

BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENT SCOPE

The Town or its designated biodiversity consultant will perform a biodiversity assessment for threatened, endangered, and other focal flora and fauna identified and deemed to be locally important by the Town of Cortlandt. The biodiversity assessment will focus on the area of the proposed development consisting of approximately 12 acres and, if determined to be important, immediately adjacent areas within 50 feet of the limit of disturbance that are interconnected and related to the habitat within the project area. The biodiversity assessment does not need to be performed for the entire tax parcels on which the proposed project is located.

The biodiversity assessment will include the following:

- Background information – Review correspondence and documents concerning threatened and endangered species and ecological conditions related to the project site including Natural Heritage Program information, topographic maps, aerial photographs, soil surveys, and agency reports.
- Field Assessment – Conduct a field assessment of the project site to document ecological conditions including the potential for endangered/threatened species habitat and critical habitat. The field survey will focus on known rare or focal species in the project area. The site will be photographed to document conditions. The field assessment will consist of a one (1) or two (2) day field assessment conducted during the spring season (April 1, 2021 through May 7, 2021) during which time general biological activity may be relatively high due to breeding birds and amphibians, growing season, moderate temperatures, etc. Field assessments will be conducted under appropriate weather conditions and time of day. Data shall be collected via notes, sketches and/or Global Positioning System.
- Agency Consultation – If needed, appropriate agencies will be contacted including the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and/or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to discuss the site and its potential for endangered/threatened species and critical habitat.
- The Applicant's biodiversity consultant shall have the right to accompany the Town's consultant during the Field Assessment.

The deliverable will consist of a report or memorandum which documents the findings of the biodiversity assessment. The report will be based upon an analysis of information synthesized from the above tasks. The report will include a discussion of the existing ecology including representative flora, fauna, and ecological communities observed, potential project impacts, and potential mitigation/conservation measures (if deemed necessary). Habitat and species locations will be provided with consideration to an aerial photograph of the site with photo locations and copies of photos will be included. The report shall be prepared and submitted to the Town Planning Board on or before May 19, 2021 so that the report (and this application) may be placed on the Board's June meeting agenda.