

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot,
Nothing is going to get better. It's not.

-DR. SEUSS, *The Lorax*



NVHS Members Meeting



Join us for a presentation on greenspace projects in the Town of Maine and how you can get involved. Open to the public and all are welcome to attend.



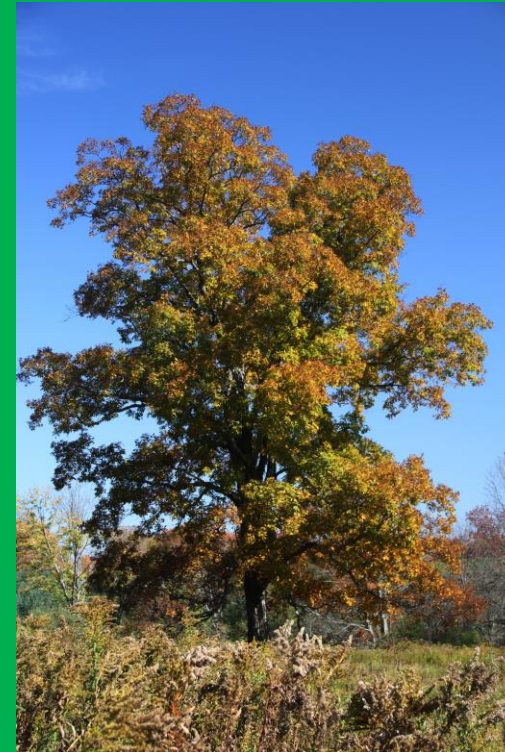
MAR 18
MONDAY
AT 6:30PM

Location: NVHS Museum
13 Nanticoke Rd. Maine

Guest Speakers

PHIL CHILDS

CHRISTINE CLIFTON-KENDALL



1974



The Pagoda

Town of Maine Comprehensive Plan Update 2017



A Vision for the Town of Maine

A vision statement reflects community values and how residents see the Town in the future. The vision statement for the Town of Maine was developed using community input from the public workshops and the public survey.

“Residents of the Town of Maine would like to see a stable to slightly growing population living in primarily single-family dwellings in a rural setting that supports agriculture with open land, fresh air, clean water and strong community/schools. The community should continue to be generationally friendly, support / expand recreational opportunities through the Town Park and remain flexible to future technology changes. Commercial development should focus on small stores, shops, professional services, grocery stores and other pursuits which fit the town rural character and are low impact. Infrastructure focus should be on high speed internet and cell phone access that facilitates home based employment and education. High taxes are the primary concern for residents who overwhelmingly would recommend Maine to family and friends as a great place to live.”

Commercial Development

“Respondents were asked their opinion regarding several types of commercial development. In general, respondents are in favor of most commercial development types listed. The large majority of respondents feel small-scale development such as small stores, shops, offices (96%), and a grocery store (93%) are “desirable everywhere” or “desirable in some places” within the Town. Four types of commercial development are opposed. A large percentage of respondents feel heavy industry (72%), followed by hotels and motels (47%), large-scale commercial development (46%), and used car sales (46%) are “not desirable anywhere” within the Town.”

Town of Maine Assets

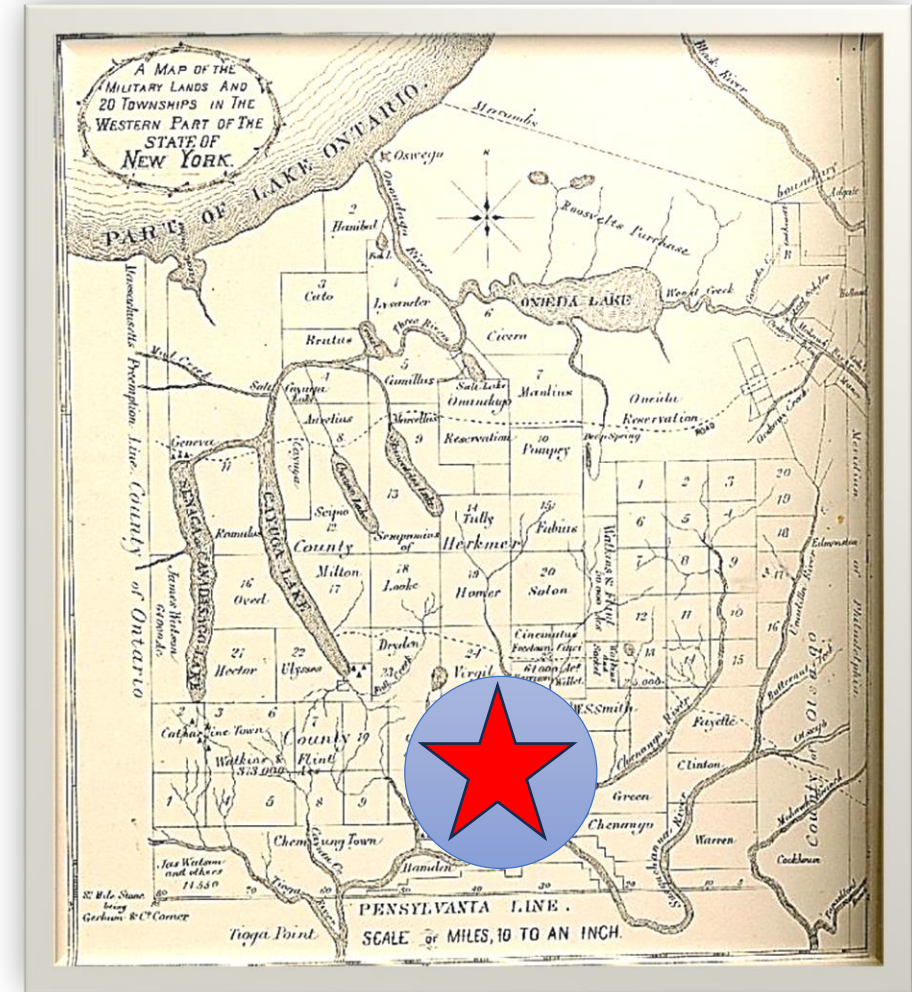
“This question was used to determine which assets are valued highly by the community. The comprehensive plan committee developed a list of sixteen community assets. From that list, respondents identified the Town’s rural character, school system, community, people, activities, churches, and the natural environment as the its top assets. In addition, the Town’s rural character was frequently cited as an important strength of the community in the comment section, “We moved to the Town of Maine because we love the rural setting and quietness. We hope it stays this way.”

A BRIEF HISTORY OF OUR TOWN

"It is bounded on the west by the Watkins and Flint Purchase and a small portion of the original Chemung County, and on the north by the Central New York Military Tract (present-day Cortland County). The boundary between Tioga County and Broome County is very irregular.

The *Treaty of Hartford of 1786* settled the western boundary between Massachusetts and New York at the modern largely north-south east of the Hudson River (except for Boston Corners, which was transferred later). As part of the treaty, New York gained undisputed sovereignty over the area, but *granted the Commonwealth of MA the right to purchase the property rights from the local Indians*. This right was subsequently purchased in the same year by a company of Boston investors (originally 11, later 60) named the **Boston Purchase Company**. One of the investors, *Colonel Avid Pixley*, came to the area to negotiate with the native inhabitants for the land rights. Most of the investors actually settled in the area, and were soon able to extinguish the Indian claims by purchase from the Oneida; one half-township of Owego (including the village) had already been acquired from the Oneida by James McMaster; some delicate negotiations led to his claim being recognized as the McMaster Patent."

The Boston Purchase or Boston Ten Townships 1786



Map of the military lands in 1796; Boston Ten Townships in south center

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boston_Ten_Townships



**Old Growth Stand of Eastern
Hemlock and White Pine**
in
Tiadaghton State Forest, PA



Old growth white pine, circa 1923.
Photo: Harvard Forest Archives

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Stand_of_Eastern_Hemlock_and_White_Pine_in_Tiadaghton_State_Forest,_Pennsylvania.jpg

<http://northernwoodlands.org/articles/article/pisgah-forest>



Bucking up a
large white
pine with a
crosscut saw,
circa 1890

Superior National Forest Minnesota 1890

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bucking_up_a_large_white_pine_with_a_crosscut_saw,_circa_1890s_\(5188097294\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Bucking_up_a_large_white_pine_with_a_crosscut_saw,_circa_1890s_(5188097294).jpg)

IMAGINE that you can travel back in time to visit the town you live in today. Let's turn back the clock to around 1799 and look around. Many of the earliest settlers traveling from the New England states have arrived and a few are listed here; Benjamin Norton from Stockbridge, MA in 1794; Russell and Alfred Gates from East Haddam, CT in 1795; Nathaniel Slosson from Massachusetts and Jedidiah Dudley from Stockbridge, MA in 1796. Why did they leave their homesteads in New England to travel to the wilderness of what would be Maine, NY? Why did they come here, and more importantly, what did they hope to accomplish once they established themselves here?

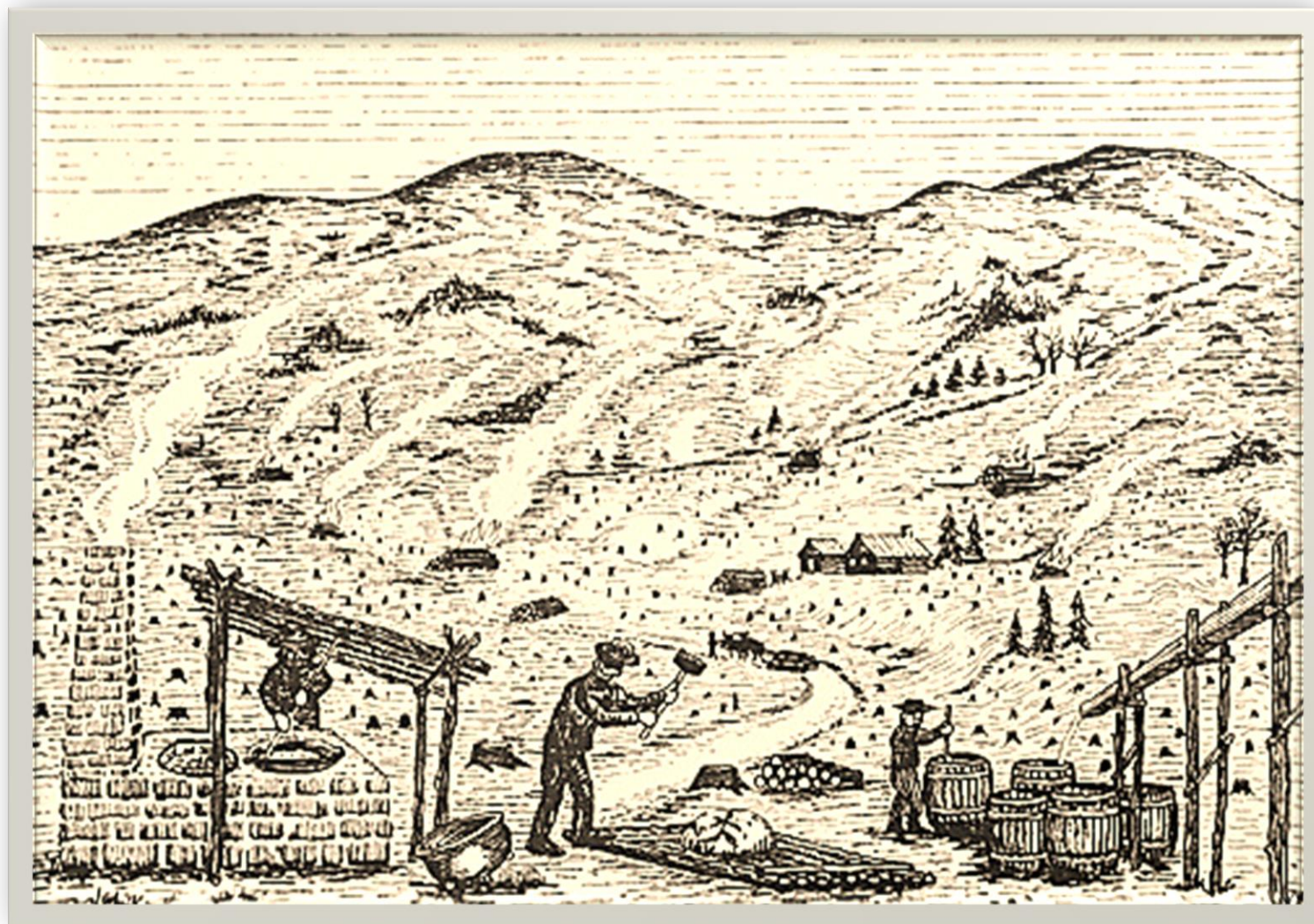
The land was covered from hilltop to hilltop by old growth trees such as hemlock, white pine and hardwoods. The eastern hemlock takes over 250 years to reach maturity and may live for 1000 years , attain a height of 160 feet and have a trunk diameter of over six feet. Forests had to be cleared to gain open farm lands. Wild animals were abundant including many which were dangerous livestock and people. **Mountain lions, bobcats, bears and wolves were common and early settlers first built barns to protect their livestock from these predators. Settlers arrived with the bare essentials: perhaps an iron plow head, axes, firearms and oxen. Roads had to be created by “hand” but that would occur later!** On their land they would build a small shelter and barn and slowly they would clear the land. **The trees were a great natural resource, and some early settlers rafted logs down the Nanticoke Creek to the Susquehanna River for sale. By 1825 sawmills and grist mills were built and population centers started to grow.** In 1832 E.H. Clark started a tannery in the Hamlet of Maine. It was located behind the site of the current Girl Scout building .



**Logs,
Lumber and
“Black”
Salts
(Potash)
were rafted
to
Baltimore
and
Philadelphi
a
“Making
Rafts on the
Susquehann
a.”
engraving
BCHS**



"Making Rafts on the Susquehanna," engraving. BCHS.



Potash Industry in the early 1800's

Drawing by: David W. Hamilton

Keesler 1999

ASHES.

THE subscriber wishes to inform his customers and the public in general that he will give ten cents per bushel for good house ashes; delivered at the still house of Capt. LUKE BATES, about two miles up the river from this Village, at which place he purposes to erect a Potash works for manufacturing the same.

Tioga, Owego Village, Feb. 24.
CHARLES PUMPELLY.
 [ns81f.]

"The American Farmer," Owego, New York, December 29, 1812. BCHS.

<http://www.mcz.harvard.edu/Departments/InvertPaleo/Trenton/Intro/HistoryPage/Social%20History/earlysettlement.htm>

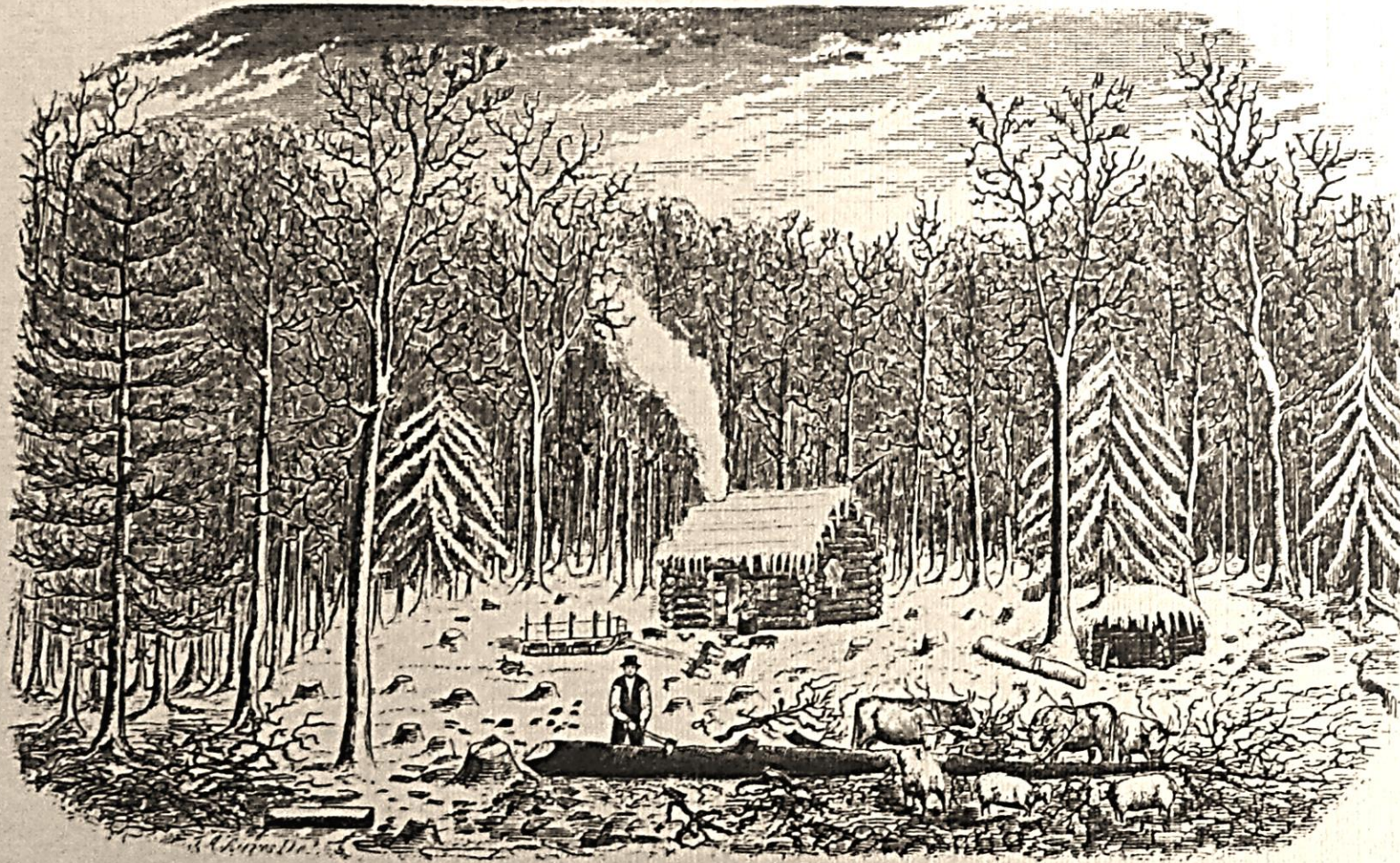
“The tannery slowly grew in size from two employees in a 30 x 40 foot building, which held four tanning vats to twenty five workers in a 40 x 100 foot building housing 132 vats. The tannery bought **hemlock bark** from local sources. The bark was needed to make the acid necessary for tanning hides. Each day required up to ten cords of bark and over thirty thousand tanned hides were produced at this location yearly. The hides came from Texas and South America. “Lamont Bowers told of seeing one hundred loads of hemlock bark pass in one day.” The used bark from the tannery was brought south of the hamlet and used as fill along the toll plank road which stretched from the today’s Maine cemetery to Union. Slowly the hills were cleared of trees, fields were farmed and by 1848 the town of Maine was formed. The tannery operated until 1890 and the buildings were torn down around 1908. Doanes Creamery would be the next industry to occupy this site.

In 1870 the town had grown to a population of over 2,305 and both Lewis St. and McGregor Ave. were laid out. The major industries in the region were lumbering and farming. Between 1875 and 1883 Maine had a fair ground. Our museum has a copy of the 1876 Broome County Atlas, one illustration is of the Maine Agricultural Field Ground (Notice that the hill in the background is cleared of trees). This hill is the one behind the Maine Memorial Elementary School and the next time you are at the *Maine Scoop* ice cream shop look west. You’ll note that the hill is now covered with trees”



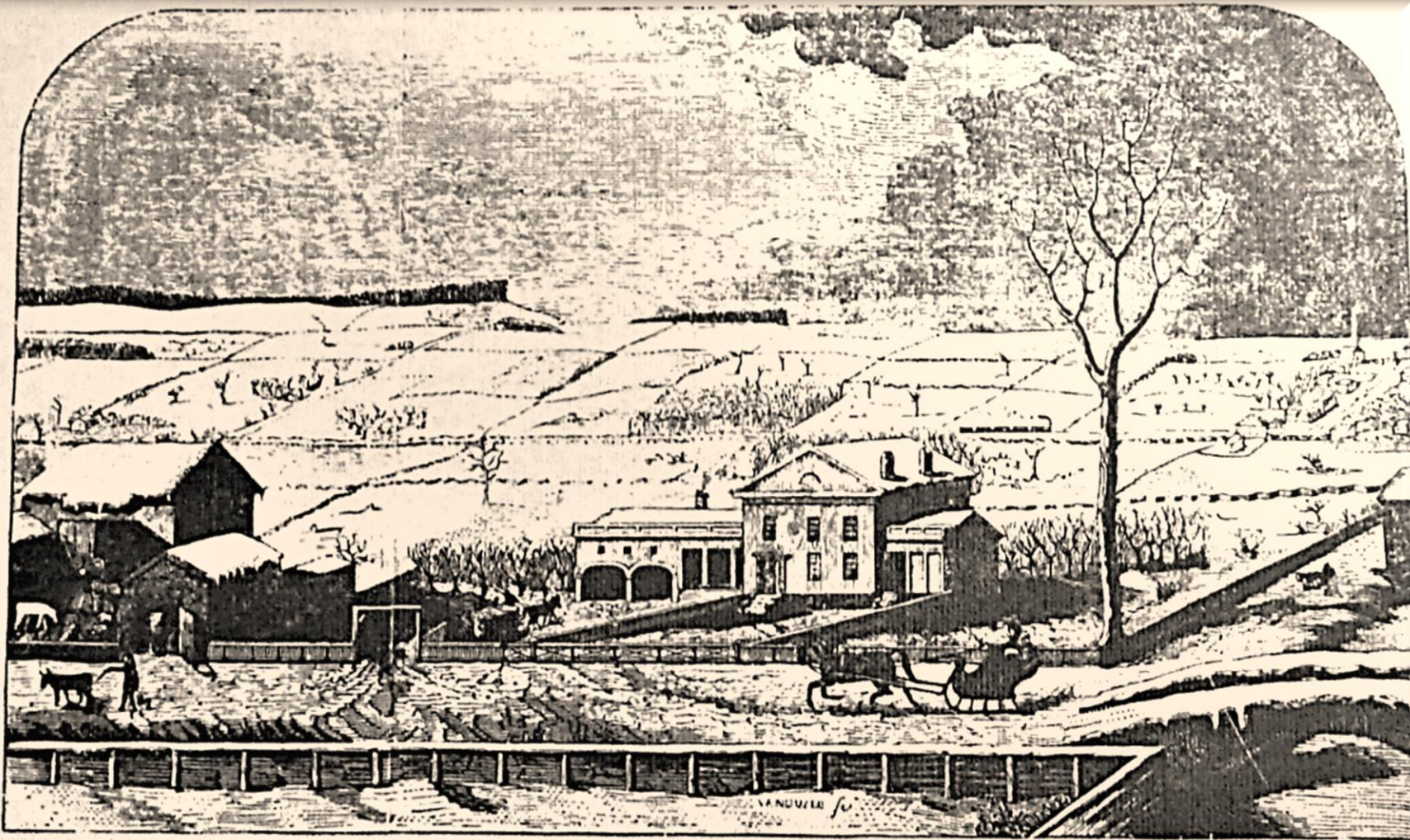
Eastern Hemlock

First Year



The Pioneer Settler, first year, from the "Pioneer History of Holland Purchase," O. Turner, (Buffalo, 1850).

45th Year



The Pioneer Settler, forty-fifth year, Turner.



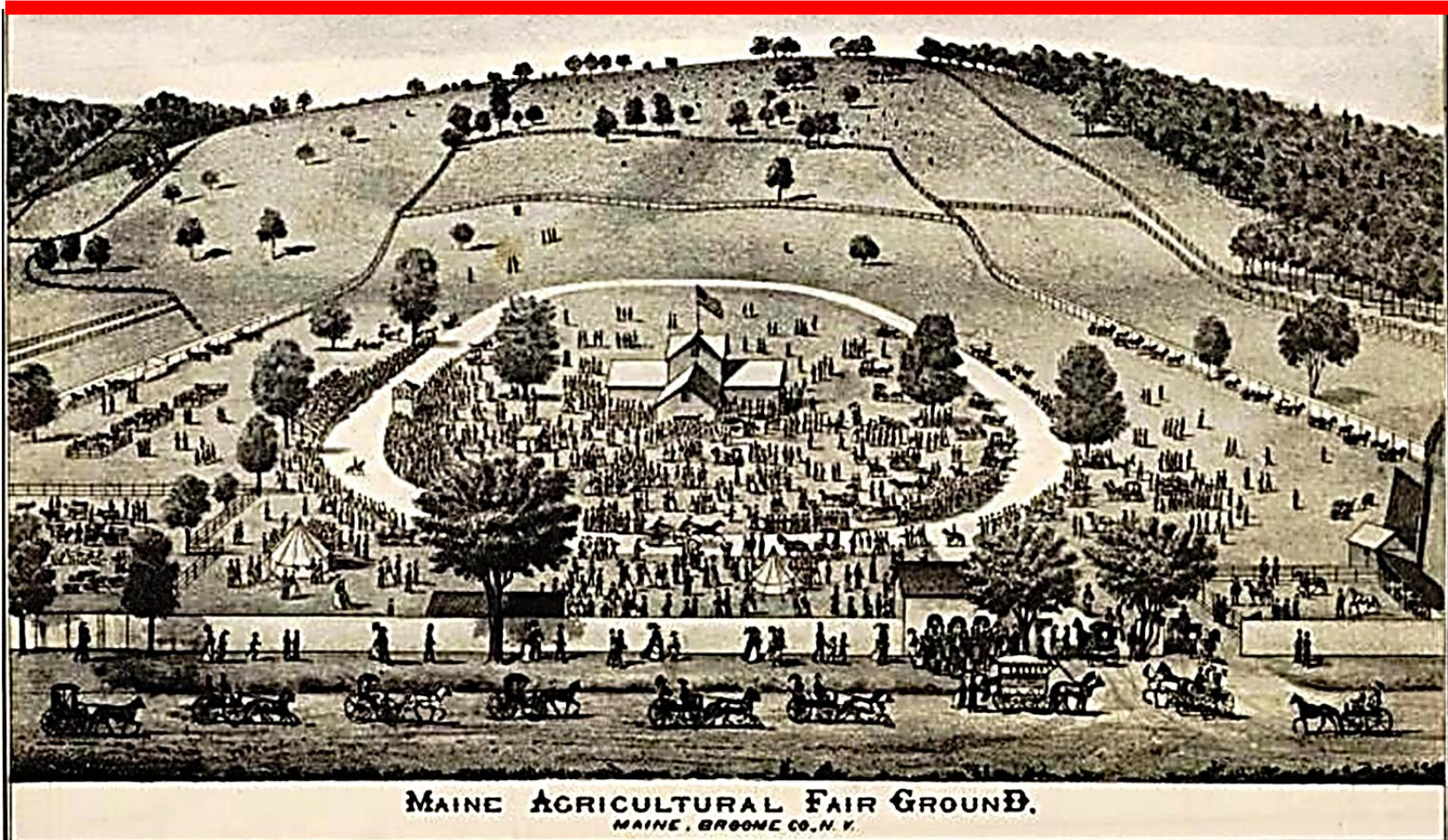
RES. OF MRS. ZARAH S. TAYLOR,
MAINE TP., BROOME CO., N. Y.

229 Nanticoke Rd. Illustration found in **1876** Broome County Atlas. The home dates to 1820 and sits along the current Nanticoke Road. The view is looking north.

CAME HERE 146 YEARS APART



2018



View west across
from ice cream store

1876





How can we take action to protect our green spaces?

Citizen-led
Greenspace Projects
in the Town of
Maine

Nanticoke Valley Historical Society Greenspace Committee



Phase One



A new volunteer committee
under the umbrella of the
NVHS non-profit org

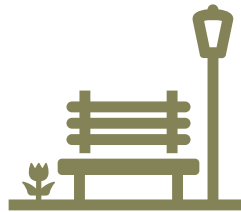


Leading programs in town for
tree planting, trail
maintenance, gardens, etc

Town of Maine Tree Board



Phase Two



A citizen tree board organized as
a separate entity, legally
recognized by town ordinance



One of four criteria for Tree City
USA designation

Tree City Designation Criteria



MAINTAINING A TREE
BOARD OR
DEPARTMENT



HAVING A
COMMUNITY TREE
ORDINANCE



SPENDING AT LEAST \$2
PER CAPITA ON URBAN
FORESTRY



CELEBRATING ARBOR
DAY

Town of Maine CAC



Phase Three



Conservation Advisory Council or Conservation Advisory Board



Established by town ordinance or law and made up of residents appointed by local legislative body

What does a CAC do?

- CACs and CBs provide a formal structure within local governments to advise on the development, management, and protection of local natural resources.
 - CACs possess no inherent formal power by law and are strictly an advisory body. The main function of a CAC is to make recommendations based on its research concerning proposed land developments affecting the environment.
- Members of CACs and CBs may conduct policy research, deliver education programs, implement stewardship projects, and gather and distribute information to other town agencies, land-use applicants, and the general public.
- In particular, CACs are directed to keep an inventory and map of local open space (e.g. forests, fields, wetlands), which provides an essential foundation for community planning.
- When a local legislature adopts the open space inventory and map prepared by the CAC, the inventory becomes the official open space index for the municipality.

Project Possibilities at any and all phases



**Apply for grants
and funding
opportunities**



**Maintain parks and
trails (e.g. old
Scouts trail)**



**Plant new
trees and
shrubs**



Community garden



**Participate in
annual creek and
park cleanups**

Broome County
Riverbank Cleanup



**Create an official
Open Space
Inventory for the
Town of Maine**

Natural Resource and Open Space Inventories

State enabling legislation directs CACs to complete an open space inventory (OSI) prioritizing open areas in a municipality for conservation based on natural, scenic, and cultural values. A natural resources inventory maps and describes these resources and is the implicit foundation for an OSI. On the basis of this information, an OSI lists important lands in the community according to priority for conservation or acquisition and displays them on an open space map. An OSI is often developed within a broader open space plan, which outlines strategies for the conservation and stewardship of priority lands, and **serves to complement and inform the local comprehensive plan.**

Town of Maine Greenspace Initiative Interest Form

Please see [this presentation](#) if you missed our 3/18 meeting and would like to review the initiative proposals.

[Sign in to Google](#) to save your progress. Learn more

* Indicates required question

What level of participation are you interested in? (Select all that apply)*

- ☐ Information - please add me to the distribution list for program updates
- ☐ Nanticoke Valley Historical Society "Greenspace Committee"
- ☐ Town of Maine Tree Board
- ☐ Town of Maine Conservation Advisory Council
- ☐ Volunteer for individual projects (e.g. tree planting, stream cleanup)
- ☐ Opportunities for students

First and Last Name*

Your answer

Email Address*

Your answer

Are you a resident of the Town of Maine?*

Yes

No

Clear form

Maine CAC (Conservation Advisory Council)

CAC will be tasked with developing a Natural Resource and Open Space Inventory for the Town of Maine, which would include an inventory of those trees. At the presentation I'll have an overview of what will need to be completed for the CAC, which will then need to be submitted to the town for the CAC to be established officially.

Recent Actions that impact quality of life in Town of Maine:

- IDA property Industrial Park of over 400 acres along Airport road and east Maine Street
- NYSEG cutting down trees in town
- Solar Project on Commercial drive
- Solar Project (in Johnson City) on East Maine road near bus garage
- Solar Project (along Route 26 Union Center)
- Airport Improvements

- Discussing Tree City USA designation
- Need for a town Tree Board to qualify.
- Collaborate with the Broome County Riverbank Cleanup or organize our own.