

**POUND RIDGE, NEW YORK CONSERVATION BOARD**

**MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 1, 2016 MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HOUSE,  
179 WESTCHESTER AVENUE, POUND RIDGE, NEW YORK 10576  
COMMENCING AT 7:15 P.M.**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Carolynn Sears, Chair  
Sonia Levethan  
Richard Mendes  
Norman Tunnell  
Luke Lyons, Junior Member  
AJ Peck, Junior Member**

**ALSO PRESENT**

**Stephanie Ingraldi  
Laura Heady  
Cris Morris**

Carrie began the meeting by asking Board members if they had any changes or additions to the agenda, none were proposed. The agenda and minutes from last month's meeting were both approved.

**PROGRESS REPORTS/UPDATES**

Carrie expressed her priority in submitting a letter of interest to the Westchester Community Foundation, which is due on June 3rd. The letter of intent says that we are interested in applying in the category of environmental work. We would be using the funds to hire an intern to create an open space map of the conservation easements that are in the file. If our objective fits their criteria, then they invite us to submit the formal proposal. Carrie emailed the letter to Board members, and presented the letter to a GIS professor at Pace for his opinion. The Board supported submitting the letter of interest.

Carrie spoke to Aaron Westin from CAI Technologies, who informed her of the dynamic overlay. For the same amount of money, a column could be added to the Tax Assessor's work. It automatically puts conservation easements on the map.

Carrie emailed Sam Weir, Westchester County GIS training, and asked if a June 22nd training session would work for him, but she hasn't heard back. She will pursue his response.

Milkweed planting will take place at on PRIDE DAY, Sunday, June 5th, at 11:00 a.m. at the Town House. At 1:00 until 4:30, we will be hosting a Conservation Board table at the event, giving away seed packages including wildflowers, magazines with articles on how to attract seed pollinators, and litter bags. One objective is to sign people up for the

Recreation Community email news, emergency lists, etc., and another is to increase the visibility and presence of the Conservation Board.

Richard has been attending the Water Commission meetings as the Conservation Board liaison. Luke said there is nothing to report. Sonia is the liaison to the Planning Board, and reported there was no meeting in the month of May. June 30th is the next meeting. Carrie said she is not aware of anything happening with the ordinance review.

Cris reported on the progress with the Town Roadside Cleanup project. Signs were set up a week ago which helps get the visual out to the community, and bags have been delivered to target areas. Bags will be available in two locations on Pride Day.

The Library has been very proactive in spreading the word with their email lists, by handing out flyers at the front desk, and with signage in their front yard. The Recreation Department sent out an email blast with information on the project. The pick up date for bags has been extended to June 10th. Feedback on the incentive has been positive.

Gail, Phil and Carrie walked Aquarion property and recommended the Highway Department clear felled trees from the trail. The new signage arrived for the Eastwoods trailhead, and it looks good. The sign is being mounted this week.

Carrie had no reports on the following: TIP-PR, "The Way We Live"/100 words, and Tree Board/Tree City. The LittleFreeLibrary is on hold due to budgetary constraints. Suggestion revisions have been made for signs on Shelly's Walk, and will be submitted to Ruth Mendes of the Pound Ridge Business Association.

#### **NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY AND NYS DEC HRE GRANT - SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER LAURA HEADY**

Guest speaker Laura Heady is the Project Manager at the Hudson River Estuary Program, which is funded by the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. This Program is unique within the DEC because they don't only think about jurisdictional values, but the ecosystem as well. A staff of 25 people work in the 3D Region in New Paltz on climate change and adaptation, shoreline issues, collaborating with watershed groups on watershed planning, and the conservation of habitat and biodiversity through local land use planning. The DEC deals with communities that have drainage into the Hudson River.

A Natural Resources Inventory compiles, describes and assesses important naturally occurring resources in a specific area such as forests, streams, wetlands, surface and ground waters, farmland, and rocky ridges. Many communities also include cultural resources as part of their NRI, which can be historical sites, scenic areas, recreational assets, and in urban areas, street tree inventory.

**The DEC is encouraging communities to develop their Natural Resources Inventory to help them set priorities, and to teach municipalities how this important information is put into place for conservation overlay districts, wetland laws, and to enhance protection of the community's natural resources. A Natural Resources Inventory is an important part of an adaptation plan. Knowing where your natural resources are makes a community resilient to flooding and temperature change. The NRI is an indispensable tool providing a strong foundation for land-use planning, open space planning and protection, critical environmental area (CEA) designations, and can be integrated into a comprehensive, open space, or watershed plan.**

**The following inventory components are recommended by the DEC when compiling an NRI: Geology and Soils, Water Resources, Habitat and Wildlife, Climate, Cultural Resources and Land Use. Laura recommended additional components to include with the basic inventory such as a ground water/aquifer study. Do we know where our aquifers are?**

**Part of the habitat map should include perennial streams (flowing year round) and intermittent streams (flowing part of the year), watersheds, water bodies (ponds and lakes), vernal pools and flood plains. Westchester County has updated FEMA flood plain data. They recommend a composite of the National Wetlands Inventory, developed with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and designed to show different wetland habitats.**

**Water quality assessment and standard should be included. The DEC has different water quality levels which can be found online.**

**Laura said that hydric soils, which are very poorly drained or poorly drained soils, are good indicators of wetlands. The hydric soils can be part of our wetlands map.**

**Their recommendation for the report for each of the resources we are including is to describe a little bit about them, then characterize that resource specific to Pound Ridge. We should also include recommendations for the homeowner and the town, on the parcel scale, and the town-wide scale. They are fine with pulling resources from the book, that is why it was written.**

**The Climate Smart Communities Program just came out with funding for communities to work on their Natural Resources Inventory. Carrie said somebody took the pledge for Pound Ridge to be a Climate Smart Community. Being certified as a Climate Smart Community opens the door for other funding opportunities.**

**Carrie had a question about the Quarterly Contractor Compliance Reports. Laura said she was more a Project Manager on content, Carrie should contact Susan Pepe who is the grants manager. When the contract is executed, Susan will send a guidance packet. Laura indicated that reimbursement is quarterly.**

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

**June 3** WCF Letters of Inquiry due for Cycle 3  
**June 4** Workshop: Climate Smart Certification Forum, Poughkeepsie  
<http://csccertificationforum.eventbrite.com>  
**June 5** PRIDE DAY  
**June 9** Federated Conservationists dinner meeting (Lasdon) 5:30 p.m.  
**June 10** Conservation Cafe: Long Island Sound (Pace) 8:30-10:30 a.m.  
**June 11** Supervisor's Forum (Town House) - Richard 10:00 a.m.  
**June 22** Westchester GIS Training (to be confirmed)  
**July 1** WCF Proposals due for Cycle 3  
**July** NWF recertification due  
**October** WCF Announcement of grant awards for Cycle 3  
**December** Tree City recertification due

**The meeting adjourned at 9:02 P.M.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Roseann C. Vuotto  
June 2016  
Pound Ridge, New York**