



CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

October 1, 2025
6:30 In Person
Lansing Town Hall

MINUTES

1. Call Meeting to Order

Present: Ed Dubovi, Robyn Bailey, Travis Kitch, Brian Boerman

Excused Absence: John Fleming, Todd Walters, John Hatfield,

Non-CAC attendees: Christine Montague, Town Board, Ashley Seyfried, Kathleen Yen, Village of Lansing

A quorum of the current CAC members was present.

1. Discussion on the implementation of the Climate Smart Communities program

The contract for administering the CSC program for the Town of Lansing is now with the Southern Tier 8 Regional Board. Our contact person is Ashley Seyfried. The focus of the discussion of the CSC program was how do we move forward with no administrative support from the Town. Ashley will contact Jerry Zhang from CCE to see what items might have been identified that would qualify for submission to the CSC program. It was not clear to the CAC who can submit documentation. Many of the items that might qualify for points were actions done in the past for which documentation may or may not exist. Without administrative input, very little can be achieved toward the goals of the program. Ashley will forward her recommendations once she has some idea what may be possible. Some simple items such as participation in the EMC, CWIO, NYSAAC are relevant but need documentation. Also looking for joint programs with the county.

2. Meeting with the Conservation Board of the Town of Ithaca.

The chair of the CAC met with the Town of Ithaca Conservation Board on September 4 to learn how the CB operates with regard to assessing the environmental impacts of developments. The Town of Ithaca "planning" structure is very different from the Town of Lansing. The Planning Board consists of 3 Town Board members. The Planning Department has 5 planners and an admin aide. A senior planner attends all CB meetings and plans the agenda. Any resources needed by the CB are provided by the Planning staff. The CB may become involved in any development project of 5 acres or larger (their OSCP included many more parcels of land than the Town of Lansing OSCP). In any given year, the CB might have input of 5-10 projects. Any needed documentation is provided by the Planning Dept. After reviewing the documentation, a site visit may be done to assess the environmental impact of the project – drainage, rare species, impact on adjacent properties, UNA, scenic views impact, etc). While state law allows 45 days for submission of a report the CB tries to have a memo to the Planning Dept in 15 days. All of this effort is backed by the admin staff of the Planning Dept. While no formal training is involved, long-serving members of the Board provide guidance. The CB did give a presentation to the NYSACC meeting in Ithaca in 2022 on their process.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMl1K5_xlMU&list=PLJB3yoXsQzc38wOjE6l3emKzBMXMCDcQO&index=2

The “take home” message is that a Town of Lansing CB cannot function without significant administrative support from the Planning Dept.

3. Future of the CAC

The CAC has been struggling over the past year to identify areas of interest to the Town Board mainly because the Board has not provided any guidance as to their areas of interest. In addition, the CAC is the “task force” for the CSC program. Again, the CAC struggled with the means to implement this program without any administrative support. The CAC will have up to 5 positions to fill for 2026 (two vacancies and 3 possible renewals). It will be difficult to fill these vacancies without a pro-active agenda which can attract interested parties.