

The BULLETIN

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Conservation and Improvement of the Township, Inc.
A non-profit, membership organization.



No. 1

WOODSTOCK, NEW YORK

May 2, 1960

EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of the **BULLETIN**, the organ of the **WOODSTOCK ASSOCIATION**, devoted exclusively to matters of conservation and development of our Township. One of the major occupations of the Woodstock Association is fact-finding and the **BULLETIN** has been created to report accurately and extensively to the citizen regarding activities and progress.

The **BULLETIN** will carry reports on town developments as well as notes and news relating to this subject and not reported elsewhere. The method of reproduction allows the printing of photographs of clarity, and photographic reporting will be a substantial item in the Bulletin. Contributions by citizens are welcomed, providing only that they are constructive, dignified, and strictly within the scope of the **BULLETIN**.

B. L. Webster, Chairman

SO NOW WE HAVE A PLANNING BOARD

As of February 16, 1960, the Township of Woodstock, County of Ulster, State of New York, has been blessed with the birth of a **Town PLANNING BOARD**. This board has been created in accordance with the State of New York **TOWN LAW**; it is an officially appointed body, an "arm of Government." Its members have been duly sworn in office. The normal term of duty of the members is seven years, but in appointing a new board, members are appointed for terms ranging from 1 to 7 years so that one new member is appointed each year. A member of the Planning Board may be reappointed to serve an additional term. They can be discharged singly or all together by the Town Board "for cause and after public hearing." The members receive no pay or other compensation. The Town's budget for 1960 allocates a sum of \$1000 for the Planning Board's expenses, and the law provides that the Planning Board can apply this money at its discretion.

It is worth noting that the Woodstock Planning Board serves the entire Township of Woodstock and therefore not only the hamlet of Woodstock but just as much the hamlets of Zena, Wittenburg, Shady, Willow, Bearsville, and Lake Hill.

The members of our new Planning Board are seven, and their names, together with a short biography of each, appear elsewhere in this Bulletin, together with a picture of the board at work. These people have been chosen by our Town Board.

Many of us in Woodstock will now be looking to the Planning Board for the fulfillment of aspirations regarding our beautiful and much-loved Township. Before we pin our hopes on any deeds or projects, it is therefore well to pause and see what our Planning Board **CAN** do.

A town Planning Board, as provided for in the State Law, can have duties. Some are inherent to any town Planning Board, others have to be specifically assigned to the Planning Board by the Town Board. Our Woodstock **PLANNING BOARD** has the minimum of duties

and is a purely advisory body with no regulatory powers. This state of affairs is the one recommended by the Study Committee, previously appointed by the Town Board. Our Planning Board cannot order anything to be done or forbid anything to be done and it does not pass on the compliance with any regulations or ordinances. It can only study and investigate and make reports and recommendations. Reading through the report of this Study Committee (a free copy of which was mailed to all voters by the Woodstock Association) discloses that the committee members believed that any regulatory powers, at this time, would not be acceptable to the majority of Woodstock's citizens. It was felt that due regard should be given to the "wait and see" attitude and that regulatory powers should await the time that Woodstockers will be able to form a clearer and unified picture of what they want. Those citizens who are impatient should put themselves to work to create such a picture. The Woodstock Association and also the Planning Board are ready to help you. This is the main reason for the appearance in print of this, our new venture, the **BULLETIN**.

The powers which our Planning Board does **NOT** have, but could be granted at some future date are two-fold. The power to **APPROVE PLATS**, which are plans for new building development and which includes ruling on the suitability of the associated streets, and the necessity of including parks and playgrounds. Secondly, to serve as a **ZONING COMMISSION** and draw up a zoning plan leading to a zoning ordinance.

What planning boards have done for their towns probably varies from almost nothing to almost everything. What the result will be of the creation of our Woodstock Planning Board will depend upon three things: the quality, staunchness, and imagination of our Planning Board members; secondly, the support which the Planning Board will get from the citizens; thirdly, the cooperation it will get from our Town Board. Woodstock has never been quite the "usual" type of community and there is a good possibility that, in planning its own future, it will once more surpass the usual.

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ABOUT A REFERENDUM

The Woodstock Association, in 1959, conducted an opinion survey which showed that at least two-thirds of our citizens wished to see SOMETHING done about Woodstock's future. Opinion polls, if properly conducted, can be of great help to the Town Board in gauging public support for any legislative matter. On the other hand, as was carefully explained in Assemblyman Wilson's recently published letter, a referendum on a proposed zoning ordinance is not permissible under state law. What is the difference between an opinion poll and a referendum?

The word "referendum" has a specific meaning. It means the submission of a proposed law to the body of voters for their approval or rejection. The results of a referendum are binding. In our representative form of government, the responsibility for passing laws rests with the elected representatives that we send to our var-

ious legislatures. The use of the referendum is prescribed by law in certain cases.

In the case of Woodstock, our legislative body is the Town Board. Its five members have been elected by the voters. When it comes to passing ordinances (which are the laws of the Town) the responsibility rests with the Board. Under State law, there are only a few matters which the Town Board may submit to a referendum. Notably in this category are certain types of bond issues.

Some of our citizens have suggested that any proposed zoning ordinance to be submitted to an "unofficial referendum" financed by a citizen's group. The use of the word "referendum" in this connection is incorrect and confusing. What is being proposed is an opinion poll. Unlike a permissive referendum, the result of such a poll is not binding. In the interest of clarity we should therefore speak either of a referendum or of an opinion survey.

THE WHY and HOW of PLANNING and ZONING

The Planning Board has been bombarded with questions about planning and zoning from individuals who want to know how it will affect them. It recently conducted a question and answer column in the local press in order to answer those questions. We have gathered some of these questions into a few basic categories below and have given the Planning Board's answers in somewhat abbreviated form.

Why Plan

"I LIKE WOODSTOCK AS IS. WHY INTERFERE?"
"WILL PLANNING MAKE WOODSTOCK STERILE?"
"IF WE PLAN, WILL WOODSTOCK BECOME A RICH MAN'S TOWN?"
"PLANNING IS UN-AMERICAN."

We all like Woodstock the way it is. That is the very reason for planning. We want to save the character of Woodstock and still absorb and adjust to the inevitable growth that is coming. Woodstock is a vital town, known all over the world for the artists, writers, and musicians who do their creative work here. It is Woodstock's

creative atmosphere that has brought and is bringing them here. Nobody likes change — but change is about the only thing in life that is certain. To preserve the character of the town, it is essential to plan for change so the town can grow without changing that character.

Woodstock has never been a rich man's town. One of its charms has been that its social structure is not based on material riches but on the character of individuals.

A plan for Woodstock must maintain that intangible atmosphere in which artistic and intellectual growth can flourish, while providing that the community can continue to develop economically. Careful planning can do this.

There is nothing un-American about planning. To the contrary. For a community to make its own growth plan represents government at the local level, which is a typically American ideal. If a fast-growing community does not plan, it will degenerate to the detriment of all until finally some higher authority will clean things up to its best interest and perhaps not to our own.

Qualifications Of Woodstock's Professional Planners



Harry A. Anthony, partner in the firm of Brown & Anthony, City Planners, has taken direct personal charge of the technical work of aiding the Planning Board to prepare a Growth Plan for Woodstock Township. Aided by a staff of experts, he is gathering information from many sources and on the scene to form the basis for such a plan. This is his background:

Education:

Bachelor of Architecture, National Technical University, Athens; Master of City Planning, University of Paris; Docteur d'Universite, Sorbonne; Ph.D., Columbia University.

Honors:

First Prize, International Competition for Housing and City Planning, Paris, 1947; William Kenne Fellows Traveling Fellow, 1956; Arnold W. Brunner, Scholar American Institute of Architects, 1958.

Experience:

Worked in the city planning field since 1945 and directed the preparation of planning, zoning, and urban renewal studies for several cities, towns, villages, and regions, both in the United States and abroad:

Washington, D.C., Lincoln Square and Morningside Heights, New York City, Mount Vernon, New York, Corning Regional Area, New York, Oswego, N.Y., Sloatsburg, N.Y., Fire Island, N.Y., East Greenbush, N.Y., Ellenville, N.Y., Huntington, N.Y., Tuckahoe, N.Y., Stamford, Conn., Norfolk, Va., military region; Athens, Greece; Havana, Cuba; Teheran, Iran. Currently preparing the Master Plan for Plattsburg, N.Y. and an urban renewal plan for Mount Vernon, N.Y.

The Planning Board has stated that they have contacted the neighboring communities of Woodridge, Ellenville, Catskill, and East Greenbush, all of whom have in the past engaged the services of Dr. Anthony. Each community responded with high praise for his professional skills, vision, and excellent working methods.

In his younger years worked in Paris under Le Corbusier(Planning for French cities) and in New York under Maurice Rotival (city planning and urban renewal for New Haven, Conn. and Simsbury, Conn.; regional planning for Madagascar, Johannesburg, and French Guiana). He has been on the Faculty of Columbia University since 1953, teaching city planning and urban renewal.

Member of:

American Institute of Planners, American Society of Planning Officials, Regional Plan Association, American Academy of Political Science. Associate, American Institute of Architects, N.Y. Chapter.

Staff:

Dr. Anthony is a principal of the firm of Brown & Anthony, City Planners, New York City, and is assisted by nine additional professional planners, members of his firm.

Tax-Free Status For Woodstock Association

The United States Treasury Department has ruled that contributions to the Woodstock Association are deductible from income in computing federal income taxes. This ruling is effective as of March 4, 1959, the date the organization was incorporated.

We are particularly pleased with the above status as it casts the activities of the Association in their true light. In addition, it opens the door to increased income, which the Association needs in its work.

Mallory Grove, Woodstock's Community Picnic Area

MALLORY GROVE PICNIC AREA

THIS LAND HAS BEEN DONATED TO THE TOWN OF
WOODSTOCK FOR THE RECREATIONAL USE OF ITS
RESIDENTS BY MRS. MAURICE VAN BUREN
IN MEMORY OF HER MOTHER, MRS. MALLORY

Sign designed and donated by the WOODSTOCK ASSOCIATION
and placed at the entrance of the picnic area.

Some day when you feel like tasting the flavor of the wilderness without too much travail, put on your walking shoes and follow the trail that starts where the above large sign stands, marking the entrance to MALLORY GROVE. You will be rewarded by coming upon a delightful clearing where stand majestic beech trees, a carpet of fugitive wild flowers, and three sturdy picnic tables with benches. In order to reach this idyllic spot you may have had to leap a brook if there has been much rain, as the clearing is on an island of approximately three acres, bordered on one side by the main bed of the Sawkill and on the other by a second channel which ranges from a dry rock bed to a raging torrent, depending on the season and how high the stream is.

These three acres are part of a gift of land given to the Town of Woodstock by Mrs. Lenore van Buren in memory of her mother, Mrs. Lilian Mallory. Fortuitously it borders the Town Water Supply land, where a parking area is planned for users of the picnic grove. At the present time if one drives south on Dixon Avenue from Route 212 and looks east along the Water Supply Land, the sign marking the entrance to Mallory Grove is visible. The trail is marked by round metal markers nailed to trees. These were placed by Girl Scouts and the League of Women Voters working together. The League deserves a great deal of credit for sparking the interest of other civic organizations in this project and in presenting a proposal for the use of this land to the Town Board. The following suggestions for development are set forth in the League of Women Voters proposal:

A. Long Range Objectives

1. That the Highway Superintendent investigate means to check erosion and act on such means.
2. That a surveyor draw elevation maps to show contour in order to correct stream channel.
3. That a planned park including swimming, picnic areas, and walks be prepared for. Marked paths not to go through picnic areas.

B. Short Range Objectives

1. That the park be made available for use in 1961.

2. That the Town mark entrance and provide parking.
3. That the gifts of picnic tables and benches from the Garden Club and League of Women Voters be accepted and placed advantageously.
4. That an outhouse and trash baskets be placed at most strategic location for use and maintenance.
5. That the area be sprayed where necessary with poison ivy eradicator.
6. That expenses incurred be taken out of fund allocated for Recreation in the Town Budget.

The Sawkill, at this point east of the Yerry Hill bridge, cuts several channels, causing serious erosion. This, combined with tangled growth and fallen old wood, means there is an enormous task ahead before the whole potential of this magnificent gift can be utilized. The big goal of checking erosion must not be delayed too long or else all will be lost. This is a problem for flood control experts and engineers.

The things that have been realized are: the availability of the park, the large entrance sign designed and donated by the Woodstock Association, the path has been marked, the tables made by Mr. Ishmael Rose with material purchased by Garden Club and League of Women Voters have been placed for use. The Girl Scouts are working on putting a charcoal burner at each table. Let's have a picnic!



"Unsuspected, the grove contains many majestic beech and other large trees."

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