



Town of East Greenbush Conservation Advisory Council

TOWN HALL, 225 COLUMBIA TURNPIKE, RENSSELAER, NY 12144 (518)477-2005 FAX (518)477-2386

Conservation Advisory Council special meeting approved minutes

March 6, 2023 - 6 PM
By Zoom

Attendance:

Members: Jennifer Dean (JD), Victoria Manieri (VM), Evan Barr (EB), Jennifer Hixon (JH)

Also present: Martin Daley (MD) and Madison Hrysko (MH) of Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC); Anna Feltham, EG Director of Planning (AF); members of the public

Recorder: Jenny Hixon

Recording info:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/_ED7jf0PtLi7xnOKYYJk3f_vUGSKtVSbQvjhKYBSFoBABUHQRHJIG2CaSxc7m/Ws.6j5vw08ho7Ll47MZ

Passcode: .D4Lk6*m

- MH demonstrated the latest version of Online NRI Maps. She asked the NRI to review and edit the introductory text.
- The map shows infrastructure and natural features in layers that can be toggled on and off. The layers can also be moved up and down in relationship to each other to make small features, such as dams, easier to see when displayed at the same time as larger features, such as soil types.
- Some layers have information boxes that pop up when clicked. Questions arose about which attributes should be displayed. For instance, tax parcel attributes, pulled from county data, include property owner names and other information that users might be surprised to see on the map, even though it is publicly available from other sources. MH wondered if we needed the detail shown in the geology and soils layer pop-ups, or if the legend would be sufficient for those layers..
- Different backgrounds, such as satellite imagery, can be selected for the map. A layer showing points of interest such as police and fire stations could be added.
- Some layers (such as contour lines) are grayed out unless the user zooms in, because they contain so much data that they would slow processing if they were turned on for the whole map.
- MH updated some of the layers with more recent data than was used for the original NRI maps. For instance, water classifications, NWI wetlands, and tidal wetlands data in the



original NRI maps were from the early 2000s, but MH updated them with data from the 2018-2020 timeframe.

- The group discussed ways to use the map to facilitate the completion of project review checklists, perhaps by grouping pertinent layers a separate folder.
- MD suggested NRI concentrate on introductory instructions to help visitors make the best use of the map. AF and JD discussed putting “how to” resources on the Town web page from which people would access the map.
- None of the layers are “service layers.” They are all stored locally, clipped to Town boundaries. The group discussed extending some of these layers beyond the Town boundaries to investigate connectivity and to facilitate coordination with neighboring towns. MD advised being careful not to slow map performance by including too much information. The RLT and DEC mapper websites can provide the larger view.
- MH will provide the map online and as a separate static file. The dataset is exportable to QGIS.
- MD requested comments back in the next week so that they can complete work on the map by the end of March. The site page is not yet live.
- The map is stored on the MS4 ESRI account, but will be accessible from the CAC ESRI account. MH will provide instructions to the CAC for updating the layers.
- MH showed how to use the measurement tools, and indicated the print and share functions.
- Future uses by Town boards beyond the CAC were discussed.
- David Terpening comments:
 - Asked about the accuracy and currency of information. MH demonstrated how to get information, including date of publication, on each data source from within the map. She thinks this information will be available to all map users. MD explained that the map was not intended as a substitute for the kind of data the Planning Board requires when it makes a decision, but rather is a resource for general information and planning.
 - Recommended that zoning information be added to the map. JD replied that the information would be added once the zoning update is complete. Both the Town of East Greenbush and the East Greenbush Conservation Advisory Council will be able to update the map.
 - Asked about the cost to the Town of East Greenbush. JD explained that it was funded by a grant from the Capital District Regional Planning Commission, with CAC volunteer time and Town Planning Department time contributed as a match.
 - Had “to admit this is a good start!”
- MD said CDRPC wants to incorporate our comments in the next few weeks, and possibly do a public presentation via Zoom at a time to be coordinated with JD. MD is departing CDRPC - March 15 will be his last full-time day, but he will be sticking around part-time until the end of the month.