

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TOWN OF LANSING CONSERVATION
ADVISORY COUNCIL 2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

RESOLUTION 24-

**RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TOWN OF LANSING
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL 2024 ANNUAL REPORT**

The following Resolution was duly presented for consideration by the Town Board:

WHEREAS, per Town Board Resolution 19-49 the Conservation Advisory Council was authorized to perform certain functions for the Town and to act in an advisory capacity under General Municipal Law § 239-x; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned Resolution and General Municipal Law 239-x(f) require the Conservation Advisory Council to file required annual reports with the Town Board on or before the thirty-first day of December of each and every year, and once approved by the Town Board, to send a copy thereof to the New York State Commissioner of Environmental Conservation; and

**Town of Lansing
Conservation Advisory Council
2024 Annual Report**

Membership

Members of the Conservation Advisory Council (hereafter “CAC”) are appointed by the Lansing Town Board each January via resolution. The following members served in 2024:

Robyn Bailey
Adam Buck (part year)
Gabrielle Desnoes
Edward Dubovi (chair)
John Fleming
Todd Walter
Brian Boerman
Lisa Scanlon

At the beginning of 2024, the CAC lost 3 of its members including a co-chair of the committee. Ed Dubovi assumed the chair of the committee. Two new members were recruited. One member resigned in mid-year and our student member was missing for the year. Goal for 2025 is to have 2-3 new members appointed.

Environmental Management Council

With the resignation of David Wolfe from the CAC, the Town of Lansing slot on the Tompkins County Environmental Management Council became vacant. With no new volunteers for the position, the Town Board in July recommended that Ed Dubovi be appointed to this position for the remainder of 2024. A re-application for 2025 is still pending.

Open Space Conservation Plan

Throughout 2023, the CAC met monthly with our consultants from Colliers Engineering (formerly Bergmann Associates) to create Lansing’s Open Space Conservation Plan (OSCP),

formerly known as the Open Space Index. By January 2024, a draft document was available for comment by the CAC. John Steinmetz from Colliers Engineering presented the draft OSCP to the Town Board at its February meeting. A public meeting was held at the Town Board meeting on March 20, followed by a resolution accepting the OSCP pending required procedural matters. The Town Board formally adopted the OSCP at its May 15 meeting. The acceptance of the plan was the culmination of a two-year effort by Collier Engineering with the oversight of the project by the CAC. The CAC wishes to thank all the Lansing residents that assisted in the project along with the Park Foundation that provided a grant for this project to move forward.

The website for the adopted plan is:

https://www.lansingtown.com/sites/default/files/fileattachments/conservation_advisory_council/page/2495/lansing_osc_p_adopted.pdf

The objective for creating the OSCP was to identify properties that had high conservation value. In examining the ranking of the 119 properties, one property stood out – the Norfolk Southern rail line extending north from Myers Park. With the closure of the coal fired power station, the rail line has limited usefulness. The CAC encouraged the Town Board to pass a resolution expressing interest in this property should the rail line become non-functional.

Future CAC efforts

With the completion of the OSCP, the CAC began to evaluate other areas where the CAC could be of help. Under Resolution 19-163, the CAC was appointed as the Task Force for the Town in implementation of the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program. The CSC challenges communities to adopt management procedures that help reduce energy consumption and greenhouse emissions. While the Town was registered with the program, no actions were submitted for approval. In gathering “points”, the Town becomes eligible for certain grant programs. The CAC did have several presentations by Cornell Cooperative Extension on the Clean Energy Communities Program, Climate Smart Communities and the Non-pipes Alternative program. No plans are yet in place to move forward with the CSC as this could involve town staff time which may be limiting.

A major task set forth in the resolution creating the CAC was to deal with all aspects of easements. To get a better idea as to the issues one may encounter with “easements”, we invited the Finger Lakes Land Trust to give us a presentation on the issues. The major issue is that the owner of the easement has it “forever”. That means a yearly inspection to ascertain that the terms of the easement are being adhered to. Failure to do so by the landowner could result in a legal proceeding that could be costly to the Town. A change of ownership of the land could also result in non-compliance issues. While there are grants to support some targeted easements, the process is lengthy and requires significant staff time. The CAC would recommend not moving forward with any conservation easements until such time as there is a source of revenue to support the program.

WHEREAS, upon due deliberation thereupon, the Town Board of the Town of Lansing has hereby:

RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Lansing has received and accepted the Town of Lansing Conservation Advisory Council 2024 Annual Report.

The question of the adoption of such proposed Resolution was duly motioned by Councilperson _____, duly seconded by Councilperson _____, and put to a roll call vote with the following results:

Councilperson Judy Drake –
Councilperson Christine Montague –
Supervisor Ruth Groff –

Councilperson Laurie Hemmings –
Councilperson Joseph Wetmore –

Accordingly, the foregoing Resolution was approved, carried, and duly adopted on
December 18, 2024.