

Town of Ancram CAC Minutes Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Attendees: Amy, Choral, Erin, Jane, Jay, Jono, Wally

The August 15, 2023 meeting of the Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) was held by Zoom, starting at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes of the July 2023 meeting were approved.

There was a vigorous and lengthy discussion of a draft revision to the zoning laws. CAC's focus is to update rules to better define acceptable and prohibited uses in the Scenic Corridor, on Steep Slopes, and on Ridgelines in order to protect vital ecological services and the natural beauty of these areas. The Zoning Revisins Commission had requested that the CAC submit proposed revisions by September 6. Members were asked to submit their final comments to the draft by August 18. Erin and Amy reworked the most recent draft into a format that the ZRC prefers. Then, Jane and Erin will review revisions and content and prepare a preliminary final draft to circulate to the entire CAC for final review. Erin will inquire about an extension to the September 6 due date to enable the CAC to finalize its product.

One Planning Board Issue was discussed: the Velazquez project. The Planning Board will conduct a site visit after the applicant removes a travel trailer. Members of the CAC will be invited to join the site visit. There were no comments regarding other Planning Board issues: Green Hill Subdivision, Camp Emanuel, Dawning Farm Driveway Variance, and Carson Rd.-Slaughter House Project.

Discussion on the use of Ancram's Natural Resources Conservation Plan to create an Open Space Plan was tabled for a subsequent meeting.

Discussion of deer overabundance was tabled for a subsequent meeting. However, Jay announced that the Ancram Resilient Garden and Farm group intends to conduct a field trip to a local Audubon Sanctuary on September 22 to discuss forest health, effects of climate change and deer browsing, view exclusionary fencing, and discuss potential solutions. Jay will provide details of the field visit to the CAC as they become available.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 6:30pm via Zoom.