



CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

Zoom videoconference
Thursday, August 3, 2023
6:30 PM via Zoom

MEETING NOTES

1. Call Meeting to Order

Present: Ed Dubovi., Carrie Koplinka-Loehr, John Fleming., David Wolfe, Karen Edelstein, and quick appearance by Gabby Desnoes. Katie Darcy and John Steinmetz from Bergmann

Absent: Adam Buck, Todd Walter, Robyn Bailey

2. Review minutes of July meeting

David asked whether there has been any followup regarding the Code Amendments Ch. 7 and the Ag Cmte being under wing of the CAC and no one had an update.

3. Discussion of working draft of the OSI and Conservation Plan with emphasis on implementation plan

General impression of draft OSI was highly favorable. John S gave Katie credit for pulling this all together. Katie walked through the document and with a focus on last few pages of the draft being the implementation plan.

Committee comments on draft narrative:

Will the OSI have an executive summary? YES

Photo credits? Katie will add photo credits for those who took them on the Acknowledgements page

Suggestion by John S.: A "Deep thoughts by committee member" at beginning might be helpful/nice (mention fondness for the community)

Specify open space for agriculture on the chart under Economic Benefits

Emphasize increased property values (e.g., house on lake)

Switch Social and Environmental benefits pages

Wildlife habitat map doesn't have much on it; looks depleted, but limited data available to add more "meat" to the map. Katie will explore use of ebird data.

Karen likes the color palate; doesn't quite work with steep slopes map; Katie can fix that

Legend text & color in the bedrock map should match the heading color (Ithaca...)

Useful of viewsheds map questioned. May simple present map with the points of reference rather than the "views".

On Ag map, pull Ag District into inset or create separate map (too much information)

Protected lands: combine with Parks but specify private/public, but delete specific addresses from table.

Add here or to the Implementation section: CAC becoming a CB and integrally involved in conservation work

Use the beautiful circular graphics from project goals as swag by creating stickers!
Score of each parcel will be in the appendix.

Implementation Strategy Table

- “Level” should be “Priority Level”
- Suggest timeframe ranking of strategies as short- medium- and long-term.
John S. and Katie will take a stab at the short-med-long column and then CAC could discuss it
- Cost could be represented by \$ \$\$ \$\$\$ icons (hard to put actual \$ on it)
- Reference climate impact mitigation/ areas vulnerable to excessive rainfall impacts? John S. thinks that’s more of a resiliency plan
- Move FLLT from Funding to Acquisition table?
- Change Acquisition to Conservation
- Change “Land Use Regulation” to something like “Land Use Guidelines for Development”
- Delete “Municipal” under purchase of land

CAC should go thru this version with fine toothed comb and provide comments to Katie

Add ideas like Forest Conservation Prog and NRCS

Sept 7 CAC Meeting: Katie and John S. will attend and we’ll hash out the Implementation Chart with them, after they send it to us by the end of next week. Comments on entire document welcome also. Map revisions and others will take a bit more time for them to deliver.

4. Other Business

NYSACC Conference on the Environment 2023, September 20-22. **Please register and share the word.**

5. Departmental and Committee Reports

- Town Board Liaison: Ruth will be meeting with John Zepko
- Agriculture and Farmland Protection, will meet Aug. 15, get to the bottom of the Code Amendments Ch. 7 stating that Ag Cmte will be a subset of CAC; they will also compare their zoning recommendations for RA/Ag with what was adopted.