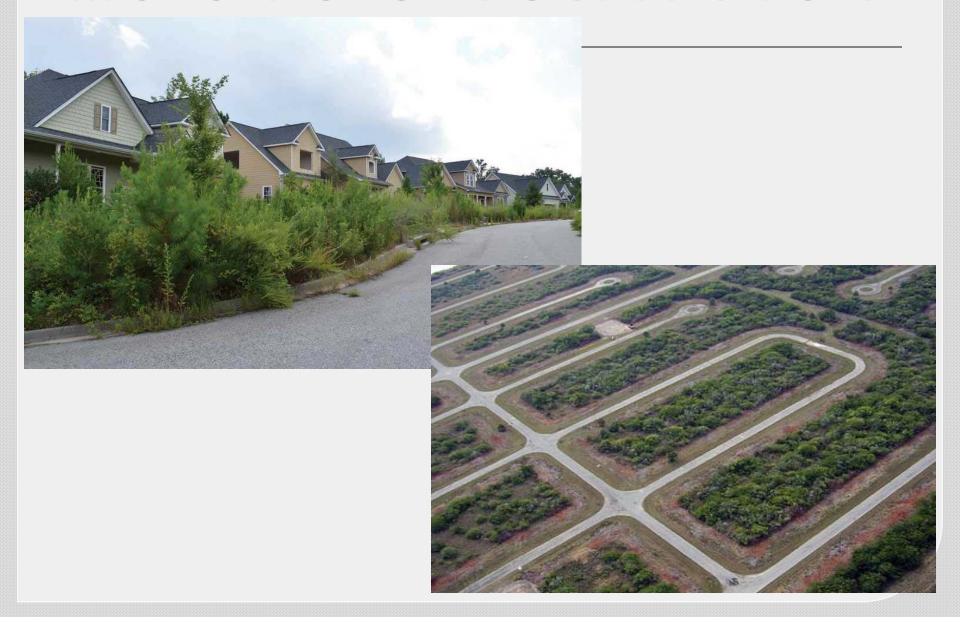
Potsdam Local Government Conference October 13, 2015

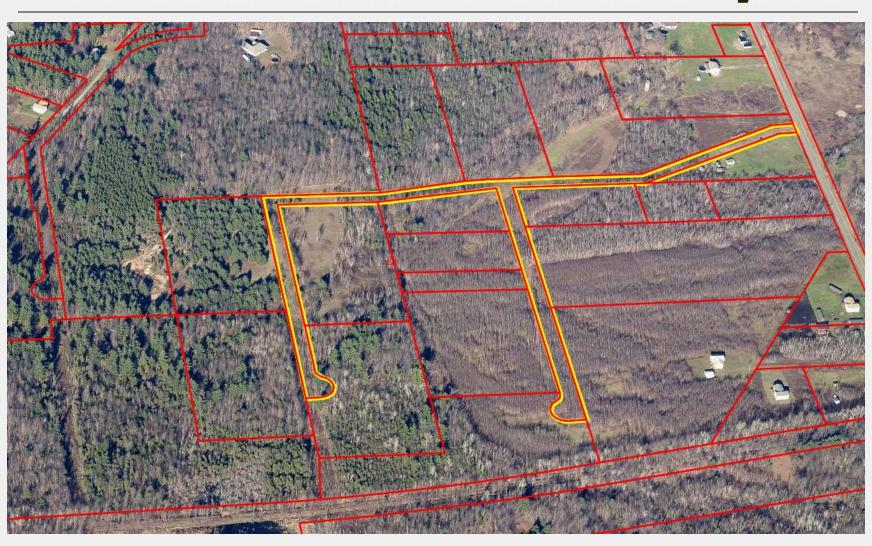
Conservation Subdivisions What are they and how do they differ from Conventional Land Subdivision

Michale Glennon, PhD, Wildlife Conservation Society
Jason Pfotenhauer, Deputy Director, St. Lawrence County Planning Office

Attack of the Zombie Subdivisions!!!



Not in the North Country!?!?



Subdivision of Land

What is it/why do it?

Division of any parcel of land into a number of lots for the purpose of sale, transfer of ownership or development (NYS Town Law, Section 276).

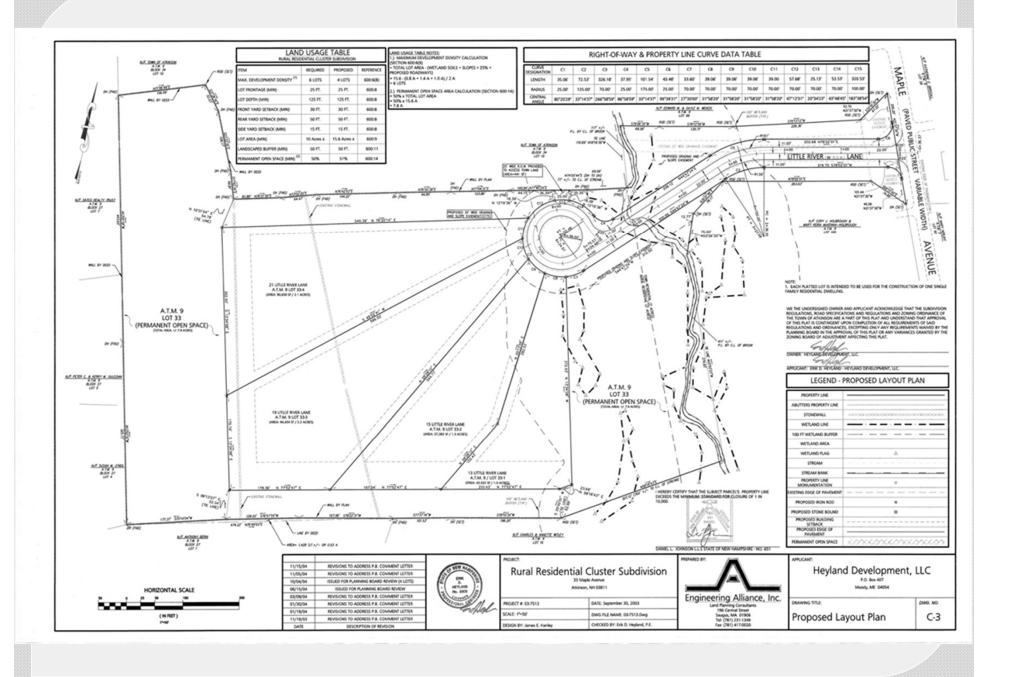
Intent is to create thoughtful, well balanced development of land that has a favorable impact on a neighborhood.

Ensure adequate services (roads, water, sewer or septic, power, etc.) can be provided.

Subdivision Review Elements

Subdivision elements vary by municipality; often include locations and specifications for:

- Lots
- Streets, roads, sidewalks, curbs
- Sanitary sewers, storm drains, water mains
- Street lighting and signs
- Trees and landscaping
- Utility lines and easements
- Topography
- Soil conditions
- Wetlands
- Land set aside for parks or playgrounds, or money in lieu



Subdivision Review Process

Often divided into Minor and Major subdivisions – decided locally (fewer regulations for minor)

Can include a preliminary and final approval process

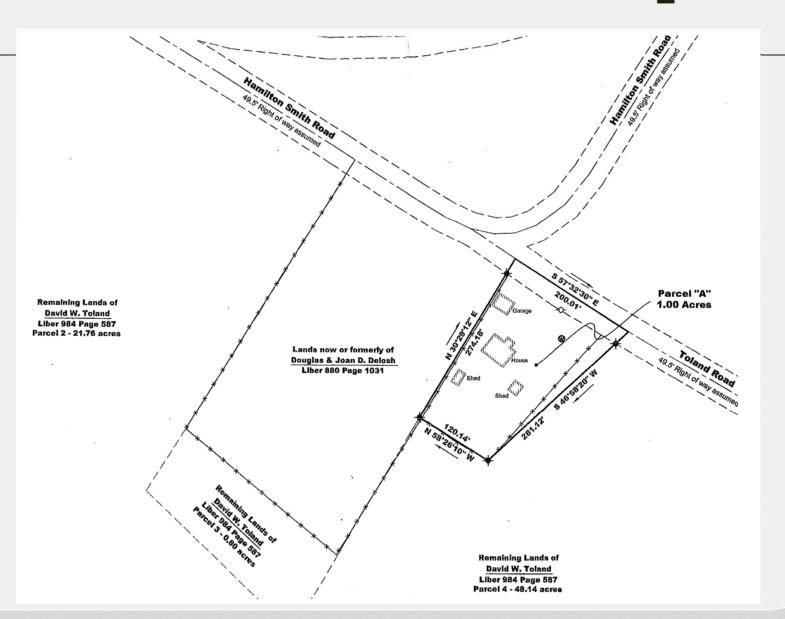
Public Hearing and SEQR review are required

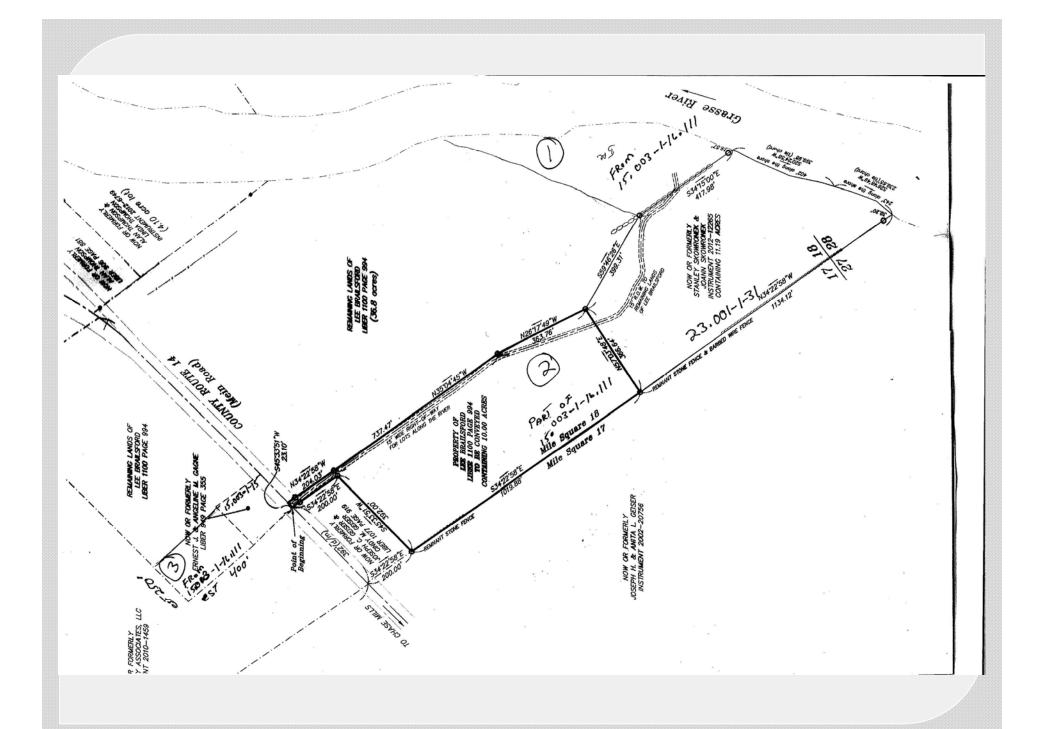
Can be approved, conditionally approved, or disapproved

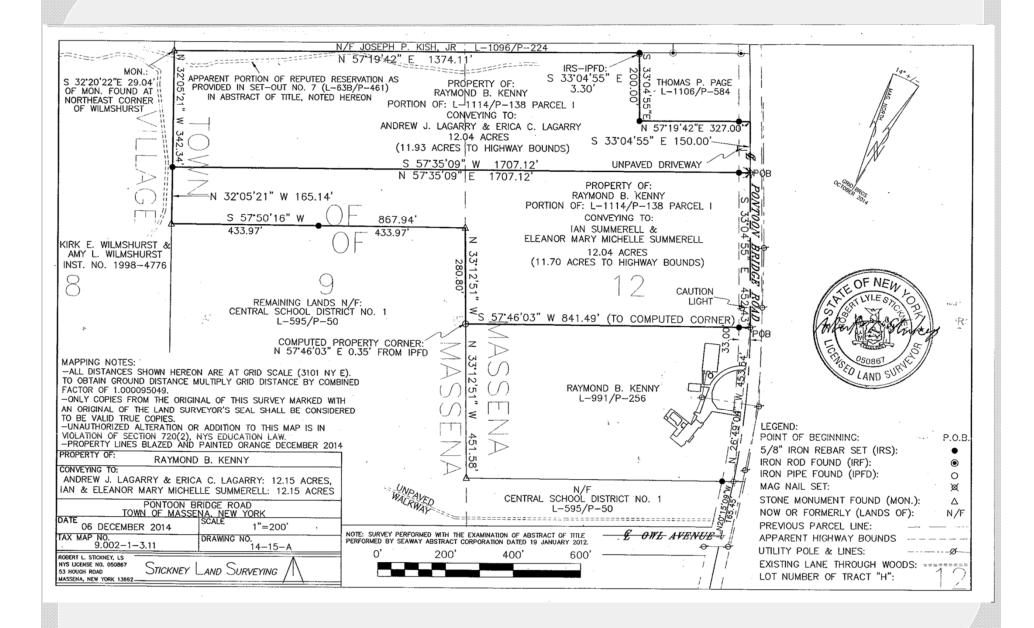
If no action taken in certain time periods, approved by default

Department of Health regulates subdivisions that consist of 5 or more lots, 5 acres or less in size, created within a 3 year time period

Local Subdivision Examples







Subdivision Review Comments

- Soil conditions
- Wetland proximity
- Well to septic separation distance
- Road access for emergency services

Subdivision Take Aways

- The value of subdivision review is to ensure wise land use
- Follow your local subdivision regulations and make sure that they are relevant
- Don't be afraid to propose conservation subdivisions in your community