

## TOWN OF RED HOOK MEMO

TO: Marirose Blum Bump, Supervisor, and the Town Board

FROM: Bill O'Neill, Deputy Supervisor

DATE: December 14, 2004

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKING GROUP REPORT  
RECOMMENDATIONS

### First Report: An Overview and Initial Projection

The Working Group Report presented a 3 point strategy for enhancing Red Hook's rural character and the tax base.

No. 1 - protect open spaces and significant natural resources by creating EP-O maps, identifying our significant natural resources and open space farmland and forests, and by updating our zoning codes to protect those open spaces and significant natural resources.

I submit that the first step in this strategy, the key to understanding that objective, is to develop a definitive list of the maps identified by the Working Group, and identify the process required to have the Town Board officially adopt them. I would hope to present this to the Board by the January business meeting. Once we have that accomplished, with the town planner, I would propose further implementation actions recommended in the Working Group Report with the objective on how to promote open space and natural resources.

No. 2 - identify and plan development districts adjacent to the Villages and the Hamlet of Upper Red Hook, answering the question where should growth occur, where should development be concentrated.

I submit that the first step in this strategy, the key to accomplishing this goal, is to create an inter-municipal agreement with the Villages of Red Hook and Tivoli to create a consolidated Planning Board to plan those development districts. By the January business meeting I expect to report to you on the initial efforts to begin this process of meeting and working on the concept of the inter-municipal Planning Board. Once we accomplish this, efforts would begin to identify development districts and how to create them.

No. 3 - ensure effective planning by town officials, answering the point that we may have the tools, the planning documents, but our officials in planning need to use them.

I submit that the first step in this strategy, the key to ensuring planners in Red Hook use our Comprehensive Plan, Open Space Plan, and the Greenway Compact, is to establish with our planner training opportunities and directives for the Planning Board and to clarify the roles of advisory committees/boards to the Planning Board. This initial process should be developed by the February business meeting and I would hope at that time to outline an approach for your consideration.