

Town of Dover Conservation Advisory Council

2018 Annual Report

Municipality: Town of Dover

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Projects/Work Completed or Ongoing in 2018:

- CAC members participate in monthly telephone conference calls to discuss conservation-related issues and when available, attend Planning Board meetings to follow local land development project applications that are relevant to the CAC's charge and purpose.
- CAC members also serve as founding members of the Town of Dover's Climate Smart Dover (CSD) Task Force and meet monthly (except in summer months) to assist the Town's efforts to achieve Climate Smart Communities (Bronze-level) certification by the end of 2020.
- In 2018, CAC members, in their dual role serving on the CSD Task Force, helped the Town achieve the following Climate Smart Communities certification-related actions:
 - provided oversight of a Town Govt. Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and development of a Govt. Operations Climate Action Plan (adopted by the Town Board in January 2019).
 - served as town liaisons for the development of a town-wide natural resource inventory in consultation with Hudsonia, Ltd. (currently in second draft and slated for completion by spring 2019).
 - assisted the Town with reviews of a draft town-wide road-stream crossing inventory and review of town policies, plans and publications (using the Climate Smart Resiliency Planning checklist) for submission toward Climate Smart Communities certification.
 - established a Climate Smart Dover webpage on the Town's website to educate residents about the Town's progress toward CSC certification climate change.

(continued)

2018 Projects/Work Completed: (continued)

- followed Town's participation on the Ten Mile River Watershed Roundtable, an intermunicipal committee coordinated by the Housatonic Valley Association to promote TMR watershed protection.
- prepared and posted monthly CSD Task Force meeting agendas and minutes on the Town website's Public Portal (available at <https://doverny.novusagenda.com/Agendapublic/>).
- provided feedback on drafts of the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update (CPU) currently in development.
- supported the Town's application of a NYS DEC 2019 Climate Smart Communities certification grant to develop a Sustainability Element (Chapter) for the Town's CPU.

Impacts/Outcomes/Successes:

We are well on track with completion and progress toward CSC Pledge Element actions for the Town to be considered for CSC Bronze-level certification at the end of 2020.

Climate Smart Communities' grant funding to develop a Sustainability Element (chapter) for the Town's Comprehensive Plan Update will be an invaluable resource to ensure future development and growth incorporates sustainability as a primary focus.

In the Town of Dover's Town Code Chapter 9, "Conservation Advisory Council," the CAC is charged with conducting inventories of natural and man-made features to ensure the wise use of natural resources and to enhance the protect the environment." The impending completion of a town-wide natural resource inventory and other Climate Smart Communities actions are significant outcomes this year with impacts that will benefit future generations.

Obstacles/Resources or Information Needed:

We would like to increase our ability to coordinate with other CACs on projects. It may be useful to discuss this at the meeting.

Plans for Work/Projects in 2019

We will continue driving towards completion of action items that help achieve CSC certification. We have also initiated outreach to other CACs in neighboring towns that are also seeking CSC certification to discuss options for intermunicipal collaborative projects.