



**Town of East Greenbush
Conservation Advisory Council**

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Conservation Advisory Council monthly meeting minutes

March 27, 2023 - 7PM

East Greenbush Town Hall
Community Room

Attendees:

Members of the CAC: Jennifer Dean, Chair (JD); Victoria Manieri (VM); Fred Henson (FH); Evan Barr (EB); Brad Wenskoski (BW); Jenny Hixon (JH)

Also Present: Madison Hrysko (MH) of Capital District Regional Planning Commission (CDRPC); Corneil Smith, EG Planner (CS)

Recorder: Jenny Hixon

Meeting recording available on [Town Hall Streams](#).

Meeting agenda:

- 7:01 PM - Call to order
- Review and approval of meeting minutes
 - Feb 27 meeting minutes - FH moved, EB seconded, all in favor
 - Mar 6 Zoom meeting to review ESRI map with CDRPC - VM moved, EB seconded, all in favor
- Welcome newest CAC member Brad Wenskoski!
 - Brad got his degree from SUNY Plattsburgh in Environmental Science. Shortly after that, he started working with the DEC in lake and stream monitoring. He then did remediation work with DOH before returning to DEC in 2016 to work on floodplain management. Primarily focuses on Regions 5&6 - Adirondacks and surrounding counties. He's spent twelve years with DEC, but he's in the CAC as a private citizen, not a representative of DEC. He's always learning, and considers CAC another opportunity to learn.
 - JD welcomed Brad on behalf of the CAC.
- CDRPC Technical Assistance Grant - Update on project to develop online map interface for Town's Natural Resource Inventory (with Capital District Regional Planning Commission staff)
 - Madison Hrysko of Capital District Regional Planning Commission demonstrated the latest draft of the NRI Map Viewer.
 - Council members:
 - Appreciated additions (such as AHET layer)
 - Asked for some adjustments (such as organizing layers to more closely conform to CAC project checklist)



- Made provisional decisions (such as keeping all publicly available attributes visible on all layers)
- Asked for more information (such as how many credits would be required for national land cover layer, does the tool have the capacity to give attributes from multiple layers in a custom-drawn polygon, and how many credits are available to us)
- MH will research open questions, make requested updates, and provide instructions for updating the map and making it available to the public
- JH will update everyone's timesheet with time from tonight's meeting
- Business item updates
 - Board reports
 - ZBA (FH) - alternate site within DOT right-of-way for small cell tower. Question about potential height of trees near it. FH will reach out to see if ZBA needs any assistance identifying the nearby species and their likely maximum height.
 - Town Board - public comments on plan to extend GEIS to whole town, not just MS4 area, will be heard Thursday at 3/30 at 6 pm. CAC members will attempt to attend or watch Town Hall streams recording later.
 - Planning Board and PZD - Corneil Smith, new Planner, will alert CAC to matters requiring CAC attention
 - Other items
 - Attendance and presentation at the Rensselaer County Conservation Roundtable - VM and JD made a presentation on how the EG NRI was developed and how it's being used. Representatives from Rensselaer County Soil and Water, CDRPC, and surrounding towns were in attendance. Some towns do not have boards and staff as supportive of conservation as our current Town Board is. Their frustration underlined the importance of cementing our goals for the future.
 - Annual Report sent to Town board - JH will ask Town staff to post to CAC documents section.
 - Town ethics training - several CAC members attended although it was not mandatory for volunteers. JD encourages everyone to read through the impressive ethics local law.
- Zoning Update Committee - VM
 - Next meeting March 29 - cluster subdivision on the agenda.
 - VM received redline copy of proposed changes a couple of days ago. She will revisit some things that didn't make it into this revision.
 - There will be public hearings soon.
- Development Projects for CAC review
 - None are officially before before the boards yet.
 - We will have the new ArcGIS tool to assist with our review when the time comes.



- VM is concerned that the Gilligan Road plan has an insufficient wetland buffer. The plan may evolve before it is officially presented to the Town. JD started a folder for project documents.
- Other Project Discussions
 - Tree giveaway - VM
 - Set for Sunday May 7. Red barn reserved. FH hasn't had a chance to connect with coworker regarding transport, but will. If necessary, VM can fetch the 125 bare root seedlings from Saratoga.
 - The event will be free, first come first served, limit 5 seedlings per person, while supplies last. Only intended for East Greenbush residents, but proof will not be required.
 - A schedule of 1-3, with a guided nature walk at 2:30, was proposed.
 - VM will design a flier, and publicize the event in the Advertiser and on social media, including the Buy Nothing East Greenbush FB group.
 - VM will send information on buckthorn baggies, so the group can consider distributing them at the event. FH said proper use entails ability to tell a buckthorn from other trees, but VM pointed out it would work on other invasive species. We could also give a buckthorn bagging demo.
 - We could also distribute a flier about the CAC, with a QR code to the online NRI map.
 - We could have a sign up sheet for the Climate Smart committee.
 - We could distribute MS4 pamphlets.
 - We could display drain markers.
 - We will save newspapers for wrapping the small, bare-root trees.
 - Catch Basin marking project - JH
 - A meeting with RCSWD and EG DPW is scheduled for June 8 to plan for the installation of Hampton Manor Lake storm drains markers
 - The meeting will be at Hampton Manor Lake. JH will bring printed MS4 maps.
 - Route 4 feasibility study - meeting tonight
 - CAC to submit comments
 - JD wrote, JH has yet to format
 - Climate Smart Communities - EB
 - Town passed a resolution in 2010 declaring itself part of the program. Megan Webster was appointed the contact person then. EB is trying to figure out if the person who organized this in 2010 is still in town.
 - Climate Smart Task Force must be established - not certain if one was. Need Town Board resolution to establish task force. Evan will reach out to Hailey Bancroft from CDRPC to see what's involved. He will review requirements and possible actions, and then will work with Anna and Corneil to tailor a plan for East Greenbush. He will also review last year's email chain and reach out to Mike who is interested in the project.



- Trout Unlimited has grants to do stream monitoring locally - JH suggested they might be able to monitor Mill Creek, but FH doubted they would be interested in such a warm stream. He will inquire.
- VM reported on the exhibit on ecological landscaping and native plants at the Capital District Flower & Garden Show. She suggested CAC could organize a public speaker series to educate residents on similar issues. She mentioned CapitalDistrict.compostersale.com as a resource.
- Public Comment - There was none.
- CS departed at 8:42 and the CAC turned its attention to editing the Hampton Manor Lake Assessment assigned to them by the Town Board. Next steps were proposed:
 - CAC members review the draft VM had compiled and send comments by Monday.
 - VM and JD will draft an executive summary for review.
 - CAC will send draft to Town Supervisor and Commissioner of Public Works before adopting final version.
 - Goal for CAC to approve version at next monthly meeting.
 - Plan to submit to Town Board and attend future Town Board meeting to answer questions.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:20. JD moved, FH seconded, all in favor.