

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

Eric opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Housekeeping

- Eric made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Nelson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- Amy will ask Russ to reset the Harassment Training link for Nelson and Eric.
- Brigitte has indicated that she would like to step down from CAC membership at the end of the year.

Education and Outreach

- Eric proposed an idea he discussed with Gary Kleppel. The CAC and Ag Advisory Committee (AAC) could organize an event in (early?) summer to highlight our cultural and natural resources:
 - A parade with animals, children, musicians, ...
 - Feature agricultural, historical Native American and colonial traditions
 - Ask wildlife rehabilitators to bring specimens
 - Have popcorn, other relevant foods
 - Offer water testing kits
 - Publicize it in the May newsletter
- Eric asked Rick to draft an appeal for public (including youth) involvement in CAC meetings and activities as a letter to the editor of the Enterprise.
 - It could highlight our mission, what we do and what we have achieved so far, as well as topics of interest, including water quality, invasive species, ...
- We discussed possibly arranging presentations for school groups

Map Library (for Open Space Inventory)

- Amy and Eric met with the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District's (ACS&WCD) Board of Trustees on Tuesday, November 19 to introduce ourselves/establish contact.
 - We said we need support for mapping karst features to be considered as critical environmental areas.
 - Laura Groundwater at Laura.Groundwater@ny.nacnet.net can help us with GIS mapping tools and resources.
 - Eric will forward an email he received from Susan Lewis with links to map resources.
 - We also shared our concerns about the use of municipal sludge as "organic fertilizer" on local fields. They agreed and said they are also studying the problem.
 - New Scotland Town Supervisor Doug LaGrange said Pat Fahy is working on a proposal for a county wide moratorium on its use to allow time to study its PFOA, cadmium, other toxins content and effects
 - Mr. LaGrange offered to share information about/from their natural resources inventory that is underway with help from Nan Stolzenberg as part of their comprehensive plan update.
 - ACS&WCD offers site visits to assess ponds, stock fish and grass carp, etc.
 - They also offer information about recycling
- Eric will work with Evan Taylor of the AAC to explore mapping resources.
 - The Infrastructure map needs to be updated to show the new Multi-Use Recreational District.
- The town board passed a new law to regulate large scale solar development effective November 4, 2024.
 - We should review the definitions it contains and consider whether we want to propose additional definitions to add to the zoning ordinance for important concepts.
 - Examples could include: environmentally sensitive area, Critical Environmental Area, karst features, Right to Farm law, agriculture, ...

Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs)

Wetlands Boardwalk

- The sign for the wetland to say “Environmentally Sensitive Area” has been installed.
- The boardwalk is in good shape. The water level is low.

Other Discussion

- We talked about the drought conditions we are experiencing and the wildfires south of us in the Catskills.
 - Residents of the Knoxville Park trailer park on Knox Cave Road just outside the hamlet recently reported water shortages compounded by a leak in a pipe from one of their two wells.
 - The Town should be prepared with possible mitigation measures for various types of hazards.
 - Albany County is developing a county-wide Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- We discussed tree cutting work that leaves potential firewood along public roads.
 - A resident complained to the highway superintendent about people taking cut wood from their land along Street Road without permission. It was determined that the Town has a right of way next to the road through the landowner’s property, so the land and the trees belong to the property owner.

Amy motioned to adjourn, Eric seconded and the meeting concluded at 8:13 PM.

The next regularly scheduled CAC meeting is planned for 7:30 PM on Tuesday, December 17.