

Local Civic Engagement: How It works, Why It Matters

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| Sept. 25 | I. | Introductions |
| | II. | Overview |
| | | Basic Premise: Civic engagement is essential in a functioning democracy. |
| | | Argument: Civic engagement is most effective at the local level. |
| | III. | Forums of Civic Engagement |
| | | A. The spectrum of authority and the responses to it. |
| | | B. Local Government: County, City, Town, Village |
| | | 1) The City of Poughkeepsie |
| | | 2) The Town of Poughkeepsie |
| Oct. 2 | IV. | Case Studies |
| | | A. When Civic Engagement Works |
| | | 1) Hudson River |
| | | a) Scenic Hudson |
| | | b) Clearwater |
| | | 2) Clean + Healthy |
| | | 3) Civic Partnerships: Library District, Joint Water Project |
| | | B. When Civic Engagement Hasn't Worked |
| | | 1) Fire districts |
| | | 2) School districts |
| Oct. 9 | | C. When Civic Engagement is Complicated |
| | | 1) The Remaking of Raymond Avenue |
| | | a) What happened |
| | | b) Issues for civic engagement |
| | | i) conflicting opinion |
| | | ii) conflicting jurisdictions |
| | | iii) role of expertise |
| | | 2) Planning Boards |
| | | 3) Zoning Boards |
| Oct. 16 | V. | Methods of Local Civic Engagement |
| | | A. Elections |
| | | 1) How they work |
| | | 2) How they don't work |
| | | a) Candidates |
| | | b) Voter participation |
| | | c) "The tyranny of the majority" |

d) Meaning

B. Public Volunteers

- 1) Conservation Advisory Committee
- 2) Historical Preservation Committee

C. Private Volunteers

- 1) Hudson River Housing
- 2) Dutchess Outreach
- 3) Friends of Peach Hill

VI. Final Reflections

Suggested Reading:

For Week 1

Town of Poughkeepsie website (www.townofpoughkeepsie.com)

Browse: Next Town Board Agenda and Packet

Departments

City of Poughkeepsie website (www.cityofpoughkeepsie.gov)

Browse: Departments

City Charter

For Week 2

“Scenic Hudson: 50th Anniversary: A history and the 17-year battle to preserve Storm King Mountain.” <https://hvmag.com/life-style/scenic-hudsons-50th-anniversary-a-history-and-the-17-year-battle-to-preserve-storm-king-mountain/>

“The Scenic Hudson Decision”
<https://exhibits.archives.marist.edu/s/MEHP/page/scenicdecision>

“The Truth about Storm King” <https://omeka.hrvh.org/exhibits/show/rescuing-the-river/powering-the-hudson/storm-king>

“History of the Sloop Clearwater”. <https://www.hmmm.org/history-blog/history-of-the-sloop-clearwater?srsId=AU7gw4W-d3GhrW3FRyNKbDnVDf0f3DpphAU2yuzrkwV-ZE5gDEUBCUvE>