Chapter 12: Natural Resources

Survey Results

1. What Natural Resources are important to you? Natural Resources are defined as those non man-made features that help shape the character of the Region, such as woodlands, streams, slopes, ridgelines, geology, riparian buffers, and floodplains.

   Please provide a checkmark ☑ in the box next to the five (5) natural resources that are of highest priority to you and/or your community. Further, please circle the one (1) resource that is most important to you.

   17 Groundwater 6

   13 Wildlife Habitat 1

   12 Streams

   10 Woodlands

   8 Wetlands 1

   7 Dark skies 1

   6 Headwaters

   6 Riparian Buffers

   5 Floodplains

   4 Steep Slopes

   3 Hedgerows

   1 Ridgelines

   1 Other: Agricultural Soils 1

   1 Other: Anything that has to do with a Negative impact on potable water supply public source or private source as well as reaching the 100% level and streams saturation point.

Note: For Question 2, we have combined the results "Could be better" and "No" as they both indicate a desire to increase protection for natural resources through municipal regulation. We have re-organized the results to reflect this preference.

2. Do you feel that your current municipal regulations adequately protect the following resources:

Wildlife Habitat	**2** Yes	**15** Could be better/No	**3** Don't know
Dark skies	**1** Yes	**14** Could be better/No	**5** Don't know
Groundwater	**3** Yes	**14** Could be better/No	**4** Don't know

Ridgelines	2 Yes	13 Could be better/No	5 Don't know
Woodlands	3 Yes	13 Could be better/No	4 Don't know
Headwaters	2 Yes	11 Could be better/No	7 Don't know
Riparian Buffers	3 Yes	11 Could be better/No	6 Don't know
Streams	7 Yes	11 Could be better/No	3 Don't know
Hedgerows	4 Yes	10 Could be better/No	7 Don't know
Steep Slopes	7 Yes	10 Could be better/No	3 Don't know
Wetlands	7 Yes	10 Could be better/No	3 Don't know
Floodplains	7 Yes	9 Could be better/No	3 Don't know

3. How effective do you think local regulations (zoning, subdivision, etc.) can be to protect natural resources in your community?

   10 Effective 9 Somewhat effective 1 Not effective 0 Don't know

4. Would you be willing to implement regulations (or supplement current regulations) to further protect natural resources in your municipality?
   12 Yes

   3 Maybe – would depend on the resource(s) being protected

   4 Maybe – would depend on the extent of the regulation being enacted

   1 No

   0 Not Sure/Undecided

5. Are you aware of any current significant threats to specific natural resources in your municipality or the Region? (e.g., threats from development, areas of excessive stormwater runoff, steep slope degradation, etc.)
   - Loss of prime pasture land.
   - Yes. We have threats to riparian buffers and stormwater run-off.
   - Development without master planning leads to unattractive chaotic appearance of the Township.
   - It seems to me that any and all NEW construction in the Boro and immediate surrounding municipalities, should be studied more carefully regarding long-term impact and eventually 'max'ing out of our natural capacity and our infrastructure capacity to handle the effluent and the water supply to make it work.
   - No (4); East Nottingham does not have anything on the books to see what impact the new wells have on our water supply.
   - Poorly planned, regulated, and constructed development; downstream effects of upstream development; lack of effective municipal regulation and oversight;

- I believe East Nottingham is subject to quite a few threats if we do not stay on top of the developers and specific rural areas.
- Ground water degradation (nitrates, sulfates) from sewage.
- I don't think there is enough focus on woodlands and their value. I think stormwater is a problem everywhere, but municipalities have to funds to solve those problems.
- Development pressures threatens all the natural resources in the area.

Other Comments:

- Development and planning are good for the Region.
- Sediment Trapping due to erosion is not being controlled.
- I would like to see as a part of our Regional studies a projection plan (sort of a Reverse Engineering Study) using all of the newly collected data resulting from the current Act 537 Plan under Final Review right now. The study would show a Regional Water Supply and Sewage Handling Capability MAX OUT considering Today's technology. Then we could take both sets of info. And compare them to see if we: 1. Have room to continue to expand and at what rate. 2. Have we exceeded the desired arte of expansion in any geographic area all ready? 3. Should we continue our current temporary moratorium until we have better info on hand?
- As a postscript to this, the drinking water from the Boro Water Lines is almost undrinkable and many, many people are not drinking it and buy bottled water.
- WNT is in the process of working w/CCPC to rewrite the Zoning codes…so we are in process now; It is vital to stay on top of the farming communities as well. pesticides, etc; Did not include agricultural soils as a natural resource to be protected.
- Many of the problems in dealing with preserving natural resources could be dealt with by funding training for the volunteers (borough council members, planning commission members, etc.) that are charged with initiating protective ordinances. Small municipalities do not always have the knowledgeable manpower needed to stand up against wealthy developers.

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