



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

**May 20, 2019, 7:30 PM
Main Meeting Room, Town Hall**

CAC members present: Pam Kingsley, Chair
Margaret Slomin
Susan Karnes Hecht

Guests: John Sommer and Rolf Nijhuis, Lagrange CAC
Blaise Blaloc, Boy Scout troop 275

Business items:

- Trail building presentation

Scout troop 275 is interested in future trail building opportunities, including trails along the Town of Poughkeepsie side on the banks of Wappinger Creek. The Eagle Scouts are an experienced partner for trail development. Blaise is a scout leader as well as a bridge engineer professionally. His troop is looking ahead for long-term projects that could be 5+ years away, when some of their current large group of Cub Scouts will be in high school and developing their Eagle Scout project ideas in the mid to late 2020's. This could dovetail with long-term trail development ideas which can take years to pull together due to the need to secure trail easements and town board approvals, etc.

Rolf is a long-time Lagrange CAC member who has worked with local Scout troops over the past 20 years, facilitating projects to build and expand the Wappinger Creek Greenway Trail. He gave a presentation about how past trail projects came together and the role of the CAC in their planning and execution. Lagrange CAC has supported six Eagle Scout projects over the years, the last being expansion of the WCGT along town land at Milano Drive (near DeGarmo Rd. bridge). John is also a Lagrange CAC member who assisted in making this connection between the CACs. Susan had been in touch with him previously to inquire about the opportunity for mentoring from a well-established CAC.

The CAC is "in the driver's seat" for trail concepts. The Scouts execute the plan, they are the builders but have no involvement in any of the preceding process. Rolf's detailed presentation is amended below with all points made during the discussion. After this information was reviewed, we discussed:

1. What are the existing wetlands laws in our town?
 2. The scouting process in general (troop 275 includes ages 10 and up)
 3. Preliminary concepts of a trail along the Wappingers Creek and Overlook Road between Route 44 and the rail trail, to connect to Lagrange trail on one end and meet the rail trail at our end.
- preliminary discussion about possible trail along wappingers creek and overlook between 44 and rail trail. Pam will speak to town board members in relevant wards, and we will find out if any trails are already planned, eg., in the Route 44 development.

- Review of Natural Resource Inventories obtained from other municipalities

Town of Poughkeepsie CAC Minutes

May 20, 2019

We are in midst of reviewing numerous other NRIs and have developed a summary document that we are sharing on Google Drive to capture the information. We are looking at what topics were included, what would be beneficial for us to include in ours, and which ones required mapping.

Our first goal is to recommend content for our NRI topics and maps, look for commonalities, make a plan. Pam will look at existing assets (list provided by Michael Welti).

We also need to understand the various grants. Susan will review the many emails she has received with these links.

Updates:

- 3rd ward pond: nothing new - Pam is figuring out the parcel site.
- Climate Smart Communities: Susan reported that several resumes have been submitted; we hope to have a meeting shortly to review these, working towards the Town Board resolution to establish the CSC Task Force, ideally at a June meeting.

New business:

- We discussed the significant need for CAC members; Susan asked if we should consider some sort of public event to draw interest (this was recommended by her contacts in other CACs). We would need something to base the event on as a draw. We discussed a few ideas:

John noted that the Lagrange CAC has literature available in town hall, a CAC rack
Town events to educate the public about CAC:

Arlington street fair – Pam will find out who is contact

Peach Hill event? Susan will follow up with Friends of Peach

Poughkeepsie Journal – Susan attempting

Southern/Northern Dutchess News

County website lists all events – Margaret will check on this e.g. balloon festival

Rotary?

Next meeting: Monday 6/24/19 at 7:30 pm

Minutes recorded by Susan Karnes Hecht

Addendum: LAGRANGE CAC/EAGLE SCOUT PROJECTS information provided by Rolf Nijhuis

1. Three major groups involved: Town Boards, CAC and Boy Scouts (Determine level of involvement of "Parks and Recreation Dept" and "Highway Dept").
2. A dedicated CAC representative must be interface for all issues.
3. The CAC representative very early should present the overall plan as "preliminary concept."
4. CAC long range: advance planning is vital for successful approvals.
5. Any large scale project MUST have Town/Planning Board approval, **before any work begins.**
6. Any project involving stream banks or wetlands must get DEC approval (located New Paltz). These approvals are in addition to any required Town approvals, **before any work begins.**
7. All permits (Town/DEC) must be secured by the CAC representative, not the Boy Scouts.
8. Never make a presentation at a public meeting with Town Boards without knowing, in advance, each member's response.

9. New ideas should be addressed by the CAC representative as a one-on-one with each Board Member. In fact, tell them your ideas in advance and ask for their advice/ideas.
10. Each Boy Scout, in uniform, should formally present his detailed project, w/ diagrams, to the Town Board. Scout Master, also in uniform, should also attend. CAC representative should also attend and introduce the project and then introduce the Boy Scout and leader. Max 10-15 minutes.
11. If a scout's project is only the 1st of a multi Eagle Scout project (i.e. long trail), the CAC representative should present the overall plan in addition to the more detailed 1st one. Then the 2nd Eagle Scout's presentation will become more of a formality.
12. Any project involving stream banks or wetlands must get DEC approval (located in New Paltz). These approvals are in addition to any required Town approvals. On LaGrange trails, only cut trees less than/ equal to 2" diameter, otherwise, the trails were rerouted. Having gentle bends in a trail makes it more interesting.
13. The banks of creeks and other low places make ideal locations for big projects. These are usually flood plains in which no houses or other permanent fixtures are built. These are thus unused areas available for trails or even ball parks with owner's approval.
14. But remember these lots belong to someone who must be treated with respect. One wrong move on your part can sour any negotiation forever!
15. One day a year all trails in Dutchess County are opened to the public for a guided tour. This is known as the Ramble and is usually held in September. The particular date is chosen by the local trail guides.
16. Dutchess County has many maps available on the WEB to help you. One of the most useful is "Parcel Access" found at the following URL:
https://gis.dutchessny.gov/parcelaccess/parcelaccess_map.htm.
Make it a bookmark on everyone's computer. It is a topographical map of Dutchess County showing towns, streets, and building lots. By clicking the "identify" button then selecting the lot of interest, it displays all information relative to that lot. On the other hand, with this map you can search by parcel#, owners name or owners address or just manually window-on-down. Another useful feature is "measure" mode which can measure in 2 modes: length (can be multi segments) or area.
17. In Lagrange, the sequence to build a trail in place w/ Boy Scouts that has all Town permits/approvals:
 - a) CAC Representative 1st visit: using surveyor's tape, flag the **general** route and entrances
 - b) CAC Representative 2nd visit: **repeat** (item a) and make improvements.
 - c) Boy Scout 1st visit: show him the general route then with surveyor's tape mark **detailed** route avoiding big trees but also marking small trees to cut.

NOTE: this "1st Boy Scout visit" is the 1st time he has seen the project. If he accepts, he must then write it up and get council approval as Eagle Scout project before any further work.

Thus, there is a long time lapse between end of (c) and beginning of (d)

- d) Boy Scout 2nd visit: repeat (item c) for fine tuning...finalize plan
- e) Bring in the cub scouts, friends and parents for a cutting party!!

Do not take short cuts by eliminating the "repeats" since with each pass you will see improved ways of laying out trail.

- 17. Signage on a trail should be placed high (8+ feet) to deter vandals.
- 18. Allow fishing.
- 19. No motor powered equipment allowed on trail.
- 18. Dogs allowed.
- 19. Carry out what you carry in.

- 20. Supply standard garbage can at each entrance that Town will empty when notified.
- 21. At all entrances install bollards to allow pedestrian access but deter big stuff, plus a locked gate to allow entrance by maintenance equipment.
- 22. Trail is open dawn/dusk.