

Intro to Gretchen Stevens Presentation to Town Board November 9, 2021 at 7:00 pm

PRESENTATIONS:

WEC: Zena Critical Environment Area

In 2020, the WEC spearheaded the completion of a Natural Resources Inventory, to map and catalogue the abundant natural resources and green infrastructure in the town, and to be a tool for the public and town boards alike to use when considering planning decisions.

As a follow-up to that project, and at the behest of the Planning Board, the WEC began a project looking into designating Critical Environmental Areas in the town. We applied for and were one of two towns chosen for technical assistance guidance from Hudsonia and the DEC Hudson River Estuary Program in partnership with Cornell University and paid for with funding from the New York State Environmental Protection Fund. A working group consisting of members of the WEC, the Planning Board, the Town Board, and the Woodstock Land Conservancy have spent the past six months identifying a CEA for the town of Woodstock, which will now be presented by Gretchen Stevens of Hudsonia.

Gretchen is a biologist with Hudsonia - an environmental research institute based in Dutchess County. She has studied the plants, animals, and habitats of the Hudson Valley for over 30 years, and is co-author of the 2012 study of Significant Habitats in the Town of Woodstock. Gretchen and staff of the Hudson River Estuary Program of the DEC have been working with the Town of Woodstock CEA team to help identify, delineate, and describe the place that the team is proposing for Critical Environmental Area designation.