

**TOWN OF ROSENDALE  
COMMISSION FOR CONSERVATION  
OF THE ENVIRONMENT**

**2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Prepared by Laura Heady, Vice Chair**

**APRIL 1, 2017**



**ROSENDALE  
NEW YORK**

# 2016 Commissioners

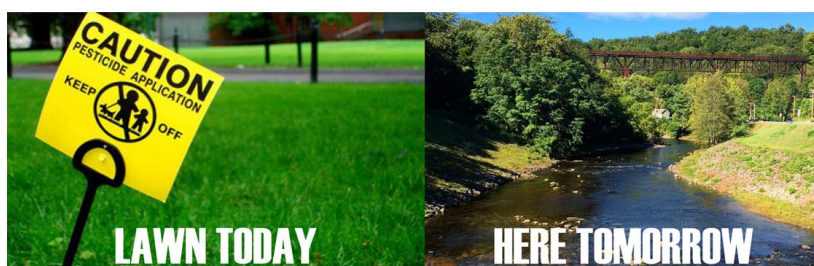
During January through December 2016, the Commission for Conservation of the Environment had the following members. The Commission held monthly meetings, except for June and December.

- Mike Brophy
- Danyelle Davis
- Susan Gillespie
- Kelli Havranek, Chair
- Laura Heady, Vice Chair
- Joan Jordan, Clerk
- Joe Liuni (term ended in January 2016)
- Sharon Wiacek (term started in April 2016)
- Laura Wyeth (term started in May 2016)

# Stormwater Education

During January through December 2016, the Commission pursued a new medium for conducting outreach on stormwater, to fulfill the Public Education and Outreach requirement of Rosendale being a regulated MS4 (municipal separate storm sewer system) community. Ads on specific stormwater topics were designed for the Rosendale Theatre's pre-show slide program, which features ad "slides" for 12 second intervals each, at least two times throughout the preshow. **The Theatre estimates that each ad is shown up to 90 times per month, reaching an audience of 2500.**

- **Ad #1: Lawn Care (September – November 2016)**



What you put on your yard may end up in your community's water.

**Be part of the solution. Keep Rosendale's stormwater runoff clean!**



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[VISIT TownOfRosendale.com](http://TownOfRosendale.com) FOR MORE INFORMATION

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- **Ad #2: Septic Maintenance (December 2016 – April 2017)**



**When's the last time YOUR tank was pumped?**



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# Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)

During 2016, the Commission had two NRI-related projects:

- The RCCE made further progress on updating the Town display of NRI maps. Each of the 24 maps was inserted into a black, 11"x17" frame purchased in late 2015, and arrangements were initiated for eventual display in the Rondout Valley Municipal Center in 2017.
- On request of the Town Board, members of RCCE used the town's Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) geographic information system (GIS) to assess where town resources could be impacted by the proposed Pilgrim Pipelines. They assessed resources along a 1000' corridor (500' on either side of the proposed pipeline) and compiled a table of potential impacts for consideration in the scoping process (see below). The format of the preliminary, GIS-based evaluation was shared with other communities by the Town Board to use as a model for similar assessment.

Resource Category	Resource	Comments on Potential Impacts
Groundwater Resources	Unconsolidated Well Water Data	<i>unknown due to incomplete data</i>
	Unconsolidated Aquifer	9,000 ft of pipeline corridor overlies 3 mapped unconsolidated alluvial aquifers in the Rondout and Wallkill watersheds.
	Karst Aquifer Region	14,000 ft of pipeline corridor overlies mapped karst aquifer in northern third of town in the Rondout watershed.
	Hydrogeologic Sensitivity	Approximately 95% of the pipeline corridor overlies high or very high hydrogeologic sensitivity.
Surface Water Resources	Streams	The pipeline crosses the Wallkill River, Rondout Creek, and numerous tributaries, along with associated floodplains, and there are numerous tributaries in the pipeline corridor as well.
	Wetlands NWI	35 NWI wetlands (324 acres) are inside or intersect the corridor (i.e., over 300 acres of NWI wetland could be impacted).
	Wetlands DEC	4 DEC freshwater wetlands (74 acres) are inside or intersect the corridor (i.e., over 70 acres of DEC regulated wetlands could be impacted).
		Additional unmapped wetlands, including vernal pools, could be impacted.
Ecological Communities and Rare Species	New York Natural Heritage Program (NYNHP)	Some patches of a large, high-quality expanse of hemlock-northern hardwood forest in the northern part of the town could be impacted.
		The NYNHP data also indicated the corridor would pass through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- eastern portion of an Important Area for Rare Animals</li> <li>- Important Areas for Diadromous Fish (associated with Rondout and Wallkill)</li> <li>- Important Area for Palustrine Wetlands</li> <li>- Important Area for Northern Red Salamander</li> </ul>
Protected Lands		More than half of a 93-acre conservation easement held by Wallkill Valley Land Trust could be impacted, as well the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail which is bisected by the corridor.
Historical Resources		Perrine's Bridge could be significantly impacted. LeFevre House is just within the the corridor and Freer House is just outside the corridor.
Agricultural Resources	Prime Soils	384 acres of prime farmland soils are in the corridor (more than 8200 ft of pipeline corridor overlies prime farmland soils) -- in a town with little prime farmland soil.

# Water Quality Stewardship

This year, the Commission engaged in several efforts related to water quality in the Town of Rosendale.

- **Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators (WAVE)**

On September 26, Commissioners participated for the second year in the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's [WAVE program](#), a citizen-based water quality assessment program based on collection of benthic macroinvertebrates from wadeable streams. The 2016 sample was collected from the Rondout Creek in a mid-stream riffle just south of Madeline Ave and Central Ave.

Results: In order for a stream segment to be designated “No Known Impact,” six or more “Most Wanted” organisms must be collected in the sample. If four or more “Least Wanted” organisms are collected, the stream segment is flagged for further investigation. The Commissioners found five “Most Wanted” organisms and one “Least Wanted” organism. This result was inconclusive, so DEC applied an additional, less robust assessment and the score of the sample was “Good.”



Photos by L. Heady



- **Trees for Tributaries (“Tribes”)**

Commissioners held an onsite meeting in October to evaluate the feasibility of a NYSDEC Trees for Tribes planting along the small tributary to the north of the Rec Center facilities. Through a competitive application process, the Trees for Tribes program offers free trees and shrubs for revegetating and enhancing vegetation along streams to prevent erosion, improve habitat, and protect water quality. Attendees also included Beth Roessler, the Trees for Tribes Coordinator for the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program; Tara Burke, Rosendale Recreation Director; Terry Johnson, Superintendent of Rosendale Water and Sewer Department; and Bob Gallagher, Superintendent of Rosendale Highway Department.

There was agreement that portions of the stream would benefit from additional trees and shrubs, as well as a clean-up and educational signage. The Commission will further investigate the site, and develop and submit a Trees for Tribes application in early 2017.



- **Rondout Creek Summit**

Commissioners attended the Second Annual Rondout Creek Summit on March 29, 2016.

# Climate Smart Community

In 2016, the Commission completed the **Rosendale Town-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory**, which used 2010 as a baseline year. This was a multi-year effort, involving past and present members of the Commission, and the inventory provides a basis for the town to review, set goals, and take practical steps to reduce energy use. It will be updated in subsequent years. Former Commissioner Jessica Barry presented the final inventory to RCCE on October 20, 2016.

Sources of emissions identified by the inventory included:

- Fuel consumption – heating oil in municipal buildings and gasoline for municipal vehicles
- Methane emissions – CH<sub>4</sub> from personal septic systems
- Electric consumption – municipal buildings including a high demand from the wastewater treatment plant.

Additionally, the Commission had consistent representation at the **Ulster County Climate Smart Committee** meetings.

## Other Commission Activities

The Commission had consistent representation at monthly Rosendale **Planning Board** meetings. The Commission reviewed materials shared by the Planning Board, and when relevant, provided comment and input on projects.