

To: The Ancram Town Board
From: The Ancram Conservation Advisory Council
Subject: CAC Year End Report for 2019
Date: January 6, 2020

2019 ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Biodiversity Map and Work: Hudsonia has updated the Ancram Biodiversity Habitat Map on the basis of field notes from the Ancram CAC and Hudsonia's additional interpretation of recent aerial photo images. See large format print out to be posted on the town website and sent out to Ancram email.
2. Planning Board: Erin Robertson provides monthly updates on activities of the Planning Board and seeks our advice on environmental issues. The Planning Board continues to send us applications to review.
3. The Natural Resource Conservation Plan brochure prepared by Claire Arnold is out. CAC made 100 copies for circulation using \$250 from our budget.
4. We prepared a public memo titled, Impacts of Climate Change on the Hudson Valley: Results of the Fourth National Climate Assessment by Ancram Conservation Advisory Council, June 2019. Copies available to the public and memo posted on our website.
5. On June 1, Choral and Kim had an educational table and Jane and Jono Meigs led a nature walk for the public at the opening of Columbia Land Conservancy's new Overmountain Conservation Area, located in Ancram.
6. Roe Jan Watershed Association: Choral, Colleen and Jamie conduct sampling for eight sites on the Roe Jan from Hillsdale to Milan, testing for enterococcus. Colleen did Wave testing including collection of aquatic organisms providing a good indication of river health. Although the condition of the Roe Jan River is considered overall very good, some of the test sites in Ancram included high enterococcus readings and temporary swimming advisories. To see posted water quality results go to:
<https://www.roejanwatershed.org/>
7. Participated in the CLC Columbia County CAC Roundtables providing leadership to new CACs and reporting back to our CAC about significant undertakings by other CACs in the county. Learning in particular about other CAC initiatives on climate change.
8. The Ancram Town Board requested our input on lighting plans and we prepared lighting recommendation in November to the Town Board for energy efficient upgrade and members of CAC are following ongoing updates on lighting.
9. CAC Ongoing Training: The majority of our members attended the Fall Sexual Harassment town wide training.
10. Erin attended DEC workshop (8hrs) Small Streams; Values, threats and protections and DEC training for the new Hudson Valley Resource Mapper and Columbia County GIS. Walter attended Inventories to Action on SEQR and local Zoning Regulations that protect the environment.
11. Erin, Jane, Jono and Jamie participate on CLC Overmountain Conservation Area pollinator meadow seeding, November 2nd with 30 other volunteers.

12. Begin thorough review of Comp Plan and Zoning Regulations so that we can assist the ZRC along the way on environmental related topics. Prepared recommendations on environmental protection needed in permitting of potential septic fluids on farm fields.
13. Reviewed Trout Unlimited culvert study including over \$700 of in kind services.
14. Nominated Christine Vanderlan, Elizabeth Gilmore and Moisha Blechman for EMC 2019 Good Earthkeeping Awards. We attend event when they all win awards.
15. Millerton Main St Magazine published *Dark Skies Above Us, Saving the Milkyway*, April 2019, modeled on our memo on same topic.
16. Contribute to the November Ancram newsletter on topics including how to attract birds, importance of dark skies, and the Overmountain Conservation Area pollinator meadow.
17. Recommend new member Walter Williamson to join our CAC. His interest in forest conservation and his experience as a doctor and lawyer will be a great contribution to the skill set of our group.

PLANS FOR 2020

1. Prepare public education memos on reducing lawn chemicals and invasive earth worms.
2. Reach out to the town about the health of the Roe Jan watershed, providing recommendations on how we can improve the river water quality.
3. Public education on the updated biodiversity map.
4. Continue to urge the town to take advantage of available grant money for culvert replacements since we have a completed priority plan on specific culverts that need replacement. With the Trout Unlimited plan, Ancram is in an exceptional position to win grants.
5. Continue the major review of zoning regulations and prepare advisory memos to the Zoning Board Revisions Committee along the way throughout the year.