

# Conservation Advisory Council Town of Hillsdale, NY

David Lewis, Chair  
Amy Davidsen  
Mary King  
Gretchen Stevens

## MINUTES CAC MEETING, 19 DECEMBER 2024

The meeting was convened at 7:15pm at the Town Hall. All members were present. Jamie Carano Nordenstrom (Town Council liaison) was absent.

### Approval of Minutes

The November 2024 minutes were approved.

### Old Business

#### **CAC Position**

David will print the edited recruiting flyer.

#### **CAC Web Page**

David will send the revised website materials to Emily and Robina for posting on the town website.

#### **Comprehensive Plan**

We are waiting to hear about grant approval from the Hudson River Estuary Program. Amy will draft a vision statement for the Comprehensive Plan in time for the January CAC meeting.

#### **Water Testing**

David reported that Robina is working with Claverack Pump to test the water at the three town facilities. Funds from the CAC's 2024 budget will be encumbered as needed to pay for the work.

David called our attention to an article describing a water testing program in Kinderhook that will be carried out free-of-charge by the New York Rural Water Association with funding from the USDA and the NYS Department of Health. David will contact Christie Wright, Valatie, to see if Hillsdale might be able to take advantage of that NYRWA program.

#### **Hazard Mitigation**

The Hillsdale Hazard Mitigation Committee (Mike Dvorchak, David, Gretchen) has not yet received the revised Hazard Mitigation Plan for Hillsdale and the county. Gretchen will ask Mike if he knows the status of the revised draft.

## **CAC calendar**

David has sent instructions for accessing and adding to/editing the CAC calendar. We will each need to obtain secure sign-in codes from David.

## **Wastewater Treatment Facility**

Amy spoke to Neil Bettez, the NYSDEC Climate Adaptive Communities Coordinator, inquiring if NYS had any studies showing potential flood impacts to Hillsdale from extreme rainfall events (such as 8 - 14 inches of rainfall within 24 period) as recently experienced in Spain. (Valencia Spain experienced 12 inches of rain in 24 hrs and one town received 20 inches in 24 hrs.) He said the state was waiting on FEMA for this information. Gretchen will follow up with Bettez and with Haley Rivers (Tighe and Bond) to see they have access to the 500-year flood zone data. Gretchen will then draft a letter to the Town Board about the location of the leachfield for the wastewater treatment facility in the 500-year flood zone of the Roe Jan and Auction Creek.

## **Open Space Plan**

Gretchen has committed to submitting the next draft of the OSP to the CAC by the end of this month for their review.

## **New Business**

### **Planning Bd Meetings**

The Planning Board will visit the proposed Gellert subdivision parcel on Whippoorwill Rd, and Gretchen has asked that the CAC be invited to join them to see if the wetland depicted on the National Wetland Inventory map exists and if it would interfere with the proposed right-of-way.

### **Possible Oil Leak**

David has noticed what appeared to be oil oozing from a crack in the asphalt at the Cobble Hill station in the hamlet. He will check further before talking to Cobble Hill.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.

## **Action Items**

David: --Send revised CAC webpage materials to Emily and Robina.  
--Print flyer about CAC position.  
--Draft CAC Annual Report.  
-- Contact Christie Wright about NYRWA water testing.

Amy: --Develop draft vision statement for Comprehensive Plan.

Gretchen: --Ask CLC and FEP for possible referrals for the CAC position.  
--Send next draft of the Open Space Plan to CAC.  
--Obtain 500-year flood zone data from NYSDEC or Tighe U& Bond.  
--Draft letter to Town Bd about leachfield in flood zone.  
--Ask Mike Dvorchak about the status of the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Mary: -- Submit regular reports to the Town Board about EMC activities.  
--(carried over) Ask the EMC if they can regularly report on asthma trends and heat-related health problems in county.

All: --Obtain sign-in codes from David for the CAC calendar.