CHAPTER THREE

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Community facilities are the parts of a municipality which provide emergency services such as police and fire protection, as well as provide social or educational needs such as parks and schools. These functions help create a sense of community among residents in the Village of Fishkill, contributing to an overall quality of life.

Community facilities are most often paid for by municipal taxes, and are administered by the local governing body of a municipality, or another not-for-profit agency. The larger a municipality grows, the more community facilities and services it will need. In order to provide such necessary services, and to ensure their appropriate development and possible expansion, smart planning of facilities is essential.

Library: Blodgett Memorial Library was founded in 1934 and is located on the corner of Broad Street and Bedford Avenue. It sits on a parcel of 0.32 acres in size. The library is open 7 days for limited hours, for a total of 53 hours per week. Currently, the library has close to 60,000 books, audio books, videos, a specialized collection of Chinese and Korean Language books and a vast collection of large print books. The library also has online access that includes reference databases, over 11,000 magazine titles, downloadable audio books and downloadable movies. Saturday programs and adult services including ESL, free tax help, fathers' rights and a mystery book club are also offered. The library employs 1 full time librarian, 1 full time staff, 16 part time staff and 5 volunteers.

Post Office: The U.S. Postal Service currently operates out of a small building one parcel west of the Main Street and Jackson Street intersection on the south side of Main Street. Severely undersized, it remains open until 7pm each night in order to accommodate Village residents and businesses.

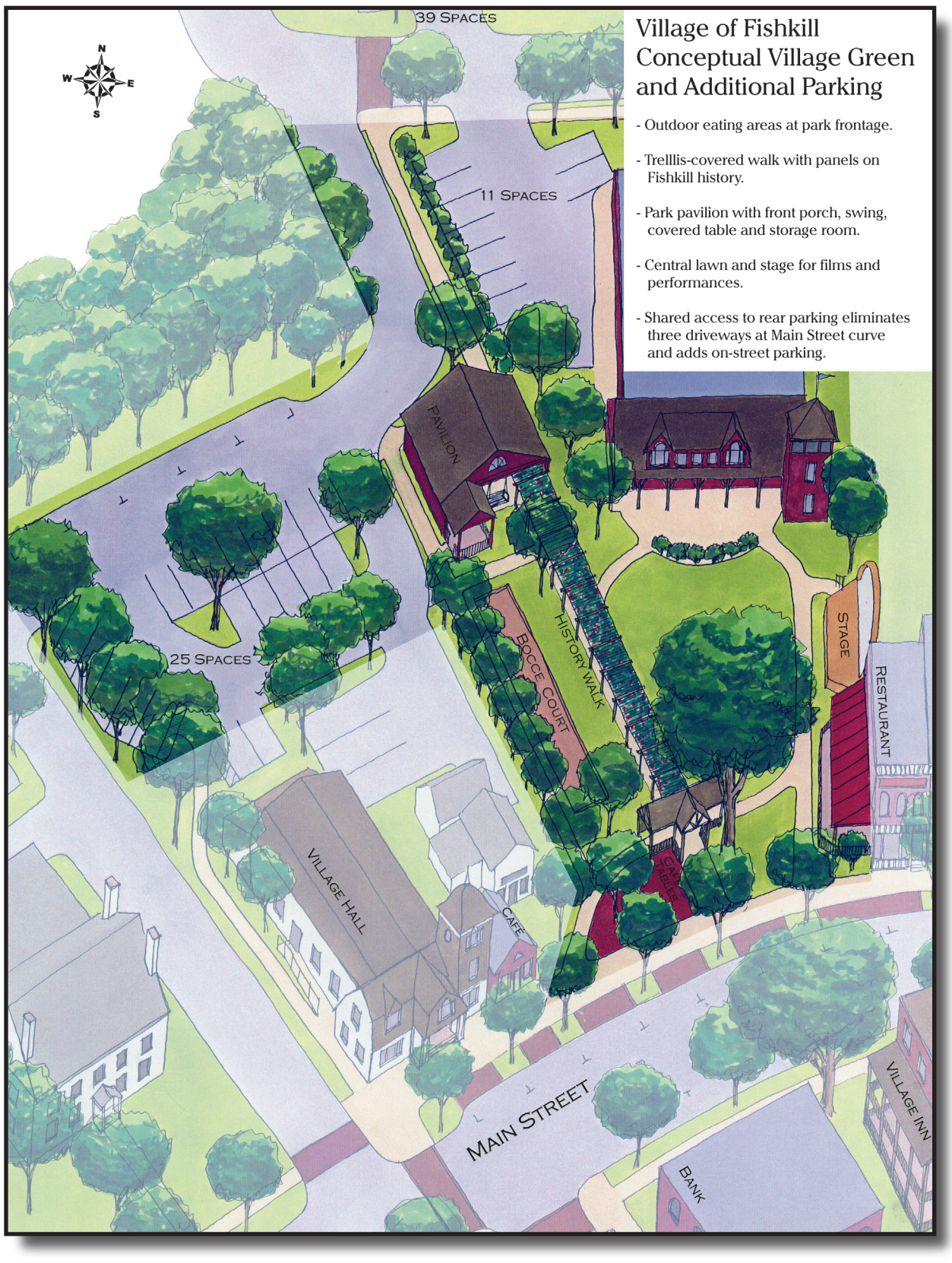
It is the desire of the Village to continue to operate a pedestrian accessible post office, characteristic of historic centers. If the Postal Service determines that a larger facility is necessary, then perhaps its larger operations could be housed elsewhere in the Village, while the day to day parts of the process including pick-up and drop-off of mail parcels and the selling of stamps should remain at a central location in the Village.

Police: The Police Department currently resides at the Village Hall. A property off Wood Place has been obtained as a new location for the Police facility. Some repairs and renovations are underway, which will better accommodate the Police Department. Occupancy of this new facility is expected in 2010.

Fire and Rescue Operations: The Village of Fishkill is served by the Village of Fishkill Fire Department. This all-volunteer department is staffed by approximately 30 active volunteer members. Equipment includes 2 pumpers and 1 ladder truck/pumper and a special services vehicle. The Fire Department is in need of additional facilities to accommodate the Department's current and future needs.

The Village contracts with Mobile Life Support Services to provide ambulance and Emergency Medical Technician services.

Parks and Recreation: The Village maintains Sarah Taylor Park, a 45 acre site on the east side of Route 9 bordered to the north by the Metro-North railroad and the Fishkill Creek to the south. Additional park locations should be investigated which would serve residents on the west side of Route 9.



Village of Fishkill Conceptual Village Green and Additional Parking

- Outdoor eating areas at park frontage.
- Trelllis-covered walk with panels on Fishkill history.
- Park pavilion with front porch, swing, covered table and storage room.
- Central lawn and stage for films and performances.
- Shared access to rear parking eliminates three driveways at Main Street curve and adds on-street parking.

Water Supply: The Village of Fishkill Water System is served by a well field. The well field consists of 8 approved gravel-packed wells of varying capacity. The design of the system has evolved from a gravity system that was fed by an untreated reservoir to a combination of pumped wells which feed into a painted steel storage tank of approximately 1.0 million gallons. The oldest part of the system is located south of the well field along Route 9 and is actually the remnants of the original system, less than 1.0 mile of 10 in. cast iron water main. It is this oldest part of the existing system that creates the most concern because of the age of the water main and the frequency with which it fails and requires emergency repair and replacement.

The Village system actually provides potable water to areas of the Town of Fishkill and the Town of Wappinger through various contracts and inter-municipal agreements.

Eventually the Village will add a second 1.0 million gallon storage tank for its users since flexibility of having two tanks will be necessary to properly maintain the Round Hill tank. The best location for a second tank would be on the elevated property behind the Clove Road well field, if possible, placing the tank at the same elevation, 350 feet, to make a well balanced system.

Sewage System: The Village of Fishkill owns and maintains two separate sewer systems, one being the South Sewer Interceptor which serves the Village customers and Town of Fishkill customers south of the Fishkill Creek. The other system serves the areas north of the Fishkill Creek, and discharges to the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) located on the south end of Jackson Street. The WWTF is in the process of being upgraded and modernized; phase one was the replacement of the original main pumping station. The next upgrade will allow for up to 800,000 GPD to be treated by the WWTF and produce a higher quality effluent. The Village has entered into an agreement with the developers of the Yellen property to fund a significant portion of the upgrade; it is anticipated that the projected flow from that development will produce in excess of $1.5M in fees that will go towards the redesign and construction that was going to be necessary regardless of the connection.

In March of 2006 the Village and Town of Fishkill agreed that the current contract between the Village and the Town should reflect all of the needs of the Village and Town, both current and future, south of the Fishkill Creek.

Summary: Overall, the Village facilities are generally considered adequate for current uses. The Village and its engineer have suggested that some specific improvements should be made. Funds are currently being used to continue to upgrade Sarah Taylor Park, and sewer and water facilities will be funded with water and sewer funds from the municipal water funds.

The Village currently coordinates public works services such as snow removal with the Town of Fishkill. Agreements such as these provide the services at a reduced cost since specialized equipment need not be purchased, saving taxpayer dollars. Another example of shared services is the Blodgett Memorial Library, as it serves both the Village and the Town. Regarding the accessibility of community services, it should be noted that during the initial public workshop, residents expressed the desire to retain the library and post office at their current locations.

The Village should pursue a second park location on the west side of Route 9. Currently, Sarah Taylor Park is the only Village park and is located on the east side of Route 9. A second park, even if it were a small area, could add an easily accessible amenity to those residents who find it difficult to cross Route 9. Properly located, it would increase the community atmosphere of the Village.

DECLARATION OF INTENT AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

GOAL: To provide municipal facilities and services that will continue to meet the needs of Village residents and Village businesses and will improve opportunities for community activities.

3.1 The Village should continue to work with the Fire Department to assure that adequate facilities are provided which will accommodate the department's equipment, vehicles and member needs.

3.2 The Village should work with the United States Postal Service in retaining the post office in a pedestrian-scale setting. If expansion is necessary, it is preferable that a small storefront be retained in the historic center.

3.3 The Village should encourage the Library to remain in its current pedestrian-friendly location.

3.4 The Village will continue to upgrade Sarah Taylor Park, to make its use more attractive to a wider range of Village residents.

3.5 The Village should attempt to identify green spaces west of Route 9 which could be developed for resting and small contemplative areas with benches.

3.6 The Village should continue to provide more opportunities for community activities and interaction by the possible acquisition of additional park land and recreational facilities which are easily accessible by Village residents.