

Town of Hastings, Oswego County

The Town of Hastings is located in Oswego County along the western portion of the Oneida Lake watershed. The town encompasses 45.8 square miles of land area, 45% of which lies within the Oneida Lake watershed. According to the 2000 Census, 8,803 people lived in Hastings and the town had experienced an 8.5% population increase between 1990 and 2000. The estimated population in July 2005 was 9,091 (+3.3% change). The median age in 2000 was 36 years and the average household size was 2.6 persons. Median household income was \$40,085. There were 3,635 housing units in the town, 17% of which had been built between 1990 and 2000.

The Onondaga County Water Authority supplies public drinking water to water supply districts in the Village of Central Square and the Towns of Hastings and West Monroe. The water comes from Lake Ontario through the facilities of the Metropolitan Water Board. However, the majority of the residents of the Towns of Hastings and West Monroe are outside the water supply districts and rely on water from on-site wells.

Agriculture and forestry are the predominant land uses in Oswego County. Oswego also contains large areas of wetlands, most of which contain muck soils. Big Bay and Three Mile Bay State Wildlife Management Areas (found along Oneida Lake) contribute to the county's wetland acreage. The topography in Hastings is level or gently rolling, its northern boundary being about 75 feet above Oneida Lake. The soil is clay, sand, and gravelly loam. Brine springs are found in several parts in the red Medina sandstone formation. In addition to wetlands, Oswego County's land area specifically within the Oneida Lake watershed is largely forested.

Assessment Results

The Town of Hastings received a grant and low interest loan in 2002 to build and maintain a wastewater treatment plant for the Fort Brewerton and Route 11 Sewer District. This opportunity developed because the community had been dealing with failing onsite septic systems due to soils and groundwater levels. The treatment plan was provided to encourage economic growth while protecting the nonpoint source pollution loading to Oneida Lake. Hastings also developed plans for a Route 11 sewer district and 3-4 water districts were created to address problems with water quantity and quality.

The Town has an active local government and implements most of the management practices for the protection of Oneida Lake. The Code Enforcement Office enforces the building codes for new construction (or modifications to constructed buildings), issues building permits, interprets the Town's zoning law, and reports to the Zoning Board of Appeals on variance applications. The Planning Board reviews subdivisions and site plans for conformance with Town Subdivision Law and Zoning Law. The Planning Board also makes recommendations to Town Board on special use permit applications and recommendations to Zoning Board of Appeals for variance applications.

Hastings maintains the Caughdenoy Dam fishing access site, Geottle Park, Gerald Van Liew Park, and a NYS DEC / NYS DOT fishing access site. Over the past several years, town officials

have been involved with projects such as the Fort Brewerton Pier, Highway Department salt storage building, the Fuller Road/Route 11 water district, Oneida River Park, and the Oneida River Walk Project. Hastings is also working with the US Department of Agriculture and Markets on opportunities for local farming operations.

Town of Hasting	Full or Partial Implementation	Not Applicable
1. Development - total 1a. Existing 1b. New and substantial redevelopment	37 of 42 (88%) 15 of 20 (75%) 22 of 22 (100%)	0 0 0
2. Forestry / Agriculture - total 2a. Forestry 2b. Agriculture	12 of 12 (100%) 10 of 10 (100%) 2 of 2 (100%)	0 0 0
3. Waterways / Wetlands - total 3a. Modified waterways 3b. Wetlands and Riparian Area Mgmt/Restoration	16 of 16 (100%) 10 of 10 (100%) 6 of 6 (100%)	0 0 0
4. Marinas - total 4a. Existing Marinas 4b. New Marinas 4c. Existing and New Marinas	29 of 48 (60%) 7 of 20 (35%) 16 of 18 (14%) 6 of 10 (60%)	1 0 0 1
5. Roads and Bridges - total 5a. New Roads and Bridges 5b. Existing Roads and Bridges 5c. New & Existing Roads & Bridges	23 of 26 (88%) 5 of 6 (83%) 13 of 13 (100%) 5 of 7 (71%)	0 0 0 0
6. OWTS	7 of 7(100%)	0

Summary and Recommendations

Through zoning, subdivision, and site plan reviews, the Town of Hastings has satisfied most of the DOS criteria for protection of water quality in the Oneida Lake watershed. Home sales during the past few years, especially new construction, have been on the rise but higher quality and more affordable water supplies are needed and better financing is needed for additional water lines. Construction of new buildings, roads, and parking lots has the potential to cause erosion and sedimentation problems for local water resources. This also causes additional impacts on recreational opportunities and aquatic biology in Oneida Lake and the Oneida River.

Erosion and sedimentation can also cause additional impacts on infrastructure maintenance costs. Based on the local law assessment process, the CNY RPDB recommends that Hastings adopt a sediment and erosion control law or incorporate guidelines within current zoning, subdivision and site plan review controls. As a regulated MS4 community, the Town of Hastings must adopt a law that provides protection against construction and post construction runoff equivalent to the State Stormwater Construction Permit requirements. Through its local laws Hastings will be able to enforce development practices to improve water quality. A Stormwater Management and Sediment and Erosion Control model law that is endorsed by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and NYS Department of State is available in Appendix G. The CNY RPDB recommends that Hastings adopt and enforce this law throughout the entire municipality, not just in the MS4 regulated area.

Municipalities have authority and primary responsibility for local roadway, bridge, and drainage maintenance. The CNY RPDB recommends that municipalities continue to implement stormwater controls and provide educational opportunities to update highway and public works department staff on current road, bridge, and drainage BMPs. Additional recommendations are found in a section titled “Road, Drainage Way, and Bridge Recommendations” (IV B) of the introductory narrative.

Municipal Contacts

- Mark Bombardo, Code Enforcement Officer
- Paul Baxter, North Shore Council of Governments
- Karen Noyes, Oswego County Planning Department

Local Laws Reviewed

- Hastings zoning law (1997)
- Site plan reviews (Article 11)
- Subdivision regulations / SEQR review (1987)
- Town of Hastings Land Use Master Plan (1996)
- Town of Hastings Highway Construction Specifications Ordinance (1992)
- Hastings zoning map