing development patterns, with a slightly increased emphasis on cluster- or conservation-type developments.

Recommendations

1. The Planning and Zoning Commission encourage cluster subdivisions in areas identified as hosting high-priority natural resources
2. The Board of Selectmen consider adding additional affordable housing, as the state mandated percentage goal exceeds the percentage of Brooklyn affordable housing already available
3. The Planning and Zoning Commission consider extension of the Village Center District concept to other areas of Town which contribute to the traditional character of Brooklyn
4. The Planning and Zoning Commission adopt regulations that require applicants to submit information relative to the potential natural, cultural, and historic resource impact of proposed development
5. Provide development incentives such as accelerated approvals and/or density bonuses for housing developments that incorporate “green” or sustainable building practices and materials
6. Pursue planning grants from HOME Connecticut program to explore the development of Incentive Housing Districts as described in Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 8-13m to 8-13x
7. Review zoning densities for areas served by public utilities and consider regulation modification accordingly
8. Pursue Community Development Block Grants and/or Small Cities Grants to encourage rehabilitation of older or blighted housing stock
9. Consider expanding opportunities for Accessory Apartments in zoning regulations
10. Identify regulatory changes or administrative incentives that promote development of housing for young professionals, first-time homebuyers, and critical sectors of the workforce.



MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

Background / Status

For purposes of this Plan, Municipal Facilities are those controlled wholly or in part by the Town of Brooklyn for the purpose of maintenance or for providing services for the residents of the town.

In this Plan, Education and Recreation facilities are discussed separately. Existing Municipal Facilities include:

TOWN HALL: The current town offices are located at the junction of Routes 6 and 169 in the historic building which formerly housed the Windham County Court. This facility is structurally and aesthetically sound. Space for Town Meetings is provided in the Clifford B. Green Memorial Center, the Town Hall, the Community Center and the school auditorium.

PUBLIC SAFETY: There are two volunteer fire companies, with facilities in Brooklyn Center, and East Brooklyn. Ambulance service is provided from Brooklyn Center. The Resident State Troopers have an office at the Town Hall. The Fire Marshal and Civil Defense personnel are also located at the Town Hall.

LIBRARY: The Brooklyn Library, while not a town-owned facility is nonetheless an important asset to the town. The Library provides excellent service to the town in spite of the fact that it is badly cramped for space in its existing facility.

COMMUNITY CENTER: The Community Center, providing meeting space, classrooms and office space for the Housing Authority, is located on Tiffany Street. This building is handicapped accessible and has meeting rooms used for Town functions and groups. The downstairs is rented for child care.



MUNICIPAL FACILITIES

SENIOR CENTER: The senior center is a large building providing services to seniors in the area and is connected to the Clifford B. Green Memorial Center. Activities for seniors in Brooklyn as well as neighboring towns take advantage of the facility. Regional support and management would lead to a stronger more active facility to support senior needs.



CLIFFORD B. GREEN MEMORIAL CENTER: The Clifford B. Green Memorial Center provides space for the Recreation Department and the Regional Children's Court. This building also offers a large conference room for meeting space. The other end of this building is leased to the Northeast District Department of Health.

ROAD MAINTENANCE FACILITY: The existing facility is located on a 2.9 acre parcel of land on South Main Street in East Brooklyn. It consists of a 9,000 square-foot brick building and parking area for school busses. Additional facilities are located at the Transfer Station.

TRANSFER STATION: The Town of Brooklyn currently operates a transfer station where residents are able to bring household waste to be hauled to State-approved facilities. This facility also accepts "bulky waste" (such as demolition debris, furniture, etc.). This operation is financially self-sufficient and, barring any new State mandates, will be able to continue for the foreseeable future. Recyclable materials are contracted to be removed from curbside by a private contractor. This service is expected to continue for the next ten years.

Objectives & Relation to Key Priorities

- 1) To preserve the Town Hall as an important part of the history of Brooklyn and Eastern Connecticut
- 2) To ensure that fire protection and ambulance services are provided to all residents in a timely and efficient manner
- 3) To provide appropriate facilities for the Town Highway Department
- 4) To provide adequate library facilities to meet the needs of a growing population
- 5) To provide adequate trash removal services to the town

The 2009 Residents Survey revealed general satisfaction with elements concerning Brooklyn's municipal facilities, with average ratings of 3.74/5 for the Transfer Station/Recycling Program, 3.43/5 for Services for Senior Citizens, and 3.30/5 for Recreational Opportunities.

Recommendations

1. Continue to maintain the Town Hall to the highest degree possible in a manner to fulfill the town's needs for the foreseeable future.
2. State Troopers, the Fire Marshal, and Civil Defense personnel, ideally located to keep response time to all areas of the town to a minimum.
3. Maintain and upgrade the facilities for the Town Highway Department as needs dictate.
4. Continue to provide facilities for household waste.
5. Continue to provide for curbside collection of recyclable materials.
6. Investigate construction or the rehabilitation of an existing building of a library of sufficient size to meet the needs of a growing population



OPEN SPACE & NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

Background / Status

The Connecticut Inland Wetlands and Watercourses (Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 22a-36 to 22a-45) adopted in 1972 requires the regulation of activities affecting the wetlands and watercourses in our town. Municipal wetlands regulation is the responsibility of the Brooklyn Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission (IWWC). The IWWC is authorized to adopt regulations, establish boundaries, review and act on permits involving wetlands and watercourses. Wetland areas are defined by soil type and comprehensive regulations are established for permitted activities within 125 feet for wetlands and 175 feet for watercourse.

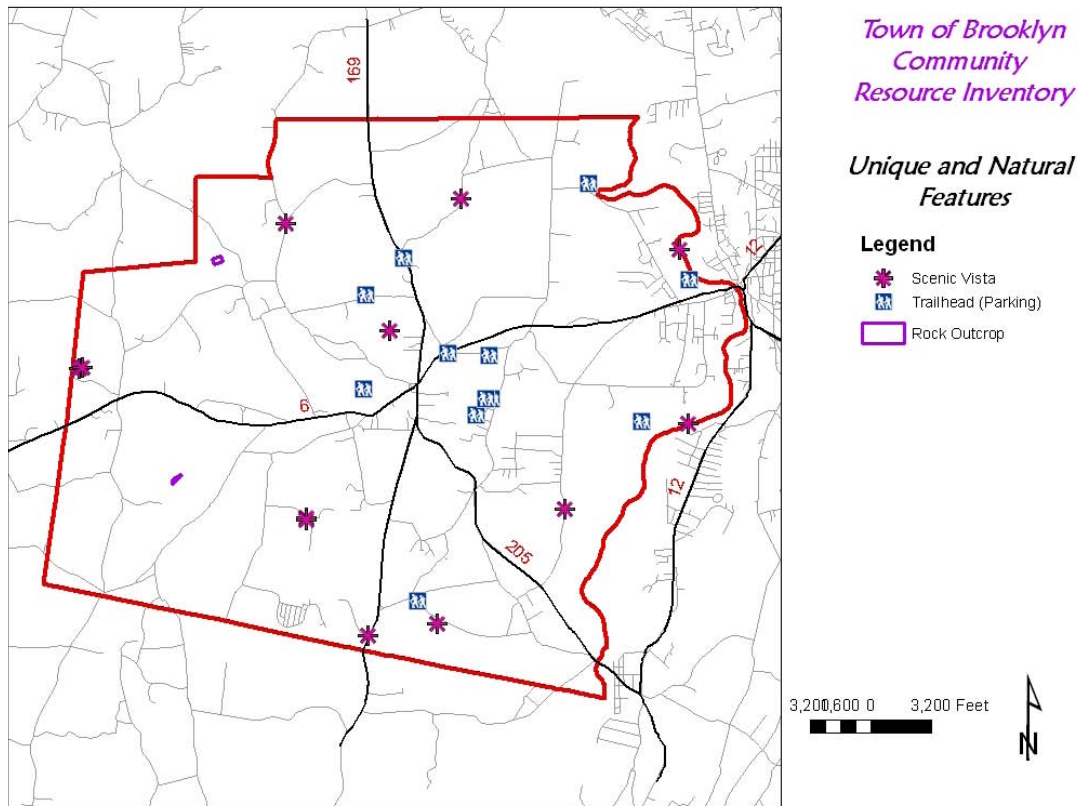
The Brooklyn Conservation Commission (BCC) was formed in 1990 when the Town voted to split the combined Conservation and Inland Wetlands Commission and form two separate commissions. The BCC developed a Natural Resource Inventory and Plan of Open Space and Conservation adopted by Town Meeting in 1991. Following a four year lapse in activity, the BCC was reactivated in 2000 and is responsible for maintaining and updating an inventory of natural and cultural resources including public and private open space. The BCC is an advisory commission responsible for providing natural resource information and recommendations to regulatory land use commissions and the public. The BCC has developed and carried out forest management and restoration programs at the Davis Forest and Riverside Park grasslands. In 2001, the Town of Brooklyn established the Open Space Land Acquisition Fund to be utilized in the conservation and protection of land possessing natural and/or cultural resources significant to the Town of Brooklyn. In 2009, the BCC established a “Green Team” subcommittee to investigate and support green initiatives for the benefit of Brooklyn residents including opportunities and incentives for the promotion of energy efficiency, renewable energy, clean water, water conservation, composting and recycling.

Objectives & Relation to Key Priorities

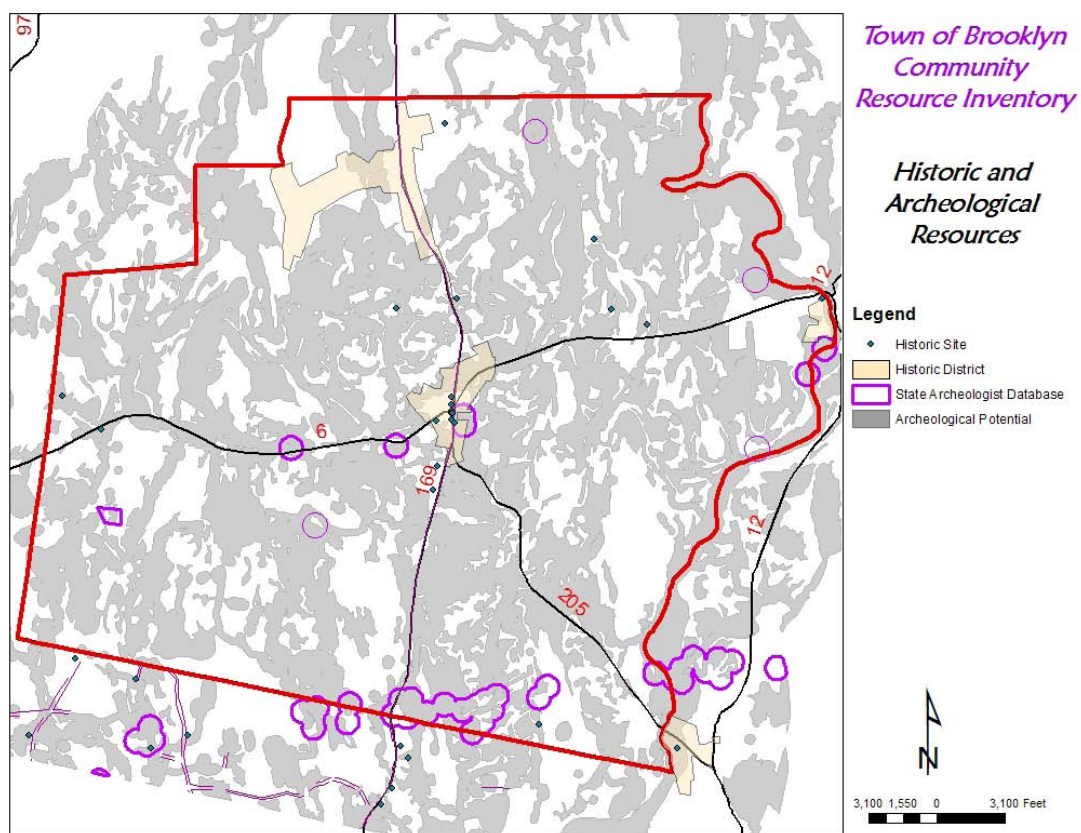
Objectives for conservation in Brooklyn include: Maintaining and celebrating the rural and historic character of the Town of Brooklyn by protecting its unique natural and cultural features; preventing degradation of wetlands and water resources and their related natural riparian buffers; protecting ground and surface water resources, including public and private drinking water supply aquifers, from potential pollution; and minimizing habitat fragmentation due to developmental sprawl, poor forestry practices, infrastructure changes or other impacts.

In the 2009 Residents Survey, conservation and preservation objectives tended to score relatively high. Acquisition of open land rated a 3.89/5 as a priority, placing it in the top third of key priorities listed; Current efforts at preserving air quality and water quality received average ratings (3.3/5), while satisfaction with efforts at preserving farmland and other open lands was the lowest ranked “satisfaction” category at 2.72/5. In the specific questions related to land conservation efforts, key goals of conservation included preservation of habitat (4.2/5), passive recreation (4.25/5), and farmland (4.25/5). In general, residents supported the idea of seeing property taxes increased incrementally for the goals of preserving open space for recreation (3.46/5), for natural resource protection (3.67/5), and farmland (3.51/5), with the largest portion of residents responding in the “strongly support” column for these initiatives.

OPEN SPACE & NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

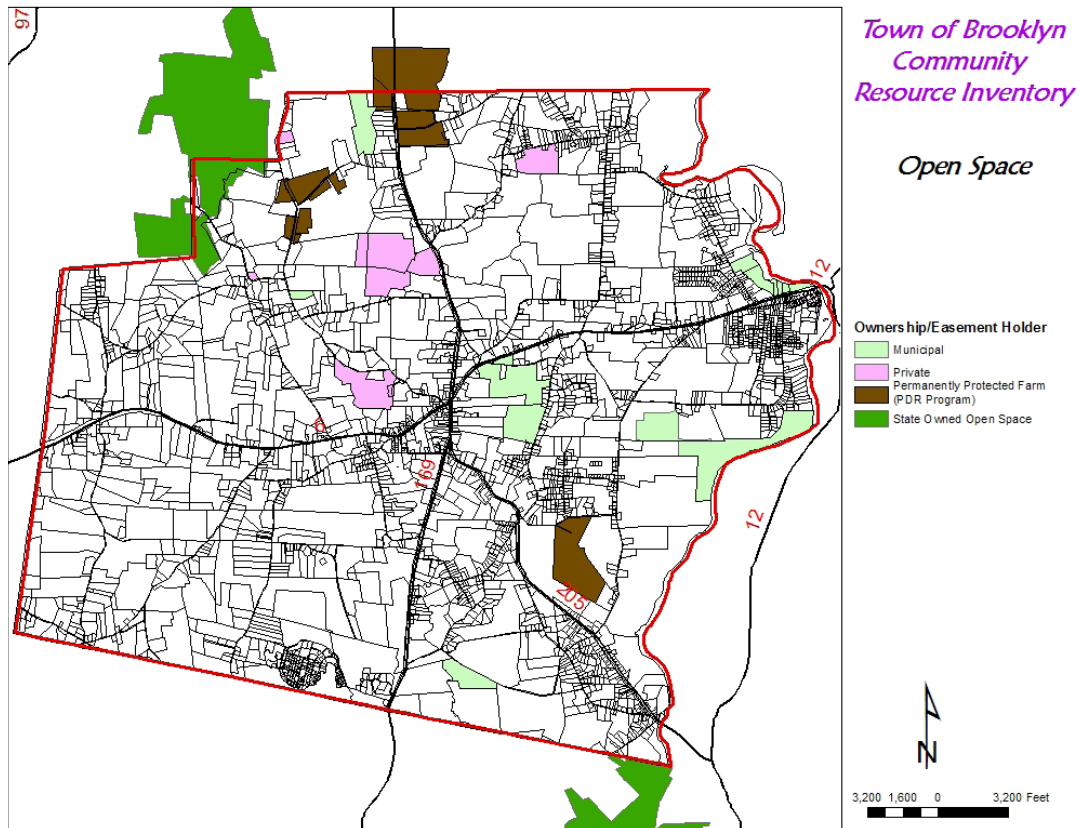


Natural Features: Locations of Scenic Vistas, Rock Outcrops, and Unique Natural Areas based on information obtained from Brooklyn residents during public opinion surveys and hearings conducted in for the 1991 Natural Resource Inventory.

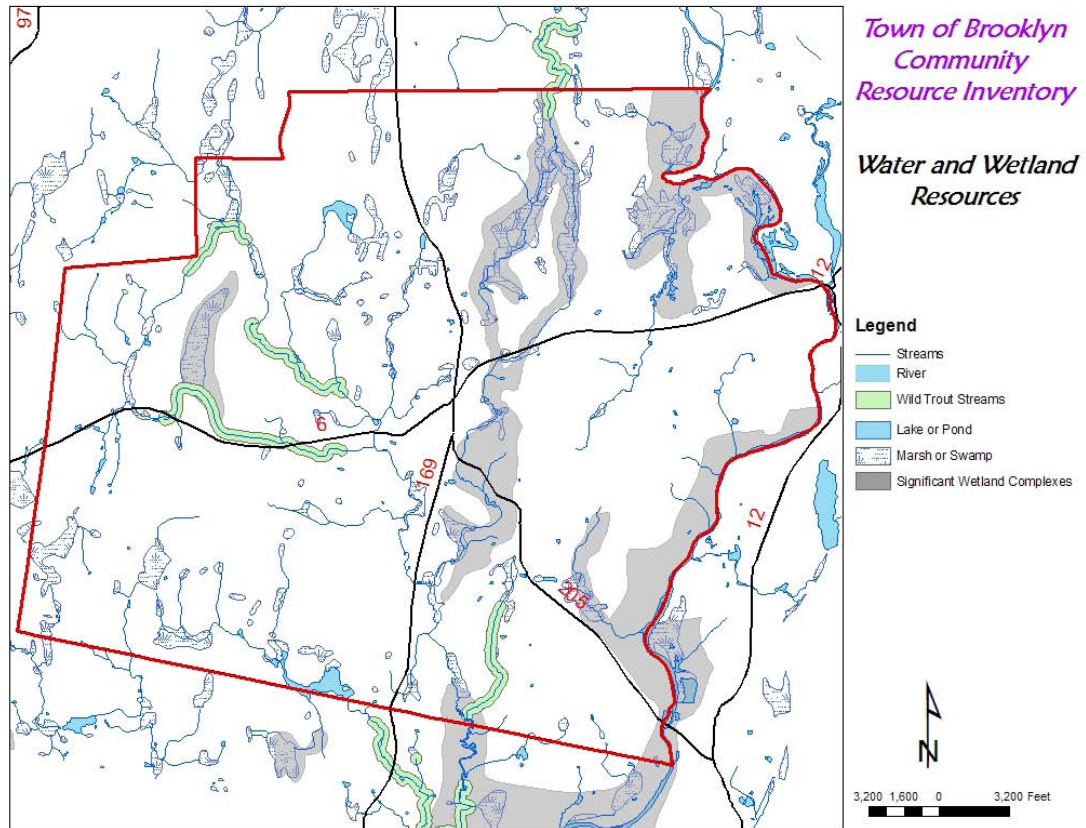


Historic and Archeological Resources: Identifies the Historic Districts in Brooklyn and those properties which are on the National Register of Historic Places; proximal locations of known archeological or historical significance identified by the Connecticut State Archeologist; areas of archeological potential based on soil type, slope and proximity to watercourses as defined by the Connecticut State Archeologist. . (Sources – CT State Archeologist, Green Valley Institute, Town of Brooklyn)

OPEN SPACE & NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

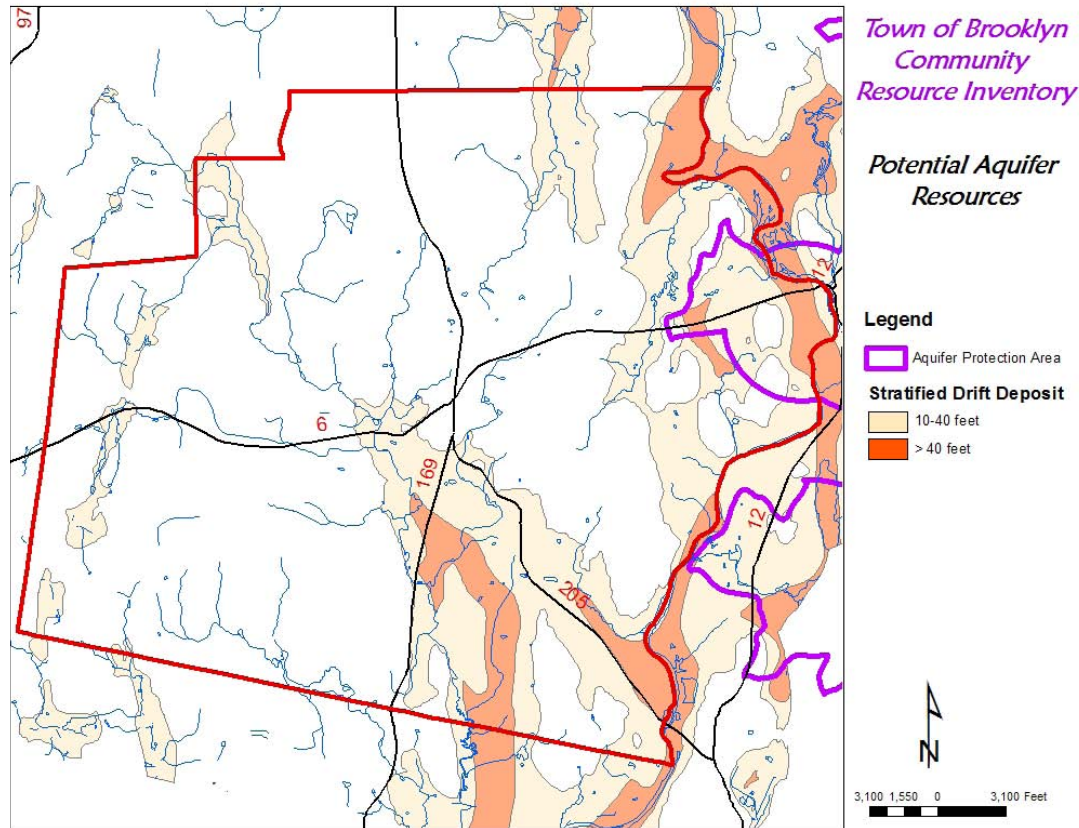


Current State, Municipal, & Privately Owned Conservation Land- Land that is municipally owned or permanently protected from development including state forestland, land trust property, private lands containing easements to the town and/or other legal restrictions preventing development, and farmland where the development rights have been purchased by the State Department of Agriculture. A complete listing of the open space land is included as Appendix B. (Sources – CT DEP, Green Valley Institute, Town of Brooklyn Assessors Data)

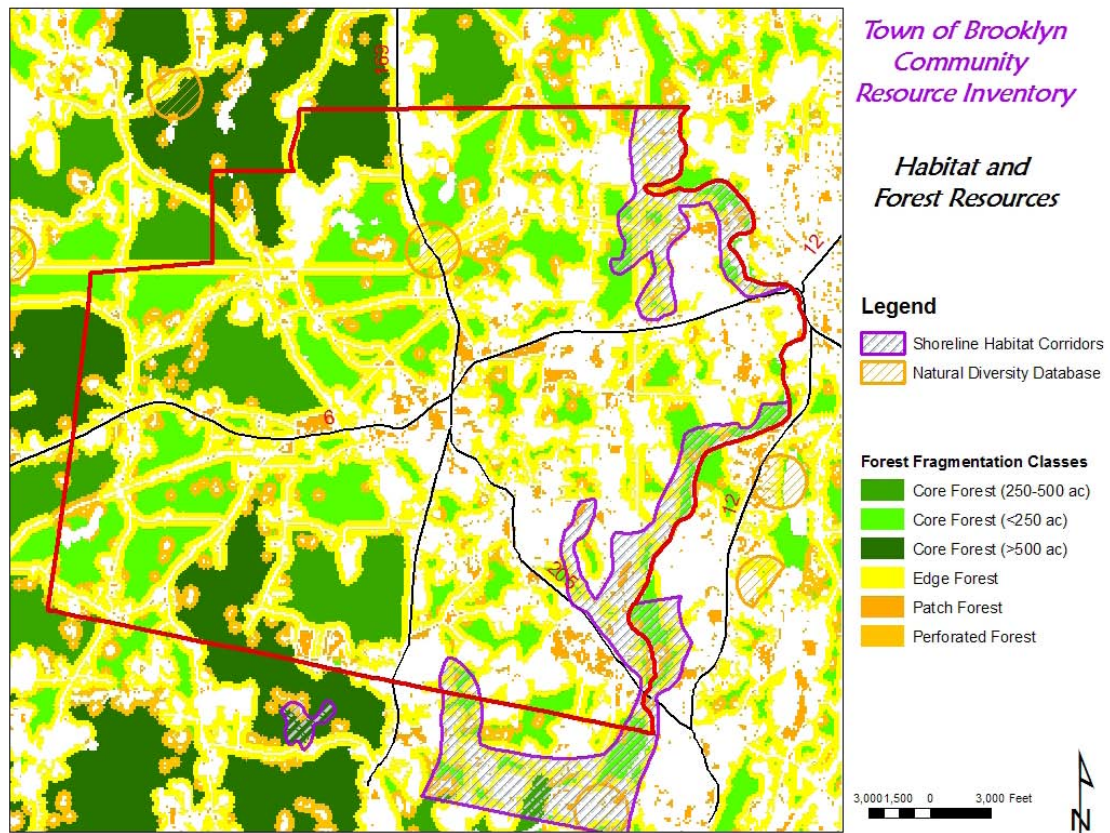


Water and Wetland Resources – Significant wetland complexes possessing relatively undeveloped shoreline, the capacity for flood storage, filtration and important hydrologic connections for streams were identified with the assistance of representatives of Eastern CT Conservation District and CT DEP. CT DEP has identified streams known to support wild trout populations – a species which requires high water quality and cool temperatures for survival. Regulated wetland areas are determined in Connecticut by soil type

OPEN SPACE & NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

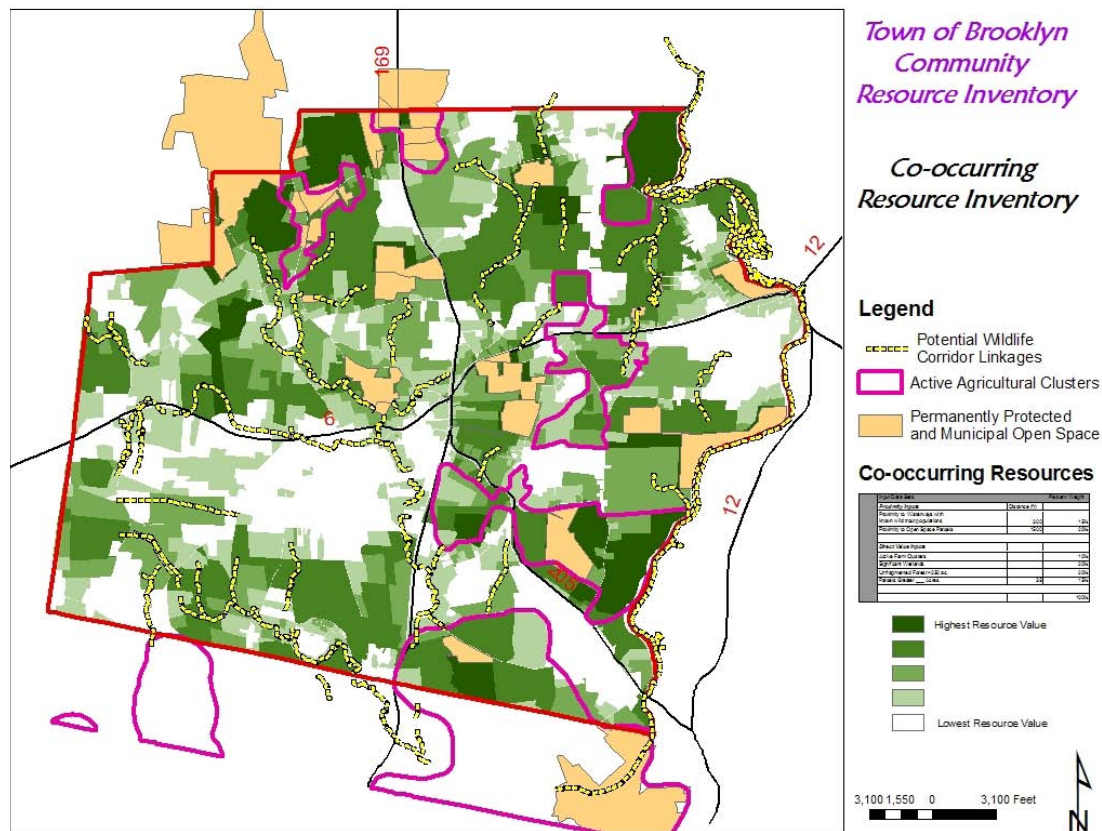


Aquifers – Identifies potential aquifer resources (USGS, GVI) and preliminary (Level B) mapping of the Aquifer Protection Area (CT DEP) in Brooklyn. Aquifer potential is identified by analyzing stratified drift deposit in proximity to surface water – these areas may have the capacity to provide large quantities potable water and require special attention in order to protect both private and public water supplies. CT DEP requires the adoption of a regulatory program for the protection of aquifer resources. Connecticut Water Company, which operates Brooklyn’s public water system, is required to prepare more detailed mapping (Level A) of the aquifer in the vicinity of existing public supply wells to define the regulatory area. The Brooklyn Conservation Commission was appointed as the Aquifer Protection Agency by Town Meeting and will be responsible for this program when mapping is complete.



Habitat and Forest Resources— Identifies areas of forest blocks, forest fragmentation, known threatened or endangered wildlife species and significant shoreline habitat corridors. Larger forest blocks tend to support healthier, more diverse populations of local wildlife. Undeveloped and low density development riparian corridors identified by Commission members with the assistance of GVO provide important connectivity and transportation between habitat blocks (CLEAR, CT DEP, GVI)

OPEN SPACE & NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION



Co-occurring Resource Inventory – The Co-occurring Resource Inventory compiled for the Town of Brooklyn was a collaborative project between the Green Valley Institute (GVI), and the BCC. A variety of natural resources were evaluated and a weighting system was developed as part of this project. The co-occurring inventory helps to identify the location of natural and cultural resources in Brooklyn. Where multiple resources occur, a higher conservation value is indicated by a darker green. This map is a tool for land-use analysis and can be used to identify areas of sensitive resources or key open space parcels, investigate options of innovative development and strategically minimize impacts to natural and cultural resources.

| | Input Data Set | Proximity | %Weight |
|---------------|--|-----------------------|------------|
| | | <i>Distance (ft.)</i> | |
| | Proximity to Waterways with known wild trout populations | 300 | 15 |
| | Proximity to Protected Open Space Parcels | 1800 | 20 |
| | Active Farm Clusters | | 10 |
| | Significant Wetlands | | 20 |
| | Unfragmented Forest | | 15 |
| | Parcels Greater than 35 Acres | | 15 |
| Totals | Must =100% | | 100 |

OPEN SPACE & NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION

Recommendations

1. Preserve priority open space areas, particularly areas with co-occurring, high value resources through dedication, acquisition or regulation
2. Promote adoption of Conservation Subdivision Overlay Zones in areas with multiple co-occurring resources
3. Promote the adoption of scenic roads where appropriate
4. Identify and assist willing land owners to protect properties with significant resources
5. Promote allocation of funds for land protection (annual budget item)
6. Protect uplands around significant wetlands through dedication, acquisition or adoption of overlay zones
7. Promote adoption of regulations for Low Impact Development (LID) and Best Management Practices
8. Maintain vigilant enforcement of Town IWWC regulations
9. Adopt Aquifer Protection Area regulations (awaiting final zone designation – Level A mapping)
10. Identify potential future public water sources and establish Aquifer Protection Zone
11. Maintain and enhance natural connections and links through the establishment and expansion of multi-use Greenways
12. Encourage and support sustainable forest and agriculture practices for the protection of forest based industries and healthy native wildlife populations
13. Establish an inter-board “green team” to promote sustainable energy and resource utilization for municipal facilities and projects

PARKS AND RECREATION

Background / Status

The Brooklyn Parks & Recreation program provides the community an array of structured activities, special events and programming for people of all ages. Open spaces, parks, athletic fields, and recreational opportunities enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors. Additionally, passive (hiking, cross-country skiing, etc.) and active (ballfields, etc.) recreational facilities provide economic benefits, such as the possible increase in value of nearby properties, and the increase of visitors to our town. Parks and Recreation facilities in Brooklyn include the following resources:

SOUTH STREET PARK: Located at the corner of South Main St. and South St. in East Brooklyn, this park provides active recreation in the form of a playscape and a basketball court.

MICHAEL DRAGON MEMORIAL COMPLEX AT PRINCE HILL PARK: Located on Prince Hill Road this multi-use facility includes newly installed lighted basketball courts, completed in 2009. Also on site are: multi use fields, used primarily by the local youth soccer league, a newly completed softball field, concession stand with restrooms, and a playscape. Additional parking was added in 2009, when the basketball courts were finished. Trails from both of the Brooklyn School properties and to additional recreational land are located in the surrounding wooded areas. Trails are used yearly by the Brooklyn Middle School cross country team

PRINCE HILL TENNIS COURTS: Located at the corner of Route 6 and Prince Hill Road, this is located just west of the main area of Prince Hill Park. This area, also known as the Donald Francis Recreational Area, includes lighted tennis courts, the entrance to wooded trails, and multiple buildings. Parks & Recreation storage barn is located at this site, as well as a smaller garage, currently used by the Boy Scouts. The now-vacant building formerly used to house the recreation offices is also located here.



PARKS AND RECREATION

RIVERSIDE PARK: Located off of Day Street, this yet to be completed facility has both passive and active areas planned. The passive area is maintained by the conservation commission, and will not be addressed in this section. The active areas are still in the planning and development stages. A grant obtained by the Town of Brooklyn's Selectman's office is being utilized to continue the development of this area. Baseball fields and a concession stand with restrooms are being discussed. Other plans incorporating combinations of uses such as trails, recreation fields, and indoor facilities are being discussed. The Parks & Recreation Department will be maintaining this portion of the park after completion.



DAVIS PROPERTY: Located off of South Street, along the Quinebaug River. This is a largely undeveloped tract of land, with trails which lead along the river. Trails at this time are used for both hiking and cross country skiing. Further use of this property will be discussed in the objectives below.

FRANK RZEPA AND ROGER GLADUE FIELD: Located off of South Main Street in East Brooklyn, there are two Little League Fields owned by the Town on this parcel of land.

Objectives & Relation to Key Priorities

The Brooklyn Parks and Recreation will provide quality recreational opportunities, which contribute to the needs and interests of the people of Brooklyn. Recreation and its related properties are a necessary service to the community and an integral part of the health and welfare of the Town of Brooklyn. Key objectives include:

- 1) Assure the preservation and protection of Brooklyn's recreational resources.
- 2) Maintain and develop safe, well maintained, accessible recreational facilities, while still keeping them esthetically attractive to the surrounding areas.
- 3) Continue to offer recreational programming at rates comparable to the economic basis of the population of the town and that answer the needs and interests of the residents.
- 4) Develop existing recreational land, or to acquire property for the construction of athletic fields, passive recreation and other multi-use purposes to meet both the current and future demands.

In the 2009 Residents Survey, the Town's recreation opportunities were rated as slightly above average for residents' satisfaction, rating a 3.3/5. This is a substantial increase from the 2.6/5 result from the prior PoCD survey in 2000, reflecting the expanded focus and range of services offered by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Recommendations

1. Work on a plan to provide guidance to the Recreation Commission for the continued development and protection of the Parks & Recreation resources. Communicate and work with the other boards and commissions within the town, to carry out this goal.
2. Continue to maintain current facilities, and provide care to future developed areas, with the current Parks Maintenance program.
3. Investigate the expansion of the Parks Maintenance program, with the possible addition of seasonal help, as needed for the future development of recreational facilities.
4. Provide attractive and informative signage at the Parks & Recreation facilities.
5. Continue the current Beautification Fund, with better public awareness of the program and possibility of corporate or larger personal donations to the fund.
6. Continue to use this fund to provide the level of facility care and attractiveness, including the purchase of required equipment to maintain these facilities, park changes or additions, such as playscape equipment, park pavilions or other such changes or additions.
7. Maintain the Department's working relationship with the school board and superintendent's office, to allow the continuation and development of programming utilizing the schools facilities.
8. Ensure the residents have the opportunity to inform the department of possible recreational needs, or future ideas for programs.
9. Continue to offer a variety of programs and events, that interest residents, and include both fee based and free of charge opportunities.
10. Maintain the current scholarship program for the summer camp program, with possible expansion of said scholarships with the addition of larger corporate donations.
11. Investigate possible uses for the Davis Property that would serve both conservation and recreation goals.
12. Continue conversations with other committees, such as the Brooklyn Library Committee, to provide a town-wide, multi-use community center/recreational complex that would offer residents a wider array of indoor recreational opportunities, and other community based activities.
13. Work with the Conservation Commission, the Town Selectmen or any such agency to look for funding or grants for the purchase of property, or the development of such property to be used for open space, passive and active recreational opportunities.

PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

Background / Status

There are two independent fire departments serving the Town to assist residents and visitors in any life or property emergencies where trained and disciplined responders are required to mitigate the situation. Each of the departments responds to fire, medical and other type of emergencies in their respective districts. The East Brooklyn district borders the Quinebaug River, Long Brook to the west on Route 6, Allen Hill Rd. to the South Street intersection to the South and the power lines on Day St. to the North. The Mortlake department covers all other areas in the Town. For all reported structure fires, both departments respond, with mutual aid available from one or more neighboring Towns. Each department manages its own financial status with partial support through the Town's taxation system and by means of various fund raising events. The East Brooklyn department is also supported by a special taxing district. Each department must meet training and other requirements imposed by state and federal agencies.

Police services in the Town are provided through the Connecticut State Police Resident Trooper program as well as through direct services from Troop D in Killingly. Two resident troopers are assigned full-time to Brooklyn with offices at Town Hall. In a cooperative effort with the State, the Town of Brooklyn pays salary for the officers and the State provides other support and training. The officers conduct all criminal investigations, monitor traffic, provide resident checks for homeowners away for extended periods, and provide other law enforcement activities as required. They also provide liaison services to the Department of Corrections with regards to the prison in Brooklyn, which houses approximately 500 inmates. The troopers are also active in educational programs in local schools, conduct bicycle safety and other programs through Parks & Recreation, and provide a police presence at parades, the Brooklyn Fair, and other community activities.



PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

Objectives & Relation to Key Priorities

While various facets of government in Connecticut continue to struggle with the concept of regional cooperation despite the increased focus on shared services and cost efficiencies, the region's fire departments have quietly been leaders in intermunicipal cooperation for decades. The mutual aid policies followed by the Brooklyn fire companies and their counterparts have allowed each company to better and more efficiently allocate resources. In the 2009 Residents Survey, residents' satisfaction with fire protection was the highest rated service in Brooklyn (4.23/5), while Public Safety rated an above-average 3.52/5. A continued focus on intermunicipal coordination and support in these services is in line with the overall Plan goal of regional cooperation.

Recommendations

1. The Board of Fire Commissioners [BOFC] continue to monitor and recommend as needed increased funding for personal protective equipment, self contained breathing apparatus and all material improvements recommended by or required by NFPA and OSHA.
2. The BOFC monitor and investigate the adequacy of volunteers and the performance of fire departments in developing recruitment strategies and incentives to maintain volunteer staffing or address alternatives. Consultation and cooperation with the Boards of Finance and Selectmen as well as possible regional cooperation may be involved.
3. The BOFC monitor and investigate the need for full-time paid ambulance responders when needed by adding additional paid staff, or consolidation or cooperative arrangements with regional organizations or neighboring Towns to help control costs.
4. The BOFC encourage and assist the Fire Departments in continuing to apply for state and federal grants which have brought Brooklyn nearly \$750,000 in the last decade.
5. The BOFC encourage and adjust vehicle replacement capital plan to meet any changing service requirements and financial conditions.
6. The BOFC and the Selectmen monitor and evaluate the Fire Marshal's duties with performance appraisals and a review of policies for conformance with statutory requirements.
7. Continue to support and fund the resident trooper program to provide public safety services to Brooklyn.

The Mortlake ambulance service covers the entire Town. It is staffed by medically qualified volunteers and a full time paid daytime staff due to the unavailability of daytime volunteers. This cost is subsidized by revenues from ambulance billing of patients and the Town's general government budget. The Board of Fire Commissioners is the budget approval and government policy setting authority for both departments.

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Background / Status

Water: The majority of homes on Brooklyn are served by on site deep wells. Two sections of town are served by the Connecticut Water Company. Businesses and residents in the East Brooklyn area and the Town center have public water service available, for a total of approximately 500-600 customers of CT Water. There are no plans by the Connecticut Water Company to request extension of the system from the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control (DPUC) in the next ten years. The Town of Brooklyn has a critical aquifer area in East Brooklyn along the Quinebaug River that represents an important resource for active management and protection.

Sewer System: As with water supply two types of sewer systems exist . A municipal system connected to the Killingly sewer plant serves approximately 600 homes and businesses in East Brooklyn and in Brooklyn Center. The East Brooklyn section was sewered under orders from the State of Connecticut upon passage of the Clean Water Act in the 1970's. Upon the expansion of the State jail in 1991, the system was extended to the Brooklyn Center area with a pump station on Blackwell's Brook at Tatnic Road. The Town was assigned a 400,000 gallon a day capacity at the Killingly plant which is paid for on a per-gallon basis. Presently there is an average of 260,000 gallons a day of that capacity being used.

In 2004 the Brooklyn water pollution control authority commissioned a study to determine future requirements of capacity based on the service area as determined by the present pump stations and the zoned planned commercial area .The conclusion was that the 400,000 capacity will allow for the complete buildout of the existing service area based on pump stations and existing zoning. The Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) has an existing policy of allowing no connections on the pressure forced main line along Route 6 from Long Brook on the East to one-quarter mile west of the Town Hall to prevent failures in the system which could cause environmental problems.



PUBLIC UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Resource Recovery: In the 1990's Brooklyn acquired the present Transfer Station on Rukstela Road and sealed the previous landfill area with a grant from the State of Connecticut. The present testing done every year indicates no pollution problems. The goal in the 1999 PoCD was to continue the operation of the Transfer Station for 10 years. The goal has been achieved and exceeded.

Two State grants have allowed considerable improvements. The first enabled the Town to build five concrete bays for the haul-away containers. The second grant was used to purchase a 40 cubic yard



compactor which saves hauling fees and completely encloses the green bags/Municipal Solid Waste (MSW). This grant also covered the construction of a separator and a retention pond to control rainwater runoff from the compactor area. The Transfer Station continues to accept bulky waste, various appliances, brush/leaves, metal and other items. Two swap sheds allow users to swap useable items. A new register has improved the accountability of fees. Further improvements envisioned for the next 10 years include covers for the remaining open containers and possible paving.

The curbside recycling program has experienced a cost reduction a few years ago and in 2009 a new contract for no increase. Some of the items collected are paper, cardboards, plastic, glass containers, metal containers, and even used oil in proper containers. The program costs each family approximately \$30 per year and remains very important.

Public Health: Public health services in Brooklyn are provided by the Northeast Connecticut District Department of Health (NDDH) headquartered in Brooklyn and serving 11 other Towns in the region. The department provides all services required by the Connecticut General Statutes of a public health agency. The NDDH has a certified staff under the direction of a director with a Master of Public Health degree. Staff functions include, review and approval of on-site septic systems and water supply, restaurant certification and inspection, food service training and certification, public health education, food security education for healthy lifestyles, and participation in emergency response situations. The Department has received numerous State and Federal grants for services to its member Towns.

Objectives & Relation to Key Priorities

- 1) To support and maintain high levels of public utility service to Brooklyn residents
- 2) To encourage development in areas served by public utilities
- 3) To promote regional coordination of public health and other services

The PoCD Committee established a number of key priorities that have applicability to the above public services and utilities. Ensuring appropriate development along the Route 6 Corridor and in the Village Center District both require adequate provision of public sewer and water services. Regional cooperation of the type provided by NDDH is a strong priority, as are Green Concerns, which can be strengthened through increased recycling and waste management through the Transfer Station.

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The 2009 Residents Survey indicated general satisfaction with Brooklyn's recycling program (3.74/5) and water quality protection (3.3/5). In addition, support was expressed for pursuing wider participation in regional initiatives such as Resource Recovery (3.65/5), Hazardous Waste Recycling (3.91/5), and Other Recycling Efforts (4.16/5).

Recommendations

1. Continue monitoring sewer capacity between the WPCA and the P&Z Commission to determine the need for additional sewer capacity.
2. Maintain close communications with Connecticut Water Company on public water service demand at current and projected levels.
3. Increase efforts to participate in regional hazardous waste disposal and recycling initiatives.
4. Maintain support for the regional health district.



TRANSPORTATION

Background / Status

One of the most critical elements to the orderly growth of successful communities is a comprehensive, convenient, and well-maintained transportation system. In a part of Connecticut that is increasingly dependent on automobile transportation, maintaining a system that is friendly to non-motorized transportation can be a challenge. Similarly, development patterns in Brooklyn can be seen as both cause and result of transportation systems. The compact nature of the village center evolved prior to the advent of automobiles, while the expansive corridor of Route 6 is a prime example of the challenges of automobile-centric development. A successful transportation system will integrate roads, bridges, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, transit resources, and off-road options for both motorist and non-motorist, and will help facilitate and shape the overall development direction of the Town.

Roads and Bridges: As a primarily rural, primarily residential municipality surrounded by similar communities, the vast majority of transportation takes place by passenger automobiles and trucks on the existing network of state and local roadways. The Brooklyn Public Works Department and the Connecticut Department of Transportation share responsibility for the maintenance of these roads and bridges. Local roads, maintained by the Town, are generally lightly-traveled residential routes. The Town is home to three numbered State Highways (6, 169, and 205), which have very different scales of travel demand. Route 205 is primarily a connector between Brooklyn Center and Wauregan/Plainfield, seeing between 2500-3500 vehicles per day (according to 2009 DOT Traffic Counts). Route 169, a nationally-designated scenic byway that runs parallel to Interstate 395, receives up to 6000 trips per day, though only between 2000-3000 away from Brooklyn Center. Route 6, a major east-west corridor in Eastern Connecticut, sees between 7500 (at the western end of Town) and 20,000 (at Killingly Town Line) trips per day. Unsurprisingly, the focus of commercial activity is in area east of Brickyard Road along Route 6 where traffic counts support retail development.



TRANSPORTATION

Sidewalks: Sidewalks are a critical component to the walkability of a Town, and of the pedestrian connectivity between residential, commercial, recreational, and institutional uses. Sidewalks have been added for Day Street, Route 6 West from Day Street and in the Village Center District. Sidewalks exist and are maintained in the Route 6 Commercial Corridor and will be added as more retail development occurs. This should be a start to more foot traffic for leisure and shopping.



Cars alone do not make a “magnet” commercial area. Pedestrian traffic with more sidewalks will attract even more welcome activity. Recent budget restraints may make sidewalks for school use an alternative to busing that provide exercise and save money. Sidewalks promote connectivity as can be seen in the neighborhoods of Quebec Square and Wauregan. While sidewalk requirements may be waived as part of isolated residential subdivisions, an aggressive policy of requiring developers to install sidewalks as part of subdivisions can promote the long term pedestrian connectivity of a community.

Bicycle Lanes: Similar to sidewalks and pedestrian travel, bicycle access can be seen as both a recreational amenity and a full transportation option. There are currently few dedicated bicycle pathways, either on- or off-road, in Brooklyn. The majority of local roadways have slow enough design speeds and low enough traffic counts to make them attractive to bicycle travel. State routes are also generally unmarked for bicycle travel but are wide enough to accommodate a bicycle lane if needed.

Bus/Transit Service: The only available transit service in Brooklyn is provided by the Northeast Connecticut Transit District (NECTD), operated through the Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments. This service operates weekday service throughout the northeast corridor and makes scheduled stops in Brooklyn at Ocean State Plaza, Salem Village, and the Quinebaug Senior Center. This service also makes stops at major regional shopping destinations as well as Quinebaug Valley Community College, Day-Kimball Hospital, and other key locations. The NECTD also operates a dial-a-ride service that allows Brooklyn residents to have portal-to-portal transportation service for a nominal fee. The NECTD changes their routing and scheduling periodically to meet the needs of the region’s residents and to adjust to changing development patterns. It is unlikely given current population densities that a wider-spread fixed-route transit system will be implemented in Brooklyn. A fixed-route system (bus, trolley, light-rail, etc.) generally requires a minimum of 8-12 dwelling unit per acre density, and most of Northeast Connecticut simply doesn’t have enough of that density to necessitate such a system.

Off-Road Trail Network: The Town has several recreational trails that extend throughout preserved property or government lands. The Davis Property has now established hiking trails along the Quinebaug River, the Town’s border with Killingly. In time, a trail should be extended along the length of the River, protected by riparian covenants, providing connection to other town trails and would fit in with the State’s program of connecting trails throughout Connecticut and linking up with the East Coast Greenway. The new recreation area off Day Street that includes boat

ramps is another step forward to reclaiming the recreation aspects of the River. Ideally, off-road trails would be expanded and connected to serve not only recreational hikers, cyclists, skiers and the like, but would also connect different areas of town such that they become viable alternative transportation routes.

Route 6 Commercial Corridor: The Route 6 Commercial Corridor designated a Planned Commercial zone is the Town's primary area for retail and other businesses. There are no plans to expand this zone in keeping with the overall plan of preserving the Town's rural character. Planning and Zoning has endorsed the results of a recent Route 6 Study Committee to provide guidelines for any future developers in this zone to provide buildings and facilities that would fit in well with the Town's colonial heritage and rural character exemplified by stone walls, natural building materials such as brick and clapboard and bench areas for pedestrian traffic.

Route 169 Corridor: Much more than a state highway, Route 169 holds an important place in the cultural heritage of Brooklyn. This historic road, which connected the farmland communities and villages of Woodstock, Pomfret, Brooklyn, Canterbury, and Lisbon, retains to this day some of the most magnificent historic residences, barns, and town buildings in the area. It is one of Connecticut's few roads to be named a National Scenic Byway. While the development of Interstate 395 has taken over from Route 169 and Route 12 as the major north-south automotive conduit, Route 169 remains a major inter-local connector to Brooklyn's neighboring communities.

Objectives & Relation to Key Priorities

- 1) To maintain a safe and convenient network of roads and bridges
- 2) To provide for non-motorized connections and transportation options throughout Town
- 3) To work with regional providers to ensure optimum transit services
- 4) To encourage appropriate development along major roadways with adequate capacity



TRANSPORTATION

The Plan of Conservation & Development Committee identified several key priorities that will be directly affected by the manner in which the Town addresses transportation issues. Both the Route 169 Corridor and the Route 6 Corridor are of central importance to the Town, for both different and linked reasons. The Route 169 Corridor is the historic and cultural spine of Brooklyn, and maintaining its rural, scenic character is critical to the Town's sense of place and identity. Route 6 has become a commercial lifeline, and fostering continued development along its length while safeguarding the character of the Town is also of substantial importance.



In the 2009 Residents Survey, both the Route 169 and Route 6 corridors received substantial support as priority focus areas for the Plan of Conservation and Development, with ratings of 4.11/5 and 3.96/5, respectively. The size and location (3.57/5) and maintenance (3.22/5) of roads received average ratings, as did related questions such as access to businesses (3.51/5) and retail opportunities (3.43/5). Similarly, residents were lukewarm about the possibilities of regionalizing efforts to maintain roads (3.38/5) or entire public works operations (3.29/5).

Recommendations

1. Continue to maintain and upgrade town roads
2. Consider capital expenditures to upgrade roads to the point where annual maintenance is possible within annual budgetary restraints
3. Encourage the provision of bicycle lanes within existing state highway rights-of-way
4. Consider bicycle travel whenever upgrading or re-surfacing municipal roadways
5. Pursue "Safe Routes to School" Plan and grant opportunities
6. Develop plan of priority sidewalk areas that connect major residential and commercial areas, focusing particularly on the Village Center and the Route 6 commercial core
7. Develop plan to connect municipally- or state-owned properties via off-road travel ways
8. Provide ongoing guidance to regional transit authority on optimization of transit routes
9. Consider expansion of Village District, or enactment of similar regulatory protection, to encompass the Route 169 Corridor throughout Brooklyn
10. Support development of design standards for Route 6 commercial corridor

PLAN OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT 2011 - 2021
IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

The implementation matrix is a supplement to recommendations presented in each chapter of the Plan of Conservation and Development and provides priority, lead entity, and timeframe for each recommendation. Priorities range from 1 (High priority for immediate action or implementation) to 3 (Lower priority or longer-range, ongoing initiative).

| IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY LEVEL | LEAD ENTITY | TIMEFRAME |
|---|-------------------|---|-----------|
| Agriculture #1: Prioritize Key Strategic Farmland Parcels. | 1 | Agriculture Commission | 2011 |
| Agriculture #2: Coordinate funding opportunities including Open Space Land Acquisition Fund and State/Federal Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Programs | 1 | Agriculture Commission w/ Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Agriculture #3: Consider Purchase of "Right of First Refusal" options on Key Farmland Parcels | 1 | Agriculture Commission w/ Board of Finance | Ongoing |
| Agriculture #4: Encourage educational and outreach programs to promote the further understanding of the benefits of locally produced foods, local farm operations, and how agriculture can be continued to be supported in Brooklyn | 2 | Agriculture Commission | Ongoing |
| Agriculture #5: Ensure the Agriculture Commission is the primary Town Hall contact for farmland issues | 3 | Agriculture Commission w/ First Selectman | Ongoing |
| Agriculture #6: Encourage periodic Agricultural listening sessions | 2 | Agriculture Commission | Ongoing |
| Agriculture #7: Review/Modify Zoning and Subdivision regulations for "Farm Friendliness" and consider establishment of appropriate guidelines for buffer zones | 2 | Agriculture Commission and Planning & Zoning | Ongoing |
| Agriculture #8: Encourage coordination with neighboring Towns/regions to support and preserve agricultural interests and promotion projects | 3 | Agriculture Commission | Ongoing |
| Agriculture #9: Consider establishing a community garden | 3 | Agriculture Commission | 2-3 years |
| Agriculture #10: Encourage the sales and purchase of Brooklyn-grown products through the support of farmers' markets and locally-grown initiatives | 2 | Agriculture Commission | Ongoing |
| Agriculture #11: Promote additional signage in key locations to support local farm operations, farm stands, and farmer's markets | 2 | Agriculture Commission with Planning & Zoning | 2-3 years |
| Agriculture #12: Designate locally important farm soils through USDA | 3 | Agriculture Commission | Ongoing |
| Agriculture #13: Encourage the use of properties both private and Town owned for viable agriculture production | 3 | Agriculture Commission | Ongoing |
| Agriculture #14: Consider transfer of development rights program with agricultural lands as sending zones | 2 | Planning & Zoning | 2-3 years |
| Agriculture #15: Write and adopt additional property tax reduction policy for certain agricultural properties and buildings, as provided for in the Connecticut General Statutes, due to the lower cost of services when compared to the residential use | 3 | Agriculture Commission with Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen | N/A |

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

| IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY LEVEL | LEAD ENTITY | TIMEFRAME |
|---|----------------|--|----------------------------|
| Agriculture #16: Identify future innovative opportunities for farming additional lands in Brooklyn | 3 | Agriculture Commission | 2-3 years |
| Agriculture #17: Support regional and statewide efforts to improve agricultural viability | 2 | Agriculture Commission | Ongoing |
| Economic Development #1: Review existing goals for development in Planned Commercial district relative to existing regulations to ensure that the permitting and development of appropriate uses is encouraged, enabled, and streamlined | 1 | Economic Development Commission | Within one year |
| Economic Development #2: Develop an inventory of available buildings and developable land throughout the town that can be accessed by potential developers, real estate professionals, and Town officials | 1 | Economic Development Commission | Within one year |
| Economic Development #3: Research and pursue development, as appropriate, of a Business Park Zone for Brooklyn that could foster smaller start-up businesses and lighter industry that would not require major highway or rail infrastructure | 3 | Economic Development Commission with Planning & Zoning | 2-3 years |
| Economic Development #4: Establish and fund Town staff position of economic development coordinator to be responsible for the daily operations of the office of Economic Development; meeting with potential businesses; marketing of the Town; managing the website; providing professional guidance to the EDC and encouraging the coordination between Town commissions, particularly EDC, P&Z and the Board of Selectmen | 2 | Economic Development Commission with Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance | Three years |
| Economic Development #5: Identify and prioritize infrastructure improvements for STEAP and other grant opportunities | 2 | Economic Development Commission with Board of Selectmen | 1-2 years |
| Economic Development #6: Work with landowners and developers to explore the pre-permitting of priority development sites | 1 | Economic Development Commission with Planning & Zoning | Immediate and ongoing |
| Economic Development #7: Support formation of local business owners association to promote Brooklyn businesses and pool resources for encouragement of local economic development activity | 1 | Economic Development Commission | Immediate |
| Economic Development #8: Conduct a build-out analysis of the Planned Commercial District | 1 | Economic Development Commission | Immediate, within one year |
| Economic Development #9: Consider the appropriateness of the Zoning District designation for the Industrial Zone located between Route 6 and South Street | 1 | Economic Development Commission | Immediate, within one year |
| Education #1: Review Cost of Community Service Studies to develop understanding of balance between residential and commercial development, and open space protection relative to its impact on school system size and costs | 2 | Board of Education and Superintendent | Ongoing |
| Education #2: Work with town agencies on growth projections to assess future educational facility needs | 2 | Board of Education and Superintendent, Planning & Zoning, Board of Finance | Ongoing |

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

| IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY LEVEL | LEAD ENTITY | TIMEFRAME |
|--|----------------|---|--|
| Education #3: Work with neighboring towns to consider regional educational facilities, including a High School | 2 | Board of Education, Superintendent and Others | Ongoing |
| Education #4: Assess properties for potential to support future educational facilities | 1 | Board of Education, Selectmen and Board of Finance | Ongoing |
| Education #5: Perform outreach to civics, social studies, and government classes in Brooklyn schools on local land-use decision-making process | 2 | Superintendent, Board of Education, Planning & Zoning, Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Emergency Management #1: Provide adequate funding to Emergency Management and Homeland Security resources in Brooklyn | 2 | Board of Selectmen and EMD | Ongoing and should be within 5 years |
| Emergency Management #2: Develop and provide a fully trained and staffed Emergency Operations Center, including the EMD, Assistant EMD, Communications Officer, Shelter Operations Manager, Public Information Officer, Supply Coordinator, Security Officer, Administrative Officer and Agency Coordinator | 1 | EMD and Board of Selectmen | This at present is in the planning stages and will be fully staffed in 3 years. |
| Emergency Management #3: Maintain a fully staffed BEMHS to provide oversight and support to the EOC operations | 1 | EMD and Board of Selectmen | This is presently being addressed and will be complete within 1 year |
| Emergency Management #4: Enhance Brooklyn's emergency preparedness through continued participation and coordination of efforts with area EMDs, NDDH and other agencies, as well as the reactivation of the CERT program | 1 | BEMHS Staff | This is ongoing and most monthly meetings and training in the area are attended. |
| Emergency Management #5: Participate in regional emergency management groups in training and exercise activities | 1 | BEMHS Staff | We participate in as many as time will allow. |
| Emergency Management #6: Improve cooperative efforts with local emergency response agencies | 1 | BEMHS, Public Safety, Board of Selectmen, Public Works Department | Ongoing on a continual basis. In 3 years should be complete. |
| Emergency Management #7: Establish an effective public awareness program in the Town so that its citizens are prepared in the event of an emergency either at home, in town or in the region | 1 | BEMHS Staff, Public Safety | Ongoing at various levels with limited funding |
| Finance #1: Create by ordinance a position of Finance Director, appointed by the Board of Selectmen | 1 | Board of Finance, Board of Selectmen | 2011-2012 |
| Finance #2: Create Alternate positions for the Board of Finance | 3 | Board of Finance | 2012 |
| Finance #3: Balance provision of key municipal services with maintenance of lowest realistic property tax mill rate | 1 | Board of Finance | Ongoing |
| Governance and Administration #1: Create by ordinance the positions of Town Manager/Administrator and Financial Officer, appointed by the Board of Selectmen | 1 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Governance and Administration #3: Retain an active role in regional policies in the best interest of the Town's financial and service status | 1 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

| IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY LEVEL | LEAD ENTITY | TIMEFRAME |
|---|----------------|---|-----------|
| Governance and Administration #4: Retain membership with the Council of Governments, and continue to support the Northeast District Department of Health & Social Service groups in the area | 1 | Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance | Ongoing |
| Governance and Administration #5: Support those organizations that will maintain the rural character of Brooklyn, such as the Route 169 Scenic Advisory Committee and the Last Green Valley and the Brooklyn Agricultural Commission | 1 | Board of Selectmen, Planning & Zoning, Agricultural Commission | Ongoing |
| Governance and Administration #6: Continue to encourage residents of the Town to participate in the Town government through appointments to Town commissions and or boards | 1 | CIRMA | Ongoing |
| Governance and Administration #7: Maintain the elected positions on the Board of Finance, Board of Education, and Board of Tax Review | 1 | Board of Selectmen and Commissions | Ongoing |
| Governance and Administration #8: Continue to provide and expand public services, such as Parks and Recreation, Education, Public Safety and other resources that will maintain quality of life of our citizens | 1 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Governance and Administration #9: Establish in writing a description of responsibilities for each of the boards and commission members | 1 | Board of Selectmen and Economic Development | Ongoing |
| Governance and Administration #10: Establish a Public Safety Board of Commission within the Town Hall to investigate issues of Public Safety and hold regular meetings | 2 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Governance and Administration #11: Convene annual summit meeting to set goals and communications of Town Agencies | 2 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Governance and Administration #12: Follow the Plan of Conservation and Development to guide future growth of the Town | 3 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Governance and Administration #13: Continue to develop our commercial zone with help of appropriate committees to enhance our tax base and encourage viability of present businesses | 3 | Board of Selectmen, Economic Development, and Planning & Zoning | Ongoing |
| Governance and Administration #14: Pursue initiatives that use emerging and networking technologies to encourage greater participation in public meetings | 2 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Historic Preservation #1: Establish an official Town Historical Commission to undertake advocacy and projects for the protection and enhancement of local historic resources | 1 | Board of Selectmen | 2011-2012 |
| Historic Preservation #2: Regularly update and maintain the inventory of historic structures and places, establishing a priority list for grant purposes | 2 | Historical Commission (see #1 above) | 2012-2013 |
| Historic Preservation #3: Provide incentives and support for the renovation of historically significant structures in lieu of demolition | 3 | Board of Selectmen | 2013 - |
| Historic Preservation #4: Provide local funding support and/or tax credits for local historic preservation initiatives | 2 | Board of Selectmen | 2013 - |

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

| IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY LEVEL | LEAD ENTITY | TIMEFRAME |
|--|----------------|---|------------------|
| Historic Preservation #5: Protect historic materials from damage or theft by providing archival space for materials and records to the extent this is possible | 2 | Historical Society | 2011 and Ongoing |
| Historic Preservation #6: Seek and pursue funding for historic inventories, surveys, and preservation efforts through the State of Connecticut, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation, 1772 Foundation, and other sources | 1 | Historical Society | Ongoing |
| Historic Preservation #7: Consider creation of a Local Historic District for the Brooklyn Green Historic District | 1 | Historical Society, Planning & Zoning | 2011-2012 |
| Historic Preservation #8: Establish working groups on traditional village centers in Wauregan and East Brooklyn | 2 | Board of Selectmen, Planning & Zoning | 2012-2013 |
| Historic Preservation #9: Increase participation in regional working groups on Route 169 corridor | 2 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Housing #1: The Planning and Zoning Commission encourage cluster subdivisions in areas identified as hosting high-priority natural resources | 1 | Planning & Zoning | Ongoing |
| Housing #2: The Board of Selectmen consider adding additional affordable housing, as the state mandated percentage goal exceeds the percentage of Brooklyn affordable housing already available | 3 | Board of Selectmen | As needed |
| Housing #3: The Planning and Zoning Commission consider extension of the Village Center District concept to other areas of Town which contribute to the traditional character of Brooklyn | 2 | Planning & Zoning | Ongoing |
| Housing #4: The Planning and Zoning Commission adopt regulations that require applicants to submit information relative to the potential natural, cultural, and historic resource impact of proposed development | 2 | Planning & Zoning | 2011 |
| Housing #5: Provide development incentives such as accelerated approvals and/or density bonuses for housing developments that incorporate "green" or sustainable building practices and materials | 3 | Planning & Zoning | 2012 |
| Housing #6: Pursue planning grants from HOME Connecticut program to explore the development of Incentive Housing Districts as described in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 8-13m to 8-13x | 3 | Housing Commission | 2011 |
| Housing #7: Review zoning densities for areas served by public utilities and consider regulation modification accordingly | 3 | Housing Commission | 2012 |
| Housing #8: Pursue Community Development Block Grants and/or Small Cities Grants to encourage rehabilitation of older or blighted housing stock | 1 | Housing Commission | Ongoing |
| Housing #9: Consider expanding opportunities for Accessory Apartments in zoning regulations | 3 | Planning & Zoning | 2012 |
| Housing #10: Identify regulatory changes or administrative incentives that promote development of housing for young professionals, first-time homebuyers, and critical sectors of the workforce. | 2 | Planning & Zoning, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance | 2011 |

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

| IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY LEVEL | LEAD ENTITY | TIMEFRAME |
|---|----------------|---|---|
| Municipal Facilities #1: Continue to maintain the Town Hall to the highest degree possible in a manner to fulfill the Town's needs for the foreseeable future | 1 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Municipal Facilities #2: Locate State Troopers, the Fire Marshal, and Civil Defense personnel to keep response time to all areas of the Town to a minimum | 1 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Municipal Facilities #3: Maintain and upgrade the facilities for the Town Highway Department as needs dictate | 1 | Board of Selectmen, Highway Department, Board of Finance | Ongoing |
| Municipal Facilities #4: Continue to provide facilities for household waste | 2 | BRRC, Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Municipal Facilities #5: Continue to provide for curbside collection of recyclable materials | 2 | BRRC, Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Municipal Facilities #6: Investigate construction or the rehabilitation of an existing building of a library of sufficient size to meet the needs of a growing population | 2 | Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance | Ongoing |
| Open Space & Natural Resources Conservation #1: Preserve priority open space areas, particularly areas with co-occurring, high value resources through dedication, acquisition or regulation | 1 | Conservation Commission, Planning & Zoning | Ongoing |
| Open Space & Natural Resources Conservation #2: Promote adoption of Conservation Subdivision Overlay Zones in areas with multiple co-occurring resources | 1 | Conservation Commission, Planning & Zoning | Adoption of Zones, 1-3 years |
| Open Space & Natural Resources Conservation #3: Promote the adoption of scenic roads where appropriate | 2 | Conservation Commission, Planning & Zoning | As needed and as appropriate |
| Open Space & Natural Resources Conservation #4: Identify and assist willing land owners to protect properties with significant resources | 1 | Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission | Bi-annual workshops |
| Open Space & Natural Resources Conservation #5: Promote allocation of funds for land protection as an annual budget item | 1 | Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission, Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance | Annually |
| Open Space & Natural Resources Conservation #6: Protect uplands around significant wetlands through dedication, acquisition or adoption of overlay zones | 1 | Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission, Conservation Commission, Planning & Zoning | Adoption of Zones, 1-3 years |
| Open Space & Natural Resources Conservation #7: Promote adoption of regulations for Low Impact Development (LID) and Best Management Practices (BMP) | 1 | Planning & Zoning | Adoption of Regulations, 1-3 years |
| Open Space & Natural Resources Conservation #8: Maintain vigilant enforcement of Town Inland Wetlands & Watercourses regulations | 1 | Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission | Ongoing |
| Open Space & Natural Resources Conservation #9: Adopt Aquifer Protection Area regulations upon designation of final Level A Zone | 1 | Conservation Commission | Within six months of State designation |
| Open Space & Natural Resources Conservation #10: Identify potential future public water sources and establish Aquifer Protection Zone | 1 | Conservation Commission | Within six months of State designation |

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

| IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY LEVEL | LEAD ENTITY | TIMEFRAME |
|--|-------------------|---|---|
| Open Space & Natural Resources Conservation #11: Maintain and enhance natural connections and links through the establishment and expansion of multi-use Greenways | 1 | Planning & Zoning, Conservation Commission, Parks & Recreation | 1-2 years for State designation of Quinebaug River Greenway |
| Open Space & Natural Resources Conservation #12: Encourage and support sustainable forest and agriculture practices for the protection of forest based industries and healthy native wildlife populations | 1 | Conservation Commission, Agricultural Commission | Bi-annual workshops |
| Open Space & Natural Resources Conservation #13: Establish an inter-board “green team” to promote sustainable energy and resource utilization for municipal facilities and projects and to provide education to the general public | 1 | Conservation Commission, Parks & Recreation, Public Works Department, Resource Recovery Commission | 3-5 years |
| Parks and Recreation #1: Work on a plan to provide guidance to the Recreation Commission for the continued development and protection of the Parks & Recreation resources. Communicate and work with the other boards and commissions within the Town, to carry out this goal | 2 | Recreation Commission | Ongoing |
| Parks and Recreation #2: Continue to maintain current facilities, and provide care to future developed areas, with the current Parks Maintenance program | 1 | Recreation Commission | Ongoing |
| Parks and Recreation #3: Investigate the expansion of the Parks Maintenance program, with the possible addition of seasonal help, as needed for the future development of recreational facilities | 1 | Recreation Commission | Ongoing |
| Parks and Recreation #4: Provide attractive and informative signage at the Parks & Recreation facilities | 1 | Recreation Commission | Ongoing |
| Parks and Recreation #5: Continue the current Beautification Fund, with better public awareness of the program and possibility of corporate or larger personal donations to the fund | 1 | Recreation Commission | Ongoing |
| Parks and Recreation #6: Continue to use this fund to provide the level of facility care and attractiveness, including the purchase of required equipment to maintain these facilities, park changes or additions, such as playscape equipment, park pavilions or other such changes or additions | 1 | Recreation Commission | Ongoing |
| Parks and Recreation #7: Maintain the Department's working relationship with the school board and superintendent's office, to allow the continuation and development of programming utilizing the schools facilities | 1 | Recreation Commission | Ongoing |
| Parks and Recreation #8: Ensure the residents have the opportunity to inform the department of possible recreational needs, or future ideas for programs | 1 | Recreation Commission | Ongoing |
| Parks and Recreation #9: Continue to offer a variety of programs and events, that interest residents, and include both fee based and free of charge opportunities | 1 | Recreation Commission | Ongoing |
| Parks and Recreation #10: Maintain the current scholarship program for the summer camp program, with possible expansion of said scholarships with the addition of larger corporate donations | 1 | Recreation Commission | Ongoing |

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX






| IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY LEVEL | LEAD ENTITY | TIMEFRAME |
|--|----------------|--|-----------|
| Parks and Recreation #11: Investigate possible uses for the Davis Property that would serve both conservation and recreation goals | 1 | Conservation Commission | 2 years |
| Parks and Recreation #12: Continue conversations with other committees, such as the Brooklyn Library Committee, to provide a town-wide, multi-use community center/recreational complex that would offer residents a wider array of indoor recreational opportunities, and other community based activities | 1 | Brooklyn Library | Ongoing |
| Parks and Recreation #13: Work with the Conservation Commission, the Town Selectmen and other agencies to look for funding or grants for the purchase of property, or the development of such property to be used for open space, passive and active recreational opportunities | 1 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Public Safety Services #1: The Board of Fire Commissioners [BOFC] continue to monitor and recommend as needed increased funding for personal protective equipment, self contained breathing apparatus and all material improvements recommended by or required by NFPA and OSHA | 1 | Board of Fire Commissioners | Ongoing |
| Public Safety Services #2: The BOFC monitor and investigate the adequacy of volunteers and the performance of fire departments in developing recruitment strategies and incentives to maintain volunteer staffing or address alternatives. Consultation and cooperation with the Boards of Finance and Selectmen as well as possible regional cooperation may be involved | 1 | Board of Fire Commissioners | Ongoing |
| Public Safety Services #3: The BOFC monitor and investigate the need for full-time paid ambulance responders when needed by adding additional paid staff, or consolidation or cooperative arrangements with regional organizations or neighboring Towns to help control costs | 1 | Board of Fire Commissioners | Ongoing |
| Public Safety Services #4: The BOFC encourage and assist the Fire Departments in continuing to apply for state and federal grants which have brought Brooklyn nearly \$750,000 in the last decade | 1 | Board of Fire Commissioners | Ongoing |
| Public Safety Services #5: The BOFC encourage and adjust vehicle replacement capital plan to meet any changing service requirements and financial conditions | 1 | Board of Fire Commissioners and Board of Finance/Capital Committee | Ongoing |
| Public Safety Services #6: The BOFC and the Selectmen monitor and evaluate the Fire Marshal's duties with performance appraisals and a review of policies for conformance with statutory requirements | 1 | Board of Fire Commissioners | Ongoing |
| Public Safety Services #7: Continue to support and fund the resident trooper program to provide public safety services to Brooklyn | 1 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Public Utilities and Infrastructure #1: Continue monitoring sewer capacity between the WPCA and the P&Z Commission to determine the need for additional sewer capacity and prevent expense for future sewer capacity | 2 | Water Pollution Control Authority | Ongoing |

IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX

| IMPLEMENTATION RECOMMENDATION | PRIORITY LEVEL | LEAD ENTITY | TIMEFRAME |
|--|-------------------|--|------------------|
| Public Utilities and Infrastructure #2: Maintain close communications with Connecticut Water Company on public water service demand at current and projected levels | 1 | Water Pollution Control Authority | Ongoing |
| Public Utilities and Infrastructure #3: Increase efforts to participate in regional hazardous waste disposal and recycling initiatives | 1 | BRRC | Ongoing |
| Public Utilities and Infrastructure #4: Maintain support for regional health district | 2 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Transportation #1: Continue to maintain and upgrade town roads | 1 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Transportation #2: Consider capital expenditures to upgrade roads to the point where annual maintenance is possible within annual budgetary restraints | 1 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Transportation #3: Encourage the provision of bicycle lanes within existing state highway rights-of-way | 2 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Transportation #4: Consider bicycle travel whenever upgrading or re-surfacing municipal roadways | 2 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Transportation #5: Pursue "Safe Routes to School" Plan and grant opportunities | 2 | Board of Selectmen Board of Education | Within 18 months |
| Transportation #6: Develop plan of priority sidewalk areas that connect major residential and commercial areas, focusing particularly on the Village Center and the Route 6 commercial core | 2 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Transportation #7: Develop plan to connect municipally- or state-owned properties via off-road travel ways | 3 | Conservation Commission, Planning & Zoning, Parks & Recreation | 2011-2012 |
| Transportation #8: Provide ongoing guidance to regional transit authority on optimization of transit routes | 1 | Board of Selectmen | Ongoing |
| Transportation #9: Consider expansion of Village District, or enactment of similar regulatory protection, to encompass the Route 169 Corridor throughout Brooklyn | 2 | Planning & Zoning | 2012 |
| Transportation #10: Support development of design standards for Route 6 commercial corridor | 2 | Planning & Zoning | 2011 |

Brooklyn Plan of Conservation & Development - Resident Survey

| 1. Rate the importance of the following key priorities you feel is the most important conservation and development issue facing the Town of Brooklyn today? | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Little Importance: 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very Important: 5 | Rating Average | Response Count |
| Route 169 Corridor & Village Center District | 4.8% (14) | 5.1% (15) | 19.0% (56) | 26.2% (77) | 44.9% (132) | 4.01 | 294 |
| Route 6 Corridor & Commercial Development | 9.2% (27) | 7.8% (23) | 11.6% (34) | 16.0% (47) | 55.4% (163) | 4.01 | 294 |
| Balancing the Grand List: Residential vs. Commercial vs. Protected Land | 5.1% (15) | 7.5% (22) | 20.5% (60) | 19.5% (57) | 47.4% (139) | 3.97 | 293 |
| Keeping Agriculture Viable | 3.7% (11) | 4.0% (12) | 16.1% (48) | 18.8% (56) | 57.4% (171) | 4.22 | 298 |
| Acquiring Open Land | 8.5% (25) | 12.2% (36) | 15.6% (46) | 21.4% (63) | 42.2% (124) | 3.77 | 294 |
| Regional Cooperation | 5.5% (16) | 10.3% (30) | 31.5% (92) | 28.1% (82) | 24.7% (72) | 3.56 | 292 |
| Housing Initiatives | 18.3% (53) | 27.6% (80) | 34.1% (99) | 12.8% (37) | 7.2% (21) | 2.63 | 290 |
| Community Humanitarian Resources (United Services, Elderly, Habitat for Humanity, etc.) | 12.2% (36) | 12.9% (38) | 33.0% (97) | 24.1% (71) | 17.7% (52) | 3.22 | 294 |
| Industrial Development | 29.9% (88) | 20.1% (59) | 20.7% (61) | 17.0% (50) | 12.2% (36) | 2.62 | 294 |
| Green Concerns (Energy sustainability, environmental technologies) | 4.7% (14) | 7.8% (23) | 21.7% (64) | 19.0% (56) | 46.8% (138) | 3.95 | 295 |
| | answered question | | | | | | 299 |
| | skipped question | | | | | | 3 |

| 2. On a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good) how do you rate the quality of life in Brooklyn? | | | |
|--|---|------------------|----------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| 1 (Very Poor) |  | 1.0% | 3 |
| 2 (Poor) |  | 1.7% | 5 |
| 3 (Average- Neither Good nor Bad) |  | 19.2% | 57 |
| 4 (Good) |  | 57.6% | 171 |
| 5 (Very Good) |  | 20.5% | 61 |
| | <i>answered question</i> | | 297 |
| | <i>skipped question</i> | | 5 |

3. On a scale of 1 (least satisfied) to 5 (very satisfied) how do you rate your satisfaction with Brooklyn in the following areas?

| | Least Satisfied: 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very Satisfied: 5 | Rating Average | Response Count |
|---|-------------------------------|------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Transfer station / recycling program | 2.4% (7) | 11.9% (35) | 28.5% (84) | 31.9% (94) | 25.4% (75) | 3.66 | 295 |
| Fire protection | 0.7% (2) | 2.7% (8) | 13.0% (39) | 40.1% (120) | 43.5% (130) | 4.23 | 299 |
| Availability of suitable housing | 1.7% (5) | 4.8% (14) | 28.3% (82) | 38.6% (112) | 26.6% (77) | 3.83 | 290 |
| Education | 3.1% (9) | 4.8% (14) | 22.5% (66) | 43.0% (126) | 26.6% (78) | 3.85 | 293 |
| Protection of water quality | 8.6% (25) | 11.7% (34) | 32.8% (95) | 29.0% (84) | 17.9% (52) | 3.36 | 290 |
| Protection of air quality | 10.1% (29) | 10.8% (31) | 28.5% (82) | 31.9% (92) | 18.8% (54) | 3.39 | 288 |
| Services for senior citizens | 1.8% (5) | 7.4% (21) | 44.2% (125) | 33.9% (96) | 12.7% (36) | 3.48 | 283 |
| Wildlife habitat protection | 17.2% (50) | 15.8% (46) | 38.1% (111) | 18.6% (54) | 10.3% (30) | 2.89 | 291 |
| Public safety | 5.4% (16) | 7.1% (21) | 28.1% (83) | 42.7% (126) | 16.6% (49) | 3.58 | 295 |
| Size and location of roads | 3.3% (10) | 8.7% (26) | 31.0% (93) | 41.7% (125) | 15.3% (46) | 3.57 | 300 |
| Maintenance of roads | 5.7% (17) | 19.1% (57) | 35.1% (105) | 31.1% (93) | 9.0% (27) | 3.19 | 299 |
| Historic preservation | 13.7% (40) | 11.3% (33) | 37.2% (109) | 28.3% (83) | 9.6% (28) | 3.09 | 293 |
| Conservation of undeveloped land & Farmland | 21.5% (64) | 22.1% (66) | 28.2% (84) | 18.1% (54) | 10.1% (30) | 2.73 | 298 |
| Access to medical care | 10.4% (31) | 18.2% (54) | 36.0% (107) | 22.2% (66) | 13.1% (39) | 3.09 | 297 |
| Recreational opportunities | 5.5% (16) | 13.1% (38) | 36.1% (105) | 37.5% (109) | 7.9% (23) | 3.29 | 291 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|------|------------|
| Access to service businesses (ex. restaurant, barber) | 5.4% (16) | 10.7% (32) | 28.8% (86) | 40.1% (120) | 15.1% (45) | 3.49 | 299 |
| Access to retail shopping | 10.4% (31) | 16.1% (48) | 26.4% (79) | 26.4% (79) | 20.7% (62) | 3.31 | 299 |
| Availability of employment opportunities | 17.5% (50) | 29.5% (84) | 29.8% (85) | 13.3% (38) | 9.8% (28) | 2.68 | 285 |
| Other: (write in) _____ | 61.9% (13) | 0.0% (0) | 9.5% (2) | 9.5% (2) | 19.0% (4) | 2.24 | 21 |
| | answered question | | | | | | 302 |
| | skipped question | | | | | | 0 |

| 4. On a scale of 1 (little importance) to 5 (very important); rate the importance of the following features of maintaining the current rural town atmosphere. | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Little Importance: 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very Important: 5 | Rating Average | Response Count |
| Stone walls | 5.3% (16) | 5.3% (16) | 14.2% (43) | 23.8% (72) | 51.3% (155) | 4.11 | 302 |
| Farm field views | 3.3% (10) | 6.0% (18) | 12.3% (37) | 22.2% (67) | 56.3% (170) | 4.22 | 302 |
| Large undeveloped areas | 6.3% (19) | 8.3% (25) | 12.6% (38) | 15.6% (47) | 57.3% (173) | 4.09 | 302 |
| Small population | 5.3% (16) | 7.3% (22) | 20.3% (61) | 22.3% (67) | 44.9% (135) | 3.94 | 301 |
| Winding country roads | 7.0% (21) | 8.7% (26) | 18.7% (56) | 20.3% (61) | 45.3% (136) | 3.88 | 300 |
| Darkness at night | 10.0% (30) | 9.0% (27) | 13.0% (39) | 13.3% (40) | 54.8% (165) | 3.94 | 301 |
| Traditional style buildings | 9.7% (29) | 7.7% (23) | 12.7% (38) | 18.7% (56) | 51.3% (154) | 3.94 | 300 |
| Limited commercial and industrial development | 13.6% (41) | 12.3% (37) | 13.6% (41) | 8.9% (27) | 51.7% (156) | 3.73 | 302 |
| Town Green | 3.0% (9) | 7.3% (22) | 14.6% (44) | 19.9% (60) | 55.1% (166) | 4.17 | 301 |
| | answered question | | | | | | 302 |
| | skipped question | | | | | | 0 |

| 5. On a scale of 1 (little importance) to 5 (very important); rate the importance of the following features of expanding land conservation efforts. | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Little Importance:1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very Important: 5 | Rating Average | Response Count |
| Conserving land for wildlife habitat | 2.7% (8) | 7.3% (22) | 13.6% (41) | 25.2% (76) | 51.2% (154) | 4.15 | 301 |
| Conserving land for passive recreation (hiking, walking) | 3.0% (9) | 4.3% (13) | 13.4% (40) | 27.8% (83) | 51.5% (154) | 4.20 | 299 |
| Conserving land for access to waterways for boating and/or swimming | 3.7% (11) | 7.3% (22) | 24.3% (73) | 23.7% (71) | 41.0% (123) | 3.91 | 300 |
| Conserving land for agricultural uses | 4.0% (12) | 7.7% (23) | 13.0% (39) | 21.0% (63) | 54.3% (163) | 4.14 | 300 |
| Conserving land for forestry uses | 5.0% (15) | 12.7% (38) | 15.0% (45) | 23.3% (70) | 44.0% (132) | 3.89 | 300 |
| Conserving land for active recreation (ball fields, biking) | 3.0% (9) | 11.3% (34) | 21.7% (65) | 29.0% (87) | 35.0% (105) | 3.82 | 300 |
| Conserving land for hunting and fishing | 8.0% (24) | 15.9% (48) | 25.6% (77) | 25.6% (77) | 24.9% (75) | 3.44 | 301 |
| | answered question | | | | | | 301 |
| | skipped question | | | | | | 1 |

| 6. Rate the importance of the following features of promoting agricultural areas for more farm opportunities. | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Little Importance: 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very Important: 5 | Rating Average | Response Count |
| Crop Farms | 4.1% (12) | 8.8% (26) | 18.2% (54) | 20.9% (62) | 48.0% (142) | 4.00 | 296 |
| Forestry | 6.1% (18) | 14.9% (44) | 17.9% (53) | 22.3% (66) | 38.9% (115) | 3.73 | 296 |
| Greenhouse/Nursery | 3.4% (10) | 11.3% (33) | 22.9% (67) | 27.1% (79) | 35.3% (103) | 3.79 | 292 |
| Products for local markets | 2.0% (6) | 9.6% (28) | 14.3% (42) | 23.9% (70) | 50.2% (147) | 4.11 | 293 |
| Livestock Farming/Dairy | 8.5% (25) | 5.8% (17) | 14.9% (44) | 23.4% (69) | 47.5% (140) | 3.96 | 295 |
| Specialty Products (value-added) Farming | 8.7% (25) | 8.0% (23) | 21.3% (61) | 23.3% (67) | 38.7% (111) | 3.75 | 287 |
| | answered question | | | | | | 296 |
| | skipped question | | | | | | 6 |

| 7. Rate the importance of the following features of encouraging more home-based businesses. | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Not Important: 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very Important: 5 | Rating Average | Response Count |
| Maintains character of neighborhood | 4.3% (13) | 3.0% (9) | 13.4% (40) | 25.1% (75) | 54.2% (162) | 4.22 | 299 |
| Quiet and inconspicuous | 4.4% (13) | 5.0% (15) | 12.4% (37) | 24.2% (72) | 54.0% (161) | 4.18 | 298 |
| Minimum traffic impacts | 5.0% (15) | 5.4% (16) | 10.4% (31) | 24.2% (72) | 55.0% (164) | 4.19 | 298 |
| Serves local needs | 4.7% (14) | 5.4% (16) | 12.5% (37) | 26.1% (77) | 51.2% (151) | 4.14 | 295 |
| | answered question | | | | | | 299 |
| | skipped question | | | | | | 3 |

| 8. Rate the importance of the following features of expanding commercial opportunities in suitable areas. | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Little Importance: 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very Important: 5 | Rating Average | Response Count |
| Small-scale retail businesses(Under 15,000 SF - CVS on Route 6 is this size) | 6.0% (18) | 8.0% (24) | 17.1% (51) | 24.7% (74) | 44.1% (132) | 3.93 | 299 |
| Medium-scale retail businesses (15,000-90,000 SF - Similar to a Kohl's or Petco) | 34.9% (105) | 11.6% (35) | 15.3% (46) | 19.9% (60) | 18.3% (55) | 2.75 | 301 |
| Large-scale retail businesses (90,000-150,000 SF - Larger grocery or home improvement store) | 49.5% (148) | 9.7% (29) | 7.4% (22) | 12.7% (38) | 20.7% (62) | 2.45 | 299 |
| Big Box retail businesses (Larger than 150,000 SF - similar to WalMart Superstore) | 57.3% (172) | 6.7% (20) | 4.7% (14) | 9.3% (28) | 22.0% (66) | 2.32 | 300 |
| Service oriented businesses | 6.0% (18) | 10.4% (31) | 31.9% (95) | 27.5% (82) | 24.2% (72) | 3.53 | 298 |
| Professional offices | 5.4% (16) | 8.7% (26) | 31.4% (94) | 29.8% (89) | 24.7% (74) | 3.60 | 299 |
| Tourism/Heritage businesses | 6.7% (20) | 8.8% (26) | 26.9% (80) | 27.6% (82) | 30.0% (89) | 3.65 | 297 |
| Entertainment oriented businesses | 23.9% (71) | 19.2% (57) | 33.0% (98) | 15.5% (46) | 8.4% (25) | 2.65 | 297 |
| | answered question | | | | | | 301 |
| | skipped question | | | | | | 1 |

| 9. Rate the importance of the following features of expanding business and/or industrial development in suitable areas. | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Little Importance: 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very Important: 5 | Rating Average | Response Count |
| Business parks | 36.7% (108) | 14.3% (42) | 16.0% (47) | 12.2% (36) | 20.7% (61) | 2.66 | 294 |
| Agribusiness (industrial agriculture) | 23.1% (68) | 14.3% (42) | 35.0% (103) | 16.3% (48) | 11.2% (33) | 2.78 | 294 |
| Warehousing/distribution center | 52.9% (157) | 13.5% (40) | 15.5% (46) | 10.8% (32) | 7.4% (22) | 2.06 | 297 |
| Industrial parks | 52.4% (155) | 15.2% (45) | 10.8% (32) | 9.5% (28) | 12.2% (36) | 2.14 | 296 |
| | answered question | | | | | | 297 |
| | skipped question | | | | | | 5 |

| 10. Rate the importance of the following features of expanding residential development in a suitable form. | | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Little Importance: 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Very Important: 5 | Rating Average | Response Count |
| Single family dwellings on large lots | 11.0% (33) | 11.3% (34) | 17.7% (53) | 24.7% (74) | 35.3% (106) | 3.62 | 300 |
| Small neighborhoods with conserved land | 7.4% (22) | 11.1% (33) | 19.1% (57) | 21.5% (64) | 40.9% (122) | 3.78 | 298 |
| Senior Housing | 7.7% (23) | 16.4% (49) | 31.2% (93) | 24.8% (74) | 19.8% (59) | 3.33 | 298 |
| Two-family or single family with accessory apartments | 30.4% (90) | 26.0% (77) | 25.7% (76) | 13.9% (41) | 4.1% (12) | 2.35 | 296 |
| Condominiums | 38.8% (116) | 25.8% (77) | 24.7% (74) | 7.7% (23) | 3.0% (9) | 2.10 | 299 |
| Apartments | 43.8% (131) | 25.8% (77) | 20.4% (61) | 6.7% (20) | 3.3% (10) | 2.00 | 299 |
| | answered question | | | | | | 300 |
| | skipped question | | | | | | 2 |

| 11. Rate your preferred location for commercial development in Brooklyn | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Least Preferred: 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Most Preferred: 5 | Rating Average | Response Count |
| Route 6 Planned Commercial Zone (Day Street/Brickyard Road area) | 23.6% (70) | 10.8% (32) | 9.8% (29) | 9.1% (27) | 46.6% (138) | 3.44 | 296 |
| Village Center District (area surrounding Route 169/Route 6 intersection) | 61.7% (184) | 15.8% (47) | 10.4% (31) | 7.4% (22) | 4.7% (14) | 1.78 | 298 |
| Route 6 Restricted Business Zone (Between Brickyard Road and the Village Center) | 44.8% (133) | 15.5% (46) | 16.8% (50) | 9.1% (27) | 13.8% (41) | 2.32 | 297 |
| Wauregan Village Center Zone | 28.7% (83) | 22.5% (65) | 31.8% (92) | 12.5% (36) | 4.5% (13) | 2.42 | 289 |
| Industrial Zone (One parcel of land on South Street) | 36.8% (106) | 18.1% (52) | 16.3% (47) | 17.4% (50) | 11.5% (33) | 2.49 | 288 |
| Neighborhood Commercial (South Main Street and parts of Day Street) | 31.0% (91) | 17.7% (52) | 18.4% (54) | 20.4% (60) | 12.6% (37) | 2.66 | 294 |
| Mill Mixed Use Zone (former Arrow Hart property east of Tiffany Street) | 13.1% (38) | 11.7% (34) | 19.3% (56) | 25.9% (75) | 30.0% (87) | 3.48 | 290 |
| | answered question | | | | | | 299 |
| | skipped question | | | | | | 3 |

| 12. Would you support any of the following regional initiatives with other Northeast Connecticut municipalities? | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Would Not Support:1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Strongly Support: 5 | Rating Average | Response Count |
| Public Works | 11.9% (36) | 14.6% (44) | 31.5% (95) | 21.5% (65) | 20.5% (62) | 3.24 | 302 |
| Street Maintenance | 11.6% (35) | 15.0% (45) | 27.2% (82) | 21.9% (66) | 24.3% (73) | 3.32 | 301 |
| Resource Recovery | 5.8% (17) | 7.8% (23) | 27.6% (81) | 31.6% (93) | 27.2% (80) | 3.67 | 294 |
| Hazardous Waste Recycling Opportunities | 7.0% (21) | 7.7% (23) | 15.3% (46) | 25.3% (76) | 44.7% (134) | 3.93 | 300 |
| Other Recycling Efforts | 1.7% (5) | 4.7% (14) | 16.7% (50) | 31.4% (94) | 45.5% (136) | 4.14 | 299 |
| Community Planning | 9.6% (29) | 14.3% (43) | 22.6% (68) | 24.9% (75) | 28.6% (86) | 3.49 | 301 |
| Social Programs | 10.4% (31) | 6.4% (19) | 29.6% (88) | 25.3% (75) | 28.3% (84) | 3.55 | 297 |
| Education Facilities | 12.3% (37) | 9.0% (27) | 20.3% (61) | 25.3% (76) | 33.0% (99) | 3.58 | 300 |
| Satellite Schools | 15.2% (45) | 12.2% (36) | 24.0% (71) | 28.4% (84) | 20.3% (60) | 3.26 | 296 |
| Recreational Facilities | 8.0% (24) | 6.3% (19) | 24.3% (73) | 32.2% (97) | 29.2% (88) | 3.68 | 301 |
| | answered question | | | | | | 302 |
| | skipped question | | | | | | 0 |

| 13. Would you support the use of town funds and resources to promote "green" initiatives? | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Would Not Support: 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Strongly Support: 5 | Rating Average | Response Count |
| Renewable Energy (solar, wind, water) | 10.1% (30) | 6.4% (19) | 10.8% (32) | 19.9% (59) | 52.7% (156) | 3.99 | 296 |
| Energy Efficiency (geothermal, window/building upgrades) | 9.8% (29) | 6.4% (19) | 12.9% (38) | 20.0% (59) | 50.8% (150) | 3.96 | 295 |
| Increased Recycling (single stream waste, etc.) | 7.2% (21) | 6.1% (18) | 14.0% (41) | 21.8% (64) | 50.9% (149) | 4.03 | 293 |
| | <i>answered question</i> | | | | | | 296 |
| | <i>skipped question</i> | | | | | | 6 |

| 14. Would you support the Town of Brooklyn providing tax incentives to encourage the development or expansion of the following types of initiatives? | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Do Not Support: 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Strongly Support: 5 | Rating Average | Response Count |
| Business Park | 44.0% (131) | 16.4% (49) | 15.1% (45) | 11.7% (35) | 12.8% (38) | 2.33 | 298 |
| Small Business/Business Start-ups | 24.6% (73) | 11.4% (34) | 18.9% (56) | 16.5% (49) | 28.6% (85) | 3.13 | 297 |
| Industrial Park | 57.2% (170) | 12.1% (36) | 11.1% (33) | 7.7% (23) | 11.8% (35) | 2.05 | 297 |
| | <i>answered question</i> | | | | | | 298 |
| | <i>skipped question</i> | | | | | | 4 |

| 15. Would you support having property taxes increased by a portion of a Mill for Brooklyn to dedicate funds for land preservation? | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | Would Not Support: 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Strongly Support: 5 | Rating Average | Response Count |
| Open Space for Recreation | 19.4% (58) | 8.4% (25) | 16.7% (50) | 21.1% (63) | 34.4% (103) | 3.43 | 299 |
| Open Space for Natural Resource Protection | 17.4% (52) | 7.4% (22) | 13.0% (39) | 16.7% (50) | 45.5% (136) | 3.66 | 299 |
| Farmland | 19.7% (59) | 8.7% (26) | 17.4% (52) | 12.4% (37) | 41.8% (125) | 3.48 | 299 |
| | <i>answered question</i> | | | | | | 300 |
| | <i>skipped question</i> | | | | | | 2 |

| 16. Thank you for responding to the Brooklyn PoCD Survey. Your participation is very important to the creation of a comprehensive plan. Is there anything you would like to share with the PoCD committee to help us in developing the next 10-year plan for our community? | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------|
| | | Response Count |
| | | 137 |
| | <i>answered question</i> | 137 |
| | <i>skipped question</i> | 165 |

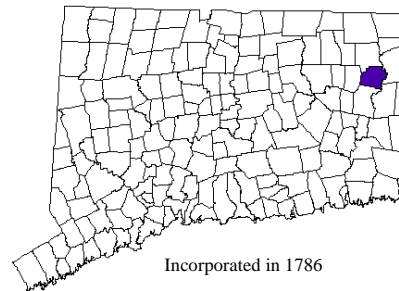
| 17. OPTIONAL - Enter your contact information if you wish to participate in any survey follow-up. | | | |
|---|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | | Response Percent | Response Count |
| Name: | <div></div> | 90.9% | 90 |
| Address: | <div></div> | 90.9% | 90 |
| Address 2: | <div></div> | 8.1% | 8 |
| City/Town: | <div></div> | 93.9% | 93 |
| State: | <div></div> | 92.9% | 92 |
| ZIP: | <div></div> | 85.9% | 85 |
| Email Address: | <div></div> | 81.8% | 81 |
| Phone Number: | <div></div> | 67.7% | 67 |
| | <i>answered question</i> | | 99 |
| | <i>skipped question</i> | | 203 |

Brooklyn, Connecticut

CERC Town Profile 2011

Town Hall
4 Wolf Den Road
Brooklyn, CT 06234
(860) 779-3411

Belongs to
Windham County
LMA Willimantic - Danielson
Northeast Economic Dev. Region
Northeastern Connecticut Planning Area



Incorporated in 1786

Demographics

| <i>Population (2010)</i> | <i>Town</i> | <i>County</i> | <i>State</i> | <i>Race/Ethnicity (2010)</i> | <i>Town</i> | <i>County</i> | <i>State</i> |
|--------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1990 | 6,681 | 102,525 | 3,287,116 | White | 7,008 | 106,067 | 2,786,761 |
| 2000 | 7,173 | 109,091 | 3,405,565 | Black | 380 | 3,100 | 337,299 |
| 2010 | 7,652 | 118,145 | 3,511,137 | Asian Pacific | 49 | 1,134 | 128,651 |
| 2015 | 7,860 | 120,749 | 3,545,169 | Native American | 9 | 98 | 6,418 |
| '10-'15 Growth / Yr | 0.5% | 0.4% | 0.2% | Other/Multi-Race | 206 | 7,746 | 252,008 |
| | | | | Hispanic (any race) | 230 | 9,404 | 411,629 |
| Land Area (sq. miles) | 29 | 513 | 5,009 | <i>Poverty Rate (2009)</i> | 6.5% | 10.3% | 8.7% |
| Pop./ Sq. Mile (2010) | 264 | 230 | 701 | <i>Educational Attainment (2010)</i> | | | |
| Median Age (2010) | 40 | 38 | 40 | Persons Age 25 or Older | <i>Town</i> | <i>%</i> | <i>State</i> |
| Households (2010) | 2,643 | 43,870 | 1,337,758 | High School Graduate | 1,822 | 33% | 689,864 |
| Med HH Inc. (2010) | \$64,308 | \$56,955 | \$65,686 | Some College | 1,562 | 28% | 585,203 |
| | | | | Bachelors or More | 1,243 | 23% | 842,517 |
| <i>Age Distribution (2010)</i> | | | | | | | |
| | <i>0-4</i> | <i>5-17</i> | <i>18-24</i> | <i>25-49</i> | <i>50-64</i> | <i>65+</i> | <i>Total</i> |
| Male | 174 2% | 614 8% | 348 5% | 1,597 21% | 817 11% | 415 5% | 3,965 |
| Female | 220 2% | 571 7% | 219 3% | 1,272 17% | 798 10% | 607 8% | 3,687 |
| County Total | 7,290 6% | 18,797 16% | 11,439 10% | 42,610 36% | 22,856 19% | 15,153 13% | 118,145 |
| State Total | 211,807 6% | 586,571 17% | 330,532 9% | 1,173,203 33% | 708,910 20% | 500,114 14% | 3,511,137 |

Economics

| <i>Business Profile (2005)</i> | <i>% of Total</i> | <i>Top Five Grand List (2009)</i> | <i>Amount</i> | <i>% of Net</i> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| <i>Sector</i> | <i>Establishments</i> | <i>Employment</i> | | |
| Agriculture | 4.7% | 2.1% | Pierce Memorial Baptist Home | \$6,305,300 1.3% |
| Const. and Mining | 17.5% | 7.2% | Econn Plaza Association Ltd | \$4,170,000 0.9% |
| Manufacturing | 4.7% | 2.6% | Brooklyn Elderly Ltd Partnership | \$2,740,600 0.6% |
| Trans. and Utilities | 4.7% | 1.9% | Alar 2 | \$2,732,600 0.6% |
| Trade | 18.4% | 8.7% | Quebec Square Housing Inc. | \$1,600,700 0.3% |
| Finance, Ins. and Real Estate | 6.8% | 4.4% | Net Grand List (2009) | \$469,298,167 |
| Services | 36.8% | 50.3% | <i>Top Five Major Employers (2006)</i> | |
| Government | 6.4% | 22.9% | Town of Brooklyn | Cliff Green |
| | | | Pierce Memorial Baptist Hm. Inc. | Racine Co. |
| | | | Brooklyn Correctional Institute | |
| | | | <i>Town</i> | <i>State</i> |
| | | | <i>Retail Sales (2007)</i> | |
| | | | All Outlets | \$49,344,796 \$136,936,194,241 |

Education

| <i>2009-2010 School Year</i> | <i>Town</i> | <i>State</i> | <i>Connecticut Mastery Test Percent Above Goal</i> |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Total Town School Enrollment | 1,315 | 552,782 | |
| Most public school students through grade 8 attend Brooklyn School District, which has 981 students. Students then go to multiple school districts including Killingly High, Woodstock Academy. | | | |
| | | | <i>Grade 4</i> |
| | | | <i>Grade 6</i> |
| | | | <i>Grade 8</i> |
| | | | <i>Town State Town State Town State</i> |
| | | | Reading 61 61 75 69 66 69 |
| | | | Math 67 64 76 69 60 65 |
| | | | Writing 64 64 60 62 64 67 |
| | | | <i>Average SAT Score</i> |
| | | | <i>Town State</i> |
| <i>For more education data please see:</i> | <i>Students per Computer</i> | <i>Town State</i> | <i>Average Class Size</i> |
| http://www.state.ct.us/sde/ | Elementary: | 8.3 4.1 | Grade K 13.3 Grade 2 20.8 |
| | Middle: | 0.0 0.0 | Grade 5 19.4 Grade 7 18.6 |
| | Secondary: | 0.0 0.0 | High School n.a. |
| | | | Reading n.a. |
| | | | Writing n.a. |
| | | | Math n.a. |

Brooklyn

Connecticut



Government

| | | | | | |
|---|--------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Government Form: Selectman-Town Meeting | | | | Annual Debt Service (2009) | \$5,798,167 |
| | | | | As % of Expenditures | 27.9% |
| Total Revenue (2009) | \$21,342,125 | Total Expenditures (2009) | \$20,776,863 | Eq. Net Grand List (2007) | \$844,298,373 |
| Tax Revenue | \$11,353,425 | Education | \$16,034,423 | Per Capita | \$110,035 |
| Non-tax Revenue | \$9,988,700 | Other | (\$1,055,727) | As % of State Average | 66% |
| Intergovernmental | \$8,623,293 | Total Indebtness (2009) | \$6,424,464 | Date of Last Revaluation (2009) | 2004 |
| Per Capita Tax (2009) | \$1,507 | As % of Expenditures | 30.9% | Moody's Bond Rating (2009) | A3 |
| As % of State Average | 61.9% | Per Capita | \$853 | Actual Mill Rate (2007) | 21.41 |
| | | | | Equalized Mill Rate (2007) | 12.21 |
| | | | | % of Grand List Com/Ind (2007) | 6.1% |

Housing/Real Estate

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|---|---------------|--------------|---------|
| <i>Housing Stock (2009)</i> | Town | County | State | Owner Occupied Dwellings (2009) | 1,604 | 26,200 | 812,964 |
| Existing Units (total) | 3,112 | 47,437 | 1,452,007 | As % Total Dwellings | 59% | 56% | 57% |
| % Single Unit | 77.3% | 69.0% | 64.8% | Subsidize Housing (2008) | 285 | 5,556 | 149,355 |
| New Permits Auth. (2009) | 19 | 150 | 3,786 | <i>Distribution of House Sales (2009)</i> | | | |
| As % Existing Units | 0.61% | 0.32% | 0.26% | Town | County | State | |
| Demolitions (2009) | 0 | 27 | 1,219 | Number of Sales | | | |
| House Sales (2009) | 58 | 580 | 14,696 | Less than \$100,000 | 1 | 48 | 346 |
| Median Price | \$207,450 | \$190,000 | \$265,000 | \$100,000-\$199,999 | 27 | 270 | 3,539 |
| Built Pre 1950 share (2000) | 24.0% | 35.1% | 31.5% | \$200,000-\$299,999 | 22 | 196 | 4,847 |
| | | | | \$300,000-\$399,999 | 7 | 45 | 2,510 |
| | | | | \$400,000 or More | 1 | 21 | 3,454 |

Labor Force

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------|-----|
| <i>Place of Residence (2009)</i> | Town | County | State | <i>Commuters (2000)</i> | | | |
| Labor Force | 3,998 | 65,210 | 1,889,947 | Commuters into Town from: | Town Residents Commuting to: | | |
| Employed | 3,618 | 59,267 | 1,734,291 | Brooklyn | 430 | Killingly | 875 |
| Unemployed | 380 | 5,943 | 155,656 | Killingly | 300 | Brooklyn | 430 |
| Unemployment Rate | 9.5% | 9.1% | 8.2% | Plainfield | 109 | Plainfield | 323 |
| <i>Place of Work (2009)</i> | | | | Woodstock | 94 | Putnam | 228 |
| # of Units | 156 | 2,684 | 104,314 | Pomfret | 63 | Windham | 166 |
| Total Employment | 1,418 | 37,927 | 1,615,355 | Canterbury | 51 | Groton | 102 |
| 2000-'09 Growth AAGR | 0.8% | -0.1% | -0.4% | Putnam | 39 | Ledyard | 98 |
| Mfg Employment | n.a. | | | Thompson | 32 | Pomfret | 92 |
| | | | | Windham | 28 | Woodstock | 78 |
| | | | | Chaplin | 20 | Mansfield | 76 |

Other Information

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|---|------------------------------|---|
| | | | | <i>Residential Utilities</i> | |
| | <i>Town</i> | <i>State</i> | Electric Provider | | |
| <i>Banks (2007)</i> | 2 | 1,029 | Connecticut Light & Power (800) 286-2000 | | |
| <i>Crime Rate (2009)</i> | | | <i>Distance to Major Cities</i> | <i>Miles</i> | Gas Provider |
| Per 100,000 Residents | 81 | 298 | Hartford | 38 | Yankee Gas Company (800) 989-0900 |
| | | | Boston | 61 | Water Provider |
| <i>Library (2010)</i> | <i>Town</i> | | New York City | 129 | Connecticut Water Company (800) 286-5700 |
| Total Volumes | 23,746 | | Providence | 28 | Cable Provider |
| Circulation Per Capita | 1.6 | | | | Charter Communications of Northeastern Co (800) 827-8288 |



Town of Brooklyn
PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

2011 - 2021