

Town of Woodstock Town Board meeting held on September 20, 2022 at 7:00 pm

RESOLUTION 180-2022

ADOPT CEA

Offered by Supervisor McKenna, seconded by Councilmember Ratcliff:

WHEREAS, pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.14G, the Town Board may designate a specific geographic area having exception or unique environmental characteristics as a Critical Environmental Area, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Woodstock Environmental Commission has recommended that the Zena Woods be designated as a Critical Environmental Area due to its exceptional and unique environmental characteristics, and

WHEREAS, the proposed Zena Woods Critical Environmental Area is set forth on a map entitled, “Town of Woodstock – Zena Woods, Proposed Critical Environmental Area” (the “Zena Woods CEA Map”), and

WHEREAS, to be designated as a Critical Environmental Area, an area must have an exceptional or unique character covering 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, and

WHEREAS, a Town of Woodstock CEA Working Group, including members of the Town Board, Planning Board, and Environmental Commission, and staff of the Woodstock Land Conservancy, prepared a narrative statement proposing the establishment of the Zena Woods Critical Environmental Area, an area that encompasses the large forests east of John Joy Road and Zena Road and includes portions of the Bluestone Wild Forest, and

WHEREAS, the Woodstock Planning Board has reviewed and commented on the proposal, and

WHEREAS, the Woodstock Environmental Commission hosted two information meetings on March 15, 2022 and May 18, 2022 for the residents and property owners within the Zena Woods Critical Environmental Area, and

WHEREAS, a duly noticed public hearing was held on June 21, 2022 and re-opened on August 9, 2022, during which all those who wished to speak were heard and their testimony recorded, and

WHEREAS, a map of the proposed Zena Woods Critical Environmental Area was available for public review at Town Hall, posted on the Town website, included as an attachment to announcements mailed to the residents of the Zena Woods Critical Environmental Area, and was available for examination at the public information sessions, and

WHEREAS, the Town Supervisor prepared a Short Environmental Assessment Form, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Woodstock Town Board hereby:

1. Closes the public hearing,
2. Declares that the proposed action is an unlisted action and will not have a significant negative impact on the environment,
3. Designates the Zena Woods Critical Environmental Area pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.14(g), as set forth in the CEA map attached hereto and including the attached list tax parcels.
4. Directs the Town Clerk to file copies of this Resolution, the Narrative Statement, the CEA Map and the list of tax parcels in her office, with the Commissioner of the DEC, with DEC Region 3, and the Woodstock Planning Board.
5. Directs the Environmental Commission to include the map of the Zena Woods Critical Environmental Area in the Woodstock Natural Resources Inventory.

All voted 3-0-2:

Supervisor McKenna -nay
Councilman Earls – nay
Councilwoman Ricci -aye
Councilman Ratcliff – aye
Councilwoman Conte – aye