

2015 CAC & EMC Roundtable February 25, 2015

Below is a “bullet list” of items presented by each Dutchess County Township Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) reporting last year’s progress at the 2015 Roundtable meeting. It is included here as a very short summary of the topics presented. These items were shared among all members to swap strategies that brought successful outcomes to common problems and request help from groups that had found successful ways for dealing with unresolved challenges. Taken together they reveal the general progress Dutchess County is making to a better and more sustainable natural environment. Finally, each CAC shared the important goals they were setting for themselves in the year ahead.

2014 Successes

Amenia

- Annual Cleanup and planting
- Fishing Landing on Wassaic Creek
- Cleaned up gravel mine
- Cleaned up Superfund site with DEC help
- Plan to open a park at the site

Beekman

- Added 2 members for a total of 9 members
- Wide array of perspectives
- Committee meets every month
- Town Board members are in attendance at their meetings
- CAC member attends Planning Board meetings

East Fishkill

- Increase to 7 members
- Involved in EMC and East Fishkill Watershed Association
- Maintain CAC office
- Set up a public information booth for tree planting
- CAC as East Fishkill Tree Commission

EMC

- Revised enabling legislation
- Presentation on Road Salt in Groundwater (GIS)
- Article in the Poughkeepsie Journal about metal recycling
- Put together a document of climate change resiliency resources
- Helped CCEDC organize Green Infrastructure Forum

Hyde Park

- Worked with the county to get recycling containers in the parks
- Presented to the town board on the CSC Pledge

Lagrange

- Purchased new laptop

- Attended 2 conferences
- Received student earth day award
- Town board passed CSC resolution in June
- Fordham student taking water samples
- Rain gardens
- Hosted 2 public meetings
 - Energy Efficiency
 - Recycling and composting

Red Hook

- Promoting environment scholarships with the DEC
- 9 active members
- Salamander crossing assistance in Red Hook
- Grant for sidewalks
- Worked on NYSERDA Grant with CCEDC
- Biodiversity Grant

Town of Washington

- Worked on projects related to wetland ordinance
 - Subdivisions in wetlands (proposal)
 - Mitigation through planting, rain gardens, etc...required
 - Property with septic tank failures; owner wants to re-develop
 - Improved septic green infrastructure

2014 Challenges

Amenia

- Silo Ridge steep slopes and soil erosion

Beekman

- Funding
- Would like to attend the state CAC meeting

East Fishkill

- Need funding for Stormwater Project

EMC

- Financial issues – need liability insurance for Environment Fair
- Filling vacancies – new members need to be appointed

Hyde Park

- Only 3 members on the CAC
- Need to have a recruitment

Lagrange

- Successful 2014 for Lagrange CAC

Red Hook

- Green business challenge for CSC
- Concerns with private water company
- Maintaining volume of work

Town of Washington

- Relationship with Planning Board members

2015 Goals

Amenia

- Annual Cleanup Day
- Working with HVE to look at Tenmile

Beekman

- Conservation easements (open space) through new cluster developments
- Revising timber harvesting laws
- Willow plantings near streams
- Attending Planning Board meetings

East Fishkill

- Maintaining CAC office with past records
- Attending EF Planning Board meetings on a regular basis
- Working on tree management ordinance (street tree and residential)
- Continue involvement with the Fishkill Creek Watershed & Beautification Committees

EMC

- Working to reduce the amount of road salt used
- Summary of best management practices involving road salt
- Focus on composting/organics recycling promotion (and increasing overall recycling)
- Continue to promote low impact development – implementation of Green Infrastructure
- Promote activities to build resiliency to climate change
- Hold an environmental fair in Dutchess County

Hyde Park

- Reviewing habitat assessment guidelines
- Climate smart communities – becoming a member
- Researching forestry laws in municipality - logging

Lagrange

- Hold 2 public meetings
- Continue having Community Day
- Extend Wappinger Greenway Trail to Red Oaks Mill

Red Hook

- Promote scholarships for students studying the environment
- Planning board reviews
- Greenway trails grant to develop trails in the area
- CUNY SUNSHOT to promote solar
- DEC Estuary grant work
- Working with CCEDC on NYSERDA Cleaner Greener Communities Grant
- Amphibian crossings
- E-waste collection day
- Safety / water quality
- Bike / pedestrian count
- Roadside cleanups

Town of Washington

- Community awareness of CAC's involvement with the Planning Board
- Build a better relationship with Planning Board members