

Conservation Advisory Council Town of Hillsdale, NY

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

MINUTES CAC MEETING, 18 DECEMBER 2025

The meeting was convened at 7:06pm at the Hillsdale Town Hall. All members were present (Amy by phone). Jamie Carano Nordenstrom (Town Council liaison) was [absent.

Approval of Minutes

The November 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 the Roe Jan sampling.

Planning Board

At the December Planning Board meeting, developer Peter Greer had been scheduled to bring a revised subdivision plat for his proposed project at Mansfield Road and Yonderview, but did not appear. No other projects requiring CAC input were discussed.

CAC Open Position

An acquaintance of Mary's has expressed interest in the CAC position, and has said that he would submit an application in January.

Culverts

After the December Town Council meeting, Gretchen spoke with Richard Briggs about the CAC's interest in helping obtain grants for culvert replacement. He had recently been in touch with Tracy Brown at Trout Unlimited and said he would put Gretchen in touch with Tracy to discuss the options.

The CAC discussed the southern Mitchell Street culvert and other culverts depicted on maps in the Hillsdale Road Crossings report. We noticed discrepancies between the culvert coding on the large-format map and the maps and tables in the Road Crossings report. We also noticed a mysterious series of "moderate" barriers shown on Carlson Road just over the border in Claverack. Amy lives nearby and is unaware of culvert problems along that road segment. Gretchen will ask Tracy about those Carlson Road culverts and about the discrepancies between maps depicting the culvert survey and analysis.

Comprehensive Plan

We have not yet heard whether Hillsdale has been awarded a NYSDOS grant for revising the Comprehensive Plan, but expect to hear soon.

CAC Calendar

David will try to get Mary signed up to use the calendar in January.

Farm Inventory

Amy sent the current draft list of active farm operations to Caroline Stewart for her input, but has not yet heard back. Gretchen will contact Caroline to see if she can help us add to the list, and also to see if she can send us the raw data on farms that she gathered in 2019-20 for the Hillsdale Natural Resources Inventory.

Town Newsletter

Mary will draft an article about rat poisoning.

CAC Reappointment

Mary, David, and Amy have sent letters or notes to the Town Council expressing interest in being reappointed to the CAC. Gretchen still needs to send such a note.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11pm.

Action Items

David:

- Sign Mary up on the CAC calendar

Mary:

- Ask Kaare Christian if he has received Hillsdale's payment for Roe Jan water sample analysis
- Add to farm list
- Draft article on rat poisoning
- (carried over) Draft a letter opposing the use of herbicides along roadways, to be sent by the Town Council to our state representatives
- (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:

- Talk to Tracy Brown about potential funding for culvert replacement
- Contact Caroline Stewart about the farm list
- Send note to Town Council about reappointment to the CAC
- (carried over) 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