How Did RPA Build Productive Relationships with Municipalities?

Mohonk Consultations Nature Across Boundaries Forum Karen Strong, Strong Outcomes, LLC April 8, 2018





The Rensselaer Plateau: Preserving Open Space and Planning for the Future

What's the Plan?

We urge towns of the Rensselaer Plateau to develop 'master plans' to prepare for preservation of open space for use by future generations and plan for future development

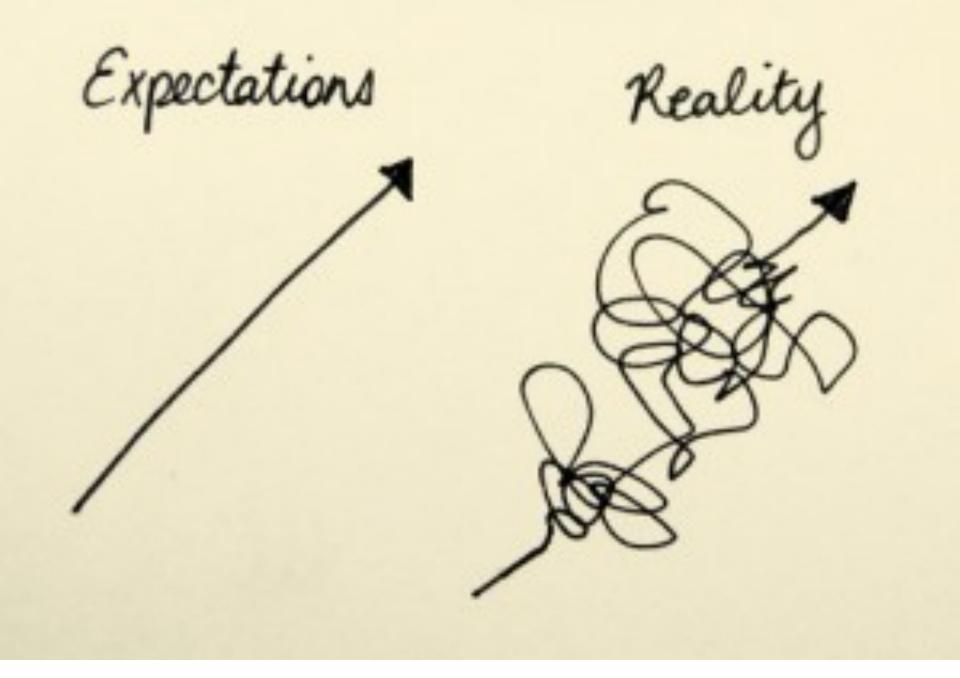
Jay Thomas
Rensselaer Plateau Alliance



What did RPA do to be successful?

- Managed expectations
- 2. Identified their goals
- 3. Listened Listened Listened
- 4. Built community awareness





Managed Expectations

Rensselaer Plateau REGIONAL CONSERVATION PLAN

A RESOURCE FOR MUNICIPALITIES, LANDOWNERS, ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS



SEPTEMBER 2013

PREPARED BY



PREPARED FOR



Identified their Goals

- * RPA knew they wanted to focus on land conservation for recreation and wildlife
- * Conservation Plan process can help articulate vision and engage others











Changing perspectives

2010

2016

"Why do we have to burden the taxpayers?" said Gundrum. "If I can protect my property, you young people can do it too. Protect your own water quality."

Lois Gundrum, quoted in a 3/26/10 TU article on designating a Rensselaer Plateau Forest Legacy area "We could have gotten more money if we had sold to a developer, but we did not want to go that route," said Gundrum.... "One of the most gratifying aspects of being able to preserve this is the overwhelming support we've received from many of the landowners from whom we originally purchased some of the parcels, and from neighboring landowners who are as pleased as we are."

Rynard Gundrum Jr. quoted in a 12/22/16 TU article on selling Gundrum land to Rensselaer Plateau Alliance



Thank you!

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