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- Approved

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## CAC Agenda / Working Doc Jan 12 2022

### Upcoming Events

- Saturday/ Monday: MLK Days of Engagement at Bard (on campus only/ no community tie ins)
- Webinars (links at end) about rare species designations, amphibian migrations, and vernal pool conservation. And birds in backyards
- Sunday 1/16 at 6pm: Online Hudson Valley Repair Cafe <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85898357503>

### General

#### **DEC Camp Scholarship(s)**

- Share info w/ networks (weblink, FB post, direct contacts with LAMS faculty, kidmail)
- Jen following up with Masons about sponsorship
- Ages 11-17 (11 by December 1, 2022). Updates to application needed?

### Planning Board

- 147 kW private solar array: is it for own use or commercial? Owners will have to verify energy usage.
  - Kasselmann Solar -Craig Neville-Manning PV Array, 243 Woods Road, Tivoli – Site Plan, Special Permit and Certificate of Appropriateness Continued discussion of application to install a ground-mounted medium solar energy system consisting of five arrays totaling 7, 670 square feet in size generating a total of 149 kW on a 10.226-acre parcel located at 245 Woods Road in the Limited Development, Historic Landmark Overlay and Scenic Corridor Overlay Zoning Districts.
- Net metering requires all meters assigned to array owner; now remote crediting can be assigned to others
- Work with energy committee: changes to code needed?

## Land & Water

### **Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2)**

1. next mtg Friday, February 4, 2022 at 9:30am via WebEx
2. Looking for smaller working groups:
  - a. Identifying areas of concern and potential contaminants that are not included in our current mapping efforts
  - b. Discussing various protection and management strategies
  - c. Soliciting feedback and concerns from Town residents

### **Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan**

LWRP committee is looking at possible projects in the Waterfront Revitalization Area (Rte 9G to the middle of the river). It's kind of a dream list at this point. Let me know what ideas you all have been kicking around. Thanks, Paula

Does the CAC ever say "There ought to be a....." or "It would be great to have a ....."?

Examples -

- a feasibility study,
- monitoring of the Stony Kill and the Mudder Kill,
- better parking lot on Kidd Lane at DEC trailhead.
  
- Vernal pool protections - mapping?
- Jen Cavanaugh would like to see a septic repair/replacement program. Nearly positive that septic systems are failing all around us and many people don't have the money to fix or replace so they stay failing. Bad for property owner health, community health, and environment. Maybe a community betterment grant/loan program?? I'd love to have a pump out/inspection program but that may not be tolerable to property owners.
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## Climate Smart Community/ Energy

**Cornell Climate Smart Steward project** - figuring out how to do refrigerant drives

**GHG Grant submitted:** CEC \$10K - Mowers

Budget Item: Can we buy software for solar?

- Mapping solar opportunities
- ArcGIS license would give geospatial data access - solar mapping tool has HV overlays
- Helpful to make recommendations to planning board.
- Use Bard access through Frances? Does Cornell Cooperative Extension have some licensing discount or resource for municipalities?
- Revisiting our climate action plan?

**Community Choice Aggregation:** originally 18 month contract, now Jen (+ others?) suddenly dropped. Has the town not renewed the CCA? Public Hearing May 6, 2021. + billing problems with Central Hudson.

## Transportation

## Materials Management

**Repair Cafe** to be rescheduled

**Organics Conversation** (20 minutes)

- Lori met with Amelia (Ozone) → 3 options
  - 1. Low: Town arranges for 32 gallon roller bins at Recycle Yard, from Ozone. Residents using Recycle Yard could drop off organics in those bins. Recycle Yard staff keep an eye on them, Ozone handles the waste. Monthly charge for four bins.
    - Pro: simple. Con: gives us no info; no oversight of what goes in.
  - 2. Rhinebeck: 12-13 bins w/ education campaign. 100 selected participants = pilot program, by application. Log in w/ code on Ozone website, pay sliding scale \$6-12 per month. QR code grants access to locked bins, enter weight of organics dropped off. By legal contract between Rhinebeck, Ozone.
    - Pro: lots of data, education + more buy-in, town would pay less per bin. Con: cost to residents.
    - Data gives opportunity to see who is participating, from where → should there be other collection sites? Who to reach out to?
  - 3. Hybrid: Town rents bins \$154/month, users must sign up (through Ozone site). Bins secured by combination lock shared with users. Registration fee to compensate Amelia for extra help?
    - Pro: Amelia willing to help. Con: some need for user info.
- TJ on board
- Currently, organics go to UCRRA, but Amelia is working with a farm near Hudson – organics might go there soon.
- Uniform bin? Day of special organics attention at the yard?

### Scheduling for 2022

- Paper Shred Day (May 7? Apple Blossom day)
- E-Waste Day
- Compost Program Pilot Start
- Can we do a haz waste day
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Resource (NYC): Comprehensive Database Provides Citizens with Options for Donation, Reuse, Repair, Sharing, Selling, Rental, Swapping and More. Click [HERE](#) to read a brief “**Donate, Reuse & Repair**” Factsheet for Manhattan. Click [HERE](#) to download and explore the full database and map.

Webinar info:

[Hudson Valley Estuary Program - NYS DEC](#)

The Conservation and Land Use Team wishes you a happy, healthy, and biodiverse New Year! Please join us for upcoming webinars about rare species designations, amphibian migrations, and vernal pool conservation.

## **Webinar: Plants and Animals of Conservation Concern - An Introduction to New York State Species Designations**



Thursday, January 20, 12:30-2:00pm

[\(Register here\)](#)

What does it mean when a species is formally listed as endangered, threatened, special concern, or rare? And how do these legal ranks relate to the species of greatest conservation need list or the conservation status determined by the New York Natural Heritage Program? This webinar will introduce the different designations for plant and animal species in New York State, how they relate to regulatory protections, and how they are addressed in reviewing proposed projects.

### Speakers:

**Dr. Dan Rosenblatt**, Wildlife Diversity Section Head, DEC Division of Fish and Wildlife

**Nick Conrad**, Information Resources Coordinator, New York Natural Heritage Program

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## **Webinar Series: Vernal Pools and Amphibian Migrations**

As part of our [Amphibian Migrations and Road Crossings \(AM&RC\) Project](#), this month we're kicking off a webinar series to more deeply explore the ecology and conservation of pool-breeding amphibians and their habitat. The series will include presentations from researchers and practitioners from New York and New England who will share expertise and strategies to help us prevent amphibian road mortality during breeding migrations and achieve more effective conservation of vernal pools.

See below for information on each of the three AM&RC webinars.

## Webinar 1: Vernal Pools

Tuesday, January 25, 5:00-6:30pm

[\(Register here\)](#)

This webinar will provide an in-depth look at vernal pools and their importance for a special group of amphibians that live in the forest. How do these small, seemingly insignificant wetlands play such an important role in our forest ecosystems? How have amphibians adapted to use the temporary abundance of water in vernal pools to breed? Our speaker, Dr. Mary Beth Kolozsvary, will share her knowledge of vernal pools, of the salamanders and frogs that rely on this critical breeding habitat, and some of the threats to vernal pools that warrant our conservation attention.

We'll also share a brief update from the Amphibian Migrations and Road Crossings project.

Speaker:

**Dr. Mary Beth Kolozsvary**, Associate Professor of Environmental Studies and Sciences, Siena College

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## Webinar 2: Amphibian Migrations - Case Studies in Reducing Mortality at Road Crossings

Tuesday, February 1, 5:00-6:30pm

[\(Register here\)](#)

This webinar will feature two stories of communities taking action to reduce mortality of amphibians on roads where there is high migration crossing activity each Spring. We'll learn from Brett Amy Thelen how data collected by volunteers led a small New Hampshire city to close a local road to vehicle traffic on amphibian migration nights, in partnership with a local conservation organization. We'll also learn from Chris Slesar about the creation of an award-winning wildlife crossing culvert between two areas of critical amphibian habitat in Monkton, VT. Both Brett and Chris will share lessons learned and strategies for implementing similar conservation actions.

Speakers:

**Brett Amy Thelen**, Science Director, Harris Center for Conservation Education

**Chris Slesar**, Environmental Resources Coordinator, Vermont Agency of Transportation

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## Webinar 3: Vernal Pool Habitat Conservation

Tuesday, February 15, 5:00-6:30pm

[\(Register here\)](#)

Our final webinar in the AM&RC series will consider conservation approaches needed to protect the critical habitat needed by pool-breeding amphibians. First, we'll learn about a recent study that investigated vernal pools across New York State. Dr. Matt Schlesinger will share key findings from that study, including indicators of vernal pool significance for conservation of amphibian biodiversity at local and landscape scales. We'll then hear from Dr. Aram Calhoun about a new, locally driven, voluntary vernal pool mitigation tool called the Maine Vernal Pool Special Area Management Plan (or SAMP) currently adopted by two Maine towns.

Speakers:

**Dr. Matt Schlesinger**, Chief Zoologist, New York Natural Heritage Program

**Dr. Aram Calhoun**, Professor Emerita, University of Maine

Dutchess Land Conservancy

Please join us on Wednesday February 2nd from 6:00 to 7:30pm (EST) for ***The Challenges Birds Face and How Our Yards Can Help***, presented by **Becca Rodomsky-Bish of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology**. Becca will discuss why birds are in decline and how native habitat can be a part of the solution in restoring their populations. Individual property owners and communities must take active steps to strategically choose plants and management methods that help support resident and migrating birds. These simple actions can go a long way to revive our declining bird populations around North America. For this talk we'll be focusing on plants and native habitats in the northeastern United States.

*Becca is a project leader for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Her areas of expertise include native habitat, sustainability and conservation, along with sustainability education. One of her projects, and one you can support, is the Great Backyard Bird Count. The "GBBC" is an annual February event that has united birdwatchers from around the world for over 20 years.*

## **Register**

There is no fee for this virtual series. Registration is open now for *The Challenges Birds Face and How Our Yards Can Help*. Registration for other sessions will open soon.

### Upcoming Speakers:

March 2

Joyce Tomaselli: Controlling Invasive Plants in Managed Landscapes and Beyond

April 6\*

Margaret Roach, Nonstop Plants: A Garden for 365 Days