

Attending: Eric Marczak, Peter Farquharson, Nelson Kent, Amy Pokorny

Eric opened the meeting at 7:39 PM.

Housekeeping

- Nelson made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes, Peter seconded and the motion passed.
- Eric reminded us to take tutorials on SEQR together or individually and get certificates.

Organizational

Education and Outreach

- Nelson moved that we introduce ourselves to the town board, the planning board and the zoning board of appeals using Peter's Q&As. Peter seconded and all approved.
 - Amy will ask Chairman Kristian Snyder if we can be added to the ZBA meeting agenda for Thursday, February 23 at 7:30 pm. CAC members who are available will attend.
 - The planning board meets Thursday, March 9 at 7:30 pm.
 - We'll plan to meet with the town board to introduce our proposal to do an OSI. Their next meeting is on Tuesday, March 14 at 7 pm.
- Peter will re-send a Q&A document he distributed to us some time ago.

Open Space Inventory (OSI)

- Peter is researching grant opportunities we could use for the open space inventory.
 - Fully funded grants or grants that allow in-kind match contributions are more likely to be approved by the town board.
 - Peter is working on how OSI project costs can be estimated.
- Five cycles of Hudson River Estuary grants for stewardship planning will open in 2023. They could be used for mapping, defining areas that need protection, etc.
 - OSI grants are typically announced in the first or second week of May. Amounts can be from \$30,000 and more. Awards may be announced in December.

Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs)

- To establish CEAs, we need to be familiar with SEQR.
- Maps of karst, sink holes, springs are already available. Anecdotal information from local residents may provide more detail.
 - Springs may not indicate where CEAs should be, unless groundwater flow is indicated.
 - Slopes could push water away from or toward areas that feed karst passages.
- We need to ask ourselves why we would survey residents about their water supplies, what information would be useful, how could it be used, etc.
 - Long term planning is needed to address anticipated development pressures on local resources.
 - All of our planning information is antiquated.
 - Zoning Ordinance was last updated in 2017.
 - Comprehensive Plan was adopted in 1994 and has not been updated in 29 years.
 - The OSI could serve as a chapter of an updated comprehensive plan.
 - To help define CEA overlay districts.
 - We don't have information about wells, and this could establish some baseline data.
 - We would need to test drinking water samples from around town to gather empirical data to complement survey data.

- To help identify point source pollution.
- To raise public awareness about water safety and conservation.
- The draft survey would need to be shorter. Or we could offer a simple version with further questions available to those who are willing to answer them.
- Eric and Peter spoke with Anna Palmer (see Peter's field notes, Feb. 2, 2023). There's not much opportunity for water protection grants except for municipalities with single source water supplies.
 - Anna Palmer recommends NYS Rural Water Association as a possible resource
 - Can they fund testing?
 - The three trailer parks in Knox are all likely to have shared wells and septic systems.
 - Amy will contact Albany County Department of Health for information.
- Eric asked us to look at the Taghkanic Headwaters website example. <https://taghkanicheadwaters.org/>
 - Citizen science got people involved, bought in.
 - They are looking at water quality protection studies, plans, implementation, results. Their process could be useful to us.
 - They outline predicted outcomes for each task.

Wetlands Boardwalk Restoration Project

Other Discussion

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM.