

To: The Ancram Town Board  
From: The Ancram Conservation Advisory Council  
Subject: CAC Year End Report for 2017  
Date: January 8, 2018

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## **2017 Achievements and Activities**

1. The CAC recommends Jono Meigs as a new member of the CAC. Jono offers Ancram valuable experience as an ecology teacher, wildlife rehabilitator, former Stanford CAC member, and Hudsonia Advisory Board member.
2. Ancram Culvert Assessment and Replacement: On June 5th we met with Tracy Testo of Cornell Cooperative Extension to review Ancram's work with culvert replacement. We connected Ancram to Trout Unlimited's resources for grant writing and provided supportive information to Trout Unlimited for the Culvert Assessment Grant. The \$37,500 Grant was awarded! Erin and Colleen continue to play a role in the culvert replacement work, including aftercare and planting on stream banks by culverts.
3. Biodiversity Map and Work: CAC members complete approximately 100 site visits of the 454 sites that Hudsonia identifies as needing to be assessed in the field. In order to speed up the process of completing this map, we have reached out to Hudsonia asking for a proposal to help us complete the biodiversity map.
4. Planning Board: Erin provides monthly updates on activities of planning board and seeks our advice on environmental issues. Ideally we would play a larger role in advising with planning board work, as does the Hillsdale CAC; however our time is limited given all the other activities that we do.
5. The Natural Resource Conservation Plan: Claire starts working on the Ancram Natural Resource Conservation Plan educational pamphlet to match the Agricultural Protection Plan and Protection of Scenic Resources town pamphlets.
6. The Climate Smart Communities Task Force: Doug Brenner regularly attends our CAC meetings keeping us informed about the CSCTF activities and seeking our recommendations on particular actions. We made recommendations to Doug on how to potentially use the \$10,000 grant.
7. The Doodletown Wildlife Management Area: We facilitated a well attended public meeting in May, prepared requested recommendation paper to the Town Board, attended the recent DEC presentation and submitted individual comment letters that were circulated to town.
8. The Ancram Camp: Kim, Jane, Choral and Colleen wrote to Samantha and offered to do environmental education programs.
9. Roe Jan Watershed Association: Jamie plays a leadership role in this organization and keeps the CAC updated on progress of organization. Choral, Jamie and Colleen volunteered to do water testing at 14 sites in Hillsdale, Copake, Ancram and Gallatin. The association finished their Year 2 sampling. The three worst sites on the 50 mile Roe Jan included two sites in Ancram — at Hall Hill Road and Wiltsie Bridge Road where

there were numerous beach advisory readings. Ancram pays their for the water testing costs at Bard for 3 Ancram sites for a total of \$180.

#### 10. Regional Work

- Participated in the CLC Columbia County CAC Roundtables providing leadership to new CACs and learning from presenters and other CACs.
- Nominated Colleen Lutz for the Columbia County Good Earthkeeping Award. Colleen was awarded the Good Earthkeeping Award by the Columbia County EMC.

11. The Ancram Town Board requested our input on these topics: Doodletown Wildlife Management Area recommendations and Paved or Unpaved Roads: Weighing environmental factors

12. CAC Ongoing Training: Attended GIS map information training, Kingston Conference on the Environment and the Hudsonia Herpetofauna Workshop.

#### **PLANS FOR 2018**

1. Prepare public education memos on reducing lawn chemicals, invasive earth worms, and importance of maintaining dark skies.
2. Support the Climate Smart Community Task Force in terms of educating public on climate change, conservation concerns and human health.
3. Post the biodiversity map on the Ancram website — even if still in progress.
4. Complete the Natural Resource Conservation Plan pamphlet.
5. Assist and support Roe Jan River Water testing and reach out to the town about the health of the Roe Jan watershed providing recommendations on how we can improve the river water quality.
6. Provide input and review to Trout Unlimited on their culvert assessment. Work with the Highway Department providing recommendations and information on environmental issues related to culvert replacements.
7. Continue Tree for Tribs planting work with local high school students who need to fulfill community service work.