

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
VILLAGE OF WARWICK  
AUGUST 31, 2022  
WORK SESSION**

**LOCATION:  
VILLAGE HALL  
77 MAIN STREET, WARWICK, NY**

**Call to Order  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Roll Call**

**Discussion**

1. Establishment of the Village of Warwick Conservation Advisory Council.

**Adjournment**

VILLAGE OF WARWICK  
INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW  
CONSERVATION ADVISORY COUNCIL

BE IT ENACTED by the Village Board of the Village of Warwick, County of Orange, State of New York, as follows:

Section 1. A new chapter, designated as Chapter \_\_\_\_ and titled "Conservation Advisory Council," is added to the Code of the Village of Warwick and shall read as follows:

CHAPTER \_\_\_\_  
Conservation Advisory Council

§ \_\_\_\_-1. Legislative intent and authority.

The intent of this local law is to establish a Conservation Advisory Council (or "CAC") for the Village of Warwick pursuant to the authority found in New York State General Municipal Law Article 12- F § 239-x.

The preservation and improvement of the quality of the natural and man-made environment within the Village of Warwick, New York, in the face of population growth, urbanization and technological change, with their accompanying demands on natural resources, are found to be of increasing and vital importance to the health, welfare and economic well-being of present and future inhabitants and to require forthright action by the governing body of the Village of Warwick. It is recognized that the biological integrity of the natural environment on which humans are dependent for survival and the natural and functional beauty of our surroundings which condition the quality of our life experience cannot be protected without the full cooperation and participation of all the people of the Village of Warwick, working in partnership with local and state officials and with various public and private institutions, agencies and organizations. Establishment of a Conservation Advisory Council for conservation of the environment is a necessary step in fostering unified action on environmental problems. Working in conjunction with the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Building/ Zoning Department, the Village of Warwick Conservation Advisory Council will also serve as the Village's Climate Smart Community Task Force, seek environmental or sustainability related certifications as may be identified, and develop a comprehensive climate program for the Village.

§ \_\_\_\_-2. Establishment of the Council.

The Village Board of the Village of Warwick hereby creates a Council which shall be known as the "Village of Warwick Conservation Advisory Council," hereinafter called the "CAC" or the "Council."

§ \_\_\_\_-3. Membership.

- A. The CAC shall consist of no fewer than five and no more than seven members appointed by the Village Board for two-year terms and who shall serve at the pleasure of the Village Board. Persons residing within the Village of Warwick who are interested in the improvement and preservation of environmental quality shall be eligible for appointment as a member of the CAC. At the inception of the CAC, initial appointments shall be staggered, the first three being a term of one year and the remaining members for full two-year terms. Successors shall be appointed for terms of two years from and after the expiration of the terms of their predecessors in office. Vacancies on the CAC shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, except that a vacancy occurring other than by the expiration of a term of office shall be filled only for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- B. The Village Mayor, Village Trustees, Chair of the Village Planning Board, Chair of the Village Zoning Board of Appeals, and other officials who hereafter may be designated by the Village Board shall be ex officio members of the CAC.

§ \_\_\_\_-4. Officers, meetings, committees, and records.

- A. The Village Board shall designate a member of the CAC to act as Chairperson thereof. At the first meeting of the CAC, its members shall elect from among themselves a Recording Secretary. The Open Meetings Law shall apply to CAC meetings. It shall keep accurate records of its meetings and activities and shall file an annual report as provided in this code.
- B. The CAC shall meet at least once quarterly and may agree to meet monthly in keeping with pending review and recommendation responsibilities. This does not preclude scheduling special meetings from time to time as deemed necessary in carrying out CAC duties.
- C. As the CAC serves as the Climate Smart Community Task Force, the Chairperson of the CAC shall serve as the Village's Climate Smart Community Coordinator. In this capacity, the Chairperson shall:
  - a. Schedule and chair meetings of the CAC
  - b. Organize and coordinate the efforts of CAC members.
  - c. Serve as liaison between the CAC and the Village Board on all projects requiring Village Board approval.
- D. The CAC shall appoint individual members or committees from among its members to either attend or monitor meeting minutes from scheduled Village Board, Village Planning Board, or Village Zoning Board of Appeals meetings minutes; review, recommend, research or comment on standing issues; and, periodically address matters of special concern.

§ \_\_\_\_-5. Powers and Duties.

The powers and duties of the CAC shall be to:

- A. Research, assist, and advise the Village Board on actions to be completed by Village of Warwick consistent with the goals and objectives of environmental and sustainability related certification programs including, but not limited to, the Climate Smart Communities Program and Clean Energy Communities Program.
- B. Document and qualify actions completed by the Village, the CAC, and other Warwick organizations consistent with the goals and objectives of environmental and sustainability related certification programs including, but not limited to, the Climate Smart Communities Program and Clean Energy Communities Program.
- C. Advise the Village Board on matters affecting the preservation, development and use of the natural and human-made features and conditions of the Village insofar as natural beauty, environmental quality, biological integrity, and other environmental factors are concerned. In the case of human activities and developments, advise on any major threats posed to environmental quality, so as to enhance the short-term or the longrange value of the environment of the people of the Village.
- D. Develop and, after receiving general approval by resolution of the Village Board, conduct a program of public information in the community which shall be designed to foster increased understanding of the nature of environmental problems and issues and support for their solutions.
- E. Conduct and maintain an up-to-date inventory of the natural resources within the Village, in map form, including an up-to-date index of all significant open spaces in public or private ownership within the municipality, including but not limited to natural landmarks; glacial and other geomorphic or physiographic features; streams and their floodplains, swamps, marshlands and other wetlands; unique biotic communities; scenic and other open areas of natural or ecological value; and of the ownership, present use and proposed use of such open areas so as to provide a base of information for recommendations by the CAC to the Village Board for their preservation and/or use.
- F. Conduct and maintain an up-to-date index of all significant open spaces in public or private ownership adjacent to the Village in the Town of Warwick; and of the ownership, present use and proposed use of such open areas so as to provide a base of information for recommendations by the CAC to the Village Board for their preservation and/or use.

- G. Seek to coordinate, assist and unify the efforts of private groups, institutions, and individuals within the Village of Warwick in accord with the purposes of this chapter.
- H. Maintain liaison and communications with public and private agencies and organizations of local, state and national scope whose programs and activities have an impact on the quality of the environment or who can be of assistance to the CAC.
- I. Working in cooperation with the Village of Warwick Planning Board, recommend from time to time to the Village Board features, plans, and programs, relating to environmental improvement, for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan of the Village of Warwick and, similarly, recommend to the Village Board appropriate and desirable changes in existing local laws and ordinances relating to environmental control or recommend new local laws and ordinances.
- J. Prepare and maintain a library of objective science-based information on effective land management, protection, use and conservation, and recommend education or stewardship projects.
- K. Provide the Planning Board, developers, residents and businesses with a forum to obtain information about natural resources and potential environmental impacts to inform land-use decision-making.
- L. When authorized by resolution of the Village Board of the Village of Warwick, accept by gift, grant, devise, bequest or otherwise property both real and personal in the name of the Village of Warwick, as may be necessary to conserve or otherwise properly utilize open spaces and other land and water resources within the boundaries of the Village of Warwick. Such real property may be accepted in fee for land and water rights or as any lesser interest, development right, easement, including conservation easement, covenant or other contractual right including conveyance with limitations or reversions.
- M. Carry out such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Village Board.
- N. Adopt the New York State Climate Smart Communities pledge, which comprises the following ten elements:
  - a. Build a climate-smart community.
  - b. Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.
  - c. Decrease energy use.
  - d. Shift to clean, renewable energy.
  - e. Use climate-smart materials management.
  - f. Implement climate-smart land use.

- g. Enhance community resilience to climate change.
- h. Support a green innovation economy.
- i. Inform and inspire the public.
- j. Engage in an evolving process of climate action.

#### § \_\_\_\_6. Reports.

The CAC shall keep accurate records of its meetings and actions and shall submit an annual report to the Village Board not later than the first day of April of each year, concerning the activities and work of the CAC and, from time to time, shall submit such reports and recommendations as may be necessary to fulfill the purposes of this chapter.

#### § \_\_\_\_-7. Compensation and expenses.

The members of the CAC, including ex officio members, shall receive no compensation for their services as members thereof but may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, within the appropriations made available therefor.

#### § \_\_\_\_-8. Construal of provisions.

This chapter shall be deemed an exercise of the powers of the Village of Warwick to preserve and improve the quality of the natural and man-made environment on behalf of the present and future inhabitants thereof. This chapter is not intended and shall not be deemed to impair the powers of any public board or agency.

#### § \_\_\_\_-9. Establishment of Advisory Board.

The establishment of an Advisory Board must be by resolution and a public hearing called by the Village Board.

#### Section 2. Severability.

If the provisions of any article, section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision or clause of this local law shall be judged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such order of judgment shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of any article, section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision or clause of this local law.

#### Section 3. Effective Date.

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

**VILLAGE OF WARWICK**  
**LOCAL LAW NO. \_\_ OF THE YEAR 2022**

A local law to amend the Village Code to add a new Chapter 60 entitled “Conservation Advisory Council”.

Section 1. Legislative Intent:

The purpose of this local law is to promote the public health, safety and welfare by amending the Village Code to add a new Chapter 60 entitled “Conservation Advisory Council”.

Section 2. Municipal Home Rule Law:

This law is adopted pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law § 10(1)(ii)(a)(1) which grants local governments the authority to enact local laws regarding the public health, safety and welfare. To the extent the provisions of this Local Law are in conflict with State law, the Village Board hereby asserts its intention to supersede same pursuant to the Municipal Home Rule Law.

Section 3. Amendment Of Village Code:

The Village of Warwick Village Code is hereby amended to add a new Chapter 60 entitled “Conservation Advisory Council”, which shall read as follows:

“§ 60-1. Legislative intent ~~and authority.~~

The intent of this local law is to is to promote, protect and preserve the health, welfare and property of residents of and owners of property within the Village of Warwick, by establishing a Conservation Advisory Council ~~(or “CAC”)~~ for the Village of Warwick pursuant to ~~the authority found in~~ New York State General Municipal Law ~~Article 12-F~~ § 239-x.

~~The preservation and improvement of the quality of the natural and man-made environment within the Village of Warwick, New York, in the face of population growth, urbanization and technological change, with their accompanying demands on natural resources, are found to be of increasing and vital importance to the health, welfare and economic well-being of present and future inhabitants and to require forthright action by the governing body of the Village of Warwick. It is recognized that the biological integrity of the natural environment on which humans are dependent for survival and the natural and functional beauty of our surroundings which condition the quality of our life experience cannot be protected without the full cooperation and participation of all the people of the Village of Warwick, working in partnership with local and state officials and with various public and private institutions, agencies and organizations. Establishment of a Conservation Advisory Council for conservation of the environment is a necessary step in fostering unified action on~~

~~environmental problems. Working in conjunction with the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Building/ Zoning Department, the Village of Warwick Conservation Advisory Council will also serve as the Village's Climate Smart Community Task Force, seek environmental or sustainability related certifications as may be identified, and develop a comprehensive climate program for the Village.~~

§ 60-2. Establishment of the Conservation Advisory Council.

- A. The Village Board of the Village of Warwick hereby creates a Conservation Advisory Council which shall be known as the "Village of Warwick Conservation Advisory Council"<sup>1</sup>, ~~hereinafter called the "CAC" or the "Council."~~

~~§ 60-3. Membership.~~

- B. The ~~CAC~~Conservation Advisory Council shall consist of ~~no fewer than five (5) and no more than seven~~ members appointed by the Village Board.

C. All Conservation Advisory Council members must reside within the Village of Warwick.

D. All Conservation Advisory Council members shall serve term of office of for two-year terms and who shall serve at the pleasure of the Village Board. Persons residing within the Village of Warwick who are interested in the improvement and preservation of environmental quality shall be eligible for appointment as a member of the CAC. At the inception of the CAC, initial appointments shall be staggered, teh first three being a term of one year and the remaining members for full two-year terms. Successors shall be appointed for terms of two years from and after the expiration of the terms of their predecessors in office. Vacancies on the CAC shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment, except that a vacancy occurring other than by the expiration of a term of office shall be filled only for the remainder of the unexpired term.

~~The Village Mayor, Village Trustees, Chair of the Village Planning Board, Chair of the Village Zoning Board of Appeals, and other officials who hereafter may be designated by the Village Board shall be ex-officio members of the CAC.~~

§ 60-3. Officers, meetings, committees, and records.

- A. The Village Board shall designate ~~a member of the CAC to act as the~~ Chairperson of the Conservation Advisory Council~~thereof.~~
- B. The Conservation Advisory Council~~At the first meeting of the CAC, its members shall elect by majority vote from among its members themselves~~ a Recording Secretary.



- C. The ~~Conservation Advisory Council~~~~Open Meetings Law~~ shall apply to CAC meetings. It shall keep minutes of its meetings~~accurate records of its meetings and activities~~ and shall file an annual report with the Village Board summarizing its actions over the course of the year~~as provided in this code~~.
- D. The ~~Conservation Advisory Council~~CAC shall meet at least once quarterly and may ~~agree to~~ meet monthly if circumstances dictate a need to do so. Meeting shall be called and scheduled by the Chairperson. ~~in keeping with pending review and recommendation responsibilities. This does not preclude scheduling special meetings from time to time as deemed necessary in carrying out CAC duties.~~
- E. As the CAC serves as the Climate Smart Community Task Force, the Chairperson of the CAC shall serve as the Village's Climate Smart Community Coordinator. In this capacity, the Chairperson shall:
  - a. Schedule and chair meetings of the CAC
  - b. Organize and coordinate the efforts of CAC members.
  - c. Serve as liaison between the CAC and the Village Board on all projects requiring Village Board approval.
- F. The CAC shall appoint individual members or committees from among its members to either attend or monitor meeting minutes from scheduled Village Board, Village Planning Board, or Village Zoning Board of Appeals meetings minutes; review, recommend, research or comment on standing issues; and, periodically address matters of special concern.

§ 60-4. Powers and Duties.

The powers and duties of the CAC shall be to:

- A. Research, assist, and advise the Village Board on actions to be completed by Village of Warwick consistent with the goals and objectives of environmental and sustainability related certification programs including, but not limited to, the Climate Smart Communities Program and Clean Energy Communities Program.
- B. Document and qualify actions completed by the Village, the CAC, and other Warwick organizations consistent with the goals and objectives of environmental and sustainability related certification programs including, but not limited to, the Climate Smart Communities Program and Clean Energy Communities Program.
- C. Advise the Village Board on matters affecting the preservation, development and use of the natural and human-made features and conditions of the Village insofar as natural beauty, environmental quality, biological integrity, and other environmental factors are concerned. In the case of human activities and developments, advise on any major threats posed to environmental quality, so as to enhance the short-term or the longrange value of the environment of the people

of the Village.

- D. Develop and, after receiving general approval by resolution of the Village Board, conduct a program of public information in the community which shall be designed to foster increased understanding of the nature of environmental problems and issues and support for their solutions.
- E. ~~Conduct~~ Prepare and maintain an ~~up-to-date~~ inventory of the natural resources within the Village. ~~The inventory should, include a resources map form, and provide including~~ an up-to-date index of all significant open spaces in public or private ownership within the ~~Village municipality~~, including but not limited to natural landmarks; glacial and other geomorphic or physiographic features; streams and their floodplains, swamps, marshlands and other wetlands; unique biotic communities; scenic and other open areas of natural or ecological value; ~~The inventory should also state and of~~ the ownership, present use and proposed use of such open areas so as to provide a base of information for recommendations by the ~~Conservation Advisory Committee CAC~~ to the Village Board for their preservation and/or use.
- F. Conduct and maintain an up-to-date index of all significant open spaces in public or private ownership adjacent to the Village in the Town of Warwick. ~~The index should state; and of~~ the ownership, present use and proposed use of such open areas so as to provide a base of information for recommendations by the ~~CAC Conservation Advisory Committee~~ to the Village Board for their preservation and/or use.
- G. Seek to coordinate, assist and unify the efforts of private groups, institutions, and individuals within the Village of Warwick in accord with the purposes of this chapter.
- H. Maintain liaison and communications with public and private agencies and organizations of local, state and national scope whose programs and activities have an impact on the quality of the environment or who can be of assistance to the CAC.
- I. Working in cooperation with the Village of Warwick Planning Board, recommend from time to time to the Village Board features, plans, and programs, relating to environmental improvement, for inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan of the Village of Warwick and, similarly, recommend to the Village Board appropriate and desirable changes in existing local laws and ordinances relating to environmental control or recommend new local laws and ordinances.
- J. Prepare and maintain a library of objective science-based information on effective land management, protection, use and conservation, and recommend education or stewardship projects.

- K. Provide the Planning Board, developers, residents and businesses with a forum to obtain information about natural resources and potential environmental impacts to inform land-use decision-making.
- L. When authorized by resolution of the Village Board of the Village of Warwick, accept by gift, grant, devise, bequest or otherwise property both real and personal in the name of the Village of Warwick, as may be necessary to conserve or otherwise properly utilize open spaces and other land and water resources within the boundaries of the Village of Warwick. Such real property may be accepted in fee for land and water rights or as any lesser interest, development right, easement, including conservation easement, covenant or other contractual right including conveyance with limitations or reversions.
- M. Carry out such other duties as may be assigned from time to time by the Village Board by resolution.
- N. Adopt the New York State Climate Smart Communities pledge, which comprises the following ten elements:
  - a. Build a climate-smart community.
  - b. Inventory emissions, set goals, and plan for climate action.
  - c. Decrease energy use.
  - d. Shift to clean, renewable energy.
  - e. Use climate-smart materials management.
  - f. Implement climate-smart land use.
  - g. Enhance community resilience to climate change.
  - h. Support a green innovation economy.
  - i. Inform and inspire the public.
  - j. Engage in an evolving process of climate action.

~~§ — 6. Reports.~~

~~The CAC shall keep accurate records of its meetings and actions and shall submit an annual report to the Village Board not later than the first day of April of each year, concerning the activities and work of the CAC and, from time to time, shall submit such reports and recommendations as may be necessary to fulfill the purposes of this chapter.~~

§ 60-5. Compensation and expenses.

The members of the Conservation Advisory Committee CAC, ~~including ex-officio members~~, shall receive no compensation for their services as members thereof, but ~~shall~~ may be reimbursed for reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, ~~within the appropriations made available therefor~~ which have been approved by the Village Board.

~~§ — 8. Construal of provisions.~~

~~This chapter shall be deemed an exercise of the powers of the Village of Warwick to preserve and improve the quality of the natural and man-made environment on behalf of the present and future inhabitants thereof. This chapter is not intended and shall not be deemed to impair the powers of any public board or agency.~~

~~§ 9. Establishment of Advisory Board.~~

~~The establishment of an Advisory Board must be by resolution and a public hearing called by the Village Board."~~

Section 3. Severability:

If any part or provision of this local law or the application thereof to any person or circumstance be adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be confined in its operation to the part or provision or application directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered and shall not affect or impair the validity of the remainder of this local law or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances, and the Village Board of the Village of Warwick hereby declares that it would have passed this local law or the remainder thereof had such invalid application or invalid provision been apparent.

Section 4. Effective Date:

This Local Law shall become effective upon filing with the Secretary of State of the State of New York subsequent to having been duly adopted by the Village Board.