

**Town of Newcomb  
Essex County  
Comprehensive Planning Discussion  
5/7/20**

**1. Forests in NYS Today:**

- a. 19 million acres of forests in NYS **(Slide 2)**
  - i. 5 million publicly owned (federal, State, and local)
  - ii. 15 million privately owned **(Slide 3)**
  - iii. Adirondacks **(Slide 4)**
    - 1. 2.8 million Forest Preserve
    - 2. 3 million privately owned **(Slide 5)**
      - a. 750,000 acres of eased private lands
      - b. 2 million +/- fee privately owned
  - iv. State Land Acquisition 1993 – Today
    - 1. 804,000 Easements (F&W)
    - 2. 318,000 Fee (Whats likely)
- b. Benefits of Forests
  - i. Environmental
    - 1. Clean Air, Clean Water & Wildlife
    - 2. Climate Change – Storm Resiliency
  - ii. Social
    - 1. Aesthetics
    - 2. Recreational
  - iii. Economic
    - 1. Forest Economy
    - 2. Yesterday-Today-Tomorrow
- c. Threats to Forests (Working?)
  - i. Fragmentation & Conversion
  - ii. Insects & Diseases
  - iii. Lack of Local Planning
  - iv. Competition from other Places
  - v. Overly Restrictive Regulations (State and local)
  - vi. Unsustainable Forest Practices
  - vii. Public Acquisition?

**2. Planning for Forests - Newcomb**

- a. Forest Preserve and Other Publicly Owned Forests
- b. Private – Eased
- c. Private – Merchantable Timberlands
- d. Private/Public – Hamlet (a.k.a. Urban Forests)

**3. Deeper Dive into Private Forest Lands and Forest Economy**

- a. Forest Landowners – National Woodland Owners Survey **(Slide 6 & 7)**
- b. Markets – No Markets, No Management/Externalities **(Slide 8)**
- c. Forest related supporting infrastructure – Cannot support markets w/o infrastructure

#### **4. Zoning and Other Programs**

- a.** Zoning and Land Use
  - i.** Right to Practice Forestry
  - ii.** Land Clearing vs. Timber Harvesting
  - iii.** Curb Cut Regulation vs. Harvesting Regulation
  - iv.** Regulating the Use or Activity (i.e. business enterprise)
- b.** Programs
  - i.** NYS Forest Tax Program
  - ii.** Certifications & BMPs
  - iii.** Easements for Land Trusts
  - iv.** Community Forest
  - v.** Regenerate NY

#### **5. Local Leadership (Slide 10)**

- a.** Public Participation & Education
- b.** Updating Local Zoning & Land Use Regulations
  - i.** Local Definitions
  - ii.** Appropriate Zoning and Regulations
  - iii.** Reasonable Review Processes
- c.** Coordination, Partnerships & Advocacy