

09.08.2014 Meeting

Samson Environmental Center, Darrow School

Attendees: Cynthia Creech, Jack Lancto, Craig Westcott (Secretary), David Farren, Christine Vanderlan (guest), Caleb Corliss (guest), Claudia Knabb-Vispo (guest), Conrad Knabb-Vispo (guest)

Call to order 6:40pm

Adjourned at 8:06pm

Useful for landowners and municipal officials making land use decisions, especially in the latter category. Ideally the NRI informs the planning and zoning process. Claudia and Conrad made suggestions about how to complete a Natural Resources Inventory.

Producing an NRI would require participation outside of a school program, so, significant extracurricular time would be required.

ARC GIS software is available to educational institutions for ~ \$100/license. The possibility of involving students in the Natural Resources Inventory was discussed.

The scale of the NRI is very much predicated on the group of people who are involved. The depth of the inquiry depends on the dynamic that one is trying to observe, e.g. a vernal pool would require observation in each season, whereas a forest might only need to be observed once to record composition.

“Habitat patches” define the area to be observed and divide the total area into “units.” Some of this definition can be achieved using aerial photographs.

“homework” for the CAC should be to read the Ancram Natural Resource Conservation Plan (available online) and possibly attend the October 20, presentation of the Ancram Natural Resource Conservation Plan (Jamie Purrinton) at the CAC roundtable at the Trinity Church at 555 Joslin Blvd. Greenport, NY. 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Discussed the possibility of a town-wide survey of resident landowners to try to “mine” information about habitat types. Send an aerial photograph with plot plans superimposed with some information about habitat types, e.g. hardwood forest, wetlands, meadow, etc. The incentive is the opportunity for co-learning; residents can learn about their land from the CAC and the CAC can learn about the land from the residents. Hudsonia Habitat categories could provide the basis for similar designation in New Lebanon

- 1) Form the team who will initiate/perform the inventory (possible recruits: Helen Burton, Joe Kosaka, Bruce Schenker, Merrill Ross (aerial assays),
- 2) Train the group to identify different habitat types (biodiversity assessments training, funding might be available Hudson River Estuary Program-Gretchen Stevens)
- 3) Do the work to identify the habitat patches and natural resources
- 4)

The next meeting of the New Lebanon CAC will occur on Monday October 20, 2014 at the CAC roundtable at the Trinity Church at 555 Joslin Blvd. Greenport, NY. 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m.

