

Land Trust and Municipal Partnerships

NYS ACC Conference

November 2017

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COLUMBIA
LAND CONSERVANCY

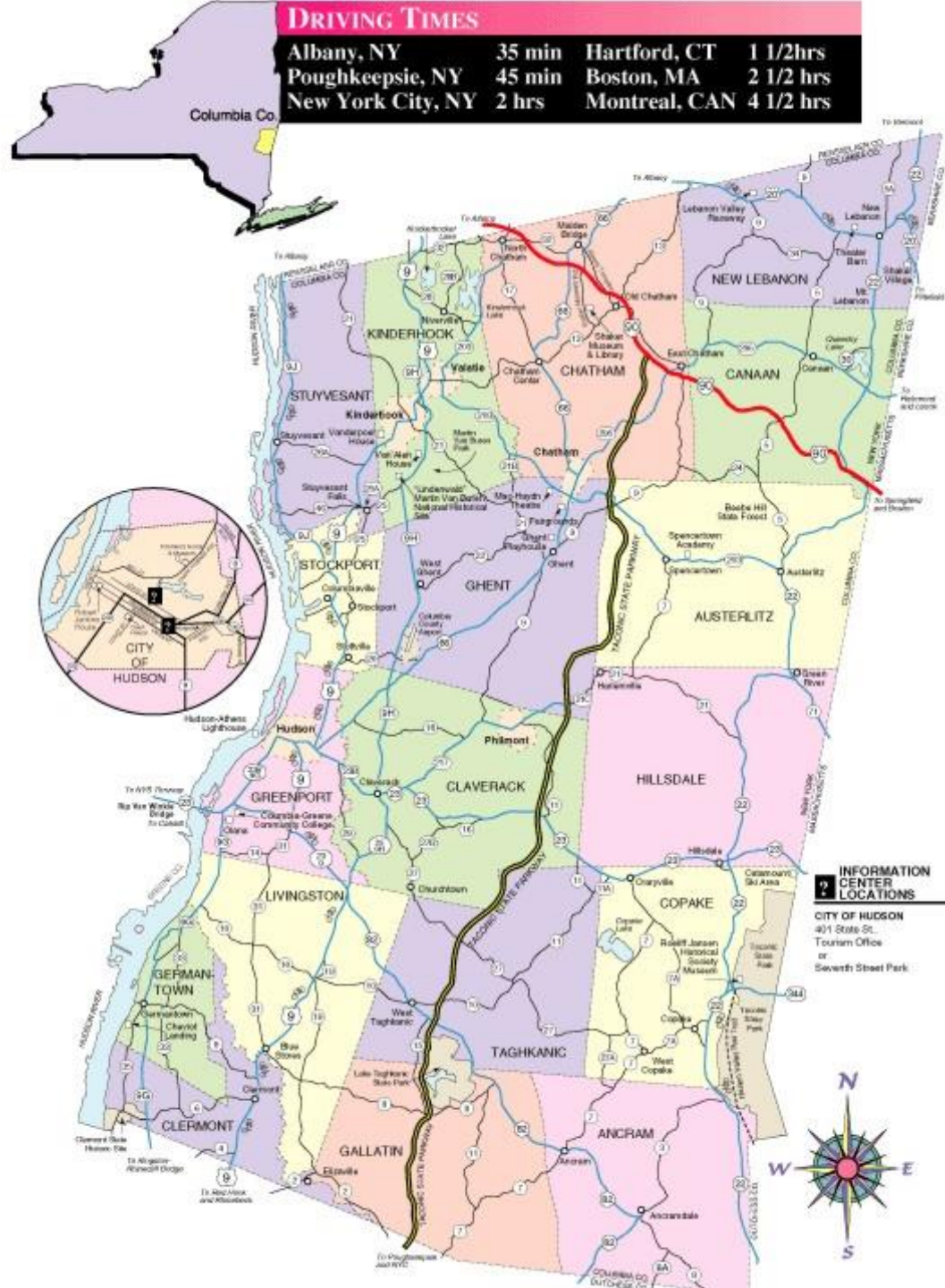
CLC's Mission

The Columbia Land Conservancy works with the community to conserve the farmland, forests, wildlife habitat and rural character of Columbia County, strengthening connections between people and the land.



Columbia County

1 city
18 towns
4 villages



EXPLORE OUR WORK

Stewardship

Land Protection

Agriculture

Farmland Protection

Help Save Thompson-Finch Farm!

Farmer Landowner Match Program

Conserve a Local Farm (CALF)

Resources

Community Planning & Engagement

Conservation Advisory Councils

Trail Development

North Bay

Scenic Resources

Resources



For questions about our community programs:

[Christine Vanderlan](#)

Conservation Advisory Councils

"CLC's staff gives tremendous educational and technical support to local councils like ours. It's an aspect of their mission most people probably aren't aware of, but I honestly don't know what we'd do without it."

Jonathan Lerner, Chair, Hudson Conservation Advisory Council

A Conservation Advisory Council's Role

Is your town talking about groundwater, wildlife, opportunities for hiking and fishing, or even scenic views? A Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) can help.

A Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) is a body that can advise town agencies on the development, management, and protection of natural resources. A CAC plays a valuable role in advising towns on issues related to groundwater, wildlife habitat, open space, scenic views, and more. CLC holds a series of Roundtables throughout the year where members of CACs and others gather to share news about CAC activities and related topics. You are always welcome to attend whether you are a CAC member or an interested resident.

New York's Municipal Law enables town boards to appoint a CAC to advise town agencies, especially time-strapped planning boards, on issues related to natural resources.

Following CLC's introductory CAC workshop in January 2011, four new CACs have been formed in the county and discussions are underway for two more. The CACs keep in touch with each other through CLC's Roundtable series, where they share information on their activities advising local planning boards, mapping habitat, conducting open space inventories, and writing reports on topics ranging from the environmental aspects of cellular towers to road salt issues.

Local CACs and what they do:

- Town of Ancram CAC
- Town of Copake CAC
- Town of Hillsdale CAC
- City of Hudson CAC
- Town of Lagrange CAC
- Town of New Lebanon CAC
- Town of Red Hook CAC

www.clctrust.org/

Find resources to set up a CAC in your town:

Roundtable for CACs



- Filling a gap
- Flexible schedule
- Provide snacks
- Responsive
- Not just for CAC members
- Newcomers welcome



“Our town would benefit from having a CAC. How do we do it?”

A CAC can be created through one of three ways: by resolution pursuant to Section 239-x of General Municipal Law, by ordinance, or by local law. Ask your Town Attorney for assistance.

Section 10 of Municipal Home Rule Law specifically authorizes the adoption of local laws for the protection and enhancement of the physical and visual environment. A Model Local Law to establish a Conservation Advisory Council, with information on how to modify it for your town, is posted on the Columbia Land Conservancy (CLC) website at clctrust.org/model-local-law

The most important aspect of a CAC is its membership. CACs are most successful when they represent a broad range of viewpoints and backgrounds, are non-partisan and able to work cooperatively with all town agencies, and when they are passionate about what they can do for their community.

The Westchester County Environmental Management Council has produced an excellent guidance document on CACs. View it at clctrust.org/CAC-guide.

ABUNDANT WILDLIFE • SENSIBLE GROWTH

clctrust.org/cac

Columbia Land Conservancy's Conservation Advisory Council website has additional information on Conservation Advisory Councils and what they can do for your community, including a model local law, links to local town CAC websites, and additional resources.

Columbia County Conservation Advisory Council Roundtable

The Roundtable is an informal forum where CACs and other interested residents come together to discuss topics of mutual interest and to learn about recent and upcoming activities. Check clctrust.org/cac for the date, time, and location of the next Roundtable.

CAC Partners

CLC is pleased to join our partners to support efforts by Columbia County towns and their residents to protect and improve our environment and natural resources

Columbia County Environmental Management Council
 NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program
 Hudsonia Ltd.
 Hudson River Valley Greenway



The Columbia Land Conservancy works with the community to conserve the farmland, forests, wildlife habitat, and rural character of Columbia County, strengthening connections between people and the land. If your town board would like to learn more about Conservation Advisory Councils, we can arrange for a presentation at a town meeting. Contact Ellen Jouret-Epstein, Columbia Land Conservancy's Community Projects Manager, at 518.392.5252, ext. 208 or ellen@clctrust.org.

www.clctrust.org

IF YOU COULD GIVE YOUR COMMUNITY

- ✓ CLEAN GROUNDWATER
- ✓ HEALTHY FORESTS
- ✓ ABUNDANT WILDLIFE
- ✓ SCENIC VIEWS
- ✓ SENSIBLE GROWTH
- ✓ INFORMED DECISION-MAKING

WOULDN'T YOU?

A Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) can help your town achieve these goals and more



Lorraine Strohmier, Copake

Land trust strengths

- Here to stay
- Mission constancy
- Larger than jurisdictional perspective
- Networks
- Expertise



Contact me

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