

# How Did RPA Build Productive Relationships with Municipalities?

Mohonk Consultations Nature Across Boundaries Forum

Karen Strong, Strong Outcomes, LLC

April 8, 2018



**strong**  
OUTCOMES

## Considerations for protecting biodiversity with open space

- Know what is where: **INVENTORY**
- Ecology of target species
- Funding
- Opportunities
- Management







# 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



**DON'T BE FOOLED!**

**RENSSELAER PLATEAU ALLIANCE  
IS TAKING**

**\$ MONEY \$  
OUT OF OUR POCKETS!!**



# What did RPA do to be successful?

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



Expectations

Reality



Managed Expectations



Rensselaer Plateau  
**REGIONAL CONSERVATION PLAN**  
A RESOURCE FOR MUNICIPALITIES, LANDOWNERS,  
ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS



## 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

SEPTEMBER 2013

PREPARED BY



PREPARED FOR

Rensselaer Plateau Alliance  
Conservation Through Community

Listened to the officials





Listened to community values





Listened to people's concerns





Built community awareness



Landowner Workshops



# Built community awareness



Photo credit: RPA



# Changing perspectives

2010

*"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

2016

*"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!

Karen Strong

Strong Outcomes, LLC

[Karen@strongoutcomes.com](mailto:Karen@strongoutcomes.com)

518.227.0124



**strong**  
OUTCOMES