

FOSTERING COMMUNITY

For 32 years, you, our community, have always embraced our work. This past year, through the challenges we've all faced, you have remained steadfast in supporting and engaging in all that we do. Thank you. We are ever grateful.

In 1988 locals recognized that they needed to protect what they loved, the majesty of the mountains, the beautiful forests and streams, the meadows, the wildlife and all the species with whom we share our beautiful corner of the Earth. More than 500 area folks contributed to help Woodstock Land Conservancy protect Zena Cornfield from subdivision. Since then, we've protected 100s of acres, and opened several beautiful public preserves, including Sloan Gorge, Snake Rocks and Israel Wittman Sanctuary. We also hold 10 conservation easements, given by owners to permanently protect their significant land.

In recent years our local communities had become largely second-home owned, with many part-timers also treasuring this natural beauty. This year we saw a dramatic shift as second-home owners moved here permanently, thanks to technology's ability to connect us virtually to our workplaces. And some long-time residents are retiring, moving outside of the area. Many new home owners also treasure our landscape and want to protect our natural resources, particularly in the face of climate change impacts. We welcome them and their constructive energy, joining us in true community, with concern for one another and for the betterment of the place we all call home. Being a beautiful and passionate community takes consistent work, and its diminishment can come all too easily. A robust discussion has begun on conserving our community character, as concerns that financial investors, with no roots in the area, will buy what we love for profit, but never come to join our community. Please join us and many others in the challenging work ahead. Our community is so worth it.

Best,
Maxanne Resnick, Executive Director



WOODSTOCK NY POLLINATOR PATHWAY

Last year we launched a very successful Pollinator Pathway project, and 150 sites were established. We are continuing its expansion throughout our community, establishing plantings spaced closely enough to create a community-wide habitat corridor to support our pollinators: wild bees, honey bees, butterflies, moths, beetles and more. By joining your neighbors to create a continuous pollinator habitat you can support the resilience of the local ecosystem, reversing the collapse of these critical pollinators, so vital to the food web for animals and humans. And it's easy!

Our website is filled with useful information and a number of relevant webinars.
woodstocknypollinatorpathway.org

- Talks by experts on gardening with native plants, and on birds, bees, butterflies, and invasive plants
- Resources for making your yard and town more pollinator friendly

Join Us With a Pollinator Habitat in Your Yard:

- Go pesticide free
- Stop mowing some of your lawn and let wildflowers grow
- Add native seeds and plants
- Remove invasive plants
- Leave the fall leaves for overwintering insects
- Leave some bare ground and dead wood for nesting native bees

We are a collaborative project of Woodstock Land Conservancy, Catskill Center, Woodstock NY Transition, Woodstock Environmental Commission and Community Member Partners.

BREAKING NEWS ON 850 ROUTE 28

For nearly two years we have questioned the siting of this proposed concrete and steel manufacturing project as incompatible with the surrounding 3,000 acre NYS Bluestone Wild Forest (BWF), located in the Town of Kingston. We initially worked with OSI in its purchase of an adjacent property, later conveyed in late 2019 to NYS DEC. That land connected Morey Hill/Jockey Hill with the Onteora Lake sections of the BWF and created greater access to Pickerel Pond. Since Summer 2019, our project review efforts continued working together with Catskill Mountainkeeper and Bluestone Wild Forest Citizens group, with support from Mid-Hudson Chapter of the Sierra Club, and Adirondack Mountain Club, along with many people, businesses and organizations who use and treasure the BWF.

The Town of Kingston's Planning Board has been reviewing this project. They initially gave the project a Negative Declaration in its Environmental Assessment of Impacts. This was later rescinded by them in August 2019 after a public outcry that stemmed from detailed reports of impacts, and the project's location surrounded by the BWF. In late December 2019 the applicant submitted new documentation for review which were met in 2020 by new challenging analyses. With COVID-19 the Town's business moved online, where it still remains.

As we go to print, the Town has just received from the applicant a revised site plan, and several consultant reports responding to expert analyses submitted last June that were highly critical of the project, including a response to two noise impact reviews.

With the arrival of Spring, many will return to BWF to enjoy Onteora Lake, Pickerel Pond, and the more than 28 linear miles of multi-use recreational trails, and will see why this project doesn't belong where it is proposed.

Further information can be found at www.saveonteoralake.org or on FB Save Onteora Lake, Pickerel Pond or Bluestone Forest.

Questions: Contact Maxanne Resnick,
maxanne.wlc@gmail.com

WATER SHORTS

NYC DEP RELEASES TURBID WATERS INTO THE LOWER ESOPUS

Recent releases by NYC DEP of turbid waters from the Ashokan Reservoir into the Esopus Creek are impacting downstream communities and the waters that ultimately end up in the Hudson River, and are the drinking water source for seven communities. NYS DEC has held two public hearings related to NYC's request to permanently release up to 600 million gallons/day of turbid water. Upstate communities, and many organizations, business owners and residents have commented about the damaging impacts from these releases, and are calling for further scientific study on alternatives. Comments are being received until June 16th, 5pm by email todeppermitting@dec.ny.gov

PROPOSED ASHOKAN PUMPED STORAGE PROJECT USING HYDRO POWER

Locals recently became aware of an application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the "Ashokan Pumped Storage Project" by California-based Premium Energy Holdings LLC. No one locally was aware of this proposal, including NYC DEP, Ulster County, Supervisors of area towns. The proposal being made is to create an upstream reservoir on approximately 200 acres in one of three locales (Stony Clove, Chichester, Woodland Valley, Phoenicia; or end of Moonhaw Road, Olive/Shandaken) to empty into the Ashokan Reservoir through a looped hydro power system generating 800 MW of power. Additionally, transmission lines would need to be built from the reservoir locales to the Hurley Avenue substation – a length of anywhere from 12-20 miles.

Please reach out to your US Elected Representatives to register your voice regarding this project.

FERC Project No. 15056-000, Ashokan Pumped Storage Project, submitted by Premium Energy Holdings' LLC, Walnut, CA



PROJECTS NEEDING YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

This community's generosity supports our small organization. Every year we identify a few special projects. Below is a list. We welcome your donations whether for the specific purpose outlined below or supporting our day-in, day-out expenses. Want to know more? Please phone or email Maxanne Resnick, Executive Director. maxanne.wlc@gmail.com or 914-466-9263.

Stewardship:

- Monies to maintain and improve our preserves
- Expansion of Sloan Gorge Parking Area

Other:

- Website – Susanna Ronner is redesigning our website and we are looking forward to unveiling it later this year
- Land Acquisition: Help us Protect Lands and Natural Resources.

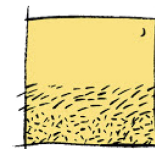
LOOKING FOR ASHOKAN RAIL TRAIL STEWARDS

As Spring approaches, we welcome new volunteers to the Ashokan Rail Trail stewards team. Training is provided. Volunteers serve in three hour shifts on peak weekends and holidays from spring to fall. Stewards greet visitors at the trailhead areas or patrol the trail on foot or by bicycle to ensure that trail users understand and respect the trail's unique rules. Stewards also provide information about the trail and local area and report maintenance issues to Ulster County quickly so that they can be addressed. Curious about joining? Email artstewards@gmail.com

The ART Stewards program is a collaboration between Woodstock Land Conservancy and NY/NJ Trails Conference on behalf of Ulster County.

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY EMAIL BLASTS

Stay on top of our activities by receiving our weekly email via Constant Contact. Sign up by emailing info@woodstocklandconservancy.org



WOODSTOCK LAND
CONSERVANCY

LAND LINES

SPRING 2021

