

Town of Knox  
Conservation Advisory Council  
2024 Annual Report

*Members: Eric Marczak (Chair), Nelson Kent, Amy Lauterbach, Brigitte McAuliffe, Dave Nelson*

Regularly scheduled CAC meeting dates were moved to the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

Education and Outreach

- Knox resident Tom Payne volunteered to provide graphic design support for interpretive signage for the wetlands preserve kiosk.
- Additional signage was added to direct the public to the lower parking lot in the town park, and to identify the wetland area as being environmentally sensitive.
- The CAC hosted a ribbon cutting at the newly completed boardwalk in the wetlands preserve to thank public officials for their support. County Legislator Chris Tague attended, Congressman Paul Tonko was represented by Colleen Williams and County Executive Dan McCoy was represented by Jeff Jamison. Knox Town Board members June Springer and Dennis Cyr attended, as well as Supervisor Russ Pokorny. The ceremony was followed by a public bird walk led by birding expert Tristan Lowery, President of Hudson Mohawk Bird Club. The public was also invited to an open house that morning at the Town owned solar array on Street Road.
- Deb Barnes and Dave Bourque of Historic Altamont attended CAC meetings to describe their organization and activities, and our members attended some of their meetings. CAC members provided support for their efforts to help build a connector trail from the Long Path in Thacher Park to Altamont.
  - Dave Nelson met with the Long Path North Hiking Club in Schoharie, and he made connections with Environmental Clearinghouse of Schenectady (ECOS) and Pine Hollow Arboretum in Slingerlands.
  - Chairman Eric Marczak and Agricultural Advisory Committee Chairman Gary Kleppel co-chaired a new Farmland Protection Planning Committee to secure state funding for a farmland protection plan for sustainable agriculture in Knox.

Map Inventory (OSI)

- Met with Betty Ketcham to inventory and update maps of Knox.
- Members met with ACS&WCD trustees to solicit help with mapping resources that they offered to share.
- Agricultural Advisory Committee members agreed to work with the CAC to develop a map inventory that would meet the needs of various town officials and volunteer boards.

Wetlands Boardwalk Restoration Project

- Members and volunteers completed work on the wetland kiosk and finished construction of the plank walkway.
- Member Dave Nelson successfully arranged for the wetlands preserve to be included on the New York Birding Trail.
- It was noted that purple loosestrife has become significantly more widespread throughout the wetland this year.
- Members installed several bluebird nesting boxes and a duck box in appropriate places in the town park.

Other

- Discussed issues relating to road salt, tree cutting along public roads, and water shortages experienced recently during drought conditions.