

TOWN OF HYDE PARK, NEW YORK

CAROLE A. CLEARWATER
Town Clerk



Hyde Park



May 7, 2009

To All Agencies on Attached Service List

Re: NOTICE OF DESIGNATIONS OF FOUR
CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS
Town of Hyde Park

To Whom it May Concern:

Pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.14, this letter shall serve as notice of the designations of four Critical Environmental Areas (CEAs) in the Town of Hyde Park, as follows: the Hogback Hill Critical Environmental Area; the Indian Kill Critical Environmental Area; the Maritje Kill Critical Environmental Area; and the Vanderburgh Cove Critical Environmental Area.

Enclosed please find a certified copy of the resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Hyde Park designating the CEAs, maps depicting the boundaries of the CEAs, the written justifications supporting the designations and proof of public hearing.

Sincerely,

Carole A. Clearwater
Town Clerk

Enclosures

SERVICE LIST

Town of Hyde Park Planning Board
4383 Albany Post Road
Hyde Park, NY 12538

Town of Hyde Park Zoning
Board of Appeals
4383 Albany Post Road
Hyde Park, NY 12538

Town of Hyde Park Building
Department
4383 Albany Post Road
Hyde Park, NY 12538

Town of Hyde Park Highway
Department
1146 Route 9G
Hyde Park, NY 12538

Town of Hyde Park GIS Department
c/o Morris Associates P.L.L.C.
9 Elks Lane
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

John Morabito, Planning Board Planner
Morris Associates P.L.L.C.
9 Elks Lane
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Dutchess County Department of Health
387 Main Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Dutchess County Department of
Public Works
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Dutchess County Department of
Planning and Development
22 High Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Dutchess County Real Property
Tax Department
22 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Dutchess County Department of
Soil and Water Conservation
Farm and Home Center
2715 Route 44, Suite 3
Millbrook, NY 12545

Dutchess County Water and
Wastewater Authority
27 High Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

New York State Department of
Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12232

New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic
Preservation
Empire State Plaza
Agency Building 1
Albany, NY 12238

COPY

NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF DUTCHESS)
Office of the Clerk of ss:
TOWN OF HYDE PARK

This is to certify that I, Carole A. Clearwater, Town Clerk of the Town of Hyde Park in the said County of Dutchess have compared the foregoing copy of Town Board Resolution #7 of April 27, 2009, with the original now on file in this office, and that the same is a correct and true transcript of such original Town Board Resolution #7 of April 27, 2009, and the whole thereof.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of said Town this 29th day of April, 2009.



CAROLE A. CLEARWATER

Clerk of the Town Board of Hyde Park, Dutchess, New York

RESOLUTION 4:27 - 7 OF 2009

RESOLUTION DESIGNATING FOUR CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regulations issued pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") authorize the Town Board to designate areas meeting certain criteria as Critical Environmental Areas ("CEAs") to assure that agencies reviewing projects proposed for such areas take certain environmental conditions into consideration when performing SEQRA reviews; and

WHEREAS, the Hyde Park Conservation Advisory Council has reviewed the criteria for CEAs in the DEC regulations, has researched the sensitive plant and animal habitats and ecosystems in the Town and has proposed that the Town Board designate the Hogback Hill, Indian Kill, Maritje Kill and Vanderburgh Cove Critical Environmental Areas; and

WHEREAS, the proposed designations of the Hogback Hill, Indian Kill, Maritje Kill and Vanderburgh Cove Critical Environmental Areas were introduced to the Town Board on February 23, 2009, and a public hearing was held on March 23, 2009, at which all interested parties were able to be heard on said proposed designation; and

WHEREAS, notice of said public hearing was duly advertised in the Poughkeepsie Journal, the official newspaper of said Town on March 2, 2009, which is not less than five days prior to the date of said public hearing, and the justification, environmental characteristics, boundaries and maps for each proposed CEA were posted on the Town's website; and

WHEREAS, the proposed designations constitutes a Type II action for purposes of the State Environmental Quality Review Act which will not require SEQR review; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Hyde Park, after due deliberation, finds it in the best interest of the Town to adopt said designations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Hyde Park that the proposed Hogback Hill, Indian Kill, Maritje Kill and Vanderburgh Cove Critical Environmental Areas have exceptional or unique character as required by 6 NYCRR 617.14; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby designates the Hogback Hill, Indian Kill, Maritje Kill and Vanderburgh Cove Critical Environmental Areas as set forth and described in the

published map, including parcels with grid numbers in the published list; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk be and she hereby is directed to enter said designations in the minutes of this meeting, to give due notice of the designations pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.14, including maps at an appropriate scale to readily locate the boundaries of the CEAs, the written justifications supporting the designations and proof of public hearing, to the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the appropriate regional office of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and any other agency regularly involved in undertaking, funding or approving actions in the municipality in which the areas have been designated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that said designations shall take effect 30 days after filing with the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

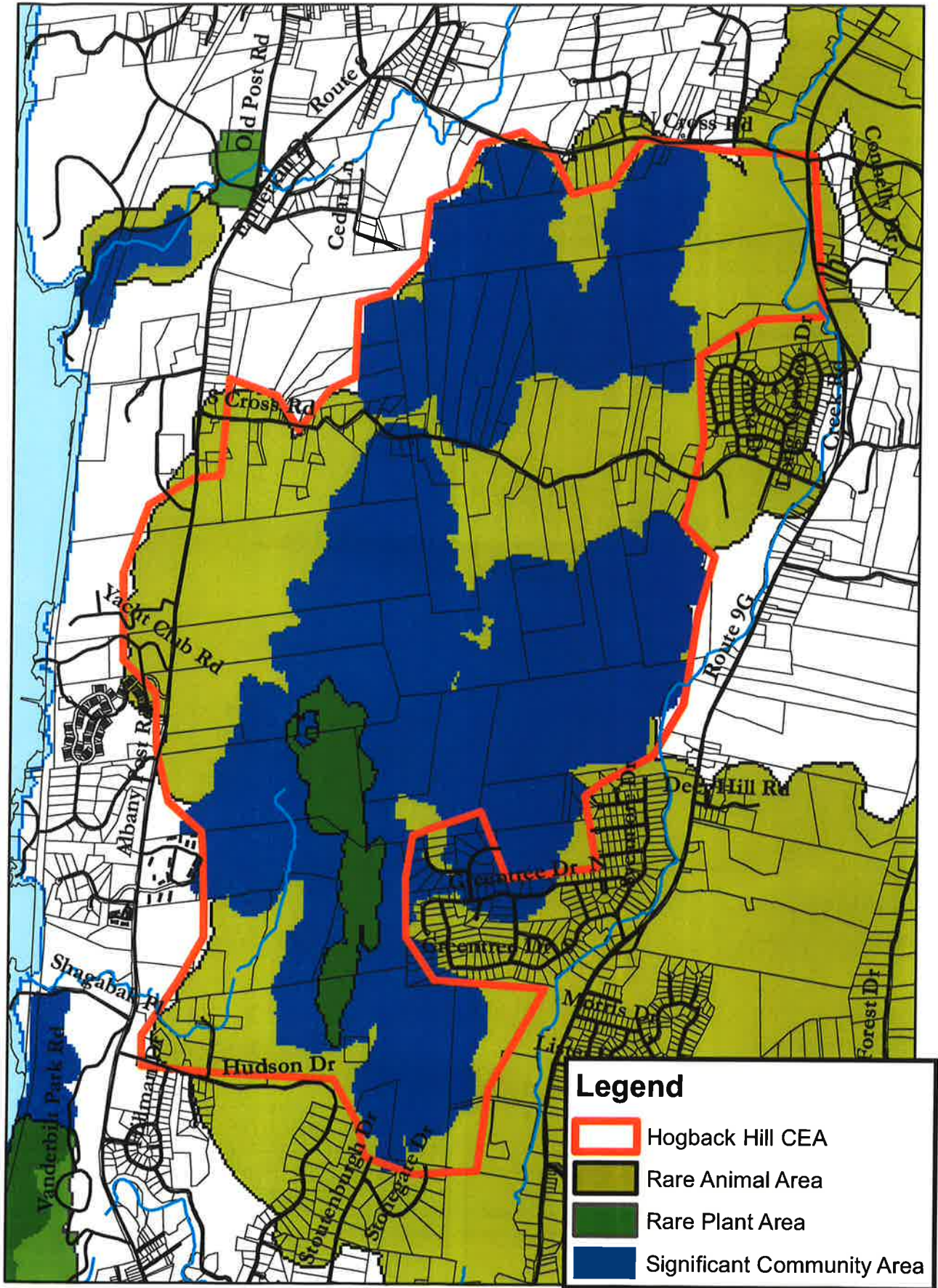
MOTION: Councilwoman Black

SECOND: Councilwoman Hail

ROLL CALL VOTE BY TOWN CLERK:

| | | |
|----------------------|-----|---------|
| Councilman Linville | Aye | |
| Councilwoman Hail | Aye | |
| Councilwoman Black | Aye | |
| Councilman Perkins | Aye | |
| Supervisor Delafield | Aye | CARRIED |

Hogback Hill Critical Environmental Area



0 0.15 0.3 0.6
Miles

Hogback Hill CEA Parcels

| COUNTY_SBL | SBL | SECNO |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| 00616600013569 960000 | 356996 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600010457 090000 | 045709 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600011237 140000 | 123714 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600010277 050000 | 027705 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600010967 020000 | 096702 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600046612 450000 | 661245 | 6166.04 |
| 00616600031961 680000 | 196168 | 6166.03 |
| 00606500029026 920000 | 902692 | 6065.02 |
| 00616700048191 490000 | 819149 | 6167.04 |
| 00616700048601 400000 | 860140 | 6167.04 |
| 00616700032980 910000 | 298091 | 6167.03 |
| 00616700033390 890000 | 339089 | 6167.03 |
| 00616700045591 220000 | 559122 | 6167.04 |
| 00616700033750 940000 | 375094 | 6167.03 |
| 00616700045831 130000 | 583113 | 6167.04 |
| 00616700045391 000000 | 539100 | 6167.04 |

| COUNTY_SBL | SBL | SECNO |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| 00616700046071 240000 | 607124 | 6167.04 |
| 00616700046481 340000 | 648134 | 6167.04 |
| 00616700046171 200000 | 617120 | 6167.04 |
| 00616700034200 900000 | 420090 | 6167.03 |
| 00616700048130 980000 | 813098 | 6167.04 |
| 00616700034610 900000 | 461090 | 6167.03 |
| 00616700034480 810000 | 448081 | 6167.03 |
| 00616700048610 910000 | 861091 | 6167.04 |
| 00616600028979 700000 | 897970 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600028679 690000 | 867969 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600029389 350000 | 938935 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600028629 540000 | 862954 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600013627 790000 | 362779 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600013287 880000 | 328788 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600012867 990000 | 286799 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600028749 150000 | 874915 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600012557 940000 | 255794 | 6166.01 |

| COUNTY_SBL | SBL | SECNO |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| 00616600012167 880000 | 216788 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600010938 350000 | 093835 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600028168 460000 | 816846 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600027268 400000 | 726840 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600011257 830000 | 125783 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600010557 750000 | 055775 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600026857 820000 | 685782 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600025817 130000 | 581713 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600025697 110000 | 569711 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600011237 410000 | 123741 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600026827 690000 | 682769 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600026807 550000 | 680755 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600026007 100000 | 600710 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600013267 060000 | 326706 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600026807 430000 | 680743 | 6166.02 |
| 00606600029747 230000 | 974723 | 6066.02 |
| 00616600026837 320000 | 683732 | 6166.02 |

| COUNTY_SBL | SBL | SECNO |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| 00616600011777 200000 | 177720 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600011827 000000 | 182700 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600011537 140000 | 153714 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600010727 070000 | 072707 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600010637 000000 | 063700 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600010537 000000 | 053700 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600011326 770000 | 132677 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600012216 890000 | 221689 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600011966 840000 | 196684 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600013516 660000 | 351666 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600012556 810000 | 255681 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600011126 740000 | 112674 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600011006 780000 | 100678 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600011766 140000 | 176614 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600012606 260000 | 260626 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600026006 570000 | 600657 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600012126 630000 | 212663 | 6166.01 |

| COUNTY_SBL | SBL | SECNO |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| 00616600012046 530000 | 204653 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600011896 540000 | 189654 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600012716 530000 | 271653 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600012996 460000 | 299646 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600013206 000000 | 320600 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600026146 380000 | 614638 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600025776 420000 | 577642 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600010616 350000 | 061635 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600025976 260000 | 597626 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600025625 940000 | 562594 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600025506 210000 | 550621 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600026176 170000 | 617617 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600025386 140000 | 538614 | 6166.02 |
| 00606600028976 170000 | 897617 | 6066.02 |
| 00616600026215 890000 | 621589 | 6166.02 |
| 00606600028915 660000 | 891566 | 6066.02 |
| 00616600010405 810000 | 040581 | 6166.01 |

| COUNTY_SBL | SBL | SECNO |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| 00606600048841 870000 | 884187 | 6066.04 |
| 00616600046411 820000 | 641182 | 6166.04 |
| 00616600045361 280000 | 536128 | 6166.04 |
| 00616600045261 160000 | 526116 | 6166.04 |
| 00616600034650 950000 | 465095 | 6166.03 |
| 00616600034050 900000 | 405090 | 6166.03 |
| 00616600034861 050000 | 486105 | 6166.03 |
| 00616600034770 770000 | 477077 | 6166.03 |
| 00616600045020 740000 | 502074 | 6166.04 |
| 00616600034540 180000 | 454018 | 6166.03 |
| 00616600033450 300000 | 345030 | 6166.03 |
| 00616600032250 180000 | 225018 | 6166.03 |
| 00616600032260 020000 | 226002 | 6166.03 |
| 00616600033410 020000 | 341002 | 6166.03 |
| 00616500012279 850000 | 227985 | 6165.01 |
| 00616500012248 880000 | 224888 | 6165.01 |
| 00616500012398 750000 | 239875 | 6165.01 |

| COUNTY_SBL | SBL | SECNO |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| 00616500012478 660000 | 247866 | 6165.01 |
| 00616500012478 560000 | 247856 | 6165.01 |
| 00616500012488 440000 | 248844 | 6165.01 |
| 00616500012488 330000 | 248833 | 6165.01 |
| 00606500028877 610000 | 887761 | 6065.02 |
| 00606500028677 610000 | 867761 | 6065.02 |
| 00606500029397 420000 | 939742 | 6065.02 |
| 00606500028877 230000 | 887723 | 6065.02 |
| 00606500028277 090000 | 827709 | 6065.02 |
| 00606500029436 630000 | 943663 | 6065.02 |
| 00606500028646 710000 | 864671 | 6065.02 |
| 00606500027906 730000 | 790673 | 6065.02 |
| 00606500028006 700000 | 800670 | 6065.02 |
| 00606500028096 610000 | 809661 | 6065.02 |
| 00606500028246 110000 | 824611 | 6065.02 |
| 00616500011585 800000 | 158580 | 6165.01 |
| 00616500011125 930000 | 112593 | 6165.01 |

| COUNTY_SBL | SBL | SECNO |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| 00616500011295 190000 | 129519 | 6165.01 |
| 00616500011765 140000 | 176514 | 6165.01 |
| 00616500012635 020000 | 263502 | 6165.01 |
| 00606600048052 450000 | 805245 | 6066.04 |
| 00606600048052 400000 | 805240 | 6066.04 |
| 00606600048062 380000 | 806238 | 6066.04 |
| 00606600048062 360000 | 806236 | 6066.04 |
| 00606600048072 340000 | 807234 | 6066.04 |
| 00606600048072 310000 | 807231 | 6066.04 |
| 00606600048072 280000 | 807228 | 6066.04 |
| 00616700048700 330000 | 870033 | 6167.04 |
| 00606600047903 270000 | 790327 | 6066.04 |
| 00606600047871 690000 | 787169 | 6066.04 |
| 00606600047622 050000 | 762205 | 6066.04 |
| 00606600047962 400000 | 796240 | 6066.04 |
| 00616500011366 980000 | 136698 | 6165.01 |
| 00606600048052 430000 | 805243 | 6066.04 |

| COUNTY_SBL | SBL | SECNO |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| 00606600029818 000000 | 981800 | 6066.02 |
| 00606600029287 720000 | 928772 | 6066.02 |
| 00606600028986 370000 | 898637 | 6066.02 |
| 00606600029156 410000 | 915641 | 6066.02 |
| 00606600048082 530000 | 808253 | 6066.04 |
| 00606600048092 900000 | 809290 | 6066.04 |
| 00606600047162 170000 | 716217 | 6066.04 |
| 00616500012498 200000 | 249820 | 6165.01 |
| 00616500013028 160000 | 302816 | 6165.01 |
| 00616500012698 100000 | 269810 | 6165.01 |
| 00616700032361 160000 | 236116 | 6167.03 |
| 00616600011049 520000 | 104952 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600013857 140000 | 385714 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600014186 820000 | 418682 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600014316 060000 | 431606 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600013835 940000 | 383594 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600014545 770000 | 454577 | 6166.01 |

| COUNTY_SBL | SBL | SECNO |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| 00616600027028 960000 | 702896 | 6166.02 |
| 00616700046830 570000 | 683057 | 6167.04 |
| 00616600010286 810000 | 028681 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600010266 550000 | 026655 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600025226 690000 | 522669 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600014847 930000 | 484793 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600012705 240000 | 270524 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600033273 810000 | 327381 | 6166.03 |
| 00616600013985 360000 | 398536 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600034554 700000 | 455470 | 6166.03 |
| 00616600045274 690000 | 527469 | 6166.04 |
| 00616600025735 440000 | 573544 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600047354 820000 | 735482 | 6166.04 |
| 00616600046264 610000 | 626461 | 6166.04 |
| 00616600034914 450000 | 491445 | 6166.03 |
| 00616600045021 220000 | 502122 | 6166.04 |
| 00616600034882 150000 | 488215 | 6166.03 |

| COUNTY_SBL | SBL | SECNO |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| 00606600049953 500000 | 995350 | 6066.04 |
| 00616600030272 690000 | 027269 | 6166.03 |
| 00616600030101 230000 | 010123 | 6166.03 |
| 00616500010309 900000 | 030990 | 6165.01 |
| 00616500010358 850000 | 035885 | 6165.01 |
| 00616700048300 460000 | 830046 | 6167.04 |
| 00626600010358 590000 | 035859 | 6266.01 |
| 00616600010426 320000 | 042632 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600010896 040000 | 089604 | 6166.01 |
| 00616600030404 750000 | 040475 | 6166.03 |
| 00606600029606 380000 | 960638 | 6066.02 |
| 00606600029866 500000 | 986650 | 6066.02 |
| 00606600029586 760000 | 958676 | 6066.02 |
| 00606600029326 230000 | 932623 | 6066.02 |
| 00606600029666 580000 | 966658 | 6066.02 |
| 00606600047584 290000 | 758429 | 6066.04 |
| 00616500012245 080000 | 224508 | 6165.01 |

| COUNTY_SBL | SBL | SECNO |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| 00606500028056 950000 | 805695 | 6065.02 |
| 00606500028627 280000 | 862728 | 6065.02 |
| 00606500028858 600000 | 885860 | 6065.02 |
| 00606500027837 190000 | 783719 | 6065.02 |
| 00606500028507 980000 | 850798 | 6065.02 |
| 00606500028347 240000 | 834724 | 6065.02 |
| 00606600028916 610000 | 891661 | 6066.02 |
| 00616700033981 680000 | 398168 | 6167.03 |
| 00616500013926 520000 | 392652 | 6165.01 |
| 00616500011007 000000 | 100700 | 6165.01 |
| 00616500033504 080000 | 350408 | 6165.03 |
| 00616500013685 800000 | 368580 | 6165.01 |
| 00616500013407 430000 | 340743 | 6165.01 |
| 0060660020cond os0000 | condos | 6066.20 |
| 00616600026926 860000 | 692686 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600026866 750000 | 686675 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600026526 270000 | 652627 | 6166.02 |

| COUNTY_SBL | SBL | SECNO |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|
| 00616600026876 610000 | 687661 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600026487 100000 | 648710 | 6166.02 |
| 00616600026646 490000 | 664649 | 6166.02 |
| 00606600027786 440000 | 778644 | 6066.02 |

Hogback Hill – Critical Environmental Area

The State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) law gives municipalities the authority to establish CEAs which then receive special consideration in the SEQR process. It is important to note that designation of CEAs *does not* confer any restriction or regulation on land use; it simply ensures that the environmental significance of the area is considered in SEQR review.

The Town of Hyde Park does not currently have any CEAs designated. Hyde Park's Comprehensive Plan recognizes the need to designate CEAs in our town, stating that "specific geographical areas with exceptional or unique environmental characteristics will be designated Critical Environmental Areas (CEA), thereby assuring that sufficient consideration is given to the potential impact of activities within these areas." (pg. 30) Creating CEAs for these four high-priority areas is an important means of conserving Hyde Park's natural heritage.

CEA Designation

SEQR specifies that to be designated as a CEA, an area must have an exceptional or unique character with respect to one or more of the following:

1. a benefit or threat to human health;
2. a natural setting (e.g., fish and wildlife habitat, forest and vegetation, open space and areas of important aesthetic or scenic quality);
3. agricultural, social, cultural, historic, archaeological, recreational, or educational values; or
4. an inherent ecological, geological or hydrological sensitivity to change that may be adversely affected by any change.

Following designation of a CEA, the potential impact of any Type I or Unlisted Action on the environmental characteristics of a CEA is a relevant area of environmental concern and must be evaluated in the determination of significance prepared pursuant to Section 617.7 of SEQR.

Identification Process

In order to identify the areas with the greatest ecological assets, the CAC consulted several sources. The main source of information is the attached report to the Hyde Park Town Board from the Hudson River Estuary Program (Karen Strong, April 2006). It describes several areas where rare plants and animals are known to exist, as well as significant ecological communities. Maps of these rare species and important communities were obtained from DEC's Natural Heritage Program and were combined to pinpoint the most critical areas.

Hyde Park offers critical habitat for the Blanding's turtle, a NYS Threatened Species. A very large area of Hyde Park is identified as a Blanding's Turtle Important Area through the Natural Heritage Program, based on turtle sightings and habitat range. To zero in on the most important habitat, the CAC obtained an additional map from DEC specifying which areas offer high, medium and low importance for Blanding's turtles.

The CAC also obtained a map of the Dutchess County Wetlands Complex identified in NYS DEC's "Hudson River Estuary Wildlife and Habitat Conservation Framework" (Penhollow, 2006) as a Significant Biodiversity Area. It turns out that this complex map covers almost all of

the town of Hyde Park. This further suggests that protection of sensitive wetlands in Hyde Park is important regionally, though it is not feasible to cover this entire area as a CEA.

Areas that are controlled by the National Parks Service were not considered for CEA designation since actions of the federal government are not subject to SEQR.

Recommendation

The Hogback Hill area is located in northern Hyde Park, roughly bordered by North Cross Road, Market Street, Route 9 and Route 9G. This area is unique in that it contains a variety of important habitats and ecological sensitivity:

- Hogback Hill and its surrounding areas are dominated by a 750-acre, high quality "hemlock-northern hardwood forest" community. While this type of ecosystem is relatively widespread in New York, a large, intact forest like this is important in that it provides the ability to host birds and mammals that need a large range. This area should be monitored to minimize future fragmentation.
- Hogback Hill contains pockets of high quality "red maple-hardwood swamp" communities. This ecosystem is particularly sensitive to hydrologic modification and can be affected by invasive species.
- Within the red maple-hardwood swamp areas, the Swamp Cottonwood, a NYS Threatened tree, has been found.
- Blanding's Turtles, a NYS Threatened species, can be found in this area. Hogback Hill is part of the Blanding's Turtle Important area delineated by the NY Natural Heritage Program. Parts of this area lie within the area DEC identified as "high" importance for Blanding's turtles.
- Field visits conducted by Hudsonia, Ltd. as part of the 2008 Biodiversity Assessment Training revealed presence of Shagbark hickory trees throughout. This is significant as the loose, platy bark of Shagbark hickory trees may provide summer roosting habitat for bats, including the NYS and federally listed endangered Indiana Bat which are known to be present in Hyde Park.
- Intermittent woodland pools were found during the field visit that would provide ideal habitats for pool-breeding amphibians such as wood frog, marbled salamander (NYS Species of Special Concern), and Jefferson Salamander (development sensitive).

Preservation of these habitats and the species they support requires attention to maintaining forested connections and sensitivity to changes in hydrology which could affect both the overall wetland integrity and particularly the survival of the Swamp Cottonwood and Blanding's Turtle.

The Hogback Hill CEA boundary has been selected to include all of the contiguous forested area that adds to the integrity of this ecosystem. Large tracts of forest can support animals that cannot survive in smaller fragments of forest, thus maintaining healthy food webs.

Conclusion

The CAC is strongly in favor of designating this area as a Critical Environmental Area. It clearly meets both criteria #2 and 4 of the SEQR guidelines for CEAs in that it contains rare habitats and/or species and would be sensitive to modification.

This area is among those recommended for conservation by the attached report from the Hudson River Estuary Program. The report also recommends protective measures for the entire Blanding's Turtle Important Area and the full Hudson River shoreline. Because those areas are so large, we have focused here on this defined area of special importance. However, we encourage the town to consider the full Blanding's Turtle Important Area and Hudson River shoreline to be environmentally sensitive as well.

The CAC is currently working to better inventory Hyde Park's natural resources through several efforts including a habitat mapping initiative. Additional areas may be recommended as CEAs in the future as more data is gathered.

We look forward to working with the Town Board to designate these much-needed Critical Environmental Areas.

Attachments

Map of significant resources and proposed CEAs

Hudson River Estuary Program Report to Hyde Park Town Board, April 2006

Other Resources

Hemlock-Northern Hardwood Forest: <http://www.acris.nynhp.org/guide.php?id=9991>

Red Maple-Hardwood Swamp: <http://www.acris.nynhp.org/guide.php?id=9898>

Swamp Cottonwood: <http://www.acris.nynhp.org/print.php?id=9336>

Blanding's Turtle: <http://www.acris.nynhp.org/guide.php?id=7508>

Freshwater Intertidal Mudflats: <http://www.acris.nynhp.org/guide.php?id=9870>

Freshwater Tidal Swamp: <http://www.acris.nynhp.org/guide.php?id=9868>