

Conservation Advisory Council Town of Hillsdale, NY

David Lewis, Chair
Amy Davidsen
Mary King
Gretchen Stevens

MINUTES CAC MEETING, 19 JUNE 2025

The meeting was convened at 7:09pm at the Town Hall. All members were present. Jamie Carano Nordenstrom (Town Council liaison) was also present.

Approval of Minutes

The May minutes were approved.

Old Business

Water Testing

David will contact Jake Gardner (NY Rural Water Association) to see if EPA funding is available yet.

Planning Board Cases

Gretchen reported on a proposal for a two-lot subdivision of a 34-acre parcel at 62 Sekonk Rd—splitting off a lot of 3-5 acres submitted by Dominique Michele Strandquest at the June Planning Bd meeting. The subdivision would leave an existing house on one lot and a livable cabin on the other. The existing driveway to the cabin crosses a small coldwater stream.

CAC position

A press release about the CAC opening was published in The Columbia Paper, but we have received no responses. Gretchen will ask Emily to post the ad in the July town newsletter; Jamie will post the ad on Facebook; and David will replace the posters around town.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

We are waiting for the near-final or final document to be released.

Culvert grants

After a conversation with Mike Dvorchak, David says that CHIPS funding for culvert replacement is off the table for this year. We should look for other grant possibilities.

Comprehensive Plan

The deadline for the DOS grant application is 31 July. Jamie thinks we should ask the Town Council to double the match so that we can reduce the grant request, and to ask the Town Council to budget for the full amount for the Comprehensive Plan project in case the DOS grant is not approved.

Vision Statement for Comprehensive Plan

David and Mary will review.

Newsletter Articles

Amy will draft an article about pesticide use for the August town newsletter. Mary recommends that it includes economic ramifications.

New Business

(No new business was discussed.)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13pm.

Action Items

David: -- Contact Jake Gardner (NY Rural Water Association) to see if EPA funding is available yet.
-- Replace the posters about CAC position.
-- Review the Comprehensive Plan vision statement.
-- (carried over) Draft the 2024 annual CAC report.

Mary: -- Review the Comprehensive Plan vision statement.
-- (carried over) Submit regular reports to the Town Council about EMC activities.

Amy: --Draft pesticides article for the August town newsletter.

Gretchen: --Ask Emily to post the CAC ad in the July town newsletter.

Jamie: --Post ad about CAC position on Facebook.

All: -- (carried over) Obtain sign-in codes from David for the CAC calendar.