



**Town of Poughkeepsie
Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC)**

**April 29, 2019, 7:30 PM
Main Meeting Room, Town Hall**

CAC members present: Pamela Kingsley, Susan Karnes Hecht, Margaret Slomin, Kerstin Cruger

Guest: Michael Welti, Director of Municipal Development
Students from Arlington High School Participation in Government Class

Business items:

1. The focus for this meeting was a continued discussion of the Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) and Open Space Plan (OSP).

Pam reviewed that last month we heard from Nate Nardi-Cyrus, a deep dive into the NRI process, he had provided links to other NRI's, she looked through these as well as the Dutchess County NRI. Pam likes the models provided by Columbia County and Putnam Valley. Include natural topography, historic home inventory, aquifers, water assets, septic absorption, other highlights. Hudsonia has partnered with towns to provide many of these assets. Mike said that the Hudsonia Biodiversity study 2008 is on Planning Dept. website. Pam sees a huge difference in quality of mapping from old county NRI to newer ones.

Mike added that the county is helping now with some mapping for the Comprehensive Plan, won't cover all detail needed for NRI but gives a good basis. We have a series of maps on Comprehensive Plan committee page, some new ones. The information can be collected a little differently for our purposes, same data displayed differently. GIS = Geographic Information Systems, will be instrumental in this process.

Mike envisions NRI as part of OSP, cataloging is important but we need to go beyond this, a lot of that work has been done but perhaps needs to be organized or displayed differently, need to turn the inventory into priorities.

Mike brought several examples of completed NRIs in book form which we examined.

The CAC would like to review and make recommendations for what else needs to be included. We would like to be involved in the public education/input aspect of the process.

Mike emphasized that one issue is that much of the land is privately owned – how do you approach this problem and the owners?

NYS about to announce next round of Consolidated Funding Application, we should get it in for funding some of the mapping and public programs, perhaps a consultant. Susan reminded the group that Nate had discussed value of a consultant. Town has a grant writer to assist - Marty Schneider. Pam said that the grant must envision product/objective.

We must now outline what we have and what else is needed. Following inventory, engage/sharewith community to prioritize.

We discussed some conservation examples such as town of Pittsford NY. We talked about bonding, tax approaches, zoning issues, reforestation. We discussed the issue of overabundance of commercial space that is not used – the example of 44 Plaza.

Action: get the funding application in, CAC to take lead in developing NRI and OSP. We will now divide up the work of studying many other NRIs, pool information into a central structure. Kerstin will create a central shared document for this purpose. Pam will provide the various NRI links obtained from our sources.

2. Request for CAC assistance with educational outreach for 3rd ward pond

Pam received request from Jessica Lopez. Looking for assistance with info to put on educational plaque for pond property. We need to determine who owns it and if permission is needed to add signage. Mike suggested we look at parcel access, he will send this link to Pam. He thinks that this may actually be a large drainage area.

3. Update from Dutchess County EMC 4/24/19

Susan attended; topics covered included web site improvements, setting up a web-based forum for members of the CACs, and restructuring of the subcommittees. Committee areas include plastic bag and straw bans, recycling, fossil fuel reduction, environmental fairs, road salt, green infrastructure, and household hazardous waste. Susan will consider what committee is a best fit for her own efforts in terms of our own CAC and CSC work. The next EMC meeting is 5/22 at 7 pm at the Farm and Home Center in Millbrook – Susan is unavailable, would someone else like to attend?

4. Update re: Climate Smart Community program

Susan reported that there were meetings to discuss the process of creating the resolution for the CSC Task Force. Town Supervisor Jay Baisley prefers to identify a starting group before bringing the resolution to the board. Susan, Pam, Ann Shershin are working on outreach to possible members. Susan is keeping our support contacts (Michelle Gluck at Cornell Cooperative Extension, Europa McGovern at Hudson Valley Regional Council) in the loop.

New business:

Kerstin went to the launch party for Hudson Community Power (CCA organization). She was invited to the Hudson Valley Food Coalition and thinks that we could get involved in food waste management, which is relevant for Climate Smart.

Next meeting: Monday 5/20/19 at 7:30 pm (date moved due to holiday on 5/27)
We will have guests from the Eagle Scouts and Lagrange CAC to discuss opportunities for/experience with trail building.

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht