

Conservation Advisory Council Town of Hillsdale, NY

David Lewis, Chair
Amy Davidsen
Mary King
Gretchen Stevens
(open position)

MINUTES CAC MEETING, 19 NOVEMBER 2025

The meeting was convened at 7:45pm at the home of David Lewis. (The meeting was rescheduled from 20 November, and the Town Hall meeting room was unavailable.) All members were present (Amy by phone). Jamie Carano Nordenstrom (Town Council liaison) was absent.

Approval of Minutes

The September and October minutes were approved.

Old Business

Roe Jan Water Quality Sampling

Mary will ask Kaare Christian of the Roe Jan Watershed Communities if he received check for Roe Jan sampling.

Water Testing of Town Facilities

Gretchen will ask Robina if water testing of town facilities can be done before spring 2026.

Planning Board

The November Planning Board meeting was canceled, so Gretchen had nothing to report.

CAC Open Position

A man who expressed interest in the open position does not reside in Hillsdale. The position announcement continues to be posted on the town website and is referred to in the town newsletter.

Culverts

Gretchen will set up a meeting with Richard Briggs to discuss the culverts that he considers highest priority for replacement, the culvert and road conditions that will inform our applications for grant funding, and grant sources that he is aware of.

Mary mentioned that NYSDOT offers training on stormwater Best Management Practices each year. The CAC should recommend to the Town Board that Hillsdale send a representative of the Highway Department to the training.

Comprehensive Plan

We might hear soon about whether Hillsdale has been awarded a NYSDOS grant for revising the Comprehensive Plan.

CAC Calendar

The CAC calendar is apparently not working now. David will try to fix it and will try to get Mary signed up to use it in January.

Farm Inventory

We are still working on the list of active farm operations in Hillsdale.

Town Newsletter

Mary will draft an article about rat poisoning.

New Business

CAC Reappointment

Each of us who wants to continue on the CAC must write a letter to the Town Council expressing our interest in reappointment before the end of the year.

Herbicides along Roads

Mary will draft a letter opposing the use of herbicides along roadways, to be sent by the Town Council to our state representatives.

Salt Shed Funding

The salt shed funding (\$400,000) was not approved. What was the potential funding source--WQIP?

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38pm.

Action Items

David:

- Sign Mary up on the CAC calendar.

Mary:

- Add to farm list
- Draft article on rat poisoning
- (carried over) Submit regular reports to the Town Board about EMC activities.

Amy:

- Add to the farm inventory list.
- (carried over) With Gretchen, look for sources of funding for culvert replacement and start to gather information needed for 2026 applications.

Gretchen:

- Select CAC articles for printing and obtain estimates for printing.
- (carried over) Prepare next draft of the Open Space Plan.
- (carried over) Draft a road salt article for the town newsletter.
- (carried over) With Amy, look for sources of funding for culvert replacement and start to gather information needed for 2026 applications. Confer with Richard Briggs about which culverts to prioritize.

All:

- Add to the list of active farms (circulated by email).
- (carried over) Look for suitable parcels for a future Community Forest.