

## Friends picnic on Saturday showcases other grassroots citizens groups

### ► *Major announcements planned for annual event at Federation of Polish Sportsmen*

GREENPORT & HUDSON — The annual Friends of Hudson picnic on Labor Day weekend will celebrate and showcase other citizens groups working on critical issues in the region.

The picnic on Saturday, September 3rd runs from noon to 3 pm at the Federation of Polish Sportsmen on Newman Road in Greenport, and will feature booths staffed by representatives of other citizens groups focused on issues ranging from pollution to sprawl.

Confirmed participants include Columbia County Futures (Hudson), the Germantown Neighbors Association, Kinderhook Neighbors for Good Growth, Millbrook Matters, Neighbors for Claverack, Pine Plains United, Save Your Town (Saugerties), Taghkanic Neighbors Association, and citizens working to protect a conservation easement in Philmont, among others.

“Citizens taking control of their own local destiny—that’s what Friends of Hudson has been all about for the past six years,” said Friends of Hudson executive director Sam Pratt. “We are impressed by the dedication of the many grassroots groups working in our region, and we will be honored to honor their work this Saturday. It’s a great chance for our members to hear more about what’s going on in the area.”

“We expect this will be the start of increased dialogue among citizens groups in the area,” added Friends deputy director Susan Falzon. The more collaboration among groups like ours, the better able we each are to achieve our goals. We have much in common, and a lot to learn from each other.”

Grill items such as hamburgers, hotdogs as well as drinks are provided free by the Sportsmen’s Club; guests are encouraged to bring additional potluck items as well. Admission is \$10 for existing members, \$20 for guests or those wishing to join for the first time.

The event will also feature activities for kids and several major announcements by Friends staff and board members regarding the organization’s future.

The Federation of Polish Sportsmen is located on Newman Road, which runs between Route 23B and Fingar Road in Greenport. The club is surrounded by lands that were to be mined by St. Lawrence Cement as part of a massive, coal-fired proposal turned down by the Secretary of State last April.

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*For more information, including directions to the hearing, please contact Friends of Hudson at (518) 822-0334*