

Community Profile

Pound Ridge, NY

2022

Prepared by Carolynn R. Sears



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Frequently used ACRONYMS (PR for Pound Ridge)

Acronym	Organization
CB	Conservation Board
FoPR	Friends of Pound Ridge
GPR	Growing Pound Ridge, a PRP committee
HMP	Henry Morgenthau Preserve
N2N	Neighbor to Neighbor (supporting seniors & residents with disabilities)
OEM	Office of Emergency Management
PRPBA	Pound Ridge Police Benevolent Society
PRBA	Pound Ridge Business Association
PRES	Pound Ridge Elementary School
PRGC	Pound Ridge Garden Club
PRHS	Pound Ridge Historical Society
PRHRAC	Human Rights Advisory Committee
PRL	Pound Ridge Library
PRLC	Pound Ridge Land Conservancy
PRP	Pound Ridge Partnership
REC	Recreation Department
TIP	The Invasives Project- Pound Ridge

COMMUNITY-AT-A-GLANCE

Community name: Pound Ridge, NY **County/township:** Westchester County

Contact: Diane Briggs, Councilwoman, Town of Pound Ridge (C)914 400 9059

AIB Committee Chair Contact:Carolynn Sears (H) 914 763 3219 (C) 914 522 3111

Population: 5,082

Website: <https://www.townofpoundridge.com>

Area in square miles: 23.2 or 14,771 acres

Acres of active recreation (public pool, playing fields, courts, golf):

Town Park, Sachs, and Soccer field: 40 acres; PR Golf Course: 179 acres

Acres of passive recreation (walking, hiking, fishing, nature observations & photography):

4,800 acres with 60 miles of trails in 26 preserves and parks

Form of government (mayor, council, manager, etc.): Supervisor and Town Board

Jurisdiction operating the public-school system: Bedford Central School District

Jurisdiction operating utilities (water, sewer, electrical, trash, recycling, etc.): NYSEG and VERIZON

Do you have a volunteer coordinator? No

Have there been any challenges this year weather-related or otherwise, the advisors should know about?

Since 2020, the Covid-19 Pandemic has impacted Pound Ridge in a variety of ways. Fortunately, the number of cases has remained low in Pound Ridge throughout the pandemic. The remodeling and sales of houses has boomed. Sales at the supermarket have risen dramatically while some small businesses are concerned about their ability to thrive. There has been a discernible increase in outdoor activity.

Years participated in America in Bloom National Awards Program: 0



INTRODUCTION (500 words or less)

Country road signs shaped like an outreached arm identify Pound Ridge. ‘Small town’ falls short as a descriptor. Here residents take pride in having no traffic lights, plenty of space between neighbors, with lots of woods and wildlife in between. Its rugged, rocky landscape, a result of an ancient continental collision followed by glacial carving, seems unchanging and belies the urbane nature of the community, only 43 miles north of midtown Manhattan.

The Tankiteke, a tribe of the loosely organized Wappinger Confederacy, were in Pound Ridge when European colonists arrived. In 1644, somewhere in the area, military troops attacked and murdered 700 members from several tribes. In a variety of ways, the Native Americans were pushed off the land. The Ramapough-Munsee, living in southern NY and upper NJ, identify as their descendants. Members of this group embrace the land and its components as ancestors and hold an abiding responsibility for its protection.

The first homestead in Pound Ridge was probably established around 1685 under The Stamford Patent. Later, in 1718, more homesteads probably followed the establishment of a formal road through Pound Ridge, connecting Bedford to Danbury. The route followed Stone Hill Road to Old Stone Hill to Highview Road and then onto Ridgefield and was identified as the primary thoroughfare on a map by Robert Erskine, official cartographer for George Washington. On July 2, 1779, the British raided Pound Ridge, led by “Bloody Ban” Tarleton. As they left, the Presbyterian Church and Lockwood home plus buildings in nearby Bedford Village, were destroyed by fire. Nine years later, Pound Ridge was officially incorporated. It is thought the name comes from a tribal enclosure for game. The spelling of the town’s name was controversial until the Town Board declared it to be two words in 1948.

Dairy farmers, shoemakers, and basket makers inhabited Pound Ridge. One slave is listed as a resident in the 1800 and 1820 federal censuses. At its peak about 80 Pound Ridge families engaged in basket making and the center of town was called “Basket Town.” The distance of Pound Ridge from railroads slowed its development.

In 1926, Hiram Halle, an American businessman, inventor, and philanthropist, moved to Pound Ridge. During World War II, Halle supported Jewish causes and improved the community by bringing European Jewish exiles to work on refurbishing 33 vintage houses in the area. Following WWII, when the automobile became affordable and highways were constructed, Pound Ridge fell within commuting distance to New York City. These events eventually led to an interesting mix of historic houses, one-room schoolhouses, stone walls, and four dozen mid-century Modern houses.

Today the Town is governed by a Board responsible for legislation, the budget and taxes, and appointing members to boards and committees. The Board consists of the supervisor, elected for a 2-year term, and four members, elected for 4-year terms. Town offices are located in the Town House (c. 1850), the former home and gift of Mr. and Mrs. C.F. Roe Slade.

When the Covid-19 pandemic struck the metropolitan area hard, the number of cases in Pound Ridge remained low. Considered a safe haven, the local population grew. Residents worked from home, “weekenders” stayed for the work week, second homes were rented or sold, and the housing market boomed. Pound Ridge, cherished for its small-town qualities, natural beauty, and easy commute to New York City, is once again on the cusps of change.

[Virtual Tour of Pound Ridge](#)

COMMUNITY VITALITY

Many kinds of experiences contribute to a sense of community vitality. Pound Ridge residents share a sense of privacy, safety and simplicity in a very hectic world. Simultaneously, a sense of belonging evolves from being greeted when people see you at the library, Town House, supermarket or hardware store and from

participating on boards, attending community events, and helping out as a volunteer—especially in a time of need, when the community is known to rally. Likewise, during the pandemic, seeing well-kept, active walking paths, parks, and buildings promotes good feelings and confidence in the community’s collective capacity to respond to change.

With community safety and well-being paramount, the following three organizations work closely together with the Supervisor and Office of Emergency Management and also contribute significantly to community vitality:

i. The Pound Ridge Police Department is comprised of a dedicated and skilled group of professionals who are committed to working with the community to make the Town of Pound Ridge a safe and desirable place to live, work and visit. The mission of the PD is to partner with the community to solve problems and improve public safety in a manner that is fair, impartial, transparent, and consistent. Members of the PD, including the Chief, are a familiar presence at town-events, often grilling and serving hot dogs and hamburgers. Associated with the PD is the PR Police Benevolent Association Inc. The mission of the PRPBA is to improve members' shared working conditions while expanding their role in community well-being. Activities promoting police-community relations include Little League sponsorships, camping, senior trips & breakfast, and supporting a variety of other community programs, events, scholarships and charitable donations.

ii. Pound Ridge Volunteer Ambulance Corps (25 members) established in 1966 is a 100% volunteer organization, and provides around the clock “Basic Life Support” Emergency Medical Services (EMS) to the Town of Pound Ridge, NY and the immediate vicinity. “Advanced Life Support” is provided, as needed, by paramedics from Westchester Emergency Medical Services. PRVAC has 2 ambulances. PRVAC attends all town-wide events to provide services, if required, and so that residents and visitors can meet the volunteers and tour an ambulance.

iii. Pound Ridge Volunteer Fire Department (65 members) has three engines, a tanker, rescue truck, brush truck, and two utilities. Formed in 1933, the mission and purpose of the PRVFD is to protect the lives and property of the PR community by providing trained professionals to give the highest levels of service through fire suppression, fire prevention, public education, and mitigation of disasters. In addition to responding to fires, the volunteers conduct a 9/11 memorial service, hold an annual blood drive, a pancake breakfast with proceeds supporting a local veteran’s organization, host the Halloween Haunted House, and Christmas Tree Sale with proceeds going to a local person in need. Community outreach includes PR Proud Day, Independence Day Fireworks, PR Harvest Festival, Fire Prevention Week (one day at the Elementary School as well as education events at the local Pre-school and Montessori School), and sometimes a “fire” talks at the PR Day Camp, and providing items for emergency kits for Seniors.

Leadership and Policy

CV.a.01 - Municipal Volunteer Boards: Our citizens volunteer to serve on municipal boards (e.g. Town Board, Conservation, Planning, Zoning) commissions (e.g. Water Control, Landmarks), advisories (e.g. Housing), committees and task forces (e.g. Economic Development, Energy Action, Climate Smart Communities, Comprehensive Planning) and more. The Economic Development Committee, in particular, interfaces with local businesses. Newly formed in 2022, the Human Rights Advisory Committee is expected to provide guidance to the Town of Pound Ridge on diversity, equity, and inclusion strategies and policies that improve outcomes for marginalized populations and the community at-large. In the selection of members, the Town Board actively seeks diverse representation, giving priority and preference to individuals from varying races, religions, genders, sexual orientations, gender identities, abilities, ages, ethnicities, places or origin, and socio-economic backgrounds.

CV.a.02 - Neighborhood associations & municipality grants: N/A (Not Applicable)

CV.a.03 – Master plan for public green space and parks: In 2021, Louis Fusco, principal of Louis Fusco Landscape Architects, a locally-based, full-service landscape design firm, volunteered to map public spaces to comprise a municipal plan. Designs are typically done on a project basis, as funds become available. Recent designs include the NE corner of Westchester Ave and Trinity Pass (installed Oct. 2021), a village green (under construction), and a dog park (proposed).

CV.a.04 - ADA accessibility in public areas and other programs for inclusion: Public buildings are ADA accessible. Recent ADA improvement were made to Town House and to sidewalks and curb cuts in the Business District.

CV.a.05- Promotion of alternative transportation: Limited applicability due to pandemic. Transportation assistance is provided to seniors with volunteers, a town-owned bus, and also through county para-transport system.

Facilities and Events

CV.b.01- Outdoor recreation facilities, play areas and maintenance: In 1958, the PR Volunteer Fire Department purchased and donated the land that comprises the Town Park. Town Park (39 acres/ 70 total) includes the pool area (with kiddy, recreation and competition pools, diving boards, snack bar, changing room, showers and toilets), 4 hard surface tennis courts, 1 hard multi-play court, playground area, 1 multiuse playing field with 2 diamonds, skate pond, pond house, kiosk, and Little Free Library. Visitors to the park are estimated at 15,000-20,000 annually. Additional recreational fields are in Sachs Park and the “upper field” near the elementary school used for soccer and lacrosse. Town facilities are maintained by the Maintenance Department.

A playground is located at the Pound Ridge Elementary School. Privately-owned recreational facilities include a tennis club and two golf courses. An outdoor ping pong table stands in the public space of Pound Ridge Square, the local shopping center.

A note about other outdoor recreation: In Pound Ridge, public access to water recreation is limited. Fishing is allowed at Trinity Lake Reservoir and the town pond. Fishing and boating (permitted row boats only) are allowed at Cross River Reservoir. Deer hunting is restricted to bow and arrow in Westchester County; the PR Police Department supervises a deer management program. Fishing and hunting require a state license.

CV.b.02 - Walking, biking, and exercise trail network, and/or events: Despite narrow roads, bicyclists are common in Pound Ridge. As sidewalks are absent, walkers tend to use the secondary roads or hike in the preserves. About 60 miles of hiking trails lace 13 preserves in Pound Ridge as follows (in miles): Trinity Reservoir (1), Armstrong (1.5 + a portion on NYC DEP land connecting to Richards), Richards (.5), Bye (.6), Carolin’s Grove/ Lawther (1.1), Eastwoods (.9), Morgenthau (1), Clark (2), Halle (1.4), Town Park (.7) with Shelly’s Walk (.4), Bike Path (1.1), Russell (.3), Westchester Wilderness Walk/ Zofnass (5.9), Ward Pound Ridge (41.2 in Pound Ridge and Lewisboro). In 2021, boot scrapes were installed at 6 trailheads to reduce the spread of invasive species.

CV.b.03- Performances/events for art, dance, theatre, music, and/or cinema: Jazz Vespers by Pete Malinverni are hosted at The Community Church. Proud Day includes a battle of the bands. Bands play at other events such as the July 4 town-wide picnic, Food Truck Fridays, Harvest Festival, and a 10-part Concert Series at the Town Pool. Movies are shown outdoors in the Town Park by the Recreation Department and the parking lot of the Pound Ridge Square as a fundraiser by Friends of Pound Ridge. A small stage, once used by a local theater group, is available in Conant Hall and an outdoor stage is planned for the Village Green.

Over two dozen **community events** hosted by a variety of organizations fill the calendar: Antiques and Artisans Shows, Pound Ridge Proud Day, Memorial Day Parade plus town pool opening and PBA Barbeque, Lobster Festival, Food Truck Fridays, Town Park Movies, Concerts, 4th of July Fireworks & Picnic, Pound Ridge Car Show, Harvest Festival, Halloween Street of Treats, Menorah and Christmas Tree Lightings, Community Golf Tournament, Tailgate/Drive-In Movie, Winter Skate, Cornhole Championships, Earthday Everyday Festival, Holiday Stroll, Doggie Parade, Town-wide Tag Sale, 9/11 Memorial Service, Garden

Conservancy Open Days at Best/ Stein garden, Early voting, and Repair Cafes. The Pound Ridge Garden Club presents a biennial Flower Show, free and open to the public, to display floral designs and horticulture.

CV.b.04- Run/walk/bike Event: Three local **run/walk/bike events** are (1) Sundayruns.org, hosted by the Leatherman Harriers, a large and informal group of trail and ultra-runners. The typical meeting place is Ward Pound Ridge, though locations vary. (2) The [Leatherman's Loop](#), founded in 1987, a unique **10k trail run** at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in the communities of Pound Ridge and Lewisboro. The organizers believe it is the largest trail race east of the Mississippi River and possibly the **third largest trail race*** in the United States (depending on the year), with over 1,300 finishers in its 32nd and 33rd years [2018](#) and [2019](#). Runners consistently say it is one of the [best trail races](#) out there. (3) In 2020, the Recreation Department organized a Family Ride. Kayak and canoe events not be permitted on local reservoirs.

CV.b.05- Benches and seating near walking, exercise and playground areas Approximately 40 benches and other options for seating are provided by the municipality. These options include: At Town Park, 10 benches, 15 picnic tables, plus a little stadium seating and 4 small sets of bleachers; Within the swimming pool area, 50 lounge chairs; At Town House, 3 benches and a gazebo; Along the Bike Path, 4 benches; In the business district, 15 benches; In Lions Park, 4 benches; In Sachs Park, 2 benches and 1 picnic table.

CV.b.06- Shade Structures offering shade (8) in the Town Park are the Pond house, Picnic Pavilion, and four dugouts. Gazebos are located in the playground in Town Park (1) and at Town House (1). A great deal of shade is provided by the natural tree canopy throughout Pound Ridge.

CV.b.07- Play areas exist, age-appropriate, ADA compliant, inspected: Inspected annually.

CV.b.08 - Public library/resources center available for all ages and abilities: Pound Ridge Library, established in 1952, was built around a one-room schoolhouse. The library has a broad and diverse collection of over 50,000 items including books, magazines, DVD's, music CD's and audio books, and a Local and Heritage Seed Collection. PRL offers interlibrary loans plus electronic database searching and Internet access for reference and research. As the cultural center of the town, the library offers art exhibits and activities such as book and film discussions, yoga, Tai Chi, arts and crafts, driver safety programs, films, concerts, lectures and other programs throughout the year. The library also sponsors a myriad of children's activities including winter and spring vacation programs, story hours, holiday happenings, arts and crafts workshops, musical performances, and the annual Summer Reading Program. The library serves as an emergency heating and cooling center.

Pound Ridge Museum is housed in a former Lecture Room, a small space owned and maintained by the Town. Located in the Hamlet next to Conant Hall, the museum is chartered by the NYS Department of Education and sponsored by the PR Historical Society. Events, programs for school groups, and exhibits are funded by the Historical Society. See also Celebrating Heritage (p. 20).

CV.b.09 - Describe the community center: Not Applicable. The Library (see above) and Conant Hall provide indoor spaces. Conant Hall, formerly a church, has two rooms (one with a small stage), a kitchen, plus basement. With a capacity to hold 190 people and parking for 30 cars, it is used for social gatherings, events, and indoor activities such as Neighbor-to-Neighbor senior gatherings, Repair Cafes, yoga and Zumba classes, and Open Mike nights. The facility can be rented. The basement is used for storage, including archived materials owned by the PR Historical Society. The gymnasium of PR Elementary School is used by the Recreation Department for some programs.

CV.b.10 - Farmers' Market(s) location and frequency: Sunday Farmers' Market (April- November), Kiwi Outdoor Market Place (3 summer Saturdays), Pound Ridge Organics (CSA; year-round, indoor farmers' market) and Sweet Earth Co. (a sustainable flower farm & flower CSA).

Community Involvement Volunteerism and involvement is a theme that runs through this narrative.

CV.c.01-Community gardening sites: The community garden at the Pound Ridge Elementary School is open throughout the summer to all who wish to harvest vegetables and care for the garden planted by the students. In

the past, sites have been offered by two different organizations, the Lions and the Pound Ridge Garden Club. The Lions (inactive) set up and fenced raised beds in Lions Park. The Garden Club helped residents at A-Home. These programs were underutilized and discontinued.

CV.c.02-Level of participation in food banks, hunger relief, etc. Addressing those in need:

- Hunger Relief: In December 2020, the level of food insecurity in Pound Ridge was assessed by inquiries with the *Community Center of Northern Westchester*, *Mt Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry*, and the Town’s *Office for Senior Programs and Services*.

Organization	Data (Dec. 2020)
Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry	8 families (typically the same as below)
Community Center of N. Westchester	8 families
Office for Senior Programs and Services	0 requests for support

Hunger relief has been addressed in the following ways.

- The Office for Senior Programs and Services maintains a list of services.
- Kahlo, a local business, hosts a drop-off collection site for Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry and Community Center of Northern Westchester as needed.
- New Dawn Family Resource Center, through an initiative coordinated by the PR Police Department, along with donations from NYS Electric & Gas, a private donor and a discount donated by The Market, contributed groceries to a local food pantry in Oct. 2020, Dec. 2020, Dec. 2021.
- Food Drives have been organized by the local post office and Pound Ridge Boy Scout Troop #1.
- Affordable housing is limited in Pound Ridge. The Town’s Housing Board consists of a chair appointed for one year and seven members appointed for two-year terms. Its mission is to administer Town regulations, as outlined in Article XV, §113.99 in the Zoning Regulations. The Board's duties are to qualify residents for affordable units based upon set criteria, maintain a list of qualified applicants, identify resident housing needs and potential solutions to fill those needs, and make recommendations to the Town Board.
- Heat Insecurity: Data about heat insecurity is hard to find. The latest available information indicated that based upon the zip code 10576, there were 31 Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) recipients during the 2017-18 HEAP season. HEAP helps low-income people to pay the cost of heating their homes. Information about energy-saving programs for low-income and middle-income households reaches the Pound Ridge community through the community e-news, school, and senior services.
- Domestic Violence: The communities of Northern Westchester provide privacy in a country setting 40 minutes from White Plains and 70 minutes from Manhattan. However, the charm of 2-4 acre lots can mask a challenging situation for victims of intimate partner, family, and sexual abuse, isolating them when they need help the most. *New Dawn Family Resource Center's* goal is to provide and expand support for programs and services for victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, elder abuse, and human trafficking in northern Westchester. While the center is not located in Pound Ridge, it is due to the active leadership of members of the Pound Ridge community that *New Dawn* exists.

CV.c.03- Participation in Civic events such as Bike to Work Days, Walk to School Days, etc. Our town roads do not support certain events. The following organizations provide the leadership for annual activities and civic events: Conservation Board: National Arbor Day Celebration, NYS DEC Big Nights Amphibian Rescue (state), Repair Café (international & regional), annual Roadside Spring Clean-up (local)

Friends of Pound Ridge: Earth Day Everyday (national)
The Invasives Project-Pound Ridge: NYS DEC Invasive Species Week (state)
Pound Ridge Partnership: PR PROUD Day (local)

Pound Ridge Land Conservancy: volunteer activities on the preserves
Neighbor-to-Neighbor: social gatherings, trips, and activities for senior citizens

CV.c.04-Voluntary (non-mandated HOA) neighborhood organizations in place- The following private HOA or lake associations exist for a variety of reasons: Autumn Ridge (neighborhood), Blue Heron Lake Association, Briarwood HOA, Inc (Hoyt Road), Lake Kitchawan Conservation Committee 501(c) 4 Little George Lake, Rock Rimmon Ponds HOA (Lower Shad & Long Ridge), Town Ponds HOA, Inc. (Winterbottom).

CV.c.05 - Programs to encourage youth involvement: Girl and Boy Scouts, PR Swim & Dive Team, Bedford Pound Ridge Little League, Katonah-Lewisboro-Bedford Softball, Bedford Youth Soccer, Fox Lane Youth Lacrosse, PR Youth Flag Football. The PR Partnership Kids group is organized on a project basis.

CV.c.06 - Recognition programs for volunteers: Recognition for volunteers ranges from plaques, appreciation lunches, to extending July 4 parking privileges and invitations to the Town House Holiday party. Town recognition for Fire Department and Ambulance Corps volunteers include a free pool pass and, if they own property in town, a reduction in property taxes. The Recreation Department recognizes those who support and enhance their activities. In 2018 the "Friends of Felice" award was started for residents who give tirelessly to the community. The names of awardees are added to a plaque hanging prominently among other plaques in Conant Hall used for meetings and social gatherings. In 2021, the Town Board and Conservation Board planted a tree to recognize the essential and frontline workers who kept the community functioning at the onset of the pandemic. Annually, the Pound Ridge Garden Club presents the Margery Sachs Award to a resident who has made a difference in the community. The Ambulance Corps posts a profile of a member every week on its Facebook page, on Member Monday.

CV. ITEMS OF SPECIAL NOTE –

Community volunteers also support the Recreation Department’s senior programs and youth sports activities (see CV.c.05); donate untold hours to our volunteer PR Fire Department, and PR Ambulance Corp, and through private organizations such as PR Business Association, PR Community Church, PR Historical Society, PR Land Conservancy, PR Library Foundation, PR Garden Club, and PR Newcomers and Neighbors, Pound Ridge Partnership, and Friends of Pound Ridge. Of this list, three programs deserve special note:

(1) **Neighbor to Neighbor** is a municipal-funded effort that helps Pound Ridge Seniors and disabled residents in times of need and organizes social activities. N2N is coordinated by the Town Recreation Department Senior Programs and Services. Community volunteers provide services such as transportation to doctors, food shopping, and delivering hot meals to a home if someone is temporarily unable to cook. In addition, N2N offers information related to senior issues, the Call Reassurance program, File of Life and a medical equipment loan program. Throughout the year, N2N sponsors senior gatherings and holiday-themed events. PR is a member of a consortium that provides recreation opportunities for disabled residents (Northeast Special Recreation).

(2) **Friends of Pound Ridge**, a recognized 501(c)(3), was created in 2018 to support and advocate for the sound development, enhancement, upkeep and general beautification of parks, recreation facilities, business district, other public spaces, and programming within and for the Town of Pound Ridge. FoPR has created community events, sometimes combining recreational opportunities with fundraising. Examples are a winter popup skating rink in the business district, a FoPR drive-in movie, free town-wide Memorial Day BBQ, a popup water park in the Town Park, a Community Golf Championship, Community Cornhole Tournament, and Annual Chili & Rib

Cookoff and Cornbread Bake-off, co-produced with the PTA at the local elementary school (PRESFEST). FoPR funded and organized the rebuilding of the Pond house in the Town Park. Other initiatives are described under Environmental Efforts (p. 16) and Overall Impression (p. 22). At its core, FoPR is a community organization. FoPR makes a point to get behind good people and good causes and has co-produced events with PRES, The PRPBA, The Market, PRFD, PRVAC, Conservation Board, etc.

(3) **Pound Ridge Partnership**, established in 2010, is an independent, 501(c)(3), non-partisan, non-membership, community-based organization aimed at bringing together residents, business owners, landlords, and community leaders to support and improve the Pound Ridge Business District. The PRP, led by an energetic group of volunteers, is responsible for Pound Ridge Proud Day, an annual beautification day in the business district at which resident plant approximately \$5,000 worth of plants; ten years of a Harvest Festival that attracted 5,000 last year - with those events each raising between \$30,000 - \$60,000 for designated projects; four years of monthly May-Sept. *Food Truck Fridays* attract folks from surrounding counties and help to make Pound Ridge a destination. With over \$100,000 of funds raised, the PRP's Street Light Project has replaced street lights in the business district to increase energy efficiency while contributing to the beautification and revitalization of the area. Another project was the installation of amphitheater seating in the Town Park, a \$70,000 project, overlooking a multi-use field, made of natural stone and handicap-accessible. The group provided essential maps and research to lay the groundwork for securing a \$1.8 million-dollar TEP (Traffic Enhancement Project) grant several years ago that completely transformed the business district with new sidewalks and safer traffic and pedestrian access. Other endeavors include entrance signage for the business district, an EV charging station, five years of a \$1,000/year scholarship for a graduating senior for community service, and projects referenced in Flowers (p. 9), Landscape (p. 13), Environmental Efforts (p.16) and Overall Impression (p.22).

FLOWERS, LANDSCAPED AREAS, AND TREES

A sense of place evolves from the rugged natural environment, rock outcrops, woodlands, and stone walls as well as the charm of the Hamlet and small town feel of Scotts Corners. The use of native forbs, shrubs, and trees are encouraged by the Conservation Board, Pound Ridge Land Conservancy, and Pound Ridge Partnership to connect the community to its natural surroundings and to support the local fauna, including insects and pollinators. A significant deer population presents a challenge; buck rub and browsing is common.

FLOWERS

Two organizations, Pound Ridge Garden Club and Pound Ridge Partnership, take the lead in beautification projects using flowers. For seventy years, the PRGC has encouraged residents to plant daffodils and has planted daffodils and perennials throughout town (see FL.e.02). In 2011, the PRP spearheaded a relatively new effort for organized, planned introduction of flowers into the commercial district. For the past several years, the PRP designated public spaces in the commercial district as project sites to be upgraded, and planted with perennials and shrubs (see table FL.e.02). In 2021, the PRP installed a total of 48 hanging baskets on 24 of 37 the town's lamp posts for the first time. The first year was a learning experience for the committee and the team responsible for watering. The goal for 2022 is 78 hanging baskets.

a. Leadership and Policy

FL.a.01 – Management of flower displays and four-season action plan: In place for 2022 is a new plan based on municipal, volunteer, and private engagement

FL.a.02 - Program to encourage pollinator habitats: The CB established a Pollinator Pathway (March 2019), based on Sarah Bergmann's concept (Seattle WA). Currently 106 residents and a few businesses are on the pathway.

b. Plan of Action

FL.b.01 – Action plan develop each season for procurement, scheduling, planting and maintenance of flower displays: Since 2010, the PRP Beautification Committee with procured, scheduled, planted and provided maintenance.

FL.b.02 - Recognition program(s) for business and/ or residences: Since 2010, the PRP has presented awards to businesses for plantings.

FL.b.03 - Demonstration/display garden(s): The PR Garden Club planted a demonstration Rain Garden at the Moat Family Green on their 75th Anniversary (2016) and continues to cares for it.

FL.b.04 - Community communication efforts about selection and care of flowers: The Beautification committee of the PRP proposed a palette, maintenance plan and request for funds for hanging baskets at Town Board meeting, open to the public and videotaped (12.14.2021).

c. Design

FL.c.01 - Unity and Variety: plant combinations create visual interest and dramatic effect while appearing coordinated: Designs provided by professionals (Louis Fusco, Tim Paterson, Amy Wilbur)

FL.c.02 - Suitability of Plant Selections: plants selected for location and environmental conditions: See FL.C.01

FL.c.03 - Distribution: displays found throughout the community: Primarily at triangles at road intersections

FL.c.04 - Location: displays are located to serve as focal points: See 55 Westchester Ave.

FL.c.05 - Seasonal Displays: seasonal displays with spring, summer, fall, and/or holiday displays: Daffodils; hanging baskets; pumpkins & Halloween décor; menorah, holiday wreaths, swags, and lights

FL.c.06 - Scale: if hanging baskets are in use, their size is in scale to their surroundings: 16” baskets

FL.c.07 - Scale: if containers are in use, their size is in scale to their surroundings: Minimal use of planters

FL.c.08 – Scale: inground flower displays are designed with mature plant heights in mind: Professionally designed

FL.c.09 - Color: pleasing color combinations (monochromatic, analogous, and/or complementary) are used: For 2022, white, lavender, purple, bright pink

FL.c.10 - Form: uses a number of different textures in all floral displays: Professionally designed

d. Maintenance

FL.d.01 - Watering procedures to maintain growth in place: An improved plan is in place for 2022 (year 2). The first year, a golf cart was donated by a local country club and equipped with a tank and long-handled wand.

FL.d.02 – Fertilization (appropriate fertilization procedures using slow-release, liquid fertilizers, and/or soil amendments: Jack's 20-3-19 (professional petunia) and some organic soil amendments

FL.d.03 – Grooming (regular pruning, dead-heading, removal, and replacement of dead plants): volunteers

FL.d.04 - Plant health strategies in place to monitor and manage pests and diseases (IPM-Integrated Pest Management): Volunteers are encouraged to scout monthly. The Town restricts the use of herbicides or pesticide.

FL.d.05 - Health and Vigor (plants are robust and floriferous):

e. Community Involvement

FL.e.01 - Volunteers donations and/or participation: Since 2011, PR Proud Day has connected residents, business owners, landlords and community leaders in town-wide improvement projects. In the spring 2021, five volunteers dug native plants from their gardens to planted along Shelly's Walk in the Town Park. Residents generously donate to the Pound Ridge Partnership-at-large and a subcommittee, Growing Pound Ridge via the website, outdoor events (tabling and kid-friendly coin toss games) and “Pennies for Posies” contribution cans.

FL.e.02 - Civic groups, garden clubs, Master Gardeners, and /or school floral-related programs and efforts: In 2022, local Master Gardeners and other volunteers introduced a Seed Library. The Garden Club has a long history of selling daffodil bulbs to fundraise, monthly speaker programs, and floral-related efforts, including

providing floral arrangements to Town House and the Library every week (see table below).

POUND RIDGE GARDEN CLUB <i>A Brief History of Beautification and Landscape Projects</i>	
1940s	Planted Victory Gardens; Landscaped Church Triangle
1950s	Landscaped town cemetery; assisted in landscaping library
1965	Planted nature area at Pound Ridge Elementary School
1966-67	Planted pond area and erected nature bulletin board at Town Park
1967	Supported Halle Ravine project; planted wildflower garden at Pound Ridge Reservation (with Rusticus and Bedford Garden Clubs)
1974	Consulted, designed and funded the "re-greening" of Scott's Corners
1975	Began bulb planting project (800 hyacinths and daffodils)
1975-76	Restored Pound Ridge cemeteries, prepared a booklet
1975-2003	Undertook Arbor Day memorial plantings at the Library and Town House
1977-79	Landscaped Ambulance Corps grounds
1984-87	Landscaped Conant Hall and Pound Ridge Museum
1989	Planted daffodils at Church and Library Triangles
1990	Landscaped Library Triangle
1992	Placed Memorial bench at Town House
1992-93	Re-landscaped Ambulance Corps grounds
1993	Landscaped Town Pool
1995	Cleaned up grounds of Police Station (with Boy Scouts)
1995-00	Planted bulbs along bicycle paths, at Town Park and Pound Ridge Elementary School
1996	Planted ground cover at Library, planted at Lyndel Road Group Home
1997	Planted Fancher Road Triangle (with NYNEX)
1999	Purchased two benches for the Clark Preserve
2001	Re-landscaped Conant Hall; planted 1,500 daffodil bulbs at Church Triangle
2002-03	Planted 9/11 Memorial at Church Triangle; re-landscaped Church Triangle
2004	Landscaped Upper Shad Triangle; planted 2,000 daffodil bulbs along Scenic Drive
2005	Landscaped Barnegat Road Triangle; planted 500 daffodil bulbs at Town Park and 300 daffodil bulbs at Church Triangle
2006	Planted new border garden at Town House; planted 880 daffodil bulbs on Westchester Avenue in front of Town House, 2500 daffodils bulbs along island on Pound Ridge Road; replanted Library Triangle

2007	Planted 400 daffodil bulbs and 8' American Holly at Town House; planted new andromeda at Library Triangle
2008	Planted daffodils at the entrance to the Town Park
2010	Planted 450 daffodil bulbs in Lions Park, a dogwood at the Town Park, and an andromeda at Conant Hall
2011	Planted native garden and 500 daffodils at Lions Park, two trees at the Town House and a raised vegetable garden bed at A-Home; initiated invasive removal and native plant reintroduction program at Henry Morgenthau Preserve.
2012	Re-landscaped Library entrance and Ambulance Corps; planted bulbs in Town Park, a dogwood tree at Pound Ridge Road Triangle, a magnolia tree at Ambulance Corps, and an elm tree at Town House.
2013	Planted a black tupelo tree and 900 daffodil bulbs at the Town House and 100 daffodil bulbs at Ambulance Corps.
2014	Provided 75 th Anniversary Rain Garden plan for Moat Family Green; placed Wilma Rogalin Memorial stone at Town House; planted daffodils and allium around town.
2015	Prepared and planted Rain Garden; added tupelo tree and dwarf andromeda shrubs to Town House grounds and boxwood shrubs to Wilma Rogalin Memorial stone; planted additional daffodils at Upper Shad Triangle and Moat Family Green.
2016	Dedicated Rain Garden at the Moat Family Green on 75 th Anniversary; planted five dogwoods and daffodils on Arbor Day; planted American Beech tree at police station.
2017	Partnered with PRLC on Arbor Day planting saplings at Halle Ravine; Continued to maintain the Moat Family Green.
2018	Added a row of <i>Ilex verticillata</i> for winter interest, behind the Rain Garden for Arbor Day. Planted boxwood in front of Police Station. Revamped the Historical Society garden originally planted between 1984 to 1987, added a new bluestone walkway/patio, teak bench and plaque honoring Quincy Carter Stuart.
2019	Planted a new native pollinator garden at the entrance to the Town House / Police Station. Planted an Acer sapling at the Town House as part of the 100 Year Time Capsule project.
2020	Beautification project at the Pound Ridge Cemetery, funded by a \$1000.00 grant from Plant America Community Project included six azalea bushes and 200 daffodils planted on the highly visible hill
2021	Planted 200 daffodil bulbs at northeast corner of Westchester Ave and Trinity Pass

LANDSCAPED AREAS

(Note: Deer roam throughout PR and most planted areas in PR are susceptible to deer browse.)

- Pound Ridge Garden Club landscape projects are summarized in Table FL.e.02 (above)
- Adopt-a-Triangle: In 2013, local landscaping companies were invited to adopt the planting and care of focal triangles at the Library (Pound Ridge Nursery), Community Church (Elmir Excavating), Pound Ridge Road (Luppino), and Upper Shad (Anderson). Some smaller triangles are planted by residents.
- Landscape projects in the business district (public and private) are summarized below.

Projects in the Business District	Date	Designer
Walk between 74 & 78 Westchester Ave (Blind Charlie's & Dinardo's)	Prior to 2011	Dave Anderson Landscaping, a gift to the town
Pocket Park between 70 & 74 Westchester, installed by PRP	2011	Louis Fusco for PRP
Butterfly Garden gardens at Pocket Park, Kahlo, Pet Boutique, by PRP	2018	PRP Beautification Committee
Between 71 & 73 Westchester Ave (Kitchen Table), by owner	2015	Tim Paterson, Highland Designs

NE corner of 55 Westchester Ave & Trinity Pass, by GPR/PRP	Oct. 2021	Louis Fusco for GPR/PRP
Harvest Walk between Albano's & Dynax, by PRP	Target date 2022	Louis Fusco for PRP
The Village Green at 77 Westchester Ave, gift to town	Target date 2022	Louis Fusco for the town

a. Leadership and Policy

LA.a.01 - Management of planting public landscaped areas: In 2022 a monthly, volunteer plan was initiated

LA.a.02 - Municipal landscape ordinances/ commercial development: § 113-47 **Planned Business B (PB-B) "District."**

LA.a.03- Municipal ordinance requiring landscaping for new residential developments: N/A

b. Plan of Action

LA.b.01 - Planning for restoration of natural areas and management of invasive plants: In 2019-2020, Henry Morgenthau Preserve restored native shrubs and perennials along Westchester Ave. In 2021, PRLC restored Olesen Preserve, a 6-acre link in a corridor spanning 1,800 acres, with 300 native plants and six wood duck nesting boxes. In 2021, volunteers planted native wildflowers along Shelly's Walk in the Town Park.

LA.b.02- Strategy for management of invasive plants: The Invasives Project-Pound Ridge (TIP) was established in winter 2012 with a mission to protect the natural beauty of PR, preserve wildlife habitat, encourage the use of native plant species, and limit the spread of invasive species. Volunteers write press releases, staff tabling events, present programs at the library, arrange work parties on public properties, and provide site consultations to residents. The site consultations are unique to TIP and highly successful. Two volunteers walk the property with the owner to identify invasive plants to manage and native plants to nurture. Since 2012, TIP has provided consultations for 10% of the community (185 homeowners) representing 281 acres. Representatives of TIP have been invited to talk about the program in the region and throughout the state

LA.b.03 - Demonstration/display gardens: See (1) demonstration Rain Garden (see FL.b.03), on Westchester Ave; (2) demonstration rain barrel in front of Town House.

LA.b.04 - Communication of "Right Plant in the Right Place" and/or other plant issues: The PR Garden Club invites the public to its monthly programs. TIP encourages the use of native plants. The CB provides outreach and education through tabling events, guest speakers, and an extensive webpage on the Town's website.

LA.b.05 - Recognition program for attractive landscapes: Since 2011, PRP has awarded businesses for installations.

LA.b.06 - School gardening programs: After a full re-envisioning and implementation in 2021 (with many generous contributions from our community), the PR Elementary School garden is more vibrant than ever. The students planted many veggies and a handful of different pollinator gardens – the garden is on the pollinator pathway, after all! Students weeded, watered, harvested, and in the spring, they will remove the senescence of winter to build upon the roots laid this past year. In addition to foundational lessons on the life cycle of a seed, photosynthesis, pollination and the life cycle of a bulb, we anticipate offering lessons on capillary action, composting, seed harvesting, the interconnection of living things and the importance of soil health and chemical free/organic gardening. Appreciation for nature begins young & it's up to us to teach them right!

c. Design

LA.c.01- Unity and variety of plant combinations create visual interest while appearing coordinated: Professionally designed by Louis Fusco, Tim McPherson, Anderson Landscaping

LA.c.02- Suitability of Plant Selections for location and environmental conditions: Professionally designed

LA.c.03- Distribution of landscaping throughout the community and at key locations: In the business district and intersections of primary roads (the triangles)

d. Maintenance

LA.d.01- Grooming (pruning of plants, removal and/or replacement of dead plants): Part of monthly plan

- LA.d.02-** Plant Health (Plants display health and vigor, and Integrated Pest Management or IPM strategies in place to monitor and manage diseases and pests): Part of monthly plan
- LA.d.03-** Mulch from renewable, sustainable sources in appropriate places: Applied annually (June) in business district by PRP. Wood chips sourced from Town applied where/when needed by Town Maintenance.
- LA.d.04-** Weed Management strategies in place to manage weeds (removal and management): Part of monthly plan
- LA.d.05-** Health and Vigor (plants are robust):
- LA.d.06-** Turf Care (proper mowing, edging, and replacement of dead turf): Turf is minimal in Business District
- LA.d.07 -** Turf Health- grassy areas display health and vigor, and procedures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategies are in place to monitor and manage diseases, pests, and weeds: The municipality does not permit the use of herbicides or pesticides by its Maintenance and Highway Department.

e. Community Involvement

- LA.e.01 -** Volunteers assist in funding, design, installation and/ or care of landscaped areas and/or turf in public areas: Most of the landscaped areas are the results of the efforts of volunteer organizations: Pound Ridge Garden Club and two committees (Beautification and Growing Pound Ridge) of the Pound Ridge Partnership
- LA.e.02-**Community educational programs offered related to plant material, including specialty gardens. The PRGC, CB, PRLC, and TIP provide outreach and education related to plant material, native and invasive plants, pollinator plants, and landscapes. Pound Ridge was home to Sarah Stein, author of Noah’s Garden, and her innovative garden is open to visitors through the Garden Conservancy.

f. Item of Special Note

The Invasives Project- Pound Ridge (see LA.b.02)

URBAN FORESTRY

The trees in our developed settings are generally the responsibility of the Town Board, Highway and Maintenance Departments, Building Inspector, and the Conservation Board. The Town Board oversees the planting of memorial trees and provides a budget for the highway and maintenance departments. These departments primarily remove or oversee the removal of dead and fallen trees and hazardous branches. The Building Inspector and Conservation Board serve as a tree board. The Conservation Board has planted trees in the town with grants. Pound Ridge has been a Tree City since 2015 and earned Growth Awards in 2020 and 2021. Since 1973, the PR Garden Club has traditionally planted one or more trees on Arbor Day. The Conservation Board, PR Land Conservancy, and the Garden Club collaborate to celebrate Arbor Day. One anticipated outcome of the municipal landscape plan is recommendations for planting sites and tree species.

a. Leadership and Policy

- UF.a.04 -** Municipal ordinance(s) enacted/enforced for protection of trees during construction: by Building Inspector
- UF.a.05 -** Currently a Tree City USA community: Tree City 2015 to present; Growth Awards in 2020 to present. Annual celebration includes Supervisor’s proclamation, the planting of tree(s), tabling and tree give away (75 saplings annually since 2019), the planting of saplings by volunteers or elementary students in a local preserve and publicity. Since 1973, the PR Garden Club has traditionally planted one or more trees on Arbor Day.

b. Plan of Action

- UF.b.01 -** Tree inventory for public areas is complete within the past ten years: For business district (2021)
- UF.b.02 -** Annual tree planting program for public areas: Planted in town, at Town House, Sachs Park, Lions Park, local preserves by CB, PRGC, PRLC.
- UF.b.03 -** Management strategies for removal of dead, imperiled, and invasive trees in public areas: Responsibility of Town Highway and Maintenance Departments; Contracted as needed.
- UF.b.04 -** Policy in place for identification and protection of historic trees: None identified (Second-growth forest)

c. Design

An anticipated outcome of the municipal landscape plan is recommendations for planting sites and trees.

UF.c.01 – Variety (appropriate selection and diversity of tree species being planted): preference for native trees

UF.c.02 -Placement practices include proper spacing and planting area for optimal root and canopy growth: ✓

UF.c.03 - Planting: current practices include correct tree planting depth (trunk flare at/above grade): ✓

UF.c.04 – Arboretum/Park in place with labels and descriptive signage: N/A

d. Maintenance

UF.d.01 - Tree health: Native trees are favored and selected for disease/pest resistance and site conditions.

UF.d.02 - Watering, mulching, and pruning for new trees: All newly planted trees regularly watered year 1 and as needed year 2. Trees are properly mulched (no volcanos). Conservation Board communicates best practices with public.

UF.d.03 - Pruning for established trees: Low branches limbed and canopy raised as needed for pedestrian or car traffic.

e. Community Involvement

UF.e.01 - Policy for donations to tree planting in public areas (memorial trees, etc.) in place: Managed by Town Board.

UF.e.02 - Community participates in Arbor Day activities: organized by CB, PRGC, PRLC

UF.e.03 - Volunteers assist in planting and/or care: In 2022, CB established nursery with 50 native hardwood whips

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS

The Town’s environmental resources, its extensive wetlands, small streams, and large water bodies embedded in a rugged terrain, are defining elements of the community character. The protection of the environment is a long-standing and deeply felt concern of the residents. Today no greater issue confronts us than climate change.

Milestones

Conservation Advisory Council formed	1968	Established to advise in the development, management and protection of the Town's natural resources.
Wetlands Ordinance adopted and Water Control Commission formed	1969	The Town's wetland ordinance was created to provide for the protection, preservation, proper maintenance and use of the Town's ponds, lakes, streams and wetlands, and to protect potable surface and groundwater. Any proposed development within the controlled area must be reviewed by the Water Control Commission.
Open Space Inventory adopted and Conservation Board formed	1973	Adopted by the Town Board in 1973 by Resolution, the Conservation Board's involvement is mandated if property listed on the Open Space Inventory is involved.
Tree Preservation Ordinance	1990	Adopted in 1990 and amended in its entirety in 2012, the Tree Preservation Ordinance to prevent the indiscriminate or unnecessary destruction of trees within the Town.
Town-wide referendum authorizes tax-generated revenue to purchase undeveloped land, resulting in Open Space Acquisitions Committee being formed	2001	The Town Board formed the Open Space Acquisitions Committee in 2001, following the approval by Town voters in November 2000 of an Open Space ballot proposition that created a special property tax levy for funds for the purchase of Open Space, with criteria for acquisitions developed and priority parcels chosen.
Greenway Compact	2005	Adopted by the Town Board in 2005 and pursuant to the provisions of § 44-0119 of the Environmental Conservation Law of the State of New York, the Town adopted the statement of policies, principles and guidelines detailed in The Greenprint for a Sustainable Future, and as a result thereof Pound Ridge became a participating community in the Westchester County Greenway Compact Plan.
Energy Action Committee (EAC) formed	2009	The EAC was established to review opportunities for improved sustainability and energy efficiency throughout the Town.
Storm water management program	2010	MS4 in place circa 2010 per NYSDEC requirements: SPDES General Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) - GP-0-10-002

Government Operations and Community Greenhouse Gas Inventories; Climate Action Plans	2012	In 2012 Pound Ridge and six other communities participating in the Northern Westchester Energy Action Consortium (NWEAC) collaborated and were awarded a grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to review and prepare municipal and community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and a Climate Action Plan (CAP), with the CAP adopted by the Town in 2020.
Energize NY Finance	2013	Adopted by the Town Board in 2013 by Resolution to provide clean energy financing to property owners for the installation of renewable energy systems and energy efficiency measures.
Wastewater Taskforce	2015	The Wastewater Task Force was formed to develop potential solutions to problems associated with septic systems in Scotts Corners, the Town's business district.
Community Choice Aggregation	2018	Working together with Sustainable Westchester, the Town established a Community Choice Aggregation program pursuant to which the energy purchasing power of Town residents was aggregated thereby providing residents the opportunity to lower overall energy costs, support clean energy innovation and investment, and protect the environment.
Town Recognized as Clean Energy Community by NYSDEC	2019	Town became an NYS Clean Energy Community in 2019 based on its Solarize Campaign, Energy Code Enforcement training, Community Choice Aggregation, and the creation of an Energize New York Financing program.
Climate Smart Community (CSC) Task Force established	2019	The CSC Task Force serves a leadership role in reducing the Town's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and in both mitigating the effects of, and making the Town more resilient to, climate change.
Electric vehicles and charging stations Town Recognized as Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community	2021	The first E/V charging station was installed in 2021 in a public parking area as you enter the business district.

a. Leadership and Policy Sustainability issues and the protection of natural resources are addressed by many town agencies including, but not limited to the Planning Board, Water Control Commission, Conservation Board, Building Department, and Open Space Acquisitions Advisory. Three separate agencies of the Town at present address climate issues: Conservation Board; Energy Action Committee; and Climate Smart Community Task Force. Created in 1973, the Conservation Board's role is to advise as to the management and protection of the Town's natural resources, and to promote the long term, judicious and sustainable use of these resources. The Energy Action Committee was formed in 2009 by the Town Board to review opportunities for improved sustainability and energy efficiency throughout the Town. In 2019 the Town Board passed a resolution establishing the Climate Smart Community Task Force to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, to lessen the Town's carbon footprint, and to coordinate efforts to become a certified climate smart community. All three agencies recommend actions to the Town Board to advance these goals. Various prior activities, combined with the Town's present efforts, provide the Town with a plan of action for addressing climate change.

EE.a.01 - Environmental Advisory Board(s) and/or Green Team(s) in place: Conservation Board, Energy Action Committee, Climate Smart Community Task Force

EE.a.02 - Electric/alternative fuel vehicle(s) used by municipality: Not at this time

EE.a.03 - Electric vehicle charging station(s) provided: In 2021, one E/V charging station was installed and a proposal for 10 additional stations submitted.

EE.a.04 – Storm water management policies in place and enforced: Pound Ridge regularly submits its MS4 report.

EE.a.05 - Pet waste policies in place and enforced: See [§ 91A-1 / Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination](#)

b. Plan of Action

EE.b.01 - Sustainability Action Plan in place: National Resources Inventory (2018) includes recommendations

EE.b.02 - Effective municipal/civic education re/ environmental efforts for children and adults: CB outreach and education plus PRGC, PRLC, Henry Morgenthau Preserve, and Mianus River Gorge Preserve.

EE.b.03 - Effective notification to community regarding pesticide applications and mosquito spraying: Generally, Town policy does not permit the application of pesticides and herbicides. State regulates notification procedures.

c. Resource Conservation

Water Resource protection concerns every resident as all houses and businesses are dependent on wells. In addition, three reservoirs (Trinity, Mill, and Sisquowit) provide drinking water to New York City, and in Ct, to Stamford and Greenwich. PR adopted Water Control Commission Legislation in 1969 (Local Law 4, amended 1971), perhaps being the first town in the state to have a wetlands ordinance. The existing code was adopted in 1986 to protect ponds, lakes, reservoirs, natural drainage systems, and wetlands from encroachment, alteration, pollution, or elimination (found in Chapter 63 of the Town Code). The Freshwater Wetlands Ordinance created the Water Control Commission and provides the tools to protect and preserve our existing water resources. The Commission consists of five appointed residents who meet once a month to review applications for proposed work with concern for the preservation of our wetlands, protection from pollutants, and the maintenance of existing water flows.

EE.c.01 - Bio-swailes and/or rain gardens to reduce storm-water run-off pollution: Rain garden at Moet Family Green, Westchester Ave; retention basins at Dann Farms, Joshua Hobby Lane, and a residence on Old Stone Hill

EE.c.02 - Home energy audit/incentives available: Through Dutchess County Extension

EE.c.03 - Waterwise irrigation in place: The municipality does not irrigate.

EE.c.04 - Low-flow water device incentives available: N/A

d. Trash, Recycling, and Reuse Management

Waste Management is complicated in this semi-rural community. Information is available on the town website. The town does not pick-up any waste materials, therefore homeowners must contract with private carters for trash pick-up. Mixed recycling and compost can be picked up by a private carter or brought to the town's recycling center, which includes a compost collection site. Recently plastic bags and battery collection centers have been established at the Pound Ridge Library. Currently the Friends of Pound Ridge is providing leadership for a waste reduction campaign.

EE.d.01 - Residential curbside trash collection is available and/or required:- Resident contract with approved carters

EE.d.02 - Residential curbside recycling collection and/or collection points are in place: Town run recycling center

EE.d.03 - Recycling containers in public areas and for private use, and with standardized labels: ✓

EE.d.04 - Yard waste composting pick-up and/ or drop-off available: Yard waste is generally kept onsite; compost drop-off is available for smaller quantities

EE.d.05 - Prescription drug drop-off(s) available: Town Police Station or Northern Westchester Hospital.

EE.d.06 - Hazardous waste and/or electronics waste collection or drop-off(s) available: Electronics at town facility; HazMat through Westchester County by appointment

EE.d.07 - Plastic bag and/or foam container collection points: through 2022 NextTrex campaign

EE.d.08 - Reuse opportunities are available: Community Tag Sale, Little Free Library, Repair Café (April, October)

e. Community Involvement Pound Ridge is proud of its long-standing engagement with environmental issues.

EE.e.01 – Community events to enhance public awareness of environmental issues and distribution of information on effective recycling (lack of contamination): *Earth Day Everyday*, coordinated by Friends of Pound Ridge (more below)

In addition to the volunteers serving on the Town’s Conservation Board, Energy Action Committee, Water Control Commission, Open Space Acquisition Committee, and Climate Smart Task Force, the following community organizations support environment-related efforts:

Pound Ridge Garden Club For more than 70 years, the PRGC has had a standing Conservation Committee. Members collaborate on environmental efforts and civic projects such as Arbor Day tree plantings and planting and maintaining a demonstration rain garden (refer to Table FL.e.02).

Growing Pound Ridge, a committee of the Pound Ridge Partnership (See p. 10) formed in 2020, is responsible for this application to America in Bloom. Environmental efforts of GPR include native plantings along Shelly’s Walk in the Town Park, establishing a local and heritage seed library, and “Pennies for Posies” fundraiser, January to October 2021, culminating in a native plant installation at the NE corner of Westchester Ave and Trinity Pass.

Friends of Pound Ridge (See p. 9) A 2021 initiative, *Earth Day Everyday* aspires to share ways to live a low waste lifestyle during its annual Earth Day celebration, participating at other public events, and through its informative website, www.earthdayeveryday.co. The Earth Day event brings together the community, local and regional organizations, and businesses to educate and promote continued awareness of best practices that reduce our carbon footprint. FoPR has become a visible presence at local events with its Earth Day Everyday Low Waste Popup which can include a Water Refill Station, staffed Waste Stations, and a Compost Education Table. In addition, it works with local event coordinators, food suppliers, and other vendors, to reduce the use of single-use items by replacing them with compostable alternatives and through recommendations on waste reduction behaviors such as using refillable water bottles and holding on to compostable serve-ware until they are finished.

The Invasives Project-Pound Ridge (Tip-PR) is a 2012 initiative of HMP, with a mission to protect the natural beauty of Pound Ridge, preserve wildlife habitat, encourage the use of native plant species, and limit the spread of invasive species. Volunteers educate through press releases, tabling events, and programs at the library, arrange work parties on public properties, and provide site consultations to residents. The site consultations are unique to The Invasives Project and highly successful. Two volunteers walk the property with the owner and identify invasive plants to manage and native plants to nurture. Since 2012, TIP has provided consultations for 10% of the community (185 homeowners) representing 281 acres. Representatives of TIP have been invited to talk about the program at conferences throughout the state (Lower Hudson Partners in Regional Invasive Species Management at New York Botanical Gardens; NYS Conservation Advisory Commissions on Zoom).

EE.e.03 - School curricula programs and events to encourage youth involvement: The school (PRES) follows NY state curriculum guidelines. The community garden at the school and PRLC provide outdoor education for students. The Recreation Department summer day camp includes outdoor education programs. HMP funds presentations at the day camp and throughout the year at the library. Recent Eagle Scout projects (2020) include a bird blind at HMP and fishing kiosk at Town Park.

f. Items of Special Note:

- In 2021, Pound Ridge became a **NYS Bronze Certified Climate Smart Community** (one of 72).
- **Land Preservation** Over one-third of Pound Ridge is open space, providing quality wildlife habitat and significant ecological benefits to a town of unparalleled scenic beauty and wildlands. With rolling hillsides, second-growth woodlands, small meadows, and old stone walls stacked by early settlers, wetlands, ponds, streams, and vistas created by lakes and reservoirs, large areas of open space are central to the town’s identity. Land preservation is achieved with purchases, conservation easements, and donations by individuals, the town’s Open Space Acquisition Committee, and four private organizations: HMP (35 acres), PRLC (560 acres), Mianus River Gorge (93.8) and Westchester Land Trust (approx. 705 acres) plus two water companies. The open space that characterizes Pound Ridge gives it a unique place in the county and perhaps within the tri-state area. The town provides refugia and

corridors for wildlife (79% of the community is located within significant habitats), as the lungs of Westchester County (the large forested areas clean the air), and as a significant carbon sink for limiting climate change.

- **The Invasives Project- Pound Ridge** (see EE.e.01)
- **Recycle Right with Riley**- Since 2019, Riley Hester, a high school student, has actively motivated residents to recycle in Pound Ridge by providing opportunities to recycle hard-to-recycle materials. Her latest efforts include partnering with the library to provide for the collection of batteries and plastic bags.

CELEBRATING OUR HERITAGE

Another important element of a community's character is its known 'roots' and place in history. Our heritage is (1) shared with the public by the Historical Society through a variety of activities and programs and (2) formally protected through the Landmarks and Historic District Commission. Since 1976, when the Landmarks & Historic District Commission was formed, 70 homes and properties have been landmarked along with 13 cemeteries. On November 14, 1973, the Hamlet became a Town Historic District and in 1985, the Hamlet was added to the National Register of Historic Places. When the Town Board officially recognized the importance of Pound Ridge's history in 1976 with a law allowing for the protection, enhancement, and perpetuation of historically significant buildings and historic districts it was not simply an attempt to remember the past. It was an acknowledgement of something important to everyday life: Historic preservation, the law states, is "a public necessity and is required in the interest of the prosperity and welfare of the people."

a. Leadership and Policy

In Pound Ridge, landmarking is a cooperative process that respects land-owners and relies on their voluntary participation. It's a process that results in historical discovery and education. And it can bring personal and civic pride in being associated with an historically significant place and in being part of the preservation of community character. Landmark status, as the town law states, can also "stabilize and improve property values."

Landmark status helps preserve the character of the exterior of historic buildings visible from public roads (interiors are not landmarked). Cemeteries and some stone walls have also been landmarked, and the Hamlet has been designated a historic district. The first step to landmark a building or property is to contact the Landmarks Commission. Landmark designation follows an application to the Commission and a public hearing. The owners of landmark buildings are awarded a plaque to display on an exterior wall and a certificate of designation. Once a building is landmarked, exterior alterations visible from the road require a Certificate of Appropriateness, which the Landmarks Commission grants after working with the owners to ensure that the alterations maintain the building's historic character. The Commission strives to balance homeowners' needs with preservation goals, working in good faith and with a spirit of cooperation.

The Landmarks and Historic District Commission consists of nine resident members appointed by the Town Board for terms of three years. The membership includes the Town Historian, one or more resident owners in an historic district of a landmark, and when available, one architect. All members serve without compensation. Current commission members include architects, designers, lawyers, scholars, the Town Historian, Pound Ridge natives and newcomers to the community. The Commission's members are dedicated to helping residents determine the historic value of your property, deciding if landmarking is right for you, and in making the process easy and rewarding. A majority of the Commission constitutes a quorum.

Historic preservation ordinance: The Town Code of Pound Ridge, available through the town website, has specific information on landmarking and the Landmarks Commission. (See Town Code Chapter 17- Historic Districts or <https://www.ecode360.com/6832420>). Information is available on the Town website>Landmarks.

Pound Ridge Historical Society, founded in 1971, discovers, preserves and distributes material about Pound Ridge and its past. For the local schools, volunteers take a trunk full of interesting artifacts and toys from the collection to the Pound Ridge Community Church Playschool and talk about growing up in this town long ago. Third grade classes at the Pound Ridge Elementary School enjoy a historic bus tour of Pound Ridge, stopping at a landmarked house and the museum for a lesson about the town's one-room schoolhouses. Each Fall, 5th grade classes walk from the elementary school to the Pound Ridge Museum for a lesson about Pound Ridge's history. For high school students, the Hiram Halle Prize was established in 2016 as a competition, with a \$2,000 scholarship to the student with the best-executed local history project. For adults, the Society has offered narrated bus tours of the town. In addition, the Society maintains a small museum with a permanent and changing exhibits and archives historical documents and objects. The PRHS prides itself on being the memory-keepers of Pound Ridge and keeping people in touch with Pound Ridge and its fascinating roots. Prior to COVID, the PRHS held an annual, well-attended luncheon for members and guests.

<https://www.poundridgehistorical.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PoundRidgeHistoricalSociety/posts/5604111362948154>

The **PR Human Rights Advisory Committee** presented its first publication, remembering notable residents of color, for Black History Month 2022.

https://www.townofpoundridge.com/sites/default/files/fileattachments/living_here/page/38041/black_history_month_hrac_feb_2022_1.pdf

CH.a.01 – The Historic preservation ordinance provides commercial/residential designations and protection from demolition. Town of Pound Ridge Chapter 17 <https://ecode360.com/6832420>

CH.a.02 - Incentives are not offered to promote preservation. Easing of setbacks by Zoning I based on a case by case basis.

CH.a.03 – Landmarks addresses historic preservation; there is an Architectural Review Board for landmarked home.

b. Plan of Action

CH.b.01 - Effective communication of ordinances, policies, and restoration methods: On the town's website.

CH.b.02 - National Register of Historic Places district and/or individual designations are in place

CH.b.03 - Natural and/or agricultural areas are protected.

CH.b.04 - Archives, artifacts, cemetery records, and/or oral histories collected, properly stored, or preserved. The PRHS receives gifts and donations of historical materials, catalogues them, and employs an archivist to coordinate records.

CH.b.05 – Education through exhibitions, historical publications, websites, tours, and programs are in place

CH.b.06 - Programs to encourage youth at multiple age levels are in place and include curriculum-designated tours, an essay contest for 5th graders, and a project-based scholarship award for high school juniors or seniors.

c. Commemoration

CH.c.01 - Signage in place for historic neighborhoods and/or structures: Stone monuments are located in front of the Museum, Conant Hall, Town Park, Town House, and Fire House. Landmarked houses have plaques. The town discourages signs.

CH.c.02 - Historical museum(s) and/or interpretive displays maintained. The PRHS has permanent and changing exhibits.

CH.c.03 - Cemeteries, monuments, and/or plaques in place and typically maintained by the Town. The 9/11 Memorial was relocated in 2021 to a quiet sanctuary on property next to and owned by the Fire Department.

CH.c.04 - Community heritage is promoted through tours, brochures, museum exhibits, newsletters, etc.

CH.c.05 - Parades, festivals, events, programs commemorating a community's heritage are held: Annual events include Memorial Day parade and ceremony in the town's historic cemetery (Burial Hill), July 4 community picnic and fireworks in Town Park, Garden Conservancy's Open Days/ James and Ellen Bests' Sara Stein Garden (8 Fox Hill Rd), home of native plant pioneer and author *Noah's Garden* and other key books.

d. Community Involvement

CH.d.01 – PRHS members volunteer to plan and implement programs regarding our heritage.

CH.d.02 - Volunteers participate in maintaining historical sites and structures: All PR cemeteries are historic. The Cub Scouts annually replace the American Flags at the graves of vets in three cemeteries. A 2022 Eagle Scout project for Burial Hill (approved) focuses on beautification, building and adding benches, planting colorful trees and creating a ring around the flagpole base with annuals and stone edging. Annually the PRGC designs a wreath for Memorial Day. The PRGC has also planted trees, shrubs, and daffodils in the town cemetery.

e. Item of Special Note

OVERALL IMPRESSION

Scenic. Natural. Quiet. These words capture the beauty and overall impression of Pound Ridge. Simultaneously, opportunities to participate in the events and activities of this busy, small town abound and contribute to its well-being. The community character of Pound Ridge, a source of pride, has evolved over time from a strong sense of place and of belonging. Change, albeit slowly, continues to come to Pound Ridge. Dynamic is a word to add to the list.

a. Leadership and Policy A \$1.56 million Transportation Enhancement Program (2019) brought needed beautification and traffic calming measures to the business district. In addition, the Pound Ridge Partnership replaced lights in Scott's Corners with energy efficient, environment friendly street lights and allowed for the introduction of hanging baskets and banners. Anticipation is high for the completion of two needed infrastructures: a wastewater treatment system to support improvements in the business district can support and the Village Green, replacing a defunct gasoline station, with a community gathering place.

OI.a.01 - Signage ordinances enacted and enforced: <https://ecode360.com/6833597> Chapter 88 Signs

OI.a.02 - Ordinances in place to address overgrown lots, abandoned vehicles

(<https://ecode360.com/6833438#6833438>) , unscreened dumpsters, public nuisances, unregulated garage sales, empty storefront windows, etc.

OI.a.03 - Code enforcement/compliance officer on municipal staff and codes are enforced: Building Inspector

OI.a.04 - Design style determined, applied, and consistent for site furnishings, crosswalks, gateway entry features, banners, wayfinding signage, etc.: N/A

b. Amenities

OI.b. 01- Site furnishings in place: Since the outbreak of the pandemic, there has been a notable increase in outdoor seating areas offered by organizations and businesses: Pound Ridge Library (2 Adirondack chairs and a table with seating), the Pound Ridge Museum (1 bench), Bertrand Park, owned by Ambulance Corps (2 benches) and businesses (1 table and 2 chairs at 123Dough; 1 table and 3 chairs at Miller Landscape; 2 tables and 4 chairs at Booksy Galore; 1 table, 2 chairs, and a bench at the Cottage; a bench at Vadiathon; and 8 groupings at Kahlo). Pound Ridge Square offers 12 benches, 50 bistro chairs and 15 tables. Every local restaurant (5) boosted its number of outside tables; most added heaters for the cold months. The outdoor groupings of tables and chairs for dining are located at Dinato's (11), Blind Charlie's (6), La Familia (3), The Kitchen Table (6), and North Star (approx. a dozen flexible groupings plus two benches). Three water fountains are in the Town Park. Public bathrooms are available at the library, Town House, Sachs Park, Town Park and seasonally at the town pool complex. Recycling and waste bins are common from Town Park to the Business

District. Bicycle racks are available at Parks and in the business district. Walkways are maintained year-round by the town. An E/V charging station was installed in the business district and planning has begun for more.

OI.b.02 - Crosswalks well-marked ✓

OI.b.03 - Public restrooms available: in Town Park, public buildings, and restaurants

OI.b.05 - Effective use of banners, murals, and/or public art: Outdoor Art installations (approx. 12) include permanent (the blue Kiwi, 3 dinosaurs, 2 wall murals of blue herons) and semi-permanent (sculptures of animals in varying numbers, for sale), found in Pound Ridge Square. A sculpture, Thinking Man, at 50 Westchester was gifted to the town. A stone arch (for sale) has stood on the grounds of Pound Ridge Nursery for nearly 30 years.

OI.b.04 - Effective community gateway entry features : At entrance to business district

OI.b.05 - Effective use of banners, murals, and/or public art: Outdoor Art installations (approx. 12) include permanent (the blue Kiwi, 3 dinosaurs, 2 wall murals of blue herons) and semi-permanent (sculptures of animals in varying numbers, for sale), found in Pound Ridge Square. A sculpture, Thinking Man, at 50 Westchester was gifted to the town. A stone arch (for sale) has stood on the grounds of Pound Ridge Nursery for nearly 30 years.

OI.b.06 - Effective wayfinding signage: Distinctive road signs, signs identifying Scotts Corners, Town park, Library

OI.b.07 - Effective use of non-plant seasonal decorations (lights, ornaments, etc.): Banners, fall decorations, and holiday swags, wreaths, roping and lights

c. Conditions and Maintenance

Overall condition and maintenance is excellent

OI.c.01 – Condition of structures, decks, patios, etc. related vandalism, graffiti, peeling/faded paint, rust : Excellent

OI.c.02 - Condition of infrastructure related to lack of weeds, vandalism, litter, graffiti, peeling/faded paint, rust: Excellent

OI.c.03 - Condition of signs and site furnishings (water features, lamp posts, benches, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, trash and recycling receptacles, containers, planters, and cigarette receptacles): Excellent

OI.c.04 - Condition of vacant lots, storm-water retention ponds, and swales: Good to Excellent

OI.c.05 - Control of excessive stake signs, billboards, and posted flyers: Excellent

OI.c.06- Street sweeping: Seasonal needs, typically spring and fall, addressed by Highway Department

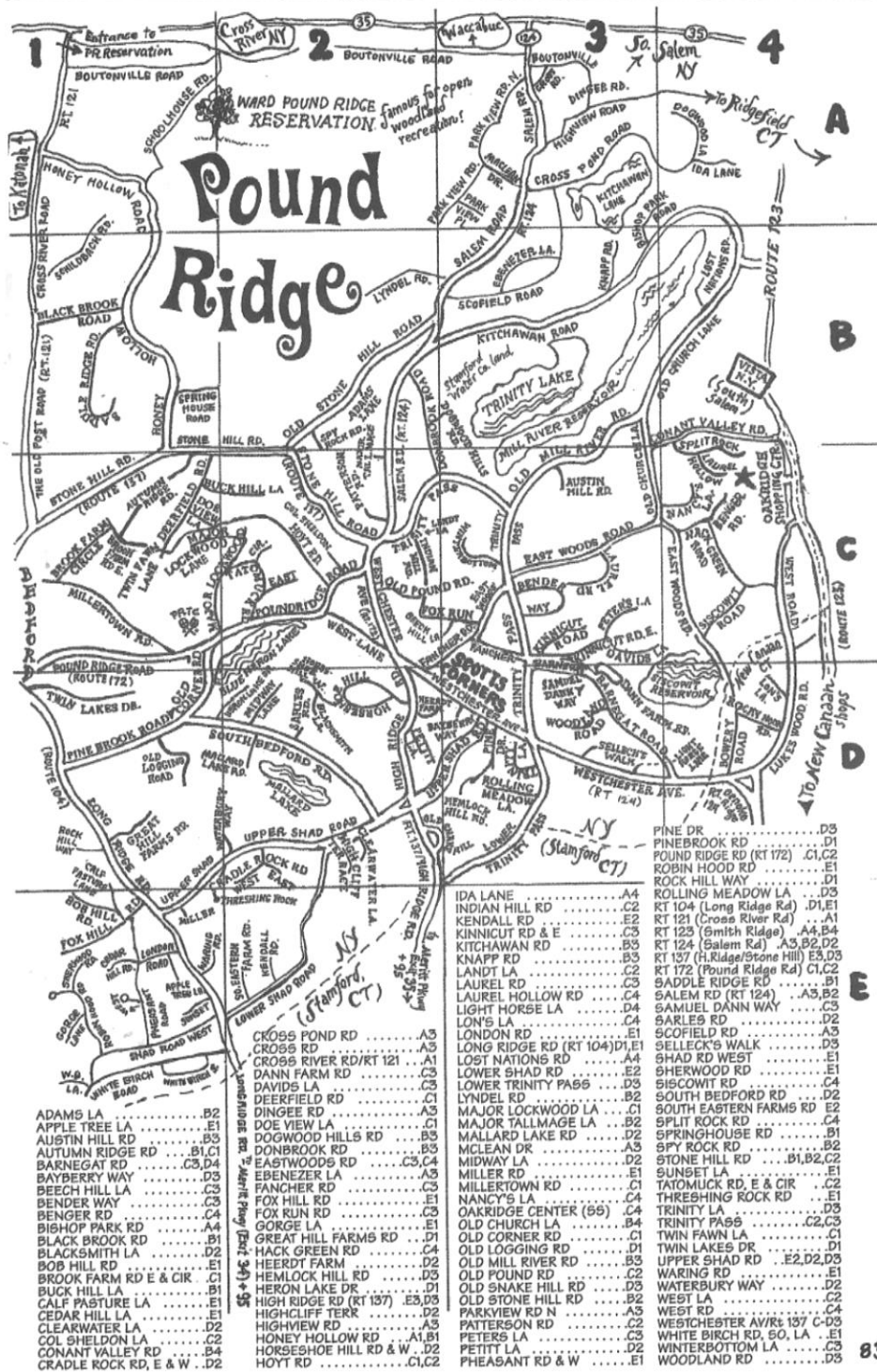
d. Community Involvement

OI.d.01 - Volunteer participation and/or funding of community revitalization and improvement initiatives: Adopt-A-Spot (HMP), clean-up day and weeding (organized by PRP), disaster relief (coordinated by OEM), civic improvements by PRGC, various landscape plans and installations (see p. 13), ongoing donation by Dynax for Village Green, project funding by PRGC, PRP, and FoPR.

OI.d.02 - Process for residents to fund public amenities (memorial benches, brick pathways): Through Town Board

e. Items of Special Note Pound Ridge is openly proud of its tradition of volunteerism. Residents contribute hours of their time, serving on boards and commissions, joining civic-minded organizations, and pitching in as needed. Community members also generously donate funds to community improvements and revitalization projects (See OI.d.01). They talk about volunteering and teaching their children about the importance of giving back. Volunteerism is a strongly held community value.

MAP (A map with the route to be provided daily)



from *The Little Book of Numbers* 30th Anniversary Edition (undated)

KEY COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Information about people the advisors will meet upon arrival. Additional contact information to be provided daily.

Name	Role/ Affiliation	Email	Cell Phone
Sears,Carolynn or Carrie	Planning Committee; Chair	carolynnsears@me.com	914 522 3111
Sears, Phil	Driver & Home Base Commander	pcsears@optonline.net	917 658-5958
Jarosz, Cathy (Mike)	Planning Committee; Driver	cyjz1978@gmail.com	914 523-8631
Schreier, Pauline	Planning Committee; Driver	peschreier@gmail.com	914 523-2830
Pike, Terri	Planning Committee; Pound Ridge Partnership	terrigutshallpike@gmail.com	914 715-4107
Best, Ellen	Planning Committee; newspaper columnist, <i>Talk of the Town</i>	Esbest8@gmail.com	914 907-9778
Briggs, Diane	Planning Committee; Town Board, Economic Development,	dbriggs@townofpoundridge.com	914 400-9059
Levethan, Sonia	Planning Committee	sonialevethan@gmail.com	203 253-4862
Oricchio, Lucy	Planning Committee	oricchiolucille@gmail.com	914 261-6322
Hansan, Kevin	Town Supervisor	supervisor@townofpoundridge.com	914 396-8613
Engle, Nicole	Chief of Staff	chiefofstaff@townofpoundridge.com	914 391-0167
Trostle, Erin	Town Clerk	townclerk@townofpoundridge.com	860 508-2018
Best, James with Ellen	Home Host: 8 Fox Hill Rd, Pound Ridge, NY	jtbest8@gmail.com	914 391-8182
Douglis, Sarah & Marc Yaggi	Home Host: 63 Hack Green Rd, Pound Ridge, NY 10567	sarahdsunshine@gmail.com	<u>646 287 3203</u>