

Casatelli, Jeanne; Papers

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Summary Information

Repository:	M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives
Title:	Jeanne Casatelli Papers
ID:	apap150
Date [inclusive]:	1966-2002
Date [bulk]:	1996-2002
Physical Description:	2.6 cubic ft. 6 Digital Files 4 videotapes
Physical Location:	The materials are located onsite in the department.
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Jeanne Casatelli is a native of East Greenbush, New York, who has fought sprawl in her hometown for more than twenty years.

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, Jeanne Casatelli Papers, 1966-2002. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Casatelli Papers).

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Biographical History

Jeanne Casatelli is a native of East Greenbush, New York, who has fought sprawl in her hometown for more than twenty years. She is a founding member of East Greenbush's Community Action Network, a grassroots organization whose stated purpose is "to promote good planning and the protection of natural, historic, and civic resources in accordance with principles espoused as Smart Growth, New Urbanism, and Quality Community." (Community Action Network of East Greenbush Statement of Purpose, undated, Series 2, Box 1, Folder 5.)

One of CAN's most visible activities was their campaign to prevent the widening of a stretch of U.S. Route 9 and 20, also known as the Columbia Turnpike, which passes through East Greenbush. New York's Department of Transportation (DOT) wanted to widen the road by a total of 34 feet, converting

it from four lanes to five lanes. Casatelli and CAN argued that DOT's plan was not in keeping with new regulations that favored context sensitive design for highway projects, nor with the recommendations of Lt. Governor Mary Donahue's Quality Communities Task Force. CAN saw the rebuilding of Route 9 and 20 as an opportunity to develop a community-oriented "main street" in the suburban town of East Greenbush, which lacked a traditional town center. They argued that the road could be redesigned to comply with DOT's safety requirements without being widened to five lanes, and sought the input of nationally-renowned highway designers to support their position. CAN's campaign was unsuccessful, and the road was widened.

Casatelli is also involved in Citizens for Riverfront Action, an organization dedicated to protecting and providing access to the Hudson River in Rensselaer.

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Scope and Contents

The papers document Casatelli's interest in issue-based grassroots organizations in the late 1990s and early 2000s through her involvement in Community Action Network (CAN). CAN opposed the widening of U.S. Route 9 and 20 in East Greenbush through a vigorous campaign of public education and political action. The papers provide near-complete documentation of this campaign, including letters, e-mail, press releases, position papers, contact lists, and notes.

Information on another organization of which Casatelli was a member, Citizens for Riverfront Action (CRA), is limited to CRA's involvement in coordinating Scenic Hudson's Great River Sweep in the community of Rensselaer.

Not included in this collection are Casatelli's files on CAN's effort to save the Defreest-Church house from destruction by developers. The house, which was constructed in the 1830s, was eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places because of its links to the Anti-Rent War of the mid 1800s. It was demolished in November 2002 to make way for a Target store parking lot. Casatelli transferred her files on the Defreest-Church house to the Sierra Club Atlantic Chapter for use in potential litigation.

Since both CAN and CRA are grassroots organizations, there is virtually no information on organizational structure or membership, and no formal records of meetings. One exception is an undated statement of purpose for CAN in Series 2, Box 1, Folder 5.

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Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is organized into five file series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Revision Description

Converted to EAD with EADMachine Encoded in EAD by Aimee Morgan 2016 December 2005 March

Processing Information

Processed in 2005 by Aimee Morgan.

Acquisition Information

All items in this manuscript group were donated to the University Libraries, M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, by Jeanne Casatelli in 2002 November.

Access

Access to this record group is unrestricted.

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Controlled Access Headings

- Environmental protection -- New York (State).
- Highway planning -- New York (State) -- Citizen participation.
- Highway engineering -- New York (State).
- Hudson River (N.Y. and N.J.)
- East Greenbush (N.Y. : Town)
- Rensselaer County (N.Y.)
- Clippings.
- Videocassettes.
- Correspondence.
- Photographs.
- Notes.
- Press releases.
- Fliers (printed matter)
- Conservation and the Environment
- Social Activists and Public Advocates
- Rensselaer County, New York
- Neighborhood and Community Associations
- Digital Files
- Community Action Network of East Greenbush (N.Y.)
- Citizens for Riverfront Action.
- Scenic Hudson (Organization)

Collection Inventory

Route 9 and 20, 1997-2002

Physical Description: 1 cubic ft.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically

Scope and Contents

This series includes extensive correspondence, e-mail, press releases, position papers, notes, and other documents related to CAN's campaign against the widening of Route 9 and 20. Much of the correspondence is outgoing and addressed to political leaders, including Governor George Pataki, Lt. Governor Mary Donahue, State Senator Joseph Bruno and his staff, and East Greenbush Town Supervisor Bob Angelini. There is also some correspondence with highway engineers from whom Casatelli sought support for a redesign of NYS-DOT's plan for Route 9 and 20. Several folders contain printed copies of e-mail. Most of these e-mails do not contain full headers with date and recipient information. In many cases it is impossible to determine when or to whom individual e-mails were sent. At the end of the series are several oversized items, including posters and a map reflecting community ideas for the redesign of Route 9 and 20.

Title/Description	Instances	
Addresses of Homes and Business on Route 9 and 20, Undated	Box 1 (1-Route 9 and 20)	Folder 1
Conceptual Stage Relocation Plan, U.S Route 9 and 20, ca. 1997	Box 1 (1-Route 9 and 20)	Folder 2
Contact List, ca. 1998-ca. 2001	Box 1 (1-Route 9 and 20)	Folder 3
Correspondence, 1997-1998	Box 1 (1-Route 9 and 20)	Folder 4
Correspondence, 1999 January-June	Box 1 (1-Route 9 and 20)	Folder 5
Correspondence, 1999 July-December	Box 1 (1-Route 9 and 20)	Folder 6
Correspondence, 2000	Box 1 (1-Route 9 and 20)	Folder 7
Correspondence, 2001 January-February	Box 1 (1-Route 9 and 20)	Folder 8
Correspondence, 2001 March-April	Box 1 (1-Route 9 and 20)	Folder 9
Correspondence, 2001 May-June	Box 1 (1-Route 9 and 20)	Folder 10
Correspondence, 2001 July-December	Box 1 (1-Route 9 and 20)	Folder 11
Correspondence, 2002		

	Box 1 (1- Route 9 and 20)	Folder 12
Correspondence - Department of Transportation, 1998-1999	Box 1 (1- Route 9 and 20)	Folder 13
Department of Transportation, Route 9 and 20 Newsletter, Issue 3, 1999	Box 1 (1- Route 9 and 20)	Folder 14
E-Mail, 1999-2002	Box 1 (1- Route 9 and 20)	Folder 15
E-Mail, 1999-2002	Box 1 (1- Route 9 and 20)	Folder 16
E-Mail, Undated	Box 1 (1- Route 9 and 20)	Folder 17
E-Mail, Undated	Box 1 (1- Route 9 and 20)	Folder 18
Final Design Report/ Environmental Assessment, 1999	Box 1 (1- Route 9 and 20)	Folder 19
Notes, ca. 1998-ca. 2001	Box 1 (1- Route 9 and 20)	Folder 20
Notes, ca. 1998-ca. 2001	Box 1 (1- Route 9 and 20)	Folder 21
Parcel Maps - Route 9 and 20 Properties, Undated	Box 1 (1- Route 9 and 20)	Folder 22
Petitions, 1997-2001	Box 1 (1- Route 9 and 20)	Folder 23
Position Papers, Fact Sheets, and Fliers, 1998-2001	Box 1 (1- Route 9 and 20)	Folder 24
Press Releases, 1997-2001	Box 1 (1- Route 9 and 20)	Folder 25
Project Location Map, Undated	Box 1 (1- Route 9 and 20)	Folder 26
Proposal Buildout Images, Undated		

	Box 1 (1-Route 9 and 20)	Folder 27
Proposal and Placement Plan, First Draft of Colombia Turnpikes Transportation Management System, 1998	Box 1 (1-Route 9 and 20)	Folder 28
Public Hearing on 9 and 20 Proposal - Transcript, 1998	Box 1 (1-Route 9 and 20)	Folder 29
Report from the Public on the Rt. and 20/Colombia Turnpike Project, 1998	Box 1 (1-Route 9 and 20)	Folder 30
Signalized Intersections Input Worksheets, Undated	Box 1 (1-Route 9 and 20)	Folder 31
Survey of Route 9 and 20 Business Owners, Undated	Box 1 (1-Route 9 and 20)	Folder 32
Community Action Network, Route 9 and 20 Posters, Undated	Oversized 1	Folder 1
Route 9 and 20, Maps and Plans, Undated	Oversized 1	Folder 2

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Subject Files, 1966-2002

Physical Description: 1 cubic ft.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically

Scope and Contents

This series contains files on various areas of concern to Casatelli and the activist groups with which she was involved. There is extensive information on topics relevant to the campaign against Route 9 and 20, such as road design, smart growth, and suburban sprawl. Other subjects include the Hudson River, waterfront access in Rensselaer County, and East Greenbush political life.

There is one folder on Scenic Hudson's Great River Sweep. The River Sweep was a grassroots event coordinated by volunteers in local communities along the Hudson River. Volunteers from these communities cooperated to remove debris from the river. Casatelli and her Citizens for Riverfront Action coordinated the Great River Sweep in Rensselaer from 1998-2000. The Scenic Hudson Great River Sweep folder contains correspondence, press releases, financial records, and other documents related to the local River Sweep.

Title/Description	Instances	
Articles - Miscellaneous, 1998-2001Undated	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 1
BASF, 2002Undated		

	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 2
Capital District Transportation Committee, 2001	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 3
Community Action Network of East Greenbush, Statement of Purpose, Undated	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 4
Community Image Survey, 2001	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 5
Context Sensitive Design, 1998-19992001	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 6
Contributors to Senator Joseph Bruno's Campaign, 2001	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 7
Defreestville Area Neighborhoods Association, 2000Undated	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 8
East Greenbush, Boat Launch, 1997-2000	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 9
East Greenbush, Politics, 1999, 2001, 19992001	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 10
Energy, Alternative Sources, 2000, 2000	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 11
Friends of Hudson/St. Lawrence Cement Project, 2002	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 12
A Good Place To Live, Terry Pundell, Excerpts, Undated	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 13
Greater Capital Region Teacher Center, 19952001	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 14
Healthy Heart Program, New York State Department of Health, 2001	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 15
Hudson River and Hudson River Valley, 1995-2001	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 16
Miscellaneous, ca. 1996-ca. 2001	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 17
National Register of Historic Places, Undated	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 18
New York State Department of State, Publications, 19982000	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 19
New York State Governor's Office, Press Releases, 19982001	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 20
New York State, History and Facts, Undated	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 21
New York State Tourism, Brochures, and Postcards, Undated		

	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 22
Northern Adirondack Revitalization Initiative, Briefing Paper, Undated	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 23
Planning Commissioners' Journal, Articles, 1992-19941996-1997	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 24
Project for Public Spaces, Inc., 2000	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 25
Property Rights Foundation of America, 2000	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 26
Quality Coasts, Quality Communities, Waterfront Rediscovery Conference, 2001	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 27
Quality Communities, Demonstration Program and Task Force, 2000-2001	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 28
Quality Communities, Quality Coasts Conference, Brochure, 2002	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 29
Rensselaer, 1996-2001	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 30
Rensselaer County 1791-1966, Excerpts, ca. 1966	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 31
"Rensselaer: The Right Side of the River" Campaign, 1994	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 32
Rensselaer Waterfront, 1997-1998	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 33
Riverview Road, Rexford, 1999	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 34
Road Design, 19841997-19992001	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 35
Scenic Hudson, Great River Sweep, 1998-2000Undated	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 36
Smart Growth, 1995-2002Undated	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 37
Smart Growth, Urban Advantage, ca. 2001	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 38
Surface Transportation Policy Project, 199619982001	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 39
Urban Design Group, ca. 2000	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 40
Walkable Communities Inc, ca. 2000	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 41
Walkable Communities, Slide Presentation, Undated		

	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 42
Website Printouts - Miscellaneous, 2001	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 43
Westchester Land Trust, 2001Undated	Box 1 (2-Subject Files)	Folder 44

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News Clippings, ca. 1996-ca. 2002

Box 1
(Jeanne
Casatelli
Papers)

Physical Description: 0.4 cubic ft.

Arrangement

Partially processed; not arranged

Scope and Contents

This series consists of news clippings on topics of interest to Casatelli. Duplicates have been removed from the series, but the clippings have not been arranged further. Many clippings relate to the Route 9 and 20 widening issue. Sources for the clippings include the Albany Times-Union, the Rensselaer Beacon, and the Independent. There are also some clippings on highway design and other environmental issues from newspapers in other regions, as well as clippings on Scenic Hudson's Great River Sweep event.

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Photographs and Moving Images, ca. 1999-2001

Physical Description: 0.2 cubic ft.

Arrangement

Arranged by format

Scope and Contents

This series contains four VHS videocassettes, 29 color snapshots depicting Route 9 and 20 in East Greenbush. Although the photographs are undated, they probably date from 1999-2001.

Title/Description	Instances	
Photographs of Routes 9 and 20, East Greenbush [29 items], ca. 1999-2001	Box 1 (4-Photographs	Item 1

	and Moving Images)	
Rennselaer [sic] River Sweep and Urban Sprawl," VHS Videocassette, 2000	Box 2 (4-Photographs and Moving Images)	Item 1
"Route #303 The Visioning Process: Smart Growth and Public Health," 2 VHS Videocassettes, Undated	Box 2 (4-Photographs and Moving Images)	Item 2
"Scenic Hudson: The Great River Sweep," VHS Videocassette, Roadrunner Production Services, Undated	Box 2 (4-Photographs and Moving Images)	Item 3

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Electronic Records, 2000-2001

Physical Description: 6 Digital Files

Scope and Contents

This series is comprised of three PowerPoint presentations and three video clips, most of which are related to a community-oriented sustainable development study on Route 303 in Rockland County, New York. It is likely that Casatelli saw this study as a model, which could be applied to redesigning Route 9 and 20. The two video clips on Route 303 duplicate footage found on the Route 303 video in series 4. The third video clip is a brief interview of Don Chen, founding director of Smart Growth America. The sound is very low in this clip and difficult to hear.

The files were originally located on two recordable compact discs. They have been copied to a University Libraries' server for preservation reasons.

Title/Description	Instances
"303." "The Route 303 Sustainable Development Study, Rockland County, New York." 7 min., 36 sec. Copyright 2000, Rockland County., 2000 May 31 (Last Modified) <u>Digital Object:</u> "303." "The Route 303 Sustainable Development Study, Rockland County, New York." 7 min., 36 sec. Copyright 2000, Rockland County.	MPEG 1
"303Charette." "Route 303 Sustainable Development Study: The Visioning Process." 6 min., 20 sec., 2000 February 5 (Last Modified) <u>Digital Object:</u> "303Charette." "Route 303 Sustainable Development Study: The Visioning Process." 6 min., 20 sec.	MPEG 2
Untitled file. Interview of Don Chen, founding director, Smart Growth America, 2 min, 5 sec., Undated	AVI 3

Digital Object: [Untitled file. Interview of Don Chen, founding director, Smart Growth America, 2 min, 5 sec.](#)

"Charette Presentation." Microsoft PowerPoint file. 24 slides., PPT 1
2000 April 21 (Last Modified)

Digital Object: ["Charette Presentation." Microsoft PowerPoint file. 24 slides.](#)

"Route 303 Challenges Presentation." Microsoft PowerPoint file. PPT 2
18 slides., 2000 April 20 (Last Modified)

Digital Object: ["Route 303 Challenges Presentation." Microsoft PowerPoint file. 18 slides.](#)

"Route 303 Slideshow." Microsoft PowerPoint file. 18 slides., PPT 3
2000 April 20 (Last Modified)

Digital Object: ["Route 303 Slideshow." Microsoft PowerPoint file. 18 slides.](#)

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