

# Conservation Advisory Council Town of Hillsdale, NY

David Lewis, Chair  
Paul Duernberger  
Mary King  
Gretchen Stevens  
Caroline Stewart

## MINUTES CAC MEETING, 28 JANUARY 2021

The meeting convened via conference call at about 7:44pm. Paul Duernberger, Mary King, David Lewis, Gretchen Stevens, and Caroline Stewart were present.

[Gretchen needs to determine whether the CAC can continue to use her employer's conference call number for these CAC meetings.]

### **1. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes were approved with edits requested by CAC members. Gretchen will send them to Chris Kersten for posting on the town website.

### **2. NRI reprinting**

David reported that Chris Kersten said the town can fund printing of 40 copies of the NRI. Kathi Doolan will place the order. The arrangements for NRI distribution will be discussed at the next Town Board meeting.

Of the remaining copies in CAC possession, seven are reserved for town agency members, and two are available for other distribution. Gretchen will get one of those to the Roe Jan Library.

### **3. CLC Municipal Mini-Grant**

Caroline has drafted the text for a flyer for prospective homeowners, and Gretchen has reviewed it. Caroline will forward the next draft to CAC members for review. We will not have enough time to apply for the CLC grant (for printing), but will continue preparing the flyer and recruiting CACs from other towns as collaborators, and will seek other funding opportunities (for printing) when we are further along.

### **4. Open Space Inventory**

After the early January CAC meeting, Paul forwarded a spreadsheet listing land parcels in Hillsdale that are owned by public agencies or nonprofit organizations. (The data are from the town tax rolls.) We will see which, if any, of the town-owned parcels have conservation value for, e.g., habitat or water resources, and make plans to visit certain properties in the spring.

David will look at the utility of the map of unfragmented forests shown in the Hudson Valley Natural Resource Mapper, to see if that would be useful for our open space analysis. Gretchen will send some

examples of open space documents that have been prepared by other municipalities. At the next CAC meeting we can discuss the kinds of criteria that we want to consider in the Hillsdale open space inventory.

#### **5. Ridge Lane site plan review**

David reported on the Planning Board's resolution of the proposed residential project at 2 Ridge Lane. At their January meeting the Planning Board approved the project, but required that the new owner must comply with the Steep Slope Regulations, which prohibit cutting on slopes of 25% or greater. Thus, the very steep slopes that were cleared of trees in the early 2000s and have been kept clear since then must be allowed to reforest.

#### **6. Climate Smart**

Paul reported on the effort by the Columbia County Environmental Management Council to make this the first Climate Smart county in the state. To achieve that, every municipality must achieve a Bronze-level certification in the NYS Climate Smart program. Tom Carty is looking for volunteers to work on this. The projects already completed by the Clean Energy Committee will help with this effort, but the town still has a long way to go for Bronze certification. David says that many of the tasks for certification are difficult for a small town.

#### **7. Other Business**

Do we want to prepare a winter-related article for the February town newsletter? It may be too late, but Caroline will try to draft a piece on the environmental problems caused by road salt (and other de-icing chemicals?), and some alternatives that are less harmful to soils, water, and wildlife.

In the town newsletter, should we remind people that they can order the NRI? David prefers that we wait until we have the printed copies in hand.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07pm.

--Gretchen Stevens  
CAC Secretary