

Attending: Eric Marczak, Rick Georgeson, Nelson Kent, Amy Lauterbach and Dave Nelson

Eric opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

#### Housekeeping

- Eric made a motion to approve the January 28 meeting minutes. Dave seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- This year's harassment training link has not been selected yet, but Amy will ask Russ to provide it for all CAC members.

#### Education and Outreach

#### Map Library (for Open Space Inventory)

#### Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs)

#### Wetlands Boardwalk

#### Other Discussion

- Two bills have been introduced in the NYS Assembly to address fertilizer made from municipal waste sludge biosolids:
  - A8317 allows the sale or application on land of biosolids fertilizer made from municipal waste sludge only if the sludge was treated and tested not to exceed the maximum contaminant levels adopted by NYS DOH.
    - Cameron, Bath and Thurston NY have all tried to address this problem with local legislation after experiencing problems with its use on their farms
      - Thurston had to reverse its policy after losing its suit in court
      - Land prices plummeted after drinking water was contaminated
    - Ask the Town's attorneys if we could write a local ban that might stand up in court
  - A5676 (2019-2020) amends agricultural assessment rules to render land upon which sludge has been applied ineligible for the tax benefits of lower agricultural assessment.
    - Eric provided current eligibility rules and the application process for agricultural assessment
- Toxic sludge presents disposal issues. Pharmaceuticals, phosphorus, microplastics, heavy metals, PFOA, PFOS have a cumulative effect, inhibit absorption of micronutrients.
  - Comprehensive well water testing can cost \$700 or more.
  - Soil samples would also need to be tested
    - Does cow manure test positive for PFOA/S?
  - Financially strapped farmers accept it for free or with incentive payments if they are not aware of its hazards.
  - Sink holes are environmentally sensitive areas as they feed into underground karst passageways that carry unfiltered water.
    - We need a map of karst areas in Albany County
- Albany County's 90 day moratorium stopping the agricultural use of biosolids within the county from January 27:
  - What will happen at the end of the moratorium (around April 26)?
  - Rick knows people at DEC who might have information to share about municipal waste biosolids sludge.
- Eric will call Albany County to schedule a meeting.
  - Eric will call Gary Kleppel to ask him and AAC members to join the meeting.
- Eric will send us reference links.
  - Do we have a definition of sewage?
  - Can we come up with a definition for bio solids?

- The definitions in Assembly bill 5676:
  - “(a) ‘sludge’ means any solid, semi-solid or liquid waste generated from a wastewater treatment plant, water supply treatment plant or air pollution control facility, but shall not include the treated effluent from a wastewater treatment plant or the food processing wastes generated from a food processing establishment licensed pursuant to the provisions of article twenty-c of this chapter; ...”
  - “(b) ‘sewage sludge’ means the accumulated semi-solids or solids resulting from treatment of wastewaters from publicly or privately owned or operated sewage treatment plants.”
- We will plan to present information, lessons learned and an advisory statement to the Knox Town Board

Nelson motioned to adjourn, Rick seconded and the meeting concluded at 7:58 PM.

The next regularly scheduled CAC meeting is planned for 6:30 PM on Tuesday, March 25.