

Town of Taghkanic

Conservation Advisory Committee Minutes: September 17, 2015

Attended: Valerie Hoffman, Joyce Thompson, Anna Kadish, Zita Kobos, Tony LaSalvia, Charlene Paden and Larry Kadish

Guest: John Roberts, Town of Taghkanic member of Planning Board

GIS (Geographic Information System): John Roberts joined the committee to discuss and demonstrate Taghkanic's GIS mapping procedures/capabilities and how it relates to CAC functions and future projects. GIS is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data related to positions on Earth's surface. GIS can show many different kinds of data on one map to enable people to more easily see, analyze, and understand patterns and relationships. Zoning districts, structures, and natural features, e.g. streams, wetlands, watersheds, soil types, forests, steep slopes, habitats, can be viewed alone or combined in an overlay view as an educational and/or planning tool in the town's management process.

John answered many questions from the committee about the town's use of GIS. Currently, the Taghkanic planning board uses GIS for review of new development and subdivision applications with a focus on watersheds, soils, steep slopes and streams. He added that it will be important to update the database when the new zoning comes into effect. He reported that, as an example of general information gained by the data displays, the Town of Taghkanic is almost entirely "fragmented forest"; but there is very little information relating to other vegetation and animal habitats*.

The town's GIS are updated by the Dutchess County Cooperative Extension agent, but this occurs only when and if there is new information to add to the database. (There may be information from past studies/inventories by the DEC that have not been entered into the database.) Anyone can get a stand-alone copy of the GIS from the County Cooperative Extension.

***John can arrange for a person from the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) - Doug Little from Greene County to talk to the town about wild turkey habitats. This could be a joint Planning Board/CAC sponsored talk.**

Future Nature Walks/Explorations in Taghkanic: The committee is considering possible sites for future guided walks in the town this Fall. Three possible private properties with many diverse features were discussed:

- 1- Valerie Hoffman's 50 acres on Sopak Road includes wetlands and elevations, in West Taghkanic off Livingston Rd;**
- 2- Gita Kobos' 87 acres on Manor Rock Rd includes a heron rookery and several bird species (Bobolinks);**
- 3- Sam Pratt's 400 acres on Hoyle Rd includes several types of ferns.**

Who would guide? To be discussed. See below for the answers!

****Future Meetings:**

****Guided Nature Walk; Saturday October 24th from 9:30-noon at Valerie Hoffman's. Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia will be our guide. Stay tuned for more details. CAC Committee will meet next on Thursday October 15th from 5-6:30. Our agenda will include:**

- 1. Final planning for our guided autumn walk, Saturday October 24th 9:30 – noon at Valerie Hoffman's property in Taghkanic. Gretchen Stevens will be our guide.**
- 2. Further discussion on whether and how to proceed with a Natural Resource Inventory for the Town of Taghkanic. ACTION: Anna will inquire at the next Town meeting if anyone is interested in helping us.**
- 3. What is happening with the DEC culvert inventory for the town? And how does the current round of grants (deadlines in November!) relate to this work or other. ACTION: Anna will call Andrew Meyer.**