



## CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

November 6, 2024  
6:30 In Person  
Lansing Community Library

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### MINUTES

#### 1. Call Meeting to Order

**Present:** Ed Dubovi, John Fleming, Todd Walters, Brian Boerman, Robyn Bailey, Lisa Scanlon  
Non-CAC attendees: Siobhan Hull, CCE; Jerry Sheng, CCE; Dean Shea, Planning Board.

#### 2. Presentation on the complexity of easements by Amy Olney- Finger Lakes Land Trust

Amy Olney gave an excellent presentation on the issues related to easements and the possible funding sources for this type of land conservation. An important consideration when discussing easements is that this type of venture is a “forever” commitment on both parties involved in the transaction. The landowner is legally obligated to adhere to the conditions of the easement, and the owner of the easement must monitor on a yearly basis that the terms of the easement are being maintained. For the owner of the easement, this entails a financial obligation that must be recognized. Considerable costs are associated with establishing the easement such as title searches, surveys, appraisals, environmental hazards assessments, and documentation of the easement property. Easements can develop through donations by the landowner, through purchase of development rights, and through various grant programs dealing with agriculture, water quality, and forest preservation. The grants programs may take several years and require input from knowledgeable grant writers.

Given the costs associated with easement ownership, it may well be that the Town forgoes any movement into this type of effort until there is a funding source dedicated to maintaining the conditions of the easements.

**3.** A brief mention was made concerning the Town resolution on the Norfolk Southern rail line. Seems to be a need for an action item related to contract with NS

**4.** The Tompkins County EMC will be holding a public meeting at the Ithaca library on 11/13 at 6 PM. The topic will be a report by the UNA committee on any updates to the UNA maps. A Zoom link is : <https://tompkinscountyny.gov.zoom.us/j/99213487047?pwd=ckNBZldNejRHS0poWk9KcHIHQ21UUT09>; Tompkins County Public Library

**5.** Dean Shea from the Planning Committee discussed several items related to access to grants and soliciting some assistance with establishing guidance for vegetation for “buffers” especially between properties in different zones. Solar development on “brown fields” was also mentioned.

#### 6. Departmental and Committee Reports

There were no committee reports