

Attending: Eric Marczak, Amy Lauterbach, Brigitte McAuliffe (by phone), Dave Nelson

Eric opened the meeting at 7:35 PM.

### Housekeeping

- Eric moved to approve the October meeting minutes. Brigitte seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
- Dave Nelson was sworn in as a member of the CAC.
- Amy will send a link to Dave for online access to an annual harassment training program.
- Eric will reach out to a few young (16-20 years) people who may want to get involved in our work.

### Education and Outreach

- Local outlets include the town's newsletter and website, Altamont Enterprise, and the Times Union, Daily Gazette.
  - Eric will introduce Dave to Noah Zweifel.
- Ideas for activities:
  - Does AC S&WCD hold events to encourage/offer water testing, soil testing for the public?
  - Invite wildlife handlers to bring a bald eagle or other wildlife.
  - Eric can ask his indigenous friends to discuss uses of natural resources for medicine, basket weaving, etc.
  - Building bluebird houses – Eric's Northeastern Woodworking Association contacts may have suggestions.
  - Develop lawn signs to encourage sustainable best practices, such as Niskayuna's pesticide pledge.
- Survey
  - Brigitte has been looking at Survey Monkey, would like to ask:
    - What people care about most, why they moved here or why they continue to live here, when they or their family settled here
    - Where they work/spend their days
    - Do they want change? What kind?
    - More business? A Dollar Store?
  - Collect data to help determine need for tax revaluation, comprehensive plan update
  - Need to dispel misinformation, focus the public on efforts to protect priorities of majority
  - Communicate that karst and water quality are linked, that karst makes parts of Knox effectively a single source water supply

### Map Library (for Open Space Inventory)

- This work has been on hold as we focus on getting the plank walkway and kiosk project done.
- Eric will look for companies that make maps.
- We need to identify maps we are missing from our inventory and available sources.
- We could use a large screen display to view maps on websites we can access at a future meeting.

### Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs)

- This effort will follow the map inventory work.
- We will work to identify possible sources of pollution, sink holes, sensitive areas, etc.

### Wetlands Boardwalk Restoration Project

- We still need to build a ramp at the start of the walkway. Ray will put the ridge cap on the kiosk very soon.
- Signs and interpretive materials need to be developed.

- Displays need to be attractive, easy to read. Dave sent us this link to USDA's US Forest Service website with examples of designs: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/wildflowers/features/panels.shtml>
  - Include a QR code to link to more material on the town website
  - Need to determine what activities will be allowed and prohibited:
    - Fishing might be compatible
    - Kayaking/canoeing?
    - Camping?
    - Authority for hunting resides with the state – we need to research applicable restrictions and what restrictions we would want to/could impose:
      - Feeding wildlife
- We'll ask Nelson to photograph the wetland again with his drone when the walkway is finished.
- We'll make a map showing where the beaver dam and other highlights are.
- We could develop a bird list for this site.
- Amy will arrange an inspection of the grant funded project with Susan Lewis of ACS&WCD.

### Other Discussion

Dave's friend Jared has lived in Knox for a couple years. He does public programs about birds, works on NYS DEC's New York Breeding Bird Atlas for their Natural Heritage Program: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/29338.html>. Dave will ask him if he would give a talk at our next meeting on Dec. 19. Resources:

- <https://ebird.org/atlasny/about/the-atlas-team>
- eBird website <https://ebird.org/home>
- NYS Birding Trail <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/109900.html#Trail>
- Hudson Mohawk Bird Club <https://www.hmbc.net/>
- We'll invite Thursday Naturalists, Berne Conservation Advisory Board, other contacts and the public to attend.

At 9:02 PM, Eric moved to adjourn, Dave seconded and all approved.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is planned for 7:30 PM on Tuesday, December 19.