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MEMORANDUM

TO: The Planning Board

FROM: Paul Buckhout, Vice-Chair ^{PB}
Conservation Advisory Council

DATE: December 23, 2020

RE: Teatown – Cliffdale Farm Meadow Revegetation Plan

The CAC has reviewed the proposed Re-Vegetation Report submitted by Teatown. The CAC believes that the Cliffdale Meadow Re-Vegetation Plan has merit. The plan would allow for the creation of a unique space for wildlife. The historic stone wall material will be relocated for possible future use. The large open fields will allow for bird species that although native to our area have not been able to thrive due to a lack of large open fields. The new meadows will establish a nesting habitat for Bobolink, Wood cock, Bluebirds and other open meadow species. This is an exciting link to our natural heritage. Teatown has provided an inventory of the species and condition of the 83 trees proposed to be removed.

It is unfortunately not possible to remove the invasive plants and predators of the birds without removing both the stone walls and the hedgerow of trees. The CAC is aware of the recommendations discussed during the 12/1/20 Planning Board meeting regarding the planting of 25 trees (saplings) or 12 (2-3-inch caliper) trees. While the CAC is generally supportive of this we want to ensure that the proposed planting is able to be accomplished by Teatown staff. In addition, the CAC also supports the idea of the Department of Technical Services staff investigating the possibility of having trees planted, by a third party, in a publicly accessible area of the property in the Town of Cortlandt as an alternative. Assuming the specific details and legal issues can be resolved, this would be much welcome. The CAC would like the Cliffdale Meadow Re-Vegetation Plan to move forward at this time.